



## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 22, 6 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
Orinda Library

#### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, April 17, 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. 26 to March 4

Alarms	60
Noise complaints	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic stops	90
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subjects	10
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Animal cruelty	

#### BevMo

#### Burglary, Auto

10 block Camino Sobrante  
40 block Haciendas Rd.

#### Burglary, Residential

10 block Jewel Ct.  
80 block Evergreen Dr.  
400 block El Toyonal

#### Burglary, Commercial

details n/a

#### Civil

10 block Woodcrest Dr (2)  
100 block El Toyonal (2)  
500 block Miner Rd.  
Reported to police  
700 block Miner Rd.

#### Death, non-criminal

10 block Chelton Ct.

#### Disturbance

Valley View Dr./Don Gabriel  
Lavenida/Donna Maria Way (3)  
Wilder/Gateway  
60 block Brookwood Rd.

#### Dispute

500 block Moraga Way

#### DUI

Oak Hill Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.  
San Pablo Creek/Miner Rd.

#### ID Theft

80 block Muth Dr.  
Reported to police

#### Injury Accident

Moraga Way/Coral Dr.

#### Missing adult

10 block Theatre Square

#### Police/Fire/ EMS

500 block Moraga Way  
10 block Crown Ct  
BevMo

#### Public Nuisance

60 block Lombardy Ln.  
Eastwood/Coral Dr.

## JUST LISTED: Mid-Century Modern in Happy Valley!

**4122 Canyon Road, Lafayette**

Architecturally Significant, Reportedly Designed by  
Fred & Lois Langhorst  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2536 Sq Ft\*  
Beautifully Sited on 1.08 Acres\*  
Panoramic Views, Pool, Walls of Glass  
Private Estate Setting, Peaceful & Tranquil Environment  
Highly Desirable Happy Valley Area of Estate Homes



### Ashley & Patricia Battersby

Real Estate Brokers  
ashley@ashleybattersby.com  
925-323-9955  
925-330-6663  
BRE# 014,07784  
\*per public records



## Miner Road sinkhole repair to begin as property owners and city come to right-of-entry agreement

By Sora O'Doherty

Two months after Orinda suffered a serious sinkhole, the city has obtained a right-of-entry from the property owner adjacent to the sinkhole to perform repair work.

The property owners object to any suggestion that they were responsible for any delay. Darryl and Jena Rains say they only received drawings on Friday, March 10, submitted them to their engineer over the weekend, and approved the plans on Monday, March 13. The Rains agreed with the proposed box culvert; they maintain that the pipe culvert proposed by the city would not have met California Department of Transportation standards.

The Rains said they were upset by some negative comments, but have also received sympathy, and even flowers, from neighbors. It has not been easy for them. The full basement and the ground floor of their home were flooded with creek

100 block Camino Pablo  
10 block Harran Cr.  
30 block Las Cascadas  
10 block El Caminito  
Moraga Way/Bryant Way  
Amber Valley Dr./Dalewood  
Camino del Cielo/El Toyonal  
20 block Alta Vista

**Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd (2)  
El Toyonal/Vallecito  
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal  
500 block Miner Rd  
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd  
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo  
Valley View/Moraga Way  
Los Amigos/Camino Pablo

**Shoplift**  
BevMo  
Safeway  
CVS

**Theft, Petty**  
40 block Haciendas Rd.

**Theft, Grand**  
500 block Miner Rd.  
200 block La Espiral

**Trespass**  
Wilder/Dairy Creek Rd.

**Unauthorized possession**  
Hwy 24/St Stephens Dr.

**Vandalism**  
10 block El Camino Moraga  
40 block Pomello Pl.

**Violation Custody order**  
Glorietta Elementary  
300 block Glorietta

**Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise**  
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo  
St Stephens/El Nido Ranch Rd.



This damaged pipe underscores the severity of the sinkhole.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

water and sewage from the broken sewer pipes. Repairs to the home, where they have lived for 25 years, include removal of all hardwood floors and much of the sheetrock, the removal of sludge left by the flood, and the loss of furniture and personal possessions, including two cars.

On March 14, the city held a community meeting at Sleepy Hollow School, in the area most affected by the sinkhole, to address neighbors' concerns. The city attributed the delay in sinkhole repair to the weather and to negotiations with the property owners. "Negotiating rights-of-entry with the adjoining property owners allowed the city to proceed with the project as soon as possible, without jeopardizing reimbursement from federal and state agencies," the city said in a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions handed out at the meeting.

Orinda Senior Engineer Jason Chen spoke about alternative traffic routes and signage and striping changes on Camino Sobrante. Fire Chief Stephen Healy of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District addressed the effects of Miner Road closure on response times. While he stated that the sinkhole was causing delays of approximately 10 minutes, some residents disagreed with Healy, stating that delays are often longer.

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel spoke about crime statistics, home security, including lighting and alarms, and the effects of the closure of Miner Road on response times. Nagel presented statistics showing that crime has been steadily declining in Orinda from 103 reported cases in the Sleepy Hollow and Orinda Woods areas in 2012, to 36 in 2016, with eight cases thus far in 2017. He urged residents to view the Orinda Safety Video ([http://lamorindacert.org/Orinda-safety-](http://lamorindacert.org/Orinda-safety-video/)

video/) and to keep their property secured, noting that that morning eight cars had been burglarized in Orinda, and all had been unlocked.

Many residents complained about difficulties navigating the detours, frequently blocked by construction trucks. They offered suggestions, such as shuttles for BART commuters and/or for contractors and workers, or designating a specific truck route. Residents wondered if the city would avail of the opportunity to underground utilities during the work on Miner Road, but Public Works Director Larry Theis replied that that was not authorized. This explained that while potholes would be fixed, Camino Sobrante is part of the 2017 schedule of repaving, while Miner Road is scheduled for 2018.

Speakers asked what increased costs were caused by the delay and how much they could be attributed to "one holdout" property owner. Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips responded that a big consideration in the repair process was the prospect of receiving reimbursement, which was facilitated by coming to an agreement with the property owner, and said she was very glad that they were able to reach agreement.

Others wanted to know if the Rains were paid for the right-of-entry, and were told no, but that there will be an easement appraisal and offer process. Commenters asked for access to the 1999 settlement with the same property owners following a prior flood. City Attorney Osa Wolff stated that the document is public and will be made available. After the meeting Wolff released two documents, indicating the Rains had settled their claims for damages from the 1997 flood for \$185,000 and no attorney costs.

A comment that delay caused by the property owner increased the costs was applauded by many. One

speaker said the rusted-out culvert should have been repaired, thereby avoiding the sinkhole. Another asked the city to begin condemnation proceedings on the damaged properties. Council Member Inga Miller assured the residents that the city council members do drive the affected roads. She stressed the importance of federal funding because if the city has to pay to the repairs to the sinkhole, the money would be diverted from other discretionary spending for things like police and public works. This reassured people that the city is spending more to get the work done faster.

Although the Rains were not present at the meeting, they were represented by attorney Andrew Sabey. He said that as a result of the action of the property owners, there is now a more robust repair plan. He pointed out that when the property owners purchased the property in 1992 it was not in a flood zone. The 1997 flood was a shock to the property owners, and resulted in their property being then reclassified as flood zone. "Nobody likes the government to take property," he said, and if Orinda had done so it would have resulted in a court case. He complimented the city on doing a good job getting to the point of agreement with the property owners on a design that will meet Caltrans standards for rebar and concrete and will be adequate for what is considered a "100-year storm."

As the meeting concluded, the city attorney, responding to questions, said that the Rains have filed two claims. While the negotiation for the right-of-entry to the site has been concluded, the remaining issues include damage claims, compensation for construction easements and permanent maintenance easements.

### Fixing the sinkhole

Orinda Director of Public Works Larry Theis said that in regards to sinkhole repair, the design now calls for a reinforced concrete box culvert 16 feet wide by seven feet high, with three 24-inch diameter high flow pipes installed between the top of the culvert and the bottom of the roadway to handle potential flood waters.

Work outside the channel will begin immediately. The city needs to reapply for an emergency permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to set up a temporary dam and divert the creek around the worksite, as the current permit has expired. The permit will likely take a week or two to be issued. Once the creek has been diverted, the construction of the new culvert will take about two months, barring any unforeseen conditions or significant adverse weather.

The box culvert and headwalls will be constructed by placing steel rebar within wood forms and filling the forms with high early strength concrete. Above the culvert and behind the headwalls will be backfilled and compacted; utility lines and the three overflow pipes will be placed as the backfill rises. The two top feet of the backfill will contain base rock and hot mix asphalt for the restored pavement surface. The dam will then be removed and the city will proceed with planting vegetation and placing a decorative cultured stone treatment on the face of the walls for aesthetics.

## IT'S OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR

BIG SAVINGS ON THE STYLES YOU'LL LOVE.



Custom Hardwood Shutters

### Incredible Savings, Promotions, and Upgrades On Shutters & More Going On Now!\*

Contact your local Style Consultant for amazing offers in your area!

Schedule your FREE Consultation today!  
925-216-4857 // BudgetBlinds.com



\*Applies to selected window treatments and Roman and Pleated® shades sold through Budget Blinds®. Ask for details. Not valid with any other offers, discounts, or coupons. Valid for a limited time only. Offer good at initial time of estimate only. At participating franchise only. ©2016 Budget Blinds, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Budget Blinds is a trademark of Budget Blinds, LLC, and a Home Franchise Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Franchise opportunities available.