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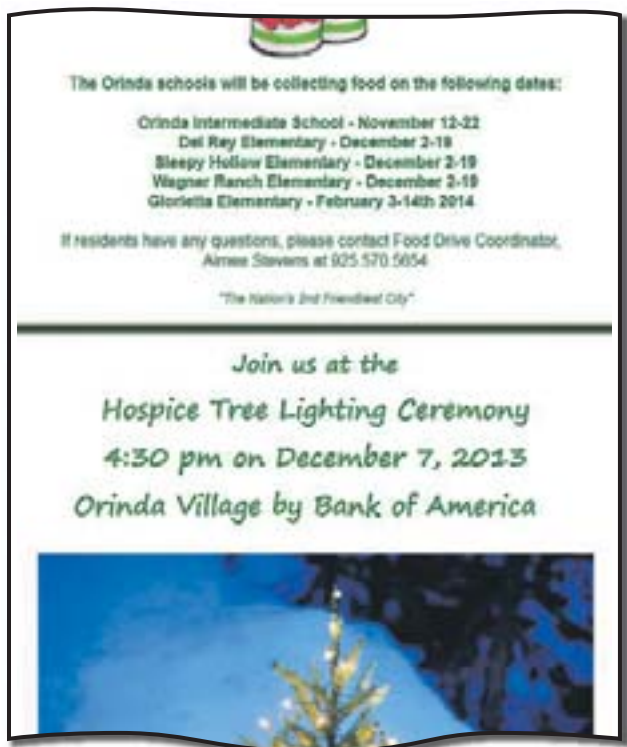
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**A Neighborly
 Nudge to Peruse
 Orinda Publications**

Orinda's leaders hope to improve neighbor-to-neighbor and two-way communications between locals and their government, and are asking for your help. Quite simply, for those not already doing so, they want Orindans to actively read and discuss city communications – whether emergency alerts about road closures and fallen trees, notifications about City Council meetings, or just regular updates provided via "Orinda Outlook," the city's weekly email newsletter.

To subscribe online, visit: www.city-of-orinda.org, and click on "subscribe to email notifications."

L. Snyder



Screenshot of a recent issue of "Orinda Outlook" available on the city's website.

Orinda Compassion in Action

Cans for a Cause Food Drive to benefit the Contra Costa Food Bank
 By Laurie Snyder

The city of Orinda has been partnering with the Orinda Union School District, Republic Waste Services and the Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank to soothe grumbly tummies well beyond this holiday season. Already in full swing, the Cans for a Cause Food Drive is giving Orindans the opportunity to show the Bay Area just precisely why Orinda was named the Second Friendliest City in America. Residents and business owners are already doing a bang up job, but have only just begun.

Following on the heels of the collection at the Orinda Intermediate

School, which ended Nov. 22, event organizers will really wake things up when drives launch at Sleepy Hollow, Del Rey and Wagner Ranch elementary schools Dec. 2-19. Orindans will then continue to slay the hunger dragon when Glorietta Elementary hosts its drive Feb. 3-14.

These critically important events have been staggered to enable the Food Bank to help families long after the traditional holiday spike in food bank donations. Statistically, more than 35 percent of Food Bank clients nationwide are being forced to choose each month between food and paying

the mortgage or rent. It's just as tough here in the East Bay.

Thanks to Republic Waste Services, which is donating the collection bins and matching the amount of food collected, it's as simple as shop, stop and drop. Bring your non-perishable canned goods and packaged foods to one of the specially marked collection bins at the Orinda schools, City Hall, or the Orinda Community Center. For more information, call Aimee Stevens, the Food Drive Coordinator at: (925) 570-5654. To learn more about the Contra Costa Food Bank's work, visit: www.foodbankccs.org/.

Orinda City Council Adopts Housing Element

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Asked where in the Housing Element it said high density housing would be brought to Orinda, Ross parried. "I don't have it in front of me, but I'm happy to sit down with you at any time, and with the attorneys that we're assembling, and with the law firm that we're thinking of bringing in for the recall."

Conversely, a resident who first lived in Orinda in 1954 and returned to care for a parent, said she just wanted the City Council to know that as someone "concerned about climate change and thinks that land use planning is an essential compo-

ment of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, I would like to be proud of Orinda doing its part to create more affordable housing and to create less vehicle miles traveled. So, if the housing element is helping to move us in that direction, I think that's a good thing."

Council members each commented on the significant public input received. Glazer said the city was able to develop an advocacy-neutral document incorporating much of that feedback. "We've heard tonight that, although not everyone thinks that this housing el-

ement is necessarily what they would like to see," said Councilmember Victoria Smith, that some do "now think this is a sufficient document."

Worth thanked residents for their suggestions, "many of which we were able to incorporate and still have a plan that will enable Orinda to have a certified housing element that complies with state law, and also states the goals for our community."

The City Council unanimously approved both the Housing Element and the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

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