

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, March 18	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, March 11	
Planning Process Review	3:30pm
Planning Conference Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Residential Subcommittee: Friday, March 7	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center Room 7 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, March 12	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, March 13	
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.

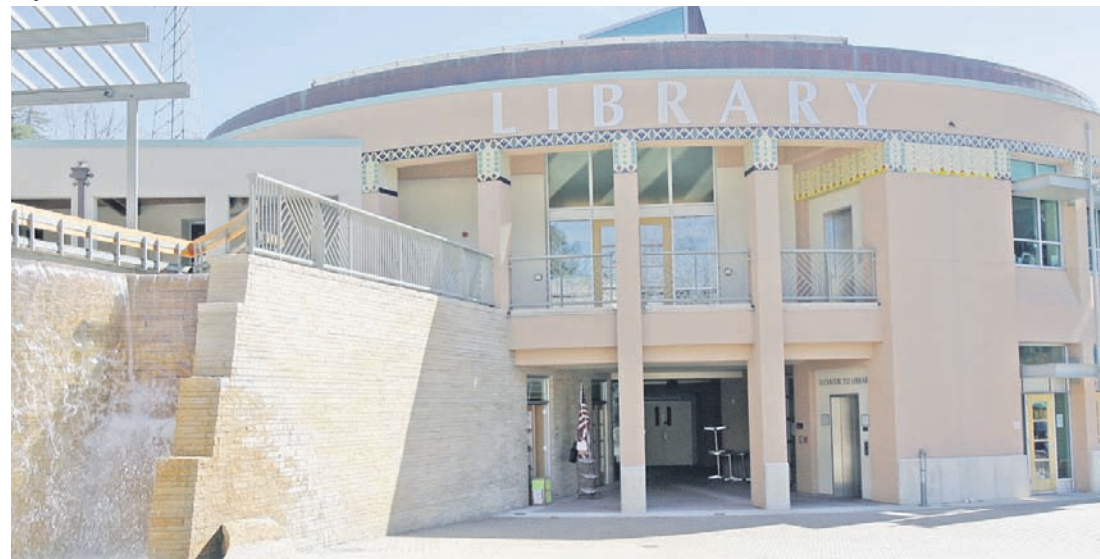
House Burglary 2/10/08 A vacant Miner Road residence was seemingly burgled. Officers found the front door unlocked and large amounts of garbage and miscellaneous items everywhere. The home was extremely dilapidated. The elderly owner of the home, who lives on Valley View Drive said it was burglarized 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 Library Parcel Tax—A Question for the June 3rd Ballot

By Andrea A Firth



Orinda Library

Following many meetings, much analysis, and some vigorous debate, the Orinda City Council unanimously passed a resolution to place a measure on the June 3rd special election ballot regarding the Orinda Library parcel tax. The current library parcel tax sunsets in midsummer of 2009 and requires a voter approved ballot measure to renew. Voters will be asked to authorize the continuation of the existing parcel tax with an upward adjustment from \$27 to \$39 per parcel per year for the purpose of maintaining library hours and services. "I am hopeful that the people of Orinda will recognize that this is something important to maintain," stated Council member Tom McCormick, "I fully support it." Mayor Pro Tem, Sue Severson concurred, "I whole heartedly support this effort. It truly benefits all citizens in our community."

In 2001, Orinda residents originally approved the library parcel tax—known as Measure H—with 75% of voters in support. "The County provides funding to keep the library open 27 hours per week," according to Pat Rudebusch a member of the Board of the Friends of the Orinda Library. "Thanks to the parcel tax we are

able to keep the library open 60 hours per week, an additional 33 hours—more than double." With the parcel tax due to expire next summer, the Friends of the Orinda Library identified the need to secure continued funding to maintain library hours and services at the current level. "[The Friends'] primary goal is to keep the library open 60 hours per week," explained Nancy Kaible, a member of the Friends of the Orinda Library and long-time library supporter.

The City of Orinda and the Friends of the Orinda Library joined forces to hire the firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates to conduct a feasibility study of the community's interest in keeping the library open 60 hours per week and to test their support of various funding scenarios. Telephone poll results of 301 Orinda residents revealed a very positive attitude toward the library and its services. Over 90% of those interviewed had used the library facility in the past year and 92% approved of the performance of the library.

Council members Amy Worth and Steve Glaser worked with City staff and members of the Friends of the Orinda Library to determine an annual parcel tax

amount that would address the effect of inflation and cover the library operating costs (associated with the additional hours) through the next decade. This led to the recommendation of \$39 per residential parcel tax with no sunset. "I think the \$39 number is fair and reasonable," stated Nancy Kaible when she addressed the Council. "The library will be there when you need it and provide what you expect...I think the citizens will support this."

The relationship between the Friends of the Orinda Library and City has a long and complex history. The Orinda Library sits on land owned by the City while the Friends of the Orinda Library own the Library building and maintain a lease to purchase agreement with the City. The City maintains responsibility for insurance, maintenance, and utilities and has the option to purchase the Library building for \$1 in 2051. Library operating expenses are covered by the County subsidy and the current parcel tax, and the Friends pay for materials and programs through books sales. "It's always been a very successful partnership," noted Council Member Amy Worth.

Photo Tod Fierner



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Programs in Orinda Offer Teens Something To Do

By David Anderson



Orinda Teen Advisory Council Coordinator Jenny Hudson Photo Tod Fierner

If you're a teen in Orinda looking for activities to participate in, you're not alone. Orinda has never had the reputation for being a particularly teen friendly city. Recently, however, there have been attempts made within the community to change that stigma.

The Orinda Teen Advisory Council (OTAC) is currently working with teens to develop programs that will satisfy the need for teen activities in Orinda. Jenny Hudson, Coordinator for OTAC, is at the foreground of this effort, meeting with teenagers to help carry out their ideas. Accord-

ing to Hudson, the main goal of OTAC is to "provide something for teens to do and somewhere to go in Orinda. That's what the teens are mostly concerned about." It is not, however, just about finding activities for teens. Hudson would add, "With OTAC it's not just something to do but something healthy to do, something that's not alcohol or drug related" adding that community service and community involvement is the other main goal of both the teen participants and the council.

... continued on page 11

Bike-Trail-Walk Plan in the Works in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

It should get easier to walk, hike, and bike through the hills and rough roads in Orinda—it may not be soon, but at least that's the plan. Orinda City Council recently approved the appointment of Alta Planning from Berkeley to develop the Orinda Bicycle, Trails, and Walkways (OBTW) Master Plan. Noting that Orinda residents have expressed concerns about safety when walking their children to school or biking through downtown, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Severson described the development of the Master Plan as a very positive and exciting venture that is sensitive to the needs of the community.

The OBTW Master Plan will guide the planning, development and management of the existing and future bicycle and walking trails and support the pedestrian infrastructure

of the City according to City Engineer Janice Carey. The goal of the plan is to create an arrangement of paths, trails, and walkways that safely connect residential areas to public transportation, schools, parks, regional trail systems, and the downtown areas.

In addition, Carey noted that Alta would identify potential funding sources for the implementation of the Master Plan over the next twenty years. City Council Member Amy Worth described the OBTW Master Plan as an investment. "It's seed money. It will come back to us. Projects of this sort are supported by grants much more if the projects are part of a well-developed plan," she stated.

The OBTW Master Plan project is the joint effort between the Traffic Safety Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City. Development of the Master Plan will be funded through park fees, traffic impact fees, and the City General Fund. The City Council approved the awarding of the service contract with a vote of four to one. Council Member Tom McCormick dissented and commented that although he agreed with the development of the plan in concept, he opposed the use of General Fund monies for the project.



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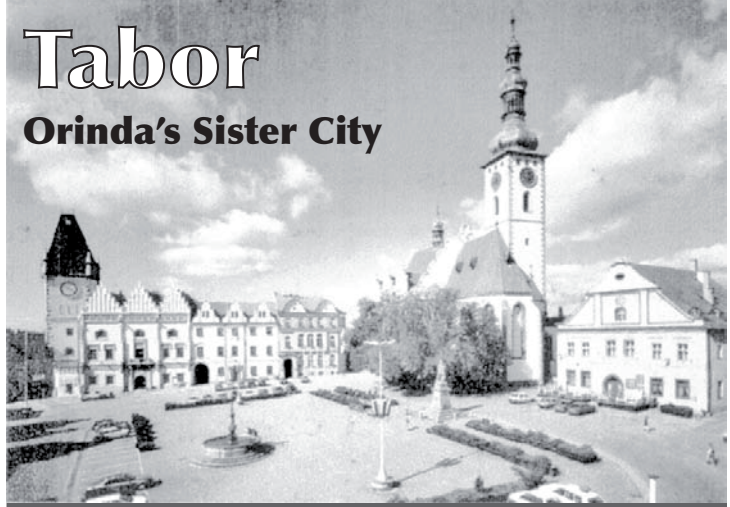
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