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Orinda City Council election gets competitive - five candidates, three seats

By Sora O'Doherty

The filing deadline for nomination papers was extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15 when incumbent Dean Orr, who pulled nomination papers, failed to file. Orr was first elected to the Orinda City Council in 2010, and has served two terms. Prior to the city council, Orr served two terms on the Orinda Planning Commission. Melissa Roeder, who has been a frequent speaker at city council meetings this year, also pulled papers but did not file.

At the close of the nomination period the candidates who returned nomination papers were incumbents Eve Phillips and Amy Worth, and candidates Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Kathleen Jenkins. All of their nomination papers qualified, so these are the candidates who will appear on the ballot. An in-depth story on the candidates' positions on the issues will be included in the Sept. 19 issue of Lamorinda Weekly.

At the Orinda Union School District board, there is also an incumbent who is not running for re-election: Julie Rossiter, who has decided not to run for a third term on the board. Before being elected to the board in 2010, Rossiter was an active volunteer in Orinda schools. She served as treasurer of the school fundraising drive for two years and representative for the parcel tax campaign at Del Rey Elementary School, chairing committees for the Parent Club and auction, and working in the classroom. She was also the school's legislative representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council.

Incumbents Carole Brown and Jason Kaune, and new candidate Elizabeth Daoust, have agreed to run as a slate, each endorsing the others' election. Since no other candidate filed nomination papers by the close of the nomination period, Brown, Kaune and Daoust will automatically be deemed elected to the board, which will save the board the cost of an election.

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