

Firefighters at top of list to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By Nick Marnell

Firefighters will be among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, according to county health officials.

The first batch of the vaccine arrived in Contra Costa County Dec. 15. Healthcare workers were the first to be vaccinated, and according to Contra Costa Health Services, firefighter-paramedics and other emergency medical service providers are prioritized in Phase 1A of the federal and state vaccination allocation guidelines, so the vaccine should be available to them soon. However, no specific distribution plan has

been announced.

Once the details are confirmed, Lamorinda fire agencies plan to follow county guidelines regarding vaccine distribution to their employees, with the firefighters union saying it will be up to the rank and file whether they choose to be vaccinated.

“We haven’t taken a position on the vaccine other than the fact that the first rounds that are available should be available for first responders, including firefighters, once the vaccine is released. And that is only for those who chose to take it,” said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the International Association

of Firefighters.

Speaking for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein said that the district will follow in line with the county priorities regarding vaccination procedures and distribution.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District remains upbeat regarding the effectiveness of the vaccine. “While there is no COVID-19 vaccination mandate we are aware of for anyone, the benefits are obvious and the published side effects limited,” said district spokesman Steve Hill. “We are sharing this information with our

employees and encouraging them to carefully consider it when making personal decisions about the vaccines.”

At least one Lamorinda firefighter will need no encouragement to be vaccinated. “I am excited to be re-

ceiving the vaccine soon. It will give me and my family another strong layer of protection as I work alongside other first responders and healthcare workers fighting this pandemic,” said MOFD firefighter Mark DeWeese.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Jan., 19, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



ConFire will no longer declare an end to fire season



Ready for fire season in Lafayette

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

With fires increasing in intensity each year, and burning later and later throughout

the calendar year, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Lewis Broschard said the district will no longer declare an official

end to the fire season as it has done in past years.

“As it currently stands across the district, there are considerable dead annual grasses, dry brush and vegetation that all have very low fuel moisture and thereby represent an ongoing wildfire risk. In spite of lower temperatures and some rain, the danger of wildfires still remains a threat,” Broschard said in his December fire chief’s report to his advisory fire commission and his board of directors.

The district will continue to make operational and staffing adjustments throughout the year based on the expected degree of fire activity. For example, with the arrival of light rain and cooler weather, ConFire lowered its response protocols to winter season levels. The initial response to grass fires will now

be a single engine, unlike the five-engine response during the height of fire season.

The Fire Control Worker Program, which has been curtailed for the winter months, will possibly expand from four days a week to seven in 2021. Crew 12, which works alongside the suppression crews, does much of the post-incident cleanup, allowing the engine company to respond to another incident sooner. The crew also does prescribed fuel reduction work.

The chief outlined other strategies for the next fire season. “We will be looking at ordinances such as the one passed by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, prohibiting certain types of vegetation, like juniper bushes and other highly flammable vegetation,” the chief said.

And the district plans to

work with neighboring agencies to develop software to plan and execute a consistent evacuation effort throughout the county. “Our hope is to have something on board by July,” Broschard said.

The chief noted that 2020 vegetation fires increased 38% over both 2018 and 2019, and 2020 exterior fires increased 40% over each of the same two years. He told the board that the district will explore increased staffing from June through October, and will continue to support pre-positioning of resources, of not only engine crews but also hand crews, dispatchers, bulldozers and aviation backup.

“We need to change our strategy quite a bit,” Broschard said.

Orinda Police investigate carjacking/robbery

By Sora O'Doherty

A woman was forced out of her car in the first block of Moraga Way at approximately 7:51 p.m. Dec. 14 by three suspects who attempted to steal her Mazda 3, according to an Orinda Police report.

OPD officers spoke to a woman who said she was approached by three suspects as she entered her car. One suspect took her phone and keys and forced her out of the car. However, the suspects failed to get far; after entering the car, they drove a short distance, but were unable to release the parking brake.

Abandoning the vehicle, the suspects fled on foot.

Orinda police, assisted by officers from Moraga, Lafayette and Danville, searched for the suspects, but they were not located and the suspects are still outstanding. According to Orinda Police Chief David Cook, the incident is still being actively investigated and police are checking area cameras for evidence. Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to contact Sergeant S. Valkanoff of the Orinda Police Department at (925) 253-4217. For any tips, please email: Orindatip@cityoforinda.org or call 866-846-3592 to leave

an anonymous voice message.

The chief has also reported another incident being actively investigated that occurred Dec. 9 on Camino Del Monte. In that incident, a victim confronted thieves who stole the license plates from her vehicle, and the suspect pushed the victim and escaped.

Cook noted that this case is a robbery instead of a petty theft because the suspect used force to push the victim in order to commit the crime. “While we certainly understand the desire to step in to protect ourselves or others from being a victim, because of the unpredictability of sus-

pect behavior and the potential for a violent reaction,”

Cook said, “we strongly recommend our community members do not attempt to interact with people committing crimes.” Rather, he suggested being an excellent witness by paying particular attention to the description of the suspect(s) and their gender, race, clothing, hair color/style, eye color, and vehicle. The chief recommended that victims call 911 immediately so officers can start to canvas the area and hopefully make an immediate arrest, as happened in a recent theft case from the El Toyonal neighborhood. He

also recommended that people obtain video or photographs if they can do so safely.

Cook noted that there has been an uptick in car thefts recently in Orinda, particularly targeting Audis. “Unfortunately,” he added, “we are also still seeing thefts of vehicles where the keys are left in a car parked at a residence.” He urged residents to help protect against theft by not leaving valuable items in vehicles and ensure that cars are locked whether at home or out and about.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 29 - Dec. 12

Alarms	24
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	82
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	19
Service to Citizen	37
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Pubic/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3200 Block Lucas Cir.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Hough Ave.	



800 Block Birdhaven Ct. (2)
800 Block Hope Ln. (2)
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
500 Block Silverado Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24
Hidden Valley Rd./St Stephens Dr., Ori
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Tilden Ln.
Moraga Rd./Scenic Ln.
Vehicle Theft
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud
3300 Block Woodview Dr.
Fraud Credit Card
1400 Block Sunset Loop
Grand Theft
500 Block Florence Dr.
10 Block Westminster Pl.
Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Petty Theft
1000 Block Lorinda Ln. (3)
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3300 Block Walnut Ln.
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
10 Block Henri Hill Ln.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3500 Block Brook St.
Disturbance-fight

1000 Block Laurel Dr.
Disturbing The Peace
Via Los Colorados/Los Palos Dr.
Loud Music
3500 Block Plaza Way
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Loud Noise
Old Tunnel Rd./El Curtola Blvd.
800 Block Santa Maria Way
El Curtola Blvd./Camino Diablo
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
Public Nuisance
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Crescent Dr.
3700 Block Rose Ct.
Rose/St Francis
3400 Block School St.
Vandalism
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
300 Block W Lowell Ln.
Other
Brandishing Weapon
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Dr.
Covid19 Violation
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
500 Block Merriewood
Fireworks
3400 Block School St.
500 Block Merriewood
Harassment
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Hough Ave.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Mentally Ill Violent
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.
Neighbor Dispute
1100 Block Bacon Way
Ordinance Violation
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Threats
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Trespass
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block 2Nd St.
Unwanted Guest
3300 Block Helen Ln.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Warner Ct.
Violation Restraining Order
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 1 - Dec. 14

Alarms	15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	2
Welfare Check	0
Pubic/School Assembly Check	3
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Moraga Commons Park	
Reckless Driving	
Rheem Bust Marys Rd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Safeway	
Vehicle Theft	
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Grand Theft	
Not Available	
1100 Block Sanders Dr.	
100 Block Natalie Dr.	
Ace Hardware	



Identity Theft
Augusta Dr./Bal Tusrol
Petty Theft
Not Available
1100 Block Moraga Rd.
90 Block Courter Ln.
100 Block Calle La Mesa (2)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
2100 Block Donald Dr.
Not Available
Loud Music
Calle La Montana/Calle La Mesa
Loud Noise
10 Block Laird Dr.
Public Nuisance
Draeger Dr./Claudia Ct.
Other criminal activity
Battery Domestic Misd
10 Block Canning Ct.
Mentally Ill Violent
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Other Infraction
Larch Ave./Trinity Terrace
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.
Warrant Arrest
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time