



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Monday, March 14 canceled
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 12, 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

Loud party, 2/16 A neighbor complained of loud noise coming from an Ascot Drive residence. Although the reporting person had complained through the homeowners association in the past, the situation had not improved, so this time complaints were escalated to law enforcement. Cops advised the sensitive receptor to call police when the noise was unreasonably loud and they would enforce the town's noise ordinance. According to the neighbor there has been unrelated suspicious activity at that address before, and he or she wanted to have the situation documented in case there are future more serious incidents with the allegedly scofflaw neighbors.

Card holder vanished 2/19/16 During the night or morning hours a reporting person lost her card holder that included a driver's license, numerous credit and debit cards as well as insurance cards. It was last seen at a local restaurant in the Rheem Shopping Center. She just wanted documentation since she was scheduled to take a trip via airplane in the very near future, and wanted something to show the TSA, since she couldn't obtain a replacement photo ID in time.

Non-burglary 2/19/16 A Lynwood Place resident called police to report a residential burglary. Cops determined that someone entered the home, but appeared not to have taken anything. Insufficient evidence for further investigation.

Alleged loud music 2/20/16 An anonymous caller alerted police to loud music coming from a Moraga Road apartment at 10 p.m. on a Saturday night. When police arrived, they didn't hear any loud music. Just 15 minutes later the reporting person called back and invited police into his apartment to hear the "loud music." Cops could hear the faint sound of music coming from the adjacent apartment. The neighbor was contacted and told police the fellow next door was sensitive, but agreed to turn the music down. The incident was recorded on the officer's body-worn camera.

Car versus deer 2/22/16 Around 6 p.m. cops responded to a report of a deer that was struck by a vehicle at an undisclosed location in Moraga. Police noted the gravely injured deer lying in the roadway. Due to the extended estimated time of arrival from Animal Control Services, the deer was "dispatched," according to the police report, to prevent further suffering, and was left to be picked up by Animal Control at a later time.

Identity theft, 2/22/16 A Moraga resident went to the police department on Rheem Boulevard to report a fraud. The victim received a letter from Kohl's customer service regarding the fraudulent creation of an account using the resident's personal information. Later, the subject became aware of more attempts to create fake accounts at other businesses. This was a first for the victim.

Tax return identity theft 2/23/16 A Peralta Court resident alerted police that she had reported an incident to the IRS and it was being investigated by their agents. The IRS told the reporting person to follow up with her claim by filing a report with the FTC (Federal Trade Commission). In order to complete her claim with the FTC, she had to obtain a case number from her local law enforcement agency. Voila!

Other crimes occurring in Moraga between Feb. 16-23:

Domestic Dispute – Augusta Drive, Rheem Boulevard
False Alarm – Camino Pablo, Claudia Court

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Will JM Students Get to Sleep In?

By Sophie Braccini

For several years, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School principal Joan Danilson has hoped to build a consensus around the idea of starting the day at JM later than the current bell time of 7:50 a.m. Backed by scientific research, Danilson believes the time change would not only increase student academic performance, but it would simply make the students happier.

In spite of seemingly high parent support, key factors still need to be analyzed, such as the allocation of Lamorinda bus resources.

Of the three Lamorinda middle schools, JM students arrive at school the earliest. Most middle schools in the state and across the country start school after 8 a.m., with some starting as late as 9 a.m. Locally, Orinda Intermediate School starts at 8:45 a.m., Stanley Middle School in Lafayette starts at 8:15 a.m., and Walnut Creek Intermediate at 8:25 a.m. JM school psychologist Kathleen Day, Ph.D., noted during a parent presentation on Feb. 25 that not following the natural sleep pattern, or sleep phase delay, is linked to poorer academic performance, poor long-term memory and decision making, increased risk in traffic accidents, as well as depression.

"Children are asked to wake up

earlier as they transition from elementary school, right when their circadian rhythms start changing, their melatonin production shifts, and they naturally go to sleep later," said Day. In a Stanford study called Summer Sleep Camp, elementary, middle and high school aged children lived in quarters with no natural light or indication of the time of day. "The results showed that children needed the same amount of sleep, between eight and a half and nine and a quarter [hours]," said Day, "but starting around 10 and 11 years of age, they fall asleep later and wake up later." Pre-teens and teens have a hard time falling asleep before 10 or 11 p.m.

"It is important for school districts to regularly test existing conditions per research and engage our stakeholders in discussions about what is best for student learning," said Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns. "The district's charge at this time is educate students, staff, parents and the community about sleep research and a possible later start time at JM, and to solicit their feedback."

In the most recent parent-student-staff survey in Moraga, 20 percent of the parents believe that the present 7:50 a.m. start time is the best option,

while the remainder favored a later start time, with 8:20 and 8:40 a.m. being the top two favorite alternatives. Among the students, 32 percent favored the present 7:50 a.m. start time, with the favorite alternatives being 8:20 and 8:50 a.m. Thirty-eight percent of the children expressed concern that a later start time would affect their extra curricular activities. Among staff, 42 percent rejected the idea of a change in schedule; one of the teachers' major concerns was that students have a hard time focusing after lunch.

The parents who attended the Feb. 25 meeting expressed support for a later start time. One parent said he would adapt his schedule, while another said she would make the needed adjustments for the benefit of her children. Another parent noted that after-school time would not be impacted since getting up later would mean that the students would also be able to stay up later.

The main difficulty of changing the bell schedule, according to Danilson, is the busing of students. She said the Lamorinda School Bus Program would not have enough buses to add new routes for JM. The buses that service Moraga currently travel more than one route at pickup and dis-

missal. "There needs to be a 35- to 40-minute difference between the elementary and middle schools start bell time so the buses can drive two consecutive routes," said Danilson.

When one mother asked how Orinda and Lafayette managed the system within the Lamorinda School Bus program, Danilson indicated that in Orinda there was a 40-minute difference between the elementary and middle school start time.

According to the Lamorinda School Bus Program website, www.lamorindaschoolbus.org, which provides the bus route schedule for all the Lamorinda schools, elementary and middle schools in Lafayette start at roughly the same time and enough buses are provided to accommodate them. Lafayette has eight bus routes total, Moraga has 10, and Orinda has 10 for the middle school alone, and eight routes for the elementary schools.

The school board will hold a special public meeting regarding the question of the possible change in the bell schedule on March 22. Follow-up surveys will be conducted after the meetings. The school board will hear an update and recommendation in April. The board will be in charge of making the final decision regarding the possible change in bell schedule.

Town Opts Out of Community Electricity – For Now

By Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga decided not to join the Marin Clean Energy (MCE) cooperative electricity acquisition group, a Community

Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, before its March 31 open enrollment deadline, which would have included an \$18,000 reduction in cost of the program.

According to information on the Contra Costa County website, CCA, also referred to as Community Choice Energy (CCE), is "the practice of

pooling consumer electricity demand within a region for the purpose of procuring energy and selling it to customers. The existing energy utility remains responsible for transmission, distribution, and billing. The most common reason for jurisdictions to pursue CCA is to promote electricity generation from renewable energy

sources and offer consumers a choice in purchasing electricity with potential opportunities for cost savings."

Not wanting to be pressured into making a fast decision, the council members asked for more time, hoping to keep their options open if Contra Costa County decides to create a CCA of its own. ... continued on page A11



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