Clay Deanhardt, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2026

Key Accomplishments of Clay Deanhardt

- **Rotary Leadership:** Serving as an Orinda Rotarian since August 2007, he completed two terms as Club President (2021–2022 and 2023–2024) and was twice honored as Rotarian of the Year.
- **Civic Leadership:** Served as an Orinda Parks and Recreation Commissioner for six years (2014–2020), including a term as Board President.
- **Education Volunteer:** Served on the transition committee to merge Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) into the Orinda Network for Education (ONE). He also served as a parent volunteer at Del Rey, OIS, and MHS Parents Clubs.
- **Community Volunteer:** Managed the food vendors in the Community Center Park for the Orinda Fourth of July celebration for well over a decade. He has also managed the Frank Isola Rotary Field Day since 2012 and the annual Spring Egg Hunt for 10 years.
- **Local and Global Philanthropy:** Volunteers directly for local nonprofits including Meals on Wheels and the Contra Costa Solano Food Bank. Globally, he serves as General Counsel for *Be My Eyes* and is a founding board member of its non-profit foundation supporting blind and low-vision access.

Quotes from Nominees and Community Members

- "Clay is one of the most giving and caring individuals I have ever known. His commitment to the community and to serving others is remarkable. While much of his focus and service has been through Rotary, it is his commitment to Orinda that is truly unparalleled."
- "Clay’s real talents shine when he steps forward to fill a need, lead a project, or take on responsibility for an organization. He brings energy, dedication, and a genuine desire to make a difference. He is the kind of person who quietly gets things done—not for recognition or praise, but because he cares deeply about his community and the people in it."
- "Clay is appreciated for his dedication and humility, he never seeks the spotlight. He has stepped up across decades to mentor our youth, organize relief efforts, and manage countless vital logistics behind the scenes. His staggering breadth of service and steadfast consistency makes him a true 'below the radar' pillar of our community."
- "Clay is, in every sense, an unsung hero. Orinda is fortunate to have someone so committed to serving others and making our community a better place."