



ORINDA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

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Orinda takes a deep dive into storm drains



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Failed metal culvert that was replaced with concrete culvert under Miner Road in 2017.

By Sora O'Doherty

Having completed most repairs of residential roads by the end of 2019, Orinda's public works department has turned its attention to arterials and collectors and to public storm drains. On Feb. 4 Orinda Senior Engineer Scott Christie provided an update to the city council on the storm drain project. The importance of storm drain maintenance was underlined by the Miner Road sinkhole, that caused the city so much trouble in 2017. The main challenge facing the city is where to find the approximately \$28 million shortfall for the public storm drain program.

Storm drains smaller than 36 inches

in diameter were replaced during recent road repaving, but larger ones require permitting. In the 2015 through 2019 paving projects, approximately 10,000 feet of pipe was either replaced or lined at a cost of \$3.9 million. Lining old pipes is a technique used to give longer life to existing drains.

City staff have been working with the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission to produce a comprehensive storm drain repair plan. Earlier work by the city to identify public storm drain deficiencies, such as the 2016 Storm Drain Master Plan by Schaaf & Wheeler has been supplemented by Drake Haglan & Associates, contracted in 2019 to provide cost estimates and a prioritization scheme for storm drains.

The prioritization scheme balances four criteria and applies different weights, or importance scores, to each. The most heavily weighted score is that of the pipe condition, which accounts for 45% of its priority, followed by the importance of the roadway at 30%, the size of the pipe at 15% with the remaining 10% weight attributed to whether capacity upsizing is recommended for the pipe.

The estimated total cost for repairing or replacing all public storm drains is nearly \$30 million, divided roughly by one-third for pipes that will need repair or replacement in the next three to five years and the other two-thirds devoted to pipes that will need repair or replacement in the next five to 10 years. Full funding is not currently available, and some \$28 million needs to be raised to complete the project.

The plan is to repair or replace all metal pipes and only repair or replace non-metal pipes, such as concrete box culverts, when the need is discovered. The plan only includes storm drain pipes within the city right-of-way, which is estimated to include 1,470 public pipe segments totaling about 89,000 linear feet. City drainage maps show at least 1,800 private pipe segments, totaling about 145,000 linear feet, but these are not included in the plan.

At the same meeting the city council approved awards of two contracts to Miksis Services, Inc. The first is a construction contract to rehabilitate four high priority storm drain pipes. The construction agreement is for \$176,090, plus a 16% contingency fee that results in a total authorized contract amount of \$205,000. Miksis Services Inc. also was awarded a construction contract to repair a culvert in the city draining easement on El Camino Moraga. That contract authorizes expenditure of up to \$34,200.

2020 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest opens for Orinda students



By Sora O'Doherty

Once again this year all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda are invited to compete in the Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest. Students may submit up to three entries, but no more than one entry in any of the four categories, which are: short story, science fiction/fantasy, essay/memoir/biography, and poetry. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 10 at noon.

Up to four winners will each be awarded \$500 prizes at the end of the school year, underwritten by the

Friends of the Orinda Library. Entries will be judged by a panel of local judges involved professionally in reading, writing or publishing. The judges will not know the names of the authors while judging entries. The winning entries will be posted in the Orinda library and on the Friends' website for all to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded to the four entries deemed to be the best; there will not necessarily be a prize in each category.

The Friends of the Orinda Library Creative Writing Contest was renamed in 2002 to honor the memory of Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a

true friend to the community for 40 years. During his career, Anderson authored over 80 books. Anderson was born in Pennsylvania in 1926 of Danish and Danish-American parents. His family went to Denmark for a short period after his father's early death in a car accident, but returned to live in various parts of the U.S. where his mother worked in an office, ran a chicken farm, and worked as a college librarian to support Anderson and his brother. Anderson attended the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. Before he graduated with distinction in 1948, he had begun writing science fiction stories and selling them to magazines. His realization that his writing skills surpassed his scientific skills came over a period of time, resulting in his decision to pursue a ca-

reer in writing science fiction.

Specific details for entries are available online, such as number of pages and spacing as well as how entries should be fastened and other guidelines. Hard copy submissions can be turned in at the Orinda Library or to the Miramonte College & Career Center Director, or can be mailed to FOL Writing Contest, Post Office Box 152, Orinda, CA 94563.

Electronic submissions must be emailed to contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

Judges will award the prizes to the works judged best, regardless of category. Not all categories of writing will necessarily win an award. Winners will be announced by the close of the school year.

Entries forms for the 2020 Contest Entry are available at:
<http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/writingcontest/>
Any questions about the contest, should be send by email to:
contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

Neighbors vote to keep overnight parking restrictions for lower El Toyonal

By Sora O'Doherty

Following up on a request to seek greater public input on a resolution adopted in September 2018 that prohibits overnight parking on lower El Toyonal, the city of Orinda

polled residents to determine if they wanted the requirements changed; 48% of those polled responded, and of those 11 ballots received, eight were in favor of some sort of parking restriction. As a result, the staff recom-

mended that the city council correct a technical error in the resolution, but continue it in effect, banning any overnight parking from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. along the north side of El Toyonal beginning at the intersection of Camino

Pablo and extending westerly a distance of 390 feet along El Toyonal. The original restriction was adopted in response to a citizen request for the parking restrictions because large construction vehicles were parking overnight on

lower El Toyonal and creating unwanted noise in the early mornings. The city council unanimously agreed to keep the resolution, with the minor correction in a reference to the municipal code.



Orinda Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m.
Tuesday Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

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

Downtown Planning Discussion Council Subcommittee
Special Meeting March 25, 5:00 PM
Sarge Littlehale Community Room
22 Orinda Way City Hall Orinda

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