

Published January 3rd, 2024

Senior Services touts successes at recent council meeting

By Lou Fancher



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

emphasized multiple aspects of the "seamless" partnership with the city of Lafayette. The Village has 338 members, including 67 supported memberships.

Pak, in her role as the part-time coordinator, said the nonprofit's key theme is "connection." Noting that seniors may experience reduced opportunities to make social connections, Pak said programs and resources expand beyond members to benefit the community 55-years-and-older at large. Adding value to existing programs is a part of the Village's goals and process that include constantly adjusting to best meet new demands and interests of target members.

Feedback from schools, medical professionals, businesses and community volunteers has been helpful and will continue to be sought. Events such as "Golden Happy Hours," Senior SWELL events at the Lafayette Library, vaccination clinics, and monthly singalongs, among others, have raised awareness of the Lamorinda Village.

Three community members who have participated in Village activities spoke during public comments. Beth Brown, a volunteer at the vaccination clinic who now assists with Senior SWELL, said meeting the people at the library events possibly means more to her than it does to the seniors who drop in. A second speaker emphasized witnessing the remarkable "bounce back" seniors have made following the pandemic. The movie matinees, he said, were greatly successful and a clear sign seniors are responding and re-entering community life. The final speaker said the best time of her life, when asked by Pak, was living at Belle Terre/Eden Housing and finding a sense of family through working as a volunteer and member of Lamorinda Village. "The best time of my life is right now, at 82. I finally have a really, really nice life," she said.

The presentation closed with thanks from outgoing Mayor Carl Anduri to the Senior Services Commission, Lamorinda Village, and its volunteers and board members. Anduri read the city's proclamation to Ruth McCahan, founding member and first president of Lamorinda Village, and the winner of the 2023 Don Jenkins Lamorinda Village Service Award.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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