



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ DECEMBER 17, 2010

### BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



#### MCN HOSTS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, HONORING TOWN STAFF



Moraga Citizens Network (MCN) hosted an appreciation luncheon on Friday, December 17, the first of its kind. Town volunteers thanked 23 staff members by serving hot spiced cider, green salads, bread bowls filled with homemade chili and delicious cookies for dessert. Brought to us by the Friends of the Library, Carol Alban played holiday music on the flute, accompanied by pianist Dylan Snodgrass. A wonderful poem was read and words of special thanks expressed. MCN President Ellen Beans emceed the luncheon. *From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, MCN for keeping residents informed and appreciating the work of Town staff.*



#### 329 RHEEM ELEVATOR - UP AND RUNNING (AND DOWN AND RUNNING!)

Yes! The new elevator is now operational, having passed the State elevator inspection on Thursday. The Town has been looking forward to getting an elevator installed in the building, which was purchased in 2004 so that it could be converted into appropriate Town Office space. Installation of the elevator is a critical element to this conversion. The elevator was more than 50% funded with Economic Stimulus funds that became available through the county in 2009. Stay tuned for an official “Grand Opening” in early January.



#### FRESH PAVEMENT MARKINGS

You may have noticed a number of the lane lines and pavement markings have been freshened up this past week. The Town restripes as needed, preferably at the beginning of the rainy season since faded striping is less visible on the rain slicked roads.



#### TOWN FINANCES – PROPERTY TAX REVENUE

Property taxes are shared between many government agencies, including schools, special districts, Contra Costa County, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and the Town of Moraga. The allocation of Moraga property taxes between agencies is:

- Schools 53.2%
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District 19.0%
- Contra Costa County 15.2%
- Special Districts 7.3%
- Town of Moraga 5.3%

For every \$100 paid in property taxes, the Town of Moraga receives only \$5.30. Property taxes go into the Town’s General Fund and, combined with other revenues, pay for Police Services, Public Works Administration and Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Programs, Planning Services, and General Government Administration.



## HOLIDAY TREE NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Town set a goal to raise \$6,000 from community donations to pay for the installation, maintenance and removal of the Holiday Tree display in the Commons Park. It costs the Town this amount of money for a company, based in Moraga, to provide the service. Donations to-date total \$1,500, leaving us \$4,500 short of our goal. Please consider making a minimum donation of \$20 towards the Holiday Tree. Send donation checks, payable to the Town of Moraga, to 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, Attn: Buy-A-Bulb. We will accept donations all the way through January.



## APPLICANTS NEEDED FOR TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Check the current Activity Guide/Town Crier for opportunities to volunteer to serve on one of the Town boards and commissions. There are vacancies for the ADA Advisory Committee, the Design Review Board, the Park and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Audit & Finance Committee and Town Treasurer. Information on the purpose of each group, when it meets, the terms of office, as well as contact information, is included in the Town Crier.



## TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER RANCHO LAGUNA II APPEAL ON JANUARY 12, 2011

The final hearing on the Rancho Laguna II appeal is currently scheduled for January 12, 2011. This is an appeal of the August 2009 decision of the Planning Commission approving a 27-lot residential development proposal off of Rheem Boulevard between Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road. Revised plans are expected to be submitted to the Town the week of December 20.



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The Moraga Police Department would like to remind everyone to be aware of Holiday Safety by following the following tips:

- **Allow Extra Driving Time** – With extra traffic generated by holiday shopping and wet or icy roads, it is important to be patient with other motorists and focus on traffic safety.
- **Secure Homes and Vehicles** – Always lock your homes and vehicles, use alarm systems if you have them, and don't leave any valuables visible to others.
- **Secure Personal Items and Identity** – While shopping, always keep your purses, wallets, or other personal items within your control. It only takes a second for someone to take personal items left unattended. Also make sure you are aware of your surroundings whenever you pay for something or use a credit or ATM card.
- **Walk or Exercise With a Friend** – While our community is generally safe, it is always better to have someone with you on isolated trails or other open space areas to enhance medical response if anything happens.

The holiday season brings its own set of personal stressors, so please think ahead, be patient, and help prevent additional stress in your lives and in the lives of others.



## TOWN TO PURCHASE INTEROPERABLE RADIOS FOR MORAGA PD

At the December 8 Town Council meeting, a resolution was passed authorizing the purchase of new Motorola radios for the Moraga Police Department. The purchase includes twenty hand held portables, nine vehicle radios, and one radio base station at a cost of almost \$136,000.00. The new radios are required for the new interoperable radio system that will allow emergency responders to communicate with each other.



## TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Town offices will be closed Friday, December 24 to Friday, December 31 for the winter holidays. We will reopen Monday, January 3, 2011. Limited staff will be available by appointment. In case of emergency, please call Moraga Police Dispatch at 925-284-5010. We wish you and yours a happy holiday season!