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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.
(Aug. 8 cancelled)
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 20, 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
now on page A8



Teresa Onoda will not seek re-election

By Sophie Braccini



Teresa Onoda at a 2017 council meeting Photo Andy Scheck

Vice mayor and former mayor Teresa Onoda said that she would not run again for her seat on the Moraga Town Council in the

Nov. 6 general election, indicating that she felt her mission had been accomplished, and that she had other personal matters to attend. She plans to stay involved with the town she loves in creative ways.

Onoda says that when she was elected four years ago she had specific objectives such as the passage of updates to the ridgeline and hillside development regulations, the creation of an arts committee, and the opening of an open space passive park at West Commons. All have been accomplished and she says that the good karma she brought to the town would continue to bring benefits in the future.

The plein-air painter says that

she will continue to serve the town in creative ways, beyond the confines of the Brown Act that regulates public officials' actions. She started a group called "We Will" a few months ago, a women-led movement to purchase sculptures to beautify the town, with an eye on revitalization as well.

As she thinks about the future, Onoda remembers the creative think tanks she belonged to in college. "We would meet once a week and generate wild creative ideas," she said, adding that she wants something similar in Moraga. She is already filled with creative ideas. When the rainy season arrives she envisions the creation of clay balls

infused with wildflower seeds that would be thrown around town to create impromptu displays the following spring; she has already talked to Moraga Police Chief Jon King about adorning the back of stop signs with bird houses or small sculptures; and she would like to start a poetry group that could write poems on sidewalks.

Onoda says that her involvement with town affairs was a unique opportunity and that she was glad she could do it. Onoda hopes her work will inspire others to follow in her civic-minded footsteps. Her passion for the town stays intact – it will just be expressed in other ways.

Jeanette Fritzky resigns from town council

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Town Council Member Jeanette Fritzky Photo provided

Jeanette Fritzky, who was elected to sit on Moraga's highest body of the town a year and a half ago, resigned from her post on the Moraga Town Council for medical reasons at the end of July to focus on getting healthy.

Town Clerk Marty McInturf said the decision came too late to put Fritzky's seat on the November ballot, noting that the number of

seats up for election was set at this time and regulations do not permit the addition of a third position on the ballot.

The four-member council will decide at its Aug. 22 meeting if a special election will be called to appoint Fritzky's replacement, or if the position will be filled by appointment for two years to complete her tenure, which ends in

2020. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg indicated in a letter to the town that the council has 60 days from Aug. 22 to decide whether it will appoint a replacement or call for a special election.

Fritzky published a letter to announce her resignation in the hopes to make public the ailment that is afflicting her: lung cancer. A lesser-known form of the disease that touches never-smokers has been affecting a growing number of people, especially those of Asian descent. In her letter she wrote that approximately 25 percent of lung cancer patients are lifelong never-smokers, which means that lung cancer in never-smokers would rank as the seventh most common cause of cancer mortality around the world, if considered as a separate category. She added that an increasing percentage of these cases are diagnosed in younger patients — including those who are physically fit and otherwise healthy —

and in women, particularly those of Asian descent, and at late stages of the disease.

Fritzky had symptoms of coughing for a while that were mistaken as allergies or other ailments. She now has to deal with a diagnosis of stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer. She said that as a result she finds that she no longer has the energy, will, or commitment to apply to her position as council member that she used to revere.

Mayor Dave Trotter, who was very saddened by the news, said that her seat on the council would be replaced in a timely manner. He noted how when Council Member Brandt Andersson of Lafayette resigned, the council then decided to interview candidates and appointed someone to replace him, a process that is much less expensive than calling for a special election. He confirmed that the different options would be considered at the Aug. 22 council meeting.

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