



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 5, 6 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, March 11, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA POLICE Police Report

Thick as thieves, 2/18/13 Two men stole \$25 worth of goods during a commercial burglary at Orinda Safeway. When apprehended, it was determined that the first man was also wanted on an outstanding felony warrant. The second subject became hostile during arrest and managed to kick his arresting officer in the pelvis. Both subjects had crack pipes in their possession. The partners in crime were both booked on burglary and possession of drug paraphernalia; the kicker faces an additional charge of battery. Subjects were booked at Martinez Detention Facility.



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Orinda Continues to Flex Muscles Regionally

By Laurie Snyder



Appointed to additional leadership roles, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Victoria Smith help regional governing bodies grasp Lamorinda's perspective on everything from recycling to transportation.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Not content to be named America's second friendliest city by Forbes Magazine, Orinda's star continues to rise. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (www.mtc.ca.gov) will likely name Orinda Mayor Amy Worth as its next chair today – Feb. 27. While MTC representatives would not officially confirm by press time, Worth is believed to be the only nominee for the position – a reflection of the respect she has garnered for her work in helping to turn the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel from commuter dream into federal and state budget priority.

Mid-way through her second

four-year term with the MTC, Worth explained recently that she is "elected by the mayors of Contra Costa County to represent the county's cities." Because the county is one of the Bay Area's largest, it has two MTC representatives, one appointed by the board of supervisors and one appointed by the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference. During her MTC tenure, Worth has chaired the FasTrack committee and assessed express lanes and other freeway efficiency issues. In addition, she has served as MTC's Vice Chair for the past two years.

"For me as an Orinda City Council member, it's important that those

freeway and transit systems work efficiently," said Worth. "We are an exporter of employees ... a lot of families that are commuting for their jobs." The new fourth bore and BART extensions are vital because they benefit not only the region, but improve Orindans' quality of life.

Worth has not always been on the same page with her MTC colleagues; for example, she voted against the purchase of the San Francisco office building that has recently rankled many. "Granted we have to deal with federal and state laws" and "the state mandates that we have," she said when discussing the interactions between the many governing bodies which can impact a city's operations, but the "decision making process is a cooperative process ... there's a lot of discussion that goes on before a decision takes place."

"I'm first and foremost elected by the Orinda voters. They're very important to me," stated Worth.

Her city council colleague, Victoria Smith, is also playing an enhanced role. Elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference (ccmayors.com) in January 2013, she could conceivably be elected Chair in 2014 since the individual chosen must either be the current vice chair or a mayor of one of the conference's member cities.

Cities pay dues and rotate meet-

ings monthly. Delegates discuss matters of county-wide, regional interest – the progress of construction on the Bay Bridge and the Caldecott Tunnel, K-12 education funding, county higher education programs, Delta water diversion, and California's prison realignment which is funneling inmates back to county facilities.

It's important, said Smith, for a town's elected representatives to work together with other cities which have similar missions – "especially when you come from a small city." In addition, "It really gives us an informal venue to check best practices."

One of the most critical things "is that conference members make the appointments to the regional committees," such as MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). "Those regional committees make the kinds of major decisions that affect many areas in significant ways."

Smith and fellow council member Steve Glazer also represent Orinda on the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority. And on Feb. 15, she was part of a delegation that met with California Senator Mark DeSaulnier and other legislators. In prior sessions, delegates discussed local impacts of Proposition 13 and cuts to redevelopment funding.

"We are mightier together than we are separately in terms of getting our point across," said Smith.

Shorter Season Ahead for 2013 Orinda Farmers' Market

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council approved a two-year extension Feb. 19 of the city's contract with the Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market, which has managed Orinda's Saturday shopping venue since 1997. Fresh veggie fans were disappointed to learn, however, that the market will return to a shortened schedule from May through the first weekend of November.

CCCFM had opened Orinda's market earlier in 2012 – for a trial period starting March 3 – at Orindans' request, but found that the market was unable to sustain an extended season, according to a city staff report.

Council Member Victoria Smith pointed to Moraga's successful operation of a year-round venue, and asked if their market is drawing away Orindans. CCCFM staff explained that a shift in the Orinda location had not helped and added that, although patrons had pressed for a longer season, many later told them they had not attended when the weather was cold or rainy. "The truth is it's a small space," said Janis Faust, CCCFM's manager for Orinda. Faust and her colleagues also noticed lower attendance on Stanford and Cal football weekends, and stated that many farmers' mar-

kets had experienced declines during the weak economy.

The council also inquired about advertising, with Smith remarking on postcards she receives at her home and business from Moraga's market. CCCFM staff described their efforts, and said they were considering sending similar mailers. Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Lacy said CCCFM will also run a large ad in her department's spring-summer guide. "We feel strongly about being a part of the community," said Faust. "Our vendors absolutely love the people of Orinda."

Smith asked CCCFM to provide a written copy of its marketing plan for input by city staff. Mayor Amy Worth also suggested that a CCCFM representative attend the Mayor's Liaison meetings held the first Tuesday of each month. Those sessions give the leaders of non-profits and other groups the chance to educate city leaders, the media, and each other about their services and special events.

"Springtime is coming," said Worth. Opening day for the 2013 Orinda Farmers' Market will be the first Saturday in May from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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