

# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Orinda

**Calendar**

**City Council 7pm**  
Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way  
Tuesday, March 4

**Special Meeting**  
Strategic Planning Meeting  
Friday, Feb 22 - 11:00am  
Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale  
Community Room, 22 Orinda Way  
**Planning Comm. 6:30pm**  
Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way  
Tuesday, Feb 26

**Planning Process Review 8:30am**  
Planning Conference Room at City Hall  
22 Orinda Way  
Friday, Feb 29

**Mayor's Com. Liaison 9am**  
Community Room at City Hall  
22 Orinda Way  
Monday, Mar 3

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

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



**Bev Mo Burglary, 2/12/08** Three adults entered Bev Mo and spent some time in the store without making a purchase. A short time later the suspect, one of the original Bev Mo three, entered the store, where an employee saw her put two champagne bottles in a large purse. She and her pals drove away in a red Ford Taurus.

**House Burglary 2/10/08** A vacant Miner Road residence was seemingly burgled. Officers found the front door unlocked and large amounts of garbage and miscellaneous items everywhere. The home was extremely dilapidated. The elderly owner of the home, who lives on Valley View Drive said it was burglarized but couldn't provide a list of missing items before the police report was completed.

**D.U.I., 2/09/08** A young man was riding a dirt bike and collided into a pole on Bates Boulevard. The victim had a strong odor of alcohol and showed signs of intoxication. To seal the deal, he flunked the field sobriety test and had a blood alcohol level of .11.

**Shoplifting, 2/09/08** A suspect was stopped after leaving Rite Aid with items on his person. He admitted the theft and showed the officer where he stowed the goods. To make matters worse, the 32-year-old suspect was on parole.

## Orinda's First GHAD

By Cathy Tyson



Photo provided by Keadjian Associates, Vallejo  
Elevation and site plan of one of the four single family homes that were approved by the City of Orinda in December. This particular home is two stories and features an inner courtyard. Architect Robert Hidey Architects, Landscape architect Hart Howerton and Master developer Brooks Street

At the Orinda City Council Meeting on February 5, staff recommended that a hearing to consider the formation of the Wilder Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) be set for March 4 at the Library Auditorium. Interested residents are welcome to attend.

This will be the first GHAD in Orinda. According to Jason Keadjian, Spokesman for Wilder, "It's intended to set aside money and fund proactively long-term maintenance for slopes, retention ponds, storm water systems, in the event of a landslide or earthquake. It provides a budget that's funded by homeowners. The City deserves credit for requiring it as part of the Development

Agreement."

"The site is geologically complex, including highly folded volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Geotechnical challenges at the site include highly expansive soils, existing undocumented fills and steep cut slopes associated with an abandoned quarry," states ENGE0, Inc., Wilder's provider of geotechnical engineering.

Only residents of Wilder will pay the assessment. It will appear on their county tax bills. Funds will go toward annual monitoring, maintenance and a plan of control by a certified engineer geologist.

GHAD's are actually a relatively new phenomenon, the Beverly statute, enacted in 1979,

provided for the formation of local assessment districts for prevention, mitigation, abatement or control of geologic hazards: like landslides, land subsidence, soil erosion, and earthquakes, either actual or threatened.

Orinda won't be the only city in Contra Costa County to have a GHAD. Canyon Lakes, a subdivision of over 1,000 acres near Danville formed one in 1985. The City of San Ramon formed a GHAD in 1990 in the Dougherty Valley area, that when totally built out will encompass 11,000 housing units making it possibly the biggest GHAD in California. Because of the number of residential units within this particular GHAD, the assessment



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is only \$111. this year per unit, and is adjusted annually for inflation.

Senior Engineer with the City of San Ramon, Robin Bartlett said, "Coming up with the assessment amount is a bit of an art. It's somewhat analogous to figuring out insurance risks. Every GHAD is different depending on area soils, likelihood of liquefaction, landslides and other factors." Once a per home assessment is determined, it will be divided among the projected maximum of 245 homes in the development.

Funding for the Wilder GHAD will be set up in perpetuity to provide a long-term reserve indexed for inflation for prevention, monitoring, maintenance, mitigation and large-scale repairs for basically any kind of earth movement, or potential movement.

A GHAD is beneficial because it's a type of insurance policy against geologic hazards and it protects the property of the City collectively rather than through a homeowners association.

When the original presentation was made, City Council members were concerned if there would be a fiscal impact for the City. There were assured by Wilder's Geotechnical Engineer that the answer is no.

Wilder's "Ranch House" sales office is currently being built and will be open later this summer. The developer is in the process of finalizing a sales program and will begin initial sales in the next several months. The first of four architectural plans were extremely well received by the City of Orinda. Over 1400 people have expressed an interest in the project, so far.

## Teens Talk Cars at Orinda Motors

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck  
John Vanek offers guidance to Orinda teens

Emily Jorgens is a responsible sophomore at Miramonte who will be getting her driver's license in a few days. So the vice-president of the sophomore leadership class at Miramonte thought it would be a good idea to organize a class for her classmates and herself, to learn how to take proper care of their cars. "We are all at an age when we get our permits and driver licenses," says Jorgens, "so last summer I went to see John Vanek of Orinda Motors to see if he would

help us." The idea was to make it a fund-raiser as well for the class of 2010 and Vanek, who is very active in the community, was happy to give some of his time to the project. Vanek explained that he'd rather interact with a small group of students, so three sessions were planned. The cost is \$25 and includes a lunch that was given for the first session by Village Pizza in Orinda.

Vanek believes it is important to give young drivers an introduction to auto maintenance and operation. "Often time those young people are given a car by their family," says Vanek, "however, they need to take ownership of operating the car. They need to understand it requires maintenance, and that they need to be prepared if trouble happen."

The class includes a

good look under the hood and learning about a few basics like where is the spare tire on a car? Where is the emergency signal? And how to check the oil, break fluid, coolant and transmission oil level. Vanek teaches them

too how to recognize trouble and intervene before the car breaks down. "We learned to be prepared," says Jorgens, "it was a fun class and I will definitely take a more in depth look at my owner's manual." Vanek highlights

the importance of reading the manual because it is there that is found the maintenance schedule of a car.

The second part of the session dealt with how to react in case of emergency.

... continued on page 14



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Orinda's Sister City

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