



**Moraga**

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Moraga School District**  
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
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

Please...

## Candidate appointment procedure approved for town council vacancy

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga Town Council opted to appoint a candidate to fill the seat vacated by Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, who resigned in July due to health reasons. By appointing a candidate to fill the remainder of Fritzky's term, the town saves the cost of conducting a special election, which could exceed \$100,000.

Fritzky was honored at the Aug. 22 council meeting by friends, family and public officials, who presented her a town proclamation. Her husband, Bob, delivered an emotional tribute to Fritzky and the audience that packed the town hall gave her a warm standing ovation. Fritzky

was not present at the meeting.

Her successor will be chosen through an application, interview and appointment process. The town conducted an informal poll through the League of California Cities which showed that 70 percent of California public agencies that filled the vacancy of an elected official this decade used the application-interview-appointment method. It was the procedure followed by Lafayette when it filled a vacancy on its council in 2016. "Lafayette does things the right way," Mayor Dave Trotter said.

Other council members agreed with the format, insist-

ing that everyone who wants to run needs to be heard, and that the appointment process should be completely transparent. The transparency works both ways, as candidate applications become public record and the winning council member must fill out financial and conflict of interest forms, also for public inspection.

Candidate applications are available on the town website and must be returned to the town clerk by 5 p.m. Sept. 12. The council plans to further discuss the interview process at its meeting that evening, according to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg.

The council must appoint Fritzky's successor by Oct. 21 or the town will have to call a special election. The winning candidate will fill out the remainder of her term, which ends in December 2020.

The appointment of Fritzky's successor is entirely separate from the two Moraga Town Council seats up for grabs on the November ballot. Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda chose to not run for re-election, leaving Trotter, the incumbent, to compete with challengers Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke for the two seats in the November general election.

## Orchard Supply Hardware closure stuns Moraga employees and customers

By Nick Marnell



Moraga OSH set to close its doors by December.

Photo Nick Marnell

Retail sales in Moraga took a major hit Aug. 21 with the announcement by Lowe's Corporation that it will close all of its Orchard Supply Hardware locations by the end of the year. According to Lowe's spokeswoman

Jackie Hartzell, the Moraga store closing process will last until early November, with the business shuttered by the end of December. All OSH employees will receive priority status for new jobs within the corporation, Hartzell

said.

Jim Hoopes has worked at the Moraga OSH since its 2004 opening. "I'll miss being here. We all enjoyed working with the customers, but, that's the way things are going now," said the

cashier, bemoaning yet another retail closure.

Many customers shared similar good feelings about the employees. "I love the people here," said Libby Duryea of Moraga as she packed items into the trunk of her car in the store parking lot. "It was an asset to those of us in Moraga who didn't have to go far for a store like this."

Matthew Grenby of Lafayette tossed a bag of cactus mix into his utility vehicle. "It's all about the people. You can get these things anywhere. It was always a pleasure to shop here," he said.

"We never had any complaints about the store. Ever," said Kathe Nelson, executive director of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. "We're very sad. They were a very involved member, with nice people and a great store."

Not only were the employees and customers stunned by the news, but so was the OSH

landlord. "I just found out early today," said Dave Bruzzone, the day after the announcement. "The store was doing better than their projections. When you have a good tenant, you hate to lose them."

Neither Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg nor store manager Venessa Ochoa would divulge any OSH financial information, but it's not a stretch to say that the store accounted for a sizeable chunk of the town's \$1 million annual sales tax revenue.

"While there will be some short-term loss of sales tax revenue to the town, past experience indicates it will be offset in part by increased sales at other locally owned retail stores, including Moraga Hardware, Across the Way and the Moraga Garden Center, as well as CVS," Mayor Dave Trotter said.

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### JUST LISTED! | Moraga Townhome



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**3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1322± Square Feet**

This stunning townhome has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, a fabulous floor plan and is conveniently located minutes from shopping, schools, parks and public transportation.

**Home Features:**

- \* Large Spacious Bedrooms
- \* Fireplace in Living Room
- \* Community Swimming Pool
- \* 2 Covered Parking Spots
- \* Kitchen with Adjoining Breakfast Nook
- \* Secluded Back Patio
- \* Inside Laundry
- \* Access to Top Rated Moraga Schools.



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