

# Orinda's Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood

...continued from page D1

In the mid-1940s a new, lower set of stone gates marked the perimeter; those still stand.

Some Sleepy Hollow land was earmarked for recreational use. Du Puis said early residents talked the Rheems into setting aside a parcel for a neighborhood swimming pool. The Sleepy Hollow Swim Club was built on that land in 1955. Founding members and heirs were granted free membership, Du Puis said. She remembers a 1960s controversy over whether to add tennis courts on site. Members feared an increase in dues, but ultimately, the courts went in, and the club was re-named Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club.

Members recently celebrated the completion of a \$3 million revitalization project, including two new swimming pools and tennis court renovations (see related story, page A1).

Many Sleepy Hollow lots were zoned as one-acre or half-acre parcels until the late 1960s. "The [oversized] Boysen lot is now subdivided, after that terrible fire in which Mrs. Boysen and her father died," said Du



Puis. The property still referred to as the Long's Estate was also oversized. Public records show the Long family trust sold the home in 2001. The estate was listed as an 8,470-square-foot home on a 12-acre parcel of land.

Sleepy Hollow Homeowner's Association co-president Wayne Hill said there is "a lot of new blood" in the development as original owners move out and sell to young families. The association is charged with promoting neighborhood communication; something they've done through the online website NextDoor. The association also participates in the Firewise program, training volunteers to inform neighbors about how to eliminate ladder fuels in their yards.

An annual neighborhood barbecue at Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club helps promote community involvement, he said.

...continued on page D6

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**Bert Gilling, MD, Anesthesiologist**

"Thank you for your excellent work in helping me sell my Lafayette home, and for your wise advice. There wasn't one time when I thought your suggestions were off the mark--they were always astute. Your staging and marketing was extremely effective."

**David Johnson, Faculty member at Diablo Valley College**



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