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**Paul Park – The Sequel: Readers Respond**

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Zuercher reported the Club's project completion to collaborators as follows:

**CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION  
HIGHWAY 24 OFFRAMP  
PROJECT**

On July 12, 2001 a group of Garden Club members completed a beautification project on Caltrans land in downtown Orinda next to the Eastbound Highway 24 off ramp.

Two weedcutters were paid \$150; they worked approximately 2 hours. One of the men, Victor Ghavamzadh of Moraga ... is the owner of the business. They used a leafblower to clean up the perimeter of the areas after the weeds were cut.

The tree pruner, Christopher McMahon, worked for over 2½ hours and was paid \$87.50. Members of the Garden Club cut the dead plum tree limbs into pieces of 6' or less as per Caltrans instructions.... We picked up trash (lots of paper and glass bottles), dug up weeds down to the root, cut and piled up the tree prunings, cut down two trees across the street (adjacent to the Eastbound onramp to Walnut Creek), cut ivy and blackberry

roots, and pulled ivy away from the plum tree.

Caltrans provided orange Adopt-A-Highway vests, gloves, rakes, shovels, weedcutters, helmets, and sturdy plastic bags. The City of Orinda (specifically Mark Lowery in the Department of Public Works) loaned us 20 orange traffic cones for the morning....

In 2006, Zuercher "phoned home" with these additional details to the "motherhip" of gardeners everywhere – the Garden Club of America:

"...a large group of members -including a few husbands – removed trees, weeds, invasive vines, ivy and trash from the site. A lovely, mature Cedrus deodara (deodar or Himalayan cedar) and two smaller trees were all that remained. The broken, antiquated irrigation system caught in a 'Catch-22' of highway funding necessitated some creative landscaping solutions. Our civic beautification committee decided that mulch and bulbs would greatly enhance the site and would not require irrigation. They subsequently arranged for the donation of 60 cubic yards of donated wood chips and nearly 1500 Narcissus

'King Alfred' (trumpet daffodil) bulbs. Additional bulbs and mulch have been added within the past several years, and weeding is done on an 'as needed' basis. Motorists, cyclists and others passing by on this heavily traveled route enjoy and greatly appreciate annually the glorious 'sea of yellow' during the often gloomy and rainy days of late winter and early spring."

So, when driving by "Paul Park," give silent thanks to the work of the orange-vested visionaries involved – Pat Winther, Janet Pease, Jane Zuercher, Jackie Voigt, Carole Amstutz, Diana Kennedy, Betty Argabright, Amy Worth, Janet Cotter, Dayna Taylor, DD Felton, John Winther, Andy Amstutz, and Norm Pease. Further improvements, including the addition of large boulders on the grounds, were made during the tenure of Conservation Co-Chairs Caroline Hayes and Judy Cortese.

As the poet Bessie Anderson Stanley wrote, their work reminds us that, "... to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition ... this is to have succeeded."

**An Open Letter to the Community:**

On behalf of the entire City Council, I want to thank the Orinda Association for their extraordinary leadership in coordinating the 4th of July Parade and the surrounding activities. We also thank the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce for sponsoring this great community event.

There is a tremendous amount of work that goes in to this day of activity. In particular, I want to express our appreciation to our Police Department and the many officers and reserves who gave their time to keep us all safe. We thank our Public Works crew and Parks and Recreation staff, who were up early and worked a long day to manage the traffic and pedestrians.

Of course there were dozens of volunteers who managed the parade floats and routes, the food, beverage and activity booths in the Park, the Haley's Run For a Reason, and the Flag Raising activities. They did a wonderful job!

We could not have had a more beautiful day to honor the founding of our nation and the men and women who bravely defend our freedom and liberties. The Orinda Association is one of our community's most enduring civic groups and year after year they put on our greatest community showcase. We are very grateful!

Steve Glazer  
Mayor  
City of Orinda

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:**  
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**ORINDA \$729,000**  
4/2.5. Light-filled contemporary w/huge walls of glass in a wooded setting. Top schools. Golesorkhi/Fitzpatrick 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$2,749,000**  
5/6.5. Stunning Gated French Country Estate in the Glorietta Neighborhood Completed in 2010. Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$2,850,000**  
5/5. Beautiful custom estate situated on approx. 2.4 private acres. Gated entrance, shared tennis ct, 2 pool sites. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,695,000**  
4/3. Country Club home: updated living spaces, prvt master, hdwd flrs, chef's kit, gardens & pool. Finola Fellner 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,995,000**  
5/3.2. Elegant gated Orinda Estate in Country Club section with view of the water. Steve Stahle 925-253-4600

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**LAFAYETTE \$2,495,000**  
4/4. Tucked behind two gates this majestic Happy Vly Estate set upon 3 acres is truly an entertainer's paradise! Chad Morrison 925-253-4600



**MORAGA \$715,000**  
3/2. Moraga Country Club Gem! Immaculate condition, peaceful, light-filled and move-in ready. Frank Woodward 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,275,000**  
3/2.5. Heart of HV. Great floor plan, wonderful neighborhood, and top notch schools. Suzi O'Brien 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,995,000**  
5/4.5. Private Mediterranean Villa with Spectacular Yard, Gardens & Play Areas. Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257



**ORINDA \$1,199,000**  
3/2. "Huge" flat back yard/fabulous views. Remodeled single level. Elena Hood 925-253-4600



**MORAGA \$839,500**  
4/2.5. Wonderful Rheem Valley Manor on a .51 acre lot. Nearby walk/bike trail, park. Great schools. Bo Sullivan 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,799,000**  
4/4. Dream kitchen, spectacular great room, & sumptuous spa like master! Huge lot w/sport court! Bev Arnold 925-253-4600

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"I unequivocally recommend Shannon Conner as an agent for real estate transactions of any kind. Her intelligence and strong work ethic will always ensure the best effort possible." – Frank/Buyer/Orinda



**LAFAYETTE \$1,769,000**  
3/3. Exceptional Single Level Shingled Springhill Home with Park-Like Creek Side Setting. Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600



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3/3. Mid-century, reinvented with eco-friendly materials and period-sensitive styling. Bev Arnold 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,785,000**  
4/3. Charming traditional Cape Cod home in the Country Club neighborhood. Many special features! Laura Abrams 925-253-4600

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