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Wishing all of my clients, friends and neighbors joyful holidays and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year!



Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist
T. 925.788.4963
E.Frank@FrankWoodward.com



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Orinda mom takes over District 16 California Assembly seat

By Sora O'Doherty

Lawyer and law professor Rebecca Bauer-Kahan didn't find out that she had won her seat in the California legislature until 10 days after the election. She spent that time trying to make certain that every vote was counted. Afterward, she was treated to a tour of the Contra Costa County Elections Division, a tour which she wishes everyone could take, so impressed

was she with the procedures there. Although her years working on environmental compliance law and teaching at Santa Clara and Golden Gate law schools make her comfortable with the legislative process, she was enthusiastic about the two-week new member training course.

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Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Photo Sora O'Doherty

New assistant city manager is familiar face: Larry Theis

By Sora O'Doherty



Larry Theis Photo Sora O'Doherty

many Orindans because he is responsible for Orinda's roads and drainage issues, so he is often out and about on the streets of the city. Although he works on average 40 to 50 hours as public works director, Theis says that he strives to maintain a good work/life balance. He lives in Concord, where he grew up, with his wife, Kirstin, and two children, Maddy, 7, and Desmond, 4. When he must attend night meetings, on average three times a month, he tries to get home for dinner with the family before the meeting.

In order to take on his new duties, Theis says that he will lean on his staff more and will possibly use consultants more. Plans are for him to transition gradually to areas of broader city interest as he assists current City Manager Steve Salomon, who undertook his position based on an agreement limiting his work to 90 percent of full time.

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Orinda's director of public works has been named assistant city manager. The city council affirmed the appointment at its Nov. 27 meeting. The role will be in addition to Larry Theis's regular duties and carries with it a 5 percent differential increase in his salary.

Theis is already known to

2019 Youth Ink Writing Contest now open

By Sora O'Doherty

The 2019 Youth Ink writing contest – created by the Orinda Junior Women's Club to support the literary arts among young people in the Orinda community and open to all sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders who live in Orinda or attend an Orinda school – was launched on Dec. 3.

Entries must be a story (fiction or nonfiction), poem, or other creative writing form, presented in English and written specifically for the contest and without teacher or parent involvement. Submissions will be evaluated on content, clarity, structure and originality. The

writing prompt for 2019 is "It Matters;" however, students may write about anything they like. The only limits are that entries must be 750 words or less and only one entry per contestant will be accepted.

Entries may be submitted by email only until Feb. 15. There is no fee to enter the contest. Late entries will not be accepted. Entrants can download a Youth Ink 2019 entry form at: http://www.orindajuniors.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/11/youthink_form_2019.pdf.

There will be three money prizes awarded, in addition to 10 honorable mention gift certificates.

The first-place winner will receive \$250, second place will receive \$125, and third place \$75. Winners will be notified by mail and receive their prizes at an Awards Ceremony in April. The ceremony is open to the public and all family and friends are invited.

The contest is organized and run by the Orinda Junior Women's Club, with additional financial sponsorship provided by Friends of the Orinda Library, the Lamorinda Arts Council, and Orinda Community Foundation.



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