



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Thursday, May 30, 8:30 a.m.
Special Meeting
Community Room, City Hall

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 28 canceled
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 22, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 13, 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 Crime Statistics April

False Residential Alarms (150)

Stolen Vehicle

Camino Don Miguel

Domestic Violence

(location confidential)

Auto Burglary

Camino Sobrante (2)
Brookwood Rd

Commercial Burglary

Camino Sobrante

Residential Burglary

Tahos Rd
Orinda View Rd
Miner Rd
Valley Dr
Vianne Ct
Muth Dr

Petty Theft

Country Club Plaza
Orinda Fields Ln

Felony Vandalism

Via Floreado
Charles Hill Rd

Warrant Arrest

Camino Encinas/Moraga Wy
Moraga Wy/Northwood Dr
Ardor Dr
Camino Sobrante (2)

DUI

El Nido Ranch Rd/
St Stephens Dr
Lloyd Ln/Moraga Wy
Orinda Wy

Battery (on an Officer)

Orinda Wy

Receiving Stolen Prop.

Country Club Plaza/Orinda Wy

Drunk In Public

Ivy Dr (2)
Bryant Wy
Moraga Wy



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The Road to Public Service

Getting to know Orinda's Tonya Gilmore

By Laurie Snyder



Tonya Gilmore and Janet Keeter

Photo Ohlen Alexander

If information is truly an engine of democracy, then one of Lamorinda's newest city employees is likely to become a familiar and trusted face behind the wheel. Tonya Gilmore, hired March 13 to serve dually as the city of Orinda's public relations representative and assistant to the city manager, will function as the lead project manager on key city issues, help City Manager Janet Keeter with strategic planning and budget initiatives, and provide guidance to staff regarding the myriad reports, letters, and other com-

munications which maintain the transparency of Orinda government operations each year. As the public information officer, Gilmore will be the staff liaison to the Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority and Orinda Chamber of Commerce, as well as the primary point of contact for statewide and national news media. She is also responsible for communicating traffic alerts, such as the recent heads up to residents about the downed power line near McDonnell Nursery.

What many Orindans may not realize about her job, however, is that she will also be the contact for city employees regarding information technology (IT) and phone services. "It's a lean organization," explains Gilmore. Every employee is charged with keeping multiple "balls in the air."

Happily married with two sons, Gilmore is a Saint Mary's graduate with a Bachelor's degree in business management who was well equipped professionally to hit the ground running on her first day. As a former executive assistant to the west coast regional manager of an insurance company, she managed office operations, purchased equipment, and even functioned as the in-house tech person for this firm which navigated the often challenging waters of expansion. The job "gave me a good basis for doing many varied things all over," she says.

Gilmore then entered the tech world. As a program manager, she collaborated with writers to produce white papers sparking industry buzz about product releases. During this time, she began realizing that "satisfaction doesn't linger" in the high tech arena, and noticed that other marketing professionals were leaving to find greater fulfillment in public service.

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It's Not a Chore, It's an Opportunity

Orinda Sister Cities program seeks host family

By Laurie Snyder



Roxana Rayová with her dog

Photo provided

"It's just such a treat," says former Orinda mayor Bobbie Landers of her work with the Orinda Sister Cities group. Members just screened an acclaimed film about the 1939 rescue of Czech children from Nazis, and partnered with the Northern California Czech-Slovak Club to host a Spring Fest. Participants arrived in traditional, colorful dress on an April afternoon, and danced well into the evening.

But the program's most important initiative, stresses Landers, is to pair one lucky Orinda family each year with a teen from Tábor in the Czech Republic. "It's not a chore," she says, "it's an opportunity."

Chandler Visher and Deborah Lambert, the host parents of Tábor's most recent visitor, agree. "Michael was a delightful kid to have around; he was like a brother to the boys. They played soccer together," says Visher. The host experience was so rewarding, he adds, that families in

Orinda should be competing for the opportunity.

The Orindans took their guest to Yosemite and Santa Barbara over Thanksgiving for a family visit with Lambert's parents, and then helped him fulfill his dream of visiting Las Vegas. They hope to travel to Tábor to visit Michael Čížek's entire family in the near future.

Each personable Táboran visitor is a winning teen in every sense of the word. "They have a competition over there to select the person," explains Landers. "From that they pick four students to interview with an English-speaking panel ... so that they'll be ready to step into an English-speaking community."

Roxana Rayová – a 16-year-old from Hodonice (near Bechyně) – topped this year's competition. A self-described bookworm who reads both

Czech and English, her favorite subject is recitation. She plays basketball, runs cross-country, and enjoys painting and drawing. She has triumphed in math, geography and English competitions, and won this year's Czech language contest at the Gymnazium Pierra de Coubertina.

"But I am not only an indoor person, I am a nature lover. Hiking and camping gives me the contact with nature I need" – a need she feels can be explored in Orinda. "I just started to admire this city. I like the way the architecture is connected with nature, the way people take care of their environment."

Rayová has five siblings – two younger brothers and three sisters – one younger, two older. "My family is a great support for me in every decision I make. I know they are here for me in any situation," she observes.

"With my siblings we regularly prepare a program of songs and poems for residents of home for elderly people in Bechyně to sweeten the time of Christmas and Easter when they feel lonely without their families." She also enjoys giving "dancing lessons for the young in Bechyně."

By coming to Orinda, Rayová hopes to learn and grow. "Even though I am working hard on my English, the main part of language knowledge is missing. English in use, communication, it is something I can't find in books or textbooks. If I went abroad I would get to know a new culture, new places and make new friends.... It would help me a lot to achieve my dreams."

To learn more about how you can become a host family or join in the fun of future festivals, call Bobbie Landers at (925) 254-8260.

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