



**City Council Reg. Meeting:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.  
Orinda Library Auditorium  
**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.  
Orinda Library Auditorium  
**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

**City of Orinda:**  
www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
www.orindachamber.org  
**The Orinda Association:**  
www.orindaassociation.org

Quality Hearing Aids • In Ear Monitors • Ear Mold Impressions

**FREE Initial Consultation**  
Now taking Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Medicare.

**Dr. Erik M. Breitling,**  
Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA

LAMORINDA AUDIOLOGY

3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette  
**(925) 262-4242** www.LamorindaAudiology.com

Swim Plugs • Comprehensive Diagnostic Adult Hearing Evaluations

Bay Area UNDERPINNING  
A General Products Company

FOUNDATION REPAIR • CRAWL SPACE REPAIR • CONCRETE LIFTING

**707-532-2468** LIMITED TIME OFFER  
**GET A FREE INSPECTION \$500 OFF\***

\* Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 12/31/2024.

# Orinda welcomes back Anthony Rossi, new police chief

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council welcomed Anthony Rossi as the new Orinda Police Chief at its Oct. 1 meeting. Rossi is returning to Orinda, having previously worked in the city as a detective and patrol sergeant.

The council acknowledged that Rossi's return to the city occurred in a very unusual week. On his first day back, the Caldecott Tunnel was closed owing to a fire, and his second day back saw a tragic and rare homicide in the city. Rossi presented an explanation of the department's critical incident response, noting that although residents are interested and concerned, only the official police reports contain hard facts.

Vice Mayor Latika Malkani, who was conducting the meeting in Mayor Darlene Gee's excused absence, thanked the new chief for his response to the homicide and for securing the area, during a "very atypical week in Orinda." She did hope, however, that down the road the homicide incident can be reviewed.

In introducing Rossi, outgoing city manager David Biggs noted that Rossi knows all the principals from his previous time in the city and has a lot of good connections in Orinda. He credited the new chief with having helped to develop the unique Orinda police culture during his earlier time on the department.

Rossi responded that he fell in love with Orinda, and enjoyed every moment of his former service. "I'm very happy to be back," he told the council.

Before the council meeting, the new Chief responded to some questions from The Lamorinda Weekly. Rossi told us that he has been with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff for over 18 years. "During my career, I have worked in County Patrol, J-Team (Street Enforcement), Investigations, and was a proud member of the S.W.A.T. Team for 13 years. I most recently was the Orinda Police Department's Investigation Detective Sergeant serving our great community," he said.

Rossi says that his goal is "to continue the great relationship Orinda PD has with this amazing community. I will bring my strong leadership and community relations, by ensuring a high level of proactive policing with the community's safety and awareness as our top priority."

In his time off, Rossi says he enjoys spending

time with his family, working out, football, and hunting.

Since Orinda contracts with the Contra Costa Sheriff's office (SO) for its police staff, sometimes officers return to the SO. This is the case with Chief Ryan Sullivan, who has been promoted to Captain and is now heading the professional standards unit at the SO.

... continued on Page A7



Orinda Police Chief Anthony Rossi Photo provided

RAFFLE

Rotary LamorindaSunrise.org

**Hauling Clean Up**

**Cheap Junk Removal**

Call Tony at (925) 497-3741

references available

35 years of experience in architectural design

KAPLAN ARCHITECTS www.kaplanarchitects.com (510) 361-0223

Carefree Moves MOVE COORDINATORS CYNTHIA NOLAN, OWNER

All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years

**COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS**

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

**FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES**

**PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
plan, sort, pack, label and help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

**UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business

925.330.1988 hello@carefreemoves.net www.carefreemoves.net

# Orinda City Council talks parks, still nothing decided

By Sora O'Doherty

Three Orinda city parks – the mini-park outside of Theatre Square, Orinda Community Park, and a possible off-leash dog park – were discussed by the city council on Oct. 1. None of the discussions resulted in immediate actions.

The longest discussion was devoted to the mini-park. This gateway to Orinda has been under discussion for at least five years, or as council member Inga Miller pointed out, at least 10 years if you consider the previous considerations by the Parks Commission.

At one point, the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) had promised to contribute \$200,000, but after years of inactivity by the city, the OCF dropped their commitment down to just \$50,000. Funding is the problem that has kept the project from moving forward.

Currently available

funding consists of the OCF's \$50,000 and an additional \$55,000 from Fund 240/Park Dedication. However, the staff report did indicate that going forward the Orinda Garden Club has indicated that they are interested in providing some funding for the project, possibly up to \$100,000.

The staff report also reminded the council that the land is owned by PG&E, and that the company has a say in what project elements will be allowed. Council member Janet Riley suggested that the mini-park really isn't a park at all, but an entrance to the city, which should be designed to impress those entering Orinda with how beautiful it is. She was particularly taken with the idea of lighted trees at the back of the property.

The council received a slide presentation from their consultant, Gates & Associates. The

council had requested an update in July. The presentation addressed two main components: the Orinda monument sign, and the landscaping and hardscaping of the park. Gates presented four potential levels of treatment.

The four levels and estimated costs presented were, baseline: \$150,000; frontage: \$200,000; new landscape: \$300,000, and full renovation: \$500,000.

Baseline would be limited to just a small area around the new Orinda sign. Frontage would be a larger area in front of the fountain. A new landscape would refresh all landscaped areas. A full renovation would be based on the 2019 design and would replace all paving and refresh all landscape areas.

As the council discussion progressed, it appeared that the 2019 design was actually quite popular with the

council members. They discussed at length the appearance of the Orinda sign. The consultant presented a number of options, ranging from freestanding concrete letters spelling out Orinda, which seemed to garner no support, to an artist-designed mosaic wall with the Orinda letters on the front.

The second park to be discussed was Orinda Community Park. With a much larger price tag of \$4 million, that project has also been under consideration for a long time. A Community Park Master Plan update was presented to the council in 2016; a revised plan was adopted in 2018 and then updated again in 2021. Without funding, however, little progress was made in implementing the plan, beyond tree removal to allow for future improvements to the restroom.

TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ♦ Certified Arborist ♦ License #655977  
**(925) 254-7233 ♦ www.treesculpture.com**

**DECK DOCTORS**  
FLAT ROOF & SIDING

Wood Structure Restoration and Preservation Specialist

Decks, Balconies, Pergolas, Siding

Repairs | Pressure Washing Stripping | Sanding | Staining Painting | Coatings Inspections

FREE ESTIMATES

Richard R. Alvarado  
**925-351-DECK (3325)**  
www.deckdoctors.net  
richard@deckdoctors.net

CA Lic# 786427