



MORAGA

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Many 2019 town council goals achieved mid-year in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

Moraga is bouncing back this year, shaking off the doldrums that took hold of the town beginning in 2016. The two biggest culprits, the closure of the Canyon Bridge and the first Rheem sinkhole, set the town's finances into a tailspin. However, with the diligence of all the town's departments along with their guidance and recommendations given to the town council, Moraga's much needed facelift is beginning to take shape.

The new Moraga Mobile app has, as of mid-July, reported over 650 downloads and achieved 225 resolved issues since its inception in April. According to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, "We've heard that the public finds it easy to use and appreciates the town's responsiveness."

The implementation of the Storm Drain System Operations and Maintenance Program has gone through inspections, been mapped and the findings will be presented to the town council in September.

The first meeting of the Moraga Center Specific Plan Citizens Advisory Committee has taken place and Battenberg stated, "I am looking forward to the September 4 and 19 meetings when we will be discussing the design scenarios and visual simulations."

The Canyon Bridge reimbursement of \$2.43 million has been received with an additional \$230,000 on track for receipt at fiscal year end. The amount of \$265,000 from Caltrans is still pending.

Measure K improvements to the town's streets and roads are happening in many areas of Moraga. Battenberg

said, "The surface seal treatment that is being completed this year is the most cost effective treatment and given the Moraga Way, Canyon/Camino Pablo, and Moraga Road/Alta Mesa projects, the town is resurfacing 34 different street locations this summer." She added, "This is approximately 5.75 centerline miles, a little over 10 percent of all 56 miles of town streets."

Emergency Evacuation Drills conducted in Lamorinda, with resident cooperation, acknowledged the threat of wildfires to the area with many lessons learned. To further citizen awareness and preparedness Lamorinda's CERT, police and fire departments have conducted workshops, safety meetings and have even mailed out the yellow Lamorinda Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation to help citizens get through

the approaching fire season.

The implementation of a town-operated After School Enrichment Program begins this fall at the Hacienda de las Flores. Improvements to the Casita, thanks to the \$120,000 donation from the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, are wrapping up with a ceremony to mark the occasion.

In conjunction with the town's Climate Action Plan, electric vehicle charging stations are on track for installation by year's end. Hydration stations have been installed at the town offices and council chambers, with one on the way at the Moraga Commons skate park. Lighting upgrades to four town facilities are also in the works.

"We are busy continuing to work on the Town Council and Community Goals for 2019," Battenberg said, "and appreciate the support of the community."

Campolindo Tech Club receives grant from Kiwanis for new equipment



By Vera Kochan

Many people dream of becoming famous on stage or in front of a camera, but there are those who prefer to remain behind the scenes on the technical side of a production. Such is the case for the Campolindo students enrolled in the Tech Club, an after school volunteer program that began in 2011.

Facility manager of the Campolindo Performing Arts Center, Ross Wilson, first approached Campo's Director of Choral Activities Mark Roberts, who also oversees use of the school's theater, about forming a club that would combine the specialties of audio and video as a learning experience. What began as a program with two students has blossomed into a class size of 25 participants.

"The Tech Club teaches teamwork," Wilson stated.

"The older students teach the younger ones, and eventually the main goal is to have experience on the sound board," a piece of equipment that is the heartbeat of any production.

According to Kiwanis member and technical aspect advisor, Ferenc Kovac, who recognized the Tech Club's needs, "Most of the camera equipment, including video cameras, microphones and audio recording equipment are borrowed by Ross from the community and a local college, on a time-available basis."

At their Aug. 15 meeting, Moraga Valley's Kiwanis donated \$3,200 for the club to purchase an industry standard video camera and tripod. On hand for the presentation were Wilson, Roberts and students, junior Alexia Tzortzis and senior Emily Marston.

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Town of Moraga receives excellence in financial reporting award

By Vera Kochan

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada notified Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg that Moraga's Administrative Services Department was once again awarded The Certificate of Achievement for

Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year ending 2018.

The CAFR Program, established in 1945, is considered the highest form of recognition in the field of governmental accounting and financial reporting involving transparency and full disclosure.

"The budget is how we decide to spend our money," Battenberg stated. "It's an important financial document for the town."

Moraga's Director of Administrative Services Norm Veloso is proud to helm a department whose sixth consecutive award is given in a category that includes both



Photo provided

Yuliya Elbo and Norm Veloso at the Moraga town offices.

large and small cities. "Cities are required to do basic financial statements – it helps you to base your budget. We are committed to the spirit of transparency, and it's great to be recognized by GFOA," he said.

Governments are graded on a variety of categories including: reports from an independent auditor; management's discussion and analysis; basic financial statements; fund financial statements; fiduciary fund

financial statements; a summary of significant accounting policies; note disclosures; pension and other post-employment benefit related note disclosures.

"We're meeting the highest requirements in financial reporting even with the little resources we have," Veloso said. "I want to thank our accountant, Yuliya Elbo, for all her hard work and helping us complete this CAFR in a timely manner."

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COMPASS

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

Planning Commission
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2