



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 15, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 8, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, May 9, 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



April 11 to 25 Alarms

4/11 400 block Fernwood
4/11 300 block Calle La Montana
4/12 location n/a
4/12 location n/a
4/13 1000 block Wickham Dr.
4/14 350 block Rheem Blvd.
4/14 3900 block Campolindo Dr.
4/15 location n/a
4/18 100 block Corliss

4/13 Weapons

Police responded to 300 block of Moraga Road report of someone in possession of a knife on school property. Teachable moment for those involved.

4/13 Welfare check

Police responded to 400 block of Rheem Boulevard where it was reported a 30-something female threatened to harm herself. Subject was transported to local hospital.

4/14 Suspicious circumstances

An unknown 40-something male found hiding in a Rheem Boulevard backyard claimed to be hiding from unknown person/people from Oakland. No unusual activity was discovered, and the subject seemed free from the influence of drugs or alcohol, so police let the matter go.

4/14 Fraud

A man told police someone tried to apply for a Sprint cell phone in his name. Had the crook applied for a Samsung instead, the matter might have fizzled...

4/15 Suspicious circumstances

When someone tried...apparently unsuccessfully...to gain access to a resident's home, she asked police to advise her about securing her house a bit better.

4/15 Warrant arrest

Person calls police to report a theft. Person meets cops in front yard. Cops discover person has not one, but two outstanding warrants. Person taken into custody, when cops discover a "substantial" amount of methamphetamine on his/her person. Not the brightest thief in Moraga...

4/17 Suspicious circumstances

A dutiful son reported the possible theft of eight Chinese antiques from his mother's residence, valued at \$400,000. Turns out the mother had just hidden the items away. They were all found, safe and sound.

4/17 ID theft

Someone filed a false tax return using the victim's social security number. Victim was advised to place a fraud alert on credit cards.

4/18 Suspicious circumstances

Campolindo High School staff

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Rheem center renovation: cosmetic changes could go a long way

By Sophie Braccini

In a time where brick-and-mortar retail is hurting and traditional downtowns are suffering, Jay Kerner, owner of Moraga's Rheem Valley Shopping Center, will invest in and renovate a mall that has been left untouched for 30 years.

The plan does not call for redevelopment or additions, but a refacing of the center as well as the addition of tower structures for unification of the look and better signage. The architects who are working with Kerner also envision the creation and update of gathering areas and more landscaped spaces.

Residents packed an April 24 study session held at 335 Rheem Blvd, the town community meeting room, filling it to standing-room only. The Planning Commission and design review board sat together to publicly review the plans and allowed residents to give their first reactions.

The architects' 3-D presentation strikingly showed how resurfacing the buildings with woodlike material would unify and modernize the look of the dated center. They also presented a new feature that they think would have multiple functions in the center: tall towers interspersed along the linear mall. The towers would create rhythm, verticality, be a way to channel west and south natural light, and be an ideal place to hold seasonal banners as well as new merchant signs.

The proposal also included the development of two gathering spaces: one in front of Mountain Mike's and New Delhi Bistro, and the second one would be the redesign of the space already existing by Tangelo and Graze. The spaces would have green areas for play, and plenty of sitting. Kerner confirmed that these spaces would be opened to everybody, patrons



The proposed plaza by China Moon restaurant.

Graphic provided

and passers-by.

The public in attendance shared mostly very positive comments, thanking the owner for his desire to renovate and update the center. Some asked to think about dog friendly signs and areas, others to think in term of water-smart landscaping. Parents noted that thinking about outdoor activity for young children would be a great magnet. Several residents of the new Via Moraga development across Moraga Road shared both their enthusiasm about renovation and concerns about impacts during redevelopment.

The only really dampening comment during the presentation came from one of the current tenants, Ravi Singh, owner of Rheem Valley Automotive, who said that before making cosmetic upgrades the owner should be thinking about resurfacing the pavement and parking areas and upgrading the night lighting. Singh added his concern

that if the center would be disrupted during construction it might jeopardize the survival of some of the most precarious businesses.

Planning commissioner Steve Woehleke asked Kerner if he had considered redeveloping the center and creating a mixed-use area that would incorporate housing and retail. Kerner responded that the economic feasibility was not there for his company.

The members of the Planning Commission and design review board said the new proposed design did not have enough elements inspired by Moraga. This lack of connection to the community look was one of the most important comments of the two consultative bodies. The members felt that this center as proposed could be located anywhere in the country. One resident had also asked the property owner to add at least one element of Moraga's Spanish heritage, such as a fountain. The members of the

committees also wondered if the contemporary look that was envisioned would not be dated rather quickly and asked the architect to work on something a bit more timeless. Some noted that the towers proposed looked like guard towers, but both bodies liked the concept, but maybe not as tall.

The study session also included the discussion of adopting an easier process for approval for the center, or even for other commercial areas in town. This aspect will be discussed further, as well as the signage at the center. A commissioner proposed that a subcommittee be formed to study the signage itself so it would not slow down the process.

The next step for the property owner is now to refine the proposal in keeping with the input that was received that evening, and submit a formal application that will be discussed during more public sessions.

Fore Our Schools celebrates 10th anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



This photo is from the first year of the tournament. The 2008 FOS Board is, from left, Mike Isola, Jim Schmidt, Patrick Artiaga, Dave Miller, Ted Yuen and Rick Schaffel.

Photo provided

It has been 10 years since Patrick Artiaga, together with a group of other Moraga dads, created "Fore Our Schools," a father-driven golf tournament that would benefit the Moraga school district. The event was an immediate success and has grown over the years, for the main reason that it's fun. The 10th anniversary golf tournament will be held on Monday, May 22.

Moraga Superintendent of Schools Bruce Burns says that Fore has become a signature event, bringing the district community together. "It's a day on the greens to support the education of the students through long drives, short putts and for some of us, the need to have a few extra golf balls in our bags," he says with a smile.

Artiaga remembers that he had contacted five other fathers whom he knew from the days their children were in preschool. They saw how much effort the mothers were putting into fundraising and they wanted to do their part. The Moraga Country Club was an easy partner to convince, and the first Fore was born.

That first year the event raised \$20,000 for the school district; Artiaga adds that it now averages more than \$40,000. The event starts at 11 a.m. and includes lunch on the greens and a reception/buffet event at the clubhouse on the evening with a silent auction. The reception is opened to non-golfers, whether they are members of the club or not.

Burns adds that it is all about the experience. On the day of the event, school site administrators take a vacation day to join in on the tournament. "Several of us spend more time looking for golf balls than actually playing the game of golf," confesses Burns. He explains that the district's foursome has been nonetheless competitive, "with Rheem School principal Elaine Frank, whose smooth golf swing lines up easier chips and putts for those of us who save our golfing magic for this one and only time we play each year," he adds. The administrators are also known for reveling in the banter between holes with other parent and community foursomes, recognizing a day off from work will directly

benefit district's students.

Artiaga believes that it is that fun yet competitive spirit that gets people coming back year after year. He adds that the event is supported by the community with about 20 volunteers, food donations from vendors such as Bonehead's Texas BBQ, or John Reyna and his food truck.

Frank, who is retiring this year, is the Fore Our Schools honorary chairperson this year. The limit of participants is 144, so the event does not take too long, and Artiaga adds that the average has been 30 teams of 4 players.

Artiaga says that of the six original founding members, five are still involved today; besides himself they are Mike Isola, Dave Miller, Rick Schaffel, and Jim Schmidt. Their children, who were in the second grade 10 years ago are now approaching graduation; Artiaga thinks that it is time to pass the baton to a younger generation of parents.

Registration fee is \$250 per person, and information and registration is available at www.foreourschools.org.