



### 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).

**October 9, 2009**

**Jerry Meyer-Moderator**

- **Town Council-Mayor Dave Trotter**-The proposed staff move to the Hacienda will occur at a later date. The Town will try to obtain funding for modifications to the second floor of 329 Rheem in the hope that all staff will be housed there by 2011. On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> the Council will adopt a resolution to award a contract for architectural services for the elevator project at 329 Rheem, and a resolution to temporarily reduce selected fees for the review of use permit applications for businesses relocating into vacant space in existing buildings in Moraga. The Revenue Enhancement Committee will present their final report next month. Moraga will be hosting the Contra Costa Mayors Conference at St. Mary's on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Town staff and Council has worked with the state, and our 2009-2010 surplus of \$450,000 will remain the same.
- **Planning-Director Lori Salamack**-The State has replied to our Housing Element application with 22 comments which must be addressed to receive certification. Among those comments is the need to locate areas for affordable housing, especially senior housing, with a density of twenty complete independent dwelling units per acre with kitchenette. The Development Standards Committee is meeting now. If you would like to see the plan and/or participate in this process, there will be a meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 at the library. It is hoped that our comments/revisions will receive State approval this calendar year. The appeal of Rancho Laguna II will begin October 25<sup>th</sup>. It is expected to take approximately three meetings to consider this appeal.
- **Public Works-Director Jill Mercurio**-Economic Stimulus money is being used to pave from Buckingham to Draeger Drive. Preliminary work has begun on sidewalks and ramps. Chip sealing will begin this week; striping will be in approximately two weeks. The Town crew is clearing out public drains for winter storms, but residents are expected to maintain their own drains/ditches/creeks. An \$84,000 grant (with \$20,000 Town matching funds) will enable crosswalk improvements at Corliss and Woodford next year with pavement lights but no raised pavement.
- **Park and Recreation- Director Jay Ingram**-Special thanks to John Haffner for another wonderful Pear Festival with the addition of the Lamorinda Wine Growers and music all day! This month's Oktoberfest was planned to bring exposure to the Hacienda. The Fields Subcommittee is

considering how best to use Measure WWW money. They are considering improvements to Camino Pablo Elementary School fields and Rancho Laguna. The Rancho Laguna Park Sub-Committee will hold community workshops on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm (Rancho Laguna Park) and October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm (Hacienda). Holiday Happenings is trying to raise \$6,000 to light the holiday tree in the Commons Park on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. Send donations to: Town of Moraga, 2100 Donald Drive, Attn: Buy-a-Bulb. Breakfast with Santa (pre-registration required) is scheduled for Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and 15-minute home visits with Santa can be booked December 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. To enter the Holiday Home Decorating Contest register by December 1<sup>st</sup> with Parks and Recreation for judging by December 17<sup>th</sup> followed by awarding of a \$50 gift certificate from ACE Hardware. For more information call 925-888-7034 or e-mail Jay at [jingram@moraga.ca.us](mailto:jingram@moraga.ca.us).

- **Police Department-Chief Bob Priebe**-Recruitment is going on, including interviewing for a sergeant. The Police Department sold unclaimed property at the Pear Festival. PLEASE LOCK YOUR CARS! Seven unlocked cars in Moraga had itmes stolen from them. From unlocked cars thieves can open your garage and even gain entry into your home. Thanks to State grant money new tasers were purchased. There have been several reports of a man exposing himself in our community. A resolution will be presented to the Council establishing a bin for the recycling of prescription medicines at 329 Rheem. Hopefully this Central Solid Waste program will begin in November.
- **Orinda/Moraga Fire District-Interim Chief Pete Nowicki**-The recent fire in the office complex on Moraga Way (next to the Firehouse) was accidentally started on the balcony by a cigarette left in a container under paper debris. Fire crews were able to cover items in the office to minimize water damage. "Great Stop" describes the extinction of this fire in a building with a double roof. Sixty firefighters, 18 pieces of equipment responded to the call in which no one was hurt. The Sparrow Court fire was also rapidly extinguished before fire could spread to neighboring homes. Thank you to the Police Department for a life saved on Rheem Blvd. when police officers responded to a call of a heart attack victim before Fire Department personnel could arrive. Our own fourth generation Moraga native Christopher Davies will receive the State Valor Award in Sacramento on October 16th for a daring rescue he made from a burning home across the street from his own home in Concord. As October is Fire Prevention Month, this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and change the filter in your furnace. Two most recent firefighters have graduated, bring the total number of female fighters to eight. The second round of interviews for new Fire Chief should conclude by next month. Orinda/Moraga Fire Board is closely monitoring the LAFCO proposed merger of fire districts within the county.
- **Moraga School District-Director of Pupil Services Sharon Pincus**-Earthquake Duck and Cover Drills will be held at all our schools. The 2010-2011 school year will see a \$475,000 reduction in school funding. We are in deficit spending now! The District's Teacher of the Year is Joaquin Moraga's Steve Nicolini.
- **Moraga Education Foundation-Shari Simon**-This group is working hard! Donation Day is October 14<sup>th</sup>, and MEF volunteers will be in front of Starbuck's, 24 Hour Fitness and the four schools. The annual phonathon is November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. MEF is working with local realtors to get the word out and a donation included in closing costs.
- **Measure G-Kathy Ranstrom**- On Tuesday, November 3rd the voters in the Acalanes Union High School District will vote on Measure G, which renews and continues the AUHSD's existing \$189 parcel tax without increasing taxes. Approval of Measure G will protect the District from deep state budget cuts. Measure G requires a two-thirds voter approval for passage. If not passed it would mean a \$6.7 million loss to the District or 70 teacher positions. Senior citizens sixty-five and over will be offered an exemption.
- **St Mary's College-Director, Community and Government Relations-Tim Farley**-The fall 2009 new student enrollment of 695 exceeds the College's target by 15 students (2.2%) The fall 2009

class is also 104 students (13%) smaller than last year's record total of 799 and includes more students entering with honors (14.5%) than in any year in the College's history. The ethnic diversity of the entering class reached record levels with over 46% of the entering class identifying themselves as African-American (7.2%), Asian-American (13.5%), Latino (23.9%) or Native American (1.5%). Female students comprise 62.4% of the class. More than 86% of new students received some sort of institutional aid compared with 72% only two years ago. There will be nine broadcasts of men's basketball on ESPN. The Candidates Night will be Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

- **Hearst Art Gallery-Heidi Donner**-“Out of This World, The Landscapes of Our Solar System”, October 11<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> Andrew Fraknoi presented “Top Tourist Sights of Our Solar System”. “Star Gazing and Meteor Shower Watch!” with Dr. William Hartman is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 8-10 pm. His talk will be followed by actual star gazing with telescopes from the Astronomy and Physics Department. For more information e-mail [hdonner@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:hdonner@stmarys-ca.edu).
- **St. Mary's Weekend College-Grete Stenersen**-Check out [www.stmarys-ca.edu/weekend-college](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/weekend-college) for the latest courses offered to our community. Such classes as: “Meet the Author” Book Club, It's About Time, Telling Our Stories: A Memoir Writing Class, Alumni and Friends Great Books Seminars, Understanding Our Aging Family Members, The Philosophy of Wine, Poetry by Nature and more are now being offered. For information contact [gsteners@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:gsteners@stmarys-ca.edu).
- **Lamorinda CERT-Gordon Nathan**- Lamorinda now has 480 CERT graduates! Many of the world's foremost scientists and experts on earthquakes are convening at the annual meeting of the Southern California Earthquake Center. They are joined by leaders of the Earthquake Country Alliance who are organizing “The Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill” on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am. to 1.) prepare for earthquakes, 2.) practice how to protect against earthquake injury, and 3.) learn how to recover quickly by safeguarding property and finances in advance.
- **Rotary-Gary Irwin**-The new president of Rotary will be Vicki Devlin. The newly formed college **Rotaract** group has started meeting at St. Mary's.
- **County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema-Carol Yates**-The Fall Prevention Program will continue as long as the county resources last. Preventing falls is one of the best ways to maintain one's independence. Another way the Supervisor encourages independent living is through the use of County Connection LINK which provides transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. The program has been remarkably successful. To schedule a ride call 925-676-1976 ex 601. There are a number of commissions needing applicants. Note a list on the back of the District 2 Highlights or call 925-335-1046. Please note that **\$58 million** needs to be cut from the current county budget not \$58,000 as reported in last month's minutes.
- **Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness-Linda Borelli**-The upcoming anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake should remind us all of the disaster we will face when the Hayward fault erupts eventually. According to seismic experts the Hayward fault has erupted every 140 years and it has been 141 years since the last major event on the fault. CERT and the MNEP committees have a plan, and we encourage the community to respond to the fact that we may be cut off from outside help for a period of two or more days. The next meeting of the MNEP Committee is October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Moraga Country Club.
- **Library-David Kruegel**-The diverse programs continue at the library with The Alternate Woodstock on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm and Amish Quilts: Geometry and Simplicity, Community and Belief on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm. Needed landscaping in front of the library due to the fire will begin soon thanks to the Friends of the Moraga Library.
- **Moraga Women's Society-Nancy Comprelli**-The bi-annual holiday house tour is December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Chamber of Commerce-President Edy Schwartz**-The “Season of Lights” to kick off the “Shop Moraga First” campaign for the holiday season is December 5<sup>th</sup>, 11 am-3 pm at the shopping centers. Get the Word out and keep revenue in Moraga! Although the newly-remodeled CVS is

different, please be patient and courteous with the staff. This store has wonderful things to offer our community. If you have questions consult the manager.

- **Assemblymember Nancy Skinner-Angela Holmes-** The work on the Caldecott Tunnel should begin in December. To get your questions answered, an information meeting will be held in Orinda on November 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information call Angela at 510-286-1400 or [angela.ramirez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:angela.ramirez@asm.ca.gov).
- **Moraga Historical Society-Susan Sperry-**The 44<sup>th</sup> annual Anniversary Banquet is Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Soda Center. For reservations contact Caroline Wood at 376-4907.

**Next meeting November 13, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Sperry