

Leaf Blower Ban Not Likely to Blow Over

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The Council then listened for two hours as over 40 residents shared disparate views on the idea of banning leaf blowers. Eighteen residents and supporters echoed Quiet Orinda's call to restore tranquility and cleaner air to Orinda through a ban on leaf blowers, while 23 residents argued against the ban citing the impracticality of managing the maintenance of large lots populated with dozens of deciduous trees with rakes and brooms.

Some residents identified the ban on leaf blowers as a slippery slope. "What about barking dogs, wood chippers, cars, and

trucks," said Alan Prager. "I don't propose that we ban these things." Others challenged the validity of the anti-leaf blower data and what they consider to be inappropriate comparisons to other cities that have enacted bans.

"I think we have heard the gamut tonight from the public," said Vice Mayor Victoria Smith, noting that she believes the City's current noise ordinance adequately addresses that element of leaf blower use. Regarding the air quality issue raised, Smith suggested that one way to engage the public was through education and encouraged Quiet Orinda sup-

porters to pursue this through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

"My sense is that there is not a clear community consensus here," said Council Member Steve Glazer. He did not see a need to revise the current noise ordinance, but Glazer indicated that he would be interested in looking at some alternatives to a complete ban on leaf blower use.

Ultimately the Council did not find sufficient consensus for an outright leaf blower ban, and Mayor Tom McCormick declared, "This matter is now closed."

Wishing all of my clients, friends and neighbors a bountiful Thanksgiving and joyful holidays!

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OWC Festival of Trees a Success

By Andrea A. Firth



The Orinda Woman's Club 24th annual Festival Of Trees included lunch for 500 and a fashion show.

Photo Doug Kohen

Almost 500 women attended the Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) 24th annual Festival of Trees event held at the San Ramon Marriott on November 18th.

"We don't miss this event, it's so beautifully done," said Pat Stull of Lafayette. Stull has attended the charity event since it was started and invited three tables full of friends and associates to join her this year. "I have a real affection for the Orinda Woman's Club. I admire their work and am inspired by what they do."

Arlene Hegarty of Orinda has attended the OWC lunch for the past ten years and finds it a great event at which to reconnect with friends. Her longtime friend, Ronnie Devenish, comes down from Tahoe annually to join her.

After an hour of meeting, greeting, and perusing the trees, wreaths, gift baskets, and getaway packages that comprise the event raffle, guests enjoyed a lunch of chicken and tabouleh salad followed by a fashion show featuring the ladies clothing designs of Helen Lyall of Napa and men's fashions by Bartlett Baron of Walnut Creek. Strutting to the songs of Lady GaGa and Beyonce, Lyall's professional models were joined by six members of the Village Associates Real Estate team, a major benefactor of the event.

The charity event typically raises about \$30,000. The 2010 major beneficiaries are the Monument Crisis Center, which provides food and public services to families and individuals in need

throughout Contra Costa County, and Court Appointed Special Advocates, which advocates for abused and neglected youth. The Orinda Woman's Club will also

award a number of individual educational scholarships to improve the lives of women and families.



This vintage Orinda sign has found a new resting place in the community garden at the junction of Camino Sobrante and Orinda Way across from Orinda Motors—check it out. Photo A. Firth

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