



# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

### Design Review

Monday, September 12, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

### Liaison

Friday, September 9, 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

**Tire slasher, 8/15/11** Sometime between 8:00 a.m. and noon an unknown person slashed both front and rear passenger tires of an Ivy Drive resident's car while the car was parked on the street in front of the house. Estimate to replace both tires, approximately \$300.

**Stolen cell tower, 8/16/11** Not one, but three mobile cell towers were stolen from St. Mary's College. Aren't cell towers ridiculously tall and heavy you ask? Actually these three were relatively petite, Erickson CDU 1900 Frequency Modules from a, I kid you not, "cell on wheels" trailer on the campus. Estimated loss \$30,000. AT&T security is investigating the theft.

**Found cash returned, 8/19/11** An unidentified female approached a Moraga police officer to report that she had found a twenty dollar bill at an ATM on Moraga Way. She told the cop that it didn't belong to her and wished to turn it in. Mystery woman has racked up some seriously good karma.

**D.U. I. 8/19/11** A white VW Rabbit was pulled over at Moraga Road and Sky Hy for speeding. Shockingly the 17-year old male driver from Orinda had the distinct odor of alcoholic beverages on his person - Eau de Booze. He eventually submitted to a field sobriety test where he had a blood alcohol content of .114, over the limit for a kid under 21. The lad was transported to Moraga Police Department and his mom was called. Mother refused to pick up her son, and the cops weren't able to contact the subject's father. So he was taken to county lock-up in Martinez to be "medically cleared" - apparently that means "sober up" - then taken to Juvenile Hall.

**Car theft, 8/19/11** Not the car, but the stuff inside. Sometime during the night a Claudia Court resident's unlocked car that was parked in the driveway was broken into. A first aid kit, iPod and a lot of power tools disappeared. The victim estimated the value to be approximately \$4,205. No suspects or witnesses.

**Egg toss, 8/22/11** The son of an Ascot Drive resident parked his Nissan 300 ZX at the curb in front of the residence at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next morning at 9:30 a.m. the mom discovered someone had tossed about a dozen raw eggs at the vehicle - which appeared to have damaged the paint. No ideas as to reasoning behind the egg scramble.

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## New in Town: Shawna Brekke-Read

### Community-builder takes the helm at Moraga's Planning Department

By Sophie Braccini



Shawna Brekke-Read in her new office at 329 Rheem Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga's new Planning Director, Shawna Brekke-Read, is an experienced planner who enjoys a good challenge and specializes in working with stakeholders who bring very different perspectives to the table.

The mother of two teenagers who attend Miramonte High School, Brekke-Read has worked as a planning consultant in Orinda and Lafayette (among other communities), and often mingles in Moraga where her husband, Don Read, is a popular teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM). She brings a fresh look, an inclusive personality, and high hopes for a town that she believes has unique potential.

Brekke-Read comes from an Oakland family of eight children. She worked in her father's business, Brekke's Cafeteria, from age nine until

she left for college. As a young woman she cooked in restaurants to support herself during college, but decided that this was not her calling. Instead, having lived in Oakland all her life and witnessing the disintegration of the social fabric of that community, she decided to pursue a career in city management. "One of my older brothers studied political science and introduced me to the way cities operate," she remembers, "then I had professors and mentors who confirmed that city planning was what I was meant to do and where I could apply myself to make cities better places to live."

Brekke-Read sees the role of a planning director as someone who enacts the will of the community and works for the benefit of the whole town. As far as process is concerned, she thinks that approval processes in

Moraga should be streamlined, but should also empower the Town Council and Planning Commission to respond to the community's needs.

Brekke-Read was interested in the Moraga opening because it is her understanding that a lot of things are happening in the little town. "Moraga's greatest asset is that it's off the beaten path," she says, "People like going to such places; its location far from the freeway is an opportunity and Moraga has a lot going for itself, including Saint Mary's College."

"I've been telling her for years that she would have a great time here," says Don Read, "and she agreed with me when she came on the European field trip (that Read runs for JM students) and met the students and some parents. She is very excited about her new job; it dovetails nicely with what she's done previously."

In her early career, Brekke-Read was Interim Planning Director for the City of Oakley and Community Development Director in Susanville for five years. She also worked as the Administrative Director for the Oakland Heritage Alliance and, in that capacity, initiated the committee to preserve the Fox Theater. When her children were born she started her own consulting business, working part time while advocating for Oakland schools.

"My business often focused on projects that were a bit more contro-

versial," says Brekke-Read, "I liked the challenge of it." These experiences solidified her belief that taking into account the community's perspective from the onset and working collaboratively helps establish consensus-driven solutions.

"When I worked in Susanville (in northeast California) we obtained a grant to restore a creek," recalls Brekke-Read, "There were many stakeholders impacted by the project, ranchers, environmentalists, residents, industry owners. Each of them had a different agenda and was convinced that none of the others would understand where they were coming from." She met with all of them, listened to their concerns and managed to get all of them to realize that, beyond their differences, they would all benefit from a healthier creek.

Another recent, controversial project she worked on was the construction of a hotel in Berkeley. "The neighbors were concerned with the visual impact of the new project, with loss of privacy, and they had parking concerns, too," says Brekke-Read, "the staff report identified all of residents' concerns, and since the zoning called for a conditional use permit, the project needed to be compliant with the General Plan." It took only three meetings to mitigate the impacts and work out an approval.

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