



ABOUT TOWN ▪ JANUARY 25, 2013 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



COUNCIL CREATES COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE LOCAL SALES TAX REVENUE

The Council has created a new Town of Moraga Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee of seven volunteers to foster an objective and transparent review of the use of Measure K revenue. The Committee will review audits and track the performance of the paving programs and services to prepare an independent report for the Council regarding the use of Measure K funds. The Town is currently recruiting candidates to serve on the Committee with expertise in finance and accounting (preferably public sector finance); pavement management and engineering; capital project management; and public affairs and communications. Please visit the Town website next week for the application and supplemental questions.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 8

You know you want to – volunteer now! Moraga depends on its volunteers to serve on all of the Boards, Commissions, and Committees that require citizen involvement. The Town is recruiting to fill current openings on the ADA Advisory Committee; Planning Commission; and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. Information on current openings is available on the Town's [website](#). Please submit your application, supplemental questionnaire and your resume to the Town Clerk's Office, 329 Rheem Boulevard, by 4:00 pm on Friday, February 8, 2013.



CAMPOLINDO STUDENT ATHLETES HONORED

On January 23 the Town Council honored Aidan Goltra with a proclamation for achieving the honors of North Coast Section and State Cross Country Champion. The Council also honored the Campolindo Girls Varsity Volleyball team for winning the North Coast Section Championship and competing valiantly to finish as runner-up in the CIF Division III State Championship game. Go Cougars!



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE (SMC) APPEAL UPDATE

The Town Council will consider Saint Mary's College's appeal regarding the operating hours of the intramural field lights at its meeting Wednesday, February 27. In the meantime, SMC has engaged an independent consultant to negotiate a solution with neighbors regarding light and noise impacts.



NEW DEPARTMENT LOCATION

The Planning Department has moved to the first floor at 329 Rheem Boulevard, directly across from the Police Department. The counter is open to the public, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, and closed for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm daily. Public Works/Engineering, the Town Clerk and Town Manager are still upstairs but in new locations. As of Friday, February 1, the Administrative Services division (Finance and Human Resources) will be joining other staff upstairs at the Town Offices. As promised, all Town staff, with the exception of Parks and Recreation, will then be moved out of the Hacienda de las Flores.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO REPAIR OUR ROADS?

Now that Moraga voters passed Measure K and the Town Council created an Oversight Committee and directed staff to repair Moraga’s roads as efficiently as possible...what’s next? First is to finalize the list of street segments for FY 2013/14 and further diagnose how to cost-effectively repair those streets. The Council began this process by approving a contract with Nichols Consulting. Second will be to drill or “core” the street segments to evaluate what is beneath the surface. Third will be to prepare the plans, specifications and cost estimates, review the engineering designs, and obtain appropriate approvals. Next will be to hire construction management and inspection services which require a formal bidding and selection process for Council consideration. The last step will be to publish the roadway repair plans to the construction community, host a pre-bid meeting, open the bidding as required by State Contract law, review and analyze the bids, and recommend the required low bidder for Town Council approval. Once this process is complete, residents will start to see construction workers repairing roads.



COUNCIL GOALS UPDATE

On Wednesday, January 23, the Town Council reviewed the list of goals identified during the initial Goal Setting Workshop on January 12. The goal to “initiate/complete targeted General Plan Amendments” was revised to reflect the Council’s desire to delay consideration of whether to adopt a development moratorium or modify the General Plan to protect ridgelines. The Council cited staff vacancies and significant staff, legal, and community time and funds that could be consumed by this discussion as a basis for deferring the consideration of the items. All other goals were adopted by the full Council.



CRIME DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 2012

Most crime categories were down in 2012 as compared to 2011, except assaults, which rose 135%. The following represents Moraga crimes reported to the California Department of Justice:

TYPE OF CRIME	2011	2012	% CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	No Change
Forcible Rape	5	1	Down 80%
Robbery	1	0	Down 100%
Assault	17	40	Up 135%
Burglary	34	29	Down 15%
Larceny	122	112	Down 8%
Auto Theft	17	11	Down 35%
Total Crimes	196	193	Down 1.5%

The drops in burglary, larceny (theft), and auto theft are most gratifying to the Moraga Police Department, indicating public education efforts may be yielding results, since property crimes can be positively impacted by individual attention to security awareness.



NEW COUNCILMEMBERS ATTEND TRAINING

To best serve the Town, new Councilmembers Roger Wykle and Phil Arth attended a three-day training hosted by the League of California Cities. The training covered a range of topics, but several sessions focused on the Brown Act (the open Government Act of 1953); ethics, as defined by State law; and how to work productively and effectively as a team member.



SAVE THE DATE FOR CASINO NIGHT, MARCH 23!

Join the Moraga Movers and Town of Moraga for Casino Night on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at the Hacienda de las Flores. The community's tax deductible donations provide funds to support youth, adult and senior enrichment programs. Everyone over 21 is welcome to play blackjack, craps, poker, roulette, and MORE! For more information contact Kim Burrowes: (925) 888-7036 or kburrowes@moraga.ca.us.



TOWN MOVING FORWARD WITH LEVERAGING NEW LOCAL SALES TAX

At the January 23 meeting, the Town Council directed staff to work with Stone & Youngberg as underwriters for a financing program to leverage funding for the Town's street repair program. Jones Hall will serve as the Town's bond counsel and disclosure counsel. Over the next few months, staff will work with Stone & Youngberg and Jones Hall to determine the best financing structure, best market rates, and make recommendations to the Town Council. The goal is to secure approximately \$7 million in funding by the end of the summer to use for street repairs over the next three years.



HELP 'LIFT' THE NEW RHEEM THEATRE

Several Moraga businesses are uniting to raise funds to bring The New Rheem Theatre into Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. There are two opportunities to help. The first one will be on Saturday, February 16, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, when 5A Rent-A-Space hosts a paper-shredding event at \$5 per standard box. On Sunday, February 24, beginning at 4:00 pm, plan to attend the gala Oscar event at The New Rheem Theatre. Enjoy the red carpet experience, live music, dancing, dinner and wine. Tickets are \$100 or \$125 for VIP seating. Tickets may be purchased online at: www.lamorindatheatres.com or by calling (925) 388-0752. Proceeds will go toward the "Elevator Lift Fund."



FY 2012/13 MID-YEAR BUDGET REPORT APPROVED

On January 23, the Town Council approved the FY 2012/13 Mid-Year Budget report. The Town Council adopted the FY 2012/13 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget on June 13, 2012. The budget provides a working financial plan for the year. At mid-year, staff assesses the revenues and expenditures for the first half of the fiscal year (through December 31) for the purpose of identifying major variances between actual transactions and estimated budget amounts. Based on an analysis of actual transactions to date, estimated budget amounts and information available through state and regional funding resources, staff has determined that revenue receipts and expenditures at year end will meet budgeted expectations overall. No mid-year budget adjustments are necessary.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Town of Moraga has issued a Request for Qualifications for consulting firms to provide community engagement and outreach, transportation planning, and traffic engineering services to the Town. The project will focus on Moraga Road, addressing Town Council direction and Economic Development Action Committee (EDAC) recommendations regarding the Rheem planning area. The study will be funded with a Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) grant from Contra Costa Transportation Authority Measure J funds.



UPDATE ON THE COMMONS SKATEPARK PARKING LOT

More new Skatepark parking lot construction is scheduled for this weekend as the soil is amended with lime. This procedure began on Thursday, January 24 and will take a few days. This frequently-used soil amendment will dry up the persistently wet soil conditions and significantly increase the longevity of the parking lot paving. The white lime powder that you will see in large piles this weekend is a naturally occurring compound, calcium oxide, commonly found in limestone. It is not a hazardous material, but is classified as an irritant. The equipment and methods being used are designed to minimize dust and disturbance while maximizing the effectiveness of the soil treatment by thoroughly blending the lime into the wet, clay soils. Project completion is expected well in advance of the annual Spring Egg Hunt in March.



THIRD GRADERS AT RHEEM ELEMENTARY WEIGH IN ON THEIR VISIONS

Ann Ralph, a third grade teacher at Rheem School, invited Town Manager Jill Keimach to this year's Read-a-Thon, where her students attentively (or politely) listened to a story about Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. In an open question session, the students used persuasive skills they are currently learning in the classroom to discuss their individual visions and ideas. Their suggestions ranged from having more bicycle trails, more recycling containers at the Commons Park, protecting animal habitat, building a public swimming pool for the entire Town, and replacing play structures. They also asked if contractors wanted to build tall buildings in Town, who makes decisions on development, and if Jill's job was hard and, if so, whether she liked it (yes).



DESIGN REVIEW BOARD DATE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

The regularly scheduled Design Review Board meeting on January 28, 2013 has been changed to a special meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, at the Mosaic Room at the Hacienda de Las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. The Design Review Board will review the construction of a mailbox pillar within the public right-of-way and two new retaining walls.



HELP SPREAD THE TOWN KNOWLEDGE

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