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Coming Up at Town Council: Appeals and Zoning

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council has a passel of appeals to consider at its next two meetings. Council members will also soon discuss zoning changes related to the Moraga Center Specific Plan. Saint Mary's College is first in line - on Aug. 27 the council will discuss an appeal by SMC regarding the lighting of its intramural sports field. The college proposes to redesign the lights and install additional lights to reduce off-site glare to neighbors. Council members will also consider allowing the lights to remain on until 10 p.m.

Next up is the planned Via Moraga development, slated for the vacant lot across from the Rheem Center, which has not one but two appeals in play. The council will tackle these at its Sept. 10 meeting. The Planning Commission recently approved a Conceptual Development Plan for the 18-lot, single-family residential subdivision at 489 Moraga Road. Councilmember Mike Metcalf appealed the decision, concerned about a "walled effect" along the scenic corridor. And the developer, Signature Properties, also filed an appeal asking that the council reinstate a second driveway on Moraga Road, which the Planning Commission decided should be removed in order to minimize the impact on the scenic corridor.

At the same meeting, the council is scheduled to review the zoning of certain areas within the Moraga Center Specific Plan, to bring zoning into alignment with the higher densities and building heights permitted under the plan.

Reach the reporter at: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

back

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