

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 5	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 11 canceled Tuesday, November 25	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Wednesday, November 13	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, November 3	
Revenue Enhancement Task Force Community Workshop	7pm
De Rey School Auditorium Wednesday, November 12	
Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org • local businesses • upcoming events	



Armed robbery, 10/22/08 At 10:00 p.m. an unknown suspect entered the Cocina Mexicana on Orinda Way through the unlocked front door and brandished a black revolver. The suspect told employees to lie on the floor and demanded cash from the register. Fortunately the money was safe in their safe and robber only got away with an iPod and iPhone.

Bold armed robber, 10/22/08 The same unknown suspect entered Village Pizza at 10:06 p.m., located half a block from Cocina Mexicana, and ordered employees to lie on the ground. He took cash and coin valued at approximately \$500. and fled. Perhaps he was looking for his own personal economic stimulus package.

Pallet theft, 10/21/08 Two unknown suspects loaded plastic pallets from the back of Safeway into a van and sped away. The vehicle and thieves were caught on tape, but unfortunately not by the cops. Be on the look out for a white 1990 Chevrolet van with the license plate number 8H11361. Are plastic pallets a hot item on Craig's List?

D.U.I., 10/19/08 A 28-year-old white female from Livermore was pulled over on Moraga Way at 3:00 a.m. for going 61 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. Upon confrontation by the cop, he noticed that she had bloodshot eyes, an unsteady gait and slurred speech. Coincidentally her blood alcohol level was above the legal limit.

Orinda Candidates Forum—2 Incumbents and the Alternative

By Andrea A. Firth



Candidates for Orinda City Council (L to R) Dr. Bob Larsen, Steven Glazer, and Victoria Smith. Photo A. Firth

As the three candidates vying for the two open City Council seats in Orinda assembled to participate in the Candidates Forum on the evening of October 16th, there was no physically apparent difference among them. Yet a quick peak under the table gave a hint to the differences that might lie ahead. The current Mayor, Victoria Smith, wore blue pumps with a sensible heel. Incumbent and the former Mayor, Steve Glazer, was wearing a pair of black men's dress shoes. Dr. Bob Larsen sported pointy-toed, grey leather boots. One of these candidates was not like the other two—a point that Dr. Bob tried to emphasize throughout the evening.

To the question of Orinda's most pressing priority, Smith and Glazer identified repairing Orinda's roads as first on their lists. Both cited the \$100 million roadworks problem as the City's most urgent need, and both hoped to realize a comprehensive solution. Larsen took a different approach citing the need to improve City revenues through the promotion of small businesses to fill the empty storefronts in Theater Square.

When asked how they would improve the business climate in Orinda, Larsen stated, "We need professional help and a business plan." He went on to suggest that the City hire a consultant, possibly from UC Berkeley, to help make this hap-

pen. He mentioned the City's moniker of Borinda (not to be confused with their neighbor Boraga) as evidence of the need for more entertainment outlets for teens and seniors, and he suggested a bowling alley as a possible improvement. Glazer described the ongoing sales tax leakage study as a good step toward identifying the commercial needs of the downtown district, and he highlighted the strong partnership already in place with the Chamber of Commerce and Council. Smith was also a fan of the sales tax leakage study, which she had pushed to make happen, and highlighted the commercial planning task force that was already at work to help redefine Orinda's downtown.

When it came to schools, another clear distinction among the candidates arose. Both Glazer and Smith supported Measure E—the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Bond Measure on the November ballot—which has been endorsed by the current Council, citing the fact that AUHSD ranked first academically in the State because of the community's financial support of the schools.

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Orinda City Task Forces Plan Public Workshops

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda's Planning Director (L), Emmanuel Ursu, introduced the new Assistant Planner, Richard Yee, at the most recent City Council meeting. Photo A. Firth

Following a year filled with over 150 task force and subcommittee meetings, Orinda's Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) plans to schedule a series of public workshops in November to get the community's input on a draft report of recommendations to streamline the City's planning process. "The volunteers on the [PPRTF] donated a tremendous amount of time over the past year," notes Councilmember Amy Worth who is also a member of the Task Force. "A lot of really thoughtful di-

alogue went into the development of this draft report," she adds.

The Task Force identified three main areas for review and revision within the City's planning process according to Councilmember Tom McCormick. The process subcommittee looked at ways to revise the planning, application, and review process to make it less cumbersome. A residential subcommittee identified over 20 specific areas where the development code could be simplified.

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Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan Takes the Next Step

By Andrea A. Firth

Over forty Orinda residents recently attended a community meeting with members of the City staff and Vice Mayor Sue Severson to provide input to guide the development of Orinda's Bicycle, Trail and Walkway Master Plan (BTW Plan). During the two-hour meeting, attendees heard a presentation by the consulting group Alta Planning and Design (Alta) who shared the results of an ongoing online survey of residents regarding the status and needs of the paths and trails throughout the City.

"Many Orinda citizens regularly participate in walking, hiking and biking around town," states Severson. "Unfortunately, there are limited areas in our community where these healthy activities can be enjoyed safely. This is especially true for our youth, who face many challenges in attempting safe routes to school," she adds. The online survey results echoed these sentiments and revealed that while a majority of residents regularly walk, bike, and hike around Orinda, just as many are dissatisfied with the pedestrian and bicycle paths they have to navigate.

Alta noted that Orinda's access to BART, neighborhood schools, and the regional trail system provides an excellent opportunity to create a more pedestrian- and cycling-friendly community. Challenges to achieving this goal include

the narrow right-of-way and lack of sidewalks on many residential streets, topography and drainage issues, and the limited number of existing paths and bikeways outside of the Downtown area.

Residents at the community meeting were invited to participate in a workshop session. As the attendees poured over maps of the City to identify the most important areas to be included in the BTW Plan, the common theme of a desire for safe access to downtown, schools, and trails resurfaced. "This public input helps us to get a good handle on what is most important," says Todd Skinner, Director of Parks and Recreation. He adds that the public process and the creation of the BTW Plan will help to establish clear pri-

orities and enable the City to determine what is most easily attainable, affordable, and creates the greatest usability.

"The BTW Master Plan process is very collaborative," states Severson. Over the next several months, additional public input will be solicited on the contents of a draft BTW Master Plan, which will then be revised before it is presented to the City for adoption next year.

"Once a Master Plan is in place, it will provide a vision for improving safe access to schools and our downtown area with prioritization for best use of limited resources," notes Severson. "This will allow for greater opportunities to receive future grant dollars in realizing the improvement plan."



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A Vision For Orinda

- A vibrant, revitalized small city downtown
- A place that welcomes entrepreneurs and small business
- A business plan that produces robust revenue for our city and schools
- A town that reveres its elders and those who contribute to our community
- A community that is inclusive and inviting, not one that marginalizes those who question
- A physical location that is blessed and lives up to its human(e) potential

Let's get there together
Doctor Bob Larsen - The Alternative



THE ALTERNATIVE
DR. BOB LARSEN
ORINDA CITY COUNCIL