

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 21	
Community Meeting	7pm
Bicycle, Trail Walkway Master Plan Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, October 15	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 28	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, October 6	
Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/	

Candidates Night
Thursday, October 16, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Library Auditorium

ORINDA POLICE
Mystery men, 10/06/08 A Hall Lane homeowner called police to report four Hispanic men wearing dark clothing and hoodie sweatshirts pulled over their heads walking through her yard. One of the fellows saw the homeowner through the kitchen window, then turned around and left with his pals. Officers responded but couldn't find the hooded ones.

Burglary, 10/03/08 While an unsuspecting Ichabod Lane homeowner left to take her son to school, unknown suspect(s) entered the home through a rear slider door. Upon her return, she found her dresser had been rummaged through and jewelry gone.

Purse stolen, 10/3/08 Moraga Way, in front of Peet's, an unknown suspect entered a woman's unlocked car at 7:00 a.m. and stole her purse containing a wallet and credit cards. The victim claims she was inside Peet's for five minutes when her purse disappeared. No witnesses or suspects, perhaps potential witnesses needed their coffee before they could I.D. the thief.

D.U.I., 10/02/08 At two in the morning, on Brookwood Road, a suspect drove his car over a curb and onto the sidewalk. Police pulled him over on Camino Pablo where he took a breathalyzer test. His blood alcohol level was .20%, more than double the legal limit. Veering off the road at that hour is code for, "please catch me, I am entirely too blotto to drive."

City Council Plays it Safe

Andrea A. Firth
Keeping it safe was on the minds of Orinda City Councilmembers last week. Two of the important issues discussed at the Council's most recent meeting were how to keep drivers and pedestrians safe on Ivy Drive and how to keep Orinda's long-term investments safe during the current economic turmoil.

Ivy Drive Traffic Calming Debate Continues
How to manage the traffic problems on Ivy Drive has been discussed, debated, and analyzed by residents of the area, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), City Staff, and the City Council for over two years. Few would argue that the speed of traffic Ivy Drive, a main conduit to Del Rey Elementary, Orinda Intermediate, and Miramonte High Schools, presents a significant hazard. Yet, a mutually satisfactory solution to reduce the speed on Ivy has proven difficult to identify.

As an initial step forward to

implementing traffic calming measures on Ivy Drive, the Council was presented with a resolution to add a stop sign on Arroyo Drive where it intersects Ivy Drive. In response, residents of both Arroyo and Ivy Drives presented objections to the proposed stop sign. "It's not what we need," noted an Arroyo Drive resident who has lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years. "The problem is the speeding on Ivy. What we need is stop signs on Ivy."

A traffic engineering analysis had determined that a 3-way stop at Ivy and Arroyo Drives was not warranted because there had been no recent collisions at the intersection and vehicle traffic did not reach the minimum volume required for stop signage (300 vehicles per hour on the major street, i.e., Ivy). However, the engineers' analysis did suggest that a stop sign could be placed on Arroyo to caution drivers to stop before turning onto Ivy Drive. Councilmember Amy Worth questioned

the thought process noting that traffic calming on Ivy Drive would not be achieved with a stop sign on Arroyo.

The stop sign resolution debate segued to a discussion of the status adding speed cushions in four locations on Ivy Drive. City Manager Janet Keeter explained that the process, which requires approval by 70% of street residents affected and by all homeowners whose properties directly adjacent to the cushions, had stalled because some of the residents with properties adjacent to the proposed cushions had not responded for or against. Keeter planned to contact the non-responders directly to determine if the cushion placement would require revision.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to table the Arroyo stop sign decision and planned to address the Ivy Drive matter when a more comprehensive solution was presented.

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Orinda Police Make Progress in Breaking Up Burglary Ring

By Andrea A. Firth
Following 10 residential burglaries in Orinda during the month of September and another during the first week of October, Orinda Police have made progress in thwarting the thieves. Orinda Police joined forces with the Lafayette Police Department, and the County Sheriff's Department enabling them to employ more aggressive patrol tactics, which led to the arrest of four of the individuals they suspect perpetrated the crimes. "I feel very confident that we are going to find all the members of this group and take them to prosecution," states Chief French.

Chief French notes that all of the burglaries were conducted in a similar manner. The burglars target more isolated properties, knock at the front door to determine if anyone is home, then gain entry from the back where they can not be seen. "They definitely have a look-out system. There are probably two or three individuals involved. There may be two cars," states French. Items stolen have been jewelry, laptops, and electronics. "These are professional burglars. They sell stolen property quickly," says French. "We believe they have also been active in Lafayette, the Valley

area and Alamo," he adds. Chief French was pleased with the increased number of calls to the police with potential information related to the burglaries. However, he wants to dispel rumors circulating about the occurrence of robberies [crimes involving threats or violence] in the area. "They don't want any confrontation. They don't want to be seen. They don't use any violence," states French. "Orinda is a safe community, it is very unusual to have violent crimes," he adds. If you need to report a crime or any suspicious activity, call police dispatch at (925) 284-5010.

Orinda Accepting Proposals for Community Grants Program

Andrea A. Firth



Grant beneficiary Orinda Chamber of Commerce for the Orinda Restaurant Tour Photo provided L-R: back: Candy Kattenburg, Keith Miller, front: Gail Wocnak, Patty Camras, Victoria Smith

Money seems to be in short supply pretty much everywhere these days, so nonprofit and community groups will be pleased to learn that City of Orinda has some greenbacks on hand to help fund the right idea for a project or event that would benefit the City. Proposals for the Orinda Community Grants Program are being accepted through October 22nd.

"The Community Grants Program was adopted by the Council to provide encouragement and financial support to our nonprofit groups who work so hard to promote Orinda as a great place to live, work and play, and who support our natural environment, the arts, our business community, and our families and seniors," states Mayor Victoria Smith.

Recently, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce received a \$5000 grant to financially support the first-ever Orinda Restaurant Tour, which attracted over 250 Orindans and area residents to Theater Square. The Chamber also received a grant to help support the Shop

Orinda campaign. Other community events supported by the grants over the past year included a creek clean-up day (Friends of Orinda Creeks), Orinda Idol (Orinda Arts Council), evening programs sponsored by the Orinda Historical Society, and a Creative Writing Contest for students (Orinda Junior Women's Club).

Written proposals will be screened by the City Manager based on the group's ability to meet the grant criteria. The top candidates' proposals will be presented to the City Council for approval. The City has at total of \$14,000 available for the Program in 2008-2009.

"I encourage nonprofits to prepare a written plan of action and to present in the application their vision of how to enhance the quality of life in Orinda," adds Smith.

To obtain the grant application criteria or to submit a proposal, contact Monica Pacheco at mpacheco@cityoforinda.org or (925) 253-4220.

New Face at Orinda City Hall



Teresa Meyer, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Administration Department for the City of Orinda, is the new face that greets you as you enter City Hall Photo by A. Firth

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ORINDA NEEDS A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

On November 4th You Have An Alternative

Send a message to the Orinda City Council!

On election day you can vote for two candidates for City Council. Be different and vote for just one candidate. Don't vote for either incumbent and send a message to the entire Council. It's Time for a Change!

DON'T VOTE FOR EITHER INCUMBENT



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