



ABOUT TOWN ▪ FEBRUARY 14, 2011

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



COUNCIL PRIORITIZED GOALS

On Wednesday, February 9, the Town Council met again at the Hacienda to continue its discussion and prioritization of goals for 2011. The Council first met on Saturday, January 8, 2011 to hear suggestions from community members and discuss other Council goals. Over twenty community members attended each meeting, which is significantly higher than previous years. Last week, in discussing the priorities, the Council and staff narrowed down the list of 55 goals discussed in January, to eighteen specific activities within just five goals. Those goals were to: invest in infrastructure; revitalize economic development; create fiscal sustainability; enhance communications with the community; and improve existing partnerships.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GOAL

At the Town's Goal Setting session on February 9, the Town Council recognized Emergency Preparedness as a high priority for this year. Several Moraga citizens and one Canyon resident, all actively involved in emergency preparedness organizations, urged the Council to make it a high priority and partner with the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD). The Chief of Police reported on prior discussions with MOFD Chief Bradley indicating both were willing to partner if supported and approved by both governing bodies.

On February 11, the Town's Emergency Preparedness Committee, comprised of two Council members and the Chief of Police, met to discuss the Town's current Emergency Operations Plan and the proposed partnership with MOFD. The committee agreed that a partnership with MOFD could improve the Plan and provide consistent ongoing training for Town staff and first responders. The committee will continue to work to improve the emergency response efforts in our community.



TAKE A MOMENT TO REVITALIZE

Saint Mary's College students have been working with Economic Development Team member Mary Coe to complete a Moraga Makeover where students came up with ideas to revitalize Moraga. One of the projects created was Market Moraga, where Saint Mary's students receive instant discounts at Moraga businesses. The students are doing their part to offer suggestions and revitalize Moraga. *NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!* Please take just a moment to let the Economic Development Team know what types of retail you want and don't want to come into Town. We need to hear from you! The survey can be found at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BQB2T76UV>.



TOWN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RECEIVE HIGHEST CONFIDENCE LEVEL FROM AUDIT

The annual audit of the Town's financial records led the auditors to give the Town a clear and clean audit, stating that the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Moraga as of June 30, 2010." While this statement may not sound celebratory, it is worth recognizing the finance department. This is the highest level of confidence a governmental finance department can receive from an outside objective auditor. The audit also

gave us the opportunity to show how we are continually striving to improve when it offered a few relatively minor suggestions. It said we need to formally adopt a purchasing ordinance, a draft of which has been to Council for consideration and will be reviewed again by Council on February 23. We also will be recording grant reimbursement invoices that have been sent but not paid as “deferred revenue” when we close our books next year.



LAFAYETTE, MORAGA, AND ORINDA JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

On February 10, 2011, the Town of Moraga hosted a Tri-City Council meeting with Lafayette and Orinda. The main item of the agenda was a presentation from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to hear the plans of these regional and subregional agencies to create a Bay Area “Sustainable Communities Strategy” (SCS). The SCS is required, as part of a new statewide law and effort under AB32, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agencies have been meeting with planning staff around the region, and this was an opportunity for them to hear from the elected officials of Lamorinda. The initial strategy (a land use map showing priority development areas, land use and development criteria, policies, and incentives) will be released mid-March to begin more detailed conversations with all Bay Area communities.

The Councils also discussed each community’s efforts to improve our streets and storm drains. All three Councils are increasingly concerned about the rapidly deteriorating roadway and storm drain systems and the exponential increase in construction costs if the roads fall below those that need simple (and relatively inexpensive) pavement overlays, compared to full reconstruction of failed roadways. For Moraga, the issue centered on how to pay less now, rather than pay more later. The roadway improvement costs for Orinda are significantly higher per linear foot since many of the roads in Orinda have fallen below the threshold for the inexpensive fix. The Moraga Town Council will discuss its infrastructure needs and next steps at its upcoming meeting Wednesday, February 16.



STUFFED ANIMAL COLLECTION DRIVE: FURRY FRIENDS FEBRUARY!

Following on the success of the Moraga Police Officers Association’s (MPOA) holiday stuffed animal drive, the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) is also collecting new or gently used stuffed animals for donation to Stuffed Animals For Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) to be distributed to children in areas of need. This *Furry Friends February* drive is part of the MYIC’s goal of a small-scale, monthly drive for the remainder of the committee term. Your stuffed animals can be dropped off at the Recreation Office at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. More information on this worthy cause can be found at www.stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org.



ADA LAWSUIT SETTLED

In 2007, Moraga and thirteen other Contra Costa communities were named in a lawsuit regarding noncompliance with the Americans with Disability Act. The litigants cited a number of locations where ADA accessible curb cuts were not installed. The communities, working together with the litigants, previously developed a settlement agreement that required a certain percentage of transportation funds be spent on improving accessibility each year, among other requirements. This draft settlement agreement was heard before the Contra Costa County Superior Court in 2009, where the judge directed the parties to expand the plan. In October of 2010, a new settlement was reached. The settlement required the Town to pay \$3,000 of the \$42,000 settlement payment to be split among the litigants and their attorneys.