



ABOUT TOWN ▪ JANUARY 30, 2015 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



TOWN COUNCIL SELECTS GOALS FOR 2015

On Thursday, January 22, the Town Council hosted a community goal setting workshop for the new year. After Mayor Wykle and the Town Council discussed proposed goals and received input from about 40 attendees, and identified 15 goals, including amending regulations and reducing ambiguity in grading, hillside, and ridgeline regulations and the planning processes in general; implementing zoning regulations for the Moraga Center Specific Plan; and assessing the public's priorities with respect to additional police officer(s), the ongoing repair/maintenance of Town facilities, and the construction of new parks and recreation facilities (including a sports field); the residents' preference for types of growth; and the acquisition of open space, as well as other Town initiatives.



PEAR ORCHARD PRUNING – SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

On Saturday, January 31, the [Moraga Park Foundation](#) is sponsoring the winter pruning of the 102-year old Joaquin Moraga pear orchard. Pruning will occur at the corner of Canyon Road and Camino Pablo from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Structural pruning is needed to keep this orchard producing fruit for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Please bring water, pole pruners and/or loppers, large tarps, and wear sturdy shoes and gloves. If it rains, pruning will be rescheduled for February 7.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Please plan to attend a Town-wide social event on Tuesday, February 10, at the Moraga Country Club to recognize all Town-appointed volunteers. These hard-working people donate many hours to make Moraga the best it can be. Mayor Wykle, along with his fellow Councilmembers, will express the Town's appreciation for the dedicated commitment of those who were appointed to serve the Town in various capacities. The Mayor will also present a brief overview of the Town's initiatives, efforts, and vision for 2015.



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

On January 27, the Park and Recreation Commission received two presentations: one on conceptual plans for potential renovations to the 9.6 acre Hacienda de las Flores property, and the other a recommendation for a location and type of an ADA accessible pathway on the grass hill at the Commons Park. For more information on either project contact [Jay Ingram](#).



CANYON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

On Tuesday, January 20, area residents, trail users, and bicyclists attended an informational community meeting about the Canyon Bridge Replacement project. Attendees learned about its impacts during construction and provided feedback to the Town's design consultant. The presentation PowerPoint can be found at the Town's project [webpage](#). The next and last community meeting will be scheduled in early 2016 to provide the latest construction information.



HACIENDA DE LAS FLORES AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS



Photo Credit: Gustavo Fernandez

The Hacienda de las Flores serves as Moraga's beautiful community center and local venue for any type of special event: weddings, birthdays, reunions, showers, anniversaries, retirements, corporate events and more. Tranquil and secluded, with landscaped grounds and lawns bordering a central patio and fountain, this historic estate is perfect for any celebration. The Hacienda de las Flores and Pavilion are located at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Visit moragahacienda.com for additional information.



LOCAL SALES TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OPENINGS

The Council created the Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee to provide a transparent review of the use of Measure K revenues. The Committee reviews the use of Measure K revenues, tracks the performance of the street paving program and prepares an independent report for the Council. The Town needs candidates to serve on this Committee with expertise in public sector finance and accounting; pavement management and engineering; capital project management; and public affairs and communications. Please submit your application, supplemental questionnaire and resumé to the Town Clerk, 329 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga. For more information, visit the Town's [website](#).



COUNCIL APPROVES MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENTS TO FY 2014/15 BUDGET

On January 28, the Town Council reviewed budget-to-actual figures for the current fiscal year 2014/15. The budget is a working financial plan for the year based on estimated revenues and expenditures. Mid-year is a good time to check the progress of the budget, identify major variances and make adjustments if necessary. Council-approved budget adjustments included additional property tax revenues corresponding to an 8% increase in assessed valuations and Measure K sales tax with revenues expected to reach \$1.58 million.



MORAGA LIBRARY BATHROOM PROJECT

At a Moraga Library Community meeting on Tuesday, January 13, Dougherty & Dougherty Architects presented design plans to renovate the public library restrooms. With construction costs higher than anticipated, the Town is currently seeking financial partners/grants to help fund the construction phase. This project will be presented to Town Council on February 11. Interested individuals and/or organizations are encouraged to contact [Jay Ingram](#).



HIGH FLYING TURKEY ATTEMPTS TO CONFERENCE WITH TOWN MANAGER



Early Thursday evening a wild turkey took to the air and flew from the ground parking lot at the Town Offices high into and through the second story window of the Town Manager's Conference Room. Staff was unclear whether the turkey wanted to get closer to its reflection in the window or had a pressing issue to discuss with the Town Manager. Either way, the turkey did not get its wish (bone). County Animal Control responded to handle the incident.



JOINT TOWN COUNCIL AND MORAGA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Town Council and the Moraga School District Board met on January 20 to discuss local sports fields, community recreational needs, K-8 school facility needs, and potential joint venture improvements. Creation of at least one new field and an indoor gymnasium were identified as the Town's most pressing recreational needs, while the School District plans to address potential capital facility needs at multiple school sites. For a meeting summary see the [Contra Costa Times Article](#).



TOWN RECEIVES GRANT TO SURVEY PAVEMENT CONDITION

The Town applied for and was awarded a \$16,800 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to survey the pavement condition of all Town streets. This valuable data will be incorporated into the Town's pavement asset management software to provide better projections on costs required to maintain or improve current pavement conditions.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

MORAGA TOWN CENTER HOMES PROJECT APPEAL HEARING CONTINUED

On January 28, the Town Council considered an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the 36-unit Moraga Town Center Homes project on Moraga Way. The Council heard comments from the community and discussed issues including neighborhood compatibility, traffic and parking, and scenic corridor impacts. The Council continued the hearing to a date uncertain, directing staff to work with the applicant and concerned parties. For additional information, contact [Ella Samonsky](#).

HOUSING ELEMENT ADOPTED

On January 28, the Town Council adopted the [2015-2023 Housing Element](#) and related amendments to the "Definitions" section of the General Plan. The document is now ready for the State Department of Housing and Community Development's certification, a status that has only been achieved by a few Contra Costa cities to date. The Housing Element is the Town's eight-year plan to address all of the community's housing needs and includes supportive policies and programs.

TWO STUDY SESSIONS CONTINUED

Due to the lengthy agenda, the Town Council continued two items originally scheduled for January 28 as follows:

- Issues and Scope of the [Hillsides and Ridgelines Project](#) was continued to the March 11 meeting.
- South Camino Pablo Annexation Study Session, to consider the potential annexation and subdivision of a 28-acre portion of the Carr Ranch property, was continued to the February 25 meeting.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, February 2, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

Thursday, February 5, 5:00 pm – [Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee](#), Hacienda de las Flores

~~Monday, February 9, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), CANCELLED~~

Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

Thursday, February 12, 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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