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MOFD Votes to Hold **Elections to Fill Vacant Board Seats**

By Lucy Amaral

(MOFD) Board of Directors voted unanimously to fill its two vacant Board seats by way of election. Rather than holding a special election at District expense, the Board also opted to have this election coincide with the November 6, 2012 General Election.

Richard Olsen and Brook Mancinelli resigned their seats in February. The remaining three Board members, Fred Weil, Frank Sperling and John Wyro, met on March 21 to decide on a course of action to replace them. Olsen represented Division 5, covering parts of Moraga, Orinda, and Canyon, and had several years left on his tenure. Mancinelli represented Division 3 in Orinda. His term would have been up this November.

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley said the Board had several options: Appointing replacements for both seats; holding special elections for both seats at a cost of about \$35,000 each; holding an election that coincides with the upcoming General Election in November which would cost approximately \$5,000 each; appointing one replacement and using the election option for the other; or, serve the full four-year term. doing nothing and allowing the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to de-side note, it was mentioned that Weil's cide on the process.

their opinion, with most leaning to- who represents Division 2 in Moraga, ward an election, and all decrying the said that it was "more likely than not" concept of spending \$35,000 for a he will indeed file papers to run for special election with the general elecanother term.

(go to www.mofd.org as

the meeting date approaches for more

information)

he Moraga Orinda Fire District tion so close at hand. Wesley Ayers of Orinda called the special election option "fiscally irresponsible and universally disliked."

The discussion among the board members focused on balancing the variables: the length of time the positions would be left vacant, election costs, the benefit of additional opin-Former MOFD Board members ions, and the possible public perception of the MOFD Board being an "Old Boy's Club" if they appointed candidates to these seats. All three agreed that while they would like to have a full board as soon as possible, they also felt that it would be in the best interest of the District as a whole to let the Division voters choose their representatives.

> Bradley now must file the required documents by July 4, 2012 with the County Election Official to start the District's election process. Division residents interested in running for a Board seat may pick up and file papers with the County Elections office beginning July 16. The person elected to replace Dick Olsen will serve out Olsen's term, which ends November 2014. As Mancinelli's seat was due to be up this November, whoever is elected to fill his seat will

In an unrelated but coincidental term is also up this November, mak-Members of the public voiced ing three MOFD seats open. Weil,

Moraga Orinda Fire District



Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month at the Moraga Library Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga.

Next meeting:

Regular Board Meeting April 4, 2012

6:00 PM Closed Session 7:00 PM Open Session

Founding Members Gather at Moraga Garden **Club Luncheon**

Submitted by Marcia Fisherkeller



The six founding members from left, Elaine Lind, Eleanor Vaughn Shirley Engstrom, Pearl Duncan, Rose Tom and Hollace Gertmenian Photo Linda Foley

Moraga Garden Club gathered at the club's annual spring salad luncheon March 15 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center. These ladies were part of Rosalind Creasy, a nationally recoga group that first met over 40 years ago to share their love of gardening, areas of their town with lovely plant- and herbs into their gardens and inter-

ix founding members of the town, plus contributing to the annual show of daffodils each spring. The spring salad luncheon is a big event and fundraiser for the club. Speaker nized authority who uses edible plants in landscape design, taught attendees learn from each other, and enhance how to incorporate vegetables, fruit, ings. The club has now grown to over mix them with decorative shrubs and 150 members and has contributed flowers. The luncheon theme, "The greatly to the community by support- Colors of Spring" was carried out ing local schools and the library with with the many colorful tables decotheir gardening activities, planting rated with imaginative centerpieces and maintaining many areas in the also made by club members.









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