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Taco Bell reopens in Moraga



Taco Bell in Rheem Center open for business

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

After over a year of delays, the newly remodeled Taco Bell, located at 410 Moraga Road in the Rheem Shopping Center, officially opened on June 5.

Just in time for warm summer days, outdoor seating with purple umbrellas makes a noticeable first impression to arriving customers. The restaurant itself has undergone a from-the-ground-up remodel. The exterior is an updated version of the classic Taco Bell structure, while the interior boasts a modern décor with an old world twist and nod to Latin roots. Brown, off-white and black are the color schemes incorporated into the dark wooden tables and matching chairs along with subtly tiled floors and coordinating wallpaper. Higher tables located in the middle of the dining area offer bar

stool seating and Wifi.

The menu remains the same with a couple of new items and breakfast offerings. Besides ordering at the counter, a drive-thru window is available for diners on-the-go and there's also an ordering kiosk inside.

Taco Bell's District Manager Suzanne Kennedy officially put a stop to the rumors that the Moraga location was going to offer alcoholic beverages on the menu. "I don't know where that came from. We do have a Taco Bell Cantina in Berkeley that offers alcohol."

Kennedy gave a brief history lesson on Taco Bell's origins. The first location was built in 1962 in Downey, California. The oldest franchise in our area is located in Lafayette. She explained, "Taco Bell's corporate office makes each store remodel within a 20 year period. I don't know why they've never had Lafayette remodel,

other than maybe it's a bit historic." Each remodel has to adhere to the basic structural integrity of Taco Bell's aesthetic theme.

Moraga's location couldn't have picked a better time to reopen its doors. Just in time for the NBA Finals, the "Steal a game, steal a taco" offer has been made official thanks to the Golden State Warriors "stealing" a win from the Toronto Raptors in Game 2 while playing in Toronto. On Tuesday, June 18 between 2 and 6 p.m. customers can get one free Doritos Locos Taco. Kennedy stated, "Taco Bell will also make that same offer during the World Series."

Restaurant hours are Sunday through Thursday 6 a.m. to midnight, and Friday and Saturday 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. The closing hours are tentative as this location adjusts to Moraga's taco craving needs.

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ANTIGUA DOORS

A variety of summer entertainment opens in Lamorinda



At last year's Moraga concert

Photo Wendy Schreck

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The concert schedule for each location is as follows: Orinda Concerts in the Park, with food trucks, will be held on the following Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: June 18, Jet Blacq; June 25, West Grand Blvd; July 9, Flashback; July 16, Lamorinda Idol; July 23, Dirty Cello; July 30, Vintage Jukebox; Aug. 6, Site 6 Bank; and Aug. 13, Floorshakers.

Lafayette: Concerts at the downtown Lafayette Plaza Park are offered from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday evenings during the month of June, featuring Zebop! on June 14, Purple Haze on June 21 and the Keep on Trucking Band on June 28. Concert goers are encouraged to bring a picnic

supper and a blanket to sit on.

Moraga: Concerts in the Moraga Commons Park run every Thursday evening in the summer, including on the Fourth of July, with concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. The 2019 Schedule is: June 13, Retroactive Dance party; June 20, 3 Day Weekend Classic rock; June 27, Beatles Flashback, Beatles tribute band; July 4, House Rockers, rock and soul 11 performers (7 p.m. concert); July 11, Apple Z, smoking hot rock and roll; July 18, Foreverland, electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson; July 25, Mixed Nuts, hits from the '40s to present; Aug. 1, Moonalice Bay Area '60s psychedelic rock; and Aug. 8, Bell Brothers, Country to

American Rock. MPF volunteers will offer food in the Snack Bar, which opens at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, July 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Park, Solo Opera teams up again with the Orinda Rotary Club to present the club's 11th annual Opera in the Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets, and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers. This year there will also be a few musical theater pieces added to the mix!

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