



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Nov. 14, 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

Summary covers Oct. 1-9

Alarms	20
Noise Complaints	7
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	0
Suspicious Vehicles	1
Abandoned Vehicle	

Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.

Accident

Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Battery

1700 block School St.

Disturbing the Peace

500 block Center St.
100 block Danefield Pl.

Disturbance (juvenile)

500 block Moraga Rd (2)

Dispute

100 block Eileen Ct.

Location n/a

Excessive Speed

Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Larch Ave./Sparrow Ct.

Fire/ EMS Response

3900 block Campolindo Dr.

Harassment

location n/a

Hit & Run

Camino Peral/Alta Mesa

ID Theft

200 block Corliss
200 block Calle La Montana
Location n/a

Mentally Ill Commitment

Campolindo High School

Missing Adult

10 block Magee Ct.

Reckless Driving

Natalie Dr./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Shoplift

Safeway

Theft, petty

Saint Mary's College

Unwanted Guest

location n/a

Welfare Check

900 block Country Club Dr.
1900 block St. Andrews Dr.

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letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

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Town approves additional \$1M to complete Canyon Bridge construction

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Public Works Department received much higher bids than expected for the preparation of the site and the installation of a temporary bridge that will restore communication with the Canyon community. The increase in cost is partly due to the fact that the contractor was asked to work seven days a week and extra hours, if needed, to meet the deadline. Staff continues to target the end of November for the re-opening of Canyon Road.

Public Works Director Edric Kwan opened his presentation at the Oct. 12 special council meeting indicating that the town was facing a new challenge. The total cost to build the emergency temporary bridge replacing the one that became unsafe last April had jumped by about \$1 million. Most of that extra cost comes from the contractor that will prepare the site and install the emergency one-lane

bridge that the town will lease. The bid for the bridge lease itself, around \$200,000, came in at the estimated cost, and staff issued the contract for the bridge on Oct. 13.

Myers and Sons, which is doing the bridge preparation and installation, started work Oct. 9, preparing the mobilization and excavating for the future abatements. The schedule allows for 43 days to complete the work, including the installation of the bridge.

Several Canyon residents who depend on that bridge to reach Moraga, and who rely on the bridge for Moraga-Orinda Fire District responders to access the area, came to the Oct. 11 regular council meeting to express their frustrations and fears. The difficult situation they are enduring has fueled rumors, often unfounded, which in turn increases anxiety and feelings of neglect. For example, residents on Oct. 11 asked about the potential

of possible winterization of the bridge and postponement of the work to next year. Kwan explained that the basis for that rumor was a statement he made when the vice president of the Canyon School Board asked a judge to stop the demolition of the bridge. If that had happened, Kwan said he would have had to winterize the site because there is no room in the narrow passage to have both the old bridge and the emergency one.

When asked what would happen if rain would stop the construction and installation, Kwan explained that the contractor would have to follow the rules of closing the site on heavy rain days, and that it could delay the process, but that the first priority was to reopen Canyon Road.

The council members unanimously approved spending the extra money. Part of it will come from the town's reserve fund, fur-

ther reducing it to just \$500,000.

Council member Kymberleigh Korpus asked Kwan if some money could have been saved if the bids had been sent earlier in the summer. Kwan agreed, but explained that the bidding process is a highly regulated procedure that under normal circumstances can take a year for a bridge and includes many levels of environmental reviews. In this emergency case, some procedures were expedited but the Federal Highway Administration that will ultimately reimburse the town still required a bidding process.

When Kwan was asked when he thought the town would get its money back, he said that it would likely take several years. In 2017 alone, and even before the devastating North Bay fires, California was in need of emergency funding totaling over \$10 billion, most of which is unfunded at this time.

More property owner input sought for zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Center Specific Plan was approved seven years ago, envisioning the construction of up to 600 new residences, new commercial spaces, and the creation of roads and civic spaces at the crossing of Moraga Way and Moraga Road. The zoning defining how this space would be developed was never approved. The town secured a grant to start the process of creating this zoning but now the town council has decided that it will not allocate the \$38,000 needed to complete the process with the consultant Opticos. Instead, the council decided to work with the Bruzzone family that owns most of the MCSP land and publicly study what elements of the plan could be amended to make its development possible.

For more than two years, the town has worked with Opticos to create zoning of the MCSP that would foster downtown development. The town has already spent \$150,000 of grant money from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority on this project, as well as an additional \$50,000 allocated in 2015-16.

The City Ventures' project, Moraga Center Homes, was approved as part of the MCSP and the lack of zoning led to the endorsement of a design that created deep resentment with residents who tried to overturn the ruling through a referendum. When she launched this zoning process, Planning Director Ellen Clark hoped to avoid a similar battle in the future and create common ground around a vision accepted by all. At the Oct. 11 council meeting, David Bruzzone forcefully criticized the proposed

zoning, indicating that it was going down the wrong path and was inconsistent with the MCSP.

He explained that the proposed zoning would create an element of uncertainty for future developments, and would limit any possible grading of his family's property. He reminded the council that he had several times raised the issues associated with this process and complained that he had been ignored.

... continued on page A8



MCSP land south of the new Harvest Court development.

Photo A. Schreck

Just Listed in Moraga!



20 Wandel Drive, Moraga

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925.200.2222 | 925.878.9685
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