

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

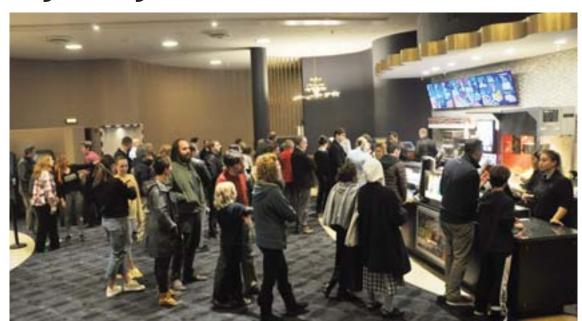
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Stylishly remodeled Rheem Theatre is open for business



Updated lobby with the new concession stand on Thursday night.

Photo Andy Scheck

By Vera Kochan

In keeping with the décor of the circa 1957 era when The Rheem Theatre was born, the new owners have maintained the ambiance with a multitude of upgrades. The Dec. 19 grand reopening was a huge success.

The reopening was a joyful scene, according to Lamorinda Weekly publisher Wendy Scheck, who attended the festivities with husband, Andy. "Michelle Heckle, who

was one of the local residents who volunteered selling tickets at the theater for a year when the Moraga Community Foundation was leasing the venue, was there with her mother and friend as well as many other Rheem Theatre supporters and MCF board members." The main theater was sold out and a second showing of "Star Wars" played upstairs as well. "The remodeled bathrooms were a particular hit with many people commenting on them - even Dave Trotter," said Scheck

with a chuckle, adding, "The seats were super comfortable. The trays and cup holders accommodating and lots of room between the rows for people to walk in or out if needed even if you are in full recline, and the sound system and vibrations were intense."

Much activity has taken place at the 350 Park Street location in Moraga to spruce up the theatre since the April 2019 purchase by Cinema West partners Dave Corkill and Kyle Conner. Yet to come is the addition of two more screens at the back of the building.

From the marquee to the box office itself, the welcoming gleam of new life to the old gem in Rheem's Shopping Center is evident.

Once inside, the lobby boasts brand new carpeting with the polished, original chandeliers and tile-work behind the concession stand. Self-serve kiosks allow patrons to purchase reserved seats if they are not inclined to do so with theater personnel. Corkill boasted, "We've already sold 1,500 advance tickets for 'Star Wars' alone."

Rheem Theatre General Manager Cameron Sullivan was enthusiastic about the many additions to concession stand offerings. "Besides beer and wine, in a month we'll be serving cocktails such as Jack & Coke, Strawberry Daiquiris and Margaritas. All I.D.s will be checked."

As well as the typical menu of popcorn, soda and assorted candies additional items include iced tea, juice, flavored Icees, large pretzels, pizza slices, hot dogs, fries and nachos.

Each patron purchases a reserved seat from a seating map, thus avoiding the hunt for a perfect seat while juggling refreshments once inside the screening room. All

that's left is to settle into a plush, faux-leather reclining chair, place the refreshments on a swiveling tray, put the drink in the provided cup holder and adjust the seat to the desired reclining position for maximum viewing enjoyment and comfort. USB ports are available for recharging phones, but patrons must bring their own cable.

Cinema West gives a nod to Hollywood's Golden Age with poster-sized headshots of movie stars in the hallways. Fans of the historic theater murals will not be disappointed. They have been restored and are joined by the newest technology in theatergoing experience with Dolby Atmos Sound Speakers.

The Rheem Theatre now offers a Rewards Card whereby patrons can earn points toward free items. For additional information or to purchase a reserved seat visit www.CinemaWest.com.



Hallway décor

Photo Vera Kochan



Reclining seats with tray tables

Photo Vera Kochan



Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission: TBA

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission: TBA

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

Public Safety

Emergency response: Emergency: 24 Hours Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com Moraga Police Department: 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055 Chief of Police, Jon King ext.

Moraga Police **Department Incident Summary**

Report

Dec. 3 - Dec. 16 Alarms
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 39 Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Welfare Check Vehicle violations

DUI Misdemeanor Moraga Country Club Excessive Speed Moraga Rd./St. Marys Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 100 Block Paseo Del Rio

Reckless Driving Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Vehicle Theft Larch Ave./Canyon Rd. Other criminal activity Extortion St. Marys College Fraud False Pretenses Police Department Identity Theft 300 Block Glen Alpine 1800 Block Ascot Dr. Panhandling Safeway Petty Theft Safeway Petty Theft Purse Snatch 400 Block Center St Warrant Arrest Starbucks Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic

300 Block Rheem Blvd. Tamper With Vehicle 1000 Block Wickham Dr.

10 Block Carnoustie Disturbing The Peace 70 Block Miramonte Dr. Moraga Commons Park Drunk In Public St. Marys College

Public Nuisance Moraga Commons Park Vandalism Paseo Bernau/Alta Mesa Dr.

Other

Accident Property
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr. Mentally Ill Commit Campolindo High School Public Assembly Check Rheem Valley Shopping Center 1500 Block Canyon Rd. 20 Block Broadmoor

