



ABOUT TOWN ▪ OCTOBER 27, 2014 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



REMEMBERING 40 YEARS

On Saturday, October 18, the Moraga Historical Society, Saint Mary's College (SMC) and the Town of Moraga hosted "Remembering 40 Years" at SMC's Soda Center to celebrate the Town's incorporation in 1974. Moraga's Dick Callahan served as emcee and introduced citizens, community leaders, and former mayors/councilmembers who recounted the original incorporation efforts and the history of Town governance through the four decades of existence. The evening ended with a toast to all those responsible for the Town's incorporation, and to all those who have worked to make it the special place it is. After the toast, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to the Town.

The Town is planning another 40th Anniversary celebration to commemorate Moraga's actual date of incorporation on November 12, 1974. The event will be held on November 12, 2014 at SMC's Soda Center at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend, so please save the date.



OKTOBERFEST 2014 ANOTHER SUCCESS!

On Sunday, October 26, the community gathered to enjoy Oktoberfest at the Hacienda de las Flores. Hosted by the Hacienda Foundation in partnership with the Town Parks and Recreation Department, attendees enjoyed great weather, family festivities, live music, beer, and authentic German food! Many thanks to all the volunteers and guests for supporting the Foundation and Hacienda de las Flores. Gemutlichkeit!



MORAGA POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES OFFICER EDWIN NAVAS



On October 20, the Moraga Police Department (MPD) achieved full staffing with the addition of Officer Edwin Navas. Edwin was born in El Salvador and is fluent in Spanish. He lives in Antioch with his wife and two children. Edwin has begun MPD's Field Training Program and will be working with a Field Training Officer until he has completed all training phases. A welcoming reception is being planned, and will be announced when finalized. The public will be invited to meet and welcome Edwin to our community.



PG&E ADDRESSES PUBLIC CONCERNS REGARDING ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

PG&E representatives Tom Guarino and Michael Herz attended the October 22 Council meeting to address residents' concerns about the effects associated with Electromagnet Fields (EMFs) created by transmission lines, cell towers and phones, and electrical equipment. According to PG&E, health risk studies associated with EMF exposure levels are inconclusive, but the utility offers free testing services to individuals with concerns about EMFs. For more information contact mch3@pge.com. Private firms available online also offer EMF measurement testing for a fee. Future PG&E projects in Moraga will be discussed further when more data and details are available.



CANYON ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Moraga and Canyon residents, along with trail users and bicyclists, attended an informational community meeting on October 15 to learn about the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement project. Canyon Road, the southern gateway connection to the Town of Moraga facilitates an average daily traffic use of 6,000 vehicles. The bridge spans the west branch of the San Leandro Creek, south of Constance Place. The project has begun the preliminary engineering and environmental clearance phase and anticipates construction in 2016. This project will be funded primarily by the Federal Highway Bridge Program administered by Caltrans. More information about the Project can be found on the [Flyer](#) and the Town's [website](#).



STRIPING FOR THE PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT 2014

Restriping of recently repaved street segments has begun. Temporary striping tape and reflective floppies are currently in place to help direct traffic until the permanent thermoplastic striping starts. Drivers may also notice thin white lines or "cat tracking" (pre-marking) to indicate where the permanent striping will be located. Thermoplastic was chosen in lieu of traditional paint because it is more durable, and can last several years in many areas.



NOVEMBER IS CALIFORNIA SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should have utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call to 811 – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Hitting a utility line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.



STORY POLES ON RHEEM BOULEVARD

Story poles for design review of single family homes in the approved Rancho Laguna II subdivision, located on Rheem Boulevard between Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road, were erected on October 13 and 14. The story poles have been installed in preparation for the October 27 Design Review Board (DRB) hearing to review project architecture and landscape. Story poles were placed on lots 9, 10, 16, 23 and 26, which are a selection of one and two-story homes on the 'D' Drive, which runs parallel to Rheem Boulevard, and on 'B' and 'C' Courts which are located on the hill in the southeast (upper) portion of the site. Public is invited to attend the 7:00 pm DRB hearing at the Moraga Library.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

On October 22 the Council accepted the Town's Climate Action Plan (CAP), directing staff to annually review and recommend individual strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that could be implemented in the upcoming annual work plan and budget review. The CAP is Moraga's long-term plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from daily activities of residents and local businesses, and contains strategies related to energy efficiency, land use, transportation, water, wastewater and soil waste management. Staff will work with the Contra Costa County Climate Leaders, a local nonprofit, to identify grant-funding and implementation opportunities for CAP strategies.



LIVABLE MORAGA ROAD JOINT COMMISSIONS MEETING UPDATE

On October 21, the Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Park and Recreation Commission held a joint meeting to consider the recommendation of the Town Advisory Committee (TAC) for Livable Moraga Road (LMR). The TAC endorsed the overall corridor concept which includes a continuous multi-use path, sidewalks and bike lanes, and intersection improvements such as a new traffic signal at Corliss Drive, modification of the Rheem Boulevard/Moraga Road intersection to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, and working with the Acalanes Union High School District to improve congestion around Campolindo High School. For Segment 3, (between Donald Drive and Corliss Drive), the TAC recommended, as a short term configuration, either Option B or C, and for long-term, Option B. Both Options involve reducing the number of travel lanes in this segment to accommodate a multi-use path, sidewalk, parking and bike lanes. The [Draft Corridor Concept](#) and [Segment 3 Options](#) are available on the Livable Moraga Road [webpage](#) where residents can sign up for project updates and share comments.

The Board and Commissions had consensus that there could be a reduction in the number of through travel lanes in this segment, that introduction of a center turn lane was a beneficial safety improvement, and favored options that included a continuous multi-use path, bike lanes and sidewalks; although there was not complete consensus on whether Option B or C was preferable. There was also support for the overall corridor concept. The TAC and Joint Commissions' recommendations will be brought to the Town Council in January 2015.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT PATHWAY AT THE COMMONS PARK

At the October 22 meeting, the Town Council approved a Park and Recreation Commission recommendation to develop schematic designs for an Americans with Disabilities Act pathway that will provide improved access to the hillside Commons Park Bandshell viewing area. A not-to-exceed amount of \$18,000 was approved for phase one of the pathway design.



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE RUGBY TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The 2014 Saint Mary's College (SMC) Men's Rugby Team was honored by the Town Council for winning the Division 1A Collegiate National Championship against Life University on May 10, 2014. On their way to SMC's first ever national rugby championship, the team beat both UC Berkeley and Brigham Young University during the regular season. Go Gaels!



NEW RENTAL RATE AT FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR MORAGA COUNTRY CLUB

Holes 9 through 18 of the Moraga Country Club's (MCC) golf course are located on 60.68 acres of land leased to the MCC by the Town. The MCC provided the Town with full funding to purchase the land from the State of California in 1995 and has been paying the Town \$4,200 annually in rent for the past 20 years. The initial 20 year lease expires in April, 2015. In accordance with the original Land Lease, the MCC exercised its right to extend the lease for an additional 25 years, requiring the Town to establish a new rental rate at fair market value. The Town and MCC followed the explicit procedures of the original Land Lease using qualified appraisers to determine the current fair market rental value of the property. As the result of this pre-determined process, the Town Council established the fair market annual rental rate of \$63,250, effective April 3, 2015.



TOWN'S OPERATIONS END FISCAL YEAR WITH SURPLUS

The unaudited budget-to-actuals report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 was submitted to the Town Council at its meeting on October 22. The Town ended the year with an operating surplus of \$262,749, where revenues exceeded expenditures. The surplus gets added to the General Fund unassigned fund balance (reserve) for a total amount of \$2,879,900, which equals 43.37% of operating expenses for the year. As of the year end, the Town also has an additional balance of \$1,715,737 in Palos Colorados settlement funds.



QUICK RESPONSE SUCCESSFUL AFTER RANSOMWARE VIRUS INFILTRATES TOWN'S COMPUTERS

Late afternoon, Friday, October 17, while Town staff was busily preparing the agenda packet for the Town Council meeting on October 22, a ransomware virus infiltrated the Town's computer network. The virus likely stemmed from an infected email message and encrypted files shared by all Town staff so that when one attempted to open a file, a demand payment of a \$300 ransom appeared to decrypt the file. Town staff immediately shut down all computers and access to the network while the IT Team located the source and stopped further infiltration. By 8:30 pm, the network was back online but the full cleanup and restoration of systems continued into the following Tuesday. Due to the quick identification and response, damage was minimal and staff was able to prepare and distribute the agenda packets on time.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Honor our past, present, and future Military Veterans on Tuesday, November 11, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am at the Commons Park Veterans Memorial Rock. The ceremony is hosted by local Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, and 246. For more information please visit the Town's [website](#).



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, October 27, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, October 29, 5:00 pm – [Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee](#) – CANCELLED

Monday, November 3, 6:00 pm – [Joint Ad Hoc Facilities Subcommittee](#), Hacienda de las Flores

Monday, November 3, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), Hacienda de las Flores

Monday, November 10, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 pm – Celebration of Town Incorporation, SMC Soda Center

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#) – CANCELLED

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 pm – [Moraga Youth Involvement Committee](#), Hacienda de las Flores

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



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