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By Laurie Snyder



Image provided

Orindans have a chance to work side by side to better their beloved city by turning out in force for Orinda Action Day April 18. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Orinda, the annual "show your civic pride" event has been made possible over the years by the good works of hundreds of volunteers, resulting in cleaner creek banks, thoroughly Windexed windows, freshly painted city building walls, and litter-free streets. Candid photographs have preserved images of tired Orindans, beaming goofy smiles powered by the satisfaction of teamwork done well - and the knowledge that their efforts would make life a little nicer for their neighbors.

There is literally always something for everyone at these annual volunteer fests. Teens earn community service hours, gardeners get to show off their green thumbs and neat freaks have

the chance to scour and scrub to their hearts' content. Planned 2015 projects include the kid-friendly Crossroads cleanup; the chance to channel one's inner Lady Bird Johnson by weeding and mulching with flower enthusiasts; a Girl Scout-led cleanup from the historic bridge to Orinda Park; the Rotary Club's beautification of the area between the Orinda Park and the Shell station; tidying things from Shell to north BART; the Orinda Teen Advisory Council's cleanup from south BART to the Theatre; Kindergym and community center window washing; the kid-friendly St. Stephen's Trail to Bryant Way cleanup; Del Rey Girl Scout-led litter pickups at the library, community center and park; tidying the Camino Sobrante trail; a San Pablo Creek spruce up with Nancy Turtle's fourth grade Girl Scouts; Friends of Wagner Ranch nature center projects; Brookwood Road and Canyon Ranch initiatives; and general event setup, food service and teardown.

Even those who aren't as spry as in days gone by are welcome and needed. Whether high fiving tuckered tots, feeding hungry volunteers at the cleanup after party, or applauding a plucky planter for sprucing up the Highway 24 off ramp, anyone who loves Orinda can make a truly positive difference at Orinda Action Day. So be there or be square.

What: Orinda Action Day and Volunteer Fair When: Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Orinda Library Plaza (check-in at 9 a.m.)

Information: orindafoundation@gmail.com

Signup: www.signupgenius.com/go/

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Reach the reporter at: laurie@lamorindaweekly.com

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