

Letters to the editor ... continued

Support independent candidates for MOFD

With all those election signs bidding for our attention as we drive the roads of Orinda, it's easy to forget a crucial difference between the fire district election (MOFD) and the other elections also underway, for example for Orinda City Council. The difference: MOFD candidates run in districts. Unlike candidates for Orinda City Council, where all candidates compete against all other candidates, an MOFD candidate runs only against candidates running in that district.

For example, I see election signs for Mike Roemer and for Vince Dell'Aquila. But they are not running against one another. Roemer is campaigning to be a director for MOFD District 4 and Dell'Aquila (just named as Orinda's Citizen of the Year!) from District 4 – districts largely in Orinda.

Both Roemer and Dell'Aquila have separate opponents. Prior to 2018 MOFD elections had been fairly low-key. Then, a big change. Three candidates were backed heavily by the MOFD firefighters' union: with cash (\$30,000 in total campaign donations) and manpower (pamphlet distributions, sign placement). With the power of surprise, the union-backed candidates won. Two of those winning in 2018 are running again -- against Dell'Aquila and Roemer.

Roemer and Dell'Aquila are running as independent candidates. Not anti-union, but independent. And not against each other.
Dave Anderson
Orinda

Vote Vince Dell'Aquila for MOFD District 3

I support Vince because we need a director with the priorities of Orinda, Moraga and Canyon in providing excellent fire & ambulance services, preventing wildfires, and fiscal responsibility.

Local leaders know the record & have endorsed Vince - city council members, current/former mayors, MOFD Directors, our State Senator, school board/parents' club leaders and others who know the importance of not diluting our resources by merging with outside districts. How many hours/dollars have we all spent fundraising for our schools with minimal return from Sacramento for taxes we pay in?

Key endorsers also include many citizen volunteers leading neighborhood fire prevention efforts and pushing better technologies. Some insurers give discounts for these "Fire-wise" programs as they're proven to protect our families, prepare for and prevent wildfire.

MOFD has successfully retained excellent, well-compensated firefighters with equipment/personnel ratios double those elsewhere. While maintaining that excellence, MOFD needs more focus on community engagement – Vince has the perfect experience and inclusive temperament as a long-time successful leader over 32 budgets; as a coach, and hardworking volunteer (named Orinda's 2022 Citizen of the Year).

Please support Vince Dell'Aquila for MOFD.
Sandy Roadcap
Orinda

Dell'Aquila for MOFD board

Vince Dell'Aquila has a depth of experience and skills that will be invaluable to the MOFD Board. As an educator, Department Head and Athletic Director, as well as licensed General Contractor in his previous career, he has addressed the concerns of thousands of parents and students, teachers and administrators, business leaders and the Community. He's adept at managing budgets, both in the private sector and as Athletic Director, with 32 separate budgets to oversee.

Moreover, for decades, he

has worked tirelessly and collaboratively with a wide range of people, to develop and implement successful action plans. Also, importantly, Vince will be an independent director, whose campaign has been 100% financed by members of the community and friends. As opposed to his opponent's campaign, which to date has been completely financed by the Fire Union.

In sum, Vince has the leadership skills and experience necessary for the Board to strategically meet the challenges that the MOFD faces.
M'Liss Greenlee
Orinda

Danziger for MOFD board

On Nov. 8 voters in MOFD District 3 will have the opportunity to vote for Director. For me it is no contest, and I will be voting to re-elect Steven Danziger. Steve is a wonderful neighbor and friend. He has clearly demonstrated to me over the years that he is a reliable and effective leader who has consistently taken actions to make our District as fire safe as possible. He has actively helped homeowners / neighbors with fuel mitigation to reduce the risk of fires.

During these challenging times for the Fire Service where the Board may make decisions that will affect our life and property, we need Steve's experience and expertise. While Steven has 3+ decades of Public Service experience including 25 yrs. in the Fire Service. Steven served 2 terms as President of the board and is the current VP. He has completed CERT training, is a FAC-Ambassador, Volunteers with numerous local organizations, was local Boy Scout Troop 57 Scoutmaster (where we first met) and as a UC Master Gardener has made dozens of presentations on Home Hardening and Firescaping.

While we are fortunate to have great choices, there is a difference in fire department experience of the MOFD District 3 candidates. Steven is endorsed by the brave men and women that serve as Firefighters with MOFD. We need to re-elect Steven Danziger to the Board so that he may continue to represent our interests on the Board and build on the progress we are making. Join me in Re-electing Steven Danziger to MOFD District 3 Director on Nov. 8th!
John Turney
Orinda

Donner for MOFD board

I am writing to express my support for Michael Donner and recommend him for Moraga Fire Protection District Director. For over 40 years, Michael has been a dedicated and loyal public servant to this community. Decades of fire-fighting experience paired with a proactive, problem-solving mindset makes him easily the most qualified candidate for the job.

On a personal note, I know Michael Donner to be an incredibly kind and devoted neighbor, friend, father and person. Since my dad was diagnosed with ALS two years ago, Michael has stood by my family and shows himself every day to be a true and reliable friend.

When we needed to remodel the house to make it ADA accessible, Michael founded a GoFundMe to help cover the expenses of the modifications. He jumps to our assistance when arduous physical tasks outweigh our abilities and never hesitates to take time out of his schedule to make dinner, have a laugh and a drink with my dad, and be there to support us. As my dad's mobility has become more limited, he has always made an effort to get him out of the house and do the things that bring him joy. As I go into the last year of my four-year undergrad in Scotland, it makes me feel much assuaged to know Michael will be a constant presence around the house as he has been in these years past. My family will never forget the care, time and love he has shown us, and it is my privilege to recommend a man I know to be reliable, giving and committed to this community.
Ava Killbourn
Orinda Resident since 2006

Vote for Roemer and Dell'Aquila for MOFD

No one is surprised when election season brings out selective, faulty or even totally incorrect recall. Mistakes Donner and Danziger have both stated recently, that their No. 1 priority is fire safety. How quickly they forget! Over their first terms, both have voted against the chipper program, against funding the North Orinda fire break, and have reduced funding for the home hardening program by \$250,000. This and other public safety matters expose the true priorities of the incum-

bents: not fire prevention and safety, but doing the bidding of the Sacramento-based Fireman's Union.

Further proof of their misaligned loyalties: the minutes of the March 17, 2021 MOFD meeting quote union leader Vince Wells proposing that MOFD be merged into ConFire. The record shows Director Danziger in support of the merger idea, in spite of his protests of being misquoted.

Finally, public records show that 100% of the funding for the Danziger and Donner campaigns has come from International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 PAC. No such special interest funding has been accepted by Mike Roemer or Vince Dell'Aquila.

Please vote Roemer and Dell'Aquila. Return control of MOFD to Orinda and Moraga-interested directors who prioritize our local fire prevention and safety goals.
Glen S. Gagon
Orinda

Don't believe misrepresentations from Hasler, Roemer and Dell'Aquila

A mailer arrived in Moraga and Orinda mailboxes last week claiming that MOFD Board incumbents Danziger and Donner "voted against" MOFD's Chipper Program. This is a gross misrepresentation of the truth.

At the June 17, 2020 Board meeting, Fire Chief Winnacker and Fire Marshal Isaacs explained that the chipping program had been paused for three months while fuels mitigation staff focused on critical "abatement compliance inspections along major evacuation routes." (MOFD Minutes, 6/17/20, p. 10)

At that meeting, Danziger and Donner both voted to maintain this "temporary" pause in the chipping program—which everyone understood would resume on Sept. 1—to ensure that staff would have sufficient personnel to complete the key task of "follow-up and enforcement" on hazard abatement violations on our essential evacuation routes. (Ibid. pp. 10-13)

Danziger and Donner are strong supporters of the chipping program and voted in favor of MOFD's purchase of its own dedicated chipper so that the chipping program could be not only continued but expanded. (MOFD Minutes, 6/16/21, p. 6) This program has been a major success.

It is disappointing that Hasler, Roemer and Dell'Aquila would distort the facts in this way, especially when Danziger and Donner acted to ensure the best interests of the community and its safety.

Please support Donner, Danziger and Young for MOFD Board. They support robust fire prevention measures including fuels mitigation, and they fully respect the needs and experience of our fire-fighting professionals.
Suzanne D'Arcy
Moraga

Donner for MOFD board

I am writing in support to re-elect Michael Donner for the MOFD Board of Director in Division 4. After a 31-year career as an Oakland Firefighter, Michael continues to serve his community with his extensive knowledge on fire prevention as the current president of the MOFD Board. His accomplishments as a board member include the support of North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, hiring a full-time fuel mitigation staff and providing fiscal stability with major increases to the MOFD budget reserves.

During the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, I was a reporter for KTVU and remember vividly the devastation that occurred. The fire was fueled by dry & neglected underbrush and untended dead brush/trees throughout the hills. Now that I am a real estate agent, I appreciate the strict fire code enforcement MOFD has enacted. The fire prevention efforts that Michael Donner and the shared vision with Fire Chief Winnacker will not only keep us safer from fire but also allow all of us to continue to have options for affordable fire insurance.

Michael has been an active member of the community. He has served on the emergency preparedness committee within the Orinda schools and continues to support his fellow Oakland firefighters by serving on the Oakland Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation. I could not recommend a better person for the position. Please join me in voting for Michael Donner for MOFD Board.
Thank you
Diane Dwyer
Orinda

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LATIKA MALKANI

FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

ACCOUNTABILITY, PREPAREDNESS, COMMUNITY

Endorsed by:

- Assemblyperson Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Dennis Fay, Mayor, City of Orinda
- Inga Miller, Vice-Mayor, City of Orinda
- Amy Worth, Councilperson, City of Orinda
- Darlene Gee, Councilperson, City of Orinda
- Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 8

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FPPC# 1454487