



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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

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 12 Corte La Rado | Campolindo | Represented Sellers | \$1,600,000
 737 Augusta Drive | MCC | Pre-market | represented buyers | \$1,700,00
 7 Lisa Lane, Sanders Ranch | pre-market | represented sellers | \$1,600,000

Contact me to discuss your 2020 move!

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Town of Moraga seeks citizen input regarding Unfunded Needs Assessments



Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

The Hacienda de las Flores played host for two community meetings to discuss Unfunded Needs Assessments. The purpose of the meetings,

held on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4, was to get public input as to where Moraga's precious funds should be spent. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg along with several staff members made presentations to the audience of

concerned citizens. Battenberg was pleased to point out that Moraga's finances are taking a positive turn in that the town council recently adopted protocols that will stiffen financial controls. Citing increased sales tax dollars from the new Outdoor Supply Hardware Store, steady home sale prices, Measure K improvements, and a one-time federal reimbursement investment, the town is beginning to see a ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

The three top priority areas seeking public input are: Capital Asset Replacement; California Public Employees' Retirement System Unfunded Pension Liability; and the Storm Drain Master Plan.

With regards to Capital Asset Replacement, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt's presentation stressed that town services are asset dependent. Parks, the library, the Hacienda,

town offices, landscaping, police vehicles and public works trucks are just some of the town's major capital assets.

The CalPERS Unfunded Pension Liability presentation was given by Administrative Services Director Norman Veloso, who explained, "An unfunded pension liability is the gap between the amount of future benefits a pension fund is expected to pay out and the assets presently in the pension fund." During the 1990s, CalPERS reduced the amount of payments demanded from member cities due to an optimistic stock market. Its unstable investments along with increased life expectancies have resulted in changes to CalPERS actuarial assumptions.

Public Works Department interim public works director/town engineer Shawn Knapp presented the 2019 Addendum to the Storm Drain Master Plan. A field mapping

project involving Geographic Information System data was done on 21 miles of the town's infrastructure. Current storm drain activities involve visual and closed circuit television inspections, debris cleanup and repairs to damaged storm drain pipes.

A feedback questionnaire was handed out to the community meeting attendees in which they could voice their opinions and prioritize the importance of each Unfunded Needs Assessment. The feedback will be presented by staff during the Jan. 8 town council meeting for consideration. Town staff urges citizens to visit the Town of Moraga website (www.moraga.ca.us), read the Power-Point presentations and fill out a feedback questionnaire. Any questions, call Town Clerk Marty McInturf at (925) 888-7022.

Holidays arrive at the Hacienda de las Flores



Moraga Garden Club's Hacienda garden Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

The Lamorinda area has many talented artisans, and 43 of them had their crafts for sale during the fourth annual Hacienda Holiday Fair Dec 6-8.

Co-chairs of the event, Jackie Smith and Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, brought the idea to the Hacienda after several years of running it in Smith's Orinda home where the sales force of 17 vendors was considered large.

Lucas-Alcalay sells culinary herbs, herb infused olive oils and bath products under her Hollie's Home-

grown label. Smith sells jewelry under the Beadsmith label. Other vendors offered jams, candy, knit ware, soaps, and holiday themed gifts, just to name a few.

"Our top five sellers are from Moraga, and we have a few from San Francisco," Lucas-Alcalay said. "At least 78% of our vendors are from Lamorinda. They are selected based on handmade and sustainability factors."

Volunteers helped to keep things running smoothly, and the Department of Parks and Recreation was the current sponsor benefiting from the event; all raffle ticket proceeds and

table rental fees went into the Parks and Rec coffers.

No holiday fair can be complete without a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. This year's labor of love was done by some members of the disbanded Moraga Women's Society: Nancy Compelli, Roberta Klaproth, Colleen Lund and Susan Sperry.

In a section along the back fence of the Hacienda near the Casita, the Moraga Garden Club continues to maintain a corner of the world with an artful array of trees and plants that have turned gold and orange with the season.



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Town Council
 Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Thursday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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