

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Now We Are One

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

One year ago this week, you may have been surprised to find a small but colorful newspaper lying somewhere in the general vicinity of your home. For more than a few of you, that was a year ago next week; fortunately, our ability to deliver the Lamorinda Weekly to you in a timely manner has improved a bit. You may have immediately recycled that first issue because it was left in the gutter and had absorbed most of the run-off from the last rain, or thought to yourself, "I didn't order this..." Some of you opened it up and read about "The Little Paper That Could."

Not many of you knew us back then, but those who did sent letters of welcome and encouragement, and over the past year the support of our communities has grown more than we could have hoped. For all of the thoughtful and often thought-provoking notes, story ideas, articles and photographs you've submitted to us, we can't thank you enough.

I've been thinking all week about how to express the delight we take in having the opportunity to serve, in our own way, our little corner of the world; to chronicle and celebrate everyday life in Lamorinda and to help, we hope, bring people

together despite our differences.

Over the past twelve months we have gotten to know each other, to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, and to appreciate what the other has to offer. In short, we've become friends.

And, just between us, we have had a whole lot of fun! It has been a genuine pleasure making your acquaintance.

The cities and town that comprise Lamorinda, while distinct in their own personalities, have much in common. We have been struck by the sincere commitment, level of involvement and great care we've seen displayed by and on behalf of our communities. We may live in 'small towns,' but they are a haven for generous and open minds.

This week, your friendly neighborhood newspaper celebrates its first birthday (or 'paper anniversary,' if you will), which means the National Newspaper Association now considers us a legitimate publication. But we are not, nor do we aspire to be, your typical newspaper; those aren't doing very well these days, and we like our cozy little niche.

As we look ahead, we acknowledge that we have learned much during our first year, and freely

admit that we still have much to learn. We will continue to grow and do our best to be the newspaper that speaks to you about what's happening in your own back yard.

There has been a rather heated debate going on in our editorial meetings of late as to whether or not the Lamorinda Weekly should take a formal position on some of our local issues. We've done so in only a very few instances. We have not, and probably will not, voice our opinion on issues that are to be determined by the voters in our communities, such as parcel taxes, open space initiatives, and city council races. Rather, we will continue to offer an opportunity for public debate and discussion, allowing differing views to be shared and exchanged and encouraging all residents of Lamorinda to get involved, stay informed and come to your own conclusions.

Thank you for reading, and welcome to
Volume 2 of the
Lamorinda Weekly.