



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 23, 7:00pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

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

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, June 12, 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
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Purse hidden on purpose, 4/29/12 A Natalie Drive homeowner contacted Moraga police complaining that her husband had hidden her purse in the house and refused to return it. She asked cops to chat with her husband and suggest the purse be returned to her. Husband admitted hiding the purse after an argument over financial issues. The purse was returned without incident.

House vandalized, 4/28/12 A Huff Court home and a car parked in front had been egged and toilet papered, along with rice thrown all over the lawn and porch. The victim had already cleaned up the nasty mess when police arrived. There was some concern that the rice was a reference to the family's ethnic group - Asian. The victims believe the suspect(s) may be high school acquaintances of their child.

Dreaded noise ordinance, 4/28/12 Police responded to a noise complaint on Whitethorn Drive at around two o'clock in the afternoon. Even from 200 feet away police were able to verify that it was "inappropriately extensive for the time and conditions." Residents were contacted and asked to keep it down. Only an hour later, cops received a similar complaint. This time police determined that it wasn't all that loud, but suggested the party should wrap it up.

Facebook threat? 4/26/12 A St. Mary's College student had a disagreement with her roommate over cleaning the suite. Following the disagreement, the roommate's family posted statements on Facebook suggesting a future confrontation between the reporting person and family. The slighted and possibly sloppy roommate just wanted documentation from police.

All kinds of trouble, 4/25/12 In the middle of the afternoon, on Country Club Drive, police pulled over a 1998 BMW for having tinted windows. A routine check with the DMV showed the car's registration was expired, the driver was operating on a suspended driver's license and finally no proof of insurance. What's more the car also had a false DMV sticker on the rear license plate. The driver signed a promise to appear and was released, however the car was taken into custody, sort of, and towed.

Petty theft, 4/24/12 An Ascot Drive resident parked her Honda in the carport attached to her apartment at around 4:00 p.m. When she went out to the car the next morning, she discovered someone had stolen two wallets from the glovebox. Although she reports that she usually locks her car, she didn't see any signs of forced entry, and may have left it unlocked. Estimated loss approximately \$50.

24 Years of Experience With Proven Results



Cathy Schultheis
510-915-2277
cathy@brokercathy.com
www.brokercathy.com
DRE #01005765

Sale Pending



461 Woodminster Dr., Moraga
2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1474 sq. ft.,
freshly updated, private lot
Offered at \$439,000

Open Sunday 1-4



352 Deerfield Dr., Moraga
6 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths,
3 car garage - over 3400 sq ft
Offered at \$1,215,000

Sold



440 Deerfield Dr., Moraga
5 bedrooms, 2.5 bath 2969 sq ft.
Offered at \$1,199,000



©2012 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned And Operated by NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304

Tax Increase in Moraga's Future?

By Sophie Braccini

A couple of years ago the Town of Moraga picked up a common thread in Lamorinda – the need to find a lot of money to repair and maintain its roads at acceptable levels. An ad-hoc committee dubbed RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods) has spent the intervening time looking at the issue and recently presented its findings to the Town Council. The committee also requested additional funding to finalize the study and prepare for a potential November ballot initiative that would secure financing, possibly in more than one form, for Moraga's roads.

A telephone survey scheduled for this month will help the Town determine how much residents might be willing to pay for infrastructure rehabilitation and ongoing road maintenance.

According to Jerry Bradshaw, the El Cerrito City Engineer under contract with the Town of Moraga to help finalize road repair plans, the Town needs to raise \$14 million; substantially less than the \$25 million originally estimated. "At first we had planned to take the roads from an 'at risk' level (the present situation) to a 'good' level, then let them be for a few years before starting a maintenance program to keep them at a 'fair' level," Bradshaw explained. "The recommended alternative is to bring the roads only up to the Bay Area's average of 'fair' and then immediately engage in a maintenance program that would cost \$1 million a year and would keep the infrastructure at that level; this plan is less expensive," Bradshaw said at the April 25 Town Council meeting.

Even the less expensive plan will

be hard to finance. A parcel tax of \$100 would raise \$450,000 a year that the Town could bond for the roads, but the bond proceeds would be roughly \$8 million – \$6 million short of what's needed. And there would still be the cost of ongoing maintenance; that's where a sales tax could play a role. "A percent added to the local sales tax would create \$900,000 in revenue a year for the Town," explained Mayor Mike Metcalf, who serves on RECON. "It is a fair tax because people who come to shop in Moraga will contribute to maintaining the roads."

At a previous meeting Bradshaw told the Council that a sales tax increase in El Cerrito had no adverse effect on business, in spite of serious competition from nearby cities. The City of Orinda is also considering raising its sales tax to make a dent in

its infrastructure backlog.

The Town could opt for a combination of measures likely to include a parcel tax, in the form of a Community Facilities District (CFD, also known as Mello Roos), which needs a two-thirds majority approval, and a sales tax that can be passed with a 50 percent majority.

The Council unanimously approved funding for consultants who will conduct the survey, provide legal services regarding a possible CFD, and continue work on the engineering reports and maps necessary to conduct an election on a CFD. The three contracts total \$55,800.

The results of the survey are scheduled to be available in late May when the Council will further consider the funding options.

Election Process Clarified...or Not

By Sophie Braccini

An unwritten tradition is like a gentlemen's agreement. It works as long as everyone finds it beneficial. The unwritten tradition that defined who would become the vice mayor of Moraga each year—based on the number of votes received in the general election—and subsequently serve as mayor the following year recently came to an end and will not be replaced by a written policy.

The Moraga Town Council elects its mayor and vice mayor, and the only written rules for ascending to a leadership role are general. The mayor and vice mayor must receive at least three affirmative votes, they are appointed for one-year terms, and a council member may not succeed himself/herself as mayor or vice mayor.

Early last month the Moraga

Town Council charged Town Manager Jill Keimach with finding out how Lafayette's mayoral seat is filled (read the details in our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0604/Moraga-Town-Councils-Cohesiveness-Shaken.html.) Although its written procedures are similar to Moraga's, the Lafayette City Council has an unwritten tradition that gives every elected council member an opportunity to wield the mayor's gavel.

Keimach returned to the Council on April 25 with a written proposal that reflected the Lafayette tradition. Had it been adopted, whoever had been on the council for the longest period of time without serving as mayor or vice mayor would be nominated next.

"I was never one to want to limit the Council's discretion to choose its

mayor and vice mayor, but the people have expressed their desire to have fairness and clarity," said Mayor Mike Metcalf. "What the Town Manager has drafted corresponds to that request and I'm prepared to vote for it." His motion to approve the policy failed, as it received support only from Council Member Dave Trotter.

This debate began with Council Member Karen Mendonca's December, 2011 nomination of Council Member Howard Harpham as vice mayor instead of Trotter; under the old tradition, Trotter would have received the nod. Mendonca stated, "The people elect the Council members, not the mayor. The Council needs to retain the discretion to choose the person that is best suited to lead the Council at the time." Council Member Ken Chew added, "I just didn't have a problem with

Howard (Harpham) becoming the vice mayor. The question is who can provide the leadership?"

... continued on next page

New Rules for Public Participation

The Town Council also approved changes regulating public participation at the meetings, including the use of recording, videotaping or television equipment, which is now permitted only in the back row or side aisles; turning off electronic devices such as cell phones; keeping certain areas clear; and rules regarding disruptive behavior.

techmommy®

"A High-tech Brain with the Patience of a Mother"

\$25 OFF one session*

Fast Expert Computer Help from techmommy!

- Troubleshoot any PC problem.
- Help in plain English, not tech talk.
- Virus and spyware removal, system clean-up.
- Learn all of the software on your computer.
- Master e-mail, web searches, filing, attachments.
- Pre-purchase help for computers and electronics.
- Program iPod, cell phone, Blackberry, camera, GPS.
- Set-up and configure new computer, peripherals.
- Hardware upgrades, home network repairs.
- Learn the latest software back-up techniques.
- Personal training in your home, at your pace.

925-377-7711
www.techmommy.com

Serving the Bay Area's Technology Needs Since 1985

*Over the years techmommy has been our computer savior and guru, untangling our hardware and software problems with remarkable ease. Thank goodness for techmommy. We would be lost without her!
- Dan & Colleen, Moraga

ADD/ADHD?
Learning Disorders?
Executive Dysfunction?

Neurofeedback can help!

Advanced Therapy Center Announces

Summer Special – Tune Up for Fall!

Diagnostic testing for ADD/ADHD AND
12 Treatment sessions.

\$1,000.00 (Usually \$1,300 - \$2,100)

School-age children may qualify for free treatment by participating in a Research Project.

Call or email today to schedule an appointment:

61 Moraga Way, #6 (Above Peet's) | Orinda, California 94563
925.254.7823 | DrSmith@AdvancedTherapyCenter.org
www.AdvancedTherapyCenter.org

Advanced Therapy Center
when it's time to change your life

MORAGA JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry, Diamonds, & Watches Since 1996

WATCH & JEWELRY REPAIR ON SITE

562 Center St. Moraga, Rheem Valley Shopping Ctr. near CVS
www.moragajewelers.com Phone: (925) 376-1283

Blue Ridge Cabinets

Kitchens • Baths • Custom Cabinetry

Steve Gorman (925) 798-4899
cabdesign@ifn.net

www.blueridgecabinets.com Lic. 810658