



ORINDA

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Orinda polls residents on renewing/increasing sales tax; attitude toward private roads

By Sora O'Doherty

Selected Orinda residents will be polled early this month on a potential ballot measure to renew the current half-cent sales tax and perhaps raise it to one cent. A subcommittee of the city council consisting of Mayor Darlene Gee and Vice Mayor Amy Worth approved the poll questions after a subcommittee meeting where they heard opinions from the public. The questions

were accepted with minor modifications in response to comments.

The poll will reach registered voters in Orinda through email and phone calls only. In order to get a statistically significant response, the poll needs to receive 400 responses from randomly selected respondents to minimize the standard deviation of less than 5%. FM3 Research, the same company who has done the polls for Orinda in the past,

will be conducting the poll.

The city is looking for public opinion on a variety of potential uses for tax revenue, including, for example, provision of city services, creek related improvements, parks and safety. Respondents will also be asked for a general appraisal of life in Orinda and how the city is doing in providing services in general. The last quarter of the poll will ask questions regarding private roads and private

storm drains, trying to find out where the public stands on the city repairing and accepting private roads and drains.

City Manager Steve Salomon and Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works Larry Theis attended the meeting, in addition to Dave Metz of FM3, Bob Burt, and four residents who have been advocates for the private roads, Cathy Finch, Charles Porges, Steve Cohn and Melissa Roeder.

Orinda makes the list of America's best cities

By Sora O'Doherty

City Manager Steve Salomon included in his Jan. 21 report to the Orinda City Council the fact that in a survey of the 50 best cities in America, Orinda ranked number 28. The 24/7 Wall St. ranking, published on Jan. 13, included Orinda right above Rochester, Minnesota

and just below Hermitage, Pennsylvania.

Out of the 50 cities, nine are in California, including highest ranking Manhattan Beach and San Francisco, which came in at number 45 (who can afford to live there?). Neither Los Angeles nor San Diego made the list, but the methodology used ruled out cities in the same county. To identify the best cities to live in, 24/7 Wall St. created a weighted index of 25 measures across four categories: affordability, economy, quality of life, and

community.

Like most of the other California cities in the list, Orinda is identified as a high income area. The city was described in the list. "The typical household in the city, which is located about 17 miles from downtown San Francisco, earns \$210,288 a year, about 3.5 times as much as the typical American household. While goods and services are more expensive in Orinda, these high incomes are likely enough to offset the high costs. Wealthier areas typi-

cally have highly educated populations, and in Orinda, 83.1% of adults have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to just 31.5% of adults nationwide.

"Orinda residents benefit not only from cultural and entertainment attractions in the nearby cities of San Francisco and Oakland, but also jobs. An average of just 3.6% of Orinda's labor force was unemployed over the last five years, well below the 5.9% national unemployment rate reported by the Census."

For more, see <https://247wallst.com/special-report/2020/01/13/americas-50-best-cities-to-live-8/11/>

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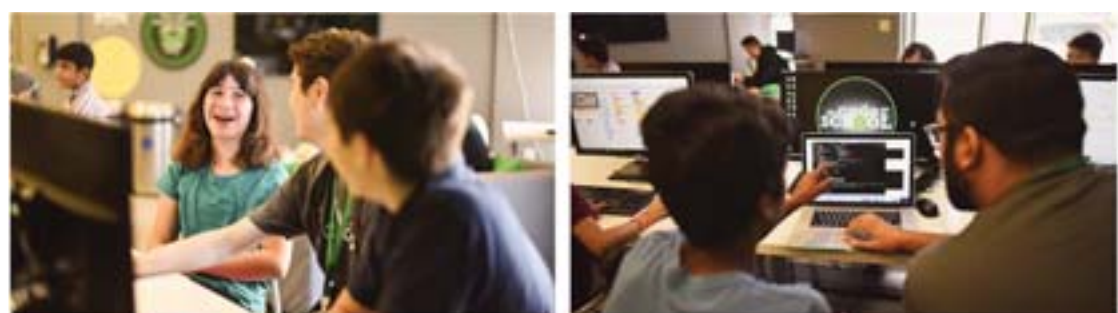
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