



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Stylishly remodeled Rheem Theatre is open for business



Updated lobby with the new concession stand on Thursday night.

Photo Andy Scheck

By Vera Kochan

In keeping with the décor of the circa 1957 era when The Rheem Theatre was born, the new owners have maintained the ambiance with a multitude of upgrades. The Dec. 19 grand reopening was a huge success.

The reopening was a joyful scene, according to Lamorinda Weekly publisher Wendy Scheck, who attended the festivities with husband, Andy. "Michelle Heckle, who

was one of the local residents who volunteered selling tickets at the theater for a year when the Moraga Community Foundation was leasing the venue, was there with her mother and friend as well as many other Rheem Theatre supporters and MCF board members." The main theater was sold out and a second showing of "Star Wars" played upstairs as well. "The remodeled bathrooms were a particular hit with many people commenting on them – even Dave Trotter," said Scheck

with a chuckle, adding, "The seats were super comfortable. The trays and cup holders accommodating and lots of room between the rows for people to walk in or out if needed even if you are in full recline, and the sound system and vibrations were intense."

Much activity has taken place at the 350 Park Street location in Moraga to spruce up the theatre since the April 2019 purchase by Cinema West partners Dave Corkill and Kyle Conner. Yet to come is the addition of two more screens at the back of the building.

From the marquee to the box office itself, the welcoming gleam of new life to the old gem in Rheem's Shopping Center is evident.

Once inside, the lobby boasts brand new carpeting with the polished, original chandeliers and tile-work be-

hind the concession stand. Self-serve kiosks allow patrons to purchase reserved seats if they are not inclined to do so with theater personnel. Corkill boasted, "We've already sold 1,500 advance tickets for 'Star Wars' alone."

Rheem Theatre General Manager Cameron Sullivan was enthusiastic about the many additions to concession stand offerings. "Besides beer and wine, in a month we'll be serving cocktails such as Jack & Coke, Strawberry Daiquiris and Margaritas. All I.D.s will be checked."

As well as the typical menu of popcorn, soda and assorted candies additional items include iced tea, juice, flavored Icees, large pretzels, pizza slices, hot dogs, fries and nachos.

Each patron purchases a reserved seat from a seating map, thus avoiding the hunt for a perfect seat while juggling refreshments once inside the screening room. All

that's left is to settle into a plush, faux-leather reclining chair, place the refreshments on a swiveling tray, put the drink in the provided cup holder and adjust the seat to the desired reclining position for maximum viewing enjoyment and comfort. USB ports are available for recharging phones, but patrons must bring their own cable.

Cinema West gives a nod to Hollywood's Golden Age with poster-sized headshots of movie stars in the hallways. Fans of the historic theater murals will not be disappointed. They have been restored and are joined by the newest technology in theater-going experience with Dolby Atmos Sound Speakers.

The Rheem Theatre now offers a Rewards Card whereby patrons can earn points toward free items. For additional information or to purchase a reserved seat visit www.CinemaWest.com.



Reclining seats with tray tables

Photo Vera Kochan



Hallway décor

Photo Vera Kochan



Town Council
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Thursday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 3 - Dec. 16

Alarms	15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	39
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	46
Patrol Req./Security Check	20
Supplemental Report	16
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations

DUI Misdemeanor	
Moraga Country Club Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
100 Block Paseo Del Rio	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Tamper With Vehicle	
1000 Block Wickham Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.	

Other criminal activity

Extortion	
St. Marys College	
Fraud False Pretenses	
Police Department	
Identity Theft	
300 Block Glen Alpine	
1800 Block Ascot Dr.	
Panhandling	
Safeway	
Petty Theft	
Safeway	
Petty Theft Purse Snatch	
400 Block Center St	
Warrant Arrest	
Starbucks	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	
10 Block Carnoustie	
Disturbing The Peace	
70 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Moraga Commons Park	
Drunk In Public	
St. Marys College	
Public Nuisance	
Moraga Commons Park	
Vandalism	
Paseo Bernau/Alta Mesa Dr.	

Other

Accident Property	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr.	
Mentally Ill Commit	
Campolindo High School	
Public Assembly Check	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	
Trespass	
20 Block Broadmoor	

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