

Editorial . . .

Watch Out for Telephone Scams

I couldn't believe it last summer when I received a call from the "IRS" telling me I owed money and to give them a credit card number over the phone for payment. The person sounded pretty legit and even gave a file number. But, of course, it was just another telephone scam. Fortunately, I refused to give them anything and instead called my accountant and the real IRS.

Evidently, a similar scam has surfaced for this tax season. Criminals posing as IRS agents are calling and asking tax payers to verify such information as social security numbers and bank accounts over the phone. Please, if you receive a call like this, do not give any financial information to them. More information on the latest scams can be found at www.irs.gov.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Don't Apologize for Gun Safety

While I agree that the Orinda Town Hall meeting on Jan. 23 was meaningful and informative, there was one area of discussion that Charlie Brown's letter omitted: gun safety. While Assemblywoman Baker was very articulate and informative on every subject discussed, she became suddenly quiet and dodgy when the issue of gun safety came up. That was distressing to see, and it made her otherwise clear-eyed look at issues seem fuzzy and partisan. It was also distressing to hear Senator Steve Glazer speaking in an apologetic tone about the gun safety proposal he backs. He went out of his way to make it seem like his proposal was only asking for a very small thing, and it was clear he was not trying to offend anyone in the room. I was dismayed, and then quite upset, that our local leaders aren't a stronger voice for common sense gun control legislation. Stop making apologies for believing in gun safety! How many times have we heard politicians begin any discussion of gun control legislation with "While I am a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment . . ." "Why do our elected leaders feel it necessary to declare this before beginning any gun control conversation? Starting from a defensive position is never a good way to win an argument, and I'm tired of it. Stop playing defense and

start playing offense! Too many lives are at stake. It is time all citizens come together and stand up against those who oppose such common sense laws.

– Maggie Reeves

A Long Road to Repair

We were excited when our street was selected to be repaired and repaved but little did we realize how long it would take. Before repairs could begin, PG&E had to inspect their poles and lines. Then all of the underground utilities had to be located and marked: the water lines, the sewer lines, the drainage culverts, the gas mains, and the electric lines. Next came the Bay Cities prep team to dig out the bad pot holes and prep them. Then after all this was done, in came the tree trimmers to make sure that the large equipment could work on the road with proper clearance. Now we thought we would see some real road repair action. But one neighbor refused to have their tree trimmed. That took two more weeks to resolve. Now we are ready for our new street which will take 10 clear weather days for a full depth reclamation (FDR). Guess what - here come our badly needed rains. Yes, we are waiting, but it will all be worthwhile in the long run because we voted "yes" for new roads in Orinda.

– Dick Burkhalter

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The OA continues to evolve and adapt to changing times and has always been involved in issues important to Orinda while keeping the community informed through *The Orinda News* and the election forums.

What have you gained from supporting the OA?

We've gained a feeling of involvement in the community from the very beginning. OA leaders have been an inspiration to us over the years. They give back to our community in so many ways, making it a better place. The joy of living in a smaller community means you can connect with people of all ages in a variety of activities. The OA knits our community together with activities like the 4th of July parade.



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Why should other residents support the OA or become active members?

Supporting and becoming involved in the OA is a great way to feel connected to the community. There are many volunteer jobs that suit all interests and time availability. Volunteerism is a hallmark of Orinda, and the OA provides wonderful opportunities

to give back to the community.

The OA is a vital volunteer organization in Orinda. It reaches all segments, ages and interests in our community providing a great way for people to feel connected and involved. On its 70th Anniversary, the OA continues to fulfill the goals of community involvement that its founders embraced.

Stop Hunger Now!

Orinda Rotary's 2016 international project benefits "Stop Hunger Now!" – a worldwide effort to eradicate hunger for those most in need – and you can help! Immediately following "Orinda Action Day" on **Saturday, April 23, at 11 a.m., in the Founders Auditorium at the Orinda Community Center**, volunteers will assemble and package more than 17,000 meals, which will then be distributed internationally by "Stop Hunger Now!" Food (pizza) will be served, with fun and fellowship on the side. And, it will take just a few hours of your time! For more information, contact Dick Burkhalter at 925-254-2222.

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