

Running in the rain



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

The rain didn't deter runners, young and old, from having a great time at the Oct. 24 Lafayette Reservoir Run.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Pouring rain didn't stop hundreds of runners and walkers from showing up for the Lafayette Res Run. Athletes skipped and stretched, paying no mind to the puddles and downpour as they waited for the sounding horn for their 5 and 10K races to begin, at the same time as clusters of families stayed closer to buildings, in ponchos and under umbrellas.

More than 2,300 people registered to participate in the 5K, the 10K and the 2-mile races this year. Those who showed up said they waited too long to be back together doing this race as a community to be scared of a little – or a lot of rain.

Pete Lowenberg said he showed up with his wife's encouragement after taking a long sabbatical from running. "I'm here this morning to support all the runners and I'm going to run myself in the 5K. My goal is to finish it and hopefully to do that in less than 1:05," Lowenberg said ahead of the race. "The way the weather is, if we can't run it, we'll swim it."

Hien Clayton and her

daughter Lexi, who attends Lafayette Elementary school, ran and walked in the 2-mile race along with Daisy Troop 30245 in Lafayette. Clayton said, rain or shine, she's always happy to have a chance to get out and be with the community. "The rain makes it really memorable. The girls are working on earning their medal for being courageous and strong and they definitely earned it," Hien said. "It's raining so hard and I see so many smiling faces everywhere and everyone's excited to be together again and do something that can help and give some hope."

Along with the happy puddle jumpers, there were plenty of children in the 2-mile race that were a little 'weighed' down by the soggy day. Brooke Peterson, the leader of Daisy Troop 30245, said she was happy that all of her first-grade Daisies stuck out the challenge of the wet race, for the most part with smiles on their faces. "My daughter said it was the best day ever. They're all little first-graders that are (an extra) 10 pounds soaking wet," Brook said. "It's been so long and it feels so good to be back together again."

Mayor and city manager answer questions at Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting

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Candell said she sees this as a two-step process: Try to get something in as quickly and expeditiously as possible, such as enacting parking restrictions or adding speed humps, with the second step a longer-term process, like adding protective pathways or changing two-way streets to one-way streets.

After outlining current housing projects in and near the downtown core, Srivatsa highlighted some of the city's other activities, including new initiatives to potentially resolve PG&E lawsuits regarding tree removal, and the formation of a gas safety alliance comprising community residents who are monitoring PG&E and working with the California Public Utilities Commission and will provide the council with updates. She also mentioned how the city hired a trapper to deal with wild pigs that are devastating front lawns.

Financial support for the business community is headlined by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds granted to the city: \$6.37 million in total, with half available immediately, the second half deliverable in 2022. Candell said a completed business survey asking businesses and nonprofits for ideas had only 78 respondents from Lafayette but was useful. Business owners suggested a shop local campaign or gift card program, general assistance relief support, rent assistance, more downtown events, more arts

and culture venues, better lighting, more free parking and more.

A community survey that closed Oct. 25 had received 734 responses, with comments clustered on topics such as improving public infrastructure, increased wildfire prevention, greater police presence, expanding outdoor dining, opening the Lafayette Theater, and holding more public outdoor events.

After all the feedback is received and studied by city council, Candell said the directions taken and priorities set will be selected and voted upon at meetings in November and December.

In an interview after the meeting, Bucher said he would like to see future presentations and discussions about "how the \$6.37 million in COVID-19 funds will be spent, how we handle housing development in our downtown and the related traffic and circulation issues."

Bucher said he and most of the LHC have been following these topics at city meetings and through other presentations. "We feel the topics are important for all homeowners to understand and how these will affect the city's character and upcoming changes," he said.

The LHC plans to conduct a meeting in the spring as well as a Candidates Night next fall for the upcoming November 2022 election. For information about the LHC, visit lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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