



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ JANUARY 27, 2012

### BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF

---



#### TOWN COUNCIL GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP – JANUARY 28, 2012

The Moraga Town Council will consider the community's goals and priorities for 2012 under the leadership of Mayor Mike Metcalf on Saturday, January 28, 2012, 9:00 am, Hacienda La Sala, at its annual Goal Setting Workshop. Coffee and light refreshments will be available starting at 8:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for the public to provide their input on Town priorities for the coming year.



#### CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL COMING SOON

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual California Independent Film Festival is set to take center stage from February 10 to 16, 2012 at the Lamorinda Theatres (Rheem Theatre and Orinda Theatre). The seven-day event will open with *Monsieur Lazhar*, nominated in this year's 84<sup>th</sup> Oscar Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. The Opening Night Ceremony will be held at the Rheem Theatre on February 10, and will be hosted by NBC Bay Area News weekend anchor, Ms. Diane Dwyer.



#### CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE

On January 11, the Council created a Climate Action Plan Task Force comprised of local individuals and property owners with environmental, business, and development backgrounds to assist the Town in creating feasible goals to reduce the overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Town and to draft a Climate Action Plan (CAP). CAPs are becoming increasingly popular as a way to reduce an area's impact on the environment, save money on energy bills, support the goals and policies of AB 32, and streamline the development review process by allowing consistent projects to be exempt from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's CEQA guidelines.



#### "NIXLE" AS THE TOWN'S NEW PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Town of Moraga has opened an account with Nixle to provide our community real time information that may be of interest. This service allows the Town to communicate road closure and emergency information, press releases, and community event information quickly and easily. All Lamorinda area residents are encouraged to subscribe for this service, which is free other than data plan fees for mobile phones. The messages from the Town can be sent via text message, email, and over the web. To subscribe, click on the link on the Town's website. It takes minutes to subscribe, so please register for this public notification service.



#### COME OUT FOR A CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Join us for a night of Las Vegas style casino fun at the Hacienda on Saturday, March 3, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Pre-sale tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple while supplies last! All proceeds go towards the Rancho Laguna Park replacement play structures. Games will include craps, blackjack, roulette, poker and more! All players are eligible to win raffle prizes! For more information, visit the Town's website or call 925-888-7036.



## **EAST BAY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY ANTENNA APPEAL UPDATE**

The Town Council approved a Conditional Use Permit to allow the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) to install a 20-foot antenna and accessory equipment enclosure for public safety purposes near the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Carter Reservoir at 1180 Alta Mesa Drive. The Planning Commission had previously denied a 50-foot tall antenna near the EBMUD Carter Reservoir because it did not meet the Town's Wireless Facilities regulations. The applicant had subsequently revised its plans, relocating and lowering the antenna.



## **RECENT PLANNING COMMISSION AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS**

The Moraga Planning Commission considered a Conditional Use Permit to allow a car wash and a larger convenience store at 425 Moraga Road at its meeting January 17, 2012. The Commission requested additional information from the applicant regarding noise levels. The Commission also considered a Variance application for a residence in Moraga Country Club to allow an addition and remodel within a front yard setback. The Commission requested staff look into changing the zoning of the Moraga Country Club and referred the project to the Design Review Board.

The Moraga Design Review Board (DRB) conditionally approved a request from Sonsara Homeowners Association to amend its landscaping plan and allow removal and replacement of redwood trees along Moraga Way. The DRB also provided comments and feedback regarding a proposed two-family residence at 1800 Donald Drive. (Story poles are currently in place showing the location and height of this proposed residence.)



## **SUCCESSFUL STUFFED ANIMALS FOR EMERGENCIES (S.A.F.E.) DRIVE**

The Moraga Police Officers' Association wants to thank the community for their generous donations of stuffed animals to the Stuffed Animals For Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) organization. Your generosity provided 1,687 stuffed animals that will be given to children in distress. The donation drive ended on December 27, 2011. After replenishing the Moraga PD patrol cars, the remaining stuffed animals were delivered to the nearest S.A.F.E. chapter which distributes stuffed animals to over 40 charities.



## **FINANCIAL REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2012 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

At its meeting of February 8, the Town Council will review and take action on a number of items critical to the Town's financial welfare. Council will be discussing the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2011; current year revenue and expenditure reports and mid-year budget adjustments; options for financing the \$450,000 note due on 331 Rheem Boulevard; and the Infrastructure Preservation and Improvement Fund policy. Staff recommendations to the Town Council are based on the outcome of the recent Audit and Finance Committee meeting.



## **LAMORINDA TRI-CITY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

The Town of Moraga, City of Lafayette and City of Orinda will meet on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 pm for their annual tri-city meeting, hosted by Orinda at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. Tentatively scheduled for discussion are an update on roads; emergency preparedness; the Lamorinda Skatepark parking lot and a discussion on Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). This meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.



## UPCOMING PLANNING COMMISSION AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS

The Moraga Planning Commission will hold its next meeting Monday, February 6, 2012 at the Library at 7:00 pm. The Commission will re-consider the Conditional Use Permit for 425 Moraga Road and discuss potential changes to the zoning ordinance.

The Moraga Design Review Board will hold its next meeting Monday, February 13, 2012 at the Library at 7:00 pm. The Board will consider (1) approving an open-design fence within one foot of the property line at 312 Rheem Boulevard; (2) modifications and additions to 425 Moraga Road; and (3) an addition at 107 La Quinta that requires a Variance and exceeds the allowable Floor Area Ratio. The public is invited to attend both meetings. The public may also submit email correspondence in advance of the meetings to [planning@moraga.ca.us](mailto:planning@moraga.ca.us).



## HELP SPREAD THE TOWN KNOWLEDGE

If you found this newsletter informative and interesting, please forward it to your neighbors and friends. Not subscribed yet? Sign up for *About Town* on the Town of Moraga's website.