



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

Wed., Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission:
TBA

- Hardwoods
- Carpets
- Rugs
- LVP
- Vinyl
- Laminate

FAMILY OWNED
30+ YEARS!

925-284-4440

3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette
lamorindafloors.com

LAMORINDA FLOORS

Town switches gears with traffic engineering consultants for Moraga Road Traffic Safety Study

By Vera Kochan

Drivers trying to enter onto Moraga Road from Corte Santa Clara or Via Granada during rush hour, and additionally when Saint Mary's College personnel head toward Lafayette to reach Highway 24 or Campolindo High School empties out for the day, have voiced their complaints to the town about the danger and near impossibility of the effort.

The Town Council, in an ongoing effort to address those complaints, has awarded a professional services agreement to Parametrix, Inc. for traffic engineering consultant work with regards to the Moraga Road Traffic Safety Study. The amount for their services is not to exceed \$38,190, with \$3,819 for contingency and \$7,638 for administrative services.

According to a Dec. 13 staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Assistant Engineer Yao Miao, "Residents

who live in the Court feel trapped at times by vehicle backup on Moraga Road from Campolindo High School and other school congestion, along with commuter traffic, as there is no Moraga Road 'KEEP CLEAR' zone in front of the Court. The existing Moraga Road pavement width is not sufficient to add a dedicated center turn lane for the Court ingress and egress. Additionally, the Court has sight distance obstructions from trees and a sloping hillside on Moraga Road, raising more concerns for residents."

Another issue that adds to the congestion is the high-visibility, push-button activated flashing beacon crosswalk at Woodford Drive that is not coordinated with nearby traffic signals.

In order to cut costs, the town has decided to contract directly with Parametrix, Inc. and eliminate Harris & Associates (who uses them as a sub-contractor) from their capacity of study services.

The staff report also discussed Livable Moraga Road (LMR), "a transportation planning project to provide the future multimodal, complete street vision for a two-mile-long portion of Moraga Road between Campolindo Drive and St. Mary's Road. This project will provide a 'road map' for the future locations of continuous bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safe routes to school, transit, and vehicle safety improvements, along with the desired streetscape improvements, based on community input and Council direction."

Not included in the LMR Study is the planned 123-unit residential Palos Colorados development on the eastern side of Moraga Road between Via Granada and Corte Santa Clara. The land developer is required to complete a traffic study as part of their construction process. However, staff recommends that the potential vehi-



Moraga Road Traffic Safety Study map

Image courtesy Moraga Public Works Dept.

cle count from this development also be taken into consideration for future Moraga Road Traffic Safety studies.

Moraga Library bird event garners "rapt" interest from attendees

By Vera Kochan

More often than not, when one hears mention of a raptor, a first inclination is to think "dinosaurs." However, a raptor refers to any bird of prey, and in this case the Moraga Library's Dec. 21 guest speakers, Native Bird Connections, brought along a live falcon, a hawk, and two owls.

Based in the East Bay, NBC Executive Director Jenny Papka, and assistants Linda Knight

and Kathy Siegel gave an informative and educational presentation to young and old alike, while producing the live raptors out of covered cages almost like magicians pulling rabbits out of hats. The audience reaction was quite enthusiastic.

The raptors in the NBC facility are all non-releasable, having suffered injuries in the wild which haven't healed properly and making it unsafe for them to return to their natural habitat. Papka informed the audience that it's important to treat these types of animals with respect, especially since they can no longer live in their own environment, but are now in ours.

The first raptor presented was a Peregrine Falcon which can reach speeds over 200 miles per hour when chasing its prey. They are typically born in the spring, and their parents kick them out of the nest after a few flights. This male bird most likely was not fully ready for flight and injured both of his wrists (which look like shoulders) in a fall.

During the 1960s, California could only count four of these raptors in existence. Scientists discovered that when farmers were spraying fields with Dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), the poisonous chemical leached into the falcons, causing females to lay eggs with fragile shells. While the mothers sat

on the eggs, the shells cracked. California's falcons are making a substantial comeback and have even been spotted nesting locally.

The next raptor was a Swainson's Hawk. This particular female came from Utah with broken bones in her wings. Again, the assumption is that they were broken in her early attempts to fly. Unfortunately, she will never fly again. Her favorite food is mice - especially the tail. Papka explained that birds typically have an 80% mortality rate in their first year of life, but those in captivity could live well into their 20s.

Another raptor produced was a Eurasian Eagle-Owl, which compared to the other two birds looked massive. This raptor eats just about any creature it wants to from other birds to mice, rats, gophers, squirrels, snakes, and has even been known to attack deer and cows. They usually digest their prey whole then cough up compacted and rather large pellets that contain the bones and fur of their victims. Their predators are Golden Eagles and humans. This type of bird does not build its own nest, but prefers to steal another's, and since owls have 14 neck bones compared to the seven that humans have, they are able to turn their heads nearly 270 degrees in order to subtly house hunt or stealthily look for their next meal.



Photos Vera Kochan

Native Bird Connections' Jenny Papka (left) and Linda Knight discuss the Eurasian Eagle-Owl.



Native Bird Connections' Linda Knight holds a Peregrine Falcon.

The last raptor to make an appearance was a 20-year-old Northern Pygmy-Owl that was substantially smaller than the Eurasian Eagle-Owl, and elicited a bevy of "how cute" comments from the crowd. This particular female bird was hit by a car, but was lucky enough to survive. She also likes to dine on mice, other small birds, and gophers. An interesting feature to her species is the appear-

ance of two false eyes on the back of her head which helps to deter predators.

NBC also displayed taxidermy (examples of American Kestrels) and other raptor-related artifacts for the curious to see; and there were many thoughtful questions from the children in the audience.

For more information about Native Bird Connections visit: www.nativebirds.org.

COMPASS

A local you can count on.

Daniel will be your trusted guide to Lamorinda real estate, empowering you to navigate the market with confidence.

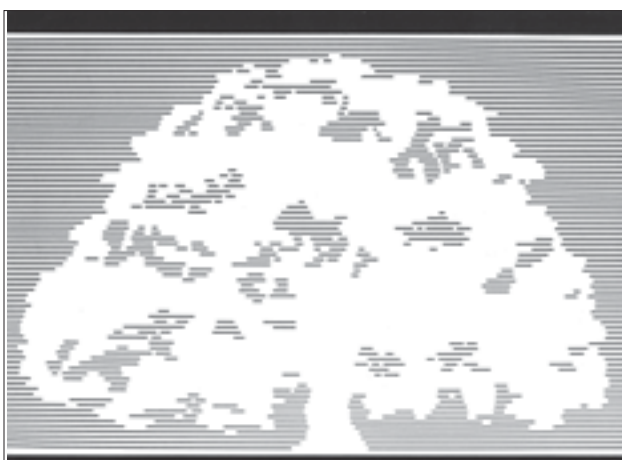


Daniel Estopinal

DRE #02128888
Realtor® | 925.259.1525
daniel.estopinal@compass.com

Call today to make your real estate dreams a reality!

*Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01991628, 01527335, 1627365. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborist ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Dec. 12 - Dec. 24	Alarms	6
	911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
	Traffic	43
	Suspicious Circumstances	1
	Suspicious Subject	2
	Suspicious Vehicle	1
	Service to Citizen	24
	Patrol Req./Security Check	28
	Public/School Assembly Check	8
	Supplemental Report	13
	Vacation House Check	0
	Welfare Check	1
	Ordinance Violation	0
	Vehicle violations	
	Accident Property	
	3400 Block Hamlin Rd., Laf	
	Auto Burglary	
	1400 Block Camino Peral	
	Dui Misd	



St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.	10 Block Kendall Cir.
Excessive Speed	Public Nuisance
Lafayette Elementary	60 Block Baitx Dr.
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.	Camino Ricardo/Corliss Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr., Ori	Other
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)	Barking Dog
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1200 Block Larch Ave.
Campolindo High School	Battery
Reckless Driving	Banfield Pl.
Moraga Way/School St.	100 Block Danefield Pl.
Camino Ricardo/Corliss Dr.	Fireworks
Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd.	1100 Block Rimer Dr.
Greenfield Dr./Camino Ricardo	100 Block Quintas Ln.
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.	Violation Custody Order
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	700 Block Augusta Dr.
Tc - Property Damage	
1100 Block Moraga Way	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Loud Music	
2100 Block Ascot Dr.	
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.	
Kendall Cir./Moraga Rd.	
Loud Noise	
10 Block Kendall Cir.	
Loud Party	