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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Committee

Wednesday, October 12, at 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, October 10, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

You Passed (out) This Test, 9/2/11 Public drunkenness + probation violation = jail time at Martinez Detention Facility, especially when they've recorded a breathalyzer test of .19.

Double Duty Delinquency, 9/10/11 Police found the passenger/owner of a 2004 Jeep involved in a single car rollover to be intoxicated. The guy blew a .20. After being attended to by medical personnel, he was booked at Martinez Detention Facility. Good thing he wasn't driving. Oddly enough, the one who was driving fled the scene of the accident.

And yet again...9/20/11 Orinda Police pulled a driver over for a headlamp violation. They noted red, watery eyes and smelled alcohol; the driver obviously wasn't firing on all cylinders. Add to that the fact that he's a repeat offender—still on probation for a previous DUI. He submitted to two blood alcohol tests and was taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

RENT, 8/31/11 A woman tried to rent a house, using a false name and her ex's name. She paid by check, got keys and garage door openers and then moved in friends who were not on the rental agreement. She denied knowing anything about the false name even while carrying ID with the same false name. She also said she had power of attorney to sign for her ex. Ex said she'd tried that stunt before. Police believed the ex, and booked the woman into Martinez Detention Facility.

Coming Soon in Orinda

The City of Orinda is holding another series of community workshops to discuss the future of the downtown area. The City hopes to make it easier for busy families to provide their input by going into the neighborhoods and holding workshops at the elementary schools, and by providing the option of giving input through surveys. Workshops will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the following schools and dates:

Wagner Ranch – October 3, 2011

Sleepy Hollow – October 5, 2011

Del Rey – October 24, 2011

Glorietta – November 2, 2011

In addition to the four evening workshops at the schools, the City is working on dates for a daytime workshop to hear from members of the community at large that have not yet participated in the discussion on downtown. Orinda residents who are unable to attend a workshop can also provide input through an online survey available at www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

Orinda Approves CIP and Street Repairs

By Cathy Dausman

Orinda City Council voted unanimously September 20 to adopt the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2011 through 2015. In Vice Mayor Steve Glazer's absence, the vote was recorded as 4-0. The latest CIP draft identifies 32 projects in three categories and another 17 projects under "Future Improvements – Projects Not Funded."

Street paving projects for fiscal year 2012 also passed unanimously

(again, 4-0, with Glazer absent). Mayor Victoria Smith recused herself during repair discussions concerning the street on which she lives. City staff said they expect to hire a consultant by November and have the work ready for bid by February or March, 2012.

The 98-page CIP proposal and list of streets affected by upcoming repairs is available online at the City's website, www.orinda.ca.us under City Council Agendas.

Quiet Orinda Not Blowing Away

By Cathy Dausman

Orinda's recent City Council meeting was on the whole a lightly-attended, brief affair. By meeting's end the audience had dwindled to three. But earlier in the session eight Orinda residents spoke during public forum time to raise their voices in protest over leaf blower pollution. Although the Council voted unanimously last November against a ban on leaf-blowers, the citizen group Quiet Orinda is determined to keep the issue alive.

Quiet Orinda founders Susan and Peter Kendall, who have spoken out at previous council meetings, first raised the issue in a 2009 letter to our editor

— since then, they've established a blog, founded a forum, invested personal funds and researched their cause. They've been featured in a multi-page article in *New Yorker* magazine, spoken on Sea Change Radio, inspired words from Canadian poet Wendy Morton and posted clips on the internet. This time at the council meeting each speaker's prepared remarks were captured on video. When asked whether the videographer was working with Quiet Orinda, Kendall replied only that "there really is a much bigger story." He plans to release details soon.

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Wilder Things Are Happening

By Laurie Snyder

Following on the heels of public hearings this past spring in which the Orinda City Council determined that OG Property Owners, LLC (OGLLC) had fallen behind in its work to complete the playfields and maintenance facility associated with the Wilder development, OGLLC Project Manager Michael S. O'Hara offered an update and revised timeline to the Council on September 6.

To date, two major targets have been completed ahead of schedule — the installation of bleachers and construction of stairs. The installation of light poles and fine grades of playfields are also finished.

However, the inability to irrigate the playfields continues to be an issue. In response to City staff concerns that water meters are not yet connected, O'Hara advised the Council that East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) fees have been paid, water pipes have now been installed, and meters should be connected before the end of October.

O'Hara also explained why the company was unable to meet its initial target goals for several additional elements of the project.

The developer had been making good progress, he said, toward meeting the August 8th target for completion of the maintenance facility. With the City Planning Department's approval of the construction plans in May 2011, OGLLC moved quickly to submit those plans to the Contra Costa County Building Department by June 8th but was forced to regroup when County staff requested more data on August 8th. The additional information was submitted on August 25th, but the County has not yet responded.

Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu observed that it was unusual for the County to take so long to respond to a developer's request for a building permit. "This puts them (OGLLC) back a month," said Ursu, adding that because the County's concerns are minor and unlikely to affect the con-

struction process, the City would contact County staff and urge them to approve the permit.

With respect to additional target items projected for September completion, Ursu noted that the mowbands have been completed for playfield one and are also nearly completed for playfield two. City staff will visit the site to assess the progress made to the planned creek enhancement.

Freeway Maintenance Agreement and Park-and-Ride Lot

City staff also secured permission from the Council to revise the existing 1965 Freeway Maintenance Agreement (FMA) with Caltrans. The improved FMA will clarify the terms of transfer, from Caltrans to the City, of responsibility for planned landscaping upgrades to the Wilder entryway.

The developer and the Wilder Home Owners' Association (Wilder HOA) are responsible for the installation and cost of the landscaping; however, if either organization fails to fulfill its obligations, the City will have the authority to remove the landscaping so that it will not be required to assume the expense of maintenance.

Because several of these improvements will be made within a paved Caltrans right of way, an existing park-and-ride lot on the south side of Highway 24 will be displaced by the landscaping. As a result, OGLLC must mitigate this situation as well by replacing the 22 parking spaces lost near the Wilder exchange.

OGLLC plans to relocate those spaces to the graded parking lot currently used by the California Shakespeare Theatre (Cal Shakes) — a concept supported by Cal Shakes, Caltrans, and EBMUD, which leases the lot to Cal Shakes. Since the lot is located outside of the City's jurisdiction on land owned by EBMUD, the City will incur no expenses. Thirty-seven additional striped spaces will also be made available in the Caltrans right of way on the north side of the interchange.

New Visitor from Tabor



Stepanka Jandova is an international exchange student from Orinda's Czech sister city Tabor. She was introduced at the September 20 Orinda City Council meeting and received a city pin from the mayor.

The 17-year-old is enrolled as a senior at Miramonte High School. She is the second exchange student in two years hosted by Bob and Maryette Thompson. Jandova likes to bike, snow ski, do Zumba exercises and study artwork.

C. Dausman

Photo Cathy Dausman

Caring for the Creek



About 20 people, including some high school students and Girl Scouts, gathered at the Orinda Creek on September 17 to participate in the national Coastal Clean-Up Day. City engineer Cathy Terentieff was also there, conducting a State-mandated study of all of the debris collected from one stretch of the creek.

Photo Ohlen Alexander