



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
 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



Moraga Police Department

D.U.I. 8/30/14 A 52-year-old Orinda resident was pulled over on Moraga Way at 6 p.m., after an officer observed the driver go through a nearby parking lot, park, then drink a beer while in the driver's seat. Arresting officer noted "the subject displayed objective signs of intoxication." After flunking field sobriety tests, the driver was taken to Moraga Police Department and then on to the Main Detention Facility in Martinez.

Gas hose goes bye-bye, 8/29/14 An adult customer put gas in her car at the Arco station on Moraga Road, then drove away from the pump with the hose still attached to her car. The hose disconnect function worked, so the hose separated from the pump without gas being spilled or the pump being damaged. The customer noticed her car's newest appendage and returned to the service station to supply the owner with insurance information and her license plate number.

Deceased person, 8/29/14 Cops responded to an apartment on a report of a possible overdose. The subject was lying in the kitchen and was pronounced dead at the scene. A number of hypodermic needles, a quantity of unknown pills and suspected heroin were found. The Coroner responded and removed the subject; cause of death is unknown, pending an autopsy.

Contraband on campus, 8/28/14 Moraga police received a head's up from Saint Mary's College public safety officers who had discovered a student who was in possession of a knife and suspected marijuana while on campus. The parties were interviewed and cops took possession of the items; the case was sent to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Elder fraud, 8/25/14 An 84-year-old Camino Ricardo grandma received a phone call from an unknown person who she believed was her grandson. The caller said he was involved in a traffic collision in



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No Local Plastic Bag Ban

The Moraga Town Council unanimously rejected the adoption of a local ban on single-use plastic bags Aug. 27. Within two days of the council's vote, a bag ban bill passed both houses of the state legislature and now sits on the governor's desk. Governor Jerry Brown has indicated that he intends to sign into law a statewide ban on disposable plastic bags that would go into effect on July 1, 2015. *S. Braccini*

Learning from a Neighbor

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga residents visit Pleasant Hill teen center. Photo Sophie Braccini

Remember school field trips? Though curriculum-related, you'd get to go places, learn new things, and the usual school rules would be somewhat relaxed. That's exactly what happened to the 20 or so Moragans – members of the Town Council and various committees and commissions – who traveled to Pleasant Hill in August to visit their neighbor's recreation and sports facilities. Late on a warm afternoon, they pranced around and marveled at what a difference \$28 million in bond revenue can make.

At a subsequent Town Council meeting, Councilmember Dave Trotter noted that what had been done there was of a magnitude that Moraga could never rival, but that interesting lessons could be learned.

For a few months now, Moraga's Ad Hoc Facilities Subcommittee has been meeting to define a sports and recreation plan for the town. What makes it more appealing than just another plan is the prospect of high de-

veloper fees that could fall into the town's coffers within a year or two that would be primarily dedicated to recreation. So it made some sense to go see what others do when manna comes their way, either by virtue of a ballot box or other means.

"We passed Measure E, our bond measure for the park and recreation facilities, with a 75.7 percent rate of approval in 2009," explained Pleasant Hill Recreation District general manager Bob Berggren. "The measure produced \$28 million, and we ended up paying about \$33 million, with the last piece, Pleasant Hill Oaks Park, being dedicated this summer." In Pleasant Hill there is a parks and recreation district that pre-dates the city, and includes areas outside of the city. Its revenue comes from property tax and fees for services, not sales tax. Measure E funded a new senior center, teen center, community center, and the

expansion of a large sports field.

The tour started with the teen center, a modern and open 5,000 square foot facility set in a park and directly connected to the city pool, where teens can hang out after school and during the summer and relax in a safe environment, engage in organized activities, and even get homework help.

Going from good to great, the group walked to the nearby senior center. Boasting 23,000 square feet, the center opens on an ample lobby that can serve for pre-reception activities. It includes a complete kitchen, computer room, game room, meeting rooms, a large dance floor and a café. "Seniors pay to participate in most of the activities," said Berggren, "the fees cover about 56 percent of our cost." Pleasant Hill is known for its extensive senior services, including a travel program that offers a different trip every week.

Going from great to lavish, the group of already impressed Moragans climbed back in their cars to go discover the city's new community center. The impressive 21,800 square foot center is open to the whole pop-

ulation for events, classes, and weddings, among many other things. Berggren said that rental of the facility is developing nicely, including that of the great room, which features vaulted ceilings and can host 400 people. The community center also houses a preschool operated by the school district.

As the afternoon faded and the air gently cooled, the visit ended at Pleasant Oaks Park, which offers romantic views of Mt. Diablo. The last Measure E project, the new field is set where an older sports field was already in operation but needed new irrigation and grass. The all-natural turf accommodates five baseball/softball fields and numerous soccer fields.

Trotter asked why a gym had not been part of the package. Berggren explained that the project had been designed to bring something to every member of the population and the money could only be stretched so far. The Moragans left with some signs of envy, even though they realized that Moraga is very different from Pleasant Hill.

(City data 2012)	Moraga	Pleasant Hill
Population	17,000	34,000
Median age	42	40.7
Median income	\$114,256	\$72,814
Number of homes	5,722	14,000
% owner occupied	84%	64%
Median home value	\$795,502	\$468,231

The Town of Moraga's total revenue is about \$8 million, of which \$3 million come from property tax. In contrast, the budget of the Pleasant Hill Recreation District alone is in excess of \$8 million; on the revenue side about \$5 million come from property taxes and \$3 million from charges for services. (Figures are from audited 2013 city reports.)

Texas and was arrested for D.U.I. Alleged grandson requested money, and unfortunately grandma sent \$1,700 via Western Union. It turns out that her actual grandson had not been in a recent accident or arrested in Texas.

Grand theft, 8/23/14 A Del Rio Way resident came to the police department to report that an unknown suspect had removed several items from an unoccupied home. Apparently thieves took \$2,000 worth of staging furniture that was at the home while the house was for sale.

- The following additional crimes were reported in Moraga between Aug. 26 and Sept. 2:**
- Danger to Self** Ascot Dr
 - Identity Theft** Dolores Ct
 - Vandalism** Ascot Dr
 - Lost Property** Country Club Dr
 - False Alarm** Calle La Mesa Canyon Rd
 - Domestic Disturbance** School St
 - Prostitution** Moraga Rd
 - Suspicious Circumstances** Center St
 - Residential Burglary** Birchwood Dr
 - Center St
 - Miramonte Dr
 - Center St
 - La Quinta
 - Ascot Dr



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