

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, July 17	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall, 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, July 24	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, July 12	
Traffic Safety Ad. Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall, 22 Orinda Way Monday, July 23	
Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way No Meeting in August	
check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Photo by Rick Konlon

Concerts-in-the-Park

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Orinda Community Center Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy the free music in the park!

- July 17 Pladdohg (Celtic Rock)
- July 24 Lady Kaye & the Kings of Swing (Swing & Jazz)
- July 31 Cal Alumni Big Band (Big Band Jazz)
- Aug. 7 Mixed Nuts (Oldies R/Ock, Disco, Blues)

ORINDA POLICE

Mail Mele, 6/25: A woman reported seeing a pile of mail on the side of the road, Miner Rd near Lombardy Ln. Officer collected the items and placed them into a mailbox to be remailed. List of found items: Oprah magazine, Pottery Barn magazine, Bon Appetite Magazine, and a sweepstakes entry.

More Mail, 6/26: Loneridge Rd, a man reported that his neighbor found several pieces of his mail strewn on the ground. So far, no illegal activity reported on his bank account or credit cards.

Insider Shopping, 6/28: Subject entered Orinda Safeway and took several packages of medicine along with two packages of toilet paper and one 16 oz beer. Subject put medicine into the inside portion of his jacket through holes in the jacket liner. Subject paid for TP and beer, but made no attempt to pay for medicine. Subject walked out of store. Subject was arrested and booked. Jacket logged in police dept. evidence.

DUI, 6/30: A 46 year old man was stopped at HWY 24/ Gateway Blvd for lack of license plates. Signs and smell of alcohol intoxication were noticed by officer. Driver performed Field Sobriety Tests unsatisfactorily. Driver arrested for DUI, suspended license and false tabs.

Orinda 'Architecture Awards' Meant to Strive for Best

By Chris Lavin

Because applications for and disputes about some of Orinda's residential redesigns have become the front and center of more than one city planning meeting, Mayor Steve Glazer has instituted the "Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture, Design and Sustainability," an award meant to inspire even the most recalcitrant homeowner to strive to a new standard of aesthetic awareness.

"We would like for people to do their best within their budgets," Glazer said.

Applications for the award are open until September 15 for projects under way or currently in the application process.

More than half of Orinda's homeowners have owned their homes for more than two decades, and because resale and buying anew costs so much, more homeowners are opting for redesigning rather than moving, real estate agents say. When a homeowner applies for a redesign permit, the city must approve the plans and then the county reassesses the property

value considering the new addition or remodel – not the entire house. So while property taxes might increase somewhat, the home is not reassessed at market value.

But when one or more parts of a redesign happen to fall within the eyesight of neighbors or passers-by, trouble can begin. Retaining walls, decks and new driveways are sometimes the culprits, and neighbor gets pitted against neighbor at planning department meetings.

Glazer has long advocated that neighbors simply talk to one another about their redesign plans. Before applying for a permit to redesign or rebuild a part of the property, he has said, let your neighbors know what you are doing. That way they don't find out about the plan through city disclosures, notices or word-of-mouth.

"So much of the pain can be avoided," Glazer said.

For more information about the architecture awards, visit www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

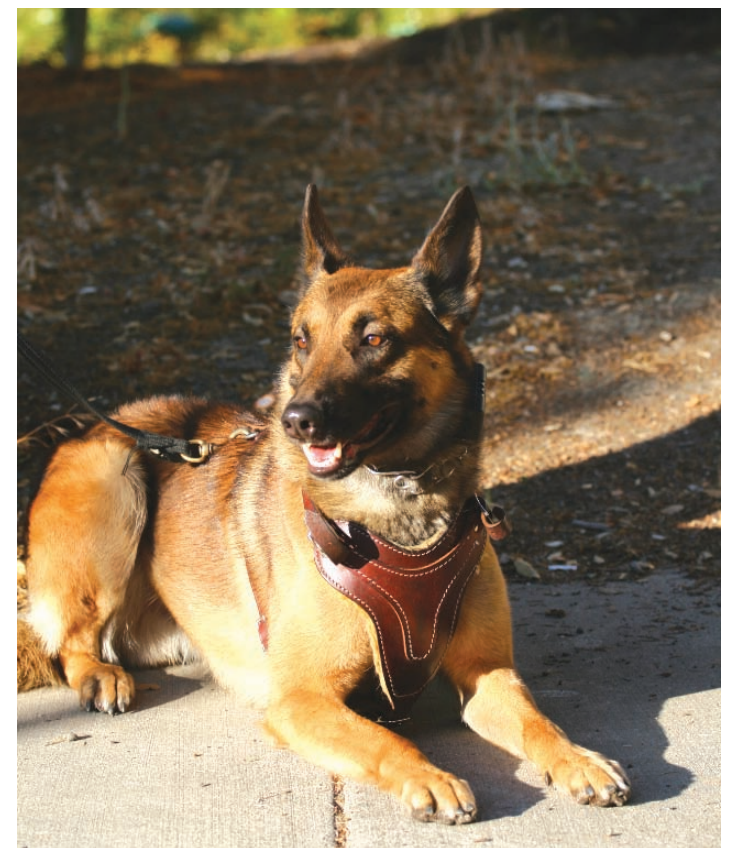
Chef the Wonder Dog

By Cathy Tyson

He works for free, has no benefits package, and goes home with his partner every day. Not your average police officer. Chef the Orinda Police Department's dog, shares his shift with Officer Danny Vargas. Chef is only one of eight police dogs in the county.

"He is definitely handy, I use him to help find missing kids, burglary calls, drug detection. Just the other day, there was a burglary at the Moraga Safeway, the suspect ran near the creek on Ivy Drive. We caught the guy."

A Belgian Malinois, one of the varieties of the Belgian Shepherd, Chef was trained by Dan Moore K-9 Services, to do man-work and dope-work. He will alert on marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. He walks around a vehicle and stops when he smells any of those. "Just having him there is a tremendous help," says Officer Vargas. "He is constantly watching me, its



really weird, and will only take commands from me. He will bite you and drag you out of places on command. If a suspect is hiding on a roof, he will start barking and jumping."

The City of Orinda owns Chef and pays for

food and vet expenses, although they have a mutual aide agreement with the county. It's the least they can do for an employee that doesn't complain, doesn't get overtime and never calls in sick.

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