

MCN Sponsors Town Council candidates' forum

... continued from Page A5

Trotter said if it meant keeping the theater open, he would give serious consideration to making it an historic landmark. He appreciates the efforts of the Moraga Community Foundation to keep it open and beautifully maintained, adding that it helps bring business to other retail institutions in the area.

Woehleke stressed that the town doesn't own the theater, so it doesn't have total control of its fate. As far as town ownership, he's open to alternatives. If something is designated as an historic landmark, the owners are restricted with what they can do with their facilities. McCluer already considers the Rheem Theatre an historic landmark. With regards to community ownership, he'd like to keep an open mind and listen to proposals.

Candidates were asked if they would support a local ordinance banning or limiting the use of plastic straws and plastic/Styrofoam to-go containers. McCluer stated that there would be

a large monetary impact on businesses, and they would need lead time to make the conversion and find a replacement product that would please the customers. He suggested checking other towns' solutions. Trotter reasoned, "If there's a statewide rule it is easier for businesses to comply. If food is taken to-go, there really is no alternative other than plastic. Plastic containers can be reused or recycled." Woehleke believes people need to self-monitor their actions, stating that Moraga shouldn't wait for government to make environmental changes. He proposed a town task force.

Other questions asked of candidates involved pension and healthcare liability, council actions and town procedures, commercial development and major landlord relations, residential growth and traffic and congestion issues. To see the full forum, which was video taped in its entirety, visit www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/MCN-Candidates-night-2018.html.

New Canyon Bridge design

... continued from Page A4

A second public outreach meeting was held in 2015, with revised bridge designs conforming to Moraga residents' suggestions, concerns and expectations. The new plans addressed speeding and pedestrian/cyclist access and safety, as well as sight visibility and bridge lighting.

Partial project study submittals to Caltrans began in 2016. Included were national environmental studies, a noise technical memo, air quality conformance, visual technical memo, a traffic study and bridge type selection.

In 2017, with the new bridge design and construction on schedule to begin in 2018, a landslide occurred adjacent to the bridge. In April of that year, the town closed the damaged bridge to all traffic and quickly scrambled to install a temporary one-lane, signal controlled bridge by mid-November.

The new bridge will be approximately 55 feet longer and two feet wider with retaining walls for added stability. Made of concrete, steel and pilings it will also be repositioned slightly south of the old bridge location. In 2019, the first phase will begin as the new northbound lane and approach is constructed, while traffic continues to use the temporary bridge. In 2020, construction for the southbound lane and removal of the temporary bridge begins, while traffic in both directions takes place on the new northbound lane.

Key design elements included from public input are bike lanes,

multi-use paths, lighting, improved sight distance, aesthetics and safer guardrails.

With all of these new design factors, the town requested a \$7.2 million budget. A major setback to the project was a 2018 funding freeze by HBP. The intrepid team at public works appealed the freeze, sighting the urgency of the situation, and Caltrans released the funds, approving a new budget of \$6.5 million. The \$700,000 funding shortfall is still to be addressed. The public works team is requesting that Caltrans provide the funding during the fiscal years of 2018-19, because funding for the temporary bridge lease expires in September 2019. At this point, the town would have to pay the \$12,000 monthly rental fee.

Caltrans has set Nov. 1 as the deadline to accelerate funds and provide any due documentation. These documents include environmental, right-of-way and utility clearances. A final design is also required.

The construction of the new Canyon Bridge is scheduled to start in January when the town begins to advertise for construction crews. Opening bids will be accepted in February, and in March the town council will review and award the bid. The actual construction process will begin in April. All of this hinges on the 2018-19 Caltrans funding acceleration. If that fails, the town will have to re-evaluate its options.

MOFD Division 3 race

... continued from Page A10

Moraga and Orinda citizens and taxpayers should be aware that one of the candidates running for the board is an active firefighter and a member of Local 1230, the same union as MOFD firefighters, Smith said. He called it a massive conflict of interest that an active firefighter in the same union local would oversee his own brotherhood on a governing board. "There will be many issues requiring board vote that will impact union Local 1230, and it is not appropriate for taxpayers to have their elected candidate recuse himself on all labor impacting matters," Smith said.

Every decision Anderson has

made in the last six years, he said, he based on three hallmarks: what is best to ensure MOFD can meet its mission of saving lives and property; ensuring MOFD personnel have excellent morale, training and necessary equipment to accomplish that mission; and accomplishing the above within the fiscal constraints of the district. "Fiscal prudence, attention to detail, and cooperative leadership enables a vigorous and time-sensitive MOFD response to Moraga and Orinda's needs for fire protection and emergency medical services," Anderson said. "Results count."



trick or treat

Costumed children are invited to Trick or Treat the businesses of Rheem Valley on Halloween, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Free* Halloween Candy from participating businesses.

rheemvalley.net

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

Sponsored by Rheem Valley businesses. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *While supplies last. Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. in Moraga




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- Has trained over 1700 school and district administrators throughout Contra Costa County and the State.
- Has the expertise and credibility to support our 18 school districts and County Office of Education.
- Endorsed by educators and other working people across the county.

www.cheryl-hansen.com

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