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Meet the Candidates for Orinda City Council

By Andrea A. Firth

There are three open seats on the Orinda City Council and five eager candidates for voters to choose from in the November, 2010 election. In this issue, we give a brief look at who they are with some brief biographical information. Starting in the September 1st issue, we'll get to the meat of the matter and let you know how each stands on key issues facing the City. And, we'll keep you posted on the race throughout the fall.



Tom McCormick, incumbent and current Mayor McCormick is completing his first four-year term on the City Council. He is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley (Political Economics) and the University of San Francisco, School of Law. He maintains a one-man, business and real estate law practice. McCormick has lived in Orinda for 15 years, and has four children. He has served on the Orinda Association and Orinda Baseball Association Boards and has volunteered for the schools and the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

Dean Orr

Now in his second, three-year term on the Orinda Planning Commission, Orr was first appointed to the Commission in 2005, reappointed in 2008, and has served as the Chair since that time. He graduated from the California College of the Arts with a degree in architecture and is an Associate at Jensen Architects in San Francisco. Orr has lived in Orinda for ten years, has two daughters, and volunteers at Wagner Ranch Elementary School.



Sue Severson, incumbent

Severson is completing her first term on the City Council and served as Mayor in 2009. The mother of five children, Severson has lived in Orinda for over 30 years. She was elected to the Orinda Union School District Board for two terms (1993-2002) and served as Board President twice. She is a Founding trustee of the Orinda Community Foundation and has co-chaired the Orinda in Action Community Service Day, NorCal Kids Triathlon, and Celebrate Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament.



Amy Worth, incumbent

Worth has been elected to the City Council three times and has served as Mayor twice. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a masters degree from California State University, East Bay. Worth is a Commissioner for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and a board member of the County Connection. She has served as the President of the Friends of the Orinda Library and as a board member of the Orinda Intermediate and Miramonte High School Parents Clubs.



Scott Zeller, M.D.

Zeller works as the Chief of Psychiatric Emergency Services for Alameda County Medical Center. He is the President of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry and a partner in a firm that provides telemedicine services. He is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and Northwestern University, School of Medicine. Zeller has lived in Orinda for eleven years, has one son, and is a member of the Glorietta Parents Club. He is very active with the citizen's group SaveOrinda.

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