



## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor:  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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## Another setback with Fire Station 43 construction

By Nick Marnell

Frustration over the lack of progress with the construction of Fire Station 43 in north Orinda took on an added dimension when the Moraga-Orinda Fire District terminated its agreement with Federal Solutions Group, the second contractor the district had hired to do the job.

"It's shocking," said board President Kathleen Famulener. "We thought we had a good company. We thought we had a good company the first time."

As one of the terms of the agreement, FSG was to obtain a

performance bond but it failed to do so, constituting a material breach of the contract. Performance bonds typically guarantee that a contractor will perform all aspects of a project according to the contract. If a contractor fails to uphold its end of the deal, then the performance bond will require a surety to fulfill the terms of the contract.

"We couldn't risk taking a waiver and proceed with the construction without the bond," Famulener said.

Kabir Singh, FSG principal, did not return calls seeking comment.

The original winning bidder for the Station 43 project, Pacific Mountain Contractors, pulled out of the job this summer.

So now it's back to the drawing board, almost literally. The district has hired a company to go over the construction plans and confirm that the plans are still workable. After authorization by the board, the district plans to issue a new request for proposal for the Station 43 construction project, likely in mid-January.

Also coming on board will be a law firm to deal with potential

construction litigation. "It's been a troubled project. It's been a complicated project," said director Brad Barber. "We need counsel with experience in the litigation of public agency construction matters." So the district brought on Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP to provide those legal services. Geoffrey Spellberg, one of the company lawyers, specializes in construction law and complex business and real estate litigation, according to the firm's website.

## ConFire chief and his deputy share a special bond

By Nick Marnell



Fire Chief Jeff Carman, right, and Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard at the Advisory Fire Commission meeting. Photo Nick Marnell

Fire Chief Jeff Carman waxed eloquent as he recognized Lewis Broschard, his deputy fire chief, for his 10 years with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

"His qualities are too numerous to mention," Carman said. "He has the ability to free-think. He's a well-rounded person, and a great family guy. And that means a lot to me."

Carman told his Advisory Fire Commission Dec. 4 that he and Broschard would often exchange emails late into the night, and when Carman woke up in the morning, there was already a list of email responses from his deputy chief.

"He's a great partner, but that gives too much credit to me," Carman said. "It's nice to be able to take credit for all the things that Lewis has done."

Carman ended the ceremony by presenting Broschard the ultimate compliment. "I hope that he's my replacement when I leave," the chief said of the man who was a finalist for the fire chief position in 2013.

Broschard had been spearheading the Lafayette Fire Station 16 rebuild, but turned over the project to Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister in 2016. McAlister said the district prefers to piece out the station demolition and the construction to two different firms, and due diligence is underway for the district award of the demolition contract, for which the board of directors approved the funding Dec. 5.

Once ConFire awards the contract, Station 16 demolition should take two to three weeks, McAlister said.

## Dispatch supervisor explains proper 911 call etiquette

By Nick Marnell

The Rotary Club motto is succinct: Service above self. At its Nov. 29 luncheon at the Orinda Community Center, the Rotary Club of Orinda honored a group that lives that motto each and every day: the first responders of the Orinda Police Department and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Orinda Chief of Police Mark Nagel deflected praise to the dispatchers of the county sheriff's office and the fire district. "They are the true first responders," said Nagel, who turned the program over to Erinn Riley, supervising dispatcher for the Office of the Sheriff.

Riley ran down the procedures for making a competent 911 call. "Make sure when you call there is an emergency in progress, like a fight, or a suspicious person walking around," Riley said. "Do not call us with a report of an aban-



Orinda Rotarians honor first responders at the Nov. 29 luncheon.

Photo Andy Scheck

doned car, or for directions on how to cook a turkey, or how to do your math homework."

The more specific you can be, the better, Riley said. Supply

a landmark, or a cross street. Describe the suspect and the vehicle. Relay information on any weapons. And do not get frustrated with the questions the dispatchers ask.

"Please do not confuse our directness with rudeness," Riley said. "Safety is first. We ask questions very quickly, and we do not have time to listen to long explanations." The dispatch center is a highly intense, multitasking environment, with information being relayed to officers as operators speak to the caller.

Should you accidentally dial 911 on a cell phone or from a land line, Riley cautioned to stay on the line. If you hang up, dispatch will call back to confirm, and if there is no answer, dispatch must send a responder, which unnecessarily ties

up resources.

Ten dispatchers are on duty at any one time, and they work over four radio channels. "Our goal is to answer 90 percent of our calls within 10 seconds," Riley said. Dispatchers can handle calls in 20 foreign languages; those calls are transferred to the appropriate linguist.

At the end of the luncheon, Riley made an announcement that many have felt was long overdue. "Texting to 911 is coming in nine months," she said.

Fire and emergency medical calls from Moraga and Orinda are forwarded from the sheriff's office to the dispatch center of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, with whom MOFD subcontracts its dispatch service.

## Rescue One Foundation board of directors seeks applicants to fill vacancy

Submitted by John Kennedy

The Rescue One Foundation has a vacancy on its Board of Directors and seeks applications from interested residents from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, particularly those from Orinda.

The Rescue One Foundation was formed to receive tax-free donations, fund educational programs for firefighter/paramedics, and purchase lifesaving equipment to enhance the effectiveness of fire district emergency medical services. Since its formation, the foundation has purchased over \$400,000 worth of equipment that would not have been available through the district's regular

budget.

The board presently consists of 11 members who meet on the first Monday evening of the month nine months each year. The foundation's primary activities are participation in the fire district open houses in Orinda and Moraga in April and October, respectively, plus the Fourth of July celebrations in Orinda and Moraga each year. For further information about this position, please visit [www.mofd.org/about/rescueone](http://www.mofd.org/about/rescueone).

Letters of interest should be sent no later than Dec. 31 to: Rescue One Foundation, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556.

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