

County fire agencies collaborate to expand vaccine distribution



Photo courtesy ConFire

Fire Protection District, have joined forces to host public vaccination clinics for eligible county residents.

Though the initial fire-hosted clinics were held in early February in Hercules, Brentwood and San Ramon, Lamorinda residents were welcome to schedule appointments at any of the new clinic locations. This comes as good news for many Lamorinda residents after the Stanley Middle School vaccination site in Lafayette was abruptly shut down late last month.

All of the clinics across the county – including these new ones – take patients by appointment only. Eligibility is determined by Contra Costa Health Services, and criteria can be reviewed and appointments made at the de-

partment website (www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine).

“As providers of emergency medical services across the county, our fire agencies are proud to be able to increase vaccine distribution in order to help further protect the communities we serve,” ConFire Deputy Chief Aaron McAlister said in a statement.

“This multiagency collaboration includes fire and law enforcement agencies, Contra Costa Health Services, community organizations and many volunteers.”

Initial delivery of vaccinations was set at 500 daily per clinic, with the number of doses jumping to 1,000 or more based upon availability and CCHS guidance.

Employees prepare for first fire-hosted vaccination site, Feb. 1 in Hercules

By Nick Marnell

As the county health department promised in January, firefighters have taken on a large role in the distribution

of the COVID-19 vaccine throughout Contra Costa County. The nine county fire agencies, including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 9, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Lafayette intent on improving neighborhood wildfire mitigation

By Nick Marnell

For a city that a fire chief once said kept him up at night because of the potential for a massive wildfire, Lafayette lags far behind the two other Lamorinda municipalities in the number of neighborhood groups that are mitigating the risks of such a calamity.

But thanks to efforts of local public officials, the gap between the municipalities is likely to shrink.

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 17 Firewise groups and Moraga with three, with a handful of applications pending.

Lafayette has no Firewise communities, which Mayor Susan Candell vowed to change. “Getting Firewise communities established in Lafayette is my top priority for public safety,” she said.

The mayor concedes that it will require local community leaders to step up, as they have done in Moraga and Orinda. Candell said she has been approached by members of the Orinda Firewise groups “who volunteered to help us set up a Firewise community.”

But the chair of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission says

it’s been all talk and no action in the city.

“The residents aren’t educated on Firewise,” Duncan Seibert said. “People have talked about it, but there have been no resources allocated to pushing it.”

Seibert placed much of the blame for inaction on the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, whose former fire chief Jeff Carman said that Lafayette was the area of the district that concerned him more than any other for the potential of a devastating wildfire.

“We have interest from maybe a half dozen neighborhoods,” Seibert said. “But we don’t have the information we need to start the Firewise process. We need a commitment from the fire district.”

Fire Marshal Chris Bachman apologized to the commission for the delay and said that ConFire hired a new fire inspector, Taylor King, who has been assigned to coordi-

nate the district Firewise program.

Typically, a neighborhood of at least eight properties that desires Firewise designation will contact its fire agency, which sends a representative to a community meeting to help do a written wildfire risk assessment of the properties. The representative looks for ways the property owners are hardening – and plan to harden – their properties in order to prevent the structures from burning down.

The assessment takes about an hour and a half. The fire agency helps the neighborhood group write up the document, which includes a three-year wildfire mitigation action plan, and the assessment is included with the community application to the NFPA. Once the application is approved, the community is awarded its Firewise designation. The community must reapply each year to retain its status and needs to update its

wildfire mitigation action plan every three years.

“The national Firewise USA recognition program is an important tool for our residents in wildfire prone areas to work together to reduce wildfire risks in their neighborhoods,” Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said. “We are committed to helping our communities attain and maintain voluntary Firewise certification.”

The ConFire program officially kicked off Feb. 10 with a meeting between King and representatives from the Lafayette Glen Road neighborhood, a potential Firewise community.

Dennis Rein, Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, helped set up Orinda and Moraga Firewise communities. “I think (ConFire officials) will be pleasantly surprised with the community participation in this,” Rein said.

Orinda lawmaker pushes for stronger communication between utilities and fire agencies

By Nick Marnell

Prompted by ordinances enacted in her legislative district, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan on Feb. 10 introduced Assembly Bill 529, which requires that local fire agencies be alerted to any fire safety, prevention, or mitigation services conducted by electric utilities in high fire-risk areas.

Bauer-Kahan partnered with State Sen. Steve Glazer, both Orinda residents, and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the San Ramon Val-

ley Fire Protection District to author her bill that built on ordinances passed in 2020 by the fire districts.

The ordinances required an electric utility to inform the fire districts before the company engages in work during periods of high fire danger, and requires the utility to notify the districts in advance of that work. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company sued both fire districts over the ordinances, citing an overreach of authority. A judge dismissed the PG&E suit against San Ramon Fire on

procedural issues, and the company settled out of court with MOFD.

“The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is following San Ramon Valley Fire District’s lead in promoting better communication and cooperation between PG&E and local fire agencies. The bill being introduced by Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan goes a long way towards accomplishing this goal and will protect our communities statewide,” MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker said.

The proposed bill does

not prohibit a utility from conducting emergency maintenance work. The bill does require that electrical utilities give 48 hours’ notice to local fire agencies when conducting potentially dangerous maintenance in high fire-risk areas.

“We are incredibly grateful for all the work that our local fire districts do to keep our communities safe, we hope that this bill will be another tool in their arsenal to fight potentially deadly fires,” Bauer-Kahan said.

PG&E had yet to take a

position on the proposed legislation, stating, “While PG&E appreciates the author’s intention, the bill as written appears to stand in contradiction to the commitment PG&E has made with the governor, legislature and our customers to focus on reducing wildfire risk and improving safety throughout our system. We look forward to working with the committees, author and all stakeholders on preventative measures to wildfire mitigation and to build a stronger and safer PG&E.”

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

<p>Public Safety</p> <p>Emergency response: Emergency: 24 Hours 911 Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010</p> <p>Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com</p> <p>Lafayette Police Department: 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221</p> <p>Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com</p> <p>Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com</p> <p>Moraga Police Department: 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049</p> <p>Orinda Police Department: 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820 Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org</p> <p>Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 31 - Feb. 6</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Alarms</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Traffic</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Suspicious Circumstances</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Suspicious Subject</td><td>9</td></tr> </table>	Alarms	15	911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5	Traffic	19	Suspicious Circumstances	5	Suspicious Subject	9	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Suspicious Vehicle</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Service to Citizen</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Patrol Req./Security Check</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>Pubic/School Assembly Check</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Supplemental Report</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Vacation House Check</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Welfare Check</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Ordinance Violation</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>Vehicle violations</p> <p>Hit And Run Misdemeanor 10 Block Fiesta Ln. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p> <p>Reckless Driving 900 Block Moraga Rd. St Marys Rd./Las Huertas Rd.</p> <p>Stolen Vehicle Recovery 3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.</p> <p>Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p> <p>Tc - Minor Injuries Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center</p> <p>Tc - Property Damage Happy Valley Rd./Valory Ln.</p> <p>Traffic Pursuit Wb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.</p> <p>Other criminal activity</p> <p>Fraud Credit Card 600 Block Sky Ranch Ct.</p> <p>Grand Theft 1000 Block Woodbury Rd.</p> <p>Petty Theft 3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd. 1000 Block Woodbury Rd. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p> <p>Petty Theft From Veh 500 Block St. Mary's Rd.</p> <p>Robbery Armed 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p> <p>Shoplift 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)</p>	Suspicious Vehicle	6	Service to Citizen	22	Patrol Req./Security Check	39	Pubic/School Assembly Check	0	Supplemental Report	10	Vacation House Check	6	Welfare Check	13	Ordinance Violation	1	<p>Nuisance to the Community</p> <p>Disturbing The Peace El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24</p> <p>Loud Noise 50 Block Lafayette Cir.</p> <p>Loud Party 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.</p> <p>Public Nuisance Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Fish And Game 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p> <p>Harassment 3600 Block Brook St. (2)</p> <p>K9 Outside Assist Request Wb Sr 4/Hillcrest Ave., Ant.</p> <p>Trespass 3400 Block School St. (2)</p> <p>Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 26 - Feb. 8</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Alarms</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Traffic</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>Suspicious Circumstances</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Suspicious Subject</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Suspicious Vehicle</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Service to Citizen</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>Patrol Req./Security Check</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Supplemental Report</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Vacation House Check</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Welfare Check</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Pubic/School Assembly Check</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	Alarms	11	911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9	Traffic	46	Suspicious Circumstances	2	Suspicious Subject	2	Suspicious Vehicle	2	Service to Citizen	34	Patrol Req./Security Check	14	Supplemental Report	5	Vacation House Check	0	Welfare Check	3	Pubic/School Assembly Check	4	<p>Vehicle violations</p> <p>Auto Burglary Not Available 100 Block Miramonte Dr.</p> <p>Dui Misd Villa Ln./Hardie Dr.</p> <p>Excessive Speed Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3) St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way (3) Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. Moraga Way/School St. (2) Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. Cypress Point Way/St Andrews Dr. Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr. Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd. Moraga Way/Theatre Sq., Ori Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr. BoFA Parking Lot</p> <p>Exhibition Of Speed Moraga Commons Park</p> <p>Tc - Property Damage 1400 Block Moraga Way 10 Block Gloria Ct.</p> <p>Other criminal activity</p> <p>Grand Theft 100 Block Fairfield Pl. Grand Theft From Veh 100 Block Westchester</p> <p>Identity Theft 20 Block Hardie Dr. 10 Block Crockett Dr.</p> <p>Petty Theft Not Available 600 Block Augusta Dr.</p> <p>Residential Burglary 1100 Block Sanders Dr.</p> <p>Nuisance to the Community</p> <p>Disturbance-domestic Moraga Rd./Moraga Way</p> <p>Disturbance-fight</p>	<p>Rheem Valley Shopping Center Disturbing The Peace Crossbrook Dr./Corliss Dr.</p> <p>Loud Noise 200 Block Tharp Dr.</p> <p>Loud Party Not Available</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Battery Crossbrook Dr./Corliss Dr.</p> <p>Failure To Obey Safeway</p> <p>Harassment Not Available</p>
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Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time