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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! 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.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Reading the bright yellow and chartreuse flyer left at our door by Preserve Lamorinda Open Space (PLOS), I was reminded of something that occurred in 2007. After I made a presentation titled "One Billion Americans" at the Moraga Library, a member of the Town Council came to me and said, "Ed, I agree with most of your talk. But you have to understand--we are so involved in trying to decide what to do with the next 3,000 Moraga residents we don't have time to worry about America's next three million residents."

Driving 15,000 miles and talking with people across the length and the breadth of the country about America's perpetual population growth, I would occasionally mention that incident and ask, "What's wrong with that statement?" Audiences generally seemed to understand: If America adds 100 million residents every thirty years, California will add 12 million, Northern California will add 4 million, Contra Costa will add .3 million, and Moraga's Town Council will be forever "... involved in trying to decide what to do with the next 3,000 Moraga residents." Since then, America's population has increased over 30 million, California's population has increased over 3 million ... and so on to Lamorinda.

In his carefully constructed letter in the June 18, Lamorinda Weekly, Jonathan Goodwin points out some of the problems perpetual population growth creates for Lamorinda and he asks, "Who gets to say when it's time to stop?" The answer to his question is ... Congress! Only Congress can determine whether or not the U.S.--and Lamorinda--have an ad hoc population growth policy. Only Congress can subsidize or not subsidize more births. Only Congress can encourage or discourage more immigration. Only Congress can end America's, California's, and Lamorinda's perpetual population growth policy.

Perhaps like China and India, when U.S. population reaches three-quarter billion--and Lamorinda's population reaches 120,000--federal leaders will decide to take

action. Like China they may decide to take effective action. More likely, like India they will decide to take ineffective action. In either case, demographic momentum will carry America's population to 1.4 billion and Lamorinda's population to 240,000. Such a legacy to leave our grandchildren! Until America abandons its ad hoc population growth policy, Lamorinda and its open space will never be secure. I sincerely hope someday Lamorinda citizens, politicians, and organizations such as PLOS come to understand that demographical ... and political truth.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Editor:

Yes, there is a lot of traffic in Lafayette. It is exasperated by the traffic lights. The main traffic flow is on Mt. Diablo. However, if one is heading East on Mt. Diablo, and traffic is coming from Dewing. A car only reaches the back of the new building and the light turns red for the main traffic. The light on Lafayette Circle almost always turns red, when Dewing is green, causing traffic to back up just where front in parking is, complicating the traffic there. This happens all through Lafayette. If someone is turning left, they should have to wait for the main traffic flow. I have been told there is nothing that can be done about this, but in the age of computer driven everything, I don't believe this one minute. If traffic on Mt. Diablo were to move more efficiently, we would minimize the problem and save consulting fees. There are systems available. I have been in cities where there is a speed sign that tells you exactly how fast to go so you make the next green and one city that had lights fixed so that if you went too fast, the light in front turned red, forcing you to drive the speed limit.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

From Front Page

Happy Birthday, America!

... continued from page A1

There will be plenty of kids' activities to go along with the festive atmosphere as well as great music after the parade, with food until 2 p.m. in the Orinda Community Park and until 7 p.m. at the Commons before the fireworks begin in Moraga at around 9:30 p.m.

Patriotic ceremonies begin at 7:55 a.m. with a flag-raising ceremony in Orinda at the flagpole in front of Community Center, and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" will begin at 6:45 p.m. in Moraga at the Commons Bandshell. "The young woman who will sing the national anthem is quite remarkable," says Moraga resident Dick Olsen. "Young

Musicians Choral Orchestra's Marisol De Anda just won the top prize as the best voice among all the high school students in the San Francisco Bay Region during the Beach Blanket Babylon Scholarship Competition."

Those interested in running (or walking) for a cause will start the day early at 8 a.m. with Haley's 4th of July Run for A Reason in Orinda, and the Moraga Fourth of July run at 8:30 a.m. to support the Campolindo track team. Orinda's run supports the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood program, and honors Haley, who passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on May 15,

2000 at the age of 21 months. Runners wanting to participate in the Orinda 5-mile run and 2-mile family walk should register starting at 7 a.m. in the plaza in front of Orinda's Community Center and Library. Pre-registration for the Moraga run is being done online at campotrack.com. Same day registration is available for an additional cost.

"There are a lot of activities for all ages in Orinda and Moraga on the Fourth and we invite our neighbors from Lafayette to join us," says Waterman. For a detailed list of scheduled events, visit orindaassociation.org and Moraga.ca.us.

Moraga activity schedule:

Moraga Shopping Center
8 a.m. - Kiddie Runs

Commons Park
8 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 5-mile run and 2-mile run/walk
9 a.m. - Dog Parade
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Community booths and Car Show
10:30 a.m. - Children's Bike Parade
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Food and kids activities: jumpies, old fashion kids' games, magic show
7 p.m. - Busta Groove dance music
9:30 p.m. (ish) - Fireworks seen from the Commons and the Moraga Country Club

Orinda activity schedule:

7 a.m. - Registration for the Haley's 4th of July Run for A Reason
7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast in Orinda Community Park
8 a.m. - 5-Mile Run/2-Mile Family Walk
10 a.m. - Fourth of July Grand Parade in downtown Orinda begins (For a detailed map of the parade route, go to <http://orindaassociation.org/parade-info>)
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Live music, food and kids activities, jumpies, face painting and more in the Orinda Community Park