



## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure

#### Oversight Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### School Board Meetings

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, Dec. 10, 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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

## Phillips out, Worth, Fay, and Kosla elected; both school bonds pass

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the results of the November general election won't be certified until 30 days after the election, it appears that Orinda Mayor Amy Worth won re-election with the highest number of votes cast, followed by Dennis Fay. Nick Kosla was the third top vote getter, but incumbent Eve Phillips was only about 300 votes behind, so that could possibly change before the count is finalized. At the end of polling on Nov. 6, there was still a backlog of votes to be counted, including vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots and conditional ballots submitted subject to approval of registration. As of 5 p.m. on Nov. 9, the number of ballots remaining to be counted was 108,000. At that time, the reported results were: Amy Worth: 4,878; Dennis Fay: 4,054; Nick Kosla: 3,892; Eve Phillips: 3,600

and Kathleen Jenkins: 2,502.

Both Orinda school bonds passed by a wide margin. A 55 percent vote was required; one bond passed with over 68 percent and the other with over 65 percent, which means that the future of Orinda schools will be filled with construction and technological upgrades. Orinda had not proposed a bond measure for the past 25 years, which left the Orinda Union School District with outdated infrastructure. Because state law limits the amount of money that can be raised with a single bond issue, Orinda placed two bond measures on the ballot. In addition, this year, in preparation for the bond issues, OUSD adopted a Facilities Master Plan, so the public can know what the funds raised by the bonds will be used for over the upcoming years. Worth, who ran indepen-

dently, will hand over the role of mayor on Dec. 11, about a week after the election is due to be certified. Traditionally in Orinda the vice mayor is selected by a vote of the city council to be mayor, and the vice mayor post is usually filled by the highest vote-getter in class. The newly elected city council members will be installed on Dec. 11 as well, and any outgoing members will be honored. Council Member Dean Orr, who decided not to run for re-election, will definitely be stepping down, and it currently appears that Nick Kosla will take the place of Eve Phillips on the council. The election of the new mayor and vice mayor is conducted in open session.

In other contests, the race for the Assembly member for the 16th district was too close to call as of Nov. 9. Democrat

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who was challenging incumbent Catherine Baker issued a statement on Nov. 7 thanking her supporters. "Yesterday's election was historic for our country and our state," she said, adding that voters "across the country rejected divisive and destructive rhetoric and policies." Baker could not be reached for comment.

The marijuana business tax County Measure R passed with a large majority, with some 201,739 (71.86 percent) voting yes and 79,000 (28.14 percent) voting no. The measure authorizes Contra Costa County to tax commercial marijuana businesses in the unincorporated area in the amount of up to \$7 per canopy square foot for cultivation and up to 4 percent gross receipts for all other marijuana businesses to fund general county expenses.

## Hillcrest Drive residents get traffic to slow down, at least temporarily

By Sora O'Doherty

Neighbors lined both sides of Hillcrest Drive on a bright autumn morning, holding up signs urging drivers to slow down. The cars did move through slowly, as drivers read the signs and were careful to avoid the parents and children standing by the side of the road on Nov. 5. But in the following days, some drivers returned to their bad habits of speeding, Hillcrest residents report.

Hillcrest Drive runs into Glorietta Elementary School. "The street becomes a conduit for school traffic each day school is in session," said Hillcrest resident Heather Swedeen, although parents are supposed to turn onto Martha Road from Glorietta Boulevard for carpool drop off and pick up. The problem of parents exceeding the speed limit when rushing to drop off and pick up children is exacerbated, Swedeen says, by a blind curve halfway between Overhill and Martha roads. With dozens of students and families walking on Hillcrest to get to school or simply cross-



Orinda residents on Hillcrest Drive hold signs to encourage drivers to slow down.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

ing the street to get their mail, the neighbors believe it is a recipe for disaster. Which is why a group of them have filed an application with the city of Orinda for traffic calming measures. The residents are requesting "no right turn during school hours" signs from both Martha and Overhill roads onto Hillcrest, with the exception of Hillcrest Drive residents.

They would also like to see speed cushions, a school crosswalk at the intersection of Martha and Hillcrest, a speed limit of 15 mph as well as parking restrictions.

"This school year seems to be worse than others as we've seen several near-accidents of cars barely missing kids walking and riding their bikes to school," Swedeen said. "One Monday, we clocked more than 100 cars

passing through Hillcrest Drive between 7:45 and 8:05 a.m., many (if not most), going well in excess of the speed limit," she added.

Residents plan to put post-cards on cars that are illegally parked and to work with the Orinda police department to ticket those drivers who are breaking the law.

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