



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 23, canceled
 Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

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

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Backpack burgled, 11/17/11 A car was parked at the rear parking lot of Campolindo High School at 7:00 p.m. When the driver returned around 11:00 p.m. one of the windows was smashed and his black leather backpack was missing. Estimated loss \$250.

Car window smashed at J.M., 11/17/11 A witness and the victim saw and heard a car window being smashed at 7:45 p.m. – same day as the Campo heist. There was a white male adult near the vehicle, who ran to his car and drove out of the parking lot upon being spotted. Estimated value of the smashed window was \$300.

Barking dog, 11/16/11 Moraga Country Club Security called the cops after responding to a barking dog complaint on St. Andrews Drive. Turns out, the home was unlocked and the rear sliding door was ajar. The owners of the home and the dog arrived, and it was determined there was no burglary.

Branch Dispute, 11/13/11 Hopefully police were wearing bullet proof vests when they responded to a disgruntled Kimberly Court neighbor who reported that her next door neighbor had been trimming tree branches and willfully trespassed to retrieve the cut branches that had fallen onto her property. The trimmer neighbor acknowledged that he willfully retrieved the branches but disputes that he threw them over the property line. Unhappy female neighbor requested documentation of the incident.

Attempted burglary, 11/12/11 Golfers heard a house alarm sounding and observed an adult male in the bushes of an Augusta Drive home, then called police. One screen door was found off the track and another had evidence of tampering. Cops later contacted an adult male for questioning - but he was wearing different clothes than the ensemble reported by golfers. Was it the same guy? Fingerprints were not available and no pry tools were found. One the other hand, nothing was taken.

Driving bike without light, 11/08/11 An officer was parked in the usual spot on St. Mary's Road and observed a bike travelling on the wrong side of the road without a light on at 9:00 p.m. The 19-year-old cyclist pulled out an expired California Driver's License that belonged to his over 21-year-old brother. The cyclist back-pedaled and explained that he had attempted to buy alcohol in the past, but that he keeps the expired license next to the real ID and simply pulled out the wrong one. Major puffed. The expired brother's ID was confiscated and the kid was cited.

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Howard Harpham's Vote Needed

By Sophie Braccini

The Town Council is in agreement that Moraga will adopt a Climate Action Plan. Such a Plan will define objectives and a road map to reduce the Town's greenhouse gas emission. But a point of disagreement arose during the Council's November 9 meeting: how the volunteers who will design this plan should be selected.

What looks, on the surface, like a minor procedural point reveals a divide in the way the council members perceive the role and functionality of government. Two members wanted to have the volunteers handpicked by a subset of the Council, while two others thought the selection should be made by staff. Since Council Member Howard Harpham, the fifth vote, was out of town, the issue was continued to a later meeting.

The need for a Climate Action Plan Task Force was not in dispute. As Town Manager Jill Keimach explained it, the State will require all

new developments to be evaluated for their potential to increase air pollution, greenhouse gases, odors, and hazardous materials unless they comply with the Climate Action Plan of the jurisdiction in which they operate. To simplify permitting procedures, municipalities are designing their own Climate Action Plans that aspire to be both business- and climate-friendly. "It's about compliance and the welfare of the Town," said Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf, "we have no choice."

Plans that other municipalities have already approved vary widely, from those that design a road map to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by the year 2020 (Union City), to an 80 percent reduction by 2050 (Albuquerque).

When the final makeup of the Task Force could heavily influence what a Moraga Climate Action Plan might look like, it may not be surprising if the decision of who gets to pick its members takes on an ideological

bent.

Moraga has used different methods to choose its volunteers. For many committees and commissions, the Town sends out a call for volunteers, and interested residents come forward. They are interviewed and appointed by the Council. For temporary committees, two other methods have been used in the recent past: selection by a few members of the Council, as was the case with the Revenue Enhancement Committee RECOM (then-mayor Dave Trotter and Council Member Mike Metcalf wrote the Charter and selected the volunteers); or appointment by staff according to a set of criteria approved by the Council, such as to the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

"It is important to take the politics out of the selection of this group," said Council Member Ken Chew, "Staff will be able to create a balanced committee, and then we can add

Council Members to it." Mayor Karen Mendonca supported that position, "We want staff to choose members who represent a broad cross-section of the community, and it is important to have consistency in the way committees are selected," she said, in reference to the formation of the EDAC.

"Appropriateness is more important to me than consistency," answered Metcalf. "There were differences between EDAC and RECOM and the recruitment was done differently and appropriately."

"We will need to have developers, property owners and environmentalists on that committee," added Trotter, "It is not realistic to have such a plan divorced from politics."

The full Council is expected to convene on November 30 and make its decision. Whatever method is used to appoint the Task Force, it's likely to take about 18 months to develop a Climate Action Plan.

Beyond the State of the Town Address

By Sophie Braccini



Mayor Karen Mendonca and Brother Ronald Gallagher, President of Saint Mary's College. Photo Sophie Braccini

This year's State of the Town address featured the traditional updates on the budget and potholes, but the most memorable moment for the hundred or so people who attended the annual event

may be when Mayor Karen Mendonca asked those who volunteered for the town, its schools or its service clubs to rise – not surprisingly, everyone in the audience stood up; and found themselves cheering in

support of each other. The message the outgoing mayor conveyed to all of the volunteers was, "Thank you for making Moraga a special place to live, work and play."

"Marty McInturf (the Town

Clerk) suggested that we include a volunteer recognition in our State of the Town event and I thought it was a great idea," said Mendonca. Appetizers and wines were offered at Saint Mary's College Soda Center the night of November 16th, and the first 45 minutes of visiting and mingling were particularly cheerful.

In her address, Mendonca talked about the definite strides made toward the 18 goals that were defined a year ago, in spite of the difficult economic climate.

The mayor outlined the outreach campaign that has begun to inform the community about the state of the roads, and pointed out the new businesses that are repopulating the Rheem Center, noting that the planning efforts for that area are continuing. Mendonca reminded the audience that the Town continues to be frugal and to present a balanced operating budget.

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