

Civic News Orinda

- Public Meetings**
- City Council** Tuesday, February 1, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
 - City Council Special Meeting** Thursday, January 29, 7:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way
 - Planning Commission** Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
 - Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)** Monday, January 24, 7:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

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

• Police Report •



speed, guy was arrested for probation violation. Go figure.

Drunk in Public, 1/5/11 A sixty-something year old from Moraga was barely able to walk on Camino Pablo – and was intermittently stumbling into the roadway. An officer stopped to offer assistance and could smell the overwhelming odor of alcohol. When breathalyzed – he had a massive .32 reading – that’s four times the legal limit. He was deemed too drunk to care for himself and was a danger to motorists. He was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Door attack, 1/10/11 A suspect broke a window out of the front door of a Vianne Court home, in what is presumed an attempt to gain entry into the house. Suspect was no match for the door – 1 inch pry marks and what looked like kick marks were apparent, and the alarm system that scared off the would-be burglar. Estimated damage to door, \$2,000.

Speeding with guy on probation, 1/6/11 A 30-year-old woman was caught going 44 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone, she also had a 28-year-old male passenger in the car with her. Turns out the fellow was on probation and had a restraining order against him – from the driver. Gal got ticketed for

Forgery, 12/27/11 A suspect was stopped after leaving Peet’s on Moraga Way after passing a fake \$20 bill. The fellow must love his coffee – since he also passed a fake \$20 at the nearby Starbucks. He was arrested and had two more forged \$20 bills on him. No more latte’s for you.

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Quiet Orinda Calls on Council to Address the Noise

By Andrea A. Firth
 “Yes, I’m back,” said Peter Kendall, leader of the citizen activist group Quiet Orinda, as he addressed the Orinda City Council at its first meeting of 2011. Kendall called on the Council to provide another opportunity for the community to debate and discuss the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers in the city. More than 150 residents turned up last November when the potential for limiting the use of leaf blowers was before the Council. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Council voted unanimously against an outright ban.

Kendall stated that he felt what transpired when the issue was presented and discussed in November was a “travesty.” “We spent a year researching the issue and submitted a 21 page report... It deserves a proper hearing. That was not what happened in November, and it has to happen soon,” said Kendall. “We’re going to place it back in your hands. The status quo will not continue. I promise you that,” he added.

Barbara Strass, another Quiet Orinda member, seconded Kendall’s plea for the Council to

revisit the issue and to propose something that would be workable.

A third Quiet Orinda member, Maya McBride, used the words disappointment and shock to describe how she felt about the outcome of the November leaf blower discussion. “I was disappointed by the inaction and that the Council did not find some middle ground, or form a citizen’s committee, or find ways to listen to those that are bothered,” said McBride, “I was shocked by the lack of suggestions.” McBride then played several minutes of a tape

recording she made of the leaf-blower noise that she hears in her backyard on Saturday mornings. “I will come back again and again on this issue,” stated McBride emphatically as she concluded.

These comments were made during the general public forum segment of the City Council which is reserved for residents’ comments on issues not on the meeting agenda. Brown Act guidelines prohibit the Council from responding directly to or engaging in discussion of items not on the agenda and publicly noticed.

Left on Southwaite No Longer

By Andrea A. Firth



Residents will no longer be able to make a left-turn or U-turn going southbound on Moraga Way at Southwaite Court. The turning restriction is confined to weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. during the school year. Left-turns and U-turns are also prohibited southbound during that timeframe on Moraga Way at Ivy Drive.

Expanding the left turn moratorium on commuters heading south on Moraga Way in the morning was recommended by the City’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to stop drivers from using Southwaite Court as a pivot point to turn and head north to make a right on Ivy Drive.

Southbound Moraga Way is congested with traffic on weekdays as parents and students make their way to Del Rey Elementary and Miramonte High Schools. Many high-school bound commuters use Ivy Drive to bypass the backlog near Del Rey as an alternate route to the entrance of Miramonte High School. With the southbound left-turn at Ivy Drive already prohibited, drivers have used Southwaite to turn the illegal left into a legal right.

Sun Yoon, a soft spoken, even tempered man who lives at the corner of Southwaite

Court and Moraga Way, has been driven to distraction by the many high-school bound drivers that use his driveway for a three-point turn on school mornings. He’s counted up to 150 cars entering the court between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and implored the Council to vote yes on no left. Marilyn Raia was also among the several Southwaite residents who requested the City Council approve the no-left turn signage. The previous day, Raia had been rear-ended in front of Mr. Yoon’s house by a teen driver who was late for school.

The City Council unanimously approved the new signage with a vote of 4-0; Council Member Steve Glazer was not present. The Orinda Police Department will be monitoring the intersection and issuing tickets starting January 24th. The effectiveness of the signage will be evaluated for a one-year period.

“It’s really timely to do a study of the overall traffic patterns on Moraga Way,” said City Manager Janet Keeter. Council Member Sue Severson requested that staff investigate the viability of a traffic light at Ivy Drive and revisit the idea of staggering the school start times with the Orinda Union School District and Miramonte High School.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda International Film Showcase

By Sophie Braccini



January 28 will be the beginning of something unique in the Bay Area – the International Film Showcase at the Orinda Theater. Once a month and for an entire week, Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury will bring to the theater a foreign movie that has appeared in film festivals, has often won awards, that both Lubliner and Canterbury find exceptional, but that has not found a distribution network in this country. “Those are films that you cannot see anywhere else and that are not available on DVD or Netflix,” explains Lubliner, “and every month, Lamorinda residents will have about 20 showings scheduled at the theater to enjoy these gems.” The first movie is Max Manus, which won Norway’s 2009 best film Award and was an Oscar submission.

When he is not managing his computer company, EDC System, on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette, Lubliner can usually be found in theaters or at festivals. The Israeli-born business man originally came to the U.S. to make movies. Though that dream did not materialize, he continues to have a passion and high expectations for the sev-

enth art.

Lubliner’s partner in crime, Jo Alice Canterbury, is no less knowledgeable about movies. A former flight attendant who traveled the world, she was the Program Director of the Orinda Film Festival between 2002 and 2005. She was also captivated by Max Manus, a movie that recounts the true story of Norway’s Nazi-fighting war hero. “Efi (Lubliner) and I have very intense discussions about movie choices,” she says, “but we had a consensus when we saw Max Manus.” They are both volunteers and manage the project as a non-profit, “it’s all a work of love,” says Lubliner.

Each month, one of the three screens of the Orinda Theater will be made available to the Showcase by the theater’s managers, Jim Sheehan and Tom Peterson. “They are the ones who decide which will be our week,” says Lubliner, “and we want to thank them for their support of our project.”

For more information and tickets go to the web site www.lfep.org or to the International Film Showcase page on Facebook.

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