



ABOUT TOWN ▪ JANUARY 15, 2010

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



ADOPTION OF THE MORAGA CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 27, 2010

After years of public meetings and analysis, the Town Council stands poised to adopt the Moraga Center Specific Plan and Town of Moraga Housing Element Update. Action on the document is anticipated at the Council meeting on January 27th at 7:30 p.m. at Joaquin Moraga Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga. Copies of all documents can be found on the Town's website at www.moraga.ca.us. For additional information, please email or call the Planning Director at lsalamack@moraga.ca.us or (925) 888-7043.



RANCHO LAGUNA II APPEAL CONTINUED TO FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Town Council consideration of the Rancho Laguna II appeal, previously scheduled for January 27th has been continued to February 24th. The staff report and related exhibits will be available on the Town website on Friday, February 19th.



MORAGA POLICE DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW OFFICER

The Moraga Police Department is proud to announce the addition of a new officer scheduled to start field training on Sunday, January 17th. Officer Michael Foley comes to the department with prior experience with the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety. The addition of Officer Foley brings the department to 10 officers of an authorized strength of 12. Two additional candidates are in the background process.



INDECENT EXPOSURE INVESTIGATION

The Moraga Police Department is working with the Lafayette Police Department to bring charges against a 40 year old suspect arrested by Lafayette PD. The suspect is an Orinda resident and has been linked to two Moraga cases and several other cases in Lafayette, Orinda and Danville. All agencies plan to present their cases to the District Attorney together.



TOWN COUNCIL THANKS TWO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE MORAGA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Town Council presented Moraga Hardware and Lumber and Across the Way a proclamation thanking them for sponsoring the 2009 Parks and Recreation Department's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Moraga Hardware and Lumber and Across the Way provided gift certificates to the winning families. The proclamation also thanked Moraga Women's Society for judging the participating homes. First place was awarded to the Ginley family on Hetfield Place, second place was awarded to the List family on Lynwood Place, third place was awarded to the Schmitz family on Larch Avenue and Honorable Mention was awarded to the Brady family on Merrill Circle Court North for decorating the *interior* of their home.



EXTENDED DEADLINES FOR TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

If you were interested in applying for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Design Review Board, or Planning Commission, but just didn't get around to submitting by last Friday, you are in luck! The deadline for these three volunteer groups has been extended to the end of January.

There are three vacancies on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, which meets once per month to hear requests from the public regarding traffic calming and safety issues within town. TSAC members provide guidance to various neighborhood groups who wish to address traffic issues in their area.

The Design Review Board considers and approves or disapproves applications for Design Review as required by the Municipal Code including, but not limited to, applications for new buildings, construction in a scenic corridor or on a hillside, and applications that require an exception from the Town's guidelines. This Board meets twice each month.

The Planning Commission considers and approves or disapproves applications for land use approvals in accordance with the Municipal Code such as conditional use permits, subdivisions and variances. It also serves as an advisory body to the Town Council on land use issues such as amendments to the General Plan. This Commission meets regularly twice each month.

The deadlines have been extended to **Friday, January 29 at 12 noon**. Applications and flyers are available at the [Employment & Volunteer Opportunities](#) page of the Town website.



STATE ADOPTS NEW GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

On January 12th, the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) unanimously adopted the first-in-the-nation mandatory Green Building Standards Code (CALGREEN) requiring all new buildings in the state to be more energy efficient and environmentally responsible. These regulations will take effect on January 1, 2011.

CALGREEN will require that every new building constructed in California reduce water consumption by 20%, divert 50% of construction waste from landfills and install low pollutant-emitting materials. The California Air Resources Board estimates that the mandatory provisions will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CO2 equivalent) by 3 million metric tons equivalent in 2020.



HACIENDA REPAIRS

The repair work from the fire damage at the Hacienda has been completed. The Administrative Services Department which had to move across the hall since the fire will move back to their old offices near the top of the stairs at the Hacienda by early February. The cost for the repairs was covered by the Town's insurance, with the exception of the deductible.



GRANT FUNDS CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS

The Town has begun the design of pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at two crosswalks on Moraga Road – one at Corliss Drive and the second at Woodford Drive. Additional high visibility crosswalks will be installed at both locations – meaning a more vibrant paint scheme on the pavement. These will not be raised in any way. Installation of these crosswalk improvements is anticipated to take place over the summer. The improvements are funded primarily with grant funds, with a 20% match of Town funds.



CLOSURE OF RECYCLING CENTER IN MORAGA DUE TO STATE CUTS

The California Redemption Value (CRV) Recycling Centers have been operating at the Moraga Safeway Store for many years. Recently, a reduction in the Division of Recycling funding, due to the State of California "borrowing" these funds to help balance the State's budget, has reduced handling fee payments to the CRV Recycling Center operators, resulting in recycling center closures statewide.

The Moraga Safeway may be required to redeem CRV containers in-store, per State law, but the review and decision on this may be months away. For the time being, the closest recycling center is the Walnut Creek Recycling Center at 480 Lawrence Way, Walnut Creek. It is open for business Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions please call the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) at (925) 906-1801, or e-mail them at: authority@wastediversion.org.



TOWN STREET LIGHTING UNDERFUNDED

Historically, the Town has dedicated general fund money to subsidize the operating and maintenance costs for the Lighting Assessment District, which provides streetlights in residential areas throughout town. The Street Light Assessment District was developed to pay for these costs, but does not currently collect enough money to pay for the entire cost for the services. This subsidy has resulted in taxpayers who do not benefit from the street lights having to contribute to the subsidy. Without additional funding, the operation of the street lights will need to be modified to meet the available funding or the Town will need to increase the subsidy. Following the recommendations of the Revenue Enhancement Committee, the Town Council will consider pursuing increasing the assessments, subject to approval by the property owners within the District.