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## Orinda police chief goes back to school



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel announced his retirement after 20 years with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, including the last six years as Orinda's chief of police. However, Nagel didn't go far. On Aug. 26 he started his new position at his alma mater, Saint Mary's College, as the director of public safety. The outgoing chief was honored by the city council at their Aug. 20 meeting, when they presented him with a proclamation expounding upon his virtues and achievements. Also at that meeting Nagel was lauded by the Orinda Union School District, which decorated the chamber with a giant poster thanking him for his service, as well as by the words of OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton.

Being Orinda's Police Chief has, Nagel said, been by far his favorite and most rewarding assignment in his entire career. Over the last six years, Nagel has focused on community policing and ensuring the police department works with all community members. Nagel has also been recognized as having made great strides in bringing technology to the department to provide not only deterrence but also to

serve as a useful tool in identifying suspects and apprehending criminals. "With the implementation of license plate reading and security cameras, the ability to develop leads has been critical. Our ability to solve crimes increased substantially," Nagel said. More recently, the acquisition of a drone has given the police the ability to respond and assess a situation faster than not having this equipment.

Mayor Inga Miller praised Nagel saying that he has been an asset to the community and that his tenure in Orinda would be a tough act to follow. "Chief Nagel is part of the fabric of our community. He is always quick with a smile and takes the time to listen," Miller said. "Those are attributes that are often contrary to people's preconceived notions about police, and residents voice appreciation for his disarming demeanor and the time he takes to listen and solve problems. He will be missed." The city manager, Steve Salomon, has been conducting interviews to hire a new police chief and hopes to announce a replacement by mid-September.

... continued on Page A9



### Orinda Public Meetings

**City Council**  
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission**  
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings**  
Monday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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