

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 8	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Founders Auditorium, Comm. Center 28 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 1	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room, Comm. Center 28 Orinda Way Task Force Friday, March 21	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, April 9	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, April 7	

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



Driving while angry, 3/10/08 An Orinda resident was driving east-bound on Highway 24 when someone started to tailgate him. Hand gestures were exchanged. The agitated tailgater followed the Orinda resident through the tunnel, they both parked at the Bev Mo parking lot. "I want the fast lane," said the disgruntled driver. He then used his tazer, and following that he sprayed pepper spray on the unsuspecting victim. Mr. Cranky driver then drove away. The white male middle-aged Orinda resident called a friend to take him home.

Auto burglary, 3/10/08 An unknown suspect broke into a car in front of a Dalewood Drive residence. The drivers side window was broken in and a Blackberry valued at \$400 as well as a digital camera, valued at \$1,000 were taken. The theft occurred sometime between 10:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.

Mail stolen, 3/10/08 A Bobolink Road resident had his mail stolen by unknown suspects from 2/28/08 until 3/02/08. The Post Office confirmed the mail was delivered to the home on those days.

Alteration rip-off 3/04/08 Three females entered the Clean Cleaners on Orinda Way to have a skirt altered. After bringing one of the women to the fitting room at the back of the store, the suspect decided not to have her skirt altered after all. Shortly thereafter an employee discovered her purse was missing. Video surveillance is available.

Mayor Gives State of the City Address

By Cathy Tyson



Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith at the Orinda Library Photo Cathy Tyson

"Our biggest challenge is roads. As you probably all know, the bad news is we have 95 miles of the worst roads in the entire bay area. We have sunk below the city of Richmond. We are dead last. As you probably also know it will cost \$100 million dollars to rebuild them," said Mayor Victoria Smith in her State of the City address.

To an overflowing crowd, Smith outlined what was happening in all the City departments and gave an overview of the budget. The straightforward speech was enhanced with a media presentation that included themed music for the various sections. Right off the bat was a crowd pleaser from the Rolling Stones, "You Can't Always Get What You Want" to kick off the first section, discussion of the road situation.

After graciously welcoming everyone and thanking all who contributed to the event, Mayor Smith singled out Monica Pacheco with a special audience acknowledgement for her technical assistance in putting together the visual aids and the music.

Continuing on with the road theme she spoke of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee. "Their task is to make sure with the limited road dollars that we do have, around a million dollars a year...to make sure we are spending it on the right priorities. They will bring their recommendations to us in the next couple of months and we look forward to that." Seeking state funding and looking at various alternatives, like benefit assessment districts are options they are actively pursuing.

On a more positive note, the good news is the Moraga Way paving project has been

moved up so as not to conflict with the EBMUD plan to replace pipes along Moraga Road through Lafayette during the summer months. The \$2.8 million dollar repair, offset by a substantial grant of \$1.3 million from the state will be big improvement for drivers.

Following that came the aptly titled, "What does the City do for you and how does it do it?" Here she talked about the City's operating budget, about \$10.8 million dollars, over 50% of which comes from property and sales taxes. It may surprise some residents to know that for every dollar in property tax paid, Orinda only gets seven cents of tax revenue.

Next on the municipal finance theme was expenses. A substantial portion of the revenue pie is spent, almost one third, for police services. After everyone got a chuckle from the song, "I Fought The Law And The Law Won," Smith summarized the department; "We contract with Contra Costa Sheriff's Department for our police services. We have 14 sworn officers, so we always have at least two on duty at all times. We have a very safe city." She was pleased to report a 48% decrease in auto related crimes, which she attributes to good policing.

The Capital Improvement Budget for 2007 - 2008 of \$3.8 million will be spent on infrastructure projects; for example the Moraga Way project, the annual pavement management budget, fixing the Manzanita and Miner Road bridges, and repairing storm drains.

Parks and Recreation followed with some truly impressive numbers. "We really have a cradle to grave program here. We have things for toddlers, we have things for seniors. We offer more than 400 classes each session of the year; each of these sessions has more than 3,000 participants. They really do a terrific job for our community," proudly reported Smith.

Planning, Public Works, Engineering, and Administration were outlined towards the end of the speech along with updates on the Wilder and Pulte developments.

Shop **locally** whenever you can. Only your support of our **local** businesses will keep them open!



Residential and Restoration Painting Services

Meticulous attention to detail
37 years of satisfied customers

David Collins, Orinda

925-254-6882

Much Ado About Not Much

By Sophie Braccini

Executive Director Paul Morsen came out of retirement to help fix the management of the Central Contra Costa Waste Authority. Recently, a controversy emerged as the fairness of the use of a reserve fund was questioned. "The issue of the difference in use of fund reserve between jurisdictions needs to be put into perspective," says Morsen. "We are talking about the allocation of a three million dollar reserve accumulated over a 13 year period, when the annual garbage collection envelope is \$30 to \$35 million a year."

Each city pays a different rate. The solid waste rate is very dependant on the terrain,

the number of private streets, the size and practicability of the drives, and the number of commercial businesses. The more businesses, the lower the rate. So it is no wonder that Orinda, with its miles of roads and limited business population, suffers the highest rate. "Orinda is the toughest city to collect," explains Morsen, "while Walnut Creek is much cheaper."

In order to smooth the rates that are dependent on oil prices, the Authority saved money in a reserve fund that could be used in the subsequent years. It was found that Orinda had benefited more than its share from that fund.

"We are trying to find ways to solve what has been done in the past," says Morsen, "but there is no risk of a related rate increase." Decisions will be made by the Board in the coming weeks. Morsen would rather see attention focused on the good management of the Authority, which has maintained and even reduced pick-up rates over the past ten years, in spite of oil price increases and investment in new equipment. In Lafayette the rate went from an average per house per month of \$26.69 in 1994 to \$19.93 now, in Moraga from \$22.94 to \$19.98 and in Orinda from \$25.63 to \$25.23.

Moraga Way Paving Anticipated This Spring

By Cathy Tyson

In light of the Lafayette upcoming road closure for a large EBMUD project, Orinda wisely moved up the paving schedule of Moraga Way to avoid what could have been a traffic nightmare. Moraga residents will be especially pleased that both main exits from town aren't blocked at the same time.

At the State of the City Address Mayor Victoria Smith summarized the \$2.8 million dollar project that is tentatively expected to start in the next couple of months. "The City Engineer was able to get grants of \$1.3 million dollars, part of that for rubberized asphalt, which produces less noise. It will run all the way from downtown to the Moraga border. It will be a headache I know, but it'll be fantastic when it's done."

Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter signed the con-



Rough road conditions on Moraga Way Photo Andy Scheck

tract last week. "The next step will be to authorize hiring a Construction Manager for the project. This item goes to the City Council on March 18. After the Construction Manager (CM) is hired, the CM,

City staff and the contractor will meet to outline the schedule. I would hope we would have an idea of the schedule within the next couple of weeks," she said.

TILE CONTRACTOR

Kitchen, Bathroom, Floor & Fireplace

Phone: 925-437-5569

Quality Installation:
Ceramic Tile • Marble • Granite Stone • Glass Tile & Mosaic Porcelain • Slate • Travertine

Free Estimate
Reasonable Prices
www.TileContractorInc.com
State Lic. #791897

TheHattersleys.com

Helping You Achieve Your Goals!

Peter Hattersley
925.708.9515

Darlene Hattersley
925.360.9588

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1-4

724 Spartan Ct., Walnut Creek
A Larkey Park beauty in a private court.

7 E Altarinda, Orinda
Traditional on flat, sunny .5 acres + solar pool.

COMING SOON IN LAFAYETTE!

Gorgeous views, 5 bedrooms,
4.5 baths, pool plus sport court.

Find MLS Listings and Valuable Buyer and Seller Tips on our Website.

Now in Walnut Creek

Jumpstart Your Weight Loss

Jumpstart Medicine offers a medically-supervised weight loss program individually designed for men and women looking to lose weight safely and quickly. On average, our patients lose 2 to 5 pounds per week over the course of 12 weeks. Most patients feel great, have no cravings, and stay highly motivated due to quick results which they can see and feel.

How much do you want to lose?

jumpstart

MEDICINE

Walnut Creek • San Ramon

925-277-1123 • www.jumpstartmedicine.com

1031 EXCHANGES...

TENANT-IN-COMMON SPECIALISTS

Presidio Exchange Advisors, a branch office of Omni Brokerage, Inc

- ✳ Over the past five years, more than one out of every ten dollars invested in real estate 1031 TIC securities offerings have been transacted through OMNI Brokerage.
- ✳ Since 1995 OMNI Brokerage has completed over 3,000 TIC securities transactions.
- ✳ OMNI Brokerage is the largest broker-dealer in the 1031 TIC securities industry, based on equity raised.
- ✳ Clients have invested into real estate valued at over \$3.0 Billion through OMNI Brokerage.

DAVID WAAL
PRINCIPAL

2950 BUSKIRK AVE., STE 300
WALNUT CREEK,
CA 94597

(925) 407-4747

Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member FINRA/SIPC

1031 Replacement Property Solutions