

Work continues as recent rains give hope to end of fire season



Work areas within the Tunnel-East Bay Hills Fuel Break Project Image provided

By Jennifer Wake

While recent rains have been a welcome sight in Lamorinda, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs warns residents not to let their guard down. “This time of year, we get questions from the public on fire sea-

son: Are we out of fire season?” Isaacs noted at the Oct. 19 MOFD board of directors meeting. “It really depends on the rain. If we see that early onset of rain of three to four inches, we can safely expect that we’re not going to see any large, rapidly spreading fires. But if that rain is pushed back and we get those wind events that usually oc-

cur this time of year, we could be right back into significant fire weather.” Isaacs said MOFD is preparing to start chipping season and fire reduction work as fire season begins to wind down. “The chipper should be ready to go by mid-November,” he said, also noting that the Home Hardening Grant Program is going strong. This program is open to all residents within MOFD’s jurisdiction for the 2022-23 fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023, with grants available to reimburse the purchase of ember-resistant vents not to exceed \$1,000 per parcel. “We ordered about 1,800 feet of BushFire [1/16” mesh in 7.5” width] fence material and have 800 feet remaining.” He said there have been over 30 requests for the material and homeowners say it’s easy without having to hire a contractor. More information can be found at the MOFD website: www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/home-hardening-grant-program. Wildfire prevention work is also continuing at the Tunnel-East Bay Hills Fuel Break Project through Cal Fire in Work Area 2 and into Work Area 1 of

the six work areas. Crews have cut brush, limbed up trees and created piles that will be burned or chipped and they’ll do additional cutting and fuels mitigation once the weather becomes more favorable this fall or winter, Isaacs said. They have been allowed to do work in those areas “because it’s on East Bay Municipal Utility District land and EBMUD has the environmental and CEQA documents done so we follow their habitat conservation plan,” he said. MOFD is working with environmental consultant, Sequoia, who worked with the district on the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break and they’re doing the CEQA for the portions of the grant that will take place on private property in areas 4, 3 and portions of area 5. “We should have that environmental work done by spring and once we have that accomplished, we have workers in place who will be able to get our crews out there and get working on this,” Isaacs said.

To view the entire presentation on YouTube, visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsDpErRUJFA&t=2727s

Letters to the editor

Water usage

There was a good piece on the subject of water usage in the San Francisco Chronicle recently but I do believe the statistics should include the acreage – for example, our house in Orinda is on a small lot (0.31 acres) but we do have a pool that needs topping up every month or so – our latest statement from EBMUD indicates that in the last two months (very hot and dry so probably

as high a number as we’ll have this year) we used 294 gallons per day. The EBMUD allowance is 1646 per day and some of the Happy Valley people cited by the Chronicle are using far more than that.

I would also suggest that water usage by City and State entities be included. I recall that one study a while ago (during the last major drought) showed that the largest consumers of water were government entities, espe-

cially in Sacramento. How much water do the Cities of Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda consume, for example? It seems that little people like us are doing our best and being incredibly conscientious while the CEOs and super-rich plus the Cities are quite without conscience as they consume “our” water...

John Windle
Orinda

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SMC men’s basketball relies heavily on younger players

... continued from Page A1

As a two-time all WCC honors player, fifth-year senior Logan Johnson’s return was a mutual decision between Bennett and Johnson. “Logan felt it was the right move to come back for another year and we were glad to have him back,” Bennett said. “He will be a key player again and his role will remain the same as it was last season. He’s got a good chance to play after college and depending on how good we are, he could play himself into something nice next year.”

The other guards that will be seeing substantial playing time are sophomore Augustus Marciulionis, redshirt freshman Chris Howell and freshman Aidan Mahaney. “Aidan and Chris are not there yet but I believe we can get there this year with them,” Bennett said. “We’re going to be throwing them in the fire and they’re going to have to learn right away. Augustas and Aidan are talented at the point and they’re just lacking experience but they’re going to learn as we go this year. It’s just a matter of finding out how much they can handle and that’s where I’m at

right now.” As difficult as it is for a freshman to adjust to the Saint Mary’s system, Mahaney is as well prepared as one can be as a local Campolindo graduate. “Aidan knows our program, environment and the guys on the team,” Bennett said “He knows how he fits and how we think and how we want our guys to be unselfish and play off our guards a lot. He’s got the skill set, the size and confidence to do it. We just have to keep making him better within what we do which really fits his skills and talents. It’s not going to happen on day one but Aidan will fight through it just like Augustas did last year until they both get as confident and comfortable as Khuse and Logan were last season.”

The 6’6” Howell is being counted on to fill many roles for the Gaels. “Chris is a jack of all trades that can play the 1-2-3 or 4, but he’s essentially a big guard,” Bennett said. “He has a really good feel and he’s a good defender that can fill that role when Logan is out of the game.”

Seniors Kyle Bowen and Alex Ducas are the other two returning starters, lining up at the forward position. “Their

roles are not going to change but we need them to get better because they’re carrying more of the load this year, at least for a little while,” Bennett said.

Redshirt sophomore Luke Barrett (Piedmont) has made good strides and should see a fair amount of time at the three position along with Howell. The pleasant surprise so far this year has been 6’8 235-pound freshman Joshua Jefferson, a physical player who averaged 17 points per game last year at Liberty High School in Las Vegas. “Joshua has a good body and a really good basketball IQ,” Bennett said. “He’s a good passer and just needs to learn how to play harder and improve his defense. He’s going to learn that as he goes, but we need him, and he’s going to help us.”

As with all of the other positions, at center there is a veteran starter with Saxen who missed the first four games last season with back spasms, but returned and had a good season. “Mitch kept getting better and he has shown that he is ready to be the starter.”

Backing up Saxen is another freshman, 7’0” 275-pound Harry Wessels, another import from Australia. “Harry

is a big, strong player and like all freshmen, he has to adjust to the game and figure out how the officials call the game over here,” Bennett said. “He can score and rebound and gets a lot done when he plays – sometimes too much – but he is going to be able to help us this year.”

With so many freshmen expected to play this season, it brought Bennett back to the 2009 team that had a 28-6 record and had a memorable upset of Villanova in the NCAA tournament. “That year we had three freshmen, Matthew Dellavedova, Mitch Young and Jordan Page, who played a lot,” Bennett said. “I’m excited about the young players on our team but we still have to win the games.”

Bennett, who is in charge of setting up the team’s schedule, has the Gaels playing their first five games at home against teams from Oklahoma (Oral Roberts), U. of Vermont, Texas (No. Texas), Louisiana (Southern) and New York (Hofstra), all teams that will provide good early season challenges. “Vermont’s the eighth winningest program in college basketball in the last seven years, North Texas is very

good, Oral Roberts is a sweet 16 team along with Southern and Hofstra. Our other non-league home games are also tough with Missouri State, New Mexico State, New Mexico and Colorado State.”

The Gaels will also be playing in the John Wooden Legacy Tournament in Anaheim and the Jerry Colangelo Classic in Phoenix. “Those tournaments are hard to get in but we’ve played in both of those tournaments previously,” Bennett said.

The support that the team gets at the University Credit Union Pavilion is one that most schools envy. “It’s a tough environment for other teams to play in,” Bennett said. “Our fans are a community and we’re like the local team. Our students are great, and they take it to a whole other level, but even when they’re not here, we still have a great atmosphere which a lot of schools don’t have. Our alumni, fans and students like our guys because they’re good guys, which is what makes it really special.”

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 16 - Oct. 29
Alarms 34
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 13
Traffic 74
Suspicious Circumstances 10
Suspicious Subject 28
Suspicious Vehicle 15
Service to Citizen 25
Patrol Req./Security Check 17
Public/School Assembly Check 9
Supplemental Report 18
Vacation House Check 34
Welfare Check 21
Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations



Auto Burglary
800 Block Paradise Ct.
Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
20 Block Lafayette Cir.
Reckless Driving
3300 Block Mildred Ln.
Happy Valley School
Sweet Dr./Walnut Ln.
Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Tamper With Vehicle
1000 Block Leland Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd., Ori
3400 Block School St.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
Grand Theft
3200 BlockMt. Diablo Blvd.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
1100 Block Garden Ln.
Identity Theft
Police Department (2)
Misc Burglary
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft Veh Parts
3300 Block La Caminita
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
900 Block Foye Dr.
1000 Block Miller Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Foye Dr.
Disturbing The Peace
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Loud Noise
Florence Dr./Betty Ln.
Moraga Blvd./2Nd St
Public Nuisance
Stanley Blvd./Barott Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Saranap Ave./El Curtola Blvd.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Vandalism
3400 Block Monroe Ave.
Other
Attempted Petty Theft
3300 BlockMt. Diablo Blvd.
Fireworks
1200 BlockPleasant Hill Rd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
10 Block Bear Ridge Rd., Ori
Loitering
3600 BlockMt. Diablo Blvd.
Trespass
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.
3600 Block Boyer Cir.
3400 BlockSchool St.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Unwanted Guest
900 Block Mountain View Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Stuart St.
Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 16 - Oct. 29
Alarms 44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
Traffic 102
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 12
Suspicious Vehicle 6
Public/School Assembly Check 2
Service to Citizen 41
Patrol Req./Security Check 21
Supplemental Report 18
Welfare Check 8
Vehicle violations
Accident Property
40 Block Oakwood Rd.
Auto Burglary
Camino Sobrante
Dui Misd
70 Block Muth Dr.
St Stephens Cir./El Nido Ranch Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Orinda Way
10 Block Meadow Park Ct.
Reckless Driving
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.
Moraga Way/Coral Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.
Vehicle Theft
60 Block Moraga Way
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
Other criminal activity
Child Abuse
Dalewood Dr.
Identity Theft
Police Department
20 Block Las Vegas Rd. (2)
Petty Theft
Orinda Way
Moraga Way
30 Block Moraga Via

10 Block Edgewood Rd.
Shoplift
Moraga Way
Camino Sobrante
Warrant Arrest
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.
Theatre Square
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Camino Sobrante
100 Block Brookwood Rd.
Loud Noise
La Espiral/Los Dedos Rd.
Loud Party
10 Block Abbott Ct. (2)
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.
Orchard Rd./Glorietta Blvd.
50 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.
100 Block Brookwood Rd. (2)
Public Nuisance
Orinda Way (2)
Vandalism
200 Block El Toyonal (2)
Other criminal activity
Failure To Obey
Sr 24 At Fish Ranch Rd.
H&S Violation
Orinda Community Center
Camino Pablo/Bart
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block Ardith Ct.
30 Block Linda Vista
Revoked License
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.
Unwanted Guest
10 Block Katrina Ct.
Moraga Way
Violation Restraining Ord
10 Block Mira Loma (2)