



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, January 10, at 6:00 pm
Workshop Garden Room,
Library, 26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 3:00 pm
Gallery Room, Library
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, January 9, 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

... will be back next time.



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Coming Together as Neighbors

Mayor reflects on past, speaks about role of citizenry in a democratic society

By Laurie Snyder



Photo provided

Steve Glazer, unanimously re-selected by the Orinda City Council to serve another term as the City's Mayor, recently reflected on life in Orinda.

Glazer, upon his swearing in December 19th, thanked his family and Council colleagues for their support and also commended the City's staff. "They make our job so much easier—so we can do our volunteer jobs well."

He later continued to praise City staff and his fellow Council members.

"Our staff provides critical services to making our City run smoothly and efficiently. They are not recog-

nized enough for their contributions to our quality of life," said Glazer.

Regarding the governance and public service work performed year round by the Orinda City Council, he said, "We come together as neighbors," and called his fellow Council members "citizen volunteers."

"My colleagues on the Council and the more than 60 plus residents on City commissions volunteer their time. There is not much glory in the work except for the satisfaction that we are making life better for our residents."

As he reflected on his interactions with Orindans during his past seven years on the Council, Glazer observed that most "are courteous and thankful during their engagement with the City," but also noted that "it is always healthy to remind everyone that we are just their neighbors trying to do the best we can."

"I've learned a lot in the last seven years on the Council so knowing the history on issues helps in the decision making."

What has changed in the five years since you were last Mayor?

"We have greater citizen involvement in the affairs of the City. We

have reprioritized street repair funds on the roads most traveled. Zoning changes at Theater Square have resulted in much higher occupancy rates on the ground floor, bringing renewed life to the area. We have also taken charge of a variety of infrastructure problems that have been stuck in neutral for a while. These include the replacement of the Manzanita Bridge, repair of a big Glorietta storm drain, numerous hill slides and the elimination of an abandoned home that was a magnet for crime."

Glazer went on to say, "The best part of Orinda is the lack of changes in the residential areas. We remain one of the safest cities in the state with one of the best school systems."

He also expressed pride in the City's recreational services, describing them as "fantastic."

When asked what Orinda will look like in five years, Glazer replied: "I don't think you will see a lot of changes because the heart of the City is our friendly and unpretentious residents."

"You will likely see the Wilder and Pine Grove developments start to fill in. The physical appearance of downtown might enjoy a few up-

grades if property owners feel they have community support to make improvements."

What do you hope to achieve during this term that you were unable to accomplish last time?

"Most importantly, I will work with my Council colleagues and City staff to continue our conservative approach to financial affairs. This requires constant vigilance. I also hope to continue to educate our residents on the stark choices in regard to future road repairs. We have some of the worst roads in the region and they will not get better unless we are willing to tax ourselves. No one will help us except ourselves."

Citing Orinda City Council's history of "friendly and constructive problem solving," Glazer gave residents further food for thought. "Citizen decision making is one of the great virtues of our democracy and we get the benefit and burden of solving our own problems in a collective way."

"It is an honor and privilege to serve the City as Mayor," he said in closing. "I'm hoping for a fun and enjoyable year ahead. Let's do some serious work but not take ourselves too seriously."

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Wilder Playfields: Timeline Changes Proving Costly

By Laurie Snyder



Photo Andy Schreck

The Orinda City Council learned at its final meeting of 2011 that milestones continue to be missed and met as the new Wilder playfields grind on toward completion.

"Substantial progress has been made toward completing Playfields 1 and 2 yet they remain unfinished and construction of the maintenance facility has not yet begun," according to the staff report.

Those delays are adding strain to an already stressed budget. By the City's calculations, Orinda is losing roughly \$30,000 for every quarter that the playfields remain undone—a projected minimum net loss set to

reach \$120,000 based on a new estimated playfield delivery date of June 1, 2012.

The good news is that the developer, OG Property Owners, LLC (OGLLC), is offering "to make the City whole for this loss in income" by upgrading the planned Maintenance Facility—"the actual and reasonable cost of which will be determined with staff once the final design and installation is complete"—and paying "the City the difference upon transfer of Phase I of the fields to make the City whole for lost revenue and rents."

Staff has requested a new time-

line from OGLLC listing milestone dates originally set by the City, their current completion status, explanations for the delays, and a revised schedule for finishing the outstanding project components.

The Mixed News

Light poles at the playfields are now up and functioning. It is estimated that PG&E will deliver power permanently by the end of January. Lower parking area lighting is also scheduled to be completed by this time. A study will verify that City specifications for lighting at ground level have been met.

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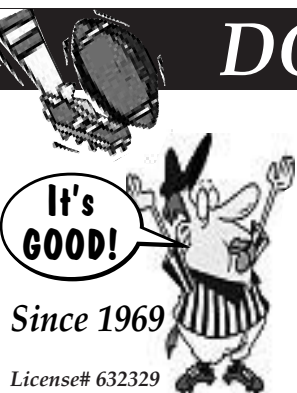
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