



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on these pages and 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

Town Council:

Wednesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

TBA

Park and Recreation Commission:

TBA

Town's CIP Biennial Budget adopted for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25

By Vera Kochan

During its June 28 meeting, the Moraga Town Council unanimously approved the adoption of the Biennial Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget, and to establish the annual Gann Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.

A Gann Appropriation Limit, according to the staff report by Administrative Services Director Annie To and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, is a state law whereby "local governments are required to annually approve a local resolution that includes a 'Gann Appropriation Limit' calculation to ensure that the local budget doesn't exceed the local appropriation limit based on each local jurisdiction's population and annual per capital personal income change from the previous year.

The Town of Moraga's calculated applicable Gann Appropriation Limit of \$9.9 million for FY 2023-24 falls within the applicable Gann Appropriation Limit of \$19.1 million."

Included in the Budget Appropriation Revisions requested by the council are: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) items such as, earmarking \$25,000 for the town's 50th Anniversary Celebration in November 2024, by reducing ARPA funds that supported the FY 2023-24 Annual Storm Drain Repairs Program CIP Project. Also coming out of ARPA Funds is an appropriation of \$20,000 to be split among four businesses that missed the deadline to participate in the COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grants.

The Lamorinda Fee and Financing Authority (LFFA) Fund 799 item regarding the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program Subsidy appropriation of \$20,000 in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 was suggested by staff as a "two-year trial period" based on an annual performance review.

There are several projects without Budget Appropriation Revisions. First is the Town Hall & Council Chamber Energy Re-

liability Study & Initial Projects (\$230,000 in FY 2023-24 and \$405,000 in FY 2024-25). This proposed CIP Budget includes funding for initial stages of Town Hall and Council Chamber projects, along with energy efficiency projects at the Moraga Library.

An Evacuation Study appropriation for up to \$100,000 in FY 2023-24 directed staff to explore cost sharing options with other local government public safety partners including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Staff recommended using the FY 2023-24 General Fund Planning Department's Contract Services line-item budget to pay for a Noise Ordinance Study - \$40,000.

The Upper Moraga Road Preliminary Traffic Study appropriation of \$25,000 in FY 2023-24 should come from the CIP Project 14-404 Traffic Safety Program. If additional funds are needed, staff recommends using the Palos Colorados Development Impact Fees Fund.

Other "housekeeping" revisions to the Proposed Biennial Budget that staff has identified according to the staff report are: an "Updated Town Manager Budget Message; Revised

Department Performance Measures; updated general and department budget/financial summaries to reflect the final budget totals; Revised CIP Project narratives to ensure more accurate individual project descriptions; and other revisions/updates where needed."

The Town's total Operating and CIP Budget for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 is proposed to be \$22.6 million and \$21.2 million respectively. The General Fund's share of the budget will be \$11.9 million for FY 2023-24 and \$12.3 million for FY 2024-25. Staff states that "the CIP Budget for the next two fiscal years will total \$20.8 million to support 30 ongoing and new Capital Improvement Projects, including \$16.4 million for transportation safety, street rehabilitation and storm drain projects, and \$3.9 million will be dedicated to funding eight traffic safety and congestion projects around local schools."

Staff also added that "the budget for both years will remain 'balanced' and fully comply with Town Council's Strategic Plan, Fiscal Policies, and Budget Policies, including maintaining a 50% reserve for both fiscal years."

Hacienda Nights

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SMC President Richard Plumb steps down; interim president named



Photo Saint Mary's College

Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, is serving as Saint Mary's College Interim President

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College parted ways with its president of two years, Dr. Richard Plumb, according to a March 30 press release announcing his departure.

According to the press release, "The Saint Mary's College of California Board of Trustees Chairman and Trustees in consultation with its Brother Visitor, Provincial of the District of San Francisco New Orleans, have been in discussion with Saint Mary's College President Richard Plumb and determined that the College would be best served by a change in presidential leadership to propel it forward into its next chapter of growth and innovation." Plumb's last day with SMC was June 30.

Plumb, who served as the college's 30th president, also issued a March 30 press release through SMC. "After careful consideration and discussion with my family and the Board of Trustees, I am stepping down as President of Saint Mary's College," he stated. "I will continue in my current role through the end of the current academic year and continue to support the highly talented and strong senior leadership team as we ensure the College's operations continue smoothly and support our students, faculty, staff, and our extended community."

Both press releases listed many of Plumb's accomplishments during his short term, which included guiding the College through the COVID-19 pandemic and positioning it for success in the post-pandemic environment, as well as establishing a new senior leadership team and facilitating the completion of the College's five-year strategic plan. Plumb also worked with Facilities Services and the board of trustees to facilitate the update of several residence halls, prioritize critical safety repairs, and take steps towards modernizing the college's buildings and grounds.

Brother Visitor Nick Gonzalez, FSC, and Eric Flowers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, in a statement on May 22

named Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, as interim president effective July 1, while the board begins the search for Plumb's replacement. Jones is an SMC alumnus and is currently the college's Staff Psychologist in Counseling and Psychological Services, having been a resident director since 2012.

"I am both honored and humbled to serve Saint Mary's as its Interim President," stated Jones. "Throughout my life I have been committed to Lasallian principles of education, principles that are embodied in the College's mission and have inspired and grounded the transformational experiences of students since 1968."

Jones added, "I enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to work with the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, our amazing student body, and other supporters as we position ourselves as a leading innovative, national Catholic university that inspires minds, touches hearts, and transforms lives."

A nationwide search will commence at the start of the 2023-24 academic year with the help of an executive search firm. An SMC Search Committee made up of Trustees, Christian Brothers, faculty, staff, and student advisors will all take part in the selection process.

A glimpse of Summer Camp in Moraga – 46 years ago

By Vera Kochan

The United States House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month, and in conjunction with that decree, the Town of Moraga issued a proclamation declaring the same during the June 28 council meeting.

A 46-year-old version of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department's Activity Guide was discovered in Moraga's Historical Society archives. First of all, it differs greatly from today's "guide" in that it's not the nifty, colored booklet that residents are used to nowadays. Instead, the Midweek Sun's Wednesday June 8, 1977 issue included a full-page ad entitled "Moraga Parks & Recreation Presents Summer '77" with all of the class offerings listed on one page along with a description. There were no photos. Rather, townsfolk were forced to use their imagination when it came to classes such as "Tennis Anyone?" or "Watercolor Workshop."

The summer of 2023's

classes/camps include: "Glee Club," "Chess," "Musical Theatre," "Movie/Film Making," "Skateboard Academy," "Soccer," "Cooking Round the World," and "Flag Football." There are also camps designed to foster success as children get older by building self-confidence, along with camps that use physics and engineering concepts. Some of the teen/adult programs offered include "Online Driver's Education," and a combo of "Fitness, Yoga & Meditation."

Director of Parks and Recreation Mackenzie Brady explained the many ways camps and classes are currently chosen for each summer. Sometimes a contracted instructor will make a proposal to teach a particular class; a popular class will often be offered again; staff will choose classes on topics that are trending; or classes will be chosen through public suggestion.

In 1977, nearly two generations ago, the youth in Moraga had much of the same interests as kids today. Classes

such as: "Mini-Chef," "Rookie Soccer Clinic," "Arts & Crafts," or "Drama Workshop" were on the summer camp "menu."

"Tennis Anyone?" allowed students to "take advantage of Campolindo's newly lighted courts." A "Jazz Dancing Clinic" urged students to "bring lots of energy and a snack, too." Girls, grades 4 - 6, were offered "Pom-Pom and Cheers," which was "back by popular demand."

A class called "Think Thin - Teens Only" with a description that demands, "It's time to get in shape - bring a friend - think thin!" might not fit in today's climate of downplaying a perfect body image. And while this class did not specify girls only, there was a class geared to teenage boys called "Weight training - Strength Building For Young Boys" that promised "test measurements will be taken."

A practical class for women and teenage girls was "Self Defense" that incorporated Aikido, Karate and Jiu-Jitsu techniques.

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