

Lamorinda Community

Moraga

Calendar

- Town Council 7:30pm**
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Wednesday, March 11
- Planning Comm. 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, March 16
- Design Review 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, March 9
- Park & Rec 7:30pm**
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, March 17
- Liaison 8:00am**
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, March 13
- Town of Moraga online:**
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
- Chamber of Commerce:**
<http://www.moragachamber.org>



Mystery spine, 2/21/09 There was a small decomposed spine along a trail behind Saint Mary's Road, according to a resident who phoned police. The reporting person gave directions to the exact location of the spine, officers located the spine but couldn't determine if it was from an animal or from a human being. A local veterinarian could also not determine where the spine came from. The case was referred to Contra Costa Animal Services for further investigation; they picked it up from the police station. The trail is now spineless.

Annoying Telephone calls 2/21/09 A La Salle Drive resident had received numerous text messages of a threatening nature. Apparently two former employees were harassing her about their last paychecks. The call-ee wanted the police to come by her tanning salon business to make sure the former employees were not there to harass her. Officers contacted one of the callers and advised that this is a civil matter, stop sending the texts and to handle the matter through small claims court.

Potential identity theft 2/17/09 A Saint Andrews Drive resident had been contacted from U.S. Bank regarding an attempt to pass a fraudulent cashier's check bearing the victim's name. One of the two suspects possessed a false California driver's license with the victim's name, date of birth and license number. A savvy teller declined the transaction and the suspects left the bank. Here's hoping the surveillance camera was on.

D.U.I. 2/19/09 At the corner of Woodside Drive and Hardie Drive there was a traffic collision that involved a drunk driver. The 56-year-old female was screened at the scene and had a .19 blood alcohol level. The suspect was transported to the Main Detention Facility in Martinez and her vehicle was towed.

Download "Your" story from [www.lamorinda weekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

Moraga Council Hires New Town Manager

By Sophie Braccini



Michael Segrest Picture courtesy of the Snowmass Sun

A wind of cohesiveness swept through the Town Council as it unanimously agreed to sign the contract hiring D. Michael Segrest as Moraga's new Town Manager. The five Council Members spoke highly of their chosen candidate and clearly responded to some negative comments that were presented by residents in attendance at that night's Council meeting. Mike Segrest will start work on March 23.

Segrest comes from Snowmass Village, a small resort town in Colorado, where he was hired as Town Manager in 2002 to handle a large commercial and mixed-use development project (more than 600 housing units are included in the Base Village development). He was also instrumental in the building of a recreational facility.

Segrest was hired by Moraga after a comprehensive hiring process that distilled more than 80 candidates to three finalists and the negotiation of a contract. "The hiring process was conducted very thoroughly," said Jay Tashiro, who has been Moraga's Interim Town Manager since the departure of Phil

Vince last year. Tashiro described a process that included community input to define the new Manager's profile, many interviews, meetings of the top 3 candidates with the Town's department heads and thorough review of all references.

Some residents expressed concern about the financial package that was offered to Segrest in a time of financial constraints: "Given Moraga's challenging financial condition, lack of adequate staff and police protection, and our rule of being a minimal government I'm appalled at what you are proposing," said resident Lee Bren, who estimated the total cost of hiring Segrest at \$300,000 for the first year.

The hiring package includes an annual salary of \$180,000, a \$500/month car allowance, a temporary housing allowance of up to \$3,000/month for one year, and other benefits including relocation costs, vacation, sick and administrative leave time, health and other insurance, and participation in the Public Employees Retirement System.

... continued on page 6

Moraga's COPS Will Buy Equipment

By Sophie Braccini

On February 25th Moraga's Interim Police Chief Robert Priebe asked the Town Council for authorization to spend the \$100,000 grant awarded to the Town under the State of California's "COPS" (Citizen's Options for Public Safety) program on the purchase of equipment, rather than using it to hire a 14th police officer. Priebe said he believes it is likely that the grant will not be renewed after this year, and his department is in critical need of replacement equipment. The Council approved the request.

In previous years, COPS funding was distributed to local jurisdictions in October and had been used in Moraga to fund a 13th police officer. In the heat of the budget crisis, the State did not release funding in 2008 for the current fiscal year. The Town modified its budget accordingly, paying the 13th officer from its own resources. At the time, there was some discussion that should COPS funds be received, they might be used to pay for a 14th officer.

"Recent correspondence with Contra Costa SLEOC (Supplemental Law Enforcement Oversight Committee) warns of future funding cuts," said Priebe. If the funding were to be cut off, the Town would either have to lay-off the new officer or fund the position from the Town's general fund.

"The COPS revenues are required to fund 'front line municipal police services,'" Priebe stated, "this can be equipment, personnel or special programs." He ran down a list of the Moraga Police Department's (MPD) equipment needs. Priebe said that the MPD's cars are equipped with mobile data computers that were purchased used from the County but are now outdated and in need of replacement.

Priebe would also like to equip his officers with new Tasers, explaining, "Right now they have the old model that has the shape of a gun and has been incriminated in the Oakland case." He hopes to provide each officer with a newer model that includes a camera that records video when the Taser is turned on.

The Interim Chief said he also needs items such as a new radio system for better communication, guns, a radar unit, an off-road motorcycle, crime scene evidence equipment, a traffic data collector and specialized training for new officers.

"There are a few things that are just nice to have," said Priebe, those are items that we really need, with the exception maybe of the motorbike." The Council unanimously approved the proposal as Mayor Dave Trotter warned, "But understand that you won't be able to exceed the \$100,000 by a penny."

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3/15: "Working With God", Part 1

3/22: "Working With God", Part 2

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Sunday Service Times:

Prayer.....8:00am

Traditional.....9:00am

Contemporary.....10:30am

Weekly Activities Include:

Wednesday:

Community Bible Study....10am

REVERB (youth).....7pm

Friday Night:

BLAST! Kids Club.....6pm

Saturday Night:

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- Intermediate Line Dancing, 3/5-3/19
- T'ai Chi Chih/Qigong, 3/19-5/7
- Dare to Dance (stretch, tone, move), 3/17-5/21
- Creative Writing Workshop, 3/21