



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ FEBRUARY 13, 2015 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



### MORAGA TOWN STAFF APPRECIATED FOR A 'CAN DO' SPIRIT



Unlike all the other 'average' communities in the county, Moraga, being 'exceptional' in every way, outdid itself once again. Service groups, nonprofits, the Chamber of Commerce and many others under the leadership of the Moraga Citizens Network, volunteered to host a heartfelt and elegant lunch for all staff. Every volunteer specifically stated why they appreciated Town staff and fourth

graders also made the banner to give their thanks.



### IRS TAX SCAM

The latest financial scam to victimize Moraga citizens involves telephone calls from people posing as IRS agents demanding money. The IRS does not call about past-due taxes and will never ask for payment by wire transfer or pre-paid credit card. The IRS **does** send letters via US Mail if there is an issue. The Moraga Police Department recently sent out information about this scam via Nixle email. More information is available by emailing Lt. Jon King at [king@moraga.ca.us](mailto:king@moraga.ca.us).



### MAYOR'S WELCOME AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Thanks to all who attended the Mayor's Welcome and Volunteer Appreciation event on Tuesday, February 10. The Moraga Country Club hosted and provided delicious food and wine for all attendees. Mayor Wykle provided highlights of Town accomplishments in 2014 and shared Town goals for 2015. The evening concluded with recognition of all Council-appointed volunteers who serve on Town Committees, Commissions and Boards.



### JOINT LAMORINDA COUNCIL MEETING – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Councils from Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda will hold their annual joint meeting on Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 pm at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. The Councils will discuss items of mutual interest including Emergency Preparedness, Use of Security Cameras and updates on Community Development projects. The public is encouraged to attend.



### LOCAL SALES TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee, tasked with reviewing the use of Measure K funds, met on February 12 to finalize their annual independent report to the Town Council. The finalized report will be presented to the Council for acceptance in March. The report is available on the Town's [website](#).



### SUMMER CAMP EXPO – SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Join the Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, March 7, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Hacienda de las Flores for a sneak preview of the best summer camps in Moraga! Meet camp staff, participate in sports demonstrations and activities, and receive an early registration discount on the day of the expo. For more information call 925-888-7036.



## OSCAR TALK AT THE RHEEM THEATRE

On Friday, February 20, a special Founder's Night is planned with California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) Founder Derek Zemrak and CAIFF Executive Director Leonard Pirkle discussing this year's Oscar program. View clips related to several Oscar nominations and hear predictions from the experts. Seating is limited so get your \$7 ticket early at [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com) or at the Rheem Theatre box office. The festivities start at 7:00 pm.



## RECENT TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS ON FEBRUARY 11

### ***CHICKENS (SMALL FARM ANIMALS) ORDINANCE TO BE DEVELOPED***

Town Council gave direction for staff to develop new regulations that would make it easier for Moraga residents to keep chickens and other small livestock. Many local communities have adopted similar regulations that allow raising small food-producing animals and provide rules to avoid negative impacts like noise and odors. Staff expects to work on the ordinance later this year.

### ***HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE***

Town Council adopted a Historic Preservation Ordinance that provides a process to nominate and designate historic landmarks in Moraga, based on certain criteria for historic significance. On a split vote, the Council decided owner consent for designation will not be required. In addition to providing protections for designated landmarks, the Ordinance allows property owners to take advantage of incentives such as tax credits and special building codes.

### ***MORAGA LIBRARY RESTROOM PROJECT***

Town Council authorized funding for an ADA compliant remodel of the Moraga Library public restrooms. Staff will continue to develop bid documents for the project and select a qualified contractor. An October/November construction timeframe is anticipated.

### ***NEW HACIENDA DE LAS FLORES HOURS***

Town Council approved a recommendation from the Park and Recreation Commission, extending the Hacienda de las Flores hours of operation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings to 10:00 pm. The new hours will be effective immediately.

### ***PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN***

Town Council authorized a contract with Eisen-Letunic to update the Town's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and create a new Wayfinding Plan. Work on the project will begin in March, including opportunities for public input on how to make Moraga a great walking and biking community. Email Asst. Planner Coleman Frick at [cfrick@moraga.ca.us](mailto:cfrick@moraga.ca.us) to join the project mailing list and get involved!

### ***FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER***

Town Council authorized the Town to host [California Youth Energy Services](http://CaliforniaYouthEnergyServices.org) (CYES), a youth workforce development program that offers energy efficiency services to the community. This summer, CYES Energy Specialists will provide, at no cost to residents, home efficiency assessments, install energy and water-saving equipment, and provide a personalized report with recommendations for further energy and water savings.



## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR COMMUTERS

Many Moraga residents endure lengthy commutes to work each day. There are a number of resources to make one's journey easier, more convenient and reduce congestion with alternatives to traditional single passenger commuting:

- [511 Contra Costa](http://511ContraCosta.com) offers a wealth of programs including vanpools, subsidized transit passes, "guaranteed ride home" programs, and other commuter incentives.
- [Commutr](http://Commutr.com) is a recently launched online app, started by a Moraga resident, which coordinates carpools from Moraga and Orinda to San Francisco, with a guaranteed ride home.



## HACIENDA DE LAS FLORES CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

During a November Town Council meeting, staff was asked to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for conceptual design services for the 9.6 acre Hacienda de las Flores property. The Council desires a more sustainable community facility and wants to discuss public/private partnerships with a potential mix of commercial and community opportunities to increase usage and capture more revenue to off-set operating expenses. The draft RFP was approved by Town Council and will be distributed soon.



## PRESIDENTS' HOLIDAY

The Town offices will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 16, re-opening for business on Tuesday, February 17.



## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 pm – [Park and Recreation Commission](#), Hacienda de las Flores

~~Tuesday, February 17, – [Planning Commission](#) CANCELLED~~

Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm – [Tri-Cities Council](#), Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way

Monday, February 23, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

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



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