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By Andrea A. Firth

Longtime Orinda resident Ann O'Connell Nye has been making the rounds to the Planning Commission and City Council to present her ideas for how to revitalize the City's downtown commercial districts. "I'm proposing positive solutions that don't cost much and that we can do now to enhance our downtown districts and help to make them better connected," says Nye, who has been a vocal critic of the city's task force recommendation to increase the building height limit in downtown.

Some creativity, paint, and donated time might be all it takes to give downtown a needed facelift, Nye says. She suggests that the concrete walls under the freeway overpass could provide the perfect canvas for a mural by local artists. And, the overhead bridge wall surface could be a painted with directions for drivers, such as "To Orinda Village" and "To the Theatre District." Nye also proposed that the section of Camino Pablo that runs from the Crossroads entrance (at the intersection of Camino Encinas and Moraga Way) to El Toyonal and Orinda Way be renamed with a name that has a historic tie to Orinda.

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