



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library
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



Nov. 1 to Nov. 15

11/03 Auto Burglary

Someone wrangled their way into a Jeep Wrangler by smashing the front passenger window. The car valuables were likely brought inside before the attempt occurred, so the joke is on the suspect(s), but the \$500 repair tab is on the owner.

11/03 Hit & Run/DUI

Moraga police assisted a neighboring agency with the arrest for a subject accused of hit and run and DUI. If you drive, don't hit. Or run. Or drink...

11/05 Loud party

Three loud and lubricated residents were initially uncooperative when police arrived to request they tone it down. After a lengthy conversation the residents came to the sobering decision to disperse their partygoers. They still received a warning notice from the town.

11/05 Domestic Dispute

Boyfriend and girlfriend had an argument. Boyfriend agreed it might be best to step away and attempt to settle their differences at a later date.

11/05 Domestic Dispute

Mom wanted to take her daughter hiking. Daughter would rather mom take a hike. Daughter locked herself in the bathroom. Mom tried to McGyver her way in using a towel rack rod. The two had already separated by the time police arrived and agreed to stay away from each other.

11/05 Disturbance

Talk about carside service: an annoyed citizen reported she was tricked into being served (papers, not food) inside her car when her ex's new wife convinced the woman to roll down her window. This low blow came with an aside to order a civil restraining order. Seems the event was anything but civil.

11/06 Medical Assist

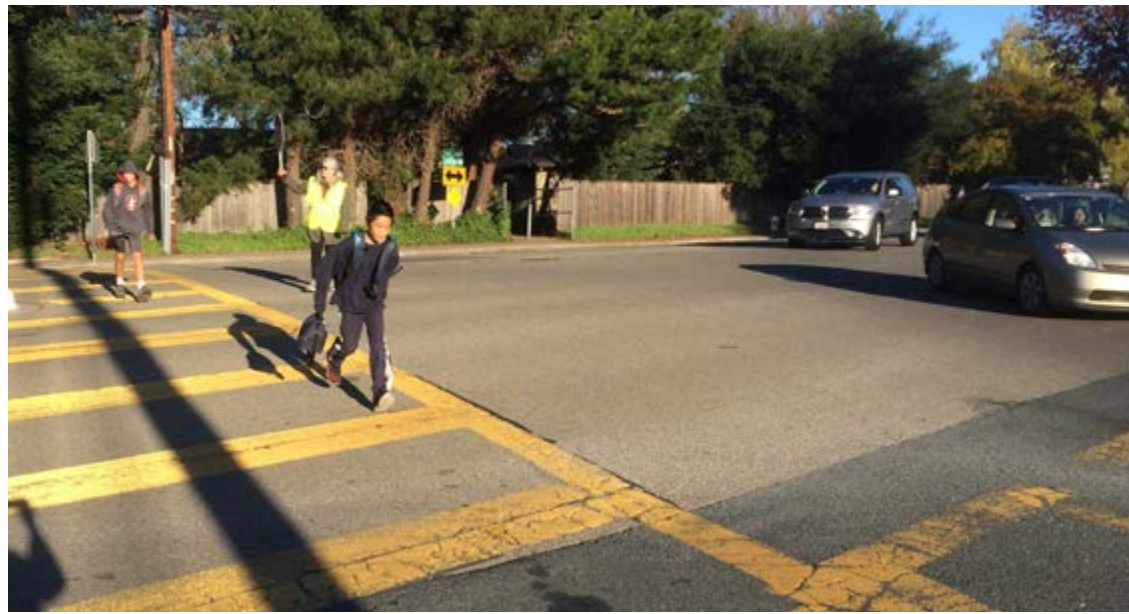
A son was right to be concerned about his mother's welfare. He called Moraga police; they entered the residence and found the woman on the floor. MOFD responders treated the resident at the scene.

11/07 Drunkenness

Weaving in and out of traffic, especially as a pedestrian, is never advised. Then again the male subject displaying such poor judgement was not in possession of all his faculties. Police arrested him for being drunk in public; he was transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

Residents Concerned About More Traffic on Canyon Road, Saying it Endangers Students at JM

By Sophie Braccini



Crossing guard Barbara Espenmiller stops traffic for JM students going to school.

Photo Sophie Braccini

On a typical morning, Barbara Espenmiller interacts constantly with the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students, asking them to get down from their bike or skates and wait for her to stop traffic first. "People are supposed to stop when they see kids standing there, but they don't," she says. She adds that she very much enjoys the interaction with the young students, that they are fabulous, very responsive and always polite.

Not so some of the drivers. Some say that the mobile apps that minimize traveling time now guide people over the hill, increasing automobile traffic and speed through on Canyon Road and Pine-

hurst in Moraga. Police Chief Jon King says that he has no hard data to substantiate the claim, but that his officers have noticed a lot of fast traffic traveling east and west on Canyon Road.

At a recent Moraga Town Council meeting, Barbara Espenmiller and her husband Allen, who are crossing guards at Joaquin Moraga and Canyon Road, came to ask for support: They say the intersection is very dangerous and they themselves have almost been hit a few times.

Barbara Espenmiller does the morning and Allen patrols in the afternoon. She arrives at 7:30

a.m. to be there for those students who arrive early. The school now starts at 8:30 a.m. and she makes sure to stay until the last student has crossed the intersection.

The Espenmillers are new to the world of crossing guards, but they quickly noticed that the main problem came from traffic traveling west, because drivers sometimes do not see the traffic guards when they are hidden by cars or buses getting ready to make a left on Camino Pablo.

"We get out as far as we can to get people to stop," Allen Espenmiller told the council at the Nov. 9 meeting. "We are successful 95 percent of the time, but some

people won't stop. I had three in a row yesterday!" He and his wife add that parents in a hurry making a left turn on Camino Pablo are not always very eager to stop.

The Espenmillers asked the council for three things: re-stripping of the crosswalks that they think are fading and are not visible enough, installation of flashing lights that would alert drivers that people are crossing the road, and more police enforcement.

Barbara Espenmiller said that the police have recently issued five citations to cars that were speeding or did not stop when asked. She says that having officers there when possible really helps.

King said that his officers are doing all they can to make sure that all the children at all the schools have safe routes to school. He noted that speeding continues to be a rampant problem in Moraga and that it is a threat to the whole population.

As far as increased traffic is concerned, King added that the mobile apps direct people to roads that are opened to the public and that there is nothing that can be done about it. The town of Moraga disassembled the Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee over two years ago, so residents who have concerns about traffic related topics need to address them to Edric Kwan, town engineer and public works director.

Utilities Work On Moraga Road Will Take Months

By Sophie Braccini

For several weeks Moraga residents' commute along Moraga Road between Corliss and Dragger Drives has been disturbed because of road construction that seems to be taking a long time. The purpose of this work is to "underground" —

put beneath the ground's surface — all the utilities that are now carried overhead and supported by poles.

The town manages the project and sees it as a beautification project as well as a means to free up space to implement of the Moraga Livable Roads plan. It is going to be several more months before it is completed, and Public Works Director Edric Kwan couldn't say exactly how many.

Kwan explains that a trench is first being dug for all the utilities.

"PG&E, the town's street lights, AT&T, Comcast will all pull their cables through the conduit," says Kwan, who adds that it is not easy to coordinate all of these different companies. The overhead cables that link homes along Moraga Road to the utilities will also be put underground, paid for by the town.

Kwan says that the town has an inspector on site at all time. However, the disturbance troubled a resident who complained to the Regional Water Quality Control Board

that the work was done with blatant violations of storm water laws.

"An inspector came, and he did not find any illicit discharge," says Kwan.

The same resident, who asked not to be named, told the Lamorinda Weekly that in his view the work had removed landscaping along the scenic corridor, and was done with a lack of pedestrian safety measures.

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