



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.  
Monday, July 25, 7 p.m. canceled  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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

**D.U.I. 7/10/16:** A 39-year-old male got out of his car at the Safeway parking lot around 7:30 p.m. and displayed what the police report calls, "objective symptoms of intoxication." After finding several open bottles of alcohol in the car, the subject performed and flunked a series of field sobriety tests. The fellow and his dog were transported to the Moraga Police Department, after signing a Promise to Appear they were released to a sober family member. He had a blood alcohol content of .31, almost four times the legal limit.

**Another D.U.I. 7/9/16:** A 22-year-old was speeding down Larch Avenue with multiple open bottles of alcohol around 7 p.m. He was arrested for DUI after field sobriety tests.

**Yet another D.U.I. 7/08/16:** A Volkswagen was pulled over for speeding on Larch Avenue and the 47-year-old driver was arrested and taken to the Martinez jail. His wife and child were also in the car and they were picked up by a sober family member. All three D.U.I. incidents were recorded by officer number 173, working to serve and protect Moragans.

**Identity theft 7/08/16:** A Country Club Drive resident was contacted by his credit monitoring service that advised him that his identity was used to open a Capital One credit card in another state. The would-be victim believes his personal information was stolen due to a security breach at his employer.

**Car versus building 7/08/16:** A driver lost control of his or her car and somehow damaged a Campolindo High School building. No one was hurt. "The building received slight damage. The vehicle sustained moderate damage," says the succinct police report.

**Car break in 7/05/16:** A window was smashed on an older Volkswagen Vanagon parked in a carport on Miramonte Drive; a bag with electronic hand tools was stolen.

**Other crimes occurring in Moraga from July 5 -12:**  
**Found property** – St. Mary's Road, and an abandoned cloth backpack on Harold Drive.  
**False alarm** – Blaine Court, Moraga Way, Rimer Drive, Larch Avenue, Sullivan Drive, Campolindo Drive, Camino Pablo  
**Misplaced or stolen tech equipment** – Saint Mary's College  
**Identity theft** – Louise Court  
**Missing person** – Calle la Montana

# Town Hopes to Start Culvert Repair by mid-August

By Sophie Braccini

Repair of the Moraga sinkhole will depend on the California Department of Transportation's speedy approval of the town's plans and permits of the repair of the Laguna Creek culvert.

The approval process leading to the repair of the sinkhole at the crossing the Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road is moving forward satisfactorily, according to Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan.

The culvert could be replaced by mid-October, but the road repair is likely to be delayed until 2017.

Kwan confirmed at the July 13 town council meeting that the total \$545,000 the town spent when the emergency occurred last March would be completely reimbursed by the Federal Highway Administration. The second phase or permanent restoration of the sinkhole will require the town to upfront the cost and contribute 11.47 percent of the final expense. The director added that some expenses, such as attorney's fees, might not qualify for reimbursement.

The process is managed by Caltrans. The local agency has signed

a Joint Stewardship and Oversight Agreement with the FHWA to manage federal aid. Its initial decision had been to deny the town's application, but the appeal was granted on July 1.

During the council meeting, vice mayor Dave Trotter noted that Mayor Mike Metcalf used the relationship he had formed working on transportation issues for the town with Randi Iwazaki, executive director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, to help formulate the town's appeal.

Kwan said that one added element to winning the appeal had been convincing the agency that the town was serious about finding funding to tackle the larger issue of the storm drain system.

"They are now convinced that we are on the right track to get a funding source to get the storm drain system fixed and not have a similar problem happen again," Kwan said.

For information, the storm drain master plan that was received by the council last year had identified culverts as the weakest links of the system; the culvert that failed

had been designated as urgently needed repairs. The plan lists \$8.9 million of high priority work and a total of \$26 million of unfunded delayed maintenance. (See the August 25, 2015 article: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0913/Creek-Culverts-The-Weakest-Links-of-the-Moraga-Storm-Drain-System.html.)

Kwan's objective is still to finish the replacement of the culvert that channels Laguna Creek before Oct. 15, the date that traditionally marks the beginning of the rainy season. He believes this is critical to avoid more damage, including potential upstream flooding and more property damage. Kwan estimates the replacement of the pipe to take 30 to 35 working days, meaning that the work should start mid- to late-August.

Before work starts the repair contract has to be awarded to a contractor, following a bid process of three weeks, in order to follow the proper protocol. Kwan therefore said at the July 13 meeting that all the required reviews and approvals from Caltrans would need to be secured by July 25. On July 25 Kwan

reported that CalTrans had not completed the necessary approvals and had not given his department an approval date.

The Director had prepared a contingency plan if permits could not be secured on time and the contractor will plug the holes and fill the gaps or the existing damaged metal culvert. Kwan confirmed that temporary repairs should withstand this rainy season and that the rest of the work, replacing the pipe and repairing the road will be done next year. Kwan continues to explore all possible options in case approvals are received in the next days.

Senior engineer Laurie Suggang added that the utilities of the different agencies that are located in the hole are being protected in place during construction. The East Bay Municipal Utilities District will repair its own pipe as the town repairs the culvert. Pacific Gas & Electric has diverted the broken gas line from the hole; it will also tie in the line after the town repairs the culvert. Other utilities such as Central San will let the town repair its utilities and will inspect the finished work.

# Town Council Endorses All-access Park at Commons

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Council unanimously endorsed the universal design playground benefiting all children of all abilities that the Rotary has offered to donate to the town.

The council also threw its weight behind locating the new amenities in the center of town at the Commons Park, to maximize access, energy and visibility, rather than at Rancho Laguna Park. It offered to possibly fund any extra grading cost that would be needed to locate the structure at the Commons Park. The Moraga Rotary will soon unveil its fundraising campaign.

Several residents spoke at the meeting in favor of locating the park at the Commons. Their main focus was inclusion. "It's about doing it the right way; it's about special need kids not feeling special," said resident Barry Behr, detailing his conversation with Walnut Creek officials who chose the most central location in their city to include universal design play structures where kids already go to play.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Jeanette Fritzky, speaking as a resident, added that the Commons Park was the area where most of the town's energy was and that locating the new all-abilities structure there would demonstrate a degree of acceptance that the rest of society has not reached yet. Such a universal design park would be the first of its kind in Lamorinda.

Kevin Reneau, the president of the Moraga Rotary, explained after the meeting how the project originally was set to be located at the Rancho Laguna Park. "We first visited the Commons with Jay Ingram (Moraga's Parks and Recreation director) several months ago, then Rancho Laguna Park," he recalls. "In that park there is already a flat pad ready to receive a new structure. It seemed to be the most cost effective option."

It is likely that fitting the all-access structure at the Commons will require extra work. At the meeting Ingram showed a drawing that sketched where the new structure could be placed and explained that grading would be required, paths moved, and that the additional expense could be in the \$100,000 range.

Reneau said the Rotary needed certainty regarding the town's support to start their fundraising campaign. He added that a more central location was even better for the project, as long as the extra cost could be covered.

That's when the council stepped up to the plate. Council member Phil Arth said that the town could endorse the project



Image provided

without specifying the location, then he added, "If the Rotary comes with a quarter million dollars, then the town would come up with the \$100,000 from Palos money, a perfect use of it."

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**Clarification:** In a story in our last issue, "Moraga Rotary Plans All Abilities Playgrounds," the Lamorinda Weekly mischaracterized the comments of Barry Behr. He said he is in favor of the park, and did not want to see it in a location that excluded some children from playing with other children at the playground, no matter the location.

## Coming Soon in Moraga!



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