

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
Special City Council 12pm	
Room 6, Community Center 26 Orinda Way	
Thursday, Apr 19	
City Council 7pm	
Auditorium, Orinda Library 24 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, Apr 30	
Planning Comm. 7pm	
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Apr 24	
Traffic Advisory 7pm	
Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices 14 Altarinda Road	
Monday, Apr 23	
Park & Recreation 7pm	
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, Apr 17 (joint)	
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, May 7	
check online:	
Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ for:	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orinda-chamber.org/	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	

Orinda's Ballot Measure E

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Q: We hear a common question: Why did the city council wait so long to find the money to fix the roads, while it spent money on other things?

Glazer: That's something we have heard a lot about. What people don't understand is that we could not spend specific monies on just anything. Take the library, for instance. It cost \$10 million, and people ask, 'Why didn't you spend that on something more pressing?' And you can see their point. But you have to realize that \$5 million was raised privately. And that \$5 million we spent could not be spent on roads – only toward Orinda public facilities. Plus, now we have a jewel for Orinda in this beautiful library.

Q: So if you had spent that money on roads and drains, you could have been sued?

Glazer: Absolutely. And we would have lost. Those funds were dedicated for specific purposes, not for anything else.

Q: One of the factors in assessing the property values of long-time homeowners is remodeling. When a homeowner takes out a permit for a

remodeling project, it will affect his overall assessment, right?

Glazer: Only to the extent that it improves the property in the specific area that is being remodeled. (The entire property is not reassessed.) But it does make an amazing difference. In Orinda we have 5 percent of the housing stock being remodeled every year – that is a huge percentage. We have averaged 300 remodeling permits a year for the past three years.

Q: Some people say that other agencies are not stepping up to the plate, that EBMUD or the fire district does not pay enough to maintain systems they should be responsible for. What do you say to that?

Glazer: Again, a common question. But EBMUD has a policy, an institutional policy, that it does not fix something until it's broken. Until recently, Orinda had 49 problem pipes in danger of rupture – two finally collapsed altogether and yes, EBMUD came in and fixed them. Now we have 47 problem pipes. We can't wait until they break to get them fixed.

For more information about Measure E, visit www.fixorindaroads.com.

Orinda Creeks Event on April 22

From Staff Reports

The Friends of Orinda Creeks will hold its annual Earth Day Creek Cleanup from 10 a.m. to noon on April 22 at the downtown portion of San Pablo Creek behind 23 Orinda Way.

Plant-lover John Zentner will provide several species of native plants in five-gallon containers for volunteers to plant at a revegetation area behind the Chevron station. Over the past five months Zentner, a FOC Board member, Barbara Leitner and others have helped to removed in-

vasive vegetation as a follow-up to the work conducted by Cinda MacKinnon, Toris Jaeger and the Orinda Garden Club.

During the cleanup, demonstrations will be held on acorn and Manzanita tea, as well as sessions on poison oak, invasive weeds and native plant identification.

For further information or to sign up to participate, please contact Maya Rappaport at mayarapp@comcast.net.

Get Wild!

By Lee Borrowman

The Orinda Union School District's 6th Annual Wildlife Festival will be held on April 22 from 1-4 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo Rd. The Wagner Ranch Nature Area is rich in local history and environmental diversity, and has served the Orinda schools for many years as both an outdoor, hands-on science lab and the perfect setting for interactive educational projects such as the Living History program's Native American Days and Rancho Days. Treat yourself to a docent tour of the area to which most of us never get to go! Learn about the history of the area, meet Steve Gentry's bees, make a leaf-print tee shirt or origami pot and see a Native American drum and dance performance.

The Wagner Ranch Nature Area is at times poised to become the victim of development – find out more about the area at www.fwrna.org.

City Council Special Meeting

April 19, 2007 12:00pm

Note location: Community Center, Room 6 26 Orinda Way

WORKSHOP: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Strategic Planning Workshop for Fiscal Year 2007/08 including discussion of Orinda Union School District's relocation of the Maintenance/Corporation Yard (two options: Delaveaga and Wagner School sites).

Spring Plant and Used Book Sale

Friends and families work together for their cause

By Lee Borrowman

On Saturday May 5, and Sunday May 6, from 9am -3pm, at 73 Coral Drive in Orinda, the Bressette/Walker family will host a Spring Plant and Used Book Sale to benefit the Bret C. Harte Directing Internship at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. They will offer hundreds of plants and books for sale just in time for spring planting and Mother's Day, including gift plants, pot gardens, succulents, bonsai plants, annuals, perennials, landscape plants, heirloom tomatoes and many other herbs and vegetables to fill your summer garden. See it. Browse the vast collection of books and find something to relax with once you are done with your planting!

Bret C. Harte was the only child of Dennis and Juanita Harte of Moraga, friends of the Bressette family. He was a 1998 graduate of Miramonte High School in Orinda, California. He went on to graduate from Bowdoin College in Maine in 2002. He returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue his passion for directing theater. By 2005 he had worked in several capacities with the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda, the Calvary Presbyterian Theater Group and Actors Rhapsody in San Francisco, the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, the San Leandro Players, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. In March of 2005, Harte was killed in an auto accident when he was run off the road

by an unknown driver on Hwy. 680 in Concord.

The Internship fund was started by family friends following Harte's death. Lee Bressette writes, "To be perfectly honest, when this internship was created we hadn't really thought about how to fund it.

None of us had ever done anything like this before, but it is amazing how motivated one can be when following one's heart. Gardening has always been my passion, so several years ago, when I read about a 'recycle' garden in Oregon that raised funds for a spaying clinic by selling donated plants, I got very excited about the idea! I just knew that there must be many sources for plants that needed a new lease on life. Many of my friends were gardeners with perennials that needed dividing annually. I knew that landscapers always have 'left over' plants. Growers grow way too many plants each season, and nurseries always need to rotate their stock. I played with the idea of doing something similar here in the Bay Area, but I never got farther than thinking and talking about it. Then in 2006 after we had started Bret's fund, and we were told that we had to raise \$100,000 to create an endowment, I had the motivation to give it all a try."

For more information on the Bret C. Harte Internship and its other fundraising events visit www.bretchartefund.org



D.U.I., Felony evasion, 4/11/07 Originating in Orinda and ending in Oakland, a traffic stop was initiated for speeding. The driver did not yield and drove westbound on 24 at speeds up to 110 m.p.h. Driver finally stopped vehicle at middle school in Oakland. Three passengers fled on foot. Blood alcohol level of driver .08% Driver and one passenger that was apprehended from Richmond.

Grand theft, 4/9/07 Unknown suspect took riding mower from the side yard of a resident on Lombardy Lane. John Deere riding mower, valued at \$1,000

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