



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda weekly.com

Moraga's 2018 Year in Review offered as Trotter and Onoda step down

By Vera Kochan



From left: Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, Supervisor Candace Andersen and Mayor Dave Trotter
Photo Vera Kochan

During the Dec. 12 town council meeting, exiting Mayor Dave Trotter prepared an impressive slideshow touching on Moraga's successes during the past year.

The end of November 2017 saw the Rheem sinkhole repaired and a temporary Canyon Bridge installed. The town hired Cynthia Battenberg as town manager, who in turn, oversaw the hiring of three new department heads: Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt; Planning Director Derek Farmer; and Administrative Services Director Norman Veloso.

Moraga received a \$2.38 million sinkhole reimbursement and initiated a rescission of emergency funds, while still allowing for storm drain maintenance and repairs as well as continued plans for the new replacement of the Canyon Bridge.

The continued beautification of the town was a major priority. A Moraga Specific Plan Grant introduced the possible creation of a new "main street" in the center

of town. The natural surroundings were upheld with the Urban Creeks Grant and Laguna Creek Restoration. There was an adoption of new hillside and ridge-line regulations, as well as a new all-access playground in Moraga Commons Park. A new Moraga Trails Map has become available and the Bollinger Valley (126-lot) project development application was denied.

The Rheem Theatre reopened, along with several new restaurants, adding an evening entertainment vibe to the town.

Not to be left out, town safety was an important issue with the adoption of a firearm storage and maintenance ordinance. It was noted that crime statistics have gone down and were the lowest in a number of years.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda said, "Thank you to the town of Moraga for having faith in me. Thank you to my husband, who's been my biggest cheerleader.

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Homeless in Moraga . . . it can happen to anyone

By Vera Kochan

Most likely everyone's heard the phrase, "Living one paycheck away from the street." According to www.Marketwatch.com, millions of Americans are doing just that.

The recent fires throughout the state or other natural disasters often come to mind as possible causes for homelessness, but if the main breadwinner in an affluent town such as Moraga loses their job it could be catastrophic to their financial situation.

Many people live paycheck to paycheck due to rising insur-

ance and healthcare costs, car payments, mortgage and rent and the everyday expenses of raising a family. According to a staff report presented Dec. 12 by Moraga Police Chief Jon King to the town council, "Each year, Contra Costa County conducts a 'point-in-time' count of homeless individuals throughout the county. In 2017, 1,607 persons in Contra Costa County were found to be homeless and living without shelter and reflected an 80 percent increase in the number of homeless seniors. Seven of these people were identi-

fied as Moraga residents who had lost their housing."

King added, "The homeless issue goes far beyond the individuals who are seen on the streets. There are individuals and families who are 'couch surfing,' or staying with friends when possible, because of their inability to find affordable housing in Contra Costa County."

Moraga has authorized the town's participation in the Homeless Emergency Aid Program, which provides state funding to local governments. The town would be able to access the funding and

any services it provides to assist individuals in the community.

There are several organizations within the local area that can help with essential needs, such as food pantries that offer free food to local residents; utility and rental assistance programs, which offer money to help pay rent or utilities; temporary free homeless shelters; outlets offering free and reduced price clothes and household items; child care services, offering free diapers, clothing, formula and free or reduced cost daycare service for children with families in need;

and pay day loan companies that make quick, easy loans to people in financial distress. However Suntopia, which publishes information about these differing services, stresses that loan companies "are not charitable organizations. They can have high interest rates. We do not recommend a loan to solve your financial problems. We offer this list because some people use them for immediate relief in times of financial distress."

For more detailed information visit www.Suntopia.org/Moraga/Ca.



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