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## Moraga Drive-**Through: From Burger** King to Starbucks

By Sophie Braccini

at the drive-through Starbucks: employ in Moraga. the building is still Burger King. But the Seattle-based coffee com- Kymberleigh Korpus appealed pany has plans to take over the the decision because of one stickstand-alone building at Moraga's ing point: The new Starbucks Rheem Center, with the objective calls for gender-neutral, famof making it a larger community cafe experience than is now offered. The new location should be ready for business by next fall, with the project overall, I view said Moraga Starbucks manager Starbucks' reliance upon only a

Amanda Sargent. approved 4-1 on Dec. 5 the application presented by the Rheem Center property owner, U.S. Re-torney Ellen Rosenbluth and town alty Partners, Inc., and Starbucks Inc. to convert and improve the discussed, Moraga is generally Burger King drive-through. The safe, but I believe overwhelming footprint of the building will not evidence supports the concluchange, but the exterior and in- sion that children, women and terior will be renovated, and a impaired persons are physically 600-foot enclosed patio added. safer in all-women bathrooms As the Starbucks representative than in bathrooms used by men." explained it to the commissioners, the company will transfer the rent town council can decide the existing 1,600-square-foot facility issue before the new town council now operating in the building next takes over, so there as not to cause to Burger King to a 3,000-square- any unnecessary delay for the ap-

on't line up just yet to get pany plans to add seven to 10 your Chestnut Praline Latte employees to the 14 they already

> However, commissioner ily restrooms, and Korpus wants women-only and men-only ones.

"Though I was very impressed single 'gender neutral' commu-The planning commission nal bathroom for restrooms as a safety issue that cannot be ignored," she wrote in a letter to atplanner Kelly Clancy. "As we

Korpus said she hopes the curfoot cafe. She added that the complicant." ... continued on page A11



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Moraga residents and visitors gathered at The Commons on a cool but dry December evening for the annual lighting of the town Christmas tree. Carols provided by Lamorinda Theater Academy and hot chocolate and cookies by Moraga Youth Involvement. Ho ho ho's supplied by Santa himself. —C. Dausman



Photos Eric Dausman

