



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6 p.m.

Moraga Center Specific Plan

Implementation Project Study Session

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Summary covers:

July 12 to 25

total records: 35

Alarms

7/12 700 block Country Club Drive

7/14 1300 block Rimer Drive

7/16 Moraga Valley Lane

7/17 Rimer Drive

7/19 Camino Pablo School

7/22 location unreported

7/23 location unreported (2)

7/24 location unreported

7/24 Danefield Place

City Ordinance Violation

7/14 loud party on Buckingham

Driving with Suspended License

7/20 Augusta Drive at Gleneagle – driver cited; vehicle moved by another

Drug

7/16 16-year-old male passenger in possession of marijuana

Domestic

7/15 father/son argument; son left premises

DUI

7/21 Moraga Road at St. Mary's Road driving 62 in 35 zone

7/22 1500 block Canyon Road; 0.18 blood alcohol

7/23 Moraga Road at Corliss Dr. driving 50 in 35 zone.

Fire Assist

7/14 Corte Amigos; residence fully engulfed; occupants safe

Fraud

7/12 Saint Mary's College (online)

7/25 bank fraud online

Larceny

7/13 location unreported; several hundred dollars and property taken

7/17 Miramonte Gardens; \$575 in property taken from unlocked car

7/24 100 block Ascot Ct; fence board stolen

Missing

7/13 West county detention center subject; unable to locate

Miscellaneous

7/13 firearms surrendered for destruction

Resisting an Officer

7/14 male and female in possession of drugs forcibly subdued

Speeding

7/17 200 block Rheem Blvd.

Stolen Vehicle

7/18 Miramonte High School at Ivy Drive; recovered locally

Traffic Incident

7/25 location unreported; excessive speed

Welfare Check

7/12 subject found safe

7/19 location not disclosed; resident deemed safe

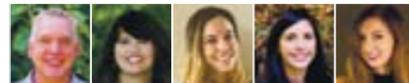


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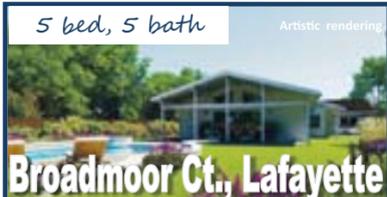
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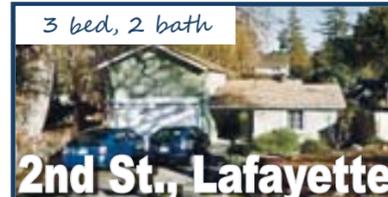
BRE#01407557



5 bed, 5 bath
Artistic rendering
Broadmoor Ct., Lafayette



4 bed, 2 bath
McGrath Ct., Pleasant Hill



3 bed, 2 bath
2nd St., Lafayette

Call for more information on these off-market listings & more!

New book offers pictorial journey of Moraga's history

By Sophie Braccini



Susan Skilton, author of "Images of America, Moraga" Photo provided

At a recent meeting of the California Conference of Historical Societies, four Moraga residents received awards for their service to the Moraga Historical Society, a local institution that will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Among them, genealogist Susan Skilton was recognized for her recent completion of a book about the history of Moraga commissioned by Arcadia Publishing to be part of its "Im-

ages of America" collection.

Arcadia states on its site, "Images of America is an ambitious collection of chronicles that accurately capture the essence of what gives each American small town, neighborhood, and downtown its unique flavor." Skilton set out to document this feel for Moraga's unique essence over a year ago through many pictures and text.

There are over 300 photographs in Skilton's 126-page book, which offers a good introduction to the history of this town that over 16,000 people call home. Skilton decided on the book's eight chapters and followed Arcadia's format that dictates the number of words and pictures per page.

The Moraga author has been a member of the MHS for almost 10 years, and this is where she started her research for the book, with the help of Elsie Mastick, the society's archivist. She says that, due to the publisher's format, she had to make choices and decided to focus on certain aspects while leaving others out. She is aware that some topics such as the churches, the schools, and the local sports were not given all the development it could have.

Skilton, however, did dedicate an entire chapter to the trains that once passed through Moraga – potentially one of the missed opportunities for the little town to ever

become a vibrant economic center. The loss of the trains that connected Moraga to Oakland on one side all the way to Sacramento, the decision not to have the United Nations set its headquarters in Moraga – yes, that was a credible proposition made in 1945 – and more recently the disengagement of the Gateway freeway project linking Highway 24 to 680 through Moraga were all decisions that contributed to making Moraga an enclave town, for the pleasure of most of its residents.

The chapter on Saint Mary's College documents, among other aspects, the preflight school that was operated there by the Navy during World War II as well as Lake LaSalle that existed on what is now playing fields.

The book also highlights many of Moraga's founding people such as presidents of the Moraga Company that owned most of the town and started to create the first housing subdivisions, after Joaquin Moraga and his descendants sold their land grant in the late 19th century.

Even those who already know a lot about the town's history may be surprised by some interesting facts: that Campolindo's front field was a lake; that the first housing development was built in Valle Vista and was later demolished by the water company when it acquired that land

(now the staging area on Canyon Road); that Reginald Tibbetts who was Moraga's postmaster established a listening post in Moraga to listen to Japanese news during World War II; that the Moraga Barn on Viader Drive was originally a hotel built in 1911; and that many of the names of streets in Moraga come from the early ranchers that raised cattle and pigs in town, such as the Sanders and the Carrs.

This is Skilton's first book, but she has also published a number of genealogy articles. The Moraga resident's first career was teaching German language and literature at Diablo Valley College. She started doing research about her own family history and developed a passion for the activity that combines research, tenacity and creativity. She is now a registered genealogist and works for Ancestry.com's division that offers help for people who are having difficulties with research.

The book can be purchased at the Moraga Historical Society and online. Arcadia has also published an "Images" book about Lafayette by Mary McCosker and Mary Solon and a history of Saint Mary's College by Ronald Isetti. The MHS also sells "Moraga Pride," a book that traces history from the first overland expedition of Spanish colonists into Alta California to today.

License plate readers in sight for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

A generous and anonymous Moraga family is offering a matching grant of \$15,000 to the Moraga Community Foundation to complete the \$60,000 in necessary funds to purchase video security cameras for the town. The foundation has through the end of August to raise the matching \$15,000 from the community.

Tom Schnurr, current president of the MCF, explains that the nine-person foundation board is mobilized to raise the money and he sees the generous grant as an opportunity to successfully end a campaign that started last May. "Then we will hand the money to the police department, earmarked for purchasing the license plate readers," he says. At the end of July, the MCF had raised \$36,000 toward the purchase of the camera system.

The town council approved the installation of five cameras back in 2016, but funding became impossible, so Moraga residents decided to take it upon themselves to find the money. Paul Cohun and Kristen Beckwith convinced the MCF to become the fundraising arm of the campaign.

The police department's plan is to install the cameras in strategic places around town with the sole purpose of taking pictures of cars entering and exiting the town, and reading their license plates. The images are transmitted to a server at the police department. Chief of Police Jon King indicated in his original presentation that the information would be transmitted on a private network and would not be accessible via the internet.

King also stated that the information collected would only be used in connection with and during an investigation into an actual crime. Recordings will be stored

for only 30 days before being destroyed.

The MCF campaign has consisted of presentations to service groups and active presence at different public events such as Fourth of July or the farmers' market. The

MCF will have a table at the market on Sunday, Aug. 20. The person staffing the table will be able to answer any questions or concerns residents might have regarding the cameras.

Schnurr wants to thank the

anonymous donors for their generosity. He believes the license plate readers have proven their utility in Lafayette and Orinda where the crime statistics have improved significantly since the systems were installed.

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