



**MORAGA**

See public meetings schedule on this page and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**Town of Moraga:**  
 www.moraga.ca.us  
 Phone: (925) 888-7022  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
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**Moraga Council Member David Stromberg resigns**

By Vera Kochan

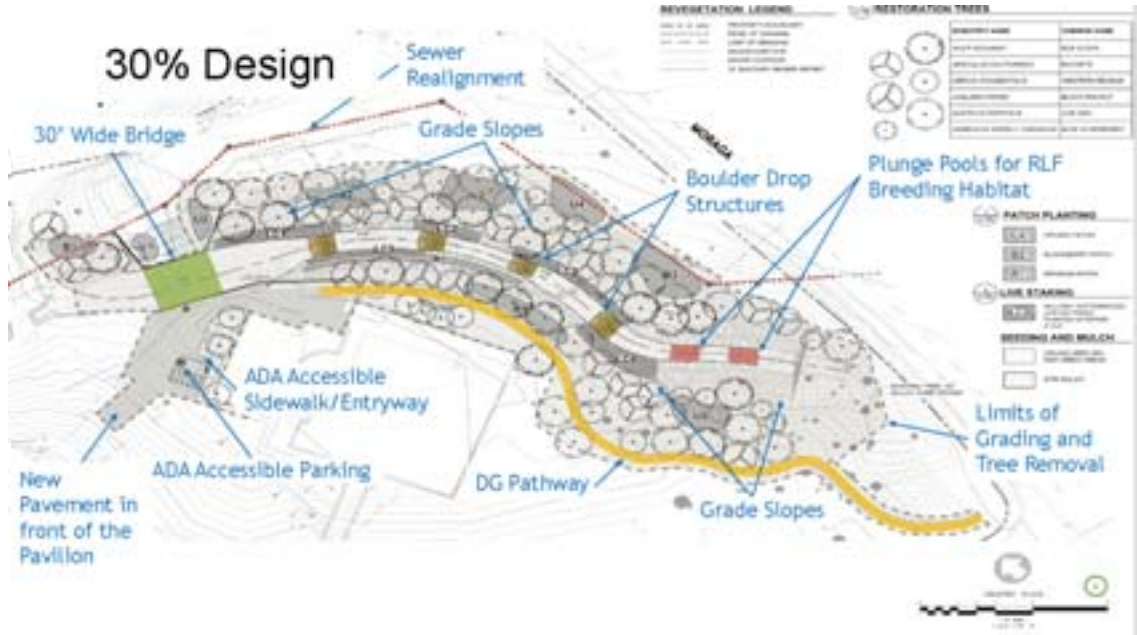
Council Member David Stromberg on Aug. 26 submitted a resignation letter stating, "Due to personal and private circumstances, I will be moving from the Town of Moraga where I currently reside. For this reason, this letter constitutes my resignation

as a town council member for the Town of Moraga."  
 Stromberg stated that his last day of service as a council member will be Sept. 9 and that he requests confidentiality in the matter.  
 In his letter of resignation, Stromberg mentioned his six years of service to the town which included a seat on the Design Review Board

with one year as its chair; a seat on the Planning Commission with two years as its chair; and his current position as one of the town's council members.  
 Stromberg takes pride in having made "informed decisions" in the town's best interests; his strong "commitment to the preservation of open space"; and his pursuit

of "fiscally conservative approaches" to the town's limited resources.  
 "I regret not being able to fulfill my commitment to the voters and to complete my term on the town council," said Stromberg, "including serving as the town's mayor in 2024, the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Moraga."

**Town council receives update on 30% design for Laguna Creek Restoration Project**



By Vera Kochan

Moving steadily along, the Laguna Creek Restoration Project update was presented to the Moraga Town Council on Aug. 25. Currently at its 30% design stage, Acting Public Works Director/Town Engineer Bret Swain and Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers made a brief presentation outlining the progress.  
 The project's location is

on the grounds of the Hacienda de Las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive. An 8-foot diameter culvert has been the cause of periodic flooding over the years, because its size cannot handle large water flows during exceptionally rainy winters.  
 At the 15% design stage the ADA accessible parking stall was to be moved to the front of the building to facilitate movement around the

building, allowing for a narrower bridge. A decomposed granite trail installation will make it easier to maneuver for wheelchairs, strollers and anyone wearing heeled shoes. Additionally, new guardrails and barriers will be installed that are similar in appearance to other wooden ones already located on the grounds.  
 According to the staff report, "The 30% plans to re-

store the natural stream channel and expand capacity to accommodate a 100-year flood include: a 30-foot-wide bridge over the creek to allow maintenance, ADA and emergency access to the Pavilion; grading and off-haul of approximately 5,500 cubic yards of material to stabilize the slope banks and creek channel (the material will be deposited, graded and reseeded at the Commons Park "Back 40"); placement of boulders to stabilize the bed and banks of the channel; planting of the riparian zone in accordance with regulatory requirements; planting of the top and upper banks with trees, shrubs and decorative plantings following the excavation and removal of approximately 75 trees; decorative plantings adjacent to the Pavilion; realignment of the ADA parking, improved ADA access, replacement of the pavement and realignment of the sidewalk at the front of the Pavilion; and realignment of the sewer main."  
 A May 11, web-based survey of residents elicited 34 responses regarding land-

scaping preferences. There was a high preference for plantings that attracted wildlife such as birds, butterflies, bees and other animals. Also requested were plantings that bloomed year-round, changed color, had pleasing scents, provided shade and were native to the area.  
 The total cost for the 30% design project which includes contingency, design, construction management, administration and post-construction monitoring is an estimated \$3,059,394. The full project funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, if approved after Phase 1, is currently stated as \$803,331. That amount reflects two-thirds (FEMA's share) of the original full project cost estimate from 2017 of \$1,203,311. Additional requests for grant awards will be submitted to FEMA.  
 The town council stressed the need to reduce costs in favor of the "must-haves" over the "like-to-haves," and accepted the update while directing staff to continue with the design up to the 65% level.



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**Mulberry Tree Preschool hands over the keys to Growing Light Montessori School**

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council approved a resolution authorizing an assignment of the Ground Lease with Mulberry Tree Preschool and owner, Susan Allison, to Growing



Lamo archive

Light Montessori School during its Aug. 25 meeting.  
 The land, located at 1455 St. Mary's Road, is owned by the town (as is Moraga Commons Park). When the lease was set to expire on June 30, Allison appeared before the June 23 town council meeting and renegotiated a Fourth Amendment Ground Lease. It provided for Allison to continue leasing the site for an initial five years, with an option to extend for an additional five years. In addition, a provision for a temporary \$1,000 per month rent reduction for the first four months of the term lease was included along with a provision for lease assignment.  
 According to a staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, on July 7, the town received notice from Allison requesting to assign her lease to Growing Light. GLMS would assume the existing Mulberry Tree lease agreement, which would expire on June 30, 2026, with an option to extend for an additional five years through June 30, 2031.  
 GLMS owner, Rachel LaField, attended the Aug. 25 meeting to answer any of the council members' questions.

LaField currently owns three campuses – one in Lafayette, one in Kensington and one in Oakland. Included with a letter dated July 20 to the town council, LaField provided family letters of recommendation, landlord letters of recommendation, a business plan with capital improvements, a child care provider license, financial statements, a total assets balance sheet, and more.  
 "We look forward to working with you to create necessary and inspired child-care offerings for the town of Moraga," stated the GLMS letter. "We are confident that a harmonious and seamless transition is possible for everyone."  
 Already in the works, GLMS has plans for improvements to the fire alarm system and monitoring; painting and repairs; and landscaping which are expected to cost \$27,000.  
 The town council also directed Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Assistant Town Attorney Denise Bazzano to clarify language from the Fourth Amendment regarding the disposition of improvements on the premises upon lease termination.

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**Town Council**  
 Wednesday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**  
 Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m.

**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
 Monday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

**Moraga School District Board Meetings :**  
 Special Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2