

# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, May 6	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 22	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room, City Hall 22 Orinda Way Friday, April 25	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way City Council joint Meeting Wednesday, May 6	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, May 5	
check online: Town of Orinda: <a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/</a> • all meeting notes • calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: <a href="http://www.orindachamber.org/">http://www.orindachamber.org/</a> • local businesses • upcoming events	



**Big Burglary, 4/02/08** An Oakridge Lane resident left his home around 7:20 in the morning, his wife left a short while later. When he returned home that afternoon, the front door was unlocked and ajar. Upon walking into the master bedroom, he noticed several jewelry boxes dumped on the floor. The master bath window was pried open. The homeowner had left a ladder in the side yard, directly under the bathroom window. Approximately \$25,000 in jewelry was taken, along with a laptop, cameras and several prescription medications.

**Car Chase, 4/04/08** A 2006 Mercedes was speeding westbound on Highway 24, going approximately 110 m.p.h. at 2:00 in the morning. An officer gave chase, but the Mercedes driver ditched him. The car is registered to a Fairfield resident. Fairfield police were contacted. The registered owner of the vehicle said he gave the car away to a friend about a year ago.

**Motorcycle chase, 4/04/08** An Orinda officer attempted to stop two off-road motorcyclists close to Gateway Boulevard and Upton, near the upcoming Wilder development. The cyclists fled into a field and drove through a barbed wire fence that surrounds the project. Wilder security gave chase on foot, officers used police car lights and a siren, but the sneaky motorcyclists got away, because cops had to unlock a gate to follow.

**Car Burglary, 4/03/08** A Moraga Via resident parked and locked her car in her home's driveway in the evening. When she came out the next morning, the driver's side window was smashed and her iPod was missing. Approximate value \$300 for the iPod and about \$125 for window repair.

## Orinda Roadrunners Hit the Trail

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda Roadrunners on the Bay Area Ridge Trail

Photo provided

Dial the Orinda Roadrunner Hotline anytime 24/7 and you will hear the deep, anchor-like voice of Jerry Wendt listing the meeting spots for the group—that is the coffee shops throughout Lamorinda where this crew of runners gets “fired up” to hit the trail on weekday and weekend mornings. “We sometimes describe ourselves as coffee drinkers with a running problem,” says Wendt, one of the co-founders of the 34 year-old running club.

In addition to scheduled runs six days a week—Monday is the day of rest in their case—this crew of dedicated runners takes on a running goal each year. For exam-

ple, about ten years ago the group ran every street in Orinda over the course of several outings. “In the early days, we did mostly street running,” explains John Fazel, another longtime Roadrunner. “But over time we have transitioned to become the Lamorinda trail junkies.” So it fits that this year’s running goal is to traverse the 300 miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. In six- to nine-mile segments, members will do all, most, or some of the trail legs by running or hiking. And after completing each segment, they meet for—coffee, of course.

Both Wendt and Fazel are no strangers to the roads and trails of

the Bay Area and beyond. Wendt has run 35 marathons including the original Olympic marathon course in Greece, which he navigated with group of Roadrunner pals (all with their shoes on). Fazel has taken his running to the ultra-level having completed a 100-mile endurance race between Squaw Valley and Auburn climbing 18,000 vertical feet in the process. And he has done it more than once and in less than 30 hours. “My longest stop during the race was for eight minutes to eat,” he notes. “That’s really fast food.” Currently Fazel has plans to run his last leg of the American Discovery Trail, a 6,800-mile cross-country adven-



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ture run that extends between San Francisco and Lewes, Delaware.

Wendt and Fazel’s extensive running resumes are not meant to scare the average runner away from joining the Roadrunner outings. Weekday runs start at 5:45 am and are about three to five miles in length. “A few of the members meet at 5:30 am for coffee before starting,” states Wendt. “They get two cups out of the deal.” Weekend runs start at 7:30 am and rotate between trails in

Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. “On the weekends, we typically run four to six miles and sometimes up to nine. Some of us run, some hike, and we all drink coffee,” he adds.

“We really encourage everyone to come out to join us,” invites Fazel. “It’s like an extended family. And the older we get, the faster we were,” he adds with a smile. Orinda Roadrunner Hotline: (925) 937-2046, www.orindarunners.org.



## New Developments in Orinda

By Wendy Scheck and Cathy Tyson



Artist's rendering of an Orinda Grove street scene

Provided by Pulte Homes

More than 80 attendees, many of them real estate professionals, joined the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held recently to hear details about two residential projects that are finally coming to fruition, Orinda Grove by Pulte Homes and the Wilder development.

Orinda Grove, on Altarinda Road, is heading down the final path of the Design Review process and, providing things go smoothly once the project is presented to the City Council, demolition will begin in the late summer or early fall and home construction will begin in early 2009.

A total of 73 units up to three stories high and 2,600 square feet in size will be built. Of those, 68 units will be 1-3 story single family detached homes and eight of the units will be duplexes that will be considered affordable housing. A murmur of surprise passed through the crowd when a price range of the mid \$300K’s was mentioned for the duplexes.

A city owned tot-lot and ball field as well as a new School District building are being designed and constructed by the developer as part of the project. The complex will be pedestrian oriented and residents will have just a ten minute walk to downtown or BART.

“We’ve been working on this project for a little over four years, obviously it’s been challenging at times. There has been a lot of input from neighbors, the City and the community. That input was important to the success of the plan we have today,” said Kim Diamond, Senior Manager with Pulte Homes.

Mike Olson, the tenacious Wilder Project Manger since 1997, was pleased to finally announce that home sites are now available for sale and construction of homes can begin this fall.

The 1,600 acres of land will have just 200 acres developed with 245 homes and buildings; the remaining 1,400 acres are set aside as open space. Some of the highlights of the project for the community include: four public ball fields with 300 parking places; a public Art and Garden complex with four structures totaling 6,000 square feet and 50 parking places that can be utilized for meetings, shows and events. Finally meandering paths throughout the proj-

ect will connect to miles of Regional Park and EBMUD trails with spectacular views from Tilden to the San Leandro Reservoir.

A private swim club just for Wilder residents will feature an Olympic size swimming pool with automatic timers for swim meets.

Audience members were concerned about potential parking, shopping and school busing problems that may ensue when over 200 additional families live in Orinda. Olson deferred these questions to the City Council and other developers.

## The Farmers' Market Returns!



The Orinda Farmers' Market will open for the season on Saturday, May 3rd. Regular hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Market

will be in the same location as last year, on Orinda Way in the Village (near Rite Aid and the Community Park).

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