



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Oct. 10, 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

Summary covers Sept. 17 to 24

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 16 |
| Noise Complaints | 12 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 2 |
| Traffic stops | 54 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 5 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 3 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 2 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | |
| 100 block Miramonte Dr | |
| Animal Cruelty | |
| Safeway | |
| Brandishing a Weapon | |
| Moraga Commons Park | |
| Burglary, Commercial | |
| Safeway | |
| Burglary, Residential | |
| 200 block Corliss | |
| Civil | |
| 200 block Corliss | |
| 300 block Birchwood Dr | |
| Counterfeit | |
| Safeway | |
| Credit Fraud | |
| 2000 block Donald Dr | |
| Disturbance, Juvenile | |
| 2100 block Ascot Dr | |
| Sanders Ranch Rd/Camino Pablo | |
| 70 block Miramonte Dr | |
| Disturbing the Peace | |
| reported to police | |
| Excessive Speed | |
| 80 block Rheem Blvd | |
| Rheem Blvd/Fernwood Dr | |
| Moraga Commons Park | |
| 100 block Draeger | |
| Moraga/St Mary's | |
| Moraga/Buckingham | |
| Larch/Canyon Rd | |
| Health & Safety Violation | |
| address n/a | |
| Hit & Run | |
| 1900 block Ascot Dr | |
| Nations | |
| ID Theft | |
| location n/a | |
| Mentally Ill Commitment | |
| location n/a | |
| Missing Adult | |
| 300 block Rheem Blvd | |
| Panhandling | |
| 1500 block Canyon Rd | |
| Police/Fire/ EMS | |
| Campolindo High School | |
| 300 block Fernwood | |
| Reckless Driving | |
| Moraga Rd/Draeger | |
| Revoked License | |
| Moraga Rd/Fire Station 42 | |
| 300 block Rheem Blvd | |
| Shoplift | |
| 400 block Center St | |
| Theft, Petty | |
| 80 block Courter Ln | |

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Moraga's new unique park will need some TLC

By Sophie Braccini



Malcolm Sproul looks at interpretative signs in the new West Commons Park. Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda has been a longtime advocate of the concept of a passive park that provides access to examples of what natural Moraga was like through different phases of its history. As of Sept. 23 residents of all ages can now visit West Commons Park, a passive park in the middle of town across from the Commons Park on Moraga Road, as an education and relaxation resource. While the park has many assets, both in terms of beauty and informational resources, tree maintenance and invasive weed removal could present challenges that town staff might not be equipped to face.

The entrance brings visitors over an aesthetically pleasing bridge, constructed by Summer-Hill Homes. In 2014 the developer signed a development agreement with the town to build the homes adjacent to the park along Camino Ricardo, provided that it would transform the undeveloped 2.5 acres into a passive park with two access bridges. Onoda was on the planning commission when the concept was discussed and she said that the passive park concept was always what she championed.

Onoda explains that a recreation space, in the middle of a town, that presents local natural

resources is a rare thing. As a parent she was surprised that when children in local schools were studying local habitats, animals and plants, much of the work was done in the classroom. Malcolm Sproul, a Moraga resident and principal at environmental consulting firm LSA, has been a strong supporter of the project and believes that anything that takes children outside and away from electronics is good.

This reporter has visited the park on several occasions with Sproul and Barbara Preston, another resident who has been working to save Moraga historical pear trees for many years.

The first impression one gets on the access bridge is a very nice view of the riparian corridor along Laguna Creek. Sproul points to native plants, trees and shrubs that grow there. A very well made interpretive sign details all the natural elements present in the corridor: California Buckeyes, Coast Live Oaks, Arroyo Willows, Coffee berry, to name a few.

Sproul explains that having portions of the riparian corridor thus protected is also allowing wildlife to thrive. Animal species that have been spotted along the creek include frogs and turtles, as well as rainbow trout. Sproul remembers spotting a 16-inch trout

in the creek just before the park begins. He explains that the fish live in the Upper San Leandro Reservoir and travel up the local creeks to spawn.

Wildlife were spotted in several areas on a recent early morning visit to the park: Hummingbirds were happily gleaning nectar from the California fuchsia that have been planted by SummerHill with other native plants in several patches throughout the park; a majestic pair of white tailed kites was perched in the trees, black phoebes flew by; of course jays and crows were present; Sproul identified the droppings of a grey fox next to the trail; he also noticed that a small tree had been somewhat abused by a buck polishing its antlers. The interpretative signs in the park offer a nice complement to the exploration.

Maintenance challenges were also obvious in the park. The large flat area that comprises the larger part of the 2.5 acres is mostly covered by what should be grassland, studded with very old pear trees, and surrounded by more native trees and bushes. Instead, the grassland is contaminated by bristly ox tongue, a highly invasive non-native weed that has been spreading throughout Moraga.

... continued on page A11

Don't park on the street for more than three days

By Sophie Braccini

The public may not know that is not permitted to leave vehicles parked in the right of way continuously for more than 72 hours in Moraga. Cars and other vehicles have to be in garages or driveways, not sitting on the street. Until now, however, there were no ordinances in the municipal code allowing the police department to enforce the rule.

Chief of police Jon King says parking all types of vehicles in the public right of way has been a recurrent issue in Moraga, and can be a hazard when people leave large trailers or recreational vehicles on the street for days on end. Neighbors complain, and owners merely move the contentious vehicle a few inches when the police ask them to remove it.

The new proposal, which was introduced on Sept. 13 and approved at the Sept. 27 Moraga Town Council meeting, is to allow for 72-hour parking with the possibility of asking for an additional 72-hour permit from the police department; after that time, the vehicle will have to be moved on private grounds or at least 200 feet away. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from being parked in residential neighborhoods, but owners can also ask for a 72-hour permit.

Some of the council members were surprised to learn that they could have been unintentionally infringing on the law by parking their vehicles on the street for more than three days. King said that the practice is not for his officers to be on the lookout for these types of infractions. The normal procedure is when someone complains, the officers go on site, check the license plate to locate the owner, and go talk to that person before taking action.

King noted after the meeting that his department has had to tow vehicles, but it is usually an abandoned car not belonging to anyone in Moraga.

A Sanders Drive area resident came to the Sept. 13 meeting to express support of the new rule: in

that neighborhood a resident has consistently parked a large trailer that is both unsightly and a safety hazard. King confirmed he was aware of the situation and had been unable to intervene so far.

A majority of the council members agreed that 72 hours was

enough and that the rule should be to move vehicles at least 200 feet after that time has elapsed. The council approved a final version of the text including exception for ADA vehicles on Sept. 27.

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