

Many drivers have forgotten the Rules of the Road



Moraga Police driving on Rheem Boulevard. Photo Lamo archive

By Vera Kochan

This reporter was involved in a rather disconcerting situation along Moraga Road near Ascot Drive in Moraga at around 4 p.m. March 23. There were approximately 10 or more vehicles traveling south along with mine. All were traveling at the posted speed limit of 35 mph.

I looked in the rearview mirror only to find that a Moraga Police Department vehicle was behind me with lights flashing, but no siren. I wondered what I was guilty of as I pulled over to the right shoulder, along with another driver who correctly did the

same for an emergency vehicle. I was surprised to find that MPD kept on driving past me, so I wound up back on Moraga Road, this time directly behind the officer's vehicle.

The officer was traveling at the same speed as the rest of the cars along Moraga Road, and apparently not giving chase to anyone. "There are calls we may respond to with lights, but not use the siren as we get closer to the location to avoid having a suspect hear us coming," explained Chief Jon King. "Additionally, it is also possible that when the officer finished a traffic stop, they forgot to turn the lights off, which does happen

occasionally."

However, the point of this article is to note that barely any cars pulled over between Ascot Drive and the eventual stopping for the red light at the intersection of Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road (about a mile).

Vehicle code section 21806 states that when an authorized emergency vehicle which is sounding a siren and which has at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light that is visible, drivers should immediately pull to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection.

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Moraga Town Council ratifies MOFD Ordinance



Photo courtesy MOFD

The importance of defensible space near your home

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga-Orinda Fire Dis-

trict Ordinance 23-01 was ratified by Moraga's Town Council, which would adopt the 2022 edition of the California

Fire Code and the 2021 International Fire Code referencing local amendments deemed essential by the MOFD board due in large part to climatic, geologic, and topographical conditions existing in the district. Orinda has already ratified the Ordinance.

According to a March 22 staff report by Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Associate Planner Brian Horn, an MOFD report to its board of directors stated, "The proposed amendments are the product of a yearlong effort carried out by all of the Fire

Marshals in Contra Costa County meeting as part of the Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Association Fire Prevention Officers Committee. The Fire Marshal working group worked to create a consensus on amendments to adequately protect each community and create a standardized template for a county-wide fire code."

MOFD Chief Dave Winkacker's presentation during the council meeting helped to explain the local amendments while clarifying that they don't potentially affect current

homeowners or renters, but serve as a go-forward for new construction.

A summary of local amendments to the 2022 Fire Code include: adding clarity in identifying when operational and construction permits are required; amending and clarifying language for substantial addition and alteration with regards to linear walls and roofs or if the aggregate of the new construction exceeds 3,600 square feet, and removing Exterior Hazard Abatement requirements.

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Letters to the editor

Congratulations to Cathy Chang

I am thrilled that Cathy Chang has been elected the 2023 Moraga Citizen of the Year! Cathy is the most amazing young woman I know in Moraga. In addition to working full-time as a single Mom of two, Cathy has been an active provider of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education to both Moraga students and adults, through curriculum, movie/discussion nights and numerous library displays. She engages her children and her adult friends in distributing food pantry items to those in need in Oakland, established the Plant it Forward program for local 5th graders, led a program for Moraga elementary students to prepare winter Friday night dinners at an Oakland Senior center (using "ugly produce" gleaned from a local farm), helped lead Girl Scouts in a fun geocaching hunt (learning, aside, about survival compass use and building a survival shelter), and led Girl Scouts in harvesting and packing milkweed seed to give to local residents.... and so much more.

Of the 41 prior Moraga Citizens of the Year, only four have been Asian, and only one other Asian woman has been elected (despite that 20.8% of Moragans are of Asian descent), and none have been from the younger Moraga demographic. Cathy's election is an important statement about who we are as a community and our values. I urge you to join me in attending the Celebration Dinner for Cathy on April 28 at Holy Trin-

ity Serbian Church in Moraga and meet and honor this extraordinary woman (register at MoragaValleyKiwanis.org).

Proud of our Town,
Bobbie Preston
Moraga

A point of clarification

I'm writing to acknowledge a complete slip of words in my public comments made at the recent City Council meeting discussing the Pleasant Hill Road Bike/Pedestrian Path project. In reading the March 15 edition of the Lamorinda Weekly, I saw that I was quoted in saying, "No one wants to see the Pleasant Hill and dedicated bike and pathway project done." I immediately listened to the recording of the meeting before reaching out to reporter Lou Fancher. Unfortunately, I was quoted correctly.

But that is absolutely not my view on the project. What I failed to say were three very important words at the end of that sentence: "... more than me."

I have spent the last three years working with Eric Law and others on the project; building a website, managing email and social media communications, designing and

selling yard signs, walking door to door publicly advocating for the project, attending public meetings and town halls and also investing my own money. In fact, I spent the bulk of my free time during the day of the meeting writing an email to supporters and a social media post outlining my support of the project.

But when I was finally able to read the public comments submitted by concerned citizens, I realized that now is not the best time to ask for federal and state funding. In my haste to write down and speak my public comment, I forgot those important words.

I still believe that we need a solution to create a safer and more environmentally-friendly way for kids and members of our community to travel Pleasant Hill Road without a car. (Not every family can nor should need to purchase another car in order for their child to get to school). But the solution must take into consideration the traffic needs of that section of town. There is more work to be done and I look forward to being part of that process.

Lauren McCabe Herpich
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence - we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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

March 19 - April 1
Alarms 51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 21
Traffic 93
Suspicious Circumstances 12

Suspicious Subject 15
Suspicious Vehicle 11
Service to Citizen 45
Patrol Req./Security Check 41
Public/School Assembly Check 4
Supplemental Report 27
Vacation House Check 11
Welfare Check 23
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Dui Misd
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Felony
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24, Ori
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr., Mor.
800 Block Topper Ln.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.
Reckless Driving
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24, Ori
3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd.
Morag Rd./Moraga Blvd
Vehicle Theft
3700 Block Sundale Rd.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Embezzlement
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.

Forgery
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
3400 Block Monroe Ave.
Grand Theft
1700 Block Toyon Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Identity Theft
10 Block Maloyan Ln.
Police Department (2)
3500 Block Eagle Point Rd.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
Panhandling
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Petty Theft From Veh
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
Residential Burglary
3400 Block Silver Springs Rd.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Service
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Party
1000 Block 2Nd St.
600 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Camino Diablo/El Curtola Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism
3400 Block Monroe Ave.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other
Animal Cruelty
3700 Block Highland Rd.
Fire/Ems Response Info
500 Block Antonio Ct.
3100 Block Stanwood Ln.

3300 Block Betty Ln.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block 4Th St.
H&S Violation
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Harassment
500 Block Mchride Dr.
3600 Block Boyer Cir.
K9 Outside Assist Request
800 Block S Broadway, Wcr
Threats
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
10 Block Roxanne Ln.
Violation Restraining Ord
10 Block Roxanne Ln.
3600 Block Madrone Dr. (2)
Harassment
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Sweet Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

March 26 - April 1
Alarms 12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 3
Traffic 61
Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 28
Patrol Req./Security Check 23

Public/School Assembly Check 3
Supplemental Report 6
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 0
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Accident Property
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.
Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Miner Rd./Camino Don Miguel
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Camino Pablo/Via Corte
Vehicle Theft
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
Other criminal activity
Battery On Police Felony
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
Grand Theft Veh Parts
10 Block Las Vegas Rd.
Warrant Arrest
20 Block Orinda Way
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
100 Block Fiesta Cir.
Disturbing The Peace
90 Block Brookwood Rd.
Vandalism
10 Block Orinda Way
Other
Hailed By Citizen
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.
Revocation Of Probation
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante