



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
 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

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

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Viva Moraga: A movement for Moraga economic development

By Sophie Braccini



Stefani Gray talks about Viva Moraga

Photo Rob Lucacher

Viva Moraga is a new citizen-led group that wants to support the town's economic vitality using a constructive attitude. Started a few months ago by Stefani Gray, Viva Moraga recently held a meeting with about 30 residents of all ages and perspectives to discuss possible actions. The

group seeks to inform, educate, support and create a positive climate to encourage more services and amenities to set up shop in Moraga.

About a year ago Gray met with Edy Schwartz, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and 2010 Citizen of the

Year, to discuss the future of the town where they both reside. Gray is a friend of Schwartz's daughter, who moved with her young family to the town a few years ago. She says that she and her friends, new homeowners in expensive homes but do not find the commercial services and amenities they seek in town.

Passing along her passion for civic action to the young woman, Schwartz urged Gray to work toward affecting the changes she wants. This led to Gray's creation of Viva Moraga.

Gray also met with members of the Orinda group What's Up Downtown, which has similar objectives for Orinda and was instrumental in bringing food trucks to the city on Thursday nights to create more fun community spirit downtown.

Maura Wolf, who teaches at Saint Mary's College and lives in Moraga, supports Gray and came

to facilitate the Jan. 16 meeting held at the Moraga Country Club. She says that Viva Moraga would like to see more citizen involvement in supporting Moraga's commercial development.

In her introductory presentation, Gray insisted on the importance of education for the residents who want to get involved. She said that many want more development and to create a shared vision of the town. Residents want more restaurants, more retail options, family-friendly entertainment and a stronger connection between the town and Saint Mary's College. Gray lived in Boulder, Colorado, and would want a similar dynamic and vibrancy in Moraga.

Gray expressed her optimism for the future of the town, recognizing that many things have been started and developed by motivated Moraga residents in the areas of sports, schools, or recreation.

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Masked gunman robs Moraga Safeway

By Nick Marnell

Moraga police responded to an armed robbery the evening of Jan. 18 at the Moraga Safeway.

According to Lt. Brian South of the Moraga Police Department, an armed suspect entered the store at 7:53 p.m., pointed a handgun at a clerk at one of the middle checkstands, demanded money and grabbed the register drawer. The suspect, described as a male in his mid-20s, approximately 5 feet 11 inches tall and wearing a ski mask and dark clothing, ran out of the building into a silver vehicle. He escaped with more than \$500. No one was hurt during the incident.

The silver vehicle was seen heading toward Orinda on Moraga Way, but South said police received no reports from either the Lafayette or Orinda Safeway, and the Moraga robbery was under investigation as an isolated incident.

Moraga police officers attended a retirement dinner for former Town Manager and Chief of Police Bob Priebe on Jan. 18 at the Moraga Country Club, but South said that the staffing of uniformed officers in town that evening was normal.

Neither management at the

Moraga Safeway nor officials at the Safeway corporate office would comment about the robbery. "We are working closely with the Moraga Police Department and providing whatever information we can to help in their investigation," said Wendy Gutshall, director of public and government affairs for Safeway Northern California.

The robbery comes three days after Moraga police and firefighters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District found two men dead in a trailer lot near the Moraga Ranch House. "There is no evidence of foul play," South said. The police await results from a toxicology report in order to determine the cause of the deaths, which South said could take up to eight weeks. South said that all aspects of the incident are under investigation.

On Sunday Jan. 21, police and firefighters also responded to the report of a fatality on Hetfield Way. "We initially called the death suspicious, but after the results of the autopsy and our investigation, we ruled that the man died of natural causes," said MPD Police Chief Jon King.

Final decision by planning commission about commercial winery regulation falters

By Sophie Braccini

It has been over five years since staff and volunteers started working on a commercial winery regulation. A paid consultant was hired, numerous public meetings followed several study sessions, and it looked as if the planning commission would finally be able to make a recommendation at its Jan. 16 meeting, but this was a false expectation. During the long and often frustrating meeting, the commissioners questioned even basic elements of the project, such as the legality of ruling wineries in an agricul-

tural district. The town council must now decide on next steps.

Over the past five years planning directors have changed, commissioners have been replaced, and there are new council members. Each time the topic of winery regulation returns for study, the new members must be educated by staff and the paid consultant, and stakeholders have to come back repeatedly to re-explain the same things. And there is only one active commercial winery in Moraga.

The commissioners are now

asking the council members if the new regulation should apply to all home occupation activities, not just wineries; they want to know if regulating an agricultural use in an agricultural district is permitted; they are asking if it would not be a better idea to require commercial winemakers to get a special permit, case by case, to operate a commercial wine-making facility, rather than drafting pages of regulations when the activity is so small in Moraga.

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Moraga Police Report

Summary covers Jan. 9 to Jan. 14



Alarms	4	Other Infraction	3800 Block Campolindo Dr.
Traffic	31	Petty Theft	600 Block Augusta Dr.
Suspicious Circumstances	3		30 Block Miramonte Dr.
Suspicious Subject	1		300 Block Glen Alpine
Suspicious Vehicle	0		Safeway (2)
Service To Citizen	10	Public Assembly Check	Round Table
Patrol Request	3		Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)
Noise Complaint	8	Reckless Driving	1000 Block Larch Ave.
Beat Info		Supplemental Report	Police Department (2)
Coroners Case			100 Block Brookline
			300 Block Corte Gabriel
Court		Vandalism	20 Block Echo Hill Ln.
			Safeway
Excessive Speed			
Identity Theft			
Mentally Ill Commit			

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