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LAMORINDA Community

Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor,

It is rewarding to see the response to hate and racism in Moraga, and the Town Council resolution. We were first families in the area and remember the trauma but also the support of the Council for Civic Unity, Orinda Community Church, St. Stephen's Church and AAUW. Hopefully Orinda and Lafayette will pass similar resolutions.

She writes about our beloved pets. "They are just like our children. We don't leave their poop lying around for others to smell or step over." Dogs do not pollute the air and water. They do not leave cans, bottles, plastic, cigarette butts, candy wrappers and needles at parks. They do not drive drunk, steal identities, send others to die in war or kidnap children. No, they are not just like our children.

Carolyn Ashe Stokes
Orinda

What dogs do for those who care for them is improve the quality of life. To watch a young child play with a puppy for the first time is a source of wonder and awe. To see an elderly person relate to their pet when they have no one else is a blessing. Watching a dog run, play and give their human unconditional 24/7 love, companionship and friendship is inspiring. Yet, they poop. Coincidentally, birds, cats, snakes, rats, fish, cows, horses, pigs and the filthiest animal of them all, humans, also poop.

Editor:


Reading the letter from a concerned citizen in Lafayette regarding her disgust with dog poop at the new sidewalk to the Lafayette reservoir across from the Community Center moved me to action. She exclaimed, "Why don't all you dog owners go down and pick up ALL the accumulated poop?" Since I am always looking for decent places where I can walk my two dogs, Essie and Brutus, I went to the place where she was forced to "get to the other side of the street just to get away from the stench." I picked up one piece of very dry dog poop. Just like older singles, it was very easy to pick up. My dogs decided that this was not the time or proper place for them to defecate. We had an exhilarating walk around the reservoir. I do admit that there have been times that my dogs have created poop without my knowledge and I did not pick up the poop. This is why I have no problem picking up any poop that I find. Picking it up is very little bother. People like the infuriated letter writer exclaim that people are breaking the law by not picking up the poop. One can write a book about picking up dog poop or yell and holler at it with all their strength and good intentions but it just stays there. Furthermore, dogs cannot read and are oblivious to the evils of their poop. They think it is natural.

The concerned Lafayette resident says that dog poop spreads disease. Dysentery, Typhus, Diarrhea among others spreads from human poop. What disease spreads from dog poop? She writes that she does not want to get started on "the dogs in restaurants licking their private parts" while she is eating. I suggest paying more attention to one's meal than focusing on canine private parts.

Dogs do not know that they have private parts. Being totally true and honest creatures they do not know that they are naked. In fact, to a dog, a restaurant is just another place that they have to go. Since we train them not to urinate or poop in our homes, they have to go outside or wherever we take them. If we do not pick up after them, we should be aware of the poop-pollution of the world who are inconvenienced by our beloved pets. They will remind us of our poop obligations. We should feel bad for them. Imagine how many other things there are in the world that are far more annoying and dangerous than dog poop and naked dogs in restaurants.

Norman Weiss and his best friends, Brutus (14) and Essie (2)
Orinda

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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www.willow.springchurch.org (925) 376-3550
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Services for youth and children after worship during the 10:30am service

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www.christianscienceorinda.org

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Fall Worship Schedule
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9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
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Public Forum JOIN IT

Acalanes Parcel Tax

As one whose offspring enjoyed superb educations at the Acalanes High school component of the Acalanes School District, it's most disheartening to read in the October Bloomberg Markets publication, the history of unethical and costly strategies employed by the district, in its multiple "bond refinancing" forays. Particular "refis" were employed in April and May of 2004 - again, January and December of 2005. The "fiscal massaging" provided by investment bankers, bond attorneys and credit rating services, etc., resulted in the district shelling out 41 cents of every "refi" dollar for such activity. Attorney General Brown, in January of 2009, "opined" that such procedures are both illegal - and, unconstitutional - in fact, subject to suits that would invalidate said bonds.

when a long ago "wants" tax (for a world class sport complex) was forgone - and, highly motivated "wanters" ultimately brought the project to fruition, via their own alternative funding efforts. So should be the approach for all public tax-consuming agencies...schools included!

This is noted, because the Acalanes District has seemingly still not embraced this concept. Last year's tax was heavily focused on such "wants" items as artificial turf for playing fields, new tennis courts, etc. - expenditures which unmistakably were "wants". And, had just a "needs portion" been offered to voters (less amounts for legitimate "wants" capital charges), tolerance for a current "term-limited" parcel tax (to deal with temporary State subvention deficiencies) would be much more "salable" to voters in today's general voter unhappiness with politics and taxes in general.

This distressing exposure thus makes it most difficult to even consider voting for a November parcel tax being proposed by the District. As a recent local "opinion commentary" observed, "this district has an insatiable appetite for money." Such funds, are often devoted to what many taxpayers would categorize as "wants" - not, applications which support the "needs" that would unquestionably promote the outstanding academic achievements of its several campuses.

Finally, the ethics angle" re "proposition filing timing" can't be ignored. Its submission to the County Elections Office was such that there was no time to submit "opposing data" for inclusion in voter pamphlets, etc.

If ongoing "needs" must be accommodated by the eventually expiring parcel tax - then, come back next spring with a "timed" renewal of that tax.

Donald Lively
Lafayette
(Donald Lively is an active member of the Lafayette Taxpayers Association)

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.

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