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## MOFD's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

By Sophie Braccini



MOFD's new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dennis Rein  
Photo Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Orinda Fire District recently hired Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commissioner Dennis Rein as its new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Rein is a multi-generational Lafayette resident who spent his professional life in law enforcement and fire fighting with the Regional Park District.

Since his retirement in 2006, Rein has been a member of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness

Commission. He started his new part time job on July 1st with a vast and simple mission: Ensure that Moraga and Orinda are fully prepared to handle any emergency. Rein is fully aware of the complexity of the task at hand.

Rein says his interest in natural resource management started with 4H when he was just a kid. While studying Recreation and Resource Management at Oregon State Uni-

versity, he volunteered as a ranger for the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) at the San Pablo Reservoir and was hired there when he graduated. EBMUD sent him to the Police Academy and he became part of the police and emergency response team; when the team's responsibilities were transferred to the Regional Park District in the 80's, Rein followed the job.

Rein served the Park District as a police officer and fire fighter until he became the East Bay Regional Park Fire Chief, in charge of 60 parks and more than 100,000 acres. "After retiring in 2006 I continued to consult for the Parks, and when my friend John Stuart asked me to join him on the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission I was glad to contribute to their excellent work."

The opening of a new position with MOFD gives Rein the opportunity to serve once again in his area of expertise.

"(MOFD) is very fortunate to have someone with Dennis' qualifications and experience to fill this position," said MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley in a press release, "...he's already spent much of his professional life preparing for and managing emergencies in this re-

gion."

Rein sees his first priority as integrating the different groups that would have to work together in case of an emergency. "I see myself as a liaison officer between the municipalities, the schools, and the general population," says Rein who is aware that at any given time there are a minimal number of first responders (police and fire) on duty in Lamorinda. "An emergency plan will aim at linking together the groups of residents and schools with the emergency operation centers," says Rein, "but people need to realize that they are their own best first line of defense. During the 1991 tunnel fire, many issues were resolved quickly by the people who were right there."

Rein believes that the real challenge of his position will be to keep the general population engaged. "If you're not prepared, you become part of the problem," he notes, adding that he thinks the best way to communicate during an emergency is at the small area level and face-to-face, which requires the creation of a multitude of basic neighborhood units. "I will work with the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)," he says, "and hopefully will do some outreach, too."



**Moraga Orinda Fire District**

**Board of Directors Meetings**

Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

**Next meeting:**

**July 20th, 7:00pm**  
Regular Board of Directors Meeting, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

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**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
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## Winemaking – the New Lamorinda Lifestyle

... continued from page C1



The vineyard plots were oriented to optimize sun positioning with the help of a GPS company. Photo Doug Kohen

Captain's third vineyard management project is scheduled to go in the ground in the spring of 2012, and has the potential of becoming the largest and most visible Lamorinda vineyard. The 22 acres bought last winter by Andrea Wood form the hill that faces the Rheem Center and parallels Rheem Boulevard. It used to be a buffalo ranch and Wood, who lives in Orinda, wants to cover the entire hill with vines.

"Initially, we will plant 10 acres (about 12,000 vines) with Cabernet Sauvignon and Sal (Captain) will do it," says the self-assured young woman who has already planted 100 manzanita olive trees on the property with the intent to produce olive oil. Her objective is to have her own label, Packwood Vineyard, named after her late husband. "This project will put Lamorinda wines on the map," believes Wood, "and it has to be the highest quality, as well as sustainable."

## Sustainable Film Series

By Sophie Braccini

The non-profit Sustainable Lafayette has organized a Sustainable Film Series this summer. *The Economics of Happiness*, a well-made film that argues the benefits of localization over globalization for the average individual, was presented at a screening on June 28. The next two movies will be screened at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on July 12th and July 26th at 7:00 p.m.

The July 12 movie is *Gasland*, by filmmaker Josh Fox. When Fox was

asked to lease his land for drilling, he started asking questions about the safety of the drilling method and especially about the Halliburton-developed drilling technology of "fracking," or hydraulic fracturing. The film tells the story of Fox's cross country odyssey in search of the truth.

The last sustainable movie of the summer, to be presented on July 26, is *Queen of the Sun – What Are the Bees Telling Us?* Most have heard of the phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder, from which bees dis-

appear in mass numbers from their hives with no clear explanation. The movie by director Taggart Siegel examines the global bee crisis through the eyes of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers. On a pilgrimage around the world, 10,000 years of beekeeping is unveiled – highlighting how our historic and sacred relationship with bees has been lost due to highly mechanized industrial practices; the movie also suggests natural solutions to restore our relationship with the bees.



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- Lafayette Little League Champions
- High above the Crowd
- Orindas Windsor Chair Guy George Lucido
- Lafayette Locals Contribute to New Book
- New Rheem Theatre Anniversary Celebration

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