

# Great Lamorinda ShakeOut gives radio users a refresher course



Photo Sora O'Doherty

During the "hotwash" the incident team reviewed what worked well, and what didn't.

## By Sora O'Doherty

As befits any emergency related event, there were donuts, there was a dog, and if you were listening on a GMRS radio at 10:21 a.m. on Oct. 21, you would have heard, "Good morning. This is an exercise. This is net control for Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette GMRS Repeater portion of the Great Lamorinda ShakeOut Net."

Members of Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and

Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG) were called upon to radio in to Incident Control and report their names and locations. This exercise was part of the greater event on the same day. Over 31 million participants were registered for 2021 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills worldwide.

Incident Commander Bruce Macler had a number of goals for the exercise. Chiefly he wanted to find out how many radio users were willing to participate and

where they were located, with an eye toward answering the question, "Can this system be used in a real emergency?" Radio skills are considered perishable, and the exercise was also designed to allow CERT and LARIG members to refresh their skills, as well as to develop a citizen-level communication plan for Lamorinda.

After the announcement went out, a group of volunteers gathered at Incident Command on Donald Drive in Orinda, an area known for good radio reception. Several volunteers known as scribes answered radio calls, collected information from the callers, and forwarded it along to Wesley Ayers, HAM Team Net Control, who collected the data on a computer and sent it to Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Station 45. There the calls were being mapped, to create a visual guide to the response.

As often happens, there were some surprises. The plan had included check-ins from all the local schools. Moraga schools did check in; Orinda schools did not. It

turned out that the reason was simple: Moraga schools have GMRS radios; Orinda schools have only one. CERT Safety Officer Julie Sparks noted, "We did not have contact with Lafayette schools; they are on a different radio system." She added, "It will be noted in our after-action report as an action item to follow up on."

In every emergency, communication is always a problem. Macler hopes that one result of this exercise will be developing a protocol for radio use, a training module for CERT training, and then routinely using the protocol at events. The volunteers answering the radio calls at the incident command center reported difficulties in clearly hearing and recording the names of callers and especially of their locations, many of which sound similar, such as La Cuesta and La Cresta in Orinda. The problem was compounded by two factors: static and callers speaking too fast.

Another objective of the exercise was to test equipment, including radios owned

by individuals and the three local repeaters, installed by LARIG. The installation was completed in 2016. The repeaters boost the signal from the radios, giving them greater reach. All three were found to work in the exercise. Another goal was to identify where there is GMRS radio coverage. For this exercise, all three repeaters were linked, so that when a radio user connected with any one repeater, the message was conveyed by all three.

At the close of the exercise, a "hotwash" was conducted via the Zoom video conferencing platform. A hotwash is when participants review what went right, and what didn't, during the exercise. Those receiving calls reported some frustration with poor reception and lots of "doubles" which occur when two radio users attempt to call in at the same time. But overall it was concluded that the exercise went pretty smoothly and Keith Rylie, Net Control on the HAM Team at Station 45 concluded, "Julie's group is just amazing!"

The map of radio responses can be viewed at [www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1rxwL7iNxoKWC28\\_fWaUH08Z6VY4FJaNL&usp=sharing](http://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1rxwL7iNxoKWC28_fWaUH08Z6VY4FJaNL&usp=sharing)

# Diving deep into the mechanics of recycle bins



Lamorinda's recycling blue bin

Photo provided

## By Vera Kochan

Who can remember the days when we didn't have multi-colored plastic garbage cans, but rather the round, metal cans with lids that never closed properly? It's okay to admit that you were a little kid in those days, if it makes

you feel any younger. Even the trucks picking up the trash weren't as "high tech." No lobster claws reached out to grab your trash can and flip it upside down, giving the receptacle an additional shake to make sure the contents have been emptied. Instead, actual human beings

jumped off the trucks and mightily hoisted the galvanized steel cylinders brimming with all of a household's refuse, while deftly emptying the contents into the hungry mouth of the trash truck.

During an Oct. 7 Zoom presentation by Republic Services representative John Taylor, the event, sponsored by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, delved into the mechanics of recycling, beginning with a brief history. Up until the 1970s, recycling trash wasn't even a concept until the landfills began to overflow. With environmentalists already exploring ways to help the planet, the population slowly began to reduce waste material by 52%. The most common blue bin recyclable items are: metal, glass, paper, cardboard and plastic.

Metal in the form of aluminum cans, cookie sheets, beverage cans, food and pet food cans, tin cans and surprisingly enough clean pots and pans are acceptable. All colors of glass are allowed as long as it's clean. Paper can come in the form of paper-back books, boxes, catalogs, construction paper, computer paper, detergent boxes, paper egg cartons, magazines, newspapers and cardboard just to name a few. Plastics include bleach bottles, CRV beverage containers, clean food containers, empty household cleaning containers, prescription bottles (empty and label removed), water bottles, small solid plastic toys and more. If in doubt, check the object for an imprinted triangle with a number inside.

Plastic items with a No. 1-7 marking references from what kind of plastic a container is made. "Each plastic is composed of a different molecule or set of molecules," explains the Rlmrecycling website. "Different molecules do not mix when plastics are recycled, it is like trying to recycle paper and glass together." And, for those who have always assumed that the triangle containing the number 1 with PETE underneath it, meant that someone named Pete was the bottle inspector, PETE is the designation for Poly(ethylene terephthalate) which soda bottles, water bottles, cooking oil bottles and medicine containers are made of.

Once the blue bins have been serviced the contents are delivered to Mount Diablo Recycling in Pittsburg, Calif. The facility operates 24/7 to sort all of the recycled material delivered. If anything that doesn't belong in the blue bin arrives at this location either a machine or a human catches the erroneous item, Taylor said. Public tours of the facility are expected to resume in 6-8 weeks.

Republic Services also recycles organic waste, which

the green bins are for. The waste is first taken to a landfill in Martinez. From there it is delivered to Manteca where it is sold to Scott Turf Builder. Organics include yard trimmings, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meats, seafood, bones and food soiled paper such as pizza boxes. Republic Services provides a free 3-gallon food scrap container for customers to store kitchen organics. Plastics, glass, metal, rocks, concrete, sod or dirt items are among several that should never be placed in the green bin.

According to Taylor, blue bin recycling is currently sent to Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia where it is expected to be turned back into useful household items. Phoenix, Arizona turns its plastic waste into fuel.

The book "Zero Waste Home: The Ultimate Guide to Simplifying Your Life By Reducing Your Waste" by Bea Johnson, has helpful pointers for waste-free living. Additional recycling tips and information can be found at: [republicservices.com](http://republicservices.com) or [recyclingsimplified.com](http://recyclingsimplified.com).

# Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a **Lafayette City Reporter:**

Required Qualifications:  
Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required. Understanding of AP Style is a plus. Compensation is made on a per article basis. Part time • flexible hours • work from home

Please send your resume and writing sample to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

## Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)

Public Safety	Service to Citizen	Warrant Service	Alarms	100 Brookline
<b>Emergency response:</b>	Patrol Req./Security Check 24	2000 Block Leland Way, Con	911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 4	Warrant Arrest
Emergency: 24 Hours 911	Pubic/School Assembly Check 17	<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	Traffic 85	Canyon Rd./De La Cruz Way
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	Supplemental Report 14	Disturbance-domestic	Suspicious Circumstances 4	<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>
925-284-5010	Vacation House Check 1	600 Block St Marys Rd.	Suspicious Subject 5	Disturbing The Peace
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777	Welfare Check 10	3300 Block N Lucille Ln.	Suspicious Vehicle 2	700 Block Moraga Way
or go to <a href="http://www.nixle.com">www.nixle.com</a>	Ordinance Violation 1	Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Service to Citizen 37	Loud Music
<b>Lafayette Police Department:</b>	<b>Vehicle violations</b>	3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd.	Patrol Req./Security Check 21	Hacienda
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680	Auto Burglary	Loud Music	Supplemental Report 2	Loud Noise
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt	4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.	Vacation House Check 1	10 Block El Camino Flores
925-299-3221	Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Loud Noise	Welfare Check 5	Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
Police Department Tip Line	Police Department	1000 Block Dewing Ave.	Public/School Assembly Check 2	300 Block Rheem Blvd.
94549Tip@gmail.com	Reckless Driving	Public Nuisance	Ordinance Violation 0	Loud Party
Police Department Traffic Issues	Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Lucas Dr./Lucas Ct.	<b>Vehicle violations</b>	1400 Block Camino Peral
94549Traffic@gmail.com	St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	Michael Ln./Lucas Dr.	Accident Property	600 Block Augusta Dr.
<b>Moraga Police Department:</b>	Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Bollinger Canyon Rd./St Marys Rd.	<b>Other</b>
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	Vandalism	500 Block Center St.	Barking Dog
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049	Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.	Oak St./Oconner Dr.	Ivy Dr./Arroyo Dr., Ori	Rancho Laguna Park
<b>Orinda Police Department:</b>	Tc - Property Damage	1000 Block Sierra Vista Wy	Excessive Speed	Failure To Obey
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820	800 Block Las Trampas Rd.	<b>Other</b>	Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.	Valle Vista Staging Area Ebrp
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan	900 Block Moraga Rd.	Fire/Ems Response Info	St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.	Fireworks
925-254-6820	Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	(2)	500 Block Moraga Rd.
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Harassment	Rheem Blvd./Fayhill (2)	Harassment
<b>Lafayette Police Department</b>	Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.	1000 Block Carol Ln.	St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.	Dollar Tree
<b>Incident Summary Report</b>	Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	900 Block Hough Ave.	Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	300 Block Rheem Blvd.
<b>Oct. 3 - Oct. 9</b>	Vehicle Theft	K9 Outside Assist Request	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	Mentally Ill Commit
Alarms 25	800 Block Acalanes Rd.	Eb 4/Port	Rheem Blvd./Redwood Ln.	St Marys College
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 4	<b>Other criminal activity</b>	Trespass	Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Unwanted Guest
Traffic 64	Grand Theft	3400 Block School St.	Campolindo High School	900 Block Country Club Dr.
Suspicious Circumstances 5	Identity Theft	Violation Restraining Ord	Reckless Driving	
Suspicious Subject 8	Police Department	3600 Block Brook St.	Del Rey School, Ori	
Suspicious Vehicle 1	3100 Block Stanley Blvd.	<b>Moraga Police Department</b>	St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
	Petty Theft	<b>Incident Summary Report</b>	St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.	
	3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	<b>Oct. 5 - Oct. 18</b>	<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		Fraud False Pretenses	
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		500 Block Woodminster Dr.	
	Shoplift		Petty Theft	
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)		200 Block Scofield Dr.	
	Strongarm Robbery		Petty Theft From Veh	
	3500 Block Moraga Blvd.		100 Block Hazelwood Pl.	

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon**