

# HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Thursday, December 3 6:30 pm, Moraga Commons Park



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## Kiwanis See's Candy Fundraiser Kicks Off



Opening of the Rheem Candy Shop from left: president of Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Barry Behr, the Town of Moraga Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf, Moraga Education Foundation president Heather Davis, Moraga School District board member Jon Nickens, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Battalion Chief Jerry Lee, and the Town of Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe

Photos Stan Holcenberg

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley wants every resident to be able to indulge in See's Candies for the holidays and decided to open two shops this year, one in each town shopping center. The grand opening at the end of November was organized twice, once between Bianca's and CVS in the Moraga Center and one next to Starbucks at the Rheem Shopping Center. "The Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club's shops are an annual, major fundraising effort that primarily benefits children in our local region," says Kiwanis president

Barry Behr. "We enjoy meeting and greeting members of our local communities, acquainting them with the broad selection of See's Candies that we have available and assisting them with their purchases." At each shop, customers can arrange for direct shipping of their holiday candy purchases to friends and relatives across the United States. The Rheem shop's hours are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and the Moraga shop from 1 to 5 p.m.; both shops will be open until Dec. 23. - S. Braccini



## On-Street Parking on Rheem Boulevard

By Sophie Braccini

The faint painted markings on Rheem Boulevard that indicate future parking stalls did not go unnoticed by some residents, who posted their feelings on Nextdoor.com and in emails, saying it would narrow the boulevard as it approaches the Moraga Road crossing and that the striping was a ministerial decision made without public consultation. Town manager Jill Keimach responded that the striping is part of a plan adopted last September by the town council, including the creation of 31 new parking spots that will be completed in the coming weeks. Since it is just paint, if traffic is impacted negatively the manager assured the striping could be undone.

"It's very clear that the Rheem Boulevard changes are being done without much thought on traffic flow and without any input from residents," one Moraga resident who did not wish to be named in the paper wrote online. "Reducing traffic lanes is the worst possible decision. Adding on-street parking is going to make this stretch of road a lot more dangerous because visibility will be greatly reduced for those turning out of the movie theater exit and the 24 Hour (Fitness) exit."

Keimach says the project has been discussed several times over the past three years at the council, starting on May 23, 2012 when the council requested staff defer its parking plan until the pavement program was underway. "It was discussed again in April 2014," said Keimach. "Further, parking has been allowed along the north side of Rheem near 24 Hour Fitness and some cars park there ... but they tend mostly to park up farther by HomeMade Kitchen all the way up and past our town offices where the road narrows to one lane."

The parking on the south side by the theater is the new section, but it still widens to two lanes at the entrance to Rheem Center and the last block before Moraga Road. "According to our traffic counts, it should still operate as it has generally in the past," said Keimach, adding that it will take getting used to, but that she hopes that drivers in Moraga will give it time to work. "As you and others have said, we are not immune to making mistakes and if this turns out to be the mistake predicted, the council of course has the option to direct staff to repaint it in the future."

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