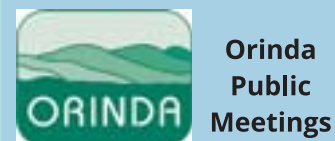




See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Orinda:**  
 www.cityoforinda.org  
 Phone (925) 253-4200  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.orindachamber.org  
**The Orinda Association:**  
 www.orindaassociation.org



**City Council**  
 Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Meeting  
 By Teleconference Only

**Planning Commission**  
 Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only

**Finance Advisory Committee Regular Meeting**  
 Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

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 JD | Broker Associate  
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**Just Listed!**  
**58 Hazel Tree Ridge, Orinda**  
 5 Bed 3 Bath 2,672 Sq Ft  
 \$1,590,000

**Sale Pending!**  
**123 Devin Drive, Moraga**  
 3 Bed 2 Bath 1,356 Sq Ft  
 \$1,095,000

## Crossroads Park hits snag with PG&E

By Sora O'Doherty

With reluctance, the Orinda City Council agreed to put the Crossroads Park project on hold for up to three years in order to obtain either a long-term lease or title to the small park that serves as the entry to Orinda. Located at the corner of Camino Pablo and Brookwood Road, the mini-park is currently owned by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The 20-year

lease under which the city held the land has expired, and staff offered several alternatives to the city council. PG&E has contacted

Orinda staff, indicating that the utility plans to transfer title of the land to the city, either by sale or donation. However, it is expected that it will take three years to accomplish the transfer. There is also a license involved that allows the city to perform work on the park, but it could be terminated at any

time for any reason. Public Works Senior Engineer Sivakumar Natarajan presented the staff report to the council.

After some discussion, the council unanimously adopted the third alternative, to perform interim maintenance and a vegetation replacement project, and place the Crossroads Park project on hold before incurring expenses and continuing any further construction tasks that might be at risk. Under

that option, the city will spend no more than \$25,000 on the interim maintenance and landscaping, and, as clarified by Council Member Inga Miller, the Orinda Community Foundation will not have to match that money. City Manager Steve Salomon advised the council that it would not be prudent to invest money, given the current state of PG&E, and the tremendous amount of bureaucracy involved in the transfer of the land.

## Wilder Homeowners Association appeals approval of memory care facility on Wilder Road

By Sora O'Doherty

At a special meeting on Sept. 29, the Orinda City Council will hear an appeal regarding the planning commission's approval of Wilder CountryHouse Memory Care to be built by Agemark, owned by Orinda resident Richard Weston, at 1 Wilder Rd. The Wilder Owners Association appealed the certification of the final environmental impact report, the approval of the design review ap-

plication, the general use permit and the approval exceptions granted by the planning commission on July 14. The approved project consists of 38 assisted living units in a one-to-two-story, 32,084-square-foot congregate care facility.

The WOA appeal addresses a number of alleged inadequacies in the facility. Chief among them appears to be the allegation that the project includes kitchens in the units which are, according to the ap-

peal, specifically forbidden in dementia housing because of the potential danger. The approval allows for the installation of kitchen appliances that would be locked, inaccessible to the resident, and only accessible to staff and guests. The appeal alleges that "the city is sneaking around its own regulations to permit an inappropriate, impermissible facility in an inappropriate zone."

The appeal also asserts that the project will have ad-

verse impacts on health and safety, that the evacuation plan is inadequate, that the EIR cannot be legally certified, and that the project plan set is inadequate to support responsible design review. In addition, the building height exception is not supported by the required findings. The full text of the appeal will be included in the agenda packet for the Sept. 29 special meeting of the city council.

## Orinda management staff get 3% salary hike

By Sora O'Doherty

Management employees of the city of Orinda will receive a 3% cost-of-living salary adjustment, postponed since July. The increase will be effective Oct. 10. As the city has struggled to deal with reduced revenues owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, general employees, who declined postponing the 3% COLA, received the increase in July, but three general employees were laid off. The management unrepre-

sented group agreed to postpone the COLA which has now been adopted. The city attorney, although not an employee of the city, will also receive an increase of 3%.

The city experienced several unexpected improvements to its budget picture, including quick actions of the city to reduce costs, an unanticipated vacancy of one senior planner position, the adoption of the state budget that included federal grant funds under the CARES Act being made available to the

city in response to the costs of dealing with the COVID pandemic. Other budget savings were effected in the Parks and Rec department, which in normal circumstances brings in a lot of the city's revenues. Three unrepresented positions in that department, including the department director, were furloughed, reducing their hours by 40%, and one part-time position was eliminated.

In other changes, the Director of Planning will receive a 13% salary increase, as human resources had found that

his salary was below other cities in the identified labor market by more than 20%. In addition, the Finance Director will be reclassified to an existing Administrative Services Director position, with a consequent increase in salary as an equity adjustment. The staff report was presented to the city council by Ginger Station, Orinda's Human Resources Manager. The full list of salary adjustments in available in the agenda packet for Sept. 1 on the city's web site.

# Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

Darlene is endorsed by some of Orinda and Contra Costa County's most trusted leaders and community voices.

To learn more about my professional background, accomplishments and City service, and goals for Orinda, and to add your name to this growing list of supporters, please visit my campaign website at: [darlenegeeforcouncil.com](http://darlenegeeforcouncil.com).

- ✓ Steve Glazer, State Senator, District 7
- ✓ Don Perata, Past President pro tempore California State Senate
- ✓ Candace Anderson, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 2
- ✓ Amy Worth, Vice-Mayor, City of Orinda
- ✓ Inga Miller, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Dennis Fay, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Nick Kosla, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Victoria Smith, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Joyce Hawkins, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Laura Abrams, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Dean Orr, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Bill Judge, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Joan Kiekhaefer, Former EFO President
- ✓ Alex Evans, Former MOFD Director
- ✓ Melanie Light, Chair, Orinda Firewise Council
- ✓ Cara Hoxie, President, OUSD Board
- ✓ Hillary Weiner, Board Member, OUSD
- ✓ Carol Brown, Board Member, OUSD
- ✓ Linda Landau, Former President OUSD and Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Carlos Baltodano, President, Orinda Association
- ✓ Steve Harwood, Former EFO President and Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Craig Jorgens, MOFD Director, Division 5
- ✓ Rebecca Saltzman, BART Director, District 3
- ✓ Pat Rudebusch, Former President OUSD
- ✓ Ken Jew, President, Orinda Rotary
- ✓ Terry Murphy, Former Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Jud Hammon, Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Richard Nelson, Former Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Brad Barber, Former MOFD Director
- ✓ Orinda Firewise Council
- ✓ OrindaVision
- ✓ What's Up Downtown Orinda?
- ✓ Tom Trowbridge, Former Chair, OrindaVision
- ✓ Pete Hasselman, Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Bob Thompson, Former Chair, Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Cassandra Forth, Former OUSD Board Member
- ✓ Dick Burkhalter, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation; Volunteer of the Year
- ✓ Richard Westin, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation; Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Robert Burt, Former Member, Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Mark Roberts, Former President, Orinda Association



“Darlene is an exceptional asset for Orinda – her infrastructure expertise, executive management experience, and open, responsive style make her a valued and trusted voice for our community.”

Amy Worth, Vice Mayor, City of Orinda

“Darlene has demonstrated that she is responsive to residents' needs. The Orinda Firewise Council supports re-electing Darlene to the Orinda City Council.”

Melanie Light, Chair, Orinda Firewise Council

# ✓ VOTE DARLENE GEE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2020, FPPC 1428111