



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

Linda Ehrich  
Realtor  
93 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925.698.1452  
Linda@LindaEhrich.com  
www.LindaEhrich.com  
DRE# 01330298



LINDA EHRIICH




**MOR A GA**  
WHILE APART, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER  
#LoveYourParks6FeetApart

## Town of Moraga sees to Rheem sinkhole repairs



Rheem sinkhole repair complete

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

With most of the community sheltering in place, many may not be aware that the gaping sinkhole in the Rheem Shopping Center has finally been repaired.

Just over a year ago, when the sinkhole first appeared, Moraga experienced a déjà vu moment as memories of a prior sinkhole, located across the street from the current one on Moraga Star Gas Station's property at 398 Rheem Blvd., was recalled. For a while, any obvious re-

pairs had come to a screeching halt when the last apparent bit of progress occurred in May. At that time, the property owners had set up two sediment basins to remove debris from the damaged corrugated metal pipe below street level.

Further progress had stalled until the town issued a Notice and Order to Abate in September followed by a special town council meeting in October regarding the property owner's appeal hearing.

The town's greatest con-

cern was for public safety, and with that in mind, it received approval of an inspection and abatement warrant from the Superior Court of Contra Costa County that was issued on March 9 with a 10-day delayed start date. According to Public Works Director Shawn Knapp, "This allowed the town's contractors to order specialized materials that were needed for the sinkhole abatement work and to stabilize the 8-foot diameter storm drain pipe that runs under portions of the gas station and Rheem Shopping Center. The construction work began on March 19, the first allowed construction day of warrant, through April 8, the last day of warrant." The repairs were completed on time earlier that day before the warrant expired at 6 p.m.

"The gas station and Rheem Shopping Center property owners were responsible for the final surface restoration work of repaving the asphalt gas station driveway and Center Street road," Knapp added, "along with re-pouring the concrete sidewalk and driveway approaches, which

they have completed and reopened to the public."

Due to the property owner's delay with the sinkhole repairs, the costs increased as the size of the sinkhole grew larger and more material was damaged in the process. Knapp stated that the town doesn't have final expenses from the contractors, as yet. Once they are compiled the town will, in turn, prepare an invoice for the project to send to Moraga Star's property owners.

"It cannot be overstated how important it was to complete this work when we did. The damage caused by a complete failure of the underlying pipe – which our consultants told us was only a matter of time – would have been catastrophic and many times more expensive

to repair," said Knapp. "The 398 Rheem Blvd. sinkhole abatement work was designated an essential project by the Town of Moraga due to its importance and urgency."

Every effort was made to provide the work crew with a situation that conformed to coronavirus safety precautions put forth by the Contra Costa County Health Department. Hand washing stations were located on-site and hand sanitizers were available for frequent use throughout the day. "The work was completed safely, quickly and efficiently," Knapp added, "with minimum interruption of public access to Rheem Boulevard, the shopping center and the gas station."

## Moraga mayor discusses COVID-19 impact on the town

By Vera Kochan

Like most every city in the United States, Moraga's residents have been sheltering in place for over a month. However, what makes this town unique is its smaller population. That factor helps to reinforce the ideology of a close-knit community. With this in mind, Moraga Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus was asked to give her thoughts and observations on how the town is responding and handling the coronavirus shelter-in-place mandate.

Moraga's government has continued with business-as-usual, albeit remotely. "Thankfully, we live in a time and location where we have so many technological services available to us, that we have been able to switch over fairly seamlessly to using video conferencing technologies to attend and conduct meetings," observed Korpus. "From what I can tell, staff is continuing to be creative and productive in providing needed services to the community."

Korpus hasn't personally received any feedback from local businesses, "but I do know that many of our businesses are still open and working hard to continue being the positive, creative and productive contributors to our community that they are." Korpus stresses the importance of residents continuing to support the town's businesses during these times. She also wants everyone to be aware of the frequent business updates available through the Moraga Chamber of Commerce website: www.moragachamber.org.

When asked what feedback she has received from residents, Korpus replied, "Generally speaking, like many other areas in the country, it's a mixed bag. Many residents are frightened by what they are hearing about the coronavirus, afraid to leave their homes, and grateful for any and all efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from exposure."

"On the other hand," she added, "other residents are chaffing at the restrictions, because they believe that we are risking far more harm to residents through economic devastation than we are mitigating with the physical distancing guidelines." Korpus is pleased that residents, despite their opinions, continue to comply with the county and state health orders while continuing to support each other.

With Moraga having very recently begun to see brighter days to its economic outlook, it will once again have to concentrate on replacing revenue losses, from reductions in gas and sales tax, in the days ahead. "The first and most important thing that can be done to address our financial challenges, that will result from the shelter-in-place orders, is for our health and governmental representatives to figure out a way to get our businesses back open, and to get us all back to work," explained Korpus. She admits that until the shutdown has ended, any impact would be difficult to determine. The town's staff is in the process of analyzing the effects of COVID-19

on Moraga's 2020-21 budget and expects to discuss the findings at the May 13 town council meeting.

"I feel very fortunate to be sheltering-in-place here in the midst of my family and friends in such a beautiful and supportive community," said Korpus, "and I want to express my family's encouraging and healing thoughts for everyone affected, as well as our heartfelt condolences for all those lost in the fight."



PARTNER WITH MORAGA KIWANIS  
HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY

So many of our community have lost their source of income and become food deprived as a result of COVID-19 and the necessary shelter in place.

Please visit [moragavalleykiwanis.org](http://moragavalleykiwanis.org)

to learn about how you can partner with the **Moraga Valley Kiwanis Foundation** and donate through our matching fundraising campaign to support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County, Monument Crisis Center in Concord and Meals On Wheels of CC County.



**Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.**  
Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556  
**Phone (925) 819-2100**

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation • Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial • Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups • Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445