



# Fire Districts

## Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library Community Room  
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Emergency response information and training:  
Lamorinda Community  
Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
[www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org).

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.  
**Send a letter to the editor:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# Lafayette Station 16 Rehabilitation Update

By Nick Marnell

Firefighters assigned to Contra Costa County Fire Protection District station 16 in Lafayette likely feared less for their lives entering a burning building than they did when they returned to the station. The building suffered possible mold contamination from rodent infestation, and the county pulled out the engine company and closed the distressed fire station in 2012. An on-again, off-again joint venture with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build a fire station in north Orinda crumbled in August when ConFire chose to rehab station 16.

"I am almost embarrassed to say that I had been convinced that station 16 was condemned and could not be fixed," said fire chief Jeff Carman, given a report by a

building contractor indicating that the 58-year-old structure was not beyond repair. Based on that preliminary information, the chief presented a rehabilitation plan in August to his board of directors, which unanimously supported the effort and told Carman to report back with a final proposal.

Not willing to be fooled again, Carman demanded a written report confirming that the Los Arabis Drive fire station was repairable, so the district hired H. D. Rueb Structural Engineers of Pleasant Hill to do the assessment. The company visited the station site four times in September and October and its report, delivered to ConFire Dec. 7, concluded, "The general structural appearance of the building appears to be adequate."

The report noted that the structure will require seismic upgrades and that the interior concrete slabs, one of them significantly cracked, should be replaced. It also recommended a geotechnical analysis on the soil below the slabs, which deputy chief Lewis Broschard said will soon be completed.

"The concrete floor has sagged considerably and we need to determine why," said Carman. "So we will cut a couple of access points in the slab floor to determine soil quality and get a look at what happened to cause the sag." The rehab plan was to jackhammer up the slabs and replace them with new ones, but the chief said he must be assured that whatever happened below the floor will not happen again.

Design work must also be completed, from which the district can develop construction documents and then determine approximate costs to rehab the station. "I think before we go after design work we want to make sure there isn't something bad going on under the slab," said Carman.

Notwithstanding the unknown below the interior building slabs and the holdup in completing the station design, Carman said he still expects to present the board a financial plan for the rehab by March.

"It's an aggressive timeline, but I think we can do it," said the chief.

The initial estimate for rehabbing station 16 was \$1 million.

# El Nino Preparedness: Listen and Learn

By Cathy Dausman



During the recent rains, this section of trees was flooded near The Bluffs neighborhood in Moraga. Photo Wendy Schreck

When there's something strange – perhaps an El Nino gully-washer in your neighborhood – who ya' gonna call? The answer depends on what you want to know, and where you live in Lamorinda. Always call 911 for emergencies, reminds Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy. All three Lamorinda communities use Nixle alerts to notify residents of public safety issues through a smartphone app. Dennis Rein, Lamorinda's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, suggests using two-way radios for neighbor-to-neighbor communications during emergencies when even telephone service disappears. The radios, known as FRS or FRS/GMRS radios, are inexpensive and readily available both online and in stores. Contra Costa

County Community Warning System alerts the public to imminent life and safety threats using sirens, phone, text messaging and email. CWS also maintains a presence on Twitter and Facebook. The National Weather Service provides local radar and satellite imaging and detailed forecasts from the San Francisco Bay Area south to Monterey. Local radio and television stations broadcast weather warnings through their Emergency Alert System. The EAS is a 1997 update of what was formerly known as the Emergency Broadcast System. Although EAS is designed primarily to deliver nationwide warnings, state or local authorities may also use it to deliver area specific emergency information. Staying plugged in to local websites and social media may make it easier for you to weather the storm.

## Website contact information:

- Nixle: [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)
- County community warning system: <http://www.cococws.us/>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/>

## Phone contacts:

### Lafayette:

- Police: 24-hour dispatch: (925) 284-5010
- Fire (Contra Costa County Fire) dispatch: (925) 933-1313 website: [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)
- Public Works: (925) 934-3908

### Moraga:

- Police: office: (925) 376-2515 24-hour dispatch: (925) 284-5010
- Fire (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) website: [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)
- 911 for emergency; (925) 258-4599 non-emergency
- Public Works, business hours: (925) 888-7026 or (925) 888-7029 (shop)

### Orinda:

- Police, 24-hour dispatch: (925) 646-2441
- Fire (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) website: [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)
- 911 for emergency; (925) 258-4599 non-emergency
- Public Works: (925) 253-4252

Note: At times landline telephones (although not portable wireless phones) continue to work even when the power is out.

# Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Registration for Lamorinda Schools

Kindergarten registration in Lamorinda's school districts begins in January and February. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must turn 5 years old by Sept. 1. To be eligible for the transitional kindergarten program, a child must have his or her fifth birthday between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2. Children currently enrolled in transitional kindergarten are not required to complete the kindergarten registration process for next year.

New immunization requirements for 2016, under a new law known as SB277 that began Jan. 1, state that exemptions based on personal beliefs will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into child care or school in California. For more detailed information, visit: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>.

## Moraga

Online registration for incoming kindergarten/transitional kindergarten students in Moraga is now open – go to <https://moragaesd.asp.aeries.net/air> to begin the registration process. Registration paperwork dates are Feb. 4-5. For more information visit the district's website, [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us).

### Camino Pablo Elementary

1111 Camino Pablo  
(925) 376-4435

### Donald Rheem Elementary 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

90 Laird Drive  
(925) 376-4441

### Los Perales Elementary

22 Wakefield Drive  
(925) 631-0105

## Orinda

The kick off registration days for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten children entering an Orinda public school in August 2016 will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 1-4 at each of the four elementary schools. For information, visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).

### Del Rey Elementary School

25 El Camino Moraga  
(925) 258-3099

### Glorietta Elementary School

15 Martha Road  
(925) 254-8770

### Sleepy Hollow Elementary

20 Washington Lane  
(925) 254-8711

### Wagner Ranch Elementary

350 Camino Pablo  
(925) 258-0016

The Lafayette School District registration for kindergarten/transitional kindergarten took place on Jan. 19 and 20 at its four elementary schools. For information, visit [www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us).

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