



ABOUT TOWN ▪ MAY 5, 2010

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR INPUT

The Community Outreach Committee, which is an outgrowth of last year's Revenue Enhancement Committee, is seeking input from the community. The Committee has enlisted the help of volunteers to call residents to obtain participants for focus groups. The focus groups will be asked to discuss their points of view about living in Town, the Town's services and programs, and other issues related to the community. Volunteers will be calling residents during the week of May 3rd to ask for residents to join in the focus group process. Information gathered from the groups will be held in confidence and participants' comments will remain anonymous. In addition to the focus groups the Committee has also arranged for an on-line survey to be available via the Town's website. That link will be available near the end of May after the focus groups have been completed. So, if you receive a phone call from one of our volunteers, know that they are legitimate and please help us by agreeing to participate. And, if you are not chosen to participate in this phase of the process, feel free to check out the Town's website for the survey link. We want all the input we can get!



STREET LIGHTING LED LIGHTING

As part of the EECBG Grant, almost 50 of the street lights in town will be retrofitted with new LED street lights. The LED lights produce a whiter light that is spread better at the road surface. They also meet "dark sky" goals because they do not project light upwards. These LEDs will replace some of the high pressure sodium vapor lights that were state-of-the art in the early 1980's when those replaced the older mercury vapor lights! Staff is also encouraging PG & E to move forward with replacing the entire street lighting system with energy efficient LEDs. Funds have been set aside for this from the annual payment to PG & E, but it requires PUC approval to implement the upgrade. A reminder that the Street Light 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.



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE AND TOWN CELEBRATE SWEET 16 FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL

The stage was set for celebration as the Saint Mary's College Men's Basketball team was greeted by over 300 people at the Commons Park Band Shell on Sunday afternoon, May 2. Moraga Park Foundation provided hot dogs, chips and drinks. Saint Mary's College took this opportunity to thank Moraga for the wonderful support after winning the West Coast Conference Championship as well as their road to the NCAA "Sweet 16." President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Citizen of the Year Edy Schwartz was the Master of Ceremonies. Brother Dominic Berardelli, Moraga Mayor Ken Chew, President of the Australian American Chamber of Commerce David Kershaw, County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier and Head Coach Randy Bennett all said a few words honoring the team and thanking the residents. Saint Mary's gave out free t-shirts throughout the event and the basketball players signed autographs and played "Knock-out" with youth from the community. The Spirit of Saint Mary's (MOFD fire truck) was on hand for people to tour and enjoy.



TOWN COUNCIL MAINTAINS STATUS QUO AT RANCHO LAGUNA PARK

The proposal to limit time for off-leash animals at Rancho Laguna Park was considered by Town Council on Wednesday, April 28. After two hours of public testimony and additional discussion it was decided to keep the existing off-leash times at Rancho Laguna Park in place, limited to morning and evening hours. Town Council also discussed the option of addressing the off-leash issue at Rancho Laguna Park through the November general election. Town staff was directed to look into the possibility and costs associated with this item on the November ballot.



MORAGA POLICE GET SHEARED FOR ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION

On April 24, five members of the police department had their heads shaved to raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation to fund children's cancer research. Chief Priebe, Sergeant South, and Officers Douthit, Fields, and Millstead formed the team "The Slick Tops," and got their haircuts on stage at the Moraga Commons. The event was attended by Vice Mayor Mendonca and Councilmember Trotter, providing emotional and financial support for the team. The team name was selected because a "slick top" is a police car without a light bar on the roof.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT

On April 21, Moraga's application was approved for \$93,465, the Town's share of the \$49.6M Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program run by the California Energy Commission. This program is part of the Federal Stimulus package and is intended to help cities and counties reduce their energy consumption by funding energy improvements such as increased insulation, upgraded HVAC systems, better lighting, and other infrastructure improvements. All of these measures will help to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while creating or maintaining "green technology" jobs. This is truly a win-win project for the community as it allows Moraga to decrease the costs associated with Town operations while helping to stimulate the local economy!



JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION INSPECTION

This past week, the police department was inspected by members of the Contra Costa County Juvenile Justice Commission to ensure all aspects of juvenile custody cases are handled properly. The police department was deemed to be in compliance and no changes were suggested. Additionally, Chief Priebe attended a Community Forum on Underage Drinking at JFK University in Pleasant Hill to support county-wide efforts to reduce underage drinking.