



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 5, 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



May 7 to 20

Alarms	45
Noise complaints	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic stops	44
Suspicious Circumstances	17
Suspicious Subjects	21
Suspicious Vehicles	18
Abandoned vehicle	

50 block Brookwood Rd.

Animal cruelty

Orinda Way/Avenida de Orinda

Battery

200 block Holly Ln. (felony)
50 block Tappan Ln.

Barking Dog

El Toyonal/Camino del Cielo

Burglary, Auto

Theatre Square
Orinda Theater
500 block Miner Rd.

Burglary, Residential

40 block Moraga Via
30 block Bobolink Rd.
30 block Moraga Via
20 block Woodland Rd.
40 block Barbara Rd.

Custody violation

reported to police (2)

Death, non-criminal

400 block Tahos Rd.
40 block Bear Ridge Rd.

Disturbance

Donald Dr./Hall Dr.
20 block Lavenida Dr.
70 block El Toyonal
Orinda Country Club
10 block Crescent Dr.

Exhibition of speed

10 block Irving Ln.

Fireworks

200 block Tappan Ln.

Forgery

60 block Martha Rd.

Hit & Run

10 block Ramona Dr.

ID Theft

reported to police (3)
10 block Austin Ct.
10 block Camino del Diabolo
10 block Silverwood Ct.
10 block El Rincon
60 block Lost Valley Dr.

Misdemeanor

Moraga Way/Orchard Rd

Panhandling

Bevmo
Chevron

Police/Fire/EMS

Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.
10 block Camino Sobrante
10 block Camino Pablo

Public Nuisance

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24
50 block Via Floreado

Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24
San Pablo Dam Rd./Wildcat
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek
Risa Ct./Ivy Dr.
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos
Glorietta Blvd/Martha Rd.
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
El Toyonal/Canon Dr.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Restraining Order violation
Rite Aid (2)



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Orinda City Council bans outdoor marijuana plants

By Sora O'Doherty

When marijuana becomes legal in California in 2018, Orindans will be allowed to cultivate six marijuana plants indoors, but none outside, by a new ordinance to be adopted by the city council recently.

The council took a pragmatic approach, recognizing that enforcement of restrictions on marijuana would be difficult to accomplish. Council Member Dean Orr was concerned about limiting the freedom of Orindans to grow marijuana on their property, but was convinced to support the ban on outdoor cultivation when assured that cultivation in a greenhouse or other garden building is considered an indoor grow.

The council received a staff report and heard from Police Chief Mark Nagel, as well as two speakers in the public forum. Jaime Rich of Alcohol and Drug Addiction

Prevention Team of Lamorinda expressed her concern that the new state law, Proposition 64, adopted by California voters in last November's general election, could enable easier access to marijuana by young people, who can suffer more adverse effects than adults. She recognized that the law did not permit the city to ban indoor grows, but urged the council to ban outdoor grows as more easily accessible to young people. She admitted that she didn't know about deliveries of marijuana, and Nagel agreed that he did not know how it would be possible to regulate deliveries.

Orinda mom Debbie Berndorf told the council, "If you haven't tried marijuana lately, you don't know marijuana." She stressed that the drug is now much higher in THC and is seriously addictive, unlike the product of 18 years

ago. She spoke of the nuisance of outdoor grows, which, she said, produce horrific smells that can prevent neighbors from even using their backyards. She also opined that there are very few homebound patients who require home marijuana deliveries. She suggested a registry, which was not adopted by the council, but stopped short of recommending a permit process.

Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff was joined by an expert from her firm, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, Heather Minner. Minner advised that the city could impose restrictions on outdoor grows, but that smells are not as easily measurable as noise. The city could limit the number of outdoor plants, or ban them completely, which the council decided to do.

The city cannot ban indoor cultivation, but could have chosen

restrictions. However, enforcement problems proved a deterrent to such restrictions. The council did concur with a staff recommendation to ban commercial marijuana activities from Orinda.

Council Member Inga Miller mused that she didn't want to send Orinda residents to Moraga or Lafayette to buy marijuana; a furtherance of "retail leakage." However, Council Member Darlene Gee supported the ban and suggested it was more likely that Orindans would go west to seek their marijuana in Berkeley or Oakland.

So Orindans will be able to order marijuana deliveries, but won't be able to pick up local supplies; they can grow marijuana plants inside, but not outdoors.

Orinda City Council refuses to consider joining a Community Choice Energy program

By Sora O'Doherty

Members of the Orinda community are surprised by and confused that the city council has not taken up the issue of Community Choice Energy in the city.

Eight speakers spoke up in the public forum on May 16 and asked the city council to put joining Marin Clean Energy on its agenda. Council Member Inga Miller's motion to do that was met with dead silence from the rest of the council. Without a second of the motion, the issue was dropped.

When a member of the public raises an issue in the public forum, the council is limited in the actions it can take, but, the council may also direct staff to report back or place a matter on a future agenda for discussion. It didn't.

Miller said she didn't know why her request was not seconded. No other council members would comment on the issue.

Last year the council declined to fund a study regarding MCE, noting, among other things, that no Orinda residents attended the meeting to support the funding of the study. Since that time, MCE made a presentation at the joint meeting of the Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette councils on March 1. Lafayette joined MCE in 2016, and recently Moraga and Contra Costa County

joined as well. Community Choice Energy programs have been growing in popularity, and also this month San Jose became the largest city to launch a community choice energy program, of which there are now eight in the state.

Sarah Butler, a former board member of Orinda Union School District, led off the public forum discussion of Community Choice Energy. She informed the council that the Board of Supervisors had decided to join MCE and that MCE had been thoroughly vetted by the supervisors. She noted that there is a June 30 deadline, that all necessary documents are available on the MCE website and distributed Moraga's draft resolution documents to the council.

Many others spoke in favor of joining MCE. Carol Weed, a Walnut Creek resident, said that she has been a customer of MCE for almost a year. She noted that MCE provides better reimbursement than PG&E for energy generated by solar, and even offers monetary compensation. Melissa Yu, a community organizer for the Sierra Club, asked the council to place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting in order to empower residents and businesses to have a voice in where their electricity comes from,

and touted MCE for promoting a healthy environment and a prosperous future.

Kelly Cannon, a 12-year Orinda resident, wants the option of using MCE. The program has lots of benefits and very little downside, she said. It saves money and uses renewable energy, she added. Lori Patel, an 18-year Orinda resident, who volunteers in the library, asked for choice in energy. Tandra Ericson supports joining a CCE, saying that the easiest one is MCE. She said, "Climate is very important to me; the only way I can get renewable energy is if you guys give us the option."

The Rev. Michelle Robbins moved to Orinda last July to be the Pastor at St. Marks. Prior to moving to Orinda, she lived in Walnut Creek, where she had the choice of choosing MCE. "We are only stewards of the earth, not the owners," she said. "We need to do a better job of taking care of it."

Despite the pleas of these residents, the council seemed unmoved, with the exception of Miller.

Looking back at the reasons given last year for not continuing to fund the study of CCEs might offer some clues to explain the council's inaction. At that time, the council decided that they preferred to keep

the city's focus — and funds — directed toward the goal of dealing with the city's roads. No one, the council reasoned, was clamoring for an alternative source of renewable energy in Orinda. In fact, no member of the public spoke either for or against the proposal at that time.

Council Member Dean Orr stated he had a lot of reservation with the implementation of a program and, based on the information before the council, he could not support moving forward. Then-Vice Mayor Eve Phillips indicated she had similar concerns to Orr's. She stated she has not heard much from residents about the issue and she wanted to be a good steward of the city's finances. Council Member Amy Worth noted that energy costs were low and the CCE looks attractive but she was concerned how in the long run the smaller entities would compete with PG&E and what the eventual impact would be to ratepayers. Based on her experience in serving on joint powers authorities, she noted the tremendous amount of city staff time that is needed, citing the Solid Waste Authority rate-setting process, and she did not anticipate that the CCE process would be any easier.

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Theft, Petty

CVS
Theatre Square
Safeway (2)
100 block Camino Sobrante
40 block Stanton Ave.

Theft, grand

200 block Camino Sobrante

Traffic collision

St. John's Church
Moraga Via/Glorietta
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.
Wilder entrance
400 block Moraga Way
Valley View/Don Gabriel Dr.
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Unwanted Guest

20 block Orinda Way

Vandalism

Camino Sobrante/ Pablo
Safeway
Holy Shepherd Church
Claremont/Stanton Aves

Vehicle theft

Hwy 24/Camino Pablo

Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise
300 block Glorietta Blvd.

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