



ABOUT TOWN - SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



COUNCIL CANDIDATES' FORUM - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30



This year's Candidates' Night will be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, September 30, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Meet the five Moraga Town Council candidates – Kendall Langan, Teresa Onoda, David Stromberg, Renata Sos and Ursula Schilling - and hear them speak on important issues that affect all Moragans. This free event is sponsored by the [Moraga Citizens Network](#). To participate, click the Zoom meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6kqd8bk>.



BECOME A FIREWISE NEIGHBORHOOD

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) established Firewise USA, a voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized and take action to reduce the fire hazards around their homes and community. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) participates in Firewise and has assisted five communities in Moraga to become Firewise. MOFD will provide a neighborhood assessment, a three-year plan and education on fire safety and how the MOFD fire code affects them and their property. For more information on how to become a Firewise Community, contact MOFD [Fire Marshal Isaacs](#) or 925-258-4513. Information is also available at [MOFD Firewise](#).



PLANNING COMMISSION MCSP-IP DISCUSSION

On September 21, 2020, the Planning Commission held a Zoom Webinar for the Moraga Center Specific Plan – Implementation Project (MCSP-IP) Design Guidelines. The Commission recommended approval of the MCSP-IP Design Guidelines with key considerations including a Vision Statement, the Town Square, a trail along Laguna Creek as well as minor edits throughout the document. This was the third Planning Commission meeting held to consider the MCSP-IP Zoning and Design Guidelines. The Commission recommendations will be considered by the Town Council on October 14.



HOW DO I VOTE THIS NOVEMBER?

Drop off your ballot anytime in the new permanent ballot drop-off box at Saint Mary's College (1928 St. Mary's Road), in the first parking lot on the left when you drive in. [View the map](#). Different than in years past, there will NOT be a ballot drop-off box at the Moraga Town offices as the building is still closed to the public due to the pandemic.

The County Elections Division is strongly discouraging voting in person due to COVID-19. Those who still want to vote in person will

need to go to their correct polling location (Moraga Library or Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church). There will be an Early Voting Site at the Moraga Library for anyone to vote or drop off their Vote-by-Mail ballot during the following times: Friday, October 30, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm; Saturday, October 31, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; CLOSED SUNDAY; Monday, November 2, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm; and Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. **NOTE: On Tuesday (Election Day) all Moraga voters need to report to their own polling location if they wish to vote in person.** Visit the Contra Costa County Elections website at www.cocovote.us for more voting information.





RECENT TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

MORAGA EVACUATION PLAN UPDATE

The Town Council received a report about how the Town, in conjunction with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, is updating Moraga's Evacuation Zones to ensure neighborhood continuity and make them easy to understand. Hopefully, we will never have to use them, but it is essential to be prepared. Be prepared at home too! Go to [Lamorinda CERT](#) or [Ready for Wildfire](#) for information about how you can prepare for emergencies.

2010 DEBT TO BE PAID OFF TO SAVE ≈\$175,00 OVER NINE YEARS

The Council directed staff to pay off the 20-year 2010 Certificates of Participation (financing instrument) for Town Hall Improvements which have an interest rate of 4.0% to 4.65%. The Town will apply the \$117,506 debt service reserve to the \$845,851 cost of defeasance (call amount) and borrow the remaining \$740,504 from Fund 100 - One-Time Developer Fees (Palos Colorados). This action will reduce the debt payment schedule from nine years to six and a half years and save the Town approximately \$175,000.

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION COST ACCOUNTING ORDINANCE

The Town Council adopted an Ordinance amending Chapter 3.04 Purchasing System and Chapter 3.06 Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act Procedures of the Town of Moraga Municipal Code (MMC). The amendments will help to reduce some administrative costs and construction bidding time. The Town Council amended the above mentioned MMC sections to match current California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA) code and clarify the Town Manager's purchasing authority. The Ordinance goes into effect 30 days after the adoption.

VEHICLE PURCHASE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Town Council received an update on the purchase of a new John Deere mower for the Parks and Recreation Department. The total cost of the vehicle was \$24,608.68, 25% below the budgeted cost of \$33,000. The Town maintains over 57 acres of active park space, and mowing is completed on a weekly basis as part of the Town's maintenance plan. Completing this work in-house reduces costs and creates the greatest flexibility in park use for the community.

VOTING DIRECTION PROVIDED ON PROPOSED LEAGUE RESOLUTION

Each year the Council provides direction to their voting representative on the League of California Cities (LOCC) regarding any proposed resolutions. The proposed 2020 resolution urges Congress to amend Section 230 of the Federal Communications Decency Act of 1996 to limit the immunity provided to online platforms where their forums enable criminal activity to be promoted. The Council directed their voting representative to advocate for changes to the proposed resolution to ensure that it is not too broad reaching.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER AS BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

The Council virtually presented a proclamation declaring October 2020 as Bullying Prevention and Moraga iKind Project Month to Wendell Baker, from Moraga's iKind Project, and encouraged all community members to participate in prevention activities designed to promote civility and compassion and make the community safer for all children and adolescents.



TOWN EARNS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has announced that the Town of Moraga has received the GFOA's Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2018/19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This award signifies the Town's commitment to the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. The Certificate of Achievement is the Town's seventh consecutive and the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the Town of Moraga's Administrative Services Department.



MOFD CHIPPER PROGRAM UPDATE

The free Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) community chipping service will resume on October 5, 2020 to residents of MOFD. The program runs fall through spring in a community-wide effort to reduce accumulated vegetation which serves as fuel during a wildfire. The program is designed to encourage residential clean-up efforts by facilitating the chipping of material produced in quantities too large for green bins and too small for commercial chipping providers. Due to the chipping program's popular demand, please review the program requirements and [frequently asked questions](#) before submitting your request. Priority scheduling will be given to Firewise neighborhoods and areas with large numbers of participating homeowners (minimum of three households). To submit a chipping service request or to obtain more information, contact the MOFD Fuels Mitigation staff at chipperprogram@mofd.org or call 925-258-4599.



CANYON ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE



The Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project is nearing completion of Phase 1 construction (inbound vehicle lane to Town). The contractor is finishing the extensive retaining walls and the new roadway approaches to the new bridge. Unfortunately, COVID-19 impacts have delayed arrival of some construction materials, specifically the pre-cast concrete lagging of the retaining walls. The contractor may work a limited number of Saturdays to overcome these delays and motorists should expect normal 15-minute traffic delays. Future closures will be scheduled in advance for roadway and temporary bridge removal work. Please visit the [project website](#) for notification of future closures.



HAVEN'T TAKEN THE 2020 CENSUS YET?

It is not too late to make your voice heard! Moraga's response rate is 87.2% which is the third best rate in California behind Piedmont and Clayton. You can still respond to the 2020 Census – it only takes 10 minutes and is free:

1. Online by phone, computer or tablet at: my2020census.gov;
2. By phone at 1-844-330-2020;
3. By paper form that would have been mailed or delivered to your residence during the months of May and June.

Knowing how many people live in Contra Costa helps government allocate money for education, housing, health care, roads and transportation programs, child and elderly services, and emergency assistance.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, October 5 – [Planning Commission](#), **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), TELECONFERENCE

The Town Council Chambers are located at [335 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga, CA 94556](#).

The Hacienda de las Flores is located at [2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556](#).

All meetings are open to the public. Visit the [Town's](#) website for updated agendas and packets. Visit [Public Participation](#) for more information. The Town of Moraga Livestreams Town Council, Commission and Committee meetings using Vimeo. [View live streaming of meetings](#).



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