

Lamorinda Weekly reporter honored for dedication to accuracy and in-depth reporting



Pippa Fisher

After nearly five years serving as the Lafayette city reporter for Lamorinda Weekly – and always one of the last people sitting in the back taking notes during city council meetings – Pippa Fisher, who announced her retirement from the paper in late March, was presented with a proclamation by members of the Lafayette City Council during its April 12 meeting thanking her for her hard work and dedication to making complex issues understandable.

“Journalism and profes-

sional (trustworthy) media/press is in my opinion, the most important pillar of public governance. What the Lamorinda Weekly and Pippa have done for our city is beyond words,” Council Member Cam Burks wrote about Fisher in an email. “I for one am extraordinarily grateful to them both for what they continue to provide to our constituents and fellow neighbors; even in our world filled with so many ways to communicate, more people look for that color newspaper in their driveway every other Tuesday night, than I could ever imagine.”

City Council members offered their thanks to Fisher, which coincidentally happened toward the end of the meeting. Council Member Gina Dawson ended her comments with an apology to Fisher: “Sorry to keep you to the bitter end.”
– J. Wake

LLLCF reopens doors thanks to foundation efforts



Photo provided

Author Erik Larson presenting his book, “Dead Wake,” to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation audience several years ago.

By Diane Claytor

Libraries are once again open for browsing and checking out books. They may look a little different, Beth Needle, executive director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) reports. Chairs have been removed, computer stations have been placed further apart and, for now, there are no in-person story times or programs. “But,” Needle says, “you can once again talk to a librarian and look for books you want to read.”

The LLLCF was established to ensure that the Lafayette Library remains a vibrant resource for the local community, providing funding for programs and, according to Sarah Blumenfeld, LLLCF’s development and programs director, helping to keep the lights on and the doors open. “The Foundation contributes 52% of the library’s annual budget,” she notes, while the county contributes 34%. When the library is open, the county provides 35 hours of open library time per week; LLLCF funding adds another 19 open hours every week.

The Foundation has raised money to update the old computer lab, expanding it into a multi-purpose tech lab which, Blumenfeld says, is more of a STEAM lab than a fixed computer station room, complete with a 3-D printer. LLLCF has also updated and enlarged the children’s area of the library.

Pre-pandemic, the Lafayette library hosted close to 1,000 programs a year, attracting more than 35,000 people. By reinventing themselves during the past year with the introduction of the County’s Front Door Service, an average of 10,000 items were checked out every month from just the Lafayette library and “demand for on-line materials increased about 400%,” Blumenfeld reports. “Libraries have remained relevant because of the programming they’re doing.”

“Before COVID, many of our programs would fill the Community Hall, which holds 200 people. During COVID, we’ve actually attracted up to 500 people via Zoom to some of our programs,” Blumenfeld happily states. “The library promotes lifelong learning,” Needle adds.

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Correction: In the April 14 Lamorinda Weekly article, “City of Lafayette pays legal fees award following Brown Act violation,” the amount paid was \$113,118 (minus credit for costs), not \$133,118.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, May 3, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



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