



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.
June 7 has been cancelled
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District
Monday, June 13, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
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



Maureen Wilbur



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As City Clerk Olsen Departs, Orinda Loses Its 'Heart'

By Sora O'Doherty



Michele Olsen will now have more time with her family. Photo provided

Three hundred fifty city council meetings over 13 years. How do you measure a career? In dignity, in integrity, in smiles and

even-handedness, in cheerfulness, and earnest and caring for all.

At least that's how Michele Olsen did it.

The longtime Orinda city clerk is leaving, and when asked about it, Mayor Victoria Smith replied, "I'll have to stop crying before I can give you a comment."

After she dried her proverbial tears, the mayor spoke eloquently about how much Olsen, who has been with Orinda as city clerk for 13 years, means to the community. "She is the face of the city," Smith said, and that she manages the council with "poise and dignity."

As much as Orinda loves Michele Olsen, she loved her job. Until one day, last year, when Olsen shattered her ankle in the Tough Mudder race. With 13 pins and 5 plates in her ankle, Olsen was off work for months. She had thought that she was close to her children, but she realized just how much closer she became when she actually had more time to spend with them. Olsen has two sons, 14 and

12 years old, and a daughter, 9. As she gazed into the future, she suddenly knew that she wanted more than anything to be there for them, to mold them into productive members of society through these next, crucial years.

At the same time, Olsen observed that a friend from Orinda who moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, was growing calmer and happier away from the pressures of the competitive Bay Area. Eight years ago, Olsen and her husband had thought about moving to Raleigh, North Carolina, where her husband has family. But now they have trained their sights on Charlotte, and just closed on a new home there.

Eventually, Olsen will return to work, but not for a long while. She wants to be there for her children and really share these last precious school years. ... continued on page A11

Is Wilder Getting Wilder? Residents Push for More Restrictions After Crime Creeps Into Neighborhood

By Sora O'Doherty

Will the public amenities at Wilder attract an unwanted, criminal element to the valley? Some Wilder neighbors think so and lined up to express their concerns to the Orinda City Council at a recent meeting.

The complaints ranged from an episode of drug-intoxicated strangers abandoning their car in the middle of the street and occupying a resident's driveway, to long response times by police, to concerns that traveling through the valley provides an opportunity to case homes for potential future burglaries.

Wilder resident Madeline Malory stated that Wilder now has the highest rate of crime in Orinda.

Some of the suggestions that were put forth included gating the parking area, locking restrooms, prohibiting the use of alcohol, and installing security cameras. All the speakers expressed a desire to be involved in the decision making processes, and the council members agreed that there would still be time for consultation.

Faster approval of new homes in the Wilder development, an Art & Garden Center at no cost to the city, and a trailhead respite area are among the goals of the seventh amendment to the Wilder Development Agreement, presented to the council. The amendment would also permit second units in Wilder, as are already allowed in the rest of Orinda.

While many aspects of the amended DA were praised, Wilder residents queued up to express concern about safety issues in the Gateway Valley and concerns that the Trailhead Respite Area would become a destination in itself and might attract activities that would be unwelcomed by residents. They expressed concern about the level of policing, and whether the East Bay Regional Park District has sufficient personnel to add the Trailhead Respite Area to the parks they maintain.

The amended DA provides for an expedited design approval process for homes, which would be a two-step process of approval: first by the Wilder Design Review Committee and then by the Orinda Zoning Commissioner. Approval by

the Planning Commission or city council will no longer be required, except when a variance is requested or upon appeal of a decision.

Mayor Victoria Smith hailed the plan as being more objective, given the high level of planning that went into the original Agreement.

Drummond Buckley, Orinda's planning director, noted that the reason the streamlined approval process could be fairly implemented is because so many design restrictions had been put in place

during the earlier negotiations. With this extensive framework already in place, each application is simpler to rule on because it must already conform to so many standards. Hence the exception for requests for variances.

Wilder Handbook

There is now a Wilder Design Review Handbook, which draws together all the requirements applicable to Wilder homes in once place. Previously, applicants for Design Review approval were required to peruse the 2005 DA as amended,

the Conditions of Approval for the Development Agreement and for the Final Development Plan, and the Landscape Master Plan to determine the requirements applicable to developing a new home in the Wilder Project. To streamline this process, Section I of the Handbook assembles these requirements in a single document. Smith called this handbook a great improvement, and added that it was sort of a "duh" moment—why hadn't it be done earlier?

... continued on page A13

ORINDA POLICE	
Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report May 1 to 14	
Alarms	64
Noise complaints	3
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic stops	64
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	5
Suspicious Vehicles	16
Battery	
20 block Irwin Way	
100 block Meadow Ln.	
Burglary, Residential	
30 block Overhill Rd.	
Civil	
100 block Moraga Via	
2300 block Lawson	
Disturbance	
100 block Oak Rd. (2)	
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo	
Dispute, verbal	
Irwin Way/Orinda Way	
200 block Moraga Way	
400 block El Toyonal	
DUI	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
BevMo	
Harassment	
60 block La Espiral (2)	
Health & Safety violation	
Stein Way/Knickerbocker Ln.	
Hit & Run	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
ID Theft	
100 block Crest View Dr (4)	
Reported to police (2)	
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.	
60 block Moraga Via (2)	
10 block Bates Blvd.	
Missing Juvenile	
500 block Dalewood Dr.	
Panhandling	
Yashell Way/Moraga Way	
Public Nuisance	
Bel Air /Park Lane Drs.	
Orinda Country Club	
10 block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Oak Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Via	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. (2)	
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	
40 block Muth Dr.	
Shoplift	
20 block Orinda Way	
Stolen car recovery	
BART lot	
Theft, Petty	
20 block Moraga Via	
Reported to police	
60 block Estates Dr	
CVS	
Theft, Grand	
50 block Donna Maria Way	
100 block La Espiral	
Trespass	
50 block La Encinal	
Uncontrollable Juvenile	
10 block Ichabod Ln.	
Unwanted guest	
40 block Underhill Rd.	
Vandalism	
Safeway	

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