

Summer Camps Register Today!

moragarec.com



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION
925-888-7045 • www.moragarec.com

YOUR REAL ESTATE GUIDE



TOP LAMORINDA BROKER

ALEX GAILAS

925-254-7600

Alex@AGRealty1.com

www.Alexgailas.com

Making you feel confident with your Real Estate transactions since 2000!



CalBRE#01305545

45 Moraga Way, Ste 203, Orinda

Merchants near Rheem sinkhole ‘celebrate’ first anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Town Manager Robert Priebe and Edric Kwan (both in a tie) came to the anniversary organized by Ravi Singh (with his back to the camera). Photo Sophie Braccini

It was with irony that merchants at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center gathered on March 13 to “celebrate” the first anniversary of Moraga’s infamous sinkhole. In fact, the event was even featured on NPR on March 18.

The event was a way to publicly vent their frustration over traffic disruptions caused by the large hole, with seemingly no steps to correct the situation being taken. They say that the impact on their businesses has been serious as disruption lingers.

Two seniors from Campolindo High School had decorated the fence with balloons and

streamers, while Ravi Singh at Rheem Valley Automotive and his wife had ordered a cake at Safeway that shows the pavement and thumbs down as the decorative items. They offered pieces to Campolindo High School students passing by, to other merchants, town staff and members of the press that had come to cover the event. “I have not personally suffered too much of the perturbed traffic because most of my clients come with an appointment,” said the repair shop owner, “but many others have seen a slump in their average income and people explain to them that they just avoid the area

and would rather go shop somewhere else.”

It was a year ago during a rainstorm that a large metal culvert that carries the Laguna Creek under the intersection at Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road collapsed, creating a massive sinkhole that swallowed the crossing light and dangerously ruptured several utility lines, including a PG&E gas line. A merchant back on site for the anniversary “party” reminisced how the air smelled of gas and that everyone was so lucky no major fires erupted at the time.

Town staff on site, including Town Manager Robert Priebe and Public Works Director Edric Kwan, informed the group that nothing has happened since last July when they heard that the town had been declared eligible to receive federal funding.

Kwan explained that the eligibility gave the town the right to go through the lengthy process of getting every aspect of its plans approved by the federal agency before it can go to bid. He said that his team has been ready to bid the repairs with contractors for months, but that the town is at the mercy of the Federal Highway Administration’s approval process that is happening through the California Department of Transportation. Starting work without proper authorizations would jeopardize the town’s ability to be reimbursed for the \$3.3 million of reserve money it will spend to repair the hole.

... continued on page A9

Skeletal remains found on Moraga hillside

Moraga and Lafayette police recovered skeletal human remains on a secluded hillside near the Moraga/Lafayette border on Friday, March 17.

Police say the remains appear to have been in the area for some time but foul play is not suspected. A hiker discovered the bones near a seasonal creek and alerted Moraga police. The hiker returned to the area with police and assisted them in locating the remains.

The area is only accessible on foot or by four-wheel drive. Search and rescue personnel and crime scene technicians recovered the remains and thoroughly searched the area.

“Today was about documenting the scene and removing the remains,” said Lt. Brian South, of the Moraga Police Department. South said the remains will be transferred to the Contra Costa County Coroner’s Bureau for further investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact South at 925-888-7052 or via Dispatch at 925-284-5010. — Cathy Dausman

Alain Pinel Realtors®

FIND YOUR PLACE



ORINDA \$1,799,000

16 Del Mar Court | 4bd/3.5ba
Debra Trevarthen | 925.258.1111



LAFAYETTE \$1,785,000

3728 St. Francis Drive | 5bd/2.5ba
Alan Marks | 925.258.1111



ORINDA \$1,595,000

4400 El Nido Ranch Road | 4bd/3.5ba
Jim Colhoun | 925.258.1111



LAFAYETTE \$1,492,000

37 Jennifer Highlands Court | 5bd/3.5ba
Bill Finnegan | 925.258.1111



MORAGA \$1,049,000

107 Hodges Drive | 3bd/2ba
Cheryl Hata | 925.258.1111



ORINDA \$840,000

205 Glorietta Boulevard | 3bd/3ba
Bill Leone | 925.258.1111

APR.COM

Over 30 Offices Serving The San Francisco Bay Area 866.468.0111

