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Moraga Gets Two New Police Officers

## **By Sophie Braccini**



City Clerk Marty McInturf swears in new Police Officers Tyler Olson and Krista Koppinger as Police Chief Bob Priebe looks on. Photo Will Grant

his Department will have a full time months. detective position, filled by Will Davis, something Priebe has been process we got some very qualified looking forward to for years. A reorganization of the Police Department is to find the right fit for the Moraga will allow his officers to spend more community." time where he believes they should be-on the streets.

ble by the hiring of two new officers, one to replace a recently vacated post, and a 13th position that is funded by a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) State grant. The newcomers, Tyler Olson and Krista Koppinger, are currently training with

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oraga Chief of Police Bob a senior officer in Moraga and will hit Priebe is pleased. This year the streets on their own within a few

> "When we started our testing candidates," says the Chief, "the trick

"I was an officer for two years in Susanville, a little town north of The detective slot is made possi- Reno," says Olson, "it was a bit smaller than Moraga, with different demographics. We had two prisons there and a lot of parolees." Moraga is closer to where Olson's family lives, which is important to the young man who will soon become a new father.

"I was first hired by the Sacra-

mento Police Department, but was let go as part of their budget cuts a month later," explains Koppinger, "I was attracted to Moraga because I want to work in a town where I can build a relationship with the community." She adds that being in Moraga will allow her to keep an eye on her younger sister who attends Saint Mary's College.

Both new officers say that working in a small department where you can handle your cases from the first phone call up to the District Attorney's office is a great environment in which to learn and grow. Creating the right environment for his force is of utmost importance to Priebe. "Our salaries do not compare with what many other departments can offer," he explains, "so it is my job to create a work environment that will keep them coming back to work."

"Everybody has been very welcoming here," says Olson. He enjoyed the warm welcome at the swearing ceremony during the December 14 Town Council meeting and added that the Chief made his transition very easy. "People wave to you on the streets here," adds the young officer.

"My training officer, Randy Pacheco, is letting me handle calls that he feels are appropriate," says Koppinger, "the Chief has also been very welcoming, he is a wealth of knowledge and experience."

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George Fisher at the new mail boxes.

t's a Moraga Movers' project," says George Fisher of the new mailboxes that were recently installed in the parking lot of the Moraga Center near McCaulou's. Since the Country Club Drive post office closed, this part of town didn't have a safe place to drop mail from a car. "The mail boxes that were located along Moraga Way, on the sidewalk, made an unsafe drop-off," said Fisher, "members of the Moraga Movers asked me to contact Joan Bruzzone, the owner of the S.Braccini Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Center, to see if a convenient and safe mail drive-through could be found."

The location was found, approved by Moraga's Postmaster Dorothy Lewis, and brand new boxes were quickly installed. "We were happy to provide this much easier and more convenient service for the community without having to journey to the Rheem Center just to mail a letter," said Joan Bruzzone.



"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." ~ T.S. Eliot

Happy New Year

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