

Rescue One Foundation a vital provider of cutting-edge equipment to fire district

By Lou Fancher

Moraga's Rescue One Foundation might be one of the best-kept secrets in Lamorinda. Board President Maridel Moulton says more than once people have asked if the organization she works with is part of Tony LaRussa's ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation).

R1F is a citizen-developed nonprofit whose mission since it's founding in 1977 has been to fund and purchase vital medical and safety equipment, supplies, and first responders' educational services for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The small, all-volunteer group does not supply the emergency fire and paramedic departments with big equipment such

as fire trucks, but instead pours its resources into ambulance improvements, drones, cutting edge weather data technology, portable command system hardware, CPR devices, decontamination systems and similar items.

"We do no actual fundraising," says Moulton. "All of the donations come from citizens who are thrilled and want to be supportive of our fire department."

Prior to R1F's formation, Moraga in particular was isolated from the ambulance services of Contra Costa County. Residents requiring an ambulance often had to use a private company for service and delays of up to an hour were not uncommon, according to R1F's historical fact gathering. De-

spite adequate Emergency Medical Team members to provide on-site medical services, delays in emergency transportation to medical facilities was inadequate or even life-threatening.

The Moraga Service League, a group active even before the formation of R1F, bought a van and refitted it to be an ambulance. Moulton says, "People went door to door to collect money." The R1F website fills out the history: "At the same time the Fire Chief, Don Skinner and his staff were in communication with the State of California Health Services, County Medical Office, and John Muir Hospital with the goal of obtaining the ambulance contract for the District. This was the start of community efforts to begin the MFPD Rescue Service and was the forerunner of today's Moraga-Orinda Fire District's paramedic ambulance service."

Moulton says citizen activists have continued the early groundwork laid by the Moraga Service League. "We always have invested in cutting-edge equipment," she said. "It began with the concept that we wanted this to be local. We now ask the fire chief to come to us - not for big ticket equipment like trucks and ambulances, but for state-of-the-art equipment and technology. For example, we were one of the first fire departments to have a drone."

In addition to the DJI Inspire v2 Drone that monitors fire conditions and fuel loads in remote areas and is capable of providing low-cost assistance in search-and-rescue operations, R1F has funded the Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS). Developed by Forest Technology Systems, the RAWS tracks real time wind, humidity, moisture content, and other data used by fire managers to predict fire behavior.

"The RAWS expands the window in which we can conduct prescribed burns for the



MOFD's Stryker Emergency Patient Transport

Photo provided

purpose of fuel mitigation and firefighter training," MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. "Having this tool and its ability to directly report real time local weather conditions to the BAAQMD has resulted in a significant increase in the number of days we have been able to use fire as a training and fire risk reduction tool."

Other acquisitions include the Aeroclave Decontamination System and the Kubota RTV with Skid Pump. "The Aero-Clave has been critical in both the efficiency and efficacy of our expanded decontamination efforts," Winnacker said. "This nets two benefits by reducing the potential for disease transmission while returning units to an in-service status more rapidly. Given the small size of our system and increased demands for pre-hospital care and transport, both have been critical to the maintenance of our service delivery. The Kubota not only increases access to remote areas, but it has facilitated our use of prescribed fire by reducing the staffing required to move firefighting equipment over rugged terrain."

Moulton, asked about the Aeroclave, says, "When they were transporting patients with COVID, they had to make sure the firefighters didn't get ill. The inside of an ambulance is stuffed with nooks and crannies. They were cleaning all of those surfaces with Clorox

wipes between each run. It was very difficult and time consuming."

R1F also supplied funds for the district's Stryker Emergency Patient Transport. The Stryker battery powered gurneys allow paramedics to use a hydraulic system to raise and lower gurneys with a simple press of a button. A retractable head section allows for maneuverability in tight spaces common to homes and ambulances.

Moulton says the foundation relies on Chief Winnacker and other firefighting and rescue experts to recommend equipment and services needed to bolster their capabilities. "We don't try to do their job. They know their business. We are completely separate from MOFD, but we're responsive to their needs," she says.

Winnacker says the community support the MOFD enjoys is nothing short of remarkable and "one of the true joys of being a member of the fire district." Embodied in the volunteers who make up the R1F, he feels an obligation to return the commitment. "We strive to live up to these expectations and are deeply appreciative of the generations of residents and firefighters who worked so hard to make this a reality."

For more information about the Rescue One Foundation, visit its new website at www.rescue1foundation.org/.

GRAND OPENING LAND SALE!
Sat & Sun, Feb 12 & 13
Gorgeous 1+ Acre Homesites
15 Minutes to San Antonio, TX
 • Highest Elevation • Spectacular Views • Big Oaks
 ★ EXCELLENT FINANCING ★
866-999-8966 x896 | BelleOaksTX.com

Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.

Kelly Sopak, Agent Insurance
 Lic#: OD03981 1 Northwood Drive Suite 1 Orinda, CA 94563
 Bus: 925-253-7700
 Email: kelly@kellysopak.com
 Website: www.kellysopak.com

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm
 Bloomington, IL
 2001878

California insurance commissioner provides assistance for consumers

By Sora O'Doherty

The California Department of Insurance released two new features to its website to better serve its customers, including Lamorinda residents. According to Orinda City Manager David Biggs, who highlighted the new services in a recent Orinda Outlook, the Home/Residential Insurance Shop Around Webpage show-

cases insurance companies currently offering discounts for home hardening.

Under "consumer resources," you can find out if you own a home in an area under the mandatory one-year moratorium, along with historical information about the moratoriums. (At this time, there are no moratoriums affecting Lamorinda.) The Insurance commissioner's web-

site also includes information about many different kinds of insurance, from homeowner/residential to automobile to medical and workers' compensation. The current insurance commissioner, Ricardo Lara, is California's eighth insurance commissioner since Californians voted to create the elected position in 1988.

For more information, and to look into these resources visit: www.insurance.ca.gov
 Comparison information on residential insurance link: <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/5-residential/index.cfm>
 Insurance moratorium information link: <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/wildfirenonrenewalinfo.cfm>

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
 Board of Directors
 Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.
 For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
 Board of Directors
 Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 1 p.m.
 For meeting times and agendas, visit 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
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

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 23 - Feb. 5

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	20
Traffic	117
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	12
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	30
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	40
Supplemental Report	31
Vacation House Check	4
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
 800 Block Rosedale Ave.
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 20 Block Lafayette Cir.
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 10 Block Olde Creek Pl.
 3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.
 500 Block St. Mary's Rd. (2)

Dui Misd
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor
 1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
 Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Topinera Ln./Withers Ave.

Reckless Driving
 El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24
 Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
 Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Tc - Property Damage
 Silverwood Dr./Knox Dr.
 School St./Moraga Rd.
 Police Department
 Moraga Rd./School St.
 Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.

Vehicle Theft
 900 Block Reliez Station Ln.
 800 Block Rosedale Ave.
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity

Computer Fraud
 600 Block Doreen Way

Fraud Credit Card
 300 Block Castello Rd.
 900 Block Janet Ln.
 1000 Block Carol Ln.

Fraud False Pretenses
 Police Department (2)
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3600 Block Walnut St.
 3700 Block Highland Rd.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
 900 Block Acalanes Rd.
 2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Identity Theft
 10 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.
 Police Department
 1500 Block El Sombra

800 Block Reliez Station Rd.
 Petty Theft
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd. (2)
 1400 Block Meadowlark Ct.
 1300 Block Summit Rd.
 Petty Theft From Veh
 1000 Block Carol Ln.
 Petty Theft Veh Parts
 3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
 Shoplift
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

Loud Noise
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Party
 1100 Block Vacation Dr. (2)
 3100 Block Somerset Dr. (2)
 700 Block Los Palos Mnr

Public Nuisance
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 1000 Block Laurel Dr.

Other

Animal Cruelty
 Springhill Rd./Briones To Mt. Diablo Regional Trail

Brandishing Weapon
 1St St./Eb Sr 24

Disturbance-fight
 Condit Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

H&S Violation
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Illegal Entry
 1300 Block Summit Rd.

Threats
 El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.

Trespass
 3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.
 1100 Block Via Media

Trespass W/ Vehicle
 1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
 4000 Block Mario Way

Unwanted Guest
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Violation Custody Order
 1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 25 - Feb. 6

Alarms	17
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	40
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
Supplemental Report	3
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	1
Public/School Assembly Check	8
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
 Not Available (5)

Dui Misd
 Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Excessive Speed
 Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.
 Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
 1800 Block Camino Pablo
 St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr.
 Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
 Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
 Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd., Laf
 Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
 St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.

Reckless Driving
 Moraga Way/Valley View Dr., Ori
 Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
 St. Marys Rd./St. Marys College

Vehicle Theft
 Not Available

700 Block Augusta Dr.
Other criminal activity
 Commercial Burglary
 500 Block Center St.
 Grand Theft
 700 Block Augusta Dr.
 Identity Theft
 800 Block Augusta Dr.
 Panhandling
 Safeway
 Petty Theft
 1800 Block Ascot Dr.
 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
 Safeway
 Petty Theft From Veh
 Rheem Valley Shopping Center
 Petty Theft Veh Parts
 80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
 Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.
 Disturbing The Peace
 100 Block Oxford Dr.
 Loud Music
 Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
 Loud Noise
 1400 Block Camino Peral
 Post Office
 Vandalism
 10 Block Lisa Ln.

Other

Harassment
 Safeway
 Mentally Ill Commit
 Campolindo High School
 Simple Assault
 Police Department
 Violation Custody Order
 2100 Block Donald Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon