

Orinda expands grants program to residents of all streets for fuel reduction

By Sora O'Doherty

Maybe it was the very wet winter, but for some reason, the grants of up to \$600 to match expenses for fuel reduction on properties on evacuation routes in Orinda had an infinitesimal uptake, with only two applicants for the grants. In an effort to promote fuel reduction, the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution making the grant program more widely available. After a lengthy discussion, the council voted to expand the grant program to all Orinda streets and to extend it to August.

The original grant pilot program had a number of re-

strictions for applicants. Only parcels located on evacuation routes were eligible, and, in addition, such parcels needed to either be within a designated Firewise community or the owner must have availed of the Fire Adapted Community Assessment offered by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District or have received a MOFD notice that the property was not in compliance with the fire code.

In an effort to encourage residents to apply for the grants, the SSTOC recommended that the council remove the restriction to properties on evacuation routes and expand grant availability to "fire apparatus roads," which essentially includes all roads in Orinda, public and private, upon which MOFD vehicles might travel.

Rachel Latimer, a member of the SSTOC, attended the meeting to inform the council of the SSTOC's views. She said that it was the wish of the SSTOC to broaden the grant program and to encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of it.

There was a very wide-ranging council discussion on the specific SSTOC recommendation, as well as other ways to promote fire-safety in the community. The council considered either doing nothing at this point in the pilot program and seeing what the future would bring, adopting the SSTOC recommendations, or eliminating even further restrictions on the grant program. After extensive discussion, the council did decide to adopt the SSTOC's recommen-

dation expanding the grant program to essentially all Orinda property owners, with an additional request the SSTOC consider reducing the restrictions even further and return to the council with more recommendations.

During the discussion, Council Member Janet Riley said at first that she would like to see a really good job on the evacuation routes. Mayor Inga Miller initially pushed for the city to have the right to photograph work done on private property under the grant program, but was later persuaded that this would be a great disincentive to grant applications as people might view this as an invasion of their privacy. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee advised the council to just accept the SSTOC recommendation

without further expansion. "We don't want to start lopping things off prematurely," she said, adding that the council can always return to the matter in the future.

Council Member Latika Malkani pointed out that wildfire embers don't recognize any boundaries and said, in the case of wildfires "it's really an all-for-one and one-for-all" situation. Miller raised the issue of the restriction on gifts of public funds, but city attorney Osa Wolff pointed out that what is require to counter such a charge is a public benefit, and, at the end of the discussion, she noted that the council had expressed many public benefits arising from the grant program.

Work continues in the background on Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break

By Sora O'Doherty

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire) has received Cal Fire grant

funding for the Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break project, according to Steve Hill, the district's Public Information Officer. In an update on the project, Hill noted that the district recently got approval from its Fire Board (which is the County Board of Supervisors) to hire the required environmental consultant to do pre-project related research.

It is expected that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) study will begin

soon. Once the environmental study is completed, the district expects that this summer mitigation work will begin for the important and potentially life- and property-saving safety work to proceed.

The entire project has been granted funding for three years to complete the entire 190 acres of shaded fuel break. However, the district anticipates that the work will be completed in approximately two years. Hill points out that the shaded fuel break

will actually begin to deliver protection as soon as various portions are completed earlier than the estimated 24 months.

Hill noted that the Tunnel Hills shaded fuel break, which is managed by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, will eventually connect to the Lafayette/Walnut Creek shaded fire break to create a continuous fuel break of some 20 miles to help protect the four cities of Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.



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 2 - April 15

Alarms	53
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	23
Traffic	105
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	21
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	34
Patrol Req./Security Check	21
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	40
Welfare Check	10
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	10
10 Block Almaden Ct.	
Hit And Run Felony	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Saranap Ave./Old Tunnel Rd.
	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reckless Driving	Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.

Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
 Hidden Valley Rd./Blackthorn Rd.
 Stanley Blvd./Warner Ct.
 Tc - Minor Injuries
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Tc - Property Damage
 Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Condit Rd.
 Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
 2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.
 3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
 Vehicle Theft
 3500 Block Terrace Way
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
 Embezzlement
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Fraud False Pretenses
 900 Block Moraga Rd.
 900 Block East St.
 Grand Theft
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Identity Theft
 Police Department (2)
 1000 Block Woodbury Rd.
 1000 Block Walnut Dr.
 Panhandling
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 Petty Theft
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
 900 Block Mountain View Dr.
 700 Block Las Trampas Rd.
 Residential Burglary
 1100 Block Garden Ln.
 Robbery
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Robbery Armed
 10 Block Dollis Park Rd.
 Shoplift
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbing The Peace
 1000 Block 2Nd St.
 Loud Music
 1000 Block 2Nd St.
 Loud Noise
 1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.
 Loud Party
 400 Block Peacock Blvd.
 Dewing Ave./Bickerstaff St.
 900 Block Dewing Ave.
 Public Nuisance
 1000 Block Glen Rd.
 Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 300 Block Saranap Ave. (2)
 3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.
 Vandalism
 500 Block Merriewood
 1000 Block Vista Bella

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other
 Defraud Innkeeper
 3300 Block St Marys Rd.
 Loitering
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Suas Assist Request
 500 Block Waterstone Pl, Sra
 Unwanted Guest
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 4 - April 17

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	50
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	26
Patrol Req./Security Check	8
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	11
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Excessive Speed	Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr.
	Rheem Blvd./Schoefield
	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
	Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. (4)
	Moraga Way/Viader Dr.
	St Marys College Of California
	St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr. (2)
	Rheem Blvd./Via Barcelona
	Moraga Way/Hardie Dr
	Moraga Way/School St. (3)
	Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
	Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (4)
	Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
	Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
	Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr. (2)
	Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
	Police Department
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Campolindo High School
Reckless Driving	Miramonte High School, Ori
	St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
	Safeway
	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)
Tc - Property Damage	

St. Marys College
Other criminal activity
 Fraud Credit Card
 900 Block Camino Ricardo
 Fraud False Pretenses
 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
 Grand Theft Veh Parts
 Not Available
 Identity Theft
 Police Department
Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbing The Peace
 Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.
 Loud Music
 Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
 1700 Block School St.
 300 Block Blk Claudia Ct.
 Loud Noise
 200 Block Paseo Bernal
 1000 Block Carter Dr.
 Loud Party
 1700 Block School St.
 Public Nuisance
 200 Block Calle La Montana
Other
 Fireworks
 Joaquin Moraga Int School
 Hailed By Citizen
 Homegoods
 Harassment
 200 Block Ivy Pl.
 Mentally Ill Commit
 10 Block Miramonte Dr.
 100 Block Via Joaquin
 Threats
 Police Department
 Trespass
 St. Marys College

Welfare Check 2
 Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations
 Accident Property
 200 Block La Espiral
 20 Block Irwin Way
 Auto Burglary
 10 Block Theatre Sq 106
 100 Block Stein Way
 200 Block El Toyonal
 Dui Misd
 Wilder Sports Fields
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor
 30 Block Muth Dr.
 Reckless Driving
 Tiger Tail Ct./Miner Rd.
 Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way
 El Toyonal
 Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.
 Vehicle Theft
 60 Block Orinda Way
 Wilder Rd./Wb Sr 24
Other criminal activity
 Grand Theft
 20 Block Loma Vista Dr.
 H&S/Pos Paraphenalia
 Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
 Identity Theft
 10 Block Descanso Dr.
 Panhandling
 Camino Sobrante
 Petty Theft From Veh
 10 Block Valley View Dr.
 Residential Burglary
 100 Block El Toyonal
Nuisance to the Community
 Loud Music
 400 Block Moraga Way
 Loud Noise
 10 Block Patricia Rd.
 Public Nuisance
 Orinda Way
 Avenida De Orinda/Orinda Way
 10 Block Corte Holganza
 Vandalism
 30 Block Oak Rd.
Other
 Failure To Obey
 Inbound Wilder Into Resd
 Camino Sobrante
 Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd, Laf
 Sr 24 At Fish Ranch Rd
 Warrant Arrest
 Coral Dr./Moraga Way
 Orinda Way
 60 Block Brookside Rd.
 Camino Sobrante
 Miner Rd./Camino Lenada