



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
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

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



Orinda crime statistics were not available at press deadline.

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To Pave or Not to Pave?

Orinda continues to fine tune street selection criteria for Measure L funds

By Laurie Snyder

At their monthly meeting Oct. 3, members of the City of Orinda's Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission continued discussions regarding both what the city's policy should be for prioritizing residential streets for repaving with the community's continued limited repair budget and how best to communicate that policy to Orinda's more than 17,000 residents once that policy is finally approved.

"With the adoption of Measure L," begins the current draft, "the City has an additional source of funds for road repair and reconstruction. This [half cent sales tax] Measure represents the first phase of a multi-year plan to repair all the City's streets. Even with this additional funding, current budgetary constraints and the

poor and deteriorating condition of Orinda's roads require the City to apply budgeted funds only to those residential roads *where the most benefit for the most residents can be obtained.*"

Repair prioritization criteria currently under consideration by the CIOC include: residential street segments that are among the most heavily used – based on actual traffic counts – and segments designated among the worst residential roads with a StreetSaver Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 25 or less with an unacceptable ride quality (with ride quality determined by an appropriate objective measure to be determined). "The road segments will be ranked in descending order of traffic volume, with the highest volume road seg-

ments forming a pool of candidate roads" for the annual pavement management program, according to the draft. The timing of underground utility work will also be factored in to minimize the need to dig up and repave up newly repaired streets.

"It may also help us to decide that segments of a road can wait," observed long-time road warrior Dennis Fay as he and his fellow commission members teased out ways to better define the concept of "ride quality." Fay urged that the same automobile should be used by staff each time that ride quality is assessed on any residential roads in order to ensure consistency of the city's measurements. Fay also noted that additional streets are now on the CIOC's radar that had not previously caught the attention of

commission members thanks to traffic count studies recently completed by city staff.

Chuck Swanson, public works director, stated that staff hope to have all of those traffic count studies completed by the end of this year. CIOC members decided to continue their fine tuning efforts, and will take another look at the draft Measure L policy at their next meeting in November.

The CIOC also heard from Swanson regarding the progress of other ongoing infrastructure projects. "The Tarabrook drainage project is moving right along. Probably in about two weeks, we'll be done with jacking and boring," said a clearly relieved Swanson.

Spotting and Stopping Elder Fraud and Abuse – An Interview with Orinda Police Chief Scott Haggard

By Laurie Snyder

The State Bar of California reports, "As many as one in seven senior citizens nationwide falls victim to some type of elder abuse — usually at the hands of a family member." Much as Orindans would like to believe that this type of crime can't happen in America's second friendliest city, it can and does. Two cases were just recently prepared for the District Attorney's office by the investigations unit of the Orinda police department.

"There are two types of crimes that typically upset me more than others. Crimes against children, and a very close second is abuse of the elderly or dependent adults," says Scott Haggard, Orinda's police chief. "I have seen both of these types of crimes way too often, and categorize it in two different ways.

One is physical." Seniors may be neglected or left alone by their caregivers, may not be fed properly, or might even be beaten.

"The other kind is financial abuse, which is probably more prevalent." Someone could be attempting to leverage the senior out of his or her home, or a nanny or caregiver might be caught stealing. A third category – mental abuse – occurs when seniors feel threatened enough to acquiesce to whatever demands are being made by an individual who has been bullying them.

Many times, adds Haggard, it's "a silent, kept-in-the-family thing – kind of like child abuse." Incidents may increase gradually as the perpetrators grow more confident, continuing unchecked until finally caught by clergy or physicians who frequently function as the failsafe for the seniors they serve.

Unfortunately, elder and dependent adult abuse remains challenging

to prosecute.

... continued on next page

Potential Signs of Financial Abuse:

- Signatures on checks not resembling the senior's signature, checks signed by a senior but filled out by someone else, or checks made out to "cash" at the request of someone with a caretaker responsibility for that elder.
- Signatures on financial or legal documents when the elder is physically incapable of writing, or writing of a will when the adult is mentally incapable.
- Unusually large withdrawals from a bank, withdrawals from automated teller machines when an elder is unable to visit the bank, or a sudden surge of activity in accounts which have seen little to no activity in prior years.
- Contributions made to newly formed charitable or religious organizations, or investments made in annuities or other financial products.
- Investments or large loans made in time shares or other real estate.

Sources: California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (www.canhr.org), Investor Protection Trust (www.investorprotection.org), State Bar of California (www.calbar.ca.gov).



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