



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, August 28, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August, 22 at 6:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Not a pretty sight, 7/31/12 A 64-year-old male transient found along Camino Pablo and Brookwood was charged with being drunk in public when he was found to have red eyes, slurred speech and soaked pants. The repeat offender was already on probation and registered nearly three times legal limit of blood/alcohol in his system. He was arrested (again), transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked. His backpack was taken to the Orinda Police station for safe keeping.

Beware of driving drunk, 8/3/12 Police say an "extremely intoxicated" 32-year-old male was not so intoxicated that he couldn't beat up the poor taxi driver called in to provide his transportation. The ungrateful passenger is charged with battery felony, after beating the driver so severely the driver required hospitalization for a deep cut to his head. The perpetrator was taken into arrest at his residence although he was unconscious by then, and was identified by the taxi driver. Perp rode to Martinez Detention Facility for booking in the back of a different kind of car.

Trading down, 8/2/12 A 39-year-old male driving under the influence after midnight had to trade his sweet 2012 Audi for a ride in the back of a police cruiser after preliminary alcohol screening showed .092. Back at Orinda Police station, the man showed remarkable consistency when two additional tests still revealed a .09 blood alcohol content. His nice wheels were towed and said offender was transported to county lockup.

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OPEN SUNDAY,
AUGUST 19TH, 1-4

Residents Play Ball at Orinda Wilder Park

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda Wilder Park saw action last weekend as soccer players filled the open playfields during a tournament. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Like overheated ducks to a cool pond, softball and soccer enthusiasts are flocking to Orinda's two newest sports facilities – playfields one and two at Orinda Wilder Park.

As part of Phase 1A for park completion, the Orinda City Council accepted the property title from the developer May 29. City staff provided an update regarding the progress on the remaining fields at the Council's

August 7 meeting.

Delivery of the Maintenance Building, two Lift Stations, a Comfort Station, and Guest House took place in June. Other items expected by mid-August include the installation of directional signage and completion of a bridge, with final grading, landscaping, and irrigation to be completed by June 1, 2013. A fair portion of the beautification should be finished by October;

however, developers have asked for yet another redesign – this time to the creek landscaping – to reduce costs.

Staff is currently holding off on deciding whether the installation of protective fencing for the corner of fields one and two will be needed to keep balls within the play areas. "We don't have any history yet on that one," said City Manager Janet Keeter.

As reported earlier by the *Lamorinda Weekly*, the developer was required by Council to provide compensation to the City for revenues lost to the company's delays in meeting prior field delivery dates. The City expects to receive a check for \$114,450 shortly.

In addition, the developer would like to modify the delivery dates for playfields three and five – City staff expressed confidence that an agreement will be reached. The most recent delivery date projected for these two fields was June 1, 2013.

Playfield four is now not anticipated to be available until 2014, said

Scott Goldie, project manager for Brooks Street. Goldie thanked the Council for the opportunity to develop the fields and noted that he had stopped by to watch residents recreating just prior to the Council meeting. "There are a lot of people enjoying the ballfields."

Council Members Victoria Smith and Dean Orr listened patiently, and then reminded Goldie again that the City expects that the agreed upon timeline be met.

Vice Mayor Amy Worth commended Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Lacy for her hard work in ensuring that the first two playfields became operational.

Lacey reported that the fields were already in use at night for adult softball under the new lighting, and announced that a large soccer tournament had been scheduled for the weekend of August 10. She said that she anticipates that there will be a further uptick in field usage by the end of August.

Evangeline Cumbe Devera Laid to Rest in Her Native Philippines

Her alleged killer, James Collin, pleads not guilty

By Laurie Snyder

Family and friends engaged in a difficult farewell at an East Bay funeral home early last month as they said goodbye to Orinda resident Evangeline Cumbe Devera. Afterward, the remains of the 56-year-old were carried home to her sister by Philippine Airlines.

Born Evangeline Cumbe, she was originally from Barangay Bonifacio, a district in the municipality of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija Province, which is about a three-hour bus ride from Manila in the Central Luzon Region of the Philippines. Farming is a common occupation in the area.

According to the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, Devera arrived in the United States approximately 23 years ago on a tourist visa. She had been living with James Collin, a 1967 graduate of Miramonte High School, for roughly 10 years in the home on Moraga Way in Orinda where he had been raised.

They never married and, despite reports in the media that there had been a child or teenager in the home,

police state they found no child and also no clothing, toys, or other evidence to confirm that one had been present.

Collin Pleads Not Guilty

On August 2, following two prior Contra Costa Superior Court appearances, 62-year-old James Collin pled not guilty to the June 26 torture and murder of Devera.

The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office added enhancement charges "for personal use of a deadly/dangerous weapon ... a machete," and torture because of additional wounds that Devera was alleged to have suffered to her extremities, including the near severing of one of her hands. The second enhancement may signal the intention of prosecutors to pursue the death penalty for Collin.

When asked if the not guilty pleas indicated a potential self-defense claim public defender Mike Kelly, who represents Collin, declined to answer, saying he needed more time to complete his review of the documents

from Collin's court appearance earlier in the day. Although Kelly's client allegedly made statements to the Orinda Police that he did cause Devera's death, police say Collin claimed that Devera attempted to attack him with a knife and also claimed not to have known the woman or her family well -- even while stating that she had lived in his home since at least 2005 or 2006. No knife was found on or near Devera's body, according to Chief of Police Jeffrey Jennings.

Collin is expected to appear in court again August 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Much Additional Speculation

The *Lamorinda Weekly* recently learned that earlier reports regarding one of Collin's prior alleged acts of violence were incorrect. According to police, the death of Collin's brother – Tim Collin – which occurred in 1986 at the same home on Moraga Way, was officially ruled a suicide by the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office.

Reports that James Collin pled no contest to the misdemeanor domestic battery of Devera in 2006 are true. He



James Collin
Miramonte yearbook (1966)

received a sentence of probation.

When asked if any other instances of domestic violence (DV) had occurred at the home, Mary Knox, Deputy District Attorney and the case's lead prosecutor, responded that she had read reports by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in which neighbors alleged that they had heard Devera and Collin fighting but said, "I am not aware of any other calls to the police regarding DV at the residence." Orinda police also reported no domestic violence calls at the residence between the 2006 and 2012 arrests.

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