



# MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this 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



**TERRI BATES WALKER**  
REALTOR

**Top 1%**  
of Contra Costa  
County Agents in 2021\*

**SELLING HOMES BY PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**

C. 510.282.4420  
TerriBatesWalker@gmail.com | TerriBatesWalker.com  
CalRE #01330081

**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

\*Based on information taken from the MLS as of January 1, 2022. Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC.



**Town Council:** Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,  
**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings :**  
Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

## Moraga encourages residents to participate in Housing Element decisions with the Balancing Act Tool



Photo provided

Example of multi-family housing

By Vera Kochan

California's municipalities are about to enter into the 6th Cycle Housing Element between 2023-31. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for Moraga, as determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), requires the town to come up with 1,118 units to fulfill its assigned quota. Of the necessary units, 318 are for very low-income, 183 are low-income, 172 are moderate-income, and 445 are above moderate-income units.

In an effort to involve the town's residents regarding potential housing sites and proposed densities, the Planning Department recently held three community participation events to that purpose. On March 25, an Opportunity

Sites Walking Tour was held within the Moraga Center Specific Plan and Rheem Shopping Center areas. Maps were provided during the combined 1.5-mile tour and town staff was on hand with explanations and demonstrations of the Balancing Act Tool (an online community housing simulator).

The town also held two community meetings. The first was held in person on March 30 at the Hacienda de Las Flores, while the second took place via Zoom on March 31. The purpose of all meetings was to briefly explain Moraga's RHNA requirements and coach participants on how to use the Tool.

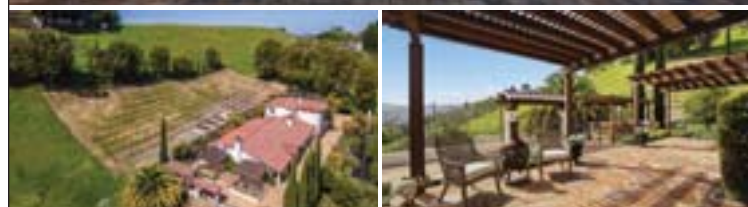
According to the town's website, "Balancing Act is an online mapping tool which allows residents to provide input on the most appropriate locations to potentially develop additional housing units in the Moraga community. Based on projections, and projects currently in the development pipeline, Moraga has a shortfall of 800 units in meeting its housing requirement of 1,118 units. The Balancing Act Tool enables residents to 'click' on each of the sub-areas and use 'plus' and 'minus' tools to add virtual housing units to each area. The number of units that can be assigned to each sub-area is capped to avoid putting all

the units in one zone. Once a player reaches 800 units, they receive the 'You Have a Housing Plan!' message."

During the March 31 Zoom meeting members of the town's Planning Department – Planning Director Afshan Hamid, Assistant Planner Mio Mendez, Associate Planner Brian Horn and Administrative Assistant Suzie Mele – were on hand along with Advanced Planning Initiative Consultant Barry Miller to answer questions and guide attendees through the usage of the Balancing Act Tool and the distribution of units within 11 designated areas throughout town. Included in the Tool are maps of each potential area with visible landmarks making it easy for users to realize the areas in question.

Residents had the usual questions concerning evacuation routes in the event of an emergency; whether there would be more retail (namely another grocery store) to provide for a larger population; and traffic congestion during rush hours.

The Balancing Act Tool is available until April 23, and the town is encouraging all residents to take part in determining Moraga's future housing locations. For more information or to participate in the Balance Act visit: makemoragahome.org.



**500 Rheem Blvd, Moraga | \$2,999,000 500RheemBlvd.com**  
4 Bedrooms • 4 Bathrooms • 4,630 sq. ft. • 10.68 Acres  
Bonded and Licensed Vineyard • Wine Cellar • Deluxe Kitchen  
Hardwood Floors • 3 Car Garage



**Ann Newton Cane**  
415.999.0253  
a.newtoncane@ggsir.com  
Lic.#02084093

Golden Gate  
**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

### MORAGA COMMONS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

## BARB BRAWNER HOMES



**JUNE 9**  
Midnight Flyer  
(Eagles Tribute Band)

**JUNE 30**  
3 Day Weekend  
(R&B, Soul, Classic Rock)

**JULY 21**  
Moonalice  
(60s Rock)

**JUNE 16**  
Juke Joint  
(60s - 70s Soul)

**JULY 4**  
House Rockers  
(Rock & Soul)

**JULY 28**  
Retroactive  
(Dance Band & Motown)

**JUNE 23**  
Beatles Flashback  
(Beatles Tribute Band)

**JULY 14**  
Mixed Nuts  
(Hits from 40s to Present)

**AUGUST 4**  
Aja Vu  
(Steely Dan & Chicago Tribute)

I have such fond memories of Thursday picnics with my girls listening to great music in Moraga Commons Park. We are super excited to be able to gather outdoors again with friends and neighbors. Hope to see you there!

*Barb*

\* Information provided by Moraga Parks Foundation.



**Barbara Brawner JD**  
Realtor  
925.212.7672  
Barb@BarbBrawner.com  
DRE 01922264

**COMPASS**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. 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.

## The Town of Moraga was incorporated in 1974 and 'sealed' the deal in 1976

By Vera Kochan

Every town or city has a seal. It's basically a logo designed to include significant aspects of a municipality – symbolism relevant to its citizens. The seal is used on official stationery, business cards, websites, public buildings and more, but how many residents of any community really know what their seal visually represents, or in Moraga's case, the year-long debate that took place concerning the design and its ramifications.

In 1975, the year following the town's incorporation, the Seal Design Committee was led by Saint Mary's College librarian and Moraga historian Brother Dennis Goodman. Fellow committee members included Merle Gilliland, Barbara Gross, Geraldine Meyer, and Brother Jerome West.

What began as the search for something historically meaningful to display on the newly-incorporated town's logo, had turned into a hotly contested dispute to keep church and state separate. Standing in the middle of the brouhaha was SMC's iconic chapel building.

Many designs were in the running as evidenced by architect Gilliland's sketches. One that was quickly ruled out was that of a giant front (such as the one in front of the Moraga Library), with



"1974" in Roman numerals at the bottom. Six other "seals" of Moraga's more noteworthy symbols were also conceived by the committee: the Moraga Library; the Moraga Family Coat-of-Arms; the Hacienda de las Flores; the Moraga Adobe; Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados; and the SMC chapel. It was eventually pointed out that the Moraga Adobe now stands within Orinda's boundaries, and even though it is the oldest historical structure in the area bearing the name Moraga, it was not located in Moraga.

... continued on Page A5