



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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LINDA EHRICH



Moraga 4th of July Activities All Day!

Calendar Online

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Street lighting assessment to continue at \$58 per single-family unit

By Vera Kochan

Anyone who pays property taxes in Moraga is levied a street lighting assessment on the tax bill. Although the description may read a bit ambiguous; the category is Moraga ST LT.

During the June 12 town council meeting, members unanimously approved to continue levying the \$58 assessment for Fiscal Year 2019-

20. The \$58 is not an increase, but a continual assessment that has been levied since 2010.

When breaking down the amount annually per household, it comes to approximately \$1.12 per week which, according to the Engineer's Annual Report, goes toward "The operation, maintenance and servicing of existing and future public lighting facilities, and the installation or construction of public lighting

facilities and any facilities appurtenant to them or necessary or convenient for the maintenance or servicing of them, including grading, clearing, removal of debris, and installation or construction of curbs, gutters, walls, sidewalks or paving, or water, irrigation, drainage or electrical facilities."

The bulk of these funds – \$120,000 of the total \$211,350 in expenditures – are used to pay the town's electric bill to

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. for street lighting. According to the staff report, the fiscal year 2018-19 budget included \$60,000 for a Commercial Center Street Lighting study to look into increased lighting at Rheem and Moraga Shopping Centers, but the project is being delayed to 2020-21 due to a need to address higher priority projects first.

While Moraga continues to be high on the list of great places to live, the importance

of keeping the community well lit at night is not just for aesthetic purposes. Evening safety on public streets for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers comes in the form of a well-maintained lighting infrastructure. To this end, ample street lighting in Moraga neighborhoods adds security for homeowners who are, after all, paying the bill.

Day-long Fourth of July celebrations scheduled at Moraga Commons



Last year's dog parade

Photo Andy Schreck

By Vera Kochan

It's that time of year again! Put on your red, white and blues for the annual Fourth of July festivities happening from morning to night at Moraga Commons Park located at 1425 St. Mary's Road.

There will be entertainment, food and activities for all ages including three categories of Fun Runs: Kiddie Run, 5 Mile Run and 2 Mile Run (register at moragafunrun.com).

In the commons, the day starts out with a 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast, followed by a dog parade at 9 and a kid's bike parade at 10:30. Community booths along with food, wine and beer booths will be on hand. Also, the ever-popular inflatables should keep the youngsters amused in addition to family entertainment at the band shell.

The National Anthem will set the tone for the evening at 6:45 p.m. followed by the mayor's welcome speech. Before the fireworks show, a 7 p.m. concert by the band House Rockers will be on hand to get the party started. The fireworks are estimated to begin at 9:30 p.m. After the "bombs bursting in air" display concludes, House Rockers will once again perform to close out America's 243rd birthday.

If you don't want the fireworks display to be a "dud," make a contribution to the Buy-A-Rocket fund. The goal is to raise \$30,000 for a truly spectacular light show. Send a check payable to: Town of Moraga, Buy-A-Rocket and mail it to 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga, CA 94556. Online donations are also welcome. Visit moragarec.com.

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