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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 pm (Tuesday, March 8, canceled) Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 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

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Car Fire, 2/16/11 A car parked inside a garage on Great Oak Circle inexplicably caught on fire. There was nothing suspicious according to the police; they suspected something mechanical or electrical may have started the blaze. Damage was contained to the garage.

Parked while drunk, 2/10/11 An attendant on duty at the Shell station was troubled when a gentleman in a parked car could not be woken up, even after several attempts. Police arrived and saw the fellow asleep in the driver's seat and also attempted to wake him up - initially he didn't respond. Alert cops could smell alcohol in the vehicle and noticed the subject's watery eyes. The fellow finally got up to perform several field sobriety tests. He flunked, so he was arrested for driving under the influence and taken to the Martinez Detention Facility. Presumably he drove himself to the gas station - hence the D.U.I.

Remodel burglary, 2/07/11 An unknown suspect forced entry into a home being remodeled on Southwood Drive. Tools valued at \$1,500 were permanently borrowed. Sadly no one saw or heard anything. Perhaps the contractor consoled himself with that old folksong, "If I had a hammer."

Please submit Letters and Opinions: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

CIOC Deems Orinda's Roads in Crisis

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda's roads are in crisis," said Richard Nelson, the Chairman of Orinda's Citizen's Oversight Infrastructure Commission (CIOC), as he presented the Commission's annual report at the February 15th City Council meeting.

"We are at the point where something needs to be done about it," said Nelson. "Fifty percent of Orinda's roads are rated as very poor... Budgeted spending is not enough to even touch these roads that are currently in very, very poor condition," he added. Nelson and his fellow Commission members pressed the Council to increase the budget allocation for road repairs by about two-fold or

risk being unable to prevent further deterioration of the larger arterials and collector streets.

Orinda's current road repair policy focuses the City's limited funds on the most heavily traveled roads. Residential streets receive only emergency repairs to address exceedingly unsafe conditions.

"The current situation is that the residential roads will go to gravel. This is the policy that we have adopted," said Commission member Alex Evans. "The cost

will kill this city off," he added, "Our legacy is going to be that we let our streets kill off our city."

Evans strongly encouraged the Council to find at least \$2 million a year for the roads to ensure that the city's notoriously bad roads do not get any worse. "We can no longer dream of a big fix. The bond measures were a great idea, but they failed," said Evans. Both he and Nelson prodded the Council to look at alternate funding options.

"Public Works are doing a

great job with the funds that they have" said Nelson. "But deferred maintenance can't go on forever." He suggested that if the Council was able to find additional road repair monies, resident interest in the road repair problem would increase. He did not rule out the possibility of pursuing a repair bond measure in the future.

Nelson explained that the CIOC is currently investigating the idea of benefit assessment districts to address some of the road repair needs.

As Seen in Lamorinda Cow Talk



Unlike many local motorists, the cows don't seem to mind the condition of Orinda's roads. A Lamorinda Weekly reader caught these three strolling down Ivy Drive and snacking on a few of the

grassy lawns along the way. But the cows soon grew weary of the hustle and bustle of city life, so they found their way back to a trail and headed into the hills. Photo provided

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