



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

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 Police Department Incident Summary Report July 23 to 29

Alarms	36
Noise complaints	2
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic Stops	27
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	1
Suspicious Vehicles	10
Accident (property)	
200 block El Toyonal (2)	
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo	
Barking Dog	
200 block El Toyonal (3)	
200 block Glorietta Blvd	
Burglary, Residential	
100 block Zander Dr (2)	
Disturbance (domestic)	
10 block Olde Creek Pl	
DUI	
St Stephen's/Tahos Rd	
Embezzlement	
60 block Orinda Way	
Fire/EMS	
30 block Bobolink Rd	
Hit & Run	
20 block Orinda Way	
ID Theft	
70 block Estates Dr	
Medical/Hospital	
20 block La Noria	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
Missing Adult	
100 block Rheem Blvd	
Panhandling	
Chevron	
Santa Maria Church	
Public Nuisance	
Orinda Oaks Parks	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd	
20 block Altarinda Rd	
200 block Sundown Terrace	
Orinda Theatre	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
Theft, Grand	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Theft, Petty	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Trespass	
Camino Sobrante/El Ribero	
Warrant Service/Arrest	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	

Correction:

In the July 12 story, "Taste of the World food trucks coming to Orinda," the start date of the food truck event in front of the Orinda Community Center was incorrectly reported as Aug. 5, but that date was postponed due to insurance issues. The first food truck event is now scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17. We regret any inconvenience.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorinda weekly.com



CalBRE#01305545



CalBRE#02033175

ALEX & KATIA GAILAS
925-254-7600



2 TUMBLING BROOK RD., ORINDA- Perched on the top of El Toyonal, a vista point to enjoy the majestic views. 4 bd/ 2 ba with a newly added in-law unit. You must not miss this lovely gem with a unique opportunity to be within 5 minutes from Orinda and Berkeley! **Offered at \$1,799,000**

Lamorinda's Real Estate Brokerage since 2000

Nightmare on Orchard Road

By Sora O'Doherty



A snarl of traffic clogs Orchard Road Aug. 4 in Orinda.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Residents of a tiny residential road in Orinda showed up in earnest at the Aug. 1 city council meeting to express concerns and to protest the use of Orchard Road as a detour from Moraga Way while the East Bay Municipal Utility District performs necessary repairs to water pipes. As rules prohibit the Orinda City Council from responding to matters raised in the public forum, members added the matter to the agenda for the next meeting on Aug. 15.

Days after the protest, EBMUD responded to the residents' concerns by changing its work schedule to complete the repairs by the first week in September and to ease congestion when school begins. EBMUD is adding weekend work when traffic will not be diverted onto Orchard Road, and will also be working some Fridays previously set as non-work days.

The EBMUD work involves replacement of 2,000 feet of water pipeline on Moraga Way. The existing cast iron water main has had a recorded total of 17 main breaks with seven major breaks occurring in the past five years, according to EBMUD Community Affairs Rep-

resentative Kathryn Horn who attended the meeting. These breaks have put nearly 70 customers out of water each time, created major traffic impacts and resulted in the discharge of chlorinated water into nearby creeks. The pipes are being replaced with new, eight-inch steel pipe, which will provide reliable water supply to nearby residents for decades.

Originally, it was planned to have two lanes of traffic on Moraga Way but based on the placement of the utilities, it was necessary to go to one lane being flagged in either direction. That resulted in massive 45-minute delays for commuters. The City of Orinda directed EBMUD to detour traffic onto Orchard Road.

Lynn Ballou, who lives on Orchard Road, estimates that hundreds of additional cars are traveling on her road each hour during the 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. detour period, and worries that this is putting an additional strain on this road that was not designed for such heavy traffic.

There are 37 homes on the stretch and 150 residents, according to Gloria So. The traffic, the

residents say, is causing actual damage to their properties and potential danger to themselves and their children, not to mention making it practically impossible to back out of their driveways during rush hour. Susan Cole fears that utilities under the street will be damaged, and, more importantly, that the city is putting the lives of residents at risk. EBMUD estimates the repair work will take 10 weeks to complete. Residents are particularly concerned because this traffic chaos is occurring even before the start of school traffic in late August. They want the detour to Orchard Rd stopped, longer working hours by EBMUD to hasten the end of the project, and better communication from EBMUD to affected residents.

Horn said that since the detour began, many residents have expressed their concerns. To address traffic and safety issues EBMUD has added additional signage, including 15 mph signs, asked Orinda Police Department for additional patrols, added three temporary speed bumps to the half mile stretch of road, and restricted right turns onto Orchard Road. EBMUD said that they have been detouring

truck traffic off of Orchard Road and down Moraga Way, but residents report that some trucks were still using Orchard Road.

In her later update, Horn said that EBMUD would immediately have a street sweeper clean dust and debris on Orchard Road, weekly, for the duration of the project. She added that they would work with their flaggers to make sure they are doing their absolute best to ensure that trucks are not entering Orchard Road, with the necessary exceptions of delivery, garbage and other utility trucks with business on Orchard. In addition to appearing at the next city council meeting, EBMUD also promised weekly updates to the council and residents.

The traffic near Moraga Way is also being compounded by work being done by Moraga to repair the sinkhole on Rheem Boulevard. Horn noted that the Town of Moraga has proposed their own detours, including the use of residential roads, but that they have not found one that would reroute traffic efficiently enough.

Director of Public Works Larry Theis said that the residents had very reasonable concerns, but that if the project were stopped, it might be a year before EBMUD could return to it, and that in the long term there would be bad effects.

Council Member Inga Miller, after asking if residents could call a flagger to assist them in exiting their driveways, was told that they could. Mayor Eve Phillips asked if the residents wanted the work to continue on weekends and Vice Mayor Amy Worth wondered how many days could be saved by weekend work.

Council Member Darlene Gee said she had so many questions that she requested that the matter be agendaized, and the rest of the council agreed.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft submitted; additional \$1.75M needed to cover storm damage

By Sora O'Doherty

In order to be eligible for FEMA mitigation funding, Contra Costa County has to submit a draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) by the end of August and Orinda's part was due to the county on Aug. 7. Prepared by Planner Daisy Allen, the draft plan aims to address future risk from hazards and floods. The final draft for city council adoption is anticipated by late fall 2017. Planning Director Drummond Buckley and the Orinda City Council praised Allen for her work on the very large and complex project.

The plan must assess the risk of eight natural hazards: dam and levee failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, severe weather, tsunami, wildfire, and, as of this year, climate change. Hazard events affecting Orinda have overwhelmingly been related to storms, flooding and landslides.

All capital improvement projects from the 2010 LHMP have been completed. Other ongoing projects and policies from the 2010 LHMP have been carried over to the 2017 LHMP. Recommended actions include the following:

Countywide action items (suggested for adoption by all planning partners)

- Support retrofitting or relocation of structures in high hazard areas, prioritizing structures that have experience repetitive loss.
- Integrate LHMP into other plans and update the General Plan Safety Element with the new LHMP once it is approved.
- Maintain the LHMP (annual review and update).
- Maintain good standing and compliance under NFIP.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Camino Sobrante Slope Stabilization
- Santa Maria Park & Ride and City Hall parking lot slope stabilization
- Annual drainage facilities improvement program
- Oak Springs/Candlestick Road storm water improvements
- Miner Road Bridge over San Pablo Creek

Plans and Policies

- Consider hazard mitigation in CIP update; focus on unfunded projects for HMA grant opportunities.
- Continue to allocate funding for tree trim and removal.
- Prepare Green Infrastructure Plan
- Update San Pablo Creek Restoration Plan
- Investigate cost and timing for Floodplain Manager Certification.
- Investigate requirements to join CRS for floodplain management.
- Coordinate with State Division of Safety of Dams regarding dam inspections.
- Conduct inventory of soft-story structures in downtown Orinda.
- Develop and update educational materials for the public regarding hazards.
- Prepare a Climate Action Plan.
- Incorporate hazard mitigation concepts in downtown planning process.
- Train staff to understand LHMP and better disseminate hazard mitigation information to the public.

Storm damage costs

In another action, the city council adopted a resolution transferring \$1.75 million from the General Fund unrestricted reserves and the restricted emergency reserves to the capital improvement storm damage fund and appropriated the money to cover the storm damage expenditures from last winter's storms, including the Miner Road sinkhole, felled trees, slope destabilization and flooding. At the mid-year budget, the council approved the transfer of \$2 million but projected costs have now risen to \$3.75 million, leading staff to recommend the additional transfer of funds. At some point in the future, Orinda may qualify for federal reimbursement, but in the meantime, the contractors need to be paid.

No city manager yet

In other news, Orinda was not satisfied with any of the candidates for the vacant position of city manager, and so will continue its recruitment efforts. Interim City Manager Steve Salomon has agreed to remain.