

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Peter & Darlene Hattersley



925.360.9588



925.708.9515 WWW.THEHATTERSLEYS.COM

Certified Green Builder



(925) 376-5717 mccarttconstruction@msn.com

Orinda, CA Lic. # 770687







Orinda

Civic News

City Council

Public Meetings

Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmarks Committee

Tuesday, August 23 at 3:00 PM (July 26 had been canceled) Gallery Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, August 23, at 7:00 (August 9 has been canceled) p.m. Orinda Library, Garden Room 26 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

DRINDA Police Report

A Close Shave? 7/20/11 During a vehicle stop for expired tags, Orinda Police discovered the driver had a suspended license and was on felony probation. A search of the car and its occupants revealed the two had stashed 27 packages of razor blades in their pants. Not a very sharp move. Surveillance

videos showed they had recently

nicked the lot from CVS Pharmacy.

Born to be Wild, 7/16/11 Two subjects found running in the street along Moraga Way were yelling wildly and hitting cars. When caught, they were charged with threatening, battery, drug possession, drug transportation and sales; and, no surprise here, drug ingestion. One subject was taken to John Muir Hospital and treated for ingestion; the other was taken to Martinez and booked.

Ride Swap, 7/13/11 Four under-21 occupants of a Ford Mustang were found to be drunk in public. Police found a water bottle being "recycled" as an alcohol container. One occupant, clearly not thinking clearly, gave a false ID to arresting officers. They were carted off to Martinez.

Paper or Plastic? 7/8/11 Two 36year old suspects were arrested on credit card fraud while shopping Orinda Safeway. One had an outstanding warrant issued in San Francisco (paper), the other was in possession of 17 credit cards (plastic). Their spree ended early when police intervened and booked them into Martinez Detention Facility.

Won't you be my Neighbor? 6/30/11 A residential burglary on Camino del Diablo was interrupted when a neighbor confronted the suspect, who was toting a yellow pry bar and pillow case full of stolen items, including a lap top. The suspect fled, but his license was recorded. \$2500 in goods were recovered. The two leading suspects are also the registered owners of the escape Cadillac.

Orinda's TSAC Re-Examines Congestion on Moraga Way

By Diana LaScala Gruenewald

Way has been a subject of 1980s. This major thoroughfare adjoins the highway and is utilized by commuting residents of both Orinda and Moraga. It also borders the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). During morning rush hour, bumper to bumper traffic frustrates commuters and students alike.

Despite five studies that have focused on traffic flow in the area, congestion continues to be a problem. On April 26 of this year, Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) began to readdress the issue during the "Moraga Way Traffic Community

he heavy traffic on Moraga Workshop." During the workshop, community members gathconcern in Lamorinda since the ered with representatives from OUSD and AUHSD, TSAC chair Steve Schnier and City Councilmember and TSAC liason Sue Severson to communicate continued problems and possible soluon Moraga Way.

At last week's City Council meeting, Schnier took the microphone to summarize the workshop results. All workshop attendees felt that the congestion on Moraga Way was problematic and hazardous, he said, explaining that traffic often moves well under the speed limit, and residential side streets fill up with rushing commuters and high school students. Orinda has im-

Schnier noted, these advances have not yet succeeded in reducing complaints.

Schnier and Orinda's on-call tions associated with the traffic Traffic Engineer Robert Rees prethe City Council. Most notably, workshop attendees noted a significant decrease in traffic on Wednesday mornings, when Del Intermediate School and Miramonte High School have staggered school bell schedules. on the other weekdays. Other time.

plemented improvements in ideas included encouraging carcrosswalks, traffic signals, side- pools, establishing a different walks and bicycle lanes to help drop-off point for Miramonte stucombat these issues. However, dents, investigating the use of school and County Connection buses and improving sidewalks to promote safe pedestrian travel to and from schools.

Council members responded sented several new solutions to thoroughly and positively to the ideas presented by Schnier and Rees. The Council then asked TSAC to begin investigating the proposed solutions by contacting Rey Elementary School, Orinda community groups including the parents' clubs and principals of Del Rey, Orinda Intermediate. and Miramonte High School. Schnier and Rees therefore pro- TSAC members will present the posed that the schools discuss Council with the results of their purposely staggering schedules inquiries in three to four month's

Chef—Orinda's K-9—is Back

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

city's Police K-9 unit using funds that were raised by enthusiastic community members. Since that time, Chef the police dog has become an integral part of Orinda's police force. He is the constant and vigilant companion of Officer Danny Vargas, who was Officer of the Year in 2010. And in Orinda he will stay, at least for one more year.

Chef's position was recently threatened by the prolonged economic downturn. The K-9 program costs Orinda \$22,000 per year to run, and after much discussion, the City Council decided that elimination of the program would help balance the budget. However Chef's pink slip was revoked when Bob and Maryett Thompson offered to cover the cost of Chef's upkeep personally for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. "The dog is a tremendous asset to our city and the surrounding area," says Maryett, "The bad guys are afraid of the dog."

Last week, the Orinda City Council accepted the Thompsons' generous donation. The couple offered \$22,000 to the City, and said that they may also be able to donate in future years. The news was greeted with a joyful bark from Chef

lmost six years ago, the Orinda himself; the Orinda Police Depart-City Council established the ment is grateful to have his continued partnership. The Thompsons are working to set up a foundation to cover the ongoing cost of the K-9

> Police dogs provide a variety of advantages to the neighborhoods

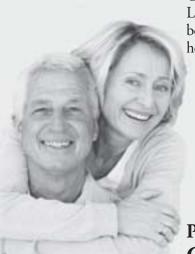
they protect and the departments partners. Finally, dogs provide prothey serve. Because of their keen tection to the officers with whom sense of smell, they are uniquely they work. For these reasons, Chef suited to sniffing out drugs and ex- has been a valued member of the plosives and tracking both suspects Orinda Police Department since and missing persons. Police dogs 2005. can also pursue a fleeing suspect with greater speed than their human this article

Andrea A. Firth contributed to



More Orinda Civic News on Page A10

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