



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m.
Hacienda De las Flores, La Sala,
2100 Donald Dr.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, Jan. 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

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

Pot in purse, 12/04/14 The HomeGoods store reported that a female suspect walked into the store carrying a large purse which appeared empty. The suspect then started walking around the store and made her way to the kitchen department. She picked up a large pot worth \$149.99 and was observed putting the pot in her purse, then exiting the store without paying for the pot. She was placed under citizen's arrest by store staff. Perhaps medical marijuana would have been a better option?

Stolen identity, 12/04/14 Over the past two months, an unknown suspect has unlawfully withdrawn approximately \$6,300 from a Longfield Place resident's checking account. The incident started when the victim received an unsolicited phone call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft. She then answered a series of questions and provided her bank account number to the caller. Red flag! She became suspicious when she noticed unauthorized charges on her account. It appears that all of the transactions were conducted via the Internet. The Moraga resident has since purchased a new computer and closed the compromised bank account.

D.U.I. 12/06/14 A red Mustang was pulled over at 2 a.m. near the entrance to Saint Mary's College for unsafe speed. Cops noticed the suspicious smell of alcohol on the driver, who happened to be 18 years old, clearly too young to be legally drinking. He was placed under arrest and submitted to a breath test which showed 14 percent blood alcohol level.

Missing wallet, 12/06/14 A woman was shopping on Center Street and placed her wallet next to her 4-year-old son who was sitting in a shopping cart. She left the cart briefly while she looked for an item. Unfortunately, it wasn't until she was ready to check out that she realized the wallet was gone. Credit cards, gift cards, driver's license and a blank check were in the wallet. Sounds like a Grinch stole Christmas.

Another missing wallet, 12/06/14 A woman was shopping at HomeGoods in the afternoon when she noticed her wallet was missing from her purse.

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Park Street Residences

New development proposed for lot next to Rheem Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



Rendering of the townhome option proposed for Park Street Residences.

Image provided

Applicant and architect Jerry Loving presented the Moraga Planning Commission with a plan for an infill development on the vacant 3-acre property next to the Rheem Theatre. The Dec. 1 meeting was a study session requested by the developer to get initial feedback and suggestions from the planning commissioners. Loving will incorporate their comments into a revised concept that he will bring to the commission early next year.

The lot is located on Park Street, which runs parallel to Rheem Boulevard and is separated from the well-traveled road by a row of mature trees. The space currently serves as an overflow parking area during popular theater events, such as the California Independent Film Festival.

Loving proposed two possible concepts, both at rather high density and designed in a Spanish style: a 30-unit single-family townhome project, or a 40-unit condominium project.

Both plans would maintain the hillside. "The hill is stable but needs to be fixed," commented Loving after the meeting. "We had a study done, and we'll add drainage up on the hill. We'll make it stronger and better," he said. Nearly one-third of the area would be preserved as open space. "We will be able to preserve the sycamore trees," added Loving, who is the founder and now CEO-emeritus of award-winning LCA Architects in Walnut Creek, a firm with a long and diverse creative

history. "There will be great improvements to the site, and the benefit of having an architect as a developer is that we include creativity and aesthetics in the concept from the start."

There was no consensus as to which option commissioners liked best. They highlighted some elements that they found appealing, such as elevators for the apartments, and criticized others, such as tandem parking lots.

"This new development would be for older folks wanting to downsize, but also for young professionals," said Loving. The proposed three-story townhomes have three bedrooms and range from 2,197 to 2,528 square feet. They would be attached as eight groups of three or four units each, 35 feet high, and each unit would have a private patio. The condominium alternative proposes two 20-unit buildings. This option also has three levels, with the ground floor being mostly for parking – an elevator would go to the upper floors. The two-bedroom condominiums would range in size from 1,163 to 1,871 square feet.

"It was a fine study session with good feedback," said Loving. "The commissioners took it thoughtfully, and made good suggestions." He plans to return to the commission, on a date not yet set, with a redesigned project that is likely to combine both concepts.

Moraga's New Council Member – Teresa Onoda

By Sophie Braccini

The November election brought a new member to the Moraga Town Council – former planning commissioner Teresa Onoda. Passionate about plain air and open space, Onoda brings a fresh outlook to the town's affairs.

At her first council meeting on Dec. 10, Onoda stated that she believes she was elected because Moragans want a council that listens to their concerns and shares their priorities. She added that people told her they care deeply about the town's natural beauty, its great schools and the quality of life. "They made clear that they are concerned about developments that detract from the views of the ridgelines, and on the impact a growing population will have on traffic and schools," she said. "They also said they want a more vibrant retail and more recreational opportunities. They said they hope the town and Saint Mary's would build a stronger

partnership." Onoda took notes of what people said and she pledged to do her best to help the town address those challenges while preserving our current lifestyle.

Onoda was born, and grew up, in Des Moines, Iowa; she attended

Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., where she earned a degree in fine arts. She then decided to teach. "My teaching career encompassed art instruction from kindergarten in the Omaha public school system all the way up to adult workshops affiliated

with the Des Moines Art Center and workshops for accomplished painters," she said. "I have taught all grades in between, not only in Omaha but in Houston, Texas; Memphis, Tenn.; and in local Moraga schools." ... continued on page A12



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