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Smith Stuns by Not Running for Reelection

By Nick Marnell



Victoria Smith

Photo Ohlen Alexander

In another surprising announcement from a Lamorinda public official, Mayor Victoria Smith said she will not run for reelection to the Orinda City Council in November. She joins Traci Reilly of Lafayette, Mike Metcalf of Moraga, Richard Whitmore of the Acalanes Union High School District, Mary Piepho of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and

Fred Weil and Alex Evans of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District among the high-profile officials who declined to run for reelection to seats on their governing boards.

Smith spent three terms on the Orinda council and departs having accomplished much of what she set out to do in 2004.

"Things are in great shape," Smith said. "Our revenue is robust, the budget is balanced and the city maintains a general fund reserve of over \$5 million. I don't have a lot left to do, and I am looking for a new challenge."

She hesitated to name one particular accomplishment, but the first topic Smith mentioned was the repair of the city roads, which she said was three-fifths of the way to completion.

"I am proud of the Monteverde Senior Apartments, the completion of Orinda Grove and the progress we have made in the Wilder development," Smith said. She said she would like to have seen the revitalization of the downtown get off the ground, but that project was thwarted by the recession and by the magnitude of the dollars needed to fix the roads.

Smith will run in November for the Division 5 seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board. (see page A8.) Should she win, Smith will supervise an agency with a larger operating budget and more employees than the city of Orinda, plus deal with one of the most polarizing public issues in Lamorinda: the tax disparity between the two district municipalities.

Smith will likely have found the challenge that she sought.

Four Candidates Running for Two Open City Council Seats

With Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith deciding not to run for reelection to the Orinda City Council, one incumbent and three other candidates have placed their names on the ballot for two open seats.

Incumbent running

Darlene Gee

Other Candidates

Bruce R. London

Inga Miller

Linda Sue Delehunt

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6/5.5 8+ acres w/potential for subdivision. Recently updated with many features. One of a kind!!
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MORAGA \$3,295,000
6/5 Exquisite home in Sanders Ranch, 6426 sqft, 1+ acre lot, beautiful pool & grounds
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



ORINDA \$2,975,000
7/4.5 Historic Country Club Estate designed by Walter Ratcliff. Magical Orinda setting.
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5/4.5 Exciting & prestigious in Sanders Ranch, 4525 sqft, stunning kitchen, lovely garden w/pool!
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



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5/3 Lovely 3730 sqft, updated kitchen & baths, private master, .30 acre lot w/pool & spa.
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



ORINDA \$1,565,888
5/3 Beautiful new construction close to downtown. Spectacular appliances/finishes throughout.
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-Susan, Lafayette, CA



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LAFAYETTE \$1,495,000
4/3 Very private on over 1/2 acre. Wonderful yard with pebble-tech pool & expansive lawn.
Jim Ellis CalBRE #00587326



ORINDA \$1,425,000
3/2.5 Remodeled charming wood shingled traditional! Plus newly constructed 1000 SF Great room.
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



ORINDA \$1,425,000
4/3 Classic 1940 Orinda cul de sac home with privacy, large master suite, fabulous lot & pool
Suzi O'Brien CalBRE #01482496



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Norla Torres-turney CalBRE #01913739



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