

# Lafayette kicks off park refurbishment with a cool \$300K



Photo Pippa Fisher

Smiles all around as Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan presented a check for \$300,000 to the city of Lafayette for the new ADA playground on Brook Street.

## By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette's only downtown park is about to get a huge boost thanks to the efforts of Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan who, working with the city and Park, Trails and Recreation Commissioner Lauren Herpich, secured funding to the tune of \$300,000 for the refurbishment of Brook Street Park.

City Council Member Teresa Gerringer accepted the check from Bauer-Kahan at a presentation in the park attended by city leaders, commissioners and playground supporters Oct. 2.

The original pirate ship play structure was removed earlier this year when it was found to be unsafe. The city hopes to install the new structure – a “Lafayette Airlines” helicopter, airplane and swing set – in spring 2020. The American with Disabilities Act-friendly facilities will be designed for children younger than 5 and for those with special needs and will feature both traditional swings and a unique “expression swing” which has been shown to enhance the so-

cial, emotional and cognitive well being of children and adults. The new playground will also include a spinning gravity seat, additional fencing and more picnic tables.

Mayor Mike Anderson expressed the city's gratitude. “We are grateful to Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan, and our parks, trails and recreation commissioners and staff, for working together to find this funding,” he said. “With it, Lafayette's Brook Street Park will be a safer and much more fun destination for our children and their families to enjoy.”

Bauer-Kahan says she values local parks as an opportunity to foster a love of the outdoors in children.

“Securing much-needed, accessible and modern outdoor space for recreation for our community's children of all abilities is a priority for me,” Bauer-Kahan said. “I am delighted that the governor saw fit to include this worthy project in this year's state budget. I am thrilled that my office, the city, and the parks, trails and recreation commissioners were able to forge such a successful partnership.”

# Run, Lafayette, run!



Photo provided

Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi gets a little help at a previous Res Run.

## By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is gearing up to host the traditional Reservoir Run Oct. 20. The event is always popular and this year has seen a big increase in preregistration, according to Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson. The Chamber is expecting more than 4,000 people of all ages and athletic abilities to attend this year's run.

Fall's cooler temperatures make for perfect running weather and the event, now in its 27th year, attracts both serious runners and recreational runners from all over the Bay Area. The event is hosted by the Chamber of Commerce together with the city of Lafayette and sponsored by Oakwood Athletic Club and Sutter Health.

Proceeds benefit local schools. Last year the Lafayette Chamber raised \$24,548.35 from the Res Run alone, and a total of \$41,000, including \$16,400 from the Art and Wine Festival, for schools.

The event has something for everyone, from the fast 5K race, to the challenging 10K course that goes around the reservoir. There is also a two-

mile fun run/walk. Strollers and dogs are welcome for the 10K and two-mile runs only. According to the chamber, this event provides “the fastest 5K and the toughest 10K in the land.”

Although runners do come for this event from far and wide, it has a definite community feel as residents run it year after year with their neighbors and friends. And this year, says Lifson, all the local school principals are participating.

This year will also see newly designed medals for all category winners and unique, red carpet-style photo ops.

As well as the runners, the event attracts hundreds of spectators who cheer on participants and can also take advantage of the Healthy Lifestyles Fair, located next to registration and the start/finish line on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Stanley Middle School Band.

The 5K, 10K and two-mile races begin at 8 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. respectively. Participants can preregister with the chamber. Same day registration will also be permitted.

Further information can be found at [www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun)



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