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Moraga's New Librarian

By Sophie Braccini



Carla Mason at the Moraga Library

Photo Sophie Braccini

Carla Mason does not know why the turnover of the library's managers has been so high in Moraga since Linda Waldroup's retirement at the beginning of 2011.

first part of her professional life. Then she decided to reinvent herself and earned a master's degree in library science.

Mason's first library job was with Santa Clarity County, first as a children's librarian, then as a manager of the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library.

best," she said, "even the taxi driver taking me to the airport."

Mason looks at her new domain with an appreciative and critical eye. "We just got new furniture for the children's library," she was happy to show.

The magazine section has hundreds of titles for people to grab and read on site. "I'd like to make this space more cozy and inviting," Mason said, looking at the old shelf where the magazines are stacked, and the furniture that could take a little rejuvenation.

Mason opened a "Popular Mechanics" magazine the library just received and pointed to an article about someone who created a car with a 3D printer.

aga Library has a 3D printer for a month?" she asked with excitement. Mason is in the planning stages of developing a program for people to either use the printer, if they have their own program, or offer an activity that would teach the community how to use it.

Mason also wants to be part of the collection development committee as soon as her seniority will allow. She already enjoys studying the analytics of her new domain and seeing what kinds of books are most read in the community.

"There are many ideas of things I'd like to experiment with here," she

added. "A local authors' presentation in collaboration with other close-by libraries, or a drop-in to help people use their e-readers more efficiently. But what is most important to me is to get to know the community and gauge what people want."

Mason is confident that libraries will continue to be relevant in the future, and not only for the activities that are proposed. "People can find a lot of information online, but when they want to do serious research they need to know which online sources to trust. This is something that we learn at library school and we can help with."

Mason did not promise that she will stay as long as Waldroup did, nine years, but for now she is happy where she is and plans to leave her mark before her next step up.

Road Repair on Rheem Delayed One Year

Moraga staff announced that the road repair that was going to lead to the closure of Rheem Boulevard for four to five months this fall will not start until the spring of 2016. The reason for the delay is the inability of utility agencies such as PG&E or the East Bay Municipal Utility District to conduct under-road work that has to happen in that area

before the road work is done. It therefore seemed more sensible to delay the repairs until the agencies have finished work there. The developer of the Rancho Laguna II project, SummerHill Homes, is in charge of the repair. The construction of the homes will start this fall and will not wait for the road repair as previously planned.

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