

Fire hazard abatement deadline looms

By Vera Kochan

The Dec. 31 deadline for the removal of roadside junipers and bamboo is fast approaching. Residents and businesses must remove any of these

trees if located within 10 feet of roadways, according to a Moraga-Orinda Fire District ordinance. "This task is especially important because the

intense flames produced by these scrubs can impede road transit, including fire-fighting equipment," stated Steve Woehleke, Moraga Town

Council Liaison with MOFD. The deadline has been in place for several years, and while much of the public has conformed, those who have not

will be issued a citation in 2024. For more info, visit MOFD's website (mofd.org) or call (925) 258-4599.

Lafayette's Citizens' Police Academy graduates recognized

By Lou Fancher



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

The ceremony finished with a group photo of graduates taken with Lafayette City Council members, Crime Prevention Commissioner Judy Peterson, and Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt introduced Lafayette's Citizens' Police Academy graduates - 11 from Fall 2022, and 12 from Spring 2023 - at the Oct. 23 city council meeting.

employee in Lafayette, and willing to undergo a cursory background check, including not having been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in the past year.

he encouraged interested Lafayette citizens to sign up for and attend. He noted that the graduating classes included four couples, indirectly suggesting it is an activity enjoyed by spouses or life partners.

People enrolled in the Citizens' Police Academy spend a night with Chief Alldritt, and nights with traffic patrol, the crime scene investigative team, and go through simulated scenarios while learning what tools on a police officer's belt are best used in each situation.

The participants give of their time during five to seven sessions to learn what police officers do, Alldritt said. "I appreciate the investment community members make to do that."

The Academy takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition to programs involving field visits, the programs are held at the Library and at various criminal justice sites throughout the county. The firearms session is optional and is conducted on Saturdays at the range in Clayton. The academy is offered at no cost and each graduating class is limited to 18 participants.

The Citizens' Police Academy is not intended to certify a participant as a police officer. Hands-on experiences and lectures delivered by police officers and city staff are designed to make the sessions both informative and enjoyable.

"We just want to honor them," he added. "The goal is to pull back the curtain and explain why we do what we do, talk about where we all come from."

As the liaison to the public safety commission, Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok thanked graduates for taking the extra time to observe the police department and encouraged them to recruit other people who might enjoy the program.

Participants must be at least 21 years old, a resident or em-

Judy Peterson (along with Denise Brown, who was unable to attend the ceremony) are on the Crime Prevention Commission that leads the organization and logistics of the academy. In his closing remarks, Alldritt said although the program is a lot of work for the department to put on, the feedback about the law enforcement services provided to the community is always valuable and rewarding to receive.

For more information, contact Commissioner Denise Brown at cpdenise@gmail.com or Cathy Surges-Moscatto at c-surges@lovelafayette.org. To apply, fill out the application

The department will be hosting a Spring 2024 academy

form (www.lovelafayette.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5738/636856772935200000) and bring the signed form to the

Lafayette Police Department for processing.

Public Safety

Emergency response: 911
Emergency: 24 Hours
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
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. 15 - Oct. 21

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	49
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	8
Patrol Req./Security Check	11
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	26
Welfare Check	10
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department (2)

Reckless Driving
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
10 Block Wendy Ln.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)

Vehicle Theft
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card
600 Block Glenside Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3500 Block Boyer Cir.
900 Block Anita Ct. (2)

Grand Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Identity Theft
3600 Block Chestnut St.
1000 Block Orchard Rd.

Panhandling
Whole Foods Laf
Petty Theft
900 Block Anita Ct.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Disturbing The Peace
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Noise
700 Block Solana Dr.
Loud Party
Rancho Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.

La Caminita/Reliez Valley Rd.
Public Nuisance
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4Th St./Moraga Blvd.

Vandalism
Springbrook Pool
Other
Fire/Ems Response Info
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3300 Block S Lucille Ln.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. (2)
H&S Violation
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Harassment
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
44Th St./Barrett Ave., Ric

Threats
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block S Thompson Rd.
1000 Block Glen Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
Police Department (2)
Violation Restraining Ord
10 Block Roxanne Ln.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 17 - Oct. 30

Alarms	7
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	51
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	8
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	6
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Library
1400 Block Moraga Rd.

Excessive Speed
Moraga Way/School St.
St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.

Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way

Rheem Blvd./Kindall Cir.
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr. (2)

Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department

Reckless Driving
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Ivy Dr./Miramonte Dr., Ori
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Tc - Property Damage
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Campolindo High School

Vehicle Theft
Police Department
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses

10 Block Haven Ct.
100 Block Whitethorne Dr.
Identity Theft
Police Department (2)

Petty Theft
10 Block Woodford Dr.
800 Block Blk Augusta
Safeway

Petty Theft From Veh
Ace Hardware
Shoplift
Tj Maxx
Safeway

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Canyon Club Brewery
Loud Noise
3800 Block Campolindo Dr.

Not Available
Loud Party
200 Block Scofield Dr.
10 Block Julianna Ct.
100 Block Draeger Dr.

80 Block Miramonte Dr.
Public Nuisance
100 Block Fernwood Dr.
Other
Fire/Ems Response Info

900 Block Country Club Dr.
Campolindo High School
Fireworks
10 Block Kestelsen Dr.

Unwanted Guest
30 Block Hetfield Pl.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 15 - Oct. 28

Alarms	33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	59
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	12
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	16
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
400 Block Moraga Way
Accident Property

Miner Rd./Camino Pablo
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.
Moraga Way
10 Block La Noria

Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.
200 Block Camino Sobrante
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Wildler Rd.

Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.
Moraga Way/Sanborn Rd.
Camino Encinas/Moraga Way

Hall Dr./Moraga Way
Moraga Way
Camino Pablo
Tc - Property Damage

Miner Rd./Bien Venida
Vehicle Theft
70 Block Bates Blvd.
70 Block El Toyonal

10 Block Irwin Way
Other criminal activity
Panhandling
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Moraga Way
Petty Theft
40 Block El Toyonal
Orinda Way

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
20 Block Ardor Dr. (2)
Loud Music
400 Block Moraga Way

30 Block Wildler Rd. (3)
Public Nuisance
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo
Vandalism
St Stephens Dr.

60 Block Tara Rd.
Other
Failure To Obey
Wb Sr 24 At Wildler Rd.

Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
Fire/Ems Response Info
70 Block Scenic Dr.
100 Block La Espiral
10 Block Soule Rd.

Mentally Ill Commit
500 Block Miner Rd.
Trespass
Camino Sobrante
Camino Sobrante/El Ribero

Unwanted Guest
Orinda Way

Fire crews successfully battle house fire in Canyon

By Vera Kochan

Residents in Canyon had their Nov. 1 evening disrupted when a structure caught fire prompting a quick response from not only the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, but Contra Costa County Fire, San Ramon Valley Fire, CalFire and the East Bay Regional Park District.

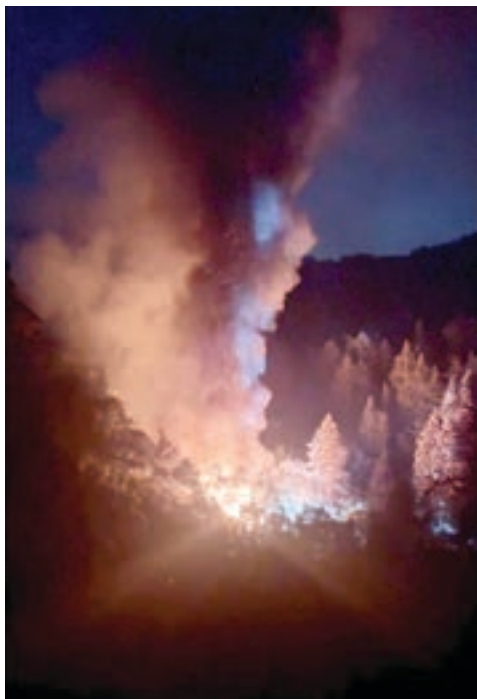


Photo courtesy Dennis Rein

Nov. 1 structure fire in Canyon

According to a Nov. 2 MOFD press release, the home was unoccupied at the time, but suffered a "total fire loss." Flames from the structure spread to surrounding vegetation, but were contained to approximately a half acre in size, thanks to the joint firefighting efforts. "Due to the limited access, steep slope, limited water supply, and potential for wildfire spread in a high-risk area, a second and third alarm response was called." A total of 65 personnel were on hand to contain the fire.

The Contra Costa County Sherriff's Office issued a precautionary evacuation warning to approximately 65 structures and 104 residents which was later lifted around 2 a.m. Crews remained on scene until 5 a.m. once they had mopped up the destroyed home and surrounding vegetation.

MOFD reported no injuries to residents or responders, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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meet Dec. 31 Deadline for NEW EXTERIOR WILDFIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT REQUIREMENTS
Per Moraga-Orinda Fire District all Juniper and Bamboo must be removed within 10 feet of the roadway by the end of 2023.
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