

Orinda

Lamorinda Community

Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, August 18
Tuesday, August 4 canceled

Planning Comm. 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, August 11

Historic Landmarks Comm. 3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, July 28

Mayor's Com. Liaison 8:30am
Community Room at City Hall
22 Orinda Way
Monday, September 8

City of Orinda:
<http://www.cityoforinda.org>
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orindachamber.org>
• local businesses
• upcoming events

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Fixing Orinda's Failing Roads—Who Pays?

By Andrea A. Firth
How to fund the fix of Orinda's worst-in-the County roads remains an unanswered question for both the City Council and residents, and it appears the problem will only get worse unless something is done. "At the current funding level, our roads are going to further deteriorate," stated Richard Nelson, Vice Chair of Orinda's Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC), in his comments at the July 7th City Council meeting. "We need to look very deeply across a range of options. The problem is probably

worse than what people realize," added Nelson.
Residents of Crest View Drive were also present at the Council meeting hoping that the City staff had found a way that their pot-hole pitted local road could qualify for urgent repair funds. "It's a daily quality of life issue driving up and down our road," stated resident Diana Stevens. According to Orinda's Director of Public Works and Engineering Chuck Swanson, Crest View Drive does not qualify for the annual pavement management program, because

it is classified as a local street. Access to street repair funds through the City's urgent repair program appeared to be a dead end for Crest View travelers as well. "[Crest View] doesn't fit with the urgent repair policy," stated Swanson. "We have other streets that are even worse."
Swanson's report to the City Council then focused on the question of how the City will address streets that urgently need repair but that are not eligible for repair based on current policies and available funds. One option presented was the

creation of street specific Special Assessment Districts similar to the Lighting and Landscape Districts present in parts of Orinda.
"We spent quite a bit of time reviewing special assessments districts," stated the CIOC's Nelson, who noted that these special assessments have been implemented successfully in other areas. But it is not an easy fix according to Nelson. "Residents have to agree to being taxed and how they are going to be taxed," he stated. "It can be divisive. You end up with some streets fixed

while others are not."
"We need creative thinking to solve our problem," stated Nelson. "Are you willing to pave half if the City paves half?" he added as an example. Allowing neighborhoods to raise funds for street repairs and City/neighborhood cost sharing were other options discussed. Ultimately the discussion segued to the discussion of a citywide bond. Road repair bond measures have been placed before the voters twice in recent years and failed by a narrow margin.

ORINDA POLICE

Car burglary, 7/09/09 A car was parked on El Nido Road east of St. Stephan's. An unknown suspect smashed the front passenger side window and took an Apple iPhone. Estimated damage, \$500 for the phone and \$300 for the window. This is the second time the blotter has reported this kind of smash and grab on El Nido. Might have been wise to not leave the fancy phone so visible.

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No MMD in Orinda for Now

By Andrea A. Firth
By unanimous vote at the July 7th meeting, Orinda's City Council adopted an ordinance imposing a 45-day moratorium on the establishment and operation of a medical marijuana dispensary (MMD) within the City. According to Planning Department Director Emmanuel Ursu, the Planning Department was recently approached about obtaining a permit for the creation of an MMD in Orinda, which does not have an ordinance specifically allowing medical marijuana dispensaries.
Although the possession, use, manufacture and distribution of marijuana are illegal under Federal laws, California voters legalized the medical use of marijuana

Cat fight, 7/07/09 A 35-year-old woman stated that a 63-year-old Altarinda Circle resident slapped her during a heated argument about money. The older woman admitted to police that she slapped the younger gal. Younger gal placed her under citizen's arrest and requested prosecution.

Theft, 7/05/09, An unknown suspect entered the Orinda Safeway and proceeded to force open the cash register at the Bakery counter and took \$115 from the drawer. Suspect fled on foot and left in a white Mercedes Benz SUV. If you could afford that car, why would you be stealing? Hmm, perhaps the Mercedes was stolen too?

D.U.I., 7/04/09 At the corner of Moraga Way and Glorietta a car was rear ended. Witnesses state the car was weaving prior to the collision. Smelling of alcohol, the at-fault driver slurred, "I made a mistake." The Saint Mary's college student admitted to drinking and had a blood alcohol level more than twice the legal limit. That's no way to celebrate the nation's birthday.

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Orinda Friends Walk for Cancer



Pictured are (clockwise from top right) Kim Laughton, Elaine Dathe, Jane Katsura, Laura Moran, Melba Muscarolas, Carol Whittaker, Maria Solit on day 2 of their walk in front City Hall in San Francisco. Photo provided

Seven friends from Orinda recently completed the Avon 40-mile walk for breast cancer and raised over \$62,000 for the cause. The Orinda crew was the event's fourth highest fundraising team, and walkers Melba Muscarolas, Laura Moran and Janie Katsura were ranked 1st, 7th and 8th, respectively, among fundraisers in Northern California. Each of the Orinda ladies walked in honor of friends and family members who have dealt with breast cancer with the goals to raise money for research and treatment and awareness about prevention and early detection.
A.Firth

Coroner's Report Released in Death of Orinda Teen

By Lee Borrowman
According to the Contra Costa County forensic pathologist's report, 16-year old Joseph Loudon died of "asphyxia, due to aspiration of gastric contents due to alcohol and papaverine ingestion," Sheriff's Department spokesman Jimmy Lee announced on Wednesday, July 15.
Orinda Police responded to a home on Hillcrest Drive in Orinda the night of May 23, after receiving a report that a young man who was intoxicated and unresponsive at a teenage party. Loudon was transported to Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek where he was pronounced dead.
Although police initially suspected alcohol poisoning to be the cause of Loudon's death, the forensic pathologist found that Loudon's blood alcohol level was "very low." However, there was a high level of papaverine present.
Loudon's blood alcohol level was .03, according to Orinda Police Chief William French. As a frame of reference, it is illegal for an adult to drive with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher.
Papaverine is a prescription opiate which acts as a vasodilator, relaxing veins and arteries to increase blood flow. An older drug, its effectiveness has been questioned. It is used to treat certain coronary conditions as well as spasms of the intestinal and urinary tract; it is sold under the brand names Pavabid and Vasal and is also available generically. Papaverine's side effects can include nausea and abdominal distress, and patients taking papaverine are warned to use caution when consuming alcohol.
Papaverine is not known as a recreational drug and French said he had never seen it used as such. He also stated that Loudon did not have any prescriptions for medication. At this time, police are unsure how Loudon obtained papaverine.
Three arrests have been made in this case to date; 18-year Patrick Gabrielli, who hosted the party and a 16-year old male were arrested on suspicion of providing alcohol to and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Robert Martin Scott of Rohnert Park was arrested on suspicion of forgery and identity theft after several Miramonte High School students were found to have fake IDs. Police said they found about 100 fake driver licenses in Scott's home.
"This case remains a priority for the Orinda Police Department," stated French. Although the Orinda Police have received dozens of calls with information regarding the case, French encouraged anyone who might have additional information to come forward.
Andrea A. Firth contributed to this article

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