



# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

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

### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 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

### School Board Meeting

#### Moraga School District

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 pm  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2



## Police Report

**Trick, no treat 10/28/13** Sometime during the night, unknown suspects sprayed large blue and white block letters in the bowl portion of the Moraga skate park. Damage is estimate at \$500. No suspects or leads at this time. Police report doesn't spell out the vandal's message, but surely it was worth getting arrested over.

**Loud dog, 10/27/13** An anonymous reporting person advised police that a dog had been barking for approximately six hours in an Ascot Drive apartment. Upon arrival at nearly 1 a.m. police didn't hear the barking dog. Did the poor fellow bark himself out?

**Slow learner, 10/26/13** Police pulled over a Dodge pick-up truck for failing to stop at the posted stop sign on Camino Pablo at Hodges Drive around 11 p.m. Turns out the 46-year-old male driver had a driver's license that was suspended due to a prior DUI. The car was left locked and the gentleman, who was cited, called a friend for a ride, because he isn't allowed to drive.

**Post bumped, 10/26/13** A Black Chevrolet SUV backed into a concrete post at Joaquin Moraga Middle School in the middle of the afternoon. The paved base of the post buckled and now the post is tilted. The unknown female driver got out of her car, looked at the damage, then left the scene. Police are currently investigating because the woman's license plate number was noted.

**Driving while very intoxicated, 10/26/13** Moraga Police stopped an Infiniti at 2 a.m. on Donald Drive near Carroll Drive for speeding. The 33-year-old driver smelled suspiciously like alcohol. Upon taking field sobriety tests, his blood alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit at 0.233 percent. This was not his first brush with the law, the fellow's driver's license was suspended due to a prior DUI. His car was towed and he was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility. Like déjà vu all over again, except worse.

**Mysterious stinky package at SMC, 10/24/13** Mailroom workers at Saint Mary's College discovered a padded envelope with what they describe as a "foul odor." The package was delivered to the campus Public Safety office, personnel there called the Moraga Police. What could it be inside? No need for the bomb squad. Cops wisely contacted the addressee, and determined that the package contained smoked trout. At the request of the recipient the package was disposed of by campus Public Safety staff. Perhaps best to stick with cookies, new socks, or even better – a shiny new check.



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## The Bridge to Canyon

By Sophie Braccini



Canyon Road bridge

Photo Andy Scheck

It's a bucolic little bridge over a nice creek. The dilapidated, 24-foot wide structure provides emergency services access to the unincorporated community of Canyon. It serves as one of only three exit routes out of Moraga and is shared 6,000 times a day by cars, bicycles and pedestrians. The Canyon Road bridge, located where the road narrows at the edge of town, is modest in appearance but serves a vital function. After a Caltrans inspection revealed the bridge to be structurally deficient, Moraga's public works director, Edric Kwan, started researching engineering solutions.

The Canyon Road bridge, called

the "white bridge" by Canyon residents, was built in 1936 and passes over the west branch of the San Leandro Creek. The bridge is eligible for replacement, Kwan told the Moraga Town Council Oct. 23 as he presented his plan. The proposed new bridge will be 40 feet wide, accommodate future bike lanes, and have a sidewalk on one side. The new construction will be able to weather an earthquake, which is not at all a given for the current bridge.

Kwan explained that his preliminary study suggests two possibilities as far as the timing of the construction of a replacement bridge: all construction work could take place in a single

season – April to October – and would cut off access to the bridge; or the work could be completed over two years, addressing one side of the bridge at a time.

"I agree that the project is a good idea; it's the implementation that concerns me," said Canyon resident and emergency preparedness expert Jonathan Goodwin. "Surely the first option would be cheaper, but it would increase Code 3 medical, fire and police response to Canyon from about 12 minutes to around 30 minutes. The potential for loss of life or catastrophic fire would be greatly increased," Goodwin stated, adding that it seemed to him that emergency re-

sponse from Oakland would be infeasible.

Kwan said after the meeting that he is aware this is a major issue for Canyon residents and his plan includes a large community outreach and input campaign to take into account the needs of all constituencies.

Canyon resident and former Caltrans employee S. Eric Olafsson also commented after the meeting and proposed a different alternative: build a better new bridge. "The present bridge is on a horrible alignment, where you need to turn sharply to get on," he said. "I would think they could take a small portion of the pear orchard and build a new bridge on an improved alignment, without demolishing the old bridge until the opening of the new one."

The pear orchard property belongs to the Moraga School District.

The Town Council authorized Kwan to contract with Nolte Vertical 5 of Walnut Creek for an amount not to exceed \$567,016 for civil engineering and bridge design services. Kwan secured funding for the study through Caltrans and the Measure J Transportation Sales Tax. Construction of the bridge will not start until 2015.

## Fields of the Future

### School district and town plan to work together

By Sophie Braccini

Although the setting was formal and distant, there was no chill in the air at a joint meeting of the Moraga School District and the Town Council on Oct. 22. After listening to a presentation on the district's financial future, the Town Council proposed to revive the joint committee whose work led to the town providing funding for the renovation of the sports field at Camino Pablo Elementary School. The school district

agreed to start looking into planning the renovation of the middle school's fields, and proposed to extend the dialogue on sharing sports resources to the high school and college. The joint committee will be comprised of two council members and two school district board members, and will start its work early in 2014.

Concerned about the welfare of the school district, Councilmember Michael Metcalf asked the school

board what kind of impact that future developments, which are now on the drawing board in Moraga, would have on their finances. Jill Keimach, the town manager, listed those projects but noted that forecasting an exact time when they would translate into actual population growth is a crystal ball exercise. The first development, that could be on the market in the next couple of years, is the 26-home Summerhill project on Camino Ricardo; the others are probably four to 15 years in the future.

Superintendent Bruce Burns replied to Metcalf's question by saying that the answer is not clear cut – new students translate into additional revenue, but the state does not fund students at the actual cost of their education.

Mayor David Trotter broached the revival of the sports fields subcommittee to plan for additional cooperation between the town and school district to improve the quality of the fields and

access by sports groups.

The logical place to start, according to the mayor, is at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, which has multiple sports fields in need of amendment.

School district board member Shari Simon proposed to include in the discussion all of the institutions that could share sports fields, such as Saint Mary's College and Campolindo High School; the Town Council supported the idea of widening the conversation.

Simon volunteered to serve on the joint committee and disclosed her position on the board of the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club, as did board member Charles McNulty. As the Town Council representatives, Trotter nominated himself and Metcalf. Keimach will develop a charter with parks and recreation director Jay Ingram and invite Campolindo and Saint Mary's College to join the discussion.

## LUNCH 'N LEARN - 11/19

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