

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, June 3	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, June 10	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, June 2	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center Room 7 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, June 11	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, June 2	
check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ • all meeting notes • calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org/ • local businesses • upcoming events	

Orinda Takes a Look at the Budget

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda City Council, staff, and several committee members met last week to review the Capital Improvement Plan and draft Operational Budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year as the Council tries to manage the significant and immediate infrastructure needs of the City while planning and saving for the future.

Summarizing the status of the City's budget for the current year, Administrative Services Manager Beverly Marshall stated, "For the most part we will hit our mark on expenses." Due to some surplus attributable to positions that were not filled and some additional property tax revenue, she added, "We will have a surplus this year."

Marshall also explained that despite the budget woes at the State level, the impact of the State budget cuts on the City's operating budget would be minimal. The City would still receive gas tax credits from the State; however, payment would likely be delayed until September resulting in a loss of three months of interest revenue.

City Engineer Janice Carey reviewed an extensive list of infrastructure projects including work to the roads, drainage, bridges, slopes, bikeways and walkways throughout the city. The projected budget for Capital Improvement Plan for 2008-2009 as currently drafted is just over \$5.8 million with the Moraga Way Rehabilitation project representing over 40% of the total budget. In addition, over \$1.2 million will be spent as part of the Annual Pavement Management Program with similar appropriations planned for the next three years.

Regarding the City's projected revenues, Marshall noted that while many cities in the Bay Area have seen a decrease in real estate sales, Orinda has experienced an increase in property sales from March 2007 to March 2008. "Property tax revenue will continue to grow," stated Marshall. She also anticipates the same level of retail tax revenue from last year to this year despite some indicators of a slow down in retail sales elsewhere.

Marshall also reviewed several recommended changes included in the draft budget. One item that generated a fair amount of discussion was the proposal to fund a Police Services Study in conjunction with the cities of Danville and Lafayette to compare and analyze alternate law enforcement options to the current contract with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

Although Council members and staff were quick to note their current satisfaction with the quality and level of service provided through the Sheriff's Office, members of the City's Budget Committee explained that this area of the budget had increased the most on a percentage basis. With the rising costs of maintaining the contract, the Budget Committee recommended that issue be studied critically and alternatives evaluated. Council members Steve Glazer and Tom McCormick both noted that it would be valuable to examine the model for police services used in Moraga as well.



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Moraga Way Paving Gets Gritty

By Andrea A. Firth



Night work on Moraga Way

Photo Andy Scheck

While some people grind their teeth when they sleep, Orinda grinds its roads.

Bay Cities Paving & Grading, the City's contractor for the Moraga Way Pavement Rehabilitation Project, began pavement grinding during the nighttime hours last week to help to minimize daytime traffic delays and to reduce the length of the grinding phase of the project from 17 days (if done during the daytime) to 10 days. "The nighttime grinding looks to be on schedule for 10 nights from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am Monday through Thursday nights," states City Engineer Janice Carey.

"We have received a phone call from a resident regarding the project complaining about the noise generated by trucks idling along Moraga Way during the nighttime hours," notes City Manager Janet Keeter. "[The City Engineer] is working with our project manager to remedy this problem. As you can

appreciate, Moraga Way is such a constrained road that staging equipment and vehicles close to the area in which they are working is a challenge," Keeter adds.

What all this nighttime grinding translates to during the daytime hours when most residents are driving on Moraga Way is dust and grit. "It's like a dust bowl out there," comments an employee of McDonnell Nursery, which is located on Moraga Way in the heart of the paving project.

The second week of nighttime grinding started this week and will extend on Moraga Way from Hall Drive to Ivy Drive South. Further nighttime road works are planned. "Base failure repairs will be done following the grinding which is also scheduled for Monday through Wednesday nighttime work," says Carey. "The rubberized asphalt concrete paving is targeted to start June 9th depending upon evening temperatures," she adds.

Orinda Junior Garden Club



Orinda Junior Garden Club members Kim Larsen, Penny Veres, and Linda Cohen are shown alongside the Orinda Circle Garden across from Starbucks downtown. The Garden Club has used mostly native plants to beautify the Circle and conserve water.

Rocked, 5/21/08 A Loma Vista resident had a rude awakening, when she came out to her Honda CRV in the morning, she found an asphalt rock thrown through the left rear passenger window. Estimated damage, \$2,700.

Receiving stolen property, 5/21/08 Officers pulled over a car at St. Stephens at El Nido Ranch Road and found the driver, a 36-year-old white female, had stolen property in her vehicle. In addition to an outstanding warrant for her arrest, she violated her probation, had three stolen credit cards and a syringe.

Petty theft, 5/20/08 Someone forced entry into a locked Tahos Road mailbox and took the mail which included ten blank checks issued by Countrywide Bank. The homeowner wisely put a "stop payment" on the checks.

Stolen truck, 5/16/08 An unknown suspect entered the construction site at the Wilder development near Highway 24 and Gateway Boulevard and drove off with a 1991 white Ford F350.

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ORINDA

MORAGA WAY PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT

Nighttime Pavement Grinding 3.2 miles of Moraga Way in Orinda from Camino Encinas south to Ivy Drive south

WORKING HOURS 9 pm to 6 am Monday through Thursday Night

EXPECT DELAYS (7-10 MINUTES) THROUGH June 6, 2008

CONTRACTOR:
BAY CITIES PAVING & GRADING
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:
VALI COOPER & ASSOCIATES

INFORMATION: (925) 828-1723 x28

FEDERAL GRANTS	\$1,140,000
RUBBERIZED ASPHALT GRANT	\$ 175,000
CITY OF ORINDA FUNDS	\$1,490,860

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