



Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 Saint Mary's Road
Moraga, CA 94556
For meeting times and
agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 26, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and
agendas, visit
<http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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MOFD Directors Give Unexpected Kudos to ConFire Chief

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief Jeff Carman outlined the benefits of the new district ambulance transport program at a county fire commissioners' dinner last month, and he received high acclaim for his performance from an unexpected source: the president and the vice president of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors.

The two districts had attempted to build joint fire station 46 at the Lafayette-Orinda border, and as the deal unraveled, MOFD directors Steve Anderson and Fred Weil

blasted the county leadership, calling it unreliable and blaming it for the failure of the venture. A worn-out Carman recommended the reconstruction of Lafayette station 16 instead.

Could the dinner compliments, delivered at the conclusion of the April 6 district meeting, represent an olive branch from MOFD?

Anderson, board president, said that Carman gave an excellent speech, and Weil noted that of all the commissioners' meetings he has attended, the program featuring Carman was one of the best. "He's

a terrific speaker," Weil said. "He gets right to the point. He's very direct, and he handled himself very well. I hope the commissioners bring in more speakers like him."

Carman said that the highlight of the March 17 commissioners' dinner was being able not only to present the ConFire ambulance program but also to talk about the potential changes to ambulance transport based on the Affordable Care Act. He told his ConFire board April 12 that in the first quarter, despite the uncertainty of the changes, it appeared that the am-

bulance program exceeded its revenue goal and expenses were lower than projected.

The chief accepted the positive gesture of the MOFD directors.

"It's nice to know that despite fire station 46 not working out, both Anderson and Weil can see beyond that issue and give me a fair evaluation," Carman said. "It's always nice to be complimented by those that have criticized in the past and I appreciate their objectivity."

New Wheels to Start Rollin' at Station 17 in Lafayette



Lafayette fire station 17 on St. Mary's Road put a new fire engine into service the evening of April 8. The 2008 KME Type-1 engine replaces the 2001 model, which was reassigned to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training facility in Concord.

"This new unit will enable us to serve the citizens of Lafayette in a safer, more efficient manner," said 17-C captain Matt DePolo. — N. Marnell

From left, engineer Matt Mastrantonio, captain Roger Harless, firefighter Kevin Piol. Photo Nick Marnell

Moraga Resident Cheats Death Thanks to MOFD Response

By Nick Marnell

Matt Scanlan could hardly breathe. He felt dizzy. As his heart raced, he started to sweat. His arms went numb; he could not raise them over his head. Having had a heart valve replaced, Scanlan knew that these symptoms portended something serious. He yelled from the shower for his wife to call 911.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District station 41 received the dispatch around 11 p.m. March 3. Under the direction of Captain Mike Rattary the ambulance crew arrived at the Sanders Ranch residence in minutes, followed by the engine crew seconds later. They arrived to a chaotic scene, with Scanlan lying in the upstairs master suite, alert, but having difficulty speaking; a neighbor trying to help; and his wife, Martina, answering questions about her husband's medical history.

"It was a monster house, with a



From left: MOFD captain Mike Rattary, firefighter-paramedic Andrew Hess, Martina Scanlan, Matt Scanlan, firefighter-paramedic Andrew Leach, firefighter Mark DeWeese. Photo Gint Federas

sweeping spiral staircase that led up to the suite," said firefighter Mark DeWeese. The firefighters brought Scanlan downstairs, started an IV,

applied oxygen and put him on a heart monitor, which recorded 230 beats per minute. Into Medic 41 they hustled him, off to John Muir Hospital.

"This was a serious enough call that we put two paramedics in the back of the ambulance on the drive to the hospital," DeWeese said. Though it is not the usual protocol, the crew allowed Martina to ride along in the front seat. During the transport, she said she heard a firefighter update her husband's condition. "Code Blue!" he said.

Scanlan had gone into cardiac arrest.

Thanks to the work in the rear of that ambulance by firefighter-paramedics Dave Iman and Andrew Leach, Scanlan pulled through. "I am lucky to be alive," he said. "The doctor told me that, after my crash, I had only a 4 percent chance of survival."

Scanlan, chief executive officer of RS Investments in San Francisco and an executive leader

of the American Heart Association, praised the work of the MOFD responders at an April district board meeting.

"My career has nothing to do with public safety, but I am aware of what makes a good team," Scanlan told the directors. "People who trust each other, who work together and who work well in a time of crisis. These kinds of success stories don't happen without a total team effort. The professionalism, and the calm, that your crew displayed was sensational."

He also stressed the importance of the calm behavior of Martina. DeWeese agreed. "She acted much better than one would have expected," the firefighter said.

Director Fred Weil noted that the district is often criticized for sending both an ambulance and an engine to respond to medical incidents.

"Obviously, in this case, it was necessary," he said.

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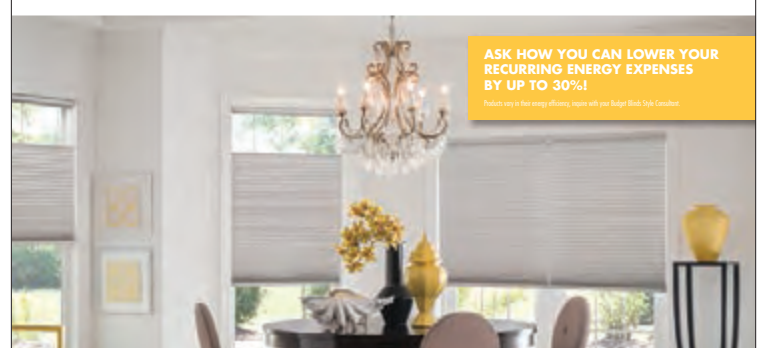
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