

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Monday, Sept 12	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Sept 17	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, Sept 10	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Sept 18	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, Sept 14	
Chamber of Commerce	8am
Terzetto's Cuisine Moraga Shopping Center	
Saturday, Sept 28	
check online: Town of Moraga: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Residential Burglary, 8/27/07 Officers responded to Larch Avenue on a report of a suspicious vehicle. On arrival, officer saw a male subject coming out of the residence wearing socks on his hands; another suspect ran out the back and was later apprehended at Camino Pablo Elementary School following a phone call to MPD from Superintendent Rick Schafer, who spotted the suspect. Items stolen in Orinda were recovered in suspect's vehicle.

Speeding With A Friend, 8/23/07 A vehicle was stopped on Larch Avenue near Wandel for a speed violation. The driver, a 16-year-old girl, had a California Drivers license with restrictions prohibiting carrying passengers under 20 years of age. Unfortunately there was a juvenile in the front passenger seat in violation of the license restriction. The driver's mother was contacted and a juvenile diversion program was offered and accepted.

Woman Beats Up Ex, 8/20/07 Moraga police officers arrived at an Ascot Drive residence for a domestic dispute. The male victim had been battered by his ex-girlfriend and had visible injuries to his hands, shoulder and back. The female had no visible injuries. As the female was taken into custody she fought with officers causing minor injuries.

Road Bumps Land Council in Special Meeting

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Supporters call them raised crosswalks. Opponents call them speed bumps. Technically they're called speed tables. The signs in the road simply say, "Bump." Whatever they're called, the three large bumps that appeared on Camino Pablo last month as part of the paving project are so controversial that they have prompted a special Town Council meeting on Wednesday September 5.

Town Manager Phil Vince said the Town has received about three dozen calls and e-mails which have been evenly divided. Town Engineer Jill Mercurio said supporters include parents and school officials and opponents include residents without children in the schools.

The Town's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reviewed the paving plans in March and April and decided that the school crosswalks on the road should be "slightly raised to increase visibility and differentiate them from the roadway." The bumps are designed to slow traffic to 15 mph or less.

Mercurio said the Town Council never discussed or approved the bumps because that was not required at the time. Council approval for such measures would be required in the future under the Town's draft traffic calming plan, Mercurio added.

The leading opponent of the bumps is Lee Bren, an area resident who was first runner-up in the 2004 Town Council election. Bren said he passed out 350 flyers

asking residents to e-mail the Town. "I've been a one-man wrecking ball the past two weeks," Bren said.

Bren said he decided to take action after he saw a vehicle become airborne, lose control, and almost slam into a curb in front of a school after going over one of the bumps at the posted speed limit of 35 mph. Bren said he also saw a vehicle with the left tire torn off and that the oil pan of another vehicle was ripped off.

Vince explained that at the special meeting the Council would consider removing the bumps, smoothing them out to speed up traffic, or leaving them as they are for a few months. Bren is pleased about the meeting and plans to pass out flyers about it.

Culture Clash in Moraga?

By Sophie Braccini

On August 14, an angry crowd stormed into Amoroma, located in Moraga's Rheem Center, and started shouting at the first waitress they encountered, "You're promoting pornography in our community!" Never had the Italian restaurant witnessed such uproar and the waitress was at a complete loss. Michele Lavecchia, the owner of both Amoroma and the Rheem Theater, was able to calm the crowd.

The distressed individuals had been attending the Rheem Theater's French Night, held every second Tuesday of the month. Like its counterpart Italian Night, (the first Tuesday of



Michele Lavecchia in front of the Rheem Theater Photo by Sophie Braccini

each month), a different movie of French origin is screened. Both Italian and French Nights have become a mini-tradition at the theater, and include wine tasting, appetizers and a short description

of the evening's movie. Lavecchia explained to the unhappy patrons of the arts, "The purpose is not to shock the audience or hurt their feelings; we research movies that are recent, have won international recognition and present artistic content."

The movie causing all the uproar was "L'humanité", written and directed by Bruno Dumont, which won top awards at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival. Dumont has a reputation for painting humans in their most desperate and primal states without the interference of moral judgment. "L'humanité" takes place in a village where the rape and murder of a young girl has just occurred. Some of the images are graphic and can shock an unprepared audience. Lavecchia's theater was full, but he noticed that about twenty people left at the beginning of the movie.

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Rheem Center Woes

By Sophie Braccini

The Box Guy, 2nd Generation Consignment, Star Shoes, The Karate and Fitness Place, Mia and Friends, Special-Tees, Imelda Ward, Beauty Source...the list of businesses that have left, or are leaving, the Rheem Center is long, and growing longer every month. Some of these businesses have relocated; others have packed it up and called it a day. This might be considered business as usual and not of major concern had new merchants been moving in to take their place, but the number of empty spaces is clearly rising. Of the fifty-one storefronts in the Rheem Center, eight are currently vacant.

Jack White, the owner of Beauty Source, says he had no choice but to pull out of

Rheem. The new owner of the Center, Kimco Realty Corporation, notified him that his lease would cost 25% more when renewed; Beauty Source had been in operation at Rheem for ten years and was profitable, but not enough for White to be able to afford the rent hike.

White was able to secure a new location two miles south in the Moraga Center, which currently has several vacancies as well, although recently more businesses are moving in rather than out; Beauty Source will once again be the neighbor of the Karate and Fitness Place, which also made the move down the street from one Center to the other.

Rising rents may not be the only problem at Rheem.

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