



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 4, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, May 29, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, June 12, 7:30 pm
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



Police Report

Loud party, 5/12/12 Perhaps the bevy of beer cans on the front lawn was a heads up to police? An anonymous call came in to cops that there was a social gathering on Lucia Lane, around 11:30 p.m. Moraga's finest estimated fifty people were inside the residence. Fiesta host received a written warning about loud and unruly parties. Party's over.

Attempted purse snatching, 5/13/12 Or rather purse shoplifting. Two suspects attempted to run out of T.J. Maxx with eight expensive hand bags, valued at over \$1,500. The two were almost caught red, er – purse handed, but dropped the goods and ran out of the store. Suspects ran to their car and got away, purses never left the store.

False alarms, 5/12/12 This time on Merrill Circle. Police responded to an audible alarm, but performed an exterior security check and found nothing wrong. Same thing reported the next day in the middle of the afternoon to a home just down the street – no signs of forced entry. Ditto for a home on Camino Pablo on May 11.

Abandoned kids, 5/11/12 Police determined that the parent of three juveniles was neglecting to provide a safe and healthy environment. The children were removed by Child Protective Services and animal control removed two dogs from the home on Ascot Drive.

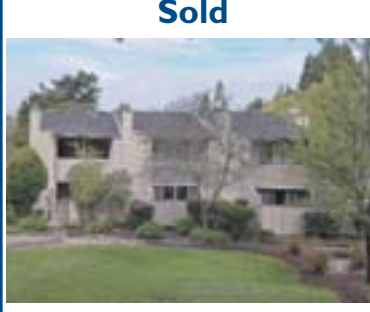
Breakfast of Champions, 5/11/12 Cops pulled over a Dodge Charger on Moraga Road at 7:40 in the morning. The driver was talking on cell phone and appeared to be intoxicated. She was taken into custody for driving under the influence and later released to a friend.

Mirror Mirror, 5/08/12 A GMC Sierra pick-up truck was parked on Corliss Drive between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Although the truck owner hadn't seen or heard anything, when he went out to the vehicle at 10:00 – someone smashed the driver's door mirror and its housing. It's a \$400 mystery that comes with seven years bad luck.

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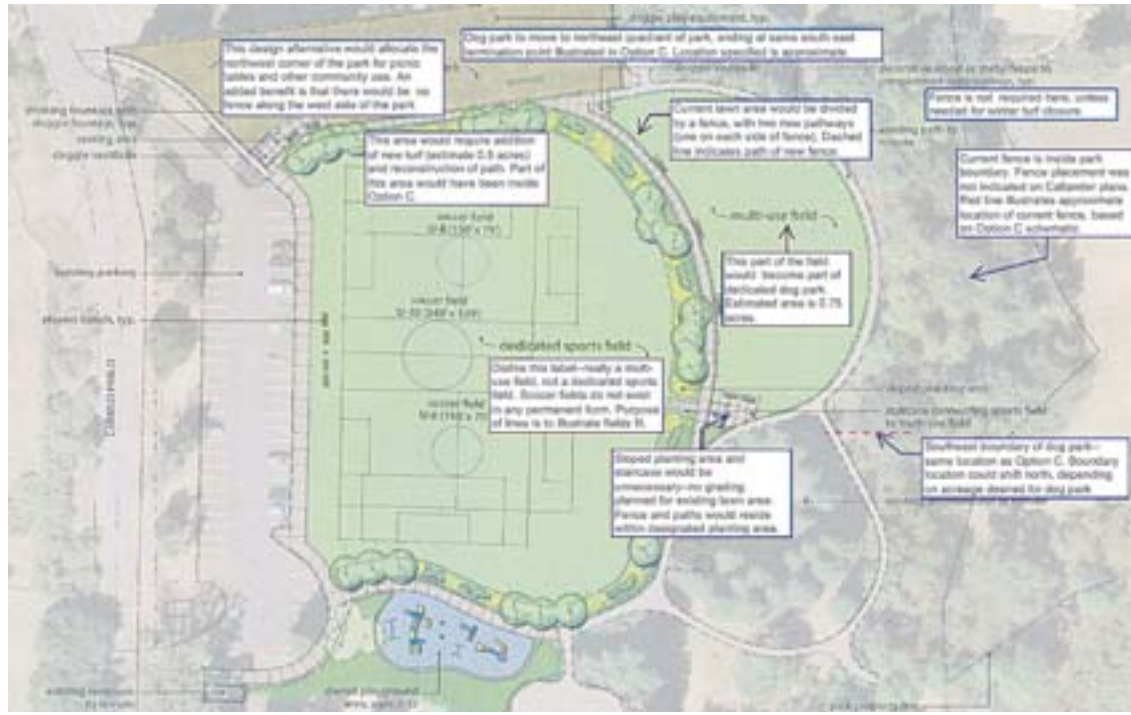


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The Dog Days are Over

Town Council votes to end off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park; approves a reconfiguration plan

By Sophie Braccini



Plan D2

Staff report

The long tradition of allowing off-leash dogs to romp at Rancho Laguna Park during the early morning and evening hours will come to an end on June 9, and will not resume until and unless a fenced dog park is constructed. The decision came at the May 9 Moraga Town Council meeting after hours of tense discussion. The Council also declined to accept a plan recommended by a committee of residents and opted instead for a reconfiguration of the park that would include a small, fenced dog area and a U12 soccer field.

The next question is: where will the money for this construction come from? The Town made it clear that it was not interested in footing the bill, at least not in full.

In late March, the Council gave interested residents a deadline of May 9 to come up with a plan for Rancho Laguna Park that would satisfy all stakeholders. A group of 14 residents volunteered to serve on a Committee; some came forward on their own and others were recommended by the Town Manager. They met three times and produced a plan for a roughly

two-acre fenced dog park, encompassing about 40 percent of the grass area at Rancho Laguna Park (called Plan C). In addition, two dissenting members of the Committee presented alternate plans (D1 and D2) for a smaller dog park of about one acre.

Many residents spoke at the Council meeting, most in support of Plan C. "We were asked to compromise our position from wanting to leave the park as is, to accepting a fenced solution. We did, and we agreed on Plan C," said Committee member Tina Briar. She went on to

cite all of the instances when four of the five Council members were on record indicating that they liked, or could support, Plan C.

Plan C supporters also pleaded with the Council not to have the second reading of the ordinance that would end the off-leash hours at the park until a fenced area was built.

Other residents, in smaller numbers, supported ending the off-leash hours immediately. "We stopped going [to the park] when my younger son was knocked over by an off-leash golden retriever who wanted to play," said Amy Kikugawa. "I encourage you to not table the second reading of the ordinance."

Council members debated between Plan C and Plan D2, and whether or not to end the off-leash hours as a fenced area was being constructed. Vice Mayor Howard Harpham seemed torn, and cast the swing vote—Council Members Karen Mendonca and Ken Chew wanted to end off-leash hours, while Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Dave Trotter wanted to continue them.

The ordinance was approved on 3-2 vote and will be effective June 9. It does not change the rules at the Mulholland Open Space Preserve, where animals that are under a person's control are permitted in designated paved areas without a leash.

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Another School Parcel Tax in Moraga's Future?

By Sophie Braccini

Disappointment over the recent defeat of Measure A, the school parcel tax, didn't dampen Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns' community spirit. The good-natured Burns took to the unstable seat of the dunk tank at the Community Faire and went under a few times, in his tie, for the benefit of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

As he dried off, Burns commented about the night of May 8 that saw the defeat of the ballot measure the District had hoped would support its operations in the coming years. "We took a big swing and missed," he said, "but we're not out."

The Superintendent said that trying again was the District's only option. "If the Governor's Tax Initiative passes in November there will still be a negative impact on our schools," he said. "If it does not pass, the cuts will have to be even deeper."

Burns said that he and his team will re-

view what went wrong this time, and consider the timing of another ballot measure.

"We will analyze the results to understand what we could do better," he said. Of the 10,172 registered voters, 5,577 returned their mail-in ballots; 3,718 voted yes, about 100 votes shy of the two-thirds approval such a measure requires. Burns believes that it is important for the District to understand which group of the population voted no and perhaps restructure the measure to gain more support.

"This measure had no sunset. Maybe we should make it a seven-year tax; we could also review different levels of exemption," he said.

"The economy is, of course, also a huge factor," added Burns. "Although we are disappointed, we are not discouraged, and we want to tell the story of our successes and accomplishments, so the whole community continues to support its schools."

Moraga School District Refinances Bond to Save Taxpayers Money

Moraga taxpayers will see a decrease of \$21 on their property tax bill due to the refinancing of the school district's outstanding bonds. With municipal bond rates at historic lows and a high quality credit rating of "AA" from Standard & Poor's, the District was able to refinance at an all-in cost of 1.23 percent.

The refinancing will not affect the district's operating costs or provide any additional resources to the district. The original bonds were issued in 1996 and refinanced once before, in 2002. Combined with the refinancing in 2002, which reduced payments by \$760,000, the current 2012 refinancing brings the savings to taxpayers to \$1.83 million in general obligation bond repayment.

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