

Orinda

Lamorinda Community

Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, September 1

Planning Comm. 7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, August 25

Historic Landmarks Comm. 3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, August 25

Mayor's Com. Liaison 8:30am
Community Room at City Hall
22 Orinda Way
Monday, September 8

City of Orinda:
<http://www.cityoforinda.org>
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orindachamber.org>
• local businesses
• upcoming events



Beer vandalism, 8/06/09 That's a phrase you don't hear every day. A young woman parked her Toyota Camry on Camino Sobrante on a Wednesday afternoon. She came to the car on Thursday and found the rear drivers side window smashed with an unopened beer bottle that was inside the car. She has no idea who would do such a thing. Estimated damage \$300. Wouldn't it have made more sense to just drink the beer?

Water bottle vandalism, 8/06/09 The 17-year-old driver of a car heading down Camino Pablo noticed a purple older model Honda Civic drive past, at which point an unknown male threw a water bottle at the car. It hit the windshield and left a minor crack, estimated damage \$200. The young lady unfortunately did not remember the license plate number. Perhaps the beer thrower strikes again?

Naked man, 8/04/09 An anonymous caller reported a naked man lying on a Patricia Road driveway. Cops found the 35-year-old male breathing but unresponsive. After being covered by a blanket, medical help arrived and the gentleman started to struggle and made random statements. He was taken to County Hospital.

Burglary, 8/03/09 An unknown suspect smashed an 8" x 12" glass pane of the rear French doors of a Candlestick Road home. The thief took three computers - one iMac all in one, one iMac laptop and one Mac laptop. Estimated damage \$4900.

Orinda Establishes Environmental Sustainability Working Group

By Andrea A. Firth

"The concept of undertaking local environmental initiatives and steps to reduce energy consumption is one that many of us were independently thinking about," states Emmanuel Ursu, Planning Director for the City of Orinda. "I have long thought about actions the city can take such as encouraging renewable energy production and increasing access to local foods, including community gardens," he adds. During the City Council's recent strategic planning


sessions, Council Member Steve Glazer suggested that the city develop a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability initiatives, and so the Environmental Sustainability Working Group (the ESWG) was established.

The ESWG, comprised of Planning Commissioners Louise Adamson, Chris Kniel and Richard Westin and members at large David Mayeri, Kent Pavey, and Rick Kattenburg met for the first time in late July. ... continued on page 12



Peter & Darlene Hattersleys
925.360.9588
925.708.9515
TheHattersleys.com

Helping You Achieve Your Goals
... Lamorinda and Beyond.

117 SECLUDED PLACE, Lafayette Asking \$949,000
Gorgeous 13-Acre Estate Lot with Mt. Diablo and valley views. Design and build a top-of-the-hill dream home on this rare, private cul-de-sac site. Call for a walking tour and be amazed and inspired.

A Vision for Downtown Orinda

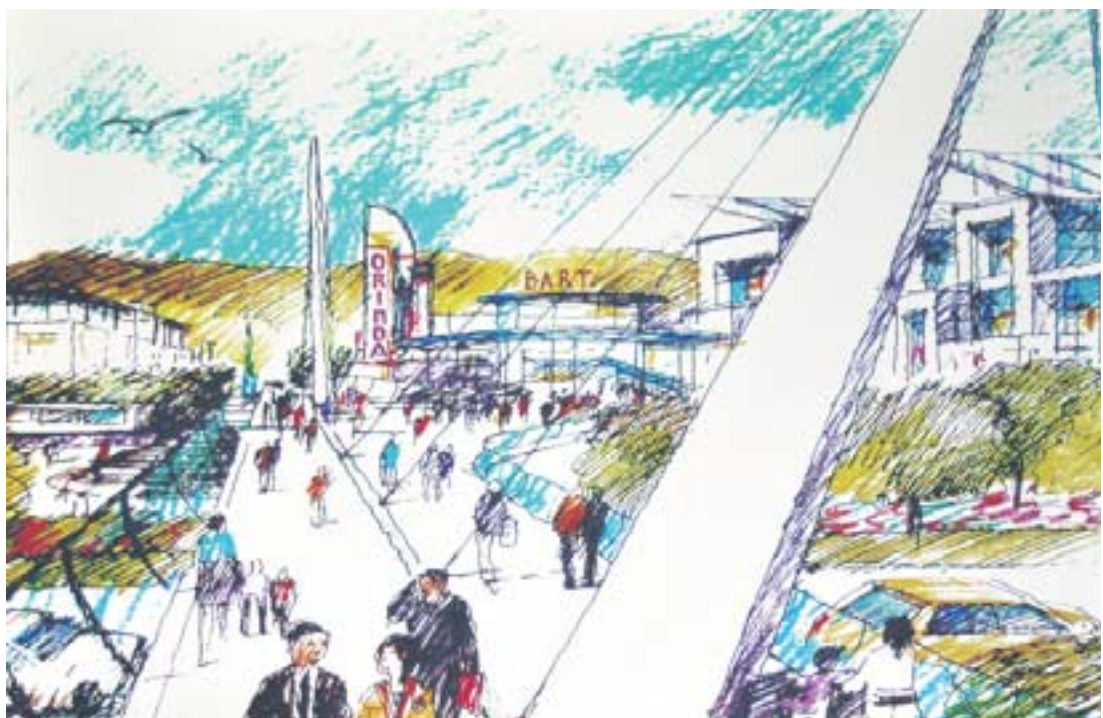
By Andrea A. Firth



Peter Hasselman (standing) and Bill Simpson (blue shirt) presented their outlines at the Orinda Rotray luncheon last week. Photo Andy Scheck

"There could be some really exciting things going on in downtown Orinda," states Peter Hasselman, an architect and urban designer who has lived in Orinda for over thirty years. "You need a vision," adds his friend Bill Simpson, also a longtime resident and a local architect, as he flips through Hasselman's colorful sketches depicting what the sliver of land occupied by Orinda Village and the Crossroads might look like with

Together the two architects have created a vision for Orinda's downtown district that has a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly European vibe filled with people and commerce. The design incorporates simple streetscape elements like plantings, additional seating, and improved lighting and signage along with more grand components such as the creation of large public plazas and cascading waterfalls, a



People walking on a pedestrian bridge between Orinda Theatre and Orinda Village

pair of pedestrian bridges traversing Highway 24, and a transportation center and mixed-use development at the BART station.

Hasselman and Simpson were an ideal pairing to transform the ideas for a revitalized Orinda into tangible images. Hasselman has years of experience and numerous awards for the planning and design of urban developments in the United States and abroad. He has a prolific gift for drawing images that

project a sense of movement and life, and he sees change as part of a natural evolution for Orinda. "The nature of cities is that they change," states Hasselman. "It's important to value and enhance the beautiful elements of the city and not get hung up on the older, decaying bits that have nothing to recommend," he adds, liberally infusing words like recycle, modify, and rebuild as he discusses their approach.

Simpson, who helped lead the way for incorporation and served as the chairman of Orinda's first Planning Commission, has no fear of change either, in fact, he has been thinking about the revitalization of Orinda's downtowns for over 25 years. "I took the members of Orinda's first City Council and Planning Commission over to Mill Valley to show them what Orinda could look like, and they liked it back then," smiles Simpson. ... continued on page 7

New Art in Orinda's Public Spaces

By Andrea A. Firth



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Move over John Deere, Orinda has its very own tractor—a playful, yellow mini-version that now resides in the Library Plaza. The tractor serves as the base element of a sculpture by artist Gale Wagner. Most Orindans, whether they realize it or not, are familiar with Wagner's work, which includes the sculpture Outtahere—the frog that continually leaps across the fountain just outside the Library. Orinda's Art in Public Places Committee (the APPC) recently installed new work by Wagner and six other artists in the plaza and surrounding area.

A little over a year and a half ago, the APPC placed the first works of sculpture in the Orinda Village downtown area with plans

to replace the works annually. "We originally thought a one year timeframe was appropriate for the works to be viewed, but we are moving to an 18 month to two-year timeframe to give sufficient time for the general public and visitors to view and enjoy the art," states

Regina Almaguer, a member of the APPC and a public art consultant for the cities of Oakland and San Francisco. "The art has become an attraction for people, and the community has responded very well to it," adds Almaguer. ... continued on page 10



Residential and Restoration Painting Services

Meticulous attention to detail
39 years of satisfied customers
Licensed and Insured

David Collins, Orinda
925-254-6882

Home is Where Your Is




RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



If you are selling or buying Real Estate, call your neighbors, Coldwell Banker, Today!

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600 • 2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300