



MORAGA

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Three council member seats to fill in Moraga; four candidates running

By Vera Kochan

With just over two months until the Nov. 8 elections, the town of Moraga will need to fill three council member positions: one two-year term (continuing the seat prematurely vacated by former member David Stromberg) and two new four-year terms.

Two of the eligible incumbents did not file papers, so the nomination period was extended from Aug. 12 until 5 p.m. Aug. 17.

In no particular order, Moraga's candidates looking to fill the single two-year term seat are David Shapiro (attorney) and Kendall Langan (self-employed businessman). Also in no particular order, the candidates running to fill the two four-year term seats are Kerry Hillis (government relations/business owner) and Steve Woehleke (town council member).

According to Shapiro's Candidate Statement, he has been a Moraga resident for 26 years. He has been a practicing lawyer for over 40 years with a background in government service and private practice with experience in running the United States Attorney's Office in San Francisco and the Oakland office of a major national litigation firm.

Kendall Langan's Candidate Statement notes that he has lived in Orinda and Moraga since 1953; was an original member of the Town of Moraga Incorporation Committee of 1974; and served 14 years as president of the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association. He currently runs a food industry business and owns/operates commercial real estate in town.

The Candidate Statement for Kerry Hillis reports that he has been a Moraga resident for nearly six years and is

currently chair of the town's Planning Commission. Hillis has also served as a vice president of the Moraga Community Foundation. Professionally, he is a transportation policy administrator, currently working as a government relations manager with BART; and a co-owner/Chief Strategy Officer of an E-commerce business.

Steve Woehleke's Candidate Statement lists him as a town council incumbent with 20 years of previous experience on the Design Review Board, Planning Commission, and Hacienda Foundation Board of Directors. He has over 30 years of technical and project management experience as a Licensed Professional Engineer (retired); and former Certified Project Management Professional, with training in the practice of Quality Decision Making.



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Moraga's Parks & Rec director leaving for Napa

By Vera Kochan

After four and a half years with the town of Moraga, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt is leaving to take a position with the city of Napa. Although her title will be the same, her responsibilities will increase when she manages a staff of 42 full-time employees and oversees the running of all 53 of Napa's parks with a budget of \$11.5 million. "I wasn't looking for a new job," she stated, "but when I saw the posting I knew I was going to apply for it. It gives me a chance to expand."

Anyone who has ever attended the many activities or events sponsored by Brandt's department has most likely spotted her smiling face in the crowd. A very hands-on director, she made it her mission to improve on any long-standing community events while upholding the town's traditions.

Moraga may be a small town, but the constant array of activities for all ages makes for a very busy community. Brandt even kept morale going through COVID's mandates by offering as many safe activities as social distancing would allow. Although there was no usual fanfare during the 2020 Holiday Tree Lighting, Parks & Rec made certain that the tree was lit as a reminder that any



Breyana Brandt at Hacienda de las Flores Photo Vera Kochan

celebration was better than none.

Brandt's guidance through a myriad of departmental activities include: Teddy Bear Tea; Hacienda Nights; Summer Concert Series; Pear and Wine Festival; Family Camp Out; Fourth of July Celebration; Breakfast With Santa; and Movie Under the Stars.

Before Wedgewood Weddings' contract with the town, Brandt's department offered events at the Hacienda de las Flores. "I'm most proud of the Wedgewood Lease Agreement and launching the After School Enrichment Program," she said. Brandt was also responsible for the new town website; worked on the Mobile

Moraga app; and developed the Capital Asset Replacement Plan.

Besides overseeing all of the maintenance required at the Hacienda, Brandt kept an eye on the Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve; Rancho Laguna Park; Moraga Commons Park; West Commons Park; and the Moraga Library.

When asked what she'll miss about Moraga, Brandt replied, "I will miss the people; the dedicated and hard working town staff and the wonderful community members. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have served this community. It was the perfect place for me to be for the last four and a half years."

Moraga recognizes Aug. 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day

By Vera Kochan

According to sources, opioid overdoses are increasing every year. In order to acknowledge the people affected by overdoses, whether victim or family members and friends, Moraga Mayor Steve Woehleke's office issued a proclamation recognizing Aug. 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day during the town council's Aug. 24 meeting.

Inspiration for the movement was initiated in 2001 by

Sally J. Finn of The Salvation Army in St. Kilda, Melbourne, Australia. Since that time, community members, governments and other organizations have held events, both to raise awareness and to commemorate those lost. The common goal is to educate the public through awareness activities.

IOAD is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose and remember those who have died, while also acknowledging the grief that loved ones must continue to live with, without experiencing the stigma of guilt or shame.

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Town Council: Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Tuesday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us