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**Ana Zimmank** M. 925.640.6008 ana.zimmank@camoves.com



### Letters to the Editor

Moraga Police reporting trivializes serious crimes

Dear Editor,

It would be appreciated if you stopped including attempts at humor in publishing Moraga police reports. Such reporting trivializes and demeans police activities that often involve serious crimes and/or dangerous situations. One option you have is to report Moraga police activities as you do those of Orinda and Lafayette. Attempts at humor were dropped for these two communities some time ago.

John J. Hills Moraga

#### Kudos to firefighters

Dear Editor,

Because of the recent Campolindo fire my wife and I were evacuated from our home. The fire started on a ridge above Campolindo High. Our neighbors, the Jacobsen's, called 911 to report the fire. Within minutes we had one fire truck followed by more trucks and two helicopters. The firefighters were professional, organized and courteous to all of us. As part of their work they had to cut down part of our fence. The following day, Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief, Stephen Healy showed up at our front door to explain how to fill out claim for fence repair. We filled out the form and next day had a check. I want to go on record to thank all of the firefighters and Chief Healy. What a great place to live!

Hugo Kapelke

Moraga

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 should 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

### Fighting crime in Lafayette

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implementation of cameras on city streets in 2013, there has been an tial burglaries, from 61 in 2013 to 31 in 2016, with 2015 having only

"Is it all due to the cameras?" he said. "Probably not entirely, but it's a trend we like."

More impressive perhaps is the said that of the 15 residential burglaries so far this year, 13 arrests have been made or arrest warrants have been issued. He pointed out that, compared to the national average of a 13 percent solve rate, this was a "phenomenal" achievement. Christensen and drew attention to the hours Surges-Moscato spent single-handedly reviewing the cameras, helping to identify suspects.

He credits the street cameras, too, for these statistics and gave as an example of the cameras' success the apprehension of a suspect in connection with a series of recent car fires set by a serial arsonist in local towns, including one in Lafayette. The suspect was identified on one of the cameras within 10 hours of the fire set in Lafayette. He also credited the hard work of the police and Contra Costa Fire now in its third year, has graduated Protection District.

sion's "camera loaner" program as ated minutes earlier at the same city an example of their layering approach and said that of the residents borrow and try out cameras, 95 percent go on to purchase them.

Morgan explained the two-fold ing." mission of the CPC is to advise on policies to be enacted in the city, joy the experience of having the and to educate the public and encourage engagement between residents and police.

Morgan listed several public forums as examples of engagement is yet another example of ways in between police and community – a Fraud and Identity Theft forum in December, a recent Internet Safety for Parents and Children held at issues" is being realized.

Morgan said that since the Lafayette Elementary School and an Implicit Bias and Procedural Justice workshop attended volunoverall downward trend in residen- tarily by virtually the entire police department in uniform. It also gives various ad hoc presentations in different neighborhoods. He said the commission hopes to bring more workshops to the city and schools

Following last year's "Don't solve rate of 86 percent. Morgan Feed the Bears" campaign, with artwork designed by Acalanes High School students, that encouraged the public to lock its cars, the city saw a 54 percent decrease in auto burglaries. Morgan explained that their new campaign, "Lock up Lafayette" will be starting soon, with Morgan credits the hard work of leaflets and door-hangers in neighborhoods, reminding people to lock their doors and windows.

> As a further example of public engagement, Morgan gave praise to the "untold hours" of work put into the Citizen's Police Academy by CPC members Denise Brown and Judie Peterson.

> The free, six-week program gives residents a chance to engage in the day-to-day life of the police. Participants get to drive a police car, learn about gun safety, shoot a firearm and go on a tour of the jail among many other experiences.

Morgan explained the program, more than 100 participants, the Morgan described the commis- most recent group having graducouncil meeting.

Lafayette resident and a recent who take advantage of a chance to Citizen's Police Academy graduate Rob Sturm described the content of the course as "stellar" and "rivet-

> Christensen says the police encitizens with them and look forward to participating. The next session will begin in September.

> The Citizen's Police Academy which the CPC's goal of having the "most informed community about crime prevention and public safety



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