

MOFD announces an early burn ban

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District issued a public announcement from the fire marshal's office effective April 12 instituting a burn ban for all areas under MOFD's jurisdiction. This comes as a result of extremely dry conditions and lower than average rainfall this past season and will remain in effect until the onset of seasonal rains in the fall. The ban is in accordance with MOFD

Ordinance 20-03, which "sets forth the requirements and/or restrictions pertaining to banning open burning and recreational fires during high fire season and providing for enforcement options and penalties." The ordinance specifies that improperly extinguished recreational fires could potentially turn into an uncontrolled fire that threatens to ignite nearby wildland and structures. Additionally, high winds and low fuel moisture could

add to an already dangerous situation. The ordinance also states that any person who fails to comply with the order may be subject to a fine of \$500 per each day of violation. Basically, a burn ban involves all forms of open flames such as bonfires, portable outdoor fireplaces, ceremonial fires, recreational fires and campfires (on public and private land). The exceptions are UL or ASMI listed manufactured GAS (LPG or NG) outdoor flame devices and charcoal

grills. Also acceptable are wood pellet fuel based barbecue/smokers (such as Traeger). These pellet burning devices contain heat and ash which fully consume the pellets with no super-heated particles remaining that could start a fire after disposal. MOFD does make exceptions to the burn ban by issuing a permit regarding special events or commercial cooking. In these instances, an inspection will be conducted and a permit outlining specific oper-



Photo courtesy MOFD

Outdoor fireplaces fall under the burn ban category

ating guidelines will be issued. For permit information contact the Fire Marshal's office at (925) 258-4513.

Lamorinda Community Emergency Communications plan exercise, May 4

By Sora O'Doherty

Local residents may get a radio call offering them ice cream and cupcakes from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4 during an exercise by the Lamorinda emergency preparedness community to determine how well radio communication works in

Lamorinda. MOFD will set up a communications net control near the Orinda Community Center, utilizing MOFDs equipment. The objectives of the exercise are to introduce, test and revise a checklist for General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio emergency communications, to map radio coverage,

and to map collected locational information. Additionally, it is hoped that the exercise will allow participants to practice perishable radio skills in the GRMS community, to practice setting up communications stations for an emergency event, to develop message-taking skills, and to determine where coverage exists and where efforts will need

to be concentrated for future emergencies. During the exercise, three repeater channels will be used by the net participants to identify themselves and provide locational information. Moraga GMRS, channel 121, Orinda GMRS, channel 122, and Lafayette GMRS, channel 123 will be linked and will be under

one net control. Participating groups will include the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (Duncan Seibert and Julie Sparks), MOFD Support 245 (Dennis Rein), and Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (Todd Gritzer), as well as other interested community members and groups.

Orinda again closes the door on Marin Clean Energy

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"It doesn't smell right," she said; "if it was so great, they wouldn't keep courting us." Worth appreciated all of Miller's com-

ments. She said that in her experience, JPAs require a tremendous amount of time, suggesting that city staff, including the city attorney, would have to look at every one of the

JPA's contracts. "It's a huge commitment," she concluded. In response to Worth's comment after the meeting, MCE stated that joining a CCA JPA often brings more resources

and support to city staff. "We provide additional programs to the community and support GHG and energy savings reporting for city staff." Council Member Nick Kosla

asked, "It feels good and it sounds nice, but what does it really mean?" He wondered how Orinda joining MCE would actually impact climate change.

Orinda School Board asks legislature for grant

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All of the land would remain wholly under the ownership of OUSD. The board looked at a proposed budget request of about \$4.5 million, which would provide funds for a visitor/education center, a bathroom, pathways compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an outdoor education coordinator and educators for five years, nature path signage and displays,

an outdoor kitchen, an outdoor classroom, fencing, a shade canopy and a garden upgrade. Board member Liz Daoust explained that the request has to happen by the end of April. Board President Carol Brown queried whether the board is expecting the state to compensate OUSD for the full value of the land. She expressed her concerns that the board might be encumbering too much property. Board member Jason Kaune

agreed that the nature area is very valuable property and this request is for all time. He said that he would like to explore a land trust for the open space property and felt that the board should not look as this grant as compensation for the land. Board member Cara Hoxley worried about the large area encumbered and Kaune suggested, "If we can't do the land trust, we have to evaluate all our options." In public comments, Erica Bains spoke on behalf of the

Friends of the Orinda Nature Area, recently renamed from the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Bains said that since 2000 when the Friends formed a 501(c)(3), they have had the mission of preserving and maintaining the historical nature area, and have stepped in to ensure the continued operation of the area as an educational site. Saying that the Friends stand committed to the area and offering their help, the Friends urged the board to agree

that the majority of the nature area be conserved as protected open space, and that buildings should only be considered to the extent absolutely necessary for the economic and educational viability of the space. Glimme told the board that there are two clear next steps: to conduct a survey and to review the budget and make sure the request is realistic, which is being undertaken by OUSD Director of Facilities, Stuart House.

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Orinda Housing Element review

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While there has been a lot of building on BART parking lots in recent years, Orinda is in a somewhat unique position because the parking lots are located between the two directions of Highway 24 and do not have direct street access. In addition, the land is owned not by BART but by CalTrans, which is known to move slowly in matters of land transfers. Placeworks recommended that

the BART parking lots be held in reserve for the seventh Housing Element. As with everything involved in the Housing Element, the timeline is extremely complex. Orinda was required to make the draft Housing Element available for public comments for 30 days, plus an additional 10 days if any comments are received, which they have been. Following the public review, Orinda staff and consultants will make revisions

and submit the draft to HCD. It is anticipated that this will occur in May. HCD will then have 90 days to review and provide comments back to the city. Staff anticipates receiving comments from HCD in August. After HCD comments are received, there will be a second public comment period and second round of revisions before submission to HCD. HCD will have 60 days to review the resubmittal.

Placeworks' long and extremely detailed document is available as part of the agenda packet for the Orinda City Council meeting of April 19, at <http://orindaca.igq2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2030&Inline=True>

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 April 3 - April 16

Alarms	50
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	147
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	21
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	7
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	29
Welfare Check	14
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
100 Block Lafayette Cir.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
15t St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Reckless Driving	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

3300 Block Springhill Rd.
1000 Block Leland Dr.
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Vehicle Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Burglary - Misc
3300 Block Of Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Commercial Burglary
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses
2900 Block Windtree Ct.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pd Laf Police Department
Grand Theft
3300 Block Betty Ln.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
4000 Block Woodside Ct.
Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Petty Theft
3700 Block Sundale Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music
1000 Block Orchard Rd. (3)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
Loud Noise
1000 Block Orchard Rd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
Loud Party
10 Block Springhill Ln.
Silverado Dr./Bradbury Dr.
Public Nuisance
Happy Valley Rd./Soares Ln.
Rohrer Dr./Bavarian Ln.
St Marys Rd./Woodview Dr.
Vandalism
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
700 Block Moraga Rd.
3300 Block Victoria Ave.
3400 Block Springhill Ct.
Chestnut St./Walnut St.
3500 Block Brook St.

Other
Trespass
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 5 - April 18

Alarms	26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	44
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Excessive Speed	
700 Block Plot (2)	
Moraga Rd./Woodfoord	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
St Marys College	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
Moraga T J Max	
Grand Theft	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
300 Block Constance Pl.	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	
Petty Theft	
Police Department	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-fight	
Moraga Commons Park	
Loud Music	

School St./Hazelwood Pl.
Canyon Club Brewery
Loud Noise
Hacienda (2)
Other
Accident Property
Police Department
900 Block Moraga
Animal Cruelty
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
10 Block Miramonte Dr.
Campolindo High School (2)
Other Felony
Moraga Rd./Tanglewood Dr., Laf
Suicide Attempt
600 Block Carroll Dr.
Trespass
1200 Block Larch Av
Unwanted Guest
500 Block Center St.
Violation Custody Order
2100 Block Donald Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 3 - April 16

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	74
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
300 Block El Toyonal	
10 Block El Pulgar	
Accident Property	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Auto Burglary	
Camino Pablo	
10 Block Wildwood Rd.	
Dui Misd	

El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
Theater Square
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
Tc - Property Damage
Ivy Dr./Coral Dr.
Vehicle Theft
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
90 Block Claremont Ave.
Orinda Way
Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
80 Block Dairy Creek Ln.
Grand Theft
70 Block Rheem Blvd.
60 Block Camino Don Miguel
Grand Theft Veh Parts
20 Block Alta Vista
Petty Theft
80 Block Via Floreado
Camino Sobrante (2)
10 Block Estabueno Dr.
Shoplift
Camino Sobrante
Warrant Arrest
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way
Ivy Dr./Ardith Dr.
Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln.
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Motorcycle
80 Block Via Floreado
Loud Party
10 Block Big Leaf Rd.
Public Nuisance
70 Block Southwood Dr.
Theatre Square
Moraga Way
St Stephens Dr./El Nido Ranch Rd.
Theatre Square
Vandalism
10 Block Orinda View Rd.
Vandalism - Felony
200 Block El Toyonal
Other
Animal Cruelty
Camino Sobrante
Mentally Ill Commit
20 Block Carisbrook Dr.
50 Block La Espiral
Prowler Seen
50 Block Windy Creek Way
Trespass
100 Block Camino Pablo
Unauthorized Possession
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way
Unwanted Guest
60 Block Moraga Way
Violation Restraining Ord
60 Block Oak Rd.