



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, April 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



March 7 to 21 Alarms

March 8 location n/a
March 11 1800 block St. Andrew's Drive
March 12 1100 block Larch Avenue
March 14 Bank of America ATM
March 16 100 block Longfield Place
March 17 400 block Kingsford Drive
March 20 location n/a
March 21 400 block Park Street
March 21 location n/a

Burglary

March 21 electronics and jewelry

Warrant Arrest

March 13 Moraga Road near Corliss.

March 8 Miscellaneous

We can't hearrrrr you! A Moraga resident failed to return home after an evening job interview, but did warn the cell phone battery was low on juice. Shortly after the police got involved, who should call but the "missing" person, who'd spent the evening in the relative safety...of relatives. No word on the success or failure of the interview, but first paycheck priority might be a spare phone battery.

March 8 Robbery

Dial "R" for Robbery: someone wanting to buy a new iPhone became a robbery victim by providing the seller with his home address. A second subject showed up, brandishing a gun. The erstwhile-seller grabbed the money and the phone and ran off with the accomplice, probably making it difficult to call for help.

March 9 Dog bite

Police responded to a local park where a man reported a German Shepard bit him. Where was the man bitten? In the park, of course, but more importantly in the hip. A second subject recognized the dog, saying it had jumped her son while he was skateboarding (the son, not the dog). When contacted, the dog owner thought the hip injury was a scratch not a dog bite, but the volunteer made sure he'd had a recent rabies vaccination (the dog; not the owner). Animal Control was notified and will chew on the report.

March 10 DUI assist

Moraga police assisted Lafayette police with the investigation of a solo driver parked in the road and apparently passed out. Driver subsequently flunked sobriety tests (and clearly lacked parking skills) and was arrested for DUI, transported to county lockup and booked.

March 10 Suspicious circumstances

Moraga parents told police five boys rang their doorbell and called their daughter derogatory names. Word games of the worst kind. No action was taken.

March 11 Violation City Ordinance

Eleven o'clock and all was not well. Police responded to music and more than 150 partiers shaking their shamrocks six days early in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Police Lepre-calmed them down, sent guests snaking home and residents acknowledged their o'fense. No further action was taken.

March 11 Assault

A domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Miramonte Drive resulted in one arrest for battery and a second for interfering. The first subject was booked in Martinez jail, the second cited and released. No injuries.

March 14 Vandal

A broken window found in a creek plus items taken from a nearby building led the owner to believe teenage trespassers were at it again. Police made some suggestions on securing the property.

March 14 Vandal

Someone put graffiti on both the Rancho Laguna Park men's and women's bathrooms after dark. Seems the culprit, whoever they may be, is an equal opportunity destroyer. Police have yet to flush them out.

March 16 Vandal

It's not a gas: Will the driver of a small brown 2-door (and his two male passengers) please remember to disengage the nozzle before speeding away from the gas station? We found the pump, but haven't found you. Yet.

March 16 Larceny

Police were on the dime picking up an employee turned shoplifter at Rheem Valley Center. The suspect was tabbed...er nabbed, and released.

March 16 Remains Found

A hiker found more than he expected when he came across skeletal human remains on an area hillside. The remains were recovered and sent to the county coronor's office for forensic ID.

March 17 Lost/Stolen property

A Moraga resident reported several thousand dollars in jewelry missing from her residence. She notified her insurance company; they asked for police involvement.

March 17 Suspicious circumstances

A resident reported a large slab of rock had been knocked down. Police took it for granite, and although no stone was left unturned, no suspect(s) were found.

March 18 Violation City Ordinance

An apartment party got out of hand...and mouth... when police observed 50 congenial collegians in their cups. The party of the first part (police) dispersed the party of the second party (attendees); one resident was cited, a second issued a warning.

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After 4 years, Moraga approves new Chase building

By Sophie Braccini



Chase Bank location at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street. Image provided

Moraga's latest Town Council Meeting was the stage of a long-lived piece of local drama, one that pits those who want to create a new vision for the downtown versus those who take into account what exists and settle for it.

This time it was the design of the new Chase Bank at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street (Bob's Christmas Tree lot) that was at stake. The result was predictable: Like when Dollar Tree or Moraga Center Homes (The City Ventures project) were approved, if the code permits it, it will be built. And right now there are no zoning rules in the Moraga Center Specific Plan that could justify adding more trees, larger sidewalks or even a setback from the street, as some residents and officials may want.

The new bank building has been reviewed and discussed for four years, going through study sessions with planning staff, the design review board and planning commission. Mayor Teresa Onoda appealed the planning commission's final assent, to bring it to a council vote.

Chase Bank claims to have 3400 clients in Moraga. At the March 22 town council, its representative, Market Director of Real Estate Ronald Chester, stated that Chase would walk out altogether if the council added more conditions to approve the project.

The new bank's site will be located in a very prominent position in the future downtown as envisioned by the MCSP. School Street is earmarked to become the downtown main street and that corner would be the entrance to that commercial area.

The mayor said that she wanted to start implementing the vision of the MCSP with this project. She reminded the council that that vision was to create an environment more pedestrian- and less auto-centered. She added that shopping has changed, everything can be delivered, and that downtowns need to create an environment where people want to hang out. For example, Onoda wanted to add a larger sidewalk, six feet instead of five feet, and remove some of the parking lots along the School Street portion of the site to accommodate both a wider sidewalk and an ample vegetation buffer.

Council Member Kimberleigh



Korpus, who was on the planning commission when the study session took place, detailed her own requests. She reminded the council that the MCSP calls for School Street to include two traffic lanes, a wide pedestrian path, a bicycle lane and angled parking. She said that to achieve this it would require massive widening, but that if the Chase project is approved as is, this will not be possible.

The two women were not followed by any of their colleagues. Vice mayor Roger Wykle said that the new building presents the general town architecture existing in Moraga, and that implementation of the MCSP vision was something that could be materialized in the future. Council Member Jeanette Fritzky added that this building reminded her of the Orchard Supply Hardware store across the street. Council Member Dave Trotter said he did not want the bank to give up on Moraga and simply asked that pear trees replace some of the trees proposed in the plan.

Trotter noted that the zoning of the MCSP is not completed yet and that for that reason there is not any requirement of any setback at this time in the municipal code.

The building's plans were approved 3-2. A committee is working on the zoning of the MCSP, but no results are expected before the end of the year.

What of Bob's Christmas Tree lot?

Council member Dave Trotter asked property owner Dave Bruzzone where would "Bob" of Bob's Christmas Trees go this year. Bruzzone answered that he would make sure that the beloved business would be provided with adequate space in the shopping center again in 2017.

Many local parents continue to support 5th-grade teacher in 'Duct Tape' case

By Sophie Braccini



Parents wear their "I'm with Millie" badge: from left, Anne Naffziger, Natalie Doane, Janelle Chng, Laura Revelos, Sara Giordani.

Many local parents continue to support a Moraga teacher in what is being referred to as "the duct tape story" despite an editorial in another local newspaper that claimed the teacher lied.

Los Perales fifth grade teacher Millie Tang was accused of placing duct tape over a child's mouth last year. Documents released to the East Bay Times spell out the Moraga School District's conclusions written after Los Perales Elementary Principal Amy Black

interviewed seven students from the classroom, including the alleged victim, "John Doe." MSD's records indicated that a majority of the students as well as a colleague of Tang confirmed that the teacher herself placed the tape on Doe's mouth, which she denies.

But parents continue to support a teacher that they consider an exceptional educator, pointing out deficiencies in the district's inquiry and accusing the media of bias.

Parents of current and former students of Tang, as well as former students, continue to support the teacher, highlighting several elements they consider the MSD neglected. The parents first specify that only seven students out of 22 were interviewed, one by one behind closed doors in a manner that they feel was intimidating. One mother indicated to this newspaper that her child was interviewed and testified that the teacher did not put on the tape, but that "John Doe" did it himself as a humorous provocation.

The lawyer of the "Doe" family, Larry Cook, did not respond to our phone calls. The district attorney dismissed criminal charges in the case, but the civil suit is continuing. The documents filed by Cook refer to physical and psychological abuse of a child, stating that Tang placed the duct tape and ridiculed the child in front of the class, and that she also engaged in intimidation, coercion and threats. The documents also accuse Black of failure to prevent, correct, train and supervise the teacher, and states that the MSD authorized and/or ratified Tang and Black's misconduct toward "John Doe." ... continued on next page