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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

MOFD releases draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District presented a draft of its Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a guide to help district residents develop an understanding of wildfire and wildfire management. The plan identifies and prioritizes areas within the district for fuel mitigation efforts, and recommends ways to reduce the fire risk in those high-risk communities.

At the Dec. 16 district

meeting, Fire Chief Dave Winnacker explained that the problem of accumulated fuels in the district has taken a long time to develop – more than 100 years in the making. Building homes in areas that had been grazed or allowed to burn, and then surrounding those homes with nonnative vegetation, exacerbated the problem.

"It's going to take years to address this," Winnacker said. "The work required places a demand on resources that will outstrip availability." The chief said the mitiga-

tion efforts will be prioritized starting with the most serious areas and where the community as a whole will achieve the greatest return on investment. "The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will guide that work," Winnacker

The 65-page document covers the wildfire risk in the district, strategies for reducing that risk, district priorities and the district action plan to

tackle those priorities. "The purpose of the Moraga-Orinda Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to protect human life and reduce the loss of property, critical infrastructure, and natural resources due to wildfire," states the introduction to the document.

In order to address the subtleties and complexities of each district community, MOFD will hold three public workshops to go over the plan details and take public feedback. The first meeting is scheduled for Orinda Jan. 21, followed by Canyon Jan. 28 and Moraga Feb. 4. Meetings will be held at 6 p.m. as online teleconferences.

Having a Community Wildfire Protection Plan also qualifies the district for priority funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the Healthy Forests Initiative, a federal initiative established in 2003 to help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fires.

Changes in the MOFD executive and management ranks



Craig Jorgens

Photo provided

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District reshuffled its executive team in December and also announced the elevation of a fire captain to battalion chief.

After serving an unprecedented two consecutive years as district president, Stephen Danziger stepped aside for Craig Jorgens, who was elected to the post for the first time. The board of directors chose Jorgens by a 4-1 margin, with director Greg Baitx casting the lone vote against. Baitx declined to comment on the reason for his negative vote, though the two directors have sparred at previous meetings over fulltime staffing of the Fire Station 45 ambulance, which Baitx favored and Jorgens op-

Jorgens takes over one of the most high-profile independent special districts in Contra Costa County. Accord-

ing to the county auditorcontroller, MOFD is apportioned 21.22% of a district resident's taxpayer dollars, and the district's \$29.8 million budget for this fiscal year is larger than the operating budgets of Moraga and Orinda combined.

"As the MOFD board president this term, I'm looking forward to working with our community, firefighters, and fire prevention personnel to allocate this money to support the fire suppression, fire prevention, and the emergency services that keep our community safe," Jorgens

In district operations, Fire Chief Dave Winnacker promoted 11-year MOFD veteran Lucas Lambert from captain to battalion chief.

"Lucas is a tremendously talented member whose engagement on a number of internal and external projects and programs stands out amidst an organization full of hard working high achievers. We look forward to seeing

this same enthusiasm and capability applied on a larger scale in his new position," Winnacker said.

Lambert will supervise the district operations division. Battalion chiefs Steve Gehling and Jerry Lee, along with Lambert, report directly to the fire chief.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jan., 19, 1:00 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Coyote crime wave subsides over the holidays

By Nick Marnell

After three high-profile attacks on humans by a renegade covote this year, reported coyote sightings diminished over the holiday season. One local resident caught sight of a coyote Jan. 3 running in downtown Lafayette, but no further attacks were reported.

A bloodthirsty coyote was determined through DNA evidence to have bitten three individuals in Lamorinda since July, with two of the victims reporting various wounds, but none considered extremely serious. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to search for the coyote, and the animal will be killed when captured.

Capt. Patrick Foy of the department's law enforcement division offered tips if you encounter an aggressive coyote.

"No. 1, if you have small children or small pets, pick them up. Shout as loudly as you can, and stomp at the animal if it continues to approach. If it does bite, hit it as hard as you can with whatever you can find nearby," Foy said.

CDFW says that coyotes

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Way/Villa Ln.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Reckless Driving
Rimer Dr./Camino Pablo

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

Rheem Theater

Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Excessive Speed Bank of America (2)

are by nature fearful of humans, but if the animals have access to human food or garbage, they lose their caution and fear.

"Wild animals don't need your handouts. They need your respect," reads a banner atop a page on the department website.

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

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, David M. Cook 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident **Summary** Report

Dec. 13 - Dec. 19 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Suspicious Circumstances 6 10 Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Pubic/School Assembly Check 35 Supplemental Report

Vacation House Check **Vehicle violations** Auto Burglary 3100 Block Camino Diablo Reckless Driving Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd., Mor 3300 Block Mildred Ln. Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24 Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd. Tc - Property Damage 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Other criminal activity Computer Fraud 700 Block Los Palos Dr. Fraud Credit Card 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Grand Theft 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Grand Theft Bicycle 1000 Block Dewing Ave. Identity Theft 3300 Block Carlyle Terrace (2)

Petty Theft 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. 3300 Block N Lucille Ln. 3300 Block Moraga Blvd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3) Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 1000 Block Carol Ln.

Sierra Vista Way/Deer Hill Rd. Disturbing The Peace Saranap Ave./El Curtola Blvd. Loud Noise 1000 Block Buchan Dr. 1000 Block Glen Rd.

Loud Party Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd. Public Nuisance 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Bart Lafayette Station

Animal Services Call

Harassment 3200 Block Marlene Dr. El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd. K9 Outside Assist Request 4500 Block Appian Way, Eso Ordinance Violation 1000 Block Windsor Dr. 3300 Block Mildred Ln. (2) 3300 Block Ameno Dr. 10 Block White Oak Dr. 900 Block Anita Ct. Unwanted Guest 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) Violation Custody Order Police Department Violation Restraining Ord 1000 Block Carol Ln.

Covid19 Violation

Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.

Moraga Police Department **Incident** Summary Report Dec. 15 - Dec. 28 Alarms

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Traffic Suspicious Circumstances
Suspicious Subject
Suspicious Vehicle
Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check Pubic/School Assembly Check Vehicle violations Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

McCaulous

Other criminal activity Commercial Burglary 1400 Block St. Marys Rd. Fraud Credit Card 50 Block Ashbrook Pl. Petty Theft Safeway Residential Burglary 200 Block N Sandringham Nuisance to the Community Loud Music 10 Block Kimberly Dr. 100 Block Draeger Dr. Loud Noise 10 Block Wimpole St. Public Nuisance 20 Block Reynolds Ct. Vandalism 1000 Block Sanders Dr. Other criminal activity Covid19 Violation Moraga Commons Park Drunk In Public Taco Bell Fireworks 100 Block Miramonte Dr. Harassment St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way Ordinance Violation Moraga Commons Park Threats

St. Marys College



Orinda Police Department **Incident Summary Report** will be back next time