



## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

TBA  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

#### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, March 13, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



Feb 12 to 25, 2017

Alarms	63
Noise complaints	3
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic stops	72
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	23

#### Battery

10 block Orinda Way

#### Burglary

3900 block Happy Valley Rd.

#### Burglary, Auto

Orinda Theater  
10 Block Ardilla Rd.

#### Burglary, Residential

10 block Modoc Rd.

#### Civil

10 block Fern Way  
Spring/Brookwood Rds.

#### Death, non-criminal

200 Block Hall Dr.

#### Dependent adult abuse

Orinda Convalescent

#### Disturbance

20 Block El Toyonal

#### Dispute

Orinda Convalescent  
10 Block Camino Encinas  
30 Block Claremont Ave.  
100 Block Crest View Dr  
10 Block Cascade Ln.

#### Hit & Run

Theatre Square  
500 Block Tahos Rd.

#### Illegal entry

90 Block Sandhill Rd.

#### Ordinance violation

100 Block La Espiral

#### Police/Fire/ EMS

80 Block Orinda Way  
400 Block El Toyonal  
Santa Maria/Orinda Ways  
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas  
30 Block Berkeley Ave.

#### Public Nuisance

80 Block Underhill Rd.  
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.  
500 Block Tahos Rd.  
Moraga Way/Sanborn Rd.  
10 Block Northwood Ct.

#### Reckless Driving

Rheem/Glorietta Blvds.  
70 Block Donald Dr.  
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24  
Lombardy/Irving Lanes  
Camino Pablo/BART  
Camino Sobrante/Miner Rd.

#### Theft, Petty

60 Block Mira Loma  
(from vehicle)

#### Theft, Grand

60 Block Cork Tree Ln.

#### Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise

Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.  
90 Block Scenic Dr.  
BART



Maureen Wilbur

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## Smooth transition as Keeter retires, Steve Salomon takes over

By Sora O'Doherty



Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth, Mayor Eve Phillips and city council members Dean Orr and Inga Miller say goodbye to Janet Keeter, holding the bouquet. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Tears and tissues, proclamations and praise were in evidence as longtime Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter retired.

Feted at a reception at The Quarry House at Wilder on Feb. 16, Keeter heard kind words about her 12 years as city manager from many, including former mayor, now State Sen. Steve Glazer, who spoke of Keeter's dedication to staff and her incredible skill to treat everyone with even-handed neutrality. Glazer presented Keeter

with a proclamation on behalf of the California Senate and the Assembly (Assembly Member Catharine Baker was unable to attend) as a token of the many great memories that Keeter leaves behind her. "You'll always be a part of the Orinda family," Glazer avowed, adding, "I'm proposing that we name a sinkhole after you!"

At the city council meeting on Feb. 21, the council also sang Keeter's praises and presented her with yellow roses and a proclamation of its

own. In it the council recognized Keeter's major contributions to Orinda, including the new city hall, the new public works maintenance building, the Wilder Quarry House, new playing fields at Wilder and Pine Grove, and the senior affordable apartments at Monteverde. They lauded her professionalism and knowledge, her communication skills, her dedication and her positive attitude. They admitted that they will miss living vicariously through Keeter's tales of helicopter skiing, Tough Mudder contests, mountain biking and skiing the toughest slopes.

Keeter had actually postponed her retirement somewhat to allow for the smooth transition to Interim City Manager Steve Salomon. He was hired last December, before the sinkhole became the predominant issue in Orinda. However Salomon said that Keeter made sure he was up to date by sending him pictures and emails before he started, and then staying on to overlap with him by a few days to make sure he was comfortable.

But the situation doesn't phase Salomon, a retired city manager and experienced interim city manager, who says, "When you've been at this as long as I have, you've faced lots of things that are big challenges." He did add that this one is difficult because there are lots of regulatory agencies involved with creeks, added to a second set of agencies involved in potential reimbursement.

The city has contracted with Peckham & Associates in Sacramento, to recruit a permanent city manager. Salomon assumes he'll be in Orinda until July or August. He lives in Brentwood, which is not such a long commute, but puts him into commuter traffic. He tries to avoid it by adjusting his hours.

Where will he go next? Just maybe, he says, he'll really retire.

## Sinkhole update: Orinda struggles to find best solution

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda is now considering a temporary bridge to fix the Miner Road sinkhole problem.

According to Public Works Director Larry Theis, the creek that was the subject of the culvert failure is on private property, and the city cannot perform repairs without an emergency right-of-entry from the property owners, Darryl and Jana Rains. Even if the city were to consider a legal process of condemnation and eminent domain, it would take up to a year. Therefore, the city is working with the property owners to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

The city first proposed an elliptical corrugated metal pipe, then a larger, rectangular concrete culvert, but the property owner has

expressed, at public meetings, his belief that only a bridge will provide sufficient protection against flooding. He is now examining further hydraulic studies and other information provided by the city. Rains has obtained legal representation and an engineering firm to conduct a peer review of the city's supplemental hydraulic analysis. City staff is actively working with the property owner to resolve the concerns soon. Orinda Country Club has provided an emergency right of entry to the city.

The city council also heard complaints from residents of Miner Road and the surrounding area of a spike in crime in the affected region. Speaking at the public hearing on Feb. 21, Gary Curtis told of increased burglaries, including a home invasion where the residents'

children were held at gunpoint. Those residents will not be returning to their home, he said. The reasons for the increased crime seems to be that the road is now dark and untraveled, and thus has become a target for criminals. Police Chief Mark Nagel, contacted after the meeting, said that he has asked officers to go through the detour routes at least once each 12-hour shift. Nagel expressed relief that the teenaged children involved in the home invasion incident were unharmed.

Theis provided a sinkhole status update to the city council at the meeting. He noted that Lauterwasser Creek is flowing freely through the road embankment since the partial removal of the existing stone headwalls.

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## Dinner, Dvorak and decorated eggs

# Orinda's Year of the Czechs continues with flair

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation will hold their second Dinner & Night at the Opera at 5 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center on Sunday, March 12.

The choice of "Rusulka" was made several months before it was announced as the New York Metropolitan Opera's current hit production. For \$50 participants can have a dinner of Czech food and enjoy a film of the opera by Antonin Dvorak. The story is set in a fairytale world of a water nymph, prince, water goblin, foreign princess and witch. The dinner and opera evening is the March offering celebrating the Year of the Czechs in Orinda, and is part of O/TSCF's continuing dedication to Citizen Diplomacy as expressed by Sister Cities International.

O/TSCF raises funds to finance bringing a

student to Miramonte High School for the fall term. The student is selected by a lengthy competition held in Tabor high schools.

The 2017-18 student has just been chosen. He is Marek Vybiral, and O/TSCF is in search of a host family for him. If you have an extra bed in the fall, hosting a visiting Czech student is said to be a wonderful experience. Hosts enjoy lots of support and testimonials from previous hosts. For more information, phone 925-254- 8260.

Additionally, as part of the continuing Year of the Czechs in Orinda, at 7 p.m. on March 23, in the Orinda community center, artist Lenka Glassner will present a lecture on the folk art of egg decorating. Hollowed out eggs are decorated with designs etched through paint. Glassner learned the traditional art as a child in the Moravian region of the Czech Republic from her mother.



Eggs decorated by artist Lenka Glassner.

Photo provided

## PG&E completes first phase of work on damaged transmission tower

By Sora O'Doherty

Temporary work was completed by PG&E on March 2 to make a high voltage transmission tower safe after it was compromised by a landslide, according to PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkisian.

The mudslide occurred in a re-

mote area of Orinda between the Bruns Amphitheater and Camino Pablo. PG&E used helicopters to move in equipment and materials to the remote location, where the utility's workers shored up the soil and supported the sagging transmis-

sion tower. It was also necessary to build a temporary road to get heavy equipment up the hill from Camino Pablo. Transmission lines were removed from the tower and moved to a series of poles installed away from the tower.

The tower was then partially dismantled, and will be replaced, but as yet there is no timeline for the permanent repair. The tower is now secure and the area is safe, said Sarkisian, who emphasized that safety is PG&E's first priority.

Cranes had been placed on Highway 24 near the Bruns Amphitheater in case the mudslide progressed and made immediate removal of the tower necessary. Fortunately, that did not occur and the cranes have now been removed.