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## Celebrate Independence with the Fun Run

By Tommy Bush



Photo Jay Ingram

As summer moves into full swing the Lamorinda community has many things to look forward to. One of the big events of the summer is the annual Moraga Fourth of July Fun Run sponsored by Bay Alarm. The Fun Run has been a popular event for years and also serves as a fundraiser for local athletes.

"The purpose of the Fun Run is to raise money for the Campolindo High School cross country and track and field girls' and boys' teams in combination with a family fun event that people of all ages and abilities can participate and enjoy," said program organizer Patricia Peterson.

People of all ages and speeds are encouraged to join in on the festivities of the Fun Run. There are two separate races for participants: a two mile course and a five mile course. The courses share a common starting point across the street from Moraga Commons Park. Police cruisers and bikes will lead the runners as they work through the course towards the finish line.

The Fun Run has grown noticeably over the past few years, and this year organizers hope to have a record number of participants.

"While we aren't yet the largest running event in the Bay Area, we are consistently growing," explained Peterson. "We have been hovering around 500 participants in the two and five mile events, but every year we have grown since its inception in 2001."

The race also welcomes participants of all ages. "Some children participate in strollers and there is also a fair share of 4-legged family members," Peterson added. "At the present time our oldest registered runner is 85."

While the more serious participants can enter in the longer races, young children are entertained through "kiddie runs."

"Members of the Campolindo cross country and track and field teams participate in acting as the rabbits that the younger children chase around the course for the kiddie runs," said Peterson.

The run presents an fun opportunity for everyone, and people of all ages are looking forward to getting involved and helping to raise money for their local sports teams.

"I am very excited for the run," said Campolindo student Natalie Meniktas. "I've never participated in the run before, but it's something that I've always wanted to do. It should be a great time!"

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