



LoFayette

Community Newsletter



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Crossroads Building Update

A community survey was conducted that asked residents for input on what to do with the Crossroads Building, the vacant building located on the southeast corner of US Routes 11 and 20. The survey was open from November 30 to December 22. There were 660 responses. This is the result of question 1:

Demolition/park	285	43%
Rehab/restaurant/inn	375	57%



The results to all three survey questions were provided to the Town Board on December 23, so that they can be prepared to make its decision on what option to pursue at the January 9 Town Board meeting.

The Town Board worked hard since the property purchase in March 2022 to develop a feasible rehabilitation option, and to work the details of both options so it can make an informed decision. Our residents' preference was the last detail to learn. **—Mark Distler, Deputy Town Supervisor**

From the Town Supervisor



State of the Town 2024!

On behalf of the Town Board and all of the Town's employees and volunteers who work on your behalf, Happy New Year! May it be the best year for all!

Each year I write on the State of our Town, our budget and your tax dollars, what we have accomplished, and what's on tap for this year.

Welcome!

But first, our "Hail and Farewell" for the Town Board. Hailing new Town Councilor Nate Loughlin who will sit in the seat recently vacated by Councilor Steve Zajac. We welcome you Nate and congratulations on your election to the Town Board.

From the Town Supervisor

Steve Zajac has served for 12 years as a member of the Town Board; we appreciate your Servants Heart over your tenure. Your passion for our highway department and our parks was greatly appreciated and is “duly noted” through the many budget meetings and town meetings that you advocated on their behalf. Your sacrifice with balancing your work that is often outside of the local area or region is greatly appreciated, ***Thank you so much Steve, to you and your family!***

Let’s also welcome Mr. Jamie McElhannon as an equipment operator in the highway department, Mrs. Ashlee Carrier to the position of Facilities Manager for the Town Commons and Community Center, Mr. Steve Pitoniak as the Town Safety Officer, and Captain Brigid Farrell (USMC Ret.) on staff at the library.



Our budget and our budget processes are strong. Meaning – your tax dollars are used wisely to fund the services that you expect with the goal of remaining on or under budget each year.

During the past fiscal year, the Town remained \$346,000 under budget in the General Fund, \$100,000 in the Highway Fund, \$30,000 in the LaFayette Fire Department and \$15,000 in the LaFayette Ambulance budget. These areas are the Town’s largest budgets, and they provide the most important services day-in-day-out for the safety of our community.

The 2024 Town budget tax increase was set at \$8.24 per \$100k of assessed value or 5.75% over the 2023 budget. The Town did not remain under the NYS Tax Cap of 2% due primarily to increased labor costs across all departments. The Town tax increase was able to stay below the tax cap over the past few years when the inflation rate was historically high but not for 2024. The last time the Town could not stay below the tax cap was 2019.

The 2024 budget includes:

- * Funding for the second year of the Highway Department equipment investment plan saved upwards of \$50,000 of equipment repairs during the past year and is expected to save over \$100,000 when the plan matures in Year 2028. The savings is realized by having the entire fleet of equipment under warranty thus reducing our annual repair cost along with replacing this equipment at the highest resale value.
- * Funding for the LFD Ambulance Service increase of four full time medical personnel in order to support the goal 24/7 – 365 coverage. The goal is needed because outside emergency service providers are discontinuing emergency services as they struggle to make a profit. Our goal is to continually work towards the ability to provide our own service to our Town through the LaFayette Ambulance Service, taking care of own community.



WHAT'S ON TAP

What's on tap for the New Year?

- * The Community Center is being refurbished to provide a safe and rewarding experience for all those that wish to use it. There will be a new basement floor, new first story floor, new kitchen area and appliances a remodel of the bathrooms and new tables and chairs with a self storage system to keep the main floor free for use. All great stuff for a building that once was a carriage house with a hay loft!. The investment of \$250,000 is coming from two Onondaga County Grants – ***Thank you to County Legislator Dave Knapp for his work to gain these grant monies! Thank you for Jeff Palin, Carole Dwyer, Jackie Roorda, Kristin Colburn, Tonya Farewell, Carlene LaRonde, & Ana McConnell for volunteering their time to assist with redesigning the kitchen area in the Center!***

From the Town Supervisor cont'd...



COMMUNITY CENTER

NEW CELLAR AND MAIN FLOOR, TABLES/ CHAIRS, HVAC IMPROVEMENTS MORE TO COME IN PORCH, KITCHEN AND BATH IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

I'm hoping to bring back some of the Senior Programs such as the Women's Exercise Weekly program and more with the refurbishment of the center. Please reach out to me with any ideas on what programs that the Town could once again host at the Community Center.

- * The Town Survey for the LaFayette Hotel was completed on December 22, 2023. Thank you to all that completed the survey! This survey is the last process of the two years of research, development, and debate on what the final disposition will be for the Crossroads Building. The survey results are provided on the front page and will be presented formally at the January 9, 2024, Town Board Meeting which the Town Board is expected to make its decision of which option to pursue.

- * The Town Board approved the purchase of four radar speed signs for placement in front of Grimshaw School and the Junior Senior High School Thank you to Jerry Marzo who has the lead on this project. Depending on NYS DOT, the Town expects these signs will be placed early this year.



- * We are working with the Village of Tully on a memorandum of understanding to provide water for the 28 parcels in the Cardiff Water District. This will allow these homes and a business to draw their water from the Village of Tully's public water system and to place the Tookes Springs water plant in a standby status. In 2024, the Town expects to apply for funding to cover the capital costs for the new water system.



- * We are working with the LFD to expedite the tanker replacement for their two current tankers of which both are well past their useful working life span. This replacement is even more important because the Town does not have a water system to draw water from hydrants if needed. More to come over time on this.

We live in a great town with a lot of history and more to make in the future. Please join us at a Town Board meeting and bring forth any thoughts and ideas that you may have! ***We, the Town Board, are always working on your behalf. We need you involved too!***

Let's work together to bring out the Best in our Community!



Sixteen months until our 200 Year Anniversary!

Happy New Year LaFayette!

—Bill McConnell

From the Town Clerks

2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9th

2024 Refreshments 5 – 6:00PM

6:00 PM Organizational Meeting and Town Board Meeting to follow

All residents are welcome to enjoy refreshments and witness the swearing in of our Elected Town Board Members; Supervisor William McConnell, Councilors Jerry Marzo, and Nate Loughlin, Town Clerk, Kristin Shute Colburn: Tax Collector, Kitty Rienhardt; Justice Maureen Perrin; and Highway Superintendent Steve Robson. Please join our Town Board Members, members of Planning, Zoning, Grievance, Codes, Clerks, Library, LCC, along with most everyone involved with what makes LaFayette continue to be a great place to live.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Dog licensing which is required by Town law and NYS Ag & Markets -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. Please contact Dog Control Officers; Ken Johnson 263-1000; Deputy Dog Control Officer Laura Holt (315) 696-6468 for any stray/lost dogs.
- Marriage Licenses & Transcripts (applications can be found on the town website. Please call for an appointment)
- Routine Passport Processing **(APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED)**
- Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- Handicap Permits, be sure to have a form completed by your physician
- Notary Public Services (Free of Charge for Residents please call prior to coming in)
- Facility Rentals (Stafford Park Pavilions & Community Center)

And many other things... feel free to give us a call @ 315-677-3674 or email us at:

townclerk@townoflafayette.com

deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com

We will be more than happy to assist in any way that we can!!

Many of the forms: marriage license, dog license, passport forms, handicap permit applications, building permits, etc.... can be found on the town website: www.townoflafayette.com 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.

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

From all of us here at the Town Hall we wish you a Very Happy & Healthy New Year!!!

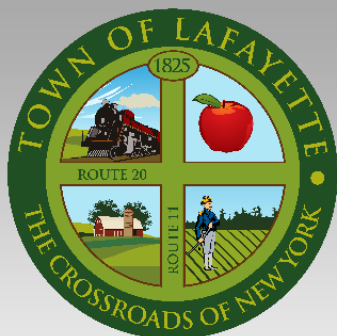


Happy New Year



Kristin Colburn/Tonya Farewell

From the Town Board



THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE
2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

REFRESHMENTS AT 5:00—6:00 PM

MEETING TO FOLLOW AT LAFAYETTE TOWN HALL

2024



Meeting	Day	Time	Email	Phone	Fax
Assessor	Wednesday	9:00 am—4:00 pm	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	By appointment	Available anytime call 315-391-8167	supervisor@townoflafayette.com wmac4@aol.com	677-5251 391-8167	677-7806
Planning Board	3rd Tuesday of the month	6:00 PM if there is an agenda	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Zoning Board of Appeals	3rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM if there is an agenda	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Town Board Meeting	2nd Tuesday of the month (except in November which will be held Thursday, November 7th at 6:00 pm)	Vouchers at 6:00 pm Meetings 6:30 pm Live streamed on Facebook	townclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806

Special meetings will be posted on the website, Town Hall Bulletin Board, the Post Office and Post Standard/Syracuse Media website

Town Clerk	Mon, Wed, Thurs Tuesdays or by appt. Fridays Summer Hours—Closed Fridays May—October	9:00 am—4:00 pm 9:00 am—7:00 pm 9:00 am—1:00 pm Offices are closed on all federal holidays	townclerk@townoflafayette.com deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com	677-3674	677-7806
Tax Collector	January Mon & Wed January Tuesday February Mon February Tuesday March Tuesday	12:00—3:00 pm 9:00—11:00 am 12:00—3:00 9:00—11:00 am 9:00—11:00 am	kitty22@twcny.rr.com	677-9155	677-7806

From the LaFayette Highway Superintendent



Greetings and Happy New Year Residents!

As the Highway Department has already begun the winter season, I have a few annual reminders:

- Parking on State, County and Town roads from November 1st thru April 1st is prohibited. 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.
- A couple dates to remember, the 2023 Christmas tree recycling program will begin December 26th and end February 5th. Please drop off all trees to the Highway Department at (2849 Rt. 11 North). Please no plastic bags or wreaths. Look for the "Christmas Tree Sign" at the south end of our building.
- Spring brush pick-up is tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2024, look out for the April Newsletter to confirm this date.
- 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.



NO



YES

PLEASE FOLLOW PROPER TRASH CAN PLACEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL



Please refer to the Town of LaFayette Highway Department page for contact information on who is responsible should your mailbox receive damage.

<https://www.townoflafayette.com/highway-dept.html>

Stay Safe and Thank You!

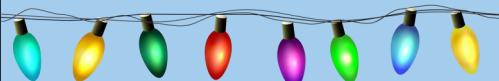
—Steve Robson

Highway Superintendent



Many Thanks are due to the following Organizations for the tree lighting ceremony held December 3rd

- The Town of LaFayette
- The LaFayette Optimists
- LaFayette Community Council
- LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Band and Chorus
- The LaFayette Fire Department
- Michael Grimm Landscaping



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

Phone number: **315-677-9350**

Fax number: **315-677-4622**

Webpage: www.townoflafayette.com/court.html

Email: tolcourt1@aol.com

Court is closed Monday, January 1, Monday, January 15 and Monday 2/19/24.

- Slow down and fasten your seatbelt
- Court nights are every Wednesday starting at 6:00 pm
- Evictions are also on Wednesday at 5:30. Please call court to schedule.
- Tickets can be mailed to the court address with the



LaFayette Town Court
P.O. Box 135
LaFayette, NY 13084

plea section filled out and signed

Winter safety tips!

- Make sure to have sufficient tread on your tires
- Check your tire pressure
- Keep your windshield washer fluid full
- Clear all snow off vehicle
- Defrost your windows
- Pack an emergency kit
- Have a fully charged cell phone
- Adjust your speed for weather conditions



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



From the Athletic Booster Club



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

In the past 12 years, these girls have thoroughly enjoyed serving as officers of the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. They strengthened friendships, met many wonderful supportive people within the community, and provided additional

programs for students of LaFayette as well as the community at large. At this time, they are looking to step down with the hope that a new team will volunteer and continue to serve the needs of the athletes and the community. They are looking for 4 strong, quick thinking, team players who would be interested and capable of the future success of the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. If interested please contact them at 315-415-7932 or email LaFayetteABC1@gmail.com. They are looking forward to passing the torch for the future success of this organization.



Pictured from left to right:
Mackenzie McElhannon,
Secretary, Lisa Shenandoah-
Kurtz, President, Peggy Durant,
Treasurer, Heather Storrer
Castleman, Vice President

GO LANCERS!!



Thank you to this dedicated team who have done so much for the athletic programs at LaFayette. The community is truly grateful for their commitment to the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club and supporting our student athletes.

From Boy Scout Troop 100



BOY SCOUT TROOP 100 FUNDRAISING NOTICE

Troop 100 has a \$2,000 budget gap. Our Scouts want to go to Summer Camp and You Can Help!

The Town Board has given us permission to collect metal during the weekends of March and April 2024.

Call or Text Mr. Borchert at 315.729.9555 to schedule a pickup of your scrap metal.

Examples of Scrap Metal

- **Appliances** — we're ready to pick up your old refrigerator, microwave, oven, dishwasher, washing machine, dryer, air conditioners, water heater, etc.
- **Any Aluminum** — sheet aluminum, car rims, chain link fencing, siding, radiators, etc. It's the most prevalent metal on earth and super recyclable!
- **Automotive and mechanical parts** – perfect for a metal drive.
- **Jewelry and accessories** — ever lost an earring but can't part with the single one or have a damaged necklace, bracelet, money clip, cufflink, ring, or

other accessories? Feel better, we'll gladly recycle them for you.

- **Old chords-** get a new phone but can't use your old charging chords? Broken Christmas lights, lamps or tools with chords? They are great recycling items for us.
- **Pots and pans** – did Santa bring you new pots? We'll take the old ones.
- **Sinks, faucets, pipe scraps** – remodel lately? We'd love your metal.

Have no metal but still want to help us out? You can Venmo our Troop at [@Christian-Borchert](https://www.venmo.com/@Christian-Borchert) or you can write a check for "Troop 100" and Mr. Borchert will gladly pick it up. Thank you for your consideration & support.



—Christian Borchert

From LaFayette Outreach

LaFayette Outreach, a United Way agency, provides a wide variety of social services to the LaFayette community and School District, the Onondaga Nation, and the southern part of Onondaga County. LaFayette Outreach is located at the Church of the Nativity about a mile east of LaFayette's Town Center on US Route 20. The pantry serves an average of 1250 meals a month provided by generous donations of non-perishable foods, fresh produce and monetary amounts. **Hours are:** Tuesdays 9:30am to 12noon, 1st and 3rd Thursdays 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Other times may also be arranged by calling the Outreach office. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Non-perishable food donations are accepted in the original unopened packaging during open hours.

The following services are offered or supported by Outreach:

- ◆ Food Pantry
- ◆ Seasonal Aid Programs
- ◆ Referral to Onondaga County agencies
- ◆ Meals-on-Wheels-315-637-5446
- ◆ Women-Infant-Children (WIC)-315-435-3304
- ◆ Friends in Service Here (FISH)-315-696-8659
- ◆ Food \$en\$e-315-696-5092



For information about any of these programs contact the **LaFayette Outreach Office at (315) 677- 5221**

From the Town Historian

The Rise and Fall of the Syracuse-Tully Plank Road

1825 is an important date for LaFayette as that is when it became a town. 1825 is also important to LaFayette as it was the year the Erie Canal was opened. Once again the need for a good connecting thoroughfare from Tully to Syracuse was brought to everyone's attention. The canal opened up new markets that before were inaccessible. In fact, marketing goods from LaFayette to anywhere was a colossal task. Except for the driest time of summer and the coldest time of winter, the roads were a mire of mud making transportation of goods extremely difficult. Despite calls for better roads nothing was done for another 20 years.



Then in 1846, the first plank road in the United States was completed between Salina and Central Square. The next such effort in Onondaga County was the Syracuse and Tully Plank

Road Company organized on December 11, 1847. Nine days later the supervisor of LaFayette signed an agreement with the company authorizing use of the highway through the town. Specifications for the road called for the planks to be made out of hemlock, four inches thick and eight feet long. The stringers upon which the planks were laid would be twelve feet in length, three inches wide and four inches thick. Each mile of highway required 168,980 feet of planks and 14,080 feet of stringers. Tolls were required to pay for the cost and upkeep of the road. As soon as the plank road was opened, it was reported that the running time of the stage coach from Syracuse to Tully had been improved from two miles per hour to five miles per hour. There were some that saw a quick demise for the plank road as a railroad was already being contemplated between Syracuse and Binghamton. For many investors it didn't matter as a good road was wanted immediately to meet the demands of the public. There was time enough to wear out one road and get full pay for all the investments, before



there would be any danger of a railroad. This brings us to the second most important date in LaFayette's history which is 1854. In 1854, a railroad was constructed between Syracuse and Binghamton with a depot built in LaFayette known as LaFayette Station. It later became known as Onativia. The farmers in LaFayette hauled their goods to the railroad instead of using the plank road. Because tolls were down, the Plank Road Company could not afford to make necessary repairs. Rotting stringers and broken planks were not replaced. By 1860, inhabitants along the road were furious over broken wagons, damaged loads and injured animals. A lawsuit was brought against the company; but by 1862, it was referred to as "the old plank road now abandoned". The railroad doomed the plank road, but in another sense it doomed Cardiff. Before the railroad, the hamlet of Cardiff was very prosperous and much bigger than the hamlet of LaFayette. That is because the plank road went from Syracuse to Tully through Cardiff. The railroad chose the route from Syracuse to Tully and points south through Jamesville and Sherman Hollow, thereby causing LaFayette to prosper. Though the railroad lived a longer life than the plank road, it too has faded into the past. LaFayette and Cardiff no longer needs the railroad or the plank road to thrive. Both hamlets are doing very well and are enjoying the reputation of being the crossroads of New York State.



Rick Stout, Historian

From the LaFayette Community Council

Questions about recreational activities can be found 24/7 on the following link www.playlcc.com or by calling the Community Council phone at 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.




New Community Council Website is live! www.playlcc.com

Youth Programs:

Fall Sports: Soccer for pre-K through 6th grade was a great success with over 100 participants. Thanks to our volunteer coaches and parent helpers, we couldn't get this season started without you.

Winter Sports: Wrestling is underway pre-K through 6th with over 45 participants and basketball is underway 1st through 6th with over 100 participants.



Volleyball, softball and baseball registrations will be announced on Facebook and through Parent Square.

Adult Programs:

Basketball: Mondays from 7:00-9:00 PM at Grimshaw Elementary. Participants are asked to register every time they attend.

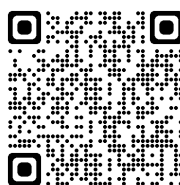


Volleyball: Fridays from 7:00-9:00 PM at Grimshaw Elementary. Participants are asked to register every time they attend.



Announcements:

Town Tree Lighting: Great turnout for the town tree lighting. Thank you to all our volunteers - the treats and hot cocoa were enjoyed by all! If you are able to help with the LCC programs – **AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP** - please contact LCC. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their time and efforts as coaches. Thank you.



Updates on all LCC programs can be found at www.playlcc.com or by scanning the QR Code.

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. **-Hillary Bevens, Secretary**



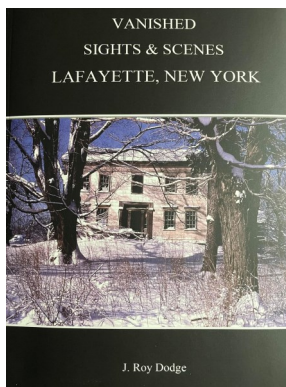
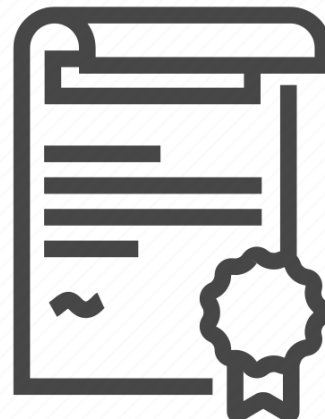
New Scoreboard at Stafford Park for Baseball and Softball

 VOLUNTEER 

From State Assemblyman John Lemondes, Jr.



At the December Town Board Meeting, Supervisor Bill McConnell presented a Citation issued by Assemblyman John Lemondes, Jr. honoring Jackie Bush Roorda for her many years of distinguished service as the Town of LaFayette Clerk.
Congratulations Jackie!



Roy Dodge's latest book of LaFayette pictures, Vanished Sights and Scenes, is available at the Town Clerk's office. Still in stock are the four earlier books: The Conklin Mills and Falls, Views and Vistas of Onativia, Cardiff and its Environs and Historic Photos of a Four Cornered Hamlet. ***All have been discounted to a price of \$20.00 and no tax.***



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**



LaFayette Fire Department

February 13
12:30 pm—4:30 pm

From the LaFayette Athletic Department

LaFayette High School Wellness Center

State of the art facility and equipment; treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, weight machines, free weights and more.

- Always free, no charge
- Come and go when you want, no classes, no sign up
- Open Monday and Thursday nights 5:30—7:30 pm (except when school is closed)
- LaFayette High School North Parking lot, 3rd door, downstairs

Come check us out!

Questions? Contact:

Charmaine: ccaffrey@twcny.rr.com

Jackie: pcpicciano@yahoo.com



From LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

2023 - A Productive Year of Conservation for the Town of LaFayette!

The LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC) is comprised of 11 Town residents with wide ranging backgrounds, who work on projects that help our Town conserve its natural resources and protect its environment. Re-organized in 2020, the LACC ramped up its productivity such that 2023 was a banner year for accomplishments, as highlighted below:

Energy Reduction

- Jan By agreeing to benchmark its energy consumption, our Town was designated by NYSERDA as a Clean Energy Community (CEC) and awarded a \$5k grant.
- Mar - Nov The \$5k CEC grant was used to cover all the Town's cost to convert its street lights to LED lights, saving ~\$7,700 per year on electricity costs. The Town reduced its energy consumption and received more points toward another NYSERDA grant.

Renewable Energy

- Jan After subscribing its electric accounts to a local solar project, our Town reduced its carbon footprint (its use of fossil fuels), started saving \$4,700 per year on electricity costs, and earned more points toward another NYSERDA grant.
- Jan - Mar Our Town launched its Community Solar campaign with a mailing that informed its residents how they can save on their electric bill. The residents' response to the campaign was the highest the broker ever saw. Because of that, our Town was awarded a second \$5k NYSERDA grant. The grant will be used for the Community Center lighting upgrade. The upgrade will reduce our Town's electricity consumption and earn our Town more points toward another NYSERDA grant.

Trees

- Apr The LACC and the Optimists organized an Arbor Day Celebration where 22 new trees were planted by ~50 residents at Stafford Park. The trees were donated and our Town was awarded a \$1k grant from NYS Urban Forestry Council.
- Sep The LACC completed a survey of trees on all Town-owned properties and submitted its recommendations for maintenance of existing trees and for planting new trees. The Town Board approved the recommendations, which will begin to be implemented in 2024.

Parks

- Jun The LACC posted warning signs at wild parsnips locations at Stafford Park. Wild parsnips are hazardous plants that are invasive in our Town.
- Jul - Sep In coordination with the Optimists, the Stafford Park Memorial Tree & Bench Program continued its second year with the installation of 8 new benches and planting of 4 new trees. Seven memorial trees were planted so far. You will find in this newsletter an announcement that the memorial program has been expanded to include Bailey Park.

The LACC membership is open to Town residents interested in accomplishing the sort of things listed above. Contact the LACC Chairperson, Mark Distler at markdistler@gmail.com.

—Mark Distler



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. It was a great event and we had one of the biggest turn outs in recent years. We would also like to thank the wonderful businesses that helped make it the event that it was: Thorpe Farms, Glazed and Confused Donuts, Endeavor Entertainment, Shute’s Logging, LaFayette Applefest Board of Directors, Mackenzie McElhannon and the Senior Class, and Dave Prince. Check out our Facebook page for pictures from the event.

Closing out the 2023 year also brought out the Optimist Installation Dinner. The club has some new officers for this year and we welcomed new members:

- Dave Reynolds
- Dan Cameron

The club also presented its annual awards; the President’s Award to Ken Gardiner; and the Optimist of the Year award to Joe Barry.

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 6th, 2024. Winterfest is back again and will be on February 17th. Many of the events that were at Winterfest last year will be back this year. We hope to see everyone at this wonderful event.

—David Coakley

2024 LaFayette Optimist Officers

President	Wayne Brennan
Vice President	Kevin Lerch
Secretary	David Coakley
Treasurer	Ken Gardiner
Park Director	Jerry Marzo
Board Members	Steve Borte Doug Kautz Frank Gordnier

Promise yourself...

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

– The Optimist Creed



From the 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, NY. Meetings typically take place at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Offsite meetings typically have an earlier start time. Guests are



welcome and Membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For

information please contact, Cathy Nagel 315-677-9342 or email to CEN42085@aol.com. —Patricia Kroneck

February 20, 2024	6:00 pm	Carol Watson’s Greenhouse	Carol Watson on “How to keep houseplants healthy”
March 19, 2024	7:00 pm	LaFayette Firehouse	Michael Warrant Thomas will present :”Less lawn, Invasive plants and fostering”

Many thanks to members who revamped the garden in front of the new Fire Department’s sign. They include Donna Kraft, Dianne Bordoni, Rosemary Wainwright, Pat Carey, Kathie Forrest, Kate Farrar, Cathy and Dale Nagel. Also thank you to Don Stanton of Tanglewood Gardens for donating 11 bags of Seven Year Gold Compost for tilling into the soil. —Cathy Nagel

From the LaFayette Seniors



Fun for Seniors

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).

At our November Meeting the trip coordinators for both LaFayette and Tully reviewed the trips they have scheduled for 2024.

Jennifer Hopper, Trip Coordinator for LaFayette, mentioned that she has four trips in the works for

2024: Boat cruise on Canandaigua Lake; New England 8-day cruise in August; REV Theater in October; and, Christmastime in Cape May, NJ, in December.

Esther Hoose, Trip Coordinator for Tully, mentioned that she also has four trips in the works for 2024: In May, a trip to Lancaster PA, including the Railroad Museum, and Sight and Sound Theater for Performance of **Daniel**; a Mystery Trip in June; a trip to Seneca Niagara Casino to see a performance of the **Bachelors of Broadway** in August; and, an 11-Day trip in October to follow Route #66 out West and take in all the sights along the way.

Our LaFayette Seniors 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!

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

Memorial Tree and Bench Program at Bailey Park

The memorial tree & bench program at Stafford Park has been expanded to include Bailey Park. Residents can now sponsor a tree or bench in memory of a loved one at either park.

To learn more about the program

Online at: <https://www.townoflafayette.com/memorial-program---treebench.html>

Hardcopy: Contact Town Clerk at 315-677-3674

Annual Deadlines for Sponsorship Requests

Trees: March 1 (Spring planting)

August 1 (Fall planting)

Benches: April 1

In Loving
Memory




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

Columbian Presbyterian Church

February 14	Ash Wednesday Celebration	7:00 pm soup at 6:00 pm	Columbian Presbyterian Church 315-677-3293 cpresbyt@twcny.rr.com columbianpresbyterianchurch.com 
March 12	Chicken & Biscuit Supper	4:00—7:00pm	
March 23	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	
March 24	Lent—Holy Week begins	8:00 am	
March 31	Celebration of the Empty Tomb	8:00 am	

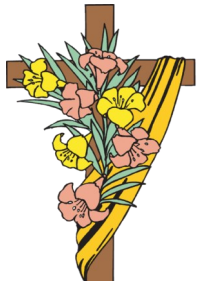
LaFayette Alliance Church

Sundays	Sunday School	9:00—10:00 am	LaFayette Alliance Church 315-677-9810 www.lafayettealliance.org  FREE CLOTHING giveaway
Sundays	Coffee and Fellowship	10:00-10:25 am	
1st & 3rd Sundays	Ignite Prayer Ministry	6:00 pm	
Thursdays	Bible Quizzing	6:00—8:00 pm	
March 9	Clothing Give-away	9:00 am—noon	
March 16	Pancake Breakfast	8:30 am—11:00 am	
1st & 3rd Wednesdays	Olympians Childrens Ministry	6:30 pm—8:00 pm	
Tuesdays	Women's Ministries	1:30—2:30 pm	
1st Tuesday	Women's Discipleship/Mentoring	7:00 pm—8:00 pm	
Wednesdays	Summit Youth Group 7-12 grade	6:30 pm	

Onativia United Methodist Church

Onativia United Methodist Church
 onativiachurch@hotmail.com

St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity

January 7	Epiphany Mass	9:30 am	St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity 315-677-3439 www.stjosephslafayette.org 
February 14	Ash Wednesday	TBD (Lent begins)	
March 29	Good Friday	TBD	
March 31	Easter Mass	9:30 am	
Sundays	Faith Formation Class	10:20 am (after Mass)	
Sundays	Confirmation Classes	Time as scheduled	
Mondays	Holy Hour	6:00 pm	
2nd Sunday of the month	Coffee Hour	10:30 (after Mass)	

We welcome Fr. Dennis Walker to St. Joseph's Church

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

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WINTER 2024

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

E V E N T S

January 6	Optimist Basketball Tourney	LaFayette Jr/Sr High School	9:00 am—Done
January 9	Organization Mtg/Town Board Mtg.	LaFayette Town Hall	5:00 pm—6:00 pm refreshments 6:30 pm—Board Meeting
January 28	VFW Pancake Breakfast	LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—12:00 pm
February 13	Red Cross Blood Drive	LaFayette Fire Dept.	12:30—4:30 pm
February 13	Town Board Meeting	LaFayette Town Hall	6:30 pm
February 17	Optimist Winterfest	Stafford Park	3:00 pm—7:00 pm
February 25	VFW Pancake Breakfast	LaFayette VFW	8:00 am—12:00 pm
March 9	Clothing Give-away	LaFayette Alliance Church	9:00 am—12:00 pm
March 12	Chicken & Biscuit Supper	Columbian Presbyterian Church	4:00—7:00 pm
March 12	Town Board Meeting	LaFayette Town Hall	6:30 pm
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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>
X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/TownofLaFayette>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/townoflafayetteny>

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS
MARCH 8
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INFOOFFICER@TOWNOFLAFAYETTE.COM**