



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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COMPASS

Orinda housing element one of earliest approved by state in Bay Area

By Sora O'Doherty

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) informed the city of Orinda on March 30 that it found Orinda's 6th cycle housing element to be in full compliance with state law. According to city staff, Orinda was the second of the 20 municipalities in Contra

Costa County and one of 13 within the 109 jurisdictions in the Bay Area to be found in compliance as of that date.

Receiving the HCD compliance letter in a timely manner means that the city is allowed three years to complete the required rezonings. Had the housing element not been found to be in compliance, it would have had only one year to complete the re-

zoning required.

City staff is now turning its attention to the implementation of the housing element and will be working with the community to ensure that Orinda remains a vibrant and inclusive community, according to the staff report prepared by Drummond Buckley, Director of Planning.

Like other cities in the state, Orinda was required to

provide for the building of a far larger number of housing units in the 6th cycle housing element than ever before. Orinda has been assigned 1,359 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) units for the 6th cycle housing element, while during the previous eight-years of the 5th cycle it only had to provide for a total of 227 units.

Orinda adopts hybrid model for city council meetings

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda will begin a public rollout of a hybrid meeting format for city coun-

cil meetings in May and will add planning commission meetings starting in June. Beginning with the council meeting on May 2, interested persons may attend the city council meeting in person at the Orinda Library auditorium, watch the proceedings live-streamed on the city's new YouTube channel, or participate via the Zoom meeting platform. The Zoom link will be included in the agenda for the meeting, which will also include instructions on how to participate in the meeting. The meeting videos will continue to be available on YouTube after the meeting.

In June, the city plans to add hybrid capability to meetings of the planning

commission, which also meets in the Library auditorium. At this time, staff is not recommending that meetings, other than for the council and planning commission, be considered for hybrid options owing to the additional expense that would entail.

Since the conclusion of the COVID-19 state of emergency, all city meetings have resumed in person. The city council and the planning commission generally meet in the Library Auditorium, and other committees and commissions meet in other

venues.

Members of the public may now attend city council meetings in person and speak to the council during the public forum or make comments concerning agenda items. For those who cannot attend in person, or prefer not to, public comments may be submitted in advance of the meeting, or during the meeting, by emailing the city clerk. Such comments will be read out loud by staff at normal speaking cadence and are subject to the same three-minute limit as in-person comments.

Orinda City Council meetings can be viewed at www.youtube.com/@cityoforinda9535/streams

Free Compost offered by RecycleSmart on May 6

By Sora O'Doherty

The Annual Compost Giveaway will be hosted by RecycleSmart from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 6 in Lafayette at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, located at 1035 Carol Ln. Online registration for a 15-minute time-slot is required and the event is open only to residents of Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga or of the RecycleSmart service area. The

offer is limited to one resident per household.

To obtain compost, residents should bring rigid 5-gallon buckets, cardboard boxes, or other strong containers that you can lift yourself. No bags or truck beds are allowed. Republic Services will provide staff to shovel compost into your containers. Residents can take up to 50 gallons of compost (10 five-gallon buckets)

while supplies last. Although Republic Services will fill the containers, you will be responsible for getting them out of and back into your vehicle.

In addition to rigid containers, residents should bring identification and wear closed-toe shoes.

Appointments may be canceled online by residents if necessary, and can also be rescheduled as availability allows.

To register online, please go to <https://calendly.com/republicservices-recyclesmart/may-6-compost-giveaway?month=2023-05>

Orinda celebrates teachers and classified personnel of the year

By Sora O'Doherty

The board of the Orinda Union School District at its April 17 meeting honored the teachers of the year and classified employees of the year for each of its five schools. The teachers of the year were Gretchen Loughran, Del Rey Elementary; Erin Miller, Glorietta Elementary School; Michelle Pinney, Orinda Intermediate School; Diana Owens Sleepy Hollow Elementary; and Alicia Doyle, Wagner Ranch Elementary. The five teachers were celebrated with words of praise from their students and each was presented with a certificate from the District and a potted plant.

At the same meeting the OUSD congratulated the six classified employees who were selected by their colleagues as exemplary employees at their school site or

department. For the recognition, the six classified employees will be celebrated and presented with a certificate from the District. The six classified employees chosen were: Ardis Atkins, Accounts Clerk at the District Office; Julissa Kemp School Secretary at Del Rey; Mariangela Hunter, Instructional Assistant at Glorietta; Michelle

Bournonville, Special Services Assistant at OIS; Shauna Simmonds, Office Manager at Sleepy Hollow School and Jennifer Lee, classroom aide at Wagner Ranch.

From the awardees, Erin Miller was named OUSD Teacher of the Year, and Michelle Bournonville was named Classified Employee of the Year.

2023-24 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year candidates honored

Twenty-one educators in Contra Costa County have been named their school district's teacher of the year. With that distinction, the educators represent more than 8,000 teachers in Contra Costa County public schools and community colleges. The 2023-24 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year is organized by the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCOE). The following are Lamorinda candidates (Erin Miller was named OUSD Teacher of the Year, as noted above): Evan Sebree – Acalanes Center for Independent Study (AUHSD) Abigail Ehrhorn – Burton Valley Elementary (LafSD) Michael Adler – Camino Pablo Elementary (MSD)

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