

In Lafayette, another iconic restaurant goes up in flames



Photos Gint Federas



By Nick Marnell

Duncan Seibert sat with his wife at their table on the Postino Restaurant patio April 16. The Lafayette resident said they had just ordered dinner when he saw smoke rise from the building. "That's quite a bit of smoke coming out of the kitchen," Seibert said to his wife, and as the column of smoke rose high

over the building, it quickly became obvious that there was a major problem. "The hostess ushered people out to the patio, many of them carrying food and their drinks. When the fire department came, we had to leave. People just stood on the sidewalk and watched. Someone handed my wife a glass of chardonnay, which was good because we never even got

our drinks," Seibert said. Engine 15 of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District arrived first to the scene, and crews from ConFire and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District extinguished the fire in the kitchen but had to deal with a hidden fire in the attic area. "Roof over roof, ducting and storage over the many years of this historic establishment made it a very labor intensive incident. Crews worked extremely

hard not only to cut and move structural items to reach the seat of a moving fire but also at preserving the rest of the structure," read the ConFire incident report. District spokesman Steve Hill said the crews took every effort to avoid causing unnecessary damage, recognizing the historical value of the building. The fire rekindled memories of a 2017 fire to another iconic Lafayette restaurant. "Oh my God, I got chills when

I heard," said Jeff Asadi, owner of La Finestra Restaurant which burnt to the ground and relocated to Moraga in 2018. "One day your restaurant is there, and then it's not. I know how hard it is. (The Postino owners) are my friends, and I am so sorry that they have to go through what I went through."

Postino co-owner Parry Tong presented an upbeat tone even knowing he faces difficulties with cleanup, insurance claims, permit approvals and construction. "We're working on everything, but it's all up in the air," said Tong, who hopes to reopen sometime in 2019. The fire remains under investigation, but Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt said that criminal activity had been ruled out as a cause. There were no reported injuries, and damage to the kitchen alone was estimated at \$100,000.

"The staff handled things very well, and we were never in danger," Seibert said.

MOFD ramps up fire prevention efforts to allay rough fire season ahead



Photo MOFD

District aide Patrick Carrillo with the new MOFD wood chipper

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District solidified its commitment to increased fire prevention by upping Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein's

position to full time and adding equipment, programs and personnel to fend off a potentially devastating fire season. The district commitment is in addition to the \$6 million state grant for creation of a shaded

fuel break in north Orinda and along the Lafayette Ridge.

Rein, who retired as fire chief of the East Bay Regional Park District in 2006, has been with MOFD since 2011 on a part-time basis refining emergency operations plans and preparing emergency operations drills, plus working with local groups like the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team. He will work his increased hours through December organizing and supporting district fire operations, including the North Orinda Fuel Break program.

"The extra hours are going to allow us to go to the next level," Rein said. "We are getting much more involved with the community right now."

The district will continue its pilot Fuels Mitigation Program, which includes a manager and four part-time per-

sonnel whose job is to reduce hazardous fuels in the community. In addition to outreach and education, a major component of the FMP is a community

wood chipping program under which MOFD will chip vegetation that has been cut and stacked on the roadway.

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MOFD open house May 4 offers exhibits on wildfire preparedness

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District hosts an open house May 4 at Fire Station 45 in Orinda, with the theme of community wildfire preparedness weaving through the exhibits, events and presentations. "It's going to be the most informative open house in years," Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard said. "We have received an enormous response from our sponsors. In all the time I've been here, I have not seen the level of interest and concern that I have seen this year."

Based on property owners' reactions at recent MOFD meetings, wildfire prevention is certainly top-of-mind for district residents, and staff from the Diablo Firesafe Council will explain how mini-grants are available for defending the home against wildfires. Representatives from Firewise USA will explain how neighborhoods can become Firewise communities - empowering neighbors to take action to prevent devastating wildfires. "The Firewise model gives neighborhoods an example of what they can do to protect themselves," Leonard said.

Hands-only CPR training and fire safety training will be offered by district personnel, and there will be fun events for families, too, including hanging out with the firefighters and checking out the fire apparatus. Plenty of entertainment is planned for the kids as well, with appearances by Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog. The firefighters will cook "firehouse hot dogs" for purchase, with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of the Greater Bay Area.

But make no mistake: community involvement for wildfire prevention is the driving force of this open house. "The recent tragedies show us that we must work collaboratively," Leonard said. "We don't want to see another Napa."

The open house runs from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. May 4 at Fire Station 45, 33 Orinda Way in Orinda Village.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 21, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:

329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:

22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



April 7 - April 20
Alarms 57
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 167
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 24
Suspicious Vehicle 28
Service to Citizen 44
Patrol Req. Security Check 10
Vacation House Check 29
Supplemental Report 23
Welfare Check 16
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
30 Block Lafayette Cr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.
DUI Misd
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
Reckless Driving
Black Hawk Rd./Springhill Rd.
Lafayette Cr./Hough Ave.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1St St/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Glenside Dr./Burton Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.
Vehicle Theft
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
1100 Block Via Roble (2)
Identity Theft
1000 Block Buchan Dr. (2)
3300 Block Mildred Ln.
Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3400 Block School St. (2)
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Rx Fraud Deceit
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Service
1000 Block Laurel Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-Domestic
1000 Block Aileen St.
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
1000 Block Via Media
Disturbing The Peace
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Drunk In Public
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
Loitering
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Noise
Moraga Blvd./Monroe Ave.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
900 Block Janet Ln.
Loud Party
1200 Block Quandt Ct. (3)
10 Block Amanda Ln.
Public Assembly Check
900 Block Leland Dr.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
School Assembly Check
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Vandalism
900 Block Moraga Rd.
100 Block Secluded Pl.
Other
Animal Cruelty
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Brandishing Weapon
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Ordinance Violation
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.
Threats
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Via Media
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
April 9 - April 22



Alarms 23
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
Traffic 66
Suspicious Circumstances 7
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 42
Patrol Request/Security Check 47
Supplemental Report 13
Vacation House Check 5
Welfare Check 1
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
Moraga Country Club
Excessive Speed
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd. (2)
Camino Pablo/School
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Dollar Tree
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd. (3)
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.
Larch Ave./Wandel Dr.
Moraga Hardware
Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Rd./Commons (4)
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (6)
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (6)
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.
Moraga/St. Marys Rd. (3)
No House Number
Parking Lot
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
Rheem Blvd./Park St.
School St./Country Club Dr.
St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Starbucks
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
70 Block Donald Dr.
Traffic Hazard
Moraga Road
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)
Other criminal activity
Burglary
500 Block Moraga Rd.
Disturbance-Domestic

Not Available
Disturbing The Peace
St. Marys College
Identity Theft
200 Block Sheila Ct.
In Custody Theft
500 Block Moraga Rd.
Petty Theft Safeway
400 Block Center St.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Noise
Camino Peral/La Mesa Dr.
Loud Party
100 Block Merion
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Lynwood Pucorliss Dr.
Public Nuisance
1000 Block Sanders Dr.
Vandalism
Rheem Elementary School
Other
Accident Injury
Campolindo Dr./Calle La Montana
Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way
Dependent Adult Abuse
Police Department
Other Felony
Campolindo High School
Other Misdemeanor
Campolindo High School

Security Check 4
Vacation House Check 11
Supplemental Report 12
Welfare Check 4
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglar
Bryant Way/Moraga Way
10 Block Orinda Way
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo
Reckless Driving
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.
Traffic Hazard
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.
Other criminal activity
Grand Theft
Wilder Rd./Big Leaf Rd.
Identity Theft
30 Block La Noria
Shoplift
Beverages And More
Warrant Arrest
Safeway
Eb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.
Nuisance to the Community
Drunk In Public
Safeway
Loud Noise
200 Block Orchard Rd.
La Espiral/Via Hermosa
Public Assembly Check
Sleepy Hollow School
Wagner Ranch Elementary
School Assembly Check
Wagner Ranch Elementary School
Vandalism
50 Block Moraga Way
Mechanics Bank
50 Block Moraga Way (2)
Other
Accident Injury
10 Block El Camino Moraga
Accident Property
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
Moraga Way/Stein Way
Prom Shoot
St Stephens Dr./De Soto Ct.
Unwanted Guest
10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Violation Restraining Ord
10 Block Mira Loma



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 7 - April 13
Alarms 26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
Traffic 36
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 5
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 35
Patrol Request/