



**Orinda**

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission**

TBA  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**School Board Meetings**

**Orinda Union School District**  
TBA  
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

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report now on page A8**

**Lana Fitzpatrick**

Top 100 Northern California

925.872.4660

Lana@lanafitzpatrick.com

www.lanafitzpatrick.com

Cal DRE#01805218



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**Orinda considers options to fix ongoing parking problems**

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda is again trying to solve its parking problems, this time focusing on commuter parking lots, a long-term shuttle program, and residential permit

programs. The city council unanimously approved a new \$12,500 contract with Harris & Associates to prepare a report on the proposed in-lieu parking fee and a \$40,000 contract with Park Engineering, Inc. to provide as-needed parking program management. At the same time, the city introduced a parking permit fee and increased parking violation fees for the first time since 2011. Orinda had undertaken a parking study, which concluded in 2016, but failed to lead to action. (See Lamorinda Weekly, June 29, 2016: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1009/Orinda-Downtown-Parking-Action-Plan-Stalls.html>.)

One of the most controversial matters currently under consideration is in lieu fees. Such fees are proposed by staff in circumstances where a development cannot meet its on-site parking requirements. Currently such requirements can

be waived, and sometimes are, but the city lacks the ability to impose a fee in lieu. According to the staff report prepared by Senior Civil Engineer Jason Chen and submitted by Director of Public Works and Engineering Larry Theis, such fees could be put to good use funding alternatives that would themselves improve the parking situation, including acquiring or leasing land for parking lots, shuttle services, and enhanced bike and pedestrian facilities.

The city recently started a pilot program of issuing residential parking permits to residents of Brookwood Road, designed to combat all-day BART parking on that street. If successful, the program will be extended to other areas, such as Bates, Davis, Southwood, Northwood and Muth neighborhoods. The problem with such programs is that they might not solve the BART parking problem, just

push it off into other areas. To address the BART parking issue, the city is looking into entering agreements with some local churches, whose parking lots are underused on weekdays, to allow BART parking for a fee. It is proposed that the fees be divided between the church and the city, and that such facilities be limited to Orinda residents only. Despite the problem of BART parking for Orinda, BART is seeking to increase ridership at its Orinda station, currently the second least used station in the system.

Another significant issue is parking for employees who work in downtown Orinda. An employee parking permit program is under consideration. Other parking measures being considered include creating additional parking spaces in downtown Orinda with low cost efforts, such as signing and striping. ... continued on page A10

**Public asks city council to agendize gun safety; council agrees**

By Sora O'Doherty

After Elaina Ayers, representing Orinda for Gun Safety, on July 24 asked the Orinda City Council to put two proposed ordinances on an upcoming agenda, the council agreed to do so. One ordinance deals with safe gun storage, the other on the regulation of gun dealers, although currently there are no licensed gun dealers in

Orinda. The proposed laws were drafted by the Giffords Law Center to prevent gun violence. State law does not go far enough, Ayers said.

Carol Brown, president of the Orinda Union School District board, but speaking as a private citizen, spoke in support of gun safety. Brown was shot in her driveway during a robbery in October 2016.

Several others spoke in support of the ordinances, including Tom Spaulding who said that with rights come responsibilities, and added that the proposed ordinances were of symbolic importance. Diane Bianchi of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley presented the League's positions on the proliferation of hand guns and semi-

automatic weapons. Co-chairs of the Miramonte Parents Club and Lamorinda Pediatrics offered letters of support to the council, and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, an Orinda resident and candidate for the California Assembly, also advocated for the gun ordinances. She particularly stressed the danger of gun thefts.

Council Member Darlene Gee said she was happy to agendize safe storage and regulation for gun dealers, and the council agreed unanimously to place the matters on a future agenda. The town of Moraga adopted a safe gun storage ordinance last February.

**Emergency moratorium**

The owner of 71 Meadow View Road, Gurdip Birdee, contacted after the meeting, said that both his side and rear neighbors have already taken full advantage of the 5-foot setback. "The fascia board of Mr. Pedder's house at 73 Meadow View Road is only 5 feet from the fence line. The garage wall of Mr. Anjedani's house at 69 Meadow View Road is at the property line," adding that 69 Meadow View was given an easement by the previous owner of Birdee's property to make it easier to enter and exit the garage.

"Had these neighbors not been allowed to build up to the common property line," he said, "they would have had more space." Birdee argues that his neighbors are try-

ing to preserve space between the properties at his expense. "Having already maximized their building footprints, these same people now want to make it more difficult for other Orinda homeowners to also maximize improvements to their properties," he concluded.

A number of members of the public appeared at the special meeting, but Gary Johnson was the main speaker. "This should never have happened," he said. "I've lived for 20 years across the street from this project," he added. Johnson described the project: "It looms 15 feet above the fence five feet from the property line." The neighbor's bedrooms, he said, get no light. "If my neighbors did that, I'd move," he declared, and said that he hoped

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that the council would approve the urgency ordinance.

Johnson described Buckley as "very responsive," and Buckley was at pains to explain that he had had no ability to refuse the application, as it met all the requirements of existing law. This, he said, made it a ministerial decision, and not one about which he had any discretion. Kendra Marcus asked for an explanation of a "ministerial decision." This was provided by city attorney Richard Taylor. Some parts of the municipal code set forth explicit requirements, and if an application meets those requirements, the city has no discretion to refuse the application. Other parts of the code set forth objective standards, and in those cases staff have discretion to determine if the application meets the standards.

Mayor Mayor Amy Worth, appearing telephonically, said that there had been no intention for accessory structures to be habitable, but Buckley reiterated that they are allowed to be habitable. For example, he said, you can sleep in a pool house. Worth was also concerned about a limit on the number of structures allowed. The mayor was also concerned about accessory structures in the R6 District. The attorney informed her that a moratorium could be imposed, but not at that meeting because it had not been included on the agenda. Buckley and council member Dean Orr pointed out that the number of structures in R6 would effectively be controlled by the limitation on FAR, the floor area ratio to the size of the lot. In the R6 District, the minimum setback from one side property lines continues to also apply to accessory structures. However, owing to the small lot size in the R6 District, accessory structures are less common.

Although the moratorium is for 45 days, the matter will appear again on an August agenda for further discussion.

**Recognitions**



Photos by Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council recognized the contribution of the Orinda Association for its work on the Fourth of July parade. Front row, from left: Mayor Amy Worth, Joe Garvey, Cindy Powell, Carlos Baltadano; middle row: Kathy Enzerink, Diane Lautz, Andy Radlow; back row: Chris Laszcz-Davis, Vice Mayor Inga Miller, council members Darlene Gee and Dean Orr.



The Orinda City Council recognized the contribution of the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group for its work on the Fourth of July parade. LARIG is a group of two dozen amateur radio volunteers, each licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. LARIG worked its first event at the 2003 Orinda Fourth of July parade when local Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers (including Orinda's Dr. Gene Gottfried), took over a service previously provided by Contra Costa County auxiliary sheriff personnel. Front row, from left: Cathy Dausman, Patti Young, Mary Solon, Dan Lamey; back row: Vice Mayor Inga Miller, Mayor Amy Worth, and council members Darlene Gee and Dean Orr.

**MISSING DOG**  
WENT MISSING ON JULY 23 IN ORINDA

**510.219.7770**

**RED/BROWN/BLACK HAIR**  
**22 POUNDS**  
15 YEARS - DEAF - BLIND - DEMENTIA - MICROCHIPPED  
SEVERE HEART MURMUR - NEEDS MEDICATION IMMEDIATELY  
We miss our family member. If you see him or have any information regarding his whereabouts please call us.  
He will NOT bite, please pick him up if able.