

File under improvements: Orinda Library closes for carpet upgrade

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Community Library will close for 13 days starting Friday, March 2 due to the installation of new carpet. The library will reopen on March 15.

The carpet has not been replaced since the library first opened in its current location in 2001. The project is being funded by the city of Orinda.

"We want to give our patrons the best possible experience, and replacing the carpet is going to

improve an already beautiful facility," said County Librarian Melinda Cervantes.

The downstairs book drop will be open during the closure, but holds will not be available for pickup. Regular library services during the closure will be available at the Lafayette or Moraga libraries or any other Contra Costa County Library.

Meetings and programs scheduled in the Library Auditorium and Garden Room will not be affected.

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Citizens invited to learn more about wastewater treatment

By Sora O'Doherty

During the Feb. 6 Orinda City Council meeting public forum, Charles Waltmire invited citizens to learn what happens to water when it goes down the drain at the upcoming annual Central Contra Costa County Sanitary District's Citizens Academy (Central San Academy). The award-winning program (California Special Districts Association 2016 Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy Award) provides a behind-the-scenes look at wastewater treatment.

Participants in Central San Academy learn how Central San uses engineering, chemistry and technology to turn waste into worth by cleaning wastewater and returning it to customers as recycled water. Participants also learn about critical projects, how rates and fees are set, and what is being done to develop our region's water supply. The curriculum is taught by expert staff and board members, and aims to be interactive, informative and engaging. The program includes a tour of Central San's treatment plant, laboratory, recycled water

fill station, and household hazardous waste collection facility.

The free classes will be held every Tuesday evening from 6 to 8:30 p.m., March 27 to May 1, except for the 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. facilities tour on April 17 (no evening class) and one alternate date for those who cannot make the April 17 tour. Classes are held in the Multi Purpose Room at Central San's headquarters at 5019 Imhoff Place in Martinez.

Central San recommends the program for those who take an interest in the activities of local government agencies, have considered employment in the wastewater industry, are curious to meet active members of your community, or just want to expand your general knowledge.

Due to limited class size, interested parties should file an online application at centralsan.org before 5 p.m. Friday, March 16. Applicants will be added to the mailing list and receive updates via email.

For information, contact Central San at <mailto:academy@centralsan.org> or call (925) 229-7390.

No pool stop for school bus on El Toyonal

By Sora O'Doherty

There was some hope that the serious situation that arose after the cancellation of the school bus route on El Toyonal might have been somewhat alleviated by a stop at the Orinda Park Pool, which is located some distance up El Toyonal. However, the Orinda Park Pool board of directors found that it could not approve of this use of the property.

OPP board President Jack Kelly stated that, while the board stands in sympathy with the neighbors on El Toyonal who were impacted by the cancellation of school bus service to a community that has relied on it for decades, they were, unfortunately, unable to approve the use of their parking lot as a bus stop, owing to insurance liability issues.

Kelly said, "We were unwillingly thrust into the middle of an issue that negatively impacted the lives of our friends and fellow members, so we did not take the decision lightly." He added that it is the sincere hope on the

OPP board that the various entities involved can figure out how to restore this essential service, but that the first obligation of the board is to protect the interests of the pool and its members.

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Seeking Applicants to Serve on Parcel Tax Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee

The Orinda Union School District seeks applicants to serve on its Parcel Tax Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. Currently there is a two-year term vacancy. The committee meets twice annually during normal business hours. The primary objective and purpose of this committee is to ensure that the parcel tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purpose and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds.

If interested, please submit an application to:
 Orinda Union School District
 Attn: Debbie Jamieson
 8 Altarinda Road
 Orinda, CA 94563
 or via email to djamieson@orinda.k12.ca.us
 or by fax to (925) 254-5261.

Applications are available at:
<https://goo.gl/rtwjPm>
 or by email from djamieson@orinda.k12.ca.us

Application Deadline:
 Friday, March 23, 2018, by Noon



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