



# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tue., Dec. 13, at 7:00 pm canceled  
Regular Meeting Library Auditorium  
Tuesday, January 10, at 6:00 pm  
Workshop Garden Room, Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, December 19, 7:00 pm  
Community Room, City Hall  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, December 12, 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

**A Blanket Excuse...** 11/28/11  
A woman burglarizing an Orinda home must have found the back bedroom closet just right, because that's where the homeowner found her. He ordered her out of the house, and she complied. Police were called and found the suspect walking eastbound on Glorietta Blvd, wrapped in a blanket from the burgled house! The suspect was positively ID'd in the field and taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

**Nothing to be Thankful for,** 11/23/11  
Police investigating a suspicious subject just before Thanksgiving found a man acting as a door to door magazine salesman. When questioned, he said he had no ID. He didn't have a sales permit either, so police searched his person and found a wallet with paperwork identifying him as a parolee from Texas. He was booked into Martinez Detention Facility. The personal check also on his person (a magazine sale?) was returned to its rightful owner.

**Smells Like Teen Spirit,** 11/22/11  
Police stopped a car carrying four men. Since there was a strong odor of marijuana, a search was conducted. They found (wait for it...) marijuana. The car's 19-year old driver was cited and released.

**Man About Town,** 11/21/11  
A 44 year old male was stopped in a truck belonging to someone known to have a suspended license. Sure enough the truck...er, its driver, is in trouble! Although he produced a valid California ID, he was driving with a suspended license. Come to think of it, after police ran a vehicle check, the guy is a repeat customer, logging four counts of driving/suspended license in seven months. He was arrested and transported to Martinez Detention Facility, where he was booked. Somebody with a valid license drove him there.



Peter & Darlene Hattersley



DRE# r00445794, DRE# 01181995

## MARKET ACTION REPORT November 2011 City: Lafayette

Price Range: ALL | Properties: Single Family Home

Market Profile & Trends Overview	Month	Trending Versus*				YTD	Trending Versus*	
		LM	L3M	PYM	LY		PriorYTD	PriorYear
Median List Price of all Current Listings	\$975,000	↑		↓				
Average List Price of all Current Listings	\$1,352,282	↔		↓				
November Median Sales Price	\$755,000	↓	↓	↓	↓	\$936,000	↓	↔
November Average Sales Price	\$788,986	↓	↓	↓	↓	\$1,079,261	↓	↓
Total Properties Currently for Sale (Inventory)	57	↓		↓				
November Number of Properties Sold	7	↓		↓		223	↓	
November Average Days on Market (Solds)	38	↓	↓	↓	↓	53	↓	↓
Asking Price per Square Foot (based on New Listings)	\$378	↓	↓	↓	↓	\$423	↓	↓
November Sold Price per Square Foot	\$434	↑	↑	↑	↔	\$408	↓	↓
November Month's Supply of Inventory	8.1	↑	↑	↑	↑	5.1	↑	↑
November Sale Price vs List Price Ratio	100.2%	↑	↑	↑	↑	97.1%	↑	↑

\* LM=Last Month / L3M=Last 3 Months / PYM=Same Month Prior Year / LY=Last Year / YTD = Year-to-date

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## Council Extends Eden's Rights

By Laurie Snyder

The non-profit Eden Housing, Inc. was granted a one-year extension of its Exclusive Right to Negotiate Agreement by the Orinda City Council last week. The agreement was due to expire on December 14, 2011. The extension gives Eden the assurance that the City will not discuss or negotiate the development of the old library site with anyone other than Eden during the term of the agreement, and contains

a commitment by Eden to diligently pursue the project.

Eden has been working to obtain financing for the development of an affordable senior housing project at 2 Irwin Way, the former location of the Orinda library.

Valerie Sloven of Lamorinda Housing Advocates, and Eartha Newsong, an active resident of the Orinda Senior Village who coordinated Orinda's Seniors Around

Town program, spoke in support of affordable senior housing.

Council members then discussed and approved on a 4-1 vote the requested extension.

Vice Mayor Steve Glazer explained his reason for casting the lone dissenting vote, "I am very supportive of this affordable senior housing project and believe that Eden Housing is earnestly and sincerely working to advance this de-

velopment. This exclusivity clause should have been a part of our original agreement with Eden and not presented as an add-on. It is for that reason that I voted against the original two-year agreement and why I am voting against the one-year extension."

City staff expressed an expectation that the project will return to the Council's agenda in February, 2012.

## Sisters Were Doin' It for Themselves in Orinda

By Laurie Snyder



Amelia Chen Photo provided

The City of Orinda welcomed an international dignitary and community leaders from across Northern California on Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29 when it played host to the 2011 Conference of the Northern California Chapter of Sister Cities International.

The weekend of fun and learning at this 35th annual meeting began with a special reception held at the home of Orinda's former mayor, Bobbie Landers, on Friday evening. Landers said that, during the planning process when she and her fellow board members were thinking about the wine fest presented as part of last year's conference in Lodi, planners hit on the idea of presenting an opening beer reception to both increase awareness about Czechoslovakia's reputation for beer production and educate attendees about Orinda's

Sister City, Tabor.

Tabor, which has had a special relationship with Orinda since the late 1990s, was chosen as Orinda's Sister City to help Tabors strengthen their emerging democracy. Since that time, many Orindans have visited the city and, in turn, Tabor has sent several of its students to live and learn in Orinda.

On Saturday, the democratic principles of both countries were celebrated once again as local Boy Scouts presented first the U.S. and then Czech colors at the opening of the day's events. Both national anthems were also performed.

Mayor Victoria Smith welcomed attendees, and encouraged them to explore restaurants throughout the City and to "Shop Orinda" during their visit.

Ambassador Gao Zhansheng, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, then presented the conference's keynote address. Zhansheng spoke about the economic relationship between the United States and China, and indicated his support for the Sister Cities International program by encouraging the leaders of cities across Northern California to collaborate with the cities in China that are currently looking for partners.

But it was a young Orinda resident who most eloquently communicated the bridges that can be built by programs such as Sister Cities

International. Zhansheng was welcomed to the conference through song by Amelia Chen, the petite K-2 division soloist who captured the hearts of Lamorinda residents during the recent 2011 Orinda Idol finals. According to Landers and other audience members, Chen sang so beautifully and so impressed the Consul General that he was moved to hug the little girl following her performance.

Lunch catered by a Czech bistro gave attendees the chance to experience tasty new foods and enjoy one another's company before an afternoon of workshops that included a presentation by Orinda City Council member Dean Orr and a review by Orinda's current Sister City student, Stepanka Jandova, of the ways in which cities across Northern California can involve their youth communities in their respective Sister City initiatives.

Landers, when asked about the overall impact of the event, mentioned that one highlight in particular was the workshop presented by Richard Westin. Westin, a 40-year resident of Orinda who has served on both the Planning and Parks and Recreation Commissions and is now the current President of the Orinda Community Foundation, led a roundtable discussion on "How to Successfully Raise Funds for Your Organization."

He addressed the different components of successful

fundraising activities – volunteer recruitment, selecting the proper venue, advertising – and stressed the importance of taking the time to recognize and thank the planners and supporters of any event. He also discussed an important leadership role being played by Orinda's foundation, which has launched a user-friendly calendar on its web site (www.orindafoundation.org/) that gives residents a centralized place to learn about area happenings while also enabling community organizations to reduce scheduling conflicts as they plan their special events.

Participants in Westin's workshop were also invited to share their best fundraising strategies. "We're non-competing; we love to share ideas that work," he said as he reflected on the enthusiasm of the roughly 35 people who attended his session.

As with so many of its fellow Sister City groups, Orinda's own organization raises funds and recruits volunteers in support of its work. The committee's meetings are open to the public and held the fourth Thursday of every month. And because it is a 501 (c) (3) organization, contributions made to the City of Orinda to support its work are tax deductible. For more information about the Orinda Sister City's upcoming holiday program or about becoming a member, contact Bobbie Landers: (925) 254-8260.

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