



## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 18, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, June 11, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### School Board Meeting

##### Moraga School District

Tuesday, June 12, 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



## Police Report

D.U.I. missed the line, 5/25/12 At just after midnight, police on patrol noticed a car swerving in and out of traffic, then attempting to stop at the signal at Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road, but failing to stop at the limit line. Presumably the driver noticed the cops, because upon getting the green light, the car proceeded very slowly. The driver flunked field sobriety tests, with a blood alcohol level of 0.138%.

Broken fog light, D.U.I. 5/26/12 A Cadillac Escalade was on Miramonte Drive at 3 a.m. Cops noticed a broken fog light and pulled over the driver. The driver's red watery eyes, slurred speech and smell of alcohol was a heads up to police who placed the subject under arrest without incident and eventually took him/her to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Speeding & D.U.I. 5/27/12 Cruising along at 54 m.p.h. on Moraga Way near the Country Club, cops pulled over a 19-year-old at the bewitching hour – midnight. After flunking sobriety tests, and unable to locate a sober friend to drive him/her home, the driver was taken to Martinez Detention Facility. No glass slipper for this Cinderella.

False alarm, 5/28/12 Police responded to an audible alarm sounding at a Walford Drive home. Turns out the door leading to the garage was unlocked as well as the door leading into the house. Cops locked both doors, and checked the perimeter – all good. A neighbor mentioned the residents were out of town.

D.U.I., no slurpee for you, 5/28/12 A car drove into the 7-11 parking lot at 3:25 in the morning. Cops happened to be there and noticed his eau de alcohol cologne as he stepped out of the vehicle. With a blood alcohol level of 0.10%, just over the legal limit – and a records check that showed he was on probation for a prior D.U.I., he was arrested for probation violation along with drunk driving. Slow learner.

D.U.I. broken license plate light, 5/25/12 At 2:20 a.m. a Jeep was pulled over on Augusta Drive, for a broken license plate light – the officer noticed the smell of alcohol from the young driver. She eventually submitted to a breath test at the station which documented a 0.12% blood alcohol level. Dear old dad picked her up after she signed a notice to appear.

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## The One Percent?

Survey results indicate Moragans may be willing to pay a bit more sales tax to fix roads

By Sophie Braccini

A small crowd joined the Moraga Town Council on May 30 to hear the results of a survey that gauged residents' support for road taxes: a general one percent sales tax, with a 20-year sunset, is likely to pass on the November ballot; a parcel tax would probably fail.

The Council took the parcel tax idea off the table, and will continue to study a sales tax for inclusion on the November ballot.

Previous study sessions determined that bringing the town's "at risk" roads up to the Bay Area average would require a \$14 million investment. To bond that kind of money would require a parcel tax, coupled with a sales tax to pay for ongoing maintenance. That was the Council's intent, but the recent poll results do not line up with this strategy.

The polling consultant, Lew Ed-

wards Group/Godbe Research, called 5.5 percent of Moraga voters, or 302 residences, sampling 30 different categories of residents based on demographic criteria such as age, sex, and political party affiliation.

A 1.0 percent general sales tax received a 54 percent approval rate, with a margin of error of +/- 5.5 percent, while a specific parcel tax never got above 53.7 percent even at only \$58 a year. With just above 50 percent of residents supporting any form of taxation, the only type the Town can choose is a general purpose tax, meaning a tax that is not allocated *a priori* for a specific use; specific tax measures require a two-thirds majority in California.

"People rate street maintenance very high, higher than police services, which is quite rare," said consultant Bryan Godbe. "However, there is not

a two-thirds majority in Moraga that would support a road-only tax."

In attendance was Jerry Bradshaw, the City of El Cerrito engineer who has also been serving as a consultant for the Town of Moraga. El Cerrito passed a specific tax measure for its roads with a 71 percent majority. "How did you do it?" asked resident Dale Walwark. "Two-thirds of El Cerrito voters are Democrats," answered Godbe, who also worked with the City of El Cerrito. He added that in Moraga, women tend to support tax measures more than men do.

There is no guarantee that a general tax will be used only for road repairs, a wrinkle that worried some of the Council members. "Some people may hesitate to give us a blank check," said Mayor Mike Metcalf.

Town Manager Jill Keimach explained that the Town would bond as

large a part as possible of the revenue stream from the tax measure right after the election and allocate that money to road repairs. But it was not clear to any of the meeting's participants how much the Town would be able to borrow against a non-fixed revenue stream such as a sales tax and what collateral the Town could offer to secure the loan.

At an earlier meeting the Council determined that a sales tax alone would not suffice to fix Moraga's roads. "A sales tax would staunch the bleeding," said Metcalf. The Council agreed that once it has been able to prove to residents that their tax dollars are being put to good use, it would be possible to return to voters and ask for a second measure to raise additional funds.

In order to be on the November ballot, the tax measure needs to be formally approved by the Council in July.

## Moraga Reduces Capital Expenses

Plans for Town Offices at 329 Rheem scaled down

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council has adopted a scaled-down plan for the Town Offices at 329 Rheem Boulevard. The retrofit of the building was originally scheduled to include an Emergency Operations Center and a Community Meeting Room in which meetings of the Council, the Town's various commissions, and the community could be held. Both were crossed off the list in view of newly discovered structural problems that would have increased the project's costs; less expensive alternatives have been found close by.

Since the Town is likely to ask voters to approve new taxes for infrastructure maintenance in November, the Council seemed eager to show re-

straint in its spending decisions. At the May 23 Council meeting, Town Manager Jill Keimach proposed alternatives to the original renovation plans for 329 Rheem that should save the Town about \$400,000: A partnership with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to use one of its facilities as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the utilization of existing Town-owned space at 331 Rheem as a new meeting room.

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley spoke during the meeting. "In an emergency, we do not have an EOC. We support yours," he said. "Our station 42 (555 Moraga Road) is fully retrofitted. It has a kitchen, bedrooms, and is ready to become an

EOC."

The Town will contribute some equipment so it can access its emergency information network. The Council unanimously approved the partnership with MOFD.

The issue of the Community Meeting Room and its proposed alternative was a bit more contentious. The Town has been holding its meetings in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium for years. The rental cost amounts to about \$4,200 per year, and staff must set up and take down the audio equipment and podium, which adds to its workload. But the initial plan to build a meeting room at 339 Rheem was considered by many to be an unnecessary

luxury, so Keimach's suggestion to use existing vacant space in the Town's corporation yard at 331 Rheem was welcomed.

The Council was quick to dismiss diagonal street parking and landscaping that staff initially proposed for 331 Rheem and decided that sweeping and buying chairs would be enough. At first Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Dave Trotter wanted to table this component of the project all together. "It is a perception issue," they said. The minimalist plan was eventually approved, with Trotter casting the lone dissenting vote.

Don't plan to attend meetings in the new space anytime soon – the project has yet to be put out to bid.

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## McInturf Honored by Peers

By Sophie Braccini



Marty McInturf Photo Sophie Braccini

When Moraga's Town Clerk, Marty McInturf, attended a recent dinner meeting of the Northern California chapter of the City Clerks Association of California she was not expecting anything special. Deep in conversation with her colleagues and their spouses, she wasn't paying particular attention to the speaker—but through the din of the background noise, she suddenly recognized her name. "I turned around to see what was going on, and everyone was looking at me," she said. McInturf was unaware that she had been nominated for the Association's Award of Distinction, so the announcement that she won came as a complete surprise. Had she known, she added with a smile,

"I would have brought a camera."

"We nominated her because she really stands out," said Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach. "Marty holds two clerk positions, one full-time in Moraga, and one part-time as an elected clerk in Pleasant Hill. Both I and my Pleasant Hill counterpart nominated her. We both agree that she is very professional in all aspects of her positions, and I think that she has the strongest work ethic that I've ever seen."

McInturf said that she was already serving in Pleasant Hill when she was hired in Moraga. "I had a commitment with Pleasant Hill, I could not resign," she explained. The result is longer days and nights and double Council meeting duties. "Marty is very good at keeping both jobs separate," added Keimach. Among the other qualities that make McInturf special, according to Keimach, is her attention to detail, her sense of humor and her availability to interact with residents who call her with questions of all kinds.

McInturf, who was raised in Moraga and has a special fondness for the town, did not confirm whether or not she would run again for the Pleasant Hill position in November.