

**100 McMahon Court**



**New Price! \$785,500**

**Amazing value!!! \$785,500 Five Bedrooms!!!**

**Peter & Darlene Hattersley**



DRE# r00445794, DRE# 01181995

**925.360.9588 925.708.9515 WWW.THEHATTERSLEYS.COM**

**Certified Green Builder**



**McCarrt Construction Inc.**  
Custom Homes & Renovations  
Building in Lamorinda Since 1999  
**(925) 376-5717**  
mccarrtconstruction@msn.com  
Orinda, CA  
Lic. # 770687






**Orinda Civic News**

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

**Historical Landmarks Committee**  
Tuesday, August 23 at 3:00 PM  
(July 26 had been canceled)  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way

**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, August 23, at 7:00  
(August 9 has been canceled)  
p.m. Orinda Library, Garden Room  
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

**Orinda's TSAC Re-Examines Congestion on Moraga Way**

**By Diana LaScala Gruenewald**

The heavy traffic on Moraga Way has been a subject of concern in Lamorinda since the 1980s. This major thoroughfare adjoins the highway and is utilized by commuting residents of both Orinda and Moraga. It also borders the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). During morning rush hour, bumper to bumper traffic frustrates commuters and students alike.

Despite five studies that have focused on traffic flow in the area, congestion continues to be a problem. On April 26 of this year, Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) began to readdress the issue during the "Moraga Way Traffic Community

Workshop." During the workshop, community members gathered with representatives from OUSD and AUHSD, TSAC chair Steve Schnier and City Councilmember and TSAC liaison Sue Severson to communicate continued problems and possible solutions associated with the traffic on Moraga Way.

At last week's City Council meeting, Schnier took the microphone to summarize the workshop results. All workshop attendees felt that the congestion on Moraga Way was problematic and hazardous, he said, explaining that traffic often moves well under the speed limit, and residential side streets fill up with rushing commuters and high school students. Orinda has im-

plemented improvements in crosswalks, traffic signals, sidewalks and bicycle lanes to help combat these issues. However, Schnier noted, these advances have not yet succeeded in reducing complaints.

Schnier and Orinda's on-call Traffic Engineer Robert Rees presented several new solutions to the City Council. Most notably, workshop attendees noted a significant decrease in traffic on Wednesday mornings, when Del Rey Elementary School, Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School have staggered school bell schedules. Schnier and Rees therefore proposed that the schools discuss purposely staggering schedules on the other weekdays. Other

ideas included encouraging car-pools, establishing a different drop-off point for Miramonte students, investigating the use of school and County Connection buses and improving sidewalks to promote safe pedestrian travel to and from schools.

Council members responded thoroughly and positively to the ideas presented by Schnier and Rees. The Council then asked TSAC to begin investigating the proposed solutions by contacting community groups including the parents' clubs and principals of Del Rey, Orinda Intermediate, and Miramonte High School. TSAC members will present the Council with the results of their inquiries in three to four month's time.

**Chef—Orinda's K-9—is Back**

**By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald**

Almost six years ago, the Orinda City Council established the city's Police K-9 unit using funds that were raised by enthusiastic community members. Since that time, Chef the police dog has become an integral part of Orinda's police force. He is the constant and vigilant companion of Officer Danny Vargas, who was Officer of the Year in 2010. And in Orinda he will stay, at least for one more year.

Chef's position was recently threatened by the prolonged economic downturn. The K-9 program costs Orinda \$22,000 per year to run, and after much discussion, the City Council decided that elimination of the program would help balance the budget. However Chef's pink slip was revoked when Bob and Maryett Thompson offered to cover the cost of Chef's upkeep personally for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. "The dog is a tremendous asset to our city and the surrounding area," says Maryett, "The bad guys are afraid of the dog."


Last week, the Orinda City Council accepted the Thompsons' generous donation. The couple offered \$22,000 to the City, and said that they may also be able to donate in future years. The news was greeted with a joyful bark from Chef

himself; the Orinda Police Department is grateful to have his continued partnership. The Thompsons are working to set up a foundation to cover the ongoing cost of the K-9 program.

Police dogs provide a variety of advantages to the neighborhoods they protect and the departments they serve. Because of their keen sense of smell, they are uniquely suited to sniffing out drugs and explosives and tracking both suspects and missing persons. Police dogs can also pursue a fleeing suspect with greater speed than their human

partners. Finally, dogs provide protection to the officers with whom they work. For these reasons, Chef has been a valued member of the Orinda Police Department since 2005.

*Andrea A. Firth contributed to this article*



**Police Report**

**A Close Shave? 7/20/11** During a vehicle stop for expired tags, Orinda Police discovered the driver had a suspended license and was on felony probation. A search of the car and its occupants revealed the two had stashed 27 packages of razor blades in their pants. Not a very sharp move. Surveillance videos showed they had recently nicked the lot from CVS Pharmacy.

**Born to be Wild, 7/16/11** Two subjects found running in the street along Moraga Way were yelling wildly and hitting cars. When caught, they were charged with threatening, battery, drug possession, drug transportation and sales; and, no surprise here, drug ingestion. One subject was taken to John Muir Hospital and treated for ingestion; the other was taken to Martinez and booked.

**Ride Swap, 7/13/11** Four under-21 occupants of a Ford Mustang were found to be drunk in public. Police found a water bottle being "recycled" as an alcohol container. One occupant, clearly not thinking clearly, gave a false ID to arresting officers. They were carted off to Martinez.

**Paper or Plastic? 7/8/11** Two 36-year old suspects were arrested on credit card fraud while shopping Orinda Safeway. One had an outstanding warrant issued in San Francisco (paper), the other was in possession of 17 credit cards (plastic). Their spree ended early when police intervened and booked them into Martinez Detention Facility.

**Won't you be my Neighbor? 6/30/11** A residential burglary on Camino del Diablo was interrupted when a neighbor confronted the suspect, who was toting a yellow pry bar and pillow case full of stolen items, including a lap top. The suspect fled, but his license was recorded. \$2500 in goods were recovered. The two leading suspects are also the registered owners of the escape Cadillac.



**More Orinda Civic News on Page A10**

**Would you like to Hear Better?**



Orinda resident Al Koorji of Lamorinda Hearing Center has been quietly helping Lamorinda hear better for the last 10 years.

Al is inviting you for a complementary:

- Consultation
- Hearing evaluation
- 30 day trial on a hearing aid - no obligation
- Hearing aid cleaning & repair

**Prepare to hear better. Call Today!**

**Summit HEARING CENTER** 355 Village Square, Orinda (925) 254-6960



**Caught You Looking!**



**Valid only at:**  
3545 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-299-1516

**FREE KIDS**  
CREATE YOUR OWN  
(Ice Cream + 1 Mix-in)  
with purchase of a Love It™ or Gotta Have It™ Size Creation™



Served in a cup. Waffle products and extra mix-ins available for additional charge. Valid for children 12 and under only. Limit one per customer per visit. Valid only at 3545 Mt. Diablo Blvd. No cash value. Not valid with other offers or fundraisers or if copied, sold, auctioned, exchanged for payment or prohibited by law. 16.1337 © 2011 Kohana Franchising, L.L.C. GOLD STONE CREAMERY and the medallion design are registered trademarks of Kohana Franchising, L.L.C. or its licensors.