

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, February 3	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Friday, January 13	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, February 2	
City of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org • local businesses • upcoming events	

Lamorinda Teen Center General Meeting
Wednesday,
February 11th, 7:00 pm
Orinda Community Center
(see story on right)



Toadstools swiped, 1/06/09 Sometime between January fifth and sixth, that frequent culprit, "unknown suspect," removed two decorative toadstools from the front yard of an El Nido Ranch Road resident. Be on the lookout for a pair of three foot high 'shrooms with green, red and white lights. Estimated value \$220.

Parked while drunk, 1/06/09 A Calvin Drive resident was found parked in her driveway, engine running, asleep at the wheel. After being awakened by police, she was asked to perform field sobriety tests, which she did poorly on. She was taken to Martinez and booked for drunk driving.

Robbery at gunpoint, 1/06/09 A young man was leaving BART and walking to his car, parked near the Casa Orinda around 7:00 in the evening. A man brandishing a handgun approached him and demanded his cell phone, iPod, wallet and car keys. According to Chief French, the suspected robber spied electronic gadgetry of the victim while on the train and followed him.

Neighbor spat, between 06/08 and 1/12/09 A Barbara Road resident thinks his neighbor is responsible for vandalism to his car due to a parking dispute. There have been incidents of egging, spitting, and pouring unknown liquids on his Chevy S-10 truck. The damage from the latest incident is estimated to be \$100.



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Lamorinda Teen Center Plans in The Works

By Andrea A. Firth



Tom McCormick presents the floor plan and design for the proposed Lamorinda Teen Center Photo A. Firth

Over sixty interested residents, parents, and teens recently piled into a crowded meeting room at the Orinda Community Center to listen as Orinda-based attorney Tom McCormick presented plans for the Lamorinda Teen Center. Described as a center that will be primarily operated by the youth of the community, a point that was repeatedly emphasized throughout the meeting, the center will provide teens with recreational and social options in a safe and healthy environment. "This will be a good opportunity for adults to work with teens and provide teens with the exposure to how a business is operated," stated McCormick.

Several area teens, who have been involved in the planning of the project, addressed the group confirming the fact that there are not many places for young people to go in Lamorinda and not much to do once they get there. With the closure of the bowling alley in Moraga and the theater in Lafayette, evening entertainment in a public setting has been confined to the movie theaters in Orinda and Moraga. The skate park in Moraga has filled a niche but shuts down when it gets dark. The lackluster reputation of the area amongst teens has led to the hometown monikers of Borinda and Boraga and left area youth with a strong

desire for someplace nearby to go with friends. "We really just want a place to hang out with our friends," said one teen representative from the Orinda Teen Advisory Council.

In addition to serving as a place to meet with friends informally or as part of a study group, organizers plan for the teen center to include a small stage for bands to perform, pool and ping pong tables, and a food and beverage service. Teens involved with the creation and management of the center will get first-hand experience with how to operate a business, according to McCormick. There will be six teenagers, two from each community, who will serve on the 13-member Board of the teen center. "The development and operation of the center will be structured so that the kids' voices are not overshadowed. The teens will come up with the ideas and work with a facilitator to distill the ideas for presentation to the larger Board," he explained.

McCormick, currently Orinda's Vice Mayor and a father of four including a Miramonte freshman and a seventh-grader at

OIS who were both involved in the planning process for the proposed center, has already secured the 1,500 square-foot basement space of Europa, a family-owned restaurant about one block from the Orinda Theater, as a site for the teen center. Local architects Rick Kattenburg and George Miers have developed a design for the unfinished space, and local building contractor Tom Stevens has agreed to do the work at cost.

As they progress to the next step in the process, the first business lesson Lamorinda teens may be exposed to is how to raise money for a not-for-profit organization in tough economic times. The building and initial operational costs for the teen center are estimated to be \$500,000. While the concept of raising a half a million dollars may seem daunting to some noted McCormick, he was encouraged to find the teens involved were not overwhelmed by the amount or task at hand. The next meeting general meeting for the teen center will be held on February 11th at 7:00 pm in the Community Center; everyone interested in welcome.

Lamorinda Garden Clubs Join Forces

By Andrea A. Firth

Gardening has always been a group activity in Orinda. Two hundred and fifty (250!) Orindans are members of three main garden clubs in the City: The Montelindo Garden Club, the Orinda Garden Club, and the Junior Garden Club of Orinda. Recently, the three garden clubs joined forces, pooling their resources and collective expertise to beautify the median strip on Camino Pablo that extends north from the BART station. The impetus for the joint venture was both fortuitous and mysterious.

In September of 2007, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation received an anonymous grant of \$3,000 that was to be provided equally to the three garden clubs with the caveat that the monies be used for a City beautification project designed and implemented by the three groups together. It is not unusual for the Foundation to receive an anonymous grant, according to Parks and Recreation Director Todd Skinner, however the requirement that the project be coordinated among the three groups added a new twist.

Lani Shepp, current President of the Montelindo Garden Club, noted that although many of Orinda's garden club members have lived in the area for a long time, they did not all know each other. However, their com-

mon interest in gardening made working together come naturally. The three clubs met monthly for over a year to make the median strip landscaping a reality.

"They all came together for the project, and we are really pleased with the result," states Skinner. "This has created one of the longest landscaped medians in the City, and was definitely one that needed the most help," he adds noting that the median has taken a beating from both the elements and stray cars over the years.

Each of the garden clubs currently maintains a common garden space in Orinda. The Orinda Garden Club manages the triangular garden spot by Camino Sobrante and Orinda Way; The Orinda Junior Garden Club keeps the circular garden by Theater Square blooming throughout the year; and the Montelindo Garden Club preserves the minipark garden. More joint gardening projects throughout the City could be a possibility, according to Shepp.

"The shared project was a constructive and productive experience for the members of Orinda's garden clubs," notes Shepp, and she anticipates that the groups may continue to work together on projects to beautify the common areas of the Orinda.



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NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON A CITY OF ORINDA COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

The City of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve on the City's:

- Planning Commission (2)
- Parks & Recreation Commission (3)
- Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (3)
- Public Safety Advisory Commission (3)
- Finance Advisory Committee (3)
- Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (4)
- Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (1)

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