



ABOUT TOWN ▪ OCTOBER 16, 2009

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



HATE CRIME INVESTIGATION

The FBI has decided not to open a case on the recent hate crime in Moraga. The Moraga Police Department will continue the investigation with diligence. The Police Department is determined to find the perpetrators of this offensive act in our community. Anyone with information on this crime should contact the Moraga Police Department.



WAIVER OF TOWN FEES FOR BUSINESS RELOCATION TO VACANT SPACE

The Town Council has approved a resolution waiving Town processing fees for businesses that locate in existing vacant space in Moraga. Town Council is hopeful that this will help to attract new businesses to Moraga as well as facilitate business relocations within the community. The fee waiver will be in effect until October 15, 2011.



ARCHITECT SELECTION FOR TOWN HALL REMODEL

The architectural firm of Swatt/Miers has been selected by the Town Council to complete design work for the installation of an elevator at 329 Rheem and to complete a schematic design and cost estimate for the remodel of the building as the permanent Town Hall for Moraga. The elevator installation will occur in the spring of 2010. The remodel work will be scheduled following the completion of the schematic design and is expected to be completed in 2011. The remodel will allow all Town staff except for Parks and Recreation to locate at 329 Rheem.



TOWN COUNCIL-SCHOOL BOARD JOINT MEETING

A joint meeting between the Town Council and the School Board will be held on October 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Joaquin Moraga School (in the library) to discuss a report from the "Fields Committee," which has been examining options for improving sport fields with the \$737,000 available to the Town from the East Bay Regional Park District.



PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF GREET VISITORS TO HACIENDA

Parks and Recreation staff recently moved to the Pre School room near the main entry to the Hacienda. This allows staff to greet people as they enter the building and help them with their needs, answer questions and give directions. The previous office has been converted to provide meeting and activity space to replace the Pre School room functions and is a much more pleasant space for those uses.



OKTOBERFEST A BIG HIT

On Sunday afternoon, October 11, the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga and the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department hosted Oktoberfest at the Hacienda de Las Flores. A little bit of Germany

visited Moraga for an afternoon. The weather was cold but it didn't dampen the spirits of the 800+ people who enjoyed food, drinks, live music, dancing, a sing-along to the Sound of Music, kids' games and a paint-a-car art project. Thanks to the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga for making this great community event such a wonderful success in its first year.



JOHN HAFFNER RECOGNIZED FOR ROLE IN PEAR FESTIVAL SUCCESS

A special thank you is extended to Citizen of the Year John Haffner for organizing and directing the 2009 Pear Festival. With the addition of the Lamorinda Winegrowers wine tasting booth and over 40 other festival booths, people enjoyed another great community event at the Commons Park. John was honored for his 2009 Pear Festival service with a proclamation at the October 14 Town Council meeting for organizing and coordinating all aspects of the festival. People enjoyed jumpies, music all day, pear pies, food, art, kids' games and more. Thanks also to the Moraga Park Foundation for funding the afternoon entertainment, the Desert Moon Band!



OCTOBER RAINS BRING... MESSY ROADS!

The rains of October 13 brought a number of trees and hillsides down into our roadways. Minor slides on St. Mary's Road and Bollinger Canyon Road were cleared that day. The Public Works crews were busy removing this debris and trying to keep the storm drain inlets clear. This early storm serves as a reminder to everyone to make sure that all of the drainage devices on your property are working – make sure that any concrete ditches or creeks in your backyard are kept clear of obstructions so that the rainwater can move through the storm system as quickly as possible.



MORAGA ROAD RUBBER CAPE SEAL

The rains also delayed some of the road work this week. The contractor cannot resume until the road is completely dry – including all the way down the cracks in the asphalt, as filling those is the next step in the work. After a few days of dry weather, the cracks should be ready to be filled, and then the rest of the process can resume. For more details on the process go to:

<http://moraga.ca.us/production/newconstructionpw.php>



CRIME ALERT

The Moraga Police Department would like to remind everyone to please be vigilant in preventing crime. In the first two weeks of October, 13 vehicles have been targeted for theft, and another vehicle was taken and driven to another location within the same neighborhood. To deter these types of crime, make sure you do not leave any valuables in your vehicle and always make sure your vehicle is locked with all windows rolled up.



RANCHO LAGUNA II SCHEDULED FOR TOWN COUNCIL HEARING

On October 28th, the Town Council will consider an appeal of the August Planning Commission decision that certified an Environmental Impact Report and approved a modified 27-lot residential development on a 180 acre open space parcel on Rheem Boulevard. The Planning Commission decision calls for development of 27 residences in two clusters and the repair of Rheem Boulevard between Moraga Road and Saint Mary's Road. The decision was appealed by a group of 30 residents.