

Your Community

Assistant manager vacating T.O. post

Hong leaving after 21 years of service to city

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After 21 years with the city of Thousand Oaks, Assistant City Manager Candis Hong will retire in September, she said.

Hong, 60, said she wants to spend more time with her family, travel and volunteer.

"I feel like I am leaving it in good hands," Hong said of the city. "I feel like we have accomplished a lot."

Public Works Director Mark Watkins will be promoted to interim assistant city manager, working with Hong until she retires Sept. 8, according to a memo from City Manager Scott Mitnick to the City Council. "My departure comes at a time when you have talented staff members on your executive team," Hong wrote in her resignation letter to Mitnick. "I am particularly optimistic about Mark Watkins' leadership abilities and his ability to effectively transition into the assistant city manager role."

Jay Spurgin, the city's engineer and deputy public works director, will take the lead in that department on an interim basis.

Hong joined the city as a senior accountant and moved up the ranks to the position of city finance director before being promoted to assistant city manager in April 2009.

Hong said she is particularly proud of the financial system that was put in place shortly after she started working for the city. The creation of a strategic financial plan also has proved valuable in guiding the council in dealing with the city's fiscal health, she said.

Hong and her husband, Jerry Hong, will mark their 40th anniversary in June, and she said they will likely take a short trip. A trip to Spain with the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce may also be on the couple's itinerary in September.

Hong plans to volunteer with her church and the Conejo Schools Foundation. She worked with the school district after her two children were born.

"It reaches out to my heart," she said.

Watkins said that the timing is right for him and that he is pleased that the Public Works Department would be in Spurgin's hands.

"Candis has done such a good job, and we're all sorry to see her go. She is leaving a good legacy. ... It's always great to follow somebody who has done the right thing."

Watkins and Spurgin will hold their positions on an interim basis to see how they fulfill the roles and interact with staff. If they are permanently appointed, an open recruitment for the deputy public works position will take place.

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Mark Watkins,
public works director,
City of Thousand Oaks

Sit 'n Sleep opens Agoura Hills store

Sit 'n Sleep, Southern California's largest mattress retailer and sleep expert, opened its inaugural Agoura Hills store this week.

The 9,000-square-foot showroom is the largest mattress store in the area.

"The new location will bring new jobs and the largest selection of mattresses anywhere in the area," said Larry Miller, Sit 'n Sleep CEO. "The demographics and location are perfect for Sit 'n Sleep ... Agoura Hills and the surrounding areas were being underserved in regards to mattress stores and we knew that Sit 'n Sleep could fill that need."

The showroom features Sit 'n Sleep's Sleep to Live Body Diagnostic Technology, which takes over 17,000 body calculations to help customers wade

through the often confusing mattress buying process by providing feedback on body, posture and sleep needs. It determines precise pressure points, establishing the ideal alignment for each person's individual skeletal-muscular systems. These readings are used to determine the mattress surface and pillow that's right for each individual.

Sit 'n Sleep touts its competitive prices, great service and large selection of leading mattress brands, including Sealy, Simmons, Serta, Kluft, Tempurpedic and Stearns and Foster.

"Sit 'n Sleep continues to stand out among other mattress stores because of our people, who are among the finest in the industry," Miller said. "Many of our associates have been with Sit 'n Sleep for 10, 15 and 20



Sit 'n Sleep opened its newest store—including a 9,000-square-foot showroom—in Agoura Hills this week.

years and have expertise that cannot be matched. In addition, our merchandising, technology, marketing, infrastructure and post-sale customer service is simply the best."

With 26 superstore loca-

tions throughout Southern California, Sit 'n Sleep has operated some of the most successful mattress stores in the nation for more than 30 years.

Sit 'n Sleep's newest location is at 28501 Canwood

St., Suite 3D in Agoura Hills. The store is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.sitnsleep.com.

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