



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, April 28, 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, May 13, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Chambers Approved by Council

By Sophie Braccini

It is a personal victory for Jill Keimach, Moraga's town manager. In a town where everything has to be done on a shoestring budget, she was able to put together a team that proposed a plan to renovate 331 Rheem Blvd., creating a town meeting space that residents can be proud of and is sufficiently cost effective to meet with the Town Council's approval. For approximately \$280,000 the building will clean up nicely, with a new tile roof and some charming details.

In order to turn what was once a 2,500 square foot fire station – with two large apparatus bays and a wide concrete driveway in the front – into an attractive public building, Keimach hired local architect Steve Forster for the interior concept and a new façade; and landscape architect Tara Bhuthimethee to work on the front landscape and hardscape. The



Artist's rendering of the proposed design for 331 Rheem Blvd.

Image provided

third member of the team is Rob Kalkbrenner of Common Goal Consulting, who previously managed the remodel of 329 Rheem Blvd. and can find ways to create a beautiful space for less, according to Keimach.

In articulating its vision to the Town Council on April 9, the team reflected on Moraga, its character, its charm, and presented a concept for the building that will fit in and enhance the character of the town.

The front public patio and garden, conceived by Bhuthimethee, will be particularly attractive. She explained that she picked up elements of the hills behind the building, oak trees and local boulders, to enhance the nestling of the building in the hill. The patio will be covered in terra cotta pavers, wood trellises will create shade, and pots will be planted with succulents and native plants. The front of the patio, along the boulevard, will be planted with agrostis pallens, a perennial native grass that requires little water and

only needs to be mowed a few times during the growing season. "It will be a very naturalistic look," said the landscape architect. "The gem will be this ribbon of plants that for most of the year will stay green like the grass, but then at certain times will flower and create a purple ribbon meandering through the oak trees and the boulders."

There was some back and forth among the council members about the possibility of adding more green elements to the plan. Chew asked about water catchment and solar panels. Metcalf said that even if solar panels made sense, it was his opinion that going green costs too much. Wykle pointed out that elements of a remodel geared at saving energy and water are investments that pay off in the long term. The Town Council agreed only to add a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis of solar panels.

Councilmember Michael Metcalf expressed concern about where the

money to fund the project would come from. After Keimach said it would come from the General Fund, or the reserve if necessary, Metcalf asked Stephanie Hom, administrative services director, to project that the 2014 fiscal year would end with a surplus commensurate with the planned expense for the property. Unwilling to make such a statement before the accounts are closed, she told him he would have to wait until August; but she added, "We have a very healthy reserve."

"In addition to that reserve, we have Palos (\$2 million in developer fees for the Palos Colorado project)," added Keimach, "and we are also working with that developer toward the grading permit that will trigger another \$5.75 million for the town."

Although those funds won't arrive before 2015, staff's confident statements won the Town Council's approval of the project. The Design Review Board subsequently approved the project on April 14.



Moraga Police Department

Speeding with booze, 4/12/14 A 19-year-old was speeding down Rheem Boulevard, going 54 mph with an open bottle that was about three quarters full of Bacardi. The driver's alcohol content was determined to be 0.034 percent – less than the legal limit of 0.08 percent, but because the young gentleman was under 21 he received a trifecta of tickets: open container, speeding, and being under 21 with a measurable blood alcohol level.

Another speeding with booze, 4/11/14 It was just after 9 p.m. when cops pulled over a Lexus going 51 mph on Moraga Road near St. Mary's Road. As the car pulled to the curb, the observant officer noticed the passenger, later determined to be 16 years old, quickly drank from a water bottle that had fruit punch and vodka in it. There was an open bottle of Gordon's vodka found in the trunk. The passenger was issued a citation for consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle and was released at the scene to his mother. The driver was also cited for triple tickets as noted above.

Vandals causing trouble, 4/12/14 About 20 juveniles were vandalizing cars in the Rheem Shopping Center parking lot. Officers were contacted by local business employees who reported being assaulted by about seven of the teenagers, who also broke out the front window of a restaurant. The youths were spotted behind the shopping center and police gave chase, all but one got away, despite cops shouting to stop. The fellow who was caught was arrested for resisting arrest, possession of alcohol, drunk in public and possession of less than an ounce of pot.

Theft from unlocked car, 4/12/14 An unlocked car was entered at the Campolindo High

School parking lot. Undisclosed property valued at \$280 was taken from the car, along with a credit card that was used in Concord and Brentwood. Luckily both transactions were unsuccessful.

Unwanted spray paint, 4/10/14 Sometime between the evening of April 10 to early April 11, an unknown subject spray painted graffiti on the exterior of a building at Campolindo High School. Clean up costs are estimated to be \$3,000. Similar incidents were reported at other local high schools. The incident is under investigation.

Money and jewels missing, 4/09/14 A Camino Peral resident stated a temporary caregiver was used for a short amount of time, when coincidentally money and jewelry went missing from the house. The only other person in the home besides the reporting person and her elderly mother was the caregiver. The caregiver's employers responded to the residence and the caregiver was also supposed to meet there. The caregiver never showed up and stopped answering her cell phone.

In addition, the following crimes were reported from April 8 to April 15:

- Commercial Burglary** – Moraga Road
- Traffic Incident** – Augusta Drive, Moraga Road, Laird Road
- False Alarm** – School Street, Devin Drive, Sanders Ranch Road
- Truancy** – Camino Pablo
- Attempted Stolen Vehicle** – Alta Mesa
- Reckless Driving** – Moraga Way
- Petty Theft** – Moraga Way
- Small Fire** – St. Mary's Road
- Battery** – Francisca Drive
- Credit Card Fraud** – Sandringham Drive S
- Tax Return Fraud** – Ashbrook Place

2014 MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE
 May 10 11am - 4pm

Join us for a day of fun at the
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Entertainment Schedule

- 11:00** Saint Mary's College Jazz Band
- 12:30** Miramonte Jazz Band
- 2:00** Campolindo Jazz Band
- 3:30** Moraga Children's Chorus Sings M-O-R-A-G-A
- 3:45** Classic Car Show Trophies Awarded

Ongoing Activities:

- Classic Car Show
- Dunk Tank for Town Notables
- Local Wines by the Glass
- Climbing Wall
- Artistic Materials for Children's Use
- Monster Coloring Sheet
- Visit Vendors Business, Non-profit, Schools
- Food Trucks
- Bounce House
- Carnival Games
- Explorer Passport with Prizes

www.moragachamber.org/faire

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