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LINDA EHRIICH



# Hacienda Nights

## Tuesday May 17

### 5pm-9pm

**MORAGA**  
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## Future use of Moraga's Measure K Funds



Photo provided

### Another Moraga street undergoes Measure K improvements

By Vera Kochan

Measure K appeared on Moraga's ballot in November 2012 and won with 70.5% of the vote. It is a 1% local sales tax that became effective on April 1, 2013, and was approved for

general use purposes with a sunset duration of 20 years. Revenue collected from the tax is meant to be used for the town's most crucial infrastructural needs. First on the list, and the reason for its passing, is to repair Moraga's failing

roadways. Additional needs are storm drains and related infrastructure. At this point, the funds have strictly been used for road repair.

In 2012, the town's Pavement Condition Index rating was 49 (poor). Thanks to Measure K funding the summer-time street repairs had elevated the PCI to 70 (satisfactory) in 2016. In April 2020, town staff initiated a new pavement management strategy called "Worst First" in order to fix Very Poor and Poor streets as soon as possible. This game plan has elevated Moraga's PCI to 75 thanks to grant funding.

On May 12, 2021 staff recommended that the town council use Measure K Funds for storm drain projects with the reasoning that its General Fund revenue and uses weren't restricted. Typically, the sales tax generates approximately \$1 million annually, but with the

rise in internet sales taxes the Measure K Fiscal Year 2021-22 looks to generate over \$2.226 million. Additionally, the Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Gas Tax (generating \$331,068) and Garbage Vehicle Impact Fees (generating \$814,000) added to the Measure K Funds totals approximately \$3,371,068.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg's April 27 staff report recommends that future use of Measure K Funds become part of the annual budget process once the 2022-23 Pavement Reconstruction project is completed. "There are no restrictions on the use of Measure K Funds and the council could at any time allocate the funds for uses other than the pavement management program without rescinding or adopting any previous written policies; for the next three years Measure K Funds are needed for

the 2022-23 Pavement Reconstruction Project to repair as many Poor and Very Poor streets as possible; over \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are available to fund public storm drain system infrastructure projects; and the town has been successful in identifying other funds for the asset replacement program in recent years and the use of ARPA funds to backfill General Fund revenue loss, as well as annual surpluses, should provide sufficient funding of the town's asset replacement program for the next year or two."

With the Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee monitoring the spending and continually assigning a clean bill of health with regards to Measure K Funds, the town council agreed that staff should stay the course.

## SMC responds to anonymous sexual harassment flyers

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College students, faculty and staff during the last week in April were met with flyers taped up campus-wide describing alleged unwanted sexual encounters from anonymous victims and demanding the campus community believe survivors and take action on campus, such as reposting the hashtag #SMCProtectsRapists, and to following @smcsurvivors on Instagram.

In response, SMC's Vice President of Student Life & Title IX Coordinator Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht, Ph.D. issued a statement to the SMC community stating, "Over the last few days, the College has been made aware of concerns regarding Title IX. As the Title IX Coordinator, I want to thank our students for holding us ac-

countable and take this opportunity to share updates on what we are doing to build a culture rooted in respect for each other and reaffirm our commitment to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual misconduct."

Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sexual harassment. "In May 2020, the U.S. Department of Education added specific legally binding steps educational institutions must take in response to notice of alleged sexual harassment," according to Cornell Law School. "The 2020 amendment defines sexual harassment to include certain types of unwelcome sexual conduct, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking."

Garrison-Engbrecht's statement encouraged any victims to immediately contact Title IX

Deputies or himself to report an incident, which will be held in confidence. He also noted that SMC has contracted with Grand River Solutions for support training, investigations and review of campus policies and processes. He implored the SMC community to become involved and support any victims of sexual misconduct. Additionally, several support sources were listed: Campus Assault Response and Education Center (925) 631-4193; CARE Line (925) 878-9207; Counseling and Psychological Services (925) 631-4364; Center for Women and Gender Equity (925) 631-4192; Mission and Ministry Center (925) 631-4366.

SMC is working to schedule a meeting to address any con-

cerns in person and to open a constructive dialogue on how

the campus can move forward regarding shared goals.

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## 2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed, honored at banquet



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed (center) with sister, Diane Lewis and son, Jeff Reed.

By Vera Kochan

After a two-year, COVID-mandated hiatus, the town had once again taken to honoring its latest Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed, at a May 6 banquet in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. The 42nd annual event was sponsored by SMC, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Lamorinda Weekly, and Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Reed was chosen for the honor by the Selection Committee which recognized her continual, broad scope of involvement through the years with regards to numerous organizations and community events within the town. Her tireless volunteerism with the Moraga Park Foundation, Summer Con-

cert Series, Pear Festival, Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Crab/Lobster Fest, See's Candy fundraiser, Pear Harvest, daffodil planting, Fourth of July festivities, Park and Recreation Commission and Moraga Library, led her to be a hands-down choice for the award.

"I enjoy volunteering in many groups for the variety of new experiences," stated Reed. "Each time I learn new things about our town and meet new people. I like to know about my community, how it works and how it can be improved for our neighbors."

Reed's reaction to the tribute was one of surprise and honor to be included on the list of past recipients.

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