

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, June 17	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, June 24	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Monday, June 16	
Traffic Safty Advisory Committee	
OIS Library 80 Ivy Drive	
Monday, June 16	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Monday, July 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	



Riding a bike while drunk, 6/03/08 A 24-year-old white male riding a bicycle failed to stop at a red light at the intersection of Santa Maria and Orinda Way. An officer made an enforcement stop and smelled alcohol, noticed his watery eyes and slurred speech. The tipsy cyclist flunked the field sobriety test. He was taken to the Martinez detention facility for processing.

Burglary, 6/02/08 A computer monitor and two books of blank checks were taken when an Underhill Road home was broken into. The front door of the home was forced open.

Graffiti, 6/02/08 Graffiti was sprayed on three walls at Miramonte. School security cameras photographed the subject, but the images were not clear enough to identify the suspect. Officers canvassed the neighborhood; neighbors didn't see or hear anything.

Golf Cart stolen, 5/30/08 The Orinda Country Club is one cart short these days. Someone forced entry into the Camino Sobrante club by cutting a chain and took a golf cart off the premises.

Download stories from
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>
 (a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

New Amateur Radio Station Installed in Orinda's City Hall

By Andrea A. Firth



Gene Gottfried and Marty Heyman at the Amateur Radio station in City Hall
Photo Andrea A. Firth

They were there after 9/11, after Katrina, and most recently after the devastating earthquake in China. Amateur radio operators—or hams—have served as auxiliary and primary communicators in disasters settings for the past 100 years. And if disaster strikes in Orinda, they will be there too. A new Amateur Radio station has been installed at City hall and was formally presented to the City of Orinda on June 3rd.

Envisioned before ground broke on the new City Hall, the station was financed through a grant from the Orinda Rotary

Club and installed through the combined efforts of the City of Orinda and Amateur Radio Operators of the Orinda Rotary Club and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

"Basically whenever disaster strikes, the hams come on the air," says Gene Gottfried, who serves as the Volunteer Emergency Coordinator for Orinda. Gottfried's interest in ham radios started a little over ten years ago when he innocently asked a member of the Fire Department how he would communicate with rescue operations from his home up on El Toyonal in the

event of a major fire or earthquake. The answer was a ham radio, so Gottfried put an antenna on his roof out of his wife's line of sight and proceeded to get trained and certified with an FCC license.

"We become an organic network. We fill in and stitch together what is needed," adds Marty Heyman, Orinda Rotary member, ham radio operator, and ostensibly Gene's right hand in Orinda's emergency coordination effort. When asked how often Marty communicates with his ham radio set up, he answers quickly, "Constantly." Heyman runs a weekly citywide emergency drill each Wednesday evening where hams throughout Orinda and Moraga call in to an assigned radio frequency. Typically these amateur radio operators are part of community emergency response teams and neighborhood watch groups.

The new radio station in City Hall will provide reliable two-way radio communications in the event of an emergency when normal communication channels become overloaded or inoperable. There are an estimated 60 to 70 ham radio operators in Orinda and several hundred through out Contra Costa County. Each week ham radio operator through out the county, who have special training in emergency communications, conduct practice drills to ensure that they will be ready in the event of disaster.

Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture, Landscape, and Environmental Sustainability—Call for Entries

By Andrea A. Firth

The City of Orinda has called for entries for the second annual Mayor's Award for Excellence in local architecture, landscape, and environmental sustainability. "Last year, we received a very positive response to the Mayor's Award in the Architecture category," notes Mayor Victoria Smith, "and we realized that the community really embraced the opportunity to reward great design projects that enhance Orinda."

The Mayor's Award for

Excellence will be given to residential projects in four categories: major architecture projects (1,500 square feet or greater); minor architecture projects (interior or exterior renovation); major landscape projects; and development projects that employ environmental sustainability elements. "For the architectural awards, the relationship of a project to its site and surroundings are the primary factors that will be judged," explains Mayor Smith.

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Library Parcel Tax Passes

By Andrea A. Firth

Measure E—the Orinda Library Parcel Tax—was approved in last week's election with 73% of voters in support of increasing the annual tax to \$39 per residential parcel (a \$12 increase). "We are really pleased that the citizen's of Orinda came out and

supported the library," stated Nancy Kaible, a member of the Friends of Orinda Library. Like Measure H, the initial library parcel tax that passed eight years prior, Measure E was approved with more than the requisite 2/3 majority. "You can never take getting a 2/3 majority vote for granted," said Kaible. "We are really very happy." The library tax was approved without a sunset clause, and Kaible estimates that it would be at least ten years before the library will have to revisit the parcel tax issue again.



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Bike, Trail, Walkway Survey Online

By Andrea A. Firth

The City of Orinda wants to know how much you walk, bike, and use the trails throughout Orinda and whether it is for exercise, fun or to get to where you are going. Your responses will aid in the development of the Bicycle, Trail, and Walkway (BTW) Master Plan. In addition to gaining a better understanding of residents' use and satisfaction with the trails, the City is seeking specific recommendations for what Orindans would like to see improved.

Available through a link at the City website (www.ci.orinda.ca.us/), the survey consists of 17 questions and takes about five minutes to complete. The City is hopeful that many residents will take advantage of the opportunity to take the survey. "Community input is crucial," states Monica A. Pacheco, Assistant to the City Manager. "The survey results will help shape the direction of the

BTW Master Plan. The more responses we receive, the more comprehensive the plan will be incorporating the community's needs right from the start of the project."

"The survey is the first phase of the BTW Master Plan development process," notes Pacheco. The City will also hold a town hall meeting this summer to obtain additional input from the community. In addition, a technical advisory group consisting of members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and interested bike and walking group members has been formed to aid in the development process as well.

The Bike, Trail, Walkway Survey be accessible at the City website through mid-July; paper surveys are available at City Hall and the Parks & Recreation Office.

Gift to the City of Orinda



Gift from the Orinda Historical Society, Historic Landmark Committee, Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Littlehale family to the City of Orinda. From left, Lucy Hupp Williams, Steve Glazer, Mayor Victoria Smith, Amy Worth, Tom McCormick.
Photo Cathy Tyson

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