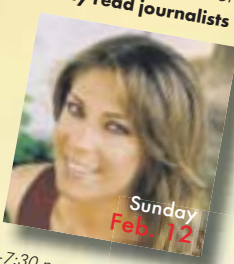


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Matthew Dellavedova (4) and Kenton Walker II (30) Photo Tod Fierner

## Saint Mary's Still Undefeated after Tough Road Trip

By Alex Kozela and Caitlin Graveson

### Upcoming Home Games

Thu, Feb 02, 7:00 PM vs San Diego, SMC McKeon Pavilion  
 Sat, Feb 11, 8:00 PM vs Santa Clara, SMC McKeon Pavilion  
 Wed, Feb 15, 7:30 PM vs Loyola Marymount, SMC McKeon Pavilion

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 or online at [www.smcgael.com](http://www.smcgael.com)

...read story on page C2

### Quote of the Week:

"Pointing fingers and debating about who should have done what is not going to get our roads fixed."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

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## Orinda City Council Initiates Eminent Domain Proceedings to Keep Glorietta Project on Track

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council recently authorized City staff to initiate legal proceedings against the owners of two private properties.

"None of us wants to take this action," said Mayor Steven Glazer. "We do this out of necessity." Glazer's remarks were made during a public hearing on January 17 at which Council members and staff discussed the City's success in acquiring easements from four private property owners free of charge in connection with the Glorietta Storm Drain Improvement Project. An easement was also obtained from the East Bay Municipal Water District.

However, the City has been unable to finalize agreements with two other private property owners – Sara Harkness of Glorietta

Boulevard and Jefferson and Seanna Allen of Glorietta Court. The City's "repeated good faith efforts over many months to acquire the necessary easements through negotiation" have, according to a staff report, included offers of compensation to the owners, even though such payments are not required of cities under Government Code section 7267.2.

Council member Victoria Smith, who led the City's effort to negotiate a separate agreement with property owner Diane Szucs, thanked Szucs for the record and noted that Szucs declined the City's offer of compensation and suggested that the Council put the savings toward repaving the City's roads.

"We're not seeking to own the lands," City attorney Osa Wolff clarified for the

record. "We're seeking to use it."

### Project Overview

Council authorized the Glorietta project to prevent a recurrence of flooding near Glorietta Boulevard and Moraga Way, which was described in a 2000 incident report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): "A 6 foot wall of water and mud flowed through the yards and residences along Glorietta Court near Moraga Way. Widespread rain with twenty four hour accumulations of more than 5 inches occurred [sic] over the area on Feb 13 into February 14th."

A subsequent investigation found that a severely deformed corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in the neighborhood's 50-year-old CMP storm drain system was the most likely cause. The City was sued. ... continued on page A12

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B14

#### Life - Wings on the Grounds

Cathy Dausman talks to a local veteran who took his preflight training at SMC in 1944. B1



### Sports C1-C4



#### Miramonte Girls Steam Roll Rivals

The Lady Mats continue to dominate DFAL play. Conrad Bassett fills you in on girls' hoops. C1

### Our Homes D1-D12

#### Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community



Visit two of the Orinda kitchens featured in this month's Tour with Sophie Braccini. D1