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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Special Workshop on Roads

Tuesday, October 18, at 5:00 pm
Library Garden Room,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, November 14, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Grand Theft Bicycle, 10/5/11
An Orinda resident is out \$1900 because in a one hour window, thieves stole two custom bikes from the inside of an unlocked garage. They simply walked the bikes out, popped them in the back of a gray vehicle, and drove off into the sunset.

Hi, Ho, Silver Mercedes!
9/29/11 At half past midnight a half-snookered 67 year old woman drove her silver Mercedes Benz into and then off a residential driveway looking for her boyfriend. Police observed she was under the influence; administered a field sobriety test. Noting results, they carted her off to Martinez Detention Facility. The car was a customer of Orinda Tow.

Bold and (possibly) Armed,
9/29/11 A victim reported that a man and a woman drove up her driveway and stole her purse from the car's hood at noon, where she'd placed it. The man also nabbed a duffel bag containing an I-pad from inside the car. She thinks the male thief then pointed a gun at her as they drove away. Monetary damages were reported at over \$1200.

Stalling for Time,
9/26/11 A woman, drunk in public, locked herself into the Orinda Safeway restroom. She may have been trying to beat the rap, because she already was on probation for an earlier drunk in public arrest.

Raising Speed Limit Raises Ire

By Cathy Dausman



Council member Sue Severson discusses the speed limit issue with Glorietta Blvd. residents at the October 4 Orinda City Council meeting.

Photos: Cathy Dausman

If they made a radar gun to measure high emotions, it would have been pinging away at the October 4 Orinda City Council meeting. No less than ten speakers, plus seven e-mails to council members and city staff, weighed in against a proposal to raise the speed limit from 25 to 30 miles per hour along Glorietta Boulevard.

The Council heard from City Engineer Janice Carey, Police

Chief Jeffrey Jennings, a representative from TJKM Transportation Consultants and Traffic Officer Michael Gray. It also got an earful from residents of Glorietta Boulevard and nearby streets, who feared raising the limit even five miles per hour would further endanger walkers, bikers, and residential property.

The affected area runs along Glorietta Boulevard between Mor-

aga Way and the Lafayette city limit. Glorietta Boulevard between Sally Ann Road and Daryl Drive would remain a 15 mph school zone speed, as it is currently posted.

Some background: It is not individual cities, but the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which govern the criteria for establishing speed limits in local municipalities. The agencies require a traffic survey every five years to justify posted speed limits. TKJM conducted a Glorietta Blvd. survey on April 28 this year, and the results were presented to the Council.

Because the last survey is now outdated, unless the recent survey is put into use and the speed limit changed the Police Department may not use radar to provide enforcement. In fact, the court would likely throw out a speeding citation issued from that area. According to MUTCD, speed limits are established by the "critical speed" or 85th percentile rule, which is the speed "at or below which 85 percent of the traffic is moving." In other words, as Council Member Dean Orr observed, "The drivers essentially set speed limits."

Jennings spoke of his responsibility for "the preservation of life and property," but many were confused about the means to that end. Would raising a speed limit actually slow traffic down? It's counterintuitive, Jennings agreed, but once the new limit was posted his staff could enforce it. Still, Glorietta residents were not convinced. "Nobody's happy about this," said Allison Banisadr. Darren Pieper compared the move to "letting the inmates run the asylum." Vanessa Imberg asked the Council to delay a vote. "We're walking into a slippery slope," she said. Stuart House says he walks his dog along Glorietta only "with trepidation."

After nearly an hour's discussion, the Council did not vote. The matter was referred to the City's Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee and will reappear on the agenda likely after the first of the year.

Carey cautioned "there is not a lot of leeway" on establishing a new speed limit, but promised that "it's not going to be a freeway going down Glorietta," while Jenkins reassured Orindans he was "pretty confident we'll get it [speed limit] back down...It's just going to take some time," he said.

Small Town Meets Hollywood at Orinda's Moneyball

By Cathy Dausman and Cathy Tyson

Stephen Bishop's guest appearance at the Orinda Theater premier of Moneyball hit a home run with the crowd on October 1. The former Moraga resident and Campolindo High School baseball player (class of 1987) attracted locals eager to see their neighbor and classmate on screen and in the flesh. "He was a good guy, well liked," said Bob Javinsky who was in the Campo class of 1989. Javinsky and his wife Sarah were among the first in line at the the-

ater. Sarah Javinsky speculated there would have been an even larger Campolindo presence, had it not been for a 25th reunion, the class of 1986, scheduled that same night. Beau Behan, of the California Independent Film Festival, called Bishop a "Lamorindan Hollywood Star" and was excited to have him "share his insights and inside stories on Moneyball."

When Bishop arrived driving a black SUV the cameras came out. The actor, whose credits include Fri-

day Night Lights, Grey's Anatomy, Lost, and The Rundown smiled shyly and politely posed for pictures before seeking out high school friends among the crowd.

This was Bishop's fourth Moneyball screening, but he assured the audience that his role in the film aside (Bishop plays former Oakland A's outfielder David Justice), he really likes the movie. Afterwards, Bishop fielded questions as easily as ground balls. He said he originally met Jus-

tice when he (Bishop) was playing baseball at Diablo Valley College. Justice gave him his batting gloves, and Bishop literally wore them out over the next 22 games. The rest is celluloid history.

Bishop's comment that as a young man he really wanted "out" of Moraga brought a good laugh from the audience. But now, he said, he'd like to return. Judging from the warm reception the crowd gave him that night Bishop was 'safe' at home.



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Photo Cathy Dausman