

# MOFD suspends community chipping program



MOFD wood chipper on the job

Photo courtesy MOFD

**By Nick Marnell**

In the face of a passionate outcry from district residents to continue the program, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board June 17 passed on an opportunity to extend the district's highly acclaimed community chipping program through the summer months, citing the program cost and the need for the fuels mitigation staff to pivot from vegetation management to inspections of parcels in

violation of the fire code.

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs told the board that from Jan. 1 through June 12 – the final day of the program – the district chipped 190 tons of material, serviced 385 homes and spent \$50,000 in the process. He noted that the program became so wildly successful among residents and neighborhoods that scheduling became a challenge.

So much so that the district had to put on the brakes. “This program was bud-

geted at a much lower amount than the demand required,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. “We have limited staff available and we have an obligation to follow up on violations and complaints that we’ve received.” This year, MOFD has received 60 complaints of fire code violations from residents.

The chief pointed out examples of residents piling material along the roadside with an expectation that MOFD would respond to a chipping request which had been neither submitted nor scheduled. One resident left piles of firewood to be chipped. Several neighborhoods were scheduled for a single day of chipping, but that sometimes turned into 10 days as piles of new material were added to the roadside.

“There will be an insatiable demand by the public,” Winnacker said. “It will exceed what the district is capable of providing.”

Options were discussed, including expanding the program year round; a truncated, three-day-a-week program; shifting money from other operations; and a cost-sharing model between the district and residents. But the talks inevitably reverted to either the program cost or the inability of the fire district to support the program.

To continue the chipping program for the 10 weeks until Sept. 1, it would cost the district up to \$10,000 per week. But that may not meet the communitywide demand, the chief said, as it would include only one machine each day. At times, the district rented three chippers a day

this year.

“We’ve got to cut back spending, and now we’re going to throw \$100,000 at a wood chipping program?” Director Greg Baitx said. “(The residents) can do it themselves.” The district projects a \$1.5 million operating loss in 2021.

A cost-sharing proposal of \$50 per household went nowhere, though the idea of cost sharing as a motivational tool or incentive had some appeal. But the discussion came back to the use of district personnel.

“We have to do our inspections to make sure our evacuation routes are clear,” Director Michael Donner said. District evacuation routes are the top priority for compliance inspections this summer.

“If the idea is to make the community safer, I’m going to bet that for \$100,000, you’re going to reduce a lot more fuel in two and a half months through the chipper program than you are through the inspection program,” Director Craig Jorgens said.

As the 2021 fiscal year budget had been approved, the addition of the chipping program required the board to reconsider the budget agenda item. Only directors Jorgens and John Jex – who are up for re-election in November – voted in favor of reconsidering the budget item, and the motion was defeated 3 to 2.

President Stephen Danziger cast the tie-breaking vote. “I suggest that we bring this item back to the board at our next meeting,” Danziger said. The meeting is scheduled for July 15.

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

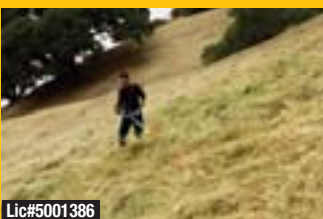
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### Fire District Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 15, 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, July 14, 1:00 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)



## 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](http://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, David M. Cook  
925-254-6820  
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



Alarms	54
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	115
Suspicious Circumstances	13
Suspicious Subject	13
Suspicious Vehicle	22
Service to Citizen	95
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	18
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	19
Ordinance Violation	5
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.	
3500 Block Brook St. (3)	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Bacon Way	
Petty Theft From Veh	
3700 Block Highland Rd.	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
3700 Block Highland Ct.	
Reckless Driving	
St. Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	

40 Block Knox Dr.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
Via Granada/Moraga Rd., Mor.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.  
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24

Tc - Property Damage  
700 Block St. Marys Rd.  
Lana Ln./Foye Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.

**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Computer Fraud  
1400 Block Edwards Ct.  
Fraud Credit Card  
500 Block Silverado Dr.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
3700 Block St Francis Dr.  
1400 Block Sunset Loop

Grand Theft  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.  
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.  
Grand Theft Veh Parts  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.

Misc Burglary  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Petty Theft  
3600 Block Brook St.  
1000 Block 2Nd St.

3600 Block Boyer Cir. (2)  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.  
1300 Block Masterson Ln.  
Petty Theft Bicycle  
900 Block Risa Rd.

Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fireworks  
600 Block Sky Hy Cir.  
Loud Music  
900 Block Carol Ln.  
3100 Block Kingsley Pl.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Loud Noise  
3500 Block Powell Dr.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.

Loud Party  
1200 Block Medfield Rd.  
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.  
Echo Springs Rd./Reliez Valley Rd. (3)  
Westminster Pl./El Curtola Blvd.  
Reliez Valley Rd./Echo Springs Rd.

Public Nuisance  
900 Block Dolores Dr.  
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd. (3)  
Las Huertas Rd./St. Marys Rd.  
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.  
900 Block Acalanes Rd.

3300 Block Woodland Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Trespass  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Vandalism  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.  
3900 Block Cowan Rd.

**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
3400 Block School St.  
Defraud Innkeeper  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
H&S Violation  
3400 Block School St. (2)

Harassment  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
400 Block Lakehead Ct., Dba  
Loitering  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Threats  
900 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Unwanted Guest  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order  
1200 Block Warner Ct.  
Warrant Service  
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	17
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	50
Patrol Req./Security Check	22
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5

**June 2 - June 1**  
Alarms 11  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10  
Traffic 17  
Suspicious Circumstances 12  
Suspicious Subject 3  
Suspicious Vehicle 3  
Service to Citizen 50  
Patrol Req./Security Check 22  
Supplemental Report 11  
Vacation House Check 0  
Welfare Check 5

**Vehicle violations**  
Excessive Speed  
In Front Of 711  
200 Block Corliss Dr. (4)  
2200 Block Corliss  
Corliss Dr./Lynwood  
Larch Ave./Wandel  
Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.  
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.  
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd., Laf.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./First St., Laf.  
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Ifo Commons Park  
Ifo 235 Corliss Dr. (2)  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.  
Ifo 211 Corliss Dr.

Ifo Commons Park  
Reckless Driving  
Camino Pablo Rd School  
Safeway  
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Vehicle Theft  
Donald Dr./Alice Ct.  
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.  
1800 Block St. Andrews Dr.

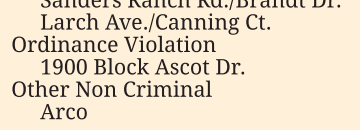
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
30 Block Corliss Dr.  
Grand Theft  
20 Block Carr Dr.

Petty Theft  
Camino Pablo Rd School  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
Not Available  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Loud Music  
Not Available  
Loud Noise  
David Dr./Allen Ct.  
Not Available  
Loud Party  
2100 Block Ascot Dr.

Vandalism  
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.  
**Other**  
Fireworks  
1100 Block Rimer Dr.  
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo  
Sanders Ranch Rd./Brandt Dr.  
Larch Ave./Canning Ct.

Ordinance Violation  
1900 Block Ascot Dr.  
Other Non Criminal  
Arco



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	16
Traffic	20
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	96
Patrol Req./Security Check	55
Supplemental Report	18
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	4

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Injury  
Camino Sobrante/La Noria  
Accident Property  
30 Block Loma Vista Dr.

Auto Burglary  
Bear Creek Rd Ifo Briones

Overlook  
Reckless Driving  
Glorietta Blvd./Orchard Rd.  
Tc - No Details  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
Tc - Property Damage  
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Vehicle Theft  
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
20 Block Bryant Way  
10 Block Orinda Way (2)

Grand Theft  
Safeway  
Identity Theft  
300 Block El Toyonal  
Police Department  
10 Block Sanborn Rd.  
10 Block El Sueno

Petty Theft  
30 Block Knickerbocker Ln.  
Shell Gas  
Safeway  
200 Block Courtney Ln.  
10 Block Orchard Rd.

Residential Burglary  
100 Block Crest View Dr.  
Robbery Strongarm  
200 Block Brookwood Rd.

Shoplift  
CVS (2)  
Warrant Arrest  
CVS  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
20 Block Las Vegas Rd.

Disturbing The Peace  
Theatre Square  
100 Block Caro Ln.  
Loud Music  
10 Block La Fond Ln. (2)

Loud Noise  
Happy Valley Rd./Orinda View Rd.  
20 Block Moraga Via  
Loud Party  
Tappan Ln./Bear Ridge Rd.  
Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.  
Glorietta Blvd./Meadow View Rd.  
10 Block Highland Ct. (2)  
Vallecito Ln./El Toyonal  
100 Block Barbara Rd.

Public Nuisance  
Valley View Dr./Moraga Way  
70 Block Brookwood Rd.  
Vandalism  
100 Block Ravenhill Rd.  
10 Block Orinda Way

**Other**  
Brandishing Weapon  
40 Block Citron Knoll  
H&S Violation  
CVS  
Loitering  
Miramonte High School  
Violation Custody Order  
Orinda Theatre