



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
April 9 canceled
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, April 8, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office

25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA POLICE Police Report

Kaufman Released on Bail

According to Contra Costa County Sheriff's spokesperson Jimmy Lee, Bay Area baseball coach and Orinda resident Joel Kaufman, age 52, was released on \$325,000 bail the afternoon of March 22, hours after turning himself in at the Martinez Detention Facility and being booked for two counts of lewd and lascivious acts on a child, sexual penetration, annoying or molesting a child and invasion of privacy.

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Mayor Recalls Orinda's History and Spirit during State of the City Address

By Laurie Snyder



"Families move to Orinda to raise their children because of our excellent schools, quality of life, and wonderful sense of community," said Mayor Amy Worth during her recent 2013 State of the City address at the Orinda Country Club.

Photo Andy Schreck

The first week of her latest term as mayor, said Amy Worth, was unforgettable – from the happy highs when Forbes Magazine declared Orinda to be America's second friendliest city to the frustration and worry, a few days later, as torrential rains triggered a state of emergency.

And yet, in spite of these roller-coaster moments, it was Orinda's history that was on her mind as she delivered her State of the City Address to a crowd of roughly 100 at the Orinda Country Club March 20.

Worth began by recounting the community's Spanish beginnings – a

carve-out from four land grants from the Alta California area of Mexico – before paying tribute to Orinda's women. The city, in fact, owes its name to Alice Marsh Camron, a poetry-loving pioneer who persuaded her spouse to name their home "Orinda Park" in 1876 – in homage to Katherine Fowler Philips' poem, "The Matchless Orinda."

"I often think of that literary and intellectual heritage when I think of our Orinda library which will be 100 years old in 2015, and the tremendous role that women played in the intellectual and volunteer life of our community and schools." Families have relocated here, since that time, for "excellent schools, quality of life, and [Orinda's] wonderful sense of community."

Reflecting on the city's 1985 incorporation, she recalled how officials "focused on the four 'Ps' – public safety, planning, public works, and parks and recreation" – and still do. "Our current city mission states our goal succinctly, 'Orinda strives to provide excellent services in a fiscally responsible manner and to promote a safe, healthy and vibrant commu-

nity.'" Paid staff and volunteer commissioners strive for transparent governance via publicly announced meetings and report postings on the city's website.

"We have lived within our means, and have been able to provide excellent services to our residents on a limited budget." City revenues come "from property and sales tax, along with fees which support our planning and parks and rec activities. Our paving budget comes from our franchise fees and our local share of the Measure J transportation sales tax." Major capital projects, however, "require setting aside funds over several years as well as securing local, state and federal grants to fund them."

Incorporation also gave Orinda local zoning control for land use. "Through our zoning ordinances and the thoughtful work of our Planning Commission, development projects throughout Orinda reflect the community character that our residents cherish." The city's library and parks and recreation programs "serve all ages," further enhancing life.

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Orinda CIOC Recaps Road Repairs

By Laurie Snyder

"I'm happy to report that we've made significant progress," stated Dennis Fay as he began his March 19 presentation before the Orinda City Council. The chair of the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission was on hand to update city leaders and residents on the latest efforts to improve Orinda's roads and drains. Since April 2009, the number of arterial and collector streets in very poor or poor condition has been reduced from 43 to 19.

Rehabilitated in 2012 were some of the city's most heavily traveled streets known as collectors – Rheem Boulevard from Hall to Zander Drive, Orinda Way from the library to Irwin Way, Camino Sobrante from Orinda Way to El Ribero, Overhill Road from Tara to Glorietta Boulevard, and Valley View Drive from Crestview to

Don Gabriel Way.

"Our projections continue to show that Orinda will be able to complete the repair of the arterials and collectors that currently are in poor or very poor condition ... by 2018 without using the new Measure L funding," reads CIOC's report. A test of new technology, "which recycle[d] existing asphalt pavement rather than replacing it" on Camino Sobrante, Valley View and Overhill, was successful enough that CIOC members hope that it can be used again in the future to save the city money. Staff will conduct ongoing monitoring to ensure the test work "is at least as durable as the traditional technology."

The city also began tackling a drainage failure-induced sink hole on Tarabrook Drive, ponied up \$170,000 for drainage improvements to a 24-

inch storm drain between Coral Drive and Fiesta Circle and three large El Toyonal culverts, and used \$38,355 for urgent road repairs to Camino Pablo south of Orinda Way, El Camino Moraga at Moraga Way, and Spring Road.

But other neighborhood thoroughfares still need work. "As of the current date, the number of residential road segments that are considered very poor (PCIs less than 25) was 130." The estimated price tag is \$22.2 million.

The \$600,000 from the Measure L sales tax will help somewhat; however, those increased revenues will not be available to the city until September. In the interim, the CIOC asked the city council to "advance monies to the Public Works Department to undertake the needed design

and construction documents ... to allow construction to begin as soon as tax dollars are available." Additionally, city leaders were urged "to proceed vigorously with the 10-year plan which ... envisions raising \$39.6 million for the roads through bonds issues [sic] in 2016 and 2020." The CIOC also asked the council to consider authorizing a real estate transfer tax, divert some of the increased property tax revenues which will be produced as older homes are sold, and apply part of the \$2.3 million in one-time funds generated by the Eden affordable housing program.

CIOC commissioners contributing to the report included Fay, vice chair Darlene Gee, Gordon Bizieff, Jeffrey Smyly, Joan Dahl, and Richard Nelson.

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