



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

Town Council: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

VOLUNTEER FOR 2023 TOWN COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Moraga is known for its strong sense of community and is actively seeking civic-minded volunteers to serve on all of its Committees and Commissions. In 2023 there will be openings on the:

- Art in Public Spaces Committee (1 opening)
- Audit and Finance Committee (3 openings)
- Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee (6 openings)
- Park and Recreation Commission (4 openings)
- Planning Commission (4 openings)

For more information and to receive a link to the application packet email to Town Clerk (townclerk@moraga.ca.us) asap.
Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 26, 2023. Please consider applying today!

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Town council in favor of an updated EMS and Ambulance Ordinance

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King's presentation to the town council requested an adoption by Reference Division 48, "Emergency Medical Services," of the Contra Costa County Code, with regards to EMS and ambulance operations after waiving the First Reading. His Jan. 11 staff report noted that "the purpose of this addition is to create uniformity with the County and other cities in ensuring that ambulances that are operated safely and in accordance with established standards and allowing the Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency to enforce the updated ordinance within the Town of Moraga." The council's decision was unanimously in favor.

The original county ambulance ordinance was adopted by Moraga in 1975. An updated procedures ordinance was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 1983 and adopted by Moraga in 1991. After another 10-month updating process in June 2022, that involved stakeholders and endorsements by the county's executive fire chiefs, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the most recent version of Division 48 of the Contra Costa County Code.

According to King's staff report, the necessity for an update was to take into consideration the many advances in the emergency medical field and ambulance operations within the past 30 years. "The updated ordinance addresses these changes, enhances patient and prehospital personnel safety by clarifying the EMS Agency's regulatory authority and oversight, provides additional oversight of EMS operations, special event medical standby services and ambulance operations; and improves the process for permitting ambulance service providers that operate within Contra Costa County."

Some of the updates include the following: "Authorizes the County to contract for emergency ambulance services with a fire agency that will provide those services in conjunction with a private ambulance subcontractor; requires criminal history background checks on ambulance owners, including live scan fingerprint checks; requires special event standby services to be permitted, employ only certified and licensed prehospital personnel, have a multi-patient plan for events, have coordinated with local public safety emergency responders and have propose business licenses and liability insurance; requires ambulance personnel to take an ap-

proved emergency vehicle operations course; enhances security by requiring ambulance operators to secure their vehicles to prevent theft of the vehicle, equipment and uniforms; requires operators to supply their personnel with specified personal protection equipment (PPE) and have an infectious disease control plan; improves transparency and consumer protection by requiring ambulance services to publicly post their fees, certificate of operation and licenses at their place of business and website; and provides a clear and transparent appeal process for all administrative actions taken relating to ambulance service providers and establishes specific criteria for the approval or denial of a Certificate of Operation for an ambulance service."

King noted the excellent EMS and ambulance services that the town currently receives from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's personnel along with other private ambulance operators. While MOFD is not required to obtain certificates of operation, the private ambulance operators must, and both entities are expected to comply with the provisions of the ordinance.

A Public Hearing for the Second Reading of the ordinance is scheduled for the Jan. 25 town council meeting.

Campaign to save Harvey Ranch a success



Photos courtesy John Muir Land Trust

Amazing open space views come with the hiking trails at Harvey Ranch.

By Vera Kochan

After giving themselves approximately one year to raise the \$4 million necessary to save the 126-acre Harvey Ranch as a gateway to over 15,000 acres of wilderness, the John Muir Land Trust, whose mission is to "protect and care for open space, ranches, farms, parkland and shoreline in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties" announced that the Dec. 31, 2022 deadline was met with success.

Hoping to preserve the Harvey Ranch land for future generations, the new acquisition will join the three protected landscapes of Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, San Leandro Watershed, and Painted Rock Preserve (which includes Carr Ranch, Buckhorn Creek, and Rocky Ridge). JMLT was tasked by property owner Charlene Harvey to help her fulfill a dream that she and her late husband, Jim, shared to preserve the location against development.

The \$4 million goal covers the cost of acquiring Harvey Ranch which includes appraisals, surveys, natural resource assessment reports, title research, legal fees, staff time, and the actual purchase price for transferring title.

"The residents of Lamorinda and supporters across the Bay Area have provided the means for us to achieve another hugely significant win for conservation," stated JMLT Executive Director Linus Eukel. "Soon everyone will have a chance to enjoy Harvey Ranch's spectacular scenic views. Most importantly, we've added an additional layer of protection for a vital wildlife refuge. Preserving and keeping wildlife corridors intact is a huge priority as we take action to mitigate the impact of global climate change."

The ranch itself is a habitat for countless animals, reptiles and raptors. Making the area their domicile are gray foxes, deer, opossums, raccoons, jackrabbits, weasels, bobcats, mountain lions, Northern alligator lizards, gopher snakes, West-

ern pond turtles, red-tailed eagles, great blue herons and great egrets, to name a few. Threatened and endangered species such as the Alameda whipsnake and the California red-legged frog also call Harvey Ranch home.

The new acquisition will also provide magnificent hiking trails for nature lovers of any age and ability. From short walks to miles of trails with varying terrain, there is something to see and enjoy for everyone. Equestrians will even be allowed access to centuries-old ranch roads.

According to JMLT, virtually all of the campaign funding came from private individuals and institutions. This included an amazingly generous \$1 million matching gift from a single anonymous donor.

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