



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

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

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings Orinda Union School District

Monday, Sept. 10, 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

Orinda honors longest serving employee, ever

By Sora O'Doherty



Jennie Flores

Photo Sora O'Doherty

This August marks the 30th year of Jennie Flores' employment with the city of Orinda. Although she has no intention of retiring, the city marked the anniversary with a proclamation presented to her at the Aug. 21 city council meeting.

Flores joined the city of Orinda as an accounting clerk on Aug. 3, 1988, just three years after the city incorporated, starting even before the city moved to its new city hall.

Flores was born in Hawaii and moved to California when she was 16 years old in 1965. She got a job working part time for Aluminum & Chemical Corporation as an accounts payable clerk. She went to full time two years later in 1967, and stayed there until she moved to her job with the city of Orinda. Promoted to the Accounting Technician III position in 2002, she is primarily in charge of the accounts payable function in the city's finance department.

The proclamation declares, "Jennie is the longest serving employee of the City of Orinda

EVER," and goes on to praise her as "thorough, reliable, and always willing to help." It continues, "Jennie has been with the City through four city managers, three interim city managers, and approximately eighteen city councilmembers, and somehow not one of them could feel anything but affection and appreciation for her work, her diligence, and her sense of humor. Jenny is a rock at the base of the foundation of our city government!"

Flores lives in Pleasant Hill and has probably taken BART to work over 6,000 times. In the course of her employment she has processed over 60,000 checks. The city council was pleased to note that Flores is loved for her cheerful attitude and is always quick to smile, and recognized her unflinching service and loyalty to Orinda, which has been appreciated by everyone with whom she works.

When Flores isn't working, she enjoys her vacations, sometimes returning to Hawaii to visit her aunt who lives in Lahaina on Maui.

OIS principal resigns



Michael Randall Lamo archive

In order to spend time with his family and focus on other career opportunities, Orinda Intermediate School principal Michael Randall resigned from his position in the

Orinda Union School District effective Aug. 24 after 13 years serving in that position. "We wish Mr. Randall well and thank him for his service," noted Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carolyn Seaton in an announcement to the school population. Stacy Wayne will continue as interim principal of OIS while the district begins its search for a new principal. "During our search process, we will seek input from OIS students, staff, parents, and Orinda community members," said Seaton. — Sora O'Doherty

Lana Fitzpatrick

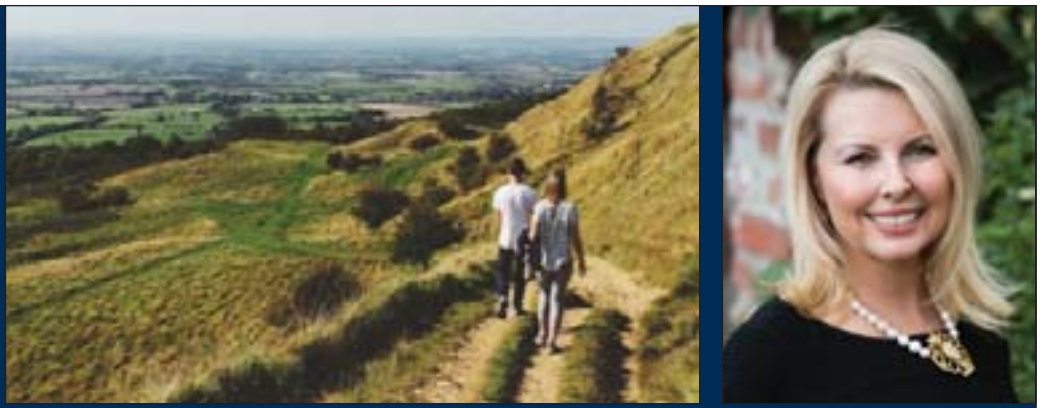
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Residents urge city council to enact gun control legislation

By Sora O'Doherty

Although there was an outpouring of support from Orinda residents for two proposed gun control ordinances — one to require that firearms be secured with trigger locks or kept in locked containers; the other regulating the business of gun dealers — and only a few speakers against them, the Orinda City Council remained concerned about potential financial liability and instructed staff to conduct

further research into the issues at its Aug. 21 meeting.

City Manager Steve Salomon explained that gun control is "a complicated issue, controversial at national and state levels as well as at the local level." He said that the council had four options as to how to proceed:

Option 1. Staff would monitor state and federal legislation and court decisions, and increase publicity on the services the police department provides relating to gun safety. Staff would report back to the council if there is a further action or position that would be prudent to take. Staff does not recommend that city pursue a land use permit.

Option 2. In addition to Option 1, direct the city attorney to prepare an ordinance similar to the one adopted by Moraga. This action would be primarily symbolic, since the police will not go to each house to examine gun storage. However, if police are called to a location for other reasons, this could add some breadth to an appropriate investigation. More significantly, the council would be joining with other communities who have passed similar ordinances signaling a desire for more reasonably restrictive interpretations of the second amendment.

Option 3. There are currently no gun dealers in Orinda. Ap-

proximately 20 years ago the city of Lafayette amended its municipal code to require gun dealers to apply to the city through the police department and, after review, if they meet requirements, they receive a permit with conditions. A permit can be denied under certain circumstances. Orinda Municipal Code would have to be amended similar to Option 2.

Option 4. In addition to the three options above, the council could direct the staff to explore and bring back other changes to the municipal code which create a more significant regulatory environment in Orinda. This will take a significant amount of staff and attorney time and would increase the risk of litigation if any additional changes are made.

Council Member Dean Orr asked for Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel's assessment of what the state currently requires. Nagel responded that at the state level everything revolves around children. If children are present, guns must be locked. A child has to get a gun and use the gun for the owner to be criminally punished. Orinda attorney Osa Wolff added that the state focuses on the penal side, which is not equivalent to local regulation, and stated that this is an area for local consideration.

In the public comment period, the council heard from ap-

proximately 30 individuals in support of the ordinances, and three against.

Orinda resident Jackie Moreau was a victim of gun violence and also had some close personal friends who lost a child to suicide, and said she thought had they had their guns secured, that would not have happened. She urged the council to do everything that you can and be aggressive in pursuing gun safety.

Dan de Busschere said that nobody disagrees with the goals, but that the council has much to consider. He stated that gun ownership is a protected class and that regulation raises issues of litigation liability.

Many speakers offered statistics about gun violence; quite a few offered examples from their own lives. Christine Barry said that the Brady Campaign found that 4.6 million children live in homes with unsafely stored guns. Eight children a day are injured or killed by accidental use of guns. She spoke about a friend of her in-laws, a pastor who accidentally killed his own daughter while he was putting a gun away. The firearm accidentally discharged and the bullet ricocheted off the fireplace and hit his daughter in the heart; she died instantly.

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Correction: In the story, "Joaquin Moraga descendant to perform at annual Fandango," published in the Aug. 22 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, the name of Lance Beeson's grandmother was incorrectly listed as Gomacinda, which was actually the name of Beeson's grandmother's paternal grandmother. Beeson's grandmother's name was Irene. Also, according to Beeson, his grandmother did not have a "rift" as described with her Moraga and Avila families due to a will dispute in 1919. To his knowledge, Beeson says he didn't know if she ever knew about the will settlement of her paternal grandfather, although he says he did wonder aloud to the reporter if she did. Beeson found out about the will settlement from internet research, and says it was never part of his family lore. Gomacinda Moraga died in the 1890s, and Beeson's grandmother never met her nor had contact with surviving members of the Moraga family.

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