



ABOUT TOWN ▪ MAY 14, 2010

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC WORKS WEEK CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 16, 12 – 4 PM

If you are curious about what it takes to keep the town parks and streets (and a lot of other functions) running in Moraga, please come by the Town's new maintenance yard at the old Rheem Fire Station at 331 Rheem Boulevard. The Town purchased the property in March to meet the General Plan goal of relocating the maintenance function from its previous location on the Hacienda grounds in order to optimize the use of the Hacienda grounds for community purposes. The new Corporation Yard will be open to the public on Sunday, May 16, from noon until 4:00 p.m., with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Come by, see the new facilities, collect informational materials, participate in a survey, and enjoy our hospitality! Hope to see you there!



RANCHO LAGUNA II APPEAL TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

On May 26, 2010 the Town Council will consider an appeal from the August 2009 decision of the Planning Commission with respect to the 27 lot Ranch Laguna II project on Rheem Boulevard between Moraga Road and Saint Mary's Road. As requested by the Town Council, the applicant has prepared photo simulations of the proposed project. The photo simulations can be viewed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.previz.com/rlaguna/sims.html> The staff report for the Town Council meeting will be available on the Town website on Friday afternoon, May 21. Please contact the Planning Department at (925) 888-7040 if you have questions regarding this matter.



STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT BALLOTS ARE DUE

A reminder that the Street Lighting Assessment District ballots are due by the close of the Public Hearing at the Town Council Meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26. You may deliver your ballot at the meeting up until the hearing is closed.



MORAGA PARKS AND RECREATION WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

Please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/moragarecreation and take an online survey. The survey is intended to assist staff as we strive to offer additional enrichment classes, for people of all ages and interests, through our public facilities. We are particularly interested in expanding programming at the Hacienda. So if you are looking for that senior exercise class, tot play group, computer class or some other type of special interest class, please let us know by taking the short 10 minute survey.



4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS DONATIONS

The goal to raise \$23,000 to keep the great 4th of July tradition going in Moraga has been set. In 2009 this community raised just under \$22,000 so let's reach \$23,000 this year. We are asking for a \$50 donation per rocket. If you, or the organization you belong to, would consider donating a little more it would be greatly appreciated. Send donations to Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy a Rocket, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.



COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM ACTIVATED

Several Moraga residents received a recorded phone message this past week alerting them to a missing person reported to the Orinda Police Department. The phone calls were generated by the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) which has been described as a reverse 9-1-1 system. In this case, Chief Jennings of Orinda PD authorized the system's activation asking for the assistance of residents in both Orinda and Moraga to look for and report any sightings of an elderly missing person. Moraga residents in geographic areas that were along the suspected route of the missing person received telephone messages with the person's description. The TENS is part of the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) which is recognized as one of the nation's most modern and effective public warning systems. CWS alerts are also available on your cellular telephone. For more information or to register your cell phone, go to <http://cws.cccounty.us> or call (925) 313-9622. This case had a happy ending, with the missing person located.



COUNCIL APPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING ALTERNATIVE FOR MORAGANS

The Town Council adopted a resolution to initiate the process to join the "CaliforniaFIRST" program which provides alternative funding mechanisms for property owners to finance renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water efficiency projects. If a property owner chooses to participate, the improvements will be financed by issuance of bonds by California Communities (a joint powers authority sponsored by the League of California Cities). The bond proceeds are then used by the property owner to install the approved project, and then paid back over a number of years through assessments on their property tax bill. This funding allows property owners to pay the "loan" off over time (typically using the savings from the efficiency projects,) and to pass the "loan" payments to the next owner, if they sell the property. This helps alleviate owners' concerns about the hefty upfront costs of installing these improvements, and potentially not realizing the benefits of their investment if they choose to sell the property before the payback period ends. The adoption of the resolution on Wednesday night is the first step, and allows the Town to join if Contra Costa County chooses to join. If the County opts out of the program, then Moraga cannot participate in this program, as it is administered at the County level throughout the state. More information will become available as the process continues.



2ND ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO A HUGE SUCCESS

The Hacienda Foundation presented yet another great community event at the Hacienda de Las Flores for Cinco de Mayo on May 5. Over 700 people enjoyed mariachi music, kids' games, photos, tortilla making, food, drinks and great family fun. The mission for the Hacienda Foundation is to enhance, protect and preserve the Hacienda property that serves as Moraga's Community Center. This great event was another huge step towards enhancing the Hacienda. Thank you to CERT, Moraga Valley Kiwanis and Moraga Youth Involvement Committee for volunteering. Thank you also to Bob Bratton and Rich Holden for providing the parking shuttle service from 5A Rent-A-Space to the Hacienda. The Hacienda Foundation will soon initiate a community fundraising campaign. Please consider your tax deductible donation to this valuable 501(c)3 organization and mail a check, payable to the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, to P.O. Box 6003, Moraga, CA 94556.