



ABOUT TOWN - MARCH 15, 2013 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



ABOUT TOWN READER COMMENTS

The *About Town* e-newsletter continues to generate comments and thanks from the community. This past year, in an effort to increase awareness and transparency, staff emphasized current items to be considered by the Town Council, Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, and/or Design Review Board to alert interested parties to check out the Town's website for more information. Our approach has been well received and we continue to encourage your feedback.



BOLLINGER VALLEY HEARING DATE RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 17

The informational hearing on the Bollinger Valley Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been rescheduled to **Wednesday, April 17** due to spring break in Moraga schools. In addition, the public comment period has been extended until April 23, 2013. The April 17 meeting will be held at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. Copies of the DEIR are available at the Town, on the website, at the Hacienda de las Flores, and at the Moraga Library. For further information, please contact the Planning Department at planning@moraga.ca.us. All comments regarding the Draft EIR must be received in writing by April 23, 2013 at 5:00 pm.



2013 AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION (APWA) AWARDS

Annually, APWA's Northern California Chapter recognizes public agencies for best projects and staff. This year, the Town of Moraga's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program was awarded the 2012 Project of the Year under the Small Cities/Rural Communities' Environmental category. The Town's IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term control of pest damage through a combination of eco-friendly techniques. Additionally, Travis McCord, Senior Administrative Assistant, was recognized for extensive training in Public Works operations.



RHEEM THEATRE UPDATE

At its March 13 meeting, the Town Council considered options regarding the Rheem Theatre and discussed ways to preserve both the building and the Theatre operations. Recognizing that the Theatre is a community resource and historic structure for the Town, the Council voted to waive Design Review Board fees associated with adding an elevator to the structure. The Council also asked staff to work with the property owner regarding designating the Theatre as a historical landmark, to pursue renting the Theatre during non-movie hours for recreation programs, and working with the California Independent Film Festival to consider a loan for additional ADA improvements and potentially digital projectors to benefit the community.



PERSONNEL RULES – WHAT AND WHY?

In order to provide the public with the highest customer service, Personnel Rules establish a system for effective personnel management, including promoting fairness and equity in the recruitment, appointment, retention, promotion, and separation of employees on the basis of merit and fitness. They also provide a framework for ensuring a safe workplace, free of unlawful conduct. At a future meeting, the updated Personnel Rules will be presented to the Town Council.



UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION SPRING EVENTS!

Spring Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 23, 10:00 and 11:00 am, Moraga Commons Park. Children 8 and under will enjoy an egg hunt, games, and more! Tickets available at the Parks and Recreation office or moragajuniors.org. **Casino Night** – Saturday, March 23, 6:00 to 10:00 pm, tickets available at the Parks and Recreation office or [online](#), proceeds benefit youth, adult, and senior enrichment programs! **Moraga Beautiful** – Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Moraga Commons Park. Wear painting clothes and be ready to spruce up our beautiful park system. **7th Annual Moraga Triathlon** – Saturday, April 27. Athletes register at moragatri.com; if you're interested in volunteering please email tri@moraga.ca.us. This is a great event for the seasoned triathlete or the first timer! **Camp Hacienda Spring Break – Recreation Leaders Needed!** If you are looking for a fun seasonal job working with children ages 5-10, please complete an employment application from the Town's [website](#). We are looking for recreation leaders to work the week of April 1 through 5, so please apply today! Summer positions also available.



PLANNING COMMISSION – MONDAY, MARCH 18

The Planning Commission will hold two public workshops at its March 18 meeting. One workshop will address a proposed single family residence at 1800 Donald Drive. The Commission and Design Review Board have previously reviewed this project, and the Design Review Board recommended to the Planning Commission approval of a revised design. At this meeting, the Commission will also consider revisions to the zoning ordinance regarding commercial uses and an administrative permit process in the Rheem area. The meeting will be held at the Moraga Library at 7:00 pm.



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION – TUESDAY, MARCH 19

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00 pm, at the Hacienda de las Flores. SummerHill Homes, the developer of the Camino Ricardo subdivision, and the Commission will discuss conceptual park plans and design alternatives for the proposed 2.5 acre park. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input.



EMERGENCY GENERATOR PROJECT

On March 13, the Town Council adopted a resolution to accept a small Emergency Management Performance Grant (\$2,606) and allocated the grant funds to offset costs associated with the installation of an emergency generator at the Town's Emergency Operations Center at 331 Rheem Boulevard. A new generator was procured at no cost to the Town in 2011 through the Federal Excess Property Program in Support of Law Enforcement. The installation project will begin immediately and should be completed before June 30.



MORAGA DEPENDS ON ITS VOLUNTEERS

The **Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee** was created to foster an objective and transparent review of the use of Measure K revenue. The Town is recruiting candidates to serve on the Committee with expertise in public sector finance and accounting; pavement management and engineering; and capital project management. The recruitment will close on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 12 noon. The Town is also recruiting for a liaison to the Contra Costa County **Advisory Council on Aging** (ACOA). Applicants should be interested in, and knowledgeable of, the needs of Moraga's senior population. For information, please visit the Town of Moraga's [website](#).



'TIS THE SEASON FOR BUDGET

It's the start of "Budget Season" – that time of year when Town staff turns its attention to developing the budget for the next fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30. The budget includes both the Capital Improvement Program and the Operating Budget. The focus this year will be to

improve the Capital Improvement Program, as well as refine the Five-Year Financial Plan that was developed last year. Town staff will also continue to adhere to the Town's philosophy of minimum government and present a budget that is structurally balanced and within the Town's means. The entire process usually takes several months and the Town will continue to provide updates.



THE PAVILION RESTROOM GETS A FACE LIFT

On February 27, the Town Council approved a construction contract for restroom renovations and Americans with Disabilities Act access to the Hacienda de las Flores' Pavilion building. Construction is expected to start soon and the project is scheduled for completion in time for the 2013 Cinco de Mayo event. The project is made possible by the generous donation of time, materials, and funding from the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga. A copy of the project plans and specifications are available for review at the Public Works/Engineering Department at 329 Rheem Boulevard.



MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT PRESENTS PLAN TO SHARE STATION

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and Contra Costa County Fire (Con Fire) have begun discussions on whether to partner on building and operating a shared fire station on El Nido Ranch Road on the Orinda/Lafayette border. Both Fire Chiefs have been directed by their Boards to continue to analyze the idea and seek public input. Chief Bradley presented an overview of the concept to the Town Council on March 13. For upcoming community meetings, visit the MOFD website, mofd.org.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Moraga Town staff is working with the Moraga School District staff to identify Safe Routes to School projects for Moraga's K-8 public schools. The Town is receiving \$6,000 for this project through the Lamorinda Program Management Committee (LPMC) funds. The funds are intended to improve safety near schools, decrease traffic congestion, improve air quality, and encourage more students to walk or bicycle to school. The Town recognizes the importance of safe routes to schools and consequently will continue to pursue additional grants in the future. Please contact the Moraga Planning Department if you are interested in learning more.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE

The Climate Action Plan Task Force provided an update to the Council on March 13. The Task Force has held eight meetings, received presentations from Quest (an energy consultant for PG&E), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, and the Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. The Task Force has now shifted its focus and is looking at other jurisdictions' Climate Action Plans to find strategies that would work well in Moraga. The Task Force meets the fourth Monday of each month and will continue to provide Council updates or recommendations.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED

The Town Council has cancelled its March 27 meeting as it falls during Passover this year. The Council will meet again on April 10, 2013 to conduct Town business.



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](http://www.moraga.org).