



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Aug. 16, 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



### Weird vandalism 7/25/16:

Someone apparently sprayed a large amount of water in a Moraga Way business through a window screen located above the front door of an unnamed business, leaving a large puddle of water, dust and dirt inside the shop. At the time it was unclear if any of the mess caused permanent damage.

### Alleged loud party 7/24/16:

A neighbor reported an alleged loud party on Sandringham Drive North, and said this was an ongoing problem. Cops came and spoke with an adult female resident who said she had a few guests in the backyard. Guests came inside, music was turned off, so the cops determined "there was no party being held."

### Guy sleeping in car 7/23/16:

A fellow returned to his vehicle after working his shift at Saint Mary's College, and found a mystery man sleeping in his car around 9 p.m. Surprised, the car owner asked the fellow to get out. The sleeper said he had too much to drink at his class reunion, so he climbed in the car and passed out. Nice-guy SMC employee didn't want to make a citizen's arrest. The subject waited at the guard shack until an Uber driver picked him up. At least he didn't attempt to drive.

### Stuff stolen from inside car 7/22/16:

A Parson Brown Court resident reported the theft of undisclosed property from a vehicle. Sometime during the night a number of items were removed from his unlocked car. No suspects or leads at this time. A lesson learned.

**Car vandalized 7/21/16:** While at a meeting at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, an estimated \$3,000 in damage was made to a car parked in the lot. This happened at a church?

### Mystery box in roadway 7/21/16:

A metal box containing business papers and U.S. currency fell onto the roadway near the intersection of Moraga Way and Moraga Road around 11 a.m. The box was picked up by two subjects who were seen placing the box next to an open business. Employees of the business

# Planning Department Sheds Light on Business Changes

By Sophie Braccini



The open lot on Moraga Way and School Street. Photo A. Scheck

Summer may be a slow time for some businesses, but there is a flurry of activity in Moraga. While rumors have abounded, according to the Moraga Planning department, several businesses in town are closing, expanding or even

changing hands.

The Burger King at the Rheem Center is being replaced by Starbucks, which owners hope will include a drive-through. The project requires a use permit amendment and design review for exte-

rior changes. A recent Bloomberg article about Starbucks' strategy noted that, "Drive-through account for more than 40 percent of company operated stores and have a higher than average sales growth compared with non-drive-through locations."

Chase Bank has filed an application to construct a new retail bank on the vacant lot at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street, also known as the Christmas tree lot. The planning commission should review the use permit in September.

The UPS store that is presently located near Lord's Ice Cream has an application approved to relocate its services to a larger and more visi-

ble space in the same Moraga Center, next to Bianca's Deli & Catering.

The old post office at the corner of Country Club Drive and School Street has been approved to become a warehouse/office space for a beauty supply business.

Bets are still out regarding the Jack in the Box that closed a few weeks ago. Mayor Mike Metcalf recently noted that he had heard people regretting that the only cheap place for breakfast in town had closed, but there has not been any official confirmation of the rumor that a McDonald's would be replacing the fast-food joint.

The owners of the Moraga Center, the Bruzzone family, have not replied to requests for information.

# New Signs Point Moragans in the Right Directions

By Sophie Braccini



The design draft for new gateway signs. Image provided

Pear or no pear? Blue or green sky? Many hours of public debate have been consumed by these difficult questions. Creating wayfinding signs may seem trivial to some, but as Planning Director Ellen Clark says, it supports the image a community has and wants to communicate of itself.

The signs finally chosen by the Moraga Town Council are simple and will consistently be installed townwide for cars, bicycles and pedestrians. A whole new map will be created for these three categories of users. The council also chose a new

gateway sign style for the entrances to town.

As part of the pedestrian and bicycle master plan, staff had found that signage in Moraga lacked consistency. "Key destinations have been identified, and different types of signs have been chosen by the design review board, as well as through an online poll," Clark said at a July council meeting.

The initial design alternatives included one with a pear at the top left of the signs, a reference to the glorious past of Moraga when it was the Bartlett pear capital of the

world. The online poll results said no pear, but staff recommended the inclusion of the historic symbol because the DRB preferred it that way.

Mayor Mike Metcalf said he did not want to start World War III over the pear-or-no-pear debate. Council member Phil Arth said he didn't want it as it would clutter the sign; council member Teresa Onoda said she would rather follow the poll's result; and vice mayor Dave Trotter dealt the final blow to the pear when he said that it looked like a partridge or a quail.

Once the simple design was approved, the council focused its attention to the four proposals for new gateway signs. This project was started when the Moraga Movers (residents over 55) offered the town \$10,000 to build new gateway signs at the town limits along Moraga Way, Moraga Road, St. Mary's Road and Canyon Road. The group had become frustrated with the dilapidated air of the hand-carved

wood billboards that welcome people in town.

Associate planner Coleman Frick showed four styles of signs to the council, and explained that individual costs were in the range of \$10,000 to \$17,000 each. The council members had a preference for the least expensive sign with its hill silhouette that resembles the newly adopted wayfinding signs, but they indicated that they did not have the budget at this time and that the project would be reevaluated at the budget's mid-year revision in January.



Wayfinding sign

# Public Art is Finally Coming to Moraga this Fall

By Sophie Braccini



Horse heads by Amy Evans McClure Photo provided

Monumental art displayed in public places is definitely coming to Moraga.

Within a few months, sculptures on loan from regional artists will be erected for residents of all ages to share and enjoy. The Art in Public Places Committee has been working for months on behalf of the Moraga residents to select eight pieces; some of them will begin to be installed in October, starting at two first public sites, the library on St. Mary's Road and the town council chambers and community meeting room at 335 Rheem Blvd.

The town council will approve all or some of the eight pieces the committee unanimously recom-

mended at either the Sept. 14 or Sept. 28 meeting.

The committee began meeting

and exploring how to bring art in the public space in May.

... continued on page A14

## Just Listed in Moraga!



### 4 Dolores Court, Moraga

Located on a cul-du-sac in Carrol Ranch, this stunning Townhouse has 3 bedroom and 3 bathrooms. This Townhouse also has a fabulous floor plan and is conveniently located minutes from shopping, schools, parks and public transportation.

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