



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ AUGUST 8, 2014 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



### THREE CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR TOWN COUNCIL

On November 4, 2014, Moraga voters will elect two Councilmembers. The nomination period closed on Friday, August 8. Three residents filed papers to run for two open Council seats: Ken Chew, Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda. Plan on attending the Council Candidates' Forum, hosted by [MCN](#), on Wednesday, October 1, at 7:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center.



### COMMUTING AND TRANSIT

#### **RELIEZ STATION ROAD CLOSURE**

Reliez Station Road will be closed for final paving on Saturday, August 16, from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Moraga traffic may be severely impacted by this road closure. The road will also be closed the subsequent week, August 18 through 22, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, to adjust utility covers, paint traffic stripes, and other finishing work. During that week, some traffic will be allowed through intermittently dependent on the nature of the work occurring at that time. For more information, visit the [City of Lafayette](#) website.

#### **STUDENT TRANSIT TICKET PROGRAM**

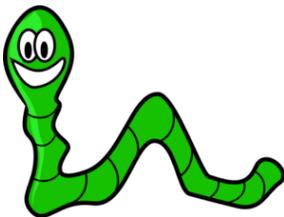
The 511 Southwest Contra Costa County Student Transit Ticket Program is back! FREE public transit tickets will be provided as an alternative to driving student(s) to school. Each student is eligible to receive two (2) 12-ride County Connection transit tickets. Students must be registered in a public or private school (1st -12th grade) in San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda. [Learn more about the program](#) and apply online.

#### **COMMUTE OPTIONS FOR MORAGA RESIDENTS**

Interested in starting a carpool, vanpool or using public transportation? Now there's a reason to do just that! Contact 511 Contra Costa for more information on commuter incentives for carpooling, vanpooling or transit at (925) 973-2655 or [damaral@511contracosta.org](mailto:damaral@511contracosta.org).



### VERMICOMPOSTING (WORMS!) WORKSHOP



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) will sponsor a Vermicomposting (worms) and Bin Building Workshop on Saturday, September 6, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Walnut Creek Civic Park Community Center. All worms and bin supplies are included, and attendees will leave with a fully functional worm bin. The workshop is \$20 per household and is open to CCCSWA service area residents only. Visit the [CCCSWA](#) website for a registration form no later than August 21.



### SNEAK PEEK AT THE NEW RHEEM THEATRE

Don't miss the FREE sneak peek of the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> Annual California Independent Film Festival, [CAIFF](#), on Friday, August 15, at 7:00 pm. Be the first to see the coming attractions at this year's film festival scheduled for September 11 to 14, including movies, documentaries and shorts.



## PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL AND TOAST TO MORAGA – SEPTEMBER 27

### **PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL**

The 16th Annual Moraga Pear & Wine Festival will be held Saturday, September 27, at the Moraga Commons Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a family event with activities for all ages celebrating Moraga's pear history! Join friends and neighbors for entertainment and fun at the bandshell with DJ RyanO; wine tasting with Lamorinda Winegrowers Association; grape stomping; pear pies; jumpies; food; local artist booths; community and business booths; and much more! Enter the [Pear Recipe Contest](#). Exhibitor booth [applications](#) are due Friday, August 29.

### **TOAST TO MORAGA – 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Join the community Saturday, September 27, for a picnic-style dinner to celebrate the Town of Moraga's 40th anniversary! Celebrate by sharing a meal with friends, family and neighbors. Tables will be placed in the Moraga Commons Park under a canopy of lights with a toast to the wonderful community of Moraga at 6:30 pm! DJ RyanO and local musicians will provide the evening's entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to bring a potluck from home or pre-ordered food from a local restaurant. *Shop Moraga First!* and be sure to check for specials at participating restaurants. Each table seats six and comes with a bottle of sparkling juice for \$35. [Pre-registration](#) required. Enter the [Toast Contest](#) and participate in the Table Decorating Contest!



## PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### **SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE APPEAL**

At its August 27 meeting, the Town Council will consider a Saint Mary's College appeal regarding their intramural field lights. The College has proposed re-designing the lights, including adding additional lights to reduce off-site glare to neighbors. The Council will also consider allowing the lights to remain on until 10:00 pm.

### **VIA MORAGA APPEAL**

At its August 27 meeting, the Town Council will consider an appeal of a recent Planning Commission decision regarding the Via Moraga project. The Planning Commission had approved a Conceptual Development Plan to allow an 18-lot single family residential subdivision at 489 Moraga Road, the former bowling alley site. One Councilmember appealed the decision, concerned about a "walled effect" along the scenic corridor. The developer, Signature Properties, also appealed the decision, requesting the Council allow the project to have two driveways accessing Moraga Road.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD VACANCIES**

If you are interested in how the Town of Moraga grows and looks, or how land use decisions are made, then the Town needs you! The Planning Commission and Design Review Board (DRB) each have a vacant seat in need of a willing, committed volunteer. The Commission and DRB each meet one to two times per month and require additional time to prepare for meetings. This is an excellent way to give back to the community, and to make sure the community develops in a way that meets the Town's overall vision. Submit an application, questionnaire, a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk's Office, 329 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga. Visit the [Town's](#) website for more information.



## 331 RHEEM BOULEVARD REMODEL UPDATE

The Town has received permits from the County, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, and Moraga-Orinda Fire District for its planned remodel at 331 Rheem Boulevard. The remodel includes a new ADA accessible and hearing-assisted community meeting room with enhanced technology, a remodeled Spanish-style façade, low-water sustainable landscaping, ADA accessible hardscape, a trellis, and new sidewalks and lighting. Interior work will begin next week.



## 2014 PAVEMENT CONSTRUCTION STARTS SOON

The pavement project will begin work on August 12 in the southern part of Town starting with base repairs, wedge grinding, and concrete demolition and replacement. For more information, the Town offers the following: 1) the [Town](#) website for a broad three-week look ahead; 2) the Facebook page for a daily update of scheduled work; and 3) the Twitter account for real time information and access to the construction manager. The Project Construction Manager, Mary Erchul, is also available for any construction related questions at [merchul@ghirardelliassoc.com](mailto:merchul@ghirardelliassoc.com) or (949) 528-5731.



## PLASTIC BAG BAN

California Senate Bill 270, expected to be voted on by September, would place a statewide ban on the use of plastic bags by large retailers and grocery stores. In Spring 2013 the Council discussed whether to pass a local ordinance to ban plastic bags in Moraga. At that time, the Council, with Moraga Chamber support, chose not to impose restrictions on local businesses and to wait for a statewide measure so all businesses would be treated similarly. SB270, as drafted, limits a local agency's ability to enforce or regulate the use of plastic bags unless the Town passes a resolution by September 1 stating that it will create its own local plastic bag ban. On August 27 the Council will consider again whether to locally regulate plastic bags or allow the state to regulate their use.



## KIDS' DAY A FUN EVENT

Many thanks from the Moraga Police Officers Association for supporting a successful fundraiser for Special Olympics Northern California at the Second Annual Kids' Day on July 26 at The New Rheem Theatre. Despite very hot weather, many children attended to enjoy the Shrek movie, jump house, face painting, 4-H petting zoo, games, treats and snow cones. Special Olympians also attended to help out and support their cause.



## TOWN'S CREDIT RATING STANDS AT AA+

Standard & Poor's Rating Services affirmed the 'AA+' long-term rating on Moraga's 2010 and 2013 Certificates of Participation (COPs). The review was prompted by new U.S. local government general obligation criteria released in September 2013. The Town's credit rating is the highest possible by Standard & Poor's for the type of long-term obligations issued.



## FALL CLASSES AND MORE

[Registration](#) for fall classes and activities is now open! Look for your Activity Guide in the mail next week. Classes this fall include Splashball, Beginning Guitar, Yoga, Lunch n' Learn: Tech Series, and more. Trips for seniors are back with destinations like Levi's Stadium, Wine Tasting in Livermore, and the *Jersey Boys* musical. Also returning is Breakfast with Santa and Santa Visits!



## MORAGA NIGHT OUT BRINGS NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

On Tuesday, August 5, in conjunction with the National Night Out campaign, four events were hosted by Moraga residents to discuss emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and to bring neighbors together for food and good conversation. Representatives from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and the Moraga Police Department visited all the events. Mayor Chew, Councilmembers Metcalf and Arth, and Town Manager Jill Keimach also visited the neighborhoods where requested. The Town specifically thanks Dennis Rein from MOFD, and Diana Graham from the Moraga Citizen Corps Council for their efforts to organize this year's successful Moraga Night Out!



## ANNUAL CHAMBER BBQ – TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

On Tuesday, August 26, at 5:00 pm, residents of Moraga are invited to attend a BBQ hosted by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Safeway at the upper BBQ area of the Commons. Join your neighbors and Moraga businesses for burgers and hot dogs with all the sides, and beverages and desserts. The event is free but reservations are required. Please email [kathe@moragachamber.org](mailto:kathe@moragachamber.org). This event grows in size and popularity every year, so don't miss it!



## TOWN COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE RECESS

The Town Council cancelled the August 13 Town Council meeting to provide a legislative break. The Council will resume meeting on August 27, 2014.



## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, August 11 – [Design Review Board](#), CANCELLED

Wednesday, August 13 – [Town Council](#), CANCELLED

Monday, August 18, 6:00 pm – [Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

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

Tuesday, August 19, 7:00 pm – [Park and Recreation Commission](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

Monday, August 25, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, August 27, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

Monday, September 1 – [Planning Commission](#), CANCELLED

All meetings are open to the public. Visit the [Town's](#) website for updated agendas and packets.



## HELP SHARE THE TOWN NEWS

If you found this newsletter informative and interesting, please forward it to your neighbors and friends. Not subscribed yet? Sign up for *About Town* at [mmcinturf@moraga.ca.us](mailto:mmcinturf@moraga.ca.us).