



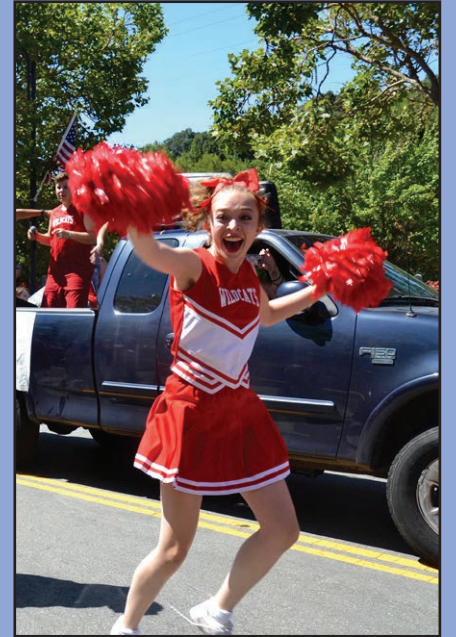
THE ORINDA NEWS

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The Orinda Association's Best Hometown Parade Is Almost Here!



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

The **Blue Devils C Corps Band** (L) will once again play in the parade as well as members of the **Peter Pan Foundation** performing a musical number. Last year, the group did dance routines from *High School Musical* (R). Complete 4th of July parade and celebration information begins on page 7.

City Council Denies Appeals on Approved Downtown Development

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

A standing room only crowd greeted City Councilmembers as they entered the Library Auditorium for the June 6 City Council meeting. While many spoke about

Orinda becoming a Sanctuary City during the Public Forum, a large number spoke on Planning Commission actions regarding 25 Orinda Way, located directly across from the Orinda Library.

Approved by the Planning Commission on Mar. 22, the development at 25 Orinda Way consists of a two-story building with ground floor retail and restaurant uses and a second story for office uses. On Dec. 12, the commission approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) allowing two ground-level automated teller machines (ATMs) within the central courtyard facing Orinda Way. The site had formerly been used by several different gas stations. The last one closed in 1998. Leaking underground storage tanks necessitated a long decontamination process completed in late 2013.

In Forma Fitness Appeal

The first appeal, brought by Andrea Columbu, owner of In Forma Fitness, asked the council to reverse the Planning Commission's decision allowing Orange Theory Fitness to occupy 3,000 square feet on the ground floor of 25 Orinda Way. Columbu



COURTESY OF PAUL UGENTI

A rendering of the approved construction for 25 Orinda Way, directly across from the Orinda Library and Plaza.

appealed the decision based on the project not being consistent with the Orinda General Plan, not meeting required findings and standards for CUPs and adversely impacting his business located at 23A Orinda Way.

Many people spoke in support of Columbu and what this additional fitness facility would do to his business while an

equal number spoke about the differences between the two and how they appealed to different demographics.

"Orange Fitness targets 35-45 year olds and differs from traditional fitness and gym centers because it only offers group classes rather than individual use," said Paul Ugenti, owner of 25 Orinda Way.

[SEE PLANNING page 14]

IN THIS ISSUE

News	
4th of July	7-10
Classic Car Show	5
Educators/Volunteers	11, 15
Performing/Visual Arts	2, 12, 13
Realtor David Pierce	6
Business Buzz	16
Calendar	13
Car Time	5
Classified	14
Editorial	4
Orinda Association	3
The Reel Less Traveled	14

4th of July Parade

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Orinda Association's 4th of July parade.

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Gallery: The Human Figure, Metal Art, Landscapes and Woodworking

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

At the Orinda Library Gallery during the month of July, the Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to spend a summer afternoon viewing portraits and drawings of the human figure done by local artists, as well as Laura Sutton's beloved California landscapes, Doug Crooks' woodworking, and metal art by Dan Bertolini. You can meet the artists at their reception on July 8 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

About 20 members of two longtime workshops at the Orinda Community Center – the Portrait Drawing and Figure Painting and Drawing workshops – are exhibiting 40 works. They draw and paint in a variety of styles, always from living models. Each artist interprets the posing figure to produce their impression of the scene.

Participants return to the workshops year

after year because drawing from life calls for total engagement of the artist's awareness in order to faithfully represent what is observed. During these workshops, the world drops away, creating an atmosphere that is at once challenging and fulfilling. Look for *Marija* by Ellen Bulf, a 16" x 20" watercolor portrait and watch it come to life right before your eyes. Jane Raymond's *Pigeon*, a 12" x 16" oil on canvas portrait, breathes as you look at it. Tom Simm's *Leotard Attitude*, a 12" x 18" pastel, strikes a dancer's pose. Visit www.cityoforinda.org and go to programs and classes to learn more about these workshops.

Members of the Figure Painting workshop exhibiting work include Joan Arvold of Orinda, pencil and charcoal; Neil Barth of Orinda, graphite, acrylics, and multimedia; Marilyn Cooper of Orinda, charcoal and multimedia; Norm Nicholson of Alamo, oil painting and pastel; Lana Rak of San Ramon, oil painting; Jane Raymond of Orinda, oil painting; Gail Sherman of El Sobrante, pencil, ink and acrylics; Tom Simms of Alamo, charcoal and pastel; Marietta Stephens of Lafayette, charcoal and pencil; and Steve Thiebaud of El Sobrante, charcoal.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artist **Ellen Bulf's** *Marija*, a watercolor, will be part of the July exhibit.

Members of the Portrait Drawing workshop exhibiting work include Joan Arvold of Orinda, graphite; Anita Allison of San Pablo, watercolor; Neil Barth of Orinda, mixed media; Janie Everett-Bloom of Orinda, graphite and watercolor, Orinda; Ellen Bulf of Walnut Creek, charcoal and watercolor; Christy Eiland of Oakland, charcoal; Jeanette McCarthy of Orinda, charcoal; Ed Ord of Oakland, Conte crayon; and Cal Brown of Lafayette, charcoal and watercolor.

[SEE GALLERY page 4]

Orinda Community Foundation Presents:



NorCal KIDS Triathlon TRI 4 HEALTH

Saturday morning, August 26, 2017
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: www.NorCalKidsTri.org

Art and Garden Center Breaks Ground at Wilder By Playfields



SALLY HOGARTY
Holding the engraved shovels are (first row) Brooks Street's **Bruce Yamamoto** (L) and City Council members **Inga Miller** and **Amy Worth**. The three are joined by Brooks Street Partners, City of Orinda Parks and Rec personnel and city staff.

The long-anticipated groundbreaking for the Art and Garden Center at the Wilder residential development finally took place on June 7. The 6,600-square foot center will include art exhibitions and a variety of classes. "Can you imagine doing an early morn-

ing yoga class out here among all the flowers?" asked Vice Mayor Worth. "Our Community Center class in Ikebana will just love it here." Located next to ballfields four and five, which will break ground shortly, the center will be open to the public.

The **Best Hometown Parade** is almost here, and it will be better than ever!

And, yes, it is on **Tuesday, July 4th!**

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
7:55 a.m. Flag Raising
8 a.m. Haley's run for a Reason Color run
10 a.m. Parade Begins
11:30 a.m. Music and activities in the park and at Theatre Square

www.orindaparade.com



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
Everyone Loves the Parade!!**



Cindy Powell

July is Independent Retailers Month: support our local businesses. Money spent in a locally owned business remains in our local community a lot longer. **Shop Orinda!**

It's funny, July 1 is **International Joke Day**, and you may not get a single dumb email joke all day. Why not take the opportunity to get the jokes started by flooding the Internet with your jokes?

We celebrate **UFO Day** on July 2 because 70 years ago a rancher near Roswell, New Mexico, discovered a strange metal wreckage on his ranch and military reports referenced a mysterious, Unidentified Flying Object.

Independence Day on July 4th has been a federal holiday since 1941 and commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Orinda city offices will be closed, but many city employees will be working this day to support our parade with road closures, traffic control, park operation, set up and clean up. We could not put on Orinda's

Signature Event without their help! Thank you very much!

Come and sing the Czech Republic anthem, along with ours, to commemorate "Year of the Czech" in Orinda. Eat a pancake breakfast with Sunrise Rotary and listen to bands on both sides of town. Watch the parade and attend one of the parties on either side of town. Later, take a nap and go watch the fireworks over Moraga Country Club!

How to High School, a Miramonte Perspective: Incoming freshmen can hear from Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group members and friends about their experiences at Miramonte on July 6.

World Chocolate Day occurs globally every year on July 7. Chocolate, introduced to Europe about 1550, is America's favorite flavor. Celebration of the day includes the consumption of chocolate in any form. Don't confuse this day with **Milk Chocolate Day** on July 28.

July 10 is the unofficial **Clerihews holiday**.
[SEE PRESIDENT page 6]

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.

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Parade Guy
Top 4 Reasons You Gotta See this Parade (Again)

Andrew Radlow

Hello, Parade fans. Last we spoke, the Parade Guy shared his deep knowledge about the origins of "The March" and the evolution of American festivals that led to today's modern parades. That was a thoroughly interesting Parade Guy, but a skeptical reader might ask what's so great about Orinda's 4th of July Parade? Good question, kind reader: Read on.

Lamorinda people are busy, and they have many options when it comes to the long Independence Day Weekend. Our options are fueled by our historically unparalleled access to information about (amongst everything else) what we can do on the fourth, what everyone else is doing on the fourth, what the weather's going to be and the probability that Brad Pitt will be there.

As one weighs the multitude of opportunities, filters out the fake ones and determines what you can depend on, consider the Best Hometown Parade. There are many reasons to avoid the traffic, the travel logistics and the cost with other options; most importantly, you can enjoy a festival event designed just for you right here at home. The Parade Guy has thought about

this a great deal and, in the final analysis, there are four great things about Orinda's 4th of July Parade on which you can depend:

Bringing People Together – It was the Bay Area's own Chip Conley who said, "The more virtual we get, the more ritual we need." The theory goes that the more reliant we are on our cell phones and our connections through Facebook/Snapchat/WhatsApp, we can become more disconnected from one another in real life (IRL). The Parade brings together friends, neighbors, family and community like no other civic event in Lamorinda. It's real face to face with live music, dancing, and the smell of burgers mingling with the balloons in the warm July air.

FREE Entertainment for Everyone! – Visit our new website; www.OrindaParade.com to see the entire schedule, but our planning committee relentlessly updates the Parade to appeal to a wide variety of interests. Yes, the Parade starts at 10 a.m., but there is Haley's Run for a Reason at 8 a.m., food vendors/beer tents/jumpy houses for the young ones in the Orinda Park after

[SEE PARADE GUY page 6]

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Letters to the Editor ...

Support Changes Downtown

The Orinda City Council will soon hold public hearings to review input from the ULI (Urban Land Institute) over proposals for improvements to Orinda's downtown. Suggestions will include possible zoning changes that could increase heights of building and provide for up to 240 housing units. There have been several letters sent in opposing any such changes. Most of these decry that these changes will destroy our village character, lead to traffic congestion and undermine the quality of our schools if we provide affordable housing. Don't count me in as one of these naysayers.

As an aging community and to provide housing for our teachers and others that support our public services as well as young professionals, we need well designed alternative housing that is close to downtown and BART. As older members of our community look for alternative housing, they must find a home in Rossmoor rather than an opportunity in their own back yard. Well located housing and new commercial space in our downtown means a five-minute walk to BART as well as new commercial space to attract and support local businesses.

As to the issue over height, we now have a maximum height of 35'. If that goes up to 55' in select locations, it would be comparable to building heights similar to several existing buildings in our downtown including the Vintage House and the new senior housing project (Monteverde) across from the fire station. These are well designed and well suited for their sites and any proposed project would use the same careful design considerations to make sure that the projects respect our village character and blend into the surrounding one- and two-story setting.

Just by allowing for more height and density does not lead to an overhaul of our downtown since many properties could not meet parking and setbacks to maximize their footprint. A look around at our existing downtown, which allows 35', is mostly one to two stories and not three stories which current zoning allows. Stepped back heights will provide a nice transition from one story to several stories with little visual impact.

Hopefully, our City Council will support changes that may stimulate upgrades to many of our commercial properties, many of which are unattractive and offer poor commercial space. New projects can add new housing opportunities in our downtown to support the needs of our old and new residents.

– Ted Urban

Why not allow Community Choice Energy?

At the Orinda City Council meeting on

Tuesday, May 16, nine people spoke during the Public Forum in support of Community Choice Energy (CCE) and requesting that it be put on the agenda for the next council meeting. Additional people were in the audience in support of CCE and approximately two dozen emails were sent and numerous phone calls made to the mayor and city manager in support of CCE.

Councilmember Inga Miller moved to discuss CCE at the next council meeting. In spite of the strong show of public support, no other councilmember would second the motion. The audience was surprised and shocked. There is no direct cost to the city to join a CCE provider. Indirect costs may include legal review of documents, but since Contra Costa County and most of the cities in the county, including Walnut Creek, Lafayette and Moraga have joined, acceptable legal documents already exist. Staff time for approval would similarly be minimal.

Joining a CCE provider gives residents a choice of energy sources with more renewable content than PG&E at the same or lower cost. Residents can opt out of the CCE to stay with PG&E. Orinda is disallowing its residents and businesses a choice of energy sources.

"Why the delay? What's stopping the council? What are their concerns?"

– Jim Ulrick

◆ GALLERY from page 2

Laura Sutton of Lafayette has been painting for several decades. Of the 20 works she is showing, most are oil paintings, some are watercolors, all are landscapes. "For me," Sutton enthuses, "painting nature's beauty is an expression of awe and gratitude rewarded by understanding." She adds, "That the word art is right in the middle of eARTh is a stratagem for understanding, instigating peace."

Look for *Fancy Fall Shadows*, a 14" x 10" prize-winning watercolor which leads you right into a hiking trail among undulating hills. When you view *Mostly Shady*, a 12" x 9" oil painting on canvas board, you can almost hear the buzz of bees and the rustle of winged creatures among crusty leaves and deep quiet on a California hillside. For more about her art, go to www.ldsutton.com.

Doug Crooks of Hercules has been working with wood for over 50 years. He made rocking horses for his four grandchildren using natural wood. The last one he entered in the California State Fair and won first prize. He used 17 different kinds of wood to construct it and only sealed it, using no stain of any kind.

Carving wood keeps his imagination alive, exemplified by the 20-plus works he



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	Page		Page
Arts & Entertainment		Cruise Adventures Unlimited	7
Orinda Starlight Village Players	12	Law Offices of Victoria Robinson Smith	9
Automotive		Taxi Bleu	8
Orinda Classic Car Show	9	Real Estate	
Orinda Motors	5	Better Homes & Gardens	
Orinda Shell Auto Care	10	Lisa Shaffer	9
Beauty and Fitness		Coldwell Banker	
Atma Yoga	8	Laura Abrams	7
CoreKinetics	10	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	16
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	15	Shellie Kirby	3
Dental		Maureen Wilbur	2
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	1	Pacific Union	
Educational/Camps		Virginia and Paul Ratto	16
The Orinda Preschool (TOPS)	2	Leila Schlein	3
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McDonnell Nursery	12	April Matthews	12
Tree Sculpture	3	Ann Sharf	3
Medical		Steve Stahle	3
Advanced Therapy Center	10	Clark Thompson	6
Dr. Brian Clark	8	Restaurants/Catering	
Medicine Shoppe	11	Baan Thai	6
Non-Profits		Casa Orinda	6
Orinda Association	1, 2	Farmers' Market	8
Orinda Community Foundation	2	La Mediterranee	11
Pet Service		Siam Orchid	11
Animal House Pet Sitting	15	Taverna Pellegrini	16
Bow Wow Inn	15	Village Inn Cafe	10
Theatre View Veterinary Clinic	15	Retail	
Professional Services		Orinda Books	11
5A Rent-A-Space	8		

is showing. Don't let him near your golf clubs as he likes carving all manner of bird and animal heads, such as frogs and ducks, out of the club heads. He even uses wood carving for his letterboxing hobby to keep things interesting. Who else would carve a shelf into a tree limb or take a 4 x 4 piece of wood and carve a drawer into it? Other creations include walking canes for adults and children and even a xylophone.

Dan Bertolini of Concord is exhibiting a variety of metal artwork. He creates welded metal sculptures using steel, aluminum, brass and copper.

The portrait artists hope that community

supported art encourages viewers to explore art for themselves. Crooks says, "Original arts and crafts are not your everyday thing. They're something unique that could open people's mind to new experiences." Sutton believes that, "Art draws us into our right mind, where individuality is more comfortable. It inspires us to communicate."

You can visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on July 4. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the August issue are due **July 8, 2017**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the August issue is July 8, 2017.

CARS

CAR TIME

Are We Ready To Hit the Road?

By JOHN VANEK



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some classic cars getting check-ups at Orinda Motors' new Classic Car Center.

Summer time is here, and it is time to make vacation plans. If we plan on taking the trusty family hauler, we need to make sure it is ready for the road and prepared for all situations. Our goal is to properly maintain the vehicle and avoid unwanted problems. Cars, however, are machines and, despite our best efforts, they can break down.

Before you take off, be sure to have a pre-trip inspection. Please, please do not wait until the day before your trip to do this. Your vehicle may need attention that you were not aware of. A short time frame will only add unwanted stress to you and your car care provider. I recommend scheduling this pre-trip ritual about one week before leaving. When you travel, you will most likely be faced with higher elevations and higher temperatures that can accelerate battery failure. For instance, a battery may operate fine in Orinda but fail in consistent temps over one hundred degrees while in Tahoe. A simple battery load test will confirm the battery's condition.

The next tip is to make sure you are ready for a breakdown. Do you have a road service plan such as AAA? Do you know who to call in case you get stuck on the road? These are questions that must be answered before you drive the car anywhere. A common failure is a flat tire. Do you know where the spare tire and jack are located? Do you know the condition of the spare tire? I purchased a Ford Explorer and found out that the jack and tools were completely missing!

What if you have a flat tire? You should safely pull over. Your car's handling will drastically change if you have a flat. Do not apply heavy brakes or make quick steering movements. Carefully steer your car off the roadway and apply the brakes smoothly. It is important not to drive a car too long on a flat tire, because it could damage the wheel.

What to do if your car breaks down? The first thing to keep in mind is safety. Look for a safe place to pull over. Now is the time to put your "breakdown plan" into motion. If your temperature gauge is reading high or overheating, you must immediately pull over. Some cars have a light instead of a gauge. If you continue to drive a car that is overheating, you will cause damage to your engine. There is no good reason to open the hood at this point. You should not touch anything under the hood for at least an hour.

There is never a good time to have a breakdown but having a plan in place will help. Of course, you can avoid these situations altogether by preparing your vehicle and yourself before hitting the road.

John Vanek can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

Annual Car Show Expands Offerings at Local Automotive Business

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show returns on September 9, and its impact over the years has changed how Orinda Motors operates. "Our expertise and our love of cars combined with the popularity of these classic cars has caused us to outgrow our shop," maintains Orinda Motors Service Manager John Vanek. "We realized that we had a lot of classic cars to work on and that we needed to bring on another tech to focus on the classic cars. We have two full-time guys and a full shop now."

The Orinda Classic Car Show was born 13 years ago when Vanek had a photo shoot with *Drive Magazine*: "I got some customers' cars, we took pictures and one of my customers, Chip Herman, had his car here. He said, 'This looks like a car show.' About a week later, Chip came back and said, 'You want to have a car show?' Our humble beginning was with 18 cars, hot dogs and a boombox for a stereo." Last year, the car show had over 200 vehicles.

The growth of the car show and Orinda Motors' classic car business has happened hand-in-hand. "Now, every time we have a car show, we end up with people wanting our services," Vanek says. As a result, Orinda Motors expanded and opened the Orinda Classic Car Center in January. "We combined our offices last May, so the oil change operation and the main operation are in the same place," Vanek notes. "We now have three serious car guys here each with about 30 years of experience."

Even with the expansion, Orinda Motors still services contemporary cars. "We haven't given up on everyday cars. We still focus on customer service and quality repairs," advises Vanek. "It's like two different kinds of car repair shops in one location. Everyday driving cars fix much faster and parts availability is much better. Classic cars are a different game. Parts availability and quality can be a bit of a challenge," he suggests. "We have a Diamond T Truck sitting here. There were only 700 of them made. We were lucky enough to find a guy in Amarillo, Texas, who's got a rear end for

[SEE CARS page 12]



Police Blotter on p.17

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OBITUARY / AUTHOR

◆ **PARADE GUY** from page 3

the parade, our second year throwing the Theater Street Party at our own Orinda Theatre (more adult), and, of course our famous Instagram Photo Contest (\$100 cash prize). Send photos to #OrindaParade.

Building Community (Year of the Czech) – That’s capital “C” community as in “citizen diplomacy” not only with our neighbors here in Contra Costa, but internationally with our sister city Tabor, Czech Republic (20th Anniversary). We live in an era of unprecedented interconnectedness with the ability to share information and ideas instantly. Our ability to foster goodwill within our local and global communities has never been greater.

Authentic Tradition – Part of our mission is to “produce the premier regional

entertainment event.” It’s produced by volunteers from the community and balances commercial interests at an event that can only exist through the generosity of our local sponsors. The Best Hometown Parade is a non-profit production produced each year by The Orinda Association with local entertainers, food vendors and residents like you. It’s a genuine regional celebration of our Lamorinda culture and America’s birthday, pure and simple.

Whether you are a first-timer or a parade veteran, there are so many reasons to see, be a part of, or volunteer for our 4th of July celebration. If you do go, come see the Parade Guy at Parade Headquarters in front of the Orinda Community Center and say hello. I’d love to meet you and hear what you think of this year’s Best Hometown Parade.

Admired Realtor David Pierce Passed Away June 4, 2017

David Pierce was a fighter. He had battled cancer twice before and won but his third occurrence refused to retreat. Appreciating the extra years he was granted, David lived life to the fullest, while showing kindness and caring for all he met along the way. For his daughters, Kimberly and Brooke, and his wife Ellen, life with David was forever broadening – whether it was an adventure, a revelation or a challenge.

Following a career in corporate life, David began his second career in 1987 in real estate. His clients treasured him for his vast knowledge and deep caring. David felt it was a privilege to serve the community he loved. He was past president of Rotary Club of Orinda, past president and director of Orinda Chamber of Commerce, real estate consultant to Standard and Poors, past director of Contra Costa Association of Realtors, past director of Friends of Big Band Jazz and many more. David’s love of music and the support of Orinda Rotary allowed him to bring Big Band music to the Orinda Community Park.

“David was in the process of winding down his business in California and mov-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
David Pierce (March 5, 1947 – June 4, 2017)

ing to his home in Knoxville, Tennessee,” says Ellen. “As his disease progressed, we respected his wishes to pass in his Tennessee home and with the help of Hospice and his family, made that happen. We trust that in his final hours, David was comforted by our hugs and gentle conveyances of admiration and love to ease him on his journey.”



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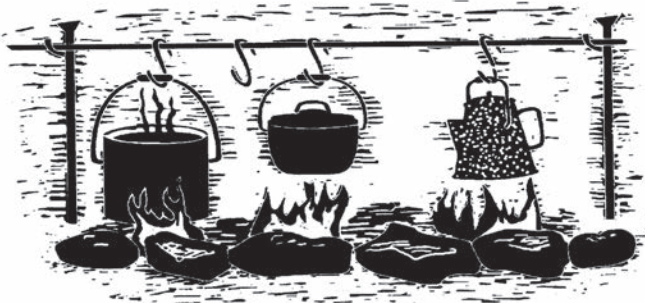
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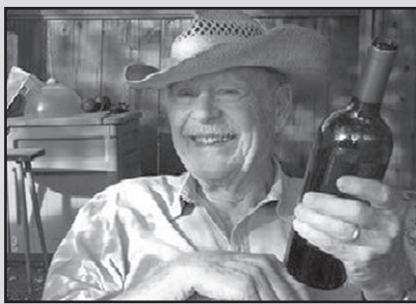
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Local Author Speaks at Orinda Books July 9

Ninety-one years young, Lafayette’s Richard Wren is currently working on his sixth novel. His first novel, written at the age of 84, won the National Indie Excellence award and has been made into a screenplay titled *Innocent Devils*. Wren, who also produces a weekly cartoon series, will speak at Orinda Books on July 9 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◆ **PRESIDENT** from page 3

day, which encourages people to read and write their own specific form of clerihews – a 4-line biographical poem usually featuring irregular line lengths and forced rhymes and making fun of a well-known person. Here’s an example of a clerihew fitting for parade month in Orinda:

Steve Harwood / voice of the downtown Orinda hood / master of flag-raising and tech / will also sing anthems – USA and Czech.

Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987 (the date on which the world’s population reached five billion people), has become **World Population Day** to increase awareness of over-population issues. World-Ometer estimates that the world population will reach 7,515,284,153 as of this month.

July 14, **National Nude Day** actually shares a date with a much more famous holiday, **Bastille Day**. Maybe eat wonderful French food without spilling on your

clothes.

On July 16, go to Loard’s for **Ice Cream Day**: yummmm.

If you are home this summer, consider volunteering to be a **Seniors Around Town** driver. We are often low on drivers during holiday and summer seasons.


The city is accepting applications through July 21 for a seat on its **Parks and Recreation Commission**. We are also looking forward to welcoming a new City Manager in late July, but have really appreciated Steve Salomon in the interim.

July 23 is **Opera In The Park**, another Rotary program for us to enjoy.

International Day of Friendship is July 30 to promote friendship among peoples, cultures and countries. Maybe it can help our world be a better, more peaceful place.

Our animals matter also. July 31 is **Mutt’s Day**. We value the diversity and uniqueness of mutts and appreciate the uniqueness they offer.

In July, get out around town and enjoy the people, food and happy Orinda lifestyle.





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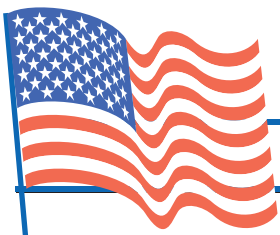
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Orinda's Best Hometown Parade Has Something for Everyone

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Association's hard-working volunteers have been busy for months organizing one of America's Best Hometown Parades ever. Taking place on the 4th of July with a plethora of activities from 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., there is something for everyone.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation (OTSCF) and its year-long celebration of everything Czech, The Orinda Association has proclaimed this year's parade as "The Year of the Czechs." The OTSCF is a 501(c) (3) group created to foster a relationship between Orinda and the City of Tabor, in the Czech Republic.

Orinda resident Bobbie Landers, the current chair of the OTSCF, will serve as one of the parade's Grand Marshals, along with former Miramonte High School exchange student Michael Čížek (who is visiting from Tabor), Czech Consular Officer Linda Janourove-Tang and Slavka Ruzicka, Vice Chair of OTSCF, representing the region of Czech Republic where she grew up.

Landers says the parade's Grand Marshals will dress in traditional kroje (Czech folk costumes), and ride atop the Czech-themed parade float singing "a few of our Czech favorites played by the East Bay Banjo Club."

The goal of the U.S Sister City Program, initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, is to encourage international friendships between people of diverse cultures. In 1987, Landers, along with Orinda's first Mayor Richard Heggie and others, decided to partner with Tabor, a Czech town which was emerging from Communist control.

The foundation has since worked with several Orinda non-profit organizations to sponsor educational activities, provide fellowships for physicians from Tabor, send English as a Second Language teachers to Tabor and sponsor visiting Czech students, who spend a semester at Miramonte High School. According to Landers, the Foundation's goal is to raise awareness while educating the greater San Francisco Bay



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda All Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band is always a big hit at the end of the parade as they salute the various armed forces.

Area about the significance and impact of the Czech Republic (specifically Tabor).

Pre-Parade Activities

Orinda's 4th of July Best Hometown Parade, now in its 34th year, takes place on both sides of downtown Orinda and features a variety of family friendly activities provided by local non-profit and educational organizations commencing with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's Pancake Breakfast hosted in the Library Plaza from 7:30 – 10 a.m.

Orinda Mayor, Eve Phillips will welcome parade goers in front of the Community Center at 7:45 a.m., with emcee Steve Harwood performing the National Anthem as local veterans perform the American Flag Raising ceremony. The Czech flag will then be honored with Harwood leading the Czech Anthem.

On the south side of downtown Orinda, the Educational Foundation of Orinda Big Band and the EFO Summer Band, a volunteer community big band composed of high school, college, and adult jazz musicians, will entertain the crowds from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. in front of the Orinda Theatre.

Immediately following the welcoming activities, walkers and runners participating in Haley's Color Run for a Reason, will depart from the Park to participate in the

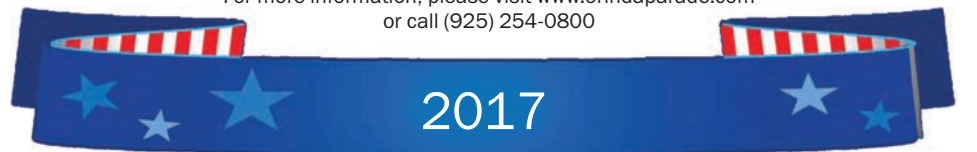
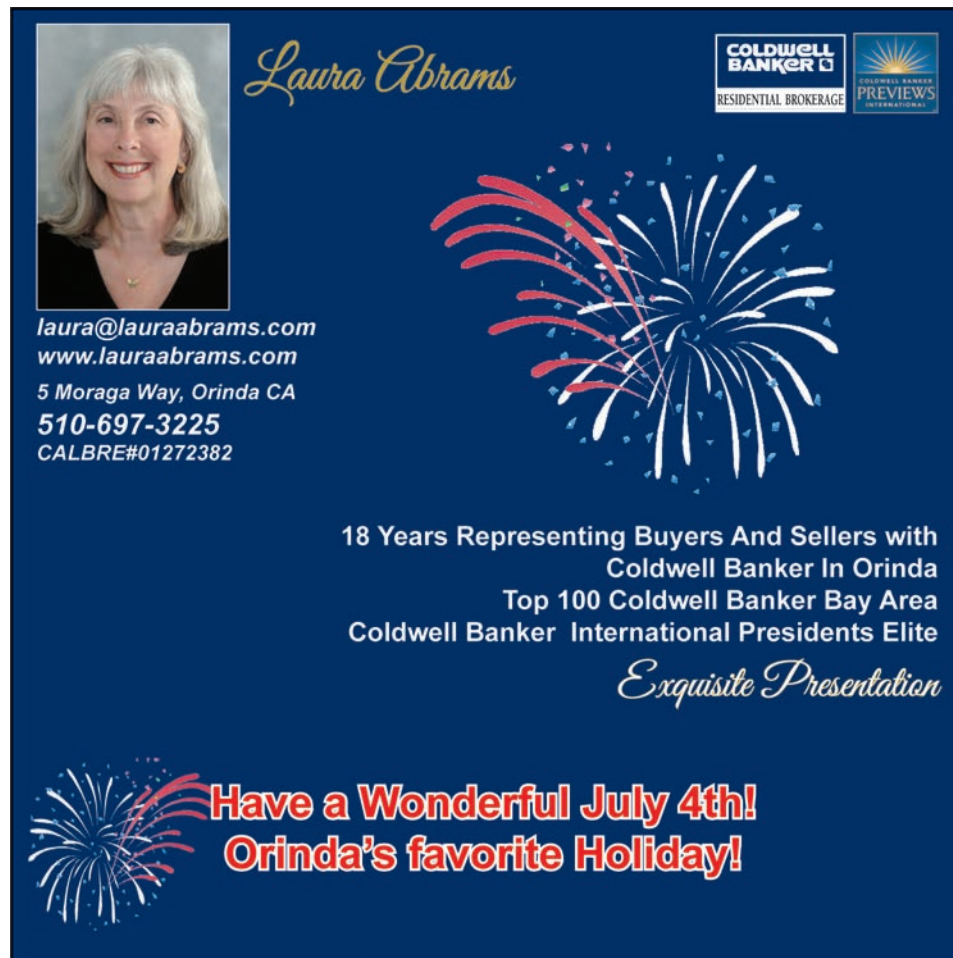
[SEE BEST page 8]



Best Hometown Parade

- 7:30 – 10 am Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast
Library Plaza at 26 Orinda Way
- 7:55 a.m. Flag-raising Ceremony
Orinda Veterans raise the colors of our flag in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way
- 8 a.m. Haley's Color Run for a Reason
A 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run thru scenic parts of Orinda and EBMUD watershed. Participants meet in front of the Community Center. Haley's Run for a Reason benefits research for SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood), small donation requested. Visit www.angelhaley.org.
- 8:45 a.m. Parade Participants Arrive for Assembly
Meet in BART parking lot on East Side of Camino Pablo
- 9 a.m. Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale
in the Library Breezeway, 26 Orinda Way, Plaza Level
- EFO Big Band & EFO Summer Band
Volunteer big band will entertain crowds in front of the Orinda Theatre
- 9:30 a.m. Parade Line-Up Begins
Parade participants travel from East BART parking lot to Wells Fargo at 80 Moraga Way
- 10:00 a.m. Parade Begins
In front of Wells Fargo at 80 Moraga Way. Scott Butler announces parade entries Theater-side. Parade continues under freeway to the Community Center reviewing stand emceed by Steve Harwood.
- 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. Music & Activities
Collusion and No Control Band play at entrance to Orinda Theater starting at 11 a.m.
Community Park Activities with 3 Day Weekend playing at the Orinda Park Gazebo starting at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please visit www.orindaparade.com or call (925) 254-0800

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◆ BEST from page 7

16th anniversary of the color run in memory of Haley Chonsa Tom, who passed away suddenly when she was 21 months old. The path of the 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run passes through scenic parts of Orinda and EBMUD watershed. There is a \$45 entry fee benefitting research for SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood). To register for the run/walk, visit www.angelhaley.org.



SALLY HOGARTY

Youngsters line up for face painting in the park following the parade.

Parade Starts at 10 a.m.


The parade commences from Wells Fargo Bank at 10 a.m., led by the color guard, followed by Bagpiper Jonas Pauliukonis. His mini-band, featuring fellow bagpiper Jeff Campbell and drummers Nicholas Pauliukonis and Stuart McLean, have combined six-plus decades of piping and drumming experience and have competed throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Theater-side parade announcer Scott Butler will present floats, bands, classic cars and community representatives traveling a route down Moraga Way from Wells Fargo and turning left on Brookwood at Theatre Square and marching north under the freeway to the Community Center via Orinda Way. In front of the Community Center, Steve Harwood, aka the Voice of Orinda, will announce parade entries as they pass the reviewing stand.

Along the route, parade audiences will enjoy presentations from many community groups including Veterans, balloon artists, Mel Silva's Four Horse Hitch Wagon, CARDA dog rescue group, Orinda Police, Boy Scouts, Orinda Pick-up Marching Band, Peter Pan Foundation, Orinda Preschool and floats by Meadow Swim Club, Sleepy Hollow Swim Club, Miramonte cheerleaders and football players, among others.

From Bagpipe to Banjo, from Classic Rock and Roll to Jazz, parade goers will enjoy an array of musical entertainment before, during and after the parade. Musical acts riding atop decorated floats or marching in the parade include Blue Devils "C" Corps Band, St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band, Spirit of '29 Dixieland Jazz, East

[SEE HOMETOWN page 9]



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- ★ Street parking will not be available along the parade route on Moraga Way or on Orinda Way. All other street parking is available, as well as Orinda BART's west parking lot. For handicapped parking, drivers may drop off passengers in front of the Community Center on Orinda Way up until 9 a.m.
- ★ Residents are advised of street closures from 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. including: The Westbound Highway 24 on ramp (East side of Camino Pablo); Moraga Way from Wells Fargo Bank to the Davis Road intersection; a portion of Santa Maria and all of Orinda Way. Highway 24 access for both on and off ramps will remain available from St. Stephens Drive.
- ★ Volunteers from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, wearing day-glo T-shirts, will serve as Parade Route Monitors to ensure safety.
- ★ Porta potties, provided by Republic Services are located on the North side of town in the Community Center parking lot and the East BART parking lot.
- ★ Are you a senior who needs seating at the parade? Village Associates Realtors and First Republic Bank will be sponsoring a special place for you. To reserve your space, call the Orinda Association at 925-254-0800, space limited.
- ★ Need more info? Visit Orindaparade.com for updated information on Orinda's Best Hometown Parade and events.



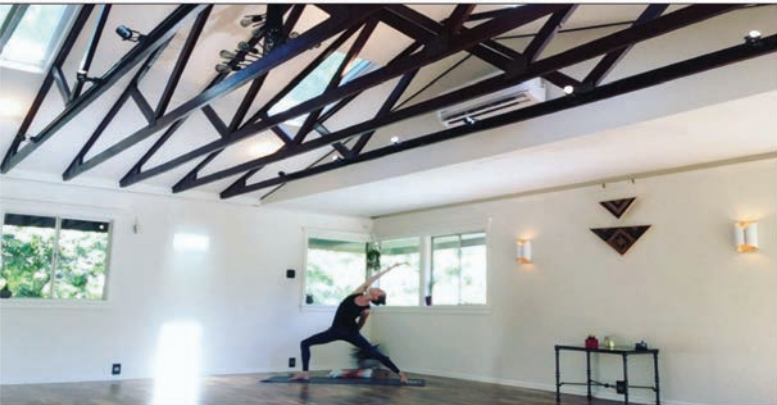
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4TH OF JULY

◆ HOMETOWN from page 8

Bay Banjo Band, Bagpiper Band (Jonas the Kilted Bagpiper), MJ's Brass Boppers Jazz Band, Orinda All Volunteer Pickup Marching Band, Andrew Benzie Band, and vocalists from Peter Pan Foundation and Lamorinda Idol.

After the Parade (Play In The Park)

Following the parade, the Community Center Park will be brimming with an array of fun family-oriented activities including live music, food and nonprofit booths until 1:30 p.m.

Volunteer Bret Young, who oversees Park activities, says he appreciates the community aspects of the event. "We have a unique capability in Orinda to have a very community driven 4th of July which brings families together on a very positive note for this day of celebration."

Young says children of all ages will enjoy many different activities in Orinda Community Center Park including two extra-large jumpers with a giant exercise track and slides; a caricaturist hosted by The Orinda Association; face painting; Twisty Man and Oliver Twist making elaborate balloon creations and Little Explorers Pet Zoo.

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program's Mr. Funnelhead and staff will teach kids how storm drains and creeks work in the environment with a diorama. Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area and Friends of the Orinda Creeks host hands-on activities in science, arts and crafts.

Other special events in the park include "Art for Change/Autism Speaks" led by Miramonte sophomore Elaine Lee. For the last three years, Lee has volunteered to benefit Autism Speaks with a variety of unique fundraisers. Her July 4 booth will offer several games including a Scavenger Hunt within the park confines. Prizes will be given to each participant who finds the items listed on their card. A special handmade gift will be given to those who choose to donate to Autism Speaks. All donations raised go to Autismspeaks.org.

Favorites activities this year include a Rocketry Booth sponsored by the 4-H club, where young people will build paper rockets propelled skyward by compressed air, and a new and improved petting zoo, which Young calls "bigger and better"

[SEE PARADE page 10]

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2017 July 4
Celebration
Volunteer Team

Work planning and preparing for our wonderful parade and park festivities begins many months in advance. Without the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers, this popular annual event would never take place. A very big Thank You! to the following residents who made it all possible:

- Chair July 4 Parade & Park Activities:** Andy Radlow
- Chair Staging Area and Parade Operations:** Steve Meagher
- Support, Parade Route Operations:** Craig Lazzareschi
- Chair, Food Booths:** Clay Deanhardt
- Web Masters & Publicity:** Jeremy Conescu & Lisa Burlini
- Chair, Sponsorships:** Bill Waterman
- Chair, Park Activities & Logistics:** Bret Young
- Chair, Operations:** Tom Romaneck
- Chair, Haley's Run for a Reason & Silent Auction:** Suzanne Tom
- Co-Chairs, Decorations:** Dora Chacon & Melissa Karakash
- Chair, Non-Profit Booths:** Jim Luini
- Co-Chairs, Bands & Music:** Cindy Powell & Steve Harwood
- Co-Chairs Parade Headquarters and Volunteer Operations:** Nicole Radlow & Tricia Young
- Orinda Volunteer Marching Band Coordinators:** Bobbie Landers & Lamorinda Music
- Parade Announcers:** Steve Harwood & Scott Butler
- Graphics (and all round super helpful fellow):** David Dierks



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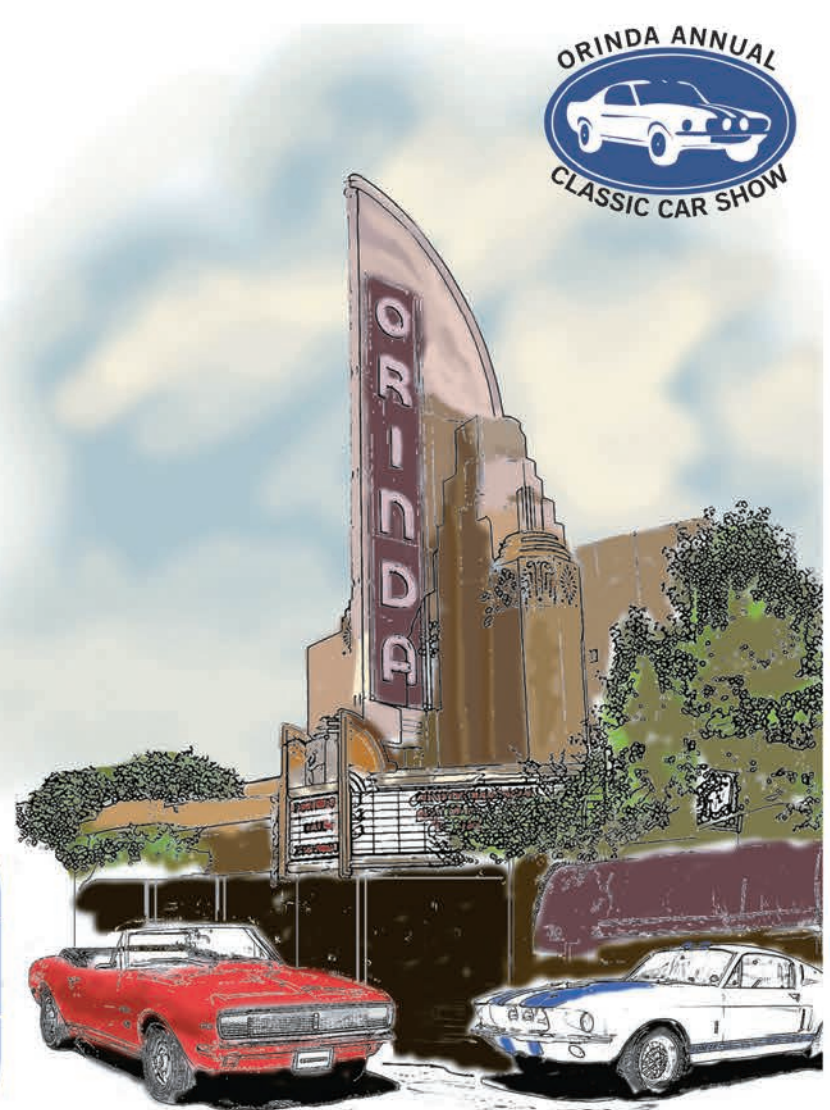
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4TH OF JULY



JAMES FIATARONE

Collusion, made up of ALMA students (L-R) **Cooper Alford, Jack Van Koll, Aiden Schooley** and **Lorenzo Nazzari**, will play in front of Theatre Square following the parade.

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◆ PARADE from page 9

than ever.”

Non-profit groups hosting booths to distribute information and host activities in front of the Orinda Community Center include: Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Lamorinda Democratic Club, Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Orinda Woman’s Club, City of Orinda, Montelindo Garden Club, Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe and Orinda Watch.

What to Eat

Hungry park visitors can enjoy an array of culinary delights from booths including Baan Thai, Loard’s Ice Cream, We Be Popping kettle corn, shaved ice and cold drinks. The Chamber of Commerce will host a booth selling hot dogs, chips and sodas. For those who would like a cold adult libation, visit the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation booth to buy a Czech beer or the Orinda Rotary Club booth featuring

locally owned Drake’s Beer.

And the Bands Play On

Two bands from Academy of Language & Music Arts perform from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Orinda Theatre, according to ALMA director Dr. Jim Fiatarone. **Collusion**, ALMA’s teen band has previously played the Olive Festival, as well as several open mics and school programs. **No Control Band**, featuring ALMA teachers Chris Knight, Chris Williams, Scott Milne, Walter Jove, PJ Gibbs, Jonathan Hagendoorn and Fiatarone playing classic rock. For more information on ALMA, visit www.Alma-leap.com.

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to rock out to the nine-piece band, **3 Day Weekend**. According to Orinda resident Alison Wegener, one of the lead singers of the group, the band covers Motown, Funk, Classic Rock and R&B music. The band will play in the Orinda Park Gazebo from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.3dayweekendband.com.

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SCHOOLS

Coach Vince Dell'Aquila, Well Respected Miramonte Icon, Retires

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

Retiring Miramonte High School Athletic Director Vince Dell'Aquila didn't go quietly in the last weeks of his tenure as the school year wound down. "Coach Dell," who will continue as an offensive line coach for the Mats' football team next year, will give up his teaching and other coaching duties after a 19-year run as the leader of Miramonte's athletic program "to spend more time with my family and just because it's time."

Feted at a celebratory BBQ lunch on May 20 sponsored by baseball parents, the 63-year old Orinda coaching icon also came within one hit of capping his baseball coaching career with an NCS championship and a perfect 27-0 season when Miramonte dropped a taut 4-3 finale to the Drake Pirates.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coach Dell'Aquila and his wife Kathie were honored at his retirement celebration on May 20.

Typically seeing things from the perspective of "the kids," Dell'Aquila bemoaned the pressure that was on his charges in the build-up to the June 3 championship game at St. Mary's College: "They wanted to win so badly for themselves, their teammates, their school and community and for me because I was retiring. Still, what they accomplished was amazing."

Miramonte Principal Julie Parks calls Dell'Aquila more than a teacher and coach: "He is a role model who believes that his most important job is raising our kids to be responsible and respectful adults. He leads by example each day, bringing his calm demeanor and kindness to every situation and to every person with whom he meets." Parent Sandra McGonigle echoes Parks' remarks: "Vince has been a beloved and

positive influence on literally thousands of Miramonte students and student athletes over the years." Tim Tague, a graduating senior on the baseball team, who was also Miramonte's football quarterback, adds a student perspective: "He's such a great guy, always so calm, and helpful and has been successful over his career."

Tague was one of the 34 Miramonte student-athletes who played both baseball and football this past school year. This pleased Dell'Aquila, who extols the virtues of students playing multiple sports in high school rather than specializing too early: "Besides everything else, it allows youngsters to develop and rest different muscle groups as well as forming relationships with more people." Dell'Aquila himself enjoyed playing three sports at St. Francis High School in Southern California where he grew up. He continued playing baseball and football at Pasadena Community College and Cal Poly Pomona, for the Broncos under the tutelage of legendary baseball coach John Scolinos, who himself had coached both baseball and football at Pepperdine before embarking on his thirty year career at the helm of Pomona's well-respected baseball program.

Still, Dell'Aquila cites his father Fred, who had enjoyed a brief stint in the Chicago White Sox minor league system, as his mentor and role model: "He only coached me for one year in Babe Ruth ball, but I always tried to coach the way he coached. He saw coaching as teaching. It was about the approach. Like him, I tried to teach kids like professionals while seeing them as people, as kids, first." With Miramonte's five NCS football championships and six baseball titles since Dell'Aquila became part of the program in 1991, and with a legion of student-athletes who responded to "Coach Dell's" approach and persona, clearly he has been quite successful.

In a sense, Miramonte High School is losing Dell'Aquila because of home runs, doubles and triples. Dell'Aquila looks forward to spending more time at home with Kathie, his wife of 44 years, who herself retired four years ago from Alhambra High School, where she was an associate principal. Most immediately, he also anticipates spending even more time with his son Brian's five-year-old twins and his daughter Julie's six-month old triplets.

Julie, who like Brian and sister Cassandra, graduated from Miramonte, lives in Southern California. Dell'Aquila notes how difficult it's been helping with the prematurely born but thriving triplets and then rushing back to his duties at Miramonte.

The ending of the NCS title game epitomized the rationale for Dell'Aquila to retire: "One of my grandsons greeted me with two questions. He asked, 'Did you win?' and then 'Are you done?' before concluding, 'that's too bad, but at least you'll now be able to spend even more time with us.'"

Ironically, Dell'Aquila found his home at Miramonte through his son Brian: "I was asked to help coach in 1991 when Brian started at the school and really enjoyed it. Soon after, he gravitated to teaching PE while coaching. He's been a varsity baseball coach for 22 years and an assistant football coach and PE teacher for over 25 years. As an AD, he has overseen numerous successful Miramonte programs in water polo, soccer and basketball, just to name a few.

As athletic director and coach, Dell'Aquila has encountered many Miramonte athletes who have gone on to star collegiately, professionally and in the

Olympics. In football, that list includes Miramonte Hall of Famers Drew Bennett and Ken Dorsey. In addition, "Coach Dell" has coached many former and current NFL linemen, including Mike Gibson and Patrick McCoy (Eagles) and Cameron Fleming (Patriots), as they have positioned themselves for the NFL draft.

"I've always appreciated all the support of the Miramonte administration and parents," he concludes. "They've provided the best facilities, equipment, traveling and banquets. Most of all, I've been lucky to work with great principals and coaches. If I know I've helped guide the kids I've coached and taught to be better fathers and citizens, I'm happy."



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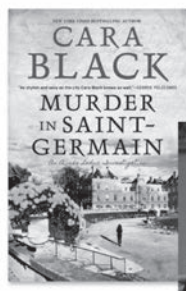
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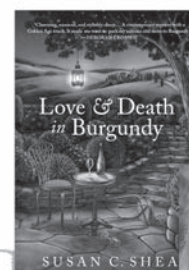
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Rotary Teams With Solo Opera for Park Concert

By KEN JEW
Contributing Writer

Orinda Rotary Club will once again team up with Solo Opera to pres-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brad Kynard is among the talented singers who will perform at Orinda Rotary's Opera in the Park on July 23.

ent the club's ninth annual "Opera in the Park." The free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, will be presented from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 23, at the Orinda Community Park. Free parking is available for this opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers.

We have assembled a truly spectacular line-up of talent," says Sylvia Amorino, Solo Opera's artistic director/producer and master of ceremonies for the concert. According to Amorino, the program includes singers who have performed at San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Lamplighters, Carnegie Hall, etc.

Tenor Christopher Jackson from Lafayette will join other performers that include baritone Bradley Kynard; mezzo-soprano Deborah Rosengaus; sopranos Diane Squires, Cass Panuska, and Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghamai; tenors Michael Orlinsky and Samuel Faustine; and pianist Chun Mei Wilson. The singers will perform hits from operas such as *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Tales of Hoffmann*, *Rigoletto* and *Don Giovanni* among

others.

Enjoying live opera has become so expensive that it's almost impossible for the average family to attend. Orinda Rotary's free "Opera in the Park" is a fine way to introduce children to opera, or even friends who might never go to see and hear live opera, organizers say. There is a running commentary on the works that the master of ceremonies shares so that even the novice can understand the operatic plots. The music chosen is very likeable, and the master of ceremony's short explanation of what is happening in each piece or section will make it even more enjoyable.

The Rotary Club invites people to bring blankets and/or chairs and picnic baskets for their entire family.

For further information on the concert, contact Weylin Eng at weylineng@yahoo.com or Richard Marchick at Rmarchick@comcast.net. For more information on Solo Opera, go to www.soloopera.org.

◆ CARS from page 5

this thing. The car's sitting here waiting for that part to come in. That's the nature of the game. Most shops just can't do that. We can, and it's good news for the classic car owner."

When the car show arrives, the Orinda Classic Car Center will be a focal point. "We're super excited about the car show. This year's going to be a coming out party for the Classic Car Center with more cars on display in the garage. We're going to feature our customer's cars," Vanek declares. "Part of the inspiration for the car show is getting the cars out of their garages so people can see them. I love talking to people about their cars and with the car show, I get to find out about different cars and the history behind them. I consider this a dream job. I don't know any other shop that has its own classic car show," Vanek boasts.

For more information about the Classic Car Center, visit www.orindamotors.com/classic-cars or call 925-241-4574. For more information about the Orinda Classic Car Show, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

The Land of Oz Comes to Orinda

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) are bringing another original adaptation to the stage starting July 21. L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* is Malcolm Cowler's fourth original stage adaptation. Previous adaptations include *Escape to Bedlam* (2013), a collection of three Edgar Allan Poe stories, *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (2014), and *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* (2015).

Cowler has been working on this production for two years. "It's very close to the original storyline and has eight original songs included in the production," notes Cowler. "I imported the original text of the whole book into my script editor and then gradually carved it down into a workable play script. This pretty much guarantees that the script contains over 80 percent of the original wording."

Not only has Cowler spent a lot of time on the script, but he is incorporating projector technology to bring the audience into Oz. "I've spent a lot of time creating an entire three-dimensional land of Oz, using role playing gaming software," enthuses Cowler. "The Munchkin, Winkie and Quadling villages, the witches' castle and the Emerald City are all there to travel into and through. The back wall of the stage

is a large projection screen. So a continuous audio/video background will carry the audience into and through Oz as the story unfolds."

Those who saw OrSVP's production of *Pinocchio* two years ago will remember the talented actress Emily Joy Kessel who played the title role. "Emily is returning to play Dorothy in this production," says Cowler. The cast, with over 30 performers aged 3 to 85, includes OrSVP regulars Susan Chapple, Bill Chessman, Dan Phillips, Clair Stevenson and Artistic Director Geotty Chapple.

On clear nights, OrSVP usually has telescopes set up so the audience can look at some of the nearby celestial objects. The moon, of course, often gets a close look, but whenever Saturn is visible you can get a nice view of her rings.

Performances of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* run from July 21 through Aug. 12, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., with two Sunday matinees on July 30 and Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on Aug. 10 at 8 p.m., at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way.

OrSVP is completely volunteer run and driven. Anyone interested in any aspect of theatre who would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225.

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Sunday, July 30 & Aug. 6, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10, 8:00 p.m.

At the Outdoor Amphitheater, Orinda Community Center Park
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid). Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10

Mailing Address: Orinda Starlight Village Players,
4946 Santa Rita Rd., Richmond, CA 94803

www.orsvp.org

Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JULY

- 1 **Orinda Books** Where's Waldo Scavenger Hunt through July 27. Kids can search for Waldo at participating Orinda stores, fill their passports with stamps, and enter the contest to win lots of Waldo books. Party at the store on July 27 with snacks and a special visit from Waldo himself! Kids should pick up their passports at Orinda Books. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 2 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* through Aug. 12, Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Thursday Aug. 10 at 8 p.m., and Sunday July 30 and Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. For more information and tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article page 12.
- 4 **Orinda Fourth of July Parade and Celebration** kicks off with pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Community Center, followed by the flag-raising at 7:55 a.m. At 8 a.m., Haley's Run for A Reason meets in front of Community Center. Parade begins at 10 a.m. Outdoor activities and bands are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the park and in front of the Orinda Theatre. Visit www.orindaparade.com. See story, pages 7-10.
- 6 **Orinda Books** presents Story Time, 10 a.m., a lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also July 13, 20, and 27. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 8 **Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents The Human Figure, Landscapes, Woodworking and Metal Art through July 31. Meet the artists at a reception Sat. July 8 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. See article page 2.
- 9 **Orinda Books** presents Writing from Life Experience II, 5 p.m. Introductory Class \$10. \$160 for the subsequent 4 classes at Orinda Books. Janine deBoisblanc offers an enjoyable process and supportive environment that promotes professional growth. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com. Call Orinda Books to register, 925-254-7606.
- 11 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring Floorshakers (Funk Soul, Rock & Roll); Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food); Orinda Community Center Park.
- 13 **Orinda Books** hosts Jaimal Yogis, 6 p.m., a surfer, journalist and Zen practitioner, discussing his new book, *All Our Waves are Water* with a screening of Jaimal's documentary, *Saltwater Buddha*. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
Movie-in-the-Park, 8:15 p.m., featuring *Moana*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 14 **Orinda Books** Celebrates Bastille Day, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy wine, cheese and murder with Cara Black and Susan Shea discussing their new mysteries *Murder in St. Germaine* (Black), and *Love & Death in Burgundy* (Shea) 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 15 **California Shakespeare** presents *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams through July 30. Tickets are available through the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or by visiting www.calshakes.org. See article this page.
- 18 **Orinda Books** The World Affairs Book Group, 3 p.m., discussing *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia*, by Anne Garrels. The discussion will be lead by Gurnam Brard.
Concerts-in-the-Park, 6:30 p.m., featuring Lamorinda Idol; Food Truck: Pia's Pizza Orinda Community Center Park.
- 19 **Orinda Books** Social Issues Book Group, 6 p.m., led by Pat Rudebusch will read and discuss *What We Do Now: Standing Up for Your Values in Trump's America* by Dennis Johnson. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 20 **Orinda Books** Thursday Night Summer Fun with Steve Goetz, 6 p.m., who will read his *Old MacDonald Had a Truck* – and play BINGO (free). Also, Lynn Freed will discuss her witty new novel, *The Last Laugh*, with a Greek Island setting. A sampling of Greek food and wine included. \$10. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com. Call to register, 925-254-7606.
- 23 **Orinda Rotary and Solo Opera** presents the 9th annual free opera concert "Opera in the Park" from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Orinda Community Park. Children and families are welcome. See article page 12.
- 25 **Orinda Books** presents Chef Charlie Vollmar, 11:30 a.m., with another cooking demonstration and luncheon: \$35 includes great recipes, helpful cooking skills and techniques, a three course luncheon, and a glass of wine. 10% discount on any cookbook purchased that day. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
Concerts-in-the-Park, 6:30 p.m., featuring Bruce Gunn & Big Rain (Soulful Rock Country); Food Truck: El Ranchero (Taco truck); Orinda Community Center Park.
- 27 **Orinda Books** presents Maria's Book Group, 11: a.m., reading and discussing *Gastronomical Me* by M.F.K. Fisher. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
Orinda Books Kids Group, 5 p.m., 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 30 **Orinda Books** presents Richard Black, 1 p.m. Black will discuss and sign copies of his new novel, *Race to Radar*. Refreshments will be served. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The Library will be closed July 4 for Independence Day.

- 3 **Maker Mondays**, Noon. Drop in and create! Legos (July 3 and 31), Code.og (July 10 – pre-register), Craft (July 17) and Minecraft (July 24 – pre-register).
- 4 **Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., located both in the Friends' Bookshop and in the sorting room (street level).
- 5 **Toddler Lapsit**, 10 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Songs and stories for babies, toddlers (0-5) and their caregivers. Drop in to any Lapsit, attendance is limited to once per week. Also July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.
- 6 **ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 2:30 p.m., for adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group. Registration not required. Also July 13, 20, and 27.
How to High School, the Miramonte Perspective, 6:30 p.m. Just For Teens. Incoming freshmen are invited to hear from Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group members and friends about their experiences at Miramonte High School. Learn about transitioning from middle school to high school. Register online, by phone or in person at the Orinda Library.
- 7 **Teen Coloring Club**, 4 p.m. Join the Orinda Library TAG to de-stress, relax and have fun. The library provides age appropriate coloring books and colored pencils you provide the inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all. Also July 14, 21, and 28.
- 8 **Build Your Brain with Chess**, 10 a.m. Learn the game or improve your strategy. All skill

Cal Shakes Presents Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*

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Phoebe Fico is Laura and **Sean San Jose** is Tom in California Shakespeare Theater's *The Glass Menagerie*. Told through the illusion of Tom's memory, he recounts his life with his fragile sister Laura and his overbearing mother as they struggle to survive. Tennessee Williams great American drama runs July 5 – 30 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, in Orinda. Call 510-809-3290 or go to www.calshakes.org.

levels welcome!

- 11 **Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also July 25.
- 17 **STEAM Powered Fun!**, 4:30 p.m. A Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math activity. Also July 20 and 24.
- 18 **Peek-a-Boo Time**, 11:30 a.m. Rhymes and rhythms for infants and pre-walkers (16 months) and their caregivers, Gallery Room. Families with older siblings are welcome. Also July 25.
- 19 **Do Hormones Change After Menopause?**, 2 p.m. Learn about post menopause hormonal changes and if men experience similar changes. Orinda Library Garden Room.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 p.m. Uncover and discuss *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* by John Le Carre.
- 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. The program usually takes place in the Gallery Room of the Orinda Library.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 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, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- 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 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com> or 925-283-8288. Visit the website for weekly topics.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.lamorindasunrise.com.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- 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/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE

- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings; meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

HONORING VOLUNTEERS AND RETIREES

Distinguished Woman Award

Mary Ann McLeod (L) received the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Distinguished Woman award. Shown here with the 2015 recipient **Pat Lopker** (R), McLeod has been an AAUW member since 1989. During that time, she has served in numerous leadership roles and for over 16 years managed the budget and financial records. For more information on AAUW, go to www.oml-ca.aauw.net.



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Orinda Union School District Honors Faculty and Staff Retirees



Bronwen Horton (upper left with OUSD Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Seaton**) and **Sally Thompson** (lower left with Director of Special Subjects/Personnel **Jen Woodman**), both Orinda Intermediate School sixth grade core teachers, retired in June after 28 years and 17 years of teaching, respectively. **Kathy Marshall** (upper right), OUSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction, retired after a long career, six years of which was with OUSD. She was honored with a fun video that included teachers, administrators and students from all four elementary schools and OIS.



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Fitness Tip of the Month

What Do I Have To Do To Reach A State of Perfect Fitness?

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

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by Sheena

What's More Effective for Fat Loss than Counting Calories? Not Counting Calories!

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Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market in Orinda Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Now is the time to visit the Orinda Farmers' Market, open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday through November 18. Located on Orinda Way in front of the Community Center Park, the market is a place where you will find as many as 20 farmers and 14 artisan food producers represented, along with non-agricultural merchants including a massage therapist and a provider of live music.

Staci DeShasier has been with the Contra

Costa Certified Farmers' Market for eight years and is in her third year serving as executive director. "Not many people are aware that we are a 501 (c) (5) nonprofit organization, with an agricultural designation. Being a Certified Farmers' Market means that all produce is grown by and sold by a producer in the State of California," explains DeShasier. Mike Gurule serves as on-site manager in Orinda.

Local Contra Costa County farmers include: Smith Farm from Knightsen and Rose Lane Farm located near Brentwood, not to mention honey sourced from Orinda.

"We have a very good selection of organic vegetables and berries. Two of our

farms bring organic salad mixes and broccoli and, in late summer, we have pears from Martinez," she says. Non-agricultural merchants offer hummus, crepes, Mexican food, kettle corn, granola, jams, eggs, and baked goods.

DeShasier believes part of what makes the Orinda Farmers' Market so special is the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to enjoy live music. During the month of July, bands include: Jumbo Trout, Season of Us, Jack Cutter and the Buds.

Every Saturday a specially designated children's booth offers a free activity for the kids. Children also gleefully hunt for Ben the Broccoli as he traipses through the outdoor market.

The Contra Costa Certified Orinda Farmers' Market is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market line at 925-431-8361.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Staci DeShasier is the executive director of Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market.

serves as Director of Legal Operations for the firm. "Much of our work is in and around the nine Bay Area counties, and it is important for us personally to be based in Orinda. We planned for a year to establish the firm where we live, where our children go to school. There was a major driving force to get closer to our community," says D'Amato.

The couple has two children at Sleepy Hollow School, where Wyatt is a fourth grader this fall and Cassidy begins kindergarten.

D'Amato points out that his firm does business with other local business owners whenever possible. The D'Amato Law Corporation is a member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, visit the website at www.damatolawcorp.com or call 925-317-1300.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Orinda resident **Thomas D'Amato** opened a law firm in Orinda this spring.




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POLICE BLOTTER

April 30 through June 10, 2017

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 14 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 1 incident.
 Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
 Accident Property: 10 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 136 incidents.
 Animal Cruelty: 2 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 6 incidents.
 Battery: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 8 incidents.
 Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Residential: 8 incidents.
 Civil Matter: 13 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 128 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 48 incidents.
 Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 4 incidents.
 Fireworks: 1 incident.
 Found Property: 5 incidents.
 Fraud/False Pretenses: 2 incidents.
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
 Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 11 incidents.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
 Loitering: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 3 incidents.
 Loud Music: 4 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 8 incidents.
 Loud Party: 9 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 4 incidents.
 Motorist Assist: 2 incidents.
 Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 30 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 23 incidents.
 Panhandling: 3 incidents.
 Parking Detail: 101 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 89 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 4 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.
 Petty Theft Purse Snatch: 1 incident.
 Petty Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident.
 Phone Harass: 1 incident.
 Prowler: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 2 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 1 incident.
 Reckless Driving: 21 incidents.
 Runaway Juvenile: incidents.
 School Check: 7 incidents.

Security Check: 89 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 188 incidents.
 Shoplift: 2 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 30 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 14 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 20 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 29 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 15 incidents.
 Tow: 5 incidents.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 5 incidents.
 Traffic Control: 2 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 16 incidents.
 Trespass: 11 incidents.
 Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
 Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
 Vacation House Check: 63 incidents.
 Vandalism: 3 incidents.
 Vehicle Blocking Sidewalk: 1 incident.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 incident.
 Verbal Dispute: 5 incidents.
 Violation Restraining Order: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 19 incidents.

Arrests

DUI: 1 arrest.
 Embezzlement: 1 arrest.
 Mail Theft: 1 arrest.
 Other Misdemeanor: 2 arrests.
 Petty Theft Shoplifting: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Stolen Property: 1 arrest.
 Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
 Robbery: 1 arrest.
 Shoplifting: 1 arrest.
 Unauthorized Possession: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Code Violation: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

Grand Theft - Catalytic Converter: 1 incident.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
www.crimereports.com