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Civic News Lafayette

Reservoir Parking Lot Update Mostly Complete

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Blame it on the rain. While the new and improved parking lot at the Lafayette Reservoir is almost complete, there have been some delays due to inclement weather. The East Bay Municipal Utility District is upgrading the main parking lot to help improve traffic flow and provide more short-term parking spaces. The old parking meters are still there, though noticeably wobbly—the new updated solar-powered meters slated to be installed will accept plastic as well as quarters for payment. A parallel row of additional short term parking is awaiting striping. Included in the workplan is construction of new ADA-compliant sidewalks, guardrails, curbs and benches.

Pedestrians may not notice the new bio-retention system that will filter parking lot storm water runoff before it's discharged into the reservoir.

There's still a bit of work to be done that is temperature-dependent, said EBMUD spokesperson Nora Harlow referring to stamping the asphalt and a slurry seal that requires a minimum temperature to cure. She estimates it should all be complete in the next month or so.

Bring some extra quarters, starting in January of this year the hourly rate has gone up from \$1 to \$1.50, the hourly fee was last increased in 2002. In addition, there has been an increase in the price of an annual pass from \$100 to \$120. Seniors can get a discounted annual pass for \$80.

On a recent gray day the lack of spring-like weather didn't deter a substantial number of young moms with strollers or happy dog walkers, and folks just looking for a good workout. The Lafayette Reservoir is as busy as ever – just mind the orange cones.

New Eatery at Old Petar's Location

By Cathy Tyson

Goodbye Petar's, hello The Cooperage – an American bar and grill, in Petar's former location on Lafayette Circle. With Andrew McCormick at the helm, the son of Bill McCormick of seafood restaurant chain McCormick and Schmick's fame, expectations are high for the new restaurant tentatively slated to open in the late summer. The chain now has more than 80 restaurants nationwide, from Oregon to Rhode Island, with their closest location right in Berkeley – Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto. Lafayette resident McCormick used to run the City Tavern on bustling Fillmore Street in San Francisco's Marina district for more than a dozen years.

Petar's former patrons can look forward to a welcoming bar with flat screen televisions, along with a family friendly, but upscale

casual menu with mainstream favorites including steak, seafood, chicken and pork coming from the open kitchen with large rotisserie grill. But before the oysters Rockefeller hits tables, a substantial remodel will be in the works.

What's a Cooperage? It's the bar where McCormick's parents first met, according to Diablo Magazine. Although the word was new to this reporter, cooperage also refers to the facility in which a "cooper" – someone who makes wooden staved vessels such as casks, barrels and the always handy butter churn—works. Surely head chef Eric Hopfinger, who has had stints at Jake's on Market, Circa, and Long Bar and as a contestant on "Top Chef" will be putting his culinary chops to work grilling the perfect steak and not barrel-making.

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