



Public Meetings

City Council

Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Feb. 12, 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 Police Department Incident Summary Report

Dec. 24 to Dec. 30

Alarms	17
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	43
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subjects	4
Suspicious Vehicles	3
Patrol Request	9
Security Check	13
Service To Citizen	25
Supplemental Report	5
Accident Injury	
Camino Pablo/Bart Track	
Accident Property	
Del Rey School	
Civil	
30 Block El Toyonal	
10 Block Camino Lenada	
30 Block El Toyonal (2)	
20 Block Monte Vista Rd.	
Commercial Burglary	
20 Block Bryant Way	
Court Martinez	
Superior Court, Martinez	
Death Non Criminal	
100 Block Ravenhill Rd.	
10 Block Via Floreado	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
Found Property	
10 Block Camino Lenada	
Grand Theft	
Casa Orinda Restaurant	
Harassment	
50 Block Monte Vista Rd.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
Loitering	
200 Block Brookwood Rd.	
Occupied Stalled Vehicle	
10 Block Berrybrook Hollow	
Ordinance Violation	
30 Block Vista Del Orinda	
30 Block Vista Del Orinda	
Other Misdemeanor	
Rite Aid	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24	
School Assembly Check	
Miramonte High School (2)	
Shoplift	
Safeway	
Supplemental Report	
10 Block El Camino Moraga	
20 Block Moraga Via	
Traffic Hazard	
Moraga Way/El Camino Moraga	
El Camino Moraga/Moraga Way	
90 Block La Espiral	
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	
Stein Way/Moraga Way	
Warrant Arrest	
Brookwood Rd./Moraga Way	
Welfare Check	
400 Block Moraga Way	
20 Block Irwin Way (2)	

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Delay preferred to residential encroachment for major road repairs

By Sora O'Doherty



Severe backups plagued Orchard Road last August during EBMUD road repairs and a resulting detour. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Choosing between the evils associated with repair work on major roads, the Orinda City Council at its Jan. 16 meeting rejected detours onto residential streets and limiting roadwork to nighttime hours in favor of longer delays for motorists instead. Major road repairs have occurred several times over the past five years, but last August's project by the East Bay Municipal Utility District that sent thousands of cars onto quiet Orchard Road led to repeated protests by residents. Council members who visited the site during the detour expressed concern about the conditions, and were grateful that there was no resulting serious damage.

Orinda currently lacks a policy dealing with lane closures on major public roads and staff sought input from the council on four alternatives: continuing to allow the director of public works to decide lane closure hours and traffic management on a case-by-case basis; adopting a city policy to require all lane closures to be limited to midday and weekend hours, which would cause delays of up to 20 minutes per one-way trip; requiring all work to be performed at night and/or on weekends; or while not specifically detouring traffic, to specifically not cause detours through residential streets.

Safety was the council's primary concern, and the number of cars that would be diverted onto residential streets, and the speed at which such cars travel, raise significant safety concerns. Similarly, working at night increases the possibility of industrial accidents, as well as raising issues of excessive noise and light in the areas adjacent to the work. Tom Guarino from PG&E and Emily Barnett of Contra Costa Central Sanitary District attested to the fact that night work causes increased costs, which then must be passed through to consumers. Additionally, Barnett pointed out that it is very difficult to get asphalt and concrete delivered at night. No one from EBMUD, which was responsible for the work last August, attended the meeting.

Nevertheless, the council acknowledged that each situation is different, and there needs to be flexibility in dealing with each case individually. Vice Mayor Inga Miller pointed out that people who live on major roads already suffer with traffic and noise during the day, and thought it would be unfair to impose night work on them. Council Member Darlene Gee characterized what happened last year on Orchard Road as a travesty

and Council Member Dean Orr said no one wants a repeat performance. Mayor Amy Worth said that the utilities must provide resources for enforcement of traffic controls and Director of Public Works Larry Thies suggested that the city should consider imposing penalties, short of pulling encroachment permits, for violations. Council Member Eve Phillips raised concerns about how to prevent motorists from diverting onto residential streets in the absence of official detours. Everyone agreed that better communications prior to and during repairs are essential, including notification to residents along the road and signage alerting vehicles using the road to upcoming roadwork.

Staff will return to the council with a proposed policy in the future, and it was clarified that such a policy will not affect emergency road repairs.

65 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA
925-258-4200

699 Columbus Ave, SE CA
415-397-7355

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Orinda authorizes grant application for crosswalk at Moraga Way and Brookside

By Sora O'Doherty



Image provided

The Orinda City Council took staff's recommendation at the Jan. 16 meeting to authorize a grant application for a non-signalized crosswalk at Moraga Way and Brookside Drive, although the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee recommended a different project. The application is for a Metropolitan Transportation Commission grant program intended to increase the safety and efficiency of bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Residents of Wilder have requested the proposed crosswalk; Wilder is accessible by foot from Brookside Drive, which runs alongside McDonnell Nursery. Moreover, there is a County Connection bus stop on either side of Moraga Way at the

Brookside intersection. TSAC had recommended improvements to an existing crosswalk near Wagner Ranch, but the council agreed with staff that a new project would be more likely to win the grant than merely improving an existing project. The MTC grants vary, but generally most of the grants range between \$25,000 and \$150,000. The Brookside crosswalk is estimated to cost \$64,000. Council members expressed some concern about the location of the crosswalk in proximity to a curve on Moraga Way, and suggested evaluating the possibility of moving it slightly to provide more safety.

POETRY

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

by Leon Volan

Resident of The Heritage Downtown

This poem I think you will find
Is unlike any other kind
It's only now that there could be
VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY.
And tiny chips of SILICON
Which turn computers off and on.
CLOUD STORAGE now is a new way
To saving "who knows what" today.
And coming, perhaps SUPERFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE that's ARTIFICIAL.
But understanding GIGABYTES
No poet thinks about - or writes.
The fact is that the world has changed
And every thing's been rearranged.
An UNCERTAIN FUTURES CROWNING FEAT
Mightwell make HUMANS OSOLETE.
P.S.

There's more we can't ignore-
Smart watches - clones - Weird flying drones.
What else is ours? Selfdriving cars.
Plus robots who electrically become "alive" by battery.
We should be sure to not employ
More science than we can enjoy
To really make living life great
And CAREFULLY CONTROL OUR FATE!

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