

ROADS / EARTHDAY

Updates on Orinda's Roads
Road Renovations Resume



Mark Roberts

As I write this column, Orinda is in the midst of a series of El Nino storms, weather conducive to no outside activity whatsoever. Fortunately, we know that longer, warmer and dryer days are on the way. And Orinda residents will see renewed and intensified efforts to fix our city's residential roads.

As I hope you'll recall, Orinda voters have approved two revenue measures to provide funding specifically for these projects: A one-half cent sales tax in June 2012 and a \$20 million bond in June 2014. The former is producing roughly \$1 million per year while the latter is providing \$5 million per year for four years, starting last year.

Together, these measures enabled the city to select and fund 25 residential roads for repair last year. The streets were selected by the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) and approved by the City Council. The Public Works Department then took charge of turning the plans into new pavement.

Twenty of the projects authorized last year have been completed and residents are enjoying the smoother ride. Because of challenges encountered by Public Works in the request for proposal and construction management processes, five of the projects have not yet been completed. They are, however, at the top of the list for action as soon as the weather permits this spring. These street segments are, in alpha order: Calvin Drive, Camino Sobrante, Canon Drive, Overhill Road and Valley Drive.

Please note that work on St. Stephens Drive, which was being completed as this column was written, was delayed due to the need for PG&E to relocate a gas line that was "discovered" during initial excavation. The city is also taking every precaution to make sure that any work planned by PG&E

or any other utility is completed before road work begins so that new pavement will remain undisturbed.

With the experience gained last year, Public Works is ready to tackle an additional 31 street segments this year. Here's the list, again in alpha order: Alice Lane, Altamount Drive (2 segments), Amber Valley Drive, Bobolink Road, Camino Del Diablo, Candlestick Road, Charles Hill Circle, Descanso Drive, Donna Maria Way, El Gavilan, Goodfellow Drive, Greenwood Court, Hall Drive (2 segments), Keith Drive, La Cresta Road (2 segments), Los Altos, Lost Valley Drive, Moraga Via (2 segments), Oakwood Road, Sally Ann Road, Singingwood Lane, Tarry Lane, Valley View Road, Via Farallon, Virginia Drive, Vista Del Mar and Whitehall Drive.

As part of a contingency plan, eight additional street segments have been selected as alternate roads: Berkeley Avenue, Cedar Lane, Descanso Drive (different segment), Estates Drive, Fallen Leaf Terrace, Ramona Drive, Rita Way and Warford Terrace.

Along with the projects supported by the voter approved revenue measures, the city receives return to source funding that enables renovation of arterial and collector roads. This year, a large segment of Ivy Drive, from Fiesta Circle to the south intersection of Moraga Way, will be repaved.

While we all know that many more roads than those listed above need attention and action, I hope you will agree that we can expect to see substantial improvement in the overall condition of Orinda residential streets this year. We can take satisfaction knowing that, with the exception of Ivy Drive, if we hadn't voted for revenue measures over the past four years, none of these residential roads would likely have been, or be, renovated. So we can thank

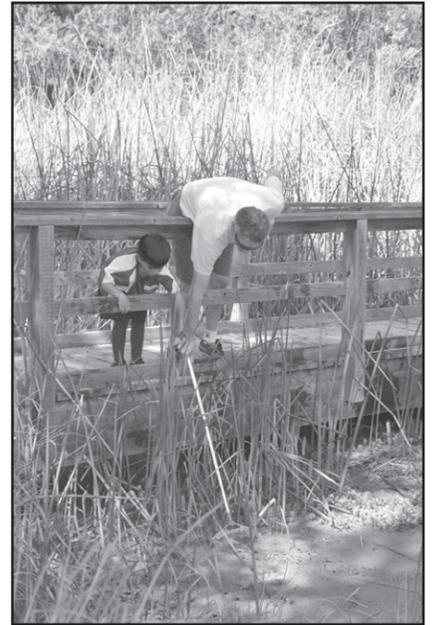
Celebrate Mother Earth At April 17 Wildlife/Earth Day Festival

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Celebrate Mother Earth and Orinda's own environmental treasure, the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA), on Sunday, April 17, from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of WRNA, the 15th annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival takes place at the nature area, 350 Camino Pablo Road, next to Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

The red-legged frogs in the nature area pond will welcome guests with their annual mating songs while participants explore the 18 acres of meadow, forest, ponds and streams. Originally the home of Surveyor General Theodore Wagner, the site has been an environmental classroom for more than 30 years, not only welcoming visitors but also conducting a variety of workshops for Orinda's elementary school children.

During the Wildlife/Earth Day celebration, Chester Miner, elder of the Cherokee Nation, and his Native American friends will bless the Nature Area with songs and drums. A wide variety of fun and educational activities will follow including: arts and crafts, music and games, activities from the Contra Costa Avian Society, pointers from master gardener Linda Mizes, face painting, nature tattoos, solar cooking and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nature Area pond is always a big draw during the Wildlife and Earth Day Festival.

even a test drive in the electric BMW i3. The festival will also honor and celebrate the lives of Marty DeJonghe and Bill Wilbur, two champions of the Nature Area, whose involvement is greatly missed by the Friends of WRNA.

For more information on the April 17 festival, go to www.fwrna.org.

each other for our continued investment in our community.

To learn more about the roads selected for repair, please visit the city's website, www.cityoforinda.org, and click on "Roads and Infrastructure" on the left side of the home page. To receive weekly updates about road

work and many other programs and events in Orinda, please go to the city's home page and look for the "Click here to receive the Orinda Outlook" box on the right side. That way you'll be in the know about what's going on in Orinda every week.

Lamorinda Idol 2016 Auditions

The Lamorinda Idol 2016 auditions will be held on May 19-21. Registration is open to all Lamorinda students or residents. Groups can include members outside Lamorinda. Register at www.LamorindaArts.org April 1-30. The Lamorinda Idol program includes workshops, multiple performance opportunities, parties and the Finals at the Orinda Theatre Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016.



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