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Time flies, but Steve Salomon will stay put

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council has agreed to remove the provision from City Manager Steve Salomon's employment contract that would have resulted in his term expiring in June. Instead, Salomon and the city have agreed that he will continue indefinitely, subject to termination by either side with notice. In order to ensure a smooth transition of city business, the new agreement is that the city will provide two-month's notice of termination and the city manager will provide six-month's notice of retirement, if feasible.

Salomon came to Orinda as an interim city manager following the retirement of Janet Keeter. He brought with him some 40 years of experience, including previously serving as Visalia's city manager for 17 years. He was Albany's city administrator, and city manager for the cities of Watsonville and Hercules. He also worked for the city of

Concord in a variety of positions and has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Redevelopment Association, Contra Costa City Manager's Group, and South San Joaquin Valley Division of the League of California Cities - City Managers' Department, and is a member of the International City/Council Management Association.

While Salomon was interim city manager, Orinda searched for a candidate to take on the position on a permanent basis, but they were dissatisfied with the candidates they reviewed. Salomon agreed to stay on for two years as city manager, working on a 90 percent full-time basis to allow for his long daily commute to Brentwood. That part of his contract remains unchanged. Previous contract amendments have provided for salary increases. It is anticipated that his contract will come back to the city council for a further review in the summer or fall.

Two new Wilder playfields add over \$6 million to Orinda balance sheet



Lamorinda Girls' Soccer Club playing at the Development Academy level.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda has resolved to take title to Playfields 4 and 5 at Wilder. The land, about 16.5 acres, is valued at \$987,600 and the improvements at \$5.74 million. Orinda has previously accepted Playfields 1 and 2, which included a tot lot, picnic area, pedestrian

pathways and parking lot. Playfield 3 has also been accepted and included lift stations, a bridge, two comfort stations, a guest house, a maintenance building and ballfield lighting. The Art and Garden Center is very close to completion, and the city expects to take possession of it this month.

Czech visiting student, arriving in August, seeks home for Miramonte fall/winter semester

After reviewing 15 essays from students in Tabor, Czech Republic, the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, together with Czech Klub Tabor, has selected a new student to spend six months in Orinda and study at Miramonte High School. Sixteen-year-old Erik Stoklasa will be the 19th student to visit Miramonte from Tabor.

Stoklasa was the hands-down winning candidate after the field had been narrowed to five and oral interviews were conducted. Stoklasa loves programming and sports. At home he started a course for high school students which teaches programming and presentation skills. On the athletic front, Stoklasa loves to run and has

completed a quarter marathon, in addition to playing tennis competitively for nine years. Last summer he participated in an international camping program on Cyprus for 14 days, where the dialog was in English. Stoklasa also had the opportunity to participate in the model European parliament, focusing on the European General Data Protection Regulation. He is also a beginning piano student.

Anyone interested in volunteering to house the visiting Czech student should contact Bobbie Landers by telephone at (925) 254-8260 or by email at bobbielanders@yahoo.com. - S. O'Doherty

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