



During the Holiday Season

more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely...

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

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Letters to the Editor

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. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

'Thoughtful Food' Even Tasty in Texas

Dear Editor,

I had it up to my cackled neck trying to use chicken for another sit-down dinner party until I came across an old recipe from your food writer, Susie Iventosch. Her Baked Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese and Tarragon-Watercress Vinaigrette from Jan. 15, 2014, is good enough to make a chicken cross the road. As if that weren't enough, I then had the audacity to try her Mocha and Kahlua Cheesecake from her Aug. 10, 2016 "Thoughtful Food" column which was not only easy, but damn, it was good! What next? Pistachio-Crusted Cremini Mushrooms Stuffed with Goat Cheese? (July 27, 2016) As her direct and down to earth directions from the Mocha Cheesecake recipe states, "or until top is a little bit jiggly"...well my top is a bit jiggly and it's going to get worse if she keeps this up!

Mary MacDowell
Colleyville, Texas

[Editor's Note: It is not normally our policy to publish letters from

outside our coverage area of Lamorinda, but this one was so delicious, we had to share.]

Charging for Bags Too Early?

Dear Editor,

Just a heads-up to all residents who might shop at Safeway. They're ripping you off.

The day after the election I was there and saw that they were charging shoppers for grocery bags — 10 cents each.

Yes, the ballot measure passed the day before BUT it doesn't become effective until late December when the vote is certified by the state.

The manager told me he was following orders. I contacted the Attorney General and the Secretary of State by e-mail but neither responded.

I talked to Safeway corporate in Idaho and was referred to local corporate and was told that what they were doing was okay, although the information they provided showed that is not the case.

So Safeway (and every one of their stores statewide) decided to cash in immediately on all that money. Just think how fast those 10-cents per bag will add up be-

fore the measure even becomes official.

Barbara Simpson
Moraga

Local Term Limits?

Dear Editor, Kudos to Brant Anderson on knowing when it is time to leave. All over Lamorinda there are people on the councils and the commissions that are there too long. Lafayette has commissioners who have been moving from one commission to another for well over 20 years. Too long! Maybe we need some local term limits. It isn't healthy. New blood and new ideas are needed.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

Takes Issue at Crosses Criticism

Dear Editor,

The Crosses of Lafayette is a 'tacky eyesore' according to a recent letter from Shane Palmer. And after that introduction he really lays it on. The Crosses are "loud, rude and garish, an annoying selfish display to near

level of the Westboro Baptist Church," that bunch that celebrates the death of U.S. service men and women with placards at roadsides and even at their funerals.

How he arrives to that conclusion for a local testament to American dead in the unending wars we've become engaged and most would like to forget in is a mystery to me. It's a needed reminder to what these wars have and continue to cost.

I bet Mr. Palmer would be happy if the field of Crosses was leveled and a fast food franchise was erected in its place.

J. Sherrill Grogan
Orinda

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.

Leland Reservoir Project is in the Pipeline

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Since Old Tunnel Road is at a higher elevation than the reservoir the pipes are currently very deep and hard to access.

The project would start with construction of 2,700 feet of 36-inch main pipeline through Condit Road and Windsor Drive. Once that is in place the old main line between Old Tunnel Road and Leland Drive would be abandoned and the existing reservoir would be demolished to make way for two eight-million-gallon tanks in its place.

McGregor pointed out that the roof is unsafe and the structure does not meet seismic requirements. Aging pipes need to

be replaced and laid in a more accessible location.

She went on to describe the planned planting of native, drought-resistant grasses, wildflowers and trees. She said that as a result of three separate meetings, one with city staff in June and two others with residents and neighbors in August and September, concerns about tree removal and replacements were being addressed. Changes to the project's plans for staging and storage for materials and vehicles resulted in another 30 trees saved and more replanted. Further saving of trees will be address in the E.I.R.

Other concerns that came

out of those meetings included impacts on traffic, parking, pedestrian safety, truck routes and sewer laterals.

Vice Mayor Mike Anderson asked how long the disruption would continue on local streets and McGregor estimated about six months. However, both McGregor and Coleman recognized the impact to the public.

Council member Don Tatzin encouraged saving even more trees and stressed the need to make the public aware of the potential disruptions of this project ahead of the start.

"Communication is critical," said Mayor Mark Mitchell.

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Plumb Hoppy Holiday

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