Planning a gateway to open space and miles of public trails in the heart of Moraga

By Sophie Bracetti

The vision to access hundreds of acres of open space from the Rheem Shopping Center and linking a busy town center to miles of trails and recreation opportunities could materialize this year, but the John Muir Land Trust, which raised half of the necessary $2 million to buy the Painted Rock property, is still short of funds. The JMLT is now relying on patriotic generosity to finance a deal that must be finalized by May of this year, a new matching grant could bridge the gap if the community rallies around this opportunity.

The 84 acres of vacant land located at the northeast corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard is owned long to Bopoo Poynt, who purchased it over forty years ago; his widow put the centrally located 40-acres for sale for $1 million, but struck a deal with the JMLT for a fraction of that price to turn her property into open space, tapping to the public in perpetuity. Given this historic interest in the area, the board of directors of the JMLT has purchased the site. The site is comprised of 40 acres off of Moraga Road and a 40-acre parcel that is the site of a limited public access parking area. The city of Moraga will provide parking and a restroom.

Would you like to make a difference? Would you enjoy the appreciation of your peers and older adults? Are you age 25 to 75 and in good health? Consider becoming a volunteer driver for the Lamorinda Spirit for 4 hours every week or two. Phone the Program Manager at 284-5546 for more information. Training is provided. Your Class C California Driver’s License and a good driving record are all you need. Rides are available for Lamorinda residents age 60+ by calling our Dispatch team at 283-3534.

Mira Monte girls soccer NorCal champions!

A strong defensive effort by the Mira Monte girls’ soccer team in a 1-0 victory over the rival Kingdom in the final round of the NorCal playoffs has put the Mustangs in the state championship game against the highest seeded players in the state.

Consolidation of Design Review Board and Planning Commission

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The town council unanimously agreed to allow paperwork for the consolidation process to begin.

One of the conceptual designs possible for the Painted Rock parcel is the designation of "new" and "existing" crosswalks and trails.

The mayor noted, however, that the town has many unfulfilled and competing needs at the moment and the council has not reached a final decision. This is why knowing the town’s financial situation, Cusick and the development team are engaging the general public, general planning commission, and asking residents to "put skin in the game." Today, at an end of February, we’ve raised 451,000, which, of which $39,000 is a challenge match for small gifts received by May 1." explained Cusick. He added that the challenges match comes from small donations and is very generous in its doubles.