



Orindas newest housing development - Wilder Photo by Tod Fierner

# Changing the Shape of Orinda

By Cathy Tyson

additional recreational opportunities for Orindans.” Indeed, 1,400 of the 1,600 acres will be protected open space, and five state of the art playfields will be constructed for baseball and soccer use, two with lighting and artificial turf. To serve the playfields, there will be approximately 300 parking spaces, restrooms, water fountains, picnic tables and a playground. Although Orinda Gateway is designing and building the playfields, they will be owned and operated by the City of Orinda once complete, and meant for public use.

Project Manager Michael Olson of Brooks Street said, “We really listened to residents’ concerns and kept the overall design reflective of the Orinda vernacular.” The planned swim club for use by residents-only will be similar to the Orinda Country Club’s design, but with a much lower profile. Landscape Architect Hart/Howerton has planned many whimsical, lush walkways throughout the project. Robert Hidey Architects Inc. is slated to design non-custom built homes. Designs will be subject to the Design Review process by the City, just like everyone else. Toward the south end of the project an Art and Garden Center will be built for public use, with much community input.

Prices for the large, upscale homes will be market driven. Lots sizes run from 9,000 square feet to ½ an acre. In addition to the home purchase price, buyers will have a monthly maintenance fee to cover upkeep of common areas and the swim club.

Two of the main concerns of area residents are emergency vehicle access, and where new homeowners’ children will attend school. Because of Highway 24 traffic, two emergency vehicle access roads will be constructed linking the project with Orinda proper. One will be on Brookside, the other on Edgewood Court off of Lost Valley. School children will attend Orinda schools, Miramonte, OIS, and either Wagner Ranch or Del Rey.

For now, that consistent hum you hear is the sound of earth movers, moving several million cubic yards of dirt, grading the property, all of course approved by the City, and the rotor blades of a pair of helicopters hired to pour new foundations for the four sets of PG & E towers that will be relocated below the crest of the hill. When you create a brand new neighborhood from scratch, power lines clearly mar the aesthetic.

**G**radings is underway and relatively soon, late in 2007, sales will begin on the 245 lots available for the developer constructed residences and custom homes sites that make up Wilder, located just south of Highway 24 at the Gateway exit. It has been approximately 20 years since Pacific New Wave purchased what was once known as Orinda Gateway, and Montanera, but has been re-named Wilder, one of the last large available parcels of developable land close to San Francisco. This project has certainly seen its ups and downs over the years. It was given the go ahead, had the go-ahead rescinded, sued the City of Orinda in state and federal court, had lengthy settlement negotiations, a golf course was at one point approved, then taken off the table, numerous public hearings were held, and in 2001 an additional parcel, part of the McCosker Ranch, was purchased to bring the project up to the current 1,600 acres. Owner of the project since 1996, Orinda Gateway, LLC has jumped through numerous hoops to get the project off the ground. They got approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (red-legged frog concerns) and finally the California Department of Fish and Game (Alameda Whipsnake concerns). In addition, there were all the usual approvals, a Preliminary Development Plan, Final Development Plans, and of course, Environmental Impact Reports (EIR).

Jason Keadjian, who grew up in Orinda and is now the Spokesperson for Orinda Gateway says, “We are really excited about the project, it opens up the entire west end of town allowing access to existing trails and providing



Photos by Tod Fierner

Michael Olson and Jason Keadjian

Check out the Google Earth map of this area by going to <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=orinda+ca&ie=UTF8&ll=37.86657,-122.189845&spn=0.011265,0.022402&t=h&z=17&om=1>

## Spring Paint Sale

# 10% OFF

all paint

Free popcorn every Sat/Sun 10-3

MON-FRI:  
7:30AM-6PM  
SAT: 8AM-6PM  
SUN: 9AM-5PM  
**(925) 376-3600**  
1409 MORAGA WAY  
MORAGA SHOPPING CENTER

Ralph Lauren • ACE • Zinsser • Krylon • Rust-Oleum • McCloskey

\* Must present this coupon \*

valid thru May 31<sup>st</sup>

## MORAGA HARDWARE AND LUMBER

# HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A \$250 MARRIOTT

## TRAVELCARD OR A 7 DAY STAY IN A LUXURY PENTHOUSE IN WAIKIKI? ENTER TO WIN AT 5A!

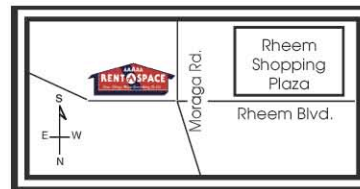
*A Gift for you*  
**Marriott**  
TravelCard  
\$250



**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



**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](http://www.5Aspace.com) for Marriott TravelCard details.



## Imagine yourself healthy, fit & energetic

- Personalized Nutrition Programs
- Lasting weight loss
- Lower Cholesterol

Call today to schedule your  
Fitness & Body Composition Analysis

**254-1080**

[www.lamorindanutrition.com](http://www.lamorindanutrition.com)

**Lamorinda**  
**NUTRITION**  
Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S.

89 Davis Rd. #180, Orinda

## Garden Lights landscape & pool development inc.

Garden Lights is an Award Winning  
Landscape Design-Build Firm  
Offering Services in . . .

- Landscape Design & Installation  
*Planting - Masonry - Concrete - Carpentry*
- Low-voltage Landscape Lighting
- Pool / Spa Design, Installation & Remodels
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls

Design & Install with just one call.

**925-254-4797**

Free Consultations

Serving the Lamorinda Area for 17 years. Bonded - Licensed & Insured

