



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, July 25, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
TBA
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

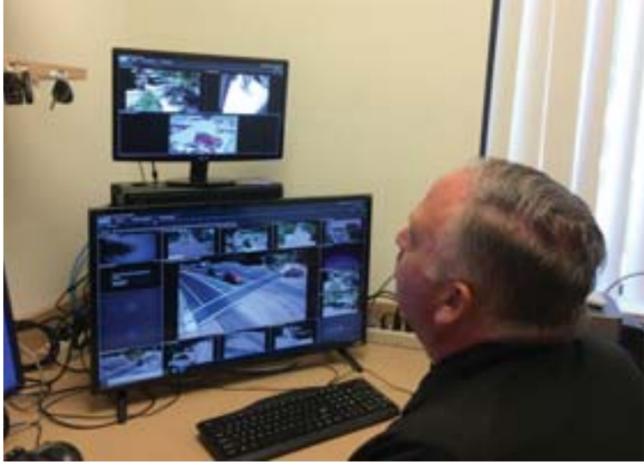
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda weekly.com

Cameras installed in Moraga help capture crooks

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Chief of Police Jon King looks at the live footage of the surveillance cameras. Photo Sophie Braccini

It is quite rare to see an officer sit in front of video monitors showing Moraga's live traffic captured in different town locations. Chief of Police Jon King is adamant that the police force is not "watching Moraga;" the cameras now operational all around town are used only when linked with a crime – and they have already proven their efficacy.

King recalled an incident a few days ago when his officers were called in on a shoplifting

case at TJ Maxx. The officers followed the suspects' car using the different cameras posted at strategic locations in town and saw the vehicle was heading to Lafayette down Moraga Road. Officers alerted their colleagues down the hill, who, using their own cameras, traced the car to the Lafayette Safeway parking lot. King says that the perpetrators were arrested, the goods stolen in Moraga found, along with all kinds of other suspicious

items, including the car itself that had been stolen. King adds that he was sold on the usefulness of the cameras and license plate readers when a pilot camera installed last year was instrumental in identifying an Uber driver who had been accused of sexual battery on a client.

In the room where the monitors are installed, small images from all the cameras are live at the same time. It is easy to select one and make it larger. To read a license plate, the chief stops an image and zooms on the plate, showing a crystal clear image of the car's identification, including its make and any bumper stickers. King adds that the cameras work with infrared light at night to capture images in those lighting conditions.

The police department would not disclose where all the cameras are precisely located; they are high enough and hidden to avoid vandalism. The chief adds that the Moraga Country Club and several homeowner's associations that own camera systems are now connected to the police station viewing system. King says that he would like every-

one in town who owns cameras to inform the police and possibly have a camera angle taking views of the street so incidents happening around town can be spotted.

The chief adds that the cameras could be used to find evidence of crimes committed on foot as well, such as an assault happening in the line of sight of his system.

While looking at the system with this reporter the chief saw someone running a stop sign. He said this was not the type of crime his officers were after, unless something more sinister happened afterward. He insisted that his officers would not be monitoring what is happening in town.

The camera system was funded by Moraga residents. The Moraga Community Foundation raised the \$60,000 that had been deemed necessary to purchase five cameras/license plate readers at the instigation of residents Kristen Beckwith and Paul Cohun. The cost of the cameras and installation came in lower than estimated, which has allowed the police department to do more.

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Update on election race

By Sophie Braccini

Positions on Moraga's town council and school board will be open for election this November. On the council, Mayor Dave Trotter will be running for a fourth term. Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda's seat is also up for election but she has not decided yet if she will run or not. She said that she has a lot of balls in the air and will decide after she has the information she needs to

make a good decision. She adds that she has tried to give Moraga 100 percent of her time and energy and will not go into four more years without being sure that she can make that kind of commitment again. Thirty-year Moraga resident Steve Woehleke is also running for the council. His longtime involvement with the town includes tenures on the Design Review Board, Plan-

ning Commission and Hacienda Foundation board of directors. He already has a website: www.steve4moraga.com.

Two Moraga school board incumbents, Heather O'Donnell and Jim Obsitnik, said they would not run again. The third, Jon Nickens, did not answer our inquiry.

Running mandates filing. The open period to file started on July

16 and will end on Aug. 10. The process involves making an appointment with Marty McInturf, town clerk. She explains that it takes her about an hour to go through the paperwork with a new candidate and that the process can be daunting. The Fair Political Practices Commission requires filing of three different forms. The FPPC provides information at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/candidate-toolkit-getting-started.html>. The candidate also needs nomination papers from at least 20 registered voters, and has to provide a declaration of candidacy. McInturf says that a statement is optional. Candidates must return to the town offices to file their papers. The town does not charge a filing fee, but the county asks for \$269 for printing costs.

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