

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, Aug 21	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall, 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, Aug 14	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, Aug 9	
Hist. Landmark Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level 26 Orinda Way Monday, Aug 28	
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	

Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orinda-chamber.org/>
• local businesses
• upcoming events



D.U.I./Drugs, 7/25/07
Should have called a cab. A white female in her twenties was stopped for speeding on Moraga Way near Ardor, showing signs of intoxication. Blood alcohol level above the legal limit.

Tool gone, 7/20/07 An air compressor was stolen from a property on Donald Drive. Estimated cost \$400. An unknown person forced open an exterior door and found it hidden away. No suspects at this time.

Identity Theft, 7/19/07 Mail was stolen from a Miner Road mailbox recently. Two Walnut Creek individuals are now in custody, they were caught attempting to use the Orinda resident's financial information to create a fraudulent account.

Orinda Books Leads the Way for Book Clubs

By Cathy Tyson and Wendy Scheck



Book Club selection at Orinda Books Photo by Andy Scheck

Lamorinda bookstores make a real effort to support book clubs. Not only is it good for business, but it's a great way to connect with the community. Merchants know that with amazon.com, Costco, Barnes & Noble and the like, it's getting increasingly difficult for an independent book seller to stay in business. What sets our bookstores apart is their wonderful customer service and loyal patrons. One of the first local bookstores to encourage the development of book clubs as we know them today was Orinda Books.

Orinda Books
276 Village Square, Orinda 254-7606
Located in the village side of Orinda near McCaulou's, Orinda Books has a very spacious store that lends itself well to author and book club events. The long running Orinda Owls along with the World Affairs Group, Literary Chapter II and the Page Turners meet monthly at the shop. Janet Boreta, owner and one of the original founders of Orinda books in 1976, has been an enthusiastic proponent of reading and book clubs since graduating from Stanford and the early days in her marriage when she moved with her husband to Venezuela with an oil company. There they lived in a thatched roof community with the other oil worker families where the only entertainment was a thatched roof bar. She had an infant and was

suffered from boredom until she found out that the company offered each family the opportunity to order 25 books. Soon, Boreta established an informal library for the group where books were shared, discussed, and many brain cells were saved. One night when she was playing bridge, she made a wager with her oil company opponent: should Janet win the game, the company would build a real library for them. The newly erected library became the finest building in the compound. Once back in the States and settled in Orinda, Boreta found herself disenchanted with the book club scene where women all read the same book, but instead of open discussion they would instead attend a lecture to hear an "expert's" opinion about the book. Taking the initiative, Boreta met up with one of her Stanford friends and started a modern day book club where ordinary people chose books to read and meet in each others homes or other convenient location for discussion and friendship. According to Boreta, there are currently around 200 book clubs registered at Orinda Books.

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City Officials Set Up Shop at the Orinda Farmers' Market

By Sophie Braccini



Council Member Worth and Mayor Pro Tem Smith answer questions from Orinda citizen Woody Karp Photo by Sophie Braccini

A new table made its appearance at the Orinda Farmers Market on Saturday August 4th. It wasn't a local farmer selling fruit and vegetables or a baker selling bread and pastries. There was nothing to be purchased at this new table, but rather information to be gathered and shared. This was the table of the Orinda City Council and Administration, who came to the market to meet and discuss issues with their constituency.

Victoria Smith, Orinda's Mayor Pro Tem, wanted to find another way to reach out to Orindans. She was struck by how many people come to the Farmer's Market every Saturday morning. So rather than waiting for members of the community to show up at Town Council Meetings, she proposed to meet them at the Market.

At the south end of the market (closest to the library), keeping cool under a green canopy, Victoria Smith and Council Member Amy Worth staffed the booth. The table was covered with documents provided by Town Clerk Michele

Olsen: A big map of the Wilder Development (formally called Gateway Development), safety information of all types, local maps, local environmental programs such as food scrap recycling, and "Grow It," a Contra Costa Clean Water Program booklet providing information about safe pest management.

Local residents stopped by to meet their representatives and ask questions. Many of them wanted to know the date of the new City Hall Open House (August 21st from 4 to 6PM). A resident who wished to stay anonymous inquired about a new senior housing development in the planning stage. Mayor Pro Tem Smith explained: "\$2.5 million has been provided by Wilder Development as part of Orinda's Affordable Housing ordinance. We are going to be able to develop senior housing units where the old library used to be, close to shopping and the new library. That will be a great alternative for our senior citizens when they have to leave their homes in the hills."

Another hot topic for resi-

dents in Orinda is the condition of the roads. After the failure of measures Q and E, residents are wondering what will be done to fix a problem that will not go away on its own. Responding to a resident who asked her why she thought the measures failed, Council Member Worth said: "Reaching the 2/3 threshold of a positive vote is pretty hard." She also added that an ad hoc commission is working on proposing alternative financing options.

Maggie Reeves, an Orinda resident for many years, commented: "It's great to be able to meet our representatives face to face, and it is helpful too!" She left with a map of the bike trails of the area.

Victoria Smith is confident that this outreach will be beneficial to the open communication between elected officials and their electorate. As far as staffing the table for the rest of the Farmers Market season, she is not worried: Council Members and senior City Staff are all looking forward to "getting out" and meeting the residents.

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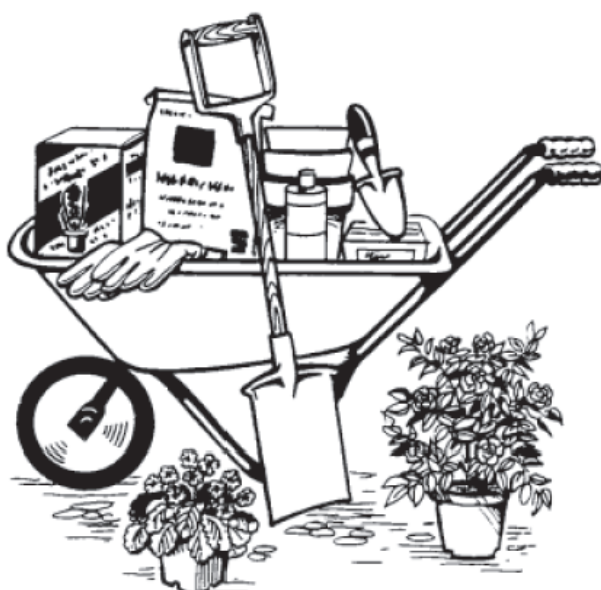
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