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## Not Ostentatious, But Efficacious

By Sophie Braccini



Outside and inside views of the new town chamber at 335 Rheem Blvd.

station and corp yard into an esthetically pleasing Spanish-style building.

While the outside is inviting, the real goodies are inside.

The town chamber is not vast or grandiose, but it is classy and airy. The black ceiling and gray or blue-gray walls give the room a solemnity, without being too cold. The chamber can hold up to 70 chairs, which can be placed to face the slightly raised dais. The electronic equipment in the space, however, is what is most impressive: large TV monitors on the side walls, a retractable screen behind the dais, an in-ceiling projection system, a fully-equipped presentation table with a camera to project documents, and a sound system that should allow residents with any level of hearing to comfortably follow the debates.

The technical room to the left of the meeting chamber contains the controls for the three cameras. "There is an automated option that allows to just broadcast with one fix camera," says Town Clerk Marty McInturf. "That's what we will start with. Using multiple cameras will require an operator."

The total of the capital expenditure for the broadcasting and audio system was paid for by annual \$34,000 in public, education and government (PEG) revenue that is generated through a 71-cent monthly fee paid by Moraga cable subscribers. Moraga allocated recent PEG funds for the installation. During the first phase, the video recording will be available online within 24 to 48 hours through the town website. The second phase will include a live broadcast on a local TV channel. At this time, the town's live broadcast is reserved for emergencies only.

The new site also features two bathrooms, one ADA accessible, and a smaller room for closed meetings. The back of the building is still a maintenance location and the left and back outside areas are still housing the town's corp yard.

Lori Sugang, the senior town engineer who provided project management support to complete the project, says that parking is plentiful around the site. "There is ADA parking at 335 Rheem, people can also park at 329 Rheem, at 333 Rheem (the site of BrightStar Care that is closed by 7 p.m.), and along the boulevard," she says. There is also ample parking across the street and a new pedestrian crosswalk will be striped in the coming weeks.

The new building will likely house all of the town's public meetings, including those of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. McInturf anticipates that a formal opening

ceremony will be organized, inviting the public in to visit. A soft opening will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 with light refreshments before the 7 p.m. council meeting.



Photos Sohie Braccini

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