

New Mayor for Orinda

By Cathy Tyson

It was standing room only at the Orinda Library Auditorium for the Annual Reorganization of the Orinda City Council. Former Mayor Steve Glazer had just finished his year and was ready to make the transition to City Council Member, but not before a little good-natured ribbing from his fellow City Council Members.

Former Mayor Pro Tem, and now current Mayor Victoria Smith started the festivities with, “we’re here to roast, I mean honor, Steve Glazer who has served the citizens of Orinda with great distinction.” Council Members took turns with jibes, some serious and complimentary, some true and downright funny.

Just a few of the humorous comments included, “red silk pajama flash-backs, trolling with the top down on his BMW to be closer to his constituents, to bring Orinda’s Safeway up to Moraga’s standards, so residents can enjoy five kinds of organic carrots,” among others.

Another light moment came from a representative of the Orinda Historical Society. Noting that he “has taken a lot of guff about the road situation,” she gave him a photo of the Crossroads taken in 1936 as a gift. “The roads were worse then than they are now, dirt.”

According to Glazer, highlights from his year as Mayor included: a 50% increase in road spending over the past five year average, a new City Hall with Emergency Operations Center which is environmentally friendly, a new police chief, Chief French, the Pulte Pinegrove project, the Shop Orinda campaign, bringing Cal Shakes to Theater Square for their season kick-off, an all star year for the Arts Council with the library installation and Orinda Idol, improvements to the water plant fencing and landscaping to benefit the Manzanita neighborhood, and as noted above, improvements to the Safeway store.

“Being the Mayor has really been a gift to me in so many ways, a gift that I’ll always treasure,” summarized Glazer.

New Mayor Smith complemented the former Mayor’s ability to set a civil tone, to disagree without being disagreeable.

Smith has, “two key issues to make progress on this year, one is roads, two is downtown revitalization.” She continued, “It’s time to stop taking pot shots and start filling pot holes.” Finally, she had two words for the holiday season, “Shop Orinda,” suggesting that revenue that stays in Orinda will help the road situation.

Both Smith and new Mayor Pro Tem, Sue Severson were elected unanimously.



Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith

Photo Cathy Tyson