



# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

#### Special meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m.

#### Regular meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, March 3, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, March 10, 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, March 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

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# Moraga Council Steps (Almost) into 21st Century

By Sophie Braccini

Watching a Town Council meeting from the comfort and privacy of your home, maybe with a glass of Chardonnay by your side, is a patriot's dream about to come true in Moraga – as long as you're not in too much of a hurry. On Feb. 15, the Moraga Town Council approved the purchase of an audio-visual system for the soon to be completed council chamber at 331 Rheem Blvd. that will enable the town to broadcast public meetings.

The first delay is temporary – the retrofit of 331 Rheem Blvd. is not quite finished and some electrical work needs to be done before the system can be installed. Town manager Jill Keimach predicts that the first meetings will be held, and

recorded, in the new council chamber before the end of the year.

Those who want to see the action as it unfolds will still have to attend the meetings in person; the initial system does not include the creation of a Moraga channel that would broadcast live streaming. “We thought about it,” said Keimach, “but the problem would be to populate (the channel) between meetings.” The solution is to use Contra Costa TV, but that’s shared by several jurisdictions and is unavailable at the time the Town Council meets. “The meetings will be available to be viewed online and on TV within 24 to 48 hours,” promises Keimach. A live Internet stream is possible but, due to the additional cost, would be used only in an emergency.

“Silicon Connections, LLC will design, furnish, install and provide training on a complete audio-visual and IT system for the Town of Moraga Council Chambers,” said its principal, Mark Dahlen, during the meeting. Keimach reminded the Town Council that video recording of council meetings, intended to increase transparency in local government, has been on the agenda since 2006. “But to make this happen, the town needed to have its own meeting room where the equipment can be permanently installed,” she said.

The equipment purchased for \$165,000 includes three high definition remote controlled cameras with production switcher for live event recording, three high definition wall-mounted displays, switchable to view sources including table/podium mounted laptop connection stations, two computer sources, one document camera, Apple Air-Play devices and DVD/Blu-Ray sources, and four assisted hearing devices with multiple microphone inputs. Silicon Connection will set up the control room with a production desk outfitted with camera and video production-editing capabilities.

“We get \$35,000 a year of grant money from Comcast that we have never spent and that will cover the capital cost,” explained Keimach. “We’ll recruit interns to operate the cameras during the meetings,” she added, noting that the Planning, Design Review and Parks and Recreation meetings could also be recorded.

Because 331 Rheem Blvd. is outfitted with a power generator and batteries for uninterrupted electricity, the system will also be useful in a disaster. “In case of an emergency, all you have to do is to push the ‘EOC’ button to put the system in the emergency command center mode,” explained Dahlen. “Monitors will come up and

you can select which information channel you want to monitor. The guest Wi-Fi Internet will be accessible to anyone flowing into the room, accessed from a laptop or one of the two onsite computers. The EOC system also supports live broadcast to the Internet for public announcements,” at an additional cost that would be marginal in the context of an emergency.

Since the new council chamber will have Wi-Fi, Councilmember Mike Metcalf asked about going paperless during meetings. “I can just use my computer during the meeting and will not have to carry all the pages of the packet,” he suggested. Keimach said the idea is possible, but to go completely paperless the town would need to acquire software that would allow council members to annotate reports online.

Metcalf also asked about remote display of the meeting in a larger facility, such as the nearby Rheem Theatre, in case more residents are expected to attend a meeting than will fit into the council chamber, which has a capacity of 60. “You can do that anywhere that has an internet connection,” confirmed Dahlen. “All you need is a projector and a small decoder. Sending the video and audio somewhere else is very easy.”



## Moraga Police Department

**D.U.I. 2/17/14** A 17-year-old driver was pulled over for speeding on Camino Pablo at 1 a.m. The officer on duty noticed the smell of alcohol and non-burnt marijuana coming from the inside of the car. The teen driver flunked his field sobriety test and to make matters worse a small amount of suspected cocaine was found on the driver.

**Pajama fireworks? 2/15/14** A male subject was found standing on a fire trail near Mulholland Ridge dressed in a T-shirt and pajama pants in the rain at 10:15 p.m. and was reported to have fireworks. When an officer tried to contact the fellow from 50 yards away, he began to growl and hiss, then took a fighting stance and refused to talk. With help from Lafayette police the individual was approached and he attempted to fight with the cops, never a good choice. In police lingo, a Conducted Energy Device (a taser) was deployed, but the subject continued to violently struggle and was eventually handcuffed. The gentleman later stated he wanted the officers to hurt him and that he also wanted “suicide by cop.” He was placed on a ‘danger to self’ hold and taken to the Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District where he was seen by a mental health professional.

**Panhandling, 2/15/14** Police made contact with a 43-year-old Concord resident who was panhandling at a large grocery store with his pit bull. He told police he was simply looking for employment. He left without incident after he was given a warning. Nothing really says approachable like a pit bull.

**Car vs. leg 2/15/14** A 65-year-old driver was attempting to park on Augusta Drive and failed to put her Nissan Sentra into park as she exited the vehicle. The driver got tangled up in her safety belt, fell to the ground, and the car ran over her leg. She complained of pain and was taken to John Muir Medical Center by the fire department.

**Large party, 2/15/14** Cops were dispatched to Country Club Drive on a report of a loud party with approximately 100 college-age people inside and outside the residence drinking alcoholic beverages. It was only 11 p.m. but apparently guests were already on their way out when their hosts were issued a “Loud or Unruly Party Warning” notice.

**Dirty pool, 2/12/14** Moraga police officers were flagged down by a Redwing Place resident who stated someone dumped dirt in her pool and then used a pool brush to spread the dirt around. Unfortunately the homeowner didn’t see or hear anything suspicious. Future dirt devils beware, extra patrols will be cruising the neighborhood.

**In addition, the following crimes were reported between Feb. 11 and Feb. 18:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Loud party</b>               | Rheem Blvd   |
| <b>Petty theft</b>              | Redfield Pl  |
| <b>Grand theft</b>              | Deerfield Dr                                       |
| <b>False alarms</b>             | Moraga Rd,<br>Merrill Circle South,<br>Spyglass Ln |
| <b>Danger to self</b>           | Moraga Wy  |
| <b>Soliciting</b>               | several neighborhoods                              |
| <b>Vandalism</b>                | Miramonte Dr                                       |
| <b>Tampering with a vehicle</b> | Miramonte Dr                                       |
| <b>Identity theft</b>           | Birchwood Dr                                       |
| <b>Battery</b>                  | Lenelle Ct   |

# Moraga’s First Development Agreement Stumbles Over Pedestrian Bridge

By Sophie Braccini



Map data Google maps, labeled by Lamorinda Weekly

A potential new crosswalk on Moraga Road, in the vicinity of the Lamorinda Skatepark, is at the crux of a debate between Moraga’s Planning Commission

and Town Council. The proposed crosswalk would connect the Commons Park with a new passive park, via a pedestrian bridge that will be constructed by Sum-

merhill Homes as part of the development agreement for acreage lying between Camino Ricardo and Moraga Road.

...continued on page A11

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