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Town Staff to Leave Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

"It's definitely low budget, Moraga way," says Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach about the completion of 329 Rheem Boulevard as a Town Hall and the creation of a meeting room and a Field Operation Center at 331 Rheem, which once housed a fire station. The remodeling began many years ago when the Town purchased the building at 329 Rheem. Staff recently confirmed that a schedule is in place for the final move of Town offices and Town Council meetings could be held at 331 Rheem early next year.

It was a promise made to the community by the Council-staff would be out of the Hacienda by 2012. Engineering staff moved from the Hacienda in January and finance staff will arrive in the Rheem offices this fall. The Parks and Recreation Department will remain conveniently located in the Hacienda, where most of the town's recreation activity takes place.

"After the Town offices are finished we will move all the storage from the apparatus bay into the Town offices and will also paint and put in flooring for that room to serve as a Council Chamber/community meeting room," says Keimach, who expects that the first Council meeting at 331 Rheem will be held at the beginning of 2013. The new location will also serve as a Field Operation Center (FOC). The formal Emergency Operation Center will still be the fire station on Moraga Road in partnership with the Moraga Orinda Fire District. "In practice this means that if 331 Rheem is structurally safe during an emergency, we will hold our operations from there," adds Keimach. "If it isn't safe or operational, we will move to the fire station since that was built to a higher standard structurally."

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