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## Town council votes for an earlier meeting start time

By Vera Kochan

After years of an official start time of 7 p.m. for the Moraga Town Council regular meetings, members voted unanimously to approve an earlier 6:30 p.m. start time during its March 10 session. The purpose of the move is to ensure that items of importance are heard earlier

in the evening.

The meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Council Chambers located at 335 Rheem Blvd., Moraga (when not under COVID social distancing mandates). The public may currently view the meetings live on television or on the internet.

In addition to changing

the start time, meetings – unless otherwise adjourned – will now be automatically adjourned at 10:30 p.m. rather than 11 p.m. The council could extend the automatic adjournment to 11 p.m., if necessary, through a majority vote. A further adjournment to postpone beyond 11 p.m. would require a unanimous consent not

later than a specified time.

The new meeting time will take effect 30 days after

adoption or when the town council holds its scheduled April 14 meeting.



**Town Council** Wednesday, March 24 7 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m.,  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings :**  
Special Board Meeting Tuesday, April 13, 6 p.m.  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

## Hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted in the midst of COVID



Photo Vera Kochan

Signs of spring as daffodils bloom along Moraga Way in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley was determined to

honor its annual tradition of planting daffodil bulbs in winter, even in the middle of COVID mandates. However, the project is usually done

with a large group of volunteers. This was where human ingenuity stepped in.

This year's tribute to spring can now be seen at the intersection of Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Lane on the Moraga Country Club side of the road. Kiwanis Secretary Sam Sperry was tasked with creating a safe and socially distant environment for the team of helpers. Unfortunately, invitations to participate had to be withdrawn for the Moraga Garden Club and Boy Scout Troop 212 in order to limit the planters to family groups.

Sperry marked off three planting areas with stakes and yellow tape making sure they were no closer than six feet apart. Each planting station had separate bottled water for each participant along with hand sanitizer and paper tow-

els. Additionally, he used a temporal thermometer to take each volunteer's temperature upon arrival and just prior to planting. "I also asked each participant to confirm upon arrival that he/she was not experiencing any symptoms of illness and had not been advised of having been around anyone who tested positive for COVID," he said. "I also had each of them sign a legal instrument I prepared, which I entitled a 'Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk', to protect our club and its affiliated foundation from any liability for COVID-related claims stemming from their participation; and of course each participant was required to wear a mask." Sperry himself made certain to keep a minimum of six feet away from the workers while he doled out a steady supply of daffodil

bulbs.

"I structured the planting work in two shifts of two hours each," explained Sperry. "One from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the other from 1 to 3 p.m., thereby honoring the recommendation that 'outdoor gatherings' be limited to two hours. For each shift, I limited participation to no more than three households."

The morning shift included Kiwanis member Karl Davis, his wife and three children, who at the end of two hours had planted an astounding 700 bulbs. The afternoon shift had three Club members and their spouses, John and Darlene Haffner, Steve and Peggy Woehleke, and Leslie Engler with her husband Ethan Bortman. These three teams planted an equally impressive 600 bulbs in two hours.

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