



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Dec. 12, 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. 23 to Nov. 6

- Alarm Calls 16
- Noise complaints 3
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8
- Traffic Stops 18
- Suspicious Circumstances 14
- Suspicious Vehicles 3
- Accident, Property reported to police
- Animal Cruelty Haven Ct./Williams Dr.
- Battery Rheem Elementary
- Battery, Sexual reported to police
- Burglary, Auto 100 block Miramonte Dr.
- Disturbance 1900 block Ascot Dr. Location n/a
- Excessive Speed Rheem Blvd./Fernwood (3) Larch Ave./Canyon Rd. Saint Marys/Rheem Moraga/Saint Marys Moraga/De Moraga Way/Alta Mesa Corliss Dr/York Pl.
- Fire/EMS location n/a 500 block Center St.
- Mentally Ill Commitment Saint Mary's College 20 block Lynch Ct.
- Medical, Hospital 100 block Alta Mesa Ct.
- Reckless Driving Alta Mesa Rd/Moraga Rd.
- Theft, grand 300 block Glen Alpine
- Theft, petty 1100 block Rimer Dr. Safeway 100 block Miramonte Dr.
- Theft, vehicle location n/a
- Welfare check location n/a (2)

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ... EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE ... JIM COLHOUN

Moraga proposed firearms regulation attracts attention beyond town's borders

By Sophie Braccini

The topic of firearms regulation was on the Nov. 8 town council meeting agenda. At the beginning of the meeting, Moraga Town Manager Bob Priebe asked that the ordinance be put on hold to allow enough time for the town attorney to study new arguments put forth by an attorneys' group representing the National Rifle Association. The postponement led to some verbal disorder before the mayor ordered a meeting recess that allowed parties to leave the premises.

The correspondence was re-

ceived by staff from Michel & Associates on the day of the meeting, not giving enough time to prepare a substantial reply. The attorney's letter was sent on behalf of the NRA and stated that the proposed ordinance would create an unconstitutional burden to the right of self-defense, and is unenforceable. The text establishes requirements for the safe storage of handguns in residences within the town. Priebe indicated that the town's legal team was aware of these arguments, but that a few new elements were add-

ed that required more scrutiny.

Priebe suggested continuing the topic to the Dec. 13 meeting. Mayor Teresa Onoda supported this idea, wanting to finish 2017 with a topic that some residents have been working on for a year. But Council Member Dave Trotter opposed the idea, explaining that the December meeting is a festive occasion, not appropriate for this highly contentious topic. The decision was made to hold the hearing either on Jan. 24 or in February.

In addition to the letter from

the Los Angeles law firm, the town has received several pieces of correspondence from residents living outside of Moraga, such as Pleasanton, Rancho Santa Margarita, La Canada Flintridge and Laguna Niguel, and they are all in opposition to the text (some Moraga residents also oppose the text). A resident sent to the town a link to the group Calguns.net that encourages its members to voice their opposition to the Moraga proposal either in person or via a letter.

Town takes next steps toward storm drain fee; timing still uncertain

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CIP Category	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	Overall Cost
Capacity	\$ 2,964,000	\$ 5,314,400	\$ 3,068,000	\$ 11,346,400
Condition	1,497,600	41,600	780,000	2,319,200
Street Pavement	291,200	104,000	156,000	551,200
Recurring Problems	-	156,000	-	156,000
Creek Culverts	4,461,600	5,751,200	2,381,600	12,594,400
TOTAL	\$ 9,214,400	\$ 11,367,200	\$ 6,385,600	\$ 26,967,200

Storm drain master plan

Graphic provided

The council approved an \$80,000 contract for SCI Consulting Group, the consultant that will compute the rate study for the town. Jerry Bradshaw for SCI gave the example of a few 10,000 to 20,000 square foot lots, which would be studied to determine an average percentage of impervious surface on them. That percentage would determine a fee that would be applied to all such parcels. For commercial properties, the tax would be a rate per acre. Open space lots would be exempt. Owners of residences that are part of an HOA would get a lower rate, because they already pay for the drainage in their HOA and impact the overall system less. Bradshaw added that an appeals process would be administered by town staff for the property owners feeling unjustly assessed.

Bradshaw noted that the proposed storm drain fee is not widespread in the state. He said that the survey, which showed a majority of support for this mechanism, did not take into account the commercial property owners or the schools. With the schools being made of concrete, but also including many sports fields, it is going to be interesting to see how the proposed fee for the district incorporates these factors.

Residents Scott Bowhay and Brent Meyers expressed reservations about the town using this mechanism to fund the drain repairs. Bowhay spoke for a new group in town called Smart Moraga, which wants to be part of the decision-making process. Meyers questioned what he felt was a rushed solution. He said he was not sure this was the only alternative that should be studied and that the town should engage in a larger discussion.

Meyers noted that the survey also shows that over 40 percent of residents do not believe that the town is going in the right direction, and that proposing the new fee was not addressing this recent

distrust.

Mayor Teresa Onoda somewhat echoed these remarks when she asked to postpone the ballot for one year in order to re-establish trust with residents first. But her fellow council members stated that the storm drain situation was an emergency, as demonstrated by the Rheem sinkhole, and that it would be irresponsible not to seek means to prevent further disasters.

There was no majority among

council members to determine timing for the tax measure. The consultant suggested mailing the ballots in March for results in April. Council Member Jeanette Fritzky noted that the time to inform residents would be too short. Resident Ellen Beans who had been a part of the successful 1 percent sales tax ballot measure, Measure K, also stressed the importance of informing and educating residents.

The budget allocated to the

consultant includes only a few thousand dollars for outreach. It was clear to the council that most of the communication would have to be done by volunteers, like for Measure K. That 2012 outreach campaign was done over a period of two years, however, not four months.

Bradshaw confirmed that his complete work could be done in stages and that it would not cost more to the town if a decision was made to hold the election later. The consultant indicated that the results of the rate study would be available in December and could be heard at the Dec. 13 meeting. This last meeting of the year has traditionally been dedicated to the election of a new mayor. This time, it will also be the last meeting of town manager Bob Priebe who has served the town for 35 years. It is not certain that the council will agree to disturb the festive tradition with this hearing.

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