



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
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COMPASS

Moraga Police Department celebrates 40th anniversary



Photo Vera Kochan

From left, Moraga Police Department Lt. Brian South and Chief Jon King hold mayor's proclamation.

By Vera Kochan

Congratulations are in order to the Moraga Police Department for keeping the town one of the

safest cities in California. While the town was incorporated in 1974, it had no police department of its own. Any law enforcement was provided contractually by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. Five years later, on Dec. 17, 1979, the Moraga Police Department was officially founded.

According to MPD's website, Larry Olsen was the first chief of the East Bay Regional Parks Police Department, albeit on a part-time basis, overseeing 10 officers. Within a few years, Chief Tom Simms began serving the town full-time. Current police chief, Jon King, took over the helm in 2016, now overseeing a staff of 13 officers, six reserve officers and two support personnel.

During the Dec. 11 town council meeting, where the anniversary milestone was recog-

nized, King stated, "I am blessed to be your police chief and to lead this group of incredible men and women, who work harder than any group I've ever been with, to keep our community safe."

King added, "I also want to recognize Lt. Brian South who is my second-in-command and who I couldn't do this without." South has been with the MPD for 18 years.

Initially the police department offered generalist services, but has grown to include specialties involving detective and traffic duties, along with an ever changing uniform. The original uniform was a tan shirt with green pants as shared with EBRPD. The late 1980s brought blue colored uniforms to Moraga. For a brief moment in the 1990s, a white shirt with blue pants made an appearance before returning to

the all blue uniform of today.

MPD also has a kinder, gentler presence within town. Outreach programs held in local schools are meant to show students of all ages that police officers aren't just someone wearing a badge and carrying a gun. Officers and police cars are also in attendance during family-oriented events such as the Spring Egg Hunt or Moraga Community Fair. Residents of all ages are encouraged to meet the officers and ask questions.

In Mayor Roger Wykle's proclamation, he recognized "the achievements of the Moraga Police Department throughout its 40 year history and commend all members of the Moraga Police Department, past and present, for their hard work and dedication in keeping Moraga a safe and desirable place to live and work."

Construction management contract awarded for Canyon Bridge project

By Vera Kochan

After receiving proposals from six firms, the field was narrowed to three by the Moraga Public Works Department in regards to awarding a time and materials contract toward the construction of a new Canyon Bridge slated to begin in the spring.

According to Interim Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, after a Dec. 11 presentation to the town council, Harris and Associates, Inc. of Concord was chosen as consultant to perform construction management services which includes inspection, materials testing and construction engineering.

Harris and Associates is familiar with Moraga's

Canyon Bridge issues, having been the firm that successfully managed the opening of the temporary bridge in three months and 5.5% under budget. The firm has vast experience dealing with federal, state and county measures, which should come in handy with the town's Caltrans and Measure J grants funding the project.

The council unanimously voted to award the fully-funded contract to Harris in the amount of \$999,738, which includes a 15% contingency. The Caltrans Highway Bridge Program grant is expected to cover \$885,068 of costs, while the additional \$114,670 will come from Contra Costa County Measure J grant funds.

Before the new bridge can even begin a construction process, tree removal measures must be taken. In order to avoid any future landslide impacts on the new bridge, it has been designed for installation further east. In doing so, 31 trees need to be eliminated from its path by a separate contractor, Julian Tree Care of Richmond, this month. These trees could potentially serve as nesting sites for endangered species beginning February until the end of their nesting season, as late as July. If trees are not removed prior to that period and an endangered species were discovered it could delay the project and increase costs.

Knapp stated, "The work



Photo Vera Kochan

Delays are expected during the tree removal project beginning Jan. 13 at the temporary Canyon Bridge.

is anticipated to start Monday, Jan. 13 and go on for about 10 working days (Monday thru Friday), but the contractor may have the option to work on the weekends. The work hours are tentatively scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m." He added, "If the weather was severe enough to cancel work activities for a day, the contractor would be granted another day to resume work."

With public safety in mind, traffic flow may be stopped occasionally with delays of up to 15 minutes at a

time. The contractor will provide informational signs and warnings for drivers and cyclists.

The tree removal contract awarded to Julian Tree Care comes to \$43,955.30 (including a 15% contingency). Once again the costs are fully funded with Caltrans HBP grant funds of \$38,913.63 and CCC Measure J funds of \$5,041.67 taking care of the rest.



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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. 17 - Dec. 29
Alarms 18
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 4
Traffic 35
Suspicious Circumstances 8
Suspicious Subject 2
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 56
Patrol Req./Security Check 14
Supplemental Report 10
Vacation House Check 8
Welfare Check 7
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary 1500 Block Moraga Way
1400 Block Camino Peral
DUI Misdemeanor 100 Block Danefield Pl.
Excessive Speed Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Commons
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Reckless Driving

St. Marys College
Tc - Property Damage
Campolindo High School
200 Block Deerfield Dr.
1000 Block Sanders Dr.
Other criminal activity
Battery 900 Block Country Club Dr.
Computer Fraud 100 Block Greenbriar
Grand Theft St. Marys College
Identity Theft Police Department
Panhandling 1000 Block Camino Pablo (2)
Shoplift 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 1000 Block Sanders Dr.
Disturbing The Peace 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Loud Music 10 Block Natividad Ln.
Loud Noise 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Not Available
Loud Party 40 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.
Vandalism Not Available
Other
Accident Property 3800 Block Campolindo Dr.
500 Block Center St.
Failure To Obey Sb Canyon/Pinehurst
Mentally Ill Commit Safeway
10 Block Cortes Ct.
Ordinance Violation 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
10 Block Haven Ct.
Public Assembly Check Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)