



Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, March 7, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, March 14, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, March 11, 8:00 am
Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Embezzlement, 2/11/11 Officers were investigating a report of embezzlement from TJ Maxx. Allegedly between mid-December and mid-February, five employees embezzled a total of \$3,889 through fraudulent transactions with fake refunds and failing to scan merchandise. Three of the five 'fessed up and admitted responsibility and fingered the remaining two employees in on the scam.

Fire, 2/15/11 Moraga-Orinda Fire Department responded to a fire on Campolindo Drive. It appears that the fire was centered around the fireplace, which had been left unattended with a fire burning – but the cause is still under investigation. The fire was contained to approximately half the home, before it was extinguished. No one was injured.

Golf clubs gone, 2/16/11 A Natalie Drive resident parked his Jeep Grand Cherokee on the street overnight. In the morning he found the rear lift gate window smashed and his golf clubs missing. Value of the clubs is estimated at \$2,100 – loss of the perfect putter – heartbreaking.

Similar auto burglary 2/16/11 Just a couple of blocks from the Natalie Drive heist, sometime during the night an unknown suspect smashed the rear window of a Honda Odyssey and took a road bicycle from the interior while the car was parked in a Buckingham Drive driveway. Bike valued at \$1,100 and damage to vehicle estimated to be \$250.

Car burglary, 2/16/11 Yet another vehicle burglary, this time on La Salle Drive. The homeowner parked her Honda in the driveway overnight, but when she returned to it in the morning the front passenger window had been smashed out and her purse was missing along with her Wells Fargo debit card. Like the other burglaries – nothing was seen or heard during the night. Cost to replace window approximately \$250. Her bank was notified and the card was stopped.

Littering at L.P. 2/17/11 Just before 10:00 P.M. cops found two cars occupied by several juveniles parked in the Los Perales Elementary School parking lot along with smashed watermelons and sprayed whipped cream all over the parking area. Officers determined the kids at the scene were not involved in the littering. No suspects or leads at this time.

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RECON Issues Road Warning

By Sophie Braccini

Repairing and maintaining a road that is in very poor condition costs 11 times more than maintaining a road that is in fair condition. 15% of Moraga's residential roads are in very poor condition today and if spending on roads does not increase that number will jump to 40% 10 years from now, resulting in skyrocketing costs to remedy the situation. Bob Kennedy, representing Moraga's Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods (RECON) team, presented a report to the Town Council on February 16 that concluded Moraga should not expect a bailout on such infrastructure problems and that a solution must be found locally.

Moraga officials often refer to Orinda roads as being the future

of Moraga roads if nothing is done today. The Orinda Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission's 2010 annual report was received by the Orinda City Council on February 15. The City's policy focuses on maintaining arterials and collectors, leaving residential roads in a condition of accelerating deterioration. The average rating of Orinda's residential roads is poor; 150 of the 354 residential roads are considered very poor. The cost of deferred maintenance on these roads is estimated to be at \$43 million by 2014. One of the Commission's recommendations is to allow citizens to raise private funds to repair residential roads.

25% of Moraga's 56 miles of public roads are categorized as arterials (roads that carry major traffic flow) – Moraga Road,

Moraga Way and Saint Mary's Road. The Town can apply for grants to maintain these roads; as a result, only 14% of Moraga's arterials are in poor or very poor condition.

However, 50% of the remaining roads (collectors and neighborhood roads, excluding private streets) have been rated poor or very poor. According to the RECON report, with a \$1 million annual increase in spending, in 10 years 67% of these roads would be very good and 23% very poor; if spending increased by \$2 million per year, the percentage of very poor roads would drop to 14%; and at \$3 million per year, 17% of the roads would be in poor condition while 83% would be in good condition.

The state of the Moraga's sewer and storm drains remains

largely unassessed. The system was installed in 1974 and is expected to last 55-60 years.

"Developing a sustainable plan for funding the Town's ongoing infrastructure needs is of critical importance to the Town of Moraga," commented Mayor Karen Mendonca after the meeting. "The recommendations contained in the Revenue Enhancement Committee's Report and the subsequent work completed by the RECON Committee serve to make it clear that this issue must be a top priority for the Moraga Town Council, and it is imperative that we work together to make timely decisions regarding our next steps in this process."

The RECON report is available on the Town's website, www.moraga.ca.us.

\$50K for Your Thoughts, Moraga?

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"We met with Catherine Lew (President and CEO of Lew Edwards) a week ago," said Dick Olsen of the Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to

Neighborhoods (RECON) team. "Based on the RECON work done last year, with the online survey and the focus groups, we believe that residents might have the will-

ingness to pay for the needed maintenance. The Lew Edwards Group poll will precisely assess what residents do or don't know about the situation, and their willingness to do something about it. That's the information the Council needs to make the decision regarding the next phases."

"We will have the results and will decide in May," said Town Manager Jill Keimach, who indicated that if residents were generally opposed to new taxes the project could be dropped. As Council Member Mike Metcalf put it, "Maybe people will prefer to

drive on gravel rather than fix the roads."

If it appears that residents are favorable to financing infrastructure maintenance, the second phase of the project would be a public information campaign that would run from this June to February of 2012, under the consultants' schedule. The third phase, preparation for balloting, would result in an infrastructure revenue measure on a ballot in August or November of 2012.

Read the related article, RECON Issues Road Warning, above.

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Sign-up for the youth division of the **Moraga Triathlon** at www.moragatri.com. New distances for ages 5-7 and 8-11.

New session of Youth Ballet just started, ages 3.5 to 8 learn basic ballet skills in these small size classes.

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Moraga's New Librarian

By Sophie Braccini



Beth Girshman Photo Sophie Braccini

Beth Girshman, Moraga's new librarian, is ready to make her home at 1500 Saint Mary's Road. "The Contra Costa County Library has a reputation nationwide in the library world for its innovative programs," says Girshman, "they have won many awards and recognition; I am very happy to have been chosen to be part of it."

Girshman was the Adult Services/Community Outreach Librarian at the Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts. While browsing the Contra Costa County Library website, she clicked on the job link and saw the Moraga opening. Since she was looking for a new challenge in her career, she decided to apply – as an added bonus, her daughter lives in Berkeley.

At the Jones Library, Girshman was responsible for figuring out ways to service the underserved, through special programs, diversified collections, and programs. She was also in charge of collection development and management of the adult collection.

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