Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
24 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Apr 10

Planning Comm. 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Tuesday, Apr 10

Traffic Advisory 7pm
Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices
14 Altarinda Road

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, Apr 24

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

Chamber of Commerce:
http://www.orindachamber.org/
• local businesses
• upcomming events

Orinda Police Chief Bill French Shares Some Thoughts

... continued from page 1.

French also said, "Statistically, Orinda averages about one burglary per week."

French urged residents to take steps to protect themselves and their property. "Lock and alarm your homes. Provide proper lighting, which may act as a deterrent. Lock your cars and homes even if you're only going to be gone a short time. Call us if you see someone who you think may not belong in your neighborhood."

French also voiced strong concerns around the issue of teenagers drinking and driving. "We will be very firm and strict about enforcing the law. My officers have been instructed to do everything they can, within the law, to keep kids who have been drinking off the streets." Police are targeting those who host a certain type of teenage party. French said, "I would love to talk to the parents who allow parties in their homes at which kids are drinking." "There are drugs and alcohol in the high school now, just like there have always been," said French. Alcohol and marijuana are the most prevalent, but French reported that there has also been one case involving LSD since he arrived on the job.

On French's desk was a working document of crime trends from 2005 to 2006. In the category of serious crimes, the number of burglaries increased from 55 to 67, thefts rose from 201 to 233, and the number of assaults doubled, going from 15 to 30. There have been no murders, one rape and seven robberies. French was not prepared to comment on these statistics, because he is still in the process of reviewing the data.

Finally, Chief French would like Orindans to know that, "I like to talk citizens. We are here to do a job, and you have a right to expect a certain level of service. If you're not getting it, I'd like to hear about it." He added, "Not all interactions with the police are going to be positive experiences. It's the nature of police work. We deal with difficult situations."

Read more about some of Chief French's other priorities on these pages in the weeks to come.

Orinda Police Chief Bill French Photo Lee Borrowman

Everyone in the Bay Area knows it can happen any day:

The Big One

By Chris Lavin

Yet while we are regularly surprised by the occasional jolt and subsequent tinkle of china in the cabinets, very few people who live in our neighborhoods have actually gotten around to laying in the supplies that will be needed when a major earthquake hits.

Orinda's mayor and the Orinda Association are out to change all that. "When the big one hits, we will have a couple fire trucks and a single police officer to help 18,000 people in Orinda," Mayor Steve Glazer said. "With crumbled roads and broken water systems, we have to be prepared for a week or more without any outside help. Good intentions will not be worth much. You are either ready to survive on your own or you will be in great difficulty."

Since January, the Orinda Association has committed to the effort. It began selling two sizes of earthquake kits: large backpacks for $65 complete with basic food, water, medical and other supplies, and smaller duffle bags costing $48 for a car trunk.

"Every car should have one," said Fred Lothrop, a volunteer trainer in the Lamorinda CERT program, which stands for Community Emergency Response Training.

One of Glazer's concerns is that much of California's emergency preparedness information tells individuals and families that they should have three days of supplies in case of an emergency. He believes that is far too short of a time-frame.

"You cannot rely on anyone but yourself when disaster strikes," Glazer said. "There are simply not the government resources available when there is massive destruction. Katrina is a huge wake-up call and we need to heed the warning and take steps to be prepared immediately."

Since the Orinda Association began selling emergency kits in January, it has sold 138 backpacks and 42 duffle bags. To order, visit www.orindaassociation.org . To learn more about CERT training, visit www.LamorindaCERT.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce: More Vibrant than Ever!

By Sophie Braccini

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce was established as a non-profit corporation in 1952. Its mission can be summarized by the sentence, "If it's good for Orinda businesses, it's Chamber's business." The Chamber tallies 275 members, with an outlook of a 10% increase this year. The set of companies is as diverse as one could imagine. Some top 500 companies are members and it's nice to see the local branches contributing to the welfare of the Orinda business community. The majority of the members are local business owners, often Lamorinda residents, who understand that working together will bring more prosperity to each and every one of them.

In 2007, a new Board was elected. Keith Miller of Prudential Realty is the new President. One of the board's first tasks has been to intensify its interaction with the town of Orinda. The Chamber has decided to support the coming bond measure E (Orinda roads, drains and water supply). Miller spoke in front of the City Council to present the Chamber's position: "The state of our roads may be an 'inconvenient truth,' but we have to face it and it is as bad for property values as it is bad for businesses." The Town and the Chamber are partnering in the new "Shop Orinda" campaign.

Board of Directors members gather around the fountain near their office, from left to right: Pete Ritter, Keith Miller, AJ Nisen, Patti Camras, Candi Kattenburg and Carlos Rangel

The Chamber organizes many events during the year. The breakfasts, mixers and luncheons are a great opportunity to meet local business leaders and network. These gatherings are open to the public.

The next luncheon is scheduled for Friday April 27th, when Peet's Coffee CEO Patrick O'Dea will address the audience. Come and hear CEO Patrick O'Dea explain how the company can successfully grow while retaining the artisan quality and "Peetniks" culture that sets the company apart. How is Peet's planning on succeeding where its competitors have failed?

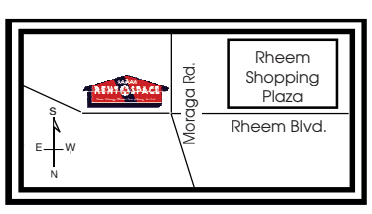
The luncheon will take place at the Orinda Country Club, starting at 12:00 noon, price per person is $30. Reservations are recommended, call 254-3909. Go to www.orindachamber.org/directory.php for a list of Chamber member businesses.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A $250 MARRIOTT

Marriott

BRING THIS COUPON IN AND
ENTER TO WIN A
FREE
$250 MARRIOTT
TravelCard*
1,000'S OF HOTELS TO CHOOSE FROM, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO WIN. FOR ALL DETAILS CHECK 5Aspace.com Or call 631-7000

AAAAA RENT A SPACE
Your Things Mean Everything To Us!
MORAGA
455 Moraga Rd. Suite F
(925) 631-7000



*No purchase necessary, need not be present to win. Campaign expires 5/31/07, check our web site at www.5Aspace.com for Marriott TravelCard details.

Nurture your garden at
McDonnell Nursery

• Shrubs
• Garden Accessories
• Flowers
• Personalized Service

196 Moraga Way
Orinda

254-3713

- Open Daily -

www.mcdonnellnursery.com