



### 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](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

**September 11, 2009**

**Jerry Meyer-Moderator**

- **Town Council-Mayor Dave Trotter**-In remembering 9/11 today, give thanks for our safety in Moraga. The Council approved an animal ordinance for Rancho Laguna providing separation of animals from other activities at the Park. The Revenue Enhancement Committee has been meeting and gathering data for many months. Although no recommendations will be made until the close of this data gathering, a mid-year report was given by Chairman Dick Olsen. Results of this committee will be presented at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The contract was awarded to Mills and Associates for a new EIR on the Hetfield project. Neighbors have hired their own geotechnical specialist to be on site during this process. The public will be given an opportunity at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting to voice their opinion on moving the Town Manager and the Planning Department from 329 Rheem to the Hacienda. Approval of the Specific Plan and the Housing Element are scheduled for this fall.
- **Town Manager-Mike Segrest**-The comments made regarding the Housing Element are not insurmountable. The Specific Plan allows for a range of affordable housing at a higher density. It does not translate into a low-income housing development with government subsidies. It will allow seniors to move to a lower maintenance, market priced affordable unit without leaving local friends and family. The Rancho Laguna II development on Rheem Blvd. has been appealed and will come before the Council in a few months. The new 12-passenger van was donated to the Town at last week's Council meeting. The Fields Committee recommends using Measure WW money to make improvements to Moraga School District fields and Rancho Laguna Park. The contract was awarded for the necessary repair to the Hacienda following the fire and other much needed work.
- **Public Works Director-Jill Mercurio**-The paving has been completed from Sky Hy to Buckingham; the sidewalk and crosswalk at Los Perales was completed before school resumed, and the storm drain was moved at Moraga Road/Moraga Way to allow for the construction of a required handicapped ramp. \$609,000 of stimulus money has been approved to cape seal from Buckingham to Draeger. The work will begin next week but will be a more disruptive process than the Sky Hy to Draeger paving. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of October. Work has begun to reestablish a small stock pond on Mulholland Ridge. Storm drain clean out has

begun in preparation of winter rains. The construction of the circular planter on Rheem Blvd. (above Harold Drive) was a requirement of the nearby building project. Built by the contractor/owner and maintained by the Town, this structure will catch run-off and send it to drains. The Roundabout suggested for the Rheem Blvd/St. Mary's Road intersection is a TSAC recommendation. Council approval and money to pay for it are needed to implement.

- **Park and Recreation- Director Jay Ingram**-This department has been busy this summer with Camp Hacienda and summer courses! Thank you to the Moraga Women's Society, Rotary and Kiwanis for their help with Camp Hacienda. Another round of applause to the Foundation for an amazing summer concert series. The Rancho Laguna subcommittee will be gathering suggestions from the public regarding an appropriate separation method between animals and humans. This subcommittee will be present at the Pear Festival on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Oktoberfest (2-6 pm) on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Park on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> (4 pm) and Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hacienda for public input. John Haffner will again chair the Pear Festival on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> commencing with a tree planting in the morning, games and activities throughout the day. Rotary has been working with Director Ingram on upgrading the upper playground at the Commons.
- **Police Department-Chief Bob Priebe**-Police and Fire worked well on the Rheem fire. Investigator Steven Healy pinpointed the source of the fire and two juveniles were found responsible. Interviewing for a sergeant and officer positions begins September 24<sup>th</sup>, the department is currently working on the Campolindo Emergency Evacuation Plan, the cadet program has one volunteer and two more interested parties, Lt. Jeff Price is working on the recent terrorist threat, and the drug disposal program should be up and running in 30-45 days.
- **Orinda/Moraga Fire District-Interim Chief Pete Nowicki**-The search for a new fire chief continues! Six candidates have been selected for interviewing out of 51 applicants. Thank you to all who helped in this screening process. A new chief should be selected by the end of the month. An engine and two firefighters have returned safe from the LA and Livermore fires. The fire above the Rheem Shopping Center was the result of a bottle rocket. Thank you to the immediate response from ConFire and CalFire. The response time from call to site was two minutes! October is Fire Safety and Prevention Month. Open House at the Fire stations is Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the department is visiting local schools.
- **Moraga School District-Superintendent Rick Schafer**-Current enrollment in the District is 1721 students and it appears the long decline in enrollment has bottomed out. The 2009-2010 budget is \$1.6 million less than 2006-2007 (\$946 less per student). The District is down four teachers this year, and more reductions will have to be made. Once again it will be difficult making ends meet. "The District can use reserves for two years only and then we will go belly up!"
- **Moraga Education Foundation-Shari Simon**-The annual campaign begins and MEF hopes to raise \$1.6 million this year! (Last year's campaign brought in \$1.2 million.) MEF will be more visible in the community this year, partnering closely with local businesses. The endowment fund is \$125,000 with hopes to increase to \$1million. MEF will be working with other local foundations to help Lamorinda. There is no choice; our schools will not be able to do their job without this money! October 14<sup>th</sup> is Donation Day. Please give generously when you see the MEF volunteers out in the community!
- **Lamorinda CERT Exercise-Chuck Treat**-Simulated disaster victims of all ages are needed to take part in the second annual Lamorinda CERT emergency disaster drill to be conducted Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Orinda Community Center and Park. Check in at 11:00 am for make-up. Domestic pets are welcome. The exercise ends at 4:00 pm. Contact Ken Tom at [tkentom@aol.com](mailto:tkentom@aol.com) or see the website at [www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org) (flyer attached)
- **Moraga Park Foundation-Chuck Treat**- The annual Pear Festival at the JM orchard, St. Monica Church and neighboring homes completed on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> was a huge success with the Food Banks of Solano and Contra Costa counties reporting receipt of 15,780 lbs compared to last year's

harvest of over 10,000 lbs. Please plan on purchasing a pear pie at the Pear Festival on September 26<sup>th</sup>. More information at [www.moragaparks.org](http://www.moragaparks.org).

- **Hacienda Foundation of Moraga-Judy Dinkle**-Following the great success of the Cinco de Mayo event at the Hacienda, the Foundation has planned an OKTOBERFEST for October 11<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 pm. Plenty of food and drink for all ages, kid's games, live music and dancers will be available. Come join us for a fun family event! Free parking and shuttle from AAAAA Storage will be available. Contact Judy Dinkle at [judyd@silcon.com](mailto:judyd@silcon.com) or Bob Reynolds at [reynfood@aol.com](mailto:reynfood@aol.com) for more information. (flyer attached)
- **Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley-Chuck Treat**-On September 24<sup>th</sup> Tim Freeman will be installed as 2009-2010 President of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley replacing former Mayor Cherie Grant. John Haffner will be installed 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Karen Reed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Mike Metcalf is Secretary and Barbara Van Sickle is Treasurer.
- **Rotary-Gary Irwin**- August saw the group at the food booths for several community events. E-waste can be recycled in front of McCaulou's on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-4. The Tom Burdsal memorial bench was dedicated at the Moraga Country Club, 8<sup>th</sup> Hole, on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema-Carol Yates**-The Board of Supervisors will resume regular meetings on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 after vacation. \$58,000 more needs to be cut from the budget. September 21<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Fall Prevention Week. If you would like Supervisor Uilkema to speak to your group regarding fall prevention please contact her office.
- **Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness-Linda Borelli**-Nine community meetings have been scheduled.
- **Library**-The wonderful programs continue at the Moraga Library-- Women Yesterday: Living in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm; Up Close and Personal with L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz, Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:15 pm; The Alternate Woodstock, Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, and Amish Quilts: Geometry and Simplicity, Community and Belief, Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm.

**Next meeting October 9, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Sperry