



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 1, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

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

Cranky neighbors, 6/10/13 A resident of Woodminster Drive isn't happy. The subject reportedly walks around the neighborhood and talks too loud and is sometimes rude to a person who called police with a heads-up. The caller requested information on how to best handle the situation. Moments later the cranky neighbor called police and wished to file a report of threats. This woman stated that she was welcoming some new neighbors into the complex and the reporting person threatened to call the police. Both parties were advised to stay away from each other and seek restraining orders if necessary.

Speeding, 6/09/13 A 16-year-old female was going 50 mph down Moraga Road, never a great combination. The young lady was found to be in violation of her provisional driving restriction for having a passenger during her first year with a license along with the obvious speeding ticket. She was cited for both violation and entered into the Juvenile Diversion Program – a nice alternative for first offenders and she'll be enjoying driver safety class as well.

Extreme Intoxication, 6/09/13 Police responded to assist the Moraga Orinda Fire District with a very drunk woman. Fire personnel had already loaded her into the ambulance when police arrived – no evidence of external injuries or a crime. The subject's husband was already on the scene and followed the ambulance to the hospital.

Car versus mailbox, 6/09/13 A solo traffic incident occurred on Rheem Boulevard near Scofield. A Jeep Wrangler with an 18-year-old driver appeared to have lost control of the car to avoid hitting another car that had stopped to turn left onto Scofield. The car veered off the road, hit a mail box and overturned. Thankfully no one was hurt.

Another mailbox bites the dust, 6/09/13 This time on Bollinger Canyon at Valley Hill Drive at 3 a.m. Police responded and found two male subjects passed out in the car. The driver was arrested for D.U.I. The car had to be towed from the scene.

Car versus many mailboxes, 6/09/13 Must have been some party. It was just before 6 a.m. on Bollinger Canyon near Valley Hill when a silver car collided with a group of mailboxes. Police contacted the driver and his passenger who were asleep inside the car – which was still in "drive" with the driver's foot on the brake. Not surprisingly the driver failed field sobriety tests and was arrested for drunk driving.



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Council Awards Low Bid for Road Repairs

Metcalf warns that you get what you pay for

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council awarded a construction contract for its 2013 paving campaign to Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt on June 12, despite Public Works Director Edric Kwan's recommendation to the contrary. The council also ignored an impassioned plea by Councilmember Mike Metcalf to award the contract to VSS International, Inc. instead.

Rules to bid and award contracts are very constraining for public agencies. Contracts must go the lowest compliant bidder and cannot give any consideration to other factors such as experience or perceived quality. The rule protects taxpayer money, but does not guarantee the choice of the most competent party,

as Metcalf argued.

The contract for this summer's planned road repairs is over \$2 million. A difference of \$250,000 between bids was enough to convince the other council members that it was better to go with the lower bidder, even though that bidder didn't have experience with the specific road treatments chosen and had failed to provide the required waste assessment form as part of the bid package.

Kwan received proposals from five contractors. "Three of the more experienced ones in the area of rubberized cape seal had proposals in the same price range," commented Kwan. "There was a big price gap with the two lowest bidders." Kwan said that Central Valley Engineering

and Asphalt does not have experience in rubberized cape seals, but otherwise satisfies the requirements listed in the bid. Kwan recommended declaring it non-compliant because of its omission of the waste assessment form.

But Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt filed a non-responsive bid protest with the town and three of the four council members present supported it. "We have signed a service contract with Harris & Associates to provide construction management and inspection services for the project," said Councilmember Roger Wykle. "We can be confident they will catch anything standard."

Metcalf, a strong proponent of

minimal government and budgetary frugality, did not think that the quarter million savings was worth what he perceived to be a risk for the town. Later in the meeting, when Judy Dinkle reported on work recently done at the Hacienda de las Flores, Metcalf asked, "What is your assessment of the contractor in terms of quality?" Dinkle replied, "This contractor didn't meet the quality standards that we were expecting. It required an extraordinary amount of babysitting to get the quality outcome we wanted with the labor pool we were awarded."

"When you hire the lowest bidder this is what you get," said Metcalf, "but we keep on doing it over and over again."

Moraga's Five-Year Financial Plan

By Sophie Braccini

"This is just a projection made on assumptions, but it is important to see where we are heading—the plan will be updated every year to serve as a dynamic road map," Administrative Services Director Stephanie Hom told the Moraga Town Council as she presented the town's first five-year financial plan.

"It is absolutely essential to look out that far and I am very pleased that the council asked for it," said Hom. "But you also have to take it with a grain of salt, because it is very hard to predict. So I have made very conser-

vative projections for our revenue sources, the property tax, projecting a 0.5 to 1 percent growth, and we will monitor this."

Hom projected a 3 percent average growth for the sales tax and franchise fees, Planning Department revenues that should continue to recover costs, and lowered expectations from the Parks and Recreation Department that has produced less revenue than anticipated (the number of weddings declined and fees for such events have been reduced to keep pace with the competition).

On the expense side, health care costs are expected to increase by 12 percent per year. "This projection is based on our experience and our usage," said Hom, "and there are a lot of unknowns, since a lot of things hinge on the Affordable Care Act. We are small so we can't spread the cost, and no one knows what will happen in January. We chose Kaiser and Blue Shield, but these companies do not put out projections for more than one year."

Pension funds are also a big unknown. The town has no unfunded pension liability at this time, but it is

part of a bigger pool. "Previous councils did not give generous pension plans when everybody else was doing it; we stayed at the low end of pension plans, which has done the city finances good," said Hom.

The result is that the projected budget shows a small surplus until the 2015-16 fiscal year, when it suggests a deficit. "This is how it could look," said Hom, "because we made pretty conservative assumptions." The plan will be updated annually and if circumstances change.

Temporary Signs Flourish Along Scenic Corridor

Town tries to restore order

By Sophie Braccini

They are hard to miss – those tall, flapping signs that two gas stations have erected along Moraga Road. They aren't actually

allowed to be there, yet they remain.

Moraga does not have a temporary sign ordinance, so anyone who

wants to display a temporary sign or banner must request approval from the town and the signs can only be up for a limited time. Ap-

proval is not always granted, but the consequences of not seeking approval are a little fuzzy.

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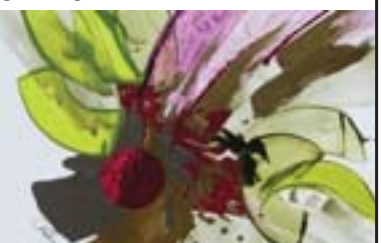
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Group show @ the Moraga Library in July!

During the month of July, the artists of Moraga Art Gallery are having a group show at the Moraga Public Library. Stop by and check it out!

www.moragaartgallery.com

522 CENTER STREET RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER MORAGA, CA 94556
Open Wednesday thru Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. 925-376-5407