



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Regular Meeting: Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Planning Commission Meeting
 Monday, Aug. 5 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Design Review
 Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Lafayette places sales tax measure on November ballot

Lafayette, CA: On July 22, the Lafayette City Council placed a funding measure on the November 2024 ballot, asking Lafayette voters to authorize a local sales tax increase of 1/2 cent (half a penny for every \$1 spent locally) for seven years to maintain the current level of City services. This measure will require a 50% +1 vote to pass. At a previous City Council meeting, City Manager, Niroop K. Srivatsa, explained that due to inflation, prices on everything from materials, to insurance, to labor have continued to increase. Furthermore, the State continues to impose a number of unfunded mandates. As a result, the City is facing a structural

deficit of more than \$2M annually, beginning in fiscal year July 2024-25. If approved by voters in November, all the revenue from the sales tax would go directly into the City's General Fund; The General Fund provides funding for City services and facilities. Lafayette's current sales tax rate is 8.75%. If voters approve a 1/2 cent sales tax measure, Lafayette's rate will increase to 9.25%, equal with the rate in Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek and lower than Orinda, Moraga, and Concord. The new rate would go into effect starting April 1, 2025 for seven years. "The half cent increase, if approved by Lafayette voters, would

generate approximately \$2.4 million annually, which, according to current projections, is enough to maintain the level of service presently being provided. If the voters do not pass the measure, the Council will have to make difficult decisions about which programs and services to reduce or eliminate," said Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson. "Filling a \$2M annual deficit is approximately 10% of the City's General Fund, and it would require cuts across all City departments, including police, public works, planning, engineering, parks and recreation, and administration," Robinson added. "One reason the City

Council chose to place a sales tax measure on the ballot is because sales tax is paid by visitors who dine and shop in Lafayette, so funds would be brought into the community from people who reside outside the community but who utilize our public infrastructure and services," explained Vice Mayor Wei-Tai Kwok. More information about the City's financial situation and the funding measure is available on the City of Lafayette's website at www.lovelafayette.org/FiscalSustainability
 Provided by: Suzanne Iarla, Communications Analyst/Public Information Officer City of Lafayette

Local music teacher loving her third career

By Diane Claytor

For thousands of families throughout Lamorinda – and beyond – the soft-spoken woman with the delightful English accent is known simply as Miss Julia, their beloved Music Together teacher. "Miss" Julia McLeod dances, prances, sings, and plays her ukulele and violin, sharing her love of music in every one of her very popular classes.

McLeod began teaching Music Together classes 22 years ago. With a musical background – she sang in choruses and played the violin as a child growing up in England – and a fondness for little kids, it was the perfect job while her own children were in school. "I thought I would do this for a little while and then get back into something else," McLeod says. "It's a lovely job so I've just carried on." Referring to Music Together as her "second career," she currently teaches two days a week in Lafayette; she also



Photo provided

Julia McLeod, local Music Together teacher and award-winning quilt maker, with some of the many beautiful quilts she has made.

teaches music at a Lafayette preschool and works in the Lafayette School District's music program.

With a degree in textile design for the apparel industry, McLeod started her first career as a textile designer in the woolen and worsted mills of Yorkshire and Scotland. While attending a large menswear show in Paris, she was advised that the textile industry in New York was "full of Brits," she recalls. She and her British husband, an IT professional, were ready for adventure, so they packed up and relocated to New York, where McLeod continued working as a designer for a menswear company.

After several other moves, and with two young children, it was decided the family needed to put down roots. Walnut Creek is where they chose to settle.

Once her girls grew up and left home, McLeod found her third career – quilt making – admitting that it's more than a job, "it has become an obsession."

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