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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:

Best Use of Our Police?

This morning I was standing next to my car in the parking lot of Rancho Laguna Park around 9:20 in the morning and was talking to a young woman about her plans of an upcoming trip to Budapest. In the middle of our discussion a young policeman came up to us, rudely interrupting our conversation and asked me, "Sir, are you familiar with the Municipal Code?" I thought it was a trick question. Then I realized he was talking about off-leash hours. I answered him that dogs are allowed off leash before nine and after six. That's right, he said but you sir didn't put your dog on leash until 9:03AM. I didn't know how he would know that, but since I had my back to the parking lot around nine, I didn't see the police car driving in, he must have seen me putting the leash on my dog a few minutes late. I suggested that if we were all remiss just by a few minutes in observing our municipal codes, how great that would be. He advised me that he will not give me a ticket this time, however he asked me for all my personal information. I felt sorry for the young officer, we all get from time to time dumb assignments and I thought this was one of those examples. To send out two squad cars to hassle Moraga citizens in Rancho Laguna Park because they are three minutes late putting their dog on leash is a waste of police time.

Laszlo G. Bonnyay
Moraga

Editor:

- On Saturday, June 30th, I showed the Lafayette PD the exact location of a fire pit in the creek.
- There were also benches, garbage cans, bottles, shovels and tables in this location.

- On Monday, the park department cleaned up some of the mess but not the fire pit.
 - On July 14, there was a large fire in another area of the park. Captain Caravantes of the fire department told me that they were lucky that the fire did not get away from them. He called for assistance and a 12,000 gallon tanker came to help put out the fire. If that tanker could not stop the fire, they would not be able to stop it. There would not be enough water. A large tree was burned down.
 - After that fire, the park department pushed all the debris into the creek right on top of a tadpole habitat with live tadpoles.
 - So we have just increased the pollution in the creek. Currently, there is uncontrolled serious crime (lighting fires) being committed in the park.
- There were rusty paint cans floating in the creek along with old tennis balls, beer cans, cigarettes butts and more. So we have uncontrolled crime, plus pollution in the creek. I have been told by members of the park department that they do not have the manpower or money to protect the creek from these crimes or to stop the pollution. For example, car tires have been in the creek for a long time and never picked up. The fire pit is still there. While all this is going on, there is an agenda to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to build a BMX park which will increase the number of people that will be coming to this area.

I believe, if we increase the number of people to an area that currently cannot be properly patrolled by the police and is already polluted, we will only increase the crimes committed in this park and increase the pollution.

It is time to stop funding this boondoggle.

John Briggs
Lafayette

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Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Orinda Academy Helps Clean Up Orinda Creeks

Submitted by Ron Graydon



Photo provided

Orinda Academy put its philosophy of Community Service into action March 23 when students and faculty members braved mud and

stinging plants to help out their community by participating in a cleanup of San Pablo Creek. Guided by the organization Friends of Orinda Creeks, students and teachers donned work gloves to pull out invasive species, gather trash, and spread mulch. Orinda Academy students broke into groups that removed non-native and invasive plants like ivy and poison oak, while another group raked, turned, and spread mulch on bare or muddy areas. Still another group picked up and bagged the usual litter of water bottles and napkins as well as bike parts, a commercial blender and several brand new, left-foot tennis shoes. Students were rewarded for their hard work with a pizza picnic in Orinda Community Park.

Little Hearts with a lot of Love

Kristi's Run for SHELTER Event Helps the Homeless

Submitted by Caroline Conner



Kristi's Run for SHELTER participants, from left: Gabby Sandberg, Nick Pearson, Ella Dunderdale, Kristi Conner (the event's founder), Kendall Keely, Luke Pearson, and Cole Hink. Photo Caroline Conner

Kristi's Run for SHELTER, a three-mile run organized by Kristi Conner, an incoming third-grader at Lafayette Elementary School who wanted to find a way to raise money for homeless families in the Bay Area, will begin at 9 a.m. August 19 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Helping Kristi in this endeavor are Ella Dunderdale, Cole Hink, Kendall Keely, Nick and Luke Pearson, and Gabby Sandberg, a group of 8-, 9- and 10-year-old friends also from Lafayette Elementary School. They are running as a team with the common goal of raising \$10,000 for SHELTER Inc. (www.shelterinc.org), a non-profit dedicated to helping the homeless in Contra Costa County, serving over 5,500 people last year alone with over half of them being children.

Kristi's Run for SHELTER first began July 31, 2011 when then 7-year-old Conner ran three-miles around the Lafayette Reservoir and

raised \$3,000 for SHELTER Inc. After seeing the homeless in San Francisco, Conner was moved to try and make an impact on the homeless in her community. Conner came up with the run because she had seen her parents support friends doing similar fundraising efforts for worthy causes.

This summer Conner wanted to expand the Run by inviting her friends to join her. They jumped at the chance to help. Conner said, "If I can raise \$3,000 by myself, just think of how much more money we can raise for the homeless if my friends run, too. And it will be that much more fun to run with other kids!" The kids have been busy with training runs and are looking forward to the run and trying to reach their common fundraising goal. And their parents are excited about the feeling of accomplishment this will hopefully bring to their children. By learning generosity, empathy and compassion for others at such a young age, the parents hope their children will become more well-rounded, responsible, and caring teenagers and adults.

For more information about the run, visit www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/kristisrunforshelter/2012.