

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Dec 18

Planning Comm. 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Monday, Dec 17

Hist. Landmark Comm. 3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, Jan 22 (no Dec meeting)

Liaison 8:30am
Community Room at City Hall
22 Orinda Way
Monday, Jan 7

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

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

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 flashbacks, 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 landscap-

ing 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

The Results are in for Mayor's Architecture Award
By David Anderson



Homeowner Jesse Undlin Photo David Anderson

On Tuesday December 4th The Orinda City Council awarded the first ever Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture to Jesse and Laura Undlin of 40 Barbara Lane. Designed by William Simpson who is also of Orinda, the Undlin's new home won among a pool of fifteen nominees and two other finalists to earn the honor.

Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer, who founded the award during his term this year, said in his statement to a packed house Tuesday night that he and his panel were "looking for a way to recognize those who have gone the extra mile (in residential design)" and were looking for

nominees whose work exemplified an improvement, "not just to their homes but to the whole neighborhood."

The Undlin residence won in large part due to the relationship of their home to the site on which it was constructed (regarded as the most important set of criteria). The second most important was 'Architectural Expression.' This 1,800 square foot multi-level home with shake siding is set back into the hillside effectively utilizing the property in the design of the home. The residence is energy efficient with a radiant floor heating system and a tank-less water heater.

Mayor Pro Tem Victoria Smith describes the Undlin residence as a "small but livable home that maximizes the use of the (up sloping) lot," adding that "both the indoor and outdoor living areas are oriented so that they don't infringe on the privacy of the neighbors and the home is appropriately sized for the neighborhood."

Among the other finalists were the Logan residence at 6

Beaconsfield Court designed by Peter Golze of Berkeley and the Bott residence at 1 Dos Posos designed by Jarvis Architects of Oakland. The fifteen nominations exemplified a wide range of residential design including a Colonial Mexican Hacienda, a Mediterranean Style Villa and a modern home described by the designers as "Napa meets South of Market".

ORINDA POLICE

Attempted Burglary, 12/5/07
Someone forced entry in Yu Sushi, an Orinda Way restaurant by smashing the front glass door. Suspect checked the cash register, which was empty and a box of delivery receipts. No items were missing, no fingerprints were found.

Actual Burglary 12/04/07
A Southwood Court resident parked her car in the garage and went into her house for nine minutes, leaving the garage open, vehicle unlocked, and keys in the center console. Upon her return, the resident saw her keys and purse were taken. Partial latent prints were found. \$100. cash and \$350. in property were taken.

Car vs. Pole 12/02/07
The pole won. At midnight, a 29-year old Albany resident was driving on Moraga Way and somehow hit a P G & E pole. He continued driving south for about 200 yards, when he pulled over, and stood outside his vehicle. This may come as a surprise, but the driver admitted to drinking prior to getting behind the wheel.

D.U.I ., 12/01/07
At just after midnight, a La Espiral resident changed lanes without signaling near Orinda Way and Santa Maria. The officer pulled him over, and noticed a strong odor of alcohol. Test showed a blood alcohol level of .11, over the limit of .08. The gentleman was released to the custody of his wife. Perhaps he was not aware of the Avoid the 25 campaign.

Artscape Orinda—A Unique Exhibit Not to be Missed
Andrea A. Firth

Artscape Orinda kicked off last Sunday amidst cooler than typical winter weather with a private reception attended by the artists, city council members, and many local patrons of the arts. As the music of the violinist wafted from the upper level of the Library Plaza, guests enjoyed wine and an array of hors d'oeuvres as they walked around the Orinda City Library, Community Center, and

City Hall admiring the sculptures that comprise the year-long exhibit and mingling with the artists on hand. The exhibit is sponsored by the City of Orinda and the Orinda Arts Council, and the artworks are on temporary loan from the artists and donors for the residents of Orinda and the surrounding communities to learn from and enjoy.

The sculptures are made from a variety of durable materials and range in size from big to bigger and bigger still. Some are playful in design, others more austere, and a few require some reflection.

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