



## ABOUT TOWN ▪ JULY 30, 2015 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



### GRASS FIRE IN MORAGA

Moraga-Orinda Fire District responded to a grass fire east of Natalie Drive early Thursday afternoon that burned 30 to 40 acres before containment. No structures were involved and there were no injuries reported. The fire went to three alarms plus the use of CalFire and two air tankers.



### FAMILY CAMPOUT A SUCCESS



The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Family Campout at Rancho Laguna Park was a huge success with 150 residents of the Lamorinda area, ages 2 to 70+, attending this family event. A scavenger hunt, paper rockets, and storytelling in the amphitheater were among the many activities participants enjoyed. New this year was a make-your-own s'mores station, which provided everything needed to make perfect s'mores. Needless to say there were many Happy Campers. We hope to see you next year!



### THEFTS IN MORAGA

The Moraga Police Department (MPD) has seen an unprecedented increase in property crimes in 2015. For years, MPD has urged the community to be aware of security issues and has used About Town, personal appearances at community meetings, social media forums and television news coverage to educate the public about crime prevention and the increased risk of property theft. To put in perspective just how dramatic the property theft increases are, please review data compiled for 2015 (year to date) as compared to the same period in 2014:

CRIME	2014	2015	% INCREASE
All Thefts	49	75	+53%
All Burglaries	19	34	+79%
Stolen Vehicles	7	14	+100%

Auto burglaries (thefts from locked vehicles) are up +325% in 2015, and in the past two weeks MPD has responded to 33 reports of entries into unlocked vehicles. Most other jurisdictions are experiencing similar spikes in property crimes. Please do not leave any property visible, keep garage doors closed, always lock your doors and windows, use alarm systems when available, and look out for one another. Call the MPD Dispatcher at 925-284-5010 to report any suspicious person or activity and remember that Moraga is only as secure as you make it.



### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The free Thursday Summer Concert Series continues in August featuring Chris Gardner Band (Country) on August 6; Spazmatics (80s Rock) on August 13; and The Houserockers (Rock & Soul) on August 20. Concerts start at 6:30 pm at the Moraga Commons Park. Arrive early and purchase food

sponsored by the Moraga Park Foundation. [Full Concert Schedule](#).



## LOWER RHEEM BOULEVARD STABILIZATION PROJECT

The Town is coordinating with EBMUD and PG&E to finalize their utility relocation work prior to having the developer (SummerHill Homes) remove and repair the landslide affecting the Rheem Boulevard roadway and the reconstruction of the pavement. The utility agencies have caused scheduling delays resulting in deferring the construction until spring of 2016. Although the Town is frustrated with the utilities' progress, delaying construction minimizes the predicted El Niño storm impacts and reduces inconvenience to the public caused by stopping construction during the rainy season and restarting next year. Once a construction schedule is determined, advance notification will be provided to all potentially affected service providers, residents and the general community. Additionally, signs and electronic message boards will be placed throughout Town advising of road closures for the portion of Rheem Boulevard between Fay Hill Road and 591 Rheem Boulevard.



## MORAGA NIGHT OUT – TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

On Tuesday, August 4, Moraga residents are invited to participate in this year's Moraga Night Out (MNO). MNO is a program to promote neighborhood camaraderie, police-community partnerships, involvement in crime prevention activities, and emergency preparedness. Simply find a host and a location for a gathering in your neighborhood and have the host contact [nightout@moraga.ca.us](mailto:nightout@moraga.ca.us) to register and request visits from MPD, MOFD, CERT and Town officials. To date, five neighborhood events have been registered.



## PG&E ELECTRIC POWER LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

The Town of Moraga has worked with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to ensure the *Contra Costa-Moraga Electric Power Line Upgrade Project* has minimal impact on Moraga residents, while still allowing PG&E to make essential safety and reliability upgrades. Though the Town has its own noise guidelines, this project is mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission and, therefore, is not subject to local regulations. In the next two weeks, PG&E tower crews are scheduled to install cage tops via helicopter. Expect helicopters and work crews at tower locations in Town. The line work is scheduled to begin in September. For any questions or concerns, contact PG&E Customer Impact Specialist, Denise Conway at 877-207-1245.



## ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY INFORMATION SIGN

The Town of Moraga would like to thank the Moraga community for their patience with the new electronic sign. Since its inception, the main goal of this sign has been to keep residents informed about Town updates and events, and that focus will continue. From an operational perspective, the current challenge is the inability to remotely program the sign through a hard-line internet connection, yet to be installed. Due to the lack of internet infrastructure in the open space area of the sign, Comcast is requiring a more complex installation process. Once connectivity is established, Town staff can easily modify the electronic display to meet Town needs and public expectations.



## NEW RHEEM THEATRE AND CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

The New Rheem Theatre has benefited immensely from the extraordinary effort and support of many Moragans through a crowd funding campaign to cover a rent increase; the formulation of a Community Foundation; and productive discussions between all parties for a longer-term, mutually

beneficial plan. Consequently, this year's California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) is now scheduled for September 10 to 16, with the opening night held in Moraga. It is not too early to buy tickets to CAIFF or support the theatre through two separate fundraising campaigns: one for its continued operation and another for the eventual purchase of the Theatre itself.



## SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE INTRAMURAL FIELD LIGHTS

Saint Mary's College (SMC) intends to install the improved intramural field lights system in August. A lighting consultant retained by the Town will conduct pre- and post-construction measurements of light and glare from the old and new intramural field lights. The pre-construction light readings will occur on Monday, August 3, and the lights will be illuminated from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm. For additional information please contact Ella Samonsky, Associate Planner, 925-888-7042, [esamonsky@moraga.ca.us](mailto:esamonsky@moraga.ca.us) or Tim Farley, SMC Director of Community and Government Relations at 925-631-4830 (up to August 3) or Diane Hardy, SMC Director of Project Management at 925-631-4150 (after August 3).



## 2015 PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Six out of the ten street segments in the project plan still need to receive a final top layer of Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt (RHMA). Unfortunately, due to issues beyond the Town's and contractor's control, the availability of RHMA has been severely impacted. Caltrans now must more than double "crumb rubber" usage in their paving projects or forfeit transportation funding. The contractor now estimates that asphalt plants will be available for the Town's project in late September/early October and will notify residents at least three days in advance of when final paving will occur. To minimize impacts during this delay, temporary tapers (transitional asphalt ramps) will be in place to transition from the current pavement grades to existing street grades, curb ramps, and driveways. Please continue to heed the temporary traffic control measures such as reduced speed limits due to uneven shoulders until final paving is complete.



## UPCOMING PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS AUGUST 3 AND AUGUST 17

Monday, August 3, 7:00 pm, Moraga Library:

Continued Public Hearing on a zoning text amendment to allow for-profit recreational uses as a conditionally permitted use in the MOSO zoning district; and Use Permit for a temporary real estate sales office for the approved Bella Vista (formerly Rancho Laguna II) subdivision.

Monday, August 17, 7:00 pm, Moraga Library:

Study session on a new ordinance to allow and establish standards for small animal keeping, including chickens and bees, in residential zones; and Consideration of a Use Permit for a temporary real estate sales office for the approved Harvest Court (Camino Ricardo) subdivision.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, August 3, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

~~Monday, August 10, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), CANCELLED~~

Monday, August 17, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

Tuesday, August 18, 7:00 pm – Park and Recreation Commission, Hacienda – Mosaic Room

~~Monday, August 24, 7:00 pm – [Design Review Board](#), CANCELLED~~

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 pm - [Planning Commission](#), Moraga Library

Wednesday, September 9, [Town Council](#), JM Auditorium

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



## FOLLOW US!

The Town of Moraga is going social! Follow the Town and “like” us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) @townofmoraga and [NextDoor](#). The Town will be posting updates, public service announcements, Town activities and lots more.   



## HELP SHARE THE TOWN NEWS

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