



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, May 9, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, May 10, 7 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 Report



**Tax identity theft, 4/19/16:** A Roberts Court resident attempted to file her taxes and discovered her social security number had already been used to fraudulently file tax returns. Presumably her refund is long gone, but surely the government will be happy to send another check. The reporting person was in contact with the IRS, but wanted to file a police report to cover all her bases.

**Stolen golf cart, 4/17/16:** A golf cart was stolen by a male subject around 9 p.m. near the ninth hole of Moraga Country Club golf course. Cops looked but did not find it. The cart couldn't be entered into the police Stolen Vehicle System since it didn't have a VIN or serial number.

**D.U.I., 4/16/16:** Was it driving over landscaping or perhaps allegedly striking a building on Camino Peral that alerted officers to a person driving under the influence? The driver submitted to a chemical test, was found to be less than sober and was released to a relative after signing a notice to appear. No word on the car, which probably slept it off.

**Double whammy, 4/14/16:** It was not a happy hour, although it was around 7 p.m. in front of Safeway when a woman was found to be under the influence and on probation. This included prohibiting her from consuming alcohol. She was arrested for public intoxication along with the added bonus of probation violation and taken to jail.

**Craigslist Honda fraud, 4/13/16:** An unnamed individual paid \$6,500 cash for a car that wasn't actually for sale, and didn't belong to the seller. The victim made contact with the fraudster at Starbucks for an arranged sale of a 2011 Honda Civic. When the reporting person attempted to change title at the DMV the next day, he was advised that the vehicle was owned by a third party and that a bank possessed a lien on the car. The cash and the seller have vanished.

**Mailbox trauma, 4/12/16:** Sometime during the night, an unknown suspect pried open all of the mailboxes at a Moraga Way complex. One of the sections of mailboxes had been completely removed from the group. Damage is estimated at \$200. Hard to say if any mail was stolen.

**Other crimes in Moraga from April 12-19:**  
**Domestic disturbance** – Juliana Court  
**False alarm** – Rheem Boulevard, Dolores Court

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## Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## New Hacienda Plan Falls Short With City Council

By Sophie Braccini

What was supposed to be the final presentation of the conceptual plan to the Moraga Town Council for the renovation of the Hacienda de Las Flores was met with unanimous skepticism last week. While the council did not decide to scrap the plan, members were put off by the financial feasibility of the proposed renovations.

The council will again take the project under its wing and work on a scaled-down version.

The architectural firm Gould Evans started meeting a year ago with residents and staff to define a vision for the renovation of the Hacienda de las Flores. The historic

building is underutilized and cost the town about \$200,000 a year for upkeep. It is in need of repair and Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades. The April 27 presentation was the second one made by the architects, incorporating revisions that had been asked by the council in February.

The new draft included a 200-person banquet room; a restaurant opened year-round; a five-room boutique hotel; and wider access from Moraga Road. But as soon as the presentation was over, comments from the public started eroding any confidence that the project would be approved that

night. The barrage of critics started with Wendy Scheck, president of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, who explained that the return of the \$6.1 million estimated investment would not be sufficient to attract investors. Most critics focused on the banquet or garden room that residents found either visually intrusive or too expensive for the site.

Different ideas were shared in the public comment, including stopping holding weddings at the Hacienda, tenting large events instead of building an out-of-scale addition, or increasing the size of

the Casita to make it a real community center.

Some indicated they liked the visuals proposed by Gould Evans, but that the lack of financial feasibility made spending any more money on the proposed option unwise.

The council decided to create a two-person committee, Vice mayor Dave Trotter and Councilmember Teresa Onoda, to take over the project and work with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce to assess the cost of different alternatives. No timeline was defined for this next phase.

## Corroded Culvert is to Blame for Sinkhole

By Sophie Braccini



Sunday, March 13: The initial emergence of sinkhole.



Monday, March 14: A traffic signal pole, a PG&E electrical switch vault and portions of the sidewalk collapsed into the sinkhole. Photos provided

The Town of Moraga established with certainty that the cause of the recent sinkhole is the failing of the 96-inch corrugated metal culvert that runs under the Rheem Boulevard-Moraga Road intersection.

The town will replace the failed portion of the metal pipe with a concrete conduit. It will not fix the entirety of the corrugated section, because state funding might not be available for improvements beyond the immediately affected area.

Glen Anderson from consultants Schaaf & Wheeler made a presentation to the town council on April 27 of the forensic work that has been done in the sinkhole over the past weeks. Images of the film taken inside the culvert were enough to bring their point home. It showed a pipe where corrosion was everywhere, to the point that the bottom was gone in some places, not supporting the top of the pipe, and resulting in its deformation. The presentation showed a 17.5-inch joint offset running all along the side of the culvert, caused by the shape alteration. When the rains started pouring last month, pressure increased on top of the pipe and large quantities of dirt were dragged from under the sidewalk into the pipe through the offset joint. After a while the road collapsed.

Repair alternatives were presented to the council. All agreed that removing the failed corrugated metal and replacing it with reinforced concrete was the way to proceed. ... continued on page A12

**Unsuccessful shoplifting** – HomeGoods

**Loud party** – Moraga Road, Ascot Drive

**Stolen car** – Rheem Boulevard

**Found purse** – Sanders Ranch Road

**Identity theft** – Roberts Court

**Inherently stolen** gun returned to cops, family requests it be destroyed



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