Lamorinda fire agencies in solid shape to confront pandemic

By Nick Marnell

Officials from both Lamorinda fire agencies stressed that their ability to deliver emergency medical care during the COVID-19 crisis has not been compromised, assuring residents that proper protocols are in place to halt the spread of the virus among both emergency personnel and district residents.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has expanded its cleaning and decontamination of fire stations, apparatus and turnout gear, and has ordered a large supply of gloves, masks and gowns for use by personnel on emergency calls. "Residents can be assured that we are taking extra precautions to prevent exposure to the coronavirus, both to ourselves and to the patients we treat," Chief Dave Winnacker said.

If MOFD employees show flu-like symptoms – cough, fever, headache – they are tested, and if positive for COVID-19, are isolated at home or at a district shelter. Through the last week of March, no MOFD suppression personnel had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, an agency more than five times the size of MOFD, announced that 18 of its employees had been tested through late March, with 12 confirmed as negative, two isolated off-duty awaiting results, and four testing positive. Those four remain off-duty and await a return date based on federal guidelines. ConFire had instituted emergency dispatch protocols and personal protective equipment protocols for added safety early in the crisis.

"It is very understandable for the patients we treat to have many concerns about exposure to the coronavirus but, in our view, treatment by wellprotected first responders should not be one of those concerns," said Peter Benson, ConFire medical director.

Both districts said that the pandemic has not imperiled day-to-day operation. According to Con-Fire spokesman Steve Hill, the district is fully staffed for the foreseeable future, with volunteers taking overtime assignments. "People need not panic over the lack of emergency medical services," Hill said.

MOFD will add four new firefighters to its roster in April and Winnacker said he does not expect any immediate problems with district staffing.





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Letters to the editor

Regarding coronavirus coverage

Notwithstanding the disclaimer on page 1 of your March 18, 2020, edition (as to the unavoidable possibility of outdated coronavirus information being included), you still have the obligation to accurately dispense what facts you do have with the solemnity warranted by this unprecedented emergency. Sadly, editorial decision-making got off to a bad start with the inclusion of the photo at the top-left of page 1 showing church board members gleefully practicing "safe distancing" without actually doing so, let alone doing so correctly. In spite of your disclaimer, this photo was outdated before it was even taken -- whenever that was. In fact, truly safe social distancing should have resulted

in a few of the attendees not even being present for the photo. (As a 64-year-old, I have standing to make a guess, and my guess is that at least four of the seven persons pictured should have stayed home to effect proper social distancing for seniors.) And whatever it is they are doing with their arms, it's definitely not humorous nor, more importantly, is it the least bit instructive for social distancing purposes. With regard to the coronavirus pandemic, please stick to the facts and present them in a way that does not detract from the seriousness of this situation. Doing so will provide a valuable service to your readers.

Randall Richmond Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

On the front lines at senior living facilities

... continued from Page A1

The residents spend a lot more time in their rooms where meals are now served. To avoid disruption of the stable routine for some residents, a few are allowed to eat in the dining hall, one at a time.

Tana Gall, president of the Blue Harbor Senior Living Group that manages Merrill Garden in Lafayette, also said that visits are no longer permitted and residents have to stay in their apartments where the meals are served. Those who decide to go live with family are not allowed to return until the crisis is resolved.

Moraga Royale resident Cliff Dochterman says that he feels fine, though the time spent in his apartment can be lonely. He adds that just like everybody else, the residents have a lot more questions than they have answers, and they follow the directions, which he says seem reasonable. Activities still happen, but only in small numbers. Wilson explains that the popular bingo, for example, is played several times a day with little groups sitting far apart. One-on-one activities are also encouraged to relieve the anxiety that can manifest with some residents.

Wilson adds that procedures have been established should a resident become ill. What they need most at this time, besides tests, she says, is masks.

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: 925-254-6820 22 Orinda Way Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

March 8 - March 21 Alarms 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 45 14 132 Traffic Suspicious Circumstances 8 Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 24 18 Service to Citizen 54 51 Patrol Req./Security Check Pubic/School Assembly Check Supplemental Report 18 Vacation House Check 5 21 Welfare Check Vehicle violations Auto Burglary 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3900 Block N Peardale Dr. 3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd. Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd. Grand Theft From Vehicle 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Petty Theft From Vehicle 3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd. 900 Block Dolores Dr.

Reckless Driving Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd. Moraga Blvd./2Nd St. Martino Rd./Vista Bella Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Hwy 24 / Central Lafayette Stolen Vehicle Recovery 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Vehicle Theft 3400 Block Golden Gate Way 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3100 Block Linda Vista Ln. Other criminal activity Attempt - Shoplift 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Grand Theft 10 Block Westminster Pl. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Identity Theft 600 Block Burton Dr. Police Department 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Boyer Cir. Panhandling 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Petty Theft 10 Block Westwind Rd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3) 3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd. 900 Block Dewing Ave. 3300 Block Moraga Blvd. Petty Theft Bicycle 900 Block Hawthorn Dr. Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5) 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Stolen Recovery Magnolia Warrant Service 400 Block Helen Ave. Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 3600 Block Robertson Rd. 3300 Block Ridge Rd. 900 Block Village Center 3600 Block Robertson Rd. Loud Music Huntleigh Dr./Lucas Dr. Loud Noise 3200 Block Sweet Dr. Loud Party 1000 Block 2Nd St. 3500 Block Rowe Pl. weet Dr./Jennie Ct Public Nuisance 900 Block Dewing Ave. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Glen Rd./Monticello Rd. 1600 Block Taylor Blvd. Vandalism 3400 Block Moraga Blvd. Other Ordinance Violation 1000 Block Dewing Ave. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 10 Block Eleven

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Hough Ave. 1700 Block Ivanhoe Ave. 3100 Block Camino Diablo 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (20 3500 Block Oconner Dr. Threats 3200 Block Sweet Dr. Trespass 3600 Block Bickerstaff St. Unwarted Guest 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd. Violation Custody Order 1200 Block Warner Ct. 3300 Block Helen Ln. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Violation Restraining Order 800 Block Acalanes Rd. Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report March 3 - March 22 Alarms 24 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18 Traffic Suspicious Circumstances 100 3 Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 8 14 58 73 10 Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check 10 Welfare Check Vehicle violations Accident Property Corliss Dr./Ashford Pl. Auto Burglary Not Available Not Available Dui Misdemeanor Rear Parking Lot of Golden Palace Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr. Excessive Speed Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (2) Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2) Rimer Dr./Walford Dr. Dollar Tree Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. Carter Dr. Hodges Dr./Camino Pablo Rheem Blvd./Center St. Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2) Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (5) Moraga Rd./Commons Moraga Rd./Paseo Linares CanyonRd./El Pablo Bank of America Parking Lot 7/11 Parking Lot 24 Hr Fit Station 41 Moraga Way

Hit And Run Misdemeanor 2000 Block Donald Dr. Petty Theft From Vehicle Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. Reckless Driving Campolindo High School Rimer Dr./Oxford Dr. St. Marys College Moraga Rd./Moraga Way Sky View Ct/Knoll Dr. Móraga Rd./Canyon Rd. Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. Safeway Tc - Property Damage St. Marys College Moraga Rd./Via Granada Trespass W/ Vehicle Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. Vehicle Theft 1900 Block Ascot Dr. Other criminal activity Fraud False Pretenses 30 Block Carr Dr. Identity Theft Police Department 3800 Block Paseo Grande Residential Burglary 200 Block Calle La Mesa Warrant Arrest Moraga Rd./Al Ta Mesa Dr. Nuisance to the Community Disturbing The Peace 50 Block San Pablo Ct. 1600 Block Camino Pablo CVS Loud Music 80 Block Miramonte Dr. Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd. Loud Noise 200 Block Corliss Dr. (2) 2100 Block Donald Dr. (2) Loud Party 3300 Block N Lucille Ln, Laf 2000 Block Ascot Dr. Public Nuisance Rheem Valley Shopping Center Vandalism 100 Block Ascot Ct. 1400 Block Camino Peral 500 Block Moraga Rd. 300 Block Constance Pl. St. Marys College Other Battery 300 Block Rheem Blvd. Joaquin Moraga Int School Battery Sexual Campolindo High School H&S Violation 200 Block Corliss Dr. Ordinance Violation Woodford Dr./Wimpole St. Library Rheem Valley Shopping Center Rimer Dr./Juniper Way



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 23 - March 7

Alarms 25 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9 Traffic 52 Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject 3 8 Suspicious Vehicle 9 Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Pubic/School Assembly Check 81 96 13 Supplemental Report Welfare Check Vehicle violations 2 5 Accident Injury Moraga Way/Leslee Ln. Accident Property Loma Vista Dr./El Toyonal Hit And Run Misdemeanor Van Tassel Ln./Lombardy Ln. Reckless Driving Orchard Rd./Brookside Rd. St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24 Moraga Way/Orchard Rd. Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd. Charles Hill Pl/El Nido Ranch Rd. Wilder Rd./Rabble Rd. Tc - Property Damage Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo Honey Hill Rd./Honey Hill Ct. Other criminal activity Found Property California Shakespeare Theater Fraud False Pretenses 10 Block Las Piedras Grand Theft Police Department Identity Theft Police Department 10 Block Madrone Pl. Warrant Arrest Shell Gas Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante Nuisance to the Community Loud Music 60 Block Charles Hill Rd. Loud Party 100 Block Moraga Way Vandalism 100 Block Fiesta Cir. Other **Unwanted** Guest McCaulous 3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 20 Block Orinda Way