

## LAFAYETTE'S ABOUT TOWN NEWSLETTER - YEARS AT A GLANCE 2023-2024

### **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](http://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!

#### **2024 Election Schedule**

**Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Primary**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring**

**Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Primary**

**Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> General Election.**

2 supervisor 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**

**2024 Annual Meeting** - Tuesday April 16, 2024, 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.

### **PRTL Commission (Parks, Recreation, Tourism, Land Use) 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.

In 2023 the PRTL Commission continued development of the disc golf course on Town-owned property behind the recreation fields, adding an additional 9 holes to create a complete 18-hole course. The Commission also completed the Veteran's Memorial in Ray's Beach Park, commemorating Lafayette area veterans. With assistance from the Lake Wissota Garden Club a dedication ceremony was held June 8th. The first annual Lake Wissota Boat Parade sponsored by the Town of Lafayette was organized by the PRTL Commission and held July 2nd. Planning and budgeting for 2024 is underway. Per Town ordinance, the PRTL Commission will be undertaking the creation of the Town of Lafayette Outdoor Recreation Plan, which is currently in draft form. This Plan will be used to direct the PRTL Commission activities and assist the Town in development and budgeting for related projects into the future.

### **LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association has been working with the township and the Chippewa County Land, Conservation and Forest Management committee through the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project to improve the management of water runoff at the Brick Boat Landing since paving of the boat landing was proposed in 2022. Background information regarding the plan developed by Chippewa County engineers and initiated by the township and the LWIPA utilizing WI DNR Healthy Lakes grants and volunteers is available. In the spring of 2024, the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project is planning on utilizing grant money to do some planting around the boat landing that would continue to improve the water runoff management, provide wildlife habitat and improve the beauty of the boat landing. Lynda Schweikert, director of the Chippewa County LCFM committee, will be contacting the commission to further discuss these plans prior to any planting to be done.

## **NEWLY EXPANDED LAFAYETTE WALKING TRAILS**

Working with already established green spaces in the Town of Lafayette owned by other non-profit groups and government agencies, the Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Land Use Planning Commission has helped facilitate the building and maintenance of several new walking & hiking trails. Multiple trails were established in the 50+ acres Chippewa County Forest – Pine Harbor Woods Park located along 185<sup>th</sup> Street & 76<sup>th</sup>/77<sup>th</sup> Avenues. A vehicle parking lot was also established in this area.

With the help of Lafayette residents living in the Pine Harbor Lake Wissota neighborhoods, three new curvy walking trails have been cleared in the 24-acre Chippewa County Conservancy Boyd Nature Preserve located along 183<sup>rd</sup>/185<sup>th</sup> Streets & 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All of these new trails are open free to the public year-round.

The Town of Lafayette is also working with the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District to get access points established for walking trails to be developed within the School District's – School Forest lands along 70<sup>th</sup>/75<sup>th</sup> Avenues & 185<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **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.

#### **PLOWING REMINDERS**

Snow plowing and mailboxes. If the snowplow strikes your mailbox with the plow or the wing the Town Crew will replace it with a standard USPS black mail box. If the mailbox is damaged or knocked over by snow coming off the blade or wing it will not be replaced. It is your responsibility as property owner to ensure your mailbox is securely mounted and able to withstand the snow that may strike it.

Plows must maintain speed when plowing snow to make sure it moves off the blade or wing rather than just pushing it ahead of the truck which could result in truck damage, especially if we're plowing wet heavy snow or slush.

**Slow down for the safety of all!!**

### **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.**

### **ROAD WORK IN 2022-23**

**By Chair David Staber**

One of the major projects in 2023 was the rebuilding of 50th Ave from Hwy J to 195th street. This was a project funded through the BIL federal program that paid for 56% of the 1.2-million-dollar project. This road should be good for the next 25 years.

There were three projects left over from 2022 that were completed in 2023, 30th Ave east from Hwy K and the Brick Memorial Boat Landing area on small Lake Wissota, along with the Hwy X wayside road by Rays Beach.

We did do an additional road in 2023 that included 169th Street, South Service Road in front of Dollar a general along with 55th Ave in the same area. 210<sup>th</sup> Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Ave south of Hwy X

Plans for 2024 have not been finalized yet but the preliminary plans call for using State LRIP funds for work on 45th Ave and 216th Street west of 220th Street by Crane airport area. We would also like to do the streets in the vicinity of the Golden Eagle restaurant between Hwy X and Hwy J which would include 168 to 171st Street along with the cross streets in that same area.

### **Observations from Supervisor Brennan**

Many great things have taken place in Lafayette in 2023. The new black top on 190<sup>th</sup> St. was sure a great thing to see get done. Our Lafayette public boat landing also being paved was a great addition. New residential homes are going up constantly in great new neighborhoods which tells me people really want to live and start a family in our area.

It has been pure joy working with the other Lafayette town board members getting things accomplished to the best of our abilities when it comes to hopefully making the right decisions on certain matters such as the ATV/UTV usage of our roads in Lafayette. We can only hope folks obey the laws and use discretion and be safe when out and about.

A big thank you should go out to our Lafayette maintenance crew for keeping our township clean and beautiful this past summer. Plowing season starts soon and many, many hours will be put in to keep the roads clear and safe for all of us. I would like to wish all residents a happy holiday season that is fast approaching and hope everyone can enjoy time with friends and family and enjoy our great community we have before us.



## Chippewa Fire District Lafayette Station 3

### WE NEED YOU - APPLY TODAY (NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY)

Chippewa Fire District Lafayette Station 3 is currently staffed 24/7 with a 2-person paramedic/firefighter duty crew (1 career & 1 Part-time) that responds to fire and EMS calls. In addition, the station has 24 paid on-call volunteers (18 fire/EMS personnel and 6 dive personnel) under the direction of Deputy Chief Cory Jeffers. When available volunteers respond to fires and other emergencies in our coverage area and neighboring communities. Station 3 meets Wednesday nights for trainings, meetings, and work nights (members are paid for these). If you are 16 years of age or older and are interested in serving your community, please visit our website [www.chippewafiredistrict.com](http://www.chippewafiredistrict.com), check us out on Facebook, or call Fire Chief Scott Bernette at 715-723-5488.

### UPDATED BURNING REGULATIONS

**Effective 5/2/2022**, The Chippewa Fire District will be following the recommendations of the WI DNR for all daily burning and material restrictions, including no burning on Sundays. If burning is authorized on the day you call, please note that the following restrictions apply - fire is to be no larger than 6x6x6 and must be extinguished by midnight.

If you would like to burn outside of recommendations, you will need to contact the Fire District for a special permit which will require a site inspection and fee prior to burning. The site inspection will check the area for safety, proper clearances, materials to be burned, and weather conditions.

Questions regarding Burning, Permits, Site Inspections, Fire Inspections, and Fire Prevention within the Chippewa Fire District, please contact Fire Inspector Rebecca Shervey at 715-723-5488.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS ARPA

### FROM FEDERAL GOVT

Lafayette received a little over \$625,000 from the Federal Government as part of the American Rescue plan money (ARPA) here is a brief report on how most of the money was spent for Town projects between 2021 to 2023 without using tax levied dollars.

- New Bathrooms at Rays Beach with flush toilets \$190,000 which included land acquisition from CNRR and septic system.
- New 3 stall storage building for shop equipment along with some recreation equipment \$180,000.
- Replacement JD Gator for dragging ballfields \$11,000.
- Charter Communications \$25,000 for expanding broadband coverage in Lafayette.
- Badger Books for election \$17,000
- Kelly Heating \$20,000 replacing the 25-year-old furnaces in the Municipal building and installing AC units in Town Assembly room in hall.
- Station 3 - \$33,000 for Smoke Building for Fire Fighter training & Kubota Rescue UTV with brush fire equipment.
- Federal Signal \$15,000 for new Tornado warning siren on Cty OO and 190<sup>th</sup>
- New Bleachers for Ball Fields \$9,000
- Upgrade and seal coat Pickleball courts \$18,000

### ATV / UTV'S IN LAFAYETTE

Lafayette Town Board approved all Town Roads, except for a couple of roads to be open for ATV UTV use. This does not include County Roads in Lafayette unless marked as open. Please stay off these sections of road and save yourself a \$200.00 fine. Please be considerate of your neighbors when driving your ATV/UTV in the subdivisions and stay safe on our roads.

If you are interested in joining the Lafayette ATV/UTV Club, contact Jim at 715-382-3445

### SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

**Saturday, April 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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.

### RESIDENTS ONLY BRUSH AND LEAF SITE:

SEASONAL PASS \$40.00

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 significant snow fall or when snowmobile trails open, and re-opens early spring as Mother Nature will allow.

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

### 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 Steve at 715-577-0503.

**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.

### Town of Lafayette

5765 197<sup>th</sup> Street

Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Phone 715-723-7692

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

**EMAIL: [lafayette@lafayettechippewawwi.gov](mailto:lafayette@lafayettechippewawwi.gov)**

#### 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**

**PRTLJ 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 CONTROL OFFICER**

Steven Dressel 715-577-0503

### RECREATION PROGRAM

Lafayette just wrapped up the 2023 youth sports season with the fall youth soccer program. Other than getting chilly towards the end of the season, the weather cooperated, and all Saturday morning games were played as scheduled.

Planning is now underway for softball, baseball, tee ball, soccer, and kickball for the 2024 season. We will open our online registrations on our website in January. Visit us at <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=lafayettesports>

The purpose of Lafayette recreation is to provide an enjoyable experience for each participant while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, perseverance, responsibility, and a healthy future. Lafayette Recreation offers a wide variety of sports for all ages.

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,

CONCRETE: OLYNICK, 715 668-5211

SHINGLES: SENN BLACKTOP, 715-723-8527.

"DUMP" INFO: GFL SEVEN MILE LANDFILL, 8001 Olson Dr EC 715-830-0284