

THE Beaubelle GROUP



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Gorgeous New Construction Orinda - The 3,907-sf single-level home sits on more than a half-acre level lot with a deep set back and inviting curb appeal. The home features a crisp and contemporary open floor plan, five luxurious bedrooms including a private guest suite, and four and half bathrooms in addition to a dedicated office and great room with gourmet kitchen. Towering evergreen and shade trees border the property and create a private backyard retreat. Offered at \$2,950,000



Exclusive Sanders Ranch Moraga - Estate sprawls across two parcels showcasing a beautifully designed residence and guesthouse on almost two acres. Well irrigation. \$3,050,000

Casitas De Moraga Complex Moraga - Light end unit offers 3 bdrms., 2.5 baths, appx. 1,584 sf of living space, new amenities. Walk to shopping, park and more. \$720,000

Gorgeous Estate Lot with Panoramic, Hilltop Views Lafayette - 15+ acres, level building pad, panoramic views. Enjoy close proximity to Lafayette's thriving downtown. \$2,950,000

Lafayette Conflict of interest in commissions is causing trust issues in Lafayette

... continued from page A3

There has however been at least one instance of a commissioner being fined by the Fair Political Practices Commission for violation of the California Political Reform Act back in 2008.

More recently, following concerns about conflict of interest, Commissioner Allen Sayles resigned from the Planning Commission on May 17, 2016 following a controversial application for the development of a pool house on which he was the architect.

The city council heard comments from Lafayette resident and attorney Scott Sommer who has been concerned about this issue for several years. He set forth documentation showing a series of misdemeanors and said that no progress had been made over the past 12 months, despite the Stanford Commission's involvement, which had been brought in by the council to address the issue.

Sommer pointed to Los Angeles' two-year "revolving door" policy, prohibiting representation of a client by commissioners for two years following their leaving the commission.

City Council Member Ivor Samson said that of all the issues facing the city he feels more strongly about this matter than anything else and sees tightening up the conflict of interest code as the most important priority.

Samson went on to say that residents perceive a lack of integrity in government due to conflict of interest.

He commented that the resolution is too complicated, too subjective and only applies to individuals. He said it needs to apply to firms and that there should be a "cooling off period" or revolving door of a year or so.

Commissioners might feel asked to choose between public service, which is commendable and encouraged, and their livelihood, he said, but "Maintaining the city's integrity is priority."

Others on the council agreed. Council Member Mark Mitchell said that no commissioner should be doing business in Lafayette.

Mayor Mike Anderson called for the formation of a subcommittee made up of City Council Member Cam Burks and Samson

to work further on the wording with the city attorney and for it to be brought back to the council by the first meeting in August — a motion that passed unanimously with all five council members present.

Anderson commented later, "My hope in forming the subcommittee is that they can really take a close look at the draft language from the last meeting and suggest an appropriate method of limiting commissioners from even the appearance of a conflict of interest, to assure our residents that these review processes are fair and impartial."

"I truly feel that all of our commissioners bring the highest level of integrity and expertise to bear on the issues that we ask them to review and approve," Anderson continued, "However, as it was stated at the last council meeting, the review and approval processes of the city must be fair and impartial. If this is not the case, the changes necessary to achieve this will be made."

Letters to the Editor

Likes police report humor

Dear Editor

I appreciate your writer's inspired humor in the Moraga police reports, and I wish that Lafayette and Orinda were open to similar treatment. What kind of Grinch would not smile at "Oh give me a drone..." in the recent Moraga police report.

Richard White
Moraga

Keep Moraga Police Reports funny

Dear Editor,

Regarding Moraga Police Reports, I noticed that your last edition did not include the humorous writing of previous reports and were therefor dull to read like the Lafayette and Orinda ones. You should pay no attention to the letter from the resident with no sense of humor in your previous edition who disagreed.

Barry Gross
Moraga

If Orinda is feeling weary and down, it has a bridge for that

Dear Editor,

So congratulations to the City of Orinda for finally finishing the Miner Road bridge. Now as a famous local bridge it needs an appropriate name.

Since troubled waters destroyed the old bridge, I suggest that the new one be named "Troubled Waters." Having a "bridge over troubled waters" (perhaps the only one in the country) would seem like a distinctive boon to Lamorinda -- and frankly a lot of fun for music lovers everywhere. Maybe even Simon and/or Garfunkle could be invited to the dedication. Hope that the Friends of Orinda Creeks can take this up - and that our city council will be supportive. Just hoping...

Harlan Van Wye
Orinda

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

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