

# Help Wanted

## for the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program



- Part time paid driver for the Lafayette Shopping Shuttle from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, eventually two+ half days a week. If wanted, this position can also include part time dispatching and/or driving older adults to appointments and errands. Position requires a good driving record, cheerful communication skills, agility to occasionally tie down a wheelchair.
- Part time paid dispatcher to take ride reservations, schedule the route, communicate with passengers and drivers, and prepare reports. Position requires good communication skills and knowledge of Excel.
- Volunteer drivers for a 4-hour weekly or bi-weekly morning or afternoon shift to take older adults to appointments, errands and shopping.



For more information, please contact Mary Bruns at 925-284-5546.

# Planning ahead for future fire safety

By Lou Fancher

The Lafayette City Council on Dec. 13 received a fire safety presentation from Jeff Peter, assistant fire chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. As the city's new fire safety liaison coming on-board in 2022, Peter recapped the 2021 fire season and provided updates about past and ongoing county and city action plans and steps residents can take to improve and maintain fire safety.

A well-known fact is that the wildland fire season throughout California begins earlier and lasts longer than ever before. In 2021, fires in Northern California were higher in number than those in the southern regions of the state. Largely attributing it to conditions related to drought, Peter said the annual pattern during the last three years indicates mega fires that exceed millions of acres burned are on the increase. In Contra Costa County, the most dangerous fires were wind-driven. The number of fires in 2021 increased over 2020: in the state, the increase was nearly 10%, rising from 1,411 to 1,528; in Lafayette, exterior fires rose from 2020's total of 14 to 20 for November 2021. (Fire categories generally are divided into structural, exterior and vegetation classifications according to origin of the fire, although any one fire can include all three.)

"The outlook for 2022 and beyond really isn't much different," said Peters. "Many people think when we get a lot or rain that it actually helps out and that can help out if the fields don't dry up as early in a fire season. But if it isn't that fire season (that danger is imposed ironically by rain) it's the second fire season after that because we have a lot more fuel on the

ground that spreads the fire."

The report from Peters had some good news: preparedness and planning held most fires in 2021 to 10 acres or less. Residents who perform grass and vegetation mitigation reduced the risk significantly. Peters said a homeowner or property owner who clears old growth, dead trees, tall grasses and shrubs "makes a huge difference."

The Firewise USA program phased in across the county and supported by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission in partnership with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District will continue, Peter said. Enhancing prevention, planning, resources and technological capabilities are ongoing efforts the recently passed Measure X will fund. Fuel reduction and safety enhancements that fit the \$32.3 million fire and emergency medical services measures parameters are separately covered in one-time expenditures such as equipment purchases (\$18.8 million) and ongoing expenses (\$13.5 million).

Most impactful for Lafayette is a \$2.5 million allocation for grants and funding aimed at lowering wild-fire threat through risk reduction programs. Peters said because the funds can be used to support countywide resources. This means county equipment and personnel responding to a fire will be able to assist and stay on the scene longer, thereby freeing up local trucks and firefighters to return sooner to other services

In closing comments, Peter urged residents to jump to the front of the line in their communities and "be first" to take preventative safety steps. He advocated reading and following steps outlined

in the county fire safety guide, signing up for CWS (Community Warning Service alerts), developing a clear family evacuation plan, making and updating annually a "go bag" kit, knowing neighbors' special needs, and preparing in advance for PSPS (public safety power shut offs).

Responding to questions from Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok about the forecast for fires in the next five to 10 years and actions residents and the city council can take to be prepared, Peters said taking advantage of new fire detection technologies and real time alerts will be vital. He encouraged the council to be keenly aware of the continued threat fires pose to a city and its residents, have adequate funding ready for when it is needed, and repeatedly communicate with residents the importance of preparing their properties for maximum safety.

Mayor Susan Candell asked about city development projects that will mean buildings in Lafayette increase in height. The lack of a ladder truck leaves Lafayette dependent on using equipment from neighboring cities and towns in the event of a structural fire involving a tall building with multiple floors.

Peter said he and Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister plan to tour the city to look for possible places for relocating Station 15. The driveway exit at Station 15 is too steep for the largest firefighting trucks. Peter said every moment a firefighter has to spend climbing extra sets of stairs is time used up that could be spent putting out structure fires. The equipment such as a ladder truck, he said, will be important to have eventually because of Lafayette's increasing development density.



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# A note of thanks to the Community



Photo provided

**Moraga Police Department Corp. Craig Walker with some of this year's donation.**

The Moraga Police Department expressed gratitude to the community for the amazing outpouring of caring and generosity during its Toys for Tots Toy Drive. The MPD collected a record number of toys and cash donations this year. "Losing Detective Mooney was hard on us all and we miss him daily. We know the community also feels the loss of such a dedicated officer, and individual," said police services technician Cathy Ghiselli. "The fabulous response to the Detective Mooney Toy Drive warms our hearts and is a testament to the community. Kevin would be in awe of the overwhelming amounts of toys that were donated and will be given to children who are in need. Again, a huge thank to the community and beyond for helping us keep Kevin alive through his favorite charity." - J. Wake

## Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 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 Nov. 28 - Dec. 11

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	34
Patrol Req./Security Check	37
Public/School Assembly Check	13
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	17
Welfare Check	31
Ordinance Violation	0



**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.  
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.  
1100 Block Laurel Dr.  
Police Department  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.  
Dewing Av/Brook St.  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.  
Police Department (2)  
3100 Block Somerset Dr.  
Reckless Driving  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Tc - Property Damage  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Brook St./Dewing Ave.  
4000 Block Los Arabis Dr. (2)  
**Other criminal activity**  
Forgery  
1000 Block Via Baja  
Fraud Credit Card  
Police Department  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
Police Department  
60 Block Lafayette Cir.  
Grand Theft  
3400 Block Golden Gate Wy  
3100 Block Somerset Dr.  
Grand Theft From Veh  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.  
Identity Theft  
3600 Block West Rd.  
800 Block Hope Ln  
Misc Burglary  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1000 Block Oak Hill Rd. (2)  
3600 Block Happy Valley Ln  
50 Block Lafayette Cir.  
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
500 Block Mcbride Dr.  
Petty Theft Bicycle  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
3100 Block Somerset Dr.  
Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./S Thompson Rd.  
Theft Access Card  
500 Block Mcbride Dr.  
Warrant Service  
700 Block Moraga Rd. (2)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3500 Block Terrace Wy  
Disturbing The Peace  
900 Block Sunnybrook Dr.  
Drunk In Public  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Loud Music  
3500 Block Old Mountain View Dr.  
Loud Party  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Public Nuisance  
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.  
1000 Block Glen Rd.  
3400 Block School St. (2)  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
500 Block Silverado Dr.  
Vandalism  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Orchard Valley Ln  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
**Other**  
H&S Violation  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
1st St./Paciffic Ave., Rod  
Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute  
Moraga Rd Iso Tofflemire Dr.  
800 Block Mountain View Dr.  
**Threats**  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Terrace Wy  
3600 Block Boyer Cir.  
50 Block Lafayette Cir.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Unwanted Guest  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Sunnybrook Dr.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
3600 Block Brook St.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 30 - Dec. 12

Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	43
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Supplemental Report	12
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	13
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)	
70 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./St Marys Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	



Moraga Commons Park  
Cvs  
Canyon Rd./Pinehurst Rd., Can  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
1100 Block Moraga Way  
1500 Block Canyon Rd.  
Petty Theft  
500 Block Center St.  
Warrant Arrest  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Drunk In Public  
500 Block Center St.  
Loud Music  
200 Block Rheem Blvd.  
Loud Noise  
1400 Block Camino Peral  
Via Joaquin/Alta Mesa Dr.  
Loud Party  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
700 Block Moraga Rd.  
Public Nuisance  
1000 Block Larch Ave..  
School St./Country Club Dr.  
Vandalism  
Miramonte Dr./Moraga Way  
Campolindo High School  
**Other**  
Failure To Obey  
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.  
Violation Custody Order  
2100 Block Donald Dr.  
**Other**  
Other Felony  
Moraga Rd./Commons Park  
Other Infraction  
1400 Block Camino Pablo  
Unwanted Guest  
Safeway



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