



LaFayette

Community Newsletter



Why LaFayette?

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Nestled among the scenic hills and valleys with our Onondaga Nation neighbors between us and Syracuse remains one of the region’s best kept secrets. While most of us enjoy quick commutes via I-81 and 481, nearby suburbs are throttled by higher taxes and unrelenting traffic.



SPACE is what I’ve discovered as a realtor attracts people and pets to LaFayette. Clean, abundant, and mostly undisturbed space. We are privileged to observe the stunning sunrises, brilliant sunsets, and vivid starry nights against a variety of nature’s landscapes. And nothing can beat our own fall foliage panoramas; you can skip the other tours.

Whereas SPACE appears to **attract** our residents, COMMUNITY **captivates** us. The town’s partnership with the volunteer Optimist Club provides fun all year round. Building meaningful memories with parades, fishing derbies, fireworks and events during Community Days and Winterfest, Halloween parties, Christmas tree lighting and caroling, sporting contests and more not only delivers for the kids but the adults as well.



You don’t need to break the bank to involve children in organized sport teams thanks to our Community Council. Signing up through the Town website is easy as is volunteering to coach or umpire. Adult and youth programs have always been a great way to immerse yourself into the community and to be that great role model for your children.



Speaking of **volunteerism**, this is how LaFayette is able to do so much for so little while bringing people together. But programs are dependent on you and me to continue here.



So much relies on volunteers, and not just the fundraising success of the Applefest. There is also the LaFayette Fire Department, VFW, and organizations ranging from the Boy Scouts to the Garden Club. How would Santa visit the local children before Christmas without the shiny red fire truck? How would we honor our military veterans without the leadership of the VFW?



We also have four wonderful churches (LaFayette Alliance, Columbia Presbyterian, Ontavia United Methodist, and St. Joseph's) offering events like trick or treating, egg hunts, concerts, and vacation bible school. Whether providing much needed school supplies or clothing giveaways there is much to be grateful for.

So what else makes LaFayette unique and attractive? I believe that our size matters. We have a mere 4398 residents according to the 2020 census. According to the State Ed Department Grimshaw Elementary classroom size averages 10 students per teacher and eight to one at the Junior-Senior High School. Combining with the students from the Onondaga Nation School, we have a respectable 94% graduation rate. We are one of the few districts benefitting from the OCC advantage program which helps students attend tuition-free. LaFayette also led the area during Covid in resuming a five day per week instruction.

There are many extra-curricular activities available to students. The opportunity to engage and excel in activities is improved because of our size. It's always heartwarming to see the little tots who began playing t-ball or other sports continue on with their buddies in high school. And for me, it's now a second generation with my grandchildren beginning that journey.



So to sum it up, much can be said for small and spacious. And that's why I love my small town of LaFayette with all of its huge benefits. —Carole Dwyer, Town Councilor



From the Town Clerk

On April 29, 2011 I was a school nurse at McGraw Elementary School. Two days later I attended the 2011 NYS Town Clerk Association's Annual Conference, beginning my new career as LaFayette Town Clerk. As I was introduced to a group of fellow Town Clerks I was asked, "how long have you been a Town Clerk?" My response was "just about two hours now" and of course, they laughed. I really didn't know exactly what the duties of a Town Clerk were and admit that I was completely overwhelmed with all the training courses packed into those few days, but that was nothing compared to the on the job training I was facing on my own. Thankfully, I had a lot of support from other Onondaga County Town Clerks, especially Ann Christmas, who was always there for my numerous questions. Also, Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson who lead me through all the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and code ordinance secretarial duties.

I will be retiring mid-June, which is bitter-sweet. I will miss so many things that come with the day-to-day life as a Town Clerk but most certainly, I am going to miss the interaction with the residents of LaFayette and surrounding Towns as well who visit our office for marriage licenses, passports, fishing/hunting licenses, etc. etc.

SHREDDING / MEDICATION DISPOSAL

May 13th, 2023 from 9am-12pm

LaFayette Town Hall-Upper Parking Lot

SHREDDING - this free service to residents, including businesses, so bring your personal paperwork, business files, tax returns, statements & bills, etc. to the Town Hall upper parking lot.

Watch your papers be shredded on site, via a video camera attached to the shredding truck. It is then locked and taken to a waste management site for recycling. This saves you time and saves our environment and gives you piece of mind that your personal documents are secure.

**FREE
SHREDDING
EVENT**

MEDICATION DISPOSAL Is your **medicine** cabinet full of unwanted and expired drugs



or medications you no longer **use**? Seven out of 10

people who abuse prescription drugs get them from friends or relatives. A prescription take back event will take place during the shredding event. With all of the prescription drug abuse we hear of, let's get them disposed of properly for the safety of our kids, families and environment. What's safe for you might be harmful for someone else. You can dispose of your **expired**, unwanted, or unused **medicines** when you drop off your shredding.

FYI - did you know that the Salvation Army will accept one TV (intact) per person at their drop off site, any day, free of charge. Another FYI – Nightingale's Hardware Store in Tully and Wegman's accept used batteries.

UPSTATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S MAMMOGRAPHY VAN

Upstate University Hospital's mobile Mammography Van May 25th, July 21st, & November 21st, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM. The van will be parked in the lower parking lot by the library and pre-registration is required, register now by phone (315) 464-2582; Online: www.upstate.edu/no_excuses.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICES

- Dog licenses (all dogs over 4 months of age need to be licensed)
- Facility Rentals (Stafford Park Pavilions and Community Center)
- Handicap Parking Permits
- Marriage Licenses (PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT)
- Notary Services (free to residents)
- Voter Registration Forms & Veterans Discount Cards (FAVOR)
- Passport Services (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

WARNING--PLEASE DO NOT GO ON A WEB SITE THAT REQUIRES YOU TO PAY FOR A PASSPORT APPLICATION!

From the Town Clerk

It has been brought to my attention that some sites are charging anywhere from \$60 to over \$100 simply to supply a passport application and instructions on how to get a passport. You can get all the information you need for free in my office. Please visit the Town of LaFayette website www.townoflafayette.com or call 315-677-3674 for information regarding any of the above services. Most forms needed, may be downloaded for your convenience. I invite you to visit our office or call and we will be happy to assist you in obtaining the services you require.

Also, please be advised that we do not accept credit or debit cards. All Town Clerk transactions need to be paid by cash, check or money orders.

Answers to most questions, forms or information you may need can be found on our website at

www.townoflafayette.com , or email me townclerk@townoflafayette.com; or call (315) 677-3674.

I must say I am thankful for all the experiences I've had in this position as LaFayette Town Clerk for these past twelve years. I feel very comfortable and confident in handing the reins over to my deputy, Kristin Shute Colburn who will be appointed interim Town Clerk and will run for office this November. She has been my deputy for over ten years, knows all the aspects of the Town Clerk position and does a wonderful job.

In these crazy times with so much distention in our country and the world, Let's all hope for better days ahead and be thankful for our Town Board and leaders who are looking out for this wonderful Town and always try to do what's best for our residents.



—Jackie Bush Roorda

ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE LAFAYETTE TOWN DIRECTORY

Office	Official	Office/Home Phone	Cell Phone	Fax #	Email
Supervisor	William McConnell	315-677-5251	315-391-8167	315-677-7806	wmmac4@aol.com
Deputy Supervisor	Mark Distler		315-569-7563	315-677-7806	markdistler@gmail.com
Town Clerk	Jackie Bush Roorda	315-677-3674		315-677-7806	townclerk@townoflafayette.com
Deputy Town Clerk	Kristin Colburn	315-677-3674		315-677-7806	deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com
Councilor	Steve Zajac		315-727-5883	315-677-7806	szajac1@twcny.rr.com
Councilor	Melanie Palmer	315-677-3674	315-436-3544	315-677-7806	mjp6331@gmail.com
Councilor	Carole Dwyer	315-677-3965	315-436-6020	315-677-7806	caroledwyer@howardhanna.com
Councilor	Jerry Marzo		315-751-7757	315-677-7806	Jerald.marzo@carrier.com
Highway Supt.	Steve Robson	315-677-9535	315-952-6063	315-677-3239	stevlafhighway@yahoo.com
Deputy Highway Supt.	Don Skinner	315-677-9535	315-396-1070	315-677-3239	donlafhighway@yahoo.com
Tax Collector	Kitty Rienhardt	315-677-9155	315-952-5951	315-677-7806	kitty22@twcny.rr.com
Court Clerk	Carlene LaRonde	315-677-9350		315-677-4622	tolcourt1@aol.com
Codes	Ralph Lamson	315-677-5371	315-677-3586	315-677-7806	codes@townoflafayette.com



For the complete Town of LaFayette Directory and the complete Town of LaFayette Community Directory please visit the homepage of the Town of LaFayette website at www.townoflafayette.com

**HAPPY
CAMPER**



**The Town of
LaFayette
appreciates and
wishes the best to
Town Clerk, Jackie
Roorda on her
upcoming
retirement. We are
grateful for her
dedicated service to
the residents of
LaFayette**

Court Corner

New York State Unified Court System has a website for court related help. Visit www.nycourthelp.gov

Our hours are as follows:

- Mon-Thurs 9:30—5:00 pm
- Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 daily
- Closed on Fridays

We have a web page under the Town of LaFayette, select the court department and our question and answer tab which may answer a lot of your questions. Please check it out!

<https://www.townoflafayette.com/court.html>

Phone: (315)677-9350

Fax number: (315)677-4622

The court office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 for Memorial Day and Monday, June 19, 2023 for Juneteenth.

- Court nights are every Wednesday starting at 6:00 pm
- Evictions are also on Wednesday at 5:30. Please call court to schedule.

- District Attorney nights are the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 5:30 pm by appointment. A confirmation letter will be sent to you. This is subject to change when needed.

District Attorney requests can be mailed to:

LaFayette Town Court

P.O. Box 135

LaFayette, NY 13084



When you come to court you are expected to be dressed in presentable attire. Remove your hats. Turn your cell phones off. A sign in desk with instructions is located upon entry into the court.

**—Honorable Maureen Perrin and
Honorable Adrian Shute
Carleen, Katey & JoAnne**

From the Highway Department



Its spring again, Hope everyone is well and survived this long winter. We have some dates to remember as we proceed into spring.

Annual Brush Pick-up: Will start on April 17th thru May 19th. All brush must be out on your road side by April 17. To save money due to rising fuel cost, we would like to make one trip around Town. Please place your brush butt end first towards the road and no longer than 8' (please no bags of leaves or other debris). This brush will be recycled into mulch and provided to the residents free of charge at the Highway Garage starting on April 17th.

Earth Day: April 23, Please Help Clean-Up Our Town, the highway will be open



Town Clean up Days—Groth Road Landfill

Saturday, May 6 & Saturday, May 13	9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday, May 8 thru Friday, May 12	12:00 noon—6:00 pm

Closed Sundays

Please have your ID ready at the gate

YES WE WILL ACCEPT

- E-WASTE (COMPUTERS, SMALLER SERVERS, TV'S (TWO PER HOUSEHOLD), MONITORS, KEYBOARDS, MICE, FAX MACHINES, PRINTERS/SCANNERS, PHONES, VCR'S, DVR'S, DVD PLAYERS, GAME CONSOLES, DIGITAL CONVERTER BOXES, CABLE/SATELLITE RECEIVERS
- BATTERIES—ONLY 6V AND 12V ATV, MOTORCYCLE, CAR AND TRUCK, ETC.
- PAINT CANS—(EMPTY WITH LIDS OFF)
- FUEL TANKS (EMPTY, 1 FOOT HOLE IN THEM)
- PLASTIC PIPE, WIRE OR CABLE UNDER 8 FEET LONG
- REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, HUMIDIFIERS
- MICROWAVES, STOVES
- MATTRESSES, COUCHES, RECLINERS
- CARPETING, LINOLEUM
- ALL METALS, NAILS AND SCREWS IF CONTAINED
- RECYCLABLES

NO WE WILL NOT ACCEPT

- ANY KIND OF GLASS TO INCLUDE WINDOWS
- ANY KIND OF WOOD
- FENCING
- INSULATION
- CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (I.E. SHEETROCK)
- HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES (such as AA, AAA, C and D etc.)

TIRES ARE ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING FEES:

- SMALL TIRES TO 14" \$3 EACH
- LARGE TIRES 15" - 20" \$5 EACH
- EXTRA LARGE TIRES DUMP TRUCK AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT \$10 AND UP



Friday April 21

from 7 am to 2:30 pm for drop off and Saturday April 22 from 9 am till 2 pm. You can register with OCRRA at <http://ocrra.org/events/earth-day-litter-cleanup/>

Please Note: Any questions please call Steve Robson (Highway Superintendent) or Don Skinner (Deputy Superintendent) at 315-677-9535.

Summer Road Work: Ditching, shouldering, paving and surface treatments are tentatively proposed for Amidon Rd, Summer Ridge Rd, Thunder Rd, Naomi Rd, Shute Rd, Ortloff Rd, Mill St, Webster Rd, Nichols Rd, Rowland Rd, Bear Mt. Rd, Tully Farms Ext, Everingham Rd and McClary Rd. Additional roads and subtraction from this list are pending material costs this season.

The Highway Department would like to thank our residents for their patience this winter and would ask you to be patient with our road work this spring and summer. Stay Safe!

**-Steve Robson
Highway Superintendent**



EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | EST. 1968

Need a ride to a doctor appointment or are you interested in volunteering for the FISH (Friends in Service Here) program, an organization that drives people to doctor appointments?

This service runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am—4:00pm. Volunteer drivers from LaFayette and Tully are needed. Eligible participants must reside in the LaFayette or Tully school districts. Questions? Call Barbara Kohberger at PEACE, Inc. 315-696-8203; email: fish@peace-caa.org.



Economic Development Needs Survey –

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee is developing an Economic Development Needs Survey for residents of LaFayette. The survey will help focus the activities related to the plan’s Goal #3: Economic Development. LaFayette is committed to attracting and supporting businesses compatible with the rural character of our town, and aims to support local employment and entrepreneurship. The survey will be available next month on our website, and in our next newsletter. If you have ideas to promote economic development in our town, feel free to email Kelly (Kelly.wypych@outlook.com) and we’ll make sure your ideas get into the mix.



—Kelly Wypych

Stafford Park Memorial Tree & Bench Program—Important Deadlines



Last August, the Town launched a memorial tree and bench program at Stafford Park. Since then, sponsorships have been requested for 7 benches and 7 trees. The Optimists were able to plant the first three trees in the Fall, and intend to plant the other trees and place all benches this Spring after it completes the planned dredging of the pond.

There are still over 40 trees and 30 benches available for sponsorship. For more information, go to this web page: <https://www.townoflafayette.com/memorial-program---treebench.html> or call the Town Clerk at 315-677-3674.

As noted in the program description, trees will be planted twice per year (Spring & Fall) and benches will be placed once per year (Summer). The following are the deadlines to request sponsorships (the Spring deadline has been pushed out due to the planned pond dredging this Spring):

- Trees** **April 15** (Spring planting)
 August 1 (Fall planting)
- Benches** **April 15**

—Mark Distler





Celebrate Arbor Day



**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**



Plant A Tree



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 22, 2023

PLANT 20 NEW TREES AT STAFFORD PARK!

EVERYONE IS INVITED

COME PLANT A TREE

COME CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY AND EARTH DAY

Trees to be planted

- Red Maple
- Dawn Redwoods
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- White Spruce

- Arrive 9:00 am—Volunteer Sign-in, Coffee and Bagels
- 10:00—Tree Planting Demonstration
- 10:00—1:00—Plant Trees
- 1:00—3:00—Refreshments at Fire Department—Come see the remodeling!
- Bring your gloves. Shovels and rakes will be provided. Holes will be pre-dug!
- Come hungry, food and drink before and after planting
- Groups of 4 or more will be formed to work together—bring your own group!

From the LaFayette Library



Hard to believe, but summer will be here before you know it! The Summer Reading Program, also known as the Summer Learning Program, will begin the week of June 26th and run through the week of August 7th. We have some

fun presenters, activities, and of course books for all to enjoy. The Summer Learning Program is open to all ages, including adults. More information to follow.

Would you like to receive updates on what new items are available at your library? You can sign up for a weekly newsletter at



www.wowbrary.org. Enter your zip code, and select LaFayette Public Library. Finish entering your email and submit. It's that easy! The newsletter will include not only print materials but digital items as well. You can select to only see print material, only digital materials, or both. Even better, you can put items of interest on hold straight from the newsletter. It's like coming into the library to look at the new books, but from the comfort of your couch.

The Board of Trustees is working through a strategic planning process to guide the future of the library.



You may have gotten a survey about the library. Even if you missed the official deadline, you are still welcome to return the survey to the library.

We would like input from as many people as possible. We want to plan based on what the community is looking for.



We will continue our programming through the spring, including Family Game Night, story times, Tuesday Tea, and more. Have a suggestion

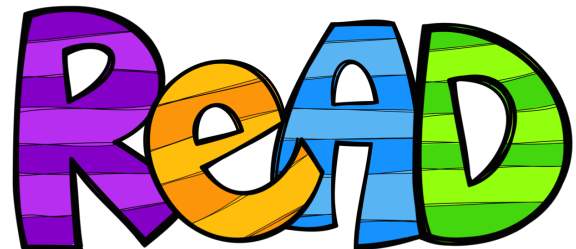
on a class or presentation you would like to see at the library? Just let us know so we can consider the possibility.



Finally, if you would like to show your artwork or collection at the library, please let us know. We have had

lovely work from area photographers, mosaic makers, and students from the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. Contact Jessica at 315-677-3782.

—Jessica Rice



Library Hours

Mondays	10:00 am—7:00 pm
Tuesdays	10:00 am—7:00 pm
Wednesdays	10:00 am—5:00 pm
Thursdays	10:00 am—7:00 pm
Fridays	10:00 am—5:00 pm
Saturdays	10:00 am—2:00 pm
Closed Saturdays during the summer July through Labor Day	

From the Community Council

Questions about recreational activities can be found 24/7 on the town's web site at the following link <https://www.townoflafayette.com/community-council.html>, on the main navigation bar or by calling the Community Council phone, 315-677-7272. Messages will be retrieved at least three times per week and an LCC board member will return your call. Emails are also accepted at lcc@townoflafayette.com The mailing address is: LCC, PO Box 98, LaFayette, NY 13084. Follow us on Facebook.




Youth Programs:

Co-ed Volleyball:

Boys and girls in grades **3-6**. The program will run from

March 15 through April 28. Volleyball sessions will NOT be held during Spring Break (April 3-April 7)

Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball: Boys and girls in grades **K-6**. Rookies (co-ed 1st and 2nd grades), Girls Softball (Grades 3 -6), Boys Baseball (Grades 3-6) will start practices in April and games will be scheduled during May 1st - June 10th. Instructional Tee Ball (Kindergarten) will be scheduled based on coaches availability.

Lacrosse: Boys and girls **K-6**. The program will be established based on entry numbers / registering teams with the Upstate Lacrosse Association. Younger grade levels will practice at the conclusion of the baseball/softball/tee-ball season. Teams registered into ULA will begin practices in May; games start in June and run through the end of July.

Swim Lessons (boys and girls all ages): The Town of Tully will be hosting swim lessons this summer at Green Lake and will offer swim lessons to the Town of LaFayette youth residents.. Once arrangements are finalized, further details and registration information will be announced.

Track: Details will be announced. Electronic notices with details for each respective sport will be sent out by the LaFayette Central School District. Information will also be provided through the Town's website and LCC's Facebook page.

If you are interested and able to help with the youth sports program – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches. Thank you.

Adult Programs:

Men's Basketball: Monday evenings through June 12, 2023 at Grimshaw Elementary, 7:00-9:00 PM. Basketball will not be held when the school is closed for holiday, school breaks, snow days or youth events. Paper registrations are available at the sessions. \$20 Registration fee (cash or check) to sign up and includes all sessions through June 12, 2023.

Co-Ed Volleyball: Co-Ed Adult Volleyball Friday evenings through June 16, 2023 at Grimshaw Elementary, from 7:30-9:30.. Volleyball will not be held when the school is closed for holiday, school breaks, snow days or youth events. Paper registrations are available at the sessions. \$20 Registration fee (cash or check) to sign up and includes all sessions through June 16, 2023.

Thank you:

LCC would like to thank the many individuals who volunteered their time and efforts as coaches and assistants in games and at practices for LCC youth 2022-2023 winter sports programs!

Wrestling:

Pat Dwyer, Carl Shaw, Todd Briggs, Mike Johnson, Matt Moses and Caitlin Shaw; and the many individuals who helped out with refereeing, score and time keeping during the home wrestling matches that LaFayette hosted. Thanks to LaFayette Inn for supplying the concession food for the CNY League Championship hosted at LaFayette High School; and for the wrestling banquet.

From the Community Council cont'd....

Basketball:

- Grades 1-2 Co-Ed Instructional – Bill & Shannon Aubrey, April Aungier
- Grades 3-4 Boys Basketball – Fabiola Carillo, Eric Mangold, John Stanton, Tim Baker
- Grades 3-4 Girls Basketball - Bill & Shannon Aubrey, April Aungier, Doug & Katie Kautz
- Grade 5 Boys: Don Shetler, Alex Shetler
- Grade 6 Boys: Jason Newman, Glenn Christoffell, Dave Coakley, Eric Mangold

Thanks to all the families/friends for getting the kids to practices, wrestling matches, basketball games, and those that volunteered in various roles. We appreciate the time and work everyone provides to run the LCC programs.

Announcements:

Memorial Day Parade - All LCC participants are invited to march with LCC in the Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 29th, 9:00 a.m. Meet at LaFayette Alliance Church, 6069 Us Route 20, at 8:15 a.m.

Community Day: Saturday, June 3 at Stafford Park, LCC will be providing popcorn and conducting activities, including the Annual Duck Race. Stop by our table and **GET YOUR DUCK!**

Updates: Information about all LCC programs can be found on the Town's web site under the "Community Council" tab. Information is also posted on LCC's Facebook page and the Town's social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook). When possible, notices will also be provided through the LaFayette School District. **—Kimberly Tingley**

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS!!!

MEMORIAL
DAY
PARADE



Monday, May 29, 2023
9:00 am

Lineup will begin at 8:30 at
LaFayette Alliance Church

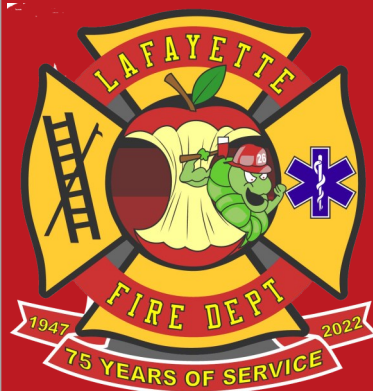
The LaFayette VFW is looking for Community Organizations to participate in the Memorial Day Parade in the form of Classic Cars, Floats, Military Vehicles, Tractors, Horses, Marchers, etc. Please contact Carl Jackson, VFW Commander at 680-697-3969. **Let's make this a parade to remember!**





As the weather warms up, it is important to be more aware of locking your vehicles, not leaving your car running with the keys in it while running errands and not leaving valuables in your vehicles. Also assure all homes, sheds, garages are locked at all times. Watch out for your neighbors and report all suspicious activity by calling 911.

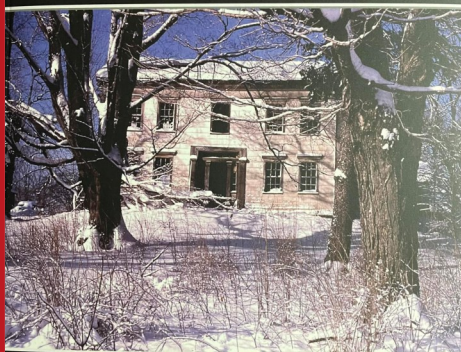
The power of prevention and keeping vigilant will keep our community safe!



The 2023 Open House at the LaFayette Fire Department is scheduled for April 22. Keep an eye out on social media for the details

that are not quite finalized. Save the date and come see all the improvements that have been made at the Fire House.

VANISHED SIGHTS & SCENES LAFAYETTE, NEW YORK



J. Roy Dodge

Pick up your copy of the new book authored by J. Roy Dodge titled VANISHED SIGHTS AND SCENES LAFAYETTE, NEW YORK. You can buy a copy at the LaFayette Town Office for \$25. This book has over 150 interesting pictures.

Tick Attack?

Learn how to keep your family and pets safe



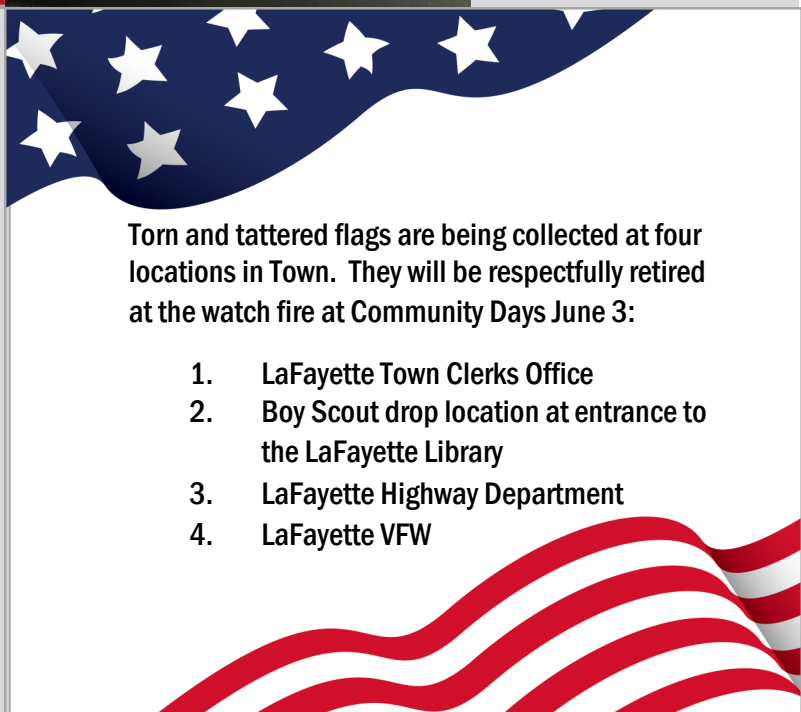
Have you noticed that our unseasonably warm winter has allowed pesky ticks to stay active? Ticks don't go south for the winter and it's important to check your pets and yourself when you spend time

outdoors. Good sources for information about preventing tick borne illnesses, tick statistics and research can be found at these two websites:

- <https://Nyticks.org>
- <https://cnlymealliance.org>

Torn and tattered flags are being collected at four locations in Town. They will be respectfully retired at the watch fire at Community Days June 3:

1. LaFayette Town Clerks Office
2. Boy Scout drop location at entrance to the LaFayette Library
3. LaFayette Highway Department
4. LaFayette VFW



COMMUNITY DAY 2023

Annual LaFayette Community Day
Saturday, June 3, 2023 3:00 pm
Stafford Park, Route 11, LaFayette

Community Day started in 2009 as a way for people in the Town of LaFayette to come together once a year to meet each other and have fun. Since then, Community Day has grown in size, but has remained a free event with no sales or merchandising. It is a chance for people to come out and meet their neighbors, get some free food, listen to music, play some games and enjoy the fireworks. The Town of LaFayette, LaFayette Optimists, LaFayette Community Council, LaFayette Volunteer Fire Department, LaFayette VFW and many other groups and businesses work together to make this happen.



280 Residents Subscribed to Community Solar

As described in the January 2023 newsletter, the Town launched a campaign to get the word out that anyone can save on their electric bill by subscribing to a solar project. It costs nothing and you can cancel anytime. This energy incentive, called Community Solar, is provided by NYS to stimulate solar power development.

Residents received a letter (in January) and postcard (in February) from the Town that informed them about how to subscribe and start saving up to 10% on their annual electric bill.

PowerMarket, the broker the Town decided to partner with on the campaign, said the 15% response rate from the campaign was higher than any other campaign it knows. Congratulations LaFayette for the savings you will enjoy for years to come

Although the Town's campaign has ended, it's not too late. To subscribe or learn more, reach out in one of these three ways:

- go to: powermarket.io/lafayette.html
- call (877) 762-0507
- send an email to edprna@powermarket.io



LaFayette Converting Street Lights to LED

At the recommendation of the LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission, the Town Board approved the replacement of its street lights to LED lamps (currently HPS or high-pressure sodium lamps). The Town expects a 30% reduction of its street light electricity costs, due to the lower energy LED. National Grid will be conducting the conversion work at no cost to the Town because of NYS incentives and a \$5k grant the Town earned from its recent Clean Energy Community designation.

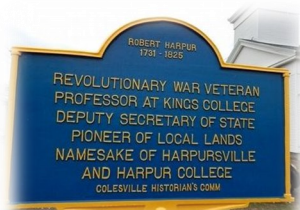
One thing to note is that the LED light is whiter than the current HPS light, which is yellow. The LED lights will appear brighter because of this color difference, but they are not. In fact, they have less lumens (a measure of light intensity) than HPS. But LED lamps can be focused and directed to smaller lighted areas, unlike the HPS lamps. So National Grid typically focuses the LED light on the road and away from nearby buildings.

We do not yet have a definite date when the work will be conducted, but once we do, we will post an update on Facebook and Twitter and in the next newsletter.

—Mark Distler

LaFayette—A Name a Town Can be Proud of

LaFayette will be celebrating its 200th anniversary on April 15, 2025. There will be more to come on what that celebration will look like in future articles, but first I would like to focus on how LaFayette came to be. LaFayette was originally part of the Town of Pompey. The township



(geographical area) of Pompey was named by Robert Harpur, the Secretary of the State Land Office in New York City on July 3, 1790. The town was named for a noted Roman general (106 to 48 B. C.) who eventually

was soundly defeated in a civil war with Julius Caesar in 48 B. C. He was forced to flee to Egypt where he was promptly beheaded. The town of Pompey was formed only after treaties were made with the Onondaga and Cayuga nations in 1788 and 1789 which resulted in the purchase of almost two million acres. Then the land had to be surveyed and lots had to be laid out. John Wilcox was the first settler in what was to be LaFayette in 1791.

In less than 35 years, LaFayette had a population of over 2,400 with churches, schools and thriving businesses and farms. The hamlet had even acquired a place name of “Pompey West Hill” to distinguish itself from Pompey or “Pompey Hill”. On November 1, 1816, a post office was opened at Pompey West Hill and now the people of the hamlet had everything they needed except a government. All governmental business still had to take place at Pompey.

On November 3, 1817 at a meeting of the Colombian Society, it was voted to have the western lots of the Town of Pompey set off as a separate town, but there was no progress made at the state level until February 15, 1825 when a petition was read and referred to the New York State Assembly's Committee on the erection and division of towns. After hearing arguments both for and against the division, the Committee reported that “the town of Pompey, when divided, will form two large and respectable towns in

territory, wealth and population. The old town of Pompey will contain about 600 voters, and the new town about 400 voters. The town of Pompey will then be about 8 miles square and the new town about 6 miles square.” More arguments were heard for and against the division before finally being passed by the House of the Legislature on April 9. The bill was then read on the floor of the Senate, passed and received the assent of Governor DeWitt Clinton on April 15, 1825.

So, how did we get the name “LaFayette”? If the people of “Pompey West Hill” had a say on the naming of the town they might have kept it the same. But the New York State Assembly's Committee on the erection of towns had already decided to name the next newly formed town “LaFayette” in honor of that great hero, the Marquis de LaFayette. He was making his triumphant passage across the nation commemorating the 50th anniversary of his first coming to America to help her in her fight for independence against England. New York wasn't the only state to honor LaFayette with the naming of a town after him. There are now 17 LaFayette's in the United States and when you count the variations such as Fayette or Fayetteville there are more than 50 such towns and even a college.



I suppose there is nothing wrong with the name Pompey. Look at the number of towns in central New York that have classical names as the result of Robert Harpur. But I like the fact that we have a name for a town that will always remind us what we and our country stand for; freedom and democracy. And no one outside of George Washington was more of a hero for those ideals than LaFayette. There are a number of books written about LaFayette and I recommend that you visit our library and sign one out. Get acquainted with the man for whom our town is named. It will be well worth your time.

— Rick Stout
LaFayette Historian



From LACC—The Threat to Honey Bees

Honey Bees, as pollinators, play an essential role in ecosystems around the world. The European or Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*), is the most widely distributed species across the US despite not being native. *A. mellifera* was introduced to North America by European settlers in the 17th century. I had been aware that honey bee populations were declining for quite some time. When I became involved in the LaFayette Advisory Conservation



Commission (LACC), I saw an opportunity to take action and learn what people can do to help them. So I reached out to three large-scale beekeepers in New York State,

including the president of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), who has hives across the nation, the president of the Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA), and a local beekeeper, who has over 100 hives, the owner of Hiwire Honey; whom I've helped maintain his hives. All three beekeepers have hives in the LaFayette area. They all agree that mites are the biggest problem faced by *A. mellifera*, followed by pesticides and improper care.

Varroa mites or Varroa destructor, are external parasites of honey bees, specifically Western Honey Bee, *A. mellifera* (non-native host) and the Asian Honey Bee, *A. cerana* (native host). Since the Asian Honey Bee evolved alongside these parasites, mites do not cause very much harm to their hives. *A. cerana* has evolved behaviors such as better grooming habits and the removal of mites from brood cells that limit the destruction by Varroa mites. *A. mellifera* has evolved counteractive measures against Varroa mites since the parasite's jump to *A. mellifera* was very recent, from an evolutionary perspective. Essentially, Varroa mites are bee ticks; they feed off of the bee's blood. The mites will take too much and the bee will rapidly deteriorate in health, becoming malnourished. Malnutrition and the stress caused by mites suppresses the bees' immune systems allowing disease to run rampant in a hive. Bees travel



between hives, this is what makes Varroa mites so dangerous. Evidence of an infestation is not apparent in a hive for quite some time after an infestation is started, yet bees will unwittingly transport mites to neighboring hives. If one hive is infested with mites, chances are every hive in the area also is infested with mites too. Varroa mite prevention is generally achieved through regular hive treatment. Treatment consists of using pesticides at a dosage lethal to mites, but not to bees.

Pesticides are the next biggest threat to honey bees in the LaFayette area. In particular Neonicotinoid pesticides are a massive threat to hives in an area. There are three main ways for pesticides to enter a hive, the first being pollen contaminated with Neonicotinoid insecticides. This contaminated pollen will be foraged by bees and brought back to the hive, where it will accumulate, eventually poisoning the hive. The second way pesticides enter a hive is winds. Winds can carry pesticides, allowing them to drift into a hive. The third way is the hive gets sprayed directly, this is often unintentional. A few things can be done to combat pesticide poisoning in hives.

Communication between farmers and beekeepers is essential to prevent any potentially fatal mix-ups. Legislation is another aspect that should be pursued. The President of the ABF has been working on The Birds and Bees Protection Act, also known as NY State Senate Bill S699D. The proposed legislation would regulate the usage of neonicotinoid insecticides. Regulations like these will protect *A. mellifera*, among other species, and allow them to flourish again. In short, many complex factors can contribute to the death of honey bees, but communication, informing the public, and legislation on which farmers and beekeepers collaborate will mitigate dangers faced by these important insects.

What can we do? We can raise awareness and inform the public on factors, such as mites, that can destroy hives. We can support legislation that will protect honey bees, such as the Birds and Bees Protection Act by asking Assemblyman Lemondes and Senator May to support these bills. Finally, we can support local beekeepers by buying local honey.



—Payton Kremers
LACC member, LCSD junior

From Boy Scout Troop 100

From September through December, the Scouts earned credit in the form of leader dollars and if they made enough, the Troop would purchase \$50 in camping gear of their choice. Additionally, this offered a financial exercise for Personal Management merit badge where they paid tax on their earnings and created a household budget. They all concluded they need to earn more money to afford the life they desire. Sound familiar?



As for activities, we had a 2-day skiing trip to Gore and McCauley mountains with the Tully and Fabius Troops. For most, it was their first time on a mountain with a gondola lift. We've been working on building our own Adirondack chair that collapses for travel or storage, designed by our Assistant Scout Leader, Mr. Somerlot.

In March, we had a few new Scouts join the Troop from the Cub Scout Pack. Their first event was a Lock-in/Lock-out where we used the Sentinel Heights Firehouse to bring our videogame consoles and board games for late night fun and tenting on the property.



We're always recruiting for more youth- boys and girls between 11-16 to join our group. We've got an overnight planned on the USS Little Rock, a WWII light cruiser, a Minecraft & STEM themed camporee at the AppleFest Grounds, camping at Community Days and of course the week-long summer camp, Sabattis, in July.

Yours in Scouting,

Unit Commissioner, Christian Borchert, 315.729.9555



The LaFayette Athletic Booster Club Presents...

A BACKYARD BATTLE



When: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Where: LaFayette High School Lax Field

Who: Ladies—Southern Hills (LaF, OCS, FP, Tully)
vs. Mexico—4:30 pm

Boys—Lancers vs. Tully Black Knights 7:00 pm
(under the lights)

Why: Fundraiser for LaFayette Alumni Joe Evans for home modifications due to spinal injury



- \$5.00 Admittance per adult
- \$3.00 Admittance per student
- Chuck a Duck at halftime of boys game \$10/10 ducks

From the LaFayette Optimists

Hello from the Optimists!

The club held the Optimist Winterfest again this year at Stafford Park! The event was a great success with a great turnout. It was great to see so many people from town having fun and enjoying the park. Thanks to all who were able to join us. Hopefully next year, mother nature will be a bit more cooperative. Also special thanks to:

Fritz's Polka Band for providing entertainment,

Shute's Logging for providing firewood for the bonfire and warming stations,

Lafayette Community Council for providing popcorn,

Maple Hedge Farms for providing the horse drawn sleigh rides

Adam Vural for the wonderful ice sculptures

Calle tropical for the food truck





**Chili Contest
Winners**

1. Scott Heath
2. Heath Kotula
3. Janet Burton

In January the 7th/8th grade boys' basketball tournament was back. The LaFayette teams played their hearts out but came up a bit short. A special thanks to Kevin Lerch and Nate Loughlin for coaching this years teams.

Looking ahead: Spring is on its way and you will soon see the Optimists doing our annual clean-up of Stafford Park as well as work on the pond. New trees are being added around the dog park with help from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Saturday before Mother's Day (5/13) will be the annual Kid's Fishing Tournament at the Park. Dig your fishing rods out of the basement and get out to pick some nightcrawlers! As always, the pond will be stocked with trout and there will be plenty of prizes to be won.

Another great Optimist Spring event is the Oratorical Contest. The event will be taking place on May 9 at the High School. We look forward to seeing our Lancers show off their writing and speaking skills!

*To talk health, happiness and
prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that
there is something in them.*

– The Optimist Creed

—David Coakley
Secretary

Saturday, May 13, 2023



LaFayette Senior Citizen News

The LaFayette Senior Citizens group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon at the LaFayette Firehouse on Route #11. If the LaFayette Schools are closed for inclement weather, the Seniors will not meet.



The Seniors group is always looking for new members -- to join, all you need to do is bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and \$5 dues for the year. Coffee and tea are provided. Anyone over the age of 50 can join, whether you live in the immediate area, or not!

LaFayette and Tully Seniors share trips. Below is a list of trips planned for 2023 from both organizations:

LaFayette Trips

- 3-day Ohio Island Hoppin' trip on June 19-21, featuring Kelley Island and Put-In-Bay, \$579 per person, double occupancy.
- Niagara Falls 1-day adventure, featuring Niagara Falls attractions, July 18th, \$135 per person.
- Hudson River 1-day Cruise, September 27th, \$145 per person.

- 3-day Christmas in New York City trip, featuring Radio City Music Hall and a back door tour as well as a performance by the Rockettes; also, visit 9/11 Memorial. November 27-29, \$619 per person, double occupancy.

For information and reservations, please contact Jennifer Hopper at 315-469-6592 as soon as possible. These trips "sell out" fast! Deposit is required.

Tully Trips

- 9-day Trip to New Orleans featuring Jazz Luncheon Cruise, tour of New Orleans, visits to both Warther Museum and National WWII Museum, and much more. May 19-27, \$1,339 per person, double occupancy.
- Trip to Auburn REV Theater for performance of *Beautiful*, The Carole King Story, as well as shopping at Sauder's, lunch at Springside Inn and visit to the Chocolate Pizza Company. August 28, \$118 per person.
- 2-day trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to see performance of *Moses* at the Sight & Sound Theater, as well as shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village, and more. October 5-6, \$309 per person, double occupancy.

For information and reservations, please contact Esther Hoose at 315-317-1618 as soon as possible. These trips "sell out" fast, as well! Deposit is required.

Hope to see you at our next Meeting!

—Rita Bush

Southern Hills Garden Club



Southern Hills Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, February through November at the LaFayette Firehouse 2444 US Route 11, LaFayette. Meetings start at 7:00 pm. Offsite meetings typically have an earlier start time.

Guests are welcome and membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For information regarding meetings or membership, please contact Cathy Nagel 315-677-9342 or Email CEN42085@aol.com

April 18, 2023	7:00 pm	LaFayette Firehouse 2444 US Route 11 LaFayette	Less Lawn—More Nature Michael W. Thomas
May 16, 2023	6:00 pm	Plumpton Farms 3990 Coye Rd. Jamesville	Container Planting—bring your own containers, soil will be provided
June 20, 2023	6:00 pm	Sycamore Hill Gardens 2130 Old Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus	Sycamore Hill Garden Tour



Sunday Services

LaFayette Alliance Church	10:30 am
Columbian Presbyterian Church	10:00 am
Onativia United Methodist Church	9:00 am
St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity	9:00 am



Church Events

LaFayette Alliance Church



Sunday School	Sundays	9:00—10:00 am	LaFayette Alliance Church
Coffee and Fellowship	Sundays 	10:00—10:25am	315-677-9810
Ignite Prayer Ministry	1st & 3rd Sundays	6:00 pm	www.lafayettealliance.org
Saturday, April 1	Clothing Giveaway	9:00 am—noon	
Olympians Ministry 1st-6th grade	First Wednesday of April & May	6:30—8:00 pm	
Summit Youth Group 7th-12th grade	Wednesdays LaFayette Alliance or Pompey Community Church	6:30 pm	

Columbian Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 1	 Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Columbian Presbyterian Church
Friday, April 7	Community Tenebrae Service	7:00 pm	315-677-3293
Saturday, April 15	Chicken Barbecue 	11:00 am	cpresbyt@twcny.rr.com
Saturday, May 20	Chicken Barbecue	11:00 am	columbianpresbyterian-church.com
Sunday, May 21	Presbyterian Choir Festival	1:00 pm	
Saturday, June 17	Chicken Barbecue	11:00 am	Unbaked Frozen pies for sale \$13

Onativia United Methodist Church Onativia United Methodist Church onativiachurch@hotmail.com

St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity

 Holy Hour	Miracle Music w/ Robin Loughlin	TBD	St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity
	Wednesday Evenings	6:30 pm	315-677-3439
	Donut Sundays	After Mass	www.stjosephslafayette.org
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday Mass	9:00 am	
Thursday, April 6	Mass—with Adoration	7:00 pm—10:00 pm	
Friday, April 7	Stations of the Cross	3:00 pm	
Sunday, April 9	Easter Mass	9:00 am	
Sunday, May 7	1st Communion Special Mass	9:00 am	
Tuesday, June 11	Confirmation Special Mass	2:00 pm	

Town of LaFayette
2577 Route 11
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LaFayette, NY 13084

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Upcoming Events—APRIL-MAY-JUNE

E V E N T S

April 1	Easter Egg Hunt—Columbian Presbyterian Church	10:00 am
April 1	Celebration of the Senses—Carol Watson Greenhouse	10:00 am—4:00 pm
April 7	Painting & Dinner Fundraiser—LaFayette VFW	7:00 pm—10:00 pm
April 11	Town Board Meeting	6:30 pm
April 15	Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church	11:00 am—gone
April 17-May 19	Annual Brush Pickup—no bags/leaves/debris—butt end first -8' min	Roadside by April 17
April 18	Southern Hills Garden Club—LaFayette Firehouse	7:00 pm
April 21	Earth Day Litter Dropoff—LaFayette Highway Department	7:00 am—2:30 pm
April 22	Earth Day Litter Dropoff—LaFayette Highway Department	9:00 am—2:00 pm
April 22	Arbor Day Celebration—Stafford Park	9:00 am —3:00 pm
April 22	Fire Dept. Open House	TBD
April 23	VFW Pancake Breakfast—LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—noon
May 6 & May 13	Town Clean up Days—Groth Rd. Landfill	9:00 am—4:00 pm
May 8—12	Town Clean up Days—Groth Rd. Landfill	12:00 noon—6:00 pm
May 9	Town Board Meeting	6:30 pm
May 11	Backyard Battle LaFayette High School	4:30 pm
May 13	Free Shredding and Medication Disposal Town Hall Upper Parking Lot	9:00 am—noon
May 13	Optimist Fishing Derby—Stafford Park	9:00 am—noon
May 16	Southern Hills Garden Club—Plumpton Farms	6:00 pm
May 20	Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church	11:00 am—gone
May 25	Upstate Mammography Van -Town Hall Lower Parking Lot	900 am—3:30 pm
May 29	VFW Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue—LaFayette VFW	10:30—gone
May 29	Memorial Day Parade Town Center marching to cemetery	9:00 am
June 3	Community Day—Stafford Park	3:00 pm—dark
June 13	Town Board Meeting	6:30 pm
June 17	Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church	11:00 am—gone
June 20	Southern Hills Garden Club—Sycamore Hill Gardens	6:00 pm

LaFayette Town Offices — PO Box 193, 2577 Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084

Ph.: 677-3674 Fax: 677-7806

LaFayette Info Officer: infoofficer@townoflafayette.com

Town website — <http://www.townoflafayette.com>

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JUNE 9

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SUMMER EDITION

CONTACT SUE MARZO

INFOOFFICER@TOWNOFLAFAYETTE.COM