



Dreaming About a Summer Break?

Times were simpler when your Mom was a kid. Her folks would drive the family to the coast for a beach vacation. Fast forward to today – and you're juggling a career, kids and aging parents. It's not easy. If you're caring for an elderly loved one, it's important to slow down and take care of yourself. We're here to help.

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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:



A picture says a thousand words. Not anti-development, but do agree with many others that the proposed Moraga Town Center Homes Project site is a poor location for this development.

Dylan Davis
Moraga

Editor:

When Robert G. Cleland published his classic book in 1941, about the Californios' California, he called it, "The Cattle on a Thousand Hills." If he came back today and wrote another, might he title it, "The Condos on a Thousand Hills?"

According to his August 13, letter to the editor, Fritz Stoop "nearly ran off Moraga Way" the first time he saw those giant tinker toys indicating the height of proposed buildings. Take a look at Lafayette where buildings have grown from two stories to three stories to four stories to . . . Well,

nobody knows to what. Some of us remember when the 26-story "Telephone Company" headquarters building on New Montgomery Street in San Francisco was the be-all and end-all of high-rises in the City. Now it is rendered invisible, dwarfed by buildings many times its size.

And the traffic! I drove from Moraga to meet a friend at the Community Garden in Fort Mason, leaving our home at 10:30 a.m and arriving at 11:45 a.m. That's 75 minutes to travel 25 miles; average speed: 20 mph. Of course, drivers wanting to attend the last concert at Candlestick Park wished they could have sped along at 20 mph. They and thousands of other ticket holders riding "Monopoly Transit District" vehicles were rendered unable to "make it to the church on time" because of City traffic.

Meanwhile, Jerry Brown wants more people in California; more people in Southern California, more people in Central California, more people in Northern California, and, guess what, more people in Lamorinda. Who took the ranch out of "Sanders Ranch?" We all did. Forty million Californians did. Now, the adjacent hills are for sale . . . and unlikely to be purchased by a cattleman. So Fritz, get used to it. Lamorinda tinker toys will get taller and taller and open space will get smaller and smaller . . . until America and California break their addiction to perpetual population growth.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

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.

Civic News orinda

New Orinda Union School District Administration Building Opens Its Front Door

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School districts usually contract out for building construction, he said, but in this case, a Pulte project manager oversaw exterior construction while OUSD managed the interior work. Many items were easily designated as "shell" or "interior," but project managers were required to collaborate when design features impacted both the interior and exterior.

The structure's first floor is home to the OUSD school board's conference room, a large storage area and information technology and maintenance services. Administrative and special services staff conduct day-to-day business and meet with parents and teachers in offices, conference rooms and other workspaces on the floor above.

A state-of-the-art facility, lighting is energy efficient with

room fixtures controlled by occupancy sensors. Down the road, visitors will be able to access an internet guest account firewalled off from staff wireless services.

"We engineered a lot of the expenses out of the building," said Silvas. Rubber-backed carpeting was installed for easy maintenance and, when possible, furniture and other supplies were brought in from the old building. A new overhead sound system in the school board conference room makes it easier to hear board debates, and twin televisions – installed there at a lower cost than a traditional projection system – can be linked to flat panel systems in conference areas upstairs when expanded meeting seating is needed. Even the LED lights on handrails outside of the building will mitigate energy costs.

"We were right on budget

with only 3 percent of change orders – something that is pretty much unheard of in construction nowadays," said Silvas.

Spiffy features aside, what is clear is that OUSD kids and teachers remain the center of their world. "We've allotted space for the art teachers to come and hang the work of their students," said Frenklach. And funds from Pine Grove's sale have already been put to good use. The Facilities Task Force, which oversees the handling of the Special Reserve Fund for Capital Facilities (Fund 40) established in 1989, reports that more than \$1.9 million in projects have already been completed, \$2.7 million are in progress, and another \$1 million have been authorized by the board thanks to the sale of the property.

Orinda TSAC Takes on Distracted Driving

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With support from NHTSA, the California Department of Traffic Safety and other partners, the nationally respected initiative (<http://impactteendrivers.org/>) has helped, since its inception in 2007, to educate more than two million teens across the U.S. regarding the dangers of distracted driving.

TSAC members hope to bring the program to Miramonte High School this coming academic year in a workshop format that will be convenient both for par-

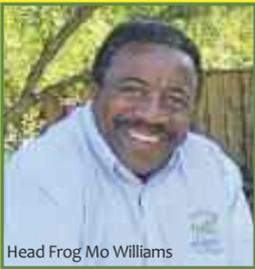
ents and teens. Created in 2006 by the Orinda City Council to address community concerns relating to traffic safety in the community, TSAC members are all Orinda residents, who have been appointed by the council and contribute their time as volunteers. Most often known for their work with groups of Orindans to assess traffic safety issues in specific neighborhoods, they typically issue recommendations to the council regarding traffic calming solutions ranging from

awareness campaigns to the installation of improved signage or speed bumps.

At a minimum, if TSAC members succeed in bringing the Impacting Teen Drivers program to Orinda, more than one tragic death may well be averted.

To learn more about volunteering for an Orinda commission or committee, visit the city's website: www.cityoforinda.org, or contact Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen: molsen@cityoforinda.org.

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