



# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Community Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 4 p.m.  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

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 Department Crime Statistics July 1-31

### Calls for Service:

**False Residential Alarms (158)**

**Stolen Vehicle** Orinda Way

### Auto Burglary

- Bryant Way
- Camino Pablo
- Camino Sobrante
- Martha Rd
- Orinda Wy

### Residential Burglary

- El Toyonal
- Ellen Ct
- Francisco Ct
- Kite Hill Rd
- La Campana
- Muth Dr
- Sleepy Hollow Ln
- Van Tassel Ln

### Petty Theft

Via Floreado

### Vandalism

Heather Ln/Valley Dr

El Toyona

### Hit & Run

Lucille Wy

### Accident w/ Prop Damage

- Moraga Wy/Woodland Rd
- Greystone Ter
- Glorietta Bl
- Canon Dr
- Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr
- Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 off ramp EB

### Domestic Violence

location confidential

### Arrests:

### Stolen Vehicle

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 off ramp EB

### Other (Misdemeanor)

Miner Rd

### Warrant Arrest

Irwin Wy @ Orinda Wy

### DUI

- Hwy 24 @ Wilder Rd
- Martha Rd
- Brookside Rd @ Moraga Wy
- Chelton Ct @ Whitehall Dr

### Drugs

Camino Sobrante

### False ID

Camino Pablo

### Orinda BART Reports/Arrests:

none reported

## Coming Soon!



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# Important City Meeting for Orindans

By Laurie Snyder

There has been much recent debate surrounding the status and content of Orinda's General Plan – particularly with regard to its Housing Element, an item that California state law requires be included in all city and county general plans. So, at the next Orinda City Council meeting on Aug. 20, Orinda residents will be given a critically important opportunity to learn more about California's often confusing regulations as they

apply to Orinda and its citizens. For readers unfamiliar with the current situation, the second draft of Orinda's Housing Element was recently submitted by city staff for review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development as required by state law. It serves as an official policy statement of the city regarding the type and amount of housing to be provided in the community, the purpose of which

is to ensure that an adequate supply of housing is provided for current and future residents of Orinda. The housing element also seeks to conserve the city's existing housing stock through programs that assist Orinda residents with home improvement and conservation, and is designed to reflect existing conditions, constraints, and opportunities for improving and expanding the housing supply.

City staff will deliver a Power-Point presentation and provide additional information at the meeting; council members will not vote on any items. The meeting will be held in the Orinda Library Auditorium at 26 Orinda Way, beginning at 7 p.m., and is expected to be well attended. Residents are advised to arrive early in order to find parking and seating.

## All That Glitters in Orinda

*Jewelry, silverware and laptops tempting to burglars*

By Laurie Snyder

Diamonds are forever... a target. Yet plasma TVs are apparently now passé for thieves bent on celebrating Christmas whenever it strikes their fancy. Tempted by the promise of quick scores and fast getaways, the stickiest of fingers have been grabbing items which are easy to transport – family heirlooms, rare currency, laptops, and even silverware – in what Orinda police are calling a slight spike in residential burglaries.

In reality, this type of theft remains rare, and is actually dropping in Orinda – eight incidents in July, down from the 10 and 11 in May and June, respectively. But, when it does happen, it can be traumatic for entire neighborhoods, which is why Orinda Police Chief Scott Haggard and his team have been hard at work running robbers to the ground – and keeping others from even reaching residents' doorsteps.

About 90 percent of Orinda burglaries begin during the daytime via side garage doors and "slides in the

back" of homes, observes Haggard. Working in pairs, one perpetrator drives the car and serves as a lookout – while the other one does the deed, using tools wrapped in a sweatshirt to muffle the sounds of breaking glass. Once inside, they go for the gold – literally. Rings, collectibles and anything else that's shiny and lightweight.

Police recently uncovered an assortment of these items in Antioch. In addition to things taken from an Orinda home, the officers also found cash and market-ready methamphetamine – plus a gun stolen from a home in Oakley.

### What Can Orinda Families Do to Better Protect Themselves?

Many current homeowners were trained decades ago by safety-conscious parents to turn at least a porch light on before leaving the house. The problem with that, explains Haggard, is that today's budding banditti are observant. They notice, from one day to the next, when porch lights are left on at houses

where owners seem to be away, and whether or not the same interior lights pop on at the same time each day.

It seems counterintuitive, but it turns out that it's actually better to leave the porch light off when you head out for a night on the town. Haggard also advises residents to install motion-sensitive external lights and cut back shrubbery where creeping crooks might be able to hide from patrolling police. In addition, rather than turning lamps on in front rooms, light up the home's interior. This gives the impression that family members are home watching television or reading.

In addition, he says, "If you have an alarm, set it." The last two attempted break-ins in Orinda were thwarted by noisy alarms.

Then, make it impossible for intruders to get what they came for. Place heirloom jewelry and pieces worn only on special occasions in a safety deposit box at the bank. The same goes for coin collections and other historic items. The remaining

valuables kept at home should be locked in a safe.

You might also try posting a sign to let would-be burglars know that your valuables are stored off site. It's an old trick used by walkers at the Rez, but it works. Many park goers have headed off damage by the smash-and-sprint crowd by posting simple handwritten notes on their parked cars.

And as always, "Look out for one another," and call police right away if you see something suspicious. "You're not wasting our time," stresses Haggard.

If something does seem out of the ordinary, use your cell phone camera to take a picture. If not, at least get a good description of the color or make of the car, or what the suspicious individual was wearing. Even a partial license plate can help. The quicker that police are notified, the quicker they can respond – and that increases the likelihood that they'll be able to catch the offenders.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:** letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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