



ABOUT TOWN ▪ SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



THREE FEET FOR SAFETY ACT



Effective September 16, California Vehicle Code will require drivers to pass cyclists at a safe distance of three feet **or**, if not possible due to traffic or road conditions (including weather and width of road), the driver must instead slow to a reasonable speed and pass when safe. Likewise, all cyclists must comply with the rules of the road, including stopping for stop signs and pedestrians, riding as far to the right as possible, riding single file, and using proper cycling etiquette. The ultimate message is for all drivers and cyclists to safely share the road.



BEWARE IRS PHONE SCAM

The Moraga Police Department has received a number of calls from citizens reporting a current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) phone scam targeting unsuspecting taxpayers. The scam generally involves a caller posing as an IRS agent telling a victim they owe money to the IRS. The caller aggressively demands immediate payment and often makes threats of arrest or other dire consequences. The actual IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any taxes due via the U.S. mail. If anyone receives a threatening call or believes they are victims of an IRS scam, please report it to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 800-366-4484 or online at [IRS Scam Reporting](#).



PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECTS

2014 PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT

Pavement overlays are scheduled to start September 17 in the southern portion of Moraga, and will continue until October 8. The overlays are higher quality, rubberized asphalt that will be quieter to drive on and will last longer than conventional asphalt. For more information, visit the [Town's](#) website; the [Facebook](#) page; or the [Twitter](#) account. The Project Construction Manager, Mary Erchul, is also available for any construction related questions at merchul@ghirardelliassoc.com or (949) 528-5731.

2015 PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT

The utility location phase of the project design has started. The Town's consultant has started locating depth and alignment of underground utilities with Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) to assess if the street segment candidates can accommodate proposed pavement reconstruction without affecting utilities.

COMMONS PARK PATHWAYS PROJECT

Interior pathways and the ones along Moraga Road received base repairs, crack sealing, and a double seal coat recently.



PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL AND A TOAST TO MORAGA – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL

Come out to the Moraga Commons Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 27, for the 16th Annual Pear & Wine Festival! This is a family-friendly event featuring DJ RyanO, wine tasting, pear pies, jumpies, food, informational booths, youth performances and more. Also, don't miss the [Pear Recipe Contest](#) to show off your amazing pear dish: Adult and kids (under 18) divisions, limit two entries per person. Categories include: Dessert, Appetizer, Spirits, and Other. Visit the [Town of Moraga](#) website for additional information.

TOAST TO MORAGA

The [table reservation](#) deadline for the September 27 Toast to Moraga 40th Anniversary Celebration will close Wednesday, September 17. Join the community for a picnic-style (bring your own) dinner in the park to celebrate the anniversary of incorporation! Toasts will begin at 6:30 pm and guests are encouraged to “Shop Moraga Food First” at participating restaurants, including Mountain Mike’s Pizza, Pennini’s, and Subway. Enter the table decorating contest where centerpieces, place settings, etc. will be judged by a panel of staff/volunteers the evening of the event. Categories are: Most Moraga, Most Artistic, Best Use of Recycled Materials, and Over the Top. The Toast to Moraga will kickoff with short and sweet winning toasts from community members. The contest for toasts, no longer than 140 characters (tweet-length), will run through September 22; winners will be notified by September 24. Toast contest winners will join Town officials on stage to lead the crowd in the 6:30 pm toast! [Enter the Toast Contest!](#)



STAFF VISITS FRENCH FIRE COMMAND POST

The Town’s Administrative Services Director, Stephanie Hom, spent 24 continuous hours at the Incident Command Post for the French Fire in the Sierra National Forest in August. The wildfire response lasted 13 days, involved 1,800 firefighters, burned 13,835 acres, and cost \$19.3 million. Fortunately, there was no loss of life or destruction of residences. The visit was an opportunity to gain first-hand experience and training in the national response system for natural disasters. The Town extends many thanks to Dennis Rein of Moraga-Orinda Fire District for making it possible and for his consistent support in helping the Town become better prepared to respond to an emergency.



COMMISSION AND BOARD VACANCIES

Openings on the Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Park and Recreation Commission provide citizens the opportunity to determine the future of the Town. Each advisory body meets once or twice per month and requires additional preparation time. 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 resumé to the Town Clerk’s Office, 329 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga. Visit the [Town’s](#) website for more information.



TOWN PARKS USING LESS WATER

Due to the drought and a mandate from East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) regarding a maximum of two days per week landscape watering, the lawns at the Moraga Commons and Rancho Laguna parks are experiencing more distressed areas than usual during this time of year. Thank you for understanding as the Town dramatically reduces its landscape watering. For more information, visit [EBMUD's](#) website.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

CITY VENTURES HEARING POSTPONED

On September 18, the Planning Commission will be asked to consider a continuation of the Conceptual Development Plan for the City Ventures project to a date certain of October 6, 2014.

VIA MORAGA APPEAL: PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL UPHELD

On September 10, the Town Council considered an appeal of the Via Moraga project, an 18-lot subdivision proposed at 489 Moraga Road and adoption of a related General Plan Amendment, Zoning Text and Zoning Map Amendment to permit the project's proposed residential density. By a 3-2 vote, the Town Council upheld the Planning Commission's July 21 approval of the Conceptual Development Plan (CDP), and by a 4-1 vote, adopted the requested General Plan and Zoning Amendments. Next steps include Planning Commission consideration of a General Development Plan and Tentative Subdivision Map. A schedule for these hearings has not been set.

HOUSING ELEMENT

On September 10, the Town Council provided comments and authorized submittal of the Town's Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for their required 60-day review. Following this review, the Planning Commission and Town Council will conduct public hearings and the Council will consider adopting the Housing Element before submitting it to HCD for certification.

LIVABLE MORAGA ROAD WORKSHOP: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

A public workshop for the Livable Moraga Road Project is scheduled on Monday, September 29, at 7:00 pm, at the Hacienda de las Flores. The workshop will include a presentation of the overall corridor concept, and will include a discussion of design options for the segment of Moraga Road between Donald Drive and Corliss Drive. At Town Council direction, the consultants developed additional concepts to consider the number of travel lanes (to retain or reduce the existing number) and vary the location and type of pedestrian and bicycle facilities based on resulting roadway width. Public input is needed on this important study! For more information, contact Ellen Clark, Interim Planning Director at eclark@moraga.ca.us.

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES ORDINANCE ADOPTED

On September 10, the Town Council adopted an [Ordinance](#) adding Title 1 General Provisions, Chapter 1.28 Administrative Penalties, of the Town of Moraga Municipal Code. The new ordinance will create a process for issuing administrative citations for violations of the Municipal Code and establish a two-step appeal process. Administrative citations will be issued by non-sworn Town staff.



AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

At its next meeting on Tuesday, September 30, the Audit and Finance Committee will review the Town's 2013/14 fiscal year-end revenue and expenditure report; results of the field visit from the independent auditors (Maze & Associates); and discuss funding the Town's Asset Replacement Fund. The public is invited to attend the meeting at the Hacienda de las Flores starting at 5:30 pm.



COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Be an informed voter and plan to attend the Moraga Citizens Network ([MCN](#)) "Candidates' Night" on Wednesday, October 1, at 7:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The three residents running for two open Town Council seats are: Ken Chew, Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda. All Moragans are encouraged to attend and learn about Town issues.



OKTOBERFEST – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Save the date - Sunday, October 12, at the Hacienda de las Flores, to attend Oktoberfest 2014, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Volunteers are needed! For more information, email info@haciendafoundation.org. This event is presented by the Hacienda Foundation, and all proceeds will go towards Hacienda de las Flores improvements. Gemutlichkeit!



40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATION – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Join the community and celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary at Saint Mary's College on Saturday, October 18. Social hour at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. Reservations for dinner are required by October 10. For \$75 per person, guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, salad, pork loin or grilled salmon, dessert, a commemorative wine glass and a fun-filled evening of stories and remembrances. To [Purchase Tickets](#) or for additional information contact Susan Sperry (925) 376-3053.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm – [Park and Recreation Commission](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm - [Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee](#), CANCELLED

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

Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), CANCELLED

Tuesday, September 30, 5:30 pm – [Audit and Finance Committee](#), Hacienda, Garden Room

Tuesday, September 30, 6:00 pm - [Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

Monday, October 6, 6:00 pm - [Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

Thursday, October 9, 7:00 pm - [Moraga Youth Involvement Committee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic Room

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



HELP SHARE THE TOWN NEWS

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