

It's Time for the Concert

at the Reservoir

By Laura Sydora

If your idea of a good time includes good music, good food and a friendly outdoor atmosphere, mark your calendars for May 19!

On May 19, 2007 the Lafayette Rotary Club will host its 14th Annual Concert at the Res., at the Lafayette Reservoir from 1:00 PM to 4:00PM. With guaranteed free admittance, refreshments and raffle tickets sold by the Rotary Club and local schools performing in the concert, the event is sure to be a hit.

According to Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, the concert has been very successful over the years. "It began when a Lafayette Rotarian, Dick Holt, dreamed up a way for his local Rotary Club to help local schools," explained Lifson. The Rotary Club of Lafayette donates money from the event to help support local school music programs, such as buy new instruments. Last year, the club wrote checks to Acalanes for \$1,500 and Bentley for \$500. "Not bad," commented Lifson, "considering the event was cancelled after three songs because of rain."

Money is also raised to fund the Rotary Club's other local projects, such as The Contra Costa Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Trust in Education and Hospice.

This year, concert attendees can expect to see talented performances by the Stanley Symphonic Band led by Bob Athayde. Also performing is the Big Band of Rossmoor led by Mo Levich, Lafayette's 2007 Business Person of the Year. The Rossmoor Big Band has been very involved in the

Lafayette music scene. They have mentored for many of the local young musicians. Finally, the Bentley School Jazz combo led by Brian Pardo and the Acalanes Wind Ensemble led by Rick Meyer will take the stage.

Concert at the Res. has been an event hosted by the Rotary Club for the past thirteen years. Lifson described the reason for the choice of location is due to the fact that, "the reservoir is our most treasured outdoor area in Lafayette. What better back drop than the lake?" The Lafayette Reservoir is an ideal location for the concert as it not only provides for a beautiful setting, but can hold a notable number of people.

Few events are allowed to take place at the reservoir, but "EBMUD has been very willing to work with us on the event," explained Lifson. This year, the Rotary Club expects around 500 people to attend the concert, if weather conditions are permitting. Each year, a stage is erected for the event and then taken down and stored, but there are plans underway to build a permanent stage in the near future.

If your Saturday is looking a little drab, then drop by the reservoir for a couple hours. Your attendance will be more than well received.

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