

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 24 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, Mar 20	
Tuesday, Apr 10	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Mar 27	
Tuesday, Apr 10	
Traffic Advisory	7pm
Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices 14 Altarinda Road	
Monday, Mar 19	
Park & Recreation	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, Apr 11	
Wednesday, May 9	
Historic Landmarks	3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 22 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, Mar 27	
Liaison	8:30am
Room 7, Community Center 26 Orinda Way	
Monday, Apr 2	
check online:	
Town of Orinda:	
http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/	
for:	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	

Agendas: City Council, and Commissions	
PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA, (Partial) MARCH 27, 2007; 7:00 P.M. Meeting Location: Library Auditorium 24 Orinda Way, Orinda	
A. Review of Landscape Plan Camino Pablo at Via Corte WCFP06-003	
B. Draft Statement of Official Action: 2007-010 150 Melody Lane DR06-066; TR06-033	
C. January 23, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting draft minutes	
D. February 27, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting draft minutes	
A. Public hearing to consideration: PROJECT SITE: 37 Barbara Road APN: 273-064-020 Application(s): DRA 2007-004; VAR 2007-001; SPP 07-003; RE 07-001 Zoning Designation: RL-6; Lot Size: 3,267 square feet Owner: Matt Leutza;	
Recommendation: Roscoe Mata, Planning Technician Consider the project and direct staff to draft a Statement of Official Action to approve or deny it.	
B. Public hearing for consideration of design review and tree removal applications to allow the construction of a 3,714 gross square foot new single family residence on the property. According to the arborist report the development will require the removal of 11 protected trees. PROJECT SITE: 9 Dos Posos; APN: 262-091-015 Application(s): DRA 2006-078, TR-2007-002 Zoning Designation: RL-20; Lot Size: 58,130 net square feet Owner: Neil and Gene Barth Recommendation: Scott Pacheo, Associate Planner Consider the project and direct staff to draft a Statement of Official Action to approve or deny it.	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org/	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	

Orinda Eyes Upcoming Measure, Housing Developments

By Chris Lanvin

Fixing deteriorating roads and the drainage pipes beneath them, as well as planned housing developments, dominate Orinda government meetings, including those in the past weeks that dealt with both issues.

At center stage is the impending bond measure to improve Orinda's infrastructure that would in June replace the failed Measure Q of last November. Opponents' arguments are consistent. At the forefront is Clyde Vaughn, a retired chemical engineer and adamant opponent of any bond measure. He contends that Orinda pays more than its fair share of fees to the mutual Orinda-Moraga Fire District, and that employees there make too much money. Separating the fire districts and paying less in salary and retirement benefits would be one way to save money, he says, but he also contends that the new city offices now in the planning stage are a boondoggle, and that city offices should have been built in the old library complex – a site that city planners say would

have cost as much to retrofit for future earthquakes as it would have cost to build anew.

"It is my belief that they could pay for it," said Clyde Vaughn, a longtime opponent of the old Measure Q ballot item that failed by a slim margin in last November's election, about fixing the roads and Orinda's aging infrastructure.

Despite opponents like Vaughn, a replacement bond measure for Measure Q is likely to be on a special ballot in June. The City Council is behind the measure, which would allow the city to float bonds of about \$59 million to get construction crews in immediately to start fixing the worst of the problems on Orinda's 92 miles of public roads. Estimates for fixing all of Orinda's problem roads is far beyond that amount, but supporters of the bond do not believe they can get voters to approve it all at once. "This is the most pressing issue facing our city," Mayor Glazer said.

Opponents and supporters both want to see a planned and measured de-

ployment of resources in order to know exactly which roads would be fixed in a specific time frame. Because the bond measure failed last November, proponents are geared up to prevent another failure – construction costs are only increasing, they say.

"We're looking at a 10 percent increase in costs from last year," city council member Tom McCormick said at a recent meeting.

Other pressing issues in Orinda, however, are the matters of traffic and concerns regarding future housing developments.

As far as development in Orinda goes, one thing is for sure: it is coming. Some residents of Orinda Woods, the closest neighborhood to the future Pine Grove housing project, were disappointed that

June's bond measure dominated the agenda earlier this month. Many had to head home without being able to speak to the City Council regarding the imminent future development of the Pulte Home's site not far from the Orinda BART station.

Residential Improvements Always an Issue

By Chris Lanvin

At some time or another, many homeowners dream of upgrading and improving their homes and lots – whether it's a bigger patio or deck or additional kitchen space. In Orinda as well as the rest of Lamorinda, hundreds of applications are made each year for permits to do just that.

In new Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer's experience, hearings for these permits have been the most painful aspect of his public service.

"It's been the hardest thing for me," Glazer said. "I can't understand why it's so painful. You have neighbor against neighbor."

At issue are decisions by homeowners to make significant changes to their

properties without informing their neighbors of their plans. Glazer hopes to change that.

"That is the biggest challenge for me," Glazer said. If only one neighbor would talk to another, he said, and ask him or her about development plans, most altercations would be avoided, and surprises averted.

Therefore Glazer, who was elected to a year-long term as mayor in December, plans to try and streamline the application process for home improvements, including encouraging the planning department to be more accessible.

"The planning department can help people by encouraging them to talk to their neighbors, first," he

said. "Communication is the key."

Glazer hopes that the planning department will make its instructions and processes more understandable to the layman, while also encouraging community cooperation.

"Instead of putting out the process, A to Z, it would be good to have some information on how to make it work with the neighborhood," he said.

To further his goal, the mayor has implemented the Mayor's Awards for Excellence, a tip of the hat to homeowners for excellence in architecture, landscape and environmental design.

Chris Lanvin is the Orinda City Editor for the Lamorinda Weekly.

Get Free Inspection — and the Chance to Help Others — with Orinda Motors

By Jaime Zepeda

In Orinda, when you think of auto shops, you think of Orinda Motors. Amid a full parking lot and service area, hybrids, SUV's, and even a 1929 Ford Model A4 were lined up and waiting for repair. Even Hawaiian license plates could be found waiting to be serviced.

Orinda Motors has enough history in Orinda to be considered a local monument. Founded in the late 30's, in a location some say was a livery horse stable, Orinda Motors was the first auto shop in the city. Since then, the small but skilled shop has excelled at making local cars work like new.

decided to seize the opportunity to help others in the community who may have more to worry about than car inspections.

As a part of the event, Orinda Motors is encouraging those bringing in their cars to also bring food to donate. This food will go to the Contra Costa and Solano county food banks. Not sure what to bring? Canned foods are always a good choice, along with cereals, juices, rice, and powdered milk. Should your home covers be bare, Jeff points out that there is a "convenient" Safeway in front of their shop. Donating food is not obligatory to receive the free inspection, but it is "strongly encouraged" by both Jeff and John.

National Car Care is in its 10th year, and this would be the first year Orinda Motors has participated in the event. Jeff first heard of it from a customer.

Not surprising, since nearly 90% of their customers are from the Lamorinda area, and most are repeat customers.

The shop's commitment to quality service is clear: All technicians at Orinda Motors are ASC certified, and go through ongoing training to prepare them for changes in the industry. One of the walls in

the service manager's office is half-filled with accolades and certifications. Orinda Motors has been recognized as a Bay Area Green Business, been awarded the Best Small Business of the Year award by the 10th Congressional District, and named the Best Auto Shop in the Bay Area by Diablo Valley Magazine. What makes it truly remarkable, however, are its deep community roots.

Holding Boy and Girls Scouts fundraisers, annual car shows, and sponsoring 4th of July parades, and Orinda Baseball Association, are some ways this shop has committed itself to the city. "It is good to give back to the community," Jeff Joyce said, "because of the great support [we have received] from the community."

National Car Care will be held on April 28th. Orinda Motors is on 63 Orinda Way, on the counter-corner to Safeway. For more information on the event, call Jeff or John at (925) 254-2012.

Jaime Zepeda covers Orinda and Moraga events. He's a student at Saint Mary's.

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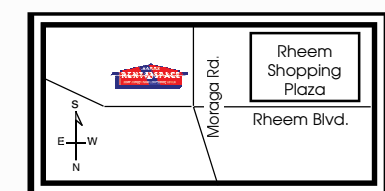
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