



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, March 12, 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

Residential burglary, 2/04/13 A Calle la Mesa resident left the house for only an hour in the middle of the afternoon, returning at 2:45 p.m., to find the front door unlocked and the side garage door kicked in. The suspect(s) took several possessions. A white sedan with a rear spoiler was seen in the victim's driveway during the time of the burglary. Police ask that citizens remain alert and report anything suspicious to Moraga P.D. – Officer Jeff Price (925) 260-2143.

Audible alarm, 2/04/12 Turns out the cleaning lady did it. Police responded to a Tharp Drive home and found that the housekeeper accidentally set off the alarm, no harm done.

Undocumented solicitor, 2/04/13 A solicitor was in the Laird Drive area and was checked for a solicitor's permit. Alas, no permit, so he was asked to refrain from making door to door sales calls until one was acquired.

Another residential burglary, 2/04/13 A Larch Drive homeowner was away for a short time in the morning when the front door was forced open. Many items were missing including jewelry, bank information, and a passport. Fingerprints were collected and the case is currently under investigation.

Trouble at Campo, 2/01/13 A non-student teenager came on campus without a legitimate purpose and was belligerent toward students and school staff. He was removed from campus. School staff was able to identify the young man and the associate principal advised him that if he returned to the school he would be charged with trespassing.

Drunk in public, 2/01/13 Eight teenagers were in front of Home Goods a bit after 9 p.m. on a Friday night, it was clear they had been drinking alcoholic beverages. During the investigation, one of the teens attempted to flee, but was restrained. This kid was arrested for being drunk in public, and being in possession of an undisclosed alcoholic beverage and resisting arrest – he was taken to the hospital, then placed in the care of Contra Costa County Child Protective Services. The seven other teens were released to their parents.



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A Promise Kept: Town Staff Moves Out of Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini



Yuliya Elbo (standing) and Beth Cowley were among the last staff members to leave the Hacienda de las Flores for 329 Rheem. Photos Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council and staff made a promise to residents in 2009 – all town departments except Parks and Recreation would vacate the Hacienda de las Flores within a few years so it could be returned to its intended usage as a recreation/community center. It took longer than predicted, but on Feb. 1 the last staff member left the historical building for the now fully re-organized Town Hall at 329 Rheem. It was done “Moraga-style,” with a budget that shrunk from an initial \$1.4 million to \$200,000—a few improvements got dropped along the way.

“We’ve done it on a dime, and it looks pretty good,” commented Town Clerk Marty McInturf. The Planning Department is on the ground floor to the left as you enter the building and the police are still to the right. Taking the stairs, or riding up in the new ADA-compliant elevator, to the second floor, residents will find Public Works to the right of the landing, and to the left the Town Clerk, a part-time assistant, the Town Manager and the Administrative Services Department. Only the three-person strong Parks and Recreation Department remains

at the Hacienda. “When I took my job at the end of 2010 I was made aware of the emotional charge for many residents regarding the issue of retrofitting 329 Rheem and moving staff out of the Hacienda,” remembers Town Manager Jill Keimach. “The goal-setting session of 2011 set the time of the move to the end of 2011.” Keimach came back with a plan and was asked to add a Council Chamber to the building. “My original plan’s cost was around \$1.4 million,” she said. “The council rejected the plan and we started to scale back.”

The Council Chamber was taken out of the picture – a modest meeting room will open at 331 Rheem instead – parking improvements were canceled, and solar panels removed from the plan. The biggest cost element that got slashed was a seismic retrofit. “The hill behind the building is unstable anyway,” said Keimach. “It would not make sense to spend millions retrofitting a building under these circumstances.”

“Once we took the seismic retrofit out of the picture we started rethinking the inside layout to minimize

work,” said Keimach.

“I like it a lot,” said Administrative Services Technician Beth Cowley a few days after the move. Accountant Yuliya Elbo added that she thought she would miss the Hacienda but has not, yet. “It’s nice to have al-

most everybody in one place,” said Keimach. “The decision of the council to have it done for less was the right one. We do what we can with what we have, and we’re not competing with other cities with our buildings.”

What Happens Next?



Kim Burrowes

The second and third floor of the Hacienda de las Flores are now empty of people, although not of archives and documents of all sorts. “The Hacienda was purchased in 1973 to become a park and community center,” recalled George Fisher of the Moraga Movers. “Our group considers the Hacienda as their home, and we urge the council to return it to its original designation.”

Fisher is delighted that staff left, and he will participate in a celebration organized by Ellen Beans and the Moraga Citizens Network to thank staff on Valentine’s Day.

The Hacienda Foundation was created to enhance, promote and preserve the building and grounds. “We are happy about this move,” said foundation president Steve Woehleke. “This gives us the opportunity to pursue a strategic plan for the Hacienda.”

But what to do with all the space that is not ADA compliant? Nobody seems to have a plan right now for what can be done upstairs, even once an elevator is installed. The first floor is far from being saturated with recreation activities, and the upstairs used to be the living quarters of the Rheem family; it has plenty of charm and a great view, but century-old amenities.

“We could turn it into bridal suites,” speculated Kim Burrowes of the Parks and Recreation Department. “People who rent the place for weddings ask about living quarters, and there is nothing in Moraga.” The Hacienda Foundation plans to present its vision to the town at the end of 2013 or early in 2014. *S.Braccini*

Oversight Committee Seeks Applicants

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council recently adopted the final resolution creating the Citizens’ Oversight Committee that will review and report annually on the receipt of revenue and expenditure of funds from the town’s new 1 percent sales tax. Now the town is looking for volunteers inter-


ested in serving on the new committee.

The committee will be comprised of seven members serving two-year terms, meeting between two and four times per year or as reasonably determined by themselves or the council. It will review the status and performance of the programs

and services funded wholly or partially with proceeds from the tax, and will prepare an independent annual report for the council. The committee will not review or recommend road repair projects.

Residents with expertise in finance and accounting (preferably public sector finance); pavement

management and engineering; capital project management; and public affairs and communications are encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply has been extended until noon Feb. 20. Applications can be found online at www.moraga.ca.us and must be submitted to the town clerk at 329 Rheem Blvd.



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Solar Cost after incentives	\$7,439.88	\$12,089.81	\$17,669.72	\$23,249.63	\$26,039.58	\$30,689.51	\$36,269.42	\$40,919.34	\$46,499.25	
Average Electric Usage (kWh) in 20 years	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,250	
Average Electric Bill in 20 years	\$119	\$306	\$599	\$910	\$1,221	\$1,532	\$1,843	\$2,154	\$2,465	
Bill with Comerford Solar ₂	\$18	\$46	\$90	\$137	\$183	\$230	\$276	\$323	\$370	
*Savings over 20 years with Solar	\$14,034.26	\$36,085.33	\$70,752.12	\$107,457.12	\$144,162.11	\$180,867.11	\$217,572.11	\$254,277.10	\$290,982.10	

*Based on 6.7% inflation from the utility company. ²Includes all necessary expenses ³Combination of Utility Company and PPA