

MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements Town of Moraga:

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Current one lane bridge

Photo provided

Town Council Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m. Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m., Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, May 11, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Continuation of Canyon Road Bridge replacement begins this month

By Vera Kochan

A soft opening of the inbound traffic lane, held on Nov. 10, 2020, signaled the completion of Phase I of the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project. Part of the process involved the removal of the temporary, one-lane steel truss bridge that had served as a vehicular link between Moraga and Canyon since 2017, when landslides forced the original bridge's closure. The removal of the temporary bridge has saved the town approximately \$11,000 in monthly lease costs.

"Phase II of the Canyon

Road Bridge Project is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, April 19 and be completed late 2021," stated Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp. "The contractor will be working Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. To ensure that construction is completed with minimal disruption this year, the town may authorize the contractor to work after regular construction hours and on weekends."

Drivers can expect traffic delays of 15 minutes or longer. There may be instances of complete closures during the

day, at limited times, due to the nature of the bridge work and for safety reasons. The town encourages bridge users to be aware of the construction activities and obey all construction related signs.

Bridge closure day and time updates will be posted in advance on the town's Canyon Road Bridge website: www.moraga.ca.us/canyonroadbridge or subscribe to: www.moraga.ca.us/notifyme.

"We apologize for any inconvenience," said Knapp, "and appreciate your patience during construction."

Town council gives staff a thumbs up on Laguna Creek's early design stage







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Golden Gate

Sotheby's

By Vera Kochan

After input received from public meetings via Zoom, which included a Community Workshop, the Planning Commission and the Park and Recreation Commission, Moraga's town council was given an update by staff as to preferences for the design of the Laguna Creek Restoration Project currently at the 15%

The Project is meant to avoid another major flooding of the Pavilion, located at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga, like the one that occurred during the winter of 2005-06, which also caused major damage to structures

and features on the property. Restoration work will consist of removing Laguna Creek's existing 8-foot diameter culvert adjacent to the Pavilion building; constructing a natural channel to provide habitat for endangered

species; relocating a Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer line; constructing a vehicular bridge over the creek; and improving public accessibility and protections.

Moraga Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers addressed the public's preferences during the council's March 24 meeting. Also present were representatives from BKF Engineering and Restoration Design Group. Major points of discussion were the bridge width, ADA parking, the pedestrian trail, and required guardrails.

It was also pointed out that many dead or dying trees, as well as those not considered California natives, will be removed during construction where necessary. However, restoration planting of oaks, baccharis, buckeye and numerous multicolored blooming trees will

Courtesy Moraga Public Works Dept.

take their places. The unsightly shed that often makes its photo-bombing appearance in wedding pictures will

also be eliminated. Knapp and Summers' staff report revealed to council the most popular public feedback options. "Move the ADA accessible parking stall to the front of the building to maintain access, facilitate movement around the building, and allow for a narrower bridge." To accommodate pedestrians, "have a decomposed granite (or other durable material) trail that is more accessible for wheelchairs, strollers, and heeled shoes." And, "utilize new guardrails/barriers similar in appearance to the wooden ones used elsewhere on the

grounds." The council was pleased with the public's 15% design stage input and directed staff to proceed with the project.

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Free carwash in Moraga helps chase away the COVID blues



A free car wash and service with a smile

Photo Vera Kochan

On a recent Saturday, at the intersection of Moraga Road and Via Granada in Moraga, several young adults with

By Vera Kochan

hand-painted signs advertising a "Free Car Wash" were enthusiastically waving at all passing vehicles. Was this a joke? Was there a catch? Nope. It was just that; a free

car wash with no strings attached.

Drivers were directed to the parking lot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Lafayette, Orinda Ward) at 3776 Via Granada. There, cars waited in a queue for their turn to experience service with a smile. First the cars were hosed down, followed by a lathery brushing and sponging; hosed down again and finished with a soft towel wipe and squeegeed windows.

The car washers are all missionaries from various cities across the Untied States.

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