

# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, December 16	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, December 11	

**Planning Porcess Review Task Force Commercial Subcommittee Meetings**  
 Thursday, December 11, 2008  
 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
 Del Rey Elementary School  
 Multi-Purpose Room, 25 El Camino  
 Moraga Orinda, CA

Saturday, December 13, 2008  
 9:00am to 11:00am  
 Founders Auditorium, Orinda  
 Community Center, 28 Orinda Way  
 Orinda, CA

Town of Orinda:  
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>  
 Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.orindachamber.org>  
 • local businesses  
 • upcoming events



**Thief of hearts, 12/02/08** The ex-boyfriend of an Orinda resident took his ex-girlfriend's car while she slept. The 17-year-old white male proceeded to crash the car a short distance from the house and fled the scene, hiding out from the cops. A witness happened to see the crash and asked the driver if he needed help, he declined and seemed in a hurry to get out of there. The ex-girlfriend goes to identify the car, and happens to see the ex-boyfriend drive by. The ex-boyfriend was caught by police and 'fessed up that he was talking on his ex-gal pal's stolen cell phone when he crashed. He then called a friend to come pick him up. They got lost and drove by accident.

**Theft, 12/01/08** An 18-year-old white male called police to report two skateboards were stolen from the front porch of his Meadow View Road home. The 42" bamboo boards are estimated to cost \$600.

**D.U.I. 11/29/08** A Lombardy Lane resident was stopped at 1:30 in the morning near the corner of Moraga Road and Ivy Drive. Officers noticed that he failed to dim his high beams, and the strong smell of alcohol in the vehicle. His blood alcohol level was above the legal limit. Perhaps a taxi would have been the better option.

**Appliance Burglary, 11/29/08** An unknown suspect entered the kitchen side door of a Tahos Road home by disabling the deadbolt lock. The refrigerator, six-burner stove and dishwasher were taken - estimated value \$4,400. Miscellaneous items valued at \$2500 were also taken from the garage.

## Todd Skinner, Orinda Parks and Recreation Director—A Mainstay

By Andrea A. Firth



Todd Skinner, Director of Orinda Parks & Recreation Department Photo A. Firth

Seated in front of the Community Center alongside several red-leaved liquidambar trees, Todd Skinner, Director of Orinda's Parks and Recreation Department, recalls having organized the planting of these trees over twenty years ago. "The journey is getting to meet and work with all the great volunteers and people of

Orinda," states Skinner when asked about his tenure with the City. And his journey as part of Orinda's City Staff has been a long one.

However, Skinner's connection with Orinda started long before receiving his first paycheck. He was raised in Orinda and attended both Sleepy Hollow Ele-

mentary and Miramonte High School. "I love the community that I grew up in," he says.

Skinner became the head of Orinda's Parks and Recreation Department in 1985 when the City incorporated. Prior to that, the County had employed him in a similar capacity. Skinner took over one year after Proposition 13 was enacted when 60% of the County's revenue to the Department was cut and classes jumped from a cost of \$7-\$10 to \$20. Skinner now oversees a budget of about \$1 million, and the Department's programs are essentially self-supporting bringing in 15,000 registrants a year.

From a young age, Skinner knew what he liked and wanted and was comfortable to forge his own path. He sites summers spent working at Echo Lake as the foundation for his love of the outdoors and recreation. He graduated from the University of California at Davis where he pursued an independent degree tied to these interests. While at Davis, he also applied his 6'5" frame to the track team where he qualified for the NCAA trials in the 400-meter hurdles.

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## Severson and McCormick

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Amy Worth noted the growth and success of the Car Show, which raised \$16,000 for the cause this year. The Council also recognized and thanked the ladies of the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, which fundraises for the Center and runs several programs throughout the year. Founded over 25 years ago by longtime Orinda activist Bobbie Landers, the Auxiliary coordinated the Easter Fair, the Concerts in the Park, the Halloween Parade, and the recent Holiday Bazaar, which raised \$11,000 for the Community Center.

Although typically tight with the purse strings and focused on diverting what ever funding possible to the City's infrastructure needs, the Council unanimously approved to provide just over \$14,100 in community grants to seven local organizations including the Orinda's Art's Council, Historical Society, Junior Women's Club, and Starlight Village Players, the California Shakespeare

Theater, the Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program, and Haley's 4th of July Run.

Next on the agenda was the certification of the election results, which confirmed the reappointment of Council Members Victoria Smith (6,355 votes) and Steve Glazer (6,102 votes) to four more years of volunteer service to the City. (Both accepted their oath of office willing and with a smile.) Council member Smith was then subjected to a "soft roast" by her colleagues in thanks for her year leading as Mayor. Smith was ribbed for her passion for venti-sized coffees and Cal Bears football, and complimented for her efficient leadership, sharp legal analysis, and support for all things Orinda.

The final two Council votes of the evening were unanimous. Council member Tom McCormick was selected as Orinda's Vice Mayor. And, Sue Severson was selected to serve as Orinda's new Mayor for 2009.

## Council Grants Mayor's Award in Excellence in Architecture

By Andrea A. Firth

Two homes in Orinda were recently honored with the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture. For the second year, the City Council has recognized the design efforts of residents whose new or renovated homes exemplify the semi-rural quality and neighborhood sensibility characteristic of Orinda. A committee, which included Council Members and citizens of Orinda, evaluated eight entries in two categories: Minor Projects which represent renovations of 1,500 square feet or less and Major Projects which are over 1,500 square feet.

The winner in the Minor Project category is located on Park Lane Drive in the Glorietta neighborhood. The 1,300 square foot renovation, which was de-

signed by the homeowner Lara Dutto, doubled the size of the family home but had neighbors saying, "the house looks beautiful...did you really add on?" Creating usable space in every square inch of the home, the design made

a strong connection between the indoors and outdoors with carefully placed windows and doors and floor materials that moved from the outside in.

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