Orinda

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting
Orinda Union School District
Monday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
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

please...
RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
...thanks!

Maureen Wilbur

Maureen Wilbur Provides Exceptional Service for Sellers and Buyers~

"Maureen, THANK YOU for making the sale of my home so easy. I enjoyed working with you & appreciate the exceptional service you provided… What differentiated Maureen was the exceptional service & stepping in to handle things I did not expect her to… I highly recommend Maureen - besides providing exceptional service, she is a lovely lady with integrity." *Karla R.*

Direct: (925)253-6311 Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com
www.MaureenWilbur.com CalBRE #01268536

©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity . Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

Orinda City Council Candidates Discuss the Importance of Engagement

By Laurie Snyder

"Democracy is not a spectator sport." – Lotte Scharfman

Attributed to a refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria who became president of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, those words eloquently sum up Orinda's 2014 elections. With six candidates running for city council, Orindans are mulling options in ways many haven't since Orinda's incorporation. It was with those words in mind that this newspaper interviewed the six regarding the importance of elected officials dialoguing not just with constituents, but with the larger entities impacting Orinda's quality of life.

"I think Orindans want a voice; however, we need to be cautious," said Linda Delehunt regarding relations with the solid waste authority, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and similar groups. "We need to be sure we're not engaging in conflicts of interest." When officials "accept positions where they have conflicts of interest, they cannot fulfill their job responsibilities properly. I think that's been one of the problems. Conflicts of interest do exist within the ranks of our city council." Delehunt, who ran for Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools in June, first ran for the city council in 2012.

"There's a question of whether these regional entities make sense, but because they're there, they're making decisions affecting Orinda. So it's important to have representation," said business executive Eve Phillips. But, she said, there is a danger when Orinda and regional goals conflict. In a recent forum, she said Orinda has "seen high density buildings going up to satisfy state and regional pressures while a former gem of our downtown has remained vacant. BART capacity and parking have only gotten worse." She feels Orinda should assess the tradeoffs of disregarding such mandates, and supports "local control in a semi-rural environment to support our schools, our streets and our residents."

"You're talking to somebody with a degree in city and regional planning," said former Orinda Planning Commission chair Carlos Baltodano, who said he views planning from local and larger perspectives. "We're part of the region; we're surrounded by highways. We can't divorce ourselves. These regional bodies are making decisions about Orinda and the cities surrounding us, and are making impacts on infrastructure, housing. We can either not be involved or be at the table, making changes on behalf of our citizens to ensure that the regional choices being made will impact Orinda in a positive way."

"It's extraordinarily important. We don't live in a vacuum here," said Bob Thompson, who has been a member of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee since its inception. "We live between Oakland and Walnut Creek. If you're not on or liaison to these regional bodies, you don't have a voice at the table." Thompson stressed that he very much favors city council members continuing to serve in liaison roles to the various regional boards which have the power to impact everything in Orinda from air quality to the availability of water during severe drought conditions.

"It's vital, as residents of a smaller community, to have effective representation on boards that affect the lives of our residents – whether transportation dollars or with child safety and the Lamorinda School Bus Program," said Councilmember Amy Worth, who has chaired the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "Because of our joint powers with the county's solid waste authority, for example, we provide better services for lower rates than other towns. We can't do it alone. We need to build alliances."

"If we don't participate in ABAG, then what? We still have a regional housing allocation number but we aren't at the table to get critical information," said Councilmember Dean Orr. Collaboration also matters because Orinda may need federal or state help when an emergency occurs – like Napa did during the recent earthquake. "We won't get it just with outreach by a mayor. That's why people decided nearly 30 years ago to incorporate. We weren't getting respect from Martinez; we couldn't control our planning or emergency services."

Another example is the Caldecott Tunnel's new fourth bore. Lamorindans have been reporting reduced stress levels since the November 2013 opening, saying they feel safer and can better predict how long commutes will take. Caltrans research backs this up. Drivers now average 10-15 minutes less in travel time. That may not sound like much, but when considering the corridor's average traffic load – 160,000 drivers daily – multiplied by the minutes saved per person times the number of days driven per week by each driver, it's a huge decrease in time and environmental impact.

... continued on page A9

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Sept. 28-Oct. 11

Alarms 52
911 Calls 13
Brandishing Weapon
Orinda Country Club
Battery Rite Aid
Theatre Square
Burglary
40 block La Campana Rd
20 block La Noria
10 block Muth Dr
Burglary, Auto
500 block Orindawoods Dr
500 block Miner Rd
Grand Theft
60 block Persimmon Walk
300 block Miller Ct
Hit & Run
10 block Charles Hill Rd
Harassment
50 block Bates Bl
Neighbor Dispute
10 block Ivy Dr
50 block Scenic Dr
Petty Theft
Safeway
60 block Moraga Wy
10 block De Soto Ct
20 block Washington Ln
Miner Rd/Camino Pablo
10 block Los Dedos Rd
10 block Sycamore Rd
Promiscuous Shooting
100 block Camino Pablo
Public Nuisance
Bates Bl/Tahos Rd
Moraga Wy/Bryant Wy
50 block Overhill Rd
100 block Overhill Rd
90 block Estates Dr
100 block Catherine Ct
Reckless Driving
Wilder at Hwy 24
10 block Via Las Cruces
Moraga Way/ Glorietta Bl
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo (2)
Coral Dr/Ivy Dr
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr
Shoplift
10 block Camino Sobrante
Safeway (2)
Suspicious
Person 10
Circumstances 6
Vehicle 26
Traffic Stops 124
Vandalism
20 block Bryant Wy
Theatre Square
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Crossridge Ct/Kite Hill Rd

RE-ELECT
Dean Orr 2014
for Orinda City Council

"It has been an honor to serve the Orinda Community as a member of the City Council for the past four years. Working with my colleagues on the council and the citizens of Orinda has been a truly rewarding experience. I am excited by the opportunity to continue in this role and ask for your support."

"Dean is an exceptional Council member and serves with intelligence, integrity, and insight. He is committed to preserving Orinda's wonderful quality of life. I strongly urge his re-election to the City Council."
Steve Glazer
Orinda City Council Vice-Mayor

"Dean approaches each issue in a fair and open-minded way, always looking to find the path forward that is best for Orinda. Dean has a proven track record as an Orinda volunteer, has worked hard to obtain revenue to fix our roads, and as the parent of young children, has key ties to our school community."
Victoria Smith
Orinda City Council

"Dean has consistently stepped up for the good of Orinda schools and has been a great supporter of our district. Please join me in supporting him for re-election to the Orinda City Council."
Matt Moran
Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

"Dean has been a strong advocate of the work of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He has worked hard for the opening of new sports fields and outdoor recreation opportunities and is a great supporter of programs that benefit Orindans of every generation. We are fortunate for his leadership and I am delighted to support his re-election."
Rachel Zenner
Chair Orinda Parks & Recreation Commission

Selected Endorsements Include:

Elected Officials
Candace Andersen
Supervisor District 2
Contra Costa County
Steve Glazer
Orinda City Councilmember
Sue Severson
Orinda City Councilmember
Victoria Smith
Orinda City Councilmember
Amy Worth
Orinda City Councilmember
Susie Epstein
Acalanes Union High School District Board
Matt Moran
Orinda Union School District Board
Julie Rossiter
Orinda Union School District Board
Chris Severson
Orinda Union School District Board

Community Members
Larry & Julie Abramson
Louise Adamson
Patt & Jim Aitchison
Greg & Shaun Ansel
Richard & Julie Atkinson
Steve & Marcella Austenfeld
Jack Babcock
Rich Bartlett
Brent Bates
Steve & Betsy Baus
Todd & Amy Berryhill
Kurt & Joy Marlow Braitberg
Kevin & Shauna Brennan
Shane & Monica Brun
Bruce & Barbara Burkhalter
Bruce Burrows
Robert Burt
Chris & Annette Butner
Ed Casey
Omer & Megan Cohen
Kim & Kevin Coleman
Darren & Julie Cooke
Mike & Sara Curran
Cathy Cutler
Rebecca Dahlberg
Joffa & Ellen Dale
Ruth & Dan Dashiell
Mary & Larry Del Santo
Bill & Andrea DeWitt
Joe Digirolamo
Chuck & Kirsten Engs
Mike & Janine Evans
Marc & Karen Evans
Joe & Hilary Fabian
Finola Fellner
Gus & Sugar Filice
Grant & Joyce Fine
Bob & Patty Frazer
Steve & Lynn Freeman
Mark & Lauren French
Shannon Fuller
Jon & Michele Gasparini
Dennis & Darlene Gee
Kevin & Tracy Gong
Dr. Eugene Gottfried
John Hall
Joyce Hawkins
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
John & Katharine Hawkins
Mike & Mary Henderson
Jeanie Hocking
Elle Hoffnagel
Paul Hollerbach
Monique Jasper
James Jenkins
Bill Judge
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
Tom & Aileen Kelly
Dr. Michael & Sara Kim
Caroline LaVoie
Brad & Leslie Lagomarsino
Bobbie Landers
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
Kenn & Gretchen Lewis
Dane & Robyn Lewis
David Libby
Alissa Lillie
Jason & Jen Lurie
Tom & Cinda Mackinnon
Brook & Alison Mancinelli
Mark & Mary Maxon
Deven & Kimberly Mays
Barbara & Chris McClain
Brock & Clare McDonald
Sally McKnight
Tracey & John Millham
Jeff & Staci Mills
Kyle & Lisa Mueller
Terry Murphy
Melba Muscarolas
Eartha Newsong
Brandi & John Pearce
Nancy Rothman
Pat Rudebusch
Sean Sabrese
Mark & Teresa Sanchez
Mark & Shauna Simmonds
Dan Siri
Valerie & Larry Sloven
Troy & Julie Smith
Wick Smith
Riki & Andy Sorenson
Sam Swan
Jack Sweitzer
D.J. & Tina Tierney
Ash & Christy Blackie-Taylor
Mike & Jennifer Vigo
Hillary Weiner
Doug & Julie Whitsitt
Brandt & Amy Williams
Peter & Amelia Wilson
Tom & Carole Wolfman
Tom & Katie Wood
Rick Woodward
Tricia & Bret Young
Rachel Zenner

Paid for by Dean Orr for City Council 2014 FPPC Committee ID #1367264