



Moraga Firehouse Liaison Meeting

This historic 30-year liaison meeting is held in the conference room of the Moraga/Orinda Fire District on Moraga Way at 8 a.m. on the second Friday of each month. The purpose is to share timely local information with Moraga organizations, businesses, government, schools, associations, service clubs, residents and friends of the community. Check out www.moraga.ca.us.

May 8, 2009

Jerry Meyer-Moderator

- **Town Council-Mayor Dave Trotter**-Former Mayor Mike Majchrzak died last week after a long illness. After 23 years, The Town Council approved the Precise Development Plan for Palos Colorados (123 lots). Grading and building permits will be approval at a later time. The newly formed Revenue Enhancement Committee, consisting of eleven members, met last week. It is hoped this committee may increase to twelve or thirteen. Their next meeting will be June 1st where suggestions will be taken for revenue enhancement. Do not expect immediate results as this is a long process. The Council's goal-setting meeting took place Saturday at the Hacienda. Because of the shortage of revenue they will focus on the current year's budget and issues.
- **Town Manager-Mike Segrest**-The Town has been busy for the last two months with: 1.) the Specific Plan, 2.) the housing element which is critical to state funding, and 3.) the budget. The Revenue Enhancement Committee has been looking at how we can energize our community when 75% of tax money is going out to neighboring communities.
- **Public Works Director-Jill Mercurio**-The Moraga Road paving bids for a 2 ½" overlay have been accepted to pave from Sky Hy to Buckingham. The bid is less than our grant money and therefore more paving may be allowed. This is a complicated process and the Public Works department has to receive permission from the grant donors to do such work. Working within the limits set forth, \$609,000 of stimulus money will be used to pave from Buckingham to Draeger. Expect the work from Sky Hy to Buckingham to be performed in mid-June and Buckingham to Draeger any time from August-October. Because the County passed off all the non-library operating fees to the Town, revenue shifting is being performed in hopes of maintaining these facilities. TSAC is discussing the St.Mary's Road/RheemBlvd./Bollinger Canyon intersections; the Corliss/Wakefield/Warfield crosswalk/traffic calming effort; a Campolindo neighborhood request, and handicapped ramps at MoragaWay/Moraga Road/Canyon.
- **Planning Commission-Bruce Whitley**-The struggle for acceptance of the Moraga Center Specific Plan has ended with adoption. Although the original plan asked for 720 housing units, the adopted plan calls for 500 mixed units.

- **Planning Commissioner-Lori Salamach**-The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Specific Plan but due to a clerical error public notice was not made of the meeting in the local newspaper. Therefore a final meeting on this issue will be held May 18th for public comment and Planning Commission finalization of the adoption. The Design Review Committee and Parks and Recreation have also made recommendations which are under consideration. The Planning Department is still working on the housing element.
- **Park and Recreation Director-Jay Ingram**-The wonderfully successful Cinco De Mayo Party at the Hacienda on May 5th was planned for 100 attendees and approximately 400+ attended. Although the sponsors ran out of food and drink, a great time was had by all! May 20th is the Moraga Education Foundation's Thank You Concert at the Commons from 6:00-7:30 pm. At the April 21st meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations were made regarding the Specific Plan: 1.) a 20,000 sq. foot Moraga Community Center located on site A, 2.) a two acre park located in the residential area, 3.) a trail linking the riparian corridor along the creek to possibly be used for educational purposes and a pedestrian trail connecting the neighborhoods with the retail area. Buy a Rocket! for the 4th of July Fireworks. The community needs to raise \$17,000 for our annual fireworks show at the Moraga Commons. Ask your volunteer groups to donate. Applications are being taken for booths at the 4th of July celebration at the Commons.
- **Police Department-Chief Bob Priebe**-The Town could lose \$100,000 in Cops money if all the propositions fail in the May 19th special election. Misdemeanor offenses will continue to be prosecuted for 120 more days. Then the state will run out of funds to take these cases to court. The mayors are paying close attention to this issue in hopes revenue can be found to continue these prosecutions. There have been four residential burglaries so far this year. In these cases garage doors were open or cars with garage openers left open. Secure your garage doors and lock your cars!
- **Orinda/Moraga Fire District-Chief Pete Nowicki**-On May 20th the final draft of the Strategic Plan was presented to the public. The budget is "a world of hurt" but the department is forging ahead. The Swine Flu is being closely monitored. LAFCO has formed subcommittees to visit the different fire departments and ambulance units regarding the most recent monetary issues with Orinda and Moraga. If the propositions do not pass on May 19th, the state will take 8% of fire money and 1,000 CDF firefighters will be laid off. This could reduce our back-up system tremendously—think of the most recent Santa Barbara fires. Although the fire district was near to receiving a grant for infrastructure updates, President Obama has slashed financial assistance to firefighters.
- **Orinda/Moraga Fire District Board of Directors-Frank Sperling**-The Board continues to do their homework: 1.) committing to quality improvement, 2.) outstanding long range financial plan in place, and 3.) taking a close look at how pension plans work. These are all part of the District's on-going quality improvement plan.
- **Park and Recreation Foundation-Chuck Treat**-The Rossmoor Big Band will perform at 6:30 pm for the first Summer Concert on June 4th at the Commons.
- **Kiwanis-Chuck Treat**- The May 1st dinner honoring John Haffner as Citizen of the Year had the largest attendance of this function ever recorded!
- **Friends of the Moraga Library-David Kruegel**-The Public Works Department is repairing the library roof. The Summer Reading 2009 program has begun at the library. May 21st sees the arrival of Nadia Gordon's Sharp Shooter: Mysterious Book Discussion Series 7 pm. Don't forget the Crafty Storytime Tuesdays at 4:00 and the Lapsit storytime on Wednesdays at 10:45 am.
- **St Mary's College-Director, Community and Government Relations-Tim Farley**-The College continues to strengthen its relationship with the Town. Most recently was the Town/Gown Breakfast attended by Town and college officials. Graduation is May 23rd and the Summer Wine

Festival is August 16th from 2pm-5pm--\$25 early bird special, \$30 after 7/31 and \$15 for designated drivers. Call 925-631-4200 for tickets and information or www.stmarys-ca.edu/wine.

- **Chamber of Commerce- Ellen Bean**-The Community Faire was a great success with 74 vendors, 20 classic cars, senior interests, a 26 foot climbing wall, the Bounce House and a chalk drawing contest.
- **Chamber of Commerce-Edy Schwartz**-The Chamber is experiencing a stabilization of membership with new members joining and others dropping out due to the economy. More than ever, this is a time to support our local businesses because the federal government is not helping. We are lucky to live in a small community so we need to find a way to support what we love. The Chamber is starting a NEWS BLAST. Send your club announcements to Edy and she will link these announcements to our community website.
- **Rotary-Gary Irwin**-Field Day for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders is Wednesday, May 27th at Joaquin Moraga, 3:30 pm.
- **Moraga Historical Society-Susan Sperry**-The Historical Society's 25th Annual Potluck Dinner "Dinner in Old California" will be held Wednesday, July 22nd at the Hacienda. A potluck dish and \$12.50 buys you a dinner from Back Forty, friendship and laughs. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:45 pm. Contact Susan Skilton at 299-0485 for tickets and information.

Next meeting June 12, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Sperry