

# Incumbents breeze in Lamorinda fire district elections

By Nick Marnell

Unlike in the U.S. presidential race, there was no drawn out, nail-biting drama in the Nov. 3 election of Lamorinda fire agency directors, with one race redefining the term “landslide.”

The closest contest occurred in Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 2, where incumbent John Jex held off San Ramon Valley firefighter Nathan Smith. Jex won with 55% of the vote, though a flip of only 166 votes would have given the seat to Smith.

The challenger reflected on his campaign. “While I am disappointed in the ultimate outcome, I am proud of all we

achieved during our campaign. Most importantly, I believe our work together illuminated how critical fire suppression is to achieving fire prevention,” Smith said. “I believe this enhanced awareness will serve the MOFD better in the future.”

Because the election results were not yet official, Jex declined to comment.

In a race that could safely be called no contest, Division 5 incumbent Craig Jorgens defeated challenger Sharon Girdlestone, a local business owner, who ran an on-again, off-again campaign. Jorgens garnered an astounding 84% of the vote, giving him a clear mandate to press his district fire prevention efforts.

“I want to thank all the

people of Orinda who supported me and my efforts to make Orinda more Firewise,” Jorgens said. “I hope MOFD will continue to make our district even safer by spending more of its \$29 million annual budget on fuel (flammable material) removal.”

Girdlestone took full responsibility for her lackluster showing. “Thank you to everyone who supported me in this election. Especially MOFD,” she said. “I would love to be able to say I campaigned and fought for a spot on the board, but due to personal reasons and family obligations, I was not able to fully accomplish my goal or commit to a campaign.”

The County Board of Supervisors doubles as the Contra

Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors, and both incumbents running for re-election won easily, none easier than District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, who ran unopposed.

Supervisor Federal Glover of District 5 soundly defeated Contra Costa County Assessor

Gus Kramer, whose trial for misconduct over alleged sexual and racist comments he made to staff members ended in a hung jury Nov. 5. Glover hauled in 66% of the vote.

All election results reported in this article are unofficial, as of Nov. 6.

## Fire District Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



# ConFire and Local 1230 raise cancer awareness with pink fire engine



Photos Nick Marnell

The Brown family, from left, AJ, Finley and Cooper, at the Nov. 5 Project Pink Wheels ceremony



Moraga's Finley Brown, cancer survivor, signs her name to the ConFire pink engine

By Nick Marnell

Is that really a pink fire engine that has been roaming the streets of Contra Costa County since the end of October?

As cancer is a leading cause of death among current and retired firefighters, and impacts many local residents, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, in conjunction with United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, unveiled Project Pink Wheels, a program to show support for all cancer warriors – current, recovered and those no longer with us.

“We wanted to bring awareness to the scourge of cancer that has affected so many in our area,” district spokesman Steve Hill said.

The pink engine, which is not used in district operations,

can be requested to transport patients to their first or final cancer treatment. When these events are scheduled again, Project Pink Wheels will be available for public health fairs, community festivals, parades, cancer events and other special requests. The pink engine also acts as a rolling memorial to recognize the names of local cancer warriors.

Pink is typically the color associated with breast cancer, but the goal of Project Pink Wheels is to include all types of cancer.

Any resident of Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda who has been affected by cancer may request Project Pink Wheels transportation, a special appearance, or to sign their name to the engine. Contact Capt. Chris Leimpeter at [contracostapink@yahoo.com](mailto:contracostapink@yahoo.com).

# MOFD ordinance punishes electric utilities for work during high fire danger

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously passed an ordinance Oct. 21 requiring an electric utility that performs fire safety, mitigation or prevention work within the district during periods of high fire danger to notify MOFD within 48 hours of the scheduled activity. The ordinance is similar to one passed by the San Ramon Valley Fire Prevention District earlier this year.

Given the substantial risk of wildfires, the MOFD ordinance also disallows an electric utility like the Pacific Gas and

Electric Company to perform scheduled, non-emergency work that requires the deployment of a safety and infrastructure protection team within the district when the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the work area.

“The work could lead to an ignition and cause a wildfire to start,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker told his board. “If PG&E determines that this work merits deployment of an SIPT, the district believes it should be informed of that fact.”

The district crafted its ordinance pursuant to Senate Bill

901, which requires utilities to move away from private contractors that provide fire and safety services to “highly skilled personnel in collaboration with public fire agencies.” Also, Assembly Bill 2380 states that “firefighting and fire protection services are a municipal function and a public good to be provided by public agencies and their employees.”

In addition, a Contra Costa County grand jury, in its 2020 report on wildfire preparedness, recommended that county cities and fire boards consider mechanisms such as the San Ramon Valley Fire or-

dinance “that enable the fire district or fire department to recover labor and equipment costs from PG&E for overseeing electrical utility work that presents a high fire risk.”

A violation of the MOFD ordinance is an infraction, subject to a \$130 fine for the first offense, \$700 for the second offense within one year, and \$1,300 for the third and subsequent offenses within one year. “Our experience with PG&E has been, when it comes to things like notifications, if we ask, it just doesn’t have the force of an ordinance,” Winnacker said.

PG&E sued San Ramon

Valley Fire over its electric utility ordinance but a Superior Court judge dismissed the suit on a procedural issue, finding that the company failed to timely publish a legal notice of its action against the fire district in a local newspaper.

MOFD counsel said that defending its ordinance may result in extra legal fees to the district. “The law is not completely settled in this area, so there is always a risk,” Jonathan Holtzman said.

A PG&E spokesman said the company had not seen the MOFD ordinance and could not comment on it.

## 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

Oct. 18 - Oct. 31

Alarms	42
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	82
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	10
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	84
Patrol Req./Security Check	50
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Lucas Cir.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.	
Police Department	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3600 Block Boyer Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Moraga Blvd./Monroe Ave.	

Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.  
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
Wb Sr 24 Central Lafayette/ Morag a  
Tc - Property Damage  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
Brook St./Hough Ave.  
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon  
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.  
Commercial Burglary  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Stuart St.

Forgery  
3500 Block Eagle Point Rd.  
Fraud Credit Card  
10 Block Eleven (2)  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1200 Block Laurel Ln.  
700 Block Los Palos Manor

Identity Theft  
1100 Block Crescenta Ct.  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Lorinda Ln.  
10 Block Chapel Dr.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft Other  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
Disturbance-fight  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Disturbing The Peace  
500 Block Merriewood  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.

Loud Music  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Loud Noise  
10 Block Amanda Ln.  
3500 Block Brook St.  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Crescenta Ct./Sierra Vista Way  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Party  
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
3500 Block Rowe Pl. (2)  
Carlyle Terrace/Sweet Dr.  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Echo Springs Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
10 Block Eleven  
3200 Block Palomares St.  
2Nd St./Moraga Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
Vandalism  
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.  
900 Block 1St St.  
700 Block Glenside Dr. (2)  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
**Other**  
Battery  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Covid19 Violation  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Harassment  
100 Block Peaceful Ln.  
3500 Block Brook St.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.  
Threats  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Trespass  
3400 Block School St. (2)  
Unwanted Guest  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Restraining Order  
1000 Block Miller Dr.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
10 Block Eleven  
3200 Block Palomares St.  
2Nd St./Moraga Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Vandalism  
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.  
900 Block 1St St.  
700 Block Glenside Dr. (2)  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

**Other**  
Battery  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Covid19 Violation  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Harassment  
100 Block Peaceful Ln.  
3500 Block Brook St.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.

Threats  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.

Trespass  
3400 Block School St. (2)  
Unwanted Guest  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Restraining Order  
1000 Block Miller Dr.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**

Oct. 20 - Nov. 2

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	29
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	55
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Starbucks	
Dui Misd	
Wandel Dr./Larch Ave.	

Excessive Speed  
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Campolino Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (4)  
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.  
Ascott/Moraga Rd.  
Country Club Dr./Deager  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.  
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.

Petty Theft From Vehicle  
1900 Block Ascot Dr.  
Petty Theft Veh Parts  
Not Available  
Reckless Driving  
10 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Tc - Property Damage  
Buckingham Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Seven Eleven  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Extortion  
2100 Block Donald Dr.  
Petty Theft  
10 Block Gloria Ct.  
800 Block Camino Ricardo

Rape  
St Marys College  
Shoplift  
No House Number  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
200 Block N Sandringham

Loud Music  
800 Block Country Club Dr.  
Not Available  
Canyon Club Brewery  
Loud Noise  
Not Available  
90 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)

Loud Party  
Rancho Laguna Park  
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.  
83-00 Block Miramonte Dr.  
10 Block Kimberly Dr.  
90 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Public Nuisance  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
Vandalism  
200 Block Paseo Bernal

**Other**  
Indecent Exposure  
Starbucks  
Mentally Ill Commit  
90 Block Shuey Dr.  
Violation Custody Order  
50 Block Miramonte Dr.

## ORINDA POLICE

### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 18 - Oct. 24

Alarms	12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	18
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
100 Block Las Vegas Rd.	
10 Block Via Floreado	
Reckless Driving	
Orinda Community Center	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Vehicle Theft	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Commercial Burglary	
90 Block Grassy Hill Way	
Grand Theft	
300 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block La Encinal	
300 Block Dalewood Dr.	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Castle Crest Rd., Ala.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Loud Music	
Sleepy Hollow Swim And Tennis (2)	
Loud Party	
100 Block Overhill Rd.	
30 Block Descanso Dr.	
Vandalism	
Unocal Station And Food Mart	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Loud Party	
La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Covid19 Violation	
600 Block Blk Moraga Way	
Threats	
20 Block Irwin Way	
Trespass	
Orinda Country Club	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way	