



## Moraga Liaison Meeting

The Moraga Liaison Meeting is held in the conference room of the Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Mary's Road, at 8 a.m. on the second Friday of each month. The purpose of the meeting is to share timely information with those in attendance about Moraga organizations, businesses, government, schools, associations and service clubs. Check out [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)

**March 8, 2013**

**Susan Sperry - Moderator**

- **Town Council - Mayor Dave Trotter** – The Town Council has completed selection of five new members for the Planning Commission.

The Town is now recruiting candidates to serve on the Measure K Oversight Committee. Applications, to be submitted to the Town Clerk, are due by Noon on Wednesday, March 20.

The Town has received a clean final audit for fiscal year 2011-12, prepared by independent auditor Maze & Associates, who confirmed that the Town's financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

At its February 27 meeting, the Town Council upheld the Planning Director's determination and directive to St. Mary's College respecting operating hours for its intramural field lights. The directive was to turn off the lights at 9:00 p.m. rather than 10:00 p.m., and St. Mary's College had appealed that directive to the Council.

The Mayor attended and was one of the presenters at the Moraga Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Business Person of the Year recognition dinner, held at Moraga Country Club on February 26. Bill Snider, owner of Moraga Hardware and Lumber and a neighboring shop, Across the Way, both situated in the Moraga Shopping Center, was the honoree.

- **Town Administration – Police Chief Bob Priebe standing in for Town Manager Jill Keimach** – Volunteers are still being sought to serve on (a) the Design Review Board, (b) the ADA Advisory Committee, (c) the Moraga seat on the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging and (d) the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC).
- **Town Planning Department/Planning Commission – Director Shawna Brekke-Read and Jim Kline, Commissioner** – The Commission is scheduled to hold its first public hearing on Monday,

April 1, on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) respecting the proposed Bollinger Valley development project. However, in view of the fact that the week of April 1-5 is spring break for the Moraga schools, consideration is being given to rescheduling this hearing.

At its meeting on March 18, the Commission will continue discussion of zoning changes for the Rheem Valley commercial area.

- **Town Public Works Department – Director Edric Kwan** – The Town has received recognition from the American Public Works Association (APWA) for its green task management program featuring the introduction of owls to decrease the surplus population of rats and mice.

Department staff member Travis McCord has completed a training program regarding supervision and management and has received a certificate of completion.

With respect to the Town’s pavement repair program, the Director reported on several developments:

(a) The Town has received a grant to provide funding for a “rubberized cape seal” paving program as an important component of the overall Moraga street repair program, which will also utilize funding made available by passage of Measure K (20-year sales tax increase).

(b) An electronic pothole “hotline” has been established as an e-mail address at [potholes@moraga.ca.us](mailto:potholes@moraga.ca.us). Residents can send a text or e-mail to that address, and the inclusion of pictures is encouraged, along with name, street address closest to the pothole or other landmarks, to facilitate field review. The information received will be compiled, repair work prioritized, and work performed on the first Monday of each month.

(c) Starting March 11, engineers will be walking the streets to collect field data on candidate street segments to be included in the 2013 pavement repair program, with work on the selected street segments hopefully to begin in July.

- **Town Parks and Recreation Department – Police Chief Priebe standing in for Director Jay Ingram** – The Park and Recreation Commission is continuing its discussion about a new park proposed by SummerHill Homes in connection with its 26-lot subdivision off of Camino Ricardo and extending over to Moraga Road.

A contract has been awarded by the Town Council to GECO Incorporated for the renovation of restrooms and ADA access improvements to the Pavilion building at the Hacienda. The improvement project is scheduled to be completed in time for the upcoming Cinco de Mayo event and the start of the 2013 wedding season.

- **Town Police Department – Chief Bob Priebe** – The Department is coordinating with Moraga schools to provide training regarding “shooters.” Training will take place on April 11 in Orinda.

In conjunction with the Moraga Citizen Corps Council, the Department hopes to start a Moraga version of “Night Out.” In keeping with the month of September as National Emergency Preparedness Month, the planners are targeting this September to hold the event. It will be patterned after the Orinda Night Out, last held on September 20, 2012

The process for hiring two new sworn officers has been completed with the selection of two candidates from among the applicants. Both candidates will now undergo background checks,

medical and psychological exams and, upon successful completion of this phase, will begin field training.

- **Moraga-Orinda Fire District – Darryl Lee (spelling?)** – An open house is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Fire Station 45 in downtown Orinda (33 Orinda Way), featuring activities for all age groups.

A special meeting of the MOFD Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., at Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way. The Board will be discussing the possible purchase of property in Lafayette for a new fire station to be shared with the Contra Costa Fire District, an idea which was one of the principal topics discussed at the February 22 “Tri-City” meeting.

- **Moraga Chamber of Commerce – Administrator Kathe Nelson** – Robin Fox will continue her seminar series on Wednesday, March 20, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., at the Lafayette Library. The title of this next program will be “Facebook 101 as it pertains to your business.”

The next Chamber business meeting will be Friday, March 29, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m., at the Hacienda, and it will feature a presentation on cyber fraud by a special agent of the FBI.

The 2013 Moraga Community Faire will take place at the Rheem Shopping Center on Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Faire, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year since it was begun in 2007, will be promoted with the customary colorful banners, each one naming the business or service organization sponsoring it (applications now available), and it will for the first time feature a celebrity dunk tank, with Police Chief Bob Priebe having already volunteered to be a dunkee.

- **Moraga Elementary School District – Superintendent Bruce Burns** – The proposed 2013-2016 Strategic Plan, the product of a broadly-based planning committee, will be presented to the District Board of Trustees for consideration at its meeting on Tuesday, March 12.

March 15 is the deadline for the District to issue teacher lay-off notices as a means of preserving the option to cut expenses for the coming school year in the event that such cuts become necessary. Even with the “back filling” of state funding omitted from prior years during the recession, the sufficiency of revenue available to fund a continuation of current staffing levels for the 2013-2014 school year remains uncertain.

A fifth grade Camino Pablo student, whose first name is Jack, was recently invited to address Congress, has become a spokesperson for Dupont, and was featured in a recent edition of the monthly publication, “Little People.”

- **St. Mary’s College – Tim Farley, Director of Community & Government Relations** – The College is “discouraged” by the Town Council action to uphold the Planning Director’s directive pertaining to the intramural field lights but is continuing its dialogue with the Town and disgruntled property owners to try to find a mutually-acceptable solution.

The College is appealing the recent NCAA sanctions pertaining to the men’s basketball program, believing that the sanctions are too severe.

The College is teaming up with KTVU Channel 2 to conduct the “Great Bay Area Service Day” for schools on Saturday, March 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Elizabeth Smith at [jes5@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:jes5@stmarys-ca.edu).

The College expects to announce soon the identity of the person selected to be the next President of the College.

The College's spring break will begin on Monday, March 25, and extend through Monday, April 1 (due to Easter being on March 31).

- **Moraga Library – Diane McDonnell, Branch Librarian** – Andrea Freyler (spelling?) has joined the staff of the Moraga Library, and openings for further staff additions remain.

In connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of libraries in Contra Costa County, the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center sponsored a successful event entitled "A Walk Through Lamorinda History," beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Lafayette Library. Brief presentations were made by representatives of all three of the Lamorinda community libraries, together with County Supervisor Candace Anderson, County Librarian Barbara Flynn, John Minney, President of the Moraga Historical Society, and Kent Long, President of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. The primary presentation was made by Mary McCosker, President of the Lafayette Historical Society, with emphasis on the three community libraries as they moved and grew.

A dazzling array of programs is being offered at the Moraga Library in the remaining days of March:

(a) In cooperation with Moraga Movers, an hour-long "Book Talking" program, featuring a brief book review followed by discussion, with "The Art of Racing in the Rain," by Garth Stein, as the featured book, described as "a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope – as only a dog could tell it"; Wednesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m.;

(b) A lecture by a docent from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre on the play "Fallaci," written by prize-winning journalist and playwright, Lawrence Wright; Wednesday, March 20, at 2:00 p.m.;

(c) The monthly meeting of the Mystery Book Club, discussing "No Mark Upon Her," by Deborah Crombie; Thursday, March 21, at 1:00 p.m.; and

(d) In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Friends of the Moraga Library are sponsoring a presentation by John J. Fitzpatrick Jr., Esq., licensed Gettysburg battlefield guide, about this immortal speech by our 16<sup>th</sup> President; Wednesday, March 27, at 2:00 p.m.

A gas leak was detected recently but resolved without incident, thanks to a prompt response by Moraga's police and fire personnel.

Proposals are being processed to (a) purchase some art for the children's area of the library and (b) install some benches on the front patio.

- **Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club – Sam Sperry, Member** – The Club’s annual “Crab Feed and Silent Auction” fundraiser, held on Saturday, February 16, at the Soda Center at St. Mary’s College, was successful, raising approximately \$25,000 for the Club’s Community Contributions Fund.

The Club’s Community Service Projects Committee is coordinating with Jay Ingram to provide volunteer labor for the project to replace an exterior staircase adjacent to the La Sala building at the Hacienda. The Club’s Contributions Committee, which administers the Community Contributions Fund, has awarded a grant of not-to-exceed \$2,000 toward the cost of the project.

- **Moraga Rotary Club – Board Member Gary Irwin** – Rotary will hold its annual “Nite at the Races” fundraiser on Saturday, March 16, at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, starting at 5:30 p.m.; tickets are \$40 each. For ticket information, contact Frank May at 376-8195.

Rotary will be conducting its semi-annual e-waste collection service on Saturday, April 20, at the Moraga Shopping Center. Details to follow.

- **Moraga Historical Society – Susan Sperry, Recording Secretary** – The next general meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the conference room of the Moraga Library. The speaker will be Steve Gilford, award winning producer of TV documentaries and radio programs and author of “Build ‘Em by the Mile, Cut ‘Em by the Yard; How Henry Kaiser and the Rosies Helped Win World War II.” His topic will be “The SS Stephen Hopkins, A Gallant Ship.” The ship was built in the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond and was the only U.S. merchant ship that sunk a German war ship during WW II. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.
- **Moraga Women’s Society – Nancy Comprelli, Treasurer** – The Society will hold its “Bridge, Brunch & Bunco” fundraising event on Monday, April 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center. Tickets are \$30.00 per person, may be purchased from Society members (or by calling 376-3187), and must be purchased by April 22. Net proceeds benefit Moraga schools and the Moraga Library.
- **Moraga Movers – President Bob Foxall** – The informal “drop by” program, sponsored by Moraga Movers, continues every weekday morning, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room at the Hacienda, providing free coffee and cookies and a comfortable meeting place, complete with Wi-Fi service.

On Saturday, March 23, the Movers will be holding their “Casino Night” fundraiser, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Hacienda. Tickets are \$50 per person, can be purchased at the door, and include one free drink ticket and appetizers. For additional information, call Kim Burrowes at 888-7036 or visit [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

**County Board of Supervisors – Jill Ray, Senior Aide, representing Supervisor Candace Andersen (District 2)** – The County continues its advocacy with the federal government to have a proposed federal health care call center located in Contra Costa County.

The County’s Solid Waste Authority, on which Supervisor Andersen sits, is negotiating terms of a new trash collection contract with its waste collection services provider.

- **California State Assembly – Gayle Larson, Field Representative, representing Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District)** – Assemblymember Buchanan invites interested persons to attend a free pancake breakfast taking place on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, at the Orinda Community Center (28 Orinda Way), at which participants will be invited to discuss legislative and community issues. To RSVP, please call (925) 328-1515.
- **California State Senate – Emlyn Struthers, District Representative for Senator Mark DeSaulnier (7<sup>th</sup> State Senate District)** – Senator DeSaulnier is inviting constituents to meet one-on-one with him at an event for that purpose on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. No appointment necessary, but for more information, please call (925) 942-6082.

**General Note:** Yes, it's actually true that four (4) separate events are taking place in Lamorinda on Saturday, March 16, as noted above (St. Mary's "Service Day" for schools; Rotary's Nite at the Races; Assemblymember Buchanan's pancake breakfast; and Senator DeSaulnier's one-on-one meetings).

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

**The next meeting will be Friday, April 12, 2013, in the Moraga Library conference room.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Sperry