

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Delivered weekly to all Lamorinda households

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Wednesday, March 14, 2007



Photo by Jordan Fong

Play Ball!

by Jonathan Glidden

The start of spring may technically be based on certain astronomical alignments, but to hundreds of budding Lamorinda all-stars, the earth might as well revolve around one thing: baseball.

This Saturday, hundreds of uniform-clad elementary and middle-schoolers descended on the fields of Lamorinda to take part in the national past-time. The MBA season officially began this week and a number of spectacular games showcased the drive and talent of Lamorinda's youth.

OBA also kicked off their annual opening day with a home run at Wagner Ranch Elementary.

Look for full coverage of Lamorinda's first full week of team baseball in sports on page 10.



The Little Paper that Could

by Julie Penfold

The *Lamorinda Weekly* is the only newspaper in town that's produced just for and just by Lamorinda residents. We're new, but for a lot of good reasons, we hope you'll feel like you've known us forever.

After all, our staff is all local; you'll run into everybody at the gym or the grocery store. Our writers and photographers share a singular appreciation for their subjects because they live here and love them already. Our eyes and ears are an army of talented high school students, who have the energy and the passion to explore interesting aspects of local life. Finally, you'll notice that the spokes of our distribution wheel might have ridden their bikes up and down your street.

In all cases and all across the board, we are a newspaper made up of Lamorinda folks who see the world through your eyes. Why is this important? Let's say it's a matter of perspective. Here's mine:

I grew up in a small town with a small town newspaper. Wednesday nights were big in Luray, Va (population 3,000) because that's when the weekly edition of the *Page News and Courier* hit the streets.

We scoured those pages for the news that mattered to us. My friends and I looked for entertainment and amusement; our parents looked for updates on candidates and bond measures

and monitored the Farm Reports for information that affected our livelihood. My grandparents kept up with everyone through mainstays like the Dean's List, the wedding announcements, and, yes, the obituaries.

During a slow news week, having company from out-of-town could earn you a spot in the paper. Lost dogs and six-toed cats were frequent features, as were jam recipes that were

and remain world-class. When it counted, my hometown newspaper was equally adept at providing "real" breaking news coverage. Following each of several hurricanes, we looked to our local paper for information that helped save lives and property. When hikers were found murdered in the mountains nearby, the *Courier's* coverage kept the focus on the crime, kept residents informed, and eventually told the tragic story that ended two lives.

Dear Neighbors:

Welcome to your very own hometown newspaper.

Misuses of county funds were exposed; unsafe working conditions were highlighted. And all along the way, that paper helped us build and maintain a community.

When I was in high school, I worked as an intern at that same local paper, and, of course, couldn't wait to leave it for the lure of the "big time." Over (many) years, I enjoyed my work in several big cities and saw

I'm betting that a few of you will feel the same way and will welcome a viewpoint that zooms in — from the universe to your backyard.

So, with this first issue of the *Lamorinda Weekly*, it's a pleasure to welcome you to a home town paper with a very small-time focus. Please use these pages to express your opinion, choose your

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Students gather at Thursday's candlelight vigil

Picture: Hannah Jacobs

Miramonte Community Mourns the Loss of Paul Yriberri

by Lee Borrowman

Contributors: Naveed Hasan and Jonathan Glidden

Husband and Father, Teacher and Coach, Colleague and Friend

Paul Yriberri, by many accounts the single most beloved teacher at Miramonte High School, died suddenly of a heart attack on March 3. He was fifty-eight years old.

For many students, Yriberri will be that favorite teacher you always remember. The teacher who inspired you, motivated you, and brought out the best in you. The teacher who truly cared about you.

"Mr. Y was not just a teacher, he was a good friend to all his students," said senior Max Gompertz, "His sense of humor and friendliness

is something (sic) I really want to treasure the rest of my life." Last Thursday night students organized a candlelight vigil. Another Yriberri student, Miles Gilhuly, reflected on the evening, "Although it was really sad at first, everyone's moods were lightened after students started giving speeches. It was just incredible as to how many students had personal stories about Mr. Yriberri. This vigil proves once again how much of an impact Mr. Y. made on Miramonte."

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