



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Special Meeting
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 13, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY CRIME STATISTICS MARCH 2013

CALLS FOR SERVICE

- False Residential Alarms:** (123)
Officer responded calls
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon:** (1)
Camino Pablo
- Auto Burglary:** (3)
Spring Rd, El Castillo, Pico Ct
- Commercial Burglary:** (3)
Camino Sobrante (2),
Brookwood Rd
- Residential Burglary:** (5)
Camino Sobrante, La Espiral,
Glorietta Bl, La Cresta Rd,
Longview Terrace
- Grand Theft - From Vehicle:** (1)
Camino Pablo
- Vandalism - Felony:** (1)
Estates Dr

ARRESTS: (13)

- Possession of Dangerous Drugs:** (1)
Brookwood Rd
- Probation Violation:** (2)
Las Vegas Ct
- Felony - Other:** (1)
Camino Sobrante, Orinda Wy
- Warrant - Arrest:** (2)
St Stephens Dr, Moraga Wy
- Driving Under The Influence**
- Misd <.08: (1)
Glorietta Blvd/Moraga Wy
- Driving Under The Influence**
- Misd >.08: (1) Donna Maria Wy
- Domestic Battery:** (1)
Del Valle
- Assault with A Deadly Weapon:** (1)
Camino Pablo
- Commercial Burglary:** (2)
Camino Sobrante, Brookwood Dr
- Forgery - Fraudulent Documents:** (1)
Overhill Rd
- Juvenile Alcohol-Related Arrests:** (0)
- No arrests reported**

ORINDA BART STATION

Incidents and Arrests Reported: (0)
No stats available at this time

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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Maureen Wilbur

Coming Soon!

Maureen has 2 Lafayette homes coming to the market soon and 1 Beacon Ridge home.

For more information call or email Maureen.

Direct: (925)253-6311 | Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com | www.MaureenWilbur.com

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Moraga Adobe Purchase Appears Likely

By Laurie Snyder



The Moraga Adobe in 1922.

Photo courtesy of the Historic American Buildings Survey of California



The Moraga Adobe in April, 2012.

Photo provided by Kent Long

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) and J & J Ranch announced April 3 that after three years of negotiations they have reached agreement on the terms for FJMA's purchase of Orinda's historic Moraga Adobe structure. While FJMA leaders indicated at press time that several details of the agreement still had yet to be finalized, they also

said that the deal would enable FJMA to purchase roughly 2.3 additional acres of land surrounding the structure, as well as the structure itself.

"2012 was a really tough year for us. So this is really good news," said Matt Branagh of J & J Ranch as he reflected both on the deal and on the loss of his father and business partner. The elder Branagh and his wife,

Mona, tragically lost their lives in a July 2012 plane crash.

"Bobbie Landers, Kent Long, and S.B. Master, the board of advisors for Friends of the Adobe, did a really good job of making clear what their goals were," said Branagh. "We both wanted to be able to end up being able to use [the Adobe], and that's what we achieved."

Master, FJMA vice president, said the additional acreage to be purchased by the Friends "includes the crucial view shed, the protection of which has been a special concern of FJMA. Our plan is to operate the Adobe as a history and learning center, highlighting the history of the Adobe and the Joaquin Moraga family, as well as the history of the pre-Gold Rush, land grant era of the Lamorinda region, with access for school groups and the public."

This most recent agreement would create changes to the J & J subdivision plan previously approved by Orinda's planning commission – meaning that the updated plan must be submitted for further review by the commission.

The appellation "J & J Ranch" is derived from the names of cousins Juan Bernal and Joaquin Moraga, recipients of 1835 land grants for the area which encompassed the roughly 20 acres on a south Orinda hill between Miramonte High and Del Rey Elementary schools where the planned subdivision will be located.

Although FJMA will also still need to raise the funds necessary to execute the purchase, the leaders of both J & J Ranch and FJMA are confident that a bright future is in store for the Adobe which, though designated as a California State Historic Landmark in 1954, has suffered greatly at the hands of vandals over the years. "It will be a great asset to the community," said Branagh.

To learn more about the project and about the Adobe's history visit the websites of the city of Orinda, www.cityoforinda.org, and FJMA, moragaadobe.org.

Teens to Talk Writing, Publishing and Broadcasting with Cynthia Brian

By Laurie Snyder



Cynthia Brian (4th from left) with some of her teen writers.

Photo provided

Budding teenage writers will have the chance to get up close and personal with Lamorinda Weekly columnist and teen writing coach Cynthia Brian in a special event from 7 to 8 p.m. April 30 at the Orinda Library. Brian, who has

been active in coaching teens in the Lamorinda community for a number of years, works with young people to create this newspaper's "Teen Scene" column and produces "Express Yourself! Teen Radio." Some of the teens she cur-

rently works with will also be at the event.

"Being the teen coach for the *Lamorinda Weekly* for the past few years has been an extremely enriching and rewarding experience. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to give our young people a voice. We are blessed with so many talented teens with opinions and ideas," says Brian.

She is an author and editor of several books, including "The Business of Show Business" and "Be the Star You Are! For TEENS," a collection of 38 inspirational stories which she believes will help readers "learn how to cope with courage and face challenges with humor and self-confidence." Proceeds from the sale of the latter are being used to support her award-winning charity, Be the Star

You Are! – a non-profit organization dedicated to "empowering women, families, and youth through improved literacy and positive media."

Teens considering careers as broadcast media professionals or interested in learning what it takes to work for community newspapers and other publications are encouraged to attend Brian's talk, as are young people just beginning their first forays into the world of writing. "As a gardener I nurture plants, as a coach I grow people. I look forward to meeting more teens who are interested in joining our *Lamorinda Weekly* star team," she says. Pre-registration is not required for this free program, which is being sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more information, call the library: (925) 254-2184, extension 15.

THE ALL-NEW BMW 6 SERIES GRAN COUPE

Michael Heller, BMW Concord, mheller78@hotmail.com

Call Michael Heller 925-998-2150

BMW Concord | 1967 Market St. | Concord

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Providing activities for adults with Alzheimer's or other related dementias and respite for caregivers.

LARC
LAMORINDA ADULT RESPIRE CENTER

925-254-3465 | 433 Moraga Way Orinda | www.holyshepherd.org

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com