

# Canyon Emergency Drill goes better than expected



Photo Chris Lavin

**Canyon resident Tom Llewellyn, left, and Michael Roemer of Lamorinda CERT in a Moraga parking lot April 23 during Canyon's practice evacuation in case of fire.**

**By Chris Lavin**

The recorded call came from official fire department authorities at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning: "This is a warning. Evacuate immediately." It would have been a call to cause most people in Lamorinda to freeze. An impending fire, this time, very close. We gotta go.

The difference was just about everyone in Canyon had been sipping their morning coffee that day and stayed calm: They knew the call had

been coming.

The evacuation drill was successfully completed April 23 after weeks of planning by a Canyon committee interested in getting residents prepared for the type of disaster that has hit several local and Greater Bay Area communities in the past year.

"This was a great turnout," said Tom Llewellyn of Canyon, who directed the day's event, as he looked out over a crowd of about 80 of the town's 200-plus residents. Another 10 children and their dogs scrambled beneath the trees

where they had been "evacuated" to the parking lot of St. Monica's Church in Moraga.

Llewellyn said he hadn't known how many would actually come out for the drill, but was happy with the turnout.

"I thought we did very well," he said, adding that many residents who did not attend had let him know they would be out of Canyon at that time, anyway.

"The more everyone prepares, the better," said Michael Roemer, of the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which has participated in similar drills in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. "Real fires have already happened in our community."

One of the worst local fires was the Merrill Fire in Moraga's Sanders Ranch neighborhood that ignited at 1 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2019. Nearby residents there were forced to leave their houses in the middle of the night, in complete darkness due to a PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff, many with only the clothes on their backs.

"I heard from a lot of people, when I met them later, who told me they didn't expect to find their houses intact when they got back," Roemer said. "People have to be vigilant, and prepared."

And that is what the people of Canyon tried to do. Some had emergency bags packed and ready; others brought empty bags just for the practice. The weeks it took to get everyone

ready was headed up by Llewellyn and Jamie Barret-Riley, with the help of Dennis Rein of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. They made sure to have updated phone trees on everyone's door well before the drill. The phone tree was utilized in tandem with a local emergency siren system and calls from the Community Warning System, initiated by the MOFD.

All Canyonites were made aware of the drill. Packing an emergency bag was recommended.

"I know I have to get packed," said Aundre Speciale as she accepted coffee from Red Cross volunteer Diana Graham. "You know, I lost everything when I was younger. Yeah, our house burned to the ground. I thought, 'Oh, no! I left my grandmother's ring!' I don't want to live through anything like that again."

One hyper-alert resident in the parking lot beamed. "I have 17 bags already packed," he said. "Even one that has a lot of first-edition books signed by the author."

It didn't hurt that both alert and still-groggy participants could munch on pastries while Red Cross volunteers handed out coffee and hot chocolate, provided gratis by Safeway and Starbucks.

"It was a good turnout," Roemer said, before he continued to talk about wind directions throughout Lamorinda changing every 24 hours. "We all need to take this seriously. We're all seeing the effects of climate change."

# MOFD takes to intersections for annual Fill The Boot fundraiser

**By Vera Kochan**

Local residents traveling through the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road on May 2 between 9 a.m. and noon were witness to the annual Moraga-Orinda Fire District's fundraiser, Fill The Boot. Approximately six off-duty firefighters from the

town's stations 41 and 42 were in evidence collecting cash donations from drivers, cyclists and pedestrians whenever a red light made it safe to do so.

Fill The Boot began in 1954, when the International Association of Firefighters partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The goal was to raise awareness and funds to ensure effective treatments and



Photos MOFD Captain Jacob Airola

**MOFD Engineer Matt Lopez (left) and Firefighter-Paramedic Garrison Feil sweep the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road.**

therapy to combat neuromuscular diseases such as spinal muscular atrophy, Pompe disease and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. According to a joint statement, to date, over 300,000 firefighters across the country have raised over \$679 million since the venture's inception. Much of the funding has led to 14 new FDA-approved treatments within the past six years.

"It's not just about finding cures," stated MOFD Captain Jacob Airola. "It's also about the quality of life. We want to make

sure that the kids have a chance to enjoy themselves by going to one of the many MDA Summer Camps nationwide. We also volunteer at the one in Occidental."

Airola and Firefighter-Paramedic Andrew Leach, who is this year's primary organizer, pointed out that "there are state and federal laws that allow firefighters to collect funds at intersections as long as you wear your helmet and

gear. And, in Canada."

MOFD's goal was to collect "between \$4,000 - \$5,000," they stated. "Today's total was \$5,687."

For anyone who missed a chance to Fill The Boot in Moraga, MOFD's next fundraiser will take place in Orinda on May 12 between 9 a.m. and noon at the intersection of Brookwood Road and Camino Pablo. Participating firehouses 43, 44 and 45 are setting a collection goal of \$7,000 - \$8,000.



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**MOFD Engineer Matt Epperson collects donations from young philanthropists excited to get their "I donated" stickers.**

**Donations can also be made online at: <https://filltheboot.donordrive.com>.**

## 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  
**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 17 - April 30**  
Alarms 37  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 15  
Traffic 74  
Suspicious Circumstances 6  
Suspicious Subject 22  
Suspicious Vehicle 11  
Service to Citizen 38  
Patrol Req./Security Check 11  
Public/School Assembly Check 3  
Supplemental Report 21  
Vacation House Check 0  
Welfare Check 15  
Ordinance Violation 0  
**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
1100 Block Glen Rd.  
900 Block East St.  
80 Block Bacon Ct.  
600 Block Los Palos Dr.  
900 Block Alamor Ct.  
El Nido Ranch Rd./Eb Sr 24

Dui Misd  
Eb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Police Department  
Reckless Driving  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.  
Moraga Rd./School St.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
500 Block Antonio Ct.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
10 Block Diablo Cir.  
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.  
Panhandling  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3300 Block Rossi St.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
80 Block Bacon Ct.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3900 Block Woodside Ct.  
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.  
Disturbance-fight  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Loud Music  
3300 Block Block S Lucille Ln  
Loud Noise  
1000 Block Carol Ln  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Loud Party  
3300 Block S Lucille Ln  
1000 Block 2Nd St. (2)  
Public Nuisance  
Golden Gate Way/1st St.  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vandalism  
800 Block Rosedale Ave.  
Police Department  
900 Block Moraga Rd.

**Other**  
Elder Abuse  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
California High School, Sra  
Trespass  
3200 Block Elvia St.  
3400 Block School St.  
1100 Block Cambridge Dr.  
Unwanted Guest  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 19 - May 2**  
Alarms 5  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8  
Traffic 65  
Suspicious Circumstances 5  
Suspicious Subject 0  
Suspicious Vehicle 4  
Service to Citizen 24  
Patrol Req./Security Check 20  
Supplemental Report 6  
Vacation House Check 4  
Welfare Check 2  
Public/School Assembly Check 1  
Ordinance Violation 0  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Injury  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.  
Accident Property  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.  
100 Block Hazelwood Pl.  
Bollinger Canyon Rd./St Marys Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
300 Block Park St.  
Excessive Speed  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (4)  
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.  
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Center  
Moraga Way/School St.  
Reckless Driving  
100 Block Fernwood Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Alta Mesa Dr./Paseo Bernal  
St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Grand Theft  
90 Block Corliss Dr.

Grand Theft From Veh  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
Petty Theft  
400 Block Woodminster Dr.  
20 Block Hour Fitness  
Police Department  
St Marys College  
Tamper With Vehicle  
1300 Block Moraga Way  
Vehicle Theft  
100 Block Goodfellow Dr.  
Warrant Arrest  
St Marys Rd./Stafford Dr.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Music  
Hacienda  
Loud Noise  
100 Block Hardie Dr.  
Public Nuisance  
Rheem Blvd./St Marys Rd.  
Vandalism  
Safeway  
**Other**  
Mentally Ill Commit  
200 Block Sonora Rd.  
  
**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 27  
Patrol Req./Security Check 74  
Supplemental Report 11  
Vacation House Check 0  
Welfare Check 7  
Public/School Assembly Check 2  
Ordinance Violation 1  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Glorietta Blvd./Rheem Blvd.  
Dui Misd  
20 Block Bryant Way

Reckless Driving  
30 Block Camino Sobrante  
Moraga Way/Meadowlands Ct.  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
Miner Rd./Lombardy Ln.  
Camino Pablo  
Tc - Property Damage  
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Counterfeit  
10 Block Meadowlands Ct.  
Forgery  
100 Block Las Vegas Rd.  
Police Department  
Grand Theft  
100 Block Rheem Blvd.  
Grand Theft Veh Parts  
10 Block Oak Dr.  
Identity Theft  
40 Block Ardilla Rd.  
10 Block Tara Rd. (2)  
10 Block Meadowlands Ct.  
Petty Theft  
Camino Sobrante  
Residential Burglary  
80 Block Sunnyside Ln.  
Robbery Armed  
10 Block Los Altos Rd.  
Vehicle Theft  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.  
Warrant Arrest  
10 Block El Corte  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
Brookside Rd./Moraga Way  
Disturbing The Peace  
Moraga Way  
Camino Sobrante Ori  
Loud Music  
20 Block Coffee Berry Ln.  
20 Block Orinda Fields Ln.  
Theater Square  
Vandalism  
600 Block Tahos Rd.  
**Other**  
Mentally Ill Commit  
30 Block Oak Dr.  
Revocation Of Probation  
70 Block Moraga Way  
Susp Circ/Sexual  
10 Block Martha Rd.  
Trespass  
Camino Sobrante  
Unwanted Guest  
Not Available