

YOUR TOWN OF LAFAYETTE 2017 AT A

Hello Residents of Lafayette. 2017 was a good year. We had a lot of things happening in our Town this year, which we are sure that you have noticed. The Town Board and the Town Office, wanted to give you a re-cap of a few of those events.

NEW STATION 3 ADDITION

When the Highway X Bridge was closed for several months, the Chippewa Fire District stationed a 24-hour EMS/Fire Duty crew at Lafayette Station 3 to decrease the response time caused by the bridge detour. The response time was excellent. Along with the number of calls for service, a decision was made to keep a duty crew at Station 3 full time. Lafayette needed to provide adequate berthing quarters for both male and female crews. A Special Town meeting was held in late 2016 where those in attendance voted to go ahead with the station addition and to include a new training room on the first floor along with upgrading the kitchen from the original late 70's build. Construction started in May of 2017, completed late November of 2017, once again giving us 24-7 coverage in Lafayette.

In addition to the Station addition, a new high capacity well was drilled next to the station giving us faster fill time for tankers reducing it from 40 minutes at the old well to under 10 minutes at the new well.

Thank you to Brown Builders and other area contractors who completed the project under budget and on time.

THE EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle has been identified in the Wissota Woods area. Property owners are encouraged to aid in stopping the spread of this invasive insect. There is a lot of information on the internet to help you protect your trees.

OUR ROADS

The 2017 budget was adopted in late 2016. Your Town Board allocated extra funds for road reconstruction and paving giving us the ability to do about 4 miles of road per year. This year we did 3.75 miles of new paving, all south of Highway 29 with plans to do a similar amount of road reconstruction and paving in 2018, again most of it will be south of Highway 29. Your Town Crew recently completed the required 2-year Pavement Rating of our 92 miles of roads in Lafayette giving us up to date information on the condition of our roads. Road construction decisions will be made in early spring.

BUDGET

Lafayette adopted the 2018 budget December 4th giving us about 6% increase in the 2018 Levy but still well below our maximum cap allowed based on debt service. Over the past 2 years we have grown over 50 million in equalized value to \$645,642,000 with a population of just over 6000. Our mill rate of .0188 will be a modest increase from 2017.

BUILDING PERMITS

Lafayette uses Chippewa County Zoning. Please check with them and obtain permits before new construction or additions.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Lafayette Parks and Recreation had a great year. The program continues to grow and offers youth soccer, t-ball, coach pitch, baseball, and softball. If you would like more information on registering a child, volunteering, sponsoring a team, or donating for the playground fund; please call Rec. Director Bruce Keyes at 715 225-9912.

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Here are some upcoming events, changes and items in the works for Lafayette.

NEW LAFAYETTE PARKS, RECREATION, TOURISM & LAND USE COMMISSION FORMED

The Town of Lafayette has created a new 8 citizen member Parks, Recreation, Tourism & Land Use Planning Commission. They will meet the 2nd Monday of each month and be an advisory Commission to the Lafayette Town Board of Supervisors. With the population growth of Lafayette and the increasing needs and demands for services, this Commission will deal with Parks and Recreation issues, the promotion of tourism in the Township along with Land Use issues.

Yard Waste/Brush Site Changes Planned for 2018

24/7 Access Gate with a fee based security code in the works

The Town of Lafayette plans to install a 24/7 Access Gate with a fee based security code for residents wishing to use the Yard Waste/Brush Site in 2018. This is due to several reasons.

#1) With the gate basically now open 24/7 most of the year, a tremendous amount of yard waste, brush, logs, and even trash is being dumped at the Lafayette site from residents from all over Chippewa County. This site is for Town of Lafayette residents only, but being un-secured and un-monitored, people are coming in from all over the area.

#2) The high costs of operating the Yard Waste/Brush Site along with ever increasing costs of chipping the tremendous amount of brush, sticks, & logs has now risen to over \$ 5,000 per year.

#3) For several years the Town of Lafayette and the City of Chippewa Falls had a joint shared services agreement whereby residents of both municipalities could use each other's Yard Waste/Brush Sites. In exchange, the City of Chippewa Falls paid the yearly costs of chipping the brush. This joint shared services agreement ended in 2016.

#4) Lafayette residents have clearly spoken that they want 24/7 access to the Yard Waste/Brush Site. With a new 24/7 access gate equipped with a security passcode entry system, the site will be available at all times.

#5) The Town of Lafayette plans to sell access security passcodes for those Lafayette residents interested at a cost to be determined yet per year.

NEW ATV/UTV ROUTE

Town roads East of CTY HWY K, along with a route from the Town Hall to K, should be open to ATV/UTV's in the spring. The route will be signed, and the users will have to abide by the laws. Public parking and lake access will be along the route. This will be a great asset to the Tourism of Lafayette.

Lake Wissota Improvement Protection Association

Lafayette is partnering with the Lake Wissota Improvement Protection Association to ensure the sustainability of our lake.

2018 ELECTIONS

February 20
April 3
August 14
November 6

To register to vote in the Town of Lafayette, go to **MYVOTE.com**. All you need is a valid driver's license with proof of residency.

We will no longer be sending out receipts for Taxes or Dogs unless you send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Cost savings for the Town.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE TOWN HALL

Check out the new Town Hall Sign and Notice Board as you pass by. There will be new front entrance doors this spring. Updates to the office reception counter, lighting and electrical updates and kitchen remodel are just a few of the things that are being looked at. We want to be proud of Your Town Hall. If you need a location for your meeting, family gathering, or activities call the office for Hall Rates. 715-7236-7692