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	2018Q1	2019Q1	Change
Avg Sale Price	\$1.57m	\$1.73m	+10%
Avg Sale\$/List\$	103%	101%	- 2%
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#Homes Listed	223	226	+ 1%
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Wilder Art and Garden Center up and running, or at least walking



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce held the first social event at Wilder Art and Garden Center, a mixer for local business people.

By Sora O'Doherty

Decades in the planning, the Art and Garden Center at

Wilder in Orinda finally became a reality, opening its doors to the public this month. A number of events

have already been held in the new facility, including a self-defense class, the Mayor's Liaison Meeting, and a Cham-

ber of Commerce mixer from 5 to 6 p.m. April 4.

The acoustics were a problem at the mixer and at the mayor's liaison meeting, where it was difficult to hear the representatives of Orinda's organizations as they updated the mayor on their events and plans. However, it was explained that work was already in the planning stages as to how to improve the acoustics. Currently the center has hard floors and a ceiling open to the roof, with visible rafters and heating ducts that give the center a modern, industrial look, but also allow sound to bounce around, creating echoes. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble indicated that they are considering sound absorption options and, should such options be pursued, funding has not yet been identified.

Attendees at the liaison meeting were also among the first to view the newly installed artwork, a very large wood sculptural mural depicting a natural landscape that fills one wall of the foyer. The city was approached by

Lynda, daughter of the artist Stan Dann, who passed away at least five years ago. Dann started out as sign painter in the '70s, moved into carved wood signs, and eventually into art pieces. His work is notable for its very low relief. Ted Urban, founding member of the Art in Public Places Committee, explained that Dann would take an image of a landscape, either urban or rural, and mimic it almost photographically with different colors and carvings of wood. The large sculpture, which is 5 feet by 10 feet, and very heavy, weighing between 600 and 700 pounds, is now on loan to the city for two years.

"We chose it particularly for that location because the building is pretty stark," Urban said. The piece, he said, really helps the synergy of the space in the foyer.

Access to the Art and Garden center was one of several topics considered at a meeting of the city council's Wilder subcommittee on April 11, which was attended by approximately 20 Wilder residents.

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