



## ABOUT TOWN - DECEMBER 16, 2011

### BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF

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#### NEW MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR FOR 2012

At the December 14 Town Council meeting the Council unanimously appointed Councilmembers Michael Metcalf as Mayor and Howard Harpham as Vice Mayor. This culminates a very successful year under Mayor Karen Mendonca's leadership. As part of his introductory comments, Mayor Metcalf outlined goals in six broad categories for 2012, including: A Revenue Measure for Moraga Street Pothole Repairs; Parks and Sport Fields; Town Office and Community Meeting Room Renovation; Finance and Budgeting; Economic Development/ Planning and Public Safety. The Mayor welcomes feedback on his goals from the community and full Council at the upcoming Goal Setting meeting on Saturday, January 28, 2012.



#### HOLIDAY CAMP HACIENDA – DECEMBER 19 - 23, 2011

If your child is looking to have fun during the break without having to leave Moraga, then look no further. You can still sign up for Holiday Camp Hacienda, a day camp for children ages 5-10. Enjoy structured activities including: art, crafts, games, ice skating and a special visitor from the North Pole! Come for a full day or half day. Sign up at the Town's website [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).



#### COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

The Moraga Police Officers Association would like to thank the citizens of Moraga for their continued generosity this holiday season. Hundreds of stuffed animals have been donated to the Stuffed Animals For Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) program again this year and donations will be accepted until December 27. Anyone wanting to donate new or slightly used stuffed animals is encouraged to place them in the bins located in the Police Department lobby at 329 Rheem Boulevard.



#### RANCHO LAGUNA PARK

At the December 14 Town Council meeting the Council voted 3-2 to accept the Park and Recreation Commission recommendation for spatial separation at Rancho Laguna Park. The approved conceptual design includes fencing adjacent to the existing walking path along the north and east sides of the park, establishing a dedicated off-leash dog area during open hours of the park. In early 2012, staff will ask Town Council to approve a construction contract to establish the dedicated off-leash dog area within the park. It is anticipated the majority of funds for park improvements will be provided by East Bay Regional Park District, Measure WW grant funds, not the Town's General Fund.



#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There will be five vacancies for the Planning Commission, four vacancies for the Park and Recreation Commission, three vacancies each for the Design Review Board and the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and two each for the ADA Advisory Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee for 2012. For more information on how to apply, visit the Town's website [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).



## **NEW MORAGA POLICE OFFICERS**

Moraga's two newest police officers, Tyler Olson and Krista Koppinger, were introduced to the Town Council and audience at the December 14 Town Council meeting. Both officers were selected after a very competitive testing process and extensive background investigations.

Officer Olson was raised in Escalon and graduated from CSU Sacramento with a BS degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation, Officer Olson attended the Stanislaus Regional Training Academy and then began his law enforcement career as a police officer for the City of Susanville, where he served for almost two years before joining the Moraga Police Department. Officer Koppinger was raised in Sacramento and also graduated from CSU Sacramento with a BS degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation, Officer Koppinger was hired by the City of Sacramento Police Department and attended their police academy, but was a victim of budget cuts prior to working as an officer. Both officers were given their oath of office followed by a badge pinning ceremony, with Officer Olson's father pinning him and Officer Koppinger's two sisters pinning her. Both officers expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Town and for their warm welcome by the Moraga Police Department and the community.



## **PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION UPDATE**

On December 5, 2011 the Planning Commission considered four projects. A use permit was renewed for Sprint wireless communications equipment and antennas under the roof of Brousseau Hall on the Saint Mary's College campus. A 3,832 sq.ft. one-story home at 8 Kimberly Drive and a 3,646 sq.ft. two-story home at 10 Kimberly Drive were conditionally approved. A use permit application for the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) was denied because the Commission could not make affirmative findings for a proposed 50-foot high antenna tower at the top of Alta Mesa Drive. Because the Planning Commission recognized the Town Council should consider the issue, a Planning Commissioner appealed their decision to deny the use permit.



## **NEW MAILBOXES AT MORAGA CENTER**

Thanks to the persistent and persuasive efforts of Moraga resident George Fisher, the U.S. Postal Service has agreed to relocate the unsafe mailbox on Moraga Way into the Moraga Center.



## **TOWN SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO ABAG FOR THE RHEEM AREA**

The Town submitted an application to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) this week to propose designating the Rheem Valley Planning Area a Mixed Use Neighborhood/Corridor, under ABAG's Priority Development Area program. This follows the Economic Development Action Committee's recent recommendation and the Planning Commission and Town Council's direction. The designation will allow Moraga to apply for future grants and infrastructure funding for the area. It also furthers the objectives the community identified during the Rheem visioning workshops to create a walkable, mixed use neighborhood in the Rheem Valley. A map of the area is available at the Town's Planning Department.



## **MAINTENANCE AROUND TOWN**

Public Works staff continues to monitor the small slides and fencing that holds the rocks and debris off Bollinger Canyon Road. This week, the Town had the debris removed and the fence repaired again, and will continue to monitor the area as the rains begin. Public Works crews also repaired the roadside ditch adjacent to Canyon Road near the County line to stabilize the roadway in that area.



## **HOLIDAY CLOSURE OF TOWN OFFICES**

The Town offices will be closed Monday, December 26, through Monday, January 2, for the winter holidays, reopening on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. We wish you and yours Happy Holidays!



## **HELP SHARE THE TOWN KNOWLEDGE**

If you found this newsletter informative and interesting, please forward it to your neighbors and friends. Not subscribed yet? Visit the Town's website [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us) to sign up for the Town of Moraga e-newsletter, About Town.