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Fire Station Open House Sparks Interest

By Cathy Tyson



MOFD Fire Fighter Adam Goodyear from station 45 helps Mason Batt (4) of Orinda out of the fire truck. Big sister Miranda Batt (6) follows. Photo Andy Scheck



Avery Coats from Orinda was obviously thrilled to be the man/boy behind the wheel. Photo Cathy Tyson

Was it the sunshine, the Farmers' Market right down the block, clever Dalmatian bouncy house, or the lure of a hot dog lunch that made the Spring Open House for the Moraga Orinda Fire District the place to be on a recent Saturday? Young families with pre-schoolers were in abundance, ready to check out the fire trucks on display at the downtown Orinda Fire Station.

Darcy Musso, the mother of Ty Bruton, an enthusiastic 4 1/2 -year-old, reported her son's always wanted to be a fireman. With a much needed boost to the driver's seat, he got his wish - however briefly. A number of their family members are police and fire personnel, said Musso.

Decked out in a firefighter-superhero ensemble, complete with red plastic fire hat, snappy red cape, and red high-tops, 2 1/2 -year-old Avery Coats from Orinda was obviously thrilled to be the man/boy behind the wheel. It's not every day a toddler gets to "drive" a massive paramedic unit.

Perhaps burning off some energy from complimentary popcorn, the dog-inspired bounce house was as popular as the vehicles. Parents seemed more interested in some of the safety and preparedness information available; it's no secret that both Moraga and Orinda have potentially high fire danger and a nearby earthquake fault line.

Grace Santos, Secretary to the Fire Chief, was responsible for the logistics of putting together this semi-annual event - no easy task, especially with celebrities like Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog popping in. She said they always have their Spring Open House in Orinda, and a fall pancake breakfast event in Moraga to equally cover the two municipalities that compose the Moraga Orinda Fire District.

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