

Civic News

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
Special Meeting Monday, November 30, 7:00 pm

Planning Commission Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org
Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

• Police Report •



heard, however one neighbor had an encounter with a "suspicious subject" that day.

Thwarted car theft, 11/03/10 A Las Vega Road resident called police to report that a pick up truck had been stolen from in front of his house. Alert officers responding to the call ended up driving behind the vehicle and caught the two would-be thieves.

D.U.I., 11/17/10 A woman made an illegal u-turn at Camino Pablo near Santa Maria Way. She should have known she was just a few blocks from the police station. Flunking her field sobriety test sealed the deal; she had a whopping .29 blood alcohol content. That is very intoxicated – although it probably didn't take much for the 5' 2", 94- pound woman to become el blotto.

D.U.I. 11/09/10 Around midnight a driver near Camino Pablo and Highway 24 was pulled over for not staying in her lane. She was already on probation for, you guessed it, D.U.I. Her blood alcohol content was .11, slightly over the legal limit. But close only counts in horse shoes, and she was taken to jail.

Expensive burglary, 11/3/10 An unknown suspect entered through an unlocked window of a Via Florida home and took undisclosed valuables estimated to be worth \$22,000. Nothing was seen or



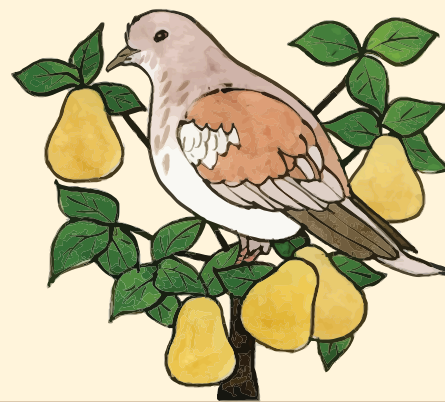
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Orinda City Council and OUSD Board Elections Results Hold True

By Andrea A. Firth



Pictured on election night 2010 (from L to R) are the Seversons: Pam, Chris, Ralph, and Sue. Chris Severson was elected to his first term on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Chris' mom, Sue Severson, was reelected to her second term on the City Council the same night. Photo Robyn Bowen

Election night results held true in both the Orinda City Council and Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Governing Board races. With over 20,000 votes now

over fourth and fifth place finishers Scott Zeller and current Mayor Tom McCormick.

Although the Contra Costa County Elections Department has until November 30th to tally any remaining uncounted ballots, it seems unlikely the overall results will change. However, any change to the order the candidates fall within the top three spots could impact who serves as Mayor during the four-year term. While the Council votes each year to appoint the Mayor and Vice Mayor, the posts are traditionally given to the Council members who garnered the most votes in the election. Thus the candidates placing first and second in the 2010 election would typically serve as Mayor in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

Currently, Worth leads the group with more than 1,000 votes over the other two candidates. Orr,

who is now in second place, maintains a narrow 10-vote margin over incumbent Severson. Worth, Orr, and Severson will be sworn in at the Council's December 7th meeting, and the Council will determine the Mayor for 2011 at that time. Victoria Smith currently serves as Vice Mayor.

The outcome of the race for three seats on the OUSD Board of Trustees has also remained unchanged. With over 18,000 now counted Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson, and Tyson Krumholz remain in the top three spots.

The election results reported in this article are current as of November 19th, 2010. Any change in the election outcome will be reported online, go to www.lamorindaweekly.com for updates.

No Left on Ivy—Unintended Consequences

TSAC proposes no-left at Southwaite and Leslee too

By Andrea A. Firth

It's a 30-minute headache for the multitude of drivers who make the trek south on Moraga Way each weekday morning throughout the school year. Between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., dozens of mothers in vans on the way to Del Rey Elementary School are co-mingled with hundreds of parents and teens driving to Miramonte High School. With so many cars traversing the same two-lane road at the same time, traffic is congested; not surprisingly, some drivers look for an alternate route—and that route is Ivy Drive.

Drivers heading south on weekdays can not legally turn left at Ivy Drive between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. which cuts off their access to taking the Ivy Drive loop to cross Moraga Way further south at the entrance of the high school. To circumvent the no-left turn restric-

tion, many drivers heading to Miramonte now turn right on Ivy Drive by making a U-turn, often illegally, across from Southwaite Court or Leslee Lane, or by turning onto these streets, making a T-turn in a nearby driveway, to then head north a short distance on Moraga Way in order to turn right onto Ivy Drive.

"The law of unintended consequences, that's what we have here," said Southwaite Court resident Chris Holton as he addressed the members of Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) about his concerns over the unsafe conditions posed by the traffic situation. "The problem has been around for about five years," said Holton of the ripple effect caused by the no-left turn sign at Ivy Drive.

According to City Engineer

Janice Carey, the no left turn on Ivy Drive was established in 2000 and renewed in 2002, which preceded both her tenure and the formation of the TSAC.

"We have as many as 150 cars turn around at our corner on school mornings," said Holton. Although he conceded that further restricting left turns off Moraga Way is not the ideal solution, he implored the TSAC members to add no-left turn signs at Southwaite Court and Leslee Lane to provide his neighborhood some immediate relief. "The real problem is too much traffic on Moraga Way at that time of day," said Holton, "It's unsafe."


While they acknowledged it is a band-aid fix versus a solution to a much bigger traffic issue, the members of the TSAC voted unanimously to support the additional

signage. As proposed, the no-left turn restriction will be confined to the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on weekdays. TSAC member Gary Moore added that the committee needed to evaluate the bigger picture and explore alternatives, such as taking down the no left turn sign at Ivy Drive, adding a traffic signal at that spot, or staggering school start times.

According to Carey, the City will now poll the residents of Southwaite Court and Leslee Lane by mail to see if they support the signage. At least 60% of the neighborhood residents must be in support for request to move forward. Subsequently, TSAC will review the poll results and potentially make a recommendation to City Council early in 2010. It is unlikely that signs would be up before April, noted Carey.

Orinda Downtown Visioning Workshop #2 Set for December 9th

A public workshop to discuss ideas for development in Orinda's downtown commercial districts will be held on Thursday, December 9th starting at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Residents' input from the initial workshop held in late October has been synthesized and analyzed and will be incorporated into this next phase of the process. Urban planning consultants from Berkeley-based MIG will facilitate the workshop. The focus of the town hall style meeting is to create an open and collaborative vision for downtown Orinda that can be embraced by residents, and business and property owners. All are encouraged to attend. A. Firth



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