

Increased Lafayette parking fees planned

According to Lafayette Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson, who spoke to the city council on Oct. 10 about a potential parking meter rate increase, the Parking Fund currently has a negative fund balance of \$440,000.

In her staff report, Robinson noted that in FY18-19, the last full 'pre-pandemic' year, net parking revenue was \$158,000, but in the last three years, net parking revenue has been negative. "The Council should consider raising the parking meter fees to recoup those losses or at least break even over the next five years," she stated in her

report.

Robinson noted that parking meter revenue does not go into the General Fund, but instead is used to purchase additional parking in the downtown, such as Oakbridge, 949 Moraga Road.

During discussion, Robinson stated that "it would make sense to have a conversation with the Chamber and there are some other issues we would like to discuss."

The city council voted 5-0 directing staff to return with a resolution to increase the parking meter rates to \$2 per hour.

— J. Wake

Lafayette Historical Society displays poetry about Lafayette Reservoir Tower

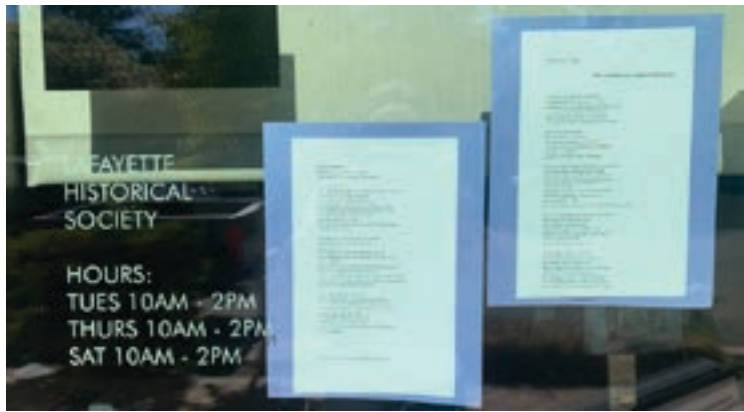


Photo provided

In the window of the Lafayette Historical Society at the back of the Lafayette Library, a blue mat surrounds a two-page poem entitled, "The Guardian of Lafayette Reservoir." It is written by local poet Ophelia Leong and focuses on the Reservoir tower.

Leong was invited to read the poem on April 15 during National Poetry Month at the Lamorinda Arts Council's inaugural Art Embraces Poetry program. Town Hall Theatre hosts the ongoing program which is funded by the Community Foundation of Lafayette.

On the side of the Whole Foods Building (across from Blue Ginkgo) the Society has posted information about the

Lafayette Reservoir. While debates swirl around the tower, the poem has a different effect. More than one person has said after reading it, "I'll never think of it the same way again." Plato's comment about poetry comes to mind: "Poetry is nearer to vital truth than history."

For more information check out the poem in plain view on the window at the Historical Society entrance on Golden Gate Way near First Street, call (925) 283-1848 or go to <https://lafayettehistory.org/lafayette-reservoir-display-at-whole-foods/>. View the Lafayette Reservoir exhibit on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

— Submitted by Elana O'Loskey

Lafayette teachers

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"It felt so good to see Orinda and Acalanes [and teachers from other districts] joining in this," Jones said.

Lindsey Brown is a parent of two students in the district. She not only marched in with the teachers, she made a passionate statement to the board. "The teachers are the heart of the district. The district keeps saying they don't have money for teachers. My view is that teachers are more important than fancy smart boards or anything else in the classroom," she said.

Superintendent Stephens said that although there has been some frustration for both the teachers and the district in reaching an agreement, it ultimately signifies a deep level of care about the success of Lafayette schools. "We know that we are one team with a genuine sense of

common purpose," Stephens said. "The District views this process as an ongoing dialogue about our shared priorities and appreciates the engagement of our community to understand the issues we're working to resolve. We continue to feel great respect and gratitude to our amazing and dedicated staff."

Stephens adds that the district is looking forward to sitting down with teachers again next week. On Oct. 27, the District and the Lafayette Teachers Union will meet with a mediator. Meanwhile, although teachers strongly prefer to avoid a strike, over 90% of them indicated they would do so if necessary. For now, however, the teachers and the district are hopeful an agreement can be reached at the bargaining table.

"We are optimistic that we can reach an agreement," Stephens said.

Correction: In the Oct. 11 article, "Gas Leaf Blower Ordinance passes first reading at Lafayette council meeting," a provision mentioned where homeowners could "sign a release form to allow a landscape company to use a gas powered leaf blower on their property" was incorrect. There is no such provision in the ordinance which allows for homeowners or landscapers to apply for an exception. According to Anna Tolle, "Use of gasoline powered leaf blowers is exempt from this section as follows: (a) When utilized by or at the direction of emergency responders for the purposes of responding to an emergency, or necessary to restore, preserve, protect, or save lives or property from imminent danger of loss or harm; or (b) When used to clear downed trees or vegetation in areas needing expedient clearance when necessary to protect public safety, as authorized by the City." We apologize for this error.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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