

**Newly Renovated Single Level With Expansive Views!** 2653 Ptarmigan Dr. #1, Rossmore

**Contact**  
Julie Georgiou  
925-200-8246

CalBRE # 01043977 salesbyjulie@gmail.com

Coming Soon

Sought after 2 Bedroom, 2 Baths + DEN, 1234 s.f. Newly renovated single level end unit with only one step to entry. Quality craftsmanship. Spacious great room with natural light, Chef's kitchen, fireplace, Euro oak hardwoods, vaulted ceilings, recessed lights. Two Patios. Adjacent carport. **Price: \$849,000**

**Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE** | **RELIANCE PARTNERS**

www.salesbyjulie.com

**Fall Brush Clearing Specials**

**THORN**  
Hauling & More

(510) 306-6285 | Email: thornoffice1@gmail.com | thornhauling.

**Local firefighters describe deployment during this year's historic fire incidents**



Photos provided

MOFD personnel at Dixie Fire Base Camp in Quincy, Calif., (from left) Steve Rogness, Jon Ford, Dennis Rein and Brian Oliver



Photo Jacob Airola

Home from deployment, Jacob Airola and wife, Lindsey, take a much needed break in Santa Cruz



Firefighter Katy Himsl removes a source of fuel during the Rim Fire.

... continued from Page A1

While Airola didn't have to evacuate any residents, he did have to assist firefighters on two separate occasions to find escape routes and safety zones. He was heartbroken to learn that one of the firefighters within his proximity had been burned while falling onto 600 degrees of burning ash. "Everyone understands firefighting is inherently dangerous," he stated. "However, we train, plan and operate to provide the safest possible outcomes. In my role, I felt personally responsible for everyone's safety and well-being."

He gained valuable experience by working fires on a much larger scale with varying topography. "There's no way to simulate these types of fires; one can only get better by going out of county and doing the work." Airola noted that the

fires were burning trees that were alive as well as dead, and the live ones burned just as easily. Spot fires began without wind a quarter mile away from containment lines.

Airola says his wife is very supportive of his career. They both focus on the positive impacts of his job with their children as opposed to the dangers. Grateful for modern technology, he is able to keep in touch with his family during meals, story time and special occasions.

While he and others are deployed, Airola appreciates how local firefighters who remain in the community step up to the plate and work overtime to backfill their positions.

Himsl either volunteered or was part of an Initial Attack deployment to over a dozen fires throughout California. She's worked on the Rim Fire, Camp Fire, Quail Fire and LNU

Complex Fires. Each deployment ranged between one week to 16 days.

She was involved in evacuations for the Lake and Quail Fires and served multiple duties as a line medic, firefighter or engineer, driving fire engines. Himsl also triaged properties for structural protection, performed fire attacks, bump and run (moving ahead of the fire to extinguish spot fires), back firing or mopping up after the fire has burned through an area, driving while maintaining the engine, establishing water supply and assuring a safe way out of the area by means of egress.

"We have been in some 'hairy' and uncomfortable areas of terrain with unpredictable weather changes involving wind patterns and ignition points in particular," said Himsl. "However, with training and experience seeing how fire reacts, the more you see these fires first hand, you learn to quickly anticipate the fire behavior itself. With that being said, being in a temporary relief area watching 200-foot flame lengths come towards you then burn 360 degrees around you, needless to say you quickly develop a newfound respect for Mother Nature and realize how small you are in the midst of such an awe inspiring event."

Himsl's various deployments have helped her to gain untold experience with fire management: "From reading fire behaviors, working and performing duties under extreme pressure, getting to practice these skills in real time and the experience gained can not be replicated. I personally

have grown as a firefighter from being able to work with some amazing people and learn best practices."

She appreciates the love and support from her family. "There's always a heavy burden not only of being worried about our safety and well-being but also that we make it home to our families at the end of the deployment." Himsl noted the anxiety loved ones experience listening to news reports of the fires while sometimes not being able to communicate with them for days on end due to their front line locations.

Feeling the duty to aid people in "my home state," Himsl is "humbled constantly watching communities come together in such a painful time of loss and devastation. These are the reminders ranging small to large of the importance of being kind and loving to our neighbors in need."

Bensley served as a Safety Officer for the River Fire (10-days), Caldor Fire (15-days) and CAL OES at the Mather, Calif., headquarters (1-2 week rotations, seven different times throughout the year). He was also assigned as the Engine Captain on a type 3 strike team for the Dixie Fire. Strike teams are five engines and a strike team leader.

"The drought and the record dry fuel moistures have created extreme fire behavior rarely seen," explained Bensley. "We base our actions on current and expected fire behavior, so we always have primary, alternate, contingency and emergency plans for changes in the environment we work in. We travel all over California and sometimes other states assisting in suppression efforts, so over time you get to experience different terrain, fuel types, and unique local weather patterns that influence fire behavior."

Bensley also acknowledged the difficulty of leaving the MOFD area to fight fires. "It's

very hard on the fire spouses at home. They have to handle everything: kids, school, sports, the house. If something happens, they're on their own."

"Each time I go out I learn something new that helps me in my profession," Bensley added. "I love getting to meet and work with new people and helping communities in their time of need."

Rogness deployed to the Lava Fire (8-days), River Complex (8-days), Dixie Fire West Zone (16-days) and Dixie Fire East Zone (16-days). "On all four assignments I worked as a Geographic Information Systems Specialist," he explained. "I created and updated maps on a daily basis for crews to use while navigating the fire." Rogness created maps for operations, evacuation, public information, pilot, air operations, planning, briefing (the large 6'x 8' maps you see on the news), progression, web maps, transportation and topographic tile map packets. His resident evacuation maps came into play during the Lava, River and Dixie fires.

Unlike "boots on the ground" firefighters, Rogness spent long hours as a GISS surrounded by computers in a trailer providing vital information to the men and women on the front lines, the most challenging of which was in the early stages of the Lava Fire. "Preparation is the key to success. I learned most from that incident. Downloading base data, setting up the file structure and initiating map layouts in advance makes the workload manageable as the demand for maps in the early stages is the greatest."

Rogness gave credit to four additional MOFD members working with him on the Dixie Fire (East Zone): Fire Chief Dave Winnacker as Division, Dennis Rein as Liaison, Jon Ford as Communications Technician and Brian Oliver as a Public Information Officer.

**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, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)

**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, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)  
**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**Oct. 17 - Oct. 30**

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	32
Traffic	84
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	14
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	61
Patrol Req./Security Check	39
Public/School Assembly Check	20
Supplemental Report	30
Vacation House Check	3

Welfare Check	17
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
1000 Block Windsor Dr.	
800 Block Mariposa Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.	
Dui Misd	
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
3300 Block St Marys Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Windsor Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3500 Block Boyer Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
Avalon Ave./School St.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Wb Sr 24 At Oak Hill Rd.	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
Eb HWay 24/Appr Phill Rd	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute	
Dolores Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Tc - Minor Injuries	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Reliez Station Rd./Richelle Ct.	
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
800 Block Moraga Rd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Silverado Dr./Merriewood Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
900 Block Paulson Ct.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Computer Fraud	
Police Department	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Fraud Credit Card	
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.	
Grand Theft	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Identity Theft	
600 Block Doreen Way	
900 Block S Thompson Rd.	
Police Department	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd. (2)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
1700 Block Toyon Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
Disturbance-fight	
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Drunk In Public	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.	
Loud Music	
3200 Block Glenside Dr.	
600 Block Los Palos Dr.	
Loud Noise	
900 Block Leland Dr.	
1000 Block Magnolia Ln.	
Loud Party	
Cowan Rd./Hilldale Rd.	
Vandalism	
1000 Block Leland Dr.	
3300 Block Vaughn Rd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Mentally Ill Violent	
10 Block Mountain View Pl.	

Phone Harass	
600 Block Doreen Way	
Trespass	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.	
Violation Custody Order	
Police Department	
<b>Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report</b>	
<b>Oct. 19 - Nov. 1</b>	
Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	32
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	14
Supplemental Report	7
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Seven Eleven	
Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori	
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.	
Augusta Dr./St Andrews Dr.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	

Safeway Vehicle Theft  
1400 Block Moraga Way

**Other criminal activity**  
Child Abuse  
100 Block Natalie Dr.  
Identity Theft  
10 Block Crockett Dr.  
1000 Block Del Rio Way  
Shoplift  
1500 Block Canyon Rd.  
Safeway  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
700 Block Augusta Dr.  
Loud Music  
1700 Block School St. (2)  
300 Block Moraga Rd.  
Loud Noise  
1200 Block Moraga Way  
700 Block Moraga Rd.  
Not Available  
Loud Party  
10 Block Corliss Dr.  
900 Block Augusta Dr.  
**Other**  
Fire/Ems Response Info  
Hacienda  
H&S Violation  
Francisca Dr./Josefa Pl.  
Unwanted Guest  
10 Block Warfield Dr.  
Violation Custody Order  
St. Marys College

**ORINDA POLICE**

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