



# Moraga

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, April 6, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 14, 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

**Tax man fake out, 3/07/15** A Via Granada resident informed police that she received a letter in the mail from the Internal Revenue Service informing her that someone had filed a tax return using her information. Probably not a good Samaritan, but rather an identity thief looking to enjoy her presumed refund. Same thing happened to a Del Monte Way resident.

**Park vandalism, 3/09/15** Two signs were stolen from the Moraga Commons Park; each sign was valued at approximately \$300. The person reporting the incidents also noted vandalism to the bocce ball courts. The wood frame perimeter of the courts was damaged and needed to be replaced. Estimated damage around \$200.

**DUI 3/13/15** A pickup truck was observed driving erratically on Moraga Way near School Street at 6:30 p.m. The middle-aged driver, who was not a Moraga resident, displayed the distinctive odor of alcohol. He completed field sobriety tests, then had a blood test at the police department.

**Vandalism in progress, 3/14/15** Apparently someone really didn't like the sign at Miramonte Drive. A witness reported to cops that at 11 p.m. someone damaged the sign, and then noted their license plate as the subject drove off. Police contacted the person responsible at his residence, who later admitted to the vandalism and was detained. Damage estimated to be \$500. The vandal was placed under arrest. Anger issues? Whatever happened to using your words to solve problems?

**Burglary, 3/14/15** An Ascot Drive resident reported to police that his storage locker which is located in an unsecured carport was broken into. Missing items included a Coleman tent and an REI sleeping bag. Was the thief a camping aficionado? Estimated loss \$400.

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## Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## Rheem Boulevard to be Closed for 4 to 6 Months

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

The terrible condition of the portion of Rheem Boulevard between St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road will eventually become a bad memory. But to fix that portion of the road, the arterial will be completely closed for at least four to six months, and maybe longer depending on the condition of the terrain underneath. According to both Summerhill Homes, which will be in charge of the construction, and Moraga Public Works staff, the work should start this spring or summer.

That leg of Rheem Boulevard provides a strange driving experience. Either ends are in good shape and have been redone by the town a few years back, but the middle is badly eroded with potholes, bordering on complete collapse. The reason of this sorry state is the landslides that affect the hillside and the terrain under the road. Repairing

means major excavation, grading and fill, and a cost the town could not cover alone. The joint repair of the road by the developer and the town was one of the conditions of the approval of the Rancho Laguna II project by Summerhill Homes. Now the developer is ready to start repairing the road, before grading for the homes begins.

On March 11, the Town Council was informed of the upcoming project between Fay Hill Reservoir Road and Fernwood Drive.

The project is a joint venture between the town and the developer. Each party's responsibility is defined in the conditions of approval. Summerhill is responsible for providing detailed plans for management of the closure. Plans include logistics of access, signage and traffic management of both construction and other traffic affected by the project.

ect. These plans have been submitted and routed for review to agencies and departments including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Moraga Police Department, and will be sent to the local school districts and Saint Mary's College. Lafayette residents driving to Campolindo High School using Rheem Boulevard as a route will be heavily impacted.

There are still some serious uncertainties regarding this project. The first is the start date, since Summerhill still needs to obtain permits from different agencies. Kevin Ibrahim, Summerhill vice president of development, stated, "We are currently working with town staff to finalize the details of the construction drawings for the Rheem Boulevard repairs. We hope to have the plans completed and approved within the next month or two. After the approvals we will start the Rheem Boulevard reconstruction. Currently, the work is anticipated to start in May."

The second uncertainty is geological and could impact the length of the closure. "The slide repair is expected to take four to six months, (unless there are) unforeseen circumstances, in which case if there are issues, construction could span over two grading seasons," said Laurie Sugang, senior town engineer. She reiterated that the actual duration would depend on the conditions of the slides, which are revealed during construction. The contractor will remove the asphalt and excavate up to 30 feet under the existing roadway. If necessary the contractor will remove excess water in areas that are too wet for reconstruction.

Notice will be sent to all neighbors and signage will be posted 30 days prior to the closure at the intersections of Rheem Boulevard at St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. Summerhill also will provide a detour plan to affected agencies, and detour signage on the roads.

## Body-Worn Cameras for Moraga Police Officers

By Sophie Braccini



Corporal Randy Pacheco has his camera on as he interacts with a driver during a traffic stop. Photo Lt. King

A Moraga driver was recently stopped by Moraga Police Lieutenant Jon King for failing to halt behind a school bus with flashing lights. As King approached the car, he automatically reached for a small black box pinned to the front of his uniform. With a quick thumb movement, he slid the

front to reveal a camera lens. The body-worn camera, activated by the unmasking of the aperture, recorded everything about his interaction with the driver until the lieutenant closed it.

Moraga is the first Lamorinda city to equip its force with the devices. Many other agencies have them, including the Oakland Police Department and the East Bay Regional Park District where King used to work. Contra Costa County is testing its usage at this time. "Our objective is to maximize transparency and accountability," said Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe when he asked the town council to authorize the purchase of system. "Each officer has been issued a camera to record their law enforcement contacts, to document actions of involved parties, and to provide our officers the opportunity to see how the public sees them."

King, who joined the department a few months ago, is familiar with the device; he wore a camera for five years in the park district. "At first it was an interesting feeling," he said. "(We thought that) somebody could see what we were doing and would be checking up on us. But what we quickly realized is that if you are a police officer doing your job well, who cares? And I know that the officers here do a good job." King added that these days, officers are usually the only ones not filming as

everybody else uses their cell phones or other devices.

The lieutenant has stories about the usefulness of the cameras. "Sometimes a camera can see more than the officer notices at the time of the encounter," he said. He remembered the case of an officer who stopped a gang of young men in a park and had a normal discussion with them. When reviewing the film, he noticed that one of the men took a concealed weapon from his pocket and hid it behind a rock. The man was on parole and not authorized to have a weapon, and the film was used to arrest him. "The judicial system likes the evidence provided by cameras," said King, adding that sometimes more than one recording is needed to see all the angles. "During the BART Fruitvale shooting inquiry, the recordings of 23 different cameras were used."

King is in charge of the implementation of the system in the department. He says that the cameras can be useful tools for officers to monitor their behavior. "My perception of how I speak to people might be something completely different from theirs," he said, "so officers can go back and review their own recordings."

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### Other crimes happening in Moraga during the week of March 11-17:

- Found Property** – Saint Mary's College
- Smashed Glass** – Moraga Road
- False Alarm** – Rheem Boulevard
- Fraudulent Use of Credit Card** – Country Oak Road
- Leaking Water Pipe** – La Salle Drive
- Domestic Dispute** – Rheem Boulevard
- Civil Dispute** – Ascot Court, Rheem Boulevard
- Loud Party** – Sanders Drive
- Front Door Banging** – Hazelwood Place

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