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Little decided in MOFD division races

By Nick Marnell

The Election Day voter turnout gave few clues to the new composition of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board.

As of the Nov. 9 report from the Contra Costa County Elections Division, the Division 1 race featured a candidate ahead of his opponent by 55 votes and in Division 4, the margin was 50 votes. Only in Division 3 did a candidate show a relatively comfortable 394 vote lead. The preliminary leader in each division was the union-backed candidate: Greg Baitx over Nathan Bell (1), Steven Danziger over Steve Anderson and Red Smith (3) and Michael Donner over Lucy Talbot (4).

lots needed only be postmarked by Nov. 6 and did not have to be received by Election Day.


"I am extremely grateful that my approach to the issues facing MOFD resonated with the voters. I will strive for a balanced approach while never losing sight of our core mission which is to serve and protect the community," Danziger said. Likely due of the closeness of the races, many candidates declined to comment, as did district director Craig Jorgens, supporter of three non-union-backed candidates.

Per county records, MOFD voter turnout averaged 56 percent, higher than the 48 percent reported for the county as a whole. Through the Nov. 9 updated tally, Division 1 voters had cast 2,304 votes, Division 3 voters had cast 3,154 with 3,238 votes cast in Division 4. The county expects to certify the election results by Dec. 4.


Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21 cancelled
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Lamorinda rebuilt fire stations heading to the home stretch

By Nick Marnell



Fire Station 16 in Lafayette

Photo courtesy ConFire

Protection District board of directors approved the rebuild of Fire Station 16 in Upper Happy Valley earlier this year, work began in April.

Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said that 100 yards of concrete were poured in late October, the exterior walls have been framed and that the roof trusses were delivered and installed the second week of November. As did Winnacker, McAlister cited no major change orders, and weekly visits from an arborist have helped ConFire keep in place a resolute heritage oak tree, unimpressed by the new construction.

McAlister said the latest Station 16 project estimate is still in line with the original \$3.4 million contract authorized by the board.

Both fire stations should be operational in March, with the Fire Station 43 companies rolling into the new building from their temporary structure on the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parking lot. The Lafayette station will be staffed once Academy 52 recruits graduate in February and are assimilated into the district.

Helped by construction friendly weather, and no additional contractor drama, the new Lafayette and Orinda fire stations are well on their way to spring 2019 completions, according to fire district officials.

pected to be completed by the third week of November, with additional grading of the parking lots and sidewalk areas scheduled for later in the month.

According to Glorainn Sasser, MOFD administrative services director, the latest estimate for the Orinda fire station construction sits at \$6 million, nearly \$2 million over the original budget.

Since 2012 north Lafayette has been without its fire station, and after the Contra Costa County Fire

Groundbreaking for Orinda Fire Station 43 on Via Las Cruces took place Nov. 9, 2016, and the reopening was originally scheduled for October 2017. Three contractors later, work began in earnest this year and Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker updated the progress for his board at its Nov. 7 meeting.

Roof decking, the waterproof membrane and gutters were completed, and asphalt roofing material was installed in early November. Windows were scheduled for installation by the end of November with doors – not including garage doors – set for early December. Completion of these elements will hopefully seal the building from the impacts of rain or inclement weather, according to the chief.



Fire Station 43 in Orinda

Photo courtesy MOFD

MOFD starts process to relocate Fire Station 41

By Nick Marnell



Land next to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on Camino Pablo

Photo Andy Scheck

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board authorized Fire Chief Dave Winnacker to enter into preliminary discussions with property owners as the first step in possible relocation of Moraga Fire Station 41 and the district administrative headquarters, also located in Moraga. Two of the properties under consideration are the land adjacent to the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga and a tract along Moraga Way, adjacent to Fire Station 44 in Orinda.

fore we move forward," said board President Brad Barber.

Those things included developing a global strategy for locations of all district stations, essentially starting from scratch and then showing how the move of Station 41 fits in with that strategy. Also critical was a concrete financial plan. "How will we generate the funds to do this?" said director John Jex.

Other questions posed at the Nov. 7 district meeting included a decision on the training ground. Should it be moved too, or should

MOFD consider training out of the district, such as at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training center in Concord? Is the plot at JM big enough? Could the district consider a parcel swap with the Moraga School District, or straight acquisition?

Germane to former director Pete Wilson was how the move would affect service delivery – both positively and negatively. And the most repeated comment from directors and outside speakers had to do with public input, to the sense that there simply can never be too much. Positive public feedback received by ConFire at its workshops went a long way to eliminating negative public reaction over the reconstruction of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette.

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns said that there is enough interest on the school district's part that it will soon discuss the idea of a transaction with MOFD at a future board meeting, possibly as soon as December.

Police Departments

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Oct. 23 - Nov. 5

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	50
Patrol Request/ Security Check	37
Supplemental Report	11
Welfare Check	3

Vehicle violations

- Abandoned Vehicle
- Police Department
- Excessive Speed
 - 400 Block Moraga Rd.
 - 100 Block Devin Dr.
 - 200 Block Ivy Dr.
 - Camino Pablo/Hodges Dr.
 - Safeway
 - 1300 Block Camino Pablo Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
 - Pinehurst Rd./Canyon Rd.
 - Hacienda
 - 1700 Block St Andrews Dr.
 - Safeway Parking Lot
 - Moraga Way/Camino Pablo, Orinda
 - 100 Block Calle La Montana Donald Dr./ Moraga Rd.
 - 200 Block Sheila Ct.
 - 100 Block Natalie Dr.
 - Chevron On Moraga Rd.
- Reckless Driving
 - Rheem Blvd./Fayhill Rd.
 - Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
 - Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
 - Library
 - Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.
- Traffic Hazard
 - Rheem Center

Other criminal activity

- Accident Property
 - 1000 Block Country Club Dr.
- Petty Theft
 - Buckingham Dr./Moraga Rd.
 - 80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

- Disturbance-Fight
 - 1700 Block St Andrews Dr.
- Disturbing The Peace
 - Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
 - Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.
 - 80 Block Courter Ln.
- Loud Noise
 - Campolindo High School
- Loud Party
 - 10 Block Tamarisk
 - 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
 - Camino Pablo School
- Public Nuisance
 - 1100 Block Al Ta Mesa Dr.
 - 500 Block Center St.

Other

- Contrib Delinquency Minor
 - 10 Block Dolores Ct.
- Violation Custody Order
 - Dollar Tree

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 21 - Oct. 27

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	55
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subjects	5
Suspicious Vehicles	6
Patrol Request/ Security Check	21
Service to Citizen	33
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	16
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations

- Occupied Stalled Vehicle
 - Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
 - Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
- Reckless Driving
 - San Pablo Dam Rd./Castro Ranch
 - Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
- Vehicle Theft
 - Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.

Other criminal activity

- Identity Theft
 - 10 Block Hall Dr.
- Petty Theft
 - Safeway
- Petty Theft Veh Parts
 - 100 Block Crest View Dr.
- Warrant Arrest
 - 10 Block Camino Pablo

Nuisance to the Community

- Barking Dog
 - 10 Block Lost Valley Dr.
- Disturbance-Domestic
 - 200 Block Ivy Dr.
- Disturbing The Peace
 - Tahos Rd./Silverwood Ct.
- Loud Music
 - Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper Ln.
- Loud Noise
 - 20 Block Moraga Via
- Loud Party
 - 10 Block Great Oak Cr.
 - 10 Block Great Oak Cr.
 - Monte Vista Rd./Marston Rd.
 - 10 Block Rabbie Rd.
- Public Nuisance
 - 80 Block Davis Rd.
 - 10 Block Camino Sobrante
- School Assembly Check
 - Glorietta Elementary School
 - Miramonte High School (2)

Other

- Ac Pd Needed
 - Camino Pablo/Orinda Way
- Accident Injury
 - Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
- Accident Property
 - Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
 - Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
- Missing Adult
 - 10 Block E Altarinda Dr.
- Ordinance Violation
 - 10 Block Bobolink Rd.
 - 40 Block Sunnyside Ln.
 - 100 Block Moraga Way

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com