



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 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

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CALBRE# 00903367

Critter Tree tradition continues at Moraga Library

By Vera Kochan



Critter Tree

Photos Vera Kochan

Just when you think you've seen your share of critters around Moraga, along comes the annual Critter Tree exhibit at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. These critters come in the form of adorable ornaments handcrafted by members of the Moraga Garden Club, and are on display through Jan. 4, when they are lovingly rewrapped in tissue and stored away at the library for next year's holiday season.

The tradition began in 1998, and was inspired by an annual display at the Brandywine Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. The Moraga Garden Club wanted to display a non-denominational exhibit in the library and decided that a Critter Tree was as close to it as they could get, while still allowing them to display their crafty creations.

All of the critters are made from nature's bounty, such as pine cones, various seeds, dried flowers, hay, pods, beans, tree bark and corn husks. What animals they become is up to the crafter's imagination.

The garden club's publicity chairman, Karin Biasotti said, "We need to have more workshops



Two critters in a boat

to create new ornaments, because many of these were made in 1998, and have become fragile. Nature doesn't last forever."

As if on cue, original member Sharon Galiani walked into the library on a personal errand and admitted to having some of her old ornaments on the tree.

Janice Lieu was in charge of putting up all of the decorative garlands and wreaths gracing the entryways, shelves and windows.

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Moraga police remind residents to beware of scammers

By Vera Kochan

The holiday season is a time for giving, and scammers are literally banking on your generosity. Consumers have the ability to detect fake charities at their fingertips, and it's all available on the very same computer or cell phone that the scammers are using against you.

Caller ID is exactly what it says – a means of identifying your caller. According to the Moraga Police Department, "Often times, the best way to prevent being scammed is not to answer calls from unknown or unfamiliar telephone numbers." If the caller doesn't leave a voice message, most likely they were not someone important to you. If you're curious enough to identify the caller/phone number, use your computer to look up the information they've left behind."

Email scams are on the rise, with scammers claiming to be from a bank, telecommunications provider or other business you

regularly deal with. Scamwatch (www.scamwatch.gov.au) tells us, "Do not click on any links or open attachments from emails claiming to be from your bank or another trusted organization and asking you to update or verify your details – just press delete." If you receive a phone call, "Never provide your personal, credit card or online account details. Instead, ask for their name and contact number and make an independent check with the organization in question before calling back."

The Federal Trade Commission (www.consumer.ftc.gov) warns consumers that some scammers call and claim to be computer techs associated with well-known companies like Microsoft or Apple. Claiming to be "tech support," these scammers send pop-up messages warning about computer issues and claiming they've detected viruses on your computer.

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Community gathers for annual holiday tree lighting ceremony at Moraga Commons

By Vera Kochan



Holiday Tree

Photo Vera Kochan

With hot chocolate with whipped cream being served up by members of Moraga Youth Involvement, wearing elf hats, and two of the "elves" guarding the source of power used to light the tree, a large crowd was serenaded with Christmas carols by the Northgate High School Madrigal Choir at the annual Moraga Tree Lighting ceremony Dec. 7 at the Moraga Commons. The event was organized by the Moraga Parks and Rec Department.

Santa Claus made a quick trip from the North Pole to visit Moraga a little early this year. Since Rudolph was busy getting his shiny nose buffed, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District escorted Santa to the event in a fire engine decidedly much larger than his sleigh.

At 7 p.m. young and old alike began the countdown that led to the lighting of the beautiful, big tree for another holiday season.



1919 Ascot Drive, Moraga

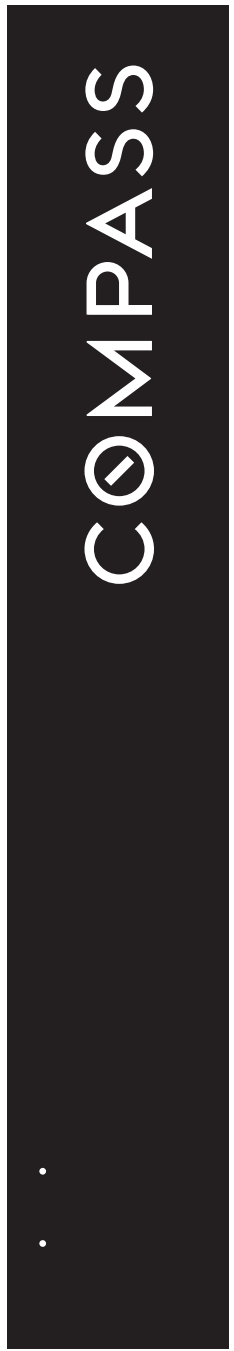
2 Bed 2 Bath 1,455± Square Feet
Offered at \$749,000

This townhouse is located in the much sought-after Ascot Highlands area. Conveniently located minutes from shopping, parks, schools, and public transportation. This home offers fabulous natural light, a community pool and a fabulous open floor plan all great for entertaining or relaxation.

Highlights Include:

Large Spacious Bathrooms | Dining Area | 2-Car Garage with Ample Storage | Sun-Drenched Front and Back Patios, Great for Barbecue and Gardening
Fresh Paint and Carpeting | Interior Laundry | Access to Moraga's Top-Rated Schools

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