

Lamorinda School Bus program suspended

By Pippa Fisher

On top of the many stresses and uncertainties parents are facing during this coming school year, the news that the Lamorinda School Bus program is being suspended, is yet another challenge.

In a letter to parents, Lamorinda School Bus Program Manager Whitney Simon said it was with heavy heart that the bus service would be suspended until further notice; a decision Simon says was not made lightly.

Specific state guidelines for school buses during the pandemic require the need for reduced seating capacity in order to practice safe social distancing, and that an aide be assigned to all buses to ensure students abide by the distancing and to conduct symptom screenings. Typically there are 36 students per route with some of the middle school routes at 58 students per bus. The new regulations

would reduce that number to a maximum of 14 students per bus, which says Simon, is financially unfeasible.

Furthermore Contra Costa Transportation Authority has notified the program, which is funded by 60% from the county's Measure J sales tax revenue, and by 40% from parents' fees, that it will receive a 16.5% reduction in funding due to a loss in sales tax revenues. This combined with reduction in ridership and the cost of paying for additional aides makes providing the service impracticable until health orders allow such guidelines to be removed.

While local schools will likely begin with remote learning, they may return to a hybrid model offering some in-person classes, and Simon says she is working to explore the availability of online resources for families to connect with other families in their class cohorts to develop carpools and hopes to reach out to parents soon with a survey.

Lazy days of summer, with some restrictions



The signs are a reminder that even here, it is not exactly "back to usual"

Photo Pippa Fisher

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If it weren't for all the walkers and joggers sporting facemasks, one might think that all is back to normal at the Lafayette Reservoir.

And to some degree it is. Both the outer rim and the lower paved trails are open. The crowds are back as usual on these summer mornings before the heat builds. Fishermen can be spotted on the banks enjoying the peace of the Res. Officials are monitoring and enforcing parking rules.

But the visitors' center is closed. The boats remain docked,

and the playground areas are taped off and closed. Private boat launching, barbecues, and picnic tables are all unavailable. Water fountains are off-limits apart from four located around the paved trail and only selected restrooms are open.

Meanwhile the rangers are happy to see folks back enjoying the beautiful space. They say mostly people are cooperating with social distancing and facemask-wearing requirements.

And until restrictions are loosened, that's the plan - wear a mask and keep your six-foot distance.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center. 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room

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	2019	2020 (Year To Date)
Total Homes Sold	290	113
Average Price Sold	\$1,788,877	\$1,798,603
Highest Price Sold	\$5,850,000	\$4,495,000
Lowest Price Sold	\$540,000	\$890,000

Moraga

	2019	2020 (Year To Date)
Total Homes Sold	129	64
Average Price Sold	\$1,486,336	\$1,613,630
Highest Price Sold	\$2,805,000	\$2,700,000
Lowest Price Sold	\$925,000	\$900,000

Orinda

	2019	2020 (Year To Date)
Total Homes Sold	259	106
Average Price Sold	\$1,628,161	\$1,793,168
Highest Price Sold	\$4,850,000	\$5,600,000
Lowest Price Sold	\$570,000	\$785,000

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