



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
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

Bicycle fairy? 11/28/12 A resident of Chalda Way found a bike abandoned on the driveway of her complex. Cops took possession of the bike to prevent it from being stolen, no details on the particulars of this bicycle, but if you're missing one, call Moraga P.D.

Traffic accident, 11/25/12 A pedestrian was crossing the street from the Dollar Store to the parking lot when an elderly female driver hit him. The fellow had moderate injuries but refused to be taken to the hospital. Cops gave the driver a ride home.

D.U.I., 11/24/12 What were you thinking? A driver failed to yield while making a right turn onto Moraga Road and in doing so cut off a Moraga police officer on patrol. The driver was given a series of field sobriety tests and flunked – turned out he had a blood alcohol level of 0.16 percent, enough to get a free ride to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Another D.U.I., 11/24/12 Cops pulled over a white BMW at 1:50 a.m. on Corliss near Crossbrook due to a burnt out rear license plate light. The driver looked less than sober with red, watery eyes, slurred speech and smelled like booze. This person also took field sobriety tests and flunked. He signed a promise to appear notice and was later released to his sister.

Happy ending, 11/23/12 Someone found a cell phone on top of Mulholland Ridge, the location of a popular hiking trail and off-leash dog area. A good citizen turned it in to the police department who located the owner, a 15-year-old male who lives in town. Phone was later released to the father of young man.

Residential burglary, 11/22/12 Sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day an unknown subject forced entry into a Rheem Blvd. home through the locked front door. The homeowner reported that a laptop and miscellaneous jewelry were taken. No leads at this time. How's that for giving thanks?

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Measure K Passed, Now What?

By Sophie Braccini

Don't check your receipts just yet for the extra 1 percent sales tax Moraga residents overwhelmingly approved Nov. 6; it won't take effect until April 1, 2013. In the meantime, the Moraga Town Council and finance staff will work on putting together an oversight committee and setting in place a mechanism that will allow the town to bundle a good portion of the tax revenue. The Public Works Department will also get its shovels ready and prep the roads for the needed repairs. If all goes according to plan, residents should start seeing their Measure K dollars at work in the summer of 2013.

Not only did Moraga residents go to the polls in record numbers – over 80 percent, the highest rate in the county – but they overwhelmingly supported Measure K, which increases the sales tax by 1 percent to raise money for road and infrastructure repair. The numbers came as a nice surprise to town officials because last May the polling

agency Godbe Research predicted that a fairly slim majority would vote in favor of the measure.

In his State of the Town presentation in November, Mayor Mike Metcalf chalked up the discrepancy to the major outreach efforts conducted by a small group of Measure K volunteers led by John Haffner.

Metcalf also asked and answered the question, "Now what?" The election results have just been certified. Metcalf said that the next tasks for the town council entering the new year will consist of appointing an independent oversight committee and working with what he called the "bond team" to obtain a few million dollars immediately to address delayed infrastructure maintenance.

According to Sam Sperry, a Moraga resident and recently retired municipal bond attorney with 40 years of experience in the area of California land-secured and bond financing, the only available mechanism for linking general fund revenue to a borrowing

transaction, which the town has used previously, is a lease and lease-back of town-owned real property assets. The Constitution of California requires a two-thirds voter approval to legally pledge general fund revenue in the form of a bond. Measure K was placed on the ballot with a simple majority requirement only. Eileen Gallagher, from the investment banking firm of Stone & Youngberg with whom the Town works, concurs. Beyond that, she would not be more specific at this time, since the discussions with the Town have not started yet. "A better term than bond would be securities," said Gallagher. The council is expected to review options in January.

Town Engineer and Public Works Director Edric Kwan is putting his study team in place. "I am currently developing a great pavement management consultant team and will be issuing Requests for Proposals for pavement design services and for construction management/inspection services," he said. He will be using this fiscal year's pavement

funds of \$200,000 to prepare streets (base repairs) for the next fiscal year's construction project, treating various streets with a rubberized cape seal. "Town Council authorized me to apply for grant funding from CalRecycle that will reuse old California tires in the rubberized cape seal treatment." He added, "If the grant's awarded, the additional funding will augment our Measure K funding."

According to Kwan, StreetSaver software (a pavement management program) has identified a list of potential street segments that are appropriate for a rubberized cape seal treatment. This preliminary list will be refined based on additional field observations and professional input from the town's consultants. "If all goes well, we anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2013," said Kwan. "There will be a heavy emphasis on public outreach, potentially with Measure K signage on more visible streets like arterials and perhaps some collectors."

Who Will Be Moraga's Next Mayor?

By Sophie Braccini

Who will be Moraga's next mayor? Your guess is as good as ours. Usually, the vice-mayor becomes the mayor the following year; but the current vice-mayor, Howard Harpham, did not run for re-election this year. To add to the confusion, during the last election of a mayor and vice-mayor, the town's long tradition of elevating members of the town council to the mayor's seat according to the num-

ber of votes they received in the general election was broken. At the council's Dec. 12 meeting two new members will take their seats and a new mayor will be selected.

Before you break out your crystal ball, here are a few points to consider:

In Moraga you can't be mayor two times in a row—so it won't be Mayor Mike Metcalf again in 2013.

It seems unlikely that one of the two rookies, Phillip Arth or Roger

Wykle, would be chosen—their experience of public affairs is too limited, although Wykle has served on the Planning Commission for three years.

That leaves Ken Chew and Dave Trotter most likely to be mayor. After Trotter's turn was passed up last year when Karen Mendonca nominated Howard Harpham as vice-mayor, the council adopted a non-binding notation: "The Town

desires to fairly rotate the offices of Mayor and Vice Mayor of the Town Council among the five members of the Council." Since Chew was the mayor in 2010 and Trotter in 2009, we predict that in 2013 it will be Mayor Trotter and Vice-Mayor Chew.

But the Moraga Town Council has proven itself capable of surprising even its most dedicated observers.

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The Rheem Theater

Hollywood Studios are going digital and we need your help to keep the Rheem Theatre doors open! In order to continue serving the community all the projectors need to be converted to digital format by 2013, at a whopping 70k for each projector.

The support from the Lamorinda Community is what will save this beloved theater which serves many local schools, senior groups, and local organizations.

Thank you for your support!