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**Civic News Orinda**

**Orinda in Action**

Show your civic pride April 20

By Laurie Snyder

Whether you care about creeks, loathe litter, have been itching to exercise that green garden thumb, or have simply spotted a corner of your community which needs a little tender loving care, April 20 is your day to join hands with fellow Orindans to show your civic pride. Organizers of the fifth annual Orinda Action Day are looking for volunteers of all ages, and have a list of ways that residents may pitch in.

The community clean-up event which annually draws hundreds of helpers has become a popular way

for seniors to get out and mingle, moms to teach tots about caring for their world, and Lamorinda area students to fulfill required volunteer hours for school. Scout troops are particularly urged to participate this year, say event co-chairs Jessica Smith and Holly Henkel.

Registration check-in will begin at 9 a.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza. Volunteers will be given free T-shirts while supplies last, and treated to fresh fruit, bagels, and coffee to fuel up before getting busy. Drop-in reg-

istrants are also welcome the day of the event.

Volunteers will reassemble at the plaza between 11:30 a.m. and noon for a round of high fives and pizza.

To learn how you can help and pre-register, click on "Orinda Action Day" on the Orinda Community Foundation's website (www.orindafoundation.org), and follow the instructions. Or send an e-mail with volunteer name(s) and preferred project to: orindafoundation@gmail.com.

**Mayor Recalls Orinda's History and Spirit during State of the City Address**

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Worth then added a "fifth P" for partnerships – between the city and various county, state and federal agencies – and between the city and its residents. She thanked Orindans for supporting Measure L "to significantly increase our investment in road and drain repair," and urged everyone to continue working together with police to preserve Orinda's designation by the FBI as "one of the top five safest cities in California."

As to whom Orindans are in 2013: "Our population under 65 has gone down by 10 percent while our population of residents over 65 has increased by 10 percent." Just over 1,000 are now between ages 20 to 34 with the bulk – 8,169 – aged 35 to 65. "I think that affirms what we all know. That young people move here to raise their children and then stay through their retirement years."

Moving forward, she announced,

"We are going to celebrate and honor individuals and groups who contribute to make Orinda the wonderful community and the friendliest city that it is."

Mayor Worth will deliver her State of the City Address again in a free presentation at 7 pm on April 15 in the Orinda Library Auditorium.

**"P" Is for Pat – Orinda's Citizen of the Year**

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"It's all about the ABC's and cheering on your team," said Jan Coe, Orinda Union School District Finance Advisory Committee member, as she used the letters of her colleague's name to spell out accomplishments. Susie Epstein and Linda Landau recalled how Rudebusch always put children first – whether volunteering for the schools or on behalf of Orinda's Friends of the Library.

"We certainly know it takes a

village to raise a child," mused OUSD superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette. "The corollary is that it takes a village to educate a child." Sporting a baby seal-adorned tie to remind all of Rudebusch's passion for rescuing marine mammals, Jaconette described how OUSD benefitted from her service on "a very, very productive governing team" during both flush and lean times. Wading through stacks of documents on weekends, she gave up

many evenings and prized vacation time as "a skilled problem solver" without any hidden agenda. "She moderated with diplomacy, courtesy, and poise" as she shepherded support for math and literacy programs. Her interactions with others always began with, "How can I help?"

Four simple words sum up one woman's life. Four words which also personify the spirit of Orinda.

**Civic News Lafayette**

**Baby Steps for Potential Path Connector**

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Because any proposed improvements would involve three entities, the cities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, along with part of unincorporated Contra Costa County, it became clear that spelling out specifics would help clarify the responsibilities of each party.

At a recent city council meeting a memorandum of understanding

was approved to cooperate with the study, which will identify challenges and help with long range plans for all involved. The Olympic Corridor Trail Connector Study will ultimately recommend a range of improvements to be implemented in phases, according to John Cunningham, senior transportation planner with the Contra Costa County Department of

Conservation and Development.

On a sunny afternoon last Friday Pat Rudebusch of Orinda, who happened to be walking with her daughter's dog Maggie on the Lafayette Moraga Trail, commented that any future trail improvement that will keep people healthy, walking and enjoying the outdoors is "a good thing."

**Stanley Student Wins Community Service Project Contest**

... continued from page A3

The girls figured it was a win-win; parents of fellow soccer players got to clean shelves at home of gently used books that they had already enjoyed and then pass the books along to underserved kids who could enjoy them too, recycling and sharing community resources.

Walner received a special proclamation from the mayor at a recent city council meeting; she hobbled up to the podium to accept the award with a cast on one leg from, oddly enough, a soccer injury. She and Wells did it all on their own, explained proud dad Dan Walner, motivating their team and the entire soccer club to donate children's

books. All told, the girls collected 1,149 kids' books. "The Oakland librarians were thrilled," said 14-year-old Walner. The books were divided between Oakland's Allendale, Brookfield and Lafayette elementary schools. The Stanley Middle School eighth grader is a member of the Montclair Soccer Club; Wells, a resident of Berkeley, is on her team.

The girls are among a total of five Grand Prize winners from across the country, beating out 65 other service project submissions. The young winners and a parent or guardian—Kate is going with her mom—will receive an all-expense-paid trip in May to Walt Disney

World in Florida and a role as a youth leader at Special Olympics Florida Summer Games.

Foudy is a pioneer in the world of women's soccer: she is the former captain of the USA Women's Soccer team, two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time World Cup Champion. The philosophy of the leadership academy is simple – sports and leadership. In her many public speaking events, Foudy credits Title IX, the landmark civil rights ruling that required gender equality for education and athletic programs that receive federal funding, hence the Stanford soccer scholarship that put her on a path to soccer greatness.

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