



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 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

Identity theft, 4/15/15 An Ashbrook Place resident confirmed that a federal tax return had been filed using his and his wife's social security numbers and dates of birth, using the online service TurboTax. The reporting person has been in contact with the FTC, the IRS and major credit bureaus.

Back door burglary, 4/09/15 A Hardie Drive homeowner called the cops to report that someone had entered their home through an unlocked rear sliding glass door. A pellet gun and possibly some jewelry were missing, and the homeowner is in the process of compiling a detailed list of missing items. One possible clue is a trail in the long backyard grass from the side of the house to the back deck. Three rooms on the main level had been ransacked.

Drunk in public, 4/14/15 A male subject was lying on the grass and vomiting at 3:10 a.m. at the corner of Alta Mesa Drive and Alta Mesa Court. Officers noted he showed "visible signs of intoxication." He was unable to care for himself, so police placed him under arrest. Hopefully he aimed for the gutter.

Tire taken, 4/10/15 Sometime over a period of three days one or more suspects removed and stole the right rear tire and rim valued at approximately \$600 from a car parked on Del Rio Way. No suspects or leads at this time. An unusual first-time event for the Moraga blotter: one tire?

Wallet swiped, 4/10/15 A shopper at a Moraga Road department store left her purse unattended in a shopping cart for a few moments. The victim saw an unknown female near her cart; then she discovered that her wallet was missing. The unknown female was confronted but professed innocence. No actual sighting of the wallet being lifted.

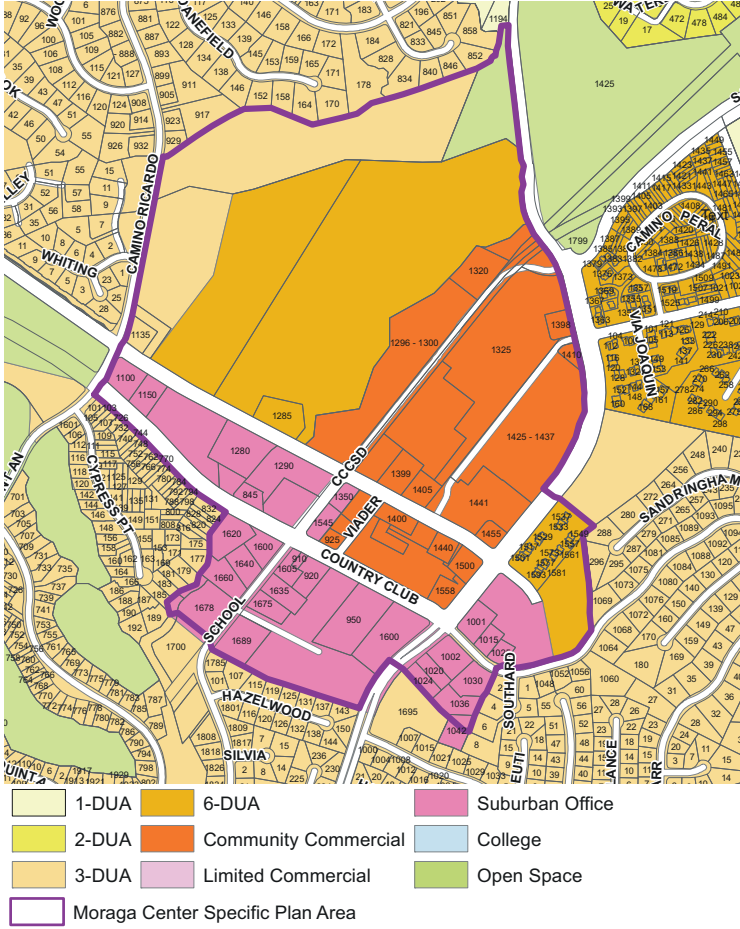
Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between April 7-14:
Medical Assistance - Moraga Road
False Alarms - Paseo Linares, School Street, Hardie Drive, Greenfield Drive, Augusta Drive,



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Specific Plan Zoning Committee: Residents Are Out

By Sophie Braccini



The town this year will work on defining the zoning of land planned for development in the 2010 Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP). At the April 8 meeting, Moraga Town Council members decided that the steering committee assigned to work on the MCSP zoning

would be composed of members from the Moraga Town Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Parks and Recreation Commission. The committee will work with the consultant the town hired to carve new zoning rules. Property owner representatives and

the general public would not be allowed on the committee—a shift from an earlier decision by council in February to allow these members to be involved. The council agreed that the committee would have a maximum of seven members.

The Moraga Center Specific Plan defines how to develop the 187 acres of land located near the crossing of Moraga Way and Moraga Road. The MCSP land includes 630 potential new housing units, 90,000 square feet of new retail/entertainment space and 50,000 square feet of new office space. The land includes the Moraga Shopping Center, the undeveloped hills toward Camino Ricardo and land to the south of Moraga Way, including the vacant lot next to the fire station.

Currently, this land is zoned according to the General Plan and does not conform to the MCSP. The current zoning includes suburban office (pink), community commercial (bright orange), and 3 to 6 housing units per acre (tan)—see map. The MCSP, however, authorizes up to 20 housing units per acre, which is one of the discrepancies between the plan and the present zoning. The zoning defines such elements as building height, setbacks, and general development standards.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda asked to be seated on the committee as well as Councilmember Dave Trot-

ter. Before supporting Onoda's participation, Metcalf asked Onoda if she was supporting the MCSP.

"I listened to what you had to say about the Specific Plan on a couple of occasions," he said to Onoda, "and it's pretty clear to me that you disagree with what has been done over the years." He added, in his opinion the council member would need to learn a lot about the genesis of the plan. "It's almost like you'd want to go back and revisit all that, and that's not what this is about; it's about putting substance on the parameters set in the Specific Plan," he added. "If I have your assurance that you're going to work objectively and get this thing completed satisfactorily, then you'll have my vote."

Trotter agreed that this process was not going to be an amendment to the Specific Plan. Onoda said that she was looking forward to putting together the vision that's in the MCSP but add the necessary details. For example, setbacks are not defined in the MCSP. "We want a vibrant community and the Moraga Center Specific Plan has set that up," she said, "and now it is time to get it done." Onoda and Trotter will be the council's representatives on the committee.

The Moraga Center Specific Plan steering committee meeting announcements will be posted on the town website at www.moraga.ca.us.

Moraga Community Marquee Enters the 21st Century

By Sophie Braccini

The rustic community sign located along Moraga Road opposite the Commons Park is living its last days under the Moraga sun. By the end of May, a brand new lit and colorful electronic sign will be installed in its place. On April 8, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram presented policies for use of the new electronic marquee. The price tag for users will stay almost unchanged; besides nonprofit event messaging, personal communication will be possible, as well as some limited commercial information.

Staff will no longer need to come once a week on Friday afternoons to painstakingly change one letter at a time. Now from the comfort of their office or other remote location, authorized personnel will be able to change any of the six messages that will rotate every 8 to 12 seconds.

There will be little left of the rural charm of the old black and white sign with the new state-of-the-art system by Ad Art Company. When Ingram presented the project last year to the Moraga Town Council, he described a roughly 8 foot by 8 foot monument made of materials mimicking the look of natural wood and stone to reflect the semi-rural character of Moraga. The most important part of the sign is the 20-millimeter full-color LED electronic message board in its center.

Lexan, a high-impact resistant, transparent plastic material, will protect the LED displays.

Those wanting to have color messages that can incorporate graphics displayed will provide them to staff. Per the Design Review Board recommendation, animation will be minimized. Six different messages, three on each side, will be displayed each week. The new marquee will be brightly lit during the day, and dimly at night; it will be off between midnight and 4 a.m. The fee for using the sign is similar to what it is today: \$80 a week.

Ingram recommended that marquee messages be reserved for announcements about Lamorinda events either sponsored by the town, a local nonprofit or any other local governmental or educational entity.

Two members of the public in at-

tendance, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson and commercial real estate professional Dave Schnayer asked the council to consider commercial messages. "I would argue that businesses are part of this community as a whole and should be considered in this policy," said Nelson. "We're not talking about Safeway advertising 'buy one, get one free avocado.' We are asking that when a business is sponsoring a community event, it be mentioned." Nelson also recommended lowering the price for displaying messages, to encourage more participation and keep the messages fresh and interesting. In a written communication to Ingram, Chamber of Commerce member Larry Tessler asked the director to leave the fee at the current level of \$70, arguing that the town would still at least double its current revenue.

Schnayer added that a new business, which provides the town with sales tax revenue, should be able to inform residents of its grand opening on the community marquee. He added that announcing church-sponsored events would benefit the community.

Council members agreed that business-sponsored community events should be displayed on the marquee. The council added that the chamber of commerce could sponsor the grand opening of a business with a welcome message if the business is a chamber member.

The council members also supported the idea to allow messages of a personal nature, such as anniversaries and births of grandchildren. Councilmember Teresa Onoda proposed a fee waiver for 100-year-old residents' birthday announcements.

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