

# Orinda

# Lamorinda Community

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Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 21	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 28	
Finance Advisory Committee	
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, April 22	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, May 4	
City of Orinda:	
<a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us</a>	
Chamber of Commerce:	
<a href="http://www.orindachamber.org">http://www.orindachamber.org</a>	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



**Residential burglary, 4/01/09** A Whitehall Drive residence had been undergoing a renovation and had been unoccupied since January. The homeowner happened to drop by the property in March, everything looked fine. He returned the next day to find the side door had been forced open and several tools were missing. Missing items include a \$150 drill, a \$100 sander and additional miscellaneous tools valued at \$100.

**Visa card gone, 3/30/09** A Montclair woman used her visa card at the Orinda Shell station. Later that night she was checking her belongings and couldn't find her card. Although she called the Visa card people the next day, there were already two unauthorized uses of the card, both at the very same Orinda Shell station. Unfortunately there is no surveillance equipment at the station.

**Drunk in public, again 3/29/09** Orinda's own usual suspect was causing trouble again. Although she lives on Moraga Way, she was adamantly knocking on the front door of a residence a few doors down the street. Residents in the neighboring house did not invite her in. Police have had numerous contacts with her, officers noted that she was barely able to stand without stumbling and that she had watery eyes and slurred speech. She was already on probation for another drunk in public charge. She was arrested once again.

**Petty theft, 3/28/09** An unknown suspect removed an elderly woman's wallet from her purse at a memorial service at a church on Irwin way. Nothing was seen or heard. Her credit card was used at multiple locations without her approval. How low can you go?



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## How to Buy "The Frog?"

By Sophie Braccini



The Frog in front of the orinda Library Photo Andy Schreck

Since the City of Orinda started to display sculptures in partnership with the Orinda Arts Council, some exhibits have appeared so beautifully matched with the panorama that citizens have asked that they become permanent displays. One of them is "The Frog" that seems to have been created to leap into the fountain that adorns the Library plaza. But beautiful art doesn't come cheap and the City doesn't have a lot of discretionary cash.

One of the suggestions offered by the Orinda Revenue Enhancement Task Force could help: a City Improvement Fund subsidized by residents that would be used for City programs

such as art in public places, police K-9, road repair, parks and recreation, City sponsored events and the Orinda Beautification program.

"Orinda residents are very generous and support many charities," says Mayor Sue Severson, we want to give them the opportunity to give back locally to the community they have chosen."

"A great many citizens have been 'Friends of Orinda' in the past, donating money to fund our canine officer "Chef" and to the Parks and Recreation Foundation," adds Council Member Victoria Smith, "we wanted to publicize that donations are cheerfully accepted, and can be

made for a specific purpose, like purchasing an artwork for public display, or fixing a pothole (we'll even name it in memory of the donor!), or even made without strings attached for the general good of the City."

The plans are still preliminary, but the Council agreed that the Mayor should take the lead. "I plan to meet with fundraising specialists in the coming week," says Severson, we haven't decided yet if a specific fund raising event will be scheduled, but it is possible."

The amount of money that the City would like to raise is still undecided, but Severson adds that right now the General Fund supplies \$15,000/year to support Orinda's events. "Private donations to support this fund would be helpful," she says, "and additional donations would allow more projects to be realized."

"We think that with enough donations for potholes, we can at least achieve the 'Miracle Mile!'" adds an optimistic Smith.

At this time, if you log on to the City of Orinda web site (<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/>), at the lower right corner of the page you will find a link to download a donation form to the Orinda City Improvement Fund. Severson reports having received many enthusiastic phone calls from residents. "Our City Clerk called to tell me that a gentleman came in today (April 9) with his check book to make a donation," she said.

## Turquoise: A New Gem in Orinda

By Dean Okamura

"Welcome my friend," is the warm greeting given to diners at Turquoise Mediterranean Grill. Located at 70 Moraga Way in Orinda, this jewel of an eatery shines as brightly as its namesake hue.

Opened in October 2008, owner, Talal "Tee" Hayder wanted it to be all about the food. "What you feed your family at home is always the freshest...that is what I want to give to the public," Tee says with pride.

Deep flavors and beautiful textures combine thanks to a commitment to making every possible ingredient fresh daily. "We don't cook your food until you order it," Tee adds, "We won't par cook anything."

Most quick serve restaurants find this level of quality price prohibitive. The industry mantra is to reduce costs. They become forced to buy prepackaged and frozen ingredients. That is a difference you can taste.

Turquoise' baba gannoughe has a wonderful texture and light twang of lemon. The hummus is dense and mild. If you order the kebab, you can be confident that it was ground only hours before your first bite. Homemade quality lingers in your palate.

Sure the flavors are spot on, but it's easy to get lost in wondering, "Was this just made?"

Joy oozes from the immaculate open kitchen as Tee and his father quickly pack 250 lunches for the Orinda Intermediate School. Linda Judkins, Food Service Director, says,"the

grilled chicken pita is one of the most popular pre-order items, the kids love them. They are one of the best items we've offered in my three years here."

The menu carries other "kid friendly" treats like fries from Idaho, one of the few prepackaged items Tee lets in the place and something he calls a "Pit-Za". This tasty little gem is a pita filled with cheese or kebab meat and heated like a pizza, cut in quarters, and gone before you know it.

As father and son pour their hearts into each dish, you are invited to relax and watch your food being prepared. There is a conspicuous lack of pretense or haste.

Make yourself at home and read a book or strike up conversation with Tee or his father. By the time you leave you'll be full and possibly a little smarter.

Growing up in Lafayette, graduating from Cal, and now living in Moraga, has given Tee a good understanding of Lamorinda. He comments on his strong feelings for the community and wants to offer a comfortable place for people to eat.

As an example, Tee recalls the Presidential Election last year, Tee made the decision to play sports on the flat screen TV. His concern was that politically biased news might agitate his customers.

That level of thoughtfulness is evident in every aspect of Turquoise. There are no shortcuts or compromises. Just quality food and friendly conversation made fresh daily for your family.



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