



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



Moraga Police Department

Egg on car, 8/12/14 A Corliss Drive homeowner's blue BMW was hit with two eggs sometime during the night. Nothing was seen or heard when the incident occurred.

Egg on another car, over not so easy, 8/12/14 A Moraga resident was driving on Larch Avenue around 9 p.m. when her Nissan Pathfinder was struck by two raw eggs. Driver found it difficult to determine if the eggs were tossed from a passing vehicle or from a person hidden on the side of the roadway. Eggy victim had no idea why someone would do that. Possibly related to the other egg incident?

Drug D.U.I. 8/16/14 A white Chevy Tahoe was seen swerving on the roadway near Moraga Road and Donald Drive. The 17-year-old driver had Xanax and approximately 1.5 pounds of marijuana in her car. She was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs. She was taken to the Moraga Police Department where she had a blood test and was later released on a signed Juvenile Affidavit to her mother. No mention of the munchies in the police report.

Knucklehead driving leads to battery, 8/16/14 A teenager was driving a maroon SUV through the Safeway parking lot, nearly striking a pedestrian in the middle of the afternoon. After the car stopped, a male friend of the person who was almost hit confronted the driver and reached inside the car – injuring the driver. The teen and pals fled the area and contacted police to report the incident. The parents of the injured teenager were also contacted.



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Coming Up at Town Council: Appeals and Zoning

The Moraga Town Council has a passel of appeals to consider at its next two meetings. Council members will also soon discuss zoning changes related to the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Saint Mary's College is first in line – on Aug. 27 the council will discuss an appeal by SMC regarding the lighting of its intramural sports field. The college proposes to redesign the

lights and install additional lights to reduce off-site glare to neighbors. Council members will also consider allowing the lights to remain on until 10 p.m.

Next up is the planned Via Moraga development, slated for the vacant lot across from the Rheem Center, which has not one but two appeals in play. The council will tackle these at its Sept. 10 meeting. The

Planning Commission recently approved a Conceptual Development Plan for the 18-lot, single-family residential subdivision at 489 Moraga Road. Councilmember Mike Metcalf appealed the decision, concerned about a "walled effect" along the scenic corridor. And the developer, Signature Properties, also filed an appeal asking that the council reinstate a second driveway on Moraga Road,

which the Planning Commission decided should be removed in order to minimize the impact on the scenic corridor.

At the same meeting, the council is scheduled to review the zoning of certain areas within the Moraga Center Specific Plan, to bring zoning into alignment with the higher densities and building heights permitted under the plan. *S. Braccini*

School Board Candidates to be Appointed

By Sophie Braccini

There are four seats on the Moraga School Board coming up for election this fall – but there are only three candidates: Incumbent Parker Colvin and newcomers Jonathan Nickens and Heather O'Donnell. What's a school board to do? According to Superintendent Bruce Burns, "It is our understanding at this time that those who have filed will automatically take a seat and be sworn in to the Board at the December meeting."

The incoming new board members, O'Donnell and Nickens, have been parents in the district for many years, volunteering in different functions and passionately supporting the quality of education in the schools. O'Donnell said she is looking forward to continuing the excellent tradition of Moraga schools, and Nickens stated that he would like to see the standard of excellence continue far into the future for all Moraga students.

Burns said that the newly constituted four-member board will have a choice of how it wants to fill the missing seat. "They can decide to hold an election, or appoint a new member at their discretion," he explained.

Burns recalled that two years ago Colvin was appointed under somewhat similar circumstances. He was one of three candidates for two open board seats in 2012 but came in third. When one member resigned abruptly not long after the election, the board

decided to appoint Colvin to the seat.

"The Board will probably discuss the procedure later this year," added Burns. "If the members decide to appoint a fifth member themselves they will publicize it, and hold interviews of candidates, making a final decision during that public meeting."

Information about Moraga School District board meetings can be found at www.moraga.k12.ca.us/govbd.

Planning Director Resigns

By Sophie Braccini

Shawna Brekke-Read, who has been Moraga's planning director for three years, says she could not resist the offer she received from South Lake Tahoe to become its new development services director. The job includes "in-house building, planning, a redevelopment agency, code enforcement and housing, and economic development. It's taking planning and expanding it," she explained.

Brekke-Read is married to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher Don Read who will stay in Moraga. "He's developed very successful French and debate programs there," she said, "so we will take turns commuting over the weekend."

Luck has it that a few years ago the couple bought a fixer-upper condo in Kings Beach, which will now become her new home.

In a letter to the Moraga Town Council, Town Manager Jill Keimach noted that under Brekke-Read's leadership the Planning Department has been able to initiate and complete many more long term projects in addition to the vast number of remodels, additions, and new con-

structions, along with development applications. She highlighted a number of milestones including the initiation and completion of the Climate Action Task Force and its Climate Action Plan, a new sign ordinance, the Housing Element update, and the current hillside and ridgeline ordinance review.

"I will miss Shawna's insight and perspective. She was a pleasure to work beside on a daily basis,"

Keimach added. It was not unusual, during the first year of Brekke-Read's tenure when planning staff was scarce, to find Keimach and her planning director working together very late on Friday night, long after everyone else had gone home except the police officers on the graveyard shift.

Brekke-Read's last day is Sept. 5. Senior planner Ellen Clark will serve as interim director.

Divorce and Family Law

The Law Offices of Jonathan D. Larose APC.

A Family Law Firm

Jonathan D. Larose Esq. MBA,
 Chelsea Jagar, Esq. Julia Bressman, Esq.

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TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

A reviewing of the Town of Moraga's 2015-2023 Draft Housing Element

If you wish to comment on this matter, you are invited to attend the public meeting or you may submit written comments to the staff person listed below.

DAY/DATE/TIME/PLACE	Town Council Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga, California 94556
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	The Town of Moraga is updating its Housing Element as required by State Law for the 2015-2023 planning cycle. The Draft 2015-2023 Moraga Housing Element Update identifies and analyzes existing and projected housing needs. This public meeting introduces the Draft Housing Element to the Town Council, provides an opportunity for the Council to review and comment on the draft and requests that the Council authorize submittal of the Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for their required 60-day review.
CEQA STATUS	An Initial Study will be prepared prior to Housing Element adoption, following State Department of Housing and Community Development review.
STAFF CONTACT	Brian Horn, Associate Planner (925) 888-7044 bhorn@moraga.ca.us

Persons with disabilities requiring assistance in order to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact Town Clerk at 925-888-7022 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.