



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

TBA
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m.
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

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

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Correction, issue date Dec 4, 2013, "Orinda City Council Adopts Housing Element:"

The Orinda resident quoted in the article was Arthur Roth, not Arthur Ross.



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Happy Holidays to all and a Healthy and Prosperous 2014!

Maureen

A Year of Tumult and Triumph: Amy Worth Concludes Third Term as Mayor

By Laurie Snyder



Photo Ohlen Alexander

"WHEREAS, Orinda residents really do refer to Amy as the 'Mother of the 4th Bore' of the Caldecott Tunnel ... the City Council honors Amy Worth for her service as 2013 Mayor of Orinda, and thanks her for her timeless commitment and dedication to the citizens of Orinda."

Praised by her fellow Orinda City Council members as "a major powerhouse when it comes to Bay Area transportation issues," Amy Worth concluded her third term as mayor of the city of Orinda Dec. 3. Sue Severson and Steve Glazer were named mayor and vice mayor that

same night as Worth returned to her regular council seat.

In 2013, Orindans witnessed, quite literally, the light at the end of the tunnel when the Metropolitan Transportation Commission opened the Caldecott Tunnel's fourth bore and Bay Bridge eastern span. "For me as an Orinda City Council member, it's important that freeways work efficiently," explained Worth of her leadership as mayor and MTC's chair. "A lot of families are commuting for their jobs." Worth was also liaison to the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference, League of California Cities, As-

sociation of Bay Area Governments, Contra Costa County Transit Authority, Lamorinda School Bus Authority, Southwest Area Transportation Committee, and numerous other organizations.

Repair of the Tarabrook sinkhole and replacement of the Manzanita Bridge began. Ground broke on Eden's senior living facility, another Wilder playfield opened, and new homes sprouted from sites in Oak Springs, Orinda Grove and Wilder.

"I don't think we've had a year in many, many years that has been as challenging," observed Glazer, referring to months of four- and five-hour council meetings and calling Worth's leadership superb. "You were under the spotlight, I think, more than any mayor has been, in terms of the challenging issues that we've been facing as a city. And I just think that you've been amazing for your graciousness, and for your diplomacy, and for your kindness and inclusiveness."

"When you're a small city in the larger community like the 19 cities of Contra Costa County, or the San Francisco Bay Area Region," added Councilmember Victoria Smith, "you need to reach out and make connections and build those relationships with others so that you make sure that you get your fair share of the trans-

portation regional funds, of the Measure J and Measure C sales tax money. And Amy has been instrumental in doing that for us - in serving in a regional capacity, in serving outside of Orinda in order to represent Orinda's interests for all of us."

Said Worth, "Twenty-eight years ago when I walked door to door, working on incorporation, I believed so strongly in having a local government, in us being able to have a government in Orinda so that our constituents come locally and participate in creating our own destiny. And I think it's really worked so well in the 28 years, and this year we had an exceptional opportunity to have a lot more public meetings, a lot of participation, and it was really, really wonderful."

"I'm very pleased, after the end of this year, that Orinda residents can drive over a safe bridge, drive through a safe tunnel, and no more merging from four lanes to two. And, I'm also really pleased, for the first time in the history of Orinda, we have submitted a housing element to the state for certification. I think that's a great milestone for our community. And regionally, we've been able to plan for transportation investment and housing for our children and grandchildren as the region moves forward."

Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen Reflects on Her Decade of Service to the Community

By Laurie Snyder

Time flies when you're a city official - especially when you advocate for engaging citizens in government like Michele Olsen. The Orinda city clerk since 2006, Olsen began working for the city 10 years ago. Her department, as defined by the Association of City Clerks of California, is one "within the municipal government upon which the city council, all City departments, and the general public rely for information regarding the operations and legislative history of the City."

Charged by state law with overseeing local elections, legislation, and Public Records, Political Re-

form, and Brown Act matters, Olsen also administers the Oath of Office to newly elected council members, and helps Orinda ensure "compliance with all federal, state and local statutes and regulations and that all actions are properly executed, recorded, and archived." Responsible for maintaining the Municipal Code and Conflict of Interest program, she is also the custodian of the city seal, and acts as the local filing officer for officials submitting Fair Political Practices Commission-required financial disclosures.

But Olsen, whose job requires her to be in tune with changing laws, government codes and tech-

nology, is also "old school" in one very interesting way. When she votes, she still does it at her designated polling place in Orinda so that she can feel connected to the process - and with her own kids right there watching and learning. "They're comfortable within government and the community," she says. "They know what it means to be an Orindan."

Of her many duties, it is Olsen's administration of the city's recruitment of citizens to serve on Orinda's commissions and the responsibilities she holds for "conducting elections in an impartial manner and acting as a link for the



Photo Ohlen Alexander

transparent exchange of information between residents and their local government" that give her the greatest professional satisfaction.

With an average of three vacancies each on planning, parks, finance and other citizen bodies for 2014, she hopes that more residents will apply than ever before. "City commissions are critical because important issues are evaluated there before they reach the city council. Council members want to know the issues have been evaluated before they weigh in."

To those with time constraints, she says, "At least stay informed. We have two independent papers - the Lamorinda Weekly and the Orinda News - that focus on us and on what's going on, and on providing outlets for people to speak."

For those who do have time to give back, she says, it can be very rewarding. "Volunteers run this community. Volunteers run the city. Your council members are volunteers; your commissioners are volunteers. That's what makes Orinda so special."

Applications for the volunteer bodies are due by Jan. 3, 2014. To learn more about how you can become involved, visit the city's website, or contact Olsen at: (925) 253-4221; molsen@city-of-orinda.org.

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Monday Night	House Margaritas ½ price 4 pm - close
Tuesday	Kids eat free All day long 1 child per adult entrée
Monday - Thursday	10% off any Entree With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value. Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 2-28-14
Lunch Entrée	½ price With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value. Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 2-28-14
Tuesday & Wednesdays	Pitcher of House Margaritas \$20 Reg. \$32 Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 1-27-14