

## Orinda Night Out—August 5th

By Andrea A. Firth

Neighbors in Orinda will be gathering for block parties, barbeques, and ice cream socials on Tuesday, August 5th to take part in Orinda Night Out.

Prompted by the City Council, the Safety Commission modeled the upcoming evening event after the National Night Out program which has been ongoing for 25 years. “The goal of the evening is to build a greater sense of community and get to know our neighbors better,” states Rebecca Kunzman, a member of the Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission and the point person for the event.

Kunzman states that over 20 neighborhoods have already let her know about their planned events and that many other neighborhoods are participating that she just doesn’t know about yet. “Many of the events are being held between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on that Tuesday,” adds Kunzman. “These are multi-generational parties in-

volving everyone in the neighborhood.”

Orinda’s Public Safety Advisory Commission was established about four ago and has worked with residents through out the community to create neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness groups. However, Kunzman notes that several of these neighborhood groups existed as far back as thirty years ago. “This is not a new concept in Orinda,” states Kunzman. “Orinda Night Out has enabled us to re-establish many of the existing groups and create new ones.”

Residents are encouraged to join in by contacting their neighbors to arrange for a casual gathering that evening. If you would like the Orinda Police or Fire Representative to stop by your event, call 254-1849. Rumor has it that Mayor Protem Sue Severson and Police Chief Bill French will be cruising the Orinda streets looking for a party to attend.