



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Special Meeting:

Monday, March 17, 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, March 24, 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, April 8, 7:30 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



The Bernie & Ryerson Team



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Storm Drain Study Won't Get Local Sales Tax Funding

By Sophie Braccini

Why fix a road only to have a storm pipe collapse underneath it? This common sense approach led Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, to send a camera in to explore the pipes under the streets that he plans to repair this year and to ask the Town Council on Feb. 26 for additional funds to assess the state of a large chunk of the rest of Moraga's storm drainage system. Existing data regarding what's under the roads is quite foggy. The Town Council agreed, but preferred to not use revenue from the local 1 percent sales tax to fund the study in order to avoid disgruntling residents.

"The \$160,000 will permit the televising of about 45 percent of the town's pipes," Kwan told the Town Council. The chosen consultant, Schaaf and Wheeler (who was also Orinda's drainage consultant), will work with staff and an intern to document the Moraga Global Information System (GIS), an online multi-layer map that stores information about the local land, including the roads, ownerships, PG&E lines and storm drains. "At this time, we do not have a complete vision of where the pipes are and what their size and nature are," explained Kwan. "The first

phase will gather information about the pipes, using existing documentation and observation. Then the consultant will visually determine which pipes are most likely to be in bad shape; those are the ones that will be televised during the second phase of this project."

All of the council members agreed that the town needs a precise inventory of its drainage system and were ready to support Kwan's request; he gave them the choice of the funding source. Bob Kennedy, who sits on the Audit and Finance Committee and is that group's representative to the Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee advised against using the 1 percent local sales tax money to fund the study. "I'm a little concerned with this method of funding," he said. "Measure K (local sales tax) was sold for use for roads... it might be wise, particularly for this non-construction part of the storm drain project, to fund it from something else."

Councilmember Michael Metcalf opposed the statement and said he'd rather take the high road on this issue, because assessing the storm drainage system under streets is an integral part of the maintenance of these roads. But Councilmember Phil Arth said that residents were not necessarily versed in construction concepts and that it was a perception issue. The Town Council decided that the storm drain study was a soft cost that would not be financed by the local sales tax revenue.

After the meeting Kwan said he anticipates the project to start in May, with televising of the pipes in July. "We will film about 45 percent of the pipes," he said, because "more recent neighborhoods may not require it yet, and most jurisdictions take on this assessment a piece at a time." Last year Kwan had the 23 road segments that he plans to work on this year televised. "These are roads that are not in good shape, the repair will be costly and we need to know what is under them before starting," he said.

The town has established a five-year rule for utility agencies – if they cut into a road that was repaved within the last five years they have to completely rebuild it. "We apply this same five-year rule to ourselves," explained Kwan. "If the report tells me that the pipe under a road segment may fail within five years, I won't touch (that road) now." Kwan said that after receiving the report, two road segments were removed from this year's paving plan.

"The last phase of the drainage system study will be to look at flow capacity and assess future needs in conjunction with planned development in town," added Kwan. This precise inventory will also permit the establishment of impact fees related to the storm drain system if it is found insufficient to support new residences and businesses.

"We will then define an action plan with priorities and funding needs," said Kwan, noting that most

cities never have enough funding for drains. "There are sources of funding for roads," he explained, "such as the gas tax or measure G. There is none for drains."

Moraga was reminded in 2006 of the risks that could be hiding beneath its roads when a pipe broke at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road creating a sink hole big enough to swallow a car.

Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee Gives Kudos to Town for 2013

The seven-member Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee presented its first annual report to the Moraga Town Council recently. Chair Larry Rosenberg expressed the committee's complete satisfaction with the use of the money that the town derives from the new 1 percent sales tax: it's been used only for roads and all of the projects were completed on budget and on time. Rosenberg also praised staff's accessibility and excellent record-keeping. He added that the group reviewed about 95 percent of the invoices; all of the big ticket items. When asked repeatedly if something could be improved from the committee's perspective, he firmly answered "no."



Moraga Police Department

Drug sales with reptile, 3/04/16 A 1993 black Mercedes-Benz was pulled over just after midnight for having a tail light out. Turns out the 28-year-old male driver and his Bearded Dragon had a fair amount of pot in the car (364 grams), along with a small amount of suspected Hash, 14 green Clonazepam tablets and a digital scale. The subject and his pet were taken to the Moraga Police Department where he was arrested for sales of a controlled substance. The Bearded Dragon was later picked up by Contra Costa County Animal Services for safekeeping.

Car vs. pole, 3/03/14 An honest citizen came to the police department to report that a family member had been driving an older Subaru when it went off the roadway and struck a speed limit sign pole, resulting in some damage to the pole but no injuries to the driver. The person reporting the incident made arrangements to pay to replace the damaged pole – which will set him back about \$450.

Party on! 3/01/14 There was a complaint about noise on usually quiet Donald Drive. Officers contacted the homeowners who said they were hosting a party for high school students involved in a sports program. After the homeowner received a Town of Moraga Loud Party Ordinance notice, no further complaints were made.

Minor hit and run, 2/28/14 In front of Subway in the Rheem Shopping Center a witness reported to police that he had seen a male juvenile driver of a silver Honda Pilot back into a woman's car – which was also a Honda Pilot. The bumper driver got out of his car, looked at the damaged vehicle then left

the scene without leaving notice. The 16-year-old was later identified, along with his parents, and was contacted by the cops. Both cars sustained minor damage.

Smoking while parked, 2/26/14 It was around midnight at the quiet dead end of Paseo Grande, where officers noticed a suspicious vehicle and could smell the odor of burnt marijuana coming from the car. Three of the four juvenile occupants were assigned to participate in the Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program. Note to teens: cops are well aware of all the hang out spots in town and visit them regularly.

Trouble with tree guys, 2/25/14 A Scofield Place resident hired a tree service to remove two large trees from his property. The workers allegedly damaged the roof of his residence and cement walkway while removing the trees. The fellow reporting the incident has spoken with the company owner because the employees stopped working and have not returned. Over the course of three weeks his dispute with the company has not been resolved – one of the trees has not been removed and the damage has not been repaired.

Other crimes reported in Moraga between Feb. 25 and March 4 include:

- Traffic Incident**
St. Mary's Rd (2)
- False alarms**
Camino Pablo
El Paraiso Ct
- Susp. Circumstances**
Lynwood Pl
- Bench Warrant**
Moraga Wy
- Domestic Dispute**
Ascot Dr

What is Moraga Going to Look Like?

Planning Commission weighs the impact of signs

By Sophie Braccini

Eddy Schwartz, Moraga Chamber of Commerce activist, and Steve Woehleke, the newest appointee to the Moraga Planning Commission, agree that the way signage is regulated in a town can have a huge impact on its look and define its character. Both were at the March 3 meet-

ing of the Planning Commission when associate planner Ella Samonsky presented her proposal to amend the town's signage rules. No decisions were made that night; residents will have an opportunity to weigh in and let the town know whether they want a lot of vibrant neon or a more subdued, Carmel-like

look for Moraga.

"Our regulation sets rules based on content; it is complicated and needs to be streamlined; and it needs to be clarified so applicants understand what is applicable in the town of Moraga," explained Samonsky.

... continued on page A11



Project generously supported by a Transportation for Livable Communities Grant and Contra Costa County Measure J funds.

Community Workshop: Building Blocks for a Livable Moraga Road

Wednesday March 19, 7:00 to 9:00pm,
Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive.

We listened to your feedback on Moraga Road's existing conditions and your priorities for the corridor's future. Please join us at this workshop to help shape the vision into a plan!

Would you like to see....

- A shared path or trail from the Commons to Campolindo?
- Intersection improvements that can improve traffic flow?
- More green elements like landscaping and trees?
- Continuous sidewalks and bike paths?

At the workshop we'll get your feedback on these and other concepts to create a safer, better connected and more livable street. Next steps: Development and review of a preferred concept at workshops in late Spring.

Learn more at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/livablemoragaroad> or contact Ellen Clark, Senior Planner at 925-888-7041 eclark@moraga.ca.us