



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 14, 7:00pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga to Poll Residents

Lafayette and Orinda did it...now it's Moraga's turn for a Roads Poll

By Sophie Braccini

Faced with the task of finding twenty four million dollars to fix its roads, the Town of Moraga has decided it has no choice but to ask its residents to pitch in.

The condition of Moraga's roads has been ranked in the lower 15% of the entire Bay Area, and to postpone repairs means the cost will grow exponentially. The Town's objective is to put a revenue measure on the ballot this November. The question is, what measure and for how much? After a discussion on February 22, the Town

Council narrowed the possibilities to three and will have a consultant poll residents to find the sweet spot that will garner enough support.

In her report to the Council, Town Manager Jill Keimach presented the result of over a year's worth of effort to study neighborhood streets, the reasons for their failure, the different ways to fix the problems, and how much it will cost to remedy them in the long term. "Town staff researched alternative treatments being used by many other cities to reduce the overall

costs of the program while retaining effectiveness," she said. "Based on this, as well as a peer review by the City Engineer from the City of El Cerrito, the total needed to repair the neighborhood roads is estimated to be \$25 million."

El Cerrito was often cited as an example of a city that was able to restore its infrastructure from a failed level to good within a few years. Jerry Bradshaw, the City of El Cerrito's Engineer, has been retained by the Town of Moraga on a part time contract to

help out, since Moraga's former Town Engineer resigned last month. Bradshaw was at the meeting and explained that El Cerrito was able to secure enough financing from its residents through the approval of a half of one percent increase in sales tax.

In Moraga, such a measure would generate about \$300,000 a year, enough to help to maintain good roads, but not enough to erase the backlog of deferred maintenance.

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More Uncertainty at Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Staff announced on February 23 that the Council will consider rescinding a December 14 decision to create a physical separation, at Rancho Laguna Park, between off-leash canines and other park users.

The decision is being challenged in a Petition by Moraga resident Steven Smith, who asks the court to issue an order to rescind the decision.

Town Staff indicated that the motivation to consider rescinding the decision was the Council's priority to spend its limited resources wisely.

In a written statement sent to us February 26 on behalf of the directors of Lamorinda Dogs, Bill Carman said, "Our position is that it is wise for the

Moraga Town Council to revisit their December 14th resolution. We agree with the Council's apparent re-prioritization of much-needed playground safety compliance and road repair."

The basis for the petition to the court is Moraga's alleged failure to follow California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). "It seeks to void the 'Notice of Exemption' the Town had filed in an apparent effort to bypass CEQA environmental review of the project," says Seth Freeman, a Moraga resident and member of the Lamorinda Dogs group.

In his petition, Smith indicates that the Rancho Laguna ecosystem includes species such as the dusky

footed wood rat, a species of special concern according to the California Department of Fish and Game; as well as other wildlife, fish and plants. He explains that the spatial separation plan proposed by the Town would irreparably damage the habitat along the tributary of the San Leandro Reservoir, and that the increased use by people and domestic animals will directly impact the ecosystem.

Planning staff will provide options for the Council's consideration regarding off-leash dog hours at the park. If the Town recognizes the existence of a sensitive habitat in the northern part of the park, the new options will have to provide for its protection.

At this time, the park is open to off-leash dogs in the morning and evening.

"We see this as a double-edged sword," the Lamorinda Dogs' statement continued, "Council has the opportunity to improve the outcome for park users, which we hope they will do. However, if the Council elects a punitive path to curtail our 30 year off-leash tradition, they will further split the entire community. Donations and civic fundraising have already suffered as a result. We wish the Council the wisdom they will need to serve all constituents."

The Council is scheduled to consider the matter on March 14.

Police Report



Cell phone a goner, 2/23/12 Petty theft at Campo, a cell phone was snatched sometime between 3:20 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Girls Locker Room at Campolindo High

School. It was left unattended. Loss of approximately \$200.

Missing a bike? 2/12/12 Moraga Police Department received three mountain bicycles and one Razor scooter from the Moraga Country Club. If perhaps you rode to the Club and ended up walking home – maybe you should pop into Moraga P.D.

Ex-girlfriend claims harassment, 2/18/12 Cops investigated a Saint Mary's College couple and found that, "the actions and statements made by the male subject did not appear criminal in nature." The fellow decided, after talking with police, that he will no longer contact his former girlfriend. Smart move.

Domestic dispute, 2/21/12 A Rimer Drive father and son got into an ar-

gument. Dad asked son to leave the house, son wisely decided to stay at his girlfriend's place for the night.

Girl assaults boy, 2/20/12 Two cohabiting St. Mary's College students had a bit of a dust up. Upon arrival Moraga officers determined that the female had assaulted a male subject she had been dating. The young lady was arrested on domestic violence charges and taken to Martinez

Detention Facility for booking.

D.U.I. 2/19/12 A Toyota Camry was observed crossing over the solid white line on Moraga Road four times by police around 6:00 p.m. – barely happy hour. The 53-year-old driver showed signs of intoxication. After flunking field sobriety tests, he was taken into custody and submitted to a breath test.



New to Market ~ Lafayette
Magical 2.4 acre custom estate. 5 bd., 5 1/2 ba., appx. 5620sf, gated entrance, elegantly appointed throughout, 2 pool sites, shared tennis ct., primarily single level floor plan.
\$3,100,000



Available ~ Orinda C.C.
Exceptional and rare. One of the last few lots remaining lots in the Orinda Country Club. Approved plans for a custom appx. 4621sf home with 3-car garage. OCC fairway and valley views.
\$1,255,000



Coming Soon ~ Lafayette
Walk to town and schools! 3+ bd, 2 ba., appx. 2930 sf, sauna, high ceilings, walls of glass, bonus room, hdwd. flrs., gorgeous views, comm. pool and tennis.
\$1,185,000



Coming Soon ~ Orinda
Ideal court location. 1+ acre, designer touches throughout, 5 bd., 3 1/2 ba, appx. 3100sf, hdwd. flrs., high ceilings, and a professionally landscaped park-like yard w/sport ct.
\$1,200,000



Coming Soon ~ Moraga
Sanders Ranch, prestigious gated community, court location. Charming throughout, hardwood floors, recessed lights, high ceilings, 2 bd + den/3rd bdrm., beautifully landscaped, spa. Price upon request



Coming Soon ~ Moraga
Breathtaking views! Great floor plan, gourmet kitchen, granite counters, spacious master suite with fireplace, his/her walk-in closets, wine cellar. Au-pair/in-law with separate entrance.
\$1,299,000



Pending ~ Moraga
Estate lot with breathtaking views. Totally updated, appx. 3131sf, 1.98 acres, 4 bd, 2 1/2 ba, single level, pool, expansive lawns, stone patios, end of court location.
\$1,495,000



Pending in 2 days ~ Moraga
Multiple offers! Spectacular view of rolling hills, large, flat yard, appx. 3031sf, 4 bd, 2 1/2 ba, hdwd. flrs., new paint, built-ins, paneled office/4th bd, nice curb appeal.
\$1,195,000



Pending ~ Lafayette
Walk to town from this charming rancher. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, hardwood floors, new paint, yard with patio and deck.
\$515,000



SOLD ~ Moraga
Moraga Country Club. Ideal corner lot location. Enjoy golf, tennis, pool, and new club house! Former model home, gorgeous views, large windows, 4 bd., 2 1/2 ba., large, private courtyard.
\$830,000



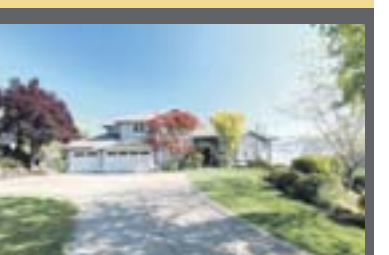
SOLD ~ Moraga
Sanders Ranch - gated community. Kitchen with granite, limestone and hardwood floors, high ceilings, new paint, carpet and appliances. New landscaping, flat yard.
\$1,090,000



SOLD ~ Orinda
Prestigious Country Club location. Charming home, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, lots of windows for natural light, gated entry. 3 bedroom. Amazing 1.6 acres
\$1,255,303



SOLD ~ Lafayette
Sought after Happy Valley location. 1+ acre, expansive lawns, pool, spa, and views. 6 bd, 4 1/2 ba., gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, wine cellar, 3-car garage.
\$2,175,000



SOLD ~ Orinda
What a view! Traditional charm, refinished hardwood floors, new paint, fixtures, and landscaping. 5 bd., 3 ba., appx. 4125sf, close-in location, great curb appeal.
\$1,630,000

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