



ABOUT TOWN - JANUARY 24, 2014 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



NEW OBJECTIVES AT GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

On January 14, the Town Council hosted a community goal setting workshop for the new year. Mayor Ken Chew established four overarching goals for the year: 1) Maintain Excellence in Stewardship; 2) Maximize Existing Resources for Enhanced Community Use; 3) Celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary; and 4) Enable the Town to Respond to Opportunities as they Arise. The 25-30 community members in attendance requested additional objectives under the Mayor's goals, including financial support for the Chamber's "Shop Moraga First" campaign; bringing ordinances to Council to address historic preservation and nuisance abatement; analyses of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Police staffing needs, and overall costs for all Town parks. The Council also requested Planning Commission and Design Review Board input on whether to condense and streamline development into two processes or have applications go through the Town's previous three-step process. To see all the goals and objectives visit the Town's website at moraga.ca.us.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE TO COUNCIL

An Emergency Preparedness Update was presented to the Town Council on January 22. Dennis Rein, the Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint outline with photos of staff training and planning efforts; community events dedicated to emergency preparedness; and the collaborative efforts of staff from Moraga, Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), and Saint Mary's College during 2013. Planned events for 2014 were also given. To further the Town's Emergency Preparedness efforts, the Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOFD for the shared use of MOFD Station 42 in an emergency. In a disaster response, the Town will be able to use Station 42 (on Moraga Road) for its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if necessary. Station 42 was used for two successful EOC training exercises and proved viable for shared use in a major incident requiring an EOC activation.



POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT

The Moraga Police Department (MPD) has an immediate opening for a Police Officer. The job description and requirements can be found on the MPD [website](#). The current opening is to fill a vacancy created by the loss of an officer to another local police department. MPD will also be recruiting for a part-time Community Service Officer (CSO) authorized by the Town Council on January 22. The CSO's primary responsibility will be managing MPD's property and evidence duties. The job flyer will be posted on the MPD website soon.



1800 DONALD DRIVE APPEAL DECISION

At its January 22 meeting, the Town Council directed staff to make changes to a resolution to deny an appeal and approve construction of a single family residence at 1800 Donald Drive. The changes include requiring a grading permit, preventing blockage of Donald Drive during construction, reducing the height of some windows, and installing landscaping to ensure privacy for neighbors.



COUNCIL APPROVES MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENTS TO FY 2013/14 BUDGET

At its January 22 meeting, the Town Council reviewed budget-to-actual figures for the current fiscal year 2013/14 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). The budget provides a working financial plan for the year based on estimated revenues and expenditures. Mid-year is a good opportunity to check the budget status, identify major variances and make adjustments as necessary. The adjustments included establishing a new fund for the 2013 Certificates of Participation financing that provided \$7.72 million for street repair, and an increase in the Measure K sales tax receipts. While the initial budget estimate for Measure K was \$1 million, the actual receipts are very healthy and the Town is now expecting \$1.4 million by the end of the year. The additional \$400,000 will be put into the 2014 Street Pavement Program. For more details, refer to the [Mid-Year Budget Staff Report](#).



331 RHEEM BOULEVARD REMODEL UPDATE

On January 22, the Council considered a \$30,000 contract amendment to move forward on cost estimating and construction management services to complete the interior and consider exterior improvements and site work for the Town's Emergency Operations Center and Community Meeting Room at 331 Rheem Boulevard. The amendment passed 4-1 which allows the Council to consider the next phase of improvements, including upgrading electronic capabilities, a new façade, restroom and front landscaping. The total expenditures to date for 331 Rheem Boulevard are \$50,651.



LAMORINDA ACTION PLAN

At its January 22 meeting, the Town Council discussed the Lamorinda Action Plan. The plan is required as part of Measure J's half-cent sales tax for roads and is tied to the County's growth management objectives. The plan proposes adding a new category of routes called "inter-jurisdictional routes," recognizing that these routes are integral to Lamorinda's transportation system. The plan proposes the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, Moraga Road, Moraga Way, and Mt. Diablo Boulevard as inter-jurisdictional routes. The Council provided direction to the Town's liaison, Councilmember Mike Metcalf, that Rheem Boulevard/Glorietta Boulevard and St. Mary's Road/Glenside Drive/Reliez Station Road should also be included as inter-jurisdictional routes.



PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT

The Town of Moraga, like neighboring cities, is experiencing an increase in residential burglaries. Since January 1, five burglaries have been reported, with four of them occurring in the daytime and accomplished by forced entry. During the same time frame in 2013, only one occurred and it was via an open garage door. The 2013 residential burglaries increased 34% from 2012, so everyone should be aware and looking out for each other. The Moraga Police Department (MPD) is asking everyone to please call 925-284-5010 to report any suspicious person(s) either walking or parked in your neighborhood and to be vigilant in reporting anything suspicious, seen or heard. Please keep all doors and windows locked and use alarm systems if available; communicate regularly with your neighbors to learn their routine and pick up mail and newspapers if necessary; and utilize MPD's [Vacation House Watch](#) service. If you are interested in a home security audit or in hosting a Neighborhood Watch meeting, please call MPD at 925-888-7055 ext. 0. Burglars will generally avoid neighborhoods that are organized and actively participating in reporting suspicious activity. Public safety is everyone's responsibility and we all need to be aware that Moraga is currently an attractive burglary target that requires immediate public response.



MORE STREETS ADDED TO THE 2014 PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT

The 2014 Pavement Repair project had its budget amended at the January 22 Town Council meeting to increase its construction budget from \$3 to \$3.5 million. As a result, three additional street segments will be added to this year's program. To keep abreast of the paving program's status, please view or like the Town's [Moraga Measure K](#) Facebook page.



HILLSIDE AND RIDGELINE CONSULTANT SELECTED

On January 22 the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to sign a contract with consultants to complete the study of potential updates to the Town's hillside and ridgeline regulations. The Planning Center/DC&E team was selected for their extensive experience in planning and zoning for hillside development, technical expertise in geotechnical issues and hazards mapping, and their commitment to an extensive and balanced community outreach approach. Work on the project is expected to begin in February, with public workshops scheduled this spring.



LOCAL SALES TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

The Measure K Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 29. The Committee will discuss preparation of their independent report to the Town Council regarding Measure K revenues and expenditures, which is the primary duty of the Committee. The Committee anticipates bringing their report to the Town Council in February. The meeting will start at 4:30 pm at the Hacienda de Las Flores, Mosaic Room. The public is encouraged to attend.



JOINT FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

The initial meeting for the Town Council-approved Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee is set for Monday, February 10, at 6:00 pm at the Hacienda. This subcommittee, consisting of representatives from the Town, Moraga School District, Saint Mary's College and Campolindo High School, is tasked with inventorying existing resources and recommending short-term (ways to partner through joint use agreements) and long-term facilities planning (ways to improve and enhance sports fields/facilities) within the Town of Moraga. The public is encouraged to attend.



CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE ADOPTED

On January 22, the Town Council approved Ordinance No. 243, adopting the 2013 California State Building Code (CBSC), with enhancements to some building requirements to address local seismic and fire hazards. The California Building Standards Commission adopted the 2013 CBSC as the new minimum required standards for building construction in California. The Town's modifications to the CSBC were similar to those adopted by Contra Costa County, which issues building permits and inspections for the Town, and those previously adopted in 2010.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 29, 4:30 pm – [Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room
Thursday, January 30, 5:30 pm – [Livable Moraga Road Advisory Committee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room
Thursday, February 6, 5:00 pm – [Moraga Youth Involvement Committee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room
Monday, February 10, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library
Monday, February 10, 6:00 pm – Joint Facilities Committee, Hacienda, Mosaic Room
Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium
All meetings are open to the public. Please visit the Town's website, moraga.ca.us, for updated agendas and packets.



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