

MOFD celebrates 25 years of service to the community



First Orinda Firehouse, 1924

Photo courtesy MOFD

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council honored the Moraga-Orinda Fire District with a proclamation during its June 22 Zoom meeting acknowledging the 25th anniversary of its existence and service to the communities of Moraga, Orinda, Canyon and some adjacent unincorporated areas.

Before an official fire department was formed in 1923, any fires that occurred prior

to that period were extinguished by neighbors, farmhands and cowboys in the area. The Orinda Volunteer Fire Department was formed that year, while the Moraga Fire Protection District began in 1963.

The proclamation, signed by Moraga Mayor Steve Woehleke, noted that “MOFD has 65 full-time public safety professionals who responded to more than 3,250 911 calls last year.” It also stated that

“MOFD provides mutual aid to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries to assist with major disasters, fires, and other emergency responses, including the recent Caldor, Dixie, River Complex, SCU Lightening Complex, and Lava Fires,” while recognizing that “the brave firefighters of MOFD are prepared to risk their lives to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire.”

Council members each expressed gratitude to MOFD for continuing to make its district safe; and for constantly educating the residents in fire protection techniques that the communities can help participate in.

On hand was MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker who stated, “The men and women of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District are committed to this community day and night. Wildfires, medical calls, structure fires, vehicle accidents, pandemics, etc. They continue to answer the bell 24 hours a day. While we acknowledge and we appreciate all the hard

work they do, we also acknowledge and appreciate the hard work that the members of the community have done to allow us to be more effective.

“The work community members have done to create defensible space and to harden their homes to follow fire-safe best practices, to be prepared for a timely evacuation when ordered, is tremendously helpful and allows our firefighters to be more effective,” Winnacker added. “We appreciate that. We appreciate everyone taking ownership for this problem and the degree that the community sees that they have a role in reducing a risk of not only wildfire loss, but of structure fire loss

and all of the other perils that as a community we’re working to reduce.”

Winnacker went on to thank the entire town staff for being such great partners in cooperation with MOFD and their needs.

Also present was MOFD Board of Directors Vice President Steve Danziger. “I just want to say thank you. We do have a fearless leader in Chief Winnacker; and our little district here that serves 14,000 properties is becoming the model not only for the Bay Area, for the state, and for even the nation. We look forward to continuing partnership with the town and some new programs coming up.”

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 20, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org
(http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)



Horses are the best medicine at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center

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Their mission is “to enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities through a high-quality program of equine-assisted activities and therapies, including therapeutic horseback riding, hippotherapy [therapy that utilizes the natural gait and movement of a horse to provide motor and sensory input], horsemanship, life skills and related activities.”

The center provides therapy to a wide range of “participants,” from pediatric to young adults; veterans or Alzheimer’s sufferers and their caregivers. The horses become attuned to their riders’ needs and form a symbiotic relationship.

Military veterans are typically referred by the VA Medical Center in Martinez and occasionally through Wounded Warriors. Xenophon offers vets a program titled Operation Hooves on the Ground geared to helping those with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Matthew Carroll, a Danville resident, served with Search and Rescue in the Navy. So far he has had four half-hour sessions with Go-Go (his horse). Currently a police officer, Carroll was injured at

work and was looking for something to keep him busy, he said. Carroll is disappointed that the military doesn’t do a better job of preparing vets for life after the service. “There’s no transition. I come here to just get my service experience out of my head. Reading a horse is like reading a person. It’s interesting how in tune you can get with a horse.”

Carroll said therapy at Xenophon is a very alternative type of thing. “You just have to try it,” he said. “It may not work for everybody, and I think it’s just as much therapy for the horses. I also wear boots a lot, and people ask me if I’m a cowboy.”

John Davenport, a former Army paratrooper who served for 10 years during the Gulf War and in Iraq, and later as a recruiter just before and during 9/11, has been coming to Xenophon from Vacaville since late 2018. “I look forward to this every week,” he enthusiastically replied. “Bo [his horse] can be challenging. He brings his A-game. As I’m learning, I’m dealing with his temperament. When you’re out here and learning, it’s a partnership and it helps me to use that when I interact with people. They [the horses] share when they need their space. With a horse, you’re able to live in the moment.”

Davenport owns a permaculture design business (he designs drought tolerant garden spaces). Besides suffering from PTSD, tragedy struck him with his 20-year-old son’s suicide and his 22-year-old daughter’s murder. “I was afraid to deal with people because of the anger I carried inside. I think I’ve found peace,” he said. “I use this place as maintenance; I’ve been working on getting a balance in my life. This place reminds me of how we can look to tomorrow with hope.”

Army Medical Lab Technician Dwuna Ebel-Tom enlisted in 1987 and served for 20 years. Stationed at Fort Bragg, she helped to provide blood supplies from donors and processed units to be deployed during the Gulf War; also serving a year in the Sinai Peninsula with multi-national forces and observers. “It was sometimes hard being a female in the military, but not that different being in the medical field,” she explained. “I had to show that, no, I’m not worried about my nails.”

“Once I retired from the military and the structure was taken away I began to feel deep anxiety and then developed ADHD [attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder],” she stated. “I felt like I had a loss of identity. I’m not a soldier anymore – who am I?”

A resident of Antioch and the owner of a floral business, Ebel-Tom has been coming to Xenophon for almost four years. “It’s a little bit of structure, and I totally enjoy it. Not just the people, but the connection with the horses. It helped with my anxiety and ADHD – to be in the moment. I help to get the horse to release its tension, and it helps me to relax. I’ve calmed down and it helps me to focus.” She also enjoys the benefit of camaraderie with the other veterans.

Xenophon’s therapy continues to help disabled children with a wide range of issues. Lauren Wong, age 7, who rides Kiwi, was born with a gene variant (ALG13-CDG). Besides suffering seizures, she has a developmental delay which resulted in her 6-8 month old age range of skills. “We wanted her to walk and strengthen her core,” stated her mom, Mary. After a year, “the experience for her is better than traditional therapy. She does smile and she shows her enjoyment. I don’t know what we would’ve done without this place.”

Simon Keenan, 12, came to Xenophon four years ago, after two years on the waiting list. His mom, Alicia, is thrilled with how much the therapy has helped her son, who has Down syndrome. “He ab-

solutely loves it! He looks forward to coming. It provides him with confidence and a social aspect. It gives him a sense of responsibility. It’s something he can say that he does. The summer camp they provide here is a diamond. It’s hard to find a summer camp for kids with disabilities.”

According to Executive Director Jean Johnstone, before any horse is considered therapy-providing material, the original owner allows their horse to go through a screening process to see if they are in good shape and safe for participants to ride. If they pass, a veterinarian gives them a physical. All new horses are then quarantined for 30 days to make sure they don’t have any communicable diseases, after which staff members begin to train them. Under a “free lease agreement” Xenophon will continue to provide all of the horses’ needs (medical, food, and even massages), until the horses “tell” them they’re no longer happy with the job, at which point they are returned to the owner.

Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. For more information or to make a donation visit: www.xenophontrc.org or call (925) 377-0871.

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 June 12 - June 25

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 56 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 11 |
| Traffic | 33 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 7 |
| Suspicious Subject | 14 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 8 |
| Service to Citizen | 37 |
| Patrol Req./Security Check | 19 |
| Public/School Assembly Check | 0 |
| Supplemental Report | 24 |
| Vacation House Check | 18 |
| Welfare Check | 23 |
| Ordinance Violation | 3 |
| Vehicle violations | |
| Auto Burglary | |
| 1000 Block 2Nd St. | |
| 3200 Block Sweet Dr. (2) | |
| 3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct. | |
| Brown Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Hit And Run Misdemeanor | |
| 3500 Block Golden Gate Way | |
| Not Available | |
| Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |



Police Department
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.

Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Moraga Rd./Nemea Ln.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.
2Nd St./Moraga Blvd.

500 Block Glenside Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Olympic Blvd./Bridgfield Rd., Wcr

Vehicle Theft
300 Block Saranap Ave.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
Sun Valley Swimming Pool Assn

Fraud Credit Card
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud False Pretenses
3500 Block Springhill Rd.
800 Block Solana Dr.

Police Department
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Grand Theft From Veh
3100 Block Lucas Cir.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Identity Theft
1000 Block Miller Dr.
900 Block Carol Ln.

Police Department
3300 Block McGraw Ln.

Petty Theft
1200 Block Rose Ln.
Police Department
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbing The Peace
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Somerset Dr.

Loud Noise
1200 Block Monticello Rd.

Loud Party
Hough Ave./Wildwood Ln.
600 Block Sky Hy Cir.
600 Block Huntleigh Dr. (2)

Public Nuisance
900 Block S Thompson Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Camino Diablo/Mt. Diablo Blvd., Wcr
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Old Tunnel Rd./Linda Vista Ln.

Vandalism
1000 Block Vista Bella
900 Block Colina Ct.

Other
Brandishing Weapon
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

H&S Violation
3500 Block Terrace Way
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Harassment
3400 Block St Marys Rd.
600 Block Doreen Way

Possession Of Contr Sub
60 Block Lafayette Cir.

Return After Eviction
3100 Block Cordova Way

Suicide Attempt
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Threats
600 Block Doreen Way
10 Block Fiesta Ln.

Trespass
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
1000 Block Blackwood Ln.

Violation Restraining Ord
3600 Block Boyer Cir.
10 Block Southampton Pl

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report June 14 - June 19

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 5 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 3 |
| Traffic | 43 |

Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 0
Suspicious Vehicle 2

Service to Citizen 22
Patrol Req./Security Check 11
Supplemental Report 2
Vacation House Check 8
Welfare Check 1

Public/School Assembly Check 1
Ordinance Violation 0

Vehicle violations
Excessive Speed
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr. (3)
St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr.
Moraga Way School St.

Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
Large Ave./Wandal
Moraga Rd./Ifo Commons
Seven Eleven

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
1900 Block Ascot Dr.

Tc - Property Damage
Fernwood Dr./Stafford Dr.

Other criminal activity
Burglary
20 Block Hour Fitness Mor

Other Felony
St Marcus Church

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Homegoods

Other
Conspiracy
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
H&S Violation
Safeway

Mentally Ill Violent
10 Block Woodford Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report June 12 - June 18

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 22 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 6 |
| Traffic | 23 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 1 |
| Suspicious Subject | 5 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 4 |
| Service to Citizen | 19 |

Patrol Req./Security Check 13
Supplemental Report 3
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 4
Public/School Assembly Check 0
Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Orinda Way
200 Block Moraga Way

Dui Misd
Wilder Rd./Big Leaf Rd.

Reckless Driving
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd. (2)
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
Hidden Valley Rd./St. Stephens Dr.
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
500 Block Moraga Way

Vehicle Theft
200 Block Brookwood Rd.

Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
60 Block Windy Creek Way

Panhandling
Orinda Way
Camino Sobrante
Petty Theft From Veh
Wilder Sports Fields (2)
60 Block Wilder Rd.

Residential Burglary
20 Block Bobolink Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Moraga Via/Rheem Blvd.

Loud Music
Theatre Square
100 Block Camino Don Miguel

Loud Party
70 Block Brookwood Rd.
100 Block Camino Don Miguel
Robert Rd./Glorietta Blvd.
100 Block Hall Dr.
Robert Rd./Glorietta Blvd.

Public Nuisance
Orinda Way (2)

Other
Fireworks
Dalewood Dr./Sundown Terrace
Moraga Way

H&S Violation
Camino Sobrante

