



Orinda Walk/Bike/Bus to School and Work Day—May 16th

By **Andrea A. Firth**

If the price of gas has not already created a sufficient impetus to keep folks off the roads, the City of Orinda is providing additional motivation to get residents out of their cars and onto the buses, walkways, and bike paths in town. On Friday, May 16th Orinda will celebrate Walk/Bike/Bus to School and Work Day to encourage Orindans to spend some extra time with families and friends while getting the added benefits of physical exercise as they get to their destinations on two wheels or by foot. The biannual event is held each Spring and Fall to coincide with National Bike to Work Week; this is the second Walk/Bike/Bus Day to be held in Orinda.

“Our goal is to get 35% to 40% of students out of cars and walking or biking to school,” says Traffic Safety Advisory Committee member Tracey Seals. “Our hope is that the numbers of walkers and bikers will increase with each event and also as improvements are made to pedestrian thoroughfares throughout the city.”

In addition to the benefits of reduced pollution and traffic congestion, the Walk/Bike/Bus Day is designed to promote safe walking and biking in Orinda. “The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is very focused on im-

proving the walkways and pathways that will enable any person to maneuver throughout the city on foot or on bike and to make it easy for people not to get in their cars,” explains Seals. “We hope that Walk/Bike/Bus Day will be a starting point to changing habits and also bring visibility and support to the need for improved pathways.”

Currently the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is working closely with the Parks and Recreation Commission on ways to improve the pathways and walkways throughout Orinda. “There are assessments underway and conducting the Walk/Bike/Bus Day provides great insight into the routes that kids and parents can use on a daily basis,” states Seals.

If you have questions, comments, feedback, or need help to coordinate the event for your school or workplace, please contact Sue Severson at 254-1679 or sseverson@city-of-orinda.org; or Tracey Seals at 631-0511 or tracey-seals@hotmail.com.