

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Thursday, August 19 (Meeting August 5 cancelled)	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, August 12	
Planning Process Review 8:00am	
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Friday, July 31	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Thursday, August 14	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Monday, September 8 (no Meeting in August)	
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	



Drunk in public, 7/16/08 A middle aged woman was seen wandering into traffic at 10:50 one morning along Moraga Way near Orchard. When the officer asked where she was going, she gave her home address, but was walking in the opposite direction. She had a distinct odor of alcohol, red blood-shot eyes and slurred speech, and is known to be a "frequent flyer" to the police. Oddly enough she refused a blood alcohol test, and was arrested for being drunk in public.

Credit Card Fraud, 7/16/08 An elderly Donna Maria Way resident called the police department to report that his credit card was used without his okay. An unauthorized person used his card for unspecified online purchases. The credit card company reimbursed him for all charges.

Trough taken, 7/15/08 A Lost Valley resident called police to report that her horse trough was stolen from her barn, located on Valley View Drive. Her lucky horse(s) drank from a cast iron claw foot bathtub; that had an estimated value of \$700. The equine(s) were unable to provide a description of the thief or thieves.

Sign smashed, 7/11/08 The wooden Miramonte sign at the front of the school fell victim to an unknown object, most likely a car or truck. Sometime between Tuesday 7/08 and Thursday 7/10 the four foot by six foot sign was smashed beyond repair. Estimated cost to replace \$2,000. Sounds like a good project for woodshop class.

Orinda Seeks Ways to Increase Revenues

By Emily Schultheis

Orinda, like its sister cities Lafayette and Moraga, faces the significant challenge of fixing a decaying infrastructure system, i.e. the roads, and finding the resources to make this happen. To that end, the City Council established a Revenue Enhancement Task Force to help identify ways to raise additional funds for infrastructure projects. The Task Force recently sought the advice of Michael Coleman, the principal fiscal policy advisor for the League of California Cities, who knows how to make this process a little less difficult.

Coleman presented his ideas and took questions from community members on revenue enhancement at a special session of the Orinda City Council on July 10 at the Orinda Library.

Coleman stated that due to the current economic climate, revenues from both sales taxes and property taxes—the two top sources of general-purpose revenues—have both declined, a

trend that is affecting cities across the state.

In addition, because there is "not a whole lot of city money in the state general fund," Coleman said cities shoulder much of the costs for services necessary to keep cities running, like police and fire departments, infrastructure and parks, through their own means.



Graphic by Amanda Griggs

"There are no easy answers," stated Coleman. He stressed the complexity of the situation and outlined several steps cities like Orinda can take to increase revenues.

Coleman cited additional

taxes like a transportation sales tax on BART and an add-on sales tax as possible revenue sources for the City of Orinda. He added that while it is important to find new sources of revenue, cities should also work to set priorities and work within their means, whatever those may be.

When asked by a community member if the proposition of an add-on tax would be supported by city residents in a time of economic downturn, Coleman acknowledged the difficulty of the situation, but said that reaching out to people as early on as possible would make the process easier.

In follow up to Coleman's presentation, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Severson, a member of the Revenue Enhancement Task Force, reported to the City Council that the Task Force has reviewed an initial draft of a report regarding ways to increase Orinda's revenues and that the final report will likely be submitted in early October.

Andrea A. Firth contributed to this article

Orinda BART Goes Solar

By Andrea A. Firth



Bart parking lot, view from platform

Photo Andy Scheck

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is planning to install solar photovoltaic panels at the Orinda BART Station. "This will be the only BART station in the District with solar panels," a BART representative reported to the members of Orinda's City Council at the last Council meeting held on July 15. "In fact forty lucky BART riders will have the added benefit of the shade of a carport," he added.

The photovoltaic panels will be placed on top of a 40-space carport to be located in the parking lot directly across from the BART station entrance. There will be no loss in the number of parking spaces in

the lot, although there may be a temporary reduction in spaces available during construction of the carport.

The solar panels will generate sufficient energy to meet the daytime electricity needs of the Orinda station. Remarkably, Orinda was chosen as the site for the BART solar panels over BART stations to the east, in part, due to its sun potential. When it gets too hot, the solar panels are less efficient. According to BART's assessment, the Orinda location provides an environment that is not too hot and not too cloudy.

BART will also install rooftop photovoltaic arrays at maintenance facilities in Hayward and Richmond. The Orinda BART car-

port with solar panels will require approximately a month to construct and the project will be completed by the end of the year.



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Orinda Community Center Park Summer Concert in the Park Series -Tuesday July 29th - Juke Joint -Rhythm and Blues. Bring a picnic and enjoy the free music.

Orinda Night Out—August 5th

By Andrea A. Firth

Neighbors in Orinda will be gathering for block parties, barbecues, 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 Pro Tem Sue Severson and Police Chief Bill French will be cruising the Orinda streets looking for a party to attend.



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