

## Fire District Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



## MOFD board president determined to reverse poor public perception



Photo provided

Steven Danziger

### By Nick Marnell

Rarely does an interviewee ask for more time as the session winds down, but Steven Danziger, high-energy president of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors, did just that, as he outlined his plans to change the negative perception of the district board. "We as a new board can turn that around," he said.

Danziger has his work cut out for him.

The MOFD board made national news in 2009 for enabling the pension spiking of its retiring fire chief, providing him an annual retirement benefit higher than his salary; five years later, in a rare public spat between government agencies, a Contra Costa County supervisor rebuked the district board, calling MOFD "a per-

fect example of a special district with a poor governance structure"; in 2018, despite a public plea from town officials to support the Moraga storm drain measure, the MOFD directors could not decide among themselves which way to vote and declined to submit a ballot; and a recently retired district director called the board he served on "dysfunctional."

Then, with a chance to ease public concerns that the firefighters union planned to "take over the fire district" – since the three newly elected, union-supported directors formed a board majority – the board laid to waste years of district tradition and elected Danziger, one of the union-backed directors, as its 2019 president.

"I got a lot of emails on that," Danziger said, and he was not smiling when he said it.

Key to the turnaround that Danziger envisions is accessibility, and he will soon begin holding open public sessions every other Thursday at Si Si Caffe in Moraga. He also plans to urge frequent board member attendance at public meetings. Danziger cited director Michael Donner, who attended the Jan. 10 meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission. "It was the first time we've seen anyone from MOFD in more than five years," said Lou Ann Texiera, LAFCO executive

officer.

Danziger listed visibility and responsiveness as further components to the board turnaround. "The chief is out there a lot," he said, referring to the intense outside schedule that Fire Chief Dave Winnacker keeps. "We need to support him and see how the public is responding."

Also in need of support are the firefighters, said Danziger, who worked for many years as an administrator in the Oakland Fire Department. "Oakland firefighters were always looked at as heroes. Here, they don't get that same treatment," he said, though wary MOFD stakeholders will be quick to call out the board if it goes too far in support of the rank and file.

The bottom line is simply that Danziger and his fellow MOFD directors will be evaluated on how successfully they carry out the mission of the board, as stated on the district website: To provide strategic leadership, policy and direction as well as fiscal oversight.

"Give us a chance," said Danziger, still sensitive to the mixed public reaction over his election as board president. "Give us time, and we'll show by our actions that we are looking out for the whole district and not just for special interests."

these drills will aid future multiagency efforts. Observers will be posted along the evacuation route to record time, the number of vehicles, and identify areas subject to congestion. Participants will receive an email poll later that day to collect their feedback on the exercise.

Lafayette plans to conduct its own evacuation drill in March, according to Ben Alldritt, chief of police. "Initial thoughts are the Springhill or Happy Valley areas," he said. The chief said he will sit down with Dennis Rein, Lamorinda emergency preparedness coordinator, and lay out the parameters based on what was learned in the Moraga and Orinda drills.

## North Orinda wildfire evacuation exercise planned for Jan. 26

... continued from Page A1

As traffic will be routed to Highway 24, the drill will provide information on what the on ramps would look like during an evacuation. "That is the critical juncture," Winnacker said. "We will work with our partners at the CHP to facilitate the rapid exit from the district through the use of those on ramps."

Once north Orinda evacuees arrive at Camino Pablo during the Jan. 26 drill, those in the right lane will be directed to Highway 24 westbound with drivers in the left lane directed eastbound. "The idea is to get folks onto the freeway and out of the district," Winnacker said. "We're not worried about where you're trying to get. We're only concerned about getting you

out of the district."

Drivers should also note that, according to Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel, when police officers are directing traffic, drivers must follow their instructions, even if the instructions conflict with traffic lights or signs.

Those who have yet to sign up for the Jan. 26 evacuation exercise should go to <https://sites.google.com/view/orinda-evacuation-exercise/home>. Winnacker urges all district residents to register for alerts from the Contra Costa County Community Warning System at [cwsalerts.com](http://cwsalerts.com).

Wildfire evacuations are complex procedures, with law enforcement directing residents out of the burning area as fire personnel and apparatus are storming in, and the data collected in

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Jan. 1 - Jan. 14

Alarms	18
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	26
Patrol Request/Security Check	31
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	6

#### Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle	2000 Block Donald Dr.
Auto Burglary	Fayhill Rd./Sonora Rd.
Excessive Speed	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Traffic Hazard	Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Other criminal activity	Police Department Moraga
Fraud False Pretenses	400 Block Deerfield Dr.
Identity Theft	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Panhandling	Safeway
Petty Theft	Rheem Elementary School
Residential Burglary	30 Block Greenfield Dr.
Shoplift	Safeway
Violation Restraining Order	Ashbrook PL./Camino Ricardo
Nuisance to the Community	Disturbing The Peace
Loud Music	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Loud Party	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Unwanted Guest	1600 Block Camino Pablo
Other	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.

#### Other criminal activity

Fraud False Pretenses	400 Block Deerfield Dr.
Identity Theft	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Panhandling	Safeway
Petty Theft	Rheem Elementary School
Residential Burglary	30 Block Greenfield Dr.
Shoplift	Safeway
Violation Restraining Order	Ashbrook PL./Camino Ricardo
Nuisance to the Community	Disturbing The Peace
Loud Music	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Loud Party	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Unwanted Guest	1600 Block Camino Pablo
Other	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.

#### Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	Moraga Rd./St. Marys
Loud Music	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Loud Party	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Unwanted Guest	1600 Block Camino Pablo
Other	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.

#### Other

Forgery	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Dec. 30 - Jan. 12

Alarms	74
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	147
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	18
Service to Citizen	77
Patrol Request/Security Check	58
Vacation House Check	8
Supplemental Report	22
Welfare Check	12

#### Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle	2000 Block Donald Dr.
Auto Burglary	Fayhill Rd./Sonora Rd.
DUI Misd	Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
Excessive Speed	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Vehicle Theft	Shell Gas
Other criminal activity	Police Department Moraga
Forgery	Police Department Moraga
Fraud False Pretenses	400 Block Deerfield Dr.
Identity Theft	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Panhandling	Safeway
Petty Theft	Rheem Elementary School
Residential Burglary	30 Block Greenfield Dr.
Shoplift	Safeway
Violation Restraining Order	Ashbrook PL./Camino Ricardo
Warrant Arrest	Not Available
Nuisance to the Community	Barking Dog
Loud Music	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Loud Party	10 Block Hastings Ct.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Unwanted Guest	1600 Block Camino Pablo
Other	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.

#### Other criminal activity

Forgery	Police Department Moraga
Fraud False Pretenses	400 Block Deerfield Dr.
Identity Theft	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Panhandling	Safeway
Petty Theft	Rheem Elementary School
Residential Burglary	30 Block Greenfield Dr.
Shoplift	Safeway
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Other	Police Department
Medical Police Needed	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Missing Juvenile	20 Block Hour Fitness
Run Away Juvenile	100 Block Derby Ln.

We are still awaiting reports from the Lafayette Police Department.

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