



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
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 Incident Summary Report Aug. 2-15

Alarms	71
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic stops	148
Suspicious Circumstances	16
Suspicious Subjects	14
Suspicious Vehicles	30
Abandoned Vehicle	
Parkway Ct/Glorietta Blvd	
Muth Dr/Bates Blvd	
Barking Dog	
100 block Overhill Rd	
10 block El Camino	
20 block Moraga Via	
10 block Cascade Ln	
100 block Overhill Rd	
100 block Canon Dr	
Burglary, Auto	
Moraga Way/Bryant Way	
Burglary, Commercial	
50 block Moraga Way	
Burglary, Residential	
10 block North Lane	
50 block Camino Encinas	
Disturbance	
200 block Orchard Rd (domestic)	
Glorietta Elementary (juvenile)	
Brookwood/Spring Rds	
Harassment	
500 block Moraga Way (2)	
80 block La Cuesta Rd	
Hit & Run	
Safeway	
20 block Heather Ln	
ID Theft	
20 block Warford Terr	
200 block Orchard Rd	
60 block Lost Valley Dr (2)	
Loud Music/Noise	
50 block Knickerbocker Ln	
Donna Maria Wy/Sager Ct	
200 block Moraga Way	
Orinda Country Club	
10 block Lind Court	
Loud Party	
100 block Las Vegas Rd	
10 block Lombardy Ln	
80 block Hillcrest Dr	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
Stein/Moraga Way	
Promiscuous Shooting	
10 block Cresta Blanca	
Public Nuisance	
Loma Vista/El Toyonal	
200 block Sundown Terr	
40 block Tara Rd	
10 block Vashell Way	
Ardilla Rd/Camino Pablo	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat Ct	
Miramonte High School	
Shoplift	
10 block Camino Sobrante	
Safeway	
Theft, Petty	
900 block Tappan Ln	
100 block Fiesta Cir	
500 block Dalewood Dr	
10 block Estabuena Dr (2)	
Risa Ct/Ivy Dr	
BevMo	
30 block Zander Dr	



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Council OKs Green Striping for Camino Pablo Bike Lane

Nixes traffic study proposal

By Victor Ryerson

The Orinda City Council has given the green light to a revised striping plan that will add green conflict zone striping to the northbound Camino Pablo bike lane near the Highway 24 on- and off-ramps. However, the council declined to authorize the performance of a traffic study for recommendations and potential impacts of modifications to the westbound Highway 24 on- and off-ramp to improve bicycle safety, concluding that the study would “not be helpful.”

The plan to add the green striping relates back to the city’s 2014 efforts to coordinate with CalTrans on the restriping of new pavement between Brookwood Road and Santa Maria Way to improve bicycle circulation and safety. Retaining walls and abutments to Highway 24 and the BART tracks limit the ability to incorporate bike lanes in the area, and the final design placed the lane between the right turn only lane and the combination through-right turn lane onto Highway 24.

The bike lane striping was installed in June, but comments from the general public and Bike Orinda, a local bicyclists’ group, suggested that further safety improvements should be considered. At the July 20 meeting of Orinda’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, city staff proposed additional safety enhancements to the bike lane by adding green conflict zone striping, an increasingly common measure used in many other communities. The committee favored the idea, and recommended addition of the

green striping to the council. The cost of doing the upgrade is expected to be about \$23,000.

Although the council enthusiastically supported the green striping, it unanimously turned down a proposal to conduct an associated study of traffic at the site. The council members were aware of the northbound commute-hour backup from Brookwood to the Highway 24 on-ramp, but did not feel that an additional study would be helpful to their understanding of the situation.

Planning Commission Sends Wilder Developer Back to the Drawing Board

By Victor Ryerson

By unanimous vote at its Aug. 11 meeting, the Orinda Planning Commission approved the design of two single-story homes in Wilder, but sent the developer home to redesign three others for failure to comply with a “step-down” provision of the Development Agreement for the Gateway valley. That provision, which echoes a long-standing Orinda zoning law design principle, requires a hillside home to be designed to step down the slope, so it does not present a massive facade from the front. The underlying concept is that such a design will better harmonize esthetically with Orinda’s steep hillsides. The commission’s action will delay the rejected designs until they can be resubmitted for consideration.

Ironically, at the end of the meeting, Orinda Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu announced that a plan to streamline the design review process for Wilder subdivision homes will be presented to the Orinda City Council, possibly as early as Sept. 28. The new procedure, which was recommended by the City Council Committee on Wilder, would bypass the commission altogether, committing decisions on approval to a zoning administrator. Ursu or his designee would be the administrator.

The rejected designs were proposed by Taylor Morrison of California LLC, which owns 61 lots in Wilder. It is developing its lots on an aggressive schedule, and has filed 17 design review applications for single-family residences. The commission found fault with the designs of three homes because the upper story was not set back from the story below in stepwise fashion. Taylor Morrison attempted to compensate for this by including niches, stairways and recessions in the homes. The commission made clear that Orinda’s design requirements may not be glossed over in this fashion, and that it did not want to set a precedent for future applications by approving the noncompliant designs.

“Have we stepped down the whole house? No we have not,” admitted Taylor Morrison’s architect, John Rothroff. But he argued that other features, such as recesses incorporated into the facades and varied roof heights, were tantamount to “stepping” the structures.

The commissioners wanted to hear none of it. “If you are on a slope, you have to step down the house,” responded commissioner Dave Hoppock. “The code says ‘step.’ ... It doesn’t talk about the appearance of stepping down, it talks about stepping down.”

“We’re looking for breaking planes,” added commissioner Joe McGrath.

With that, the commission sent the developer back to the drawing

board to rethink the designs. Several commissioners further expressed discomfort with previous approvals that seemingly fudged Gateway Development Agreement requirements. “If we have rules and continually override them, [what good are they?],” asked Hoppock.

If rigorous adherence to the Development Agreement is the city’s goal, the proposal to shortcut the design review approval process would seem to be a move in the opposite direction. Recommended by the City Council Subcommittee on Wilder, which consists of mayor Dean Orr and council member Amy Worth, under the proposal the design review and approval procedure would be reduced to an administrative process. The city’s planning staff would re-

view each conceptual plan and offer its input. The plan would then go to the Wilder Development Committee, consisting of an architect, a landscape architect, and a developer representative – in this case, Brook Street, the majority partner. Finally, the applicant would bring the plan to the zoning administrator for final approval, which would not require a hearing unless requested by a neighbor or member of the public. Any appeals would go before the city council.

The proposal is intended to eliminate redundancies, and tracks other zoning administrator provisions in Orinda’s zoning law, according to Ursu. It will be reviewed by both the Planning Commission and the City Council, and is just in the talking stage, he emphasized.

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	Orindawoods Dr/Kite Hill Rd
Vandalism	
	70 block La Espiral (2)
	10 block Camino Encinas
	10 block Irwin Way
Warrant Service/Arrest	
	10 block Lavenida
	50 block Bates Blvd
	10 block Dos Posos
	10 block Orinda Way