

Orinda Walks to Work and Bikes to School

By Lee Borrowman

The weather could have been better, but that didn't stop some Orindans from participating in the Walk/Bike/Bus to School and Work Day on Wednesday, October 10. The event was sponsored by the City of Orinda and the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) in support of the National Walk and Bike to School and Work Day, held annually in early October, and to increase awareness for improving pedestrian and bicycle pathways in our community. TSAC has committed to creating an Orinda Master Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, which will facilitate obtaining grants to make badly needed improvements.

Although conditions in Orinda are not ideal for safe walking and biking, the hope of the City was that this day would help educate and give focus on the need for improvements in this area. By encouraging parent participation in walking with their children and neighborhoods walking together, the City hoped to create a positive and safe environment, especially for school age children. Other goals included reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, being more environmentally friendly, and enhancing the health of citizens.

As it turned, the greatest numbers of participants could be found on their way to school. Council member Sue Severson was at Glorietta that morning, handing out stickers. "I was impressed with the student and parent enthusiasm for a



Glorietta families walked or biked together

Photo courtesy of Sue Severson

families and friends coming together was heartwarming," Severson said.

"The kids loved it," wrote Severson later, in a statement sent out on behalf of the event's sponsors, "we got cars off the streets and also took a step toward becoming more environmentally aware.

As follow-up, the City of Orinda is seeking your input into how walkable/bikeable our streets are in terms of getting our children to school safely. Checklists can be found in pdf format on the City's website <http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>. When completed, these can be mailed to the City Manager, City of Orinda, PO Box 2000, Orinda, CA 94573. This information is critical to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee as we work through our Safe Routes to School initiatives. Thank you for participating, it was a success because of you!"

And While We're on the Subject...

Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recently unveiled its new Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, which summarizes the ultimate goal of traffic calming as "to provide a safer and more livable environment for residents, pedestrians, bicyclists and children." The next time you're inside on a rainy day, check it out at <http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>.

Among other things, the plan describes the process by which residents can request traffic calming measures, provides traffic calming request forms, spells out the City's policy on "speed cushions" and lists the streets for which speed cushions will not be considered. That list includes arterial streets such as Bear Creek Rd, Camino Pablo, Glorietta, Moraga Way and Rheem Blvd, as well as many smaller "collector" streets.



This Glorietta family invited their dog to join in the fun

Photo courtesy of Sue Severson



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