



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Monday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

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

Report

March 15-22



Four car burglaries 3/16/16:

Police responded to the Moraga Safeway on a report of four auto burglaries. Like a good neighbor, Orinda P.D. is there – an Orinda officer located the vehicle and pursued it to Oakland. Even more help arrived in the form of air support and an Oakland P.D. cruiser. Two suspects were arrested for possession of stolen property from auto burglaries at Safeway, and conspiracy to commit a crime. The driver was also arrested for evading officers.

More grocery crime 3/17/16:

A supermarket employee reported the theft of food and other items, as well as the suspects fleeing in a U-Haul van – way to blend in. The vehicle was stopped by a neighboring unspecified police department and found to be stolen; just a guess – either Orinda or Lafayette cops. Upon further investigation, cops learned the stolen items from the grocery store were recovered by employees prior to the suspects departing the premises. Although they didn't get cited for the shoplifting – the driver of the U-Haul was arrested for vehicle theft and drug charges.

No love for Trump stickers 3/18/16:

Around midnight at St. Mary's College, six Trump stickers valued at \$10 each have been defaced or removed from the reporting person's car while parked. The fellow also states he has been harassed via social media for his political beliefs and had reported the incidents to St. Mary's College Public Safety. The Trump supporter had no idea who would be removing his stickers, but he wanted documentation of the incident. What about the college's Lasallian commitment to social justice and respect for all persons?

Toddler in traffic 3/19/16:

Police responded to a report of a toddler who ran into traffic near the 7-11 on busy Moraga Road at 2:25 p.m. Officers took charge of the child and located his residence, but found no adults at home. The father was eventually contacted via phone and returned to the residence, explaining that he had gone to pick up another child, and left the 3-year-old in the care of a 7-year-old. There was no indication of other neglect or abuse and the child was left in the care of his father. The case was referred to Child Protective Services.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from March 15 – 22:

Traffic incident – Rheem Shopping Center
Car vs. unoccupied car – Moraga Star gas station
False alarm – Rimer Drive,

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Hillside and Ridgeline Regulation Debate Continues

By Sophie Braccini



The Bellavista development is under construction off Rheem Blvd.

Photo Andy Scheck

The hills of Moraga were front and center last month at a special Moraga Town Council meeting.

The council has been working to clarify inconsistent terms and regulations about hillsides and ridgelines noted in the General Plan

and the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO), as well as in the grading ordinance, design guidelines and the zoning code as part of the hillside and ridgeline regulation

revision process that began two years ago. Public workshops have

been conducted, a steering committee was appointed, and 10 amendment topics have been identified.

Whether to protect the face of hills and ridgelines from development stirred the most controversy at the March 10 meeting.

"The General Plan calls for protecting the view shed along the scenic corridors, but what does protect mean?" asked consultant Ben Noble, who showed different options such as horizontal or vertical setbacks from the ridge, or a "cone of vision."

Council Member Teresa Onoda said that when she thinks of a hill in Moraga, she does not think about houses. "I want to see the hill," she said. "Just seeing the ridgeline is not enough."

Vice Mayor Dave Trotter added that the General Plan includes protection of view sheds that necessarily include some of the hillsides. But others, such as Mayor Mike Metcalf, were concerned that prohibiting too much development could open the door to lawsuits by property owners.

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Town Makes \$10,000 Donation to Carr Ranch

By Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga sent a strong signal of support to the John Muir Land Trust when the town council voted to donate \$10,000 to the campaign to purchase 600 acres of the Carr Ranch property.

The vote, held at the March 23 meeting, was not unanimous, as Mayor Michael Metcalf said he would have rather waited for the coming budget cycle before agreeing to the donation.

When the JMLT announced nine months ago that it was committing to raising \$7 million to purchase Carr Ranch, it seemed a monumental task, and the largest the 26-year-old trust ever undertook. But Linus Eukel, JMLT Executive Director, said that over \$5 million had already been committed.

"We have over two-thirds worth of support toward the acquisition of the property," Eukel said. "It comes

from a mix of public agency funding, private foundations and individual supporters, most of them from Lamorinda."

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which owns the watershed next to the Carr Ranch property, has really helped support the fundraising efforts, Eukel said.

The director added that the town's donation had not been solicited by the Trust and that it was a strong signal of local support. During the meeting he stressed the importance of getting a unanimous decision from the council. The four council members present all supported the idea of a \$10,000 donation, but differed on the way of appropriating the sum.

"Ten thousand dollars was a payment by SummerHill (Homes) for illegally cutting down a buckeye tree that was on the tree map for

preservation on the Rancho Laguna II property," said Council Member Dave Trotter. "It was always contemplated that this money would be allocated to a project that would have a pro-environmental impact."

A letter from Summerhill was produced that indicated that the fine should be used to protect open space.

But Metcalf said he had never seen a written account of this transaction and that he wanted the donation to be included in the many projects up for review during the next budgeting cycle, which will start in April.

"My problem is not what we are doing, but how we are doing it," he said. "There are a bunch of things that we know are going to come up, and we have a budget process that gives us an opportunity to make an assessment of all our needs."

Council Members Roger Wykle and Teresa Onoda agreed with Trotter that there was a nexus of opportunity at this time and the donation was approved.

Eukel added after the meeting that "no deal is done until it is finished" and that the JMLT continues to need strong local support to raise the rest of the money.

On April 30 a fundraising gala will be held at Campana Farm, next to the ranch. "The sale of the seats is already going strong and we have capped the number of attendants at 350," Eukel said. "We are so grateful to Pat Rose who gave us the place for this occasion."

The Trust's goal is to close escrow with the Carr family by July of this year.

More information about the Carr Ranch campaign and the gala can be found at www.jmlt.org.

PURE MUIR

a celebration of Contra Costa open space

Saturday, April 30th • 5-9 pm

Campana Farm, Moraga

Gala



JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST

Join us for a celebration of Contra Costa open space! Enjoy music, gourmet dinner, wine and live auction. Learn about the campaign to save beautiful Carr Ranch.

Purchase tickets at jmlt.org or 925.228.5040

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