

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, Nov 6	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, Oct 23	
Traffic Safety Advisory	7pm
Community Room City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, Oct 22	
Hist. Landmark Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, Oct 23	
Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, Nov 5	

check online:
Town of Orinda:
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/>
for: • all meeting notes
• calendar updates

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



Bad Parent-Sitting, 10/09/07 The son of an El Toyonal resident is the sole caretaker of his 93-year-old mother, they both live in the same home. The son drove mom to downtown Orinda to do some errands and left his mother in his parked car for approximately three hours. Son became intoxicated and forgot not only where he parked his car, but that his elderly mother was in it. The son got a ride home and reported his mother missing to the police. His mother was found in Orinda and returned home. A report was sent to Adult Protective Services.

Stolen Laptop, 10/08/07 A Dia Dorados resident was visiting the Orinda Community Park one day with her laptop. She left it on a park bench near the gazebo for approximately 45 minutes. Upon her return to the bench, she found her Compaq notebook computer missing.

Auto Burglary, 10/4/07 Someone broke the window of a locked car parked at Wagner Ranch School and took the owner's black purse, which was slightly covered by clothing. The purse was taken sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. when the victim was alerted to the broken window. Police found all the doors to the vehicle still locked.

Teens Find Place To Party, 10/02/07 Approximately eight people, mostly juveniles entered an El Gavilan home while the homeowner was away. The suspects were found drinking alcohol and smoking pot and allegedly using Ecstasy. No damage was done to the house and nothing was stolen. No one had permission to enter the home.

Orinda Walks to Work and Bikes to School ... continued from page 1



This Glorietta family invited their dog to join in the fun
Photo courtesy of Sue Severson

"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.

Orinda Has a Young Visitor from Tabor

By Andrea A. Firth

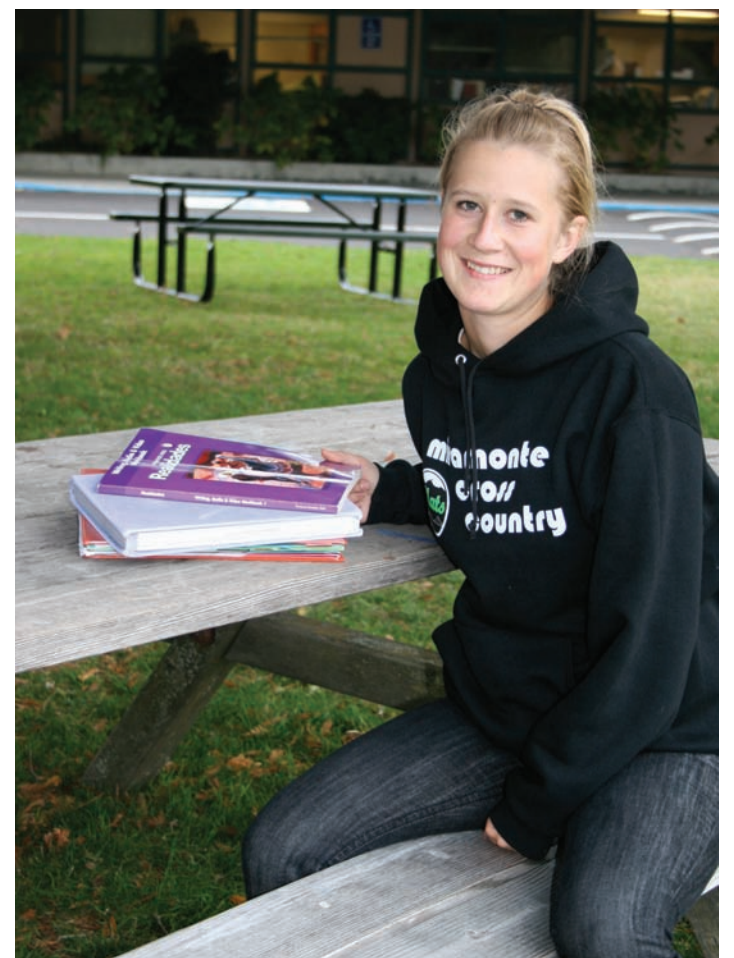
When you ask Tereza Vertatova what she likes best about life in Orinda, she replies with assurance and a smile, "I like meeting people. There are lots of people from all over the world here." Sixteen year-old Tereza is from Tabor in the Czech Republic. She is spending a semester at Miramonte High School as part of the visiting student program sponsored by the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation.

Tabor is a medieval city with a rich and turbulent history located approximately 60 miles south of Prague. "I'm used to all the old buildings in my country. I see America as young in this aspect," notes Tereza. She finds the weather and terrain in northern California a bit different too. "We have four seasons in the Czech Republic. I'm not used to the cool mornings and hot days. That's why I have a cold now," she reports with a snuffle and adds, "We have hills in Tabor, but they are not so big."

Having never been to the United States before, Tereza was motivated to head west to improve her English language skills and to do some exploring. Already, her conversational English is impeccable and includes a smattering of colloquialisms that make it difficult to distinguish her from any other high school student. As for exploring, she's been shopping in San Francisco, kayaking in Carmel, and plans to go hiking in Yosemite soon.

Now a junior at Miramonte, Tereza was intrigued by the opportunity to take an elective such as Contemporary Issues. "This class is pretty hard for me, but I like it. I get to see the world from the American perspective, the American point of view—this is interesting." She is also taking Spanish and running on the cross country track team.

Although she misses her family and friends back in



Tereza Vertatova, visiting student from Tabor in the Czech Republic.
Photo Andrea Firth

Tabor, Tereza has found the student body at Miramonte very welcoming and helpful. "Everyone talks to me and asks me where I am from. They are curious, and I think this is good," she explains. Tereza will have two more years of high school to complete when

she returns to the Czech Republic in February. She plans to go to college possibly majoring in languages. Tereza would like to return to California someday, and she adds, "I hope that some of the friends that I made here will come visit me in the Czech Republic."

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