



LaFayette

Community Newsletter



From the Town Supervisor—

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What's on the Town's Horizon in 2022!

Hello to everyone and we Wish you a Happy New Year! I'm writing this article as a **State of the Town** to update you on the issues at hand while looking ahead to future solutions and outcomes.

First and foremost, the State of the Town Budget is solid. New York State (NYS) law states that the primary duty of the Supervisor and the Town Board is: to "manage and control town finances". This duty directly affects you as it sets our property tax rate. A three-year property tax recap for our Town looks like this:

- Year 2020 the tax rate was \$7.88 per \$1,000 assessed of your property.
- Year 2021 was \$7.60 – this decrease was due to COVID 19 reductions.
- Year 2022 will be a \$7.81 tax rate per \$1000 assessed of your property

Thus, the Town's tax rate has remained relatively constant over three years, and the Town has remained under the NYS Tax Cap throughout this period.

The Town has also received the following unexpected revenues during 2021:

- \$50,000 grant for the Highway Garage that was applied for in 2014.
- \$124,000 over our estimated / budgeted amount from the Onondaga County mortgage tax. This mortgage tax windfall was generated by a large number of refinancing of home mortgages during Year 2020.
- \$35,000 from the Onondaga County Hamlet Planning Grant.
- \$77,150 from NYS due to increasing the state highway budget – these funds are earmarked for road repair and improvements.
- \$113,000 savings on our Highway Department building debt by refinancing our bond this Spring recommended by our bond advisors.

Therefore, the **State of the Town Budget** is solid with a well-controlled tax rate. In addition, as described below, the Town is working to source grants for every project to reduce resident cost.

Second, new capital projects are being planned. The Senior-Community Center and the Dog Park at Stafford Park were put out for bid in August and September 2021 but the Town Board did not award any bids. These bids were placed on hold due to bids being above our expectations. Working conditions during the winter months, increasing material cost, and delivery delays due to COVID were our primary reasons for these higher than expected bids. But we continued to work to find additional sources of funds to defray the cost of these projects. We recently received confirmation from the Onondaga County Community Development Grant that LaFayette has been awarded a total of \$250,000 for the

From the Town Supervisor cont'd....

Senior-Community Center and our Dog Park grant award of \$50,000 has been increased to \$70,000.

Therefore, the State of these Projects is promising.

We will place both projects out for bid once again in early 2022 with the goal to complete the Senior-Community Center by the fall of 2022 and the Dog Park by early summer of 2022.

Third, the LaFayette Fire Department (LFD) Ambulance Service availability is changing. When a LaFayette resident calls 911 with an emergency that requires medical attention and transportation, the Town has expected the LFD Ambulance Driver and an EMT to arrive on the scene.... a 24/7, 365 expectation. However, due to many reasons that is not the case now. I've worked with the LFD and Ambulance scheduler since February 2021 to find remedies. Current staffing provides coverage for **both a driver and an Advanced Life Support Technician (ALS)** at approximately 90 hours a week (not full-time or 168 hours a week). Aging staff, lack of volunteers, rising cost in training, underpaid drivers and ambulance medical technicians, ambulance service bills that are not reimbursed to the 100% level are problems across the Nation and are at the core of this issue. NYS lost up to 30% of our available drivers and technicians in the past 18 months due to COVID induced issues. LaFayette's coverage is suffering from these same issues. In addition, in 2020, COVID 19 became the leading cause of death for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, further discouraging people from volunteering for their ambulance or from choosing EMS as a career.

The Town and LFD are working together to build a three-year roadmap to provide a 24-7/365 driver and ALS coverage by our own ambulance service increasing cost, but our resident's health is the most important issue at hand.

The good news is that a call to 911 today will still result in an ambulance being dispatched to your home, The **County covers the hours that LFD cannot cover through neighboring ambulance services.**

The State of the LFD Ambulance Service is adapting to the COVID challenges by working to

increase coverage by providing incentives to attract qualified personnel.

Remember, the LFD Ambulance and Fire Department are always looking for volunteers that have an interest in becoming drivers or EMTs. Please stop by the Fire House or contact Chief Sean Doolittle, 315-558-8353, if you wish to serve.

Fourth, the Town's future is now clearer and brighter. An update to our Comprehensive Plan was completed in December 2021 and now provides a five goal road map to work prioritized issues for the betterment of the Town's residents over the next 10 years.

This seven-month effort identified a Priority Action Plan for the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Team and associated agencies to work towards. These Goals are:

1. Hamlet Revitalization
2. Rural Character Preservation
3. Economic Development
4. Infrastructure & Community Assets
5. Effective & Collaborative Government

The Onondaga County Planning Board approved the Comprehensive Plan update on December 8, 2021, and stated: "the Board commends the Town on its effort to complete this comprehensive plan update including incorporation of key actions items and a priority action plan to help facilitate the community's goals to preserve agricultural lands and open space areas, maintain the rural character of the Town, and encourage future, targeted development in the hamlet area".

We also remain optimistic that the Town will be awarded a \$500,000 grant from monies from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. If the Town is awarded this grant, it will be used on the Hamlet Revitalization goal, particularly on the restoration of the Hamlet's "Four Corners" in the very near future.

In addition, the Town received another ARPA grant of \$292,000 in September of 2021 and will receive another grant in September of 2022. These monies are targeted at water, sewer, and broadband development projects. A percentage of this amount

From the Town Supervisor cont'd...

may be used on other infrastructure improvements such as the LaFayette Hamlet revitalization effort which could include the development of a water district in this Hamlet. These funds must be identified for a specific use no later than September 2024 and must be spent no later than December 2026. Therefore, our intent is to put projects into motion sooner rather than later as these projects will increase economic activity.

Therefore, the State of the Town's Future is bright as we implement our newly updated Comprehensive Plan. We will be kicking off 2022 by appointing the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Team (CPIT) at the January 11, 2022 Town Organizational Meeting, who will kickoff the work to achieve the objectives of our five new goals.

Fifth, the State of the Cardiff Water District is progressing toward sustainability. After two years of negotiating with Honeywell Corporation, Onondaga Water County Authority (OCWA), and the Town of Tully, the Cardiff Water District was formed and funded to preserve and to improve the water system for 28 families in the Cardiff Hamlet. There are also twelve families in the Route 11A water district (Tully Valley) who are also receiving new water lines in order to provide relief to them from their 120-year-old system. At the time of this writing, we are within days of signing the documents that will do the following:

1. Provide a ten-year contract with OCWA to maintain, repair, and provide the water lines and service to the Cardiff Water District.
2. Allocate \$304,600 to the Town of LaFayette to be disbursed for the water district. These funds will be used to begin developing proposals for a new water source, to offset initial quarterly water charges for these residents, and for the possible installation of water meters and accessories at a later date.
3. Initiate an effort in January 2022 to investigate and hopefully provide a long-term water source other than the Tookes /

Haynes Springs. This was the original proposal to the Cardiff Hamlet residents who draw their water from the springs.

4. Apply for Federal and State funds during the summer of 2022 to offset the cost of any proposed long-term water system. We are seeking Congressional and NYS Assembly assistance with the funding of any long-term water source for these residents and any others in the in the Cardiff or Tully Valley area.

The long history of mining brine in the Tully Valley, the mud slide of 1993, mud boils, and poor quality of surface waters place this project **as a high priority for the Town** to find a long-term solution within the next 12 – 24 months.

Therefore, the State of the Cardiff Hamlet Water District is progressing as the Town works with OCWA and our town engineers to propose long-term solutions for the Cardiff Hamlet residents. The goal is to provide options for consideration by the Cardiff Hamlet residents during the Spring of 2022.

Sixth, the Town of LaFayette plans for a celebration of Its 200th Anniversary in 2025!

Town Historian Rick Stout and I invite you to get involved with building our celebration. The 200 Year Anniversary Committee will begin forming as soon as January 11, 2022 at the Town Organizational Meeting. Will you help out? Please reach out to me or Rick if you wish to get involved in any way.

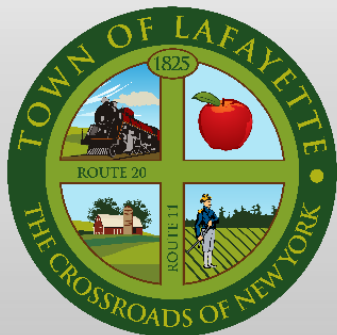
Thank you for reading this State of The Town report **The Town employees and volunteers work for the 5,000 Strong of LaFayette, NY and they work doubly hard to exceed your expectations by listening to you, collaborating with you, and delivering for you.**

Let's all look ahead to a great New Year!

—Bill McConnell
Town Supervisor



From the Town Clerk



THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE 2022 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

REFRESHMENTS AT 5:00–6:00 PM

MEETING TO FOLLOW AT LAFAYETTE TOWN HALL

The last two years have been tough ones in so many different ways. Between Covid-19 and its variants, inflation, crime sprees, unemployment, etc., it has been difficult to keep a good attitude. With 2020 and 2021 behind us, I hope in this New Year you are able to start each day with gratitude, create meaningful connections, focus on the positive, laugh more, stick to your goals, be respectful, generous and happy.

2022 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2022

All residents are welcome to come enjoy refreshments and witness the swearing in of our elected Town Board Members; Supervisor William McConnell, Councilors Melanie Palmer, Carole Dwyer and Jerry Marzo; Tax Collector, Kitty Rienhardt; Justice, Adrian Shute; and Highway Superintendent, Steve Robson. Please join our Town Board Members, members of Planning, Zoning, Grievance, Codes, Clerks, Library, LCC, along with many others who make LaFayette continue to be a great place to live.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICES:

- DEC licenses (hunting, fishing, etc.) and Duck Stamps
- 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 appt.)
- Notary Public Service, Voter registration forms

- Passport Services (by appointment)
- Veterans Discount Cards (F.A.V.O.R.)

Please visit the Town of LaFayette website or call 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. A security/intercom system is installed at the front door of the Town Hall for the Justice Court and all the Town Offices. Press the Town Clerk/Tax or Town Court button in the silver box on the right of the door to speak and we will unlock the door to let you in. Sorry for any inconvenience but this has been recommended to avoid any liability issues. ***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.***

Upstate University Hospital's mobile

Mammography Van will return on March 7, 2022 from 9:00 am—3:00 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.

TRASH / RECYCLING

For missed pick-ups; or your bi-weekly recycling schedule, please contact Dependable Disposal directly at (315) 472-7455 Extension 25 (Christine) or www.dependable-disposal.com. The hours of pick-up may vary between 5:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

From the Town Clerk cont'd...

HOLIDAYS THAT INTERRUPT TRASH SERVICE Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day. If the holiday falls on or before your pick-up day within that week, pick-up is delayed one day. Any new residents need to contact the Assessor at (315) 677-3420 or assessor@townoflafayette.com to have their trash service set up.

DOG LICENSING - The fees are \$8.00 for Spay/Neutered dogs and \$20.00 for Un-spayed/Unneutered dogs. Licenses may be obtained for 1, 2, or 3 years depending on the expiration of the rabies vaccines. You may pay with check or cash, via mail or in person. Forms for new licenses may be downloaded from our website. It is **New York State Law** that all dogs must be licensed in the municipality which they reside. Please contact Dog Control Officers; Ken Johnson 263-1000; Deputy Dog Control Officer Laura Holt (315) 696-6468 for any stray/lost dogs.

RABIES SHOT CLINICS/ONONDAGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Rabies clinics for 2022 have not been scheduled at this time, however they are hoping to confirm dates in the Spring. You may call (315) 435-3165 Animal Disease Prevention or visit www.ongov.net/health/ADP.html for further details

In 2022 we are hopeful you will be blessed with good health and happiness. Please don’t take family and friends for granted. The best gift you can give them is your time. We pray for peace in this great USA and all around the world. Thank you to our past, present and future service men & women for their sacrifices so we can live our lives with the freedoms we enjoy every day.

We hope you start each day with a happy heart and end each day going to sleep feeling thankful, grateful and BLESSED and GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

—Jackie Roorda and Kristin Colburn



Meeting	Day	Time	Email	Phone	Fax
Assessor	Tuesday - Thursday	8:30 am—1:30 pm Call first to schedule	assessor@townoflafayette.com	677-3420	677-7806
Building & Zoning Code Enforcement	Tuesday	6:00 - 7:00 pm or by appointment	codes@townoflafayette.com	677-5371	677-7806
Town Supervisor	Monday—Friday AM	Available anytime call 315-391-8167	supervisor@townoflafayette.com wmmac4@aol.com	677-5251 391-8167	677-7806
Planning Board	3rd Tuesday of the month	7:00 PM if there is an agenda	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Zoning Board of Appeals	4th Tuesday of the month	7:00 PM if there is an agenda	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Town Board Meeting	2nd Tuesday of the month	Vouchers at 6:00 pm Meetings 6:30 pm	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Town Clerk	Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri Tuesdays or by appt. Summer Hours—Closed Fridays May—October	9:00 am—4:00 pm 9:00—7:00 pm Offices are closed on all federal holidays	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806

With concerns about COVID continuing to be a factor, and also with special consideration for seniors and high risk members of our community, we encourage residents to handle clerical and tax business through the mail or use the drop box to the right of the Town Hall front door whenever possible.

Mail property tax payments made out to:

**Kitty Rienhardt, Tax Collector
P.O. Box 193
LaFayette, NY 13084**



Tax Collector Hours

January
Monday, Wednesday—12:00—3:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00—11:00 am

February
Monday—12:00—3:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00—11:00 am

March
Tuesday 9:00—11:00am

315-677-9155 —Kitty Rienhardt
Fax 315-677-7806
taxcollector@townoflafayette.com

From the Highway Department



Greetings and Happy New Year Residents

As the Highway Department is readied for the winter season, I have a few annual reminders:

- Please remember no parking on State, County and Town roads from November 1st thru April 1st. Blocking highway roads and turnarounds prevent school buses, emergency vehicles and snow plows from doing their job!
- A friendly reminder to all residential and commercial plow drivers, State/County/Municipal law does not allow snow to be pushed across any road way.

Residents— Please Help!



NO

Our Town of LaFayette plow drivers are asking for your help in placement of your garbage cans on snowy days. There have been many instances where the cans have been in the road causing the plow drivers to have to veer around them. The arms on the Dependable trucks can reach out to 11' so there is no need to put your cans in the road. It is also recommended



YES

that your garbage cans be removed from roadside when your garbage is picked up as a courtesy to our plow drivers to make their jobs easier.

—Thank you for your cooperation
Town of LaFayette Highway Department

- The 2022 Christmas tree recycling program will begin December 22nd and end February 26. Please drop off all trees to the Highway Department (2849 Rt. 11 North). Please no plastic bags or wreaths. Look for the “Christmas Tree Sign” at the south end of our building.
- As always the Highway Department recommends that residents leave an ample amount of time before heading out on winter roads.
- We ask you to be patient with our plow drivers as they clear the roads for safe travel.
- Stay Safe and Thank You!



**—Steve Robson
Highway Superintendent**

One of our Own...Still Serving Today:

Master Sergeant Corey Palmer, USAFR!

Master Sergeant (MSgt.) Corey Palmer's family's legacy dates to the year of 1815 in LaFayette and he himself has also built a legacy of his own while serving in the United States Air Force (USAF) and the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR).

Corey is a 1987 graduate of the LaFayette Central School District and while growing up on his family's farm he always felt another calling to serve his Nation and to become a military pilot. Thus, he



COREY PALMER SECOND FROM RIGHT

enlisted in the USAF and attended basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, Texas. Corey was selected during basic training for a Special Duty Assignment working as the tail-gunner in the B-52 Stratofortress. He then earned his Aeronautical Rating (Wings) manning the four-barrel, 50 caliber M161A gatling gun on the long-range bomber and became a member of a combat crew. Corey was the only enlisted airmen on a crew of six and his job was defending against enemy fighters or interceptor attacks from the rear, or "tail" of the bomber!

"I loved flying as the gunner in the B-52! The entire crew could hear the gatling gun, and you could feel it as it shot over 1200 rounds a minute!" "Imagine in a 488,000-pound jet with a 185-foot wingspan that the power of this weapon could shake our jet bomber!"

Corey considered competing for a nomination to the Air Force Academy while serving his four-year enlistment at K.I. Sawyer AFB in the upper peninsula of Michigan with the goal of becoming a USAF pilot. But the pull to return home was stronger.

Back at home, Corey attended OCC, began a trucking business with his cousin Brad Palmer – he loved big trucks—but still looked to the skies to fly! ***"My lesson learned was don't do what I did, pursue your dream! Perseverance is the key, don't allow anything to scare you off!"***

Destiny then struck with the 9/11 attack on the United States and at thirty-eight years old Corey re-enlisted in the USAF Reserve component at the Niagara Falls International Airport to support any combat effort needed. Over the past twenty years Corey has attained his current rank and has earned his USAF Flight Rating as both a Flight Engineer on the C-130H/J and as a KC-135R Boom Operator while serving in the 328th Flying Bisons Squadron and the 914th Aerial Refueling Wing.

Corey's USAF legacy: ***I'm the only aircrew member that has flown as a crew on three combat aircraft that each are over 50 years old!*** It was recently recorded ***that MSgt. Palmer made history by being the only former B-52 gunner who has also refueled a B-52 as a qualified boomer on a tanker!"*** He has accrued over 3,000 hours of flight time during his career and holds a unique place in aviation history.

The ***"Best thing that I ever did was meeting my wife Kimberly in 1999!*** We have two children Hannah (attending University of Buffalo) and our 17-year-old son Preston (named after SU Basketball great Preston Shumpert)!"

A proud moment: "I've always looked up to my Dad (Sumner), I like the way he conducts himself and I looked up to him as he served as the Town Supervisor".

There is so much more to write about Corey, his military experiences, his family, and his job as the Operations Coordinator at J. B. Hunt Trucking Company, thank you for your Service! Lets hope that Corey can share more in person in the future!

—Bill McConnell

A Message of Thanks from the Fagan's



For many people 2021 has been bitter-sweet. Trying to regain our normal, we all look forward to those events that bring happiness and a sense of community to our area. The 2021 LaFayette Apple Festival was at the top of the list. It felt good to reconnect with friends and neighbors not seen through much of 2020 and early 2021.

We, more than most, were looking forward to something positive. There is no denying that 2020 was not a good year for us, with the passing of our daughter, Adeline. But as we struggle to move ahead, we try to do what she would do - help others. To that end we have established the "Adeline M. Fagan, M.D. '19 Memorial Fund" to help a deserving medical student. Each year, a medical student who possesses qualities such as a desire to help the needy, a happy attitude, and being a friend to all, will be the recipient of the award.

As we discussed possible ways to increase the fund each year, we had the idea of baking bread, just as we did with Adeline 13 years ago. With the "what to do" decided, it was time to focus on "how to do it." We could not have accomplished our goal of baking and selling 2000 loaves of bread without a tremendous amount of help and support. We raised \$11,346 for the scholarship.

Our most heartfelt thanks go out to the following:

- Mineo Wholesale for the donation of supplies toward our goal of 2000 loaves.
- St. Joseph's Church for the use of the kitchen and donation of the apples, freezer space and transport.
- The Lafayette Apple Festival Committee who generously allowed us to sell our breads at the Apple Fest, no hesitations, no questions asked. I am still touched by just how quickly, on that initial phone call, we received the OK. Without such a warm welcome, we might still be selling bread.
- Fran and Larry Paige for the crafter's booth in the tent. It really increased our exposure.
- Our community, for all the well-wishes, donations, love and support. We really could not do it without you.

Thank you! LaFayette. We will see you again in 2022.

Court Corner

We have a web page on www.townoflafayette.com, under departments select court from the dropdown and many of your questions can be answered. Please check it out!

Our hours are 9:30-12:30 & 1:30-5:00pm Monday-Thursday. We are closed on Fridays. Our phone number is (315)677-9350. Our fax number is (315) 677-4622. The court office will be closed January 17 and February 22, 2022. Please check the website for court closings due to inclement weather.

A friendly reminder of the Move Over Law...many people seem to still be unaware of this NYS law. While driving in

the right lane, if the driver sees a stopped vehicle, the driver is required to move one lane over to the left to allow enough space to avoid any potential accidents. A violation of this law is 2 points on your license, plus up to \$243 in fines and surcharges for a first offense.

Remember to adjust your speed to the road conditions during our snowy winter months. We wish you all a happy and healthy new Year!



—Honorable Maureen Perrin,
Honorable Adrian Shute,
Clerks, Carleen, Joanne, & Katey



Southern Hills Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month February through November at the LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette NY. 13084. Some meetings are off site. Guests are welcome and membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For information regarding meetings, cancellations, or membership, please contact Cathy Nagel 315-677-9342 or Email CEN42085@aol.com. Check the Town Calendar on Town of LaFayette home page

(www.townoflafayette.com) and follow the Town's social media for February and March meetings currently being arranged.

-Patty Kroneck

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, 677-7272. Messages will be retrieved twice per week and an LCC board member will return your call. You can speak to an LCC representative face to face during Town Hall Tuesdays every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Emails are also accepted at lafayettecommunitycouncil@townoflafayette.com. The mailing address is: LCC, PO Box 98, LaFayette, NY 13084



Announcements:

Donations: The LaFayette Community Council Board would like to thank the

LaFayette Coed Softball League and Meyer Heating for its very generous donation to LCC. These funds will help support the youth and adult programs LCC offers.

Apple Festival: A big thanks to all the wonderful volunteers at the LCC booth. The kids and adults enjoyed the two days of making and selling pizzas, knots, popcorn and drinks. Our sincere gratitude to all customers that purchased from LCC. It was a fundraising success and an enjoyable time!

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.

Youth Programs:

Fall Sports - Soccer: LCC would like to thank the following individuals who coached or helped out with the 2021 soccer program:

Kevin Morel, Colin Morel, Amy Shute and members of the LaFayette School District's Varsity Soccer Team; Tom Schwartz and Gail Ruterma, Arif Karicic, and Kurt Shafer. Dave Prince for refereeing.

Winter Sports –

Wrestling: LCC welcomes wrestling back! Practice for K-6 wrestling began in December 2021. Meets are anticipated to start in January 2022.

Basketball and Volleyball: Registration for the

basketball and volleyball programs will be in December 2021/January 2022. 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 at 315-677-7272. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches. Thank you.

Ski Program: LCC's chaperoned ski nights will begin Fridays in January 2022. Lessons that are included with respective passes will also begin on this date.

Upcoming Youth Sports:

Baseball and Lacrosse: Registration for the baseball and lacrosse programs will begin in first quarter of 2022. 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.

As spring approaches, LCC is in the process of planning the baseball and lacrosse seasons. Coaches are needed at all levels for both sports. Please let us know if you are planning to coach this upcoming season; we need to know of your intention to coach so that we can plan accordingly

Adult Programs:

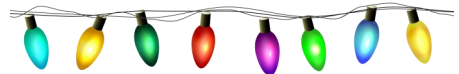
Men's Basketball: Men's basketball will begin in January 2022. Information for Men's basketball will be provided through the Town's website and LCC's Facebook page.

—Kimberly Tingley
Secretary



Many Thanks are due the following Organizations for the tree lighting ceremony held December 5

- The Town of LaFayette
- The LaFayette Optimists
- Cindy's Old Times Café
- LaFayette Community Council
- LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Band and Chorus
- The LaFayette Fire Department
- Michael Grimm Landscaping



LaFayette's Bicentennial is coming in 2025. Town Historian Rick Stout and Town Supervisor Bill McConnell invite you to get involved with building our celebration. The 200th Anniversary Committee will begin forming soon. Please reach out to Rick or Bill at the following email addresses if you wish to get involved in any way:
Bill McConnell: wmmac4@aol.com
Rick Stout: rick_stout@juno.com



From the LaFayette Senior Citizens

The LaFayette Senior Citizen group is continuing to meet, taking all the Covid precautions that are in place. On November 17, many of the members gathered at the Firehouse for a delicious catered Thanksgiving Dinner. On December 15, we will again be having a catered Christmas Dinner, and looking forward to more scrumptious food!



LaFayette Seniors gather for Thanksgiving Dinner

Both the LaFayette and Tully Senior Citizens groups have several great trips planned for 2022. Members from each group can take part in whatever trip is being offered, which helps "fill the bus" as well as create camaraderie between each organization.

The LaFayette Senior Citizens' group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon in the LaFayette Fire Station, on Route #11 in LaFayette. (Please note that if school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the group will not meet).

The Group is always looking for new members If you are over 50 years of age, come and enjoy the companionship, have a delicious pot-luck lunch, and take part in the fun activities that are planned. To join, all you need to do is to bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and \$5 for dues for the year. Coffee and tea are provided. Anyone can join, whether you live in the immediate area, or not!

Join Us

So, join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, see what the "Seniors" is all about, and hear about the upcoming trips that are planned! Hope to see you at a meeting soon

—Rita Bush

From Our Town Historian Rick Stout

Tully Valley and the Salt Industry

In 1795 Tully Valley had as its first settler, a Revolutionary war veteran, named Michael Christian. He received a land grant in the town of Tully but moved into what is now "LaFayette on Lot 87". The valley and the hamlet that later became Cardiff was named Christian Hollow in his honor.

Ages ago, Christian Hollow was a lake. The salt bed under this valley was discovered in the late 1800's, just east of Route 11A, near the foot of the hill. Over-exploitation of salt reserves in Syracuse spurred the discovery in the late 1880s of salt layers approximately 1000-1400 feet below land surface at the southern end of the Tully Valley. Mining operations began in 1889 and continued until the late 1980s, during which approximately 200 million tons of salt were removed. In order to mine the salt, operators injected surface water into the salt layers through a series of wells and then lifted the dissolved salt (brine) to the surface. Company records from the turn of the century estimated that 40-60% of injected waters were "lost" to the surrounding bedrock.

Injection practices were abandoned in the late 1950's as there was sufficient groundwater flow into the caverns to dissolve additional salt deposits. Up to one billion gallons of brine per year were pumped after injection practices were abandoned. Mining activities were ended in 1988. Solvay Process Co. piped the brine through a pipeline from here to its plant in

Solvay. There were many leaks in this pipeline that polluted people's wells. Solvay Process was therefore obligated to put in fresh water lines for the residents.

After removing so much salt from under this valley, a cavity was created deep down. As early as the 1920's some land surface collapsed in parts of the brine fields and continued into the 1950's. At the head of the valley there are mud boils out of which flows muddy water. At the same time there are springs of salty water next to springs of salt-free water.

There has been controversy whether the mud springs are a natural phenomenon or caused by the salt operations. When the landslide came down on the west side of the valley and covered a quarter of a mile of Tully Farms Road on April 27, 1993, many thought that it was caused by the salt -drilling operations of the past. But it wasn't. There is now evidence that there were multiple landslides near the present location long before 1993. This doesn't make things easier for those whose water was affected.

I suppose there was one individual who had an apprehension about the water woes in the valley. In the mid 1800's some men from Syracuse were investigating the possibility of putting a dam in the creek for a new water supply for Syracuse. They asked a man named Gideon Emmons, one of the men who helped "discover" the Cardiff Giant, about the quality of the drinking water in the valley. Gideon said he didn't know. He hadn't tasted water in forty years!

In spite of the many water problems and the dire prediction that another landslide could occur anytime, anywhere, this is a beautiful valley and those who live there love it and intend to stay.



— Rick Stout, Town Historian



Tully mudboils

From the LaFayette Optimists

Greeting from the Optimists. I hope everyone had a happy holiday season with family and friends.

The club hosted the Halloween party at Stafford Park. We would like to thank you for the great turnout to make it a huge success. We would also like to thank the wonderful businesses that helped make it the event that it was. Check out our Facebook page for pictures from the event.

The club purchased new Christmas wreaths this year to add to the Town decorations. Michael Grimm Landscaping installed the lighting for the Town tree and it was spectacular.

Closing out 2021 also brought out the Optimist Installation Dinner. The club has some new officers for this year and we welcomed new members:

New members: Adam Ryan
Grant Kemmerer
Brian Johnson

Officers:
President Doug Kautz
Vice President Wayne Brennan
Secretary David Coakley
Treasurer Ken Gardiner
Park Director Jerry Marzo
Board Members Scott Gates
Steve Borte
Frank Gordnier



New Members and Sponsors



Award Recipients

The club also presented its *Rookie of the Year award to Wayne Brennan; the President's Award to Doug Kautz; and the Optimist of the Year award to Steve Borte.*



2022 Officers & Board Members

Looking ahead to the new year, we are excited to be hosting the 7th and 8th grade basketball Tournament again. It is scheduled to be held on January 8th, 2022 from 8:00 am—3:30 pm. Due to the overwhelming success of WINTERFEST 2021, it is back. It is taking place on February 12th from 3:00—7:00 pm. Many of the events that were at Winterfest last year will be back this year. We hope to see everyone at this wonderful event.



Promise yourself...

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

— The Optimist Creed



—David Coakley
Secretary

From the LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

People & Plastic Pollution – Part II

In the last newsletter we helped clarify the [three ways to best handle our waste plastic](#). This article describes why it is in our self-interest to follow those ways.

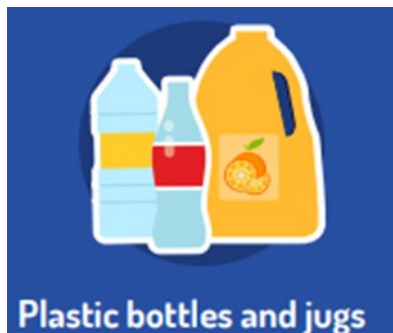
How are we exposed to plastic pollution?

We all know that waste plastic pollutes our water and land, but do we realize it pollutes animals and us? It's our biggest waste stream that doesn't breakdown for centuries and during that process plastic first breaks down into tiny particles, called microplastics (a single plastic bag becomes 1.75 million microplastic particles). Scientific studies show that [we ingest them](#), primarily from the consumption of animals that consume them and from food and beverages packaged in plastic:

- 39,000 to 52,000 particles per year
- An additional 90,000 particles per year for bottled water drinkers and 4,000 particles for tap water drinkers

And [we inhale them](#) too since they are in indoor and outdoor air, on average:

- 35,000 to 69,000 particles per year



Are microplastics harmful to us?

Scientists say we haven't studied that question enough to have a definitive answer. Given that some of the chemicals used to produce

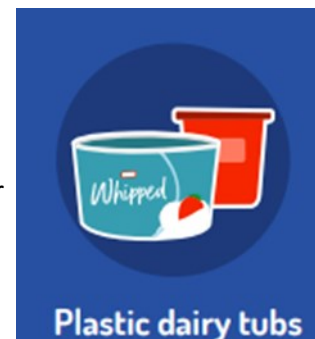
plastic are known carcinogens or otherwise toxic to humans, the answer is probably, but scientists don't know yet how much exposure results in adverse health effects. Such studies are currently being conducted.

What can we do?

In addition to following the three ways to best handle our waste plastic, consumers are in total

control how much new plastic is generated by [reducing our use of plastic](#):

- Refuse plastic straws & bags
- Use reusable containers instead of plastic wrap or baggies
- Drink tap water instead of bottled water
- Buy large drink bottles instead of small ones
- Refuse plastic cups/cutlery with your takeout
- Ask your favorite restaurant to use takeout containers other than plastic



We can [reuse plastics](#) rather than use new plastic and we can [reduce our exposure](#) to microplastics:

- Don't use plastic drinking containers (bottled water, baby bottles), particularly polypropylene
- Reduce our consumption of seafood
- Don't heat food in plastic containers

To learn more:

[Microplastics are everywhere](#)
[Potential effects of microplastics](#)
[Reduce plastic use to save oceans](#)

¹Cox, K.D. et al, Human Consumption of Microplastics, Environmental Science & Technology, 2019, 53, 7068-7074.

—Mark Distler

The LaFayette Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) is reaching out for volunteers to support this committee to track progress and communicate about the plan. If interested, please reach out to:

[**kelly.wpych@outlook.com**](mailto:kelly.wpych@outlook.com)

CPIC responsibilities are posted on the Town webpage at the following link:
www.townoflafayette.com/building-a-comprehensive-plan.html

CHURCH NEWS



Onativia United Methodist Church

Please join us for worship - Sunday mornings at 9:00

Celebrating 160 years of worship at the corner of
Apulia Road and Dodge Road

6257 Dodge Rd. (P.O. Box 316) LaFayette, NY 13084

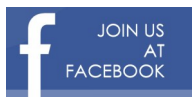
Pastor: Shin, Se Gye

Email: pastorsegyeshin@gmail.com

Church email: onativiachurch@hotmail.com



Columbian Presbyterian Church



Pastor Shawn Reyburn

Corner of Route 11 & Route 20
LaFayette, N.Y. 13084

(315) 677-3293

Columbianpresbyterianchurch.com

cpresbyt@twcny.rr.com

Worship Service 10:00am

Church Office Hours Tues-Fri 9:00—noon

For a full schedule of upcoming events, find us on-line at
Columbianpresbyterianchurch.com or follow us on FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/pages/LaFayette-Columbian-Presbyterian-Church

Chicken-n-Biscuit Supper
TO GO Only!

Tuesday, March 22

4:00—7:00 pm

\$10 for adults;\$5 for ages 6-12
Children 5 and under eat free



to everyone who participated in our fall events: Outreach Pantry food collections; BBQ's & Pie Sale; Trunk-or-Treat; Election Night Dinner and the Great \$5 Sweater ++ Sale



We still have some frozen, unbaked double-crust and crumb-top apple pies \$13 each and ready to bake for Super Bowl Sunday



NO Taste of Chocolate in 2022

"A Christ-Centered Family Church"

Robert Gates, Senior Pastor
Trevor Smith, Associate Pastor



JANUARY—MARCH 2022

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00—10:00am

Sunday School

10:00—10:30am

Coffee/Fellowship Time

10:30am

Praise & Worship Service

6:00pm

Ignite Prayer Ministry (1st & 3rd Sunday)

Bible Quizzing is for 3rd-12th grade students and practice is held on Thursday evenings, from 6:30—8:00 pm. This year quizzers are studying the books of Romans and James. For more information or to register please contact the church office at 315-677-9810

Family Fun Night: Winter Carnival—Please join us on Saturday, February 26 from 5:00—8:00 pm in the LaFayette Alliance Church gym, for an evening of fun with pizza, games and activities for kids of all ages!

If you would like further information concerning our church or its programs, please contact the church office at 677-9810.

We are located at the corner of Route 20 and LaFayette Road in LaFayette. The church is handicap accessible

Check us out on the web! You can listen to Pastor Rob's messages, subscribe to our weekly email update, [The Weekly Connection](http://TheWeeklyConnection.org), and find out even more details about our various programs www.lafayettealliance.org



Come Celebrate Mass with Us at St. Joseph's Catholic Church of the Nativity

6104 Route 20 East, Lafayette, New York 13084
Ph- 315-677-3439 / Website- www.stjosephslafayette.org

Sunday 9:00am with Rev. James H. Carey
Weekend Associated Msgr. James O'Brien

Additional Mass Locations and Times:

Immaculate Conception (Pompey)	Sunday 9:30 am
St. Leo's (Tully)	Saturday 4:30 pm/Sunday 8:00 am
St. Patrick's (Otisco)	Sunday 10:30 am

St. Joseph's—Schedules/Events

January 1	10:00 am	Solemnity of Mary Mass
February 26	7:00 pm	The Parish Retreat
March 2	7:00 am	Ash Wednesday Mass (Lent Begins)
March 23	6:30 pm	SYNOD gathering with Bishop Lucia

**Note: Faith Formation Classes—After Sunday Mass from 9:50 to 10:50 am
“For a SYNODAL Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”**

Free Help is Available for NYS Homeowners



Get your mortgage checked at no cost to see what options are available. A record number of homeowners in New York State have fallen behind on their payments during the COVID-19 crisis. Many homeowners are in forbearance agreements with their mortgage company. Others who have missed payments may just be behind in payments. New York State's foreclosure moratorium for homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will end in January 2022.

The NYS Office of Attorney General has been funding non-profit housing counseling and legal services programs to provide services to homeowners in every county of the state since 2012 under its Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP). These services are provided to homeowners at no cost and generally regardless of a homeowner's income.

HOPP agencies are specially trained to know the various programs and to work individually with homeowners and their mortgage servicers to get back on track. New federal relief may be available to provide cash assistance to homeowners. Be wary of scammers asking you to pay for help. New York State provides these services at no cost through the HOPP network. The goal is to keep New York State homeowners in their homes. Services are also available for transition and non-retention options if homeownership is no longer affordable. Whatever your situation, homeowners have a right to remain in their homes throughout the foreclosure process.

Call the NYS HOPP Toll-Free Hotline at 1-855-HOME-456 (1-855-466-3456) or go to HomeownerHelpNY.org to get connected with a non-profit housing counseling or legal services program in your area.

Town of LaFayette
 2577 Route 11
 P.O. Box 193
 LaFayette, NY 13084

Presorted
 Standard
 US Postage Paid

Upcoming Events—Jan-Feb-Mar

(Visit www.townoflafayette.com home page for complete town calendar)

Need to add a Town event email infoofficer@townoflafayette.com

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ADD'L INFO
January	Tax Collector Hours	LaFayette Town Hall	Monday, Wednesday 12:00-3:00pm Tuesday 9:00—11:00 am
January 8	Optimist Basketball Tourney	LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School	8:00 am—3:30 pm
January 11	Organizational Meeting	LaFayette Town Hall	5:00 pm refreshments 6:30 Board meeting
January 23	LaFayette VFW Pancake Breakfast	LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—noon
February	Tax Collector Hours	LaFayette Town Hall	Monday 12:00—3:00 pm Tuesday 9:00—11:00 am
February 8	Town Board Meeting	LaFayette Town Hall	6:30 pm
February 12	Optimist Winterfest	Stafford Park	3:00—7:00 pm
February 27	LaFayette VFW Pancake Breakfast	LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—noon
March	Tax Collector Hours	LaFayette Town Hall	Tuesday 9:00—11:00 am
March 7	Upstate Mammography Van	Lower Parking Lot Town Hall	9:00 am—3:00 pm
March 8	Town Board Meeting	LaFayette Town Hall	6:30 pm
March 27	LaFayette VFW Pancake Breakfast	LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—noon

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>

Facebook—Town of LaFayette —<https://www.facebook.com/TownofLaFayetteNY>

Twitter- <https://twitter.com/TownofLaFayette>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/townoflafayetteny>

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS

MARCH 11

COVERS APR-MAY-JUN

SPRING EDITION

CONTACT SUE MARZO

INFOOFFICER@TOWNOFLAFAYETTE.COM