



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Moraga Town Council authorizes purchase of new police vehicle



Moraga Police Department's Dodge Charger Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department will soon acquire a new police vehicle that will replace one of its older 2011 models in the fleet. The MPD

currently has six active marked patrol cars. It also uses an off-road vehicle for any emergencies that could transpire on any of Moraga's hillsides and steep terrains. According to a staff report by Moraga Police Chief

Jon King, "Although the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor vehicle was the primary vehicle for several years, this vehicle model has been out of production since 2012. Since that time, the police department has transitioned to both the Ford Pursuit Utility (Explorer) and the Dodge Charger for use as patrol and administrative vehicles."

The old vehicle carries approximately 73,000 miles on it and is beginning to show its age with increasing maintenance costs. King stressed the importance of using newer vehicles with the public's safety in mind. "It's critical that all of our vehicles are in the best shape and condition they can be. It's impera-

tive. You can't risk the police not getting to anyone during a call. It could be a matter of life and death." He pointed out that the California Highway Patrol replaces its vehicles every three to four years.

The town will purchase a brand new black and white, 2019 Dodge Charger Pursuit V-8 Engine Patrol unit from Bravo Dodge. They are part of B & W Automotive Inc. located in Alhambra, California, which won a bidding contract from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. King explained, "I shop for the best price I can get. I look at the state bids for all the deals, and we were able to pick this one."

The new vehicle will cost the town \$28,239.60 including

sales tax and delivery to Moraga from Southern California. MPD has a contractor in the area that will customize the exterior and another that will install police equipment to the interior, both at additional cost.

No one particular officer is assigned a permanent vehicle. "We make assignments for the cars. We rotate who uses each vehicle," King said. "We want to make sure all officers are comfortable with all of the cars."

The Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 includes \$45,000 in the Vehicle and Operating Equipment Program: Citizens Option for Public Safety, that allows for the purchase and equipping of a police vehicle.

Outdoor Supply Hardware to occupy former OSH location



The new home of Outdoor Supply Hardware Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

It didn't take long to fill the space vacated by Orchard Supply Hardware in Moraga roughly one year ago. The new occupant, Outdoor Supply Hardware, will offer the same type of products that

do-it-yourselfers have come to expect from big-box hardware stores.

The new tenant, Central Network Retail Group, is a multi-brand retail company based in Tennessee that currently operates 104 hardware stores, home centers and

lumberyards within 14 states. According to its website, while CNRG plans to stock the shelves with its own brand of merchandise it intends to honor the longstanding appeal that consumers had for Orchard. The newly created brand, Outdoor Supply Hardware, is the 16th in its line.

The new chain's name was deliberately created to remind the public of the former Orchard hardware stores. The Moraga location at 1550 Canyon Road was one of the final 99 stores closed by previous owner Lowe's. It was chosen by CNRG to be one of its pilot stores as the new OSH, because the previous store was profitable. OSH's Mike Knickerbocker,


currently a store manager replied, "Naturally every company wants to select and operate in profitable locations. The people of Moraga welcomed this business model before, and with our expanded selections and services we look forward to being a part of this great community."

Intending to open seven stores in California, CNRG has planned another location in Napa. The Moraga OSH plans on staffing somewhere between 50-60 associates in full and part-time positions. Several former Orchard employees and managers are planning to return.

An opening date for Moraga is planned for this fall.

"We will of course offer a great assortment of 'core' type hardware needs. Nursery, garden supplies, electrical, plumbing, paint, houseware items, tools, fasteners, patio furniture and grills," stated Knickerbocker. He added, "We will offer new vendors and products from Stihl power equipment, Big Green Egg grills and expanded lumber. We will also, and are very excited to offer tool rental."

Knickerbocker concluded, "We are extremely fortunate and excited to be part of the Moraga and Napa communities. We look forward to providing a great experience for our customers and neighbors."

 <p>Town Council Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Planning Commission Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Park and Recreation Commission Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Moraga School District Board Meetings TBA Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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