



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

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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

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158 Crescent Plz, Pleasant Hill
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110 Reflections Dr. #110, San Ramon
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Good fences make good neighbors on Rheem to Parkway trail



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble has informed users of the trail from Rheem Boulevard to Parkway Court that the DeSpains, owners of the adjacent property, have completed the installation of a fence along the trail. Trimble said that it is hoped that the fence will ease tensions between the users of the trail and the homeowners along the trail.

Trimble took the opportunity to remind trail users that it is for pedestrian use only, and that bicycles must be walked all the way from Rheem Boulevard to Parkway

Court, as well as the other way, including on the driveway portion. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed and owners must pick up after their dogs on the trail.

Littering, smoking, alcohol, and amplified sound are prohibited. And, as the days become shorter, Trimble reminded users that trail hours are dawn to dusk – no use is allowed during darkness.

The full list of trail rules appear on signs posted in two locations; one near the beginning of the dirt portion of the trail, adjacent to the DeSpain home, and one near the entrance off Parkway

Court.

The trail was adopted by the city of Orinda last year following a dispute with the DeSpains about the long-used easement beside the property that they acquired and built their home on. The matter was settled and the city paid the DeSpains \$17,500 for the fence and \$5,500 to defray the costs of surveyors, and a negotiated payment of \$22,500, which represents the value of the easement and the avoided legal costs that would have been incurred in litigation.

Orinda manages to restore furloughed staff

By Sora O'Doherty

Although suffering steep revenue declines owing to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, one-time income sources, such as a state distribution of \$234,707 of CARES Act funds,

and an unexpected management staff vacancy were enough to allow the city to restore to full time three positions in the Parks and Recreation department that had been on reduced hours: the Director Todd Trimble, a recreation supervisor II;

and a facilities and maintenance supervisor. Since July 6, these staff had worked only 24 hours per week

The city had also been able to recall a laid-off public works employee earlier. However, Finance Director Paul Ranking reported that,

unfortunately, the employee found it necessary to resign and his position is currently vacant. Human Resources will be working with the department to initiate recruitment.

Orinda is still asking, when is it safe to return to school?

By Sora O'Doherty

As the Orinda Union School District board continues to struggle with the question of when and how to return students to campus, they heard from competing voices on Oct. 14: Sara Edwards, a physician and parent of two in Orinda schools presented an overview of the COVID-19 staff and student testing options and shared information on COVID-19 transmission data, while teachers and staff

continued to have reservations.

Edwards has been working with OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, board president Cara Hoxie, and board vice president Liz Daoust to secure a viable COVID-19 testing solution for the District as one of the school site reopening steps. She is an associate professor of sports medicine and shoulder in the UCSF department of orthopaedic surgery. Edwards met with two other doctors at Stanford, Yvonne Maldonado,

a specialist in pediatric infectious disease, and Christina Kong, who runs the testing lab at Stanford and advises the Los Angeles Unified School District and Burlingame. Both doctors are doing school reopening research.

According to Edwards, "Dr. Maldonado was extremely reassuring with regards to current disease transmission rates in the Bay Area and in her words 'there is no reason for schools to be closed at this point.' Although Maldonado emphasized the

importance of masking, hand hygiene, and symptom screening, Edwards said, testing is not currently required and does not prevent COVID, although it is important for contact tracing.

Edwards noted how in New York City, out of 1,751 random tests of children, only one child tested positive. According to the Washington Post, in late September, Europe stays committed to in-person classes as school outbreaks remain rare.

... continued on Page A13

Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

I am proud of my City Council contributions and the progress we have made in repairing our roads, delivering City services more efficiently, and adding new community facilities.

To learn more about my continued priorities and goals for Orinda, please visit my campaign website at: darlenegeeforcouncil.com.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Maintain and enhance the roads and drainage rehabilitation momentum the City has achieved over the last seven years.
- ✓ Develop long-term maintenance plans that are financially secured.

“Darlene has been a significant contributor to our progress and success with Orinda’s roads and drainage rehabilitation. Her expertise and commitment to improving our infrastructure is why we need Darlene on the City Council.

Terry Murphy, Former Chair
 Orinda Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ Maximize fire prevention and fuel mitigation efforts in Orinda - working closely with our Fire Chief.
- ✓ Increase emergency services planning, interagency coordination, and state legislative efforts for fire protection funding and insurance.

“Darlene’s initiation of a joint subcommittee between Orinda, Moraga and MOFD has furthered our fire prevention coordination. She has demonstrated a real commitment to protecting our community.

Craig Jorgens
 MOFD Director, District 5

DOWNTOWN

- ✓ Complete the Downtown Precise Plan, including well-grounded economic analysis studies.
- ✓ Advance communications with downtown property owners to facilitate opportunities.

“Darlene Gee and Inga Miller have followed through on their promises with their support of high priority for downtown improvement. They deserve our endorsement again in 2020.

Arran Schultz, Chair
 Tom Trowbridge, Former Chair OrindaVision

VOTE DARLENE GEE

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