



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 20, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Tuesday, August 16, 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

Moraga Police Report



Fraud 5/31/16: A Cypress Point Way resident received a suspicious piece of mail that appeared to be a cashier's check in the amount of \$2,970. The check was from a subject allegedly buying furniture for the reporting person with instructions that she was to deposit the check and forward a portion of the amount to a shipping company. The resident correctly identified the offer as a scam. A call to investigate the credit union that the check was drawn on, confirmed it was fake. The Postal Inspectors Office is investigating the matter.

Loud wedding 5/29/16: An anonymous caller reported loud music coming from the Hacienda de las Flores. Upon arrival, officers observed a wedding reception and a DJ playing amplified music in the courtyard. Police determined the music did not seem excessively loud, but contacted the groom to give him a heads up about the noise complaint. The party was over at 10 p.m. and there were no further complaints.

Loud party on Larch 5/28/16: When cops arrived, the noise of approximately 25 people in the backyard could be heard from the street. The resident was in violation of Chapter 9.08 of the Moraga Municipal Code, and was issued a warning notice.

Booze in backpack 5/27/16: Store management at Moraga's only large grocery store determined that a white male suspect in his 20s allegedly placed seven bottles of \$90 wine into a black backpack and left the store without paying. Cops checked the area with negative results. Closed circuit video provided by the store was booked in to evidence. A criminal oenophile who clearly appreciates the good stuff.

Golf cart key swiped 5/27/16: It was 11 p.m. when a victim reported to police that the key to his golf cart, which was left in the ignition, was taken. No information on suspects at this time. Rumor has it, there have been a number of golf cart incidents – so golfers hang on to your keys as you head to happy hour.

Moraga Center Homes Plan Grilled by Commission

By Sophie Braccini

Nothing is simple and quick with the Moraga Center Homes development project.

A year and a half ago the Conceptual Development Plan for the contentious construction program was approved, then challenged by a referendum that was canceled on legal ground. Now the planning commissioners are asking for more time to study the documents related to the General Development Plan, as many of the commissioners are new and are asking critical questions.

Commissioner Kymberleigh Korpus was the first to barrage staff with pointed questions regarding the rules that should have been applied to the development. The project is set in an area of the Mor-

aga Center Specific Plan that was defined as residential-commercial. Korpus made the point that since the town council rezoned the lot as residential, it should be the rules applicable to residential areas and not mixed-use that should be applied to the Moraga Center Homes.

Korpus challenged the assumption that what was approved up until now was untouchable, and said that in fact, the commission had the right to decide whether this project should go forward.

"We can have additional restriction regarding whatever was decided earlier," she said.

Other fundamental questions were raised about surrendering, at no cost to the property owner, of

the town's 84-foot wide right-of-way extending across a portion of the site. This right-of-way is a remnant of a county's right-of-way to build a freeway through Moraga, a project that was abandoned in the 1970s. As a counterpart to the surrendering, the developer has included in the project a 10,000 square foot pocket park that remains owned by the HOA but is opened to the public.

Residents in attendance also asked for the commission to give more time to residents to study the documents attached to the application.

After two hours of presentations and discussions, the planning commissioners decided unani-

mously on June 6 to continue the discussion regarding the Moraga Center Homes to June 20. They asked that the town attorney be present at the meeting to answer some of their questions.

City Ventures started the study process for developing the site located near Station 41 at 1284 Moraga Way and facing the Moraga Country Club across Country Club Drive four years ago. Thirty-six units are proposed for the vacant three-acre lot. The project consists of attached townhomes along Moraga Way, and duplexes along Country Club Drive. The townhomes are two- and three-stories high. The site is part of the Moraga Center Specific Plan adopted six years ago.

Town Faces Tough Budget Picture Thanks to Sinkhole

By Sophie Braccini

It is all about the sinkhole. The pavement collapse that swallowed a light post and opened a large breach on Rheem Boulevard now undermines the town's finances. The 2016-17 fiscal year budget as presented by staff was already tight, with an operating budget on the verge of a deficit and

no wiggle room to allocate money for capital improvement.

Now the \$2.8 million the town needs to repair the sinkhole will have to come from the reserves, basically depleting half of those funds. Because federal support was not granted to the town, all other capital

improvement projects — including the surveillance camera system — is on hold, at least until the beginning of 2017.

The mood of the 2016-17 budget presentation was somber at the June 8 council meeting as Administrative Director Amy Cunningham presented her

figures. She explained that the first version of the operating budget came with a deficit of over \$200,000 and that all departments had to scrape expenses to make it fit the tight frame. The final data presented showed revenues in the amount of \$8,152,286, expenses of \$8,118,545, and a modest

surplus of \$33,741.

There is no room for capital improvement in the new budget. In fact that fund has been used over the past eight years and no replenishing has been dropped in that bucket since 2008.

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JM to Move to Later Start Time This Coming Fall

By Sophie Braccini

Starting on August 22, students at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School will stop being the earliest risers in the area.

Thanks to the efforts of Principal Joan Danilson, supported by her staff and Superintendent Bruce Burns, the school start time will be moved to 8:30 a.m. from 7:50 a.m. The tweens and teens will get the

extra minutes of sleep that research shows are needed during this time in their lives.

The bus system was also modified to accommodate the change and staff does not anticipate conflicts with after school activities. The end time will remain the same.

At a parent information session earlier this year, JM school

psychologist Kathleen Day, Ph.D., said that not following the natural sleep pattern, or sleep phase delay, is linked to poorer academic performance, poor long-term memory and decision making, increased risk in traffic accidents, as well as depression. Research has shown that by age 11 young people start naturally falling asleep later and

getting up later. In spite of this the Moraga middle school was starting at 7:50 a.m., earlier than the elementary schools, and almost all other California middle schools. Danilson has been steadily building a consensus among parents, students and teachers to agree to a change.

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Roger Wykle Will Seek Reelection to Town Council

By Sophie Braccini



Roger Wykle Photo A. Scheck

Until now, Roger Wykle had postponed his decision to seek a second term on the Moraga Town Council. But that changed when he recently announced his bid for reelection. He said he decided that it was important to have some continuity on the council as two members, Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth, have announced they would not run again.

Wykle said he hesitated because the volunteer commitment as a council member is more time consuming than people realize, especially during the year he was the mayor. But he said that he wanted

to see some work completed, such as the amendment of the town's hillside and ridgeline regulations.

Wykle is also interested in possibly taking another look at the

traffic impact of all the proposed developments in town. He would also like to see the Moraga Center specific plan zoning updated, and a funding solution found for the

town's storm drain backlog.

Wykle added that his wife and teen children support his decision and appreciate the work he does for the town.

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