



ABOUT TOWN - OCTOBER 11, 2019

UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



PREPARATIONS AVERT DISASTER

Last year's Camp Fire in Paradise was a wake-up call that provided many lessons. Fortunately for the residents of Moraga, the Moraga Police Department (MPD), Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), residents and the Sanders Ranch Homeowners' Association have taken numerous emergency preparedness actions which helped prevent the Merrill Fire in the Sanders Ranch area from becoming a firestorm.



- [MOFD](#) prioritized fire prevention and has been active in the community, providing information about proper vegetation management, implementing hazardous fuels reduction programs (controlled burns), operating a brush chipper program, red tagging properties that don't comply with vegetation and weed abatement requirements and abating properties as necessary.
- [MPD](#) updated the Town's [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and created 23 separate [Evacuation Zones](#) with preplanned routes, collection areas and special concerns to facilitate evacuation, and encouraged residents to sign up for the Contra Costa County [Community Warning System](#) (CWS).
- The Lamorinda Cities and Fire Districts, in collaboration with Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), prepared and distributed the [Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation](#) and participated in emergency preparedness meetings and evacuation drills.
- Residents and the Sanders Ranch HOA performed necessary vegetation management which dramatically slowed the spread of the fire. Residents also worked together to inform each other of the evacuation by calling neighbors, knocking on doors and honking their horn as they evacuated to wake others up.

With an understanding of how quickly a small fire can spread, emergency responders throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County's arrival on the scene within the first hour was instrumental in managing the blaze. We send our appreciation to the hundreds of first responders who helped saved the day, specifically:

- Orinda, Lafayette and Danville Police and Contra Costa Sheriff's Department who assisted with evacuation efforts.
- Contra Costa Fire, Cal Fire, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire, Rodeo-Hercules Fire District, San Ramon Valley Fire District, Alameda County Fire, Berkeley Fire, Oakland Fire, Hayward Fire and other departments who successfully defended homes and contained the fire.

- The Red Cross personnel who staffed the evacuation center at St. Monica's Church and provided comfort and support to those in crisis.
- St Monica's church for allowing us to use the parish hall as an evacuation center.
- All Moraga residents who cooperated in the evacuation, helped their neighbors and remained calm and respectful throughout the event.

While disaster was averted, as with all critical incidents, there are additional lessons to be learned from the Merrill Fire. Poor cell phone reception in Sanders Ranch was a challenge (exacerbated by the PG&E Power Shutoff) resulting in the CWS evacuation message not reaching individuals who were signed up. Additionally, the CWS alert message appeared as spam to some. We're interested to hear about your experience as part of our review of the incident as we work to improve our response and learn what we can all do better. Please feel free to email [Police Chief King](#) or attend the Moraga Police Department Town Hall meeting scheduled for next Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 pm at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.



POLICE TOWN HALL -THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17



Moraga Police will be hosting a second Town Hall meeting, led by Chief Jon King, to discuss crime information and trends with residents, answer questions and discuss common issues. An additional topic will be Emergency Preparedness and the Community Warning System (CWS). The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 7:00 pm, at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium, located at 1010 Camino Pablo in Moraga. We hope to see you there.



MORAGA ROAD CLOSED - MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

The City of Lafayette's contractor and Public Works crew will be taking advantage of their school holiday and will be closing their portion of Moraga Road to perform maintenance work on Monday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. between Sky High Drive and Silver Springs Road. Work may include patch paving, ditch and inlet cleaning, vegetation clearing around signs, and other work to help maintain the safety of the road. Signs have been placed in advance to warn drivers of the road closure. Drivers will be required to take alternate routes between the Town of Moraga and the City of Lafayette. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Lafayette Public Works Department at 925-934-3908.



MORAGA LIBRARY FALL BOOK SALE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19



The giant fall book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. Books, CDs and DVDs in all categories will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3.00. Beginning at 1:00 pm a bag can be purchased for \$5.00 and filled with all the books it will hold.



MCSP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLETED

The fourth and final meeting of the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on October 1. The MCSP CAC is assisting the Town in crafting the zoning and development standards to implement the MCSP adopted in 2010. At this meeting, the CAC provided its final input and initial zoning code recommendations to the Town on land use priorities for the zoning document. The Town and its consultant will now begin work on the draft zoning document that will be presented to the Planning Commission at a study session, tentatively in January 2020. The meeting materials can be found at the [MCSP CAC webpage](#).



RECENT TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LIGHTING UPGRADES

Town Council adopted a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Electrical Services Contract with Energy Conservation Options (ECO) in the amount not to exceed \$63,800 to complete energy efficient lighting upgrades using PG&E's on-bill zero percent financing program. This project is one of the viable strategies to implement the Town's Climate Action Plan, a Town Council and Community Goals for 2019, and is projected to result in the reduction of 42 metric tons of CO2 emissions annually.

HACIENDA DE LAS FLORES RESTAURANT OPERATOR RFP

Town Council discussed the opportunity to pursue a restaurant at the Hacienda and directed staff to release a Restaurant Operator Request for Proposals (RFP). The pursuit of a restaurant at the Hacienda remains one of the primary objectives to increase community use of the property and offset maintenance costs associated with the management of the park space. Proposals will be accepted from restaurant/caterer operations through February 2020 with the assistance of a local retail real estate consultant specializing in development, added value leasing, and the marketing and revitalization of shopping districts.

MCE'S DEEP GREEN OPTION

Town Council considered a Resolution to enroll the Town's electricity accounts in MCE's 100 percent renewable "Deep Green" Option as part of ongoing efforts to implement viable measures contained in the Town's Climate Action Plan. While the Council did not adopt the resolution, it directed staff to pursue the transition of the remaining 118 Town-owned streetlights to LED which should reduce the Town's CO2 emissions by an estimated 26 metric tons annually (slightly less than the 29 metric ton reduction from transition to Deep Green).

CCTA TRANSPORTATION MEASURE REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT

Town Council adopted a Resolution urging the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to place a one-half of one percent countywide transportation sales tax measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot to fund transportation improvements in Contra Costa County. The Town Council supported this action without opining on the merits of the proposed measure.

TOWN COUNCIL PROTOCOLS

The Council continued its work to develop protocols to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Council as a whole and individual Councilmembers and to outline the rules and regulations of meetings, agendas and other administrative matters. The draft protocols will be brought to the October 23 Council meeting for adoption.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

MORAGA TOWN CENTER HOMES

Moraga Town Center Homes, next to the Fire Station on Moraga Way near the intersection with St. Andrews Drive, has model homes open for viewing. Site work and building construction are continuing as the developer, KB Homes, prepares to complete and sell additional units later this year and early next year. Visit the KB Homes [website](#).

CHASE BANK

Chase Bank branch is under construction at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street. The parking lot was recently paved, and the building is nearing completion. The project will include four new streetlights, two on Moraga Way and two on School Street. It also includes a seating area and bus stop in addition to new sidewalk and other pedestrian amenities. The developer, Chase Bank, is aiming to open the branch later this year.



WELCOME MARK SUMMERS TO ENGINEERING



Mark Summers recently joined the Public Works Department as an Associate Civil Engineer. Mark will focus mainly on land development projects and will work on a diverse array of other assignments, including Town capital, street and storm water projects. Mark earned his BS in Civil Engineering at San Diego State, MS in Civil Engineering at San Jose State, and Project Management certificate at UC Berkeley Extension. Mark brings 15 years of diverse civil engineering experience specializing in land development and storm water having worked in the private industry for a myriad of employers including ENGENEO, Aliquot, and more recently GHD. Please give him a warm welcome to Moraga!



VOTE BY MAIL CAMPAIGN



The Town of Moraga and Contra Costa Elections Division encourages you to consider getting your ballot by mail. Receiving your ballot by mail provides you with more flexibility than having to go to your set neighborhood polling place on just one day. This can be especially tough for voters who commute to and from work. It also allows you to vote comfortably wherever you choose and gives you more time to study the issues on increasingly-complex ballots at your leisure. There are a variety of ways to return a completed ballot envelope, including dropping it off at a neighborhood polling place on Election Day. Switching is easy! Simply email Ballot@vote.cccounty.us or call 925-335-7800 to make your request over the phone. You can also text COCOBALLOT to 28683 to make your request.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 pm – [Park and Recreation Commission](#), Council Chambers

Monday, October 21, 7:00 pm – [Planning Commission](#), Council Chambers

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 pm – [Town Council](#), Council Chambers

Wednesday, October 30, 6:00 pm – [Special Town Council](#), Council Chambers

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.



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