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5k race begins

Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

Lafayette Res Run invigorates and delights

By Elaine Borden Chandler

On the chilly but sunny morning of Sunday, Oct. 20, 2000 people ran, sprinted, and walked down Mount Diablo Boulevard as a part of the Lafayette Res Run. Crowds of spectators waited on the sidelines in thick sweaters and puffer jackets, cheering and clapping for both the participants they knew and strangers.

The Lafayette Res Run for Education is an annual event presented by the Lafayette Chamber and the City of Lafayette to raise money for local schools. It benefits all the public schools of Lafayette, as well

as Miramonte and Campolindo. There were three runs on the day of the Res Run — the two timed races, the 5k flat race, and the 10k race that loops around the Lafayette Reservoir, as well as the 2 Miles Run/Walk for Fun. There was also a Reservoir Challenge, a 2.7-mile virtual race that participants could complete anywhere they wanted from Oct. 12 to 19.

Before the races began, the runners and walkers jumped and stretched to limber up their muscles in

the cold. Caleb Worcester and his father Matt Worcester were running the 5k race together for Stanley Middle School. Caleb, who previously participated in the Res Run when he was five years old and again at six years old, was nervous but said that he was looking forward to beating his old time. Matt Worcester said, “I’m looking forward to the downhill.”

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LAFAYETTE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Democratic ideals fuel those working the polls Nov. 5

By David Scholz



As another election looms, those serving in the trenches at polling stations have seen changes that continue to make the voting process more efficient for the voters and poll workers alike.

It figures to be another long day for James Taylor, Russ Taft, Sora O’Doherty, and their peers who make up the approximately 1,200 clerks and inspectors who will again staff poll stations countywide on Nov. 5.

They will rise well before dawn to be at their assigned polling station to greet their teams, who report by 6 a.m. to set up the polls ahead of the official

opening at 7 a.m. Then, they say goodbye to their teams as late as 9 p.m., depending on how quickly they can wrap up operations after the polls close at 8 p.m.

“It is hard work,” said O’Doherty. “They need us.”

Taylor, of Lafayette, who has served in six elections since the 2020 presidential primary, first served as a clerk at St Stevens Episcopal Church in Orinda. Since then, he has been assigned as an Inspector at Holy Names Lutheran Church in Orinda.

“I was involved in the design and construction of the building that we use at the church and personally have an attachment,” said Taylor.

Such opportunities to get involved in more civic activities were further increased after his wife passed away as time was freed up.

“I enjoy the challenge of running a smooth and efficient program and tak-

ing care of my clerks,” he said, who have made the experience even more worthwhile. “We have fun in spite of the 14 hours.”

Taft, of Orinda, who has been active in the polls on and off during the past five years, is marking his third election at St. Stephens Church in Orinda in an inspector role after initially serving as a clerk at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. He asked to be transferred to that site as he’s a member of the congregation.

“What got me involved was just to give back to the community, and be a part of the process,” he said.

Like others who start working in the polls, Taft also took on the mantle of inspector when someone else was unavailable – illness in his case – and he brought a bit of experience to the role. Ever since then the title has stuck.

“The elections have been interesting, for sure. I am a people person,

and [enjoy] meeting the people who both vote and work the polls, and helping them with their civic duties is my goal,” he said.

O’Doherty, a reporter for the Lamorinda Weekly, brought her experience running County Service Area elections in Napa to the Contra Costa County Elections starting in 2016.

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Election 2024

Upcoming voter deadlines

Oct. 29	Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballot
Nov. 5	Election Day

www.contracostavote.gov/election

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