

## **Notes from June 27th Chamber Meeting**

### **PEAR FESTIVAL**

John Haffner, the chairman of the Pear Festival, said that the Pear Festival will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008. A committee has been formed and they are planning a fun filled Fall festival. If the business community is interested, a Moraga business faire could be included. This is a community building event. Anyone who could help or has new ideas for a fall festival please call John at 376-9064.

### **INTERIM MORAGA TOWN MANAGER**

Jay Tschiro has come out of retirement to be the Town of Moraga's interim town manager. He has lived in Moraga since 1989. He has been in public service for over thirty years. He was the Moraga Planning Director for a number of years, and up until two years ago, he was the city manager for the City of Corte Madera. One of his main goals as town manager is to improve communication in general, and he is currently working with the Moraga School District as well as the Orinda Moraga Fire District. He would like the Moraga Chamber of Commerce to give an update to the Moraga Town Council on a quarterly basis. He would like to see if there is a way to quicken the process for businesses to get through the Planning Dept requirements, so the time it takes to open a Moraga business would be shortened. He was able to do this successfully in Corte Madera. Council member Mike Metcalf said how thrilled he was to have Jay at this time, and that one of Jay's main jobs will be to help with the selection process of the new town manager.

### **MORAGA ROAD CLOSURE**

The Moraga Road Closure has gone very smoothly. The flagmen on Saint Mary's Road have been a great help. A special thank you to the city of Orinda for changing their plans and doing the main work on Moraga Way at night and to EBMUD for the care they have put into this project. The flagmen on Saint Mary's Road have made a big difference. Mike Lawrence, manager of Longs, said the detour sign at Moraga Road and Saint Mary's Road has residents in the west end of town by-passing Rheem and taking Saint Mary's Road. He feels this has hurt his business. Nora Harlow, community relations person from EBMUD, and Mike were to meet after the

meeting to see what can be done to change the signage. Safeway's business is up. Terzetto's is better. Roos invited everyone to come to Terzetto's Bar B Que this Saturday, June 28th from 1 - 6 PM.

Joan Bruzzone brought a flyer of an ad that ran in the LaMorInda Weekly on June 11th. It supported shopping in Moraga during the road closures. It was sponsored by different groups affiliated with the Green Party. The Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Shop Moraga First website addresses were used. Edy Schwartz responded that the Chamber was not part of the sponsorship of the ad and the Chamber did not give permission to be mentioned in the ad. Joan Bruzzone's concern was the separation of politics and the Chamber. A response to the ad will be in the next LaMorInda Weekly paper.

Dave Bruzzone spoke about the number of stop signs on Saint Mary's Road, Glenside Drive and Reliez Valley Road. With flagmen waving drivers through the stop signs, it has become apparent how much travel time is added for Moraga residents as they travel to and from Lafayette due to the stop signs. Anyone who has these concerns please contact Dave Bruzzone.

## **FIVE A RENT A SPACE RAFFLE IDEA**

Brad Noggle and Jenny Boyd of 5 A RENT A SPACE had Chamber members drop their business cards into a raffle vat. The raffle prize donated by 5 A RENT A SPACE was a \$25 gas card. Larry Tessler was the winner. Brad said he has belonged to many different Chambers of Commerce and some had raffles at the end of each meeting. All businesses are invited to participate by donating a prize. One or two prizes will be given out at each meeting. He said it was a way to showcase different businesses. Email [Edy321@comcast.net](mailto:Edy321@comcast.net) when you would like to sponsor the monthly raffle prize.