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## MOFD Responds to Rainy Highway 24 Accident

By Nick Marnell

The rainy season arrived Sept. 21 in Lamorinda, and with it came an eerie flashback for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. MOFD responded to a single vehicle accident on Highway 24 eastbound, just past the Caldecott Tunnel, before the Wilder exit. A car had crashed into the center divider. Two engines, an ambulance and battalion chief Jerry Lee arrived shortly on the scene.

Ten months ago, three MOFD firefighters were seriously injured when an out-of-control vehicle crashed into them at nearly the same location, under almost identical circumstances. "All of the guys on the

call were thinking the same thing," said Lee, referring to that December accident. "We acted very cautiously."

An investigation of the earlier accident resulted in a recommendation that the district change its procedures in responding to highway accidents. Lee confirmed that the revised district policy, which he himself researched and updated, was followed.

"All of the apparatus was positioned at a 30 to 45 degree angle to divert traffic around the incident," said Lee. Unlike the situation in December, when emergency vehicles were positioned along the highway to suggest that drivers turn into the

shoulder, "the new policy diverts traffic into lane number three," he said. He also praised the coordination of the effort between the district and the California Highway Patrol.

"During inclement weather, the eastbound stretch of Highway 24 from the tunnel to downtown Orinda is particularly dangerous due to water running off the steep hills that the roadway passes through," said Stephen Healy, interim fire chief. "We remain committed to improving roadway safety through the Highway 24 corridor."

The most fortunate dissimilarity between this incident and the one in December: there were no injuries to report.

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## From Front Page

### Moraga Band Wins Contest, Kicks Off Festival

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Erick Eckstein Drums and Vocals

"Our goal was not to fall on our faces," recalled band member by night, lawyer by day Myatt of the contest. Ultimately they were thrilled to come out on top. "We just had a great time." Initially fellow members were less than enthusiastic about the competition, but they reluctantly practiced a couple of times. "Song choice played a big part of the win," said vocalist and bass player Myatt. "We played to our strength - three part harmony." He thinks the one song that clinched the

competition was their dynamite rendition of the Tubes classic song, "Talk to Ya Later" featuring a synthesizer.

Their unlikely journey to the stage is a testament to persistence, harmony and a bit of luck. From humble beginnings, specifically a Los Perales Father-Daughter Dance, current and former Moraga parents and part-time rockers met through their respective third graders when they were students at Los Perales Elementary School. Who knew this small town suburban facility was really a school of rock - for parents? Squeezing in practice time and performing is always a challenge, but these grown-ups with serious full-time jobs truly enjoy making music together and have played throughout the Bay Area including the Moraga and Orinda Concert Series, as well as at corporate events and fundraisers.

Lighthearted band members Myatt, Erick Eckstein, Jane Daniel, Dorothy Watson and Ric Hattabaugh formed the group with a goal of conquering the musical world one bedroom community at a time. They describe themselves as an adult alternative party band, and they were quite good at the Bank of the West stage until, literally, the plug was pulled. It's a shame more attendees couldn't enjoy their familiar upbeat music.

Although the Classic Covers Cup has been around since 2008, this year the competition was all about raising money for Lafayette Partners in Education or LPIE. In a generous move, Red House Studios used revenue from the Classic Covers Cup and donated it to LPIE. Supporting Lafayette's public schools and enriching science, music, art, technology, foreign language, electives and humanities is what the community based foundation run by parents is all about.

Perhaps Lafayette's next guitar hero will be a beneficiary.

## Civic News orinda

### Library Town Hall Oct. 5

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City facility attendant Les Graham (left) and a contractor from Diamond Stoneworks recently helped the Orinda Library prepare for installation of a new inventory system. The high tech tool will offer faster self-service, says library manager Beth Girshman, and it will also help staff keep collections vibrant by monitoring which books are circulating and which aren't. If you'd like to help prepare books for scanning by the new system, call the library to volunteer.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

A head facilitator will serve as the ringmaster to keep the entire process on track. Responses will be captured on flip charts and then turned over to the CCLS Strategic Planning Committee.

"We want to hear from people who use the library, but we also really want to hear from people who don't," urges Girshman. "This is part of our community, part of our budget ... It's about how you're spending your money, what your vision is ... what you're hoping to accomplish over the next five years."

All are welcome and encouraged to help chart a course for the future. Preregistration is encouraged so that there will be ample food and coffee to fuel participants' brains. Just call the Orinda Library or sign up online via the event calendar at www.ccclib.org. For more information, contact Girshman at (925) 254-2184, ext. 15, or bgirshma@ccclib.org.