



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.
Hacienda De las Flores, La Sala,
2100 Donald Dr.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, Nov. 4, 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

Campaign sign mischief, 10/09/14 A Rheem Boulevard resident stated that he had a political campaign sign removed from his front yard without authorization, and happened to notice the sign in his neighbor's backyard. Officers attempted to contact the homeowner and retrieve the sign with negative results. Police stopped by the next day to collect the sign and return it to the original owner.

Vanishing phone, 10/07/14 A Saint Mary's College student was in the cafeteria when she placed her iPhone on a counter. Upon noticing her phone-less-ness 15 minutes later, she contacted Saint Mary's staff who said the phone had not

Local Knowledge of Lamorinda & Extraordinary Results



Gary Bernie



Ken Ryerson

If you are considering selling your home, give us a call for assistance.

925.200.2222 Gary gabernie@pacunion.com CalBRE#00686144
925.878.9685 Ken ken@ryersonrealty.com CalBRE#01418309



pacifunion.com | A Member of Real Living

Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Council Split over Budget Increase for Chambers

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's new town council chambers will cost quite a bit more than anticipated. The Town Council recently approved a 30 percent increase in the budget for the renovation of the facility at 331 Rheem Blvd. as the price tag rose from \$770,000 to about \$1 million.

According to Town Manager Jill Keimach, the cost increase is primarily due to a shift in the construction market and bids that came in higher than expected. She proposed alternative roof configurations in order to lower the cost, but on Oct. 8 three

council members chose to make what they viewed as the right investment for the town; while two voted against the most expensive option, calling it a waste of public funds.

The attractive Spanish style design for 331 Rheem Blvd. includes a tile roof. Keimach presented the council with three options for finishing the roof: tile only the front of the main building, which would not increase the budget; tile the entire front and part of the sides; or tile the entire roof for an extra \$232,000.

Since there were no safety or

functionality differences between the options, council members' questions focused on what the views would be coming from the east and west along Rheem Boulevard. The architect explained that in order to present an attractive view, the front and all of the sides would have to be tiled. He recommended not tiling the very back of the building – but the contractor said that this would not significantly decrease the cost of the roof.

Mayor Ken Chew and Councilmembers Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth supported "doing things right"

and making something the town would be proud of. "We don't want to be the council that approved the ugly building," said Chew. Councilmember Roger Wykle asked, "What other pressing facilities needs are out there besides continuing the tile roof along the side of this building?" His question went unanswered and he joined Councilmember David Trotter in opposing the cost increase they believed would be wasteful. The council approved tile for the whole roof on a 3-2 vote.

The Cost of Doing Business

How a town can spend \$43,000 defending a \$100 ticket

By Sophie Braccini

On the evening of March 9, 2013, people gathered at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga to enjoy a barbecue, as they have done every Saturday evening for several years. The park is a popular hang-out, especially between 4 (or 6) p.m. and dusk when dogs are allowed off leash. The town closes the park after dark to prevent degradation in the remote and bucolic lo-

cation. That night, Officer Ortiz of the Moraga Police Department arrived at the park 1 hour and 30 minutes after sundown and upon seeing people still at the park proceeded to give them citations.

One of the cited residents was Steven Smith, who decided to challenge the ticket. More than a year later and after several rounds of legal battles, the resident still feels he was

wronged; and the town that defended its regulation has spent \$43,000 on legal fees.

Smith's position is that what the officer did that night was completely at odds with what had been the practice for years. "The big sign at the park says that it closes at dusk," said Smith. He acknowledges that a smaller sign indicates that closing time is one hour after

sundown, but says the normal practice was that when park users see the police car coming in, they understand it is time to leave and they start packing their gear.

"We often talk to the officer; it is a very casual, small town practice," he added. "That night I had some hot coal in the barbecue and didn't want to leave before it was completely out." ... continued on page A9

been turned over. Estimated loss: \$400.

Drugs in car, 10/08/14 A Dodge Caliber was pulled over for an unspecified vehicle code violation on Rheem Boulevard at 2:20 p.m. Cop determined the driver was on "active searchable probation." Police had earlier found medication that was not prescribed at the driver's home. The medicine was confiscated and a report was forwarded to the probation department of the district attorney's office for charges.

Failure to yield, 10/07/14 Right around the time school starts at

Campolindo, a 17-year-old driver was on Moraga Road and failed to stop at the crosswalk at Woodford Drive, even though there was an adult male walking a small dog in the crosswalk. Police were able to place the driver into the Town of Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program.

Egging, 10/12/14 A Donald Drive residence had nearly a dozen eggs smashed against the roof and front of the home at 11:45 p.m. This is the second time this has happened to this particular house. The reporting person requested officers collect the egg shells as evidence. The homeowner suspects local teenagers

were involved, but didn't name names.

Shoplifting at SMC, 10/09/14 The manager of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Saint Mary's College was working at a desk in the textbook sales area of the store when a young-ish person expressed an interest in applying for a job with the bookstore. They spent a few minutes discussing the application process. During their chat, security cameras showed that an accomplice in her 40s took advantage of the distraction and hid two accounting text books in her large purse. The theft wasn't discovered until later. The textbooks were valued

at – are you sitting down? – \$560. Apparently you can put a price tag on knowledge.

In addition, the following other crimes were reported in Moraga Oct. 7-14:

False Alarm	5
Domestic Dispute	Ascot Dr
Speeding	Moraga Wy
Drunk in Public	Shuey Dr
Vandalism	Woodside Dr Miramonte Dr
Welfare Check	Gaywood Pl
Suspicious Circumstances	Ascot Dr
D.U.I.	Camino Pablo
Loud Party	Ascot Dr

VOTE KATHY FAMULENER MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT

Supported By Our Local Leaders Phil Arth, Mike Metcalf, Dave Trotter, Roger Wykle and Teresa Onoda

A record of accomplishment and experience!

- Achieved four year labor contract with firefighters, the first since 2008, which lowered the District's unfunded health benefit liability by \$12 million
- Initiating a cooperative long term strategic planning process to address unfunded liabilities and create fiscally responsible and sustainable budgets
- Maintained optimal emergency response times
- Hired new Fire Chief and Administrative Services Director providing leadership and stability for the MOFD
- Opposes any increase in Moraga Zone Fire Flow Tax
- Supports maintaining full firefighter and paramedic staffing levels
- ✓ Experienced Public Safety Professional and Community Leader
- ✓ Alameda County Deputy District Attorney 35 years
- ✓ Member, Lamorinda Community Response Team (CERT)
- ✓ Former Vice-Chair, DeLaSalle Board of Trustees
- ✓ 30 year active Contra Costa County resident, raised two children who are proud third-generation Cal graduates



We stand with Kathy Famulener

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Rep. Eric Swalwell, United States Congress | Mike Metcalf, former Moraga Mayor, current Moraga Town Council member | Robert Chenault, Chief of Inspectors, Alameda County District Attorney |
| Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, California State Senate | Dave Trotter, former Moraga Mayor, current Moraga Town Council member | Alameda County District Attorney's Investigators Association |
| Rep. Susan Bonilla, California State Assembly | Phil Arth, Moraga Town Council Member | Oakland Police Officer's Association |
| Rep. Joan Buchanan, California State Assembly | Roger Wykle, Moraga Town Council Member | Berkeley Police Association |
| Supervisor Candace Andersen, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors | Theresa Onoda, Moraga Planning Commission | University of California Berkeley Police Officers Association |
| United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa, Local 1230 | Bill Carman, Vice Chair Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission | Suzanne Jones |
| Chief Officers Association, MOFD | Brad Kearns, former Moraga Police Chief; retired Chief of Inspectors, Alameda County District Attorney | Joan Eidson |
| Contra Costa County Central Labor Council | Darrell Lee, retired MOFD Division Chief | Frank McEnaney |
| Democratic Party of Contra Costa County | Dan O'Malley, retired Superior Court Judge, Contra Costa County | Brian Sullivan |
| Director John Wyro, President, MOFD Board of Directors | Victoria Smith, former Orinda Mayor, current City Council member | Mike Nieto |
| Director Stephen Andersen, MOFD Board of Directors | Amy Worth, former Orinda Mayor, current City Council member | Miles Price |
| Director Alex Evans, MOFD Board of Directors | Laura Abrams, former Orinda Mayor | Dave and Theresa Ortega |
| Director Fred Weil, MOFD Board of Directors | Julie Pierce, Clayton Mayor | Dick Callahan |
| Richard Olsen, Former Director, MOFD; 2013 Moraga Citizen of the Year | Tim Sbranti, Dublin Mayor | Dave Esquer |
| Frank Sperling, Former Director, MOFD; former Moraga Town Council member | Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney, Alameda County | Tom Worth |
| Gordon Nathan, Former Director, MOFD; 2011 Moraga Citizen of the Year; President, Rescue One | | Wick Smith |

Contact Kathy famulener@gmail.com