



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Public Works welcomes new assistant engineer



Photo Vera Kochan

New Public Works Assistant Engineer Sharon Chan

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Public Works Department has filled the assistant engineer position left vacant since June of last year.

Sharon Chan has joined the team full-time in April after working as a part-time contract engineer since November. Her most recent work experience has included the cities of Mill Valley and Fairfield, not to mention serving as a project engineer for the firm BKF Engineers.

It was her work with BKF

that brought her to Moraga's attention. Chan assisted Public Works Senior Civil Engineer Shawn Knapp to get the Caltrans funding for the New Canyon Bridge Project. Another of her specialties is working on encroachment permits.

Chan commutes to work from her home in Solano County, and said, "I don't mind the drive. It gives me a chance to listen to the radio and relax."

Stated Chan, "Working for both Fairfield and Mill Valley had good qualities, and I received a lot of land development experience. Mill Valley gave me the opportunity to work on sewer and repaving projects."

While earning her degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Chan interned for San Francisco County. She said, "I learned so much from all of the issues that go on in a big city."

Moraga may not come close to the size of San Francisco, but it most certainly has seen its recent share of infrastructure problems. Chan's experiences will serve her well for 2019 when her main focus becomes the surface seal rehabilitation project.

Moraga Arco armed robbery suspects captured in high-speed chase



Photo Vera Kochan

Arco gas station on the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Blvd.

By Vera Kochan

The whole scenario was like something out of a movie or TV show, except that it actually happened in Moraga.

Around 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, during the Memorial Day weekend, three suspects arrived at the Moraga Arco Car Wash and Gas Station, 425 Moraga Rd., with the intent to commit armed robbery. The suspects, one female and two males, were all under 18 years of age.

Kurosh Ghassem, Arco's co-owner, stated that his employee was ordered by the suspects to open the cash register and relinquish the tray as the female

of nearly 110 mph.

The chase ended on a city street when the suspects crashed their vehicle into a civilian vehicle whose passengers escaped serious injuries. At this point, the driver exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot. Sheriff's deputies found it necessary to deploy a taser on the escaping suspect. All three suspects were taken to a hospital for examination before being remanded into custody at the Contra Costa Juvenile Hall in Martinez.

Mooney praised LPD saying, "The way Lafayette handled the whole thing was textbook." He also credits the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Pittsburg Police, Concord Police and Antioch Police Departments.

MPD officers Cpl. Russell Douthit and Craig Walker arrived on the scene where the gun and the cash tray were recovered.

Ghassem said, "My father wants to work with police to keep this from happening again." After an investigation follow-up with Mooney, Ghassem was assured that the MPD will step up its vigilance throughout town.

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