



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Community Room, City Hall
Tuesday, July 2, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 26, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 24, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
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 Police Department

Crime Statistics

May, 2013

Calls for Service:

Alarm Responses (156)

Stolen Vehicle

Stanton Ave

Recovered Stolen Vehicle

Charles Hill Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd

Domestic Violence (2)

(location confidential)

Auto Burglary

Bates Blvd

Commercial Burglary

Theatre Square
Orinda Fields Ln

Residential Burglary

Via Corte
Claremont Av
Monte Vista Rd
Overhill Rd
Muth Dr
Warford Terrace
Amber Valley Dr
Overhill Rd
Lost Valley Dr
Sleepy Hollow Ln

Petty Theft

Orinda Way

Vandalism - Felony

Hall Dr

Arrests:

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Camino Sobrante

False ID to Police

Camino Pablo

Other Misdemeanor

Miner Rd

Warrant Arrest

Irwin Wy/Orinda Wy

DUI

Chelton Ct/Whitehall Dr

Domestic Violence

(location confidential)

Court Order - Domestic Violence

(location withheld)

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Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda
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Majestic, Mediterranean View Estate

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Orinda Projects Balanced General Fund through 2017

By Laurie Snyder

Residents attending the Orinda City Council meeting June 4 heard positive news as review of the draft biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 and Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-2018 continued. City leaders expect the General Fund to remain balanced through FY 2017, as property tax revenues will likely increase by 3 percent in FY 2014 and 2 percent in subsequent years.

Staff will set aside the funds needed to allow the city to complete a General Plan update by FY 2016, and will maintain a reserve of \$5 million plus 20 percent of General Fund revenues in excess of \$10 million – not including Measure L revenue, which will be accounted for in a separate Special Revenue Fund and “will be used for street and road capital projects only.”

The General Fund Reserve, according to a new policy draft, has

been designed to help the city “guard its citizens against service disruption in the event of economic uncertainties, local disasters and other financial hardships,” and “may only be used during an emergency, such as a natural or man-made disaster, which threatens the health, safety and welfare of the City’s residents, businesses or visitors, as determined by the City Council.”

Merit increases for eligible staff have also been factored in – as have two newly proposed staff positions – a Planning Technician and Facilities Maintenance Worker.

During deliberations, individual council members highlighted sections of the budget which they felt needed clarification, and asked staff to make the presentation of the materials for the council’s final review as clear and transparent as possible for residents. Draft versions of the budget and CIP

documents are available on the city’s website. The final versions of both the budget and CIP are expected to be

presented for adoption at the council’s June 18 meeting.

CIP 2014-2018 Highlights

Multimillion dollar outlays will continue as Orinda muscles its aging infrastructure back into shape. Just a few of the planned projects and their price tags:

- Manzanita Drive Bridge Replacement: The remaining \$2,164,860 spent in FY14 will continue to strengthen seismic and flood protection, and will be covered mostly by federal grants.
- North Lane Stormwater Mitigation: Most of the \$1,265,570 FEMA grant for this \$1,687,427 project to improve North Lane’s undersized storm drain system will be expended in FY15.
- Annual Measure L Pavement Rehabilitation: The “rideability of City-maintained roads by using appropriate surface treatments, including cape seal, slurry seal, AC overlay, and repair of base failure” will finally become reality as Orinda makes use of \$650,000 to \$790,000 each year between FY14 to FY 17.
- Further road and drain repairs will be covered via additional CIP projects, including \$2,317,956 for the Annual Pavement Management Program and nearly \$2,000,000 for a variety of Miner Road-related improvements.

Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete

... continued from page A1

In the first quarter of 2011, 2,400 ug/L (micrograms per liter) of gasoline range organics (GRO) were measured in MW-5; a second reading was taken in July 2011 with even higher results, 4,500 ug/L. A more concrete way to understand these numbers is 1 ug/L is equal to 1 part per billion, roughly the equivalent of one drop in an Olympic sized pool. Therefore the July 2011 measurement of 4,500 parts per billion is not insignificant, but still quite diluted.

When the underground storage tanks were removed in 1998, truckload after truckload – a total of 5,400 tons - of soil was excavated from the site by TOSCO. At that time the soil was tested and samples indicated the majority of hydrocarbons were removed.

The following year three groundwater extraction wells were installed to estimate hydraulic conductivity. Still the site wasn’t clean - benzene levels were recorded as 10,000 ug/L in March and 14,000 ug/L in April of that year. After a pilot test, over 400,000 gallons of water was extracted between 2002 and 2007. Benzene is a natural component of crude oil, it’s colorless and highly flammable. Benzene increases the risk of cancer and other serious illnesses. “It is generally considered that the only absolutely safe concentration for benzene is zero,” said the American Petroleum Institute in 1948; it’s classified by the Department of Health and Human Services as a human carcinogen.

The vast majority of the other wells bored in the adjacent Vintage parking lot had virtually no detectable amounts of GRO as of 2011—only well MW-1 had barely measureable amounts.

The California Code of Regulations governs underground storage tank issues, but it gives local agencies the authority to oversee investigation and cleanup of the leak site. In this case the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board is in charge. The conclusion of adequate clean up measures, when appropriate measureable steps are completed, is a “No further action” letter issued by the Water Board. At this time that letter has not been issued for the former BP station, but staff is reviewing what could be the final clean up report.

After years had passed since soil removal and water extraction efforts, initial high levels of pollutants had declined, but were still over acceptable levels according to the RWQCB. A letter from September, 2011 described

the situation: “Such contamination poses a future risk to human health, groundwater quality and the environment, and active cleanup is necessary to close the case and allow for safe redevelopment of the site.” That letter, from Bruce Wolde, executive director of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, approved of BP’s request to use Arcadis, a third party environmental remediation firm to address the clean up issue via in-situ chemical oxidation.

For readers scratching their heads wondering what exactly that is – here’s a definition directly from Arcadis: “In situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) involves an oxidant to the subsurface to facilitate the chemical

oxidation of target organic compounds to carbon dioxide and water or to less toxic and/or more biodegradable intermediates.”

By March 2012 the ISCO had been completed with favorable results “The data observed post injection indicates that ISCO has, at this point, been an effective remedial technology in decreasing COPC [constituents of potential concern] concentrations at the site. However, further site data still needs to be collected,” said Hollis Phillips, project manager and principal geologist for Arcadis.

On May 31 Arcadis, having completed a field study measuring and documenting results, submitted a report to the RWQCB that requested

site closure because the current conditions on the site meet all the criteria to do so. “Based on the assessment of data presented in this CSM [conceptual site model] and Closure Report, the residual concentrations of COPCs in site environmental media are unlikely to pose adverse effects to human health and the environment,” stated the report.

What about the creek? Drinking water for Orinda comes from EBMUD. Shallow groundwater at the site is currently not used as a potable source and is not expected to be used as a drinking water source in the future. There are no known wells within half a mile of the site.

... continued on page A10

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