



# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

**Special Meeting: Budget Workshop**  
Thursday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.  
Community Room, City Hall  
22 Orinda Way

**Regular Meeting:**  
Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, May 14, 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, May 12, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, Vintage Building  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, April 13-26

- Alarms** 57
- 911 calls** 7
- Auto Burglary**  
4400 block El Nido Ranch Rd
- Residential Burglary**  
La Sombra Ct
- Battery**  
Orinda Convalescent
- Death, non-criminal**  
100 block Estates Dr
- DUI Misdemeanor**  
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos  
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl  
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Wy  
St Stephens Dr/Hwy 24
- Drunk in Public**  
500 block Moraga Rd  
500 block Moraga Wy
- Elder Abuse**  
100 block Moraga Wy
- Fight**  
Orinda High School
- Juvenile Disturbance**  
Theatre Square
- Loud Music/Party**  
40 block Heather Ln  
Orinda Country Club  
Crest View Dr/Hilldale Ct  
Orinda Community Center
- Missing Adult**  
100 block Orinda Wy
- Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Via/Glorietta Bl  
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr  
Moraga Wy/Valley View Dr
- Suspicious:**
  - Person** 19
  - Circumstances** 8
  - Vehicle** 13
- Uncontrollable Juvenile**  
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr
- Vandalism**  
El Nido Ranch Rd/St Stephens Dr
- Warrant Arrest**  
30 block Oak Rd



**Maureen Wilbur**

## Summit Ridge Townhome ~ Lafayette Schools

Summit Ridge Townhome with approximately 2500+ square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large light and sunny bonus room, large fenced landscaped patio, fresh paint, new flooring, kitchen counters, and appliances. Community pool and clubhouse. The home is near open space, trails, Springhill Elementary, Acalanes HS, Lafayette BART and Highway 24. This is a fabulous property!

**Offered at \$749,000**

For more Information please contact Maureen

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

CalBRE #01268536

©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304



## From On to Off Track

### Orinda's Miner Road electric line undergrounding now on hold

By Laurie Snyder

"I think you're going to sense some frustration from this council, and it would be appropriate for you to step back and explain how we got into this position," said Orinda City Council member Dean Orr as he led off the public questioning of Pacific Gas and Electric representatives regarding how a multi-million dollar utility undergrounding project went from "on track" to derailed in a matter of months.

The plan to improve one of Orinda's most heavily traveled thoroughfares began in 2004 when the City Council established an Underground Utility District on Miner Road between Camino Pablo and Lombardy Lane. "Miner Road was selected among three potential sites," reads the staff report, "because it was the most scenic road that would aesthetically benefit from the removal of utility poles and appurtenant wires. Undergrounding of the overhead utilities would also improve public

safety" by "removing roadside obstructions and reducing risks under fire, earthquake, and high wind conditions." But the project languished "due to a lack of priority and funding" by PG&E.

By 2013, PG&E representatives were back, meeting with city staff, scheduling workshops – and making a February 2014 presentation to the City Council in which corporate staff delivered the glad tidings that PG&E would finally show Miner Road some love. "They specified that this project was deemed fully funded prior to 2011 and that, as a result, the project was considered 'grandfathered' by PG&E."

"At that time," said city manager Janet Keeter, "we started having more serious discussions." But, "after a number of conversations with PG&E, with our city attorney, their attorney, it was determined very recently that ... the project could not proceed as it was scoped because the costs far ex-

ceeded the credits that the city had in the Rule 20A program" – an electric tariff that enables PG&E to underground 30 miles of overhead lines across the Bay Area each year. Projects are nominated by local or county governments with costs recovered via electric rates after the work ends.

Council members were not amused and pressed, one after another, for answers.

"I think the initial communication from PG&E was not accurate," said PG&E's public affairs manager. "We thought Orinda would be one of those projects that would be grandfathered in – even though the costs were escalated, and we could borrow out ... 30-plus years. ... We thought that this would be eligible for that kind of a funding process. I think originally that's what we communicated to the city, and that was not accurate."

"When I heard that the project costs had escalated to the extent they had – and heard that they were consid-

ering [Orinda] as a grandfathered project," said Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff, "I asked for confirmation ... I didn't want Orinda to end up holding the bag for the cost overruns if it turned out PG&E didn't have clear CPUC authorization for covering those cost overruns. And when I researched it and talked to their attorney, it became clear to me that they did not have PUC authorization to cover the increased costs in our project's case. They had very limited grandfathering authority with respect to six jurisdictions, and we are not one of those six." Council members were also advised by PG&E that it has no other source of funding available to help.

After another 30 minutes of continued intense probing of the PG&E personnel, the City Council clarified the project's importance again, and directed city staff to continue exploring with PG&E other possible ways to get the undergrounding project back on track.

## Orinda Library Celebrates a Century of Civic and Community Engagement

By Laurie Snyder



Then and now. From 1935 to 1944, the Orinda Library's home was the community's remodeled firehouse. Today, it is a central gathering place for Orindans of all ages. Photos courtesy Orinda Historical Society and Ohlen Alexander

It began as a single shelf of books in a small school of a largely summer community – a collection so tiny that it was classified as a "deposit station" rather than a library. It was 1914, and the first seeds of what would eventually blossom into a 21st century garden for bibliophiles were just being planted by Mrs. Artie Berger – Orinda's first librarian.

Circulation reached nearly 3,000 before that year was out, and continued to climb. One shelf became a four-by-four bookcase and, with the

help of the PTA, the diminutive deposit station moved from the Orinda Park School to E.I. de Laveaga's Orinda Store just over a decade later. A new librarian, Mrs. Dawson, who had been earning just \$120 per year at the beginning of her tenure, took a 25 percent pay cut to keep the doors open during the Depression. She stayed until her retirement in 1954.

After achieving stability following a 1935 relocation to Orinda's remodeled firehouse, library operations ground to a halt in 1944 when Contra

Costa County sold the structure. But Virginia Phair rode to the rescue by lobbying county administrators, the Orinda Community Church and the local Lions Club for help. By 1949, patrons were packing yet another cramped but beloved haven for booklovers – this time in a cozy room below the church's classroom for kids.

By the mid-20th century, it was the women of Van Ripper Lane who were rippin' and runnin'. As the charter members of the Orinda Junior Women's Club, they polled the com-

munity and determined that Orindans needed and wanted their own branch library and, in April 1954, brought the Lions Club and Orinda Women's Club together with Contra Costa County's new head librarian to begin making the community's dream a reality.

Funds were raised, books were purchased, and an architect was hired. The Orinda Library Board was incorporated, and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in recognition of the community's efforts. ... continued on next page

**Up to \$1,825 in Installation Rebates**  
ENDS May 31, 2014 - CALL FOR DETAILS

Turn to ACS & "Carrier" to find everything from standard to ultra quiet, high efficiency heating & cooling systems.

**\$45\*** Furnace Maintenance  
\*After Union Local 104 \$50 mail-in rebate. Ends May 30, 2014 Call for Details.

**ACS Air Conditioning Systems**  
5151-C Port Chicago Highway ~ Concord, CA 94520  
www.ACSystemsInc.com • info@ACSystemsInc.com

Serving the Bay Area Since 1969  
License # 632329  
**925.676.2103**

**Distinctive design**  
from the big idea ... to the smallest detail

Full services at every step  
Orinda offices  
Orinda resident  
45 years experience  
New homes remodels additions  
California license NCARB Certificate  
References available

**Bartlett Architects AIA**

One Bates Boulevard Suite 201 Orinda, CA 94563 925 253 2880  
www.bartlettaia.com Laborare est Orare