



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Linda Di Sano Ehrich, Realtor
 93 Moraga Way • Orinda, CA 94563
 925.698.1452
 Linda@LindaEhrich.com
 www.LindaEhrich.com
 DRE# 01330298



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Facelift for the Moraga Library

By Sophie Braccini



The new garden in front of the library

Photo Sophie Braccini

Simply drive along St. Mary's Road and you'll notice new landscaping that will make the Moraga Library even more appealing this spring. Revitalizing the library's large front garden was overdue. A few years back the strip along the road was re-done after a fire scorched the juniper, but a large portion of the front garden still needed work.

The library grounds belong to the town of Moraga, while Contra Costa County Library operates the facility. The Friends of the Moraga Library contributes handsomely to operations by funding the Sunday hours and all the activities, but generous donors Mark and Dustie

Robeson and Joan Bruzzone financed the new garden. Hundreds of plants and tens of trees create a pleasing atmosphere for the popular venue.

The second improvement planned for the library is located in more private areas. At its Feb. 11 meeting, the Town Council approved the replacement of the 40-plus-year-old bathroom to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The projected estimate jumped from the original \$100,000 to \$300,000, so the decision to pick up the cost did not come easily.

Architect Gray Dougherty presented the plan he developed after consulting with different stake-

holders. He reminded council members that ADA compliance was a legal requirement and that the existing bathroom is non-compliant. The new design was kept simple and functional, and largely within the existing footprint, with water wise and energy smart appliances, but since walls will have to be moved the cost estimate jumped.

"Staff looked at other funding options to keep the project moving forward," Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram said. Ingram could not get contributions from town service groups and the county library did not show much interest either, adding that there were not a lot of grants out there for library infrastructure. One option would have been to delay the work and wait for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) cycle in 2016.

Resident Dale Walwark urged the council to do what he sees as the right thing. "Why can't we nail that down now since we have to do it to obey the law?" he asked. "This is a basic asset of the town. Since we do not have enough money in the asset replacement fund, we should look into using some of the Palos Colorado's money (developer's fund

worth \$1.8 million) to do this."

Vice-Mayor Mike Metcalf led the argument on the dais supporting immediate action. "We should have done this a lot time ago, (and) this is the place where we should spend Palos money. It is a one-time expense and is a recreation town asset," he said. Councilmember Dave Trotter preferred to wait for a grant cycle and solicit the Friends for some funding. Council agreed to use the town's asset re-

placement fund and to tap the Palos fund for additional money, while applying for a grant to replenish that fund if some of it is spent. Construction is anticipated to start in the fall.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda, who said that there was nothing "Moraga" in the design, was put in charge of a local contest to adorn the new amenity with an emblematic mural.

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1075 Bear Creek Road

COMING SOON



Horse property featuring 7.45 acres, 1929 sq. ft. home with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Price upon request. For more information, please call Ruth Eddy at 925.788.5449.

CalBRE#01313819

8 Juniper Way, Moraga

NEW LISTING



This home features 3BR/2BA upstairs and a fourth bedroom and bath downstairs. Original hardwood floors under carpets. The backyard is huge and could accommodate a pool if desired. Call Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 for further information.

CalBRE 01029160

230 Christie Dr. Martinez

NEW LISTING



Desirable Forest Hills neighborhood--quiet location with no rear neighbors. This home is light & bright with 4 large bedrooms & living areas, RV/boat parking and a covered front porch, too! Offered at \$580,000 by Tina Van Arsdale, 925.640.2355.

CalBRE#01259271

3607 Powell Dr, Lafayette

PENDING



Classic Woodlands neighborhood home features four bedrooms, plus a large office with full bathroom. The private yard with pool and spa is on .60 acres with lawns and terraces. Offered at \$1,595,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795 www.3607PowellDr.com

CalBRE 01029160

7 Carey Court, Moraga

PENDING



This lovely home is in the coveted Sanders Ranch community. Its 2543sqft includes 3 bedrooms plus a den and 3 full bathrooms. Offered at \$1,120,000 by Adam Hamalian 925.708.5630.

CalBRE#01313819

2 Green Acres Court, Lafayette

PENDING



Charming turn of the century home was recently remodeled. It also has a basement and a 2nd bldg/cottage on a large yard with mature landscaping. Offered at \$220,000 by Tina Van Arsdale, 925.640.2355

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Meet our Featured Agents ...



Lisa Shaffer
 925.528.9278
 Lisa@LisaShaffer.com
 CalBRE#00996886



Ruth Eddy
 925.788.5449
 ruth.eddy@bhghome.com
 CalBRE#01313819



Kress Hauri/Larry Jacobs
 925.899.5739/925.788.1362
 larry.jacobs@bhghome.com
 kress.hauri@bhghome.com
 CalBRE#01465617/#01495118



Tina Van Arsdale
 925.640.2355
 vanarsdale@aol.com
 CalBRE#01259271



Norla Torres-Turney
 925.323.8125
 norlatorres.turney@gmail.com
 CalBRE#01913739

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE
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89 Davis Road Suite 100, Orinda
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