



# Moraga

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7 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

**Slight DUI 1/16/16** Busted tail lights got cops' attention on Moraga Road at 11:30 p.m. The 24-year-old female driver of an Audi didn't respond until multiple sirens were activated – kind of a tip off. Surprisingly the driver smelled of alcoholic beverages, and according to her first blood alcohol test, she was barely drunk with a reading of 0.10, but upon a subsequent test at the Moraga Police Department she had a 0.08 reading – which is the legal limit. She was issued a citation and released to a sober adult.

**Drunk fighting 1/17/16** There was fighting in the street at almost 1 a.m. near the police department on Rheem Boulevard. Cops determined that a female subject who had just been released after being arrested for DUI was being "uncooperative" and had walked away from her sober caretaker. The subject was located and still had an odor of alcoholic beverages on her person and police surmised that based on her behavior, she was unable to care for herself. "After trying to reason with the subject and get her to return home, she said, 'Then take me to jail, I'm not going back to my mother's house,'" noted the police report. No other sober adult could be found at that hour, so she was arrested for public intoxication and taken to the Martinez jail. Just can't make this stuff up.

**Loud party 1/13/16** The loud party reported to be occurring in a residential apartment complex at 11:30 p.m. was actually six college-aged people engaged in loud conversation inside an apartment. Cops wisely concluded this gathering did not constitute an actual loud party as defined by the Moraga Municipal Code. The resident was advised to keep it down.

**Bad behavior 1/14/16** A noise complaint reported that a number of subjects were screaming and jumping in front of cars at 1 a.m. in front of a local convenience store. Two subjects were arrested for being drunk in public, using a fake ID to purchase alcohol, as well as being minors in possession of alcohol, and a probation violation. Genius.

**Kid locked in gym 1/14/16** The fire department responded to a call about a student locked in an interior room

# Hard to Choose an Image for Moraga

*Pear or no pear – that is the question*

By Sophie Braccini



Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



Option 4

Four wayfinding sign options

Image provided

Taking public surveys and having multiple meetings that go on for hours about the colors and symbols on new town wayfinding signs could seem frivolous to a misinformed outsider. But the matter is not trivial. As the passionate controversy over the new electronic town marquee showed a few months ago, Moragans are demanding when it comes to signs – and for good reason. Formal or whimsical, low- or high-tech, subdued or flashy, public signs say a lot about how a town sees itself.

Last year the town received a \$50,000 Transportation Development Act grant for a comprehensive update of its Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. The project includes the creation of a wayfinding directional signage program for cars, pedestrians and cyclists. Town staff has been working with consulting firm Studio L'Image, which created the San Leandro wayfinding plan; together they proposed four design options that have been created to differentiate Moraga from its neighboring cities and to reflect the character of the town.

The four members of the Design

Review Board met on Jan. 11 to decide whether there should be a pear or no pear on the signs, and a blue or a green sky over a silhouette of hills. As a historical symbol of the town of Moraga the pear has merits, according to Helder and board member John Glover. The other two members, Ramona Escano-Thompson and Chris Crews, were less enthusiastic. The blue sky also garnered no real consensus for or against.

Glover was less concerned about the color palette than the number of future signs planned, "so Moraga does not start looking like Las Vegas," he said. What was important to Glover was that the number of signs be limited to what was needed for direction and safety. The consultant said a preliminary study showed that about 18 vehicular signs, five pedestrian signs, and 20 bike signs would be included.

The four sign options were proposed to the public through an online survey. Option one is all green with a white pear outline in the top left corner, option two is the same as option one with no pear; option three adds a

blue sky with a pear, and option four has a blue sky with no pear. Of the 123 votes submitted in the online survey, nearly half were for option four. None of the other three options received more than 20 percent of the vote.

The four options were also presented to the citizens committee that meets to discuss the pedestrian and bicycle plan. Their comment was that the blue sky could distract passers-by from the main objective of the sign, which is to inform about direction, so

that would eliminate options three and four.

Escano-Thompson suggested creating temporary mockups of the different versions so people could get a better feel for what these signs would look like. The consultant agreed that paper mockups could be made.

The town council will have a chance to weigh in on the proposed signage within a few weeks. Studio L'Image will then finalize the plan, including positioning and material used.

Moraga Planning Director Ellen Clark noted that the four gateway signs that signal the entrance to Moraga on Canyon Road, Moraga Way, St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road are going to be redone thanks to a donation from the Moraga Movers.

The financing of the new wayfinding plan was not discussed. The grant only funds the study.

## Moraga Movers Gives \$40,000 to the Town and Local Groups

The largest dues-paying organization in Moraga, the Moraga Movers, gave the town of Moraga \$10,000 to build four gateway signs at the entrance of the town. Philip Arth, president of the Moraga movers, indicated at the Jan. 13 council meeting that in 2015 the seniors group found itself with a \$40,000 surplus and decided to donate half of that money in 2015, and the remainder in 2016. Other Movers' beneficiaries are the Saint Mary's Scholarship Program, the Saint Mary's High Potential Scholarship Program, and Lamorinda Adult Respite Care. "The feeling was that they (the gateway signs) are worn, they are too low to the ground, they are dated, and some are obstructed by vegetation," said Arth, when explaining why the group decided to give money to the town.

## Council Seeks Funds for an Elevator at the Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

While renovation and development plans for the Hacienda de las Flores have not been finalized, and the upper floors of the Hacienda are underused, the Moraga Town Council asked staff during its Jan. 13 meeting to pursue a grant that would provide partial funding for the installation of an elevator at the facility. Staff identified a grant opportunity through the Contra Costa County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Moraga could get \$96,000 from that fund, which would cover a little less than one-fifth of the half million dollars needed for the project.

Former mayor Graig Crossley, who uses a wheelchair, spoke at the meeting, saying, "I am interested in accessibility at the Hacienda. Location and money have been key issues." But Crossley asked if the

town was not moving ahead of itself, adding "I'm not making the assumption that Gould Evans (the architect in charge of designing the renovation of the Hacienda) is going to go through (with the completion of their plans), so the access to the second level should be pursued." Crossley added that he wanted to know how those upper

levels would be used.

The council members also questioned the timing, and councilmember Teresa Onoda, asked if the architect had weighed in on where the elevator should be located. Gould Evans is scheduled to present its plan to renovate and develop the Hacienda in the coming months. Jay Ingram, the parks and recreation director who

was presenting the project, assured Onoda that the two possible locations for the new elevator made sense for them.

Onoda also questioned the town's use of the upper floors at this time. "The upper levels are not ready for prime time," she said. "It would cost a lot to have classes up there."

... continued on next page

## Just Listed in Moraga!



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925.200.2222 or 925.878.9685  
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