

# Civic News Moraga

Public Meetings	
<b>Town Council</b>	Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
<b>Planning Commission</b>	Monday, January 3, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
<b>Design Review</b>	Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
<b>Liaison</b>	Friday, December 10, 8:00 am Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
 Town of Moraga online: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)  
 Chamber of Commerce: [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org)  
 Moraga Citizens' Network: [www.moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org)

### • Police Report •



incident. Good luck with that.

**Attempted burglary, 11/29/10**  
Officers checked on a Francisca Drive home at 10:30 in the morning. Two female suspects were seen at the time of the incidents. The gal who attempted entering the home was appropriately dressed for the crime with black clothes and a black backpack, her hair in a bun. Despite attire, the pair didn't actually break in the home, so nothing was taken.

**Fruit theft, 11/11/10**  
Sometime during the night an unknown suspect snuck into a Silvia Court backyard and removed fruit from a Fuyu persimmon tree. The homeowner estimates the value of the stolen persimmons at \$300. That's a lot of persimmons.

**Loud noise at swim meet, 11/13/10**  
A homeowner on Josefa Place called police to complain about excessive noise at a swim meet at the Soda Aquatic center at Campolindo High School. The disgruntled homeowner said she will contact the Acalanes Union High School District and the Town of Moraga to discuss the

**Incomplete burglary, 11/21/10**  
Would-be burglars strike again, but get nothing. The homeowner right next door on Francisca Drive came home to find her bathroom window open, the master bedroom screen torn and two broken screens outside – but nothing taken. Finger prints were lifted from the window sill and screens.



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Look for your winter/spring activity guide in the mail this week. Activities from January to May, summer camps preview, new Saint Mary's College classes for the community, themed birthday party packages and a lot more.



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## Moraga Saves Energy

By Sophie Braccini

There's nothing like a bit of grant money to sweeten a budget's harsh reality. Federal funding can be hard to obtain, and many long hours of effort goes into preparing a grant proposal that has no guaranteed results; time not easy to find in a small town with a bare-bones staff. Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert is passionate about improving the town's energy efficiency, and put in the time – as a result, Moraga will get \$93,465 in grant money, and an 11-year loan of \$198,000 at 3% interest, to fund a series of energy efficiency projects (see sidebar).

The funding is a combined ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant and low-interest loan that will permit the Town to save 1/3 of its energy bill over at least the next 20 years.

"John Sherbert did a yeoman effort of combining projects and the projected energy savings in order to maximize the Town's ability to receive funds," says Town Engineer and Public Works Director Jill Mercurio,

was worth his time. "I researched and proposed that program at this time last year," he recalls, acknowledging that, although Mercurio was always supportive, his request was met with skepticism.

When he received approval to proceed, he was stunned by the amount of paperwork that was required. "The amount of formalities exceeded by far what I had anticipated," said Sherbert. He believes that this level of control and minutia, exerted especially at the federal level, is probably adequate for multi-million projects, but totally absurd for small jurisdictions. "I was invited to talk at the California Energy Commission and I told them what I think," says Sherbert.

"Given the amount of benefit that the Town will receive by implementing these projects, it is well worth the time and effort to wade through the required reporting," concludes Mercurio. As always, she and her staff remain on the lookout for other grant opportunities.

**Moraga's newly-funded energy efficiency projects:**

- Replacement of the HVAC boiler at the library with a high-efficiency model
- Upgrade of the Hacienda de las Flores' three "forced-air" furnaces and the upstairs air conditioner to high-efficiency models
- Removal of the asbestos-covered ductwork in the Hacienda crawl-space and replacement with new insulated ducts
- Insulation of the attics at the Library, Hacienda, and Casita
- Upgrade, to LED, the streetlights on Moraga's main roads, and the lighting in the Library, Commons, and Hacienda parking lot
- Installation of occupancy sensors in restrooms and enclosed conference areas and photo-sensors on the exterior lighting at the Library, Hacienda, and 329 Rheem
- Installation of a photo-voltaic (PV) system on the roof of 329 Rheem

## What's Going on Here?

By Sophie Braccini



Construction workers secure the access to the AT&T - Verizon site off Rheem Boulevard.  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Some Moraga residents became curious when they saw heavy equipment plowing the hill on the north side of Rheem Boulevard, between Saint Mary's Rd and Moraga Rd. Is the development of the Rancho Laguna property starting already, even though the project is still under review? Short answer: No.

The work taking place on the Rancho Laguna property is part of the approved installation of AT&T and Verizon Wireless telecommunication antennas that were approved by the Town of Moraga in the first part of 2010. The project will add nine panel antennas on an existing PG&E tower, and an equipment enclosure southeast of the EBMUD Fayhill Reservoir. According to the Design Review Board resolution, the new structure will be camouflaged and appear to be part of the existing facility.

## Mulholland Ridge Trees Targeted

By Sophie Braccini

The Lamorinda Weekly recently received an anonymous, but very concerned, note from a resident. According to the writer, "within the next two to three years... PG&E will be removing all the trees over 17 feet tall within 100 feet in either direction of the high voltage lines. This would remove most of the trees on Mulholland Ridge and make the neighborhoods an eyesore." The Town of Moraga halted the removal of these trees last spring – so what happened?

Since the Town put a stop to the tree removal, PG&E and the Planning Department worked on tree removal permits, and replacement, in compliance with the Moraga municipal code that regulates the removal of historic and native trees.

On October 25th, the Planning Department received a communication from PG&E's legal department citing a recent California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, published opinion that the California Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over all of PG&E's tree trimming requirements, and that they supersede any local requirements.

"The Town of Moraga does not have the authority to regulate anymore," confirmed Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack, "PG&E can remove trees that could interfere with their lines. For example, a distant tree that's so tall that it could interfere with the electric lines if it fell will be removed."

PG&E indicated that work on Mulholland Ridge for 2010 had been completed and was done in the interest of public safety and reliability. Agents will patrol again in February of 2011, and then figure out their plan of action, if any, going forward.

**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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