



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Public Works Department gets pavement preservation award for Moraga



Photo Vera Kochan

Public Works Director Edric Kwan holds The Sorenson Award

By Vera Kochan

It is evident with all of the road work that went on around town this summer that public works has been busy improving the streets. The 2019 Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation should come as no surprise for its bestowment on the town of Moraga.

Director Edric Kwan attended the Oct. 29 ceremony in Park City, Utah, to accept the prestigious award honoring the town of Moraga from the National Center for Pavement Preservation.

Some criteria for the award require entries to give examples of any notable preservation applications or techniques along with unique public awareness actions; the acceptance of preservations by elected town officials; demonstration of preservation principles; and, most importantly, the documenting of tangible benefits such as increased life of the pavement, utilization of new concepts and less frequency of reconstruction.

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg gives credit to the residents who formed the

Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods in 2010. Its two years of grass roots efforts and meetings helped to put Measure K on the ballot which passed in November 2012.

According to Kwan, Moraga first gained recognition for its pavement efforts in 2013, while winning the Metropolitan Transportation Commission award for Best Pavement Management Program of the Year.

Kwan explained, "After that MTC began to follow Moraga's work." Continuing to be impressed with what a small town can accomplish, in 2018 "MTC asked me to write an article for the Pavement Preservation Journal ("Public Outreach Spurs Big Boost in Town Pavement Condition Index") Winter 2018 issue, which got a lot of attention. It's because of the article that we were asked to fill out an application for this award."

Past recipients of The Sorenson Award have been large municipalities. Kwan proudly stated, "Moraga may not be a big agency with ample resources, staff and funding, but we do care enough to do something to improve our local streets and roads ... and it shows."

Rheem Theatre addition gets green light from Planning Commission



Photo Wendy Schreck

By Vera Kochan

Cinema West partners Dave Corkill and Kyle Conner's plans for their newly purchased Rheem Theatre met with approval during the Oct. 21 Planning Commission meeting. Planning Department Senior Planner Steve Kowalski's presentation had no hiccups.

Located at 350 Park St. in the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga, the circa 1957 building will see a transformative facelift in keeping with its historic integrity.

The applicant plans to construct a new 4,113 square

foot ground-level addition onto the back of the existing four-screen building. The addition would add two new screening rooms, one containing 82 seats and the other containing 41 seats. The new addition would not be visible from the front of the theater. The existing screening rooms are currently undergoing renovations that will include reclining seats and a state-of-the-art sound system. The newly remodeled theater would contain 559 proposed seats as opposed to the prior 658 seats.

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