



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, May 29, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

#### Moraga

#### Police

#### Department

#### Incident

#### Summary

#### Report

#### April 24 to May 7

Alarms 10

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11

Traffic 40

Suspicious Circumstances 8

Suspicious Subject 3

Suspicious Vehicle 4

Service to Citizen 39

Patrol Request/ Security Check 71

Vacation House Check 6

Supplemental Report 18

Welfare Check 3

#### Abandoned Vehicle

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.

Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

#### Accident Injury

1400 Block Moraga Rd.

#### Accident Property

Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.

#### Auto Burglary

10 Block Natividad Ln.

#### Beat Info

10 Block Gloria Ct.

Police Department

#### DUI Misdemeanor

Moraga/Holm

#### Excessive Speed

Moraga Presb. Church

Moraga Way/Hardie Dr.

St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way

#### Found Property

Police Department

#### Juvenile Disturbance

Camino Pablo Rd./School

100 Block Willowbrook Ln.

#### Litter

1400 Block Moraga Rd.

#### Loud Music

80 Block El Camino Flores

#### Loud Noise

Thorndale Puarroyo Dr.

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

#### Loud Party

80 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)

Ascot Ct./Ascot Dr.

#### Mentally Ill Commit

St. Marys College

#### Other Infraction

10 Block Lucia Ln.

#### Petty Theft

1100 Block Moraga Way

Moraga Waynilla Ln.

40 Block Cumberland Ln.

Safeway

#### Public Assembly Check

Acalanes High School

Safeway

Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)

Skate Park

St. Marys College

#### Reckless Driving

100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Walford Dr./Shuey Dr.

#### Residential Burglary

10 Block Williams Dr.

#### Tc - Property Damage

Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.

#### Tow

2000 Block Ascot Dr. (2)

#### Traffic Hazard

Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.



## JIM COLHOUN PRESENTS...

2920 Rohrer Drive, Lafayette

### EXTRAORDINARY LAFAYETTE ESTATE PROPERTY

This one of a kind gated estate sits on a private knoll overlooking Lafayette's pristine Burton Valley. The 7900 sf 5BR/6BA home features a dramatic open kitchen, home cinema, office suite, and spectacular views. The fully-fenced 4.76 acre property offers resort-style living with pools and spa, outdoor pavilion with fireplace, expansive lawns, and multiple gardens. Contact Jim Colhoun for additional details or to schedule a private showing.

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## 2018 town goals approved at almost mid-year

By Sophie Braccini

The town council approved at the end of April the goals staff has been working on since the beginning of the year. This year's goals are predominantly continuations of last year's goals. With just over half of the year remaining, no new earth-shattering objectives were introduced. Staff and council have continued last year's goals and, since the beginning of the year, have tackled new issues that are now reflected in the goals as approved.

When Mayor Dave Trotter took the center chair in January he said that the year's goals would be "reimbursement, reimbursement, reimbursement." The town was just coming out of a traumatic period, suffering several major infrastruc-

ture failures and commensurate expenses. Getting the money back from the federal government was the obvious central preoccupation, therefore the first target for the town is to work aggressively to obtain reimbursement from the Federal Highway Administration for the town's sinkhole repair and the Canyon Road Bridge, and restore the town's general fund reserves.

Trotter also wanted to add as a separate aim to pursue a fair resolution of the town's claims, and if necessary litigation, against third parties with legal responsibility for damage to the Canyon Road Bridge. All agreed with the idea.

Fiscal discipline was also a top target. Then, following the lead

of Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, the council agreed to add to the goals pertaining to open space preservation and implementation of the new hillside and ridgeline regulation the pursuit of partnerships to protect and acquire open space.

Infrastructure goals included searching for supplemental grant funding, additional to measure K money, to keep the roads in top condition, and develop a storm drain master implementation plan if the storm drain fee is approved.

In the area of economic development, the council agreed that the preservation of the Rheem Theatre and the development of a public-private partnership for the Hacienda de las Flores were goals that

were attainable this year.

On policy matters, the council agreed that progress should be made this year in the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan and that the planning department should start reviewing the development process to better align it with people's expectations.

As far as recreation is concerned, the council adopted the goal of improving the connectedness of the Moraga trail system and developing maps of the trails. The council also wants to reach out to the Moraga School District board to explore and develop potential funding mechanisms for new, joint use recreational facilities and sports fields.

## Joe Tanner: Moraga new administrative services director

By Sophie Braccini



Joe Tanner in his new office. Photo Sophie Braccini

Joe Tanner jumped in the driver's seat of Moraga's administrative services close to the finish line of the budget cycle: a very fast ride that required him to pick up speed within a few weeks. It was not a problem for the experienced professional. He says that this coming year's budget will continue previously etched tracks, but he already has a vision for changes that will need to be made.

The Moraga administrative services department covers more than finance; it also deals with human resources, risk management and special projects. But being hired two months before the budget approval at the end of June, the financial aspect is taking the bulk of the new director's attention.

With the town finally out of the danger zone and rescinding its fiscal emergency, Tanner says that he was in that situation before. For three and a half years Tanner worked for the city of Desert Hot Springs, where it used the same exceptional procedure, declaring its insolvency. "The city lost a huge percentage of its revenue when the recession hit," he remembers, "something quite different from Moraga where unforeseen natural catastrophes depleted the reserves."

Tanner agrees that having the reserve drop in the 10 percent range of the general fund was not a healthy situation. "It is dangerous because the budget is so small," he explains. "If your budget is \$60 million, then a 20 percent reserve still gives you enough to do things; in Moraga, it is not the case." He

adds that the policy that was approved to get to a 50 percent reserve makes sense for Moraga and he believes that the town will get there.

Desert Hot Springs was not the first experience Tanner had administering a city. He was hired as the interim city manager for the city of Rio Vista in 2013, after being an administrative analyst for the city of San Ramon for three years. Tanner holds an MBA from John F. Kennedy University.

He wanted to return to the Bay Area, its more balanced climate, where he and his wife were raised, and where family is largely located. He finds Moraga, its welcoming staff and community the perfect place where he wants to flourish.

Looking at the data and documents he found upon arrival, Tanner says that the town has been well managed and had put in place the mechanism, procedures and documentation that are perfectly adequate. If the storm drain funding is

addressed through the assessment that was put to a vote, he thinks that most long-term potential headaches for Moraga's infrastructure will be addressed. But Tanner noticed the town's unfunded pension liability amounts to \$5.5 million.

He notes that Moraga requires that its employees pay an additional 1 percent to CalPERS, which makes the town a bit less attractive than other municipalities but should allow to keep the debt from escalating. For him, getting out of CalPERS is out of the question, since the system would require close to \$30 million from Moraga to let it go. Tanner adds that he and town manager Cynthia Battenberg will start working on a long-term CalPERS plan once the 2018-19 budget is approved.

The other aspect of Moraga's finances that will need focused attention is the asset replacement fund. Even if roads and storm trains are taken care of, the town has not historically made any strides in saving

to maintain/replace its other assets: the vehicles (police and maintenance), the police equipment, the library, 329 and 335 Rheem Boulevard buildings, the Hacienda de las Flores, etc. In 2014, a subcommittee of the audit and finance committee had estimated the unfunded depreciation balance at the time, besides roads and drains, to be more than \$5 million. Its recommendation had been that the town set aside \$600,000 every year to keep up its assets.

Tanner said that Moraga, with its strong pluses such as quality of life and excellent school district, is a financially sound community, deriving important revenue from property tax, but that it could use more sales tax revenue. He would not go as far as the solution found by Desert Hot Springs to solve its struggling finances: allowing medicinal cannabis cultivation and commerce, but he says that Moraga could use a more dynamic business environment.

## Just Listed!

**499 Dalewood Drive, Orinda | Exclusively Offered at \$2,995,000**

**4 Bedrooms + Office | 3.5 Bathrooms | 5000± Sq. Ft. | 1.14± Acres | Built in 1980**

This castle-like brick home is located in the prestigious Orinda Downs area. Surrounded by lush trees and greenery, this property offers a rare connection to the outdoors and features incredible natural light, a sun-filled flat backyard with an expansive lawn, pool, welcoming patio, garden and framed by trees providing seclusion for year-round entertaining.

The home's seamless floor plan enhances its inviting indoor/outdoor feel. Entering the home, you find yourself greeted by a grand foyer and staircase, cathedral ceilings and a chandelier. Main floor additional features include: living room with fireplace, large windows and access to back side patio. Formal dining room with hardwood floors. Spacious family room with fireplace and doors to backyard. Eat-in kitchen, center island, and a breakfast nook. The upper story master bedroom suite includes its own fireplace and balcony overlooking the backyard. In addition, there are three secondary bedrooms and an office. Main floor with secondary bedroom and office. Three-car garage. Upper floor additional features include: master suite, two additional bedrooms; one of which has a spiral staircase leading to a secluded loft for use as a play area or office.

**Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson**  
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- Traffic Stop**  
Oxford Dr./Camino Pablo
- Vandalism**  
St. Marys College  
100 Block Miramonte Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
- Vehicle Theft**  
500 Block Moraga Rd.
- Verbal Dispute**  
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.