

# Moraga

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, September 23	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, September 21	
Design Review	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, September 28	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, October 9	

Town of Moraga online:  
http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us  
Chamber of Commerce:  
http://www.moragachamber.org



D.U.I., 9/07/09 Moraga officers observed a weaving vehicle driving east bound on St. Mary's Road. What a coincidence, the driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol.

Attempted theft, 9/05/09 Police were dispatched to the Safeway on a report of attempted theft at 3:30 in the afternoon. A male shopper was seen running out of the store with a cart full of groceries that he neglected to pay for. A Safeway employee gave chase, the cart with \$94.68 worth of food was abandoned, and the would-be thief hopped in a silver car and headed out toward Lafayette.

Divots in driveway, 9/03/09 A Campolindo Drive resident called police to report several quarter size divots on his driveway and small chip marks on the sidewalk in front of his residence. The chip marks are approximately two weeks old. Perhaps a frustrated sleep walking golfer with amnesia is loose on the streets of Moraga.

Sprite vandalism, 9/06/09 Sometime between 7:55 a.m. on 9/06/09 and 8:05 on 9/06/09 an unknown person or persons threw an unopened can of Sprite at a Teodora Court home. The can was punctured by the impact and sprayed its sticky contents on the door and front porch. No damage, besides the mess, to the door. That's a first for this reporter.

## Moraga's Shame

Over Labor Day week-end, a mixed race couple staying at a home on Wandel Drive in Moraga awoke to find a cross wrapped in white cloth with the letters KKK written in black. The Moraga Police Department (MPD) is working with the FBI in the investigation. Chief of Police Bob Priebe urges anyone with information about this case to contact MPD's Lieutenant Jeff Price at 888-7049.

## Residents Opposed to Town Staff Move will get a Hearing

By Sophie Braccini  
A group of Moraga residents gathered at the Town Council meeting on September 9 to express their concern over the move of Town staff back into the Hacienda de las Flores. The issue was not on the agenda, so the residents spoke during the public comment period. Town Manager Mike Segrest had announced earlier this summer that staff presently located at 329 Rheem would return to the second and third floor of the Hacienda while the town plans for the retrofit of the Rheem building, finds the money to do the work and the complete construction.

Some residents are concerned by how long that transition period would be since there was no published timeline. They believe that the Hacienda's sole function should be recreation. These residents were further alarmed by the request by staff for funds to repair portions of the Hacienda. ... continued on page 8

# Lamorinda Community

## When Kids Play with Fire

Cause found for midsummer's Rheem Center blaze  
By Sophie Braccini



Rheem hillside fire on July 26  
The Moraga Police Department has revealed the source of the fire that burned five acres on the hillside behind the Rheem Shopping Center, causing the evacuation of two Ascot Drive apartment complexes on July 26.

"The fire investigation was (initially) closed with the cause deemed 'suspicious, likely caused by humans'," said Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe. "Fireworks were suspected from the start, but there was no evidence to be found because it all burned in the fire," he explained. The investigation was reopened when, on August 8, a mother brought her son to Mor-

aga Orinda Fire District Station 41 when she found out that he and a friend had been shooting off bottle rockets in the dry grass. The mother of the second boy was contacted and she brought him in. Due to their ages, 14 and 15, the boys' names have not been released.

Police also said that one of the mothers gave the bottle rockets to the boys.

"The information was then given to us (by MOFD), and we conducted the criminal investigation which has been presented to the District Attorney," added Priebe.

## Town/College Economic Partnership Growing

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Neil McSherry and Edy Schwartz at a Moraga Chamber of Commerce event  
Photo Sophie Braccini

McSherry is very imaginative when it comes to finding new ways to achieve his goal. When he reached out to Moraga's Chamber of Commerce he found someone just as passionate and imaginative as himself, Chamber President Edy Schwartz, who shares an interest in increasing the communication between town and gown. After a year of hard work, the two are now implementing programs that support both the College and local business; and Moraga's Revenue Enhancement Task Force is not far behind.

Over the past several months, Schwartz and McSherry have met every other week to work on their strategy. "We want to put into place win-win actions that benefit both the community and the campus," says Schwartz. "One of my tasks is to generate excitement for home athletic events," said McSherry, "so we called on local businesses for help."

McSherry proposed that retailers provide promotional offers and/or contests for game goers. With this promotion, they can display a banner at the game and are asked to show their support of the Gaels in their store. "Becoming a promotional sponsor during one of the SMC home games is an opportunity to get Moraga businesses in front of Saint Mary's College students for a minimal cost," commented a very positive Schwartz.

To further the good relationship, McSherry offers special treats for Chamber members, such as the recent \$2 tickets to any game during Labor Day weekend. When the previous sponsor of the Gael Force T-shirts declined to renew its sponsorship, the Athletic Department turned to the Chamber to see if it could fill the gap. The year-long

sponsorship places the sponsor's name on the back of the shirts that the 200 Gael Force students wear at the games. This year the shirts read, "Shop Moraga First," and the names of the four businesses that joined the Chamber in sponsorship: Pennini's, Lori's Swim and Sun, Union Bank and 5A Rent-A-Space.

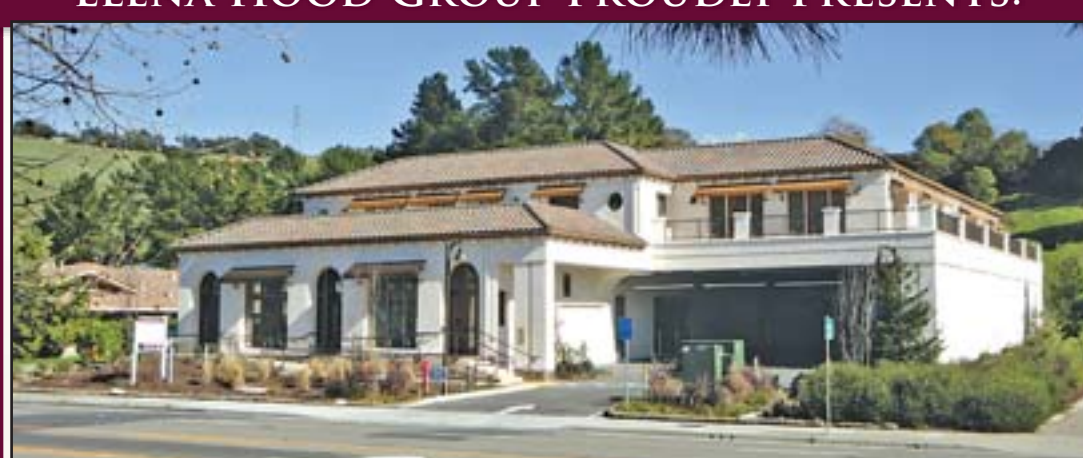
"This is the beginning of a paradigm shift," said Schwartz, "we are building relationships that will endure and expand. This is part of Moraga becoming more of a college town, for the benefit of both entities." Schwartz is now cultivating relationships with the Performing Arts Department, the Hearst Gallery and the Weekend College. "I feel excited about working with the people at Saint Mary's. They are talented and very experienced in their fields and we are finding creative ways to work together," says Schwartz.

Schwartz is not the only one in town to have this vision. Moraga's Revenue Enhancement Committee (REC) has also suggested better integration of the college to improve the economic vitality of the town. "One of the large ideas of the Economic Development Subcommittee is to maximize the Saint Mary's College linkage," said REC Chair Dick Olsen during his preliminary report to the Town Council on September 9th. He indicated that the sub-committee was looking at ideas such as relocating the college bookstore to the downtown area, developing other college-oriented facilities (such as a sports bar and a sports clothing/equipment shop) and implementing a shuttle between the College and the town's two shopping centers.

**MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION**  
925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us

- Pear Festival, Saturday, September 26, 10a-4p, Commons Park
- It's not too late to sign up for a fall enrichment class
- Like Rancho Laguna Park? The Park and Recreation Commission has established a sub-committee to study the park to encourage maximum utilization while maintaining a safe environment for all people. Please comment!

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-Dr. Brad Reiches, GodThoughts, Volume 2\**

<b>Willow Spring Church</b> 1675-1689 School Street Moraga, CA 94556 www.willow.springchurch.org (925) 376-3550	<b>Sunday Service Times:</b> Prayer.....8:00am Traditional.....9:00am Contemporary.....10:30am We have nursery care during both the 9:00am and 10:30am service	<b>Weekly Activities Include:</b> <b>Wednesday:</b> Community Bible study..10am <b>Monday-Friday:</b> BLAST! Kids Club After-School Program 3-6pm
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Check it out!  
**BLAST! Kids Club AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
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Everyday after school, Elementary and Middle School students are invited to have a BLAST! at Willow Spring:  
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We also have a structured "homework time", tutoring, snacks, outside activities, and more!!!  
Call or email Pastor Zach:  
(925) 376-3550 or  
zdiestler@yahoo.com

Come see  
**Willow Spring Church**  
at the "Moraga Pear Festival"  
Saturday, 9/26 from 10am-4pm  
@ the Moraga Commons Park

**AT OUR BOOTHS YOU CAN:**

- Rock out with the "School of Worship Rock"!
- Play carnival games with BLAST! Kids Club!
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Bright Beginnings Preschool is now offering extended care until 4pm! Call (925) 376-8506

Willow Spring Church is an evangelical, non-denominational, Bible-Driven church with a vision to:  
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