



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Village ASSOCIATES

Holiday Tree Lighting
Moraga Commons Park
Dec. 5 at 6:30pm

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MORAGA
PARKS & RECREATION

Kwan leaves Moraga after seven years on the job



Edric Kwan

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Director of Public Works Edric Kwan announced his resignation to a stunned town council during the Nov. 13 meeting. He begins his new career in January with the County of Alameda as Deputy Director of Public Works, overseeing a staff of approximately 100 in the Engineering Department. His new position will allow him to solve problems on a grander scale due to Alameda

County's resources, staff and funding.

Kwan reminisced, "There's a lot to miss about Moraga. I'm really going to miss this community. There's a true sense of teamwork and participation with the community that only a small town can provide." He added, "The week after I started with Moraga in June of 2012, the community held a staff appreciation event. It was at that moment that I fell in love with Moraga. It's been my experi-

ence that working with numerous public agencies that I've never seen that before, and I was so touched."

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg said, "Edric started at the town in 2012, just before the passage of Measure K and was instrumental in developing the town's award-winning Pavement Management Program that has increased the town's pavement condition index from 49 in 2012 (Fair) to 74 in 2018 (Good)."

Battenberg added, "The Town was fortunate to have Edric at the helm of Public Works in 2016 when the Rheem sinkhole appeared as Edric provided strong leadership in fixing the sinkhole and obtaining FEMA reimbursement for the majority of the work."

Further recognizing Kwan's value to Moraga, Battenberg stated, "The town has benefited from Edric's ability to find and secure grant funding - for the Alta Mesa/Moraga Road intersection, Laguna Creek daylighting project, Canyon Road temporary and permanent bridges, Moraga Road resurfacing, and design work for the St. Mary's round-

abouts."

Kwan is also pleased with the outcome of his involvement regarding the All Access Playground and restoring the Hacienda's Pavilion. However, he does regret that he won't be here to see the completion of the New Canyon Bridge.

"My one biggest disappointment is the failure of the storm water measure," Kwan said. "It did not provide me the desperately needed funds to manage the storm water system and avoid catastrophes such as sinkholes."

In retrospect Kwan's pride and joy was the Pavement Project. He nurtured it from birth when Measure K passed and feels that the results turned out much better than anticipated.

Council Member Steve Woehleke said, "As a (council) member, I am impressed at the number of Moraga residents who have complimented Edric's incorporation of their input into projects. In particular, the Public Works Department tackled three major road safety projects this year. In each case, these intersections posed significant pedestrian safety challenges, two of them involving children traveling to

and from school. Edric led citizen engagement meetings and incorporated learnings into final designs."

Council Member Mike McCluer added, "Edric is very knowledgeable and especially easy to work with, always doing whatever it takes to help our town. He has worked on many of our large important projects. I will miss him!"

Kwan looks forward to serving a larger population, stressing "money doesn't motivate me. I took a pay cut coming to Moraga. What keeps me interested is the new challenges. I came here to do whatever I could to leave Moraga a better place if I ever left. I know that my work isn't complete, but I've done what I can to position my successor to take it to the next level."

Battenberg observed, "While Edric's professional accomplishments are significant, Edric's artistic Power-Point presentations and attire, his ability to take a technical issue and make it easy for a lay person to understand, his loyalty, his passion for public works and his excitement about life in general are what make him special."

SMC SEBA Case Competition utilizes Painted Rock as this year's focus

... continued from Page A4

entice a store such as Sports Basement to move into town and provide sporting goods as well as offer guided tours to Painted Rock involving hiking, biking and skill testing through their on-sight equipment; partner with SMC for a capstone community project to "paint the rock"; and invite retail stores such as Michaels, BLICK art supplies, The Vitamin Shoppe and Panera Bread to open stores that would appeal to art enthusiasts and the health conscious.

Team 2 members Alexander Banks, Logan Bradeson, Ryan Connolly, Brandon Talavera and Greg Platner's presentation, titled "Family-Friendly Hiking Capital of the East Bay," suggested a partnership with The Taylor Family Foundation known for their nature-driven youth camp. TTFF is a well-established organization whose donors could add an influx of cash to the Painted Rock hiking vision. Other suggestions included: "A Day at Painted Rock" in July with activities for kids and evening concerts for adults; creating a dog park; bathrooms; water fountains; log benches; natural surface trails and signage. Promotion for the facility would be through Snapchat Geotag that would spread awareness of Painted Rock. On the retail side a Mexican restaurant and Homegrown eatery along with a GNC vitamin store were possibilities.

Team 3 members Logan Bockhahn, Eric Harrelson, Anthony Hudson, Nicholas Lloren and Felix Song promoted "Moraga, A Dog Owners Paradise." Their target market was dog owners where two options for a fenced or unfenced area were discussed. A secondary

market was aimed at the general public including multi-use trails that could also be utilized by SMC and Campolindo's athletic departments. On the retail side it was noted that Rheem already has a pet shop and any additional eateries should be of the health conscious variety.

Team 4 members Miles Campbell, Kaitlyn Fong, Matthew Ouellet, Katina Biggers and Anthony Tucci promoted the theme "Walk the Rock." Their presentation stressed the desire to keep Moraga "rustic" and basically unchanged. Striving to remain cost effective their suggestion was to take advantage of partnering with East Bay Regional Parks known for its well-maintained park system, while offering natural surface trails, a parking lot, Bocce Ball courts, a nine-hole disc course and dog park. The goal for low-cost implementation is to open the area as soon as possible for the public's use. Marketing strategy relies heavily on word-of-mouth.

Team 5 members Alondra Barajas, Tom Moise, William Cooper, Casey Weider and Kaleigh Wright's theme was "Small Town, Big Adventure." An autumn "Paint the Rocks" Festival held at the Rheem Shopping Center would focus on local food and beverage vendors. The stress would be on art and music from local bands and artists. Additions to Painted Rock itself include color-coded trails, rustic benches, unisex restrooms and water stations for humans and dogs. On the retail side, suggestions were to add an athletic clothing store, healthy eateries and a vitamin shop. Marketing would depend on using the town's and EBRP's websites. Publicizing the festival would extend to news me-

dia sources.

The evening's judges were AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Chief Engineering Officer Anil Dasu, Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, US Realty Partners Principal Tina Colacino, John Muir Land Trust Executive Director Linus Eukel, PGIM Real Estate Managing Director Tim Hennessey, Moraga Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson and Neighborhood Computers Owner (SMC Alum '07) Grant Stubblefield.

The winners were announced by Saint Mary's Col-

lege SEBA Dean Elizabeth Davis and certificates of recognition were presented by Matthew Wright, field representative for California State Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.


Team 2 was awarded third place, sharing the \$1,500 prize; Team 5 took second place, with a \$3,500 prize; and Team 4 won first place with a \$5,000 prize.

"It was a great project for the students and a lot of people are invested in them to have a real world experience," Battenberg stated. "The students had a unique perspective."


Professor Aponte-Moreno was excited when the chamber first proposed Painted Rock adding, "I'm so proud. They all did great. The students were all on the same level."

When asked how many of the proposals will be looked into Nelson replied, "Bits and pieces of the winners' presentations could be utilized. The Chamber will get together with JMLT to make any decisions, which could later go before the town council. The college did a great job organizing all the details."


Just Listed



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Town Council
Wednesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission: Monday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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

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

Which of These Costly Homeseller Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Lamorinda Home?

Lamorinda - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-489-1443 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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