## MOFD hosts International Disaster Management Seminar

By Nick Marnell



From left, MOFD seminar participants from Namibia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, South Africa and Myanmar (Burma).

around the world converged on Seminar, which included 29 par- fault. One part of the exercise inthe Moraga-Orinda Fire District ticipants from 21 countries all cluded an evacuation caused by Aug. 20 seeking to enhance their over the world. ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. The district Table exercise that included two deal with a wildland fire threatsponsored the final exercise of modeled incidents based on a ening homes on the Orinda-La-

isaster preparedness and re- the 2018 U.S. Forest Service In- scenario of a large earthquake sponse professionals from ternational Disaster Management ripping through the Hayward a potential weakness in Briones The district put on a Sand Dam while another group had to

fayette border.

MOFD staged the exercise at Fire Station 45 and included time with the San Francisco Fire transmissions and written communications for the participants. The participants used knowledge they had gained over the first two weeks of the seminar to implement the Incident Command System and the coordination required at the local, regional, state and national levels of government. "They dealt with the entire scope of a disaster, including political issues," said Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator, who hosted the

Participants grabbed dinner at the Orinda Safeway, and they ate and shared disaster response stories at the Orinda Community Rein said the sartorial award went to the forest general director of Tunisia, who wore his full military uniform everywhere he

went, all day long.

The 15-day seminar included simulated TV news reports, radio Department, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Cisco Systems and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Some participants went to the Mendocino Complex Fire to observe the coordinating efforts used in handling that major di-

> "The idea was for them to see how the U.S. manages large-scale incidents," Rein said. "The event provided great international exposure for MOFD." And every participant – including the Tunisian general – went back to their home country with an MOFD hat and T-shirt.

Volunteers from Lamorinda Community Emergency Re-Park, across from the fire station. sponse Team and the MOFD communications support unit aided the district in putting on its portion of the seminar.

## **Orchard Supply Hardware** closure

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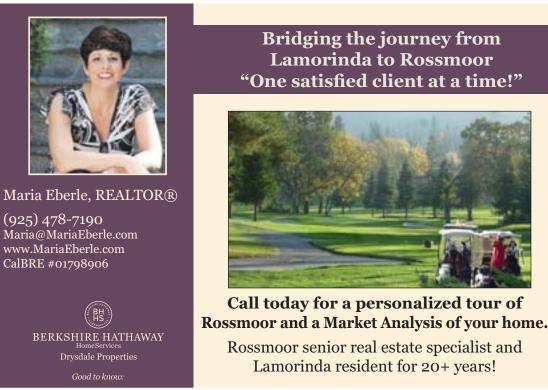
Moraga has dealt with a struggling retail sector for years, and Bruzzone said that the OSH news did nothing to halt the narrative. vacancies filled up. We turned the corner with the Canyon Club and La Finestra, and now this," Bruzzone said, speaking of the brewery scheduled to open in the fall across from OSH, and the res-Shopping Center in October.

'With every door that closes, one opens," Nelson said. "We hope to bring something back that the newly improved OSH building "presents another attractive opportunity for a new and

viable retail tenant along Moraga Way, which I believe the town can and should encourage."

On that note, Bruzzone men-"We've been trying to get these tioned that he has been actively looking for a grocery store. "We know that Moraga is a great place for retail and commercial," he said.

One business owner had every reason to gloat over the OSH taurant moving into the Moraga departure, but he did not. "I respected Orchard as a chain. They were a solid, viable competitor," said Bill Snider, president of Moraga Ace Hardware. "We into town soon." Trotter added welcome those who looked at Orchard as the town's main hardware store."





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## Residents urge city council to enact gun control legislation

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Jenifer Balducci suggested to be an analysis to assure that that, as there are no gun dealers in Orinda yet, it is the perfect time to enact an ordinance to not allow gun sales in the future. (Pleasant Hill was sued by a preexisting gun dealer.)

Moraga resident Alison Anderman is the managing attorney at the Gifford Law Center. San Francisco was the first jurisdiction to adopt a safe storage law, she said. The gun lobby sued, and they lost in the trial court, preme Court declined to review the case. After San Francisco nine other jurisdictions have enacted safe storage laws and none have been sued. "Moraga was also worried about being sued," Anderman said, "so (The Gifford Law Center) secured the services of Farella Braun and Martel a prestigious litigation firm to defend the town pro bono, and we pledge the same support to Orinda." She added that she is very happy to work with the city attorney and happy to provide free drafting assistance. She suggested that Orinda could face a bigger cost if the city fails to take modest reasonable steps.

The council asked staff to conduct additional research about other ordinances passed in other cities, ways to limit litigation risk, specifics gun sales and permits, and what kind of legal 21 city council meeting, visit framework exists for this type of http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citigun storage ordinance.

this, noting that there would need Agenda.

the city doesn't effectively ban guns.

Council Member Darleen Gee asked if Nagel was concerned about enforcing this ordi-

"I am concerned that it would be interpreted as violation of Second Amendment rights," Nagel said. "How far do you want us to go? Investigating? Asking questions?"

Orr noted that there had been lost in the 9th circuit, and the Su- a tremendous amount of correspondence on this issue and that the message to the council is clear. "I just want to make sure that whatever we do we have a policy in place so we don't place the city with an undue amount of risk, either legal or financial," he said, adding that it is critical that the ordinance can be supported by the Sheriff's Office. "We have to be able to have our law enforcement stand behind it." He asked for further clarification between state ordinance and proposed local law and a better understanding of how they work together.

Mayor Amy Worth asked staff to return to council with more information and to identify any other issues they come across so the council can make a decision in the future.

To view the video of the Aug. zens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Vid Wolff said she would research eo&MeetingID=1415&Format=

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