



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Lafayette:**  
 www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
 Phone: (925) 284-1968  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.lafayettechamber.org

177 Willowbrook Lane, Moraga



**177WillowbrookLane.com \$1,995,000**  
 3 Bedroom | 3 Bath | 3003± Sq. Ft.  
 .27± Acre Lot

856 Mountain View Drive, Lafayette



**856MountainViewDrive.com \$1,995,000**  
 5 Bedroom + Bonus + Office | 4.5 Bath  
 4004± Sq. Ft. | .53± Acre Lot



DANA GREEN

COMPASS

**Lamorinda's #1 Realtor Since 2010**  
 925.339.1918 | DanaGreenTeam.com | DRE 01482454

# Lafayette to seek more information before STR ruling



Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa is currently the city's only hotel.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette city leaders voted

unanimously to hold off and gather further information before making any decisions on the future of short-term

rentals in the city. Although no action was taken, the discussion brought up several issues and was recognized as opening up important dialogue.

City staff recommended the introduction of an ordinance to modify language in the Lafayette Municipal Code to define a short-term rental. Planning Technician Melanie Erickson noted that the lack of explicit language in the LMC has caused confusion among residents with many unaware that STRs are not currently permitted in residential areas of the city.

STRs are generally defined as dwellings and/or accessory dwelling units that are rented out for less than 30 consecutive days, often through internet-based platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO. STRs can be hosted (when the owner remains on the property) or unhosted (usually the whole house is rented and the owner is not present). Erickson said there have been seven noise complaints recently around some of the properties in the city, although she noted those

were only for a handful of places. While it's hard to know the exact numbers of STRs, said Erickson, staff had found at least 10 units listed on Airbnb and five on VRBO on a date in April.

Erickson said that the impacts of STRs on neighbors such as noise, additional trash, and loss of parking together with loss of business for local hotels and the potential impact of reducing the number of lower-cost, long-term rental units with people choosing to use their ADUs for STR instead, would outweigh the benefits of convenience, increased revenue to local businesses as visitors spend in the city, and increased income to homeowners.

The council however, while all recognizing that the language needs clarification, did not agree that the time to do this was now. Neither did they accept that an outright ban would be the solution, especially after hearing from several members of the public who urged the council not to ban STRs. Many said they use their rentals mainly for out-of-town family members

and rent them out for short periods at other times.

Council Member Cam Burks said that public safety has to be their number one concern and noted the tragedy in Orinda last year when several partygoers at an unhosted Airbnb lost their lives.

Vice Mayor Susan Candell questioned the timing, a sentiment echoed by Burks who asked why they would impact a source of income for an owner of a home at this time, in a depression. "Let's not put pressure or additional anxiety on the community," Burks said.

Mayor Mike Anderson suggested reaching out to those who had provided public comment to help the council understand, so they can make a better decision on how to regulate and make it work in a better way.

"Hosted? Unhosted? Where? ... The first step is to gather information," said Anderson.

The item will come back before the council at a date not yet specified.



Burton Valley teachers on a Zoom conference show their heart.

# Distance learning – lessons learned

By Pippa Fisher

As the school year draws to a close, in a way no one could have ever imagined last August when it started or even a mere two months ago, lessons have been learned by school administrators, teachers, parents and students after pivoting to the uncharted territory of across-the-board home-based distance learning.

Lafayette Superintendent

of Schools Richard Whitmore says that one of the most important lessons is how personalized the shelter-in-place experience is for each individual, both school employees and students.

"Everyone has a different set of responsibilities in his or her own home, and we have needed to acknowledge that," says Whitmore. "I know there is a lot of 'after dinner' work that has been accomplished by teachers as well as by students."

Whitmore says the hardest part was getting started.

In what he describes as a "leap of faith" for families and teachers, he says, "We had to build a template for online lessons, we had to introduce new technology platforms, especially in the early elementary grades, to teachers and families, and we had to get lesson plans to be accessible online, no matter what the device you might be using in your home."

... continued on Page A9

# Housing market is heating up.

COMPASS



Kurt Piper Group

Now that SIP has loosened there are many buyers who are viewing properties and making offers. Some homes are selling within days of being listed.

If you were on the fence on whether to sell this year now is the time to take advantage of the low supply and high demand. The

Kurt Piper Group can quickly mobilize and get your home on the market and ready to show.

We can personally tour buyers through your property while highlighting the wonderful features of your home. We also have the newest in online technology via our VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE. Visit [www.kurtpiper.com](http://www.kurtpiper.com).

Please call, email or text us to discuss what we can do for you.

In the meantime, we hope you, your family, friends and neighbors stay healthy and safe.



**Kurt Piper**  
 Broker Associate  
 925.818.8000  
 Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com  
 KurtPiperGroup.com  
 DRE 01130308



**Barb Brawner JD**  
 Realtor  
 925 212 7672  
 barb@barbbrawner.com  
 KurtPiperGroup.com  
 DRE 01922264

Santa Barbara Style  
 Built in 2003, Close-In + Private  
 Magical Central Courtyard



18 Charles Hill Circle, Orinda

The Essence of Early California  
 Flat Property in Happy Valley  
 A Special Opportunity



1146 Upper Happy Valley, Lafayette



**Patricia & Ashley Battersby**  
 Brokers/Partners  
 (925) 330-6663  
 (925) 323-9955  
 DRE# 00854469  
 DRE# 01407784



Love Where You Live!