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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m.
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

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

Mayor Gives State of the City

By Andrea A. Firth



Victoria Smith

Photos Andy Scheck

In a word, the state of Orinda today is "challenged," said Mayor Victoria Smith in her address to the members of Orinda's

Chamber of Commerce and local Rotary Club on Wednesday, April 20th. Property tax revenue, which represents over half of the City's budget, is projected to be flat this year for the first time, and sales tax and investment income were both down last year, according to Smith. She acknowledged that this austere financial forecast would make it difficult to fund City services and make a significant dent in the City's \$100 million infrastructure problem. However, Smith did point out that Orinda would not be negatively affected by the Governor's proposal to pull funding for re-development agencies, because Orinda does not have one, and that the City does not have any unfunded pension liabilities, because City staff participate in 410K program, not a defined benefit program.

Mayor mostly centered around what could and would be done about Orinda's failing roads. The idea of residents contributing to tax-deductible fund for road repairs was raised by a few members of the audience, and City Manager Janet Keeter explained that the City had explored this idea, and while interesting in concept, it did not pass legal scrutiny. Smith stated that in addition to the annual roads repair budget allotment the City would continue to seek state and federal grants and support the neighborhood road repair program. The full Council will engage in a discussion of Orinda's infrastructure issue at the May 3rd Council meeting.

Audience questions to the



Orinda Taxi owner Julian Juricevic (on left) recently accepted the award for Business of the Year from the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also gave special recognitions to Sally Hogarty (center), the Editor of the Orinda News, and Valerie Hotz (on right), Orinda News Business Buzz columnist. Juricevic, Hogarty, and Hotz also received special recognitions from Contra Costa Board Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and State Assemblymember Nancy Skinner.

ORINDA POLICE

Police Report

Nanny driving drunk, 4/19/11 A 22-year-old au pair was pulled over on Camino Pablo at Brookwood for weaving in and out of her lane. When police pulled her over, she smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech and performed poorly on field sobriety tests. To make matters worse, she was driving her employers BMW. Probably for the last time.

Burglary, 4/18/11 The unlocked door was an open invitation to a thief or thieves who ransacked all of the rooms of a home on Westwood Court. Electronic items and jewelry valued at well over \$10,000 was taken from the home. The doer must have had a big car or truck, as they took a 50" TV from the home. Police found latent finger prints and will be on the look-out.

Pot in Orinda, 4/16/11 At just after 9:00 in the morning cops came by an Acacia Drive home and saw a woman sitting in a car in front of a residence. Cops noticed her perfume smelled strangely of marijuana. They searched her car and found small individual bags of pot under the front seat. A house call perhaps?

Drunk in Public, 4/16/11 A different young woman allegedly had an argument with an Acacia Drive homeowner and was asked to leave the home. Cops noticed her slurred speech, bloodshot eyes and asked her if she'd had anything to drink today. It was 9:15 in the morning. She said she had three pints of gin - breakfast of champions. Cops determined that she was unable to take care of herself and took her to jail.

D.U.I. 4/16/11 At the bewitching hour, just after 2:00 a.m. when the bars close, a silver Toyota was observed weaving in and out of traffic on Moraga Way near Oak Drive. Cops immediately noticed the smell of alcohol and when the subject flunked field sobriety tests, he got a free ride to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Possession of Drugs, 4/14/11 A car was pulled over for expired tags on Highway 24 at Fish Ranch Road. The nose - knows the strong odor of burnt marijuana. The driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce of pot.

Council Votes Against Illegal Views and MMDs

By Andrea A. Firth

The City Council's April 19th meeting was wrapped up by 7:42 p.m. (possibly one of the shortest Council meetings on record), during which time the

Council voted against illegally obtained views and medical marijuana dispensaries.

View preservation. The Orinda City Council unanimously

moved toward adoption of a zoning amendment to clarify that views that had been illegally created would not be protected or restored. Residents William and

Patricia Hudson requested clarification of the view preservation portion of the City's Municipal Code after the owners of the property adjacent to their own illegally trespassed on to their property and removed several live oaks without permission in order to create better views before the sale of the neighboring property. According to the Hudsons, the new neighbors subsequently claimed rights to the view created by the illegal removal of the trees.

MMDs. After establishing a temporary ban on medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) in July of 2009, the Council voted unanimously to support an ordinance to permanently bans MMDs in Orinda's downtown commercial and office districts. Orinda follows Moraga, which also banned MMDs within its borders. Moraga took a further step, prohibiting the outdoor cultivation of marijuana.



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