



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ NOVEMBER 15, 2013 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



### CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL ANOTHER SUCCESS

The New Rheem Theatre hosted Opening Night events for the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) in Moraga and Orinda last weekend. Thursday's sold out event celebrated the kick-off of the much anticipated Festival by revealing the CAIFF film award recipients followed by the showing of "Le Week-End." The Festival continued throughout the weekend with three "shorts" series and a wide range of independent films, ending with the Closing Night event at the Orinda Theater and the showing of "Jackpot." This year's event proved to be one of the most successful ever.



### STATE OF THE TOWN AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Please attend Moraga's annual State of the Town Address and Volunteer Recognition Night, Thursday, November 21, at 6:00 pm at the [Moraga Country Club](#) (MCC). Enjoy appetizers and refreshments courtesy of Country Club General Manager Frank Melon and MCC staff. Learn about the Town's 2013 accomplishments during a presentation by Mayor Dave Trotter, and honor all of the volunteers who have completed their terms on Town committees, commissions and boards. This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with your local elected officials, fellow community members, and neighbors. Join us as we spotlight Moraga's achievements and thank all of the volunteers who make Moraga so special! Email [mbeasley@moraga.ca.us](mailto:mbeasley@moraga.ca.us) to RSVP or for more information.



### WINTER SPARE THE AIR

Every year between November 1 and February 28, burning wood, fire logs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, woodstove, or other wood-burning device is illegal if a Winter Spare the Air Alert has been issued. On high pollution days, when particulate matter levels are anticipated to be unhealthy, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will issue a Winter Spare the Air Alert which prohibits burning throughout the Bay Area. Residents can sign up to receive automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515. To check the Winter Spare the Air Alert status or to report wood smoke concerns, residents should call 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876). More information can be found at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).



### TOWN OF MORAGA FOOD DRIVE

The Town of Moraga is hosting a food drive to support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Two collection barrels are in the lobby at 329 Rheem Boulevard waiting to be filled with canned foods, peanut butter or jelly (in plastic containers), powdered milk, iron rich cereal and 100% fruit juice (in plastic containers) and enriched rice or pasta. If you are unable to make it to the Town Offices you can make an online donation at [www.foodbankccs.org/moragafooddrive](http://www.foodbankccs.org/moragafooddrive). Our goal is to collect 500 pounds of food by December 18 to help the Food Bank's mission to feed the hungry.



## CAFÉ HACIENDA TO CONTINUE

At the November 13 Town Council meeting, the Council discussed continuance of the weekday Café Hacienda operation at the Hacienda de las Flores. After much discussion and community input, the Council decided to extend the current operator’s lease agreement to March 31, 2014.



## STUFFED ANIMAL COLLECTION DRIVE

The Moraga Police Officers Association (MPOA) is once again collecting new or gently used stuffed animals for the Stuffed Animals For Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) organization. Your donations will be distributed by S.A.F.E. to police, fire, and some military agencies to help children victimized by fire, natural disaster, loss of a loved one, or other trauma. Collection bins will be in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department at 329 Rheem Blvd. from November 18 through January 2, 2014.



## MAINTAIN YOUR DRAIN BEFORE THE RAIN



Leaves left in gutters will stay there until they wash into storm drains. Not only do leaves clog the gutters and storm drains, causing street flooding every year, but overloading creeks with decomposing leaves can deplete the water’s oxygen supply. Residents should be environmentally aware, bagging leaves whenever possible and never raking leaves or any lawn debris onto a paved surface or toward a storm drain. Place leaves in your yard waste container which is collected weekly, or compost the leaves and use the rich nutrients to enhance your garden. Composting can be as simple as raking leaves into an isolated spot in your yard, far away from your curb or driveway, and allowing them to decompose into nutrient-rich mulch.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN MORAGA – TREE LIGHTING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Join Santa and his Moraga Youth Involvement Committee helpers on Friday, December 6 for cookies and hot cocoa in the Commons Park for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Moraga Community Chorus will entertain at 6:30 pm with the tree lighting at 7:00 pm. Please help light the tree by donating to the Buy-a-Bulb Fundraiser. To donate, please send checks payable to the Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy-a-Bulb, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556 or donate online at the Town’s website. Limited seating is still available for the 10:00 am Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 14. Sign up at [moraga.ca.us](http://moraga.ca.us). Thanks to everyone who helped SELL OUT the Santa Visits and 8:30 am Breakfast with Santa!



## 2013 PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT COMPLETED



On November 13, the Town Council accepted the completion of pavement improvements by VSS International, Inc., that repaired nearly half of all neighborhood streets with rubberized cape seal or micro seal pavement treatments. This project is part of an intensive 3-year pavement repair program, predominantly funded by leveraged local sales tax revenue. The next phase of the pavement program is aimed at neighborhood streets needing asphalt concrete overlay treatments. The Town is currently evaluating alternatives to traditional asphalt concrete overlay and conventional mill and fill treatments, such as Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt (RHMA) overlay, Cold-in-Place Recycle (CIR), and other cost-effective options.



## LIBRARY SUNDAY HOURS

As part of this year's budget, the Town Council partnered with the Friends of the Moraga Library to fund Sunday hours. The community has responded beyond expectations with an average of 190 visitors on Sundays, who have checked out more than 270 books and periodicals.



## CALLE LA MESA STORM DRAIN SYSTEM REPAIRED

On November 13, the Town Council accepted the completion of improvements installed by Siteworks Construction for the 199 Calle la Mesa/677 Moraga Road Storm Drainage Repair project. The repair entailed clearing and grubbing, demolition of an existing concrete apron and removal of pipes, prior to the installation of a new pipe, drainage inlet, rock slope protection, concrete headwall, trash rack, and erosion control measures. With the help of the Town's consulting engineer, Cal Engineering & Geology, and in collaboration with the City of Lafayette, the construction was successfully completed in late October, in time for the upcoming rainy season.



## GRAND OPENING – ARCO GAS STATION AND CARWASH AT 425 MORAGA ROAD

Moraga's newest gas station, carwash and smog check station is now open at the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. The community is invited to the grand opening on November 23 to enjoy food, music and two-dollar carwashes!



## 1800 DONALD DRIVE APPEAL CONTINUED

On November 13, the Town Council continued the public hearing considering an appeal of a planned single family residence at 1800 Donald Drive, which was approved by the Planning Commission in April. The Council asked for clarification on how three stories are calculated relative to the Town's height limitations; the amount of soil that would be removed exclusive of the foundation and piers; and how the Town's Zoning Code definitions of accessory structures, structures, and setbacks all relate to the residence's proposed driveway. The Council will consider the appeal at the January 22, 2014 meeting.



## RECRUITMENT FOR TOWN BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

Moraga depends on volunteers to serve on all of the Boards, Committees, and Commissions that require citizen involvement. Specifics on current and upcoming openings will be available soon on the Town's [website](#). Please submit your application, a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk's Office, 329 Rheem Boulevard, by 4:00 pm on Friday, January 10, 2014. There will be openings on the Audit and Finance Committee, Design Review Board, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.



## COUNCIL ACCEPTS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

On November 13, the Town Council accepted a report from the Climate Action Plan Task Force and authorized staff to contract with QuEST, a consulting firm, to complete the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP Task Force met over an 18-month period and recommended a list of strategies the Town may use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Town's consultant will measure the effectiveness of the proposed strategies and prepare a draft CAP for consideration by the Planning Commission and Town Council. The Council also sunsetted the Task Force with thanks to the members for their work.



## CHAMBER GRANTED LIMITED OFFICE HOURS AT THE HACIENDA

On November 13, Town Council approved the use of a small corner office in the La Sala at the Hacienda de las Flores for use by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. After the first of the year the Chamber will have office hours on Monday mornings (excluding holidays) from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.



## HILLSIDE AND RIDGELINE STEERING COMMITTEE

At the November 13 meeting, the Town Council approved the charter for a Hillside and Ridgeline Steering Committee, to help guide the upcoming study of the Town's existing regulations for hillside and ridgeline protection. The Council appointed Mayor Trotter and Councilmember Metcalf to the Committee, which will also include two representatives from the Planning Commission and one representative each from the Design Review Board and Park and Recreation Commission. A Request for Proposals for consultant services was issued on November 12, with the study expected to begin in early 2014.



## TOWN OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Town Offices and the Hacienda de las Flores will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Thursday, November 28 through Sunday, December 1. The Town offices will re-open on Monday, December 2. All Town staff wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving with our thanks for your continued support and participation.



## NEW MULTIFAMILY BUILDING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Certain properties in the Town of Moraga are eligible to participate in a new program from Energy Upgrade California Bay Area. The flexible program is available to 5+ unit multifamily buildings to help owners save 10% or more of their energy usage by installing multiple improvements. The streamlined program provides multifamily property owners access to free energy consulting and rebates of \$750 per unit for installing energy enhancements to their buildings. Learn more and enroll at [Multifamily.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://Multifamily.EnergyUpgradeCA.org) or by calling 855-213-2838.



## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, November 18, 7:00 pm - [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 pm - [Park & Recreation Commission](#), Mosaic Room, Hacienda

Monday, December 2, 5:30 pm - [Audit and Finance Committee](#), Garden Conference Room, Hacienda

Monday, December 2, 7:00 pm - [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

Monday, December 9, 7:00 pm - [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm - [Town Council](#), Joaquin Moraga Auditorium

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm - [Moraga Youth Involvement Committee](#), Mosaic Room, Hacienda

All meetings are open to the public. Please visit the Town's website, [moraga.ca.us](http://moraga.ca.us), for updated agendas and packets.



## HELP SHARE THE TOWN KNOWLEDGE

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