



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, February 14 canceled

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 28, at 6:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, April 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
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Some Men are from Mars... this one's not from California, 2/18/12 Orinda police stopped a 27 year old male for speeding. He made matters worse by presenting a foreign ID instead of a valid California driver's license. He also said he'd been drinking and smoked marijuana. His breath test for blood alcohol content showed .114; at that point he was carted off to Martinez Detention Facility.

"Not Quite" Sober, 2/25/12 An 18 year old male driving a car was pulled over. He admitted consuming "not quite" two shots of vodka. His poor performance on a field sobriety test showed .069 blood alcohol. As a minor, his allowable BAC is only .01%. He was transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

Who are You? 3/1/12 An Orinda driver being cited for not wearing a seatbelt also managed to give a false ID to police. He was transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

On the Sauce, 3/3/12 Is it possible to drive your uncle's car into a poor, unsuspecting phone pole? Of course it is, if you blow a .098 BAC. She requested and was administered a blood test before being released into the care of her grandmother.

"Death" of a Salesman, 3/5/12 A 25 year old male was arrested for trying to sell without a license ("unlicensed soliciting"). A warrant search showed up an outstanding warrant from Placerville. That was the end of his sales career.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Treasured Gem with VIEWS ~ Coming Soon in Beacon Ridge ~ LaMorinda's Premier Gated Community



This townhome is located on a private court, has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with approximately 1753 square feet, vaulted ceilings, balcony off living area, custom designed office in bedroom loft, 2 fireplaces, inside laundry, wonderful private outdoor spaces in entry and back yard, large 2-car attached garage. The Beacon Ridge Community has a community pool, tennis courts, and is minutes from Acalanes HS, and Springhill Elementary in the Lafayette School District. **Offered at \$525,000**

Since our first issue...

- The City of Orinda turned 25 and CalShakes celebrated its 20th year in Orinda
- The Mayor's Excellence in Architecture Awards and Orinda Community Foundation were born
- The frog finally found a home at the Library fountain
- A new City Hall opened while JFK University's Orinda campus closed
- Downtown visioning began and Quiet Orinda raised its voice
- City Council said NO to an emergency services task force, but YES to a re-zoning plan that revitalized Theatre Square
- Orindans said NO to roads, but YES to Shop Orinda
- Successful comedy and jazz festivals were launched
- A Wilder Road exit sign was added to Highway 24's off ramp 7B
- Groundbreaking began and progress made on the Caldecott Tunnel's 4th bore
- The Lamorinda Weekly was rated as one of the two most trusted and used news resources for Orinda residents in 2012

City Sets Stage for Further Downtown Discussions

Budget issues and recent resident polls also slated for review

By Laurie Snyder

At its most recent meeting March 6, the Orinda City Council prioritized items for inclusion on the agenda of two upcoming meetings likely to have significant impact for Orinda residents moving forward.

Orinda will host a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Workshop on Wednesday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. The CIP workshop, said City Manager Janet Keeter, "will provide Council and the public the opportunity to hear progress reports on various capital projects, discuss changes to current projects (i.e. primarily scheduling and timing), and discuss proposed new projects for the five-

year plan."

And at 7:00 p.m. on March 27, 2012, Council will engage with members of the Orinda Planning Commission at a joint meeting, to provide updates of varying lengths on major development projects and recent and potential code amendments, and to explore "the results of the FM3 poll as they pertain to the Planning Commission and Planning Department."

In addition to polling area residents about their potential support for various infrastructure improvement funding mechanisms, that 2012 Orinda Voter Survey conducted by the public opinion research and strat-

egy firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (more frequently referred to as FM3), also assessed residents' current level of satisfaction with services provided by the City.

Or - in certain cases - dissatisfaction. While the Orinda Library, Police Department, and Parks and Recreation received high marks, the Council and Planning and Public Works Departments each took hits. Council, Planning Commission members, and staff will review and discuss those findings. Additionally, results of a survey regarding the City's downtown and its downtown planning process

have also been listed as priorities for the agenda.

When clarifying the items for inclusion on the March 27 agenda, Vice-Mayor Amy Worth confirmed with her fellow Council members and staff that each item will be presented for awareness rather than as action items. Though no decisions will be made or votes taken, residents interested in the future of Orinda's downtown will still likely find this update helpful from an information gathering standpoint.

Look for agenda items and staff reports to be added to the City's web site closer to each scheduled meeting date.

The Early Bird Gets the ... Asparagus

Orinda Farmers' Market now open

By Laurie Snyder



Plump strawberries were just a few of the goodies sold at the Orinda Farmer's Market, which opened March 3 - two months earlier than in previous years. Photo Laurie Snyder

The temperature was perfect and the sky was that spectacular shade of blue that makes even long-time Bay Area natives look up and stare in wonder at the earliest season opening ever for the Orinda Farmers' Market March 3.

Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets (CCFM) made the decision to open Orinda's fresh produce paradise two months earlier in response to

residents' "overriding request that we extend the season," explained Janice Faust, CCFM's on-site manager.

"All of our regular growers are returning," said Faust. Back for her fifteenth year, she described the vendors as "like family."

Browsers in search of healthy fare found seafood, cage-free eggs and mounds of colorful fresh fruits and veggies. Steve's Bees, Ruvalcaba

Nursery and other familiar faces were on hand with several new vendors projected to work their way into the mix over the next few weeks and months. Orinda's own Yogi's Cooking provided Indian Fusion dishes, side-by-side with the crêpe stand and fresh pasta from Il Pastiaio.

Vendors will "join us as the weeks pass - when their crops ripen," added Faust, who also noted that she and her CCFM colleagues are "out scouting new farmers and vendors," based on requests and suggestions that they receive from market attendees.

According to CCFM, other gastronomic goodies slated to be available include six of "Spring's Splendid Seven": artichokes - at their peak, asparagus, green garlic, spring greens, spring onions, and strawberries. The seventh, fava bean leaves, will be on sale in late March, and may be used in place of basil or to add a tasty twist to quiche dishes.

Market managers are adding a new hair feather person who is expected to be a particular hit with tweens, and have also scheduled

Theresa Rodgers for March 17. Rodgers, a Crockett resident, recently co-authored the well-received "Dharma Feast Cookbook: Recipes for a Fresh Start."

But it was the new weekly produce drawing that generated the most buzz with the adults in the crowd. Opening day attendees learned that this year, a different market fan will win a box of fresh produce every week, courtesy of CCFM. To participate, just fill out the entry form at the manager's stand. Winners will be announced each Wednesday.

This year's events will run rain or shine along Orinda Way in front of the Community Park on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through November 17. A calendar of upcoming musical performances, as well as recipes and veggie prep tips are available on the CCFM web site: www.ccfm.org. Or, check out CCFM and its vendors on Twitter.

And remember, Fang and Toto need to stay home. The Contra Costa Health Department does not allow pets at farmers' markets.

Experience & Results Count!

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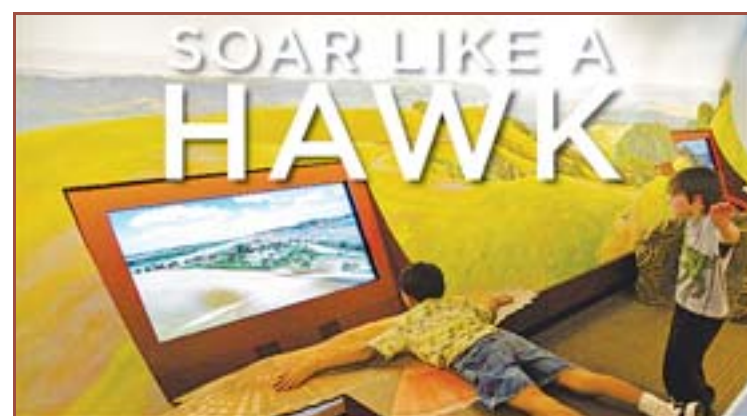


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