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Orinda Finance Director leaving; search for City Manager continues

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's Finance Director Susan Mahoney is resigning, effective May 25.

Mahoney started as a consultant in July 2012, following the retirement of the city's previous finance director, and was hired on a permanent basis Jan. 1, 2013. Her department manages numerous funds, each operating like a separate business with its own separate set of books.

Interim City Manager Steve Salomon announced the news during the April 18 city council meeting. He expressed his appreciation of Ma-

honey's work, noting that she has been staying in a hotel three to four nights per week to do the job for four years. "I don't know how she does it," he said, but added that she has done a tremendous job. He said that she is taking another parttime position in a community much closer to her home. The plan is to bring the budget to the city council on May 2 and May 16 and at least have a proposed final budget. Staff is working on finding an interim finance director.

The executive search for a new city manager is also continuing. Bobby Peckham, president of Peckham & McKenny Executive Search, outlined for the city council in March plans for selecting Orinda's new city manager, including interviews by the city council, executive management team and community representatives. After the filing deadline June 5, Peckham will review resumes and set supplemental questions. She will narrow the field to 15 candidates and will report back to the city council on July 5. On July 14-15, the council will conduct interviews with each candidate. Each interview will consist of the same questions and will last one hour. On one of the days, yet to be determined, the candidates will also be interviewed by the city's executive management team and community stakeholders, who will be allowed to provide feedback on the pros and cons of each candidate but not a ranking by preference.

Host family sought for 2017 visiting Czech student

By Sora O'Doherty



Marek Vybiral Photo provided

Marek Vybiral has won the competition to be the 16th Czech visiting student to attend Miramonte High School. Now he just needs to find a home-away-from-home.

Vybiral will arrive in Orinda in mid-August, with a little time to get acclimated before starting school. He will return to the Czech Republic at the beginning of February 2018.

Former mayor Bobbie Landers, one of the founders of the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, says that Vybiral is very happy that he will be in Orinda for the Year of the Czechs and plans to prepare a panel on past and present famous Czechs. He also plans

to do a "task sheet" for children and a short video recording telling the story of St. Wenceslaus.

The visiting student still needs a host family, ideally, one with a Miramonte student at home who could introduce Vybiral to the school community.

Vybiral loves swimming, skiing, cycling and hiking. He has played basketball but is currently on a badminton team in Tabor, Orinda's sister city in the Czech Republic. He has been a member of a scout troop and loves geography and history. Vybiral speaks English, French and Spanish, in addition to his native Czech. If you are interested and have a spare room for this 17-year-old, please contact Bobbie Landers at 925-254-8260 or bobielanders@yahoo.com.

There are over 15 Orinda families who have hosted students from Tabor who would be happy to help with support, suggestions and recommendations. The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation Board members also support the visiting students with excursions and events.

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