

# Orinda

# Lamorinda Community

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, October 6	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, October 27	
Historic Landmarks Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, October 27	

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



**Drunk in public, 9/16/09** A police officer noticed an older male staggering near Moraga Way and Brookwood Road, nearly falling into traffic. Recognizing him as a frequent flyer from numerous previous contacts, Orinda's finest took note of his needing a signpost to assist in staying upright. After several failed attempts at completing a breathalyzer test, the subject finally did it. Perhaps he had just a few sips more than the three beers he admitted to drinking that day; his blood alcohol level was way above the legal limit. Very rarely does this reporter see "drunk in private" items in the blotter, wink wink. Stay home, sleep it off.

**Return of the known shoplifter, 9/16/09** A call from Longs drugs reported that a gentleman in his seventies came in and walked out with a bottle of alcohol. Apparently this was not his first attempt at a five finger discount, store employees recognized him. A Longs staffer followed him down the street where they met up with police. Maybe he was having a senior moment, forgetting to remember stores he had robbed.

**Smash and Grab, 9/14/09** At 7:25 in the morning an unknown suspect smashed the rear window of a Range Rover on Robert Road, that was parked in the driveway. A duffel bag of kids clothing was stolen, along with a gym bag with an iPod, sneakers and workout clothes. Sadly no witnesses.

**Smash and Grab, 9/14/09** At 7:31 in the morning, also on Robert Road just a few houses down from the original burglary, a Honda Accord parked in the owner's driveway was broken into. The front passenger window was smashed and a Garmin GPS device along with eight \$1 bills were stolen. What are the odds it was the same perpetrator? Apparently once was not enough. Is anyone sensing a theme in today's blotter?



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## City Council Hears Finance Report

By Moya Stone

The September 15th Orinda City Council meeting happened to coincide with Back to School Night at Miramonte High School, making for a sparse audience as well as Council. Nevertheless the agenda was full and among the items was the presentation of the Annual Report from the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC).

Originally called the Budget Committee, the FAC is a group of people in the financial industry who have volunteered to work with the Orinda budget for the past two cycles. This year the committee's charge was expanded to include an advisory role on financial issues. FAC member Carol Penskar presented the Council with the committee's findings and

recommendations.

Penskar congratulated Orinda on their exemplary job of managing City finances by keeping staff and City employee benefits in check and initiating non-police staff furloughs. Additionally, Orinda does not have a defined benefit pension plan, which is what's "crippling the finances of many California cities, counties, safety agencies, and even the state itself," said Penskar. However, according to FAC's findings there are two factors that will challenge Orinda's finances in the years to come—a slowing of revenue growth and the "relentless rise in the cost of the Police Services contract."

Prior to 2008 Orinda enjoyed steadily rising tax revenues, in particular property tax revenues, which

rose approximately seven percent a year. But projected property tax revenues for FY 2009 will rise by just three percent and a mere 1.6 percent in FY 2010 and 2011. This flattening of revenues will make it a burden to pay the rising costs of the County-negotiated police contract, which in FY 2007 was 27 percent of Orinda's operating budget. By 2011 the costs are expected to rise to 30 percent of the operating budget. Also by 2011, the cost of police benefits will exceed that of police salaries.

Police pension costs are scheduled to rise by an average of six percent a year beginning FY 2011. This will add over \$500,000 in additional expenses by the fifth year. "As police costs rise faster than



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Orinda revenue, each succeeding year will have a larger hole that will weigh heavily on all remaining city services including road maintenance," states the written report.

The FAC recommends that Council adopt certain policies this year to ensure continued prudent fiscal management, including a balanced budget requirement and minimum unrestricted reserves. Ad-

ditionally the committee recommends the following:

- The Council fully analyze the Police Services Study.
- Evaluate the impacts of actual property tax revenues on the budget mid-year.
- Evaluate best course of action for Prop 1A borrowing.
- Continue to work on alternative revenue sources.

## Birds Attracts Crowd

... continued from page 1



Pictured at the screening of *The Birds* at Orinda Theater are (from L to R) Lisa Labarile, Christine Shaffer, Mary Beth Tanner, and Maria Waterman  
 Photo George Retelas

"This was record-breaking attendance," states Beau Behan, Program and Promotions Director for the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). "We have been thrilled with the reception and interest that the Festival has received here." Orinda Theater has been chosen as the site of next year's California Independent Film Festival, to be held from April 22nd to the 25th.

Movie-lovers from Lamorinda and points beyond enjoyed the festive atmosphere of the evening as they milled about outside sipping wine served by members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Once inside the theater, attendees were treated to a guest appearance by Tippi Hedren, the actress who starred as Melanie Daniels—the object of avian violence in the movie.

"The film screening was a really fun event. It's great to have local access to something like this," said Moraga resident Lisa Labarile, who attended the screening with a group of friends adorned with "birds" in honor of the classic film.

The *Birds* event kicked off the previous afternoon when Ms. Hedren arrived at Orinda Theater for the unveiling of her celebrity star, which will be the first one installed as part of the theater's new Walk of Fame. About fifty people gathered on the sidewalk outside the theater to get a peak at the star, who arrived in a cherry red Asten Martin. "I'm very honored, and I hope you will enjoy seeing *The Birds* again," said Hedren.

"I'm a big fan of film festivals. They are so much fun," added the star, who recalled attending the Cannes International Film Festival when *The Birds* was the opening film. "I wore a white satin gown and cape and walked in with Mr. Hitchcock under a bridge of swords formed by two rows of French guards," said Hedren. She went on to reminisce about the Asten Martin that she drove in the film and remembered that it was a beautiful sea foam blue/green color that viewers never saw because the film was in black and white. At this point, members of the CAIFF Board pulled up to the front of the theater in the original Asten Martin from the film, surprising Hedren with the car that had been fully restored and was still sea foam blue/green.



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