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Giving Dreams an Address

Lafayette

Big Turnout, Concerns at Homeowners' Annual Meeting

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Baker was sworn in on Dec. 1, 2014 and reported that she is serving on a number of committees including Transportation, Higher Education, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and more. She received a hearty round of applause about her first actions in office – refusing to take the per diem payment, which could total up to \$60,000 per year for expenses travelling back and forth to Sacramento from her home. Her issue was that legislators get paid whether they are working in Sacramento or at home in their districts. She's also not taking a "company car" – happy to drive the family minivan and forgoing a state-paid phone.

She has introduced legislation to reduce BART strikes, which will be up for a hearing on May 6. Her position is that there is a no-strike provision in BART workers' contracts. During the

negotiation phase of a new contract, while their current contract has expired, employees still receive same pay and health care benefits; her bill requires "they have to honor the terms of the old contract," including the no-strike provision. Attendees at the meeting thought this was a great idea.

A civil question and answer period wrapped up the meeting. Questions included a fellow asking if Sacramento is squeezing local government. Others expressed concern about private parking meters, which Andersson responded to, explaining that the La Fiesta parking area is a private lot, and the city is not involved in the revenue generated or enforcement. He noted that the owner understands the meters are not popular. Other questions included money spent on security technology and affordable housing.



Letters to the Editor

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:

In the 40 years we've lived in Orinda, we've seen the traffic go from bad to worse to outrageous. Every morning and evening, Moraga Way is a parking lot. That said, I can only sit and wonder at the some of the major housing proposals that our landlocked neighbor Moraga is contemplating.

Every new development in Moraga impacts the traffic in Orinda and Lafayette (I'm guessing Moraga Road through Lafayette is a parking lot also).

I notice in the article in the current Weekly that the MCSP contains plans for 630 new housing units, plus space for office, retail, and entertainment. ... I wonder how many more cars that will add to Moraga Way and Moraga Road? Then there's the planned development on the hills between St. Marys and Rheem. ...

I wonder, is the effect on traffic in Orinda and Lafayette even remotely a consideration when these projects are discussed?

Lastly, at what point is enough, enough????

Ralph Johnson
Orinda

Moraga Citizen of the Year Graig Crossley

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"I've known Graig for 35 years," says Al Dessayer, who will be one of those speaking at the May 16 celebration dinner. "We were on the council for 10 years; we are very close friends. He's always been a very active and positive volunteer with the town, willing to help others. He is very deserving of being Citizen of the Year."

Tickets for this 37th annual Moraga Citizen of the Year event, scheduled May 16 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center, are \$50 per person. For early banquet reservations, email Kathe@MoragaChamber.org or go to moragachamber.org.

How Are Citizens of the Year Selected?

The Moraga Valley Kiwanis has organized the Moraga Citizen of the Year celebration for years. Every year residents are asked to nominate the people they think should be recognized by sending a letter to either Lamorinda Weekly or the Contra Costa Times-Sun edition. Before a vote is cast, all nominations are collected and discussed by six people representing the Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Saint Mary's College, the Chamber of Commerce, the Times and Lamorinda Weekly, as well as the prior Citizen of the Year. This year's nominees were Graig Crossley, Linda Deschambault, Judy Dinkle, Colleen Lund, Bobbie Preston and Larry Swindle.

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