

The Orinda Way



ORINDA MOVES FORWARD WITH THE FIRST PROJECTS FUNDED BY MEASURE L SALES TAX

By Darlene Gee, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee

In November 2012, Orindans passed Measure L, a local half-cent sales tax, which the Orinda City Council has chosen to use as the first phase of the City's 10-year road and storm drain plan adopted in July 2012. Measure L is expected to generate about \$600,000 per year. This new revenue will add to the approximately \$1.25 million, including grant revenues, the City invests on average each year in road maintenance and pavement rehabilitation. While every new dollar that can be spent to improve Orinda's generally poor roads is positive, Measure L funds are still a modest resource relative to a very large problem.

The Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) has worked this year to develop criteria to allocate the Measure L dollars where the most residents of Orinda can receive the greatest benefits. The process has considered public input, has used information and engineering data provided by the City's Public Works and Engineering Services Department and involved extensive discussion by the seven volunteer professionals that comprise the CIOC. Since Orinda has chosen for many years to prioritize the available road improvement dollars (Gas Tax and Measure J Return to Source) on the more heavily traveled arterial and collector roads, Measure L funds have been designated to help improve residential roads.

In the broadest sense, the CIOC decided that the residential roads that were selected must be among the worst in terms of pavement condition and have the greatest traffic volumes. While this makes sense, having completely objective data to define "worst" among Orinda's significant number of poor residential roads has proved challenging. Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is the common engineering designation that uses multiple factors to rate road condition and while very useful is not perfect. A PCI of 100 is for a newly constructed road. A rating 25 or less is considered completely failed. Additionally, the CIOC is looking at using ride quality and traffic volume as measures that could be used for selecting roads for repair. The Public Works and Engineering Services Department has been asked to update the traffic data on the roads with current PCI's of 25 or lower. These updated traffic counts have been ongoing during the last six months. The CIOC continues to refine the information available about the residential road network and work toward the fairest and most objective criteria possible to use in selection of the roads that will be rehabilitated with Measure L dollars.

Not wanting to delay the implementation of needed road improvements during this first year while information continues to be collected, the CIOC determined that two of the possible residential roads with PCI's of 25 or less -- Charles Hill Road from Honey Hill to Soule and a significant section of Lost Valley near the PG&E substation had traffic volumes and conditions that warranted their selection as the first repairs with Measure L funds. Selection of these roads included visits to inspect actual conditions. CIOC members and Orinda Public Works and Engineering Services staff presented this recommendation to the Orinda City Council in July 2013. The recommendation was unanimously approved after discussion of the longer-range plans for establishing the Measure L selection criteria. Design work is now underway and for the first time in many years Orinda will start to see some residential road improvements as part of the annual pavement maintenance program. Still, Measure L is just a start ---- to truly accomplish the City's 10-year plan to restore our community's roads and storm drains Orindans will at some point need to decide to further fund our local

Live Video Streaming Comes to Orinda!

Video streaming is now provided for all regularly scheduled Council meetings — giving our residents access to what's happening, while it's happening.

The City has contracted with Granicus to provide online meeting materials, live video streaming and access to archived meeting materials. Videos of the meetings will be archived online so that in addition to agendas, staff reports, minutes and audio files you can view Council meetings on your schedule.

The new system enhances the public's access to meeting materials by embedding links to staff reports directly into the agenda. As a result, members of the public will be able to quickly view a corresponding staff report simply by clicking on the item on the agenda. Access the new features on the City's website at www.cityoforinda.org!

Measure L Sales Tax—Continued from Page 1

Orinda residents can be assured that thoughtful and objective effort is being applied by your Public Works and Engineering Services Department, CIOC and City Council to maximize the monies that are available and to deliver the most benefits to the community. We invite you to stay connected to our on-going efforts regarding Orinda's roads and drains through attendance at our CIOC meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at City Hall or through the City's website section on roads and infrastructure.

Orinda Grove Below Market Rate Homes

The model homes in the new Orinda Grove (Pulte) development have been completed and sales of the 65 market rate homes are under way. The project also includes eight units that will be sold at below-market-rate (BMR) prices to moderate-income households. A workshop for BMR homes will be held on Monday, January 13, 2014. The first opportunity to qualify to purchase one of the BMR homes will be given to households with at least one member who is currently employed in Orinda and has worked in Orinda for one year or more and meets the basic eligibility criteria:

- ◇ Households must have at least four members.
- ◇ Household income cannot exceed 120% of area median income in Contra Costa County, adjusted for household size as indicated below.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS:

Household's gross annual household income cannot exceed the following limits:

- 4 person HH: \$112,200
- 5 person HH: \$121,200
- 6 person HH: \$130,150

Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call (925) 253-4210 for additional information.

It's Time for Routine Drainage Maintenance

The City requires watercourses, both natural and man-made, be maintained so that storm water will flow unimpeded along its path to either San Pablo Reservoir or the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Since the rainy days are just around the corner, it's time for property owners to do routine drainage maintenance to ensure that the City's waterways are kept cleared and flowing throughout the rainy season. While the City inspects and maintains public watercourses and storm drain facilities, private property owners have the following drainage maintenance responsibilities:

- ◆ Cleaning and maintaining driveway culverts and drainage ditches alongside the street property frontage.
- ◆ Cleaning and maintaining culverts underneath and ditches along private roads.
- ◆ Cleaning and maintaining creeks, drainage ditches, and any other stormwater facilities (pipes, inlets, etc.) that flow through the property.

The City's Public Works Department is responsible for issuing a drainage notice to property owners if watercourses on the property are not maintained according to the Municipal Code.

Leaves and other yard waste clog storm drains and creeks and can impede the flow of water and cause flooding. Whenever rain is forecast, please remember to inspect and clean your creek, drainage ditch, gutters, and/or driveway culvert of debris that could obstruct the flow of water.

To report an obstructed public storm drain call the Public Works Department at 253-4231.

Development Updates

After many years of community discussion and planning, construction of several major development projects is well underway including Orinda Senior Housing, Orinda Grove and Wilder. Additional information regarding these projects, and others, is available on the City's website.

Orinda Senior Housing



View from open space to the east (Oct. 27, 2013)

The 67-unit senior affordable residences in the Village is on schedule for completion in August 2014. To be placed on the interest list, please call Eden Housing at (510) 582-1460.

Orinda Grove



Pulte Group, Inc. obtained City approvals in August 2008 to construct 73 homes (including 8 Below Market Rate (BMR) units). Construction of the Orinda Grove project began in June 2012 and the model homes and sales center opened in October 2013. Construction of 25 homes and the new Orinda Union School District offices is currently underway. When completed, the project will also include new City-owned ball fields and a tot lot.

Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call (925) 253-4210 for additional information.

Wilder



Lot sales in Wilder were strong over the summer with approximately 30 total lots sold or in contract to date. Five homes are complete (including the model home) and five homes are under construction. Three of the five ball fields, a tot lot, the Field House (City maintenance facility), the Ranch House (which is available to rent for small events) and the private pool and fitness facility are also complete.

City Office Holiday Closure

City Hall and the Community Center will be closed from 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th 2013 through Wednesday, January 1st 2014. During this time, Police Services inquiries should be made to the dispatch phone line at (925) 284-5010.

Have you signed up for the Orinda Outlook?

In an effort to improve city-wide communication, the City developed a new weekly email newsletter. The newsletter provides an overview of information from the previous week and a look to the week ahead. The Outlook is in addition to the regular email updates on City Council meetings and/or City emergency alerts and provides a glimpse of items of interest to Orinda residents. To subscribe online for the Orinda Outlook, City Council meeting notifications and special emergency updates that may include: road closures, power outages, fallen trees and other important emergency information from the City visit www.cityoforinda.org and click on "subscribe to email notifications". Once you subscribe online you will receive an email verification in your email inbox. Please follow the instructions in the email to confirm your email address was added to the new electronic notification system.

Subscribe to the Orinda Outlook and email alerts online at www.cityoforinda.org

Orinda Emergency Preparedness Training

**Lamorinda CERT,
Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the
Orinda Citizen Corps Council
are hosting an
Emergency Preparedness Training
Course for citizens 18 and over**

FEMA outlines three areas that each of us should develop to be better prepared for emergencies. Their recommendation is that we 'Have a Plan, Make a Kit and Stay Informed'. This training will be held over three nights and will cover each of the FEMA recommendations in detail. Participants will hear tips for creating their own emergency plan and those who complete the training will be given a basic emergency kit for their home, office or car.

Participants will also learn how to use their smart phone, computer and Family Radio Service (FRS) radios to stay informed during a disaster.

The training will be held in the Community Center, Room 4, from January 16–30 on Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. For more information, call (925) 254-2445 or register online at www.cityoforinda.org.

Master Storm Drain Study—October 2013

Like the City's aging road system, the storm drainage system is old and in poor condition. The failure of a storm drain under the intersection of Tarabrook Drive and Evergreen Drive last winter brought to light the poor condition of the City storm drainage infrastructure and how little the City knows about the overall condition of the system. In an effort to understand the condition and impact on the City, the Council approved a 2014 Capital Improvement Plan project to evaluate the storm drain system and make recommendations on an improvement plan. This fall, the City hired the engineering firm Schaaf & Wheeler to prepare a master Storm Drainage Study. Over the next several months Schaaf & Wheeler will be working with City staff to inventory the condition of the existing system and then make recommendation on how to improve the existing system. In the coming months residents should expect to see members of the consultant's team checking on the existing storm drainage facilities. The members of this team will be from Schaaf & Wheeler and V & A and will be carrying identification and a letter of introduction from the City. Please feel free to ask them for this information or contact the Orinda Public Works department if you have any questions.

Snapshot of the \$19.1 Million City Budget

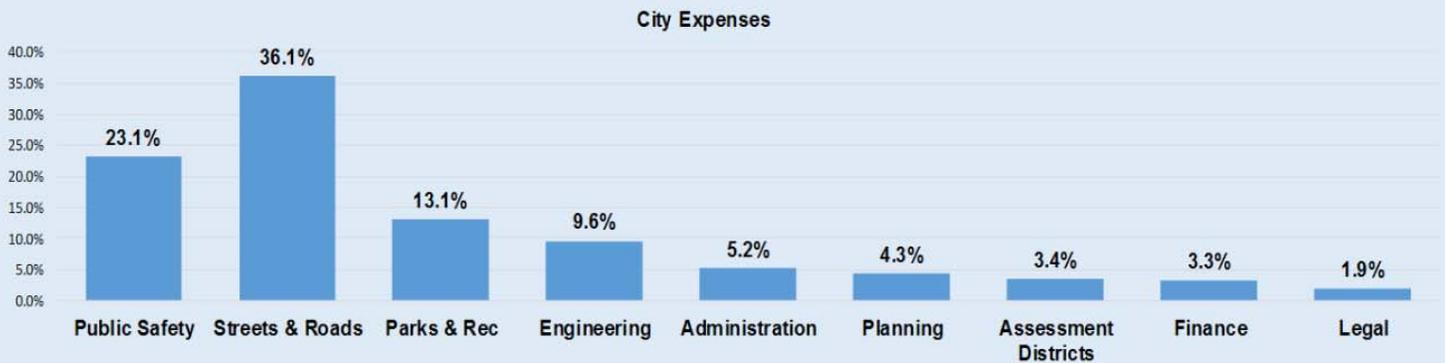
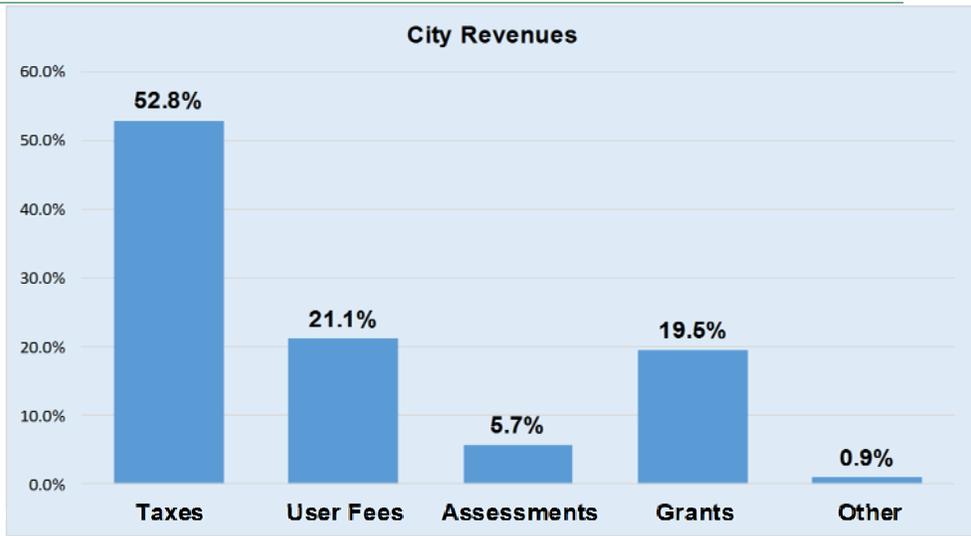
The City has a balanced budget

The City maintains a minimum reserve of \$5,000,000

Measure L half-cent sales tax revenue will be used for drainage and road capital projects as appropriated annually by Council

Road and drainage capital projects for fiscal year 2014 (July 2013 to June 2014) total \$4.8 million dollars

Police service levels remain unchanged



Current Capital Improvement Projects

General Pavement Rehabilitation

Drainage Rehabilitation

Ivy Drive Rehabilitation

Crossroads Streetscape Improvements

Drainage Improvements - North Lane and Oak Springs/Candlestick

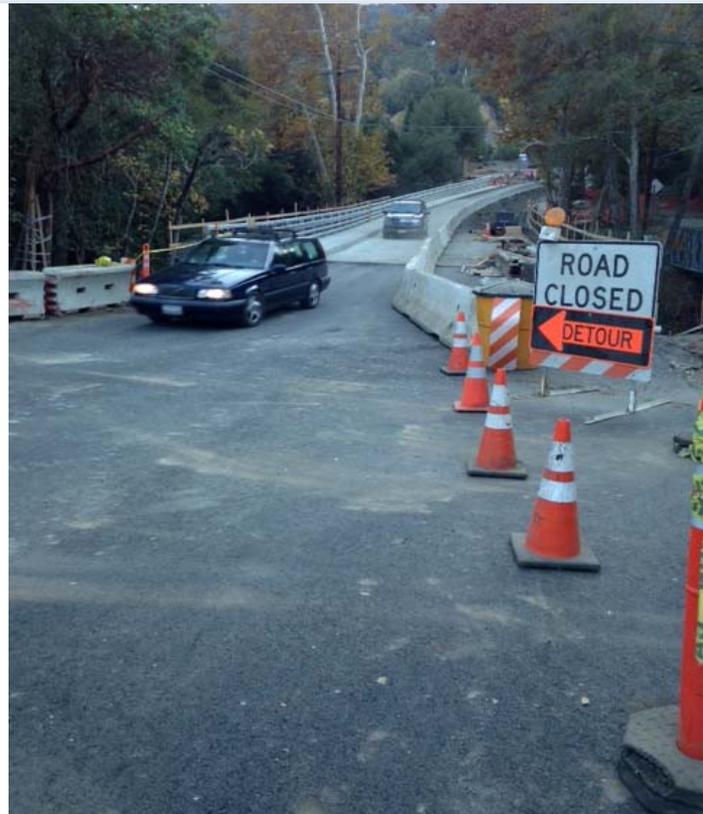
Bridge Improvements - Manzanita Drive and Miner Road

Bike Trail Improvements - St. Stephens Trail

Traffic Signal Improvements - Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Intersection

Community Center - HVAC and accessibility Improvements

General Improvements - tennis courts, restrooms, and signage



CITY COUNCIL

Sue Severson, *Mayor*
Steve Glazer, *Vice Mayor*
Dean Orr, *Council Member*
Victoria R. Smith, *Council Member*
Amy R. Worth, *Council Member*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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CITY ATTORNEY

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CITY CLERK

Michele Olsen

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POLICE

Scott Haggard, Chief of Police

PARKS & RECREATION

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PLANNING

Emmanuel Ursu, Director

PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Charles Swanson, Director

EDITOR OF THE ORINDA WAY

Tonya Gilmore

We would like to hear from you!
Send your comments or questions to
publicinfo@cityoforinda.org
or call 253-4291

DIRECTORY

Administration **253-4220**

City Clerk **253-4221**

Parks & Recreation **254-2445**

Public Works &
Engineering **253-4231**

Planning **253-4210**

Police Offices **254-6820**

Police Dispatch **284-5010**

City Hall is open Monday thru Friday
8:00am to 12pm &
1:00pm to 5:00pm.

For information about City services
call 253-4200 during regular
business hours or visit
www.cityoforinda.org.

The City of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve on the following City Commissions and Committees:

Art in Public Places Committee (1)
Planning Commission (2)
Parks & Recreation Commission (3)
Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (2)
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (3)
Finance Advisory Committee (4)
Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (1)
Historic Landmark Committee (3)

The City of Orinda is also seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve as the City's Liaison to the following local agencies:

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector
Control District Trustee (1)
Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (1)
Representative on the Contra Costa County
Library Commission (2)
County Connection Citizens Advisory Committee (1)

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda City Clerk's
Office located at 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. If you have any
specific questions regarding the recruitment, please contact
Michele Olsen, City Clerk at 253-4221 or molsen@cityoforinda.org.
Application forms may also be downloaded from the City's website at
www.cityoforinda.org.

Completed Statement of Interest forms must be submitted to the
City Clerk's Office by **Friday, January 3, 2014 at 5:00pm**.

Qualified applicants for City Commission and Committee appointments
will be invited to interview before the full City Council
during the month of January 2014.



City of Orinda
22 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563

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