



ABOUT TOWN ▪ SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



PEAR AND WINE FESTIVAL

Whether visitors purchased a pear pie or caramel-dipped pear, or listened to the free concert from Stone Soup, (compliments of the Moraga Park Foundation), everyone seemed to have a great time at the Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, September 24. A variety of events were added this year including: grape stomping; wine and food pairing; youth and adult divisions for the pear pie eating competition; a live performance from the Town Hall Theatre Company; Animal Rescue Foundation adoption; and emcee services by a talented Moraga resident, Ryan Oettinger. A special thank you to John Haffner, Kimberly Nelson and Kim Burrowes for making the 13th annual event extra special!



UPDATE ABOUT POTENTIAL SUBDIVISION OF TOWN-OWNED LAND

On Monday, October 3, the Planning Commission will further discuss the potential subdivision of a portion of Town-owned property located at the southwest corner of Rheem Boulevard and St. Mary's Road. The Town acquired the 20-acre parcel and the adjoining 20-acre parcel (developed as Moraga Commons Park) from the State of California in 1977 when the State sold portions of a planned Gateway freeway and interchange. The property being considered is about 2 acres in size and contains a portion of the East Bay Regional Park District's Lafayette-Moraga pedestrian/bike trail. The Park and Recreation Commission discussed the potential subdivision at its September 20 meeting and recommended that the Town Council not proceed with the subdivision and preserve its existing open space. Members of the public are invited to attend the October 3 Planning Commission meeting at the Moraga Library at 7:00 pm. The Town Council will then consider the item October 12.



OKTOBERFEST

Join the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga and Moraga Parks and Recreation on Sunday, October 16, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm as they host the 3rd Annual Oktoberfest at the Hacienda de las Flores. \$2.00 per adult or \$5.00 per family will gain you admission. Big Lou and her German band will offer live music, and the Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers will entertain with authentic Oktoberfest dances. Draft beer, bratwurst, strudel and pretzels will be available for purchase. Jumpy houses, pumpkin painting, and other activities will be available to entertain children. This event is a fundraiser for one of Moraga's local non-profit, 501(c)3 organizations and all proceeds for the event will be used for improvements to the Hacienda de las Flores.



RANCHO LAGUNA PARK UPDATE

On Saturday, October 1, off-leash allowable evening hours will change to "4:00 pm to park closing" for the winter schedule. The September Park and Recreation Commission meeting included additional community outreach to address the Town Council request of spatial separation regarding off-leash dogs. The Commission heard the Lamorinda Dogs Community Proposal, asked questions and received additional input. The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting, scheduled for October 18, will be a workshop format to receive further community input and provide a recommendation to the Town Council. The Town Council is scheduled to consider the item shortly thereafter.



TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSAC) OPENING

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee has a current opening. Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 7. The application and information about the Committee can be found on the Town's website at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/committees/tsac/about>



NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT STREETLIGHTS

Beginning in early October, the familiar orange glow of Moraga's streetlights will be changing to a more natural, daylight look as PG&E begins upgrading the Town's lighting with LED technology. The new lights will provide a more evenly distributed light while saving a considerable amount in energy and maintenance costs. The work is expected to take a couple of weeks. Drivers should use caution around the contractors' trucks.



POLICE AUCTION

On September 24, the Moraga Police Department held a public auction in the police parking lot. Three used patrol vehicles, two off-road motorcycles, several bicycles and miscellaneous items were auctioned by sealed bid. The auction generated over \$4,000 that will be deposited into Town funds.



PLANNING DIRECTOR AVAILABLE TO MEET THE COMMUNITY

The Town's new Planning Director, Shawna Brekke-Read, has been meeting with residents, visiting project sites, and learning more about Moraga's land use issues and concerns. If you or your group would like to meet with her, or take her on a site visit, please call 925-888-7040. You may also contact her at sread@moraga.ca.us.



TRAFFIC CALMING GUIDE REVISIONS

Starting at its October 5, 2011 meeting, TSAC will begin reviewing certain aspects of the Town's Traffic Calming Guide. At the meeting, TSAC will discuss the appeal process for groups bringing traffic calming projects before the Committee. The Traffic Calming Guide is available on the Town's website for review at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/committees/tsac/about>



TOWN HOSTING E-WASTE EVENT TO BENEFIT RELAY FOR LIFE

Do you have an old computer monitor, VCR or laptop that has been collecting dust and needs to be disposed of properly? The Town of Moraga's E-Waste event will continue through Wednesday October 19, 2011. The recycler will donate 50% of their profit to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event being held at Saint Mary's College in October. Residents can drop off electronic items from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday at Town Hall, 329 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga. For a complete list of items that will and will not be accepted please go to www.moraga.ca.us.



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