

Orinda

Lamorinda Community

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 6	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 22	
Historic Landmarks Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 22	
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), Community Room, City Hall	7pm
22 Orinda Way Monday, September 21	

City of Orinda:
http://www.cityoforinda.org

- all meeting notes
- calendar updates

Chamber of Commerce:
http://www.orindachamber.org

- local businesses
- upcoming events



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Orinda Establishes Strategic Funding Subcommittee

By Andrea A. Firth

Lately in Orinda it seems that most discussions in the civic arena, no matter how they start, come back to the dismal state of the roads and how to pay to get them fixed. At its September 1st meeting, the City Council discussed a proposal to create a Council Subcommittee to address community communication and outreach regarding city funding issues, revenue enhancement, and potential bond measures for the 2010 ballot. Despite the wordy agenda item title, exactly what the subcommittee represented and was to do was not clear to both residents in attendance and some members of the Council.

Council Member Steve Glazer, who had worked with staff to craft the proposal, explained that he saw the subcommittee's role as moving the recommendations of the Revenue Enhancement Task Force through the system. "Things have stalled," said Glazer. "It's all

about actively moving these things along," he added. Vice Mayor Tom McCormick advocated for the subcommittee's charge to be broadened and wanted to ensure that the subcommittee looked to options beyond a bond measure. "I see this as gathering information to address the infrastructure problem," said McCormick. "I want everyone in the community to have input on how we raise money. It needs to be inclusive." During the public comment segment of the discussion, two members of the citizen's group F.A.I.R. (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal), Steve Cohn and Art Haigh, addressed the Council stating that their group had been working aggressively on a plan to address the financing of the city's infrastructure needs, and that they planned to make a presentation by mid-October to early November. Former mayor Bill Judge also spoke and encouraged the Council

to again look at the MOFD funding inequity issue raised by the Revenue Enhancement Task Force (RETF) report from 2008 before moving forward on a bond measure. "It's gotten a lot of attention. It has raised concerns in the community. If people have a reason, relevant or not, to vote against a bond measure, they will," stated Judge.

After a lengthy and sometimes circular discussion, the Council agreed to retitle the subcommittee as the Strategic Funding Subcommittee and appointed Council Members Glazer and Amy Worth to serve on it. They are charged to work with staff and the community on communications regarding the funding of critical city services, advance the progress on consideration of the RETF recommendations, develop a draft public opinion survey, and provide advice on funding options including potential ballot measures.



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Surveillance, a sculpture by artist Kent Roberts, is currently suspended in the atrium of the Orinda Library. The artwork is on loan to the city through the Art in Public Places Program. A. Firth

Orinda Community Fund Takes Shape

... continued from page 1

Severson held a brainstorming session with interested community members to identify ways to raise money for the fund and in the process established some guidelines. "I did not want to hold fundraising events just as fundraisers, but I wanted to create events that would benefit the city," states Severson. Partnering with groups both in and out of Orinda was another key element along with taking care to avoid conflicts with

existing fundraising events in the city.

Already Severson has made connections and moved forward with some fundraising plans while she has been "testing the waters" with a few other ideas. Soon she will make a formal presentation to the City Council to get their feedback and support. Among the fundraising concepts in development are a kids' triathlon set for November 14th at Miramonte

High School, a celebrity golf tournament tentatively scheduled for July of 2010 at Orinda Country Club, a 25th Orinda City Anniversary Gala, and an antiques appraisal event with Bonham and Butterfield. "All of these events are inclusive to all residents of Orinda and the surrounding communities," adds Severson. "I'm excited about all of the ideas and feel like these can go on as annual events."

Correction, issue date September 2, 2009, "Case Sent to DA in Loudon Investigation:"
We incorrectly reported that Alexandra Gabrielli was charged with furnishing alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. According to a written statement from Sheriff's Department spokesperson Jimmy Lee dated August 27, Gabrielli "will be charged." We attempted to contact Lee to obtain further clarification but he was not available as of press time this week.



D.U.I., 9/03/09 A Crestview drive resident was pulled over for going 65 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone on Moraga Way. Turns out he was driving on a suspended license and was on probation. The driver could hardly stand without falling over, his blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit. The car was towed. If you can't even stand up, you are clearly in no condition to drive.

Jewelry heist, 9/02/09 A Davis Road couple called police to report missing jewelry. Police found no forced entry and the homeowners had not has any outside workers in the home recently, but they do occasionally leave the house unlocked. Estimated value of missing items, \$4,125.

Attempted burglary, 9/02/09 An elderly Camino Sobrante couple heard a chime from their alarm system. The husband went to check the house and saw a male inside the residence with the front door slightly open. "What are you doing?" he asked. The suspect ran out the door. A perimeter was set up and the area was canvassed with negative results. Must've scared him away.

Car burglary, 8/29/09 A patron parked in the Orinda Park Pool parking lot at 1:30 in the afternoon and returned to the vehicle at 3:00. The driver's side window was smashed and a purse that had valuables in it was missing. Note to readers: there have been smash and grab incidents in Lafayette as well. Best to leave anything of value like a purse, wallet, iPod, laptop, camera in the trunk. Unfortunately no suspects or witnesses at this time.

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Orinda Needs a Treasurer

By Andrea A. Firth

After nine years of volunteer service to the city of Orinda, Rob Garner has tendered his resignation as City Treasurer citing new business responsibilities that will impact his time as the reason. After acknowledging and thanking Garner for his service, the City Council moved quickly to a discussion of how to fill the vacancy and reviewed a survey of how the Treasurer's responsibilities are managed in other East Bay communities.

In Moraga, a volunteer that is appointed by the Audit and Finance Committee holds the position. In contrast, Lafayette's Director of Finance, a staff position, serves as Treasurer. Of the cities and towns surveyed, two have volunteer Treasurers (Moraga and Orinda), six have

the role managed by staff as part of the Finance Director's responsibilities (like Lafayette), and six other municipalities have Treasurers who are elected and receive modest compensation.

While Council Member Steve Glazer cited the city's prior success in recruiting well-qualified volunteers to support the city's management, Mayor Severson asked staff to explore incorporating the Treasurer's role into a staff position. Currently, Orinda is also recruiting an Administrative/Financial Services Director to fill the vacancy left following the departure of Beverli Marshall, who resigned in August. Staff will return to Council at a future meeting with a job description and recruitment options.



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