

# Changes Afoot for the Reservoir Run

By Cathy Tyson



Participants of all ages at the Lafayette Reservoir Run Photo Andy Scheck

In order to keep traffic flowing while Lafayette's biggest footrace is in motion, the start, finish, pancakes, first aid station and booths will all be migrating westward slightly.

The excitement will center around the intersection of Oak Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, with balloons marking the start and finish lines at the Starbucks and Valero gas station across the street.

"It will be fantastic," says race organizer and executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson, "much more intimate, with more interaction with the runners."

Street closure will start at 6 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the intersection of Oak Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boule-

vard, and additional closures down the boulevard starting at 7 a.m. By 11 a.m. the party will be over and the roadway should be clear for drivers.

The popular family bike ride was canceled last year, but it has a green light for this year.

Looking for pancakes? Visit the new location this year at the Round Up parking lot. Find all the details for the family-friendly two-mile, 5K and 10K races, as well as sign-up information at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce race website <http://bit.ly/resrun2015>. Sign-ups are still welcome on the day of the event, free parking is available at BART, and bikes can rest easy at the bike valet.

# Get Married at City Hall Next Friday

Does true love need to bother with flowers, a gaggle of bridesmaids and an expensive dinner? For the first time, couples who obtain a license to wed from the county can get hitched at the Lafayette city offices. What better way to celebrate a partnership than in the stylishly decorated Chapel of Love Lafayette?

This year, the annual creative transformation by city staffers rings in Halloween and weddings at the same

time. Not one, but two employees can officially marry people. Save a bundle (the candy is free) at the city of Lafayette offices in Desco Plaza, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, Friday, Oct. 30. Simply call to set up an appointment at (925) 284-1968. For those not willing to commit, it will be worth checking out the fantastic Vegas-inspired venue; grown-up trick-or-treaters are welcome. C. Tyson

# District Grapples with Old Schools, More Kids

By Cathy Tyson

The initial meeting to assess the facilities of the Lafayette School District kicked off, appropriately, at Lafayette Elementary School, which first opened its doors to students in 1943.

The District faces a two-fold problem: schools are old and in need of significant repair, and the student population is gradually increasing. Architectural firm HKIT spent the summer analyzing exiting conditions and needs at Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill elementary schools, as well as at Stanley Middle School, the Lafayette School District offices and the White Pony School. HKIT staff also talked to principals and teachers to get a handle on exactly what was needed to modernize the facilities.

On average, four of the five schools that make up the district are 62 years old and are suffering from some of the maladies of old age. Springhill Elementary School was upgraded in 1999.

Architect and consultant with HKIT, Dara Youngdale, explained at the Oct. 15 meeting the firm's analysis of the physical conditions of the district's buildings, overall infrastructure needs, parking, fields and play areas, current capacity and growth potential.

"This is a place where time has stood still," said Youngdale. "There has been a culture of accommodating deficiencies." She outlined examples at Lafayette Elementary School: site drainage and flooding, big problems with drop-off and parking, old energy-inefficient single-pane win-

dows, and a need for classroom upgrades.

Parents and community members were happy to share concerns during the information-gathering component of the meeting and reported, table by table, their top priorities for the Lafayette Elementary School campus.

Keeping students safe, dry and warm was an overarching need that the consultant HKIT suggested. Building on that, almost every table of attendees commented that parking and drop off is, as one mom put it, "a nightmare."

School board member David Gerson reported that the top priority for his table, after addressing years of deferred maintenance, is the learning environment, where kids spend most of their day.

Accommodating a growing number of future students is another important issue to consider when taking a comprehensive view of district facilities. There are currently 2,351 students enrolled at the four elementary schools, but estimates project an additional 100 students expected by the 2019-20 school year.

The trend is similar at Stanley Middle School, which has a current enrollment of 1,181 students and is anticipating an increase of 155 students in the next five years.

"Facilities haven't kept up with cutting-edge curriculum," Superintendent Rachel Zinn said, "and we are looking at incremental growth over the next five years of 100 students in kindergarten through fifth grade."

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*Claudia Heath*

"Keith, I am still processing the fact that we actually got the house. Thank for all your help. We are extremely excited...I hear you worked your magic for my sister in law today. I can't say I'm surprised. I told them to just do whatever you recommended. Great job."

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"Keith you are my new hero. I could not have made it through the whole past 8 weeks if not for you. You rocked my mom's house. Truly it has never looked better. Not only that you guided me and explained things, frequently more than once. If not for you I probably would be sitting on the living room floor crying my eyes out. Thanks for taking me by the hand and leading me in the right direction. As a friend and a real estate guru, you are the greatest. Thank you for all your patience and kindness. For the rest of us, if you are doing real estate, you MUST get together with Keith."

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