



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's 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

Car vandalism, 8/04/13 Cops responded to a Woodminster Drive home to check on vehicles parked in front of the residence that had been covered in paint and flour. One of the cars had sexually explicit and derogatory phrases painted on it that would not wash off. Estimated damage \$350. No suspects or leads at this time. The vandal should know that "using your words" generally refers to talking it out – not trashing a car.

Gotta go, 8/02/13 Police checked on a report of public urination by a juvenile male at a corner of the skate park wall. Cops found the scofflaw and advised him of the severity of his actions. The young man was extremely apologetic and cooperative. He said he had waited too long to relieve himself and simply couldn't make it to the restroom. He promised never to do it again.

Identity theft, 8/01/13 A Calle La Montana resident reported that she was informed via email of an unknown person applying for a credit card in her name. Apparently the suspect got a card and used it at department stores in Pleasant Hill and Brentwood. The victim never gave an okay for others to shop on her dime.

Identity theft, 8/02/13 A La Quinta resident reported a possible identity theft. A mystery person used the victim's debit card to shop online, spending about \$600 over the course of a few days in early August. Bank of America is investigating and the resident has been reimbursed for the fraud.

Not legitimate help wanted, 8/03/13 A woman applied for a caregiver position that was advertised on Craigslist. She and the potential employer exchanged emails and she shared her checking account information. Bank of America's fraud department contacted her and advised her that the account had been compromised. Over \$800 was taken.

Send money scam, 7/31/13 A Fernwood Drive resident came to the police department to report that she had been a victim of fraud. She received a call from someone purporting to be her son, claiming that he was in jail in southern California and required money to post bond. An alleged police officer came on the line and told her how to wire the \$2,400. After the wire was complete, she received more calls requesting additional money. Now suspicious, she called her son, who turned out not to be in jail and had never called asking for money. The scam phone calls originated in Canada.



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Work in Process

Planning Commission hits a snag; approves design review changes

By Sophie Braccini

A Moraga Planning Commission vote on modifications to the town's setback requirements had to be postponed because a final draft resolution was not available at its July 29 meeting. Homeowners in attendance were visibly frustrated – many have projects on hold pending clarification of the setback limits for older homes.

Despite lengthy discussion of the modifications at earlier meetings and concurrence among the majority of

commissioners as to what the final regulation should look like, chair Frank Comprelli determined that in the absence of a draft document no vote to conclude the issue could take place and the item was continued to an unspecified future date.

Since the commission's Aug. 19 meeting has been canceled, Sept. 2 is the earliest date commissioners could consider the resolution that would clarify rules regarding home extensions for older residences that were

constructed before the town established its own setback limits. County rules were somewhat different than the town's and were not enforced as stringently. The new ordinance would affect thousands of residents. After the commission votes on the resolution, the Moraga Town Council will make the final decision.

Also on the agenda, listed under "Routine and Other Matters," was the first study session on possible revisions to rules governing devel-

opment on slopes, ridgelines and open space. Residents unfamiliar with the town's processes were stunned that the commission's consideration of a major issue was not noticed well in advance, but this first study session was just a preliminary discussion of a topic that's likely to open months, if not years, of public hearings at which residents will have ample opportunity to present their views and arguments. ... continued on page A8

Residents Ask Questions about Road Repair Project

By Celia Magidson and Sophie Braccini

Most Moragans are now aware that the 2013 pavement campaign has begun. Repairs will be followed by rubber chip-sealing and microsurfacing. The work should be finished by the end of September, weather permitting.

On Aug. 5, Moraga's public works director, Edric Kwan, held two public meetings with construction manager Ryan Perry, of Harris and Associates, and Mike Koenig, project manager with VSS International, the company doing the road work. Residents shared their concerns, which largely revolved around mitigation of the disruptions to their daily lives due to the massive repair project.

The first concern residents asked about was the impact of road closures – once the repairs are done the second phase, rubber chip-seal and microsurfacing, will result in roads being closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. "When a road is closed, will one lane only be closed or the whole street?" asked one

woman. "It will depend on the length of the street," responded Perry. "If it is long, we'll address one lane at a time; if it is a short road, it will be entirely closed."

An older gentleman wondered about parking while the roads are closed. "How will we know when not to park?" he asked. Kwan said that a notice will be sent to all affected residents regarding the upcoming work one to two weeks before construction begins; in addition, the construction team will install removable signs along the affected streets with dates and times when parking is prohibited. Another resident asked if acceptable parking zones would be identified; as it turns out, it is the responsibility of residents to check the map on the town's website and pay attention to the street signs.

Kwan added that the very best way to keep up with what's going on is by consulting the Facebook page that's updated by his staff throughout

the day. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account, explained Kwan, "you can go to the town's website and click on the link to the page." The direct address of the page is www.facebook.com/MoragaMeasureK.

A woman expressed concerns regarding the passage of emergency vehicles on closed streets. "In case of emergency, the construction crew will spread sand on the surface so emergency vehicles can drive without too much damage to the work," explained Perry. Kwan concurred and assured the resident that emergency vehicles would have access at all times if needed.

And if you're out of town or simply refuse to cooperate? "What happens if someone does not move their car is that someone will go and knock on their front door. If no action follows, the police will be called, and the vehicle will be removed at the owner's expense," answered Kwan.

Another woman asked if bad weather in the fall could affect the construction planning. "The work will have to be interrupted if it rains," responded Perry. "Both rubber chip-seal and microsurfacing need dry weather, with a minimum outside temperature of 40 to 50 degrees."

The last questions reflected concerns about the quality of the road treatment. One resident asked whether there is a risk that the microsurfacing treatment will start peeling on streets that are heavily used. "In Yosemite, we applied the same treat-

ment," responded Perry. "Those are roads that see hundreds of tourists daily, and the road treatment has remained very smooth, as anticipated." As to how long these treatments will preserve the roads, Perry said that the lifespan of microsurfacing is an average of 7 to 8 years.

Perry said after the meeting that the contractor is scheduled to start the rubber chip-sealing and microsurfacing treatment by Aug. 26 and that the first affected areas will be in the southern part of town— streets off Larch Avenue, Canyon Road, and Sanders Drive.

Moraga Gets Over \$7 Million for Roads

In early August, Quint and Thimmig, LLP, informed the town of Moraga that the sale of its Certificates of Participation had been completed for a total of \$7,918,327. In a note to town council members, town manager Jill Keimach indicated that the sale had been very successful given the market over the past several months and the continuing up-tick of interest rates. She did not have a complete list of purchasers but wrote that Schwab Muni Fund was the largest purchaser. S.Braccini

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