

LAFAYETTE'S ABOUT TOWN NEWSLETTER - YEARS AT A GLANCE 2025-2026

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

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

2026 Election Schedule

**Spring Primary (if needed) Feb. 17th - Spring April 7th
Partisan Primary Aug 11 – General Nov 3rd
Mark your calendars!!!**

HELP US HELP YOU!!

9-1-1 EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT ADDRESS SIGNS AVAILABLE

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

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

By Supervisor Larson

PRTLU Commission (Parks, Recreation, Tourism, Land Use) By Commission Chair Scott Faris

This Commission is made up of town residents appointed to 3-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission meets at the Town Hall at 7pm on the second Monday of each month. These meetings are open to the public. This Commission is charged with assisting in the orderly operation and development of the Town as it relates to these subjects. The Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors who is the decision-making body. Parks include the Brick Boat Landing and Ray's Beach. Recreation and Tourism include the organized youth activities and leagues (soccer, t-ball, softball), ball courts near the Town hall, hiking trails, a disc golf course, lake activities including improvements of water quality, the reduction of invasive species, and the reduction of shoreline erosion and our two public boat landings. Groomed cross country skiing and snow shoeing trails and an ice rink are available when weather conditions permit.

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

Over the summer and into the fall we reaffirmed our support for the LWIPA (Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association) and the LWSP (Lake Wissota Stewardship Project). Signage for the Bike route, Ray's Beach, the recreation building and the disc golf course were all completed. We continue to improve the disc golf course, paved the soccer parking lot and enlarged the softball dugouts. Another active project includes opening of the Sandra Harvey Recreation Area walking trails, that is located in the LeMay addition. We will continue to promote Tourism with Lafayette as well.

THANK YOU EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER MAKES A GREAT COMMUNITY!

Many thanks to all our local organizations for their time, energy, and money spent on projects that enhance our town. And THANK YOU to our residents that help maintain the beauty and peace for us all in Lafayette. Your service and help are appreciated, and your help makes a big difference. Enjoy our playground areas, beach, disc golf court, horseshoe pits, pickle ball and basketball court. Residents may purchase a Brick Boat Landing sticker for \$ 5.00 for the year and enjoy the lake.

History Lesson -1991 Equalized values in Town of Lafayette were \$111,131,550.00. Value in 2024-year end is \$1,252,766,900.00 (billion). The Tax levy in 1991 was \$153,653.00, the 2025 proposed levy is \$1,726,182.00. Our population in 1991 was little over 4,000 and in 2025 its 6,525 Lafayette is a growing community.

The **BATEMAN CEMETERY** is located on the corner of Cty Hwy X & Cty Hwy K. It is owned and maintained by the Town of Lafayette for the benefit of all citizens and is a non-denominational cemetery. The price of 1 plot is \$ 500.00. There are 4 plots per lot. Rules & regulations are set to insure proper care per the Cemetery Ord. Upon payment a Bateman Cemetery Deed will be given to the purchaser noting the Lot, Blk & Section. **CONTACT CEMETERY SEXTON -PETE KRUMENAUER 715 559-0030 FOR INFO.**

ATV / UTV'S IN LAFAYETTE

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

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



ICE SKATING RINK

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

A stormwater pond is a best management practice for stormwater quality and control. Stormwater ponds help to stop pollutants from stormwater runoff, before they reach bodies of water, by providing a permeable surface that acts as a filtering device. They are important in areas where there is not an adequate amount of green space like near roadways, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and other impervious surfaces. Stormwater ponds help to keep our waterways clean by acting as the first line of defense against pollution. Stormwater control is required by ordinance for land disturbing activities equal to or greater than 1-acre.

Subdivisions in Lafayette all have storm water ponds or ditches designed to handle major storm events. It is important that residents **DO NOT** put grass clippings, leaves or brush in these ponds or ditches which could hinder water flow causing backups and possible flooding. Remember in 2018 flooding along 50th Ave. Remember only water goes in these ponds and ditches. **DO NOT** drive through any of these ponds with any type of vehicle, including UTVs ATVs and snowmobiles.

Stormwater Management in Town of Lafayette

The Town of Lafayette has a stormwater ordinance that requires stormwater management control for sites that propose land disturbance activity equal to or greater than 1-acre. This management includes the implementation of best management practices to treat and attenuate stormwater prior to discharging from the site. These practices typically include stormwater facilities, such as infiltration basins, vegetated swales, wet detention ponds or combination of practices to meet the requirements of the ordinance. Many of these facilities can be seen in commercial developments and subdivisions. After construction, continual maintenance is necessary to ensure the designed functionality of these facilities.

Winter Regulations and Reminders

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

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

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

PLOWING REMINDERS

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

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

Slow down for the safety of all!!

Road Projects 2025-2026 By Chairman Staber

Roads in the NE corner of the Township were paved during the 2025 construction season 70th 71, 72nd 73rd east and west of Hwy K along with 203rd Street. 185th street off 40th Ave, a parking lot at Station 3 along with one of the service roads in Bateman Cemetery. The Parks and Recreation committee also paid for the paving of the parking lot on the south side of the Recreation building by the soccer field.

Plans for 2026 road work include some additional subdivision work off Hwy J, West Hydro Lane or 163rd street, 192nd street off 40th Ave and the Irwin subdivision off 50th Ave. There will be some smaller road projects as dollars permit. We will also be doing some Chip sealing on 50th Ave east of 195th street, 47th Ave and 176th St. With over 92 miles of roads in Lafayette there is never a shortage of road work that needs to be done.

TOWN OF LAFAYETTE SEVERE WEATHER WARNING SIRENS

The Town of Lafayette has been very proactive in helping to notify our residents & visitors of approaching severe weather in our area with the installation of four weather warning sirens. A 3rd warning siren was added in 2018 at the location of 185th Street & 70th Avenue, while a 4th warning siren was added in 2022 at the intersection of County Highway "OO" & 190th Street.

The other two are located, one along County Highway "X" near the Lake Wissota Brick Boat Landing and the other at the Lafayette Fire Station. These warning sirens are activated by the Chippewa County E-911 Emergency Dispatch Center when either a Severe Tornado Warning or a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued for our area by the National Weather Service.

The four sirens are tested on the first Monday of each month at 11:00 am.

By Supervisor Larson

Did 2025 fly by, or, is it just me? I have decided to take my article a different direction this year. It is easy for me to remind everyone how lucky we are as residents of Lafayette to know how wonderful of a community we have to live in. But in another way to look at it is how can I make it a better place maybe for some that are less fortunate than me? How can I make someone's day? How can I make a difference in someone's life? Please think about donating your time to a good cause. Maybe a monetary donation to a charitable foundation or organization? Maybe step up and help someone who you know that maybe is suffering from mental illness or recently lost a loved one and could use your support and help? How about support a family with a Christmas dinner that otherwise can't afford it? People we don't even know face many obstacles in life and are afraid to ask for help. Well...I am here to challenge the residents of Lafayette to find it in your heart to try to help someone less fortunate than you. I can say for a fact that it does make you feel better that you stepped up and helped. Times are tough. We need to step up and support one another instead of tearing each other down. Let's put a smile on someone's face and let them know that they are loved and just as important as the next person. God bless and let's make 2026 the best year yet.

By Supervisor Brennan

Chippewa Fire District Lafayette Station 3

WE NEED YOU - APPLY TODAY (NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY)

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

UPDATED BURNING REGULATIONS

BURNING REGULATIONS UPDATES - Effective 5/2/2022 Chippewa Fire District (CFD) will be following the recommendation of the WI DNR for all daily times and open burning restrictions. Hours are posted daily on WI DNR website. **NO BURNING ON SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS, RED FLAG BURNING PERIODS OR AIR QUALITY ALERTS.**

Open Burning: Burning is allowed for non-commercial purposes without a permit provided materials are sized according to DNR and are within the daily posted times. All burning shall be conducted only on the property on which materials were generated.

Special Permits: Upon CFD inspection as requested by the property owner, special permits may be issued for burning outside the posted burn times, piles and land clearing or prescribed burns exceeding the maximum size limit. Maximum pile sizes and acreages are limited by geographic area and indicated within the daily burning restrictions.

Agricultural Lands Burning on 10 Acres or more: (No special permit if it complies with this section)

Burning of vegetation, limbs, and trees for clearing lands is allowed after 9:30am during low fire danger periods as identified on WI DNR website, provided winds stay below 10mph and all posted condition are met per the ordinance.

PLEASE DO NOT FILL IN ROADSIDE DITCHES

Town Supervisors and Public Works employees have noticed an increasing number of roadside ditches being filled in, presumably for aesthetic purposes to create a more level approach from residents' yards to the road. Roadside ditches offer a variety of significant environmental and infrastructural benefits, which is why residents/property owners are requested to NOT fill in the roadside ditches. Primarily, these ditches serve as an effective means of water management. During heavy rainfall or snowmelt, they help to channel excess water away from roads, preventing flooding and reducing the risk of road damage. This ensures safer driving conditions and prolongs the lifespan of road surfaces, which would otherwise be prone to erosion or collapse due to standing water.

Moreover, roadside ditches play a vital role in environmental protection. They help in the filtration of water by allowing it to slowly percolate through the soil, which can trap pollutants such as oils, sediments, and chemicals before the water reaches larger water bodies, such as Lake Wissota. This natural filtration process contributes to cleaner rivers and streams, such as Paint Creek, Stillson Creek, Yellow River, and other contributors to Lake Wissota.

In rural and agricultural areas, roadside ditches also aid in managing excess runoff from fields, preventing soil erosion and the loss of valuable topsoil. Additionally, they often provide habitat for wildlife, such as small mammals, amphibians, and insects, supporting biodiversity.

In sum, roadside ditches are essential components of the Town's infrastructure. They contribute to water management, environmental health in our rivers, creeks, and Lake Wissota, and road safety, making them an integral part of sustainable land use planning.

Most roadside ditches are within the road right of way, which on Town roads is controlled by the Township. In most cases, the right of way extends 33 feet from the center of the roadway. A significant portion of the Town's annual budget is directed toward road maintenance. Please understand that your investment of time and money to fill in a ditch may be undone should it be deemed detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the road surface, or a safety concern for drivers due to standing water on the road.

By Supervisor Mathwig

Lafayette Recreation 2025 Wrap-up.

By Bruce Kyes Rec Director

Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Program saw strong participation in 2025. A total of 846 players participated on 98 teams.

Spring Soccer had a record 373 players filling 46 teams. Fall Soccer registered 240 players making 30 teams. One notable program change was the addition of an 'All Girls' Division for the U8 and U10 players. Interest and feedback from parents and players were very positive. More players are expected to join next year as Girls Soccer continues to grow.

The Summer Tee Ball League was well attended with 160 players and 16 teams. Lafayette baseball and softball programs saw 73 players with 6 teams. More instructional baseball teams were added. A Minors team is being planned for next season.

In 2025, several improvements were made at the Lafayette Sports facilities. The softball field dugouts were expanded, and the old wooden player benches were replaced. A concrete pad was placed inside the east batting cage. The old middle baseball field cyclone fencing was replaced. Shade trees were planted near the recreation building playground. Most notably, new blacktop the SE parking lot was blacktopped and lined. The town crew's extra efforts with facility maintenance and general upkeep are much appreciated.

Lafayette Parks and Recreation, through the 'Town of Lafayette', continues to offer youth sports programs for all kids regardless of skills and ability levels. Our youth sports programs are recreationally based with the main focus is on participation, physical activity, and kids having fun. Players come from many nearby communities to participate here. We are very appreciative of the many that help make this such a successful youth sports program.

Looking forward to 2026.

ANNUAL DOG LICENSE REMINDER:

The State of Wisconsin requires dogs to be licensed. The license fees are divided between the Town and the County and help offset the cost of contracting with the County Humane Association; also known as the Howard Gibbs Memorial Animal Shelter, for enforcement and investigations. Our municipality is contracted with the Chippewa Humane Association and any stray dog or cat you recover can be taken to the center free of charge located at 10501 Cty Hwy S South. Residents may also surrender one of their animals for a reduced surrender fee. To report obsessive barking, animals at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal; call Steve at 715-577-0503.

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

Town of Lafayette

5765 197th Street

Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Phone 715-723-7692

www.lafayettetownship.org

EMAIL: lafayette@lafayettetownship.org

TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Mondays of Month @ 7pm unless otherwise posted

PRTLU MEETINGS

2nd Monday of the Month @ 7pm

TOWN CLERK – Jami Carter

TOWN TREASURER – Lori Hanson

TOWN CHAIRMAN

David Staber – 715 215-0461

TOWN SUPERVISORS

Sharon McIlquham – 715-456-8111

Mark Brennan – 715 829-1736

Thomas Larson – 715 723-4703

Neil Mathwig – 715-559-6018

CEMETERY SEXTON

Pete Krumenauer – 715 382-4557

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Steve Dreszel 715 577-0503

RESIDENTS ONLY BRUSH AND LEAF SITE:

SEASONAL PASS \$40.00

DAILY PASS Mon-Wed \$5.00 MUST USE ON DATE PURCHASED-Weekend pass

Thurs-Sun \$15.00

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

Grass clippings, leaves allowed in compost site, they must be removed from plastic bags. Brush, branches, smaller than 6" in diameter, pinecones allowed in brush site. **No** stumps, no tree roots, no timbers, no railroad ties, no trees larger than 6" in diameter are allowed in the brush site. **No** cement blocks, landscaping rocks and/or cement items. **No** garbage, furniture, mattress, sofas, tables, **No** concrete blocks, chunks of cement or rocks are allowed in either one of the sites. Violators will be banned from the site. The **Site is video monitored**.

Please do not share or give out your code number.

Violator's will be banned from the site.

NO COMMERCIAL SERVICE COMPANIES ALLOWED.

Brush site closes on the first significant snow fall or when snowmobile trails open, and re-opens early spring as Mother Nature will allow.

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

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

2026 Annual Meeting - Monday April 20, 2026 at 6:30pm. Town of Lafayette Town Hall at 5765 197th St. The Town board meeting will follow immediately after Annual meeting.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 25TH, 2026 8 am to 3 pm

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

NO GARBAGE, TIRES, BUILDING OR ROOF MATERIALS. Some selected electronics will be accepted.

RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

1ST & 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 4 PM-7 PM

2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 8 AM-1 PM

Please sign in each time you use the recycling center.

APPLIANCES AND TIRES ARE ACCEPTED FOR A FEE

**** NOT ALLOWED ****

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

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

Contract with our licensed garbage haulers:

GFL 715-215-1201

WASTE MGMT 715 720-3392

For items that you cannot recycle contact:

ELECTRONICS: FIRST CHOICE, 715-514-4664

HAZADROUS WASTE: WRR ENVIROMENTAL SVCS, 715 834-9624,

CONCRETE: OLYNICK, 715 668-5211

SHINGLES: SENN BLACKTOP, 715-723-8527.

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