

# MOFD directs chief to form working group on single role paramedic staffing

By Sora O'Doherty

The Moraga Orinda Fire District on May 18 once again took up the topic of increasing staffing at Fire Station 45 in downtown Orinda. From 2007 to 2013, staffing had been increased from 17 to 19, with a dedicated ambulance service at Station 45, but in 2013 the district reverted to the current cross-staffing model, under which the crew of Engine 45 staffs the ambulance when responding to emergency medical service (EMS) calls.

In his staff report to the board, MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker reported that this requires taking Engine 45 out of service for the full length of the EMS call and creates a gap in coverage for a median time of 62 minutes per call.

MOFD's second ambulance unit is staffed with a dedicated crew at Station 41 in Moraga. Winnacker explained that the

reason the ambulance call outs can take more than an hour is owing to the lack of local hospitals. When the ambulance from Station 45 is on an EMS call, Engine 45 cannot be used because the firefighters are with the ambulance.

This issue was raised again at the April 20 board meeting, when Directors Michael Donner and Steve Danziger requested a staff report. In addition, Local 1230 Union Representative Jacob Airola recently raised an instance where there was a house fire in north Orinda, but the ambulance from Station 45 was transporting a patient to the hospital, which meant that Engine 45 remained idle. The engine from Station 43, St. Stephens, responded, but there was a delay for several minutes.

Fortunately, the fire was contained to the chimney where it started, with no damage to the rest of the structure or any other structures. There

were no injuries or fatalities. Winnacker, using the time it took for the battalion truck from Station 45 to reach the site of the fire, estimated the delay at about two minutes. For each structure fire called in to 911, MOFD dispatches four engines, a ladder truck, two battalion chiefs, and an ambulance. Winnacker explained that MOFD wants 15 to 20 firefighters at an incident. MOFD also receives help from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as needed.

The chief's report contains extensive documentation of incidents and response time. Winnacker requested that the board provide directions to staff on four alternatives: 1) to maintain status quo of 17 suppressing members per day with two vacation relief positions per shift; 2) increase staffing to 19 suppression members per day with existing authorized positions; 3) increase staffing to 19 suppression members per

day with two additional vacation relief positions per shift; or 4) develop proposal to implement single role paramedic staffing.

Alternative one would require a substantial amount of overtime, which would require the district to meet and confer with union representatives. Director Danziger also pointed out that mandatory overtime leads to more burnout and more injuries to firefighters. Under alternative four, Station 45's ambulance would be staffed with paramedics, and possibly with EMTs who are not firefighters, which would leave the firefighters available for call-outs on Engine 45. The staff report explains that the use of firefighter/paramedics is no longer widespread in the East Bay owing to increased staffing costs, although it is retained in the city of Alameda and some other smaller departments because there is an insufficient call volume to support single-

role positions.

Director Craig Jorgans noted that north Orinda response times are the worst in the district. He was definitely in favor of the chief forming a working group to discuss increased service levels. A working group formed by the chief was favored over a group established by the MOFD board, because the working group formed by the chief would not be a Brown Act body.

Winnacker asked the board to give him specific directions on what the group was to consider, as the board has considered increasing the number of firefighters several times and already has considerable information about that. It was agreed that Winnacker's group should work on alternative four only, to develop a proposal to implement single-role paramedic staffing. When that group reports back, the board will then be in a position to consider all four options.

# MOFD honors volunteer student, Kaitlyn Roach



From left: MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, Kaitlyn Roach, and Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

The board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District was told at their May 18 meeting that Miramonte High School student Kaitlyn Roach of Orinda has received a big thank you for volunteer service to the district. Roach was honored for her leadership, marketing talent, innovative ideas, and communication skills which have been an invaluable resource for the district and the community. Roach has managed the monthly Fire Marshal messages for fire safety, developed local banners to communicate the annual abatement deadline, and created an educational video about home

hardening and defensible space. She received a proclamation recognizing her volunteer service to MOFD.

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker and Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs showed their gratitude by giving Roach the Official Proclamation as well as taking her on a personal ride in a fire

engine, which Roach really enjoyed. She was also provided with an excellent recommendation. According to the district, "Kaitlyn's sense of community and pride is an excellent example of demonstrated civic duty for everyone."

## Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, June 15, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 1 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)  
([http://64.166.146.245/agenda\\_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL](http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL))



# Letters to the editor

## No Mow May

No Mow May is a tiny idea with huge consequences! Here's the idea - stow your lawnmower for the month of May and let the weeds come to bloom. The plants that we consider weeds are actually food that is essential for pollinators, like bees, just coming out of hibernation.

The U.S. has nearly 5,000 species of native bees and many of them overwinter underground. When they come out of hibernation, they are hungry.

No Mow May is all about feeding the bees.

So sit back and watch the grass grow for the rest of the

month! Contact the person who mows your lawn and give them the rest of the month off. The bees will thank you.

Ellen Beans  
Moraga

## Orinda council fails on affordable housing

State law requires Orinda to upzone for over 600 units of affordable housing. Other cities have a different number. In the Bay Area, affordable housing for a four-person household allows for a maximum income of \$150,000. A document called the "Housing Element" must be

submitted to the state by January 31, 2023, showing where the re-zoning will occur.

State law, however, allows for this zoning requirement to be satisfied by zoning sufficient sites for a density of 20 units per acre or more, without actually requiring that affordable housing be built on the sites designated for affordable housing. In order to actually obtain affordable housing, many cities, including Lafayette, have enacted "inclusionary housing ordinances" requiring, e.g., that 15% of units in new projects be affordable. Yet rather than enacting such an ordinance (which could be copied from

Lafayette), or even committing to enact such an ordinance, the Orinda council has allowed "staff" to submit to the state a draft Housing Element that merely proposes that Orinda will "research" the subject over a multi-year period.

The Mayor should be faulted for failing to cause the Council to provide direction to staff, instead by inaction leaving the decision to "staff," which is already in discussions with

developers. "Staff" unsurprisingly, and in the absence of direction from the Council, has chosen to submit a draft Housing Element that is a developer's dream: up-zoning for increased density without a requirement for any affordable units. The Mayor, the Council, and staff should be embarrassed.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

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# Hung finishes 36th consecutive Boston Marathon, tying women's record

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As I get older, I think this run is going to be a good run in my head, not necessarily to run fast."

Hung, who is still working

as a nurse, starts training hard for the race for about three months running 800's and it always careful to do what she can to avoid any injuries or illnesses. "I've been running for a long time, and I've been so for-

tunate because so many things can happen with your health," Hung said. "The last two weeks prior to the race, I was very careful when I went out and made sure I always had a mask on."

As a native Bostonian, the race also serves to have an annual reunion with any number of friends and relatives: "it was great to see everyone at mile 13 and then they all moved to the end of the race to see me finish."

Hung is already looking forward to next year's race: "I had a wonderful write-up in the Boston Athletic Magazine that acknowledged my tying the record this year. It will be more exciting next year."

## 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 May 1 - May 14**

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	87
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	26
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	23
Vacation House Check	0

Welfare Check	23
Ordinance Violation	4
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
Brown Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
80 Block Lafayette Cir.	
1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)	
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.	
Nephi Ct./Moraga Rd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
3700 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Glenside Dr./St Marys Rd.	
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
Huntleigh Dr./Lucas Dr.	
Deer Hill Rd./1St St.	
Happy Valley Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Tc - Property Damage	
800 Block Acalanes Rd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
1100 Block Via Media	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Commercial Burglary	
900 Block 2Nd St.	
Grand Theft	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
1100 Block Via Media	
900 Block Village Center	
Panhandling	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Petty Theft	
800 Block Mountain View Dr.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department (2)	

3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
Petty Theft From Veh	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
Residential Burglary	
3100 Block Windsor Ct.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Tamper With Vehicle	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
Disturbing The Peace	
900 Block East St.	
Loud Music	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	
Moraga Blvd./Victoria Ave.	
Loud Noise	
10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct.	
Loud Party	
Fallen Leaf Ct./Silver Dell Rd.	
1200 Block Quandt Rd.	
Las Trampas Rd./Glenside Dr.	
Moraga Blvd./Victoria Ave.	
1000 Block Glen Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Bart	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Burton Dr./Glenside Dr.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Vandalism	
1100 Block Howard Hills Rd.	
3400 Block Sweet Dr.	
<b>Other</b>	
Brandishing Weapon	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
H&S Violation	
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
400 Block Norman Ave., Cly	
Return After Eviction	

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
3900 Block Canyon Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3300 Block Betty Ln.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	



## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report May 3 - May 16

Alarms	14
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	17
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	7
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Injury	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Chalda Way/Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Library	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr., Ori	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	

Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo	
Tc - Property Damage	
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
Nb Canyon/Camino Pablo	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud Credit Card	
Not Available	
Grand Theft	
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
10 Block Fieldbrook Pl.	
Petty Theft	
Not Available	
Theft Access Card	
Not Available	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
Hacienda	
Disturbing The Peace	
Police Department	
Loud Music	
Not Available	
Canyon Club Brewery	
Hardie Dr./Moraga Way	
Loud Party	
30 Block Miramonte Dr.	
<b>Other</b>	
Battery Sexual	
Campolindo High School	
Police Department	
Penetration With Object	
Campolindo High School	
Unwanted Guest	
Canyon Club Brewery	



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time**