



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.

June 12, 2009

Jerry Meyer-Moderator

- **Town Council-Mayor Dave Trotter**-At the May 27th council meeting Town staff and the property owner were directed to limit housing in the Moraga Center Specific Plan area to 630 units as long as this is consistent with the traffic plan of the 2002 General Plan. To be consistent with current housing (3 houses per acre), it was recommended that single family dwellings be built across from the firehouse on Moraga Way, continuing up the open property on Camino Ricardo and concentrating the senior, smaller units (24 units per acre) in the center of this property. Now in progress is the updating of the housing plan for the state. Because the Town's operating budget is reduced to just under \$6 million, it will be "no frills" with a reduction of \$900,000 from last year. This will yield a \$½ million in reserves. However, the state may make further reductions and take back some of this money. In order to keep to this balanced budget the Town is saving on expenses, i.e. no 13th police officer, no interim staff money, and less lawyer fees in this non-election year. The Revenue Enhancement Committee met last week and they are searching for long term revenues for such items as road maintenance, etc. Staff travel money was reduced to \$4,000 with the savings placed in the senior Lamorinda Spirit van service. The Town now contributes \$9,000 annually toward this service.
- **Town Manager-Mike Segrest**-Mr. Segrest would like to thank the Town staff for their diligence in meeting the budget cuts and the challenges this year! Every department has met these challenges by reducing staff, changing the health plan and relying on the excellent volunteerism in our community. Of great importance to the Town is the Asset Replacement Program which has been ignored for years and needs to be addressed. This is the money needed to fix storm drains, repair roads, etc.
- **Town Public Works Director-Jill Mercurio**-Using a federal grant, the overlay from Sky Hy to Buckingham will take place this summer. With Stimulus and EBMUD money, Buckingham to Draeger will be rubber cap sealed in the fall. The sidewalk on Corliss Drive from Wakefield to Warfield will be constructed late summer before school resumes. The storm drain at the corner of Moraga Road/Moraga Way/Canyon Road will be relocated to build a handicapped ramp at that

location. \$80,000 from another Stimulus Grant will be used to put in an ADA compliant elevator at 329 Rheem.

- **Planning Commission-Lori Salamach**-Planning was tasked to produce a housing element for the state by the June 30th deadline. Staff is planning to receive approval for the proposed housing element at the June 15th Council meeting in order to meet this deadline. Also in consideration for this plan are secondary units in existing dwellings and green building requirements. This department is taking actions which may not be evident immediately but have long term results. 80% of the Planning Department budget is salaries. Therefore to meet the current budget, Planning has reduced one half-time employee, two interns, and eliminated training. The remaining 20% of the department's budget is consultants for Town projects, minutes and department expenses.
- **Park and Recreation Director-Jay Ingram**-The 4th of July is approaching and the Fireworks Fund needs your help! The goal this year is \$17,000. The celebration has been expanded to include a car show and magic show in addition to our regular Pancake Breakfast, Fun Run, jumpies and community booths. Camp Hacienda has begun and the Splash Pad is up and running just in time for the hot weather.
- **Police Department-Chief Bob Priebe**-Check out the new Police Department website linked to the Town's site! Due to budget constraints there will be no 13th officer and the Community Service officer position has been cut to half time. Also eliminated was a future detective position which was only in the planning stages. In an effort to resume the cadet program, a college student is being trained. Although we feel protected in Moraga, there was a gang-related beating reported in Town last month. Thirteen arrests were made and two contractor-related residential burglaries occurred.
- **Fire District-Mike Mintink reporting**-Fire season started June 1st! The District will begin checking the community for weed abatement on June 15th. The government is taking approximately 8% from fire departments. The Strategic Plan is almost complete. The new chief will be announced in the next two weeks.
- **Library- Linda Waldroup**-Due to the fact the Town is assuming some of the Library expenses, scheduling for the Library meeting room will be performed by Kimberly Nelson (888-7045) at the Hacienda after July 1st. Summer Reading 2009 has begun for adults, teens, kids and babies and runs until August 17th. This is a great way to get your family to read this summer! Check out the Contra Costa County Library Art Contest (www.ccclib.org) June 8th-August 1st for middle and high school students. Coming up is the Mystery Around the World Book Discussion Group (June thru August), Tutenkakhmun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs (July 1st at 2 pm), Splendor and Reverence: Art and Power in the Central African Savannah (July 22nd at 2 pm), and Origami for Teens and Adults (July 23rd at 4 pm). Lapsit, Toddler Time and Crafty Storytime continue as does the Summer 2009 College Test Preparation!
- **Acalanes High School District-Jim Negri**-All the schools in the District have been recognized this year for outstanding programs! Next year the district will be down about \$1,300 per student and it is preparing for several more cuts throughout the school year. It will be a struggle to make budget for September and October, losing about \$7 million this year. There is a tremendous concern for schools throughout California with these significant cut-backs in education. The District is looking at a parcel tax to keep 73 positions. Superintendent Negri is leaving the District (moving to Castro Valley), and 10 additional administrators are changing positions.
- **Moraga Education Foundation-Shari Simon**-In these dire times for education it is hoped our community can continue to support our excellent schools. Cuts will be dramatic and therefore MEF will increase its fund-raising starting in August to meet these demands. MEF will focus on businesses in Town and stress endowments to allow for sustainability. The Community Events Committee will bring MEF into more community functions to raise funds and mark your calendars for the MEF Showcase May 20, 2010. In an effort to raise \$2 million to support our schools, MEF recommends each family donate \$600 per student.

- **St Mary's College-Director, Community and Government Relations-Tim Farley**-It is hoped graduation brought more revenue into Moraga! The Cal Grant program may be cut from the state budget, affecting St. Mary's students. The Northern California Banjo Association hits the campus and the Lieutenant Governor is slated to visit this month. The Hearst Art Gallery is offering a Hands-On Art program for local kids, and on August 12th come to the gallery to have your art pieces appraised.
- **Chamber of Commerce-Edy Schwartz**-This month sees a new tutoring business in Town, Curves relocating and new owners at the sushi restaurant. The Chamber will be working with the Moraga Education Foundation to support local businesses and enrich education at the same time!
- **Moraga Women's Society-Nancy Comprelli**-The 33 members of the Moraga Women's Society are proud to announce that they have donated \$13,000 this year to Moraga schools, parks and the Library!
- **Park and Recreation Foundation-Chuck Treat**-The summer concerts are in need of volunteers to work in the snack bar. Contact Chuck at 631-0859 or cwtreat@comcast.net to help.
- **Kiwanis-Chuck Treat**-This year this group of dedicated community workers will be donating \$38,000 to our community! The Club is sponsoring a charity golf tournament at the Moraga Country Club on July 20, 2009. The "Golf Moraga First" tournament is a fundraiser for the Club's local charities. Various ways an individual or group can participate are by playing in the tournament, tee sponsorships, donation of auction items, and contributing to the Distinguished Donor Program. The tournament announcement and application form are attached and are also available on the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley's website:www.moragavalleykiwanis.org
- **Rotary-Gary Irwin**-The 18th annual Field Day saw Rheem Elementary School as the high point school for the day!
- **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 is 6:00 with dinner at 6:45. Contact Susan Skilton at 299-0485 for tickets and information.
- **County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema-Carol Yates**-The Supervisor will have an intern this summer, Annie Chung, who attends Campolindo High School. The Spirit Van, initiated by the Supervisor, will be mentioned in her next newsletter. The District Attorney situation remains status quo until December. LAFCO will not recommend Orinda/Moraga consolidation with Con Fire.

Next meeting July 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Sperry