

# Broschard named new ConFire chief

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors elevated Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard to the position of fire chief March 12, effecting a quick and seamless transition between Broschard and retiring Fire Chief Jeff Carman, who departs at the end of March. Broschard assumes his new role April 1.

"It's been an incredible journey over the past five and a half years, and collectively we've all done a lot of great work. I'm looking forward to

continuing that momentum in the years to come," Broschard told the board.

Broschard, a 25-year fire service veteran, joined ConFire in 2007 as a fire inspector. He rose through the ranks as fire prevention captain, fire marshal and assistant fire chief and was promoted to deputy fire chief in 2015. As deputy chief, Broschard supervised the five district assistant chiefs.

"Lewis has been 100 percent involved in all decisions that have been made in the organization," Carman said. "I know Lewis will carry on

as he has for the last five and a half years."

Broschard noted the district's relationship with the city of Lafayette, stressing that a continuous focus needs to be maintained in planning for future development, building standards in the city that address the threat of wildland fire, and proactive emergency preparedness that includes the city, district and residents. "Our relationship has strengthened over the last several years and I'm looking forward to continuing supporting a strong working relationship with the city into

the future," he said.

One of the first district projects expected to be completed under Broschard would help throttle the spread of a wildland fire in western Lafayette. "The grand reopening of Fire Station 16 in April is going to mark the end of a lengthy process to bring back a critical piece of emergency response capacity to the city of Lafayette. We are all excited to bring Engine 16 back and look forward to seeing many of our neighbors and residents at the reopening ceremony," Broschard said.



New ConFire Chief Lewis Broschard Photo provided

# Fire chief departs with the respect and appreciation of the rank and file



Photo Steve Hill, ConFire

Fire Chief Jeff Carman pins a new reserve firefighter March 11 at the Briones Station.

By Nick Marnell

Jeff Carman retires from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District March 29, after more than five years as

fire chief. Much has been written about his accomplishments with the district, but Carman often stressed that the thing that mattered to him most was his relationship with his people. He may not have realized it, but his people noticed, as evidenced by the feelings they shared about their own relationships with the chief:

"He sent out a letter when he first got here, and at the bottom, he signed it 'Jeff.' 'Oh, no!' I thought. 'Not one of these guys who is trying to be cool, and be 'in' with the rank and file.' But you know what? He genuinely is 'Jeff.' One of the most real and honest people I have ever worked with." - Capt. Josh Andrews

"I was sent on a strike team, to the Carr Fire, and we were assigned to an area near where the chief's house was (Redding). I thought everyone was kidding about that so I blew it off. But it was near his house! He invited us to his home for dinner with his family. We hadn't had a home-cooked meal in ages.

He's a firefighters' fire chief." - Capt. Jason Conner

"I was on a call at a structure fire in East County. I had to cut a hole in the roof, probably not a smart thing for me to have done. 'Excellent work the other night,' Carman said, after he had seen a video of the call. 'I'm glad you got off the roof OK. In my time, I've probably been on a roof I shouldn't have been, either.' I've never heard a bad word about him anywhere in the district." - Capt. Jeff Landis

The chief's employees appreciated how he connected with them personally and how genuinely he came across. "We're both from Grass Valley. He would talk with me about our experiences there. I've worked with good chiefs and bad chiefs and I definitely know the difference. Carman is the best one I've had." - Capt. Brent Boling

"I used to deliver pizzas in the Roseville area, and I would deliver to Carman's station (he worked at the Roseville Fire Department).

Years later, he's now my fire chief. At my captain's ceremony, he remembered that and said it was a special moment." - Capt. Denis Ware

"He is by far the most approachable, down-to-earth chief ever. He blows me away. I felt an instant connection with him. I can't think of one negative thing to say about him." - Capt. Elia Alalilima

"I could always be myself with him, and honest. He was always honest with me in return. I always thought that as people climbed the ladder, all that went away. But with him, it did not." - Dispatcher Jeanine Owens

Carman's respect as a leader was palpable. "I'm just a fire captain, but he always listened to what I had to say. I am also the district grant manager, and he gave me the room to make things happen. I always felt I had his backing." - Capt. Shane Kelly

"I've been a captain since 2017. At the pinning ceremony, he shook my hand, and smiled, and I could tell it was genuine. He's got an unmis-

takable sense of command, but still down to earth. He makes you want to do better." - Conner

"He always listened to the rank and file. He was real. I felt like I've known him for years. And he was the first chief ever to work on the Fourth of July!" - Dispatcher Margee Freundenthal

"He gave us the opportunity to bring our reserve program back to where it used to be. I felt comfortable as a member of this organization talking about whatever I needed to talk to him about." - Capt. Sam Nichols

"He changed the culture, to provide strict accountability for our professional behavior - both inside and outside the station." - Engineer Angela Johnson-Davis

Kelly wrapped up his interview with fitting words to wrap up this article. "I offer the chief a thank you for stepping up and guiding us," he said.

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

Fire District Public Meetings
Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.
ConFire Board of Directors Tuesday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.

Public Safety
Emergency response: 911
Lafayette Police Department: 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Moraga Police Department: 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 24 - March 9
Alarms 63
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18
Traffic 124
Suspicious Circumstances 9

Via Baja/Via Alta Vehicle Theft
Pd Laf Police Department 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity Commercial Burglary 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Loud Party Windsor Dr./Mars Ct.
Public Assembly Check Lafayette Circle
Public Nuisance 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3200 Block Helen Ln.
Pd Laf Police Department 1300 Block Summit Rd.
Stuart St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Rd. Rheem Blvd./Center St.
Other criminal activity Arson 500 Block Moraga Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses 10 Block Lance Ct.
Nuisance to the Community Disturbing The Peace 200 Block Miramonte Dr.
Other Mentally Ill Commit Campolindo High School
Unwanted Guest 70 Block Sullivan Dr.

Other criminal activity Commercial Burglary Beverages And More
Panhandling Safeway Chevron
Residential Burglary 1000 Block Lizann Dr., Laf.
Revocation Of Probation Starbucks
Warrant Advise Nations Chevron
3700 Block Harbor St, Pitt.
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo

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