

**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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. **email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Joan Buchanan has represented our community as our Assemblywoman for six years with great integrity, hard work, fiscal responsibility and values that reflect our community. For 18 years before that, Joan served on the San Ramon School Board working to bring these schools from struggling to top performers. Prior to that, Joan was a mom raising five children and working in business in fiscal accounting and oversight capacities. We all know that Joan is honest and very hard-working. Unlike most who rely primarily on staff summaries, Joan actually reads very carefully all legislation on which she is voting and she finds errors. Joan watches our dollars. She saved the state from another fiscal disaster when she found a loophole in pension reform legislation that would still have allowed pension spiking. As Chair of the Education Committee, Joan fought against the low funding formula for our schools proposed by the governor that would have damaged our high performing schools and she brought our schools a bigger share of the pie so we could maintain our amazing standards. Joan shares our values. She has always been a supporter of equal rights for all, including women and LGBT. Equality California has proudly endorsed Joan Buchanan for State Senate. Joan has been overwhelmingly endorsed by four major local Democratic clubs with approximately 600 members. As your elected representative on the Contra Costa County Democratic Party Central Committee, I know the differences between the candidates very well. I ask you to join me and vote for exceptional integrity; conscientiousness; fiscal diligence, oversight, and caution; proven excellence, and the candidate who has always supported women's rights and equal rights for all. Please vote for Joan Buchanan for State Senate.

Carolyn Phinney, Ph.D.  
 Orinda

Moraga

## A Piece of Carr Ranch To Be Annexed

... continued from page A4

Project architect Alan Sayles highlighted the vision of what he called a "model development" in Moraga with 13 "green" homes and native landscape.

There are some technicalities, however, that may make the process a little bumpier than one might anticipate after hearing the consensus. Skyview could become a hurdle. Skyview will be surrounded on three sides by Moraga land if the Carr Ranch portion is incorporated, creating what LAFCO calls an unincorporated island, and LAFCO does not like islands. If LAFCO objects, Skyview property owners may need to decide if they want to be incorporated into the town.

Quite a number of owners came to the meeting, and their immediate concern did not have to do with incor-

poration. Those who talked expressed concerns over impacts the proposed development would have on their properties and the town. One of them said that the project was flawed and that they would fight it under whatever jurisdiction it chooses to apply. Other neighbors asked that the developer engage with the Skyview community. Dobbins indicated his desire to reach out to the Skyview community and to discuss reasonable ways to accommodate their requests.

The council had no difficulty deciding that seeking incorporation would be the way to go. But other issues began to surface, such as zoning. Dobbins Property will now initiate a normal development application with the Moraga Planning Department while the town takes steps to formally apply for annexation with LAFCO.

Moraga

## Town Poll to Ask, 'How Many Lanes for Moraga Road?'

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"Sometimes at workshops people would come with a quick solution, ... but after hearing other aspects (of the issue), they would completely turn around," she remembered. "It is very important to get the right questions and I'd like the advisory committee to be involved in it."

Town Manager Jill Keimach tried to steer the council away from reviewing the survey questions. With tact and diplomacy, she said that leaving the re-

view of questions to professionals would remove any political pressures from the process. There are council members who have publicly voiced their opposition to reducing the number of lanes on Moraga Road, no matter what. Councilmember Dave Trotter said that his only concern was that all the information is presented. The rest of the council agreed.

The 10-week process should start in the spring of this year.

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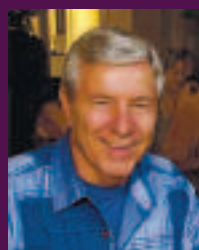
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