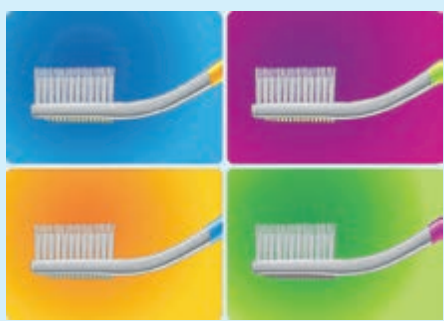


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New Librarian Moss Starts New Chapter for Moraga Library

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Head Librarian Geneva Moss stands next to the Lucky Day collection.

Moraga has a new full-time head librarian in Geneva Moss, who has plans to set her mark in Moraga. A sweet and gentle personality, she comes with ideas and a sincere drive for serving the public.

It has been challenging these past six years to keep track of Moraga head librarians. They would stay for a few months, start modeling their own style, but be gone with the next season. Whether it

was that the position was then part-time or that better professional opportunities arose, the position was a bit of a revolving door.

But now it is settled. Moss was the children's librarian in Antioch for over five years before she was promoted to Moraga. In Antioch she developed programs funded by grants to serve the needs of the population. In Moraga, where she has now been for a few months, she has discovered that residents that

have complex requests and are interested in a whole gamut of issues.

And this is why Moss left her job in the commercial real estate industry 11 years ago: to interact and serve the public, be challenged by the requests and thrive in bringing answers and new services.

"People are overwhelmed by the amount of information that is available to them online and in print," says the librarian, who sees her role as a pilot in an ocean of information, giving direction to safely navigate to a destination. In Moraga people are looking for current event information and analysis, personal improvement, history and the arts.

Moss, who works Tuesday to Saturday makes sure that she spends a least one hour a day at the public desk, "I need to understand the local needs," she says.

One of the most successful programs at the Moraga library at this time is the "Lucky Day Collection." Popular books can get enormous waiting list of some 200 names in the "hold" queue, and getting them can take months or even years. So the county library system came up with this fun idea: have in each library a rack where one copy of some of the most-wanted books is displayed and can be picked up and rented for three weeks on the spot (no renewals). "What I love about

this is that I see people browsing there all the time and talking to each other about the books," says Moss — and that's how she sees a library as a powerful vector for building community.

Moss has not yet started to implement her own vision for new programs at the library. She is waiting for the new adult services librarian to start up shortly, but she already knows that the library will seek grants to propose cultural and art programs on a grander scale.

She has already started partnering with other local groups. Reaching teens is always a challenge, so Moss reached out to Campolindo High School's librarian to bring teen programs directly to the high school, and also opened it up to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate stu-

dents. Moss is also in touch with the East Bay Regional Park District to propose programs that will combine literature with the exploration of the outdoors.

In her spare time, when she has time off parenting her own child, Moss of course loves to read. Three of her major areas of interest are young adult fiction, politics and Victorian literature or period pieces.

In the first category she recommends "Wintergirls" by Laurie Halse Anderson, which deals with the difficult topic of anorexia. She also recommends "Because of Sex" by Gillian Thomas that analyzes the consequences of the Title VII Law, and Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations."

Developer Cleans Up at West Commons Park

By Sophie Braccini

It was thanks to a resident's alertness that the town was made aware of the fact that SummerHill Homes, which is developing the upscale Harvest Court residences off Camino Ricardo, had dumped dirt and fill on a native meadow that should have been left undisturbed.

The developer acknowledged the fact and replaced the site's construction manager. It will also restore the meadow that is part of the new West Commons Park as much as possible. The town will get a \$40,000 benefit in the form of an irrigation metering system SummerHill is now going to pay for.

"It is a good thing this person is being removed," said Public Works Director Edric Kwan, referring to

the SummerHill construction manager who was, in his view, a little too much of a "cowboy."

When the developer got its approval to build 26 homes on the 14.7 acres of the Chi property off Camino Ricardo, one of the conditions of approval was to create to the east of the site a 1.4 acre passive park that would be a restoration of the natural habitat in Moraga. The land now called West Commons was to be left pristine. So when a resident noticed that the developer had dumped fill on the meadow he alerted a council member, who in turn gave a heads-up to city staff.

Planning Director Ellen Clark notes that the town tried to recruit a temporary employee whose job

would have been to make sure that developers consistently respect their conditions of approval. It was not possible to fill that position. She is not concerned, though, that developers are violating these conditions, because, when they are caught, it costs them a lot more money.

In the case of the West Commons, SummerHill is removing the fill, and will work with a landscape architect to reseed the area with original grasses. Kwan added that he is pleased that the company has also agreed to pay for the new irrigation metering system that was going to be the town's responsibility.

Utilities Work

Kwan believes that the completion of the work will take months. After all the cables have been secured underground they will have to be tested, then the overhead lines

and poles will have to be removed. Moraga Road will then have to be slurry-sealed when all the other work is finished, depending on the weather. Only then will the

... continued from page A4

new stripping of the Moraga Livable Roads scheme will be painted, maintaining two lanes on each side and adding continuous bike and pedestrian paths.



Open For Business, Sweet Business

It's that time of year again: Time for the Kiwanis Club See's candy sale.

The sale will be on through Christmas.

From left, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley President Sam Sperry, Moraga town officials Mayor Mike Metcalf, Town Manager Bob Priebe and Police Chief Jon King (all three of whom are KCMV members), plus Moraga School District board member and vice president Jon Nickens.

Photo Stan Holcenberg

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