



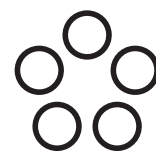
MORAGA

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Town's Virtual Evacuation Drill a success

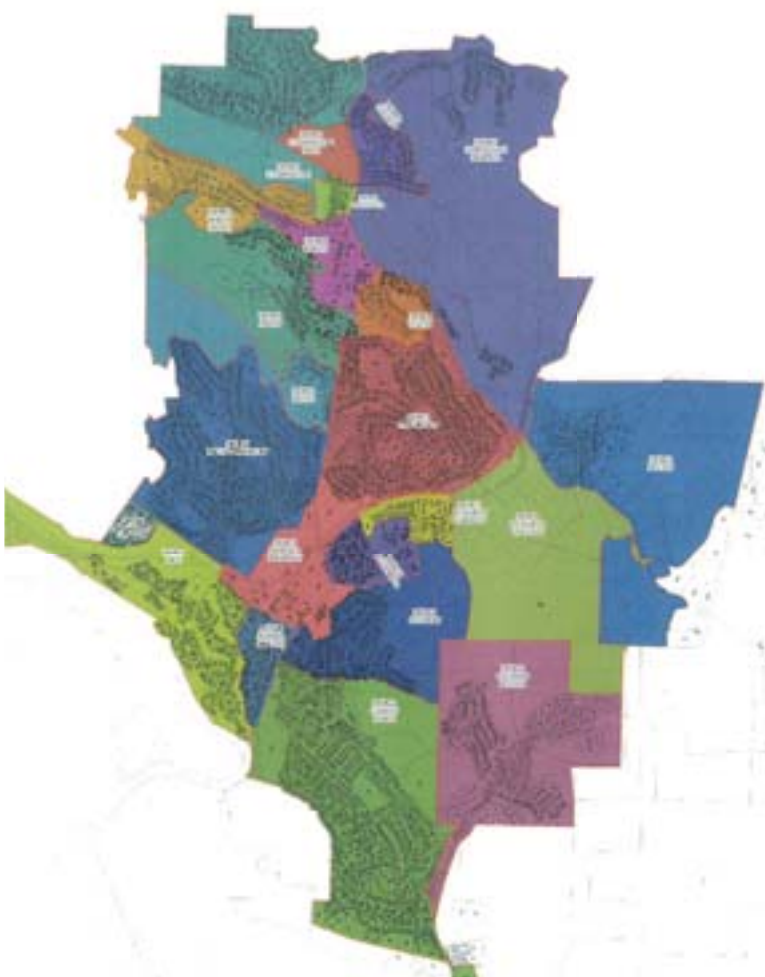


Image provided

ning at 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 1. Its purpose was designed to refine the Community Warning System which will be used in the event of an actual alert and to enhance coordination between both organizations.

Residents were informed, over a month in advance through the town's website and emails, of the upcoming drill and were encouraged to register with CWS. On the day of the event, a simulated wildfire scenario was created to mimic the spread of a fire while alerting residents through the CWS in a time-phased evacuation notification.

According to Moraga Police Chief Jon King, over 1,800 registrants signed up with CWS in preparation for the drill. That in itself was quite an achievement. "When we do a virtual evacuation, we are accomplishing a number of things in a short period of time, without a tremendous amount of resources," explained King. "For example, the evacuation drill we did last year involving the Moraga Country Club neighborhood involved over 75 people. A virtual evacuation drill allowed us to test the notification system, provide information to all town residents, en-

couraged everyone to sign up for CWS and think about and work on their own preparations, and provided training to fire and police personnel about how we would respond to such an incident."

The virtual "fire" started in the area south of Moraga Road and Sky Hi near the Moraga/Lafayette border. The CWS notifications were sent out with the fire and police taking action based on the fire's progress. Alerts were sent out to those registered residents according to the fire's direction, and until all of the town's 23 zones were evacuated in a roll-out fashion.

There were some glitches to the CWS notifications in that residents who registered phone numbers attached to an internet provider never received their alert. Registrants who did not receive an alert to this type of line or any of their registered phone numbers are encouraged to call CWS (925) 313-9622, as they are currently in the process of overcoming the issue. King stated, "This is one of the reasons that we ask people, when they are evacuating, to knock on the doors of houses on either side of them to ensure their neigh-

bors also received the alert."

After the virtual evacuation, participants were emailed a survey to fill out in order to help MOFD and MPD gain valuable insight as to how residents may react to an actual evacuation. Both departments are in the process of compiling the survey data along with statistics from CWS.

"Emergency preparedness is very important for all Lamorinda residents," King said. "Both the MPD and the MOFD are dedicated to working with our community to prepare for emergencies. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Virtual Evacuation Drill and encourage people to continue their planning and preparedness efforts in their homes and neighborhoods. Lamorinda CERT (www.lamorindacert.org) offers free training and has emergency supplies for sale and is an excellent resource. Everyone should ensure they are registered with the Community Warning System (www.cwsalerts.com) so they receive emergency notifications as this is the system that will be used in a real emergency."

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Depart-

ment and Moraga-Orinda Fire District held a town-wide virtual evacuation drill begin-

Five candidates qualify for Moraga's town council ballot

By Vera Kochan

Election day is Nov. 3, but before anyone can fill a seat on

the town council dais they must qualify as a candidate. First and foremost, candidates must be a registered

voter of Moraga at the time nomination papers are issued. All prospective candidates are given a Candidate

Application Packet often referred to as "papers" which include a bevy of forms to be filled out and processed with the Contra Costa County Registrar.

Nomination Petitions must be filed with the required number of valid signatures for the office. Signers of Nomination Petitions must also be registered voters and reside in the town.

There is no filing fee, per se, but each candidate must pay \$335 to have a Candidate Statement printed into the voter's information packet.

A Declaration of Candidacy is an official document in which the candidate indicates how his/her name and ballot designation is to appear on the ballot.

The Ballot Designation Worksheet is a group of words that will appear on the ballot under the candidate's name, designating the candidate's principle profession, vocation or occupation.

A Candidate Statement of Qualifications is designed to familiarize voters with a candidate's qualifications for the office he or she is seeking.

The Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) provides transparency and ensures accountability in two ways. It gives necessary information to the public about an official's personal financial interests to ensure that officials are making decisions in the best interests of the public and not enhancing their personal finances. It also serves as a reminder to the public official of potential conflicts of interest so the official can abstain from making or participating in governmental decisions that are deemed conflicts of interest.

Lastly, there is a Code of Fair Campaign Practices in which a candidate vows to follow the principles of decency, honesty and fair play during the campaign period.

Moraga's five candidates who qualified to run for a town council seat in 2020 are: Renata Sos (qualified as of July 23); Teresa Onoda (qualified as of July 30); David Stromberg (qualified as of Aug. 5); Ursula Schilling (qualified as of Aug. 7); and Kendall Langan (qualified as of Aug. 13).

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