



ABOUT TOWN ▪ NOVEMBER 19, 2015 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



CHAMBER MIXER AT NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS



The Moraga Chamber of Commerce held its monthly mixer at the new Town Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room on Tuesday, November 17. Over 60 people shared appetizers, hot cider, sangria, and local cupcakes made primarily by Town staff. The new facility was remodeled with high-tech improvements for audience viewing and assisted listening and was landscaped with drought-tolerant grasses to give the facility a more civic appearance. Public meetings are now live-streamed from the Town's [website](#).



PG&E POWER LINE PROJECT COMPLETED

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has completed a year-long project to upgrade a major electric power line that spans from Antioch to Moraga. The work in Moraga concluded on November 4. In total, the utility upgraded 27 miles of power line and electric transmission towers, improving reliability and capacity. PG&E used helicopters to complete this project in a safe and efficient manner, reducing the need for heavy trucks and equipment on the ground and minimizing environmental impacts. PG&E appreciates the community's patience and cooperation.



HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Join Santa and his Moraga Youth Involvement Committee helpers for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on **Thursday, December 3**. Enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the Commons Park while listening to the Rossmoor Community Chorus at 6:30 pm with the tree lighting at 7:00 pm. Please help light the tree by donating to the Buy-a-Bulb Fundraiser. Please send checks payable to the Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy-a-Bulb, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556 or [donate online](#). Thanks to everyone who helped SELL OUT the *Santa Visits* and *Breakfast with Santa* events!



HOME INVASION ROBBERY IN MORAGA

The Moraga Police Department (MPD) is investigating a home invasion robbery that occurred on November 12 in the Campolindo neighborhood. The victims are believed to have been specifically targeted and are not suspected of any illegal activity. The suspects are described as three black male adults, wearing hooded sweatshirts, who were seen in a late model silver Toyota Camry sedan. Anyone with information is asked to contact MPD at 925-888-7055.



RECENT TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS ON NOVEMBER 18

SMALL FARM ANIMALS ORDINANCE

Town Council introduced new zoning regulations to allow small farm animal keeping, including chickens, rabbits and bees in Residential, Institutional and Open Space zones, as accessory to an existing residential use. Although no special permit will be required, the new regulations set limits on the number of animals allowed based on property size, and require setbacks for coops and other enclosures as well as keeping them sanitary and free of odors to avoid neighbor impacts. The second reading is scheduled for adoption by the Town Council on December 9.

HOME-BASED WINERY BUSINESSES

Town Council provided direction to staff on development of new regulations for home-based winery businesses. The regulations are intended to allow Moraga's existing small winery businesses to continue to operate, subject to compliance with limits on production, employees, special events, property rental, and Town and County standards for noise, crop spraying, and waste management to ensure compatibility with residential uses. The Town Council did not support a suggestion to broaden the regulations to cover cottage food businesses or other limited commercial agriculture. Staff will continue to work with stakeholders to draft the regulations, which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and Town Council in 2016.

ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

Town Council established a new *Art in Public Spaces Policy* and an *Art in Public Spaces Committee* to guide efforts as Moraga seeks to secure public art to further enhance the natural beauty of the community. To learn more about serving on a seven-member committee that will meet to review and recommend art pieces to Town Council, please contact [Jay Ingram](#) at 925-888-7034.

MORAGA LIBRARY RESTROOM PROJECT

Town Council awarded a contract to CWS Construction Group, Inc. for the Moraga Library Restroom Improvements project. This capital project will completely renovate and upgrade the restrooms to meet current building codes. Work is scheduled to start later this month. Please pardon the dust (and noise) as the Town improves this highly utilized Town facility.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Town Council adopted a "complete streets policy" in compliance with Metropolitan Transportation Commission requirements for local jurisdictions to plan and design streets that can accommodate automobiles, cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. Although the policy allows certain exemptions for environmental and financial reasons, the Town must consider the addition of features such as new bike lanes and sidewalks to the extent feasible when approving and implementing road-related projects, and make special findings if an exception to the policy is granted.

GRAND JURY REPORT – COMMUNITY COURTS

Town Council gave direction to send the Town's required written response to the June 2015 Grand Jury Report No. 1510 – "Community Courts," recommending all municipalities participate in a Community Court, which is a voluntary court-alternative program designed to give individuals an opportunity to resolve their criminal matters outside the traditional Court system. The Town intends to partner with Lafayette and Orinda to create a Lamorinda Community Court.

ON-CALL TREE SERVICES CONTRACTS

Town Council authorized contracts with three local tree service companies to enable the Town's maintenance department to continue to efficiently address issues such as necessary emergency

work, tree removal, tree trimming, other required work in the Town right-of-way and easements. The three contracts are designed to enable the Town to respond quickly to the anticipated heavy winter storms and continue to provide a high level of service in a timely manner.



WELCOME DOVER SADDLERY

What do Laguna Hills and the Town of Moraga have in common? As of November 13 they both became retail destinations for their area's equestrians with the opening of the first Dover Saddlery store in Northern California. Located in the former Tuesday Morning space in the Rheem Shopping Center, the elegantly remodeled store is full of equine gear, horse tack, riding apparel and clothing. The store is currently recruiting for local employees; visit [Dover Saddlery](#) for more information.



RHEEM BOULEVARD ON-STREET PARKING

The removal of the old striping, pavement base repairs and crack sealing, and the slurry seal portions of the work are complete. A slurry seal requires a minimum of seven days for curing before placement of the thermoplastic striping and markings. Temporary striping and markers were placed immediately after the curing time passed; however, each time the striping crew was scheduled, it was cancelled due to rain. For up-to-date information, please visit the [Project](#) webpage.



MUNICIPAL REGIONAL STORMWATER PERMIT

On November 18 and 19, the Regional Water Quality Control Board considered the next phase of its Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit mandating local government to regulate clean water. On November 18, Vice Mayor Metcalf attended the Board meeting and spoke on behalf of the Town of Moraga outlining the Town's concerns with the proposed regulations (read the complete [statement](#)). New unfunded mandates, imposed on limited-resource communities like Moraga, will make compliance difficult.



LAFAYETTE DOWNTOWN CONGESTION STUDY

The City of Lafayette is in the first phase of a **Downtown Congestion Reduction Study**, and invites Moraga residents to participate in a public survey and contribute to a collaborative 'pin' map to share comments and ideas on how to improve the downtown transportation system. Visit [Lafayette Congestion](#) to participate in the survey, which will remain open through the end of December.



INDEPENDENT AUDIT PROGRESS

The Town's independent auditor, Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation, is working with staff to finalize the annual audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. The report is scheduled for review by the Audit and Finance Committee on December 7 and by the Town Council on December 9. As requested by the Measure K Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee, the CAFR will include a new Financial Statement Note specifically isolating all activity in the Pavement Management Program, including Measure K sales tax revenue.



MCSP OPEN HOUSE AND JOINT MEETING - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Residents are invited to an open house on Monday, November 30, at 6:00 pm at the Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala, to review a draft "Vision Concept" for the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) area. The open house will be followed at 7:00 pm by a special joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board to review and discuss the Vision Concept. The Vision Concept is a key step in the process to develop implementing zoning regulations for the 2010 Moraga Center Specific Plan that will provide clear, more well-defined standards for building design; building envelopes (height, setbacks, etc.); public and private open space; and circulation system improvements within the Specific Plan area. For more information contact [Ellen Clark, Planning Director](#).



HACIENDA HOLIDAY FAIRE - DECEMBER 4, 5 AND 6

Enjoy the Hacienda Holiday Faire at the beautiful Hacienda de Las Flores. Featuring over 40 local artisans from Lamorinda and the East Bay, all handcrafted, specialized items are ideal for gift giving. Offerings include: jewelry, local gourmet foods, ceramics and pottery, local wines, bath and body products, candles, handbags and accessories, floral decorations, garden items, toys, cards and paper goods, hand-sewn and knitted items, pet gifts, clothing, and holiday decorations. Enjoy complimentary wine tasting hosted by Captain Vineyards on Friday night, December 4, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. For hours and more information, visit [Hacienda Foundation](#).



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

~~Monday, November 23, 7:00 pm — [Design Review Board](#), CANCELLED~~

~~Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 pm — [Town Council](#), CANCELLED~~

Monday, November 30, 6:00 pm - Moraga Center Specific Plan Implementation Project – Open House, Hacienda, La Sala

Monday, November 30, 7:00 pm – Special Joint Planning Commission/Design Review Board Meeting, Hacienda, La Sala

Monday, December 7, 5:30 pm – [Audit and Finance Committee](#), Hacienda, Garden Room

Monday, December 7, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 335 RHEEM

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 335 RHEEM

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm – [Moraga Youth Involvement Committee](#), Hacienda, Mosaic

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



TOWN OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Town Offices and the Hacienda de las Flores will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Thursday, November 26 through Sunday, November 29. The Town offices will re-open on Monday, November 30. All Town staff wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving with our thanks for your continued support and participation.



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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.



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