

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Orinda

| Calendar  |  |
|---|--|
| Special City Council 12pm   |  |
| Room 6, Community Center<br>26 Orinda Way                             |  |
| Thursday, Apr 19  |  |
| City Council 7pm  |  |
| Auditorium, Orinda Library<br>24 Orinda Way                           |  |
| Tuesday, Apr 30   |  |
| Planning Comm. 7pm  |  |
| Community Center, Manzanita Room<br>500 St Mary's Road                |  |
| Tuesday, Apr 24   |  |
| Traffic Advisory 7pm  |  |
| Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices<br>14 Altarinda Road                   |  |
| Monday, Apr 23  |  |
| Park & Recreation 7pm   |  |
| Community Center<br>500 St Mary's Road                                |  |
| Wednesday, Apr 17 (joint)   |  |
| Wednesday, May 9  |  |
| Historic Landmarks 3pm  |  |
| Gallery Room, Orinda Library<br>22 Orinda Way                         |  |
| Tuesday, Apr 24   |  |
| Liaison 8:30am  |  |
| Room 7, Community Center<br>26 Orinda Way                             |  |
| Monday, May 7   |  |
| check online:   |  |
| Town of Orinda:   |  |
| <a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/</a> |  |
| for:  |  |
| • all meeting notes   |  |
| • calendar updates  |  |



Possession of Dangerous Drugs 4/17/07 Traffic stop at Camino Pablo at Santa Maria, driving on a suspended/revoked license. Driver consented to have vehicle searched, glass container with methamphetamine found.

Possession of Dangerous Drugs 4/19/07 Officer pulled over driver on Moraga Way for a cracked windshield. Driver had no I.D. Passenger admitted possession of a glass pipe used for smoking methamphetamine, arrested. Two ziplock baggies with crystalline substance found along with two glass pipes and two folding knives in car search.

Vandalism/Malicious Mischief 4/22/07 Someone attempted to drive two golf carts that were cabled together at the Orinda Country Club. Both golf carts were damaged. There were no witnesses or suspects.

*This is the second of a three-part series by the Lamorinda Weekly focusing on Orinda's ballot Measure E, which comes to a vote on June 5. It calls for floating a \$58.6 million bond to fix the city's deteriorating roads, drainage and water pipes. In this interview with Mayor Steve Glazer, we focus on those taxpayers who have recently purchased property in the city, and will therefore be paying higher taxation amounts to pay the bond back, should it pass. In our next issue – the final part of the series before the election – we will focus on how the measure might affect prospective Orinda buyers.*

*The first part of the series, which targeted long-time homeowners, can be read at [www.LamorindaWeekly.com](http://www.LamorindaWeekly.com).*

**By Chris Lavin**  
**Q:** If Measure E should pass, younger families who have recently moved to the city will be footing most of the bill to pay back the bond, won't they?  
**Glazer:** Technically, that is correct. We have a significant amount of our housing stock turning over every year, so theoretically, as those homes sell and the prices go up, new residents will be paying more than those who have owned their home for decades.  
**Q:** Why didn't the council decide to go with a parcel tax that would have been equally shared by all Orinda homeowners?  
**Glazer:** A parcel tax wouldn't have raised enough money fast enough unless the amount was extremely high. And you have to remember that repairs made two years from now, or even one year – if we continue to ignore some of our worst spots – those places will be much more expensive to repair.  
**Q:** So floating a bond, basically, is a pay-as-you-go plan?  
**Glazer:** That's right. The cost is lower today than it will be in

the future. And you have to remember that you're paying right now in more car repairs and other damages.  
**Q:** Because new homeowners will be paying more because of their higher assessed valuations, will they get priority for their roads?  
**Glazer:** No. Every public road in Orinda is eligible for maintenance and restoration. We have already put together a Citizen's Oversight Committee to review the priorities and to advise the city council on what those priorities should be. Those will be public meetings. And all of Orinda benefits from repairs to our major roads.  
**Q:** So exactly how much will it be?  
**Glazer:** In the early years of the bond, the cost will be \$15 per \$100,000 of valuation annually. The average cost of the bond over its life will be \$30 per \$100,000. That means that a homeowner with an assessed valuation of \$200,000 will be paying about \$38 per year, with the cost gradually going

up to \$60 per year. Someone who just bought a home for \$1.5 million would be paying \$285 in the early years, and \$450 per year.  
**Q:** Some new homeowners seem to believe it's unfair that they will be paying more than people who have been using the roads for years and years. What do you say to them?  
**Glazer:** Well, I would say that you have to look at property values, for long-time owners and new buyers alike. Long-time owners risk having their property values go down because a prospective buyer can't use the road, while newer owners might have seen their purchase price lower because of the same thing.  
**Q:** Where do people go to get answers to questions we haven't covered here?  
**Glazer:** We have a Frequently Asked Questions page at [www.fixorindaroads.com](http://www.fixorindaroads.com).

Next up: A focus on those thinking of buying in Orinda, and how Measure E could affect them.

## Call for Neighborhood Watch

Orinda Police Chief William French is asking that residents consider forming or joining a Neighborhood Watch Group. The police department will help anyone who is interested get started, French announced, because having neighbors watching out for anything suspicious has been proven to prevent crimes. Interested persons should contact Community Police Office Det. Nate McCormack at 925-253-4233.

## Pat Montandon Rocks the House

By Cathy Tyson  
 Despite gray, drizzly skies, celebrity author Pat Montandon packed the house at Orinda Books, with a reading of her new book, "Oh the Hell of It All: A Memoir," a response to her son, Sean Wilsey's book, "Oh the Glory of It All." She captivated the audience, many of whom remembered her from "Prize Movie" on Channel 7 in the 1960's. Funny, charming, a natural performer and looking wonderful at 78, she wowed the audience with amazing stories about getting married on a radio program at 18, the incredible

timing of divorce news 5 days after a lavish 50th birthday party and founding the philanthropic Children as Peacemakers organization. "I'm really through with all that negativity," Ms. Montandon said reflecting on mean-spirited sniping that swirled around Dede Wilsey and the family. When asked to comment on life in the social stratosphere of San Francisco, she says, "It's so empty. You see the same people at all these events. Shell people, nothing there." She hopes that her book will be a blessing and an inspiration to people who need it. Orinda Books has many other authors scheduled, check their website for dates and times, [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).



Mike Magidson and John Travolta aboard the Airbus

## Mike Magidson, From Sleepy Hollow to the Airbus

By Sophie Braccini  
 In 1977, Mike Magidson entered the 4th grade at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. That same year, "Saturday Night Fever" was released and John Travolta rocketed to fame. Years later, both at the top of their game, Mike Magidson and John Travolta found themselves traveling together in the cockpit of the largest commercial airliner in the world, the Airbus A-380. In speaking with Mike shortly after the flight, it's clear the people and community of Orinda played a significant role in shaping his life in all sorts of important ways. The Magidsons moved to Orinda when Mike was nine. There, he felt the first touch of destiny when Mrs. Pettit, a Sleepy Hollow teacher who had decided to enrich the standard curriculum, taught French to the class. At Miramonte, Mike was more into sports than arts, but his brother Jeff recommended he attend Mr. Artus' Chorus class. As a teenager, Mike had no idea he could become an artist. It was Mr. Artus who recognized that talent and gave him confidence. "You need somebody from the outside to give you that boost," remembers Mike. Another very influential person during his adolescence was Sue Graf, mother of his friend Peter Graf. In the Orinda community that Mike describes as a bubble, Sue was another eye opener. She took the kids camping in the desert, taught them to respect the environment, and aroused their interest in native cultures. "Sue, who used to run a program at Wagner Ranch, was certainly one of the greatest influences in my entire life," says Mike with emotion. After he graduated from Miramonte, Mike went to UC Davis, transferred to UC Berkeley, and then completed his B.A. in International Relations at UC Santa Barbara. His senior year was spent in Grenoble (France), with the "education abroad" program. After graduation, Mike joined a friend from Miramonte, Brian Shepp, who was studying at UCLA and wrote plays. Mike went to L.A. to help with the plays, but started to edit films in order to make money. "You don't earn your living with plays in L.A.," Mike comments. But Mike had to go back to France: his brother was living there and he had met there that special someone who was to become Madame Magidson. Back in France he continued editing films for 5 to 6 years. Then it was time for him to become a director. His first documentary was called, "Canada with a K." Mike followed the "Rye-Jazz" music group Kadda Cherif Hadria, which was touring Canada. This first movie was about culture clash, Mike's favorite subject. As he started to make a name for himself in Europe, he decided to come back during the 2001-2002 school year to show his country to his girls. Celia attended second grade at Camino Pablo in Moraga and Eva went to pre-school. ....continued on page 14

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## Garden Lights landscape & pool development inc.

### Build A Pond Day Comes to Orinda

Sat. May 12th 9am-5pm

You'll learn more about building your own backyard pond & waterfall in this one day of hands on training than you could learn from weeks of reading "how to" books. Come prepared to get dirty and have fun.

The registration fee of \$100. per person includes lunch, beverages & an afternoon snack.  
 Call Garden Lights Landscape at 254-4797 to register.

Hosted by Steve Lambert a Certified Aquascape Contractor & the Garden Lights Landscape Crew

