



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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12 Issues Annually
October 2018

Forums for City Council and MOFD Candidates On Oct. 3 and Oct. 10



Dennis Fay - City Council



Kathleen Jenkins - City Council



Nick Kosla - City Council



Eve Phillips - City Council



Amy Worth - City Council



Stephen L. Anderson - MOFD



Steven Michael Danziger - MOFD



Michael Donner - MOFD



Red Smith - MOFD



Lucy Talbot - MOFD

The Orinda Association will hold a forum for the five City Council candidates to discuss their positions on issues of concern to local residents on Oct. 3 while the five candidates for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District will address the public at an Oct. 10 forum. Both forums begin at 7 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium and both will be moderated by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. *The Orinda News* asked each candidate a series of questions as well. Those answers begin on page 13 (City Council) and page 15 (MOFD).

Orinda School Bond Measures E and I on November Ballot

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda residents will vote on two Orinda Union School District (OUSD) bond measures, totaling \$105 million, this November.

Measure E, also known as the academic excellence/STEAM measure, would update science, technology, infrastructure; construct, acquire, repair classrooms/facilities, sites/equipment. If passed, it would authorize \$50,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents/\$100 assessed

home value. For example, a homeowner with a house assessed at \$500,000 would pay approximately \$150/year. This bond, which requires 55 percent to pass, would average \$2,900,000 annually while bonds are outstanding. It would include citizen oversight and annual audits with funds controlled locally. No administrator salaries would be paid from this measure.

Measure I, which also requires 55 percent voter approval, seeks to upgrade classroom air conditioning, electrical, fire safety, security lighting, communications/camera systems, classroom locks; update science, technology, engineering, art, math

classrooms; construct, acquire, repair classrooms, facilities, sites/equipment. If passed, the measure would authorize \$55,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents/\$100 assessed value and average approximately \$3,200,000 annually. As with Measure E, there would be citizen oversight, annual audits and no administrator salaries would be paid from this measure.

According to the OUSD website, Orinda schools are 45 – 60 years old with aging facilities in need of updates to ensure the continued health and safety of local students. The facilities also need improvements in

[SEE BALLOT page 2]

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October Brings Fall Festivals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda's elementary schools plan lots of Halloween fun. See page 12.

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Get Involved and Think Local



Anil Comelo

This year was my first experience with the Classic Car Show on Sept. 8, and Dancing with the Cars on Sept. 7. Both were great events which raised money for several local non-profits. You did not have to be a classic car buff to ogle the beautiful cars, several of which were worth over \$1 million. In all, there were 194 classic cars and four motorcycles! It was great to see so many local residents and visitors from neighboring communities enjoy the day amongst classic cars. I proudly served as one of The Orinda Association volunteers at the entrance to the Car Show seeking donations for the various local charities such as Seniors Around Town.

Talking about Seniors Around Town, the program has become very popular of late and is averaging approximately 100 riders per month. This increased demand requires additional drivers. So, if you have the time and a reliable vehicle, please give us a call at The Orinda Association (925-254-0800) to volunteer and help a neighbor.

The Orinda Association continues its traditional role hosting local election forums. Because this year the three Orinda Union School District seats are not being contested, there will be no election and no debate. But the three open City Council seats have five candidates. For the two open seats of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), there are three candidates for District 3, and two candidates for District 4 vying for the single open seat in each District. On behalf of The Orinda Association, my fellow board member Carlos Baltodano will host the City Council candidate debate at 7 p.m. on Oct. 3. On Oct. 10, I will host the MOFD District 3 and 4 debate. Both debates will be moderated by representatives from the League of Women Voters and will be held at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

In previous President's Messages, I have urged Orindans to support local businesses rather than lament their death once they are gone. In particular, I have encouraged residents to support our local theatre and restaurants. Recently, I was informed that in addition to movies, the Orinda Theatre is hosting musical events. Their upcoming

line-up is impressive. On Oct. 4, Lorna Luft will perform the Songbook of her mother Judy Garland, November will bring Maureen McGovern to Orinda on Thur., Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The multi-Grammy nominee, Broadway and recording artist, continues to thrill audiences with a voice that defies categorization. On Sun., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Karen Mason, Broadway, star of *Mamma Mia!* and *Sunset Boulevard* will help us celebrate the holidays. If you are into music, make attending these events a habit and pass this info on to other locals.

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

P.O. Box 97
26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org



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Free Personal Alarm

Visit the Seniors Around Town table before the MOFD Forum and receive Emergency Evacuation information for Seniors in Orinda and a free BASU Personal Alarm.



Young and Old Orindans!



CELEBRATE LITERACY!

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Read-A-Thon!

October 6-12, 2018

For more information, visit the Orinda Public Library or <https://99pledges.com/fund/readorinda>

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- Oct. 10 – Premier World Discovery Presentation - 2019 Trips; 10:30am, Community Center; Free
- Oct. 11 – Senior Trip: USS Potomac, Special World War II Sightseeing & History Cruise; 9:15-3pm; \$95
- Oct. 16 – Wisdom Workshop: Five Easy Steps to De-clutter; 10:30am-12:00pm; OCC; Free
- Oct. 25 – Halloween Parade for Tots, 1:00pm, Orinda Community Center and Park; Free
- Oct. 27 – Community CPR/First Aid Class, 9am-3:30pm, Community Center, \$75R/\$86NR

Orinda Youth Sports (OYS) Winter Basketball Registration Underway – Sign up today! Play begins in January



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445

www.OrindaParksandRec.org

OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org

28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center

Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

The Orinda Association Presents



CANDIDATES FORUMS



Orinda Library Auditorium

ORINDA CITY COUNCIL FORUM

Wednesday, October 3, 7 PM

Dennis Fay
Kathleen Jenkins
Nick Kosla

Eve Phillips
Amy Worth

MOFD FORUM

Wednesday, October 10, 7 PM

MOFD District 3
Stephen L. Anderson
Steven M. Danziger
Robert "Red" Smith

MOFD District 4
Michael Donner
Lucy Talbot



254-0800

www.OrindaAssociation.org



Laura Abrams

Buyers are out in Fall force and we are seeing multiple offers on many properties. This is an excellent time to sell.

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Here's what they are saying about Laura Abrams

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- Number 10 East Bay Coldwell Banker Year to Date!

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Majestic Photographs, Nature Inspired Ceramics, Paintings of Succulents and *Abstract Rhythms* at Orinda Gallery During October

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is delighted to present the paintings of Kath Balamuth and Ruth Kolman Brophy and Friends, Sergiy Pechersky's photographs, and ceramics from Ellen Sachtshale, Julie Langley and Miriam Jewell during the month of October at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Join them on Sunday, Oct. 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., for the artist reception where light refreshments will be served.

Kath Balamuth's *Succulent Succulents Series*, while almost impossible to pronounce, is entirely possible to admire. Both *Firestorm I* and *Fireworks! - 20" x 30"* and *20" x 24"* acrylic paintings on panel respectively - carry you on a blast of color only nature could evolve. While diminutive *in situ*, Balamuth elevates our view and our viewpoint of these dazzlers

by increasing their size. She is showing 19 works ranging in size from 8" x 8" to 30" x 46". She says that succulents are easy for her to work with because they are easy to grow and offer her all the elements of art she enjoys: form, color, texture, scale, value, line and shape.

The Orinda resident owned an art supply store in Orinda from 1985 to 1997 and has also been a calligraphy instructor. Her BA in Design from UC Berkeley allowed her to work as a graphic designer in the past. "Now, in my eighth decade, I consider myself an 'emerging artist' and plan to continue learning and creating art for the rest of my life," says Balamuth. Learn more about her work at www.kathbalamuth.com.

Ruth Kolman Brophy and Friends have an apt theme for the work they are showing - *Abstract Rhythms*. Each of them explores creating abstract art in a different way: some works combine figurative elements and some do not. Brophy, from



SERGIY PECHERSKY

Sergiy Pechersky's 12" x 16" photograph *Cathedral Peak* which captures the unique majesty of the Yosemite mountain, is on display in the library gallery.

Walnut Creek and her colleagues Lynn Glenn and Tina Pressler from Danville and Elise Marshall of Orinda have been meeting in Marshall's studio weekly for about 10 years.

They are showing about 20 paintings. Kolman Brophy mixes abstract and figurative in *On the Patio*, her 24" x 30" acrylic on canvas. Go to www.ruthkolmanbrophy.com to see more abstract into figurative work. Pressler likes working in cycles using sections of squares and circles that are repeated. To see her work go to www.tinapressler.com. Creating *Drifting*, Glenn's 30" x 30" acrylic, mixed media on canvas, allowed her to "enjoy art as it evolves because as I work it totally absorbs me, time is forgotten and I just love what I do." Visit

www.lynn-glenn-fineart.com to learn more about her work. Marshall's *Winter Passage*, a 42" x 66" acrylic on canvas, was created in the art studio in which they all meet, a studio specifically designed for Marshall's sensibility with spacious views of the Oakland hills. See www.elisemarshall.com to learn more.

Sergiy Pechersky of San Jose just can't stay away from Yosemite and the Eastern Sierras. An accomplished photographer who has exhibited extensively, he is showing about a dozen photographs. Take a tour of the ephemeral beauty he has captured such as his 12" x 16" eponymous photograph, *Cathedral Peak*. Not only does the 10,912' elevation command your atten-

[SEE GALLERY page 23]

Melanie Snow

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Kathleen Jenkins for Orinda City Council

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Bay Area Studio Artists Show At Orinda Books

Bay Area Studio Artists presents *Herd*, an exhibit of paintings in acrylics and oils, at Orinda Books (276 Village Square) during the month of October. The book store is hosting an artists' reception open to the public from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6. Those interested in viewing the exhibit can also stop by during the store's regular business hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

BASA is a group of local artists who have been painting and showing their work together in Bay Area venues since 2010. Their show *Herd* examines the herd instinct, that urge to gather with others of your own kind. The exhibit presents many different kinds of herds, including some whimsical varieties. BASA members with work in the show include Jeanette Baird, Ellen Reintjes, Joanne Taeuffer, Sharon Tama, Marcy Wheeler, Suzun Almquist, along with guest artists Ruth Stanton and Lassie Colebourn. For more information on BASA, go to <http://www.bayareastudioartists.com>.

- Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

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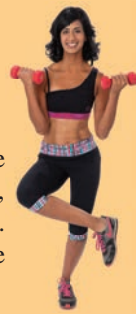
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FITNESS / POLICE / PARKING

Fitness Tip of the Month

Learn to Love Your Workout or Find One You Love.

The key to getting in shape is progression. As you get stronger, the workout progresses to challenge you. If you don't love your workout, you might not progress and you might not get the results you want. The earlier you start working on this the more strength you will have to do it!



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

July 29 through September 8, 2018

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 13 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 6 incidents.
 Accident Property: 6 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 159 incidents.
 Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
 Battery: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 9 incidents.
 Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents.
 Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents.
 Civil Matter: 9 incidents.
 County Solicitor Permit: 1 incident.
 CVC Moving Violation: 144 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 75 incidents.
 Dependent Child: 2 incidents.
 Disturbance - Domestic: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
 Evading Officer: 1 incident.
 Forgery: 1 incident.
 Found Adult: 2 incidents.
 Found Property: 7 incidents.
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
 Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 13 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 3 incidents.
 Intoxicated Subject: 1 incident.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 2 incidents.
 Loitering: 2 incidents.
 Lost Property: 1 incident.
 Loud Music: 8 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 8 incidents.
 Loud Party: 4 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 7 incidents.
 Motorist Assist: 3 incidents.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 2 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 38 incidents.
 Parking Detail: 99 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 22 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 2 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 4 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 14 incidents.

School Check: 10 incidents.
 Security Check: 15 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 146 incidents.
 Shoplift: 1 incident.
 Shots Heard: 2 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 22 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 14 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 13 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 18 incidents.
 Terrorist Threats: 1 incident.
 Tow: 8 incidents.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 17 incidents.
 Trespass: 4 incidents.
 Vacation House Check: 72 incidents.
 Vandalism: 9 incidents.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 2 incidents.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 incident.
 Verbal Dispute: 1 incident.
 Walk Through: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 20 incidents.

Arrest

Drunk in Public: 5 arrests.
 DUI: 4 arrests.
 Other Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Stolen Property: 1 arrest.
 Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
 Shoplift: 2 arrests.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests.

BART Statistics

Outside Assist Arrest: 1 arrest.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com

Brookwood Residents Finally Get City of Orinda Parking Permits

By DAVID DIERKS
 Assistant Editor

Orinda started a pilot Residential Parking Permit Program on Brookwood Road in September. Residents of Brookwood Road requested the parking permit program due to the limited number of on-street parking spots and the use of those spots by BART commuters for extended periods of time resulting in residents lacking parking spots near their homes.

“BART parkers had reached epic numbers on Brookwood Road. They would drive over landscaping, litter the streets, cause traffic hazards and endanger kids walking to the bus. Residents, their guests, workers, caregivers and emergency service providers had nowhere to park,” says resident Jennifer Harper, who started the process of getting the parking program over four years ago. “Several altercations and incidents around parking transpired over the years between commuters and residents. The original request to the City of Orinda was to improve pedestrian safety, traffic calming measures and a residential permit parking program.”

The pilot program, extending on Brookwood Road from the western edge of Camino Pablo to Spring Court, is designated as permit parking District A. All vehicles displaying a valid District A parking permit are exempt from the four-hour parking time limit. The pilot program started Sept. 10. “Since the permit program has been implemented, commuter parking has ceased on Brookwood. It has made a significant positive impact,” says Harper.

Harper spent countless hours working with the city on this project. “The first meeting with the City regarding residential parking, pedestrian safety and traffic calming was in April, 2014,” remembers Harper. “It has taken almost four and a half years to get two of the three approved measures completed.” The first two measures were speed cushions to slow vehicles and the

parking permit program. The last measure that Harper is working on is an electronic feedback sign which lets drivers know how fast they are traveling. “While the City staff has been courteous, the entire process has been incredibly tedious and time consuming,” adds Harper. “Over the past four and a half years, hours and hours have been spent by residents signing petitions, gathering approval votes, attending Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and City Council meetings and writing follow-up emails.”

Orinda residents living along Brookwood Road can apply by going to the Orinda website at www.cityoforinda.org/parking-permitprogram. Ninety-four permits are available for Brookwood Road residents, with a maximum of two vehicles per residential household eligible for permits. After the first 30 days of the initial offering, up to four permits may be requested by households on a first come, first served basis until the maximum 94 permits are distributed. Permits expire at the end of the calendar year on Dec. 31 and cost \$40 if purchased after July 1 and \$80 if purchased before July 1. Note that a permit does not guarantee a parking space. Parking is still first come, first served.

To qualify for a District A Parking Permit, the registrant must provide a Driver's License (registered to applicant's address), utility bill, rental/lease agreement or deed proving residence in the permitted area and car registration, also registered to the applicant's address.

With the pilot program comes new parking restrictions on Brookwood Road: four-hour parking limit from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, except holidays and vehicles displaying District A permits. “Brookwood Road is the pilot Residential Parking Permit program,” says Harper. “We hope all our efforts have laid the groundwork to make it easier for other residents to engage in this process.”

For more information, visit www.cityoforinda.org/parkingpermitprogram.

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Letters to the Editor ...

Support Michael Donner

I am writing to enthusiastically share my support for Michael Donner for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors in District 4.

Michael has a tremendous amount of experience in keeping communities safe. His passion for sharing this knowledge and working to make Lamorinda more resilient began long before he considered running for this position. Michael recently retired from a 30-year career as an Oakland firefighter. He has also spent thousands of hours as a passionate volunteer in our schools, youth sports, and numerous emergency preparedness programs. For example, Michael worked with our local schools to make sure they are equipped with water, supplies and the knowledge of how to respond in an emergency. As a parent, this puts my mind at ease when I think about our kids being stuck at school if a major disaster strikes.

Michael works tirelessly to help others. He was the first person I called when my business partner and I decided to offer free talks on how to get organized for an emergency. We needed his expertise to make sure our information was accurate and helpful. He immediately and enthusiastically jumped in to help. He addressed a large audience of Lamorinda residents and helped calm everyone's nerves after the North Bay fires as we taught them how to best prepare their family. He also encouraged the audience to think about others outside of their home - their elderly neighbors or those needing additional assistance evacuating. This is such a lovely example of the way that Michael thinks—always focusing on others. I joked during the opening of our presentations that I feel safer when he's in the room—but it's true and I would certainly feel safer if he was elected to the MOFD Board of Directors.

Michael has experience with strategic leadership, policy and direction and fiscal oversight - all requirements for the MOFD Board position. He has been a board member for Random Acts for over 14 years and Oakland's Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation, whose mission is education and testing for early detection of cancer - resulting in significant cost savings for the department.

Michael's long history of experience in this industry gives me great confidence in recommending him. I know he could jump into the role ready for action and share his ideas—it's only natural. It's something he's been doing his entire life.

— Amy Berryhill

Doggone Good

W.F. Buckley, Jr.'s book *The Right Word*, has a chapter titled, "Oh, What's the Usage?" I thought of this as I read the Orinda City Council candidate statements on the Orinda California website. Anyone reading the statements would have difficulty separating the wheat from the chaff among these candidates since the avalanche of buzz words (local control, transparency, families, safety, semi-rural, inclusion,

etc.) routinely flows in such statements. Add to this the promised parade of downtown enhancements, and the voter's best choice becomes even more blurred.

One could rely strictly on candidates' educational and professional backgrounds, but in reality none listed are chopped hay. So is the voter to conclude one candidate is like another?

There is a difference among the candidates, and the difference is meaningful. Whether Orinda is to remain a family-oriented community or become a "destination city" impacts the very heart of why we love where we live.

Sadly, a number of our Councilmembers past and present have been blind to the consequences of outside bureaucratic overreach, cooperative with State and regional intervention into local affairs, and dismissive of citizens' objections. Waste of our dollars on numerous outside consultants in league with transit authorities and urban design firms has left Orinda with diminishing funds and deferred maintenance on many public amenities, e.g. library, public bathrooms, recreational facilities, sanitation, etc. Council-accepted grants reflect mass transit-oriented designs, and transit agencies direct how their grants are to be spent, destroying Orinda's DNA.

Re-zoning for multi-family "stack and pack housing" and "street diets" affect more than downtown. Where such has occurred, schools have experienced increased class size, higher taxes for needed infrastructure, traffic, parking hassles, and community decline.

None of the candidates object to development. But change should address the needs and desires of current residents regarding community appearance, services, recreation, superior education, and safety - not the preferences of outside profit seekers. Here is where the candidates differ.

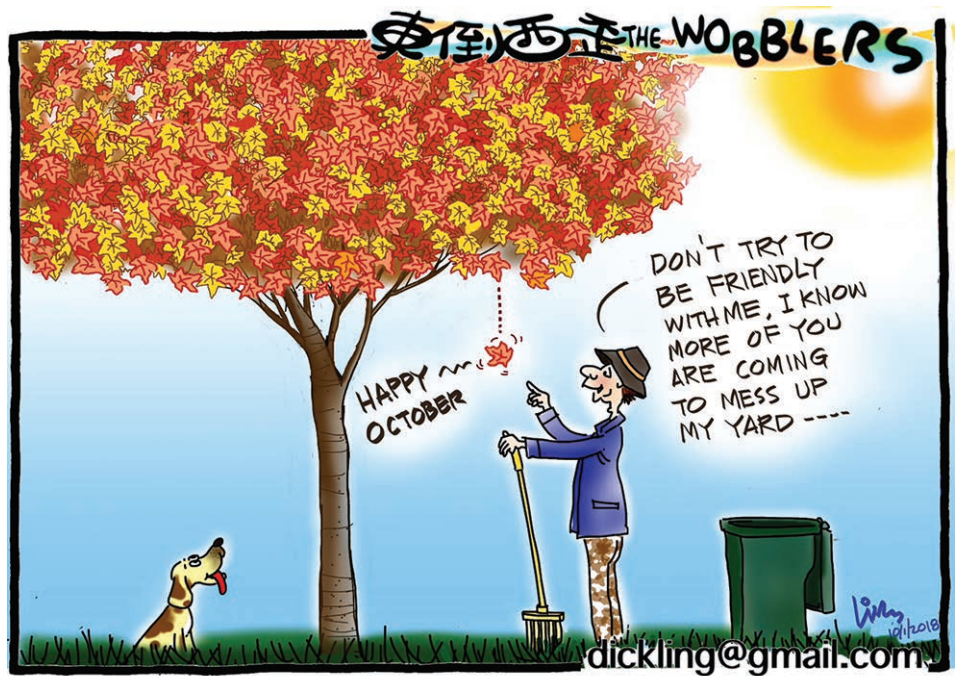
One well-tested candidate for Orinda's welfare is incumbent Councilmember Eve Phillips. The other is Kathleen Jenkins who, like Phillips, has been outspoken on issues that threaten Orinda's economy, is conversant with State laws, has an authentic appreciation for the realities and potential for downtown businesses, and has no conflict of interests. These two candidates are doggone good.

The ballot allows three Councilmember choices. Voting for three will dilute your two top choices.

— Charlie Brown

Unfunded Pension Liability

I moved to Orinda seven years ago, and my children attend Del Rey School. It has come to my attention that since approximately 2005, a massive unfunded pension liability has grown at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and that the unfunded liability could be as high as \$8,000 to \$10,000 per household. This is obviously unacceptable, and we need to begin electing directors for MOFD that can aggressively take on the task of immediately addressing this problem as I don't imagine any residents wish to write a check of this magnitude because the MOFD Board was unable to balance the budget.



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Theatre View Veterinary Clinic	29	Orinda Hardware	2
Professional Service		Rechic 101	10

In November, I will vote for Red Smith as our director for MOFD Division 3 because Red is not only a seasoned business executive capable of tackling this issue, but he is also an innovative thinker and will be a huge asset to the Board in evaluating new technologies to make the fire and medical operations more efficient. I urge all of my friends and neighbors in MOFD Division 3 to vote for Red Smith so that a new team of directors can relieve our households of this pension liability burden.

— Dr. Jason Burge

Kosla Well Qualified

Nick Kosla's experience in community planning will be a huge asset to the City as Orinda continues to make an investment in infrastructure and road improvements. For over a decade, Nick has professionally negotiated engineering and construction contracts throughout the Bay Area and Northern California. His understand-

[SEE CARAGOL page 8]

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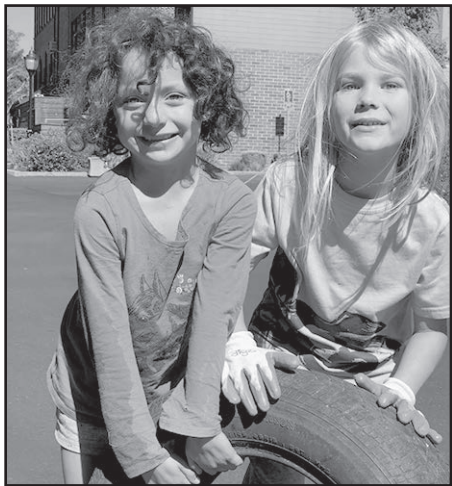
SAN PABLO CREEK / CAR SHOW

Friends of Orinda Creeks Clean San Pablo Creek for Coastal Cleanup Day

By FRIENDS OF ORINDA CREEKS

The rusty golf nine-iron cast in to the creek in darkest despair brought squeals of delight from youngsters on hand Saturday to clean up the downtown stretch of San Pablo Creek. But when the team found five rubber ducks, the cleanup race was on. The event, organized by Friends of Orinda Creeks as part of the statewide Coastal Cleanup Day, extended from the Chevron station to well past the 1920 County Bridge. The adventurous Orindans found lampshades, five rubber duckies, the ancient golf club and even a manhole cover. Mostly, however, they found garbage; lots of garbage.

The sizeable group battled Himalayan blackberries, poison oak and very steep banks to extract more than 250 pounds of rubbish, not including a tire, from a beautiful but largely unknown and neglected stretch of one of the San Francisco Bay's largest tributaries, which luckily flows



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lula Bowen (left) and Herbie Whipple did their part to help clean up San Pablo Creek and have fun at the same time.

through the heart of Orinda.

"I was conceptually aware that a creek ran through downtown Orinda, but had never taken the time to go look at it and enjoy the tranquility of the site," said volunteer Ellen Griffith. "It's a treasure that I wish more members of our community could enjoy." The riparian vegetation, now fully grown, was planted by FOC volunteers in the early '90s, under the leadership of Cinda Mackinnon. "Despite the challenges ahead with restoration, it's important to recognize how far we've come," enthused Mackinnon. "It's just so rewarding to see the vegetation mature into wildlife habitat, and to see so many Orindans here enjoying it."

Orinda mother Jemima Kiss took a break from packing for her trip to England the next day to come help out. Jemima struggled with her two sons Artley (9) and Herbie (6) to extricate a carpet woven around a tree trunk during high flows. "This is so much more fun than I expected!" exclaimed Artley, as Jemima groaned in good humor. "It was hard but rewarding to pick hundreds of tiny pieces of Styrofoam out of the creek and yards of twisted wrapping film because now we know they won't end up flowing down to the sea and killing marine life," declared Kiss.

Before launching the cleanup, board members provided a brief history of San Pablo Creek, the Friends' efforts to improve it, and their now ambitious plan to restore much of it to its former glory. "In the 1950s, 'Progress' dictated that Camino Pablo be widened, and San Pablo Creek be narrowed and straightened to resemble the neckties of the day," articulated board member Michael Bowen before continu-

[SEE CREEKS page 22]

– Advertisement –

Orinda Roads - Part Three of Three

Orinda has 123 miles of roads. 93 miles of these roads are maintained by taxes we all pay; 30 miles are not. These are Orinda's Orphan Roads.

Part One of this series described Orinda's road network and how it became bifurcated between publicly maintained roads and those which are not.

Part Two estimated that it would cost less than \$1 million a year (40 cents per day per household) to include all of Orinda in its road maintenance program, not just the fortunate 80 percent currently benefiting from public funding.

In Part Three, financing options will be explored as the City does not have the funds to cover an additional \$950,000 per year, in fact it will be shortly asking the voters for \$22 million to complete the storm drain repairs that are still necessary and an additional \$2.5 million per year to maintain the other residential streets it is currently spending \$55 million to repair.

What would it require to fund the additional \$950,000 per year to maintain all of Orinda's roads, so that everyone in Orinda, including the 1,500 households living on Orphan Streets, receives road maintenance service paid for by our taxes?

Parcel Tax: There are about 7,500 building parcels (homes, businesses and vacant lots) in Orinda. Dividing \$950,000 across these would require a parcel tax of \$125 per parcel; 35 cents a day. This is not an excessive amount to maintain everyone's major infrastructure that we all depend on.

Utility Tax: The \$950,000 could be spread across Orinda's 7,000 homes as

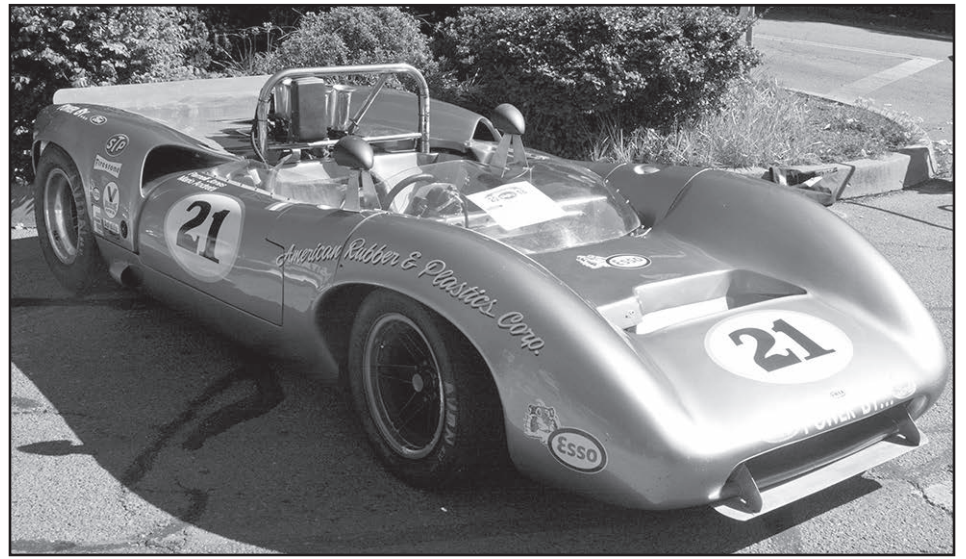
part of their utility bills. This would add \$11 a month, spread across any number of utilities (phone, cable, water, PG&E, etc.). While it would add up to \$135 a year, it would not significantly impact most families.

Real Estate Transfer Tax: This is a tax based on a home's sale price. In Orinda, about 4 percent of homes sell each year so this is a tax the average homeowner would pay once every 25 years. Adjusted for inflation, about \$420 million of homes sell in Orinda each year. A quarter of one percent tax, \$2,500 for a million dollar home, would provide the funds needed to maintain the Orphan Roads. Normally this tax would be split between the buyer and seller, \$1,250 each. With home prices increasing at least at the rate of inflation (3 percent), \$1,250 represents only two weeks of gain on the value of the home.

The price to serve every resident of Orinda equally is small, very small. We encourage every Orinda resident to tell their Council Members to begin serious discussions on how this can be done. A letter of support can be found at www.OrindaRoadFacts.info.

This concludes this series on correcting a problem that has existed for almost a century: excluding 20 percent of Orinda, 1,500 households, from receiving the basic service of road maintenance that they pay for with their taxes, just like the other 80 percent of Orinda. We urge the City to address this problem now.

Citizens for Fair Road Funding
www.OrindaRoadFacts.info.



DAVID DIERKS

Orinda Classic Car Show attendees were treated to an amazing exhibit of historic race cars including this 1969 Lola T70 M3.

Best Classic Car Show Ever

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show held its 14th successful weekend Sept. 7 and 8. The event started with Dancing with the Cars on Friday followed by the car show on Saturday. Organized by Chip Herman and hosted by Orinda Motors (the company shut down business for two days to host the show), the event showcased over 200 vehicles along Avenida de Orinda, Orinda Way and the Phairs' parking lot. The event raised over \$70,000 for local beneficiaries/charities. "It was the best show ever," said Herman.

Dancing with the Cars, the ticketed party held at the Orinda Country Club (OCC) and produced by Orinda Rotary was sold out. The party let attendees get a sneak peek at some of the cars before the show. This year's theme, American Graffiti, featured classic Fords and Chevys pulled up at Mel's Drive-In.

Saturday was the high point with all the vehicles on display. A special exhibit of historic race cars met attendees at the entrance tent on Orinda Way. The show ran from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., culminating in a drive to Moraga and back where some lucky attendees were able to ride in the vehicles that had been on display. "The partnership formed by all of the participating community groups put on a car show that Orinda and the East Bay can be proud of," said Herman. "The owners of the cars say that this is the best run, most fun car show that they attend. They all want to come back next year!"

Organizations benefitting from the show include Educational Foundation of Orinda, Seniors Around Town, The Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Lamorinda Arts Council and Orinda Starlight Village Players. For more information about the Orinda Classic Car Show and to see a photo gallery of some vehicles in the show, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

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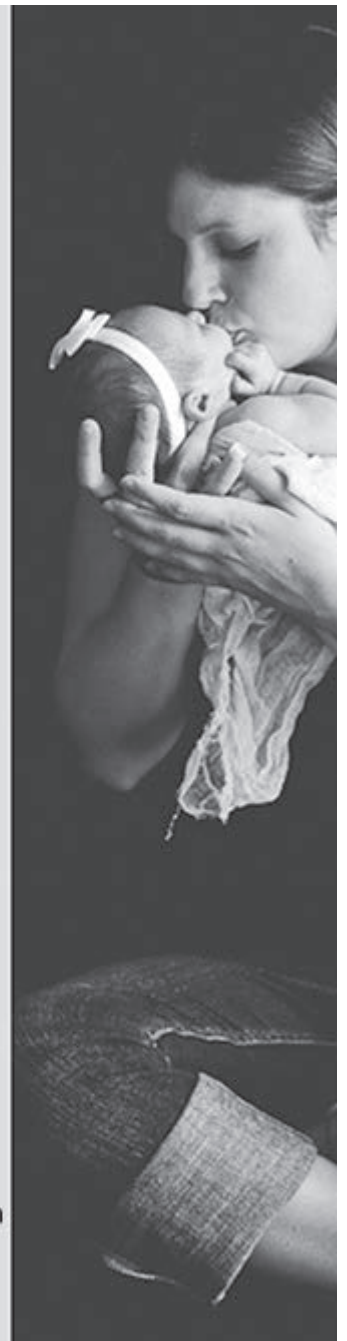
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LETTERS

◆ CARAGOL from page 6

ing and experience working with developers and contractors will provide Orinda with the best contractors at the best price. The improvements made in my neighborhood have been a welcome change to the pot holes and sink holes that have been created over time. It will be extremely important for the city to manage this process well, and Nick Kosla has the experience to do so. Please tell your neighbors to vote for Nick Kosla for Orinda City Council. On November 6, be sure to get out and vote!

– Tanya Caragol

Elect Independents for MOFD Board

It is encouraging that so many citizens are standing up to run for the MOFD Board which directs our emergency services provider, managing over \$25 million tax dollars each year. In the last issue of the *Lamorinda Weekly*, retiring Director Famulener pointed to the improved condition of the Pension by \$12 million, and that is good news. But it mostly was the result of a robust investment economy, not MOFD economies. In 2008, MOFD's pension assets lost almost 30 percent of their value. That would be a \$50 million loss today. MOFD retirement plans are still \$75 million underfunded. Yet the employee's union is demanding that less money go to reduce this debt so that more can go to salaries which currently average \$150,000 including overtime but excluding \$200,000 in benefit costs. While our firefighters provide us great service, the management of MOFD has to remain independent of their union. This is why it would be dangerous to elect any of the three union supported candidates for the MOFD Board: Baitx, Danziger or Donner. Please elect the independent candidates (Bell, Anderson, Smith and Talbot).

– Steve Cohn

Support Schools And Two Candidates For City Council

For years, the State of California has been

depriving Orinda's schools of needed funds. Moreover, the state has been usurping control over Orinda's land.

The time has come to put an end to this control from Sacramento. On No. 6, 2018, Orindans will have an opportunity to help reverse the city's subjugation to state authority.

According to the 2016-2017 annual report of Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda's public schools are being shortchanged. Without local support, the foundation says, the per-pupil funding of Orinda's schools is \$6,857. The California average is \$10,288; the U.S. average is \$12,578.

While essentially no one likes higher taxes, the Orinda Union School District has put two property-tax measures – Measures E and I – on the November 2018 ballot. These measures are designed to finance needed school facilities and to preserve academic excellence. Orindans should support these two measures.

The state legislature, generally with the approval of Gov. Jerry Brown, has been trying to tell Orinda how to use its precious land.

In 2017, the state legislature passed, and the governor signed, Senate Bill 35, which demands that California cities construct more municipal housing or lose control over local land.

In 2018, three bills – Senate Bill 827, Senate Bill 828, and Assembly Bill 2923 – have been introduced in the legislature. These bills, if enacted into law, will usurp local control over Orinda's land and lead to school overcrowding.

Assembly Bill 2923, on Aug. 28, 2018, passed both houses of the legislature. This bill would give BART the power to construct high-rise, high-density housing on BART-owned land. Orindans, not BART, should be in charge of Orinda's turf.

Over the last four years, two candidates for the Orinda City Council – Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins – have consistently supported local control for Orinda. Ms. Phillips, originally elected to the City Council in 2014, is running for re-election. Ms. Jenkins is a new candidate and has spent the last several years trying to preserve local control for the city and keep

Orinda semi-rural.

Both Ms. Phillips and Ms. Jenkins are highly qualified candidates and deserve four-year terms on the City Council. Both candidates oppose Orinda's Downtown Streetscape Plan, a plan devoid of any details. Streetscape promises to enhance downtown at a cost of \$300,000 to taxpayers.

Please support only Ms. Phillips and Ms. Jenkins on election day.

– Richard S. Colman

Support Red Smith

This is to support the candidacy of Red Smith for Division 3 representative on the Board of Directors for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). We have known Red for over 20 years. Throughout that time, Red has been an energetic community supporter. He has served many times as a board member/advisor of local schools, has been an ardent supporter of Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts, having raised three Boy Scouts and a Girl Scout, and perhaps most memorably, served enthusiastically for many years as a coach for youth baseball.

Red is an accomplished finance, technology, and marketing executive. For the past two decades, Red has successfully led young technology companies through financing, technology development and marketing. He has been a guest lecturer on entrepreneurship at Cal and St. Mary's. One of Red's many strengths as a leader has been the ability to recognize and reconcile the needs of diverse interests and to channel them toward a common vision.

We are confident that Red has the drive to leverage his leadership and entrepreneurial skills to contribute to community safety by evaluating emerging technologies to identify risks and to take precautionary steps required to make residents more secure. We are confident that Red will act in a fiscally responsible manner while ensuring appropriate budget management not only for current operations but also for future pension and medical obligations.

– Stephen and Rosemary Durant

Keep Representative from Orinda on AUHSD

I support Chris Severson for the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board.

Chris is an experienced school board trustee, having served on the board of the Orinda Union School District, including a term as board president. His experience will allow him to hit the ground running and represent parents, teachers and students effectively from his first day on the board.

Moreover, Chris is the only candidate who lives in Orinda. The Acalanes high school district is comprised of four towns: Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga. I am currently the only board member from Orinda, but my term ends in December and I am not seeking re-election. Chris Severson is the only candidate from Orinda. That balance — where each community has representation on the high school board — is critical to the overall success of the district.

Chris did an excellent job on the Orinda school board and will serve all our communities well as a member of the Acalanes Union High School District. Please vote for him on November 6th.

– Susie Epstein

Dennis Fay Gets our Vote

Dennis Fay was our neighbor for several years and was always a friendly "hello" over the back fence. His friendliness and interest in participating in neighborhood events showed a concern for what was happening on our street and in our town.

Dennis was an excellent appointment to the Roads Committee. With his background as the executive director of the Alameda County Transportation Committee, he was a perfect member for our Infrastructure Oversight Commission. Further, the fact that he was made chairman of the committee, suggests his fellow committee members recognized his leadership abilities and willingness to get involved. The committee should be proud of the major decisions they

[SEE HIRSCHFIELD page 10]



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PHILANTHROPY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rick Perez completed his third "Laura's ride" in Key West this August, riding his bike 2400 miles from Quebec City to fundraise for the Lazarex Cancer Foundation.

Orinda Resident Once Again Cycles to Help Breast Cancer Victims

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Rick Perez is on a mission. This past summer, the longtime Orinda resident pedaled thousands of miles in his third cross-country trek to fundraise for the Lazarex Cancer Foundation in honor of his friend Laura Barton who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2015. Perez, who has had a law office in Orinda for two decades, said he hopes his rides "play a small part in increasing awareness of breast cancer so that people can take appropriate preventative measures, including early detection when feasible and possible."

Perez's first fundraising event in 2016, a ride from Santa Monica, CA, to St. Augustine, FL, raised over \$20,000. Perez followed up in 2017 with a 3,600-mile course from Sunset Beach, Oregon to Portsmouth, New Jersey, raising more than \$8,000. After that event ride, Perez had his

bike repainted and had a map of the USA put on it with lines showing the two west to east cross country rides together with the words, "Twice Across." When considering a third trip, "the thought of being able to add a "+" after "Twice Across" and a line running from Quebec City to Key West became increasingly appealing to me."

Though he had doubts about doing a 2018 ride, the 71-year-old bicyclist rode his Formigli One Bike an average of 65 miles a day, racking up 2,400 miles from Quebec City, Canada, to a pier in Key West, FL. He pedaled from June 29 to Aug. 18 and raised \$8,540, although he hopes to raise more.

Perez had completed destination rides before he began Laura's rides. "Obviously, none were of the scope of a cross country ride. The thought of seeing lots of small-town America was also of interest," said Perez, who added the main factor inspiring him to ride "was the challenge aspect."

[SEE RIDE page 30]

Darcie Taylor Hired as EFO Executive Director

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) welcomes Darcie Taylor as its first executive director. According to the EFO Board of Directors, Taylor will create and implement a plan for long term financial sustainability of the Orinda schools through corporate, foundation and community-based fundraising.

Taylor's most recent position was as a west region lead for the V Foundation for Cancer Research where she was known for her impressive work growing the V Foundation's west region presence and promoting their current campaign aimed at raising \$200 million dollars by 2020. Previously, Taylor worked for four years as a regional director at Sutter Health where she focused on philanthropy and major gift programs.

According to EFO President Kara Dille, Taylor's experience in fundraising, change management and volunteer management will be invaluable in helping EFO meet its long-term goals and objectives.

"Her extensive experience in fundraising coupled with her proven ability to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders make Darcie Taylor the perfect choice to lead EFO into a new era," says Dille. "The EFO Executive Board and I are thrilled to welcome Ms. Taylor as our first executive director."

A task force of educators and parent leaders in Orinda has met for over two years to analyze other districts' fundraising models, determine best practices and jointly decide how to improve the fundraising model for Orinda schools. This task force examined the foundations of 15 similar school dis-

[SEE EFO page 28]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Darcie Taylor is bringing her extensive fundraising experience to EFO as the new executive director.

Getting Women Involved in Government

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will host an "Appointments Training" in partnership with California Women Lead, American Association of University Women and Jr. League. The event hopes to encourage more women to become involved in government and politics by learning the process one takes to be appointed to a board/commission/committee at the local and state level. The training takes place:

Thursday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m.
Shannon Community Center
11600 Shannon Ave.
Dublin, CA

For more information, contact Baker's field representative, Sam Reneau, at Samantha.reneau@asm.ca.gov.



Educational Foundation of Orinda

EFO wishes to thank its Business Partners and Local Organizations for generously supporting Orinda schools during the 2017-2018 school year. Return the favor, and do business with a partner!

Join us in supporting our Orinda schools.

For more information, please visit: www.OrindaEFO.org

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LETTERS

◆ **HIRSCHFIELD** from page 8
made for our city and its infrastructure...with Dennis at the helm.

We believe Dennis understands the issues facing us now and the budget constraints to carry them out. He has our city's interests at heart, now and for the future. We will be voting for him. Join us.

– Gayl and Harlan Hirschfeld

Vote for Red Smith

We would like to strongly endorse Red Smith as a Board Director for the MOFD, Division 3.

We have known Red for over two decades and have witnessed his complete and thorough involvement in the Moraga community. With four children participating in all aspects of what Lamorinda has to offer (dance, baseball, football, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and more) Red has been a vital part of many community activities. In turn this has made the Lamorinda community a vital part of the entire Smith family.

Red has served on the school board, volunteered with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, lectured at Cal and St. Mary's, and with his business background, knows about working in teams, leading teams, and effectively delivering the oversight and safety that we all need. With his knowledge of tech, business, and the community, Red is well positioned to help focus on emerging technologies for emergency services and fire prevention.

I hope your readers will join us in supporting Red Smith for this position.

Thank you.

– Eileen and Scott Hoffinger

Researching Local Candidates

Every election season, I spend time researching local candidates. I look for Orinda volunteer experience, which creates a knowledge base. These jobs on boards and councils are not easy. The issues are complex, and the people elected have to consider all factors. I look for a focus on broader issues, and not just one or two areas where candidates feel they have a constituency. They need to represent all of us.

Also, I think most boards function best with both experienced members with institutional memories, and a knowledge of how things work, and newer members with fresh ideas. These jobs have a steep learning curve, and it can take two

years or more just to learn the basics. A specialized background, such as finance or engineering, can provide important expertise. Board members must work well as a team. Disagreements should be civil, and promote discussion and consensus.

Here's who I'm voting for. Read the candidates' statements on the ballot for more details.

Orinda City Council: Amy Worth, who I've known for 30 years, has been an excellent City Councilmember. I believe that without Amy, we would not have the Caldecott fourth bore. She pushed for funding, and convinced opponents in Oakland and Berkeley to support it. Amy works incredibly hard and does a great job representing Orinda. She's dedicated, and also modest, so many people don't hear about her accomplishments.

Dennis Fay, past chair of the city's Infrastructure Commission, has worked in the transportation field for many years, experience that will be vital as Orinda continues to deal with its aging roads and buildings, and limited resources.

Nick Kosla, past chair of the City's Planning Commission, grew up in Orinda and is a long-time volunteer with a focus on transparency and sustainability. He values a collaborative approach to problem-solving.

Acalanes Union High School District: Chris Severson, who served on the Orinda school board, has that experience to draw on and will ably represent Orinda in the high school district, replacing retiring Orindan Susie Epstein.

Nancy Kendzierski and Bob Hockett, are both incumbents who have done a good job and deserve to be re-elected.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District: Lucy Talbot (Division 4), and Red Smith (Division 3) are both long-time Orinda volunteers, focused on fire prevention, reducing response times, responding to community concerns and keeping the department fiscally sound.

Make sure you vote on or before Tuesday, November 6th!

– Linda Landau

Yeah! For Orinda Schools!

They brought us to Orinda, and they kept us here for almost 60 years! Now, as always, they need our (the voters) help.

With the passage of Measures E and I, we will be able to upgrade classrooms which have received little attention since my Husband, Carl,

was on the School Board over 40 years ago!

Measures E and I will also upgrade our campuses for the safety and security of Orinda's students so they can feel safe!

I checked it out and am glad the school district decided to include strict fiscal accountability provisions in Measures E and I, including requirements that all funds be locally controlled and benefit the Orinda schools!

Strong schools built our strong community, and Measures E and I will maintain the high-quality education our students can expect.

Vote on Tuesday, November 6th with a Yes on E and I!

Thanks Orinda.

– Bobbie Landers

Eve Phillips Blocks Progress on Orinda's Downtown and Roads

As I've observed our City Council votes over the past four years, it's clear that first-term Councilmember Eve Phillips has consistently voted against progress on improving our downtown and roads. As examples, Eve was the only councilmember of five to vote against these critical items:

Sole vote against simply initiating a council discussion on ways to improve our downtown (July 21, 2015);

Sole vote against approving a small contract with experts on downtown improvement, which ultimately resulted in a useful report with action items that city staff has since pursued (November 15, 2016);

Sole vote against commissioning a plan to improve our public spaces downtown, including downtown creek restoration (June 19, 2018);

Sole vote against placing a bond on the 2016 ballot to improve our roads, going against the will of almost 70 percent of Orinda's voters who ultimately approved it. The revenue has since helped repave pot-holed roads throughout Orinda (Feb 16, 2016).

On Election Day, Nov. 6, all Orindans who care about progress on downtown and our roads should be aware of Ms. Phillips' voting record and vote accordingly.

– Anthony Malutta

Lucy Talbot for MOFD Board!

We have know Lucy Talbot for 35 years. We are delighted that she has made the decision to become a candidate for the MOFD Board. We support her in this role because she is dedicated to the community, she is energetic and enthusiastic about our beautiful neighborhoods, and she is a hard worker who does her homework and researches issues carefully. She is a dynamic businesswoman, wife and mother. She is thoughtful and articulate. Lucy is an independent thinker. As a graduate of UC Berkeley and a lifelong resident of the Lamorinda area, she is deeply concerned about fire prevention, fiscal responsibility and emergency response times. I know that these issues concern us all as we experience the changing weather including an increase in the number of days with high fire risk.

We ask our friends and neighbors to please join us in giving Lucy your vote!

– Joan & Frank Maxwell

Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council

I have worked with Dennis Fay over a 10-year period on the Orinda Infrastructure Oversight ("Roads") Commission. Dennis has been a leader on the Commission and deserves major credit for the City's success in rebuilding our roads. Dennis is an engineer who insists on practical approaches to problems. He is a very clear thinker and is always disciplined in his approach to problem solving. He listens carefully, asks good questions and integrates new information with what he already knows. Above all, Dennis knows how to bring people together.

Dennis' experience as executive director of the Alameda County Transportation Commission also will be of immeasurable benefit to the City Council. Dennis understands the complexity of public issues and has a wealth of experience in finding and implementing solutions. He knows the importance of ensuring that public officials have the information they need to make good decisions and also how to manage staff to ensure that relevant information is available when it is needed. He has extensive contacts with public officials in the East Bay and knows how to leverage them effectively.

I also have come to know Dennis personally as a friend. Dennis cares about people and will listen to and care about the concerns of all Orindans. He is open minded and is a person of very high integrity and commitment who will work hard to make Orinda an even better place.

Dennis is truly an impressive person. Please join me in voting for Dennis for the Orinda City Council.

– Richard Nelson

Work Ethic Unparalleled

I had the distinct privilege of serving on the Orinda Union School District board with Chris Severson and couldn't be more pleased to see that he has agreed to extend his service to the high school district. Chris is a thoughtful, deliberate decision maker who always puts the needs of students first. His work ethic and sense of fairness are unparalleled, and he understands the many aspects of running a school district. In short, he has all of the qualities one would want in this position of leadership.

Orinda, as well as our neighboring communities in the Acalanes High School District, would be most fortunate to have someone of Chris Severson's caliber on the high school board. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and encourage others to join me in voting for Chris.

– Pat Rudebusch

Support Amy, Dennis & Nick for Council; Lucy & Red MOFD; Christopher AUHSD

We are indeed fortunate there are several outstanding candidates running for local offices in this November's election. Please join me in voting for these capable community members!

- Orinda City Council
- Dennis Fay
- Nick Kosla
- Amy Worth
- MOFD Fire Board

[SEE SEVERSON page 23]

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STUDENTS

MAT'S TALK

Technology in the Classroom:
Beneficial or a Nuisance?

Chelsea Pelchat



I remember talking to my friends in the hallways during freshman year, and it would feel like the weight of the world was on my shoulders. And no, I'm not talking about academic stress: the weight was quite literal, and it came from carrying my 100-pound backpack -- my trustworthy, teal Jansport with its compartments filled with an array of binders and books. that I lugged to each of my seven classes.

Upon walking through the classroom doors, there would be the usual sight of worksheets distributed to each desk, which we would then spend the class time filling out. Flash forward four years later to my senior year, and the routine has changed rather drastically. First, I have technology to thank for a remarkably lighter backpack since my laptop replaces the weight of countless books and bulky binders. Yet more importantly, Miramonte as a whole has quickly adapted using innovative methods of connecting the staff and student body. Class worksheets are filled out and turned in electronically on Google Classroom, and a good portion of exams (even some finals) are taken on our Illuminate student portal. Since being introduced back

when I was in eighth grade, School Loop has become an indispensable medium for student-teacher communication.

It's fair to say the majority of students would agree that it is now fundamentally worse to forget your laptop than a textbook or binder at home. Within the past couple of years, Miramonte's BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy has revolutionized the efficiency of teaching methods used in the classroom, with many of the platforms designed to provide quick feedback and greater transparency when it comes to grades.

Still, with the increased use of technology comes the issue of cheating and learning distractions. Upon coming back from summer vacation this year, it's hard to miss that teachers — more than ever before — are now using phone pockets to hold devices for the entirety of the period. While the constant influx of new technology at Miramonte undoubtedly provides us powerful learning tools, it goes without saying that, as students, we have a responsibility to utilize them responsibly and keep in mind that our devices are a privilege.

Come to a Game Day Benefiting Local High School and College Students

American Association of University Women (AAUW) members of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch are hosting a Game Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse on Thursday, Nov. 1. After enjoying a catered lunch, guests will play bridge, bunko or dominoes!

Reservations are \$40 and are available by contacting Laura Monin at (925) 631-6667.

Proceeds will sponsor educational scholarships for women at our three local high schools and funds to sponsor two St. Mary's students to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day.

AAUW is a nationwide charitable membership organization offering advocacy programs and social opportunities for women who have completed an Associate Degree or higher.

— Marty Schimbor, Contributing Writer

How To Talk To Kids About Race

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

Even the most confident parent can feel lost and intimidated when approaching the subject of race with their child. Hoping to provide a framework, Lamorinda Moms presents a special speaking event entitled "How To Talk To Kids About Race" on Tuesday, Oct. 16, featuring psychologist Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith. The two-hour event will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room at Orinda Intermediate School (80 Ivy Drive) beginning at 7 p.m. with the goal of guiding parents in how to approach the topic of race and to facilitate ongoing conversations with their children. The lecture will cover the basic developmental awareness of children in regard to race, the meaning of implicit bias and how it impacts children, and how best to engage children in discussions about race relations.

Dr. Briscoe-Smith received her undergraduate training in social psychology from Harvard University and her clinical degree in Children's Psychology from UC Berkeley. She is an adjunct professor at the Wright Institute and provides consultation and training to Bay Area



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Child psychologist **Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith** will speak at the Lamorinda Moms event on Oct. 16.

nonprofits and schools with a focus on cultural accountability, diversity issues and trauma-informed care. Tickets are \$20/non-members, \$10/members, \$10/partners of members, and \$10/school teachers and administration. For a discount code, email meetings@lamorindamoms.org and to purchase tickets, go to www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/3573616.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 2 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, Hearing/Vision Screening. Also, Oct. 3.
- 3 **Acalanes Union High School District** 7 p.m. governing board meeting. Also, Oct. 17.
- 8 **Del Rey Elementary School**, Book Fair through Oct. 11.
- 6 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, 6 p.m. Bandit Bash 2018 "Havana Nights." Orinda Art & Garden Center at Wilder, Tickets available at <https://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>. \$125 per person/\$250 per couple (\$150 at the door), A sizzling Havana inspired evening - featuring delicious Cuban food, tropical drinks, Latin jazz, coveted auction items and priority access to sign up for all those amazing Wagner Ranch hosted parties.
Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, Book Fair through Oct. 12.
Orinda Union School District, 6 p.m. governing board meeting.
- 9 **Miramonte High School**, Homecoming week begins through Oct. 12.
- 14 **Miramonte High School**, 4 - 7 p.m. MATStoberfest, All Staff Fall Celebration! Families invited, great food, great location, for an awesome staff!
- 17 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. governing board meeting.
- 20 **Glorietta Elementary School**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fun Fest. A day filled with games, food and prizes! For FunFest questions or additional information, contact our FunFest Chairs June Lim (vincentlimdds@yahoo.com), Jackie Popper (jackie.popper@gmail.com) or Gladys Speaker (bubba8it71@yahoo.com).
Del Rey Elementary School, BooFest, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- 20 **Holden High School**, 2-4 p.m. Mardi Gras Themed Zumbathon to benefit Holden High School. Register at holdenhigh.org/holden-events/zumbathon, Orinda Community Church
- 21 **Orinda Academy** 1 - 4 p.m. Open House.
- 27 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, Creepy Hollow.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net



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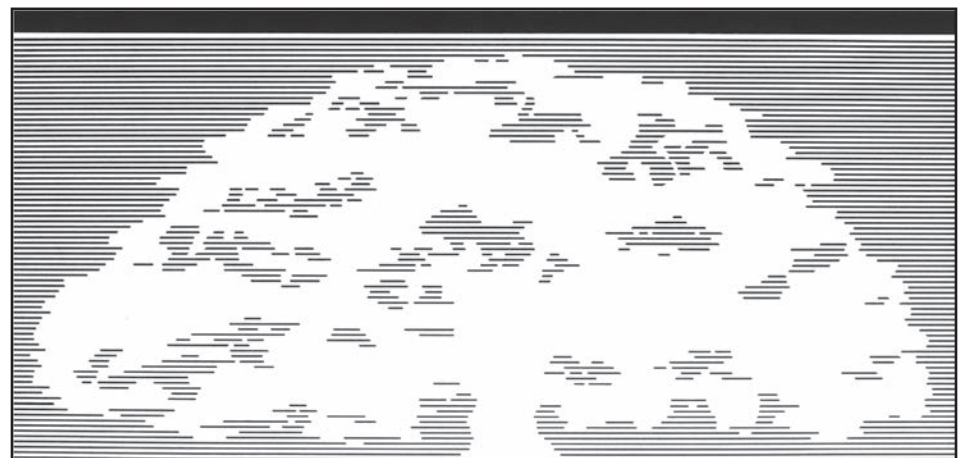
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Lots of Fun, Pumpkins and Treats for Halloween at Local Schools

By ORINDA NEWS STAFF

Get ready for some good old-fashioned Halloween fun as Orinda's elementary schools celebrate with a variety of events.

It's time for Glorietta's annual Funfest Carnival, a day filled with community building and family activities. This year FunFest will be Sunday, Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Glorietta Elementary School, located at the corner of Glorietta Boulevard and Martha Road.

The community is welcome to come and join in the Halloween spirit and festivities. The great attractions at this year's carnival include: a Super Slide, rockwall, DJ, haunted house, games, an exciting raffle and gourmet food trucks. Game booths are designed to appeal to kids of all ages - from preschool to middle school - and there will be game prizes galore!

"FunFest is a tradition the kids get excited about and look forward to every year," says Cady Behles. "It is as much a part of the kids' Halloween tradition as trick-or-treat night. Many Gopher grads are now in middle school and come back to enjoy the carnival with their friends. There will also



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A little girl tests her strength at a previous year's Fun Fest at Glorietta Elementary.

be many fun activities for pre-schoolers in the area, which gives them an early introduction to the Glorietta school campus."

Del Rey Elementary School celebrates [SEE HALLOWEEN page 29]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2018 Tech Trek campers reunited at a reception on Sept. 7. Front row (L-R): **Ella Easley, Marianne Eichmann, Isabelle Katz and Liesel Hilkemeyer**; Back row (L-R): **Jada Hembrador, Maya Martono and Maggie Conklin**.

AAUW Tech Trekkers Thrilled By Their Experiences at Grace Hopper STEM Camp

By JAN CUSHMAN, Chair, AAUW-OML Tech Trek Program

The seven enthusiastic 8th grade girls who attended Tech Trek camp in July were honored at a reunion and reception on Sept. 7. Maggie Conklin, Ella Easley, Marianne Eichmann, Jada Hembrador, Liesel Hilkemeyer, Isabelle Katz and Maya Martono shared their experiences with branch members and parents. The girls were delighted seeing their future in a variety of possible STEM careers while bonding with "like-minded girls" who love science and math. Molly Mudgett, a former 2013 Tech Trekker and three-time camp counselor, joined the reunion. She will be studying engineering at Northwestern this fall.

This year, core classes at camp included Computer Coding and Cyber Sleuthing, as well as Marine Biology, CSI Forensics and Aerospace Engineering. At camp, the girls took apart computers, wrote computer

code, dissected fish virtually, learned the physics of hand-made cars and went on field trips. They stayed up until midnight looking through a variety of telescopes and talking with engaging amateur astronomers. They "speed dated" to learn about the STEM careers of 10 professional women. They learned about structural engineering and built structures using rolled up newspapers. And much more!

In reviews of the experience, participants voiced their affirmation of the event: 1) "This camp has been a fun, amazing and life-changing experience that I will never forget." 2) "Thanks to this opportunity, I can leave with more confidence and an even greater love for STEM." 3) "Continue to inspire girls like me to pursue STEM careers!" and 4) "Tech Trek was one of the best weeks ever!"

Christine Walwyn and Gail Chesler were dorm moms at camp, and Gail and Molly Mudgett taught the girls how to solder and make flashlights.



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California Magic '08 Girls Win Back-to-Back SoccerFest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The **California Magic Soccer Club's '08 Girls** claimed their age group's SoccerFest championship for the second year in a row. Coach Tony Neto applauded the passion and enthusiasm the team displayed throughout the two-day tournament, saying "The team trained hard this past summer and developed a true passion for teamwork. I am very proud of them." The San Ramon-based tournament hosted over 125 teams from across Northern California.



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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Candidates for City Council Discuss Their Priorities for Orinda

Dennis Fay



Future of Downtown

I hear all the time that Orindans wish they had more in-town shopping, dining and entertainment. I envision a revitalized downtown with stores and services you need and enjoy, no vacant buildings and idle lots, and all this set off in a spruced-up, inviting streetscape. This can be done without sacrificing the beauty of our setting and the small-town character we all value.

[SEE FAY page 14]

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The five members of Orinda's City Council are elected volunteers who set policy, give direction to City Staff and make budget decisions. Besides attending twice-monthly council meetings, each councilmember serves on several committees. They also interact with the various levels of government between the city and the state on issues such as transportation, housing and traffic. This November, five candidates (including two incumbents) will vie for three available seats: Mayor Amy Worth and Eve Phillips (incumbents); Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Kathleen Jenkins.

They were asked the following questions:

- 1) The future of Orinda's downtown has residents divided into several groups: no change; minimal change; and significant reconfiguration. Given the ULI and Main Street studies and the soon to be completed Downtown Streetscape recommendations, how would you reconcile these diverse views and still retain Orinda's "village character?"
- 2) With a small revenue base, Orinda's budget has little wiggle room. The Miner Road Bridge (with significant reimbursements from the Federal Government still outstanding), put a severe strain on the budget. How would you propose to keep the city's finances strong and possibly increase revenue?
- 3) The City of Orinda recently launched a pilot residential parking permit program on Brookwood Road. What other suggestions do you have for solving the growing problem of parking in downtown Orinda?
- 4) How would you rank, in order of importance, three areas of need in Orinda?
- 5) What leadership/management skills/experience do you possess that will make you an effective City Councilmember?

Amy Worth



Future of Downtown

After Orinda's incorporation, discussions began about the downtown revitalization resulting in the "Heart of Orinda." It included building a gym and a city hall where the library is now located. City Manager Bill Lindsay called me (I was a member of the Friends of the Orinda Library Board) with the idea of instead building a new library and putting City Hall at the old library site.

[SEE WORTH page 18]

Kathleen Jenkins



Future of Downtown

Orindans' seemingly polarized interests are closer than suggested by the question. Introducing changes that will invigorate downtown in concert with our General Plan must come from a council that will balance the interests of Orinda's multi-generational makeup. The end product must benefit the community as a whole. What is paramount is that change proceed from a ground-up rather than a top-down approach.

The residents, not outside consultants, should be the driver of change. Consultant firms promote plans that are often restrictive and contain expensive solutions that if implemented, may destroy a community's sense of place. Vital to a city's future is a council that recognizes and encourages citizen initiative without dampening the creative enthusiasm behind it.

[SEE JENKINS page 14]

Nick Kosla



Future of Downtown

There is widespread support in the community for a more vibrant, convenient and revitalized downtown. We need more retail options, vitality and community-gathering spots, including a restored creek. All of these goals are consistent with our current "village character."

At the same time, the state is increasingly pressuring cities like Orinda to develop downtown areas around transit. If Orinda does not address the deteriorating state of our downtown soon, the state will do it for us in a one-size-fits-all approach. We need to start a community conversation immediately on ways to improve our commercial properties downtown. The status quo otherwise will lead us to stagnation and risk of state intervention.

[SEE KOSLA page 17]

Eve Phillips



Future of Downtown

That grouping does not fit with my experience of speaking with Orindans about our downtown. I have yet to meet anyone who wants no change; few folks find the Phairs building, empty for two decades, an asset to our community. The differences I have found come in what kind of change people want. Do they want some new retail and perhaps offices to meet the shopping, dining and services needs of existing Orindans so they don't have to drive to Lafayette or beyond? Do they want to maintain parking and height limitations to keep the current character? Or are they looking to drive more

[SEE PHILLIPS page 17]

RE-ELECT
EVE PHILLIPS
Orinda City Council

About Eve

- * An advocate for Orinda residents
- * Miramonte, MIT & Stanford alum
- * Group Product Manager at Google

Top Priorities

- * Encourage vibrancy downtown while protecting our village character (and parking!)
- * Fix the road maintenance funding gap
- * Maintain a balanced budget
- * Listen to you!

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Paid for by Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council 2018, FPPC # 1369353

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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

◆ **FAY** from page 13

We do not need high rises to accomplish a revitalization of downtown. Realistically, any changes will only come when property owners are ready, and we should be prepared to respond. A vision for downtown, thoroughly vetted with Orindans, is also critical.

We can also take some short term actions. I'd seek façade grants from regional, state or federal sources, work to encourage small businesses tailored to community needs, and promote businesses that attract activity -- such as the Orinda Theatre. Supporting and encouraging the Orinda Theatre is particularly important for many reasons. It brings cultural activities to the City such as the film festival and cabaret nights. Those activities create customers for local businesses. The theater is an icon that, because of its location, promotes Orinda. It is my theater of choice.

City's Finances

In a small city such as Orinda, natural disasters can be a big budget problem. Having been a member of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission for some time, I have observed the difficulty of managing the City budget. In addition, for almost 20 years, I was the executive director of an Alameda County transportation agency and struggled with balancing budgets year after year. I learned a few things from these experiences:

Fiscal prudence is critical – don't commit money you don't have.

It is important to be continually looking for ways to provide the same service at a lower cost. The old ways of doing business should be reevaluated, especially in light of new technology.

Reassess priorities periodically, so that your budget is focused on critical needs.

Build and maintain reserves for emergencies and unanticipated events.

I learned during my career that increasing revenues is also important to your mission. An example directly applicable to Orinda is the new revenue streams secured over the last few years to repair our roads – bond funding and a sales tax. No amount of reassessing priorities would have provided the revenue needed in the last few years to get our roads well maintained. Diversifying the base of a community's funding is also important – much like diversifying your investments. The road funding program is again an example. Bonds provide a fixed stream of funding while the sales tax moves with the economy.

Downtown Parking

There are two parking problems in downtown Orinda: (1) parking for residents that live in or near downtown and (2) parking for customers and employees in downtown. These two problems have different solutions that can be in conflict. A balance will need to be found.

The City's pilot residential parking permit program is attempting to address parking problems for residents that live in or near downtown. Depending on the outcome of the pilot, this program could be expanded.

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce has identified three parking issues: space in the Theatre Square underground structure; parking for employees; and BART parking. The Chamber has made progress at the Theatre Square parking garage - 60 spaces have been freed up by limiting the number of BART parkers, easing the parking problem in downtown. Employee parking issues might be addressed by monthly permits for employees to park on adjacent streets, provided there is not a negative impact on residents. BART needs to look at creative ways, through technology and old-fashioned techniques such as valet parking, to add parking at the station. In the

not too distant future, shared autonomous vehicles may also play a role in reducing BART parking demand.

Important Areas of Need

Fiscal Health - I am committed to a fiscally responsible and sustainable underpinning for the City of Orinda's annual budget. Nothing can move forward without this.

Public Safety – Crime and fire prevention are a high priority for me. I plan to focus on crime prevention, such as deterrence using camera surveillance and other techniques. I think it is also important to encourage our fire district's efforts at fire prevention, including using technology.

Completing the Repair of our Roads – Roads are much like a home needing regular maintenance to avoid costly, disruptive repairs. Considerable has been accomplished in the last several years, but there is still work to do.

While these are three key priorities, there are many more that must simultaneously be worked on – revitalizing downtown, enhancing our parks, etc. City governance requires balancing many priorities at one

time.

Qualifications

I served for nearly 20 years as the executive director of what is now called the Alameda County Transportation Commission, which is governed by a board of locally elected officials. At the point of my retirement, I was responsible for a roughly \$90 million annual budget and an almost \$600 million program of transportation projects. Management skills are crucial to successful outcomes in such a situation. Schedules and budgets must be set, monitored and adjusted for unforeseen circumstances. The right people must be selected and encouraged. I have worked with elected officials and community groups with diverse and opposing opinions, negotiating successful outcomes through a collaborative approach. Much can be accomplished when people truly listen to each other. My time on Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission gives me familiarity with our City structure. My engineering education at MIT gives me a keen sense of how to use technology.

◆ **JENKINS** from page 13

City's Finances

Orinda's updated Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (Year 2) Mid-Cycle Budget Update (budget) adopted June 19, 2018 Resolution No. 45-18 reveals that the Miner Road sinkhole was completed within six months while advancing \$3.75 million in General Fund reserves to completion. It is my understanding that of the \$3.75 million amount incurred, only \$2 million has been recovered. This jeopardized the City's maintenance of emergency and cash flow reserves. The Miner Road sinkhole in 2017-2018 that depleted our General Fund Reserves from our set policy level of \$5.7 million down to \$1.95 million warrants financial restraint and financial accountability which is the

number one responsibility of our City Council; keeping our city financially sound.

A recent admission in the Orinda publication *Outlook* mentions that we have deferred maintenance pending on our community center and other city amenities. I would insist on using our limited funding to tackle the deferred list of maintenance issues, according to priority, while applying patience and fiscal restraint on spending public funding.

Downtown Parking




Parking downtown is a problem for our working families who daily seek BART parking. BART parking lots are normally full after 7 a.m. Partnerships with private property owners such as businesses and

[SEE JENKINS 2 page 17]


NICK KOSLA

for

COUNCIL

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PAID FOR by NICK KOSLA for ORINDA CITY COUNCIL 2018 FPPC# pending

WHY PICK NICK?

DOWNTOWN:
Invigorate downtown while keeping Orinda's unique ambiance and charm

SAFETY:
Ensure that Orinda has an updated community safety plan for neighborhoods and schools

PARKS:
Enhance parks and utilize more of our vast open spaces

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:
Bring private sector expertise managing large budgets to ensure fiscal oversight and responsibility

VIP ENDORSEMENTS

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Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
Dean Orr, Orinda City Councilmember
Darlene Gee, Orinda City Councilmember
Sue Severson, Former Orinda Mayor
Victoria Smith, Former Orinda Mayor
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John Wyro, Former MOFD President
Julie Rossiter, OUSD Board Member
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Linda Landau, Former OUSD Board Member
Kara Dille, EFO President
Sonya Grover, OIS Parents' Club President
Meighan Baldwin, Wagner Ranch Parents' Club President
Steve Harwood, Orinda Citizen of the Year
Richard Westin, Orinda Citizen of the Year
Janet Pease, Orinda Citizen of the Year
Ted Urban, Orinda Citizen of the Year

*Titles and affiliations of each individual are provided for identification only

MOFD CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Moraga Orinda Fire District Give Their Views

Stephen Anderson



By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has a five-member board of directors representing five divisions. Charged with providing strategic leadership, policy and direction and fiscal oversight, the directors are elected to a four-year term and represent a specific division.

Division 1 has Nathan W. Bell and Gregory J. Baitx vying for one position with the Division 2 representative not up for re-election. Since Division 1 is only voted on by Moraga residents, we did not include those candidates in this article. In Division 3, which comprises parts of Moraga and Orinda, there are three candidates for the one position: incumbent Stephen L. Anderson; retired fire administrator Steven Michael Danziger; and technology executive Robert "Red" Smith. In Division 4, retired Oakland firefighter Michael Donner and community volunteer Lucy Talbot will vie for the one position available.

The candidates were asked the following questions:

1. What motivated you to run for a MOFD board seat and what expertise will you bring to the board?
2. What prior community volunteer and/or board of directors experience will you bring to the board?
3. How will you guide MOFD to prevent a wildfire from occurring in Orinda/Moraga?
4. What lessons can be learned from the recent major California wildfires and how do you envision MOFD preparing for similar fires in Orinda/Moraga?
5. Whether or not Orinda taxpayers pay more than their fair share of MOFD's expenses has been a hot topic for many years as well as unfunded pension liabilities. How would you address these financial concerns?

Lucy Talbot



Why Running/Expertise

I am running for MOFD as an independent candidate who wants to represent the community's needs and not to serve any special interest group. As an owner of a small business, incoming board president of a community-based philanthropy and a concerned citizen, I will leverage my experience to serve the public's best inter-

[SEE TALBOT page 24]

Why Running/Expertise

I originally ran for the MOFD Board after seeing an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on the retirement package for former Fire Chief Peter Nowicki. I was angered at the gross waste of taxpayer dollars. In September 2015, the CCCERA retirement board voted to cut Nowicki's annual pension of \$240,923 to \$172,818 and ordered

[SEE ANDERSON page 16]

Steven Danziger



Michael Donner



Red Smith



Why Running/Expertise

After living in both Moraga and Orinda for 30 years, coaching youth baseball for 20 years, and volunteering in many other ways; I wanted to elevate my contributions through public service as an independent candidate singularly dedicated to serving the community.

During the recent fire emergencies in other cities, I was struck that we have the same vulnerabilities in Moraga and Orinda. As a board member, I will help assess and balance the complex needs of our residents, our fire district personnel, and our annual budget to provide the best services possible

[SEE SMITH page 24]

Why Running/Expertise

I was motivated to run because there is a need for change on the board and I have the experience, knowledge and desire to help improve MOFD. No board member had experience in the fire service. Their inexperience led to decisions that resulted in delays in construction of Station 43, which is now 1.5 years behind schedule and conservatively 1.5 million over budget. Tens of thousands was wasted on projects to buy an office building and construct a firehouse with Contra Costa Fire.

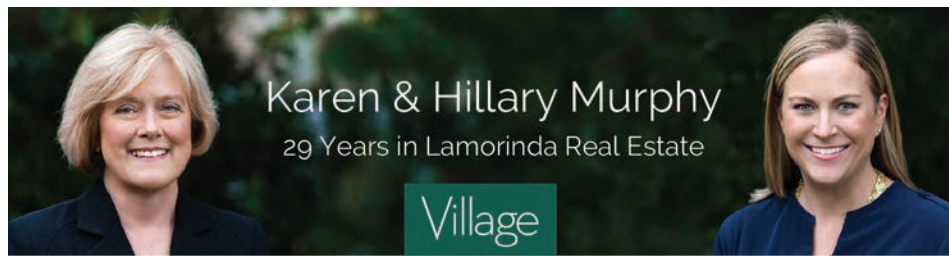
I have three-plus decades of governmental experience including 20 years as an administrative manager with Oakland Fire.

[SEE DANZIGER page 16]

Why Running/Expertise

After witnessing the devastation from recent wildland fires in the North Bay, I realized how my 31-year career with the Oakland Fire Department and my volunteer experience in emergency preparedness could be valuable to our community. I have a deep understanding of the fire service based on the wide variety of calls I have responded to, including major incidents such as the Loma Prieta earthquake with the collapse of the Cypress structure and the Oakland Hills Firestorm. Emergency preparedness is a topic that I am very passionate about. I served on the Orinda Union School District's emergency preparedness

[SEE DONNER page 18]



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VOTE RED SMITH Moraga Orinda Fire District Board

- 30 years in Moraga & Orinda; wife, Gina Arico-Smith and 4 redheaded kids
- MBA - UC Berkeley; BS Finance - USC
- Over 35 year career in business and technology
- Passionate Community Volunteer

Commitment to:

- Maintain excellent fire and medical services
- Focus on fire prevention
- Use technologies to improve operations
- Prudently manage budget
- Be responsive to community concerns



East Bay Times endorsement of "Red Smith, a technology company executive, provides the best hope for the [Moraga Orinda Fire] district ..."

Endorsers of Red Smith MOFD, Division 3:

- Steven Glazer, California State Senator, District 7
- Brad Barber, President, Moraga Orinda Fire District Board
- John Jex, Moraga Orinda Fire District Board
- Craig Jorgens, Moraga Orinda Fire District Board
- Sue Severson, former Mayor City of Orinda
- Joe Rosenbaum, Moraga School Board
- Charles MacNulty, former Moraga School Board
- Stacy Giglio, President, Campolindo Parent's Club
- And hundreds of Orinda and Moraga citizens.

Titles for identification only. Partial list of endorsers.
Paid for by Red Smith for Moraga Orinda Fire District 2018, FPPC pending

MOFD CANDIDATES

◆ **ANDERSON** from page 15

him to return more than \$600,000 in overpayments. The cost savings by correcting future overpayments was projected at over \$1.2 million. Results Count.

I bring six years of MOFD board experience to include hiring a new administrative services director, terminating the previous accounting firm, establishing accurate and awarding-winning financial reporting with GASB 68 requirements, a clearly documented understanding of unfunded liabilities, pension stabilization funds addressing the unfunded liabilities, extensive Union contract negotiations skills, completed review/evaluation of the urban wildlands interface within the district leading to extensive efforts to mitigate, and upgraded ISO rating. Results Count.

Community Involvement

With a new board in December, I will be the most experienced board member; all other members will have two to zero years of experience. I have an organizational memory of “what works” and “what doesn’t work” within the MOFD framework, along with extensive experience working within the legal requirements of a California Special District.

I have owned and/or managed multiple IT companies, chairing or participating on multiple Boards. I am a member of the Yosemite Conservancy and have personally financed, directed, and physically assisted in the restoration of back country cabins within Yosemite National Park to include one built by the Curry family in 1929 and used by Ansel Adams as a base for his Yosemite photographic expeditions.

Preventing Wildfires

A multi-faceted question, however there is a disconnect between the question and the actual “job description” of an MOFD board member. Operationally the fire

marshall under direct supervision of the fire chief sets all operational procedures and policies including wildfire prevention measures. That said, the current board has done extensive work to mitigate and reduce wildfire danger i.e.:

Legal action within the “Town of Canyon” to eliminate illegal structures on right-of-ways;

Annual Spring individual lot reviews of fire loads, with enforcement if the property owner ignores to completion dates, actual physical inspections by the fire marshall. Note this director was involved in the promotion of the current fire marshall;

Written notice to all property owners of what measures they are required to take;

Actual multiple agency fire exercises to burn excess the fire loads;

Coordination with PGE and EBMUD to reduce the existing fire load;

Coordination of water sources within the district to include previously unknown water point within Briones Regional Park;

Coordinate with EBMUD vis-a-vis existing substandard hydrants (this director has personally met with EBMUD officials to address this issue and accelerate the replacement schedule) This is an area were the direct participation of a director is necessary to move EBMUD politically;

Publication of individual homework pamphlets addressing “what the homeowner can do to prepare;”

Testing and experimenting with unattended Tele-monitors for early fire detection;

Train/coordinate exercises with Contra Costa Fire, CalFire, EBMUD and EBRPs;

Sponsored multiple public workshops detailing the responsibilities and mitigation efforts a property owner can take, including the utilization of drought-resistant planting;

Coordinate and support Rescue One, communications volunteers, and CERT training;

[SEE ANDERSON 2 page 31]

◆ **DANZIGER** from page 15

I also worked in the Oakland Finance and City Manager’s Office. I have a Master’s in Public Administration. I bring a unique perspective to the Board-someone who has fire service and governmental experience. I believe that my skill set will be an asset to the District and will result in a safer Moraga, Orinda and Canyon.

Community Involvement

I have a passion for public service and a desire to make a difference. During the 23 years I have lived in Orinda, I have been scoutmaster of Troop 57, den leader for Pack 52, an OBA & OYA coach, and a swim club VP. While my boys were going to school I regularly volunteered at the schools and on field trips. I am presently an Orinda Parks and Rec Commissioner, member of the Art in Public Places Committee and a UC Master Gardener. On most first Sunday’s, you can find me at the Moraga Farmer’s Market talking about plants. I am a member of Friends of the Library and Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area. I previously was a Hayward Commissioner, and I am extremely proud of the 69 blood donations I have provided to the American Red Cross to help save a life.

Preventing Wildfires

Chief Winnacker and Fire Marshal Leonard have been extremely pro active this season in efforts to abate weeds and over grown vegetation. I will support their efforts to ensure our community is as fire safe as possible. As a board member, I will be vigilant in finding ways to have a more robust fire prevention program. Some of the ways I envision of accomplishing this include: continue to support the chief’s pilot program-The Emergency Outdoor Warning System; increasing the number of part-time fire aides; restoring the Fire Reserve Program, working with neighborhoods and

elected officials to provide common sense defensible space guidelines for homes; looking at the possibility of increased parking restrictions on narrow/winding streets, emphasize the importance in CERT to help prepare residents for responding to emergencies, promote the “Fire Safe Program;” increase an awareness campaign to educate the public on fire prone landscaping plants and the use of more fire-resistant native plants, support increased wildland training opportunities for firefighters; and conducting a thorough review of equipment and apparatus used in fire fighting.

As director, I intend to discuss hazard mitigation and apply as much influence as possible on large property owners like PG&E, EBMUD, EBRPG and private owners to adequately manage their properties. I will work with other elected officials to hold them accountable for maintaining properties and taking responsibility in case of fire.

Some of these programs will take funding, and there are presently limited financial resources available. The board will have to work with the chief to prioritize any new programs and try to identify funding sources. Grants, private donations and special State funds may be options. A result of the recent Northern California fires may be that new legislation provides funding for local community fire prevention programs.

Lessons from Recent Fires

In many ways, our community is similar to the areas affected by the recent wildfires, and the district has already begun to look at the lessons learned from those incidents. Data is still being analyzed but some general findings have been identified. The major areas that MOFD needs to concentrate on include: better public awareness of evacuation routes, families should be better prepared and have a plan of escape, communication tools like Nixel, reverse 911 &

[SEE DANZIGER 2 page 24]

Lucy Talbot

Businesswoman Volunteer

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

- **Endorsed by over 250 Orinda voters including:**

Steve Glazer, CA Senate	MOFD Directors:
East Bay Times	Brad Barber
Amy Worth, Orinda Mayor	John Jex
	Craig Jorgens
- “Committed to holding the line on spending and paying down debt.” East Bay Times Editorial
- “Lucy is deeply concerned about fire prevention, fiscal responsibility, and emergency response times. We ask our friends and neighbors to please give Lucy your vote!” Joan and Frank Mawell, Orinda
- UC Berkeley – BA
- Retired Motorola sales executive to fire districts
- Co-owner 33 year-old family business with husband Al
- 35 year Orinda resident and community volunteer
- President CHBI raising funds for UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital

TO MAKE ORINDA SAFER MOFD MUST:

- Allocate more resources to **fire prevention**
- Reduce response times using technology
- Reduce **\$70M Unfunded Pension and Medical Liability**

www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com

Paid for by Lucy Talbot for MOFD 2018

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

◆ JENKINS 2 from page 14

local churches are highly desirable and should be explored. One resident told me last weekend that they would consider taking the County Connection Bus 6 from Lafayette BART to Orinda BART if the service operated every 15 minutes instead of every 40 minutes during rush hour. According to County Connection, the service frequency is based on ridership. I would work with County Connection to conduct a pilot program for several months wherein this bus runs every 15 minutes. Should our commuters take advantage of this service during a pilot program such as this, the County may support this on an ongoing basis.

Important Areas of Need

The following are equally important:

The need to retain the quality and class size of Orinda schools: As superior schools are the major reason why people move to Orinda, I will protect school classroom size from inordinate growth that threatens student achievement.

The need to retain our local control of land use authority and planning: I will continue to fight to maintain our local government control from bureaucratic overreach by the State of California.

The need to enforce fiscal restraint in management of our city: I will keep spending within our means just as every Orinda family in our city practices daily.

Qualifications

Leadership and management skills consist of many attributes but experience and temperament to work collaboratively with residents and city staff of are of utmost importance for city leadership. It is critical to invest the necessary time to fully examine the issues that arise, while weighing multiple options and their consequences. I have over 35 years of experience collaborating

and negotiating, managing, and administration of large contracts, utilizing public and private funding with suppliers, universities, and federal agencies. I feel confident that my experience will lend itself to ethical, financially sound, and beneficial decisions for our city.

◆ KOSLA from page 13

City's Finances

We need to be fiscally smart with the money we have, to ensure accountability and that dollars are spent wisely. Orinda has an aging system of streets and utilities, which means more potential disasters like what occurred with the Miner Road bridge collapse. Upgrading this infrastructure will take careful planning and money. We'll need a robust community dialogue and expert opinions on ways to keep Orinda's roads and utilities in a state of good repair. Notably, an improved retail scene in our downtown will enhance city revenues by keeping Orinda dollars in Orinda.

Downtown Parking

The parking problem in downtown is mostly concentrated in the Theatre Square side on the southern half of Orinda. The residential parking permit program is a good start to try different options to address parking woes. We also should increase enforcement of our existing parking policies. Given that some of the parking pressure comes from BART commuters, in the long term, we need to explore ways to expand the parking supply at the BART lot and improve access to BART for neighborhood shuttles and other shared vehicles, as a way to reduce demand for parking there.

Important Areas of Need

A. Public safety – From crime to natural disasters, Orinda needs to be better prepared for emergencies. First and foremost, our community must be safe.

B. Downtown enhancement – Our deteriorating downtown needs a refresh, and a failure to address this problem will result in diminished property values, sales tax revenue, quality of life and ultimately state intervention.

C. Fiscal stability – In many ways, this goes hand in hand with Downtown Enhancement. Orinda is a small city, with relatively low revenues and expenditures. But a big infrastructure disaster like at Miner Road will hurt our budget. We need better accountability for how we spend our existing dollars and options to create budget predictability.

Qualifications

As chair of the Orinda Planning Commission, I was able to run meetings effectively and efficiently ensuring that both applicants and concerned Orindans were treated fairly. Making decisions is not always easy, but to be an effective member of a voting body, it is critical to create consensus whenever possible and make the difficult decisions when necessary for the good of the City. I promise to treat everyone that I interact with at City Council meetings with the utmost respect and dignity, just as I did when I was on the Orinda Planning Commission and other educational, professional and public boards and commissions that I've served on over the last 20+ years.

◆ PHILLIPS from page 13

residential options, and consider our current parking and height requirements outdated?

Those are the major differences I have seen, and the community and Council has not yet found a path forward. To attempt some progress, we are now trying to take smaller steps that have the backing of much of the community. The goals of the Streetscape efforts are to identify these smaller changes that have broad support.

In addition, we need to make sure the community is involved in the discussion.

We have one developer actively trying to bring a new retail/office building to Orinda across from the Community Center - which would be the first new commercial development in decades! I supported this developer's recent application, but unfortunately - much like the past several attempts to renovate the Phairs building - the application was rejected by the Council. If the community wants change, I hope they will make their viewpoints clear.

City's Finances

We need to continue to fund our reserves to make sure we have a cushion for exceptional events. This funding must take priority over less critical projects, as the core purpose of the City is to provide key services, including police services, to the City. More generally, the City must continue its tradition of conservative financial management. While the City is in the fortunate position of having a defined-contribution plan for the majority of its City employees, and thus not face the major pension issues of many other municipalities, since we contract our police officers from the County, we must pay the costs of a defined benefit plan bundled into that contract. Police costs have continued to rise, and we should expect they will continue to do so, and thus we must watch our other revenue and expenses carefully.

Downtown Parking

Our parking problem, particularly on the Theatre side, is both complex (there are a number of stakeholders - residential neighbors, shoppers, employees, office workers, BART commuters - whose needs must be considered and optimized for) and simple (there aren't enough parking spaces). To satisfy this problem, we have to look at both optimizing the current supply for what the community thinks are the highest

[SEE PHILLIPS 2 page 28]

Elect Dennis Fay Orinda City Council

- Over 20 year Orinda resident with wife Natalie & two children
- Masters Degree in Engineering from MIT
- Over 40 years experience working in the transportation field
- Current member & past chair Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC)
- Orinda Volunteer of Year Award 2006, Infrastructure Committee

dennis4orinda.com



If elected to serve on the Orinda City Council, my specific priorities would be anchored in the following:

- Open, accessible communication and a collaborative approach to problem solving. Much can be accomplished when people truly listen to each other.
- Preserving what makes our community outstanding and preparing for the future, while maintaining local control. Orinda is one of the Bay Area's most beautiful small towns. Yet maintaining Orinda's quality of life can be state and federal dollars.
- Keeping our community safe with a commitment to crime and fire prevention.
- Fiscal responsibility and commitment to a sustainable underpinning for the City of Orinda's annual budget. Nothing can move forward without this.

Community leaders and citizens endorse Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council:

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mark Desaulnier - U.S. Congressman, California's 11th District | Darlene Gee - Orinda City Council Member | Orinda Mayor | Member | Bruce Burrows | Kathleen Finch | Charles Levine | Doug Smith |
| Steve Glazer - California State Senator, District 7 | Brad Barber - MOFD President | Victoria Smith - Former Orinda Mayor | Linda Landau - Former OUSD Board Member & Orinda Citizen of the Year 2010 | Karen Burt | Glen Gagon | Annette Linney | Wick Smith |
| Don Perata - Former President pro tempore, California Senate (Orinda Resident) | Craig Jorgens - MOFD Board Member | Bill Judge - Former Orinda Mayor | Dick Burkhalter - Orinda Volunteer of the Year 2016 | Robert Burt | Kellyn Gagon | Mike Linney | Ann Sorenson |
| James Bourgart - Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, State of California | John Jex - MOFD Board Member | Alex Evans - Former MOFD Board Member | Steve Harwood - Orinda Citizen of the Year 2011 | Carol Chung | Dennis Gee | Trudy Loscotoff | Lee Sorenson |
| Robert McCleary - Retired CCTA Executive Director | Greg Haet - Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and Founder of Bike Orinda | Michele Jacobson - Former Orinda Planning Commissioner | P. A. Amstutz | Steve Cohn | Katharine Guptill | David M Mayeri | Cynthia Stanaro |
| Dean Orr - Orinda City Council Member | Terry J. Murphy - Orinda CIOC Member | Lee Bigman - Former Orinda Planning Commissioner | Carole Amstutz | Keiko Cresante | Art Haigh | Yoni Mayeri | Richard Stanaro |
| | William Hurrell - Orinda CIOC Member | Chris Severson - Former OUSD Board President | David Anderson | Tom Cresante | Trish Harwood | Josh McDowell | Eleanor Sylvester |
| | Jud Hammon - Orinda CIOC Member | Pamela West - Former OUSD Board Member | Sandra Anderson | Rose Anne Critchfield | Helen Hasselman | Laura McDowell | Kathleen Thompson |
| | Richard Nelson - Orinda CIOC Member | Nancy Kaible - Former OUSD Board Member | Cindy Barber | Ellen Dale | Pete Hasselman | Bette Michelotti | Richard Thompson |
| | Sue Severson - Former | | Lauren Bennett | Joffa Dale | Gayl Hirschfeld | Elle Murphy | Lynn Trowbridge |
| | | | Steve Bennett | Weifeng Dong | Harlan Hirschfeld | Hillary Murphy | Bob West |
| | | | Larry Bigman | Alison Drasin | Sue Hurrell | Sallie Nelson | Laura Lee Wittenberg |
| | | | Orin Bigman | T. Eric Drasin | Elisabeth Jewel | Alissa Lillie Orr | Tim Woodbury |
| | | | Elizabeth Bilotti | Mary Eggersten | Marlene Jex | Virginia Peiser | Marinda Wu |
| | | | | Tom Eggersten | Barbara Jones | Carol Penskar | Norm Wu |
| | | | | Ethan Elkind | Urea Jones | Maureen Perata | Rachel Zenner |
| | | | | Jessica Elkind | Lisa Jorgens | Elizabeth Reynolds | John Zentner |
| | | | | Adam Fecadu | Bergen Kenny | Claire Roberts | Meg Zentner |
| | | | | Jill Fernald Levine | Jim Landau | Mark Roberts | |
| | | | | Kevin Fick | Craig Larsen | Pam Severson | |
| | | | | Marcia Fick | Kirsten Larsen | Ralph Severson | |
| | | | | Robert Finch | Chris Laszcz-Davis | Claire Smith | |

CANDIDATES

◆ **WORTH** from page 13

We immediately embraced the idea and the Friends raised \$5 million in private funds to build both the library, auditorium and plaza. Simultaneously, I co-chaired the OUSD school bond campaign which raised money to re-open Wagner Ranch School, enabling the City and the school district to enter into an historic joint-use agreement to build the Wagner Ranch Community gym, thus freeing the downtown for the library and plaza. The library provided a much-needed public investment catalyst to further downtown revitalization plans.

Orinda Way was wide, sidewalks were narrow and presented significant barriers to safe automobile and bicycle access as well as pedestrian enjoyment of the downtown. While we built the library, we applied for a Metropolitan Transportation Commission grant to renovate the streetscape. Former Mayor Laura Abrams and I enlisted the help of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher and successfully secured a \$420,000 grant to complete the Orinda Way improvements we have today.

We are now engaged in a community discussion about the streetscape in the Crossroads and Village areas of the downtown. As this is Orinda's "Living Room," it is essential that a wide range and number of Orindans engage in this process to express what they would like to see in the downtown. I believe that a robust community engagement process will result in the best outcome with the widest community support. Many possibilities could come out of this process, including local-serving housing, enhanced retail and restaurants. The City Council must be open to discussing and implementing the ideas that come out of the streetscape planning process. We have the makings of a local-serving, unique downtown, and now is the time to make sure it can serve Orinda's needs into the future.

City's Finances

Protecting Orinda's financial security is one of my highest priorities. As one of the smaller cities in Contra Costa County, Orinda's budget is very limited. With high expectations for City services, it is imperative that we keep a close watch on budget expenditures and do everything that we can to keep expenses down. With the strategic two-year budget cycle, we are able to monitor expenditures and match expenses with our City's priorities. Orinda has no unfunded pension liabilities, so we are able to focus revenue on current services. Through an open and public budget process and documents, residents are able to understand easily where Orinda spends its tax dollars. On the revenue side, voters have approved local dedicated taxes to repair and maintain the local roads and drains and to provide the building maintenance and open hours at the Orinda library. Annually, we update user fees to accurately reflect the costs of services provided, and I have worked to actively seek outside grants for road paving, bridge seismic repairs, parks improvement and public safety and will continue to do so.

Downtown Parking

Parking in our downtown continues to be a challenge as we work to accommodate residents, businesses, neighborhoods and visitors to our community. We are working to develop ways to increase available parking for the downtown which could include parking enforcement, using excess capacity in surrounding parking lots, working with BART to identify satellite parking with shuttles, and expanding the residential permit program. We are also working to identify ways to increase parking for Orinda residents who use BART.

Important Areas of Need

Three high priorities for Orinda are to ensure its financial security by focusing budget priorities and expenditures, and by

securing additional revenue; to complete the infrastructure repair and maintenance of our roads and drains; and to complete the downtown street scape planning process which will result in the economic revitalization of our iconic Orinda downtown.

Qualifications

I am honored to serve as a member of the City Council and community volunteer. I have gained extensive experience in the leadership of the City. Orinda has been able to provide the excellent services that the residents want, with the limited funds available. As a regional leader, I advocate for Orinda's interests and I have worked hard to protect Orinda's local land use control. I believe in the public decision-making process which involves carefully listening to the public, considering all aspects of an issue and making the best decision to benefit the Orinda community. Orinda is a community of volunteers of all ages, and I encourage and support them in their efforts on behalf of the community. I explore new ideas, but I also understand and hold dearly Orinda's deep traditions and values. I listen, I'm open and I'm dedicated to serving the Orinda community.

◆ **DONNER** from page 15

committee for six years. I have helped present to the communities of both Moraga and Orinda on how to prepare for disaster. My experience in the fire service, my passion for emergency preparedness and my involvement with the community made the decision to run for the MOFD board an easy one.

Community Involvement

My volunteer experience is vast and diverse, which has been a part of my entire adult life. I have served as a board member for 14 years for Random Acts, a volunteer organization comprised of Oakland firefighters. More recently, I am excited to

have been participating with the Oakland Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation. I served on the emergency preparedness committee for six years with the Orinda Union School District. I implemented an emergency cache at Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate schools. Both schools have containers filled with food, water and first aid supplies in case of a disaster. I have coached dozens of local sports teams. I have volunteered with Seniors Around Town. I feel that my volunteer experience with Random Acts, Oakland Firefighters Cancer Prevention, the Orinda Union School District and local sports teams will be of great value to the MOFD board and our community.

Preventing Wildfires

The recent Buckingham fire earlier this summer in Moraga was a reminder of the fire threat to our District. The MOFD fire prevention staff is currently limited based on budget and staffing constraints. There is currently a fire marshal, a part-time fire inspector and three part-time district aides. The National Fire Protection Agency recommends a minimum of five full-time fire prevention personnel for a fire district the size of MOFD. Unfortunately, budget cuts have made the prevention program difficult to manage without the proper funding and staffing. I would recommend an increase in fire prevention staffing and an increase to the fire prevention budget.

I would like to see an emphasis on prevention programs such as defensible space, weed abatement, notification and strategic evacuation plans while collaborating with Public Works, Orinda Police, EBMUD and PG&E. I am excited about the new hot spot mapping program, which is the Fire Chief's recent pilot program.

Even with the best fire prevention program in the world, wildfire will occur. In addition to enhancing the fire prevention [SEE DONNER 2 page 28]

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT - Division 4



Experience

•

Leadership

•

Fiscal Responsibility

Make Your Vote Count!

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www.facebook.com/michaeldonner4mofd

VOTE

★★★★★★

DONNER

Vote **MICHAEL**



DONNER

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
DIVISION 4

Endorsed By: Eve Phillips, Orinda City Council Member • Matt Moran, Former Orinda Union School Board • Stacy Giglio, Campolindo Parents Club President • Pat Rudebusch, Former Orinda Union School Board President • Don Parker, San Ramon Valley Fire Board of Director • Manuel Navarro, Assistant Chief, Menlo Park Fire Department • John McPartland, BART Board of Director • California Professional Firefighters • Robert Lipp, FEMA Task Force 4 Leader • Local 55 Oakland Firefighters • Jeff Haughty, CEO HeadStart CPR • Walt Luihn, Retired Assistant Fire Chief Orinda Fire Department • Diane Dwyer, Lecturer UC Berkeley, Retired News Reporter • Local Business Leaders, Teachers and Firefighters and many more.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

The 2018 Guide to Orinda Restaurants – Bon Appétit!

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Why not stay local to avoid traffic and parking hassles? Try dining hometown whether it's a quick bite or a relaxed meal. Options include coffee/tea, healthy smoothies, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, a little nosh, a glass of wine or beer, scotch, or just takeout. Enjoy afternoon Happy Hour plus entertainment most Thur. – Sat. evenings at the Fourth Bore. Listen to pianist Patti Leidecker and drop-in singers at Cine Cuvée on Sun. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Skip the mess and treat the kids. Thanks for making a hometown choice. Keep this section or go online to www.orindanews.org, Oct. 2018.

AMERICAN/CALIFORNIA CUISINE

Casa Orinda
20 Bryant Way
925-254-2981
www.casaorinda.net

Hours: Dinner Mon. - Sat. 4 to 10 p.m.; Bar Mon. - Thur. 4 to 11 p.m.; Bar Fri. - Sat. 4 to 12 a.m.; Sun. Dinner 4 to 9 p.m.; Bar 4 to 10 p.m.

The Casa is Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant, celebrating 86 years! Try their prime rib, luscious fried chicken with homemade biscuits and mashed potatoes or sign up for a winemaker's dinner. Inside are historical photos of rodeo dudes and cowgirls plus antique firearms. Enjoy the full bar at this local gem – a place out of time. Reservations recommended.

Cine Cuvée
2 Theatre Square, #103
925-386-0125
www.cinecuvée.com

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 5 to 9 p.m.; Fri. 4 to 11 p.m.; Sat. – Sun. Brunch 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Sat. 3 to 11 p.m.; Sun. 3 to 9 p.m.; Closed Mon.

Sip flights of wine or craft beer while lounging on a leather banquette and watch a

silent film. Listen to pianist Patti Leidecker and drop-in singers on Open Mic Night, Sun., 6 to 9 p.m. Get your laugh on the first Wed. of every month at 7 p.m. stand-up Comedy Night. Try the New England lobster roll, lobster cocktail or Atlantic shrimp cocktail. Outdoor seating. Check website for special offers/events.

Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill
2 Theatre Square, #130
925-254-1183
www.thefourthbore.com

Hours: Sun. – Thur. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Happy Hour Mon. – Thur. 2 to 5 p.m., Mon. all day
Orinda's alehouse sporting 28 craft beer rotating taps, wine list and a full bar. Try the Brussels sprouts appetizer, grilled salmon Caesar salad, cheese steak or Portobello mushroom sandwich or anything from the wood fired grill. Sports on eight flat screens. Large outdoor seating with screen, big fire pit, comfy seating and event deck for live music most Thur. – Sat. evenings. Happy hour bar menu. Check online for specials and events. Dog friendly, validated parking.

Nation's Giant Hamburgers and Great Pies
76 Moraga Way
925-254-8888
www.nationsrestaurants.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Sun. – Wed. 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Thur. 6 a.m. to midnight; Fri. - Sat. 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Late at night and starving? Fast-food joints have nothing on these big, juicy burgers cooked just how you like 'em.



SALLY HOGARTY

Siam Orchid offers the unique flavors of authentic Thai cooking, along with a full bar and specialty cocktails.

They'll do it just as fast and for takeout too. Breakfast served all day. Pies by the slice or whole. Kids love this place and you won't break the bank.

Reem's Steaks
70 Moraga Way
925-253-2004

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sun.

Try one of their 15 types of Philly cheese steak sandwiches, eight burger choices, fish and chips or shrimp and chips. Nice selection of Korean BBQ – your choice of grilled beef short ribs, Bul-Go-Gi, spicy pork or chicken teriyaki served with rice and vegetables. Nutella lovers will like the crepes made with bananas or strawberries. Kid friendly with a special menu for them; take out.

Shelby's
2 Theatre Square, #152
925-254-9687
www.shelbyseatbetter.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Tue. – Thur. 5 to 8:30 p.m.;

Dinner Fri. – Sat. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Brunch Sat. - Sun. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sun. Dinner 5 to 8 p.m.

Popular for business breakfasts and lunches. Try their Chinese chicken salad, salmon bistro style, grilled Caesar salad. Desserts include crème brûlée and chocolate Charlotte. Full bar, patio seating great for people watching. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible, dog-friendly.

CAFES

Caffè Teatro
26 Orinda Way
(under the Orinda Library)
925-254-5871

Hours: Mon. – Thur. 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Orinda's answer to Cheers. Outdoor tables/umbrellas to enjoy changing art sculptures while sipping Illy coffee made to order; almond or soy milk on request. Try a generous, reasonably priced breakfast or lunch sandwich, or Bulgogi Korean BBQ. Quality tea selection. Kid friendly.

[SEE TEATRO page 20]

**"Amazing pizza...
Amazing service...
Amazing experience...!"**
- Yelp reviews

*Full Bar & Specialty Cocktails
*Thin-Crust Neapolitan Pizzas
*New Entrée Specials
*Homemade Pasta, Soup,
Salad and Dessert!

Delivery in Orinda
Nightly 5:00 – 8:00 pm
(Catering Available)

www.piccolo-napoli.com

Lunch Wed-Sun 11:30 am - 5:00 pm
Dinner Nightly 5:00 - 9:00 pm
Fri-Sat 'til 10:00 pm
2 Theatre Square, #144 Orinda
(925) 253-1225

Vote DANZIGER

Moraga-Orinda
Fire District
Division 3

THE ONLY DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE WITH ANY FIRE SERVICE OR GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE!

About Steven Danziger:
3+ decades of Public Sector Experience
20 yrs as Civilian Admin Mgr with Oakland Fire
23 yr Resident of Orinda
Orinda Parks & Rec Commissioner
Former Scoutmaster, Youth Coach, Swim Club VP
Master's in Public Administration
Former Yosemite Park Archeologist
UC Master Gardener

Goals:
Maintain & Enhance Fire Safety/Prevention
Fiscal Responsibility & Accountability
Strengthen Relationships with local public agencies
Be Responsive & Accessible to All

Endorsements (partial List):
State of Ca. Democratic Party
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
Lamorinda Democratic Club, Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County
International Association Of Firefighters Local 1230
Moraga-Orinda Professional Firefighter's Association
Orinda resident, Robert Lipp, FEMA, USAR Task Force 4 Chief
Orinda resident, Lance Calkin, Albany Fire Chief
Adrian Sheppard, Richmond Fire Chief
Darin White, Oakland Fire Chief
James Williams, Asst Chief, Sonoma County
Manuel Navarro, Division Chief Menlo Park Fire
Brian Oftedal, East Contra Costa Fire District
Don Parker, San Ramon Valley Fire Board
Tyehimba Peyton, Lathrop Manteca Fire Board
Melinda Drayton, Oakland Deputy Chief
John Baker, Retired Oakland Fire chief
Bill Moore, Retired Oakland Fire Chief
Alford Nero, Retired Tracy Fire Chief
Ray Dossa, Retired Battalion Chief
Megan Bryan, Firefighter, Saint Mary's College Women's Basketball '02

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

stevedanzigerforMOFD.com
stevedformofd@gmail.com
FB: Steven Michael Danziger for MOFD District 3

Vote STEVEN DANZIGER

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
DIVISION 3

Paid for by International Association of Firefighters Local 1230 Political Activity Committee FPPC 744488

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ **TEATRO** from page 19

Genuine Goodness
 21 Orinda Way, Suite G
 925-317-3348
www.gengoodness.com

Hours: Breakfast Mon. – Fri. 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed Sat. - Sun.

Owned by two Orindans who create handcrafted soups, salads sandwiches and smoothies made from all-natural, high-quality products. Menu changes daily such as chicken Masala sandwich with mango, tuna salad sandwich with lemon juice, apples and cranberries. They bake fresh daily and provide gluten-free options. Ample parking, outdoor seating.

Geppetto's Caffe
 87 Orinda Way
 925-253-9894

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Speedy drink service in the morning with fresh pastries or a breakfast burrito. Outside umbrellas offer a respite so you can enjoy a veggie sandwich on gluten free bread or a

tasty BLAT. Homemade soup and smoothies. Order by phone at busy lunch time for quick service.

Peet's Coffee and Tea
 63 Moraga Way
 925-258-9328
www.peets.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Exceptional beans freshly roasted and served up by expert baristas. Variety of teas and tasty pastries. Try their ethereal jasmine downy pearls tea. Wi Fi; comfy seating inside, benches outside.

Starbucks
 2 Theatre Square, #106
 925-258-0476
www.starbucks.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Sun. 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Convenient location, friendly baristas, coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials and tempting pastries. Also healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi Fi.



SALLY HOGARTY

Customers line up for **Europa's** famous corned beef and delicious hot sandwiches.

Starbucks
 One Camino Sobrante, #9
 925-253-0447
www.starbucks.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Fri. 4 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. – Sun. 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun. 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friendly baristas who remember your name and order; outdoor seating. Coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials, pastries, healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi Fi.

Village Inn Cafe
 204 Village Square
 925-254-6080

Hours: Breakfast Tues. – Sat. 7 to 11:30 a.m., Sun. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Lunch Tues. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Closed Mon.

A family friendly, no frills diner just right for a cup of coffee, omelette or Belgian waffle. Lunch sandwiches like veggie burgers, avocado-turkey-bacon club; add fries for 50¢. Return visits for corned beef hash, made from scratch. Generous portions, coloring books for kids, easy parking.

CHINESE
Szechwan Restaurant Chinese Cuisine
 79 Orinda Way (Village Square)
 925-254-2020
www.szechwanorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Tue. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Tue. – Sun. 4 to 9 p.m.; Closed Mon.

Across from the golf course, cozy booths. Return visits for their outstanding sizzling rice soup, potstickers, jalapeno pepper calamari, broccoli or asparagus beef. Order to go from online menus. Family friendly,

beer and wine, easy parking.

Yu Bistro Mandarin and Sezechuan Cuisine
 One Orinda Way, #1
 925-253-9852
www.yansrestaurant.com/wp

Hours: Lunch Sun.– Mon., Wed. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Dinner Sat. 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Closed Tue.

This family-owned restaurant does a big takeout business. Extensive menu including lunch specials, appetizers, mu-shu pork, soups, Kung Pao prawns. Brown rice on request. No MSG, spiciness at the level you prefer and prepared dry wok at your request.

DELICATESSENS
Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub
 64 Moraga Way
 925-254-7202
www.europahofbrau.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A spacious cafeteria style family restaurant with a play area, slide and video games for the kids. Known for delicious corned beef and mash with cabbage, turkey and meats carved, sandwiches created right before your eyes. Grab a stool to catch a game and have a beer on tap. Family fun night every Friday 6 to 8 p.m. with free face painting and ice cream bar for the kids.

Subway Sandwiches
 2 Theatre Square, #108
 510-601-6400
www.subway.com

Hours: Open 7 days - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. [SEE SUBWAY page 21]

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ **SUBWAY** from page 20

This well-known chain is always good for a sandwich on the run. They carry soup as well. Sandwiches can be ordered in sizes six- or 12-inch; and you pick the bread. It's all made on the spot.

DESSERTS

Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
230 Brookwood Road
925-254-3434
www.loards.com

Hours: Mon. – Wed. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thur. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

This all-ages Orinda favorite is the perfect place to stop for a generous scoop. Choose waffle or sugar cones or order an ice cream birthday cake. Sample chocolate showers or ube (purple yam, taro root, coconut) ice cream or one of their other 37+ flavors.

Republic of Cake
2 Theatre Square, #151
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3900

http://republicofcake.com

Hours: Tue. - Thur. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.*; Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.*; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.* Closed Mon.

* Or until the display case is sold out.

Delicious, moist cupcakes made with the finest local ingredients such as locally milled flour to keep a low carbon footprint. Seasonal cupcakes including wheat free options; flavors, such as honey-lemon or snickerdoodle, change monthly. Try their chocolate-vanilla or vanilla-vanilla minis.

HAWAIIAN

Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill
2 Theatre Square, #142
925-253-1338

www.lavapit.com

Hours: Mon. – Thur. noon to 8 p.m.;

Fri. - Sat. noon to 8:30 p.m.; Closed Sun.

The aroma of BBQ floats out to meet you. Lunch specials and BBQ mixed grill plate. Yelpers like the fried shrimp and mini bowls, \$6 for chicken, steak or pork with steamed veggies and rice; brown rice available. Outdoor seating, bottomless drinks, free Wi Fi.

ITALIAN

La Piazza
15 Moraga Way
925-253-9191

www.lapiazzaorinda.com

Hours: Breakfast Mon. – Sat. 8 a.m. to noon; Lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Good food, family friendly staff and a cozy atmosphere across from the theater. Try their brick-oven prosciutto pizza, calamari salad, risotto Milanese or penne a la vodka. Tiramisu for dessert, a must try. Weekly specials, local beer and good wine selection by the glass.

Piccolo Napoli
2 Theatre Square, #144
925-253-1225

www.piccolo-napoli.com (check for specials online)

Hours: Open 7 days - Dinner Mon. – Tue. 5 to 9 p.m.; Lunch/Dinner Wed. - Thur. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat., 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Family owned, excellent service. Traditional thin-crust pizza to gluten free choices, many toppings. Kids menu. Full bar, beer and wine, artisan cocktails. Try the chicken parmesan over penne pasta, Tuscan salad with pears, or gluten free meatballs. Outdoor seating. Orinda home delivery 5 to 8 p.m.

Taverna Pellegrini
65 Moraga Way
925-258-4200

www.tavernapellegrini.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Dinner Sun. – Thur.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“Pietro’s Pizza,” with prosciutto, truffle oil and fresh basil, is a favorite of patrons at **Piccolo Napoli**.

3 to 10 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 3 to 11 p.m.

Trattoria setting with three dozen pizza and pasta choices, all made from scratch. Full bar, live music Sat. night. Try the misto

salad with hazelnuts and pears, linguine vongole, or beef short ribs; gluten free choices. Tiramisu and affogato are among

[SEE TAVERNA page 22]

www.orindacoffeeshop.com for Menu, Directions, & More

204 Village Square
Orinda

254-6080
On Orinda Way Near
McCaulou’s

Fresh food.
Clean restaurant.
Good service.

Tuesday – Saturday
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Breakfast and Lunch

Sunday
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Breakfast Only

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“We are so fortunate to live in a community where people treasure their families, their schools, their parks, their neighbors, and their library.”

Amy Worth

VOTE TO RE-ELECT
—AMY WORTH—

AmyWorthforOrinda.com

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ TAVERNA from page 21

the many desserts.

Village Pizza
19 Orinda Way
925-254-1200

www.villagepizzaorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Daily - Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner Sun. - Thur. 5 to 9 p.m.; Dinner Fri. - Sat. 5 to 10 p.m.

Family atmosphere in this casual spot. Wide variety of pizza options from vegetarian to chicken, sausage, pepperoni or tuna. In a hurry? Try a mini pizza for lunch dripping in cheese, served with a salad. Wine, beer; best news yet - they deliver. Local since 1984, family-run.

Zamboni's Pizza
One Camino Sobrante, #4
925-254-2800

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pizza where everything is made fresh daily with additive-free cheeses. Your pizza is built to order; also pizza by the slice and salads. You can eat in, take out, or they deliver. Return visits for a slice of pesto pizza with plenty of garlic, cheese and basil, \$5. Wine, beer, soft drinks.

JAPANESE

Hanazen Japanese Sushi
87 Orinda Way
925-254-3611

www.myhanazen.com

Hours: Dinner Only Tues. - Sat. 5:30

to 9 p.m.; Reservations only. Closed Sun.

Owner Kenji Horikawa prepares chef's choice omakase daily. Selective ingredients combined with tradition yields high quality. Yelpers rave about the sushi rice and everything else. With 12 seats, reservations are a must. Fantastic sake choices.

Niwa Restaurant
One Camino Sobrante, #6
925-254-1606

www.niwarestaurant.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sat. 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Dinner Mon. - Thur. 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Fri. 4:30 to 10 p.m.; Sat. 3:30 to 10 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Sushi with more fish than rice. Try their lunch specials, oyster shooter, Hank's roll, salmon skin hand roll or spicy tuna hand roll. Known for their smoky, sweet sauce and complimentary cucumber salad. Check out the specials board, takeout available, order online. Wine, beer and sake.

Serika Restaurant
2 Theatre Square, #118
925-254-7088

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Mon. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Dinner Mon. - Thur. 5 to 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Sun. 5 to 9 p.m.

Fresh sushi in a relaxing spot tucked away from the street. Yelpers like the hamachi collar, sushi platter, miso, obento box with salmon and chicken, tuna, sashimi chirashi and lunch specials. Gluten free soy sauce. Plenty of kid-friendly food. Kirin on tap, wine and sake.

Sushi Island
19 Moraga Way
925-253-8399

www.sushiislandorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days - Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dinner Mon. - Thur. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Dinner Fri. - Sat. 5 to 9:30 p.m.; Lunch Sun. noon to 3 p.m.; Dinner 5 to 9 p.m.

Try their super fresh a la carte sashimi, hamachi in creamy sauce, spicy California and spicy tuna rolls, miso soup, tempura, and Orinda roll. Bento lunch box specials \$9.50. Kids menu. Real crab meat always served. Order take out online. Beer, wine and sake.

MEDITERRANEAN

Petra Café
2 Theatre Square, #105
254-5290

Hours: Open 7 days - Mon. - Sun. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Top marks from online fans for this take-out favorite with its tiny interior and outside tables. Regulars swear by chicken or lamb

and beef gyro with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and tzatziki sauce in a warm fluffy pita. Roasted vegetables, falafel, spanakopita, dolmas, or hummus for vegetarians.

MEXICAN

Baja Cali Taqueria and Grill
23 Orinda Way, #H
925-258-9987

www.facebook.com/BajaCaliTaqueriaGrill

Hours: Open 7 days 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Popular spot for lunch and take out. Yelpers like the tostadas, steak quesadilla, Chicali fries, shrimp and steak burritos, fajita chicken salad, chiles rellenos, and aguachiles. Kids menu. Beer including Negro Modelo, wine, micheladas, or sodas and free Wi Fi. Ample parking in rear of building.

Maya Mexican Grill
74 Moraga Way
925-258-9049

Hours: Mon. - Sat., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Closed Sun.

Try some of their authentic Mexican dishes from family recipes. All sauces and salsas are made in-house daily; they roast their own chilis, grill their own meat; all platos are cooked to order. Can't say better than that. Busy at lunchtime so order take out. People come back for: burrito Maya with mole sauce; many vegetarian options; fish tacos, guacamole. Kids menu. Beer, wine and soft drinks.

THAI

Baan Thai
99 Orinda Way
925-253-0989

www.baanthaiorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days: Lunch - 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Return visits for chicken satay appetizer with peanut sauce, Thai crunch salad, pumpkin curry with prawns. Lunch specials with entrée choice, sauce choice (curry, ginger, etc.) rice and salad. Options include



CHARLIE JARRETT

With its cozy interior and standout dishes such as pumpkin curry and chicken satay, **Baan Thai** is a neighborhood gem.

tofu, vegetables, chicken, prawns, scallops or calamari. Vegan upon request, take out. Wine, beer, Thai iced tea, hot ginger tea. Off street parking in rear of building complex.

Siam Orchid
23 Orinda Way, #F
925-253-1975

www.siamorchidorinda.com

Hours: Open daily - Lunch Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Dinner 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Family owned and operated. A white tablecloth experience with full bar. Return visits for appetizer combo for two with satay chicken, real crab Rangoon, egg rolls, fresh spring rolls, and tasty chicken shrimp rolls. Or try the ginger salad, papaya salad, veggie pad Thai; brown rice on request. Lunch specials served with egg roll, salad and steamed rice. Take out available, online menu. Ample parking in the rear.



Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-1975

◆ CREEKS from page 7

ing, "Nearly overnight, we went from trout fishing downtown to abandoning the creek altogether." Bowen concluded, "Now we hope to embrace the creek again, provide more room for the creek to flow, space for people to enjoy it, and maybe even bring back a trout or two."

"We have done our contribution with all of our volunteers today to stem the litter from reaching the Ocean," pronounced Friends of Orinda Creeks board member and Orinda legend Toris Jaeger. Supported by voluntary donations, Friends has retained a consulting firm, FlowWest, to do conceptual design and engineering for a creek restoration suitable for the downtown area. The City and FOC are working

cooperatively to identify opportunities for "parkettes," creek trails and other amenities that will promote enjoyment of the local watershed and improve pedestrian and other opportunities in downtown Orinda.

"We are working very closely and fruitfully with the City staff, and believe these two efforts are highly complementary," exclaimed Board President Bob Stoops.

FOC is communicating with the property owners along San Pablo Creek both to better manage garbage inputs, and to seek partnership opportunities in creek restoration. "Our discussions are going well. We have so much potential to realize in this section of creek," said Stoops. "Now it's up to Orindans, the property owners, and the City to come together and make it happen."



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FESTIVAL OF TREES

◆ GALLERY from page 4

tion, but note the sun crawling up its peak reflected in the glassine pool below. John Muir said it best, "The front [of Cathedral Peak] is adorned with many pinnacles and a tall spire of curious workmanship." Visit www.twowanderers.com to see more of Yosemite and other sites he has photographed.

Ellen Sachtshale of Clayton along with Julie Langley of Walnut Creek and Miriam Jewell of Pleasant Hill, create and fire ceramics in the studio they have been sharing for the past three years. Sometimes Langley and Jewell create their work at home before bringing it to Sachtshale's studio to glaze and fire. Their theme for the 30 works they will be showing, *Nature Pottery*, arose out of their shared fascination for the myriad forms occurring in nature.

Sachtshale has been teaching ceramics for 22 years at the Center for Community Arts in Walnut Creek. She says, "Teaching keeps me in connection with a lot of other creative people and there's a great exchange there. I give to my students, but they inspire me!" To ensure her work has some societal value, she donates funds for one meal to a food bank for every item she sells. Some of her favorite artists are Alice Ballard, who does porcelain pods and totems; the late William Kidd's extraordinary extruded stoneware vessels with bespoke extruding

dyes; Elizabeth Shriver's ceramics; and Marvin Lipofsky's glass creations.

Langley's adoration of seafaring forms will impress anyone who has paid attention to what the sea leaves us on beaches far and wide. *Seaside Garland*, a 14" x 3" x 3" arrangement of stoneware, porcelain, driftwood and copper wire, recalls the last time you dug your toes into fine, warm sand. The subtle colors and intricate designs do indeed take us to the seaside.

Regarding the value of art to our community Balamuth enthuses, "It helps us communicate now and to the future." Brophy adds, "Art expands your world, it makes people more aware and helps them look with more interest at everything around them." She believes that "art creates a space for dialogue and unlocks resistance to imagination." Jewell notes, "We often get caught up with technology. Nearly everything we buy is made complete and ready to use so we lose our connection to how things are made. Homemade objects feel good in our hands and add richness, color and texture to people's lives."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours - Mon. through Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sun., 1 to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Oct. 8. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

OWC hosts Festival of Trees Nov. 15

On Nov. 15, the Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) will host the 2018 Festival of Trees, the organization's biggest fundraiser now in its 32nd year. The event will take place at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel (2600 Bishop Drive) and will include a festive luncheon and a fashion show featuring designer clothing from Helen Lyall and emceed by Dan Ashley of Channel 7 News. Attendees will be invited to bid on silent auction items including three beautiful quilts by Liz Piatt, a signed football by Steve Young with authenticity certificate, a round of golf at the Contra Costa Country Club, two one-night certificates (that can be used on the same weekend) at the Hotel Griffon in San Francisco, and much more. OWC will also raffle off beautifully decorated gift baskets, wreaths and table-top trees and will offer up two special destination raffles with the chance to win two nights at the Claremont Hotel and Spa or two nights at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas with a \$200 dining credit.

OWC has selected two nonprofits as this year's major beneficiaries, the Contra Costa Crisis Center and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Contra Costa (NAMICC). The Contra Costa Crisis Center provides 24-hour support hotlines,



SALLY HOGARTY
Candy Kattenburg admires table-top trees up for auction at last year's Festival of Trees fundraiser.

as well as face-to-face grief counseling, homeless services, and a 211 information and referral program to keep people alive and safe during times of personal crisis. NAMICC provides support, outreach, education and advocacy to individuals and families living with mental illness.

For more information on the Festival of Trees, call Betty Brotherton at 925-963-6356 or go to www.orindawomansclub.org.
- Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

◆ SEVERSON from page 10

- Red Smith (Division 3)
- Lucy Talbot (Division 4)
- AUHSD School Board
- Christopher Severson

I personally know all candidates and can highly recommend them as great community volunteers, fiscally prudent and welcome open communications. They all deserve your vote.

- Sue Severson

A New Course for Orinda's Development

I have an innovative idea which might solve all the disputes over our fair city's downtown. One side has clamored for more housing and dining/nightlife options near BART, while the other side fears overcrowding, parking issues and the loss of views near the library and park, as well as worries about the loss of the Rite Aid and the Post Office, among other essential services for locals.

Perhaps the solution is to find a new location for all these additions, rather than replace the necessary areas that already work well. And the clear answer should be -- let's use the wide-open and underutilized space in downtown currently filled by the Orinda Country Club golf course!

Only a tiny fraction of Orinda residents are members of the Club, and likely even fewer of those actually golf. The course is empty at night and much of the year. And face it, the younger generations are just not interested in golfing; in a few years that course is going to practically be mostly abandoned. The course could still exist,

of course, but with the large swath along Orinda Way taken for development; and maybe the rest of the grounds could turn into a 9-hole course instead, which might fit today's busy lifestyles better anyway. The true value of the club, the main buildings, pool and tennis courts, would be left intact for members to enjoy.

The newly-opened space could be developed into a huge residential-retail-dining-entertainment complex, with a combination of luxury and affordable condominiums, stores, restaurants and nightlife. Perhaps in the future OCC could even stand for something for the rest of us, in the complex's new "Orinda Comedy Club"!

And all of this would be an easy stroll to BART. Everyone would be a winner!

- Frank Simons

Severson Eminently Qualified

As a teacher at Miramonte, and former school board member in the Orinda Union School District, I am thrilled that Chris Severson is a candidate for the Acalanes Union High School District board. Chris is eminently qualified - as another former board member of OUSD, as a Miramonte grad himself, and with five kids working their way through the Acalanes District. As an emergency room physician, Chris is in the business of taking care of people. Lucky for us, he is extending that service to our high-schoolers and their families, and Acalanes district teachers and staff, by hoping to serve in this critical educational leadership role.

Susie Epstein has well represented Orinda on the current board, but as she moves on, it is critical that her successor maintain an Orinda

voice on the Acalanes Board, which also serves Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek. Chris certainly has the pedigree but also a calming and thoughtful demeanor and amazing work ethic. Chris is a team player - running for this position with an intent to work together with fellow board members and district employees to keep our district on the leading edge of 21st Century education. Chris is exactly who Orinda needs on our local high school district board.

- Riki Sorenson

Nick Kosla for City Council - Strong Candidate for Key Issues in Orinda

I am thrilled that Nick Kosla is running for Orinda City Council. Anybody that knows Nick knows he is family focused, pragmatic and forward thinking. All of these attributes will serve him - and Orinda - well on the council. His family and community focus guide his support for local parks, Open Space preservation and

[SEE STEWART page 26]

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Fri. - Sat.: 4:30 - 10:00 p.m.

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MOFD CANDIDATES

◆ SMITH from page 15

in a financially prudent manner.

My 35-year management career started with Pacific Bell, and I have since spent over two decades as a technology executive in the Silicon Valley. Those big and small company experiences enable me to provide sound financial and technology insights and guidance to the MOFD chief and board.

Community Involvement

While I had the privilege of volunteering as a youth baseball coach for 20 years (from T-Ball through the High School Freshmen Team), I was also an active volunteer with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, CAPA Dance, the Moraga Rotary Club, Campolindo High School, and as a guest lecturer at the Haas Business School, St. Mary's College and Chico State University. I also just finished my 30th season of summer softball in Orinda.

I have served on the board of directors at St. Perpetua School, as a parent advisor and treasurer at Campolindo, and on the board of directors for multiple private companies. Those experiences allow me to hit the ground running if elected to the MOFD board; specifically, the ability to team with the four other directors and the fire chief to allocate taxpayer dollars in a financially prudent manner to ensure the community remains safe and secure.

Preventing Wildfires

While there are many approaches for preventing wildfires in Orinda/Moraga, I will focus on three particular activities as part of the board team: (1) fire prevention; (2) introduction of innovative technologies; and (3) aggressively applying for state and federal grant moneys which may be more readily available now after recent California catastrophes.

First, MOFD must put more resources toward fire prevention as budget allocations in the past have been almost non-existent. The current operating budget includes a full time fire marshall and approximately \$58,000 in annual expenses. That's not enough for a community surrounded by

open space with 12,000 homes and over 30,000 residents.

Second, there are a variety of existing and emerging early warning innovations available for fire districts which can be implemented in Orinda/Moraga with more aggressive budget allocations in this area. I am particularly excited to assist the board in evaluating these early warning systems as I have spent most of my career assessing and implementing new technologies that deliver operational and environmental benefits.

Third, there is an ever growing statewide and national recognition that California's potential for devastating wildfires can be mitigated with more attention to prevention. Regrettably, there are only so many local taxpayer dollars available annually to battle prevention head on, and that is why the district must be more aggressive in applying for grants and other financial assistance. In my professional career, I have employed resources in Washington, DC and at the state level to apply for public sector assistance across a wide variety of topics, and this experience will allow me to contribute on the MOFD Board in justifying subsidies for fire prevention beyond property taxes from local residents.

Lessons from Recent Fires

The most poignant lesson of the recent California wildfires is fire districts must be dedicated to funding a robust prevention plan and to rigorously and steadfastly implementing it over many years. It is not a single year, one and done kind of task as it takes all of our residents, coordinated by our extremely qualified fire district personnel, and supported by our City and Town organizations to make meaningful year over year progress.

Prevention involves fire breaks, brush removal, making houses and landscaping fire resistant, and a long list of relatively simple but important prevention techniques. We live alongside and among huge forests and open space. These preventative measures must be applied uniformly to gain the full benefit for our entire community. There

[SEE SMITH 2 page 28]

◆ TALBOT from page 15

I'll utilize my background in financial management to develop solutions to stabilize the unfunded pension and benefit liabilities and work to create a budget for critical prevention programs necessary to keep our community safe. MOFD currently has no budget for prevention and in a community of severe fire danger, we must have comprehensive programs to aid our citizens in creating a fire safe environment. I am experienced working with organizations in the public sector and will leverage my 15 years with Motorola providing emergency communications to fire and police districts.

Community Involvement

Over the past 30 years, I have served on the parent boards of Glorietta, Wagner Ranch, OIS, Miramonte Schools as well as the Board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). I am currently president elect of the Children's Hospital Branches board, a 501C3 fundraising organization that raises funds for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland. Throughout my life, I have placed a high priority in giving back to my community, and I look forward to serving on the MOFD Board where I can

use my unbiased and critical thinking as well as business and communication skills to help stabilize and sustain the operations of this organization whose services are so essential to our community.

Preventing Wildfires

In a word prevention. Many of us live in Orinda, in part, for its lush vegetation and rolling hills. Much of our beautiful Orinda is a Wildland Urban Interface and Severe Fire Hazard Zone. Thus, fire danger is a serious reality. MOFD currently has no budget for prevention. Our community deserves to have comprehensive programs to aid our citizens in creating a fire safe environment. I am committed to focusing on prevention programs, funded by MOFD's budget and utilizing best practices of Bay Area communities that mirror our own high fire danger profile. The program must be a partnership of our community and MOFD with funding to aid residents with effective fuel mitigation, education on fire safe landscape plants and neighborhood fire safety programs. Through the use of detailed satellite and drone mapping, we can identify "hot spots" with a goal to target and minimize combustible material.

[SEE TALBOT 2 page 31]

◆ DANZIGER 2 from page 16

Pulse Point are under utilized, citizens need more encouragement to enroll in CERT, and homeowners need more education on fire prevention and safety.

As far as MOFD preparing for similar fires, I envision that the district will maintain and enhance many of the programs already in operation, particularly in the area of fire prevention. Reduction of vegetation through control burns and training burns, reviewing the types of apparatus available to ensure it is the most effective, and continuing to build cooperative working relationships with Cal Fire, EBRPD, Oakland Fire, Contra Costa Fire, local police agencies and other public agencies is extremely important. The relationships I developed over 20 years with the Oakland Fire Department can only be helpful in these matters.

Finally, in order to adequately prepare for fires in our community, the board needs to explore all means possible to restore service levels to pre-recession levels. Immediately, that would mean hiring two firefighter paramedics to staff the ambulance at Station 45 in downtown Orinda. When these cuts were made, the board promised they would be restored when the economy recovered; to date this has not occurred. The population in the district is older than most communities and the majority of calls are medical. Staffing an ambulance will mean better fire protection since an entire crew will not need to respond to medical calls and can be available for fires or other non-medical emergencies.

Not all these measures involve funds.

Some can be implemented, staffed and developed using available resources. With my extensive experience and knowledge of fire service and public sector, I am ready for the challenge of making the district safer.

Financial Concerns

The question of equity has been addressed since 2011. Subcommittee representatives concluded Orinda does not unfairly pay more than Moraga. A report of June 15, 2016, "Analysis of Funding Equity Between Taxpayers of Orinda and Moraga," had the same conclusion. I believe this is no longer a board issue.

Unfunded pension liability is not specific to MOFD. It effects pension obligations nationwide. The problem: current assets are not adequate to pay all future pensions. The amount of this liability in MOFD is reported at \$70 million. The reasons for this are complex, with no easy fix. I will continue to aggressively fund this obligation.

In five years, pension debt has been lowered by \$12 million and funds to a benefits trust are on schedule. By 2022, a \$28 million pension bond will be funded. As director, I will continue to aggressively pay down debt.

With pride and professionalism, the MOFD will provide the highest level of emergency and public service in response to the needs of our community -- this is our mission. Some believe unfunded liability is the most important issue. When you call 911 and are having the worst day of your life, MOFD is there -- I understand.

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LITERARY LUNCHEONS CONTINUE IN OCTOBER
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Laura Lippman, New York Times bestselling author of Sunburn

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 2 **California Shakespeare Theater**, 7:30 p.m. presents *black odyssey* through Oct. 7. Information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org. See article this page.
- 4 **Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style. Also, Oct. 11, 18 and 25.
- Orinda Books**, 6:30 p.m. Jim Poling Sr. presents *Waking Nanabijou: Uncovering a Secret Past*. *
Orinda Theatre 7:30, presents *An Evening With Lorna Luft*: Featuring the Songbook of Judy Garland. Tickets are \$55-75 and can be purchased at lamorindatheatres.com.
- 3 **Candidates Forum – City Council**, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium. See article p. 13.
- 5 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Gerry Wallace Ceramics Show & Sale.
International Film Showcase, 7 p.m. film the 2015 Chinese film, *Mountain Cry*. See article p. 27.
Orinda Starlight Village Players, 8:30 p.m. benefit performance, Marty Nemko's *Odd Man Out*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way. For tickets, visit info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. See article p. 27.
- 6 **MOFD**, 8 a.m. Open House & Pancake Breakfast, Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere. Station 41, 1284 Moraga Way, Moraga.
Orinda Farmers' Market, 9 a.m., Orinda Way, Orinda. Also, Oct. 13, 20 and 27. See article p. 29.
Orinda Books, 11 a.m. Dog Adoptions with Paw Fund. Buy a book and support Paw Fund. Friendly dogs welcome. Prizes and raffle. Dog training demonstrations and dog books. *
EFO and Friends of Orinda Library, Read-A-Thon Raises funds for Orinda Libraries. Go to www.99pledges.com/fund/readorinda to sign up. Through Oct. 12.
- 7 **Orinda Library Art Gallery**. Meet the artists reception, 2:30 p.m. 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-2184. See article p. 4.
Mindful Littles, 3 p.m. Hygiene Kits for Foster Youth. Partnering with Youth Homes. For more information and to register, visit www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMTY=. Open to kids: age K-5th grade.
- 9 **Mercy and Justice Ministry of Orinda Community Church**, is hosting a League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley "Pros and Cons" meeting, 10 Irwin Way, at 7:30 p.m.
- 10 **City of Orinda**, 10:30 a.m. Wisdom Workshops: Premier World Discovery Presentation, Orinda Community Center, Room 7. Come and learn more about our 2019 extend trips!
MOFD Candidates Forum, 7 p.m. Orinda Library Auditorium. See article p.15.
- 11 **City of Orinda**, Senior Trips, 9:15 a.m. USS Potomac – Special World War II Sightseeing & History Cruise, Fees: \$95. Call 925-254-2445 or visit www.cityoforinda.org.
Film Classics Showcase, 6:30 showing *Beetlejuice* at the Orinda Theater. See article p. 27.
- 13 **5th Annual Tech Trek Shred Fest**, a secure pulverized shredding event. Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to noon at 5A Rent-a-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga, \$9 per file box. All proceeds fund scholarships for Lamorinda girls for AAUW's STEM camp.
ConnectOrinda, 10 a.m. Library Plaza. See article p. 2.
Mindful Littles, 1 p.m. Partnering with Xenophon Horse Therapeutic Riding Center. For more information and to register, go to: www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMTg=
Lamorinda Arts Council's Art of Mixology, 4:30 p.m. Sample 20 craft cocktails and vote on your favorite. Orinda Theatre Square. Advance tickets \$45, at the door \$55, visit www.lamorindaarts.org for more information. See article p. 26.
- 14 **Orinda Olive Festival**, 11:30 a.m. Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo, Orinda. For more details visit www.fwrna.org See article p. 30.
- 16 **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**, 10 a.m., Election Forum on Ballot issues, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. See article p. 31.
City of Orinda, 10:30 a.m. De-Clutter Workshop – Five Easy Steps to De-Clutter, with Jean Goldman, Orinda Community Center, Room 8.
Lamorinda Moms, 7 p.m. presents, *How To Talk To Kids About Race*, Multi-Purpose Room at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. For tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3573616. See article p. 11.
- 19 **Mindful Littles**, 4 p.m. Partnering with Animal Rescue Foundation. For more information and to register, go to www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMjM=
- 24 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary luncheon series features Lou Berney: *November Road*. \$20.00 ticket includes lunch with wine, plus \$10.00 off the price of the book. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.*
- 25 **Orinda Park and Rec**, 1 p.m., Halloween Parade for Tots, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 27 **City of Orinda**, 9 a.m. CPR/First Aid Class, Orinda Community Center, Rm. 7, \$75 for residents.
- * **Orinda Books** is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The Library will be closed on Oct. 8.

- 1 **Maker Mondays**. Whether it is crafts, Legos, or Minecraft, there's always something creative going on for kids during Maker Monday! 2:30 p.m. in the Gallery Room. Also October 15, 22, 29.
- 2 **Toddler Stay & Play**. 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for 1 1/2 year olds to 3 year olds and their caregivers. No registration, but please do not attend more than one Toddler Lapsit a week. Also October 3, 9, 10.
All Abilities Playgroup, 10:30 a.m. Fun playgroup for ages 0-3, with the opportunity to ask questions on your child's development to two speech pathologists moms. Funded by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
Baby Stay & Play. 11:30 a.m. For infants through pre-walkers (18 months) and their caregivers. Also Oct. 16, at 11:30 a.m. and Oct. 9.
Orinda Writers' Group. 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also Oct. 16 and 30.
- 3 **Paws to Read**, 3:30 p.m. Would your child like to practice reading to a friendly dog? "Paws to Read" for children grades K-5. Call or visit the library to reserve a space. Also Oct. 10.
- 4 **Computer Help**. 1 or 2 p.m. Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. Please sign up online for a one-hour session or call 925-254-2184. Also Oct. 11, 18 and 25.
ESL Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come talk and learn English with us! Also October 11, 18, 25.
- 9 **The Amazing Science Whiz Show**. 2:30 p.m. The Magic Circus demonstrates seemingly impossible magic and circus tricks with scientific explanations. Suitable for K-4th grades.

black odyssey Continues at Cal Shakes Through Oct. 7

Returning to Cal Shakes 2018 line-up, *black odyssey* continues to bring large crowds to the Bruns Amphitheater. Last season the Northern California premiere of Marcus Gardley's cautionary tale set attendance records for the company.

Original cast members and newcomers combine to tell the tale of American soldier Ulysses Lincoln (newcomer JD Mollison) and his struggles to find his way home to his wife and son. But manipulating his journey are a host of gods: the dignified Deus (newcomer Cleavant Derrick), the scheming Paw Sidin (Aldo Billingslea) and the radiant Aunt Tina (Margo Hall).

black odyssey continues through Oct. 7 at the Bruns, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, in Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



KEVIN BERNE

J. Alphonse Nicholson (Ulysses Lincoln) and **Safiya Fredricks** (Benevolence) from last year's production of *black odyssey*.

Free. Generously supported by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

- 10 **Classical Guitar with South American Influences**. 6:30 p.m. Classical Guitar and the South American Influence with Glenn Staller. Generously supported by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 16 **Toddler Storytime**. 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for 1 1/2 year olds to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. No registration, but please do not attend more than one Toddler Lapsit a week. Also October, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31.
Baby Storytime. 11:30 a.m. For infants through pre-walkers (18 months) and their caregivers. Also October 23, 30.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club**. 3 p.m. Join us as we uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month.
- 27 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. 7 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month.
- 30 **Humanities West Fireside Chat**. 6:30 p.m. Join George Hammond of Humanities West and talk about the contribution to world culture of Russian music, art and literature of Czarist Russia. Visit www.humanitieswest.net for more information.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)** General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**. Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom's Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome! \$5 donation for the use of our beautiful space. Contact Gaby for more details: gemozee@gmail.com.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday every month. Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m. at the Orinda Country Club, Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips, candidates for Orinda City Council discuss their individual platforms. For additional information, visit www.evefororinda.com and www.ordindaparksandrec.org/397/City-Council-Candidate-Info--11618. www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Oct. 5: Cecilia Dimino, Oct. 12: Our Geo – Bruce Bilodeau is a geologist who now considers California geology one of his favorite hobbies.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Meditative Gentle Yoga**. Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way. All levels are welcome! Also Tuesday and Friday 6 p.m. \$5 donation. For more details, contact gemozee@gmail.com
- Montelindo Garden Club** Third Friday, 9:30 a.m., September through May. **New Location:** The Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Oct. 19 at 9:30 a.m. Presentation: Creating Pumpkulets with Shawna Anderson, Horticultural Consultant. www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** Community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

[SEE CALENDAR page 26]

THEATER



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED REELING IN OCTOBER: IN THEATER OR AT HOME



Tom Westlake

On the Lamorinda film front, there are two October films to highlight. I also thought, though, that it might also be a good idea to add some personal recommendations just in case the one Halloween-themed film the Orinda will be showing doesn't do it for you.

We'll start with the International Film Showcase (an institution that's been going for nearly as long as I have) which is offering a 2015 Chinese film, *Mountain Cry*. Taking place in a remote and equally peaceful village, the serenity is shattered by a sudden death. Since everybody knows everybody else, this has far reaching consequences that effect the whole village in general and the victim's wife specifically. Mute, she is still able to communicate, and as the village makes noble attempts to ease her pain and sorrow, other, more troubling truths, roil to the surface. Early word is that this is as much a travelogue as gripping story. The scenery and the manner in which it's caught on camera is absolutely stunning, but that should be only a secondary consideration; the first being the important tale this film tells. It will have a one week run at the Orinda starting on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

The Film Classics Showcase brings us the one and only Halloween offering this year (although one could argue that last month's *Lost Boys* preceded it) with *Beetlejuice*. One of Tim Burton's early works, it, more than *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, gave a more accurate picture of the type of film in which Burton specialized. Indeed, one can see almost every influence, from German Expressionism to gallows humor in this movie with an almost equal supply of screw-ball comedy and even a little pathos mixed in that marks Burton's film style. The entire cast, including Dick Cavett, who makes a hilarious cameo, seemed, not only in on the joke, but reveling in the absurdity of it all. Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis, Winona Ryder and Michael Keaton in the title role are also, clearly having fun – and so will you. It will be showing at the Orinda Theater on Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Admission free.

But what about the rest of the month? Aside from always making sure to check with www.lamorindatheatres.com for any last-minute additions, I'd recommend some other little known frightful movies to instill unease in your soul. The film that always comes to mind when I think of creeping dread is *Repulsion*. Released in 1965 and directed by Roman Polanski, it leaves us trapped in a small Paris apartment

with Catherine Deneuve, who is slowly losing her mind. Though we are privy to her increasingly fanciful and disturbing hallucinations, there really isn't anything "supernatural" in this film, but that isn't really the point.

If you truly seek a movie that generates fear, I can safely say that this is one film that will burrow under your skin. With only one or two jump-scares, what distinguished this above many other similar movies is the silence. No bombastic orchestral score. No screams or howls. Just the passage of time (and sanity) with nothing but the ticking of a clock to keep you company. Turn off any and all distractions and surrender to this movie. Good luck.

Going back a couple of years (1963), we have an anthology film *Black Sabbath* starring, in one of the segments, Boris Karloff. Of these three stories, written by such luminaries as Chekov, Tolstoy and de Maupassant, it is the first that stands out most in my mind. Like the aforementioned *Repulsion*, it relies on an awful silence (Dripping faucets replace a ticking clock.). There is also a heavy Italian influence at work here. Mario Bava, who would go on to make many other distinctive horror films, has an uncredited director's mention here. Also, like *Repulsion*, and to achieve the maximum amount of fright, sitting alone and in the dark would be the best way to view this film.

And with those two recommendations, I'll leave you until next time. As ever (but especially for this bewitching month), I urge you to stay in the dark, for that's where the reel magic lies.

Orinda Starlight Village Players Set Vandalized

On Sept. 18, persons unknown caused approximately \$3,000 in damage to the set of Orinda Starlight Village Player's show *Good Morning, Bill*. With six performances left in the production, the cast and crew made repairs as best they could. These costly repairs really impact the all volunteer theater company. "It was going to be a financially challenging year for us and now this really hurts," says OrSVP Artistic Director Geotty Chapple.

Anyone with information should contact the Orinda Police Department or info@orsvp.org.

Behind the Curtain at OrSVP

By ORINDA NEWS EDITORIAL STAFF

Marty Nemko is a prominent Bay Area career counselor, having been a guest 100+ times on KGO's Ronn Owens Show, a columnist in the *Chronicle* for six years, and a host in his 29th year of *Work with Marty Nemko* on KALW (NPR-San Francisco). His 11th book, *Careers for Dummies*, was just published.

For one night only on Oct. 5, 2018, at 8:30 p.m., Marty Nemko will reprise his acclaimed one-man show, *Odd Man Out*, as a fundraiser for the Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) at the Orinda Community Center Amphitheater behind the buildings at 29 Orinda Way. All proceeds (tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for seniors 65+ or children 18-) go to Orinda's all-volunteer community theater. You can call 925-528-9225 or go online to info@orsvp.org to reserve seats.

Nemko states his rationale in volunteering his talents without a fee: "I want to support the Orinda Starlight Village Players. I believe that local community theater is an under appreciated community resource, enriching not just the audience but the lives of everyone involved – from box office vendor to costumer to light/sound operator to director to actor. The Orinda Starlight Village Players has a special place in my heart, not just because its theater is just minutes from my home, but because it is all-volunteer: they do it purely for the love. But they need some money for costumes, sets and to buy the rights to perform plays. So, I encourage you to come see me perform my play and support this Orinda treasure: Orinda Starlight Village Players."

Nemko gives you a sense of what the evening might entail by starting with the general and working to the specifics of the evening's unfolding experience: "Our veneer is thicker than ever. We're less likely to be honest, whether for fear of offending someone, hurting our career, or damaging our personal life.

"So, our Facebook profiles portray us as unobjectionable happy campers. Our cocktail party conversation is superficial talk about family, pop culture, and, if with political kindred spirits, Donald Trump.

"But much lies beneath our veneer. Don't you wish you could really be understood for who you are?"

"That's a driving force behind my having created my one-man show, *Odd Man Out*. It peels back my curtain to see mainly my warts along with my beauty marks. I like



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marty Nemko stars in *Odd Man Out* on Oct. 5.

to think the show's benefit goes beyond encouraging others to be more candid. It embeds other life and career lessons, especially for those in the second half of our lives, but even for your children and grandchildren." (The show is appropriate for kids 10 and up).

"The show intersperses my stories with my piano playing (I was a busy pianist in New York City.) I'll play everything from ragtime to Broadway show tunes. I'll even do a Tom Lehrer song. For this performance, I'll also accompany international performer Antonia Valdez on a few relevant songs," Nemko adds.

Nemko's one-man show, *Odd Man Out* has been performed at venues such as San Francisco's Koret Auditorium and, in a sold-out house, at the Napa Valley's Lucky Penny Community Arts Center. Reviewer Evy Warshawski, after viewing the Napa show, gushed, "Nemko hit it out of the park."

For more information, visit www.orsvp.org.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ PHILLIPS 2 from page 17

need uses (like the Brookwood parking program, to protect parking for residents from, in particular, overflow BART commuters) as well as ideas to grow the parking supply.

Other optimization ideas could include expanding the permit program (and potentially adding one for employees, perhaps on the Village side), expanding the timed parking and enforcement to maintain turnover, and encouraging local businesses with extra parking to open those spots to the public, potentially after typical work hours. To grow (or at least not shrink) supply, first we must protect what we have with any new development and ensure current parking standards are met. In addition, we should continue to try to drive a dialog with BART about parking at the station, perhaps even discussing a parking structure (within

Orinda's height limits), even though BART has not shown interest in such a discussion to date.

Important Areas of Need

1) Replenish our financial reserves and focus on reimbursement from the sinkhole from the appropriate agencies. 2) While we have made great headway in "fixing" the roads, we have not actually solved the maintenance problem; we still have a gap between required annual funding to maintain our roads and what is actually available. We need to solve that gap, or we will end up with the same road problem we had before. 3) Bring more retail/dining/services options to our downtown to meet the needs of our current residents.

Qualifications

Outside of my four years as a council-

member, I have established a career in the technology industry. Currently, I am a group product manager at Google, leading a team of 20 product professionals and setting product strategy for our broader cross-functional (and cross business units) organization. Working with individuals and groups across Google to collaboratively set and influence strategy is much like the work on the Council, which requires the ability to find common ground to move forward with individuals who may have very different points of view. Prior to Google, I led a software startup in the behavioral health space, which required vision, leadership and execution abilities, leading to our work with high profile health organizations such as the U.S. Army. From these experiences and my time thus far on the Council, I believe I can continue to successfully work with my colleagues to help us set policy for Orinda's future.

◆ EFO from page 9

districts and learned that EFO was the only foundation without an executive director to guide its fundraising efforts.

EFO's first executive director already has a strong affinity for Orinda Schools. Taylor's husband was raised in Orinda and attended Orinda schools. The couple, along with their daughter, live in Moraga.

For more information on Darcie Taylor and EFO, go to www.orindaefo.org/executive-director-faqs.

OA Candidate Forums

Oct. 3 - City Council
Oct. 10 - MOFD
7 - 9 p.m. Library Auditorium
Sponsored by
The Orinda Association

◆ SMITH 2 from page 24

are both national and local programs being successfully employed to manage fire risks through robust and aggressive prevention programs. Marin County has "FIREsafe Marin" whose goal is to be "dedicated to reducing wildfire hazards and improving fire safety awareness in our community." This seems like a perfect goal for Orinda and Moraga. It does take money, focus, dedication, and community support, and I am proud to be running as an independent candidate and experienced business professional to be part of the team leading this future effort.

Financial Concerns

On the topic of unfunded pension liabilities, which is where the board's ultimate charter is to represent and protect local residents and taxpayers, I am committed to balancing the needs for effective and efficient

emergency services with the requirement to fund the current and retirement salaries and health benefits for district personnel. Currently, our MOFD pensions have been grossly underfunded for over a decade and conservative estimates now put the liability at \$70,000,000 (although some estimate the balance is higher depending on the discount rate used in the calculations). Either way, this situation is completely unacceptable for taxpayers as it represents up to \$8,000 per household which is not a check any resident is prepared to write. It will be my job as part of the five person board to begin making financially prudent decisions to ensure that our emergency service heroes have the money in their pension fund accounts to retire with the benefits promised.

Regarding the "fair share" question on the allocation of costs between Orinda and Moraga, I am currently researching this issue and diving deeper into the history and quantification of this tensely debated topic.

◆ DONNER 2 from page 18

programs, I would like to restore our staffing level back to 19 line personnel as it was prior to early 2013. Due to terrain and difficult access in our community, I would recommend two small 4-wheel drive fire engines, which are the size of a large pickup truck, commonly known as type 6 engines in the fire service. I would like our community to be resilient now and prepare for the worst by considering enhanced fire prevention, restored staffing and appropriate equipment for a quick a response.

Lessons from Recent Fires

The recent fires throughout California have proved that preparation and planning for fire is critical. Educating our community on how to prepare for wildfire is a subject I feel strongly about. I would like every household in our fire district to have reverse 9-1-1 on landlines and cell phones. Early notification using reverse 9-1-1 can be used to isolate specific neighborhoods that may need additional time to evacuate, which can be followed up with notification to areas that have a less restricted egress. This process allows for evacuation in an orderly manner.

I would like to educate our community on how to maneuver garage doors during power outages. There were several fire fatalities in the Atlas and Tubbs fires in the North Bay less than a year ago. Many of those fatalities occurred in their garages.

The Moraga-Orinda firefighters have prepared for major wildfire in our area in many ways. During the spring and summer, they perform progressive hose lays, review structure protection procedures and do off-road driver training. Additionally, they have gained valuable experience by going out on strike teams to major fires around the state. Preparation for a major wildfire is a part of their daily work.

Wildfires require a quick response from

trained personnel. This is another example of why we need to restore staffing to 2013 levels. The fire climate in California has changed dramatically since staffing was cut. Public safety is my number one priority and I feel the community deserves this service restored.

Financial Concerns

All homeowners pay a property tax. The distribution of County assessed taxes is not the responsibility of the MOFD Board of Directors. MOFD follows the Government Accounting Standards Board and Government Finance Officers Association guidelines and recommendations to provide accountability and transparency in the accounting of district finances.

Unfunded liabilities associated with pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are assumptions. Those assumptions change based on investment returns, actuarial, and expected revenue. Unfunded liabilities are defined as an employer funding pension obligations for staff out of current revenue (pay as you go), rather than a separate fund with advanced contributions.

In 2013, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act took effect, which prohibited medical benefits in retirement and dramatically lowered OPEB liabilities. MOFD is aggressively funding separate reserve funds to augment CCCERA contributions (pension liability) and retiree medical benefits (OPEB), which is no longer offered to new employees as of 2013. Additionally, MOFD medical contributions have changed from a percentage rate to a flat number, which reduced OPEB further. The MOFD Board of Directors have made great advances in lowering their liabilities. In 2022, the pension stabilization bond will be paid off and MOFD will have more funds available. I feel that operating under a less aggressive funding strategy, while increasing the level of service, is not irresponsible.

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FARMERS' MARKET / ELECTIONS / BUSINESS



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October is National Apple Month to promote the sales of apples and honor the people involved in getting them from the farm to our homes. Apples are just part of the celebration of autumn along with peppers, pumpkins, root vegetables, shell beans, grapes and persimmons – all fresh picked and available at your local farmers' market.

Of the 7500 varieties of apples grown in temperate zones throughout the world, only 15 to 20 are commercially significant in the United States. The U.S. is one of the world's top apple producers. The five most popular apples in the United States are Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Gala, Fuji and Granny Smith. Be on the look out for some heirloom varieties like Thompkins King, Arkansas Blacks, Johnathan and Mutsu.

Most (maybe all) apples are suited for eating out of hand, with flavors from sweet to spicy tart. Rome Beauty, Granny Smith and Pippins are good baking apples because they hold their shape; Golden Delicious are

excellent for applesauce since they do not discolor as quickly as some of the others.

All About Apples:

*Apples ripen 8 to 10 times faster at room temperature than if they are refrigerated.

*Most of an apple's nutrients are concentrated in and just under the skin, so eat unpeeled if possible.

*A 9-inch pie requires 3 to 4 medium sized apples (about one and a half pounds).

*25 per cent of an apple's volume is air. That's why they float!

*Because apples require a 3-month dormant period during their growing cycle, northern regions of the nation and neighboring parts of Canada are considered ideal apple country.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. For more information visit www.cccfm.org or call (925) 431-8361.

AAUW Election Presentation

By MARTY SCHIMBOR
Contributing Writer

Eleven measures covering a variety of issues will appear on this year's November ballot. It is oftentimes difficult to decipher the fine print of each measure. Who does it actually benefit? Who is contributing to the passage or defeat of each measure and with what motives? How does the measure affect you personally?

In an effort to bring clarity to voters so that a well-informed vote can be cast on Nov. 6, the Orinda Moraga Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host an impartial, informational presentation moderated by the Diablo Valley League of Women Voters (LWV) on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018, 10 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.

This meeting is open to the public.

City Launches Online Business Registration

The City of Orinda recently introduced a new website to allow local businesses to apply for or renew their Business Registration Certificate online. As of Sept. 1, the City requires all businesses operating in the City to obtain this certificate before commencing operations. Businesses with gross receipts of less than \$10,000 a year are exempt, but still encouraged to register. Certificates expire on Dec. 31 and must be renewed annually, but all 2018 certificates will expire Dec. 31, 2019 – three free months. The easiest and fastest way to complete the process is to go to <https://orinda.hdlgov.com>. If you need assistance or help registering your business, please contact Support@HdLgov.com or by phone at (925) 374-5885.

The purpose of the certificates is to establish a record of businesses operating in the City in order to better coordinate parking, transportation, economic development and event programming; assist in zoning compliance; maintain contact information which can be used to notify businesses regarding public safety issues; and gather statistical information for other City purposes.



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A Successful Run on the Wilder Side

The Orinda Park and Rec Foundation's first annual Run on the Wilder Side was met with great enthusiasm by children and adults who ran the challenging 1.4-mile and 5K hilly course. The Foundation thanks the following generous sponsors: Benefit Marketing of Orinda, City of Orinda, Diablo Foods, Gu Energy, Noah's Bagels, Orinda Fitness, Runner's Mind, Radicle Snacks, Safeway and Wilder. Proceeds from the run will go toward the Orinda Community Center Park renovation. For a list of the winners and more photos, go to the OPRF website at OPRFoundation.org.



THOMAS LAVIN

Runners near the finish of the first annual Run on the Wilder Side.

The overall winners in the women's division were Donna Baidetti in the 1.4-mile race and Kelly Coogan-Gehr in the 5K, with Nick Sigman taking first place in the men's division for both races. Age-group winners for the 1.4-mile run include: Sierra Peterson and Cooper Kane (10 & Under); Phoebe Busansky and Caleb Elkind (Ages 11-20); Donna Baidetti and Nick Sigman (Ages 21-50); Leesa Evans and J.R. Mintz (Ages 51-64); and Sharlet Gilbert (65 & Over). Age-group winners for the 5K race were: Ian Hughes (10 & Under); Zoe Schmitt and Sean Wilkinson (Ages 11-20); Kelly Coogan-Gehr and Nick Sigman (Ages 21-50); Diane Batchelor and Keith Duncan (Ages 51-64); and Sharlet Gilbert and Bryant Byrnes (65 & Over).

◆ **HALLOWEEN** from page 12

all things Halloween with its annual BooFest on Oct. 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include carnival-like game booths, bounce houses, a dunk tank, cake decorating contest and cake walk, puppet and magic show and music. The Kona Ice truck, other food trucks and hot food is available for purchase. Tickets are \$10 per person. Del Rey Elementary is located at 25 El Camino Moraga, Orinda.

Come join the fall fun that is Creepy Hollow at Sleepy Hollow Elementary! On Oct. 27 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., be delighted with a spooky haunted house, life-size Hungry Hippos game, inflatable obstacle course

and slides, face painting, DJ dance party, carnival games and lots of great prizes. Feast on Fist of Flour brick-oven pizzas and Pokeatery poke bowls. Tickets are \$20 (cash or check) at the door. The school is located at 20 Washington Lane, Orinda.

Not to be forgotten, Orinda's littlest trick-or-treaters can join in the annual Halloween Parade for Tots on Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. Sponsored by Orinda's Park and Rec Department, the fun takes place at the Orinda Community Center Park where Glenda the Good Witch will lead the stroll around the park followed by Halloween themed activities. Free and open to the public. The Community Center is located at 28 Orinda Way, Orinda.



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Dr. Amelia Ausman

Olive Festival Returns to Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Oct. 14

For its ninth year, The Orinda Olive Festival returns to Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Sunday, Oct. 14, from 11:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m., to celebrate “all things olive” and to raise funds for outdoor education programs. Organized by the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, the festival attracts over 1500 visitors from all over the East Bay. This year’s event, set to open with a tribute to Nature Area Champions Ann Alton and Mary McCauley of McCauley Olive Groves, will highlight six Bay Area olive oil vendors. Attendees can learn about and taste a variety of olives, olive oils and products from local growers, while the more creatively-inclined can make leafy crowns crafted from fresh olive boughs, among other craft projects. Docent tours through the historic ranch and olive grove will also be available.

Children who attend the festival can earn honey sticks from Steve Gentry’s Honey Bee station by having their Olive Passports stamped with pictures from a dozen activities. Visitors of all ages are invited to test their skills at the popular Pit Spit Challenge. Not only do participants

get to taste delicious olives, they can win prizes for accuracy and distance. Volunteers from Scout programs, Others First at Orinda Intermediate School, Miramonte High School, A.L.M.A. Music Program, National Charity League, and Boys Team Charity, will be joining many other community volunteers to make this a memorable day for all.

The event is free and open for all ages. Arrive early for best parking. Food is available to purchase, or attendees can bring their own picnic goodies. The organizers love all animals, but only service dogs are allowed. For more details about the Olive Festival visit www.fwrna.org.

– Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
These attendees at a previous festival stopped by the popular **Olive Pit Spit Station** wearing their handmade olive branch crowns.

Orinda Community Foundation Grant Deadline is Nov. 1

The Orinda Community Foundation is now accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations working to enhance the quality of life in Orinda through community events, programs, projects, visual and performing arts, and community-related partnerships. The deadline to submit applications is Nov. 1 and grants will be awarded in December of this year. Applications can be found at <https://orinda2010.wixsite.com/ocfwebsite/grants>. Completed applications may be mailed to OCF, PO Box 21, Orinda CA 94563 or emailed to orindafoundation@gmail.com.

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◆ RIDE from page 9

Perez’s friend Nick Bloisa joined him on the first ride in 2016. When they began the cross-country tour, the pair decided they had only two options: “we would either complete the ride or we would return in an ambulance.”

Perez explained how the challenges of the Southern Route through the Mojave Desert, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas had almost deterred him from another ride. “The summer with temperatures that weren’t meant to be ridden in, not to mention the humidity of Alabama, Louisiana and Florida. The extreme heat - we rode some days in 110+ temperatures - and endless miles of nothingness of the first ride had me saying that that would be my last such ride,” said Perez.

When they returned home, Bloisa declared that “once was enough,” but Perez was tempted to go out on the road again and has completed two other rides flying solo. “There was the added challenge of riding all those days and miles by myself.”

For his subsequent rides, Perez mapped a flatter, Northern Route.

Perez’s solo ride had a support team, including Alejandra (Ale) Garcia Aragon who was Perez’s driver on his last excursion,

and his life partner Sandra (Sandi) Eng, who fundraises for Laura’s Rides and maintains social media pages for the events.

When Perez feels the fatigue and discomfort of riding for long miles, he often questions his motivation to continue the fundraisers. “With time, the pain becomes only a memory. For the two months, the process and the goal of finishing the ride, pretty much constitutes my universe. There is something liberating about that.” Perez said.

“The satisfaction of helping to raise money for a very worthwhile cause helped cast what otherwise might be a bit crazy idea in a more reasonable light. The rides have now raised almost \$40,000 for late stage breast cancer victims through the Lazarex Cancer Foundation. According to Perez, helping breast cancer victims gives the rides “their real worth.”

Perez is often asked if he will do another Laura’s Ride. Perez ponders, “The thought of riding the West Coast from the Canadian border to the Mexican border has already crossed my mind....”

For more information on how to donate, visit Laurasride.org. One hundred percent of all donations go to benefit breast cancer victims through the Lazarex Cancer Foundation.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **TALBOT 2** from page 24

As a board member and representative of the community, I will work with the district to insure these activities take place. In the critical identified hot spot areas where fires could escalate quickly, in addition to the timely weed abatement notifications to residents, MOFD needs to communicate and actively manage house by house plans to reduce fuel loads. Independent studies of the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood identified critical roads that could be closed by hot spots which underscore this priority. Abatement involves minimizing certain highly flammable species, trimming up low branches and eliminating underbrush. I will seek to identify potential government grants available to perform the analysis and begin abatement, including in the 50 percent of our district outside the city limits of Orinda and Moraga.

Lessons from Recent Fires

We know prevention works. The most valuable lesson learned is that once the fire starts, it is too late for preparation! Prevention and preparedness are the key elements to having an opportunity to control the outcome of a fire. An example of a community that proactively prepared for fire and was spared during the Atlas fire in Napa County was the Circle Oaks development. A number of years ago, the development's HOA adopted the National Firewise USA program, a best practices fire safety program developed and available to anyone wishing to utilize their research and adopt their recommendations. MOFD needs to create a "Path to Prevention" to move toward such a fire safe environment for Orinda. I envision adopting the firewise program and then holding regular fire awareness and emergency preparedness seminars for our community, providing

information for individuals and neighborhoods to use in developing neighborhood fire prevention and preparedness plans. We also need significant resources from the MOFD budget to fund these prevention efforts. Eighty-five to 90 percent of MOFD's budget goes to salaries and benefits with the focus solely on suppression after the fire starts. We need to allocate significant funding and personnel resources to prevention and fuel reduction.

Financial Concerns

Unfunded pension and medical benefit liabilities are currently over \$70M for MOFD. To ensure MOFD's ability to maintain its quality of service we must make sure we have the resources and reserves to fund these obligations in the event of another economic downturn. During the last downturn MOFD was required to cut staff and reduce pay. We must be disciplined

during these good times and put significant money aside for these huge obligations and work to minimize their growth in the future.

On the fairness question, I concur with past board members that if this issue is unresolved in the eyes of a number of taxpayers, it deserves to be addressed. I believe it is important for a public entity to listen to the issues and ideas of the community and present any analysis of these issues in an open forum. It is my understanding that the community was never given a public document disclosure by the Orinda City Council, any Committee or LAFCO that provided a quantified analysis of the breakdown of current and anticipated capital expenditures and operating expense allocation. Until this question is addressed, there will always be doubt in some taxpayer's minds about fair expense allocation.

◆ **ANDERSON 2** from page 16

Improvement and driving all emergency access routes, including bridge load-bearing.

Lessons from Recent Fires

There are always lessons-learned. First and foremost are the prefire preparations listed above in question three. For example, in the recent Santa Rosa fire, housing developments within the Santa Rosa area that had completed the Question Three actions had little damage; however, housing communities that did not prepared suffered extensive damage, i.e., Coffee Park. The State of California is mapping the historical topography of California wildfires. This data will soon be available to MOFD insuring a fresh look at the danger and what can be expected in the growth and spread of the wildfire. Other key elements include:

- Incident Commander to have immediate access to the CalFire air assets;
- Rapid access to large grade bulldozers;
- Extensive mutual aid capabilities;
- Rapid response sources with cross-state open communications.


Financial Concerns

The source of the unfair share issue goes back to the original creation of MOFD. The concept of a fire district is exactly that; all buildings, equipment, personnel, serve

the district-at-large. Money is fungible, however the district has not and does not track the source of each dollar and on what item each dollar is spent on, i.e., an Orinda engine versus a Moraga hose line. The issue can be addressed after the unfunded liabilities are solved.

Excellent progress has been made in addressing the pension and OPED liabilities. The board required accurate accounting, budgeting, actuary reporting, and long-term financial forecasting. MOFD implemented GASB 68 bringing the unfunded liabilities onto the balance sheet. The key element is the CCCERA rate-of-return. MOFD implemented within the last four years dedicated funds addressing the unfunded liabilities. The current fund balances are relatively low, however, with the negotiation of a new MOU and payoff of the older Pension Obligation Bond, exponentially increased amounts can be deposited. After fiscal year 2019/20, the board will be able to make a 20-year payoff schedule for all unfunded liabilities. The actions put MOFD in the forefront of California Special Districts in addressing unfunded liabilities.

New Members of the Chamber of Commerce



ELANA O'LOSKEY

President of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce **Roy Hodgkison** (left in both photos) welcomed two new Chamber members, dentist **Dr. Amin Samadian** (left photo) and State Farm insurance agent **Bryan Silveira**. Dr. Samadian and Silveira co-hosted the September mixer for the Chamber of Commerce between their two offices at 23 Orinda Way.

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Elana O'Loskey



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A Fond Farewell to Alan Wong. Hello to Naomi Yuen at The Medicine Shoppe

Alan Wong recently handed the keys of The Medicine Shoppe over to Naomi Yuen, who, after working alongside Alan for a year, is now the new owner. Both Alan and Naomi graduated from the University of the Pacific Pharmacy School and share a commitment to taking care of their clientele as unique individuals. In 2000, Alan insisted on opening his store in Orinda and nowhere else because he loved the people and community. "Because I grew up in a small town like Orinda, I felt comfortable here," says Alan. He and his wife Lily live in Alamo.

Prior to working with Alan, Naomi, employed by pharmacies in different locations, felt no continuity with clients where a large volume of business was the norm. "The Medicine Shoppe is at the opposite end of the spectrum and the climate and

business practices remind me of my dad's pharmacy," Naomi notes. "My dad had his own pharmacy for 12 years in Walnut Creek where I was raised and knew Alan. That's why the Orinda area is very familiar to me. I know I have some big shoes to fill. I will, however, do my best to serve and hopefully eventually gain the trust Alan has received from the community," says Naomi.

After almost two decades as a practicing pharmacist in Orinda, Alan Wong offers this farewell to the people of Orinda: "Thanks for making the last 18 years the most joyful of my life. To see toddlers grow into college students is really something; I took care of whole families and I'll miss that." Wong supported Miramonte football and local Little League teams and organization. Naomi says she will continue this practice and is also considering having a booth at the 2019 4th of July celebration. Cathy King, Pharmacy Technician, and longtime staff member, is on hand to help make the transition as smooth as possible.



ELANA O'LOSKEY

After a year of working together, **Nancy Yuen** (right) recently took over from **Alan Wong** (center) as the pharmacist and owner of The Medicine Shoppe, with support provided by long-time Pharmacy Technician **Cathy King** (left).

Alan will soon be traveling with his wife to Hong Kong and Europe. He has a 30-year old car to take care of and his customers have recently rekindled his interest in the Lamorinda Radio Club. His call letters are KK6WA.

Visit Naomi at 282 Village Square, Orinda, or check The Medicine Shoppe out online at www.oriinda.medicineshope.com or give them a call at 925-254-1211.

Anytime Fitness Opens in Theatre Square

Brett Livingstone spent a lot of time looking for the right location for Anytime Fitness and chose Orinda because of several factors: "There is a tremendous sense of community in Orinda, and we feel the residents understand and appreciate the benefits of living a long and healthy life. Fitness will be a part of that equation and that's where we can be of help. Plus my wife went to high school in Orinda." Their lease agreement with extensions allows them to operate the space for 20+ years. They will open in late 2018 or early 2019.

Livingstone claims to be providing the area's only clean, comfortable and secure

24-hour accessible full-service fitness center filled with state-of-the-art equipment. The cardio equipment has personal viewing screens, and there is a group exercise room with a full complement of classes included in membership. Each member receives a key which allows 24 hour access. Jami Edgell, an experienced, certified fitness trainer, is the general manager of Anytime Fitness Orinda (AFO) and has been with the company for four years. AFO's personal trainers offer one-on-one, partner and small group personal training sessions. Some free sessions with a trainer are offered to get new members started. Do you travel for business or pleasure? After you are a member for 30 days you will have access to over 4,000 gyms located in all 50 states and 20 countries in five continents.

Try a free seven-day pass or inquire about AFO's pre-sale promotion with lower rates that can be locked in at the same time you acquire some great "fitness-related swag."

"Explore membership in Anytime Fitness Orinda by calling 925-542-0342 or visit the new business online at www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/4625/orinda-ca-94563/. It is located at 2 Theatre Square #148, in Orinda.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brett Livingstone, co-owner of Anytime Fitness, encourages Orindans to explore their pre-sale membership promotion offering reduced rates before the doors open in November.

By Mail or on November 6, Vote YES on Measures E & I

For Excellent ORINDA Schools

Vote YES on E & I to upgrade aging classrooms and improve student safety at each of Orinda's elementary schools and Orinda Intermediate School.

Measures E & I will work together to make the school improvements that local students need, including protecting the quality of academic instruction in core subjects, updating science, technology, engineering, art and math classrooms, providing classroom air conditioning and upgrading campus security.

The Orinda Community Agrees – Vote YES on E & I!

<p>ELECTED OFFICIALS</p> <p>Steve Glazer, State Senator, California State Senate Candace Andersen, Supervisor, Contra Costa County Amy Worth, Mayor, City of Orinda Inga Miller, Vice Mayor, City of Orinda Darlene Gee, Council Member, City of Orinda Dean Orr, Council Member, City of Orinda</p> <p>ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p>Orinda City Council Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) Orinda Educators' Association <i>The Icon</i></p> <p>COMMUNITY LEADERS</p> <p>Alison Waterman, Teacher, Orinda Intermediate School Ann Sharf, Orinda Realtor Bobbie Landers, Former Orinda Mayor and 50+ Year Orinda Resident Bobby Bardenhagen, Director of Technology, Orinda Union School District</p>	<p>COMMUNITY LEADERS (cont.)</p> <p>Dr. Carolyn Seaton, Ed.D., Superintendent, Orinda Union School District Dana Chiappone, President, Sleepy Hollow Elementary Parents' Club David Schrag, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Orinda Union School District Dick Burkhalter, 48 Year Orinda Resident Jen Woodman, Director of Student Services, Orinda Union School District Jim Manheimer, Principal, Wagner Ranch Elementary School Kara Dille, President, Educational Foundation of Orinda Kirsten Theurer, Principal, Del Rey Elementary School Linda Landau, Orinda Citizen of the Year Margaret Stewart, Retired Librarian, Orinda Union School District Mark Nagel, Police Chief, City of Orinda Patsy Templeton, Principal, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Sarah Butler, Former Board Member, Orinda Union School District Stacy Wayne, Interim Principal, Orinda Intermediate School Stuart House, Director of Facilities, Orinda Union School District Teresa Sidrian, Director of Business Services, Orinda Union School District</p>	<p>COMMUNITY LEADERS (cont.)</p> <p>Tracey Lewis, Principal, Glorietta Elementary School Vicki Hilty, Teacher, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Yasaman Lee, Former President, Glorietta Elementary Parents' Club</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Partial list. Full list available at www.YesforOrindaSchools.org.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; font-size: x-small;"> <p style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">There are usually two sides of every argument, but check your ballot book...</p> <p style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THERE ARE NO ARGUMENTS AGAINST MEASURES E & I</p> </div>
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www.YesforOrindaSchools.org

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Paid for by Orinda Community for Excellent Schools – Yes on E & I. FPPC# 1410598.