**Opinion**

**The Hattersleys.com Helping You Achieve Your Goals!**

**A Vision For Orinda**

- A vibrant, revitalized small city downtown
- A place that welcomes entrepreneurs and small business
- A business plan that produces robust revenue for our city and schools
- A town that reveres its elders and those who contribute to our community
- A community that is inclusive and inviting, not one that marginalizes those who question
- A physical location that is blessed and lives up to its human(e) potential

By Andrea A. Firth

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**Orinda City Task Force Plans Public Workshops** By Andrea A. Firth

Following a year filled with over 150 task force and subcommittee meetings, Orinda’s Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) plans to schedule a series of public workshops in November to get the community’s input on a draft report of recommendations to begin the City’s planning process. The volunteers on the PPRTF donated a tremendous amount of time over the past year, notes Councilmember Amy Worth who is also a member of the Task Force. “A well thought-out development plan..." continued on page 6

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**Orinda Candidates Forum—2 Incumbents and the Alternative**

By Andrea A. Firth

A three candidate rtoyng for the two open City Council seats on Orinda assembled to partici- pate in the Candidates Forum on the evening of October 16th. There was no physically apparent difference among them. Yet a quick peak under the table gives a hint to the differ- ences that might be ahead. The cur- rent Mayor, Victoria Smith, wore white pumps with a sensible heel. Her current and the former Mayor, Bliss Glazer, was wearing a pair of black men’s dress shoes. Dr. Bob Larsen sported shiny grayish-grey leather boat shoes. One of these candi- dates was not the other two’s— a point Bob made with emphasis throughout the evening.

To the question of Orinda’s most pressing problem, Smith and Glazer identified improving Orinda’s image as a small city…

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**Bike Trail and Walkway Master Plan Takes the Next Step**

By Andrea A. Firth

Our former Orinda consultant con- tinuously attended a community meeting with members of the City staff and Vice Mayor Sue Severson to provide input to the devel- opment of Orinda’s Bicycle, Trail, and Walkway Master Plan (BTW Plan). During the past four months, attendees heard from the consulting group Allied Planning and Design Inc. (Allied) who shared the results of an ongoing online survey of resi- dents regarding the status and needs of the trails and paths within the City. “Many Orinda citizens regu- larly commute using walking, biking and walking around town,” says Smith. “Unfortunately, there are limited areas in our community where these healthy activities can be enjoyed safely. This is especially true for our youths, what with the challenges in attempting safe routes to school,” she adds. The online sur- vey results from school, businesses, and residents revealed that a majority of residents regularly walk, bike and look around Orinda, just as many are dissatisfied with the polices and marked bicycle lanes they have to navigate. Allia noted that Orinda is su- ccessful in BART, neighboring schools, and the regional trail system providing an excellent opportunity to create a more pedestrian- and cy- clist-friendly environment. “We need to ensure that the BTW Plan’s goal of creating a more pedestrian- and cy- clist-friendly environment is achieved through the creation of safe crossings and the addition of the Bay to Walnut Way (BTW) Master Plan which will help to simplify the narrow right-of-way and lack of sidewalks on many residential streets, topography and drainage is- sues, and the limited number of exis- ting paths and walkways outside of the downtown area.” Residents at the community meeting were invited to participate in a workshop session. As the atten- dees journeyed out of the City to identify the most important areas to be included in the BTW Plan, the common theme of a desire for safe routes to school, downtown, schools, and trails resurfaced. “This public input helps us to get a good handle on what is most important,” says Todd Skinner, Director of Parks and Recreation. He adds that the public process and the creation of the BTW Plan will help to simplify the creation of safe crossings and the addition of the narrow right-of-way and lack of sidewalks on many residential streets, topography and drainage is- sues, and the limited number of exis- ting paths and walkways outside of the downtown area.

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**Let’s get there together**

Doctor Bob Larsen - The Alternative

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**Calendar**

**Orinda City Council**

7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library

20 Orinda Way

Tuesday, November 13

Public Safety Committee

7pm Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way

Wednesday, November 14

Mayor’s Com. Liaison 9am

9am

9am

9am

9pm

City Hall 22 Orinda Way

Town of Orinda

http://www.ortonida.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce

http://www.orinda-chamber.org

local businesses

• ordering employees to lie on the floor and brandished a black re- volver. The suspect told employees to lock out for a white 1990 Chevrolet through the unlocked front door and brandished a black re-

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**Police**

At 10:00 p.m. an unknown suspect entered the Cosmo Cinemas on Orinda Way through the unlocked front door and brandished a black re- volver. The suspect told employees to lie on the floor and demanded cash from the register. Fortunately, the money was safely in its safe and robber only got away with an i- Phone.

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**Lamorinda Community**

**Calendar**

Orinda

City Council

7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library

20 Orinda Way

Tuesday, November 3

Planning Commission

7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library

20 Orinda Way

Tuesday, November 10

Public Safety Committee

7pm Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way

Wednesday, November 13

Reformer Enhancement Task Force Community Workshop

Bi-Rite School Auditorium 7pm

Wednesday, November 14

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