

## LAFAYETTE'S ABOUT TOWN NEWSLETTER - YEARS AT A GLANCE 2022-2023

### ELECTIONS / REGISTRATION / ABSENTEE VOTING / INFO @ myvote.wi.gov by Clerk Konwinski

We encourage residents to obtain information regarding voting and election information only from our office or the Wisconsin Election Commission (including the MyVote website); other sources content is not always accurate. Be aware that 3rd party groups send mailings to voters that may be inaccurate and look like they came from our office. The only election mail you will receive from our office is an official ballot if we have a request on file from you. Our website, [www.lafayettetownship.org](http://www.lafayettetownship.org) or the myvote.wi.gov website has information on how to register and what you need to do for, absentee voting, and more. When applying for absentee ballots or registering to vote, please include your phone number. There are often times when ballots or registration forms are sent in and may be rejected due to missing information. To correct it, a simple phone call is usually all it takes. We want **ALL** votes to count!

**2023 Election Schedule – April 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Election.** Chairman, 2 supervisor, clerk and treasurer positions are those that you will be voting on at the local level.

**Mark your calendars!!!**

### HELP US HELP YOU

#### 9-1-1 EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT ADDRESS SIGNS AVAILABLE

To improve Emergency Services response of Sheriff/Police-Fire-EMS, the Town of Lafayette is offering to township residents' free of charge, new double-sided reflective red/white emergency replacement E-911 address marker signs. Many of these signs were originally installed by Chippewa County in the 1990's and are suffering from maintenance issues. If yours is broken, missing numbers, faded, or broken off call the Lafayette Town Hall at 715-723-7692 and the Public Works crews will install a new free address sign as time permits. Please maintain your address marker signs by keeping them clear of brush and winter snows.

For new construction of residential or commercial buildings, Chippewa County Emergency Management will assign a new address number, followed by installation of a new address sign. Call them at 715-726-7728 for assistance. **By Supervisor Tom Larson**

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**2023 Annual Meeting** - Tuesday April 18, 2023, at 6:30pm.  
Town of Lafayette Town Hall at 5765 197<sup>th</sup> St. The Town board meeting will follow immediately after Annual meeting.

### PRTLUP Commission (Parks, Recreation, Tourism, Land Use, and Planning)

**By Supervisor Mathwig**

This Commission is made up of town residents appointed to 4-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission meets at the Town Hall at 7pm on the second Monday of each month. These meetings are open to the public. This Commission is charged with assisting in the orderly operation and development of the Town as it relates to these subjects. The Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors who is the decision-making body. Parks include the Brick Boat Landing and Ray's Beach. Recreation and Tourism include the organized youth activities and leagues (soccer, t-ball, softball), ball courts near the Town hall, hiking trails, a disc golf course, lake activities including improvements of water quality, the reduction of invasive species, and the reduction of shoreline erosion.

The Land Use function includes the review, update, and advice on all land use planning, zoning issues, and rezoning requests, including new plats, new CSM's, and stormwater management plans.

Additionally, in 2020 and 2021 the PRTLUP Commission updated the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which is required by the State of Wisconsin to be updated every 10 years. The updated plan was approved by the Town Board in early 2022, and can be viewed at the Town Hall, or at <https://lafayettetownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Amended-Lafayette-Comprehensive-Plan-2020-2040.pdf>

Current commission members include: Michael Adams, Scott Faris, Sue Lane, Doug Matthews (Secretary/Treasurer), Rich Miller, Mark Sedlacek, Jerry Zais (Chair), and Brett Bullock (Tourism representative). Town Supervisor Neil Mathwig, as liaison between the PRTLUP and the Town Board, is a non-voting member of the Commission.

Recent activities of the PRTLUP intended to enhance the enjoyment of Town properties by residents and to increase tourism to the Township include:

- Completion of a 9-hole disc golf course on town-owned property behind the town hall, with planning for an additional 9-holes underway.
- Resurfacing, line painting, and fencing creating 5 pickleball courts in the recreation area near the town hall.
- Construction of a Veteran's Memorial in Ray's Beach Park
- Concession operations at Ray's Beach

### VANDALISM & STOLEN ROAD SIGNS

Several acts of senseless vandalism have been occurring in the Town of Lafayette involving public facilities. The newly constructed Ray's Beach Restroom/Concession Stand Building has suffered damage with graffiti spray paint, garbage dumped, and the large trash dumpster rolled down the beach and into Lake Wissota. Several newly installed street intersections signs have been stolen in the Wissota Woods area and in the County Highway K / Yellow River neighborhood. The large WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE & Population sign on County Highway K near the Yellow River bridge was also recently stolen. Please call the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department at 715-726-7701 if you have any information regarding these incidents.

### New Storage Building

The old Lions Club pagoda was demolished this spring and replaced with a 3-bay modern storage building for Town equipment. This was approved at the April annual meeting and will be funded by the ARPA covid funds the Town received. A complete list of funded projects is available at the town office. One of the other projects was the completion of the Ray's Beach Bathrooms that now have modern facilities.

### Re-Evaluation of Lafayette

Bowmar Appraisal will be starting a two-year re-evaluation of the entire Town of Lafayette in the spring of 2022 to be completed late 2023. Our percentage has dropped to about 70% so it's that time again for this to be completed. It seems like just a couple of years ago that we had that done but with increasing home values and high dollar home sales in a tight market we are required by the State to bring values back to 100%. It's too early to tell what this will do to your tax bill or if your home values will increase or decrease so, please be patient with the team from Bowmar when they show up at your home or business.

### Winter Regulations and Reminders

We encourage you to check our website (homepage) for updates during a snowstorm regarding plowing operations.

The larger the snowfall, the more time it takes to plow; we encourage you to be patient. School bus routes and hills are always given priority. When possible, our drivers begin their routes in the middle of the night before commuters and school buses are on the road; however, depending on the timing of the snowfall this is not always possible. The Town Road Crew plows over 180 lane miles of roads after a snow fall.

Remember, if you live on a County Road within the Town of Lafayette, your road is plowed by the County. Keep garbage cans off the road to help avoid the plowed snow from knocking them over.

### ROAD WORK IN 2022-23

By Chair David Staber

It has been a real strange year for paving projects this year because of increased oil and lack of material availability. We had six projects planned but it appears only three will get done this year, in addition to the 190<sup>th</sup> Street project. The remaining projects, 30<sup>th</sup> Ave from K east, Brick Boat Landing and the Hwy X Wayside center road, prices will be locked in for 2023.

2023 projects will include left over from form 2022 plus the major road project on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave from Hwy J to 195<sup>th</sup> St. This project \$1.2 million is partially funded by the Federal BIL program passed last March. We will also be looking at the South Service Road by Dollar General and 169<sup>th</sup> Street going south from Hwy X. There will be additional paving projects in 2023 but those will be determined in early spring of 23.

2024 Paving will include the Round About at 50<sup>th</sup> and J plus the replacement of the bridge over Highway 29 on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. This will be about a 6-month project, mostly because of the bridge project, and it will include bike paths to Stillson School as well as tying into the 50<sup>th</sup> Ave project from 2023.

### ICE SKATING RINK

Mark is hoping to have the rink ready before Christmas. Watch the website for updates. Bring your family for some winter fun. Warming house will be open.

#### PLOWING REMINDERS

Make sure your mailbox is secure & can withstand the snow coming off the plow. The township WILL NOT replace a mailbox that is not physically hit by the plow. One of the hazards of living in Wisconsin!!

Please remember that it is illegal to leave ANYTHING on the ROADWAY, including snow!!

### Observations from Supervisor Brennan

The town of Lafayette has made big strides in 2022 with the addition, and continued maintenance of roads and bridges in our area. The current upgrade of 190<sup>th</sup> street was a much need upgrade as this road is our busiest road in Lafayette beside Hwy X. 190<sup>th</sup> St has not been up-graded since the early 1990's. A reminder that the corner of 190<sup>th</sup> St and 70<sup>th</sup> Ave will turn into a 3 way, flashing stop sign. Please be alert to this big change at this busy intersection. Additional lit up stop signs will be added to help with safety.

Other wonderful additions that are currently in the works is a brand-new playground area near the Lafayette town hall along with new line painting and additions of pickle ball courts, seal coating of the blacktop as well. New bleachers are also on order for the softball fields. The new Ray's Beach concession stand opened in 2022 with positive reviews from folks who enjoy the beach area. A quick reminder that no dogs are allowed in the beach area. No glass bottles or containers. No weapons allowed either for the safety of everyone. There unfortunately has been some vandalism to the park. If you know of any misbehavior, please report it to the County Sheriffs dept or call the town hall. We strive to make the Town of Lafayette an enjoyable place to visit and live and this is very disheartening when there are those that want to destroy it.

As of this posting, approximately \$140,000 has been raised by donations for the Raise the Railroad Bridge fund. It is the intention to raise \$280,000. Construction will not begin unless all funds are secured. So, we need everyone's help, please. All dollar amounts are greatly appreciated toward these efforts.

It has been a privilege to sit on the Lafayette Town Board with a great group of dedicated people who only want the best for the wonderful place we call home.

### Short-term Rental Ordinance and Room Tax

The Short-term Rental Ordinance was enacted in 2019, at which time the Room Tax Ordinance was also established. The Short-term Rental Ordinance is meant to standardize and monitor overnight rental properties in the Township to promote safety and enjoyable use by visitors, while not interfering with Residents' enjoyment of their properties.

The Room Tax Ordinance was enacted for the purpose of generating funds to promote Tourism development in the Town. Wisconsin law requires that the Town contracts with a Destination Marketing Organization to utilize a portion of the room taxes collected to promote Tourism in the Township; Lafayette contracts with the Chippewa Falls Area Chamber of Commerce for this purpose. A percentage of the Room Tax collected is shared with the Chamber, with an additional amount shared with the PRTL for its Tourism-related activities, and the remainder remains in the Town's general fund. Year-to-date in 2022 an approx. total of **\$34,160.89** in Room Tax has been received by the Town and distributed as indicated. The Town and the PRTL have invested these funds in tourism-related activities in the parks and recreational areas, while the Chamber deploys its share in external digital and print marketing to promote tourism in the Town. If you or someone you know wants to have a Short-term business, you can find the Tourism packet and ordinances on the town website or contact the town clerk. By Supervisor Neil Mathwig

#### **RESIDENTS ONLY BRUSH AND LEAF SITE:**

**SEASONAL PASS \$ 35.00- DAILY PASS Mon-Wed \$5.00 MUST USE  
ON DATE PURCHASED-Weekend pass Thurs-Sun \$ 15.00**

The site will be open to residents on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each  
month during recycling hours, 8 am to 1 pm, no charge.

Grass clippings, leaves allowed in compost site, they must be removed from plastic bags. Brush, branches, smaller than 6" in diameter, pinecones allowed in brush site. **No** stumps, no tree roots, no timbers, no railroad ties, no trees larger than 6" in diameter are allowed in the brush site. **No** cement blocks, landscaping rocks and/or cement items. **No** garbage, furniture, mattress, sofas, tables, **No** concrete blocks, chunks of cement or rocks are allowed in either one of the sites. Violators will be banned from the site. The Site is video monitored. Please do not share or give out your code number.

**Violator's will be banned from the site.**

**NO COMMERCIAL SERVICE COMPANIES ALLOWED.**

**Brush site closes on the first snow fall and re-opens early  
spring as Mother Nature will allow.**

**Thank you for your help in maintaining the leaf and brush  
site.**

#### **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**8 am to 3 pm**

Extra dumpsters are brought in for this day only. Donations to cover this expense are excepted. Furniture, misc. items that you cannot recycle may be accepted.

#### **ANNUAL DOG LICENSE REMINDER:**

The State of Wisconsin requires dogs to be licensed. The license fees are divided between the Town and the County and help offset the cost of contracting with the County Humane Association; also known as the Howard Gibbs Memorial Animal Shelter, for enforcement and investigations. Our municipality is contracted with the Chippewa Humane Association and any stray dog or cat you recover can be taken to the center free of charge located at 10501 Cty Hwy S South. Residents may also surrender one of their animals for a reduced surrender fee. To report obsessive barking, animals at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal; call Mark at 715-829-8741.

**Dog Licenses-Tags: Fees \$11.00 for altered  
(spayed/neutered) dogs and \$16.00 for unaltered dogs.** If you have not already licensed your dog, do so before April 1 to avoid a \$5.00 late fee. Dog licenses always run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Also be sure that your dog is up to date on his rabies vaccination. We are unable to license a dog if we cannot verify that it is current on its rabies. If you mail in your dog license fees/applications, ***be sure to send us a self-addressed stamped envelope*** so we can return the tag to you. Be sure to keep your dogs on a leash and clean up after them. Respect your neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### **Happenings at Station 3 ... by Fire Chief Scott Bernette**

Crews throughout the Fire District have just finished up with Fire Prevention Week which was October 9<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Here in the Town of Lafayette, we visited Stillson School and several Pre-K / Daycare businesses. Our next Prevention activity will be on Halloween as crews will be out in our township handing out prevention materials and candy too.

So far this year, we have completed two of the three major projects. We put in service a new 2021 Kubota UTV with a rescue/wildfire side unit. We also upgraded the motor on our rescue/dive boat to better handle calls on Lake Wissota. The last project we are currently working on is a training building allowing our firefighters to train more often on tactics at the station, keeping our crews in our township ready to respond. This project should be done by the end of this year. Funds for these projects came from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Lafayette Station 3 needs YOU on our team. This station is currently staffed with 2-person paramedic firefighter duty crews (1 career & 1 Part-time). 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with approximately 27 volunteers notified when needed for calls that can respond to our town and other municipalities of the Fire District. If you are 16 years of age or older and are interested in more information, please visit our webpage, Facebook page, or call Hallie Station 1 at 715-723-5488 and talk with Chief Bernette.

## **Girl Scout Troop 3411 Ray's Beach Park flag posts and Little Library**

**By Troop Leader Jenn Thompson**

Girl Scout Troop 3411 is a Stillson-based troop of nine 6th grade and two 5th grade Girl Scouts. This talented, funny, and amazing group of Girl Scouts' hard work and desire to make a difference in their local community resulted in the awesome additions you can see at Ray's Beach Park today.

In February, their troop leader (Jennifer Thompson) approached the town's Parks, Recreation, and Land Use Committee to discuss the potential for projects near the parking lot for Ray's Beach (now Ray's Beach Park). The committee asked the troop to design something for the posts going in by the veteran memorial. These Girls Scouts quickly crafted a design idea that would highlight both the American flag and the Yellowstone trail. They spent many hours preparing, priming, and hand painting each post with bold yellow and patriotic red, white, and blue. In addition, they designed and decorated a little library (Little Free Library Charter #147108) to complement the flag posts. The posts were installed before Memorial Day, and the Little Library was presented to the town and installed in July. The troop would like to thank the PRTL Commission (especially Mark Sedlachek.), along with town chairman Dave Staber, for making these projects possible, as well as the public for always supporting us. Please enjoy the newly decorated posts and be sure to visit the little library soon!

## **Town of Lafayette**

**5765 197<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Chippewa Falls WI 54729**

**Phone & Fax 715 723-7692**

**[www.lafayettetownship.org](http://www.lafayettetownship.org)**

**EMAIL: [lafayette@lafayettetownship.org](mailto:lafayette@lafayettetownship.org)**

### **TOWN HALL HOURS**

***Monday – Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm***

### **TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of Month @ 7pm unless  
otherwise posted**

### **PRTL MEETINGS**

**2<sup>ND</sup> Monday of the Month @ 7pm**

**TOWN CLERK – Laura Konwinski**

**TOWN TREASURER –Lori Hanson**

### **TOWN CHAIRMAN**

**David Staber – 715 215-0461**

### **TOWN SUPERVISORS**

**Sharon McIlquham – 715-456-8111**

**Mark Brennan – 715 829-1736**

**Thomas Larson – 715 723-4703**

**Neil Mathwig – 715-559-6018**

### **CEMETERY SEXTON**

**Pete Krumenauer – 715 382-4557**

**ANIMAL OFFICER NEEDED**

## **RECREATION PROGRAM**

Lafayette Youth Sports wrapped up the 2022 youth sports recreation league in Mid-October. The spring soccer league saw its strongest season ever with 285 players and 37 teams. Tee ball also saw record registrations with 160 players and 16 teams. To handle the extra teams, a grass diamond was added near the recreation building. Girls fastpitch had teams in the HS and the 8U divisions, and we had one instructional baseball team. The Fall soccer season wrapped up the year with 140 players.

A new youth sports league for kickball started up this spring. It all started when a Stillson 5<sup>th</sup> grader brought it to our attention that kickball was very popular during recess. He wanted to see if a league could be set up because it was a lot of fun. A kickball league was set up, and it proved to be very popular with 100 players signing on. We plan to offer Kickball again next year.

Facility improvements this year include three new aluminum bleachers to replace some of the old ones, and some grass field repairs. A big 'Thank you' to all those who coached our fine teams. We also appreciate our refs, umps, concessions workers, and the town crew who step up to make this a great program.

Lafayette Recreation welcomes all no matter which community they reside in. Many come from Cadott, Cornell, Stanley, Owen, Osseo, Bloomer, and Augusta. Our registration fees are reasonable, and assistance is provided upon request. Lafayette Youth Sports is a great tradition—we believe every kid should get a chance to play.

Don't forget to check out our lighted ice-skating rink this Winter. Our Recreation building has a nice warming area with bathrooms to make it more fun.

Thanks again everybody for a great season. I hope to see everybody at the fields again next year.

Bruce Kyes, Recreation 715-225-9912

## **RECYCLING CENTER HOURS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 4 PM-7 PM**

**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 8 AM-1 PM**

**Please sign in each time you use the recycling center.**

**APPLIANCES AND TIRES ARE ACCEPTED FOR A FEE**

**\*\* NOT ALLOWED \*\***

**ELECTRONICS, TV'S, COMPUTERS, MICROWAVES. NO BUILDING  
MATERIALS (CONCRETE, ROOFING, WOOD etc.). NO FURNITURE,  
NO MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS.**

**Please Contact the Town Hall if you are aware of illegal dumping  
and waste along our town roads, phone 715 723-7692.**

**Contract with our licensed garbage haulers:**

**GFL 715-215-1201**

**WASTE MGMT 715 720-3392**

**For items that you cannot recycle contact:**

**ELECTRONICS: FIRST CHOICE, 715-514-4664**

**HAZADROUS WASTE: WRR ENVIROMENTAL SVCS, 715 834-9624,  
"DUMP" INFO: SEVEN MILE LANDFILL, SEYMOUR/EAU CLAIRE, 715  
830-0284**

**CONCRETE: OLYNICK, 715 668-5211**

**SHINGLES: SENN BLACKTOP, 715-723-8527.**