

# Local stakeholders collaborate on heightened fire prevention efforts

By Nick Marnell

Neighborhood groups, municipal leaders and fire district officials agree that fire prevention is a top concern of Orinda and Moraga residents, and have backed up the rhetoric with tougher code enforcement and increased community participation in fire prevention programs. Orinda lawmakers also said they intend to use a portion of a proposed sales tax to fund added fire prevention efforts in the city.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District bolstered its code enforcement program this year and conducted 2,300 property assessments from June 16 to mid-July. More than 1,760 properties were assessed in Orinda and nearly 540 in Moraga, with 79% of the parcels free of code violations.

Property owners whose parcels failed the inspection were given 30 days to correct the violations, and owners who ignore the citations can be ordered to a hearing before the fire district board of directors.

In July, the board directed the fire chief to begin abatement proceedings against eight Orinda property owners who ignored communication from the district.

Neighborhood groups are doing their part to mitigate dangerous fuels by signing up for a national fire prevention program and availing themselves of a free chipping program offered by the fire district.

The Firewise USA program, a joint offering of three national organizations and sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, encourages homeowners to take individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire. According to program materials, Firewise provides resources to help homeowners learn how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together to take action now to prevent losses.

The voluntary program has been around since 2002, has nearly 1,500 active member communities and boasts a participation retention rate of 80%

over the past decade. The latest NFPA figures show Orinda with 11 Firewise groups and Moraga with four.

"I'll do what I can to see whether there is anything Moraga can do to push the program more," Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus said.

MOFD recently instituted a wood chipping program, available within the district upon request. Since the program inception, the district removed 90 tons of chipped material from Moraga neighborhoods and 100 tons from Orinda.

The program was so successful that the district halted the chipping in June because it could not keep up with the demand, as district fire prevention efforts shifted to inspections and compliance. Chipping will resume after the end of fire season.

The city of Orinda took a major collaborative step by intending to set aside a portion of its proposed one cent sales tax to be used for fire prevention efforts. "Whatever we do with fuel mitigation will be in addition to the baseline that the fire district is already involved in," said Dennis Fay, Orinda council member.

MOFD budgeted \$834,000 for fire prevention in 2021. As the Orinda proposed sales tax is a general tax, the city could not commit to the amount of money allocated for fire prevention.

The mitigation work performed by district residents has not gone unnoticed, by both property owners and the fire district itself.

"For the district to be successful we need to be able to partner and work in collaboration with our citizens and prop-

erty owners," Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs said. "I think we have been very successful in building a positive working relationship with the citizens of the fire district."

Still, some residents show no interest in complying with either the fire district requirements or the wishes of the community.

"We are working hard to educate everyone on the importance of defensible space and the measures that homeowners can take to reduce their risk from wildfire," Isaacs said.

## Fire District Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Aug. 19, 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, Sept. 22, 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)



# ConFire expands Lafayette protection as fire season under way



Photo Nick Marnell

Station 16 crew stands ready to protect western Lafayette. From left, engineer Rusty Perkins, firefighter Griffin Sims and Capt. Nick Barnes

By Nick Marnell

After it put out two potentially devastating fires in Lafayette during last year's fire season, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District beefed up segments of its operation to prepare for whatever the 2020 fire season has in store for the city.

The Pleasant fire of Oct. 27 straddled Highway 24 in

Lafayette, and while the blaze destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club, Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said that the nine-alarm fire response prevented tens of millions of dollars in structure loss in the city. (See Page A1 Lamorinda Weekly article in Nov. 13, 2019 archive.)

During the October fire siege, prepositioning – the ability to place firefighting resources up front to attack wildfires where

they are most likely to occur – assisted the district in the containment of numerous county fires. The program is funded by the governor through the State Office of Emergency Services. "We expect to take full advantage of this program to better protect residents of Lafayette and the county during the 2020 fire season," Broschard said.

To its apparatus fleet, ConFire added a second bulldozer. Moraga residents may recall in 2018 that a ConFire bulldozer helped prevent a catastrophe, plowing through vegetation to stop a major fire from reaching homes on Buckingham Drive.

Other district apparatus additions include two wildland engines, two water tenders and a second helicopter, which will offer aerial fire suppression in addition to patient transport.

Rebuilt and ready for fire season is Fire Station 16 in western Lafayette. Since the station reopened its doors in September, response times in the area dropped more than one minute, according to district records.

"This is an important and significant response time reduction for the residents of

Lafayette because a house fire can double in size every minute before fire crews arrive on scene, while cardiac arrest victims' odds of survival increase 10% for every minute saved in delivering emergency medical services," Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Stark said.

The district further refined its evacuation plan for the city. "Having a preset plan in place improves communication and allows agencies to instantly be aware of the area and the affected impact," Broschard said.

The chief explained that district geographic polygons are instantly available to first responders for quick and easy reference, providing data on which homes would be evacuated in recommended evacuation areas. These zones have been incorporated into the Lafayette Emergency Response Plan.

"An important role of the district is prevention of fires before they occur, a mission for which our Fire Prevention Bureau is largely responsible," Broschard said. Since June 1, the bureau inspected 124 parcels in Lafayette for abatement violations, with 25 failing. Seven properties had work orders for

contract abatement issued.

New to the district is its Fire Control Worker Program, consisting of a 12-person hand crew that does fire prevention work throughout the region. "Crew 12" is now available to conduct weed abatement activities ahead of and in the early months of the season and to provide firefighting support throughout," Broschard said.

ConFire commended the city for its level of engagement with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System, a program that delivers potentially lifesaving alerts to registered members. "Lafayette's registration numbers are excellent," said Heather Tiernan, CWS manager, as the city boasts more than 8,100 registrants, far higher than the 25% average of overall county registrations.

"I am incredibly pleased with the advancements the district has made ahead of fire season," said Lafayette Council Member Cam Burks, chair of the city council Public Safety Committee. "I have complete confidence in ConFire, especially in the way they handled the fires last October, keeping the city and our residents safe."

## 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



**June 26 - Aug. 8**  
Alarms 51  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10  
Traffic 51  
Suspicious Circumstances 12  
Suspicious Subject 15  
Suspicious Vehicle 17  
Service to Citizen 58  
Patrol Req./Security Check 51  
Public/School Assembly Check 0  
Supplemental Report 19  
Vacation House Check 21  
Welfare Check 17  
Ordinance Violation 2  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.  
Auto Burglary  
Lafayette Cir./Whitten Ln.  
3500 Block Walnut St.  
10 Block Green Pl.  
10 Block Black Forest Ct.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
3500 Block Walnut St.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.  
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Rohrer Dr./Silverado Dr.  
Reliez Station Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.  
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Glenside Dr./Michael Ln.  
Stolen Vehicle Recovery

Highland Rd./Sundale Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3200 Block Sweet Dr.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vehicle Theft  
Wb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.  
3700 Block Sundale Rd.  
3900 Block Canyon Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
300 Block Saranap Ave.  
Computer Fraud  
2900 Block Rohrer Dr.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
600 Block Huntleigh Dr.  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Windsor Dr.  
1000 Block Orchard Rd. (2)  
1200 Block Sunset Lp.  
30 Block Meek Pl.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
600 Block Buzzle Ct.  
3700 Block Sundale Rd.  
Petty Theft Veh Parts  
900 Block Mountain View Dr.  
Residential Burglary  
1300 Block Martino Rd.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Warrant Service  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3200 Block Deer Hill Rd.  
800 Block Ava Ct.  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
1000 Block Serrano Ct.  
Disturbance-fight  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Disturbing The Peace  
3500 Block Boyer Cr  
Loud Music  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1700 Block Springbrook Rd.  
3900 Block Cowan Rd.  
Loud Noise  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
Moraga Blvd./3Rd St.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
3900 Block Rancho Rd.  
3400 Block School St.  
Brook St./Moraga Rd.  
Golden Gate Way/2Nd St.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct.  
Public Nuisance  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
Dolores Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vandalism  
500 Block Merriewood  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
Panorama Dr./Happy Valley Rd.

Fireworks  
Meadow Ln./Franklin Ln.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
500 Block Medanos Ave., Bpo  
Loitering  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Trespass  
3700 Block West Rd.  
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.  
Violation Custody Order  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Police Department

## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



**July 28 - Aug. 10**  
Alarms 13  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8  
Traffic 24  
Suspicious Circumstances 8  
Suspicious Subject 6  
Suspicious Vehicle 4  
Service to Citizen 61  
Patrol Req./Security Check 17  
Supplemental Report 12  
Vacation House Check 0  
Welfare Check 4  
Ordinance Violation 2  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Campolindo High School  
Excessive Speed  
700 Block Plot  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. (2)  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.  
Moraga Way/School St.  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.  
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Ifo Commons  
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.  
Paseo Linares/Moraga Rd.  
Camino Pablo/Hodges Dr.  
Devon/Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)  
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori  
Reckless Driving  
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd., Ori  
1000 Block Larch Ave.  
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.  
Moraga Commons Park  
Overhill Rd./Glorietta Blvd., Ori.  
Vehicle Theft  
1400 Block De La Cruz Way  
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
100 Block Tharp Dr.  
Grand Theft  
1400 Block Moraga Way  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
Not Available  
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way  
Not Available  
Identity Theft  
30 Block Arroyo Dr.

Petty Theft  
Seven Eleven  
Petty Theft Bicycle  
Not Available  
Warrant Arrest  
Corliss Dr./Mroaga Rd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
Not Available  
Disturbance-fight  
Moraga Commons Park  
Disturbing The Peace  
Fay Hill Rd.  
Loud Music  
Not Available  
Campolindo High School  
Campolindo High School  
600 Block Moraga Rd.  
Loud Noise  
30 Block Hardie Dr.  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Loud Party  
100 Block Oxford Dr.  
90 Block Courter Ln  
Public Nuisance  
Library  
100 Block Natalie Dr.  
200 Block Birchwood Dr.  
100 Block Warfield Dr.  
Calle La Montana/Paseo Del Rio  
1200 Block Rimer Dr.  
Millfield Pl./Deerfield Dr.  
Vandalism  
Moraga Commons Park  
**Other**  
Covid19 Violation  
Moraga Commons Park  
Mentally Ill Commit  
200 Block Calle La Montana  
400 Block Millfield Pl.  
Resist Delay Or Obstruct  
School St./Moraga Way

## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

**July 26 - Aug. 8**  
Alarms 34  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6  
Traffic 39  
Suspicious Circumstances 7  
Suspicious Subject 11  
Suspicious Vehicle 12  
Service to Citizen 94  
Patrol Req./Security Check 95  
Public/School Assembly Check 4  
Supplemental Report 21  
Welfare Check 10  
Ordinance Violation 4  
**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
60 Block Diablo View Dr.  
Orinda Community Center (3)

Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Camino Pablo/Clairemont Ave.  
Reckless Driving  
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr., Laf  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
100 Block Camino Pablo  
Fraud False Pretenses  
10 Block Broadview Terrace  
Grand Theft  
Beverages And More  
Identity Theft  
60 Block Meadow View Rd.  
Misc Burglary  
Wildier Sports Fields  
Petty Theft  
20 Block Orinda Way  
Shell Gas Ori  
Petty Theft Bicycle  
100 Block Canon Dr.  
Residential Burglary  
300 Block Miner Rd.  
Shoplift  
Cvs  
Warrant Arrest  
Wb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd., Laf  
Library  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
50 Block Lost Valley Dr.  
Disturbing The Peace  
100 Block Oak Rd.  
10 Block Crown Ct.  
Loud Music  
90 Block Diablo View Dr.  
Loud Noise  
10 Block Stanton Ct.  
100 Block Oak Rd.  
Loud Party  
60 Block Van Ripper Ln.  
Camino Don Miguel/Miner Rd.  
Public Nuisance  
90 Block Rheem Blvd.  
100 Block Fiesta Cir.  
200 Block Sundown Terrace  
50 Block Charles Hill Rd.  
100 Block Overhill Rd.  
10 Block Las Aromas  
40 Block Las Cascadas Rd.  
10 Block Abbott Ct.  
Europa Hofbrau  
Las Palomas/La Espiral  
**Other**  
Accident Property  
Safeway  
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas  
10 Block Bonita Ln.  
Covid19 Violation  
Wildier Sports Complex  
Theatre Square  
Death Suicide  
300 Block Village View Ct.  
Other Felony  
50 Block Moraga Way  
Revoked License  
100 Block Canon Dr.  
Trespass  
Manzanita Dr./Vista Del Mar  
Trespass W/ Vehicle  
Big Rock Rd./Quarry Hill Rd.