



## During the Holiday Season

more than ever, my thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made my progress possible. And in this spirit I would like to say, simply but sincerely...

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

**Ana Zimmank**

CalBRE # 00469962

M. 925.640.6008

ana.zimmank@camoves.com



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## MOFD releases its audited annual financial report

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District formally wrapped up its 2019 fiscal year with the issuance of its sixth audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, showing that the district has increased its net position – a government financial term roughly equivalent to net worth – for the second consecutive year. The district also achieved a 31% general fund balance reserve, higher than the 17% board requirement but still short of the district 50% goal as a hedge against economic uncertainties.

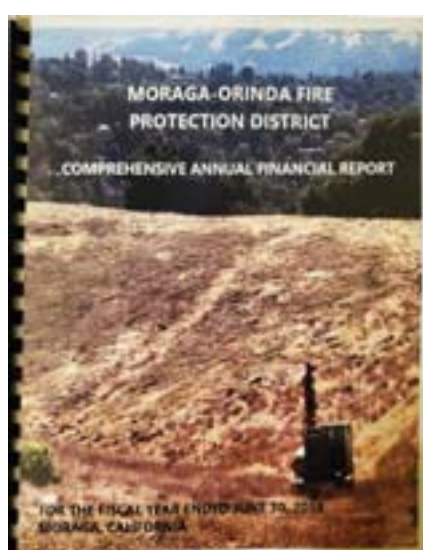
The 31% of general fund revenue that MOFD threw to its bottom line equaled \$7.8 million, largely a result of a 13% in-

crease in revenue for the fiscal year. Property tax revenue rose 6.5% to \$24.6 million and district program revenue, including ambulance, inspection and plan review fees, increased more than \$1 million.

One of the key areas of emphasis for 2019 CAFR was the accounting for the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, a \$4 million state-funded fuels mitigation project managed by the district. The grant came to MOFD in May, but because the 2019 fiscal year ended June 30, only about one month of project operation was reflected in the audited financial statements. Future reports will show a much larger balance sheet for the fuel break project, segregated from the district regular operating costs.

Though the MOFD net position increased \$7 million for the second consecutive year, the figure sits at a negative \$29.6 million, largely due to a \$34.4 million net pension liability and a \$14.8 million net retiree health care liability. Nevertheless, the district's net position is its highest since 2014, when it was nearly \$10 million to the good.

The district won its fourth certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for its 2018 CAFR. The award is presented by the Governmental Finance Officers Association, and the award recognizes the accuracy and clarity of the presented data, with no judgment on the actual contents of the financial reports themselves.



## MOFD and Pacific Mountain settle civil complaint

By Nick Marnell

Another damage complaint against the Moraga-Orinda Fire District was settled favorably in November when the district and Pacific Mountain Contractors, which had secured the original bid to rebuild Fire Station 43 in Orinda, agreed to settle their grievances at no cost.

In 2017, Pacific pulled out of its \$2.66 million agreement

with MOFD over what it cited were significant errors in the plans and specifications in the contract to rebuild the fire station. Rather than litigate, the district attempted to renegotiate, but MOFD determined that Pacific was unwilling to build the station at any price, demanding release from the contract in June 2017.

According to the 2017 separation agreement, Pacific paid MOFD \$54,000 to walk

away and agreed to assign \$110,000 of preparatory work owed to its subcontractors. The district absorbed the subcontractor charges and built them into the terms of its \$3.34 million contract with a succeeding contractor, which failed to live up to the terms of its agreement. The station was eventually completed in 2019 at a cost of \$6 million.

Pacific sued the district in 2018 for an additional \$39,000

it claimed were costs the company had to pay subcontractors, for which it said MOFD should have been responsible. The district countersued for breach of contract. On Nov. 22, both the contractor and the district agreed to settle all claims asserted by each party, with no damage costs incurred by either side.

Representatives from Pacific Mountain could not be reached for comment.

In October, the Contra Costa County Superior Court dismissed charges against the district by former Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, who claimed that MOFD was obligated to make up the nearly \$600,000 stripped from his pension by the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association because its board determined that the pension was calculated improperly.

## Sheriff's office to increase patrols in Lafayette and Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Contra Costa Sheriff David Livingston announced on Nov. 27 that he has assigned additional patrol deputies to both the Lafayette and Orinda communities immediately. The sheriff's office provides law enforcement and public safety services to both Orinda and Lafayette through contracts.

These deputy sheriffs will augment the Lafayette and Orinda police departments' regular patrols and will remain in those cities until further notice. The deputies will work both daytime and nighttime hours in fully marked patrol vehicles. The announcement indicated that other security measures have also been stepped up and are ongoing.

"Anytime we see a rise in

criminal activity, especially violent crime, we react immediately," said Livingston. In addition, he said, "the citizens of Orinda and Lafayette should know we are out in force – some measures will be highly visible like our additional patrol deputies and other measures will be more covert. Our goal remains unchanged, to keep Contra Costa families safe."

Orinda Police Chief David Cook has said that the additional coverage being provided by the sheriff's office will not be charged to the cities of Orinda or Lafayette. The deputies will be patrolling in sheriff's office cars and uniforms. Cook explained, "I work very closely with the Command Staff of the Sheriff's Field Operations Bureau."

In reply to social media comments, Livingston clari-

fied that the additional coverage in Lafayette and Orinda will not have any impact on the deployment of deputies or coverage of unincorporated areas. The patrol deputies being assigned to Lafayette and Orinda will come from other units in the sheriff's office.

The announcement made via social media resulted in a number of negative comments about the sheriff, coverage of wealthy versus poorer areas of the county, and calls for allowing more citizens to carry concealed weapons.

## Letters to the editor

A request for a bike park

I am writing to you due to the fact that I believe Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette should have a local bike park in Briones Regional Park. Not only can a bike park create a community for local mountain bikers in Lamorinda, but also it can put more children off their screens and on their bikes.

Bike parks like Valmont in Boulder, Colorado, are home to

little 6-year-olds learning to ride bikes alongside Red Bull athletes practicing their flips. A bike park in Briones could completely transform mountain bikers in our community and bring us together with a shared interest.

I am a local Boy Scout from Troop 219 here in Lafayette and am also a bike park enthusiast!

Will Appleton  
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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1:00 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



## 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](http://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

Nov. 17 - Nov. 30

Alarms 74  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14  
Traffic 142  
Suspicious Circumstances 11  
Suspicious Subject 35  
Suspicious Vehicle 23  
Service to Citizen 44  
Patrol Req./Security Check 24  
Pub/School Assembly Check 2  
Supplemental Report 16  
Vacation House Check 27  
Welfare Check 15

### Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary  
20 Block Lafayette Cr.  
900 Block Bell St.

Police Department  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
30 Block Lafayette Cr.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor

1300 Block Martino Rd.

3500 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Oaks Dr.

Petty Theft From Vehicle

1200 Block Woodborough Rd.

3900 Block N Peardale Dr.

Petty Theft Vehicle Parts

1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.

Reckless Driving

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd. (2)

Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.

St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.

Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**

Commercial Burglary

1000 Block Carol Ln.

Forgery

Police Department

Fraud False Pretenses

500 Block Arrowhead Dr.

Grand Theft

3500 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

20 Block Lafayette Cr.

Petty Theft

3600 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

100 Block Bacon Ct.

Petty Theft Bicycle

3500 Block Wildwood Ln.

Residential Burglary

10 Block Westwind Rd.

1100 Block Crestmont Dr.

Shoplift

3600 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)

3500 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

**Nuisance to the Community**

Civil Disturbance

3200 Block Stanley Blvd.

Disturbance-domestic

3500 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Noise

3600 Block Chestnut St.

Mountain View Pl./Mountain View Dr.

900 Block Dewing Ave.

Loud Noise

1400 Block Rancho View Dr.

Public Nuisance

3600 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Other

Animal Control Call

Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.

Battery

3600 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

H&S Violation

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Indecent Exposure

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Ordinance Violation

Wilkinson Ln./Moraga Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Threats

Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

3600 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass

700 Block St. Marys Rd.

Unwanted Guest

400 Block Peacock Blvd.

3500 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block 4th St.

Violation Custody Order

3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

### Moraga Police Department

### Incident Summary Report

Nov. 19 - Dec. 2

Alarms 20

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10

Traffic 25

Suspicious Circumstances 5

Suspicious Subject 2

Suspicious Vehicle 10

Service to Citizen 63

Patrol Req./Security Check 30

Supplemental Report 17

Welfare Check 6

### Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary

Moraga Commons Park

School St/Moraga Way

Dui Misdemeanor

Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

1900 Block St. Marys Rd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor

10 Block Warfield Dr.

Reckless Driving

Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo

Moraga Valley Ln./Moraga Way

Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.



### Other criminal activity

Assault with Deadly Weapon

100 Block Donald Dr.

Fraud Credit Card

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Grand Theft

Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo

Terrorist Threats

St. Marys College

**Nuisance to the Community**

Barking Dog

Not Available

Disturbance-domestic

Not Available

Disturbing The Peace

Not Available

Loud Music

1200 Block Rimer Dr.

Loud Noise

1700 Block School St.

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Loud Party

2000 Block Ascot Dr. (3)

Public Nuisance

Rheem Valley Shopping Center

**Other**

Harassment

2100 Block Donald Dr.

Mentally Ill Commit

Campolindo High School

Public Assembly Check

St. Marys College

Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)

Trespass

1300 Block Moraga Rd.

Walk Through

Moraga Commons Park



### Orinda Police Department

### Incident Summary Report

Nov. 17 - Nov. 30

Alarms 56

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14

Traffic 27

Suspicious Circumstances 5

Suspicious Subject 7

Suspicious Vehicle 2

Service to Citizen 61

Patrol Req./Security Check 20

Public/School Assembly Check 6

Supplemental Report 10

Vacation House Check