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Orinda **Civic News**

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, March 21, 7:00 pm Community Room, City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Car burglary, 3/05/11 Two young men, aged 19 and 20, were apprehended for allegedly having just broken into a car in the West parking lot of the Orinda BART station. No description of items stolen or juicy details of the would-be thieves' capture was available.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Sometime during the night, the window of a Honda Pilot parked in a Hartford Road driveway was smashed and golf clubs that had been inside the vehicle were taken. Estimated value \$1300 for the clubs and \$200 for the Nike golf bag.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 The back window of a car parked on Meadow Lane was smashed and a black purse with files and some additional paperwork was stolen from the vehicle. Handbag had an estimated value of \$100, approximately \$200 to repair the window.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Interesting – same night, same modus operandi. A car parked on Moraga Via had its window smashed and several items were stolen. No suspects or leads at this time. Golf clubs valued at \$3500, a golf training aide valued at \$500, along with a golf GPS system \$400 and a \$300 camera were taken.

Car burglary, 3/03/11 Two for the price of one – two student's cars parked in the Miramonte High School parking lot were broken into on the same night a car stereo, a laptop and an iPod were taken.

A source very familiar with the Orinda Police Department advises, "If you have valuables and leave them in plain sight in your car, be prepared for them to be stolen." Better safe than sorry.

Orinda's Vision, Part II—General Plan Update

By Andrea A. Firth

s the next best step in the develmanuel Ursu the projected lifecycle opment of a cohesive vision for Orinda's downtown districts, Chris Benyon, a community planning and land-use consultant from Berkeleybased MIG, Inc., recommended that Orinda's City Council undertake a General Plan update with a focus on downtown.

"The City's General Plan is coming to, what the State would consider, the end of its term," said Beynon. Orinda's current, and only, General Plan was adopted 23 years ago shortly after the City was incorporated. Ac-

of the General Plan, which provides a comprehensive guide and direction for the physical development of the city, is about 20 years. The State has encouraged the City to re-evaluate the scope and content of its General Plan to ensure it remains valid and consistent with the goals and future vision of the community, according to Ursu. Without keeping the Plan current, the City could run the risk that the Plan is challenged in court.

According to Beynon the time is ripe for an update. "There's a nice cording to Planning Director Em- tone in the community. The discus-

sion has started," he said, referring back to two widely-attended public cash-strapped Orinda is the price tag workshops held in November and of a General Plan update. A complete December to discuss residents' visions for Orinda's downtown districts. He encouraged the Council to move this juncture the Council made no imforward with this next step in the mediate plans for a General Plan upplanning process to build on the momentum in the community. "There's a lot of common ground and common elements," said Beynon, but he also acknowledged that there are some contentious aspects to residents' visions for Orinda's downtown, such as building height, density, and retail

One major stumbling block for update will cost \$500,000 to \$650,000, Ursu told the Council. At date, opting to gather additional community input and to discuss a phased-approach to addressing the General Plan needs. "We don't want to the Task Force recommendations to be lost in the process, but we will look at the recommendations through the lens of the community input," said Ursu in a follow-up interview.

Orinda's Finest Recognized



rinda Police Officer Danny Vargas and Reserve Officer Derek Brown were recently recognized as Officers of the Year. Pictured (L to R in front) Sargent M. Djajakusuma, Reserve Officer Derek Brown, Officer Jess Gogo, Officer Chad Pryor (new officer), Chief Jeff Jennings, Officer Tricia Richardson (new officer), Officer Ron Westhorpe)K-9 Officer of the Year 2010), Danny Vargas, and Officer Al Agadier. In the back row from L to R are Mayor Victoria Smith and Council members Sue Severson, Steve Glazer. and Dean Orr.

Photo Kimberly Westhorpe.

Farmers' Market Season Extended



Orinda's Farmers' Market will open a month earlier this year kicking off the season on Saturday April 2nd. The market, which has been held on Orinda Way across from the Community Park each Saturday from May through November for the past 13 years, will extend its season into March in 2012. A. Firth

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