



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Community Room, City Hall
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.
Community Room, Orinda City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

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 Crime Statistics Aug. 1-31

Calls for Service:

False Residential Alarms (117)
Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Hwy 24/Wilder Rd
Knickerbocker Ln

Auto Burglary

Rio Vista
Warford Terrace
Theatre Square
Cal Shakes Way/Wilder

Commercial Burglary

Camino Sobrante

Residential Burglary

Southwood Dr
Los Altos Rd
Moraga Way
Camino del Diablo
Alice Place
Santa Lucia
Miner Rd

Petty Theft from Vehicle

Orinda Way

Arrests:

Probation Violation

Orinda Way

DUI Misdemeanor

Camino Encinas/Moraga Way
Camino Pablo

DUI Felony

Camino Pablo

Felony Battery on a Police Officer

Ivy Dr

Orinda BART Reports/Arrests:

not available at press time

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A Miner Transformation in Orinda?

City and PG&E consider undergrounding utility lines and making major thoroughfare safer

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council dusted off a pair of old Public Works plans on Sept. 3 which could potentially transfigure a major portion of Miner Road.

The first, which would involve the undergrounding by PG&E of overhead utility lines along Miner from Camino Pablo to Lombardy Lane, last saw significant action by the City Council nearly 10 years ago when it adopted Resolution 59-04, following a public hearing, to create a Rule 20-A underground district. Although the city worked with PG&E staff to plan the project, progress stalled when PG&E ended up deferring it due to a lack of funding. According to the staff report, PG&E finally re-approached city leaders earlier this year because PG&E is now "attempting to clear the backlog of these types of undergrounding projects." (For Rule 20-A information, visit: www.pge.com/my-home/customerservice/energystatus/streetconstruction/rule20/.)

In addition to hearing a pres-

entation by PG&E about the company's latest plans for the undergrounding, council members also began revisiting the possible creation of a pedestrian trail along the same section of Miner Road. Creation of a trail had first been considered by city leaders in the late 1990s, and then again in 2004 and 2009. As described in the staff report, "The plan at the time was to coordinate the trail project and the PG&E project in an effort to share the available space within the road right of way to create a joint location just off the existing edge of pavement for the trail and buried utility lines." Theoretically, the proposed trail would have made it safer for cars, pedestrians and bicyclists to co-exist, but the initiative was removed from the city's Capital Improvement Plan after the City Council decided in 2009 against a feasibility study.

"Tonight is merely intended to be informational," emphasized Mayor Amy Worth as she explained that current council mem-

bers were just at the beginning of their look at all that had come before. A formal public hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

At this juncture, PG&E hopes to relocate the utility lines within Miner's existing roadway pavement "except when connecting with vaults and splice boxes to be placed just off the existing edge of pavement. PG&E believes this design is necessary due to lack of right of way and physical flat space off the existing edge of pavement." In prior discussions, PG&E had planned to place those same lines in a joint trench off the pavement edge, enabling the city to place a new pedestrian trail on top. City staff believes this redesign may now make it easier for the city to build the trail because PG&E would be grading areas around the splice boxes and vaults and removing existing utility poles.

Seven residents spoke during the public forum; several encouraged council members to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on

Miner Road. One described the status quo as "an accident waiting to happen." Others asked whether it might not be prudent, after PG&E's long delay, for the City Council to consider other sites which might now be more important candidates for undergrounding.

Councilmember Dean Orr led council's questioning of PG&E asking, among other things, if the undergrounding meant that telephone and other utilities would also be included. PG&E representatives affirmed that this would be the case due to Rule 20-A.

Chuck Swanson, Orinda's director of public works, suggested that PG&E might wish to conduct a public workshop over and above the City Council's formal public hearing. Council members continued to stress that the dialogue has just begun. "Stay tuned," said Worth.

To learn more, read the staff report and listen to the meeting audio, both of which are available on the city's website.

Have a Night Out with Your Neighbors

Sixth Annual Orinda Night Out is Sept. 12

By Laurie Snyder

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted

by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world. - Mister Rogers

Hundreds of Orindans will belly laugh, bond and begin to take a bigger bite out of would-be criminals tomorrow night, Sept.

12, from 5 to 8 p.m. as part of the city's Sixth Annual Orinda Night Out celebration.

National Night Out was launched in 1984, according to the website of the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), "to promote involvement in crime preven-

tion activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back." Roughly 2.5 million Americans participated that first year. ... continued on page A9

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