

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 18	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, November 25	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Wednesday, November 13	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, December 1	
Revenue Enhancement Task Force Community Workshop	7pm
De Rey School Auditorium Wednesday, November 12	

Town of Orinda:
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us>
 Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orindachamber.org>
 • local businesses
 • upcoming events



Auto burglary, 11/05/08 An unknown suspect forced entry into a locked Honda CRV on Avenida de Orinda and removed an undisclosed amount of property valued at \$350.

Identity theft, 11/04/08 A Meadowview Road resident went to Citibank to open an account. At the bank, he was told that his social security number was flagged by his other bank, Washington Mutual, as fraudulent. The victim has no idea how his social security number was compromised.

Auto burglary, 10/31/08 A 2002 Lexus SUV was parked at Wagner Ranch Elementary School in, where else, the parking lot. An unknown suspect forced entry into the car by smashing the front window. The owner's Nordstrom briefcase was missing along with an upscale pen containing gold flakes. Unfortunately the owner's financial information was inside the briefcase. Estimated total loss \$800.

Speed racer, 10/31/08 A 22-year-old white male led police on a high speed car chase reaching speeds of up to 100 m.p.h. It started at Camino Pablo and Brockwood, and ended at the intersection of Highway 24 and Highway 13. Police noted the license plate number and will follow up with the registered owner who lives in Moraga. If that's his "trick" for Halloween, I'm sure he'll love the "treat" the cops will have for him.

Ivy Drive Gets A Speed Cushion

By Andrea A. Firth

Following more than two hours of presentation, public comment, and discussion, the Orinda City Council approved the installation of a single speed cushion on Ivy Drive abutting the properties at 46 Ivy and 2 Crown Court. Council Members Amy Worth and Sue Severson and Mayor Victoria Smith voted in favor of the speed cushion, while Council members Steve Glazer and Tom McCormick both abstained from the vote.

Finding a solution to the traffic problems on Ivy Drive—a thoroughfare that stretches from Del Rey Elementary School at the north end to Miramonte High School at the south end with Orinda Intermediate School in the middle—has been the focus of a neighborhood action group and Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) for over two years. Based on the input from multiple neighborhood and committee meetings, circulated petitions, and finally polls of the Ivy Drive residents on the proposed traffic calming options, TSAC presented the Council with a three-part recommendation including a stop sign, additional speed limits signs, and the single speed cushion.

Questions were raised during the public comment portion of the

discussion regarding how the polls were conducted and who was able to vote. "I believe the process was manipulated," stated Tim Millette, a TSAC member. Millette told the Council that he felt it was inappropriate that an email had circulated indicating how residents had voted in the poll and that the polling response deadline had been extended after the voted had failed the first time.

The process of identifying a solution to the Ivy Drive traffic woes has been confounded by the fact that separate and slightly different guidelines exist for TSAC to follow for implementing traffic calming measures and installing speed cushions. Despite the challenges presented by the lack of alignment between the two sets of guidelines, Vice Mayor Severson, who has worked closely with TSAC, felt the spirit and intent of the guidelines had been adhered to and she encouraged her fellow Council Members to move forward with the speed cushion. "The [Ivy Drive] neighbors have been requesting relief for a long time," stated Severson.

Council Member McCormick, while supportive of speed cushions as an effective traffic calming measure, was bothered by the

lack of confidentiality of the neighborhood poll and how the poll was conducted. "Every property that touches Ivy Drive should be noticed and have the opportunity to vote," stated McCormick. Councilman Glazer, who stated that he also supports the concept of speed cushions and worked to have them installed in his own neighborhood, acknowledged the difficulty in obtaining a super majority of neighbors in agreement with the speed cushion. Glazer expressed concern over the Council's ability to consistently interpret and apply the traffic calming measure guidelines to other situations in the future due to the lack of alignment in the current process.

TSAC's recommendation to install additional speed limit signs along Ivy Drive was passed unanimously by the Council. However, the Council did not support the installation of a one-way stop sign on Arroyo Drive at Ivy Drive. Two other speed cushions that TSAC has considered as further traffic calming measures for the street did not meet either the super majority required through polling of the neighborhood or were refused by the property owners who directly about the proposed cushion placement.

The Future of Orinda's Commercial Downtown Looks Bright

By Sophie Braccini

"We all want more restaurants, shops and services in the downtown," says Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith, "as a small city with limited funds we can best encourage revitalization by providing zoning and planning requirements that incentivize property owners to redevelop their older buildings in order to attract more tenants." Working on that plan was the mission imparted to a Task Force that was formed fourteen months ago, bringing together residents and experts.

On October 28th the Orinda Chamber of Commerce hosted the first public presentation of the plan. "This demonstrates the close relationship between the Chamber and the town," said Chamber President Keith Miller, before adding that this process was vital to the local economy which has been stagnant for too long. Presenters were Bruce Burrows, Amy Worth and Thomas McCormick, each representing a subcommittee: commercial, process and residential.

The Commercial subcommittee worked on options to revitalize the downtown into a vibrant village with a mix of retail, residential and office uses. "We really need the de-

velopment," said Richard Westin, a Planning Commissioner who participated on the task force, "fiscally we always need more money, our roads are a disaster."

"Revitalization has been on the table for fifteen years," added Orinda Council Member Tom McCormick, "besides the increase of property taxes and sales taxes that the project will generate, one of the reasons to make the downtown more of a village is the needs expressed by our population that's

reaching retirement age." In Orinda, 50% of the residents are in that category; most of them want to stay in Orinda, but may be in their large homes. The consensus on the task force was that increasing the number of residential units downtown would both provide a solution for the aging population while increasing shopping.

Bruce Burrows presented pictures and simulations of what the new city center could look like.

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Incumbents Win in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth and Lee Borrowman



Steve Glazer at Tuesday night's Europa Restaurant election party

Photo Andy Scheck

In contrast to the sweeping changes in Congress and state governments across the nation last week, the face of Orinda's City Council will remain unchanged. Incumbents Victoria Smith and Steven Glazer won their bids to return to the Council for another four years. Mayor Smith placed first in the race with 38.8% of the vote, Councilman Glazer took a close second with 36.9%, and the challenger Robert Larsen trailed the incumbents with 23.7%.

On election night, Glazer gathered with about fifty of his supporters and a few colleagues in front of the large screen televisions at Europa. In the crowd were fellow

Council Members Sue Severson and Tom McCormick and Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter. The atmosphere was festive and hopeful as kids played and adults mingled.

Shortly after 8:30, preliminary local election results came in, and the group erupted in a chant of "Four More Years!" Glazer thanked his supporters, but his victory speech was interrupted by another winner of the evening as Barack Obama appeared on the large screen ready to speak to the throngs of well wishers in Grant Park and the nation watching. Glazer quickly wrapped up as all turned their attention to the President-elect.

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