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Getting the Word Out About Road Work

By Sophie Braccini

Volunteers going to door to door, a dedicated website and a Facebook page are all part of Public Works Director Edric Kwan's planned campaign to inform Moraga residents about this summer's road repairs which, although so badly needed that voters agreed to increase the sales tax to fund them, are likely to be a bit inconvenient at times.

Kwan presented his outreach plan to the Town Council on June 12. "The nature of road construction is hard, because it is disruptive, but we are focusing on maximizing the use of taxpayer money and keeping people informed of our plans," he said.

"We plan to start construction in July and finish at the end of September if all goes according to plan," said Kwan. "September is the ideal time of year, as far as temperature is con-

cerned, for the seal treatments."

Recent months have been dedicated to detailed data collection on the state of neighborhood streets in order to determine which streets will benefit most from this first phase of road renovation. "We will fix and protect those streets that are in relatively good condition today," explained Kwan. "The investment we are making will keep these roads at a high level of service for a long time for a relatively low investment. Next year, the paving campaign will start addressing the streets that need more work."

Sections of roads that have failed will be removed and the area repaired before seals are applied. This summer, "half of all the neighborhood streets will get either a rubberized cape seal or micro-seal," added Kwan.

... continued on page A11



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Town Offices Closed Alternate Fridays

Jill Keimach, Moraga's town manager, said in April that she was looking for creative ways to motivate town staff without increasing salaries. She cited El Cerrito's 9/80 work schedule under which people work nine-hour days and have every other Friday off. "That would allow us to keep up with our family lives," she said. The Town Council recently approved her proposal to make the alternate work schedule available to staff in all departments except Police and Public Works. Without any increase to the town's operating budget, the town's public counter hours will be expanded to 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5:00 p.m. every day except alternate Fridays beginning July 5, when the town offices will be closed.



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Thought of the Week

Is the hot seller's market beginning to cool? Two factors have been at play recently which may be indicating that this is true. First, the number of buyers seems to be declining. This is due in part to mortgage rates creeping up as well as "battle fatigue" (trying time after time to write a winning offer, only to be rejected once again). Second, we are getting what we have been wishing for: more homes for sale. However, not every home is selling within a week or two as was the case a couple of months ago, only those that are in great locations, priced well, and staged. But there's a difference between cooling and declining! Prices are not dropping, just not increasing as quickly as before, so we are looking forward to a more balanced market. Call us for the latest trends.

Meet our Featured Agents ...



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