



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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



May 23 to 30

Alarms:

May 25 Redwood Lane

May 28 Commercial building; camera showed silhouettes, nothing amiss

May 29 Location n/a

May 23 Child abuse

Police responded to reports of an infant left unattended for 10 minutes in a car. The infant was not in the car, and unharmed. Parent and caregiver were counseled.

May 23 Miscellaneous

Initial reports of a purse theft from Safeway. Turns out the unattended basket was returned to the registers. Clerks didn't notice the purse until later, but all the contents were accounted for.

May 26 Sexual battery

800 block Camino Ricardo

May 26

An anonymous letter, perhaps from Carnac the Magnificent, alerted police that a residence on the outskirts of Moraga may be used for illicit purposes in the future. The info was sent, but not by ESP, to the county sheriff's department.

May 27 Welfare check

Police responded to a yell-fest between a grandma and 7-year-old child. No crime was committed; it was just a mutual non-admiration society. Take two throat lozenges and call me (quietly) in the morning.

May 29 Drug

A suspect arrested on outstanding warrant found in possession of controlled substances. He was booked into jail in Martinez

May 30 Vandalism

A Safeway shopper gone for 30 minutes found her car keyed upon return. No leads.

May 30 Deceased

An elderly male on Calle La Mesa reported unresponsive and could not be revived. The death was likely from natural causes.

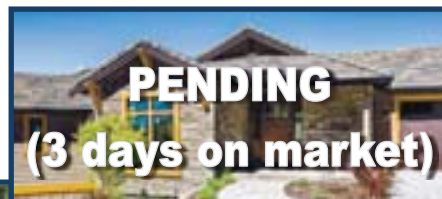
May 30 Trespass

A non-student was found on Saint Mary's Campus trying to snitch items from a donation bin. College and town police took matriculating care to teach him not to return or trespassing charges would be filed.

May 30 Forgery

Someone checked into another's account. Counterfeiter was being unbalanced.

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The good life on Kendall Circle in Via Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



New residents at Via Moraga.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Sitting in Via Moraga's community park with a group of residents while a dog frolics on the lawn and children have fun in the nearby play structure, it's hard to believe that the space that looked so tiny on the developer's plans is both perfectly adequate and friendly. It all fits, as the new Moraga residents that have moved in the now sold-out residences testify with contentment.

Four years ago, the process started to develop 17 compact single-family homes on the two acres that used to be a bowling alley. This type of home with almost no yard is a first for Moraga. Senka Maricic-Foster, who was in charge of sales of Via Moraga for the developer, Signature Homes, confirms that the project is fully sold out. Sales started in May 2016, thus it took about a year to sell 17 units priced between \$1.2 and \$1.4 million across from the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and next to 5A-Rent-A-Space.

Signature Homes President Gary Galindo says that this was his first project in Moraga. He adds that with four years and 28 public meetings, this was the most difficult project to get approved in his entire career. He explains that the process took so long that the actors changed, such as the members of the Planning Commission and the new group came with different expectations than what had been previously approved. He remem-

bers conflicting requests from the design review board and the commission, another aspect that made it difficult for the developer. He believes it is because Moraga does so little in matter of development that it has not been able to adopt a more expedited process. Galindo is nonetheless very proud of the outcome. He says that inside the development people forget that it is located along Moraga Road. He believes that Signature Homes has contributed to the beauty of Moraga.

May Lin bought one of the largest floor plans. Her home is bright, modern, very well conceived and functional, with quality appliances and finishes. The great room incorporates the kitchen, dining room and family room. The homeowner, who is a doctor working in San Francisco, loves that she can see her children play or do their homework while she cooks. The plan also works very well for entertaining. The ground floor includes a bath and a bedroom, or office, while the second floor has three bedrooms, a master with large bath and closets and a Jack-and-Jill bathroom for the kids.

Maricic-Foster says that these type of homes, compact single-family dwellings located near transportation and schools, is what many young families in which both parents work want today: an uncomplicated lifestyle with as little maintenance as possible.

George and Merle Silverman chose the home to be close to their children who live in Orinda. They come from Foster City. They did not want an old home that would require work. Merle Silverman had been looking online for proposed development in the three Lamorinda cities and they were one of the first to put money down to have an option on one of the homes. The couple loves the fact that the shopping center is across the street, and so does Lin, who enjoys walking to the store or to the gym.

All the neighbors interviewed note, though, that there has been a few close calls with drivers who do not stop when the crosswalk light flashes, warning that pedestrians want to reach the shopping center side of Moraga Road.

Hubert Ma and Dr. Joanna Cheung were also among the first to buy a home at Via Moraga: she is the owner of the pediatric dentistry that occupies a ground floor office next door at 533 Moraga Road. The couple thought the opportunity was too good to pass. They choose Moraga for the school district and low crime rate. Their young children have made friends in the neighborhood with other kids their age, such as those of Altan Khendup, who moved from Berkeley in a home at Via Moraga along with his wife's brother's family, who occupies the home next to his.

Some of the homeowners are newlywed, others are couples without kids, or young families or empty nesters. Silverman says that the most spoken foreign language is Mandarin, and there are people from Eastern Europe, Malaysia, as well as American-born. Some residents are in the medical field, one teaches at Saint Mary's, some are engineers.

The neighbors quickly got to know each other, and it is as a group that they walked to the study session in April for the renovation of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. "We would have liked to see more improvements proposed," says Silverman, "but any modernization is welcomed."

The homeowners are part of a homeowners' association that maintains the common area: a front garden that creates a buffer with Moraga Road, and the community back garden.

Civil discourse at DeSaulnier's Moraga town hall

By Cathy Dausman

Neither sinkhole nor bridge failure, not even the presence of Moraga's mayor and city manager was enough to steer the conversation away from national issues during a May 30 town hall meeting at Saint Mary's College hosted by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier.

The only local question was really a regional one, concerning the state of California's educational system. Although DeSaulnier didn't mince words, as town hall meetings go it was a very civil discourse.

"We really try to be bipartisan in these times," DeSaulnier said, but he calls President Trump "very unusual" and says bluntly "Congress is not working right now."

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Mo Saadat
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