

Civic News Orinda

Orinda City Council Candidates Spar Over Downtown Development, MOFD

... continued from page A6

Delehunt, who noted that she has "spoken with Orinda Vision and other groups that have come up with some absolutely brilliant plans for downtown," said City leaders handle development via "ad hoc additions to the plan... And I think that's caused a lot of polarization. I think people feel they haven't been heard ... the deadlock is because there hasn't been a clear process where people have felt involvement."

While there are "certain elements of our downtown which people feel could certainly be better," Glazer said, "there is no community consensus on how to make that happen. There's some controversy about the height changes.... But I don't think it comes from great unhappiness that our downtown is a terrible place." A master plan, he said, "doesn't make anything happen. It still takes a property owner who's willing to look for investor capital to improve their property to match that master plan."

As for MOFD, Delehunt expressed her frustration that Orinda households are paying \$400 more annually for fire service than their counterparts in Moraga. "The citizenry came to City Council and asked that this be looked at, and the City Council refused.... Then the

citizens went out and got a 220-person petition, and requested that the City Council again look at the situation; the City Council then refused to. My feeling is the City Council should look at this whole situation, should intervene in it."

Smith stated there is "no question that we receive excellent service from the Fire District," and added that MOFD is "in the process of looking at response times which are low in some areas of Orinda." The City, she said, has also "been trying to work with them for over the past year to encourage them to come to Orinda City Hall, and become our tenant with their administrative space."

Glazer expressed his concerns regarding MOFD's ability to balance its budget, pay its pension costs and meet its retiree health care obligations. Regarding potential funding inequities between Moraga and Orinda, he said that "on two occasions, we've created task forces... We have held meetings ... and the Council as a whole decided that there was nothing further that needed to be done. We all recognize that they have an independently elected Board... and that they need to be held accountable for an open, transparent discussion and review of all these important matters."

Orinda School Board Candidates Discuss Key Issues

... continued from page A7

Incumbent Matt Moran reassured voters, "Our budget is set - we have a million dollars set aside if neither 30 or 38 pass for this year... You've got to do a lot of planning, and that's one thing I think we do great in our District - we have significant reserves through conservative budgeting processes, and we're able to ride out the storms coming from the State."

Asked about potential upcoming curriculum changes, and specifically the California Common Core Standards, Lurie explained, "It's a nationwide movement that a lot of states are adopting. California has modified it." It will narrow current standards that are "a mile wide and an inch deep," he said. "The kids are going to get a much better understanding of the core concepts. Along with that will come a more collaborative, interactive, application-based teaching methodology."

Butler clarified further, noting that there will be less emphasis placed on test scores. It's "so important to have the critical thinking skills and 21st century learning, project-based learning. It's been proven that kids really remember things when they have hands-on experiences and work on projects... The Common Core Standards is a huge step in that direction."

Moran confessed that he's not enamored of the "top-down, 'this is what you're going to teach' approach," but also said that "as a District, we're planning for it.... I trust that, as we get down to the teacher level, teachers will be able to work with it enough to be able to make it a workable curriculum for our kids." He also said that what those standards really come down to are "critical thinking ... group work, and it comes down to reading and writing. And maybe it's a new way to teach those things, maybe it's a new way to look at those things, but I think those are skills we've

been teaching kids for a long time in this District, and will continue to."

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RE-ELECT

Mayor **Steve Glazer**

Orinda City Council

Accomplishments

- Maintained a balanced city budget and prudent reserves
- Streamlined planning process for home remodels
- Expanded citizen participation in city decisions
- Prioritized repairs of roads most traveled
- Strengthened partnership with Orinda schools

Selfless Volunteer

"In a town with more than its fair share of talent, Steve Glazer stands out among the most capable, reliable, and selfless volunteers working on behalf of all Orindans."
- Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

School Champion

"For more than a decade, Steve has successfully led efforts to increase funding for Orinda schools. He has been a champion for our schools and our city."
- Pat Rudebusch, President, Orinda Union School District Board

Fiscal Watchdog

"Mayor Glazer has been an effective voice in spearheading greater transparency and fiscal accountability. He has been a staunch advocate for the Orinda schools. I unequivocally support Steve for Orinda City Council."
- Susie Epstein, Governing Board Member Acalanes Union High School District

<http://steveglazer4citycouncil.nationbuilder.com>

Jason Lurie for Orinda School Board

Dear Fellow Orindans:

The latest Academic Performance Index scores were just released and again we have reason to be proud and excited. Our district performs among the best in the state.

Outstanding test scores are just one indicator of our ongoing excellence. We have kept many benefits and programs long forgone by most districts in the state. We are fortunate to live in a community committed to a top-notch public school system.

My three daughters have many years ahead in OUSD. If I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity, I will work side-by-side with my fellow trustees to ensure that all OUSD students, my daughters among them, receive the highest quality education. This will require an informed, pragmatic, collaborative approach to fiscal governance. That is the spirit I will bring if elected.

I ask for your vote for the Orinda School Board.

Very truly yours,
Jason

Jason has displayed a passion for service in our schools and a spirit of cooperation. He is fully committed to moving our Orinda children onward and upward in their education.
- Chris Severson, OUSD Trustee

Jason has quickly identified the fiscal challenges facing our district. His experience and collaborative nature will provide great leadership with the rest of the board to face them head on.
- Dean Orr, Orinda City Council

Jason is clearly bright, educated on the issues, and with young children, well vested in our schools. He brings an agenda-free "roll-up-your sleeves" approach to collaboration - a quality critical in these cost-cutting times.
- Riki Sorenson, Former OUSD Trustee

I am so impressed with Jason's "can do" attitude and his desire to work collaboratively with parents, teachers and community members to address our challenges and improve our schools.
- Victoria Smith, Orinda City Council

Jason's dedication and commitment to providing the best education for all students will be a great asset on the school board. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy.
- Julie Rossiter, OUSD Trustee

"I have no doubt that Jason Lurie will bring diligence, fairness, and a collaborative approach to the school board. Orinda students will benefit greatly from his leadership."
- Pat Rudebusch, OUSD Trustee

"Jason has a keen appreciation for Orinda's outstanding public schools. Jason is determined to build on this legacy of excellence to ensure that our students get the top notch education they deserve and our community expects."
- Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

Paid for by Jason Lurie for Orinda School Board 2012 • FPPC #1349913