



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Meet the City's New Police Chief

By SIMAR KHANNA
Editor

The city wasted no time in finding its next police chief when it tapped a former lieutenant who has been with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for more than 21 years and brings expertise in emergency services – the No. 1 safety issue in Orinda.

David Cook took over as chief effective Sept. 23, less than a month after former Chief Mark Nagel retired from the sheriff's office and took a post at Saint Mary's College. Orinda contracts with the sheriff's office for police services.

Cook was selected after going through interviews with two different panels that included fire and school representatives,

[SEE CHIEF page 19]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Orinda Police Chief **David Cook**.

Check out Orinda's array of eateries in our 2019 Restaurant Guide on pages 11-14.

Private Road Maintenance Debate Heats Up as City Holds Workshop

By PAUL KILDUFF
Contributing Writer

The politically and emotionally charged issue of private road maintenance heats up again in October as the city holds another facilitator-led workshop on the topic on Oct. 1.

About 20 percent of Orinda residents reside on streets designated as private that do not have their potholes and other maintenance needs filled by the city. Many of them vented their concerns at a workshop on Aug. 27.

Councilmember Dennis Fay, a transportation engineer who spent 20 years as the executive director of what is now known as the Alameda County Transportation



SALLY HOGARTY

Three cheers for 50 years! Holden students show their spirit as their school reaches its golden anniversary L-R: **James Barron, Pierre Grigsby-Olson, Walker Cammack, Eve Lyford, Colette Aguilar Udall, and Catalina Alexander.**

Holden High Marks 50 Years with Celebration, Open House

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

To mark 50 years of offering Orinda students an alternative approach to education, Holden High School this month hosts a celebration featuring a premier screening about the school and a reunion of past luminaries.

A brunch is planned for Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with an open house until 3 p.m. The first 50 people to register will receive a limited edition 50th anniversary bag. All events are free.

In addition to the video screening, there

will be raffle prizes and a chance to meet key stakeholders including Holden founder Carolyn Cogan and past school directors, according to Mawiyah Johnson, the school's marketing manager.

When Cogan, an Orinda teacher, founded the school in 1969 there were just seven students and classes were held at an Orinda pool house. Shortly thereafter, Orinda Community Church partnered with Holden and has hosted the school since the early 1970s.

"Holden has been offering a revolutionary approach to education since its founding. In the early 1980s, it integrated weekly 1-on-1 counseling sessions in the curriculum and in 2008 launched its 'Transition Program' that empowers students toward a successful post-high school life whether it be college, internships or jobs," says Johnson. "Holden was founded on the belief that children learn best in a small, nurturing environment where everyone is

[SEE HOLDEN page 7]

Commission, says the summary of the workshops will be a major topic for the City Council. "Future actions could include a task force" being set up to address the long simmering issue, but it's only one option, says Fay.

Putting aside whether or not it's fair for private road residents to pay taxes to maintain public roads while their own roads are neglected, Fay says the real "issue of concern to the council has to be the financial health of the city. The cost of bringing private roads up to some reasonable level of repair is not within the city's budget capability at this time. A new revenue source would be necessary if this route to 'fairness' is taken. This would require a vote of the

[SEE ROADS page 18]

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New Chapter, Familiar Names as Orinda Books Changes Hands

BY SIMAR KHANNA
Editor

Pat Rudebusch had been a regular customer at Orinda Books since moving to the city 25 years ago. One day four years ago, she got an unusual phone call from Maria Roden, the bookstore owner.

“She asked, ‘I’m wondering if you would like to work at the store. You’re friendly and you like to read,’” Rudebusch recalled.

Now, Roden is handing over the keys to Rudebusch, who becomes the new owner effective Oct. 1.

Roden’s timing was perfect – then and

now.

When she was first hired, Rudebusch had just given up her job at PBS where she helped run pledge drives and secure endowments. She needed to stay busy, and the bookstore job was perfect. The store held fond memories for Rudebusch who had spent many hours there while her daughters, Katherine and Jane, were growing up.

This year, with Roden planning to retire, Rudebusch says she thought about buying the store but didn’t want to do it alone. When she mentioned this to Katherine, Rudebusch says her daughter became sad.

“She said, ‘This is my childhood bookstore,’” Rudebusch said. “So I thought, huh, this means a lot to her somehow. I was reminded about how six or nine months ago, a mom came in, new to town, and said I want my children growing up knowing what bookstores are.”

“I thought this is such an important part of the community,” Rudebusch says. “It has to stay here.”

In another sign of fate, Katherine has been working at a bookstore in Santa Cruz while completing graduate school. In November, she plans to come back to Orinda and manage the store with her mom.

Except for Roden’s departure and the addition of Katherine to the 13-member staff, Rudebusch says she hopes the change in ownership is seamless. Rudebusch says

[SEE BOOKS page 10]



SALLY HOGARTY

Longtime customer, and then Orinda Books employee, **Pat Rudebusch** recently took ownership of the local bookstore.

Fitness Tip of the Month

The longer you are alive the more time you have to get in shape.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925-360-7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.

Club Meetings in October

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML). General meetings third Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for more information. Oct. 12, 9 a.m. 6th annual Shred Fest at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Suite F, Moraga. Fundraiser for students to attend AAUW Tech Trek week-long STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) summer camp. Paper shredded on-site at \$10/bankers box. Discs and hard drives shredded off-site at \$10 each. Oct. 15, 10 a.m. guest speaker Pat Rudebusch at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. All readers, all members, as well as people interested in joining AAUW are encouraged to attend. The topics of conversation will include books, book stores, female entrepreneurship, and what’s new in the world of books and the book business. The meeting is open to the public. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for further information

Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Lodge, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

Lamorinda Drum Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning to drum in a small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.

Guided Meditation. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom’s Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmoozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting information.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday every month. For more information, www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066 or www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at ejeuving@comcast.net or 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sirs for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: Oct. 4: James Bouquin, Cancer Support Center; Oct. 11: Tina Akins, Rotary District Governor; Oct. 18: Dr. Robert Weiner, The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci; Oct. 25: Frank Dunne, Club Member Presentation.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Montelindo Garden Club third Friday of the month, Sept. through May. Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m. Presentation: Bulbs, Bulbs, and More Bulbs! with William Welch, a.k.a. Bill the Bulb Baron who has been growing and hybridizing bulbs his entire life and has bred and named several new varieties. He grows all of his bulbs organically, and will be bringing with him a wide selection of bulbs for sale after the talk at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center’s Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza level, May Room, 925-254-0800.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Board meeting on 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more info. contact Executive Director - Orinda Chamber of Commerce; 925-254-3909; Orindachamber.org.

Orinda Garden Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Open to public on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

Orinda Job’s Daughters. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda Junior Women’s Club Community service group. First Tuesday, Sept. through June, 7 p.m. Orinda Junior Women’s Club invites Orinda residents to learn about the

[SEE CLUBS page 3]



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President After Successful Car Show, Focus Turns to Fire Safety

Carlos Baltodano



Thousands of people from around the Bay Area turned out on Sept. 7 to view 200 vehicles and motorcycles while listening to '60s classic memorable tunes at the 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show.

The event featured 25 to 30 Porches and 25 vintage station wagons of the 1960s. There were many other unique cars to gaze upon and enjoy, including an original unrestored 25/30 Sport Salon 1936 Rolls Royce and a 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe. My favorites were a 1965 Corvette Stingray and a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SL Coupe with gull wings. The swinging wings were made famous later by DeLorean.

While the show was free, donations and registrations generated \$45,000 in revenue. The funds will be distributed to local non-profit organizations. The recipients are: The Historical Society, the Orinda Community Foundation, the Lamorinda Arts Council (Lamorinda Idol), The Orinda Association, Seniors Around Town and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO).

The car show was made possible by the tireless efforts of members of The Orinda Association (OA) and Orinda Motors. We would like to specially thank OA Co-Chairs Bill Waterman and Diane Lautz, as well as John Vanek of Orinda Motors for organizing such a successful event. We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to all the car owners who graciously allowed us to view their works of art.

Kicking off the Classic Car Show week-

end on Friday night, the Rotary Club of Orinda presented the "Dancing with the Cars" extravaganza where 160 people had hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a dinner by Sunrise Catering at the new Art and Garden Center in Wilder. The event featured a silent and live auction. The items auctioned included an Indian cuisine dinner for 12, gourmet desserts, a foursome round at four golf courses, an Oakland A's ticket package, a fitness package, fine jewelry and more.

"All the proceeds of the auction will go to good causes," said Rotary President Dan Gannett. The money raised supports schools and the community through Orinda organizations, including The Orinda Association, Orinda Parks and Rec Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to the Rotary Club, with special mention to Ken Jew, the planning committee chair.

Moving on to October, the focus shifts to fire prevention. The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has declared the theme for fire prevention week Oct. 6-12 to be "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape: Plan and Practice your Escape." This theme recognizes that it is crucial to have a plan for your family in case you have to evacuate your home in a hurry.

Orindans will always remember the Oakland/Berkeley Hills fire on Oct. 19-20, 1991, which at that time was considered one of the worst in the state. Since then,

[SEE PRESIDENT page 5]

◆ **CLUBS** from page 2

group and how we give back to the community. RSVP, on Facebook at Orinda Junior Women's Club or at www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. First Thursday every month, except holidays. Family dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday of month. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.

Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting. For more informa-

tion 925-254-8260.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association
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Orinda, California 94563



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PG&E Unveils Power Shut-off Plan to Council
By PAUL I. CONTRIBUTOR

Orinda in Search of New Police Chief as Nagel Leaves
Staff - August 28, 2019

Turn the page to the new Orinda News website
www.TheOrindaNews.com

Editorial

Breast Cancer: Awareness Saves Lives

“Be careful what you wish for” is an adage that, like many sayings, often proves true. I remember in my early 50s wishing I knew what color my hair was under my dark auburn hair dye. Interested in adding a touch of dignified gray to my look, I blanched at growing out my hair and having that lovely two-tone look of gray and auburn. So, I continued spending a small fortune coloring my hair.

Little did I know that a very thorough doctor would change my life and hair for good.

Looking to identify an innocuous spot on a chest x-ray, my doctor ordered a PET Scan. The results showed the spot to be nothing but identified a tumor that turned out to be lobular breast cancer. Only a small portion of breast cancers are lobular, which often doesn't show any signs or symptoms in its earlier stages. In 2005, when I was diagnosed, most mammograms could not detect this particular type of breast cancer. By the size of my tumor, my doctors estimated that it had been growing in me for at least three years.

At that time, women with lobular breast cancer often were not diagnosed until the disease had significantly progressed. In my case, I was not quite at Stage 3. Believe me, I have thanked my doctor over and over for ordering that PET Scan!

Three surgeries, six months of chemo

and six weeks of radiation later, I was cancer-free, not to mention bald. At least I no longer had to worry about a slow march of gray hair overtaking my auburn. My gray hair was free to grow in unencumbered.

As we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, I would like to remind everyone (men get this disease as well!) to have regular checkups and mammograms. The technology has improved significantly, allowing doctors to diagnose lobular cancers more easily and more patients to survive.

If breast cancer runs in your family (it didn't in mine), you have to be even more vigilant. Get tested for the BRCA gene to see what your likelihood is of contracting the disease. Some young women I know who have tested at an 80 percent or higher risk of breast cancer have taken the courageous step of having double mastectomies and reconstructive surgery – a difficult choice but one that was right for them.

Whether breast cancer runs in your family or not, ignorance is not bliss. Another one of those adages that proves all too true.

For more information, go to www.nationalbreastcancer.org.

– Sally Hogarty
Executive Editor
14-year cancer survivor

Letters to the Editor

If We Have No Street Plan... Any Road Will Take Us There

Over the past 10 years, the mission statement of OrindaVision has been to assist the Orinda community in defining and implementing a rational vision for the future of its downtown. It has offered a vision of its own, but never meant it to be the only vision. Indeed, as we have observed in numerous conversations with fellow Orindans, there is no lack of ideas about how downtown might be improved.

During this time, we have seen the widely supported petition put forward by Wagner Ranch mom, Monica Fitzsimmons, urging the City Council to get on with the renewal of downtown. We have seen the formation of What's Up Downtown, sponsored as well by young Orinda moms, whose message is well articulated on their webpage “We expect more from downtown.” Their theme has been picked up in independent surveys of Orinda voters and clearly reflected in the last two City Council elections.

The present council's mandate is to focus on what is needed to turn around a declining downtown. Its first order of business in 2019 was to elevate downtown improvement to one of four of the city's

strategic priorities in the current two-year budget cycle. It has recently authorized city staff to issue a request for proposals to independent planning firms to help the city update its General Plan – with a focus on stimulating the improvement of our commercial districts.

As a community we have had ample time to reflect on what needs to be preserved and what needs to be improved. The result should be a thoughtful blend of each, with input from citizens as well as guidance from our competent planning staff and the planning professionals the city selects.

Most Orinda residents have purchased older homes, many of which have needed substantial remodeling. Others were fortunate to find a lot on which to build. In either case, both a clear vision and then a detailed plan were critical to a successful outcome. The same is required of owners of older commercial properties.

As citizens, we need to articulate our visions for downtown. Our preferences, as understood by our elected officials, will set the development standards and clarify the guidelines for improving a downtown – you must know where you want to go in order to get there.



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Who among us wants Orinda's downtown to take just any road?

– Tom Trowbridge

Private Streets: City Has Obligation to all Homeowners

I could not attend the workshop held on Aug. 27 on city roads but am pleased to note that a large number of Orindans living on private roads attended.

Imagine if the Orinda Fire District had a policy that did not protect homes that are on 'private' streets? What is the difference between the city's obligation to maintain all city streets versus the fire district, police force and other services' obligation to protect and serve all homes and citizens?

The thesis that the city inherited the

private/public road designation from the county is a cop-out and demonstrates a lack of leadership and imagination to fix the wrongs by the rights.

– Narayanaswamy Krishnamurthi
Founder, OrindaVision

Road Repair a Matter of Equality

At the Aug. 27 Private Roads Workshop with members of the Orinda City Council and city staff, there was a large turnout of Orindans who live on our "private" roads as well as Orindans who live on our "public" roads, urging city officials to acknowledge that residents of Orinda who happen to live on "public" roads and residents of Orinda who happen to live on "private" roads are

[SEE LETTERS page 5]

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, The Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com.

Letters to Editor for the October issue are due Oct. 8, 2019.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the October issue is October 8, 2019.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

◆ LETTERS from page 4

all members of “the public.”

Orinda is one community; one community of Orindans who live here, dine here, work here, vote here, participate in civic activities here, go to (or participate in) the Fourth of July Parade here, and pay taxes here.

There are all sorts of inequities in American history where discrimination continued because it had historically occurred. The fact that some discriminatory situation was long ago inherited from those who went before us is not a reason to continue that discrimination. Righting the historical wrong may have required incurring costs but it was understood to be the right thing to do. The long arc of history in this country bends toward equity.

The movement toward public maintenance of all roads in Orinda is similar in this regard. The historical fact that Contra Costa County denominated some roads as public and some as private, regardless of their condition, and that when Orinda was incorporated it inherited roads with those categories attached, is irrelevant when the question of righting a discriminatory wrong comes to the fore as it now has done.

In this case, all Orinda property owners, including those living on private roads, pay taxes to maintain only those streets that have historically been viewed as public even though those roads are physically indistinguishable from roads historically called private, which are not so maintained.

Similarly, the fees paid to the city by Republic Services (with concomitant increases in fees paid by all residents served by Republic) in light of road damage caused by its garbage trucks driving on both private and public roads, are not applied toward maintenance of private roads.

Thus, those Orindans living on private roads pay for their public-road neighbors’ road maintenance; they also pay the increased Republic fees, the proceeds of which go toward maintenance of public roads only. Then they have to come out of pocket, again, to maintain their own roads – all due to an historical quirk.

There are more practical reasons for the Orinda City Council to take the right road here, including the increased difficulty of raising funding only for public roads in the future when 20 percent of Orindans living on private roads now have a heightened awareness of this issue.

However, I urge the City Council to make the right decision based on fundamental civic grounds, to treat all residents of Orinda, for whom they are responsible and to whom they are answerable, on an equitable basis. The Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and applies in Orinda too.

– Bob Finch

It’s a Matter of Cost

On Aug. 27, Orinda held a workshop to publicly discuss the issue of street maintenance and why the streets that 1,500 Orinda families (20 percent of Orinda) live on are not maintained with the taxes they pay while the streets the other 80 percent live on are.

The reason is money. If the state paid for street maintenance like it does for the schools, the city would have no problem maintaining all of its streets. Instead, it has to ask the voters to approve new taxes, and it costs less for everyone to pay for 80 percent of the streets so that is an easier tax to pass.

What would it cost to repair and maintain everyone’s street?

There are two main costs: Deferred maintenance to bring streets up to local standards and long-term maintenance to keep them at that level.

We have raised over \$50 million in the past seven years to repair the residential streets that 4,000 Orindans live on at a cost of \$12,500 per family living on those streets (including four of our five council members). These streets were in worse condition than those of any other city in the Bay Area, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

The remaining residential streets are in much better shape as they have been privately maintained by those living on them. However, the residents on those streets estimate that about \$5 million would be required to bring them up to the city’s standards. If this amount were paid off in 30 years, the annual payments would start at about \$225,000, which equates to 9 cents per day for each family in Orinda.

The cost to then maintain these additional 30 miles, which have so far been excluded from what many consider to be a basic public service (received by most but not all of Orinda), has been estimated by those who have been doing it themselves for over a half century to be another \$600,000 a year. Spread across all 7,000 Orinda families, that is an additional 23 cents a day.

The total cost to provide all Orinda families with the same service? Thirty-two cents a day from each of us. Not too high a price to pay to treat everyone in the city equally.

To read more about the Aug. 27 workshop see www.orindaroadfacts.info/private-road-workshop.

The City Council will discuss how we can rectify this inequity at its Oct. 1 meeting.

– Steve Cohn

Something Needs to be Done About Trash on Moraga Way

When I am on Moraga Way, I can’t help but notice how much trash is on the side of the road. Cleaning up this trash is something that students might do for community service, but in this case, heavy traffic makes it very dangerous for people to be on the roadside.

I believe that the city should get involved

in cleaning up Orinda’s main street, either by organizing a community-wide cleanup or by having city workers tackle the problem (with cones set out to slow or divert traffic).

More importantly, we should all make a commitment to doing our part to keep trash off the road. This will help Orinda maintain its small-town charm and not make it seem like a polluted urban center.

– Spencer Persin

Private Roads a Complex Issue

I attended the meeting on Aug. 27, sponsored by the Orinda City Council to discuss the private roads in Orinda. As a 32-year resident of Orinda, I have given a lot of thought to the issues and here is my view on maintaining the private roads in our community.

If the owners on the private roads are willing to pay to bring their private roads up to the standards of all the public roads, then Orinda should be willing to incorporate these private roads that meet the standards into the public unified road system. The advantage to Orinda would be a unified road system.

Of the one hour and 45 minutes that I attended the meeting, I heard many impassioned, highly educated people who live on private roads give speeches of why the City Council should pay to fix and keep up their roads. Here are the arguments that were given:

1. When they bought their house, they did not realize it was on a private road and, therefore, did not know of the liabilities involved. Even if this were true, this is not the fault of the city or the County of Contra Costa, but it is between their real estate agent or their previous seller.

2. They feel they are not part of the community because their private roads are not fixed. To me, the community is much more than our roads. The library, the schools, the rural character, the various clubs and our

neighbors make up the community.

3. They do not drive on the public roads in Orinda so they should not have to pay for them. No one on a private road can get to it or from it without using Orinda’s public roads.

This is a very complex situation as not all private roads are the same. One road might be more expensive, such as a road on a steep slope that is slide-prone or such as one where they did not use engineered fill as a foundation material.

Of the several hundred people at the meeting, only about three of the attendants lived on a public road. To get more input and ideas, I encourage citizens on public roads to become involved. This is an issue for all Orinda because it will affect their city and their pocketbooks.

– Sallie B. Nelson

Correction

Due to an editing error in Richard Colman’s letter to the editor in the September edition, an incorrect date was listed as the date of the fire evacuation drill for north Orinda. The drill took place Jan. 26.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

we’ve learned a lot more about planning ahead and being prepared. Please visit The Orinda Association website (orindaassociation.org) and view the Emergency Preparedness video. The video provides information from fire and emergency officials on wildfire risk and defense, as well as about evacuation preparedness in Orinda. During the month, let’s not only remember the great damage caused by fires but also that a little planning will go a long way to keep you and your family safe.

Reach Carlos Baltodano at cbalt ldc@comcast.net.

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AROUND TOWN

Everyday rinda

Porta Potty Pride



MIMI BOMMARITO

WWJD? This acronym traditionally stands for “What Would Jesus Do?” I alter the meaning a bit to cope with writer’s block, occasionally substituting “Jerry.” When I’m staring at the blank screen and need some inspiration, I imagine what the comedian Jerry Seinfeld would notice if he visited Orinda. Besides, we all pretty much know what Jesus would do: The exact opposite of what we are thinking of doing. Dang.

What would Jerry and I banter about if somehow, miraculously, he and I could cruise from MCC to OCC, sipping lattes and cracking each other up like on his Netflix show “Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.” Obviously, to start things off right, the first thing on our agenda would be “Dancing with the Cars,” because, first and foremost, the man loves automobiles. Actually, let’s make a note to invite him in 2020.

Roaming the mean streets of Orinda, being finely tuned to the quirky observation, one thing I could imagine Jerry commenting about are the funny little makeshift Porta Potty “disguises” gracing numerous local home renovations.

Some readers may not know what I’m talking about. And I’m not even sure these “personal potty upgrades” have a proper name. Recently I’ve noticed that during a renovation, rather than having a portable toilet prominently stationed in a client’s front yard, enterprising contractors designed “shells” for the potty, encasing the structure in decorative wooden siding, some even adding a quaint little roof. I’m talking about that type of mass-produced outdoor paneling with a woven, crisscross design, featured in a lot of cringeworthy prom photo backdrops from the ‘80s. I suspect the intent is to camouflage, or somehow make the portable toilet a little less of an eyesore.

I can appreciate the thought. Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape Design apologized to me in 2011 when there was no other place for the required portable toilet to go but smackdab (as they say in Louisiana) in the center of our front yard. “No apologies necessary, Steve,” I replied. I wasn’t just trying to be overly nice, in some disingenuous attempt to ensure our project was completed on time. Truth be told, I was

secretly proud of that unsightly beast.

Paying your first health insurance premium officially makes you an adult. Conquering your child’s first raging case of head lice officially makes you a parent. And sporting a Leaning Tower of Porta Potty in your front yard officially makes you a bona fide Orindan, and I would have explained it like that to Jerry Seinfeld. “A good Realtor will probably tell you: Plant one in your yard for at least two months, whether you need it or not, then you’re in.” And hopefully, he would laugh.

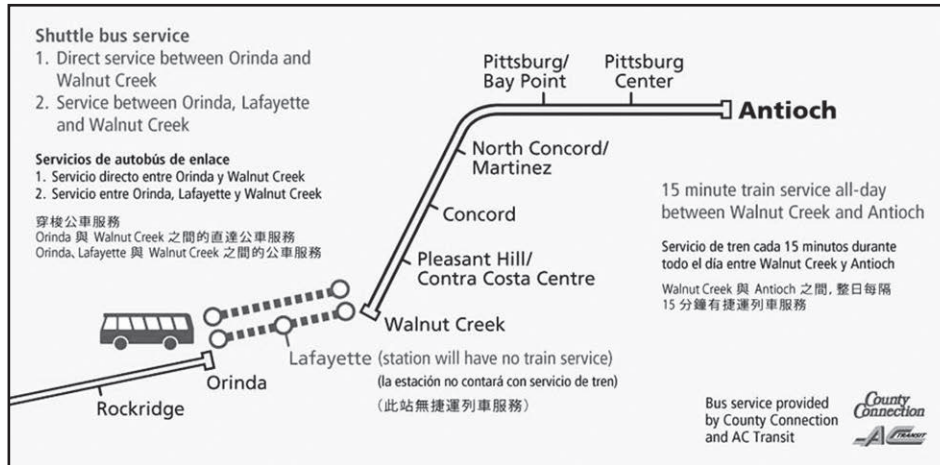
My pride in my Porta Potty was real. I wanted to join the ranks of the dissatisfied, those among us who just don’t feel right unless our surroundings are in a state of potential improvement. That, plus, I quickly learned that one of the top excuses for politely declining a plea to accept an enormous volunteer responsibility is to say, with genuine sincerity, “Gosh, you know I TOTALLY would (insert sanity-shattering, all-consuming, vendetta-inspiring, non-paid chairmanship here) but unfortunately I cannot because (wait for it, here it comes, it’s either “I’m going back to work” or...) we’re RENOVATING.”

Since I’d not yet pulled my act together to return to a role that was in any way associated with earning actual money, I might have told Steve he was welcome to leave that Porta Potty in our front yard for as long as possible. No one needed to know our renovation was all patio and involved no selling of kidneys, inconvenient showering at the gym or the refrigerator in the master bedroom for six months. A front yard Porta Potty was as good as a “Do Not Disturb” sign hanging on the honeymoon suite. Much like the sacred hair appointment, renovation is another iron-clad excuse to weasel out of anything.

Why then would anyone want to disguise this coveted capsule, an unlimited hall pass, alerting all passersby that property value enhancement and the disruptive inconvenience of transformation is taking place. Everyone knows: When there’s a toilet in the front yard, there is some exciting on-upmanship going on here!

Besides, it’s not like anyone is NOT going to notice the Porta Potty just because its halfway concealed in some decorative

[SEE EVERYDAY page 10]



BART Delays, Closures to Continue Into October

Delays, closures and service changes on BART are expected to continue through the end of October as the system undergoes repairs and upgrades to tracks between Orinda and Walnut Creek.

Closure weekends are Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 26-27.

Riders should expect delays of 40 minutes or more on closure weekends. County Connection and AC Transit will provide

free shuttle bus services. There will be direct service between Orinda and Walnut Creek as well as service between Orinda, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek stations.

Single-tracking, scheduled for Oct. 19, will mean delays of up to 30 minutes.

On select weekends including single-tracking Saturdays, the two eastbound lanes on the far-left side of Highway 24 near the

[SEE BART page 18]



POLICE BLOTTER

August 1 through August 17, 2019

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 8 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Accident Property: 7 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 59 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 6 incidents: El Nido Ranch Rd., Greystone Terr., Orinda Community Center, Orinda Country Club (x2) and Orinda Way.
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: CVS.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: Barbara Rd.
- CVC Moving Violation: 18 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 28 incidents.
- Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
- Domestic Disturbance: 1 incident.
- Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 3 incidents.
- Grand Theft: 1 incident: Heather Ln.
- Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents: Camino Pablo, Safeway, Southwood Dr.
- Identity Theft: 2 incidents: Ivy Dr. and Theatre Square.
- Indecent Exposure: 1 incident.
- Loud Music: 3 incidents.
- Loud Party: 4 incidents.
- Missing Adult: 2 incidents.
- Missing Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Outside Assist: 17 incidents.
- Parking Detail: 10 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 7 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 5 incidents: CVS (x2), Longridge Rd., Moraga Way and

- Overhill Rd.
- Reckless Driving: 3 incidents: Moraga Way (x2) and San Pablo Dam Rd.
- Security Check: 2 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 68 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents: Beverages and More and Rite Aid.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 7 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 6 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 13 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 6 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 8 incidents.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo and Southwood Dr.
- Traffic Hazard: 5 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident: Wilder Rd.
- Unwanted Guest: 3 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 4 incidents.
- Vandalism: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Altarinda Rd.
- Welfare Check: 12 incidents.

Arrest

- Vehicle Recovery: 1 recovery.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com.

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COMPASS

HAPPENINGS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Orinda formed in 1989: (L-R) **Massoud Fanaieyan, Jaleh Kilpatrick, Ziba Fanaian, Thomas Kilpatrick, Shookoh Aghsani, Douglas Krotz, Jaleh Mahjor, Diana Krotz and Farhad Toloui.**

Baha'i Faith Plans Celebration to Mark Birth of Prophet

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

One look at major news stories brings a torrent of stress-related items. From stock market fluctuation to war in far-off countries to U.S. immigration woes, strife and intolerance permeates people's daily lives.

A group of Orindans, however, hopes to stress the oneness of humanity rather than its disparities this month as they join people around the world in celebrating a special birthday.

The Baha'i Faith, which advocates the solidarity of major religions as a path toward world peace, plans a series of world-wide events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of The Báb. Known as the Prophet Herald, The Báb paved the way for the new faith and the appearance of the Divine Educator, Baha'u'llah. The Báb, which means the gate, fills a similar role as Elijah or John the Baptist in Christian religions.

A major component of the celebrations is the film *The Gate*, which tells the true story of The Báb. Originally a merchant from Shiraz in Qajar, Iran, The Báb claimed in 1844 to be a messenger from God. Stressing equality of the sexes, one foundation for all religions and abolition of extremes of wealth and poverty, The Báb reinvigorated religion. Facing opposition from the Persian government, he was eventually executed along with thousands of his followers.

"We are very excited to be celebrating this important birth here in Orinda," says Orinda resident Massoud Fanaieyan. "We will be showing the film on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre followed by a panel discussion with co-producer and ac-

tor Adam Mondschein."

Although other cities in Contra Costa County will also commemorate the bicentennial, Orinda is the only one showing the film. In addition, a reception is planned for Oct. 28 at the Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road in Orinda.

"The Baha'i Faith is all about reaching out and helping others," Fanaieyan explains. "It's sharing love for other human beings regardless of gender, sexual orientation or race."

Fanaieyan and his family have strong ties to the Baha'I Faith. Originally from Iran, the family suffered religious persecution with Fanaieyan's father imprisoned for three years because of his faith. International pressure secured his release.

In 1978, Fanaieyan came to the United States to study for one year. The revolution in Iran, however, turned that one year into a lifetime. He went into banking, married and moved to Orinda in 1989 with his wife and two children.

"We feel very fortunate to have found Orinda and been able to have our children attend the wonderful schools here. Both of our children went on to the UC system and one is now an optometrist and the other is in public health," says Fanaieyan.

Orinda's Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly began in 1989 and has 40 followers. Fanaieyan estimates approximately 100 Baha'i followers in Lamorinda, 100,000 nationally and more than 7 million globally.

The film and the reception are open to the public. For more information on the event, email Fanaieyan at massoud.fanaieyan@gmail.com. To learn more about the Baha'i Faith, go to www.bahai.us.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

Olive Festival Festivities set for Oct. 6

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Turtles and goats and parrots, oh my! What could it be but the annual Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area? In its 10th year, the festival celebrates the Nature Area and the olive grove planted in the 1800s.

The festival includes samples of extra virgin olive oils, with local vendors sharing their expertise, and award-winning products including Amphora, Grumpy Goats Farm, and two new vendors: Olive Drop and McEvoy Ranch. The Friends of the Nature Area will host its "All About Olives" table that includes samples of olive oils and Lindsay Olives.

Young festival-goers will have lots of activities to choose from including the Pit Spit Challenge and a plethora of arts and crafts such as making olive crowns, ceramic tile painting, face painting, Coyote Brush Studio's Nature Tattoos and solar cooking with Wendy Helms.

Dan Phillip's returns with his popular Frontier Chemistry as well as hands-on activities with the Master Gardeners. The Bug Hunt will be back again this year as well as stories in the Olive Grove.

And then there are the parrots. Thanks to the Contra Costa Avian Society, the beautiful birds will travel around the festival on



WADE BARRETT

A family at last year's festival works on an arts and crafts project, with one guest showing off the signature olive crown.

the shoulders of their handlers greeting attendees.

Throughout the day, the students from A.L.M.A. (Academy of Language & Music Arts) as well as Orinda's Ukulele Band will provide entertainment. And, if you happen to be hungry, head over to one of four food trucks.

Guided parties led by John Helms and Reg Barrett will take participants to the old Wagner Ranch homestead, blacksmith's shop, olive grove and the pond.

The festival is scheduled for 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Oct. 6. Wagner Ranch Nature Area is adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo. For more information, go to www.fwrna.org.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.org.

◆ HOLDEN from page 1

seen, heard, and valued."

Today, Holden has 36 students: 11 freshmen/sophomores and 25 juniors/seniors.

Johnson says Holden serves students from the greater Bay Area who have struggled in mainstream school settings as many have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety and/or have experienced traumatic life events.

The school, Johnson says, fosters success for those who have written off traditional education environments. It aims to use a holistic education approach, instills students with academic and personal confidence, and has small class sizes, typically a 5:1 student/teacher ratio, she says.

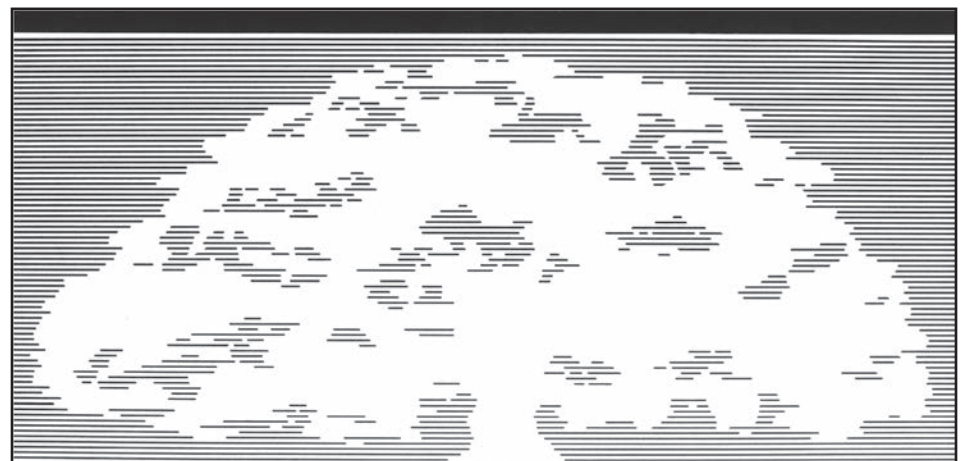
The strategy paid off for Holden senior Walker Cammack. "Before Holden I hated going to school so much that I had trouble falling asleep at night. I have experienced a lot of anxiety and depression through my life," he says. "Before Holden, I felt like I was mentally holding my breath all the time. I actually like coming to school

now. Here there is a tiny, welcoming environment where you can be yourself and you can find someone like you. I thought I was weird, but then I came here and found people just like me."

Holden doesn't have a principal but rather four co-directors. One of them, Kristin Lemoureux, says, "For many young people who have struggled in school, the issue is not their capacity to learn, but a negative relationship to 'school.' Many have developed an aversion to school and learning over the course of years of busy work, standardized tests and curriculum, lack of connection and sense of community; not being seen, understood or respected. For 50 years, we have been radically changing young people's relationship to school and learning, sending lifelong learners out into the world."

The anniversary celebration is open to the public and will be held at Fellowship Hall of the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. To learn more go to <https://holdenhigh.org/>.

Reach Bobbie Dodson at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.



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CAR TIME

What to be Aware of When it Comes to Tires

By JOHN VANEK



Tires are one of those things on your vehicle that has changed but still stayed the same. We still have to be aware of how proper vehicle maintenance will affect tire longevity. Now, we have technology affecting our tire longevity and budget. We have things like all wheel drive, run-flat tires and tire pressure monitor systems.

All-wheel drive is designed to give your vehicle better traction and confidence in adverse weather conditions. Modern all-wheel drive technology makes all four tires grip the road when they need to. They use sensors to measure the tire revolutions, and computers to operate the system.

It is crucial tires have the same amount of tire tread or the system gets confused and becomes damaged. It would be like spending your life walking around with one leg shorter than the other while holding hands with someone with equal length legs. It doesn't work well.

This means if you need one tire you may need all four. This is the reality. It makes you think twice about how much you need or use the all-wheel drive.

Another question you may ask when you buy a new car is if it has a spare tire. It is a common trend for new vehicles to have no spare. This also means that it is likely that the vehicle is equipped with "run-flat" tires that can be driven at reduced speeds when a puncture happens.

Run-flat tires are not repairable. This is all about the automotive manufacturers saving money by eliminating the spare tire and charging you more for tires. I don't like the

idea of going on a long trip with no spare. When shopping for your next vehicle be sure to understand what kind of tires it is equipped with and if a spare tire is present.

Tire pressures are impactful on tire wear and fuel mileage. Modern vehicles are equipped with a TPMS light that is mandated by the federal government. This is like a "check engine light for your tires" This could indicate that you could have a low tire, puncture or a faulty sensor causing the light to stay on even when the pressure is OK. The bottom line, do not ignore this light!

Overall maintenance, tire rotations, wheel alignments and regular inspections are crucial to good tire longevity. As your vehicle starts to show age some components become worn and will affect tire wear. Components such as shocks, struts, bushings and other steering/suspension components can make tires wear unevenly and shorten their life.

Remember the tires on your car are only as good as the thinnest tread measurement. When tires are 50 percent worn or more, they do not offer the same wet weather traction and control as thick tread does. This is something to keep in mind as winter is right around the corner.

As usual it comes down to paying attention to the maintenance and being a good consumer of automotive repair.

John Vanek is the manager of Orinda Motors, Inc. He can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

On the Calendar in October

- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**, 4 p.m. first meeting at the Orinda Community Center Kindergym. Email Matt Delmartini at mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org.
- Cal Shakes**, William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Box Office 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org. Through Oct. 13.
- Friends of the Orinda Library**, 10 a.m. Book sale. Orinda Library Sorting Room.
- Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31.*
- Orinda Chamber**, 4 p.m., Wellness Community Mixer. Meet local professionals in the wellness community, light refreshments served on rooftop terrace, 23 Orinda Way. Hosted by Dr. Amin Samadian. Call Katherine Trent for more information at 925-254-2360.
- City of Orinda**, Extended Trips with Premier World Discovery – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Highlights include Fiesta, City Tour, Old Town, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Monuments, Museums, Santa Fe City tour and more. 6 days. To request flyers call 925-253-4216.
- International Film Showcase** presents *Aga* through Oct. 10 at the Orinda Theatre. Showtimes will be available by Oct. 2 at: www.orindatheatre.com. This is a rare look at an elderly Inuit couple who live in the snow covered fields of the North following the traditions of their ancestors. But their lives are changing due to circumstances beyond their control (and not for the better). See article p. 17.
- Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also, Oct. 12, 19, and 26. See article p. 15.
- Lamorinda Arts Alliance**, 11 a.m. One Day Fall Show and Sale, Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive off St. Mary's Road; Tickets: Free. <https://laa4art.org>.
- Art Gallery at Wilder**, 2:30 p.m. View paintings by Sydney Chaney Thomas and talk with the artist at her opening reception. Light refreshments. See article p. 9.
- Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, Enjoy paintings, ceramics and prints by Mei-Yu Lo and Mei-Rung Huang and Wayne Wright and meet the artists at their reception where light refreshments will be served. See article p. 9.
- City of Orinda**, 10:30 a.m. Senior Workshops and Trips - Cool Apps: Caring for older loved ones from your phone. Presenter: Susan Hamilton. Orinda Community Center, Room #5. Email: jamerman@cityoforinda.org.
- Olive Festival**, 11 a.m. Wagner Ranch Nature Area is adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo. For more information, go to www.fwrna.org. See article p. 7.
- Orinda Theatre**, 7 p.m. Classic Film Showcase (Free Movie Night) presents *Back to the Future II*, lamorindatheatre.com. See article p. 17.
- BART** - Closures and delays Oct. 13, 19, 26 and 27. See article p. 6.
- Lamorinda Arts Council**, 4:30 p.m. 2019 Art of Mixology craft cocktail competition, featuring local bartenders, Orinda Theatre Square. Tickets \$55 in advance, \$65 at the door. <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?LamorindaArtsCouncil/eb62f20d1f/9ed6dd9e38/4aee817a43>.
- City of Orinda**, 11:45 a.m. Senior Workshops and Trips – Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle. Depart from Moraga Town Offices, 329 Rheem Blvd., Moraga, Fee: [SEE CALENDAR page 15]

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ARTS

October Galleries: Three-Eight Art Studio; Swirls of Sky and Sea

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Three-Eight Art Studio is a group of East Bay Chinese American artists who say that whether they create art or simply get together, it's all in the name of fun.

Artwork from five members of the group will be on display in October at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Meet the artists at their reception Oct. 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

According to members, the numbers "three" and "eight" mean fun, whimsical and crazy (in a good way) in Chinese popular culture. The entire gallery will be filled with 60 pieces of artwork within the theme of "Color Melody." What visitors will see is an example of how whimsy translates to different art forms. Members keep their work fresh by traveling, having group discussions and taking classes.

Doris and Wang Hai Chen of Berkeley are displaying paintings and Chinese ink drawings on rice paper. Doris' 23" x 34" watercolor on paper, *Dahlia Flowers In a Vase* will appeal to gardeners everywhere. Wang Hai's 27" x 32" acrylic on board work, *Yaya's First Astonishing*, pulls us into the world of a very young girl discovering something wonderful.

Celia Huddleston of Antioch works as a Chinese brush painting teacher when she



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nature and architecture contrast and complement in **Beichin Li's** *Autumn*, a 54" x 38" paper and acrylic on canvas in the Library Gallery this month.

is not creating her own work. She is showing watercolors and Chinese ink drawings on rice paper. Her 25" x 52" ink and color on rice paper, *National Park – Canada* portrays a North American wilderness scene seen through a traditional Chinese aesthetic. It appears Canada is chilly no matter your aesthetic. To view more of her work, go to shunghwachow.com.

Beichen Li of Oakland is a prolific acrylic painter. Her portfolio includes a variety of series: musical instruments, abstract works, portraits, architectural and travel works. She often uses photographs from her travels as a source for her paintings and likes using vibrant colors. Her 30" x 40" *Rapid Transit* evokes a bumpy ride on a city street. See what she is up to at www.beichenlifineart.com.

Lucia Tsang of Walnut Creek creates both utilitarian and artistic ceramics. Tsang knew from a very young age that she wanted to be an artist. She says, "Art has nourished me at every stage of my life. I am inspired to make sculpture by the moments in life that move me including the birth of my grandchildren, the death of my father, the internal life of trees. I create my pieces with a deep appreciation for my 5,000-year rich cultural heritage."

With the 16" x 8" x 8" figurative sculpture, *I dream, I fly*, Tsang has "translated whimsy into art" because the expression on the girl's face is pure joy.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org. The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way and open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Oct 14. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Lyrical Swirls of Sky and Sea

The paintings of Sydney Chaney Thomas will be on display in October. Meet the artist at a reception Oct. 5 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

Sydney Chaney Thomas' solo show consists of 20 paintings, mostly in oil, in varying sizes up to 48" x 37". They are a lyrical representation of natural phenomena swirling about the land and sea. Always



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sydney Chaney Thomas' expressive landscapes are on exhibit at Wilder this month, including this 12" x 30" oil on canvas *San Francisco from the East*.

they reflect a relationship between sky or water and land. Color is brushed on color until one can just discern a sense of hills, trees, clouds or water. Whatever is geometric represents the work of what humans create – sailboats, cities, buildings, houses. This is especially evident when you compare the 48" x 37" *Ghost Boats* with the 12" x 30" *San Francisco from the East*.

Chaney Thomas' lifelong immersion in, and sense of belonging to, the world out of doors is the bedrock behind all she paints. It's what she returns to over and over; this is not surprising considering she was raised on a horse ranch. A Moraga resident, Chaney Thomas has been painting and drawing since she was a young child; both her parents were painters.

As an adult, she studied watercolors for five years and for the last five years has painted with oils. The Impressionists – Renoir, Monet – are among her favorite artists. She studied economics in London and spent a lot of time in museums. Just as her parents ensured she was introduced to the world of art, she has done the same for her two college-age daughters, Paris and Siena.

Chaney Thomas says it is important that people find some kind of expression for their creativity. She says her artwork

exemplifies how much she enjoys her life. "I tried painting darker themes like the Flemish masters did, but everything always comes out happy," she says. She hopes to bring awareness to people that an original piece of artwork has its own beauty and hopes it inspires others to find their own creative work. To catch up with Chaney Thomas, go to her blog, <http://sydneychaneythomas.com>.

As the Wilder Art and Garden Center, 20 Orinda Fields Lane, is a new building, the Art Gallery at Wilder is now open to the public only when classes or events are scheduled. For now that is the first Saturday of every month for an artist reception from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. or arrange an appointment with Lamorinda Arts Council Co-curator Denise Nomura at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

Moving forward, more regular hours will be scheduled. The Orinda Parks and Recreation Dept. is seeking bookings of classes and meetings. Contact them at OrindaParksandRec@cityoforinda.org, visit them at 28 Orinda Way or call 925-254-2445.

Reach Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.

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Here's what they are saying about Laura Abrams:

Laura is our family realtor and a good friend. She is the most hard-working agent in Orinda. Overseeing every aspect of preparing our homes for the market, skillfully marketing the property, preparing our disclosures, and tirelessly working the transaction. Her negotiating skills are unmatched. We have been on the buying side and the selling side with Laura and she works both with ease. We recently moved from Orinda to an area Laura does not work and only then did we realize the true quality of service we have come to expect from a Realtor. Laura sets the bar and then exceeds it.

Laura helped us sell my parents' home in Orinda. She was amazing. Knowledgeable, hard working and went beyond what one would normally expect in a broker. She truly advocated for us and gave excellent advice in the negotiation process. Then she helped us with getting the house ready to hand over, arranging trash pickup, donations and coordinating with movers. We highly recommend her - ours was a challenging property to sell.

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EVENTS

◆ BOOKS from page 2

eventually she hopes to look at adding weekend events for people but isn't planning any immediate or dramatic changes. The store, she says, is successful, vibrant and well-supported by residents.

"We are fortunate to live in a community of people who are highly educated and value education. And what's the cornerstone of education? It is literacy, books. We are part of a community that values education. I've thought about it a lot," says Rudebusch.

Orinda Books was founded 42 years ago by five local women who felt the city needed a bookstore. Roden has worked at the store since 2006 and purchased it with her husband, Danny, in 2014. She says it has evolved into a meeting place for Orindans.

"People have been coming to the store for years and years," Roden says, noting that locals understood the importance of supporting downtown businesses. "That's become much more in people's thoughts. They are more aware of shopping locally to keep downtown vibrant and alive. It keeps local shops going and people get to meet each other."

The idea of shopping local, in fact, is behind a wave of success for independent bookstores across California and the United States, according to Calvin Crosby, executive director of the Sonoma-based Northern California Independent Booksellers Association, of which Orinda Books is a member.

There are more independent bookstores today than there were in 2008, Crosby says, adding the perception that independent bookstores are vanishing is a myth fueled by the failure of Borders

"Borders closed because they made bad decisions, not because they were book sellers," Crosby says. "The economic impact of 2008 impacted all retail."

The crash, however, forced independent book sellers to engage in better business practices, including educating consumers, Crosby says.

"We buy differently now. If we don't have a book in we can get it within 24 hours," Crosby says. "Localism itself is a huge plus. The educated consumer understands that by buying local, money stays in the community."

Another key to success is for bookstores to become part of the community, something Orinda Books has mastered, Crosby says. "It is a great store," he says. "It's a phenomenal place to shop."

The store organizes dozens of events every month, from story time for toddlers to hosting book clubs to sponsoring author readings that include lunch – one of the most popular events, according to Roden.

In October, Orinda Books will be the first East Bay bookstore to take part in the 20th anniversary of Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival. Eight local writers will read debut stories developed with the Diablo Writer's Workshop. The event takes place 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 17 and will be hosted by the co-founders and teachers of the workshop, Orinda Books bookseller Janine deBoisblanc and her partner Andrea Firth.

And then there was the special event last month – Roden's farewell party before she heads off to make Carmel Valley her (almost) full-time home. She says she plans to keep an apartment in Orinda and visit often as her son, Jacob Roden-Lowe, teaches second grade at Del Rey Elementary School.

"It's just dawning on me how much I'm going to miss it all, the customers, the reps, the book world," she says. "I wish I could drag them all with me."

Reach Simar Khanna at editor@theorindanews.com.

Car Show Roars Into Orinda

The Orinda Classic Car show brought large crowds to Orinda for sights of exotic and classic vehicles. Highlights of the show included an exhibit of Porches and a special exhibit of classic station wagons, including three woodys. Taverna Pellegrini and Loard's provided refreshments and additional entertainment was provided by the Lamorinda Idol singers. The show cul-

minated with the ever-popular drive around Orinda, where attendees could ride in one of the classics for a small donation.

The 15th annual show raised over \$45,000 for local charities including Seniors Around Town and the Orinda Historical Society. Over the past 15 years, more than \$640,000 has been raised for local charities.



DAVID DIERKS

A young attendee takes a closer look at Richard Boughlosky's 2018 Ferrari 488 Spider, one of over 200 automobiles on display.



DAVID DIERKS

With its distinctive "gullwing" doors, this mint condition 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SL Coupe was one highlight of this year's show.

◆ EVERYDAY from page 6

wooden siding that looks like something you would use to block the dumpster view with some ferns on a coffee shop patio. Can't you just hear Jerry, "Oh, did the Johnsons build a tiny guest house in their front yard? Nice but it's awfully small. It almost looks like a wait a minute"

Just by their very nature, Porta Potties are awkward. There's always the pervasive fear that you will fumble and drop something of vital importance into the menacing abyss of sewage, or that some conniving prankster lies in wait to topple the structure whilst you are busy inside. There's only a fleeting amount of glee over the sight of a Porta Potty, and that is only if one is desperate, possessing of exceptional gymnastic ability to avoid contact with any of the sur-

faces, and prescient enough to carry hand sanitizer. The walls echo with the sound of young mothers' frantic "DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!" orders to their newly potty-trained toddlers, who, quite frankly, are either intrigued or petrified by this experience that has their mother so wiggled out.

A sow's ear will never be a silk purse, and a portable toilet will always be a portable toilet, no matter how much one tries to beautify it. So I say, let there be no shame. Let the potty simply be what it is meant to be: Pungent yet practical, frightening yet faithful, the awkwardly upright sidekick of Orinda contractors. Friend of the skilled laborer, the delivery driver, the curious toddler and the over-caffeinated dog walker; monument to the continuing suburban quest for excellent resale value.

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RESTAURANT GUIDE

The 2019 Orinda Restaurant Guide – *Bon Appétit!*

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Try a hometown restaurant whether it's a quick bite or a relaxed meal. Options include coffee/tea, healthy smoothies, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, a little nosh, a glass of wine or beer, scotch, or just takeout. Restaurants with full bars in Orinda include Casa Orinda, Fourth Bore, Piccolo Napoli (when it reopens), Saffron Indian Restaurant and Bar, Shelbys, Siam Orchid and Taverna Pellegrini.

If you are looking for Happy Hour spots, look no further. Fourth Bore's all day on Mon. and Tue. – Fri. from 2 – 5 p.m.; Piccolo Napoli will have Happy Hour when they reopen; Shelbys Tue. – Fri. 3 – 5 p.m. Saffron 5 – 6 p.m. daily; Taverna Pellegrini 4 – 6 p.m. daily.

For entertainment, listen to a pianist and drop-in singers at Cine Cuvée on Sun. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and stand-up comedy night the first Wed. of every month. Fourth Bore features live music most Thu. – Sat. evenings and hosts Trivia Night on Tuesdays. Saffron provides live classical Indian music 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. Taverna Pellegrini offers live music on Thu. nights. Skip the mess and treat the kids. Thanks for making a hometown choice. Keep this section or go online at www.orindanews.com.

AMERICAN/CALIFORNIA
CUISINE

Casa Orinda
20 Bryant Way
925-254-2981

www.casaorinda.net

Hours: Dinner Mon. - Sat. 4 to 10 p.m.; Bar Mon. - Thu. 4 to 11 p.m.; Bar Fri. - Sat. 4 p.m. to midnight; Sun. Dinner 4 to 9 p.m.; Bar 4 to 10 p.m.

The Casa Orinda is Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant, celebrating 87 years. Try their new Mexican Mondays menu with authentic Oaxacan dishes, prime rib to order or famous fried chicken with homemade biscuits and honey. At the full bar, you can gaze upon rodeo dudes and cowgirls plus antique firearms. Enjoy the full bar at this local gem – a place out of time. Reservations recommended.

Cine Cuvée
2 Theatre Square, #103
925-386-0125

www.cinecuvée.com

Hours: Mon., Tue., Thu. 5 to 9 p.m.; Fri. 4 to 11 p.m.; Sat. 3 to 11 p.m.; Sun. 3 to 9 p.m.; Closed Wed.

Sip flights of wine, bubbles or craft beer while lounging on a leather banquette watching a silent film. Listen to a pianist and drop-in singers on Open Mic Night, Sun., 6 to 9 p.m. Get your laugh on the first Wed. of every month at 7 p.m. at stand-up Comedy Night. Try the New England lobster roll, lobster cocktail or Atlantic shrimp cocktail. Outdoor seating. Check website for special offers/events.

Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill
2 Theatre Square, #130
925-254-1183

www.thefourthbore.com

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fri. -

Sat. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Monday Happy Hour- all day; Happy Hour Tue. – Fri. 2 to 5 p.m.

Orinda's premier alehouse sporting 28 craft beers on tap, wine list, full bar. Sports on eight flat screens. Return visits for fried chicken tacos, pulled pork nachos, Southwestern salad with chicken and chipotle dressing, grilled salmon with asparagus and rice pilaf with white butter garlic sauce. Large outdoor patio with big fire pit, comfy seating and event deck for live music most Thu. – Sat. evenings. Happy hour bar menu. Team Trivia Night every Tue., 7 to 9 p.m.; win free bar tabs and prizes. Dog friendly, validated parking.

Nation's Giant Hamburgers and Great Pies
76 Moraga Way
925-254-8888

www.nationsrestaurants.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Sun. – Wed. 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Thu. 6 to 12 a.m.; Fri. - Sat. 6 to 1 a.m.

Late at night and starving? Fast-food joints have nothing on these big, juicy burgers cooked just how you like 'em. They'll do it just as fast and for takeout too. Breakfast served all day. Pies by the slice or whole. Kids love this place and you won't break the bank.

Reem's Steaks
70 Moraga Way
925-253-2004

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sun.

Try one of their 15 Philly cheese steak sandwiches, eight burger choices, fish and chips or shrimp and chips. Nice selection of Korean BBQ – your choice of grilled beef short ribs, Bul-Go-Gi, spicy pork or chicken teriyaki served with rice and vegetables or ask for a Bibimbap sandwich. Kid friendly with a special menu for them; take out. Yelpers report generous portions and fair pricing.



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Shelby's co-owner **Carlos Rangel** mans the restaurant's well-stocked bar after its recent remodel.

Shelbys
2 Theatre Square, #152
925-254-9687

www.shelbyseatbetter.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Tue. – Fri. 5 to 8:30 p.m.; Lunch

[SEE GUIDE page 12]



LYNN KALMAR

Open every day for lunch and dinner, **Baan Thai's** menu includes five curry dishes (green, yellow, mango, peanut and pumpkin) that can be paired with a choice of chicken, prawns, seafood, or vegetables and tofu.

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RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ GUIDE from page 11

Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dinner Sat. 5 to 8:30 p.m.; Brunch Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Sun. 5 to 8 p.m.; Happy Hour Tue. – Fri. 3 to 5 p.m.

Remodeled dining room and brand new bar. Try their chicken and mango salad, weiner-schnitzel or penne a la Arrabiata, spiced just right. Desserts include bread pudding and chocolate mousse. Full bar, patio seating great for people watching. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible, dog-friendly.

CAFES

Caffé Teatro

26 Orinda Way (under the Orinda Library)
925-254-5871

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Orinda's answer to Cheers. Outdoor tables/umbrellas near public art to people watch while sipping Illy coffee, almond or soy milk. Generous, reasonably priced sandwiches – pesto chicken, turkey melt, avocado smash, lox-bagel-cream cheese - or Korean BBQ. Quality tea selection. Kid friendly.

Genuine Goodness

21 Orinda Way, Suite G
925-317-3348

www.gengoodness.com

Hours: Open Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Lunch 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Closed Sat. - Sun.

Locally owned spot for a quick eat-in or to go lunch. Handcrafted soups, salads, sandwiches and smoothies made from all-natural, high-quality ingredients. Sandwich specials like turkey with brie with chili jam served with mixed greens and fresh fruit. Menu changes daily. Bread baked daily with gluten-free options such as chocolate raspberry brownies. Kids bento lunch box. Some outdoor seating.

Geppetto's Caffe

87 Orinda Way
925-253-9894

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Speedy service in the morning with fresh squeezed juice or a breakfast sandwich. Outside umbrellas offer a respite to enjoy lunch with a turkey and brie or veggie sandwich on any kind of bread including gluten free. Homemade soup and smoothies. Phone in to go lunch order for quick service.

Peet's Coffee and Tea

63 Moraga Way
925-258-9328

www.peets.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Exceptional beans freshly roasted and served up strong by expert baristas. Variety of teas, hot chocolate and tasty pastries. Try their ethereal jasmine downy pearls tea. Clean and neat with strong Wi Fi; good for people watching in comfy seating inside, benches outside.

Sharetea Orinda

41 Moraga Way (under construction)
shareteaorinda@gmail.com

Hours: Opening Date Unknown at Press Time – Possibly December 2019

Sharetea recipes contain tea with optional flavors of milk and sugar with toppings known as pearls, boba, or popping boba – which are chewy, flavored tapioca balls. Fruit jelly, grass jelly and puddings can be added. There are many varieties with fruits of all kinds and ice-blended versions as well. Two popular drinks are black pearl milk tea and green pearl milk tea, usually served cold.

Starbucks

2 Theatre Square, #106
925-258-0476

www.starbucks.com



SALLY HOGARTY

Genuine Goodness offers an assortment of house-made soups, sandwiches and baked goods, including fresh bread baked daily. Shown working the counter is Miramonte senior **Lyle Pemble**.

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Sun. 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Convenient location, friendly baristas, coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials and tempting pastries. Also healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi Fi.

Starbucks

One Camino Sobrante, #9
925-253-0447

www.starbucks.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Thu. 4 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Fri. 4 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sun. 4:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friendly baristas who remember your name and order; outdoor seating. Coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials, pastries, healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi Fi.

Village Inn Cafe

204 Village Square
925-254-6080

www.orindacoffeeshop.com

Hours: Breakfast Tue. – Sat. 7 to 11:30 a.m., Sun. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Lunch Tue. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Closed Mon.

A family friendly, no frills diner just right for a cup of coffee with an omelette; raves for their Belgian waffles. Lunch sandwiches like veggie burgers, avocado-turkey-bacon club; add fries. Generous portions, coloring books for kids, easy parking.

CHINESE

Szechwan Restaurant Chinese Cuisine

79 Orinda Way (Village Square)
925-254-2020

www.szechwanorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Tue. – Sat. 11:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Tue. – Sun. 4 to 9:30 p.m.; Closed Mon.

Across from the golf course, cozy booths; lunch specials. Return visits for their generous portions, potstickers, BBQ pork appetizer or fried rice, basil eggplant, orange chicken or Mongolian beef. Order to go from online menus. Family friendly, beer and wine, easy

parking.

Yu Bistro Mandarin and Sezechuan Cuisine
One Orinda Way, #1

925-253-9852

www.yubistro1.wixsite.com/orinda

Hours: Lunch Sun. – Thu. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dinner 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Lunch Fri. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dinner 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Big takeout business; lunch specials. Low sodium, no MSG menu includes Peking duck, chicken/seafood or house special clay pot, mu-shu pork, Singapore style chow fun or chow mi fun, Kung Pao tofu with string beans. Brown rice on request. Spiciness at the level you prefer and prepared dry wok at your request.

DELICATESSENS

Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub

64 Moraga Way
925-254-7202

www.europahofbrau.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A spacious cafeteria style family restaurant. Kids plates, senior plates and daily specials with two sides, bread and butter. Known for delicious corned beef and mash with cabbage; turkey and meats carved; sandwiches created right before your eyes. Grab a stool to catch a game and have a beer on tap. Play room for kids with video games and play structures in a soundproofed, glass-enclosed area.

Subway Sandwiches

2 Theatre Square, #108
510-601-6400

www.subway.com

Hours: Open 7 days – Mon. – Sat. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This well-known chain is always good for a sandwich on the run. Try their soup. Sandwiches can be ordered in sizes – they come by the inch; and you pick the bread. It's all made on the spot.

[SEE GUIDE page 13]

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RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ GUIDE from page 12

DESSERTS

Loard's Ice Cream and Candy

230 Brookwood Road

925-254-3434

www.loards.com

Hours: Closed Sunday. Mon. – Wed. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thu. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

This all-ages Orinda favorite is the perfect place to stop for a generous scoop. Choose waffle or sugar cones or order an ice cream birthday cake. Sample raspberry, coffee, rocky road or vanilla with gummy bears ice cream or one of their other 37+ flavors.

Republic of Cake

2 Theatre Square, #151

Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-3900

http://republicofcake.com

Hours: Tue. - Thu. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.*; Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.*; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.* Closed Mon.

* Or until the display case is sold out.

Delicious, moist cupcakes made with the finest local ingredients such as locally milled flour to keep a low carbon footprint. Seasonal cupcakes and wheat free options. Flavors, such as vanilla passion fruit and coconut crunch, change monthly – check website. Try their chocolate-vanilla or vanilla-vanilla minis. Join their cake club to get one stamp per \$10 purchase; fully stamped card gets you \$5 off.

INDIAN

Saffron Indian Restaurant and Bar

2 Theatre Square, #153

Orinda, CA 94563

925-217-1211

www.saffronorinda.com

Hours: Lunch: Tue. – Sun. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Sun. 5 to 9 p.m. Happy Hour daily 5 to 6 p.m.

Family owned and operated with a full bar and

live music on Tuesday nights. If you like Indian food, you can't fail to find something to your liking on the 10-page menu. There are many vegetarian and protein -choices to contemplate while you nibble on fragrantly spiced papadams. Return visits for Saag paneer, chicken tikka masala, lamb chops – the list goes on and on because there are both North and South India dishes to try.

ITALIAN

La Piazza Pizzeria Trattoria

15 Moraga Way

925-253-9191

www.lapiazzaorinda.com

Hours: Closed Sat. and Sun. Dinner Mon. – Thu. 5 to 9:30 p.m., Fri. 5 to 10 p.m.

Good food, family friendly staff and a cozy atmosphere across from the theater. Try their brick-oven prosciutto pizza, calamari salad, risotto Milanese or penne a la vodka. Tiramisu for dessert, a must try. Weekly specials, local beer and good wine selection by the glass.

Piccolo Napoli

2 Theatre Square, #144

925-253-1225

www.piccolo-napoli.com

At press time Piccolo Napoli was being remodeled by new owners; see Business Buzz on page 20. Full bar and Happy Hour planned when they open.

Taverna Pellegrini

65 Moraga Way

925-258-4200

www.tavernapellegrini.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Dinner Only Sun. – Thu. 3 to 10 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 3 to 11 p.m. Happy Hour 4 to 6 p.m. Daily

Tuscan setting with three dozen pizza and pasta choices, all made from scratch. Full bar, with sports, live music Thur. night. Try the veal piccata, risotto with scallops or rigatoni alla Boscaiola (smoked mozzarella, sundried tomatoes, mushrooms, prosciutto); vegetarian



SALLY HOGARTY

Julia (L) and Jenna display the tempting cupcakes available at Republic of Cake. In addition to such staples as chocolate and vanilla, the gourmet goodies also include seasonal favorites.

and gluten free choices. Tiramisu and affogato are among the many desserts.

Village Pizza

19 Orinda Way

925-254-1200

www.villagepizzaorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner 5 to 9 p.m.; Open Sat. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dinner Sun. 5 to 9 p.m.

Family atmosphere in this casual spot. Wide variety of pizza options from vegetarian to chicken, sausage and pepperoni. In a hurry? Try a mini pizza for lunch dripping in cheese, served with a salad. Six salad choices and a Kid's Menu. Wine, beer; best news yet – they deliver. Local since 1984, family-run.

Zamboni's Pizza

One Camino Sobrante, #4

925-254-2800

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

See photo p. 19. Everything is made fresh daily with additive-free cheeses. Your pizza is built to order; also pizza by the slice and salads. You can eat in, take out, or they deliver. Return visits for a slice of pesto pizza with plenty of garlic, cheese and basil, \$5; gluten free crust available. Wine, beer, soft drinks. Completely remodeled interior with flat screen TV.

JAPANESE

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925-254-3611

www.myhanazen.com

Hours: Dinner Only Tue. - Sat. 5:30 to 9 p.m.; [SEE GUIDE page 14]



SALLY HOGARTY

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RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ GUIDE from page 13

Reservations only. Closed Sun.

Owner Kenji Horikawa is devoted to kaiseki cuisine meaning food is prepared in a way that marks the seasons. Selective ingredients combined with tradition yields high quality. Reviewers rave about the sushi rice and everything else. With 18 seats, reservations are a must. Impressive sake choices.

Niwa Restaurant
One Camino Sobrante, #6
925-254-1606

www.niwarestaurant.com

Hours: Closed Sunday. Lunch Mon. – Thu. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Dinner 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Lunch Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dinner 4:30 to 10 p.m.; Open Sat. noon to 10 p.m.

Sushi with more fish than rice. Try their lunch specials, oyster shooter, Hank’s roll, salmon skin hand roll or spicy tuna hand roll. Known for their smoky, sweet sauce and complimentary cucumber salad. Check out the specials board, takeout available, order online. Wine, beer and sake.

Serika Restaurant
2 Theatre Square, #118
925-254-7088

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thu. 5 to 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Sun. Lunch 12:30 to 3 p.m., Dinner 5 to 9 p.m.

Fresh sushi in a relaxing spot tucked away from the street. Yelpers like the hamachi collar, sushi platter, miso, obento box with salmon and chicken, tuna, sashimi chirashi and lunch specials. Gluten free soy sauce. Plenty of kid-friendly food. Kirin on tap, wine and sake.

Sushi Island
19 Moraga Way
925-253-8399

www.sushiislandorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Mon. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thu. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Dinner Fri. – Sat. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Lunch Sun. noon to 3 p.m.; Dinner 5 to 9 p.m.

Try their super fresh a la carte sashimi, Maguro fever and sushi island roll. Bento lunch box specials \$9.50 – choose tofu, saba, salmon, sashimi, sushi rolls and tempura. Kids menu.



ELANA O'LOSKY

Known for its authentic ingredients and fresh sashimi, **Sushi Island** also offers the convenience of online ordering.

Real crab meat always served. Order take out online. Beer, wine and sake.

MEDITERRANEAN
Petra Café
2 Theatre Square, #105
254-5290

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Sun. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Top marks from online fans for the food from takeout favorite with its tiny interior and outside tables. Regulars swear by chicken or lamb and beef gyro with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and tzatziki sauce in a warm fluffy pita. Roasted vegetables, falafel, spanakopita, dolmas, or hummus for vegetarians. For salad lovers, try salmon salad and troy salad.

MEXICAN
Baja Cali Taqueria and Grill
23 Orinda Way, #H
925-258-9987

www.facebook.com/BajaCaliTaqueriaGrill

Hours: Open 7 days 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Popular spot for lunch and take out. Yelpers like the table salsa and chips, salmon tacos, Chicali chicken burrito, enchiladas, tamales and aguachiles. Kids menu. Beer including Negro Modelo, wine, micheladas, or sodas and free Wi Fi. Ample parking in rear of building.

Maya Mexican Grill
74 Moraga Way
925-258-9049

Hours: Mon. – Sat., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Try some of their authentic Mexican dishes from family recipes. All sauces and salsas are made in-house daily; they roast their own chilis, grill their own meat; all platos are cooked to

order. Can't say better than that. Busy at lunch-time so order take out. People come back for: super burrito with chicken, vegetarian burrito, fish tacos, guacamole. Kids menu. Beer, wine and soft drinks.

THAI
Baan Thai
99 Orinda Way
925-253-0989

www.baanthai-orinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days: Lunch – 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Return visits for chicken satay appetizer with peanut sauce, Thai crunch salad, pumpkin curry with prawns. Lunch specials with entrée choice, sauce choice (curry, ginger, etc.) rice and salad. Options include tofu, vegetables, chicken, prawns, scallops or calamari. Vegan upon request, take out. Wine, beer, Thai iced tea, hot ginger tea. Off street parking in rear of building complex.

Siam Orchid
23 Orinda Way, #F
925-253-1975

www.siamorchidorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Dinner Every Night 4:30 to 9 p.m.

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99 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-0989

OUTDOORS

◆ CALENDAR from page 8

- \$177. Email: jamerman@cityoforinda.org.
- 13 **Live at Orinda**, 5 p.m. Performance by Nicolas King, 2019 Legends Award winning jazz vocalist and former child star. King will be accompanied by 7-time Emmy Award winning musical director and jazz legend Mike Renzi. Info. and tickets at www.lam-orindatheatres.com or 925-254-9065.
- 14 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m. The Poetry Circle will meet and discuss *Soft Targets* by Debra Landau. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome anyone interested in poetry.*
- 16 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss *The Overstory* by Richard Powers.*
- 17 **Orinda Books**, 7 p.m. Launching: A Reading with the Diablo Writers' Workshop—a Litquake Event: Eight local writers step up to share debut stories developed with the

dance all around us to those in need."For any questions, please send an email to info@mindfullittles.org. Register at: <http://bit.ly/2Lxn6T4> Website: <https://mindfullittles.org/>.

- 23 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Random Readers will read and discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover.*
- Baha'i Faith**, 7 p.m. presents the film *The Gate* at the Orinda Theatre followed by a panel discussion with co-producer and actor Adam Mondschein. See article p. 7.
- Orinda Books**, 1 p.m. Poetry Reading: Lafayette Orinda Poetry Program under the direction of Amy Glynn, Lafayette/Orinda Poet Laureate, presents poets Thomas Stanton and David Rosenthal, reading from their recent work.*
- 28 **Baha'i Faith**, 7:30 p.m. Reception celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of The Báb at the Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road in Orinda. Email Fanaieyan at



JUSTIN COLE

All this can be yours at the annual Art of Mixology fundraiser for the Lamorinda Arts Council on Oct. 12 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. in Orinda Theatre Square. Proceeds benefit art programs including elementary, middle and high school student programs in Lamorinda. Trophy winner **Megan Abraham** is pictured here with her winning Art of Staging table, *The Cleopatra*. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/mixology/> for more info or tickets. \$55 in advance, \$65 at the door. Must be 21 to participate.

- Diablo Writer's Workshop. The evening will be hosted by the cofounders and teachers of the workshop, our own bookseller Janine deBoisblanc and her partner Andrea Firth. See article p. 2.*
- 18 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Gerry Wallace Fall Exhibition & Sale of Ceramic Art.*
- Parks and Rec** select summer camp open house, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m. and Kids Night Out, 6 p.m., Art and Garden Center at Wilder Park. Register at <https://secure.recl.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog>.
- 19 **Saint Mary's College Guild**, 5 p.m. Featuring Delizioso Italian Cuisine; Bella Musica by The Joe Simoni Duo; dinner, wine, entertainment and more! All proceeds benefiting student financial aid scholarships. Saint Mary's College Soda Center. \$49/person including parking.
- 22 **Mindful Littles**, 4 p.m. at White Pony Express for their Family Volunteering Program! White Pony Express is one of our nonprofit partners, "working to eliminate hunger and poverty by delivering the abun-

massoud.fanaieyan@mail.com. To learn more about the Baha'i Faith, go to www.bahai.us.

*Orinda Books is at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 – 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way, Orinda. For agenda www.mofd.org/board/meetings.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to [Jill.Gelster@calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:Jill.Gelster@calendar.aspenconsult.net).



Seasoned Shopper

Pick a Peck of Pickled Peppers

BARBARA KOBSAR



October is National Pickled Peppers month, and the farmers' market is the perfect place to find all kinds of peppers. All sizes, colors and shapes of peppers come in only two flavors – sweet or hot. Sweet peppers include bell peppers, pimientos, Cubanelles and sweet cherry peppers.

There are countless varieties of hot peppers and as a group are known as chili peppers. All pack some degree of heat. Pasilla and Anaheim are relatively mild; jalapeno, cayenne and serrano are considered hot; and habanero and ghost peppers are extremely pungent.

Choose your favorite chilies to make these easy pickled peppers that will store in the refrigerator for a few months. (These could be on your make-ahead list for holiday gift giving).

Pickled Peppers

- 2 pounds chili peppers (any variety)
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and cut into halves
- 5 cups water
- 1 cup white vinegar
- One quarter cup pickling salt
- 1- 2 teaspoons celery seed
- 1-2 teaspoons black peppercorns



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spicy **serrano peppers** are a popular choice for making salsa and pico de gallo, or can be pickled for later use.


Wash four pint size jars (or two quart size jars) and the lids. Wash and trim off stem end of peppers. Slice into one quarter inch rounds or cut in half lengthwise. Divide peppers and garlic evenly between jars, pressing down to fill in spaces.

Stir water, vinegar, salt and spices together in a pot over medium low heat until salt is dissolved. Pour hot brine over peppers in the jars, covering the peppers. Screw on lids and cool to room temperature. Best if left to sit for a few days to meld the flavors.

Refrigerate for up to two months. (These are not canned so must be refrigerated). Enjoy on antipasto platters and sandwiches, chopped in quesadilla, blended with fresh tomato and onion to make salsa, or as a garnish or quick snack.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. For further information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at (925) 431-8361.


Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the JAM STAND at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmer's Market) Association Board of Directors.

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CHARITY / FILM

Tickets on Sale for Festival of Trees Benefiting Two Local Nonprofits

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Monument Crisis Center in Concord and Renaissance Scholars at California State University, East Bay will be the recipients of this year's Festival of Trees benefit organized by the Orinda Woman's Club.

Marking its 33rd year, the event takes place at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 21 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon.

The Crisis Center is a community-based non-profit family resource center for Central and East Contra Costa County. It offers food, resources and referrals to low-income individuals and families to help them become stable.

Providing support services to students exiting the foster care system to accomplish their goal of obtaining a college degree is the mission of Renaissance Scholars explains Janet Nelson, chairperson of Festival

of Trees.

"It's a thrill to walk into the foyer of the hotel and see the trees, baskets and wreaths on every table with their creative designs just waiting to be claimed by the winning raffle tickets," says Nelson.


Past president Barbara Rogan says she feels an enormous sense of pride at what the women accomplish. "Typically, we raise over \$30,000 to support our various charities. Last year, \$38,000 was raised," she says.

To accomplish this, along with ticket sales, is a raffle of gift baskets, small Christmas trees filled with presents, and a

as soon as I step out. Everyone is smiling and clapping as I look into the crowded room. It's such a happy atmosphere," she says.


Model Patti Camras, who is featured on the event invitation in a black evening ensemble, says, "Participating in this fashion show is so much fun. Helen Lyall's clothes are fabulous. I've been a model since 2005 and every year, I pick out my favorite outfit to purchase," she says. "I like it that the Woman's Club is focused on both social and service oriented work. They contribute to very good causes."

To purchase tickets, priced at \$95, go



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

CINEMA WITH A GUEST LIST



Tom Westlake

This month offers far more than sitting in a darkened room, watching images projected on a screen. Two of the offered movies include special guest stars to add and enrich the movie going experience.

In a way October's selection of movies has a sort of film festival vibe to it without the searchlights and red carpet. Nor will there be much traveling involved. Because the Rheem is still dark, it looks as if the Orinda Theatre will be a sort of one-stop shopping for all cinematic needs. To continue with the film festival theme, there also will be a first, of sorts, that I have never written about before, but we'll get to that later.

Right now let's take a look at what the International Film Showcase has in store. We're going to travel to a place that, at first glance, might not seem like a location that would be on anyone's first choice list. Indeed, the exact location is not really revealed but if a parallel is to be made, it would probably be Siberia or some other place that is just as inhospitable. (A further hint as to the location of this film might come in the form of the name of the central character: Nanook.)

For now, let's just call it the North and the name of the film is *Aga*. Here we meet Nanook and his wife Sedna. They lead a quiet, isolated, traditional life hunting, fishing and tending to the home. Even though this sounds primitive, they are not so cut off that they do not know about the possibility of climate change. It is exactly this that Nanook initially thinks of when their food become harder to come by.

Their two children have long since moved away, preferring to live a more modern, opportunistic life. Though one visits them regularly, it is, due to Sedna falling ill, the desire for a full family unification that drives this film.

There is an immense icy beauty and anyone who appreciates films from the likes of Malick, Kubrick or Tarkovsky will definitely find something to appreciate. The film has a one-week run at the Orinda, starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 4. For more information and previews of this and coming attractions, go to internationalshowcase.org.

The next selection is a little odd insofar as one might well wonder why this one film was chosen and not the other two. (It's part of a trilogy.) It gets odder still when you find out that this is not the first part of a trilogy, or is it the last but the one in the middle.

I do not speak of *The Two Towers* or *The Empire Strikes Back* but rather *Back to the Future Part 2*. Often overlooked when one speaks of to-be-continued movie story lines, it must be mentioned that, when it's all put together, it is actually regarded as

one of the more successful movie trilogies of all time.

It was also one of the earliest, which, in part, could be one of the reasons for its popularity. The other reasons, of course would be its director. Robert Zemeckis has always tried to push the envelope, technologically, with his films. *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* and *Contact* come immediately to mind and the *Back to the Future* films certainly follow suit, not just because they were ahead of their time but also (as anyone who has seen these films will attest) behind it, too.

Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd also deserve a lion's share of the accolades associated with this movie as they lend their respective gravitas and lunacy toward making this outlandish tale just that much more enjoyable.

And speaking of the cast, one of the cast will be on hand to speak about his experience on the set. Jeffery Weissman, who plays George McFly, Marty McFly's dad, promises to regale the audience with behind-the-scenes stories, including how he got the part in the first place. That you don't want to miss!

This 30th anniversary showing takes place at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. Oct. 10. Admission is free. "Great Scott!"

Now, as mentioned, I'm pleased to announce that I'm doing something in this column I've never done before. We've talked about every sort of film there is from silly teen comedies to heart-rending tragedies but I don't think I've ever covered a documentary. That deficit ends now with a special screening of *The Gate: Dawn of the Bahai' I Faith*.

As the title implies, this film traces the history of the faith back to its roots. Indeed, there is great significance in this as this film will be showing a little under a week before the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Bab.

Featuring learned scholars and historical re-enactments, *The Gate* attempts to explain and elucidate all facets of this faith while staying true to its tenets. There will also be a discussion afterward with Masoud Fanaieyan serving as moderator and the film's co-producer and actor, Adam Mondschein.

This event takes place at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. Oct. 23.

No column would be complete without me imploring you to make frequent visits to orindamovies.com so you don't miss many of the other additional shows, including several live concerts.

And always remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Reach Tom Westlake at poppinjay@earthlink.net.



SALLY HOGARTY

A guest admires the assortment of table top trees, baskets and wreaths available for raffle at last year's Festival of Trees.

silent auction featuring a complimentary stay for two in a deluxe guest room at the Lafayette Park Hotel, a certificate for two at the Etcerta Fashion Sip and Shop, and more. A destination raffle includes a condo at Lake Tahoe or a stay at the Hampton Inn for two nights with breakfast in downtown Chicago.

Karen Norris has designed and made many trees with the help of friends. They range from a "Hamilton" theme to "Old World Charm."

"Our most popular tree is the silver decorated miniature tree called The Money Tree," says its creator Kelly Davis. "It is full of lights and rolled up bills. The money on this tree is raised by the members at our September and October meetings."

The event includes a fashion show and lunch that is served in the dining room where an elevated ramp runs down the center for the models to parade. Master of ceremonies will be Dan Ashley, co-anchor of *ABC 7 News*. Fashions will be from Helen Lyall Clothes for Women and Scott Lyall Clothes for Men.

Sandra Casentini is modeling for her second time. "My nervousness vanishes

to bit.ly/orindawomansclub where you also can donate. Or contact Kelly Davis at 925-324-7690, kellyd94563@hotmail.com, or Betty Brotherton at 925-963-6356, bbrothe590@aol.com.

Reach Bobbie Dodson at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sleepy Hollow moms **Jen Wolf, Adrian Lewis, Jen Sabri** and **Farnaz Nowroozi** sold sweet treats at last year's Creepy Hollow.

Spooky Fun Planned at School Halloween Festivals

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

October in Orinda can be unpredictable. This month can bring one last heat wave or the first taste of fall's cooler temperatures – sometimes both in the same week. But regardless of the weather, October always brings carnival games, tasty treats, and a haunted house or two as the elementary schools put on their fall festivals in celebration of the season.

Sleepy Hollow Elementary (20 Washington Lane) embraces the spirit of its headless horseman mascot and transforms into Creepy Hollow on Saturday, Oct. 19. Open from Noon – 4 p.m., the event includes a haunted house, life-size Hungry Hippos game, inflatable obstacle course and slides, face painting, a DJ dance party, carnival games and more. Food trucks will be on site and the ever-popular Creepy Kitchen will offer an imaginative assortment of cupcakes and cookies. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by cash or check at the door.

Funfest Carnival is back at Glorietta Elementary (15 Martha Road) on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a super slide, rock wall, haunted house and game booths designed for kids of all ages, with plenty of prizes to pick from. Attendees can also try their luck at the Funfest raffle or purchase a gourmet meal to go. Admission is free but game tickets can be purchased by cash or credit card at the door.

Closing out the pre-Halloween festivities, Del Rey Elementary holds its annual Boo Fest Saturday, Oct. 26 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Visitors can expect an assortment of carnival games and prizes, a bounce house and entertainment, plus the chance to win a take-home dessert in the cake walk. Food options include El Paisa (Abel's taco truck) and hot dogs, with Loard's ice cream also available. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door with cash only. Ages 2 and under are free.

Reach Lynn Kalmar at assistanteditor@theorindanews.com.

School Events in October

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Glorietta Elementary, 10:30 a.m. Executive Meeting.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Freshman Parent Discussion Group</p> <p>2 Glorietta Elementary, 7 p.m. Parents Club full membership meeting.
Miramonte High School, SAT Testing.</p> <p>6 Wagner Ranch Elementary School, Family Movie Night.</p> <p>7 AUHSD Mixed Choir Fall Choral Classic, Chamber & Concert Choir, LOPC. All day rehearsal & evening performance.
Holden High School, 6:30 Parent support group.</p> <p>8 Del Rey Elementary, 10 a.m. Firefighter visit.</p> <p>10 Del Rey Elementary, 8:30 a.m. WRNA Native American Days through Oct. 11.</p> <p>12 Holden High School, 1 p.m. 50th Anniversary Open House.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Homecoming Dance.</p> | <p>14 OUSD Elementary Schools, no school – professional development.
Miramonte High School, no School – staff development day.</p> <p>16 Miramonte High School, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.</p> <p>19 Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, 12 p.m. Creepy Hollow Halloween festival. See article this page.</p> <p>20 Glorietta Elementary, 11 a.m. Funfest Carnival. See article this page.
Orinda Academy, Open House.</p> <p>24 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Also, Oct. 25 and 26.</p> <p>26 Del Rey, 12:30 p.m. Boo Fest. See article this page.</p> <p>31 Glorietta Elementary, 8:15 a.m. Halloween parade.
Del Rey Elementary, 10 a.m. Halloween parade.</p> |
|---|---|

Send calendar items to [Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:Jill.Gelster@calendar@aspenconsult.net).

◆ ROADS from page 1

citizens of Orinda.”

One idea floated at a workshop was to allow those living on private roads to opt out of or pay a lower tax on new residential roads that are not arterials or collectors – collector roads feed drivers to larger capacity arterial roads that lead to freeways. “This has some appeal, but needs further research to determine whether it is feasible and legal,” says Fay.

Of perhaps even greater concern than ongoing private road maintenance is the impact of landslides on private roads caused by poor drainage, says Fay. “These can be very costly to repair and in some cases beyond the financial capability of those living on the road. Some people feel this is of more importance for the city.”

For some Orindans, though, the time to take action on the rights of private road dwellers is long overdue. Narayanaswamy Krishnamurthi, 82, who has lived in Orinda on a private road since December, says the excuse that there isn't enough money is a “cop out.”

A Lamorinda area resident since 1976, Krishnamurthi says the council “has to find a way to raise the money.” He says the first step is forming a task force but says the city is not willing to.

The retired engineer compares the city's roads dispute with California's fractured relationship with the Trump administration, saying his “road is not protected even though I am taxed. What if California was not protected by the Defense Department because the President doesn't like us?”

Even though he lives on a public road,

Dan Slavin agrees with Krishnamurthi that the current system for maintaining roads in Orinda isn't fair to private road residents.

“It just doesn't make sense to even make the distinction between ‘private’ and ‘public’ roads,” says Slavin. He says the designation of private roads was “simply a way to get developers to pay for the building of the roads, which is just fine. But it does not need to include the maintenance of the roads.”

Slavin said he would like to see the issue put on the ballot. “I really wish we could have this put to a vote so that all Orinda residents could voice their opinions.”

Referring to the City Council's five members, he said that a vote by residents “makes more sense than a decision by just five people.”

To comment on this story email editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ BART from page 6

Lafayette Station and Oak Hill Road will be closed off to allow equipment and material to be placed near and in the tracks.

Lane closures for single-tracking will only happen 11 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday and 11 p.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday. All lane closures will happen near the Lafayette Station at Oak Hill Road.

Nighttime work also is planned for after service closes on weeknights through at least the end of October.

Use BART's Trip Planner, call the BART Transit Information Center at 510-465-BART (2278), or get the BART app to plan a trip.



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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- Oct. 10 – Wisdom Workshop: Lamorinda Village: Aging at Home with Community Support and Connections; 10:30 a.m.; FREE**
- Oct. 12 – Senior Trip: Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle; 11:45 a.m.-6 p.m.; \$177**
- Oct. 17 – Wisdom Workshop: 7 Tips for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis; 10:30 a.m.; FREE**
- Oct. 23 – Senior Trip: Harley Farms – Pescadero/Sam's Chowder House; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; \$85**
- Oct. 24 – Halloween Parade for Tots, 1:00 p.m., Orinda Community Center and Park; FREE**

Orinda Youth Sports (OYS) Winter Basketball Registration Underway – Sign up today! Play begins in January



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

– there are so many to choose from,” says Blair.

The brothers live in Concord, Jason with his wife Amy, their nine-year-old daughter Luciana and four-year-old son Giovanni. When possible, Jason and Amy go ballroom

colo Napoli owner Peter Eberle is up to, you can reach him at P3Endurance - 415-851-0455, www.P3Endurance.com, or Peter@P3Endurance.com. His new title is “Head Coach,” so only call if you want to get in shape.

Piccolo Napoli is at 2 Theatre Square, #144. Reach them at 925-253-1225 or go to



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Jason and Blair Bagneschi are the proud new owners of Piccolo Napoli in Theatre Square. The brothers hope to reopen the restaurant in the next two months with an expanded dinner menu.

dancing – which is how they met.

Blair, a music lover, says he likes listening to his music collection and cooking – or one could say “inventing.” He shared his favorite thing to do on his backyard grill: barbeque fresh peaches then puree them and make a simple syrup to pour over a dessert or make a craft cocktail.

If you are wondering what former Pic-

www.piccolo-napoli.com for updates about their grand opening.

To send items for consideration, email *Elana O’Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com*.

◆ CHIEF from page 1

participating in a written exercise and a one-on-one interview with the city manager who ultimately made the final decision.

“My aim is to maintain and improve upon the high level of police services already present while working to ensure the city is prepared to respond to potential natural disasters,” Cook said.

Cook holds a Master of Science degree in Emergency Service Administration from California State University, Long Beach. He began his career with the Contra Costa County Sheriff in 1998 and progressed through the ranks serving in many capacities ranging from detention, patrol, homeland security and emergency services and special operations.

His most recent assignment was as Commander of the Marine Services and Air Support Unit in Oakley. The Marine Services Unit provides a variety of public safety and boating enforcement services on the 250 miles of waterfront jurisdiction within the county while the Air Support Unit provides airborne patrol, rescue, and firefighting services throughout the county.

Mayor Inga Miller, who was not on the selection panel, said she was glad to hear Cook is familiar with the concept of community policing, which includes forming partnerships with other agencies such as the school district, to address safety issues.

That approach is needed, Miller said, because “our challenges include very limited resources.”

To that end, Cook said, “I will work in close collaboration with the City Council, city manager, schools, community, and other public safety agencies to identify priorities and address challenges.”

Reach Simar Khanna at editor@TheOrindaNews.com.

Zamboni’s Pizza Reopens After Remodel



ELANA O'LOSKEY

On Sept. 5, **Tim Miyamoto-Mills** wielded the Orinda Chamber of Commerce’s ribbon cutting scissors to reopen Zamboni’s Pizza at 1 Camino Sobrante #4, across from Safeway. The event marked the official end of the back-to-the-studs remodel Tim and his family undertook when he bought the business. Zamboni’s fans celebrated by sampling pizzas from their updated menu. Tim, his family and entire crew welcome members of the community to stop by and say hello or call 925-254-2800 to order a favorite pizza.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



Mash Gas and Food

Late at night and need to gas up for the morning? No problem. The newly opened Mash Gas and Food next to Casa Orinda is open 5 a.m. to midnight Monday to Saturday and 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday. The renovated gas station is state-of-the-art and sparkling clean with a cup of French Roast on offer for the asking.

Mo Mashhoon of Mash Petroleum, Inc. bought the former Flying A gas station from Allen Pennebaker in 2018 and has removed the old underground tanks and had the soil tested. “It’s a great location and I’ve always wanted to be in Orinda,” says Mashhoon. His company was formed in 1995 to manage independent service stations and now has more than 100 in California. Recently they have diversified to include owning, leasing and selling office, retail and residential real estate as well as owning and operating restaurants.

Mash Gas and Food General Manager Hoss Mosheni says, “I’ve been with Mash Petroleum for over 30 years. I only left once, to go to college, then returned. We’ve got a great crew here – Jerry, Ana, Brenda, Alex and I are ready to meet new customers. We want everyone to leave here happy.”

Other than offering gas, a smog shop and convenience store, future plans include a

repair shop. To that end, they are interviewing mechanics now.

Mashhoon and his wife, Erica, are moving to Orinda to be near their son and are in the process of building a home in Wilder. Mashhoon plans to join the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and support local youth sport teams and the arts. Erica recently retired as a registered nurse working in labor and delivery for many years. She also specialized in ultra sound and taught the subject at Cal State East Bay. Now, she works with Mash Petroleum.

If you’ve seen and heard ongoing construction at 37-43 Moraga Way across from Orinda Theatre that’s because Mashhoon, with the help of local architect Rick Kattenburg, is repairing and remodeling the building. Having recently sold the company’s 12-story corporate headquarters at Third and Broadway in Oakland, Mashhoon said he wanted to downsize and relocate his office in Orinda. He bought the 1963 Moraga Way property because it fit the bill.

All the old windows are being replaced with energy efficient models and a lot of updating and repairs have been underway for some time. Because long-time tenant Orinda Cleaners is in the building an environmental inspection was required prior to his bank loaning on the property. There



ELANA O’LOSKEY

The team at **Mash Gas and Food** give the thumbs up to signal they are now open for business, Mon. – Sat. from 5 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

will be cosmetic changes as well such as updated awnings.

Mash Gas and Food is at 22 Bryant Way. Reach them at 925-258-9788.

Brothers Bagneschi Take Over Piccolo Napoli

Blair and Jason Bagneschi say they can’t wait to reopen the doors at Piccolo Napoli. Diners can expect familiar faces staffing the restaurant, familiar pizzas and menu items with an expanded dinner menu and revamped bar. But first the brothers are working through the permitting sign-offs a change in restaurant ownership begets. Cosmetic changes include new flooring, paint, rebranding the logo and expanding the menu.

Their goal is to source everything possible from within 100 miles. Because of their Italian background the brothers have a built-in preference for in-season local and regional-specific ingredients. Together they rack up more than 40 years of restaurant industry experience.

Jason says fall vegetarian dishes will include broccolini with red onions, chili flakes and chili oil; roasted brassicas with black garlic hummus, beech mushrooms and carrots; or handmade caramella ravioli-filled pasta that looks like a candy wrapper. The ravioli is filled with cheese, figs and caramelized onions, then twisted shut and tossed with a light gorgonzola sauce – in

Italian, *fonduta gorgonzola*.

Traditional fall dishes on offer will include: trout from Mount Lassen with escarole, chanterelle mushrooms and pancetta in a red wine sauce; handmade pappardelle noodles Tuscan style with a wild boar or short rib ragu paired with a nice Tuscan red wine or something more local from Napa; and for a special, *Bistecca alla Fiorentina* for two or three people – in cool weather sides are white beans with sage and bitter greens; in warm weather tomato salad and peppers.

All their pastas – including gluten free – will be handmade. “We want to encourage patrons to tell us their preferences for vegetarian or gluten free menu items, or alert us to allergies so we can do our best to accommodate their needs,” said Jason. Family recipes have their place as well, such as focaccia made using their grandmother’s recipe.

Blair is rolling out a cocktail program including happy hour listings and craft cocktails. Seasonal ingredients only, of course. In warm weather expect cocktails with peaches and melons; in fall apples, pears and pumpkin. No pre-made mixes here; he makes all his cocktail syrups by hand. For spirits, he prefers small batch local brands such as St. George, Hangar 1 and Sonoma Distilling Whiskey, Bourbon, etc. “We will outsource local craft beers

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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