22 07 26 – Meeting Notes

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Allen Tucker was responsible for the program and spoke to the club from his perspective as an environmental engineer. He reminded us that news reports are not always accurate. Often times reporters don't have enough time to research and prepare nor do they necessarily have sufficient background knowledge to bring to the subject. One example of this is the news reports that electric vehicles are safer/better for the environment. Electric cars operate from a battery, which on the surface appears to be more environmentally friendly. However, that battery is charged from an electric plug which is powered by coal, gas, or nuclear energy. In essence, it is using the same energy source as gas-powered engines. Electric vehicles do have advantages, though. They are more cost-efficient in stop-and-go traffic. The infrastructure is not yet available nation-wide to make them practical for long-distance trips.

Allen also talked about how tightly regulated industrial discharges were. For example, wastewater discharged into creeks today is actually cleaner than the natural water. He also spoke on landfills and the significant issue with plastic bottles. These bottles break down and release methane gas, the same gas that is attributed to contributing to the formation of ozone, an air pollutant, and to global environmental warming.

Diane Sherriff