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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Art in Public Places Committee
Monday, June 20 at 3:30 PM
Orinda Library, May Room
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, June 14, 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

Burglaries and Arrests Up in Orinda

OPD launches prevention program

By Andrea A. Firth

There were 26 residential burglaries in Orinda between January and April, a fairly significant increase in property crime for a community that typically has an average of two to four residential burglaries a month. Orinda's increased number of home break-ins corresponds directly with an increase in the number of residential burglaries in several nearby cities during the same period, according to Orinda Police Chief Jeff Jennings.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department was able to provide Jennings and his team with a crime map and statistical data to help them develop a plan of action. The Orinda Police Department (OPD) also reached out to the community through emails alerts to help track down leads. A tip line was also established which led Orinda Police to two separate suspects. Subsequently in April and May, the OPD made ten arrests related to commercial and residential burglaries and possession of stolen property.

Jennings says recently the OPD has found burglars working in groups of two to four. Often they choose a home where the entrance is not clearly visible from the street or by neighbors. If the perpetrators find no

Business Watch in Orinda

A group of Orinda business owners/representatives recently attended a meeting, hosted by Dina Zapanta of First Republic Bank, with Orinda Police Sergeant Neil Rafanan to discuss crime prevention in their downtown businesses. These new Business Watch members, supported by the Chamber of Commerce, will meet every month to discuss issues and prevention measures.

"There is much interest in this topic and I'm glad the Chamber is filling the need," said Chamber President Sue Breedlove after the meeting, "As an advocate for the business community, this is something we should definitely take the lead on."

One hot topic was the after-school crowd - apparently some of the middle school kids are creating problems. "They run into Loard's, steal candy, and run out," said Breedlove, "The toy store in Theatre Square limits (unaccompanied) kids to three in the store at one time because of the problems they create as a crowd."

The next Watch meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on June 28, at Table 24. "The group expressed interest in meeting every month for these first few months and then move to quarterly," added Breedlove, "the following month we'll move to the other side of town or meet at City Hall." The meeting is open to all Orinda businesses. *S. Braccini*

Miramonte Students Create Digital Model of Downtown

By Aleksandr Auzers




One portion of the virtual model of Orinda's downtown.
Photo A. Auzers, courtesy of A. Gell and M. Wilcox

Both Hasselman and Woodcox are members of OrindaVision, a group which has proposed ideas for how the land- and streetscape of Orinda's Crossroads and Village might evolve in the future. According to Woodcox, OrindaVision wants to promote a dialogue in the community, to spur residents to think about the City's architectural future. The model, as a component of that goal, is intended as a sort of "conversation starter" for area residents.

The students' model is impressive. Produced with inexpensive software running on ordinary computer workstations, the digital replica of the city can be viewed from any angle. With a few clicks of the mouse, it's even possible to get a pedestrian's view of the downtown buildings, which sprout up on both sides of a virtual Moraga Way, proportionally-accurate and quite lifelike.

... continued on next page



Police Report

Residential burglary, 5/30/11 A Scenic Drive resident was out of town for the weekend and asked his mom to check on the house. Upon her arrival, she noticed that the place had been burglarized. Alleged thief or thieves jumped over a small locked fence and forced entry via a bathroom window. Several items were taken; an exact inventory is still being compiled.

Burglary, 5/20/11 An Estates Drive resident left home in the morning and came home in the evening to find the back door and garage door smashed. The victim is not sure if anything besides two coin jars valued at approximately \$150 were taken. Damage to doors and frames estimated at \$800.

Burglary, 5/27/11 An unknown suspect entered an unoccupied El Verano home and removed unidentified property worth approximately \$1500. No fingerprints or witnesses at this time.

5/24/1, Again an unknown suspect forced entry through the front door into a home on El Toyonal. A computer was taken, along with a digital camera, two game systems and consoles plus games. Burglar(s) took a 52" flat panel TV from the living room, but left it in the kitchen.

Burglary, 5/23/11 Someone forced entry into an El Gavilan home between 8:00 and 4:00 p.m. and removed property worth approximately \$2,000. Unfortunately nothing was seen or heard.

Burglary, 5/23/11 Once again an unknown suspect kicked in a front door of an Estates Drive home and took jewelry, electronics and a 52" TV and exited via the front door. The lower level of the home appeared to be untouched. Estimated loss \$14,800; \$1,500 worth of damage to the door.

Teacher Aileen Gell is proud of what the students in her Architectural Design course at Miramonte High School have achieved this year. For the past several months, Gell's class has labored to produce a three-dimensional digital model of Orinda's downtown, which is now nearly 75% complete. When finished, the model could serve as an integral tool for facilitating community discussion regarding the future planning of Orinda's commercial district.

To create the model, the students have been mentored by Orinda residents Peter Hasselman, an internationally renowned urban planner, and designer Michael Woodcox; these professionals have led lectures and discussion periods, and coached students in the use of computerized modeling tools. This unique collaboration has given the Miramonte students the opportunity to work on a real-world project, and access to expertise seldom encountered outside of the workplace.



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