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Wednesday, December 4, 2013



**City Council** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

### **Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

### **Historical Landmark** Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m. Gallery Room, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

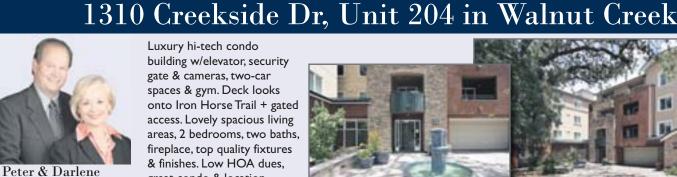
Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements **City of Orinda:** 

www.cityoforinda.org Phone (925) 253-4200

**Chamber of Commerce:** www.orindachamber.org The Orinda Association: www.orindaassociation.org

#### **School Board Meeting**

**Orinda Union School District** Monday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m. OUSD Office, Vintage Building 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200 www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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## **Orinda City Council Adopts Housing Element**

### **By Laurie Snyder**

Orinda City Council's Nov. 19 agenda, planning director Emmanuel Ursu presented the Planning Commission's Oct. 29 recommendation that the City Council adopt Housing Element 2007-2014 (draft 5, revised), along with related zoning matters and an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration covering environmental issues related to the housing element - a segment of the General Plan which California cities are legally required to have and review. According to the staff report, the "Initial Study determined that the velop the property or continue to use project will have a less than significant impact."

California Department of Housing change "would not result in anybody

icking off the main item on the in which HCD personnel "responded" to a question posed by Orinda Watch, regarding the default density and HCD's insistence on a density range." HCD's legal counsel and the head of the division which reviews housing elements "indicated that a density range is required to comply with the provisions of state law."

Ursu then addressed concerns from Santa Maria parishioners and the church's parochial administrator, Father Robert Herbst. Stressing again that "the property owner decides whether or not they will deit for the purposes for which they have historically used the property," Additionally, Ursu conveyed a Ursu said the proposed zoning

develop it." In response, Herbst said "there are no plans to build anything on that space other than those small structures that are required to maintain the space as a viable multi-purpose sports field."

Observing apparent contradictions between the priest's words and what Diocesan leaders have told staff, Councilmember Steve Glazer asked for confirmation "that there's nothing that is in this rezoning that requires you to do anything different than what you're currently doing on the property." Herbst quietly said, "Right."

The anxiety that "somebody from the outside could come in and do something to that property against the church's wishes," was "coming and Community Development email coming and taking that property to from parishioners who see that this

is an opening of a door," said Herbst. "There are concerns that it's not the city, necessarily ... but other entities seeing this as a prime zoned area."

Mild tension then morphed into ugliness as comments by Arthur Ross moved from a depiction of council members' behavior as "ruthless and dishonorable" into a lengthy back-and-forth with Glazer. Ignoring mayor Amy Worth's signal that his three minutes were up, he attempted to proceed before interruption by Glazer asking whether he might ask Ross a question. Ross angrily refused, he said, because Glazer minimized perceived threats to Santa Maria. Ross then shocked attendees by asking, "Were I to put a gun at your chest would that be a *threat*?" ... continued on next page

### Sharing in the Warmth of the Holidays



helps generate funding to purchase equipment for Orinda's community center, its neighboring park, Concerts in the Park series, and Halloween Parade for Tots. And, it benefits Orinda's economy and cultural vitality by attracting visitors from around the East Bay who come to shop, and stay to dine and explore.

The day's events featured an arts and games corner for kids, sponsored Estimated worth in goodwill and spirby the Orinda Teen Advisory Council,

a Polynesian dance performance, magic tricks and balloon making with Scooter the clown, more than 40 vendors for parents' browsing pleasure, a Hawaiian serenade by the community center's enthusiastic ukulele class, music by Steve Harwood, a Zumba demonstration and, of course, a flagraising by local Cub Scouts.

Funds raised by OCCA: \$5,000. its lifted: Priceless.



**By Laurie Snyder** 

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Photo(s) provided by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department rindans were bitten by the holbeloved 37th Annual Holiday Bazaar (OCCA), the popular marketplace not opened its doors at the Orinda Community Center.

Sponsored each year by the iday bug Nov. 2 when Orinda's Orinda Community Center Auxiliary only gives bargain hunters an early jump on their holiday shopping, but

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