



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
Town of Moraga:
 www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council:
 Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 4, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.

Major 2022 Pavement Rehabilitation Project work involves several Moraga street closures

By Vera Kochan

The phrase “Your tax dollars at work” couldn’t be truer as evidenced around parts of Moraga this summer. Thanks to the 2012 Measure K sales tax initiative, along with funding from the Gas Tax and Refuge Vehicle Impact Fees, the town is able to supplement its pavement management program.

“The Town is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 58.6 centerline miles of paved streets,” according to a statement from Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp. “This includes 13.8 miles of arterial, 15.8 miles of collector, 26.3 miles of residential streets, and 2.6 miles of bike paths or service

roads.”

Knapp added, “In 2013, the Town leveraged \$600,000 annual repayment loan of Measure K funds to yield an upfront funds of \$7.7 million to spend on a three-year intensive pavement program, which significantly increased the Town’s Pavement Condition Index (PCI).” In 2015, the PCI went from 49 to 67, and by 2020, had climbed to 74, putting Moraga in the top 25% of all 109 municipalities within the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Pavement Rehabilitation Project, also known as the “Worst First Approach,” is expected to take three years to complete, beginning with streets ranked as Very Poor and Poor. The Town is currently budgeting \$13.5 million for this three-year project without bonding/borrowing any funds. “We had to save a bit of monies in the previous years and have benefited with additional Pavement Management Program funding sources,” Knapp said. As an example, he mentioned that “Measure K sales tax revenues have increased from approximately \$1 million to \$3.6 million per year, not accounting for annual \$0.6 million bond repayment.”

The current project involves rehabilitating 22 streets throughout Moraga. This phase of the project was expected to begin June 19 and should be completed June 29, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday with some variances.



Photo courtesy Moraga Public Works

Asphalt repaving on Tia Place in Moraga

Moraga’s contractor, De-Silva Gates Construction, will begin a process called Rubberized Chip and finish the project with a Microsurface Seal. This will entail lane and street closures. Approximately 1,600 affected residents have been mailed construction work notices, and “No Parking” barricades have been placed.

The Town also requests that residents keep children and pets away from the street while the treatments are being done as large equipment is involved; drive slowly – the new cape seal treatments can be slippery because of the loose rock prior to removal; do not drive on the treatments until the lanes are reopened to traffic and obey the posted “Loose Gravel” and “15 MPH” signs; warn your children to be careful while riding bicy-

cles or have them refrain from riding altogether until the loose rock is swept up; continue to park your car(s) off the road or cover them as necessary until the initial sweeping is completed; check your shoes before walking into your house – the loose rocks can track onto carpets or scratch wooden floors; respect construction areas and workers – do not drive on the treatments or cross over closed lanes to access or exit your driveway to avoid damage to your car; and make sure that your sprinklers are turned off during the Chip Seal and Microsurfacing Seal treatment hours.

“The Town very much appreciates your patience during this important project,” stated Knapp. “We apologize to residents in advance for any inconvenience.”

For continuous updates to the project visit the town website: www.moraga.ca.us/2022pavementrehabilitation. To reach Town of Moraga Construction Manager Sunny Jhutti call (415) 246-4920 or email: sunny@substrateinc.com. For additional info contact Moraga Assistant Engineer Yao Miao (925) 888-7028 or email: ymiao@moraga.ca.us. Moraga Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp (925) 888-7027 or email: sknapp@moraga.ca.us.



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MPD holds well-attended Town Hall



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King updates residents during Town Hall

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department’s Town Hall invited residents to the Council Chambers on June 5 to update attendees on the latest crime statistics, trends, scams, and equipment policy, followed by a question/answer session.

Chief Jon King gave his slide presentation with several MPD staff and officers included in the crowd of approximately 40 residents. It was noted that the 13 officers employed within the department includes the chief, a lieutenant, supervisors, a dedicated detective and patrol officers. Two support services personnel handle records, finance, evidence, training, administrative support, fingerprinting, front desk and more. There are also reserve officers who volunteer to patrol and assist.

King noted the many achievements for MPD during 2022. The department obtained a grant to fully fund an additional police officer for three years; successfully lobbied the town council to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and vape devices; collected over 700 pounds of prescription drugs for destruction at no charge to residents; hired

and trained a new police lieutenant and three new police officers; conducted virtual evacuation drills and worked closely with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District on emergency planning; collected toys for the United States Marine Corp Toys for Tots campaign to benefit underprivileged kids; made 122 arrests (13 of which were local and 109 were out-of-towners) and issued over 800 citations for a variety of offenses; and continued the partnership with Moraga’s schools and other Lamorinda agencies.

As of June 4, the year-to-date Crime Statistics for the midway point of 2023 show an overall decrease in crime totals (54), as compared to the entire four previous years of 2019 (155), 2020 (162), 2021 (150), and 2022 (199). The crimes are the same for all five years. With regards to 2023, these statistics are: homicide (0), sexual assaults (1), robbery (0), assaults (7), burglary (9), larceny (33), and vehicle theft (4). One alarming statistic showed an increase in traffic citations. For the entire year of 2022, there were 272 citations; while only 6 months into 2023, the figure has nearly doubled at 428. Traffic accidents reported for

2022 were 22; while at the midway point for 2023, there have already been 13. King stated that new policies require police departments to report all incidences, thereby accounting for the possible up-tick in statistics. He added that with the additional forensic equipment available to the them, MPD is able to collect more evidence against perpetrators.

Another topic during the presentation was scams. King noted that most scams come in the form of phone calls or emails, and he warned that anyone can be a victim to the seemingly realistic and clever scammers. Some of the currently popular scams are from people claiming to be a government agent (from the Internal Revenue Service or Social Security); Pacific Gas and Electric representatives; someone pretending to be a family member in trouble; Zillow Rental; and a private party internet purchase.

King gave several tips of advice to avoid being taken in by a scam: nothing should be secret – always ask family/friends for help; neither the IRS or PG&E will hound you out of the blue by phone for payment; police don’t collect warrants over the phone; no one has you pay with a gift card or Green Dot card; if government agencies need your help, they will make an official request – not a secretive phone call. And if it seems too good to be true – it probably is; if it is a good deal now – it will be tomorrow, too; and don’t click on an internet link.

MPD has taken advantage of Assembly Bill 481 which was approved in September 2021, and allows law enforcement agencies to purchase military equipment for its use. Currently the department has a backup generator and less lethal shotguns that use bean bag projectiles.

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