

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **Moraga Community Groups to Sponsor Moraga Candidates Forum**

Four Moraga community groups—Viva Moraga, Safe Moraga, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, and We WILL—will co-sponsor a Moraga Town Council Candidates Forum on Monday, September 17, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

The forum will enable Moraga voters to hear candidates' answers to specific, detailed questions regarding the issues that these four community groups focus on: stimulating more vibrant retail districts in Moraga, enhancing community safety, preserving Moraga's open space and scenic beauty, and increasing the town's creative vitality.

"Viva Moraga hopes to encourage Moragans to get involved and understand the views of the candidates. It's extremely important that we come out and vote for candidates who will support our wants and needs for the town," said Stefani Gray of Viva Moraga. Viva Moraga is currently working with local entrepreneurs, landowners, and town leaders to attract exciting new restaurants and other businesses to Moraga's retail areas.

"We're excited for the opportunity to hear the candidates' views on how Moraga can continue to be courageous and proactive on gun safety," said Allison Anderman, co-founder of Safe Moraga, which spearheaded the campaign to enact an ordinance that requires unattended guns to be safely stored. The ordinance was adopted in March 2018 and an ordinance regulating gun dealers is expected to come before the council this fall.

"With the Bollinger Valley and Indian Valley housing developments now under review, open space is a key campaign issue this year," said Suzanne Jones, founder of Preserve Lamorinda Open Space (PLOS). "This forum will allow voters to learn about the candidates' positions on open space development," she said. PLOS formed in 2001 and was instrumental in the replacement of the proposed 200-acre golf course once planned for the Palos Colorados housing development with permanently protected open space and public hiking trails.

Also co-sponsoring the forum is We WILL ("Women Working to Instill a Lasting Legacy") whose mission is promoting public art and creative vitality in Moraga. "Women in Moraga are harnessing their skills, intelligence and passion to address a broad set of factors that make our town so vital and attractive. We'd like to hear how candidates think they can support these goals as we find creative ways to express the town's welcoming personality," said Darlene Bennett, who helps lead the group. We WILL is currently raising private funds to purchase the orange sculpture bench in front of the Moraga Library for permanent use and display in that location.

"It's often difficult to differentiate candidates' positions just by looking at their websites or reading campaign mailers," says Ana Moon of Safe Moraga. "This forum will provide a chance for residents to hear the candidates respond directly and in detail to questions about these specific community issues."

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