



Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm
(no meeting on July 27 and August 10)

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 18, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, July 8, 8:00 am
Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Police Report will be back next time



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Produce Produced

New retailer coming to Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini



Dave Schnayer at the storefront of what will become a produce market

Photo Sophie Braccini

Now you see it, now you don't—a proposed new produce market in Moraga's Rheem Center has been an on-again, off-again saga but the deal is now done; the Martinez Family Produce Market has a lease agreement with property owner Kimco Realty, and is targeted to open at the end of the year after some re-

modeling work and the receipt of county permits.

"Kimco was very supportive and gave (the Martinez family) very good conditions," said com-

mercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer, "they see this store as a right type of use and complementary to what exists already in the Center." The store will occupy about 5000 square feet of retail space between the Moraga Art Gallery and Pho Little Hearty Noodle. This store will be the 4th produce market owned by the Martinez family; their stores also sell bread, dairy products, and bulk grains.

The Martinez's Walnut Creek store does not sell organic produce. The owners could not be reached for an interview, but Schnayer indicated that because they are a family-owned company they will work to meet the needs of the community.

The good news for the Rheem Center does not stop there. The Town approved an application for a new Indian restaurant that will be located next to TJ Maxx; negotiations are still underway with Kimco. A frozen yoghurt shop has also been proposed.

Town Muffles the Sound of Music

By Sophie Braccini

A recent court decision served to inform the Town of Moraga that it could not exempt itself from its own sound ordinance. Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that the exemption was being rescinded from the ordinance, "The Town is subject to the same regulation as everyone else," she said, "we are testing the noise at every concert, mitigating the impacts of the sound, and will make sure that the concerts stay in the park, while its neighbors are satisfied."

Lew Edwards has spoken at different public meetings to complain about the noise made by the concert. "I live less than 1000 feet away from the Commons Park where the concerts are held every Thursday night in summer," says the outspoken gentleman, "I remember two years ago when the concerts played at night, it was so loud that I couldn't play my own music. When it started, it could literally blow me out of my chair. This year, during the Fourth of July

evening concert, my wife asked me 'aren't they going to have music this year?'" So the couple came down to the park to hear the music and see the fireworks.

"We have worked with a sound specialist to make sure that the music can be heard loud and clear in the park, but stays there," says Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director. Five sound absorbing, 7x4 foot panels have been fixed to the ceiling over the musicians; a heavy curtain now hangs

behind the performers; speakers are set no more than 105 inches from the ground and are angled so the sound goes toward the hill, not the sky; one of the two subwoofers (the loudspeaker that produces very low bass frequencies, the 'thump-thump' deep vibration) was removed and the other one is set in front of the stage, on the grass. Ingram adds that a sound technician is hired to monitor the sound throughout the summer. "We can still hear when the concerts are playing,"

says Edwards, "but it is not a problem anymore."

The Moraga resident is still concerned about private parties, but the Town seems determined to be perceived as a good neighbor. "We can rent the park once a month for private celebrations," responds Ingram, "but the organizers have to abide by the same sound standard we do, and we need a document submitted by their sound professional in order to approve the rental."

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