

Firefighters and MOFD board clash over staffing

By Nick Marnell

With a projected \$1.8 million surplus in its 2019-20 fiscal year operating budget, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board, despite pleas from the firefighters, chose to not restore full-time staffing of the ambulance at Fire Station 45 in Orinda, but opted to allocate the extra money to fund its pension stabilization and retiree health care trusts.

In 2013, with the financial problems brought about by the Great Recession, the district cut its daily on-duty staffing from 19 to 17 personnel, changing the Station 45 ambulance from fully staffed to cross-staffed; meaning, un-

like Station 41 which has an engine company and a dedicated two-person ambulance crew, Station 45 has only a three-person engine company which also responds to medical calls in its ambulance when so dispatched, leaving that portion of Orinda unprotected.

To help beef up staffing, Battalion Chief Jerry Lee applied for a federal grant under the Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response program in 2016. The district requested the grant to hire four firefighters "to restore the designated 2-person ambulance company (Medic 145) at Station 45," as Lee wrote twice in the application.

MOFD was awarded the \$1.4 million SAFER grant in 2017, but Lee explained to the district board that it was not bound to any specific staffing model by accepting the money, notwithstanding what he wrote in the application.

"The grant is not concerned with your daily staffing, just the overall staffing," wrote Danielle Shelton of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which runs the SAFER program. The district had to hire four new firefighters for the three years of the grant performance period and was committed to not laying off any of them for those three years.

Based on that guidance, the board voted in 2017 to accept the SAFER grant, but declined to require the full-time staffing of Medic 145, deferring any other staffing option to a future date. As a result, MOFD daily staffing remained at 17, with the four SAFER firefighters used to fill daily vacancies.

That staffing model has not sat well with the firefighters, who have continuously lobbied the MOFD board to restore mandatory daily staffing to the pre-recession level of 19. They pushed to include a staffing increase in the 2019-20 district budget, adamant that the SAFER grant money should be used for

what it was intended – restoring the full-time ambulance at Station 45.

"All that is needed is a new directive from the current board to change the existing directive from the previous board as to how the personnel hired under the SAFER grant are to be used," said Capt. Mark McCullah, district labor representative. "The proposed 2020 budget accounts for a total of 57 firefighters, or 19 per day, which are all the personnel necessary to restaff a full-time ambulance at Station 45."

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ConFire directors lead by example during CPR exercise



Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

To the beat of the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive," the directors of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District completed an exercise in administering Hands-Only CPR to mannequins at the May 14 fire board meeting. The class was conducted by Anna Cleese, American Medical Response EMS community education specialist.

"We want to get this out to the community because it's the difference between thriving and surviving," Cleese said.

ConFire and AMR – the Alliance – have launched an initiative to train every high school student in the district to save lives

in their communities using Hands-Only CPR. Training will begin at the start of the 2019-20 school year and will be conducted by uniformed district firefighters and AMR paramedics, with the goal of educating 10,000 high school students.

"Call 911, and push hard and fast" is the two-step directive for Hands-Only CPR from the American Red Cross. It was the exact procedure used by a Saint Mary's College student in February to save a man's life in Moraga.

"I'm not going to be able to get the Bee Gees out of my head all day," Director Diane Burgis said.

Rebuilt MOFD Fire Station 43 opens its doors

By Nick Marnell

After 33 months of survival in temporary quarters in north Orinda, Moraga-Orinda Fire District crews moved into brand new Fire Station 43 May 14 as the district opened its first new fire station since 2005 and its third new facility this century.

"The district looks forward to continuing to serve the community from this new facility," MOFD announced in a statement, the district seemingly more relieved than excited that the job was finally complete.

The construction of the new station at 20 Via Las Cruces in north Orinda began

after a failed joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to build a fire station in western Lafayette. The work spanned the administrations of three district fire chiefs. The station required three contractors to finish the job and exceeded its original \$4 million budget by nearly \$2 million.

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Photo Nick Marnell

From left, Evan Ford, Mark McCullah and Anthony Stephens - the first MOFD crew to serve at new Fire Station 43

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 11, 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

May 5 - May 18

Alarms 50
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8
Traffic 138
Suspicious Circumstances 8
Suspicious Subject 22
Suspicious Vehicle 13
Service to Citizen 47
Patrol Req./Security Check 47
Vacation House Check 8
Supplemental Report 17
School Assembly Check 29
Welfare Check 19+

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
3500 Block Plaza Way
Police Department
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Park Ln.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
DUI Misd
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Police Department
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.
Brook St/East St.

4100 Block Leach Rd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Police Department
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
900 Block Condit Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.

Vehicle Theft
1200 Block Rose Ln.

Other criminal activity
Counterfeit
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Forgery
Sr 24 At Fish Ranch Rd.

Grand Theft
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24

Identity Theft
3400 Block Springhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.

Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Quandt Rd./Hillview Ln.

Petty Theft
1200 Block Dunsyre Dr.
Quandt Rd./Candy Ct.
3300 Block N Lucille Ln.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Wb24/Acalanes
4000 Block Fiora Pl.
1100 Block Martino Rd.
Reliez Station Rd./Beechwood Dr.

Violation Custody Order
Moraga Rd./Silver Springs Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-Domestic
3300 Block Ridge Rd.

Disturbance-Fight
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbing The Peace
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
Deerhill/Whole Foods
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.

Drunk In Public
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.

Harassment
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.

Intoxicated Subject
1000 Block Circle Creek Ln.

Loud Noise
900 Block Risa Rd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct. (2)
Police Department

Public Assembly Check
500 Block Glenside Dr.
900 Block Risa Rd.

Public Nuisance
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Brook St./East St.
Saranap Ave./Old Tunnel Rd.
Withers Ave./Taylor Blvd.
500 Block Merriewood
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Los Arabis Dr.

Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Risa Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
100 Block Lafayette Circle

Other
Animal Cruelty
1000 Block Buchan Dr.

H&S Violation
1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Indecent Exposure
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.

Ordinance Violation
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Trespass
Lafayette Cr./Hough Ave.
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
Police Department
1St St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 7 - May 20

Alarms 19
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 4
Traffic 67

Suspicious Circumstances 8
Suspicious Subject 6
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 40
Patrol Req./Security Check 18
Supplemental Report 13
Vacation House Check 11
Welfare Check 2

Vehicle violations

Accident Property
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Auto Burglary
20 Block Hour Fitness

DUI Misd
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.

Excessive Speed
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (4)
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (4)
Sky Hy/Moraga Rd.
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Moraga Commons
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.
Counstance Pl./Canyon Rd.
Rheem Blvd./Stuart Ct. (2)

Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.
Camino Pablo/Sanders Ranch Rd.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.

Vehicle Theft
St. Marys College

Other criminal activity

Battery Sexual

Campolindo High School
Battery
Campolindo High School
Brandishing Weapon
Camino Pablo Rd./School St.

Commercial Burglary
Not Available
Fraud Credit Card
100 Block S Sandringham

Petty Theft
500 Block Fernwood Dr.
Safeway

Shoplift
Safeway

Nuisance to the Community

Barking Dog
300 Block Donald Dr.

Disturbing The Peace
500 Block Moraga Rd.
1200 Block Rimer Dr.
1200 Block Rimer Dr.
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Loud Party
Not Available
2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Public Nuisance
Sanders Dr./Fleuti Dr.
800 Block Camino Ricardo

Other

Animal Cruelty
St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr.

Mentally Ill Commit
Moraga Commons Park
10 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.

Vandalism
Safeway

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 5 - May 18

Alarms 49
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7
Traffic 64

Suspicious Circumstances 5
Suspicious Subject 10
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 54
Patrol Req./Security Check 6
Vacation House Check 2
Supplemental Report 12
Welfare Check 6

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
Safeway
Grand Theft From Vehicle
10 Block Warford Terrace

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
200 Block El Toyonal
10 Block Risa Ct.
Nations

Reckless Driving
San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo,
Valley View Dr./Don Gabriel Way
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Other criminal activity

Battery
Wagner Ranch Elementary

Burglary
50 Block Moraga Way
Commercial Burglary
300 Block Village Sq.

Grand Theft
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo

Identity Theft
70 Block Charles Hill Rd.

Panhandling
Starbucks

Petty Theft
100 Block Camino Pablo
20 Block Orinda Way

Possession Of Stolen Prop
Rite Aid

Shoplift
Rite Aid
Warrant Arrest
Chevron/Santa Maria

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.

Loud Music
Big Rock Rd./Quarry Hill Rd.
10 Block Hillcrest Dr.
Chevron

Loud Noise
10 Block Donna Maria Way
El Camino Moraga/Moraga Way,
60 Block Brookwood Rd.

10 Block Dolores Way
10 Block Dolores Way

Loud Party
Glorietta Blvd./Rheem Blvd.

Public Assembly Check
Wagner Ranch Elementary
School Assembly Check
Miramonte High School

Vandalism
300 Block Camino Sobrante

Other

Accident Property
Moraga Way/Stein Way
500 Block Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.
Moraga Way/Altamount Dr
La Campana Rd./La Espiral
Wagner Ranch Elementary

H&S/Pos Drugs For Sale
Beverages And More
Ordinance Violation
10 Block Bobolink Rd.
10 Block Donna Maria Way
Dalewood Dr./Lombardy Ln.
30 Block Dos Posos

Unwanted Guest
40 Block Camino Encinas

Violation Dom Viol Order
Library