Moraga moves toward regulating firearms storage

By Sophie Braccini

Dew topics are as divisive and dance had the same objective: the attorney with the Law Center arms regulation in this country. The small town of Moraga decided nonetheless to look at regulating firearms storage and commerce on the table that night: one to rewithin its borders. A recent town council meeting attracted many supporters and some opponents as the matter was discussed. Most their arms when not in their imresidents spoke with calm and respect, a fine example of democratic evening was for the council to dedebate, one council member noted.

The Aug. 23 Moraga Town should be studied. Council meeting drew an overflowing crowd to the town chaming both texts to the town's books. bers. Town clerk Marty McInturf He explained that zoning the sale counted 99 people in attendance, of firearms so dealers cannot set up while hundreds more signed up shop in residential districts or near Moraga residents, spoke against online, watching the debates live. schools made sense, but he added A majority of the people who came that a safe storage ordinance was and spoke were parents of young not a good idea. King said that such children, a lot of them attending a a text would be redundant since council meeting for the first time. state law already punishes people In their own words, it took an issue whose easily accessible firearms dear to their hearts to have them cause accidents, especially when find the time to come to an evening involving children. He added that meeting when they are already jug- if such a rule was in the municipal gling so many activities.

Moraga Chief of Police Jon officers to enforce it. King framed the debate by saying he was convinced that all in atten- man, a Moraga resident and staff

potentially explosive as fire- safety of the community. The difference, he said, was simply finding the best way to go about it.

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strict where in town gun dealers could set up shop, and one to require gun owners to safely store favor of drafting both ordinances. mediate control. The purpose of the cide whether or not these two texts

King's report did not favor addcode, he did not see a way for his

King praised Allison Ander-

to Prevent Gun Violence, who brought this topic for the first time to the council and worked with oth-Two possible ordinances were er parents to prepare all the documentation regarding the potential ordinances.

> Forty-six residents spoke in Many parents, school administrators, pediatricians and a church minister explained the same thing: safe storage ordinances prevent teen suicide, reduce the number of accidents involving firearms and children, and prevent theft of weap-

> Eight people, most of them the safe storage ordinance. They explained it carried the risk of jeopardizing their safety by delaying access to their gun in case of an emergency, that it would cost money the town does not have, and like King said, existing law was enough and a municipal rule would not be enforceable. Most indicated that what was needed was to educate children.

> > ... continued on page A12

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Manuel Valdez takes oath of office as Moraga postmaster



Manuel Valdez at the Moraga Post Office

Photo Andy Scheck

and was sworn in as postmaster ployees who actually look forward at the Moraga post office on Cen- to coming to work. ter Street. In doing so, he followed a proud tradition that dates back tive working environment for his to 1886 when the first post office employees, adds Hayse, also trans-

a few months ago and was immediately appreciated by the staff. Shel- lutions to problems and does not ley Hayse who works in Moraga hesitate to go to extreme lengths noted that his winning personality to find answers to delivery quesmay come from the fact that he has tions," she says. actually worked in nine different facilities during his postal career, such a great and diverse organizastarting in Orinda where he carried the mail for 12 years before graduating from the Associate Supervisor Program that served as a springboard to his management career. He was the manager of the Fremont delivery unit in 2014 prior to his selection as the Moraga postmaster.

been open and accommodating, residential addresses). Valdez manand willing to take the time to train ages 34 employees who process everyone in new technologies that are quickly taking over the postal procedures. She says that his phi-

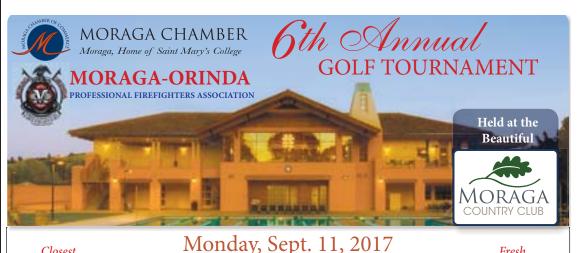
anuel Valdez raised his right losophy is that the Moraga post hand at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 1 office should be a facility with em-

Valdez' desire to create a posilates to his attitude toward both the Valdez took the job in Moraga residential and business customers. "He is committed to providing so-

"It is a privilege to work for tion," says Valdez. "When I first started working for the Postal Service, I never imagined that one day I would be a postmaster. It is truly a great honor."

As postmaster, Valdez is responsible for all delivery and retail operations for the town of Moraga with 14 routes, 872 P.O. boxes, and Hayse noted that Valdez has 5,868 delivery stops (business and and deliver a daily mail volume of more than 30,985 pieces.

- S. Braccini



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