



# LaFayette

## Community Newsletter

Issue 130  
Apr 2025



### From the Town Supervisor

#### ***Celebrate, Celebrate our Bicentennial!***

It only happens once, let's all get on-board the train!  
Many in our Town have been planning events for the past two years to bring a celebration to **YOU** and your family!

***Mark April 15th, 2025, 5:00pm at the LCS Auditorium on your calendar!***

The monthly Town Board meeting will be held on this date just as it was exactly 200 years ago! There is one difference; bringing the past to life and being able to relish in our great history. The doors at the south entrance of the LCS auditorium open at 5:00pm and our Town Ambassadors will welcome you in with a smile and show you the way to a delicious spread of food and refreshments that will be provided by Mr. Walt Nowey from the Big Picture Culinary School.

Volunteer & neighbor, Gregg Shinneman and Mr. Nowey created a delicious celebration menu that includes; cocktail meatballs, Spanish artichoke dip, cheese platter, crudites platter with fresh dill dip, smashburgers, BBQ Pulled Pork, blackened chicken thigh with Chipotle mayo, salt potato bar, lemonade, ice tea, and strawberry drinks! And if you still have space for more, dessert is a super appetizing Apple Crisp Cookie Cup! If we can't get you to a meeting with this menu, nothing will! Come Join us!



Sit back and enjoy food and refreshments and listen to the sounds of the LaFayette Community Band! As always, you will find their music and production to be a wonderful experience! They will play from 5:00 – 6:00pm.

Next up in the program will be the arrival of the Marquis de LaFayette at 6:00pm to begin the evening with a rendition of his speech to the citizens of Central New York during his farewell tour of 1824-1825. As a side note, you can read more about this online at <https://thelafayettetrail.org>. The LaFayette Trail has partnered with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse to create a network of markers throughout the 24 states visited by LaFayette. People in these parts were so enamored with LaFayette that our Town was named after him as was the village of Fayetteville, and Syracuse's Fayette Street and Fayette Park.

Following LaFayette's speech, there will be remarks from our Town Historian, Rick Stout along with a video of over 80 historical photos from Historian Emeritus J. Roy Dodge's collection that have never been shown in public before!

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# From the Town Supervisor cont'd...

Two lucky raffle winners will receive handmade quilts donated by Sue Stout and Dale Shinneman. Proceeds from Sue's sales will be donated to a local charity! Lastly, we need items or ideas of what can be placed in our Time Capsule that will be placed in the Library. Please bring your ideas!

Now, most of you don't attend the normal dull, business oriented monthly Town Board meeting unless you have "skin in the game" and you are on the agenda! But, we all have skin in the game at this meeting, the History of Our Town's Naming & more! Hold off on putting your jammies on and join us from 5:00 – 6:30pm for our turning of history's page! See you all there, I dare ya!

## Next up in the lineup is our Annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th!

Our goal and hope is to exceed the 2,000 parade goer's that attended the 1957 parade that celebrated the 200th birthday of the Marquis de LaFayette. Video of that parade can be found on the 200th Anniversary Page on the Town's website at: [200th Anniversary Information - Town of LaFayette, NY](#). There is a sense of pride here with this endeavor – we can do this and demonstrate to Central New York and beyond just who we are. Our local VFW Post 1955 has been working on the details of the parade since February. Let's **ALL** step up to the challenge to Honor our Fallen Heroes while also placing a celebratory focus on our 200-year birthday! **Let's each make this "call to action" to at least attend and line our roads with pride!**



We are working to have more of a military presence in the parade, a legendary drum and bugle marching band, a possible War Bird Fly By and of course the VFW chicken barbecue following the parade – lets be 4,985 residents strong together and, bring out the past when **ALL** of our organizations would march in the parade, make a float for the parade, or simply have a presence that stands out with pride. **Let's do this!**

## A week later, is our annual Town Community Day that will be held on Saturday, May 31st!

**COMMUNITY DAY 2025**

Look for a 200 year celebration tent/area with artifacts, photo's, etc. and the arrival of the Marquis de LaFayette on horseback! More information to come, check the Town website's 200th Anniversary page and make sure you follow us on Facebook and Instagram; QR Codes below. During the morning of Community Day, there will be a historical cemetery walk of the LaFayette Rural Cemetery that will be guided by Emeritus Historian J. Roy Dodge.

## The Grand Daddy of LCS Class Reunions is August 9, 2025 at the LaFayette Inn lower ballfield!

We have a committee led by Tammy Moltion-Egan ('77) and Cheryl McConnell-Saidel ('76) that are working



to bring this together! Plan on attending and please encourage your classmates to attend and to make this a memorable occasion! This is a family event for alumni, faculty, their families and parents. The LaFayette Inn has stepped up to sponsor this event from 3:00-8:00pm with music, food, cold beverages, games and a good time for all! We are working to keep the cost low and to raise the bar in **FUN for ALL!** Please



Facebook



Reunion Facebook Group



Instagram

consider joining the Grand Daddy of LCS Class Reunions Page on Facebook to stay abreast of all the details for this amazing event to celebrate our 200th Anniversary. Reunion chair contact: Tami Moltion Egan at [tje4481@gmail.com](mailto:tje4481@gmail.com) —**Bill McConnell**



# From the Town Clerk

## ***Spring is here and Summer is just around the corner - "Let's get the parties started!"***

Thanks to the LaFayette Optimist Club for Stafford Park and the two pavilions there. They book up quickly with graduation parties, family & class reunions, birthday & anniversary parties and even weddings. If you are interested in the pavilions or the newly renovated Community Center, I urge you to contact our office to reserve them for your gathering. The fee for residents is still only \$100.00, non-residents or businesses \$250 plus the deposit.

### **UPSTATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S MAMMOGRAPHY VAN**

Upstate University Hospital's mobile Mammography Van will be here on 4/14/25 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 or online:

[www.upstate.edu/noexcuses](http://www.upstate.edu/noexcuses)



### **SHREDDING / MEDICATION DISPOSAL / TORN OR TATTERED FLAGS DROP OFF**



May 10th, 2025 from 9:00am-12:00pm / LaFayette Town Hall-Upper Parking Lot

This is a free service to residents, including businesses. Bring your personal paperwork, business files, tax returns, statements & bills, etc. to the Town Hall upper parking lot. Watch your papers be shredded on site, via a video camera attached to the shredding truck. It is then locked and taken to a waste management site for recycling. This saves you time and saves our environment and gives you piece of mind that your personal documents are secure.

### **MEDICATION DISPOSAL**



Is your medicine cabinet full of unwanted and expired drugs or medications you no longer use? Seven out of

10 people who abuse prescription drugs get them

from friends or relatives. We will be holding our annual expired prescription/non-prescription take back event during the 5/10/25 shredding event. With all of the prescription drug abuse we hear of, let's get them disposed of properly for the safety of our kids, families and environment. What's safe for you might be harmful for someone else, please take advantage of this opportunity.

### **TORN OR TATTERED FLAGS DROP OFF**

For proper disposal of your torn or tattered American Flags, please drop them off at the Town Hall or the secure box under the Library pergola for the WATCH FIRE flag burning ceremony @ Community Day on Saturday, May 31st at Stafford Park.

### **DUMP DAYS AND EARTH DAY CLEANUP**

May 3rd -May 10th, 2025 See Page 5 Highway Department for all details on both events

Another FYI – Nightingale's Hardware Store in Tully and Wegman's accept used batteries

**EARTH DAY LITTER CLEAN UP** – will takes place April 25th & 26th Earth Day Litter Cleanup 2025

(recognized nationally by Keep America Beautiful) for more information <http://ocrra.org/events/earth-day-litter-cleanup/> Working together, nearly 3 million pounds of litter have been collected since the event began.

### **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 Unspayed/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 or after hours in our Dropbox. Forms for new licenses may be downloaded from our website. Please contact Dog Control Officers; Ken Johnson (315) 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. (APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED)
- Routine Passport Processing (APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED)



## From the Town Clerk cont'd...

- 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

[townclerk@townoflafayette.com](mailto:townclerk@townoflafayette.com) or

[deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com](mailto:deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com).

We will be more than happy to assist you.

**RABIES CLINICS** - Onondaga Dept of Health rabies clinics for 2025 have been scheduled.

- April 17—Burnet Park Warming Rm—5:00—7:00 pm—522 Burnet Park Drive, Syracuse
- May 8—Sunnycrest Ice Rink—5:00—7:00 pm—698 Robinson Street, Syracuse
- June 5—Camillus Municipal Bldg.—5:00 7:00 pm 4600 W. Genesee Street, Syracuse

Registration is required: visit

[www.ongov.net/health/env](http://www.ongov.net/health/env) to register.

Did you also know that you can get your pet's rabies vaccine & more done at Tractor Supply, every Thursday between 5:30pm -7 pm (6641 Manlius Center Rd, East Syracuse) by the Pet Vet Affordable Preventative Clinic?

### TRASH / RECYCLING

Any new customers should contact Richard Maxwell, LaFayette Assessor to set up your trash/recycling service. For missed pick-ups; please contact Dependable Disposal directly at (315) 472-7455 Ext 48 (Phil). The hours of pick-up may vary as there is no exact service time, however your bins need to be out the night before or by 5:00 AM. 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.

Questions???. Answers to most questions, forms or information you may need can be found on our website at [www.townoflafayette.com](http://www.townoflafayette.com), or email us at [townclerk@townoflafayette.com](mailto:townclerk@townoflafayette.com) (Kristin) [deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com](mailto:deputytownclerk@townoflafayette.com) (Tonya) or call (315) 677-3674.

Don't forget to check out the community calendar on [www.townoflafayette.com](http://www.townoflafayette.com) so you don't miss out on the many activities and festivities that take place in the months to come in our wonderful Town. Please be safe, happy, healthy and kind!



Kristin Colburn/Tonya Farewell

### PASSPORT DAY



It was such a huge success the 1st time we have decided to do it again!

When: Saturday, April 12, 2025 8:00 am—Noon

Where: LaFayette Town Hall (2577 US Route 11N, LaFayette, NY 13084)

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED—WE WILL NOT ACCEPT WALK INS

Please call 315-677-6374 to set up your appointment and find out what is required for your passport appointment.

### ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING TAX EXEMPTIONS



(including STAR, Senior STAR, enhanced STAR, disability, military and agricultural) should be directed to our Town Assessor, Richard Maxwell



Phone: 315-677-3420

Cell: 978-771-3016

Email: [assessor@townoflafayette.com](mailto:assessor@townoflafayette.com)

# From the Highway Department

As each day passes we are getting closer to spring again. We hope everyone is well and safe after this winter that brings back memories. We have some changes and dates to remember as we proceed into spring.



- **Annual Brush Pick-up:** Will start on April 14th thru May 1st. **All brush must be out on your road side by April 14th**, to save money due to fuel cost and preparations for paving we would like to make one trip around our town. Please place your brush butt end first towards the road and no longer than 8’ (please no bags of leaves or other debris). This brush will be recycled into mulch and provided to the residents free of charge at the Highway Garage starting on May 1st. If you miss our annual brush pick-up you can bring it to the Town Clean-up Days and dump it.
- **Earth Day: April 26th**, Please Help Clean-Up Our Town, the highway will be open Saturday April 26 from 9 am till 2 pm. You can register with OCRRA at <https://ocrra.org/ocrra-earth-day-2025-litter-cleanup/>
- **Town Clean-Up Days:** Will start on Saturday May 3th and end on May 10th. We will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday May 3th and May 10th, and 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm Monday May 5th thru Friday May 9th. Closed on Sunday. Please have your ID ready at the gate.
- Any questions, please call Steve Robson (Highway Superintendent) or Don Skinner (Deputy Superintendent) at 315-677-9535.

**WE NO LONGER ACCEPT**

All E-WASTE including TVs Please visit [www.sunnking.com/events](http://www.sunnking.com/events) for information where you can recycle all of your electronical waste.

**HOUSE HOLD BATTERIES SUCH AS**

(AA, AAA, C and D ECT.) Please contact OCCRA for disposal. Any questions, please call Steve Robson (Highway Superintendent) or Don Skinner (Deputy Superintendent) at 315-677-9535.

The Highway Department would like to thank our residents for their patience this winter and would ask the same as we start our road work this spring and summer. Stay Safe!

—Steve Robson  
Highway Superintendent

## Town Clean Up Days—Groth Road Landfill

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Saturday, May 3 & Saturday, May 10 | 9:00 am—4:00 pm    |
| Monday, May 5 thru Friday, May 9   | 12:00 noon—6:00 pm |

Closed Sundays - Please have your I.D. ready

| YES WE WILL ACCEPT   | NO WE WILL NOT ACCEPT  |
|--|--|
| Batteries—only 6V and 12V ATV, motorcycle, car and truck, etc. | All e-waste (computers, smaller servers, tv’s, monitors, keyboards, mice, fax machines, printers/scanners, phones, vcr’s dvr’s, dvd players, game consoles, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers |
| Paint cans (empty with lids off)                               | Any kind of glass to include windows   |
| Fuel tanks (empty, 1 foot hole in them)                        | Any kind of wood   |
| Plastic pipe, wire or cable under 8’ long                      | Fencing  |
| Refrigerators, freezers, humidifiers, microwaves               | Insulation   |
| Mattresses, couches, recliners                                 | Construction materials (i.e. sheetrock)  |
| All metals, nails and screws if contained                      | Household batteries (such as AA, AAA, C and D, etc.  |

### Tires are accepted with the following fees

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Small Tires to 14”                             | \$3 each    |
| Large Tires 15” - 20”                          | \$5 each    |
| Extra Large Tires—Dump Truck & Heavy Equipment | \$10 and up |

# From LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

## Stormwater and Avoiding Unintended Consequences

Two things we all know are that water flows downhill and follows the path of least resistance. During heavy rain events, the runoff of water - along with the sediment, debris, logs and rocks it carries - erodes the banks of creeks and streams. The banks fail and water flows in new, unexpected directions, perhaps toward a home, barn, road, or bridge. Heavy rain events, the result of the more extreme weather we're experiencing due to climate change, are occurring more and more frequently. Actions we take can also change the ways stormwater drains.

We all live either on top, along the sides, or at the bottom of the hills surrounding the Tully and Butternut Valleys. So, stormwater drainage is an issue that affects everyone in Town.

## Runoff Management Decisions Can Have Unintended Consequences

A few years ago a landowner here in LaFayette installed a new array of ditches and swales on their property to control water runoff. When the intense rain event of late June-early July 2017 occurred, the stormwater ran off their land beautifully.

Unfortunately, it ran onto a neighbor's property carrying with it soil, logs rocks, and boulders and damaging the neighbor's yard, driveway and road. The neighbor had never before experienced damage from stormwater coming from this direction.

On a smaller scale, another LaFayette landowner filled a low, swampy area on his land to make that area more useable. Shortly thereafter, well-established decorative bushes and trees on a neighbor's property died because their roots were flooded and another neighborhood across the street realized their side yard had become permanently squishy and soggy.

## Flood Prevention Tips and Resources

Preventing flooding from stormwater or land modifications starts with the landowner and/or resident being aware of how water flows off their property and how their decisions can affect the flow off. Here are some examples of land use modifications that could have unintended consequences for their property and for neighbors downstream:

- Filling in wet (low) areas,
- Tree harvesting that does not leave some trees standing and results in soil erosion during rain events (the tree roots are no longer holding the soil in place),
- Property clearing/regrading without a silt fence or ground cover,
- Changing the path of a stream channel or ditch (can result in change in direction or change in the velocity of the water), and
- Blocking culverts or ditches.

Fortunately, technical (and sometimes financial) resources are available to help LaFayette landowners and work with them to implement projects that both alleviate runoff problems and benefit the land and watershed without resulting in problems for neighbors. These organizations can help to evaluate current land use problems, provide technical assistance and make recommendations for future land use changes. Here are links to five such agencies that are active in LaFayette:

### **Pennsylvania State University Extension, Stormwater Basics:**

<https://extension.psu.edu/stormwater-basics>

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Programs:**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-programs>

### **Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District:**

<https://www.ocswcd.org/>

### **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service:**

<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

### **and the New York Field Office:**

<https://www.fws.gov/program/new-york-partners-fish-and-wildlife/what-we-do>

### **Forest Stewardship Program, New York State Department of Conservation:**

[https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/private-forest-management#Forest\\_Stewardship\\_Program](https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/private-forest-management#Forest_Stewardship_Program)

**LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission  
(LACC)**

## LaFayette Senior Citizens Trips:

Vermont—New Hampshire—June 16-20, 2025

Seneca Cruise—August 7, 2025

Washington DC Trip—November 7-10, 2025

A Very Barry Christmas Show—December 11, 2025

For details visit the Senior Citizens page on the Town website at:

[LaFayette Senior Citizens - Town of LaFayette, NY](http://www.lafayette-ny.com/senior-citizens)



## Open House

The LaFayette Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on April 26th, 2025 at Station 1 at 2444 US Route 11. We have baskets to raffle off, donated by various local businesses. We'll have light refreshments, and we will have a Bounce House set up for children's entertainment. We will also have a few demonstrations of

equipment and descriptions of specific job functions. And, of course, we'll have a table set up for new member applications! Come visit us from 11am-3pm to see what we do!"



**We Need**

**YOU!**



## Memorial Tree and Bench Program

Deadlines for the memorial tree & bench program at Stafford Park and Bailey Park is below.

To learn more about the program and to submit sponsorship requests access the following link or QR Code.

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

Hardcopy: Contact Town Clerk at 315-677-3674

### Deadlines for Sponsorship Requests

Trees: June 1

Benches: May 1



## From Southern Hills Wind Watch

Palmer Capital's proposed wind turbine project for Tully, Lafayette, and Otisco continues to move through the permitting process. One of the most critical steps is their application to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES). Tracking their progress is essential to understanding where they stand and how we as a community can respond.

For updates and more information, visit our website:

[www.southernhillswindwatch.com](http://www.southernhillswindwatch.com)



### Why Monitoring the Matter Master Is Crucial

(A link to the Matter Master can be found under NYS Filings.)

The Matter Master tracks every filing, submission, and decision related to this project. Keeping a close eye on these updates allows us to stay proactive, respond effectively, and ensure our community's concerns are heard at every stage.





# From the Safety Officer



## ***Did you know March is National Ladder Safety Month?***

In the USA last year there were more than 160,000 emergency room-treated injuries and 300 deaths that were caused by falls from ladders. Ladder Safety

Month was designed to raise awareness of ladder safety and to decrease ladder-related injuries and fatalities.

### ***What are some ladder safety tips?***

1. Purchasing a ladder.
  - a. Read the "reach height" on the label attached to the ladder. This will be shorter than the ladder's height since you should not climb the last 2-3 rungs on a ladder. You also lose height when a ladder is properly leaned against a wall. For example, a 24' ladder will be about 4 inches short of reaching 24' above the ground (if properly leaned against a wall. See 3a. below).
  - b. Aluminum and fiberglass are good material choices. Aluminum is a favorite for very long ladders due to its lightweight. However, fiberglass does not transmit electricity. If you will be working near power lines or doing electrical work then fiberglass should be your choice.
  - c. Read the maximum weight on the ladder's label. Do not consider only your weight. Heavier people may use your ladder. Also, you may carry heavy objects up the ladder for certain jobs.
  - d. Look for manufacturing defects such as cracks, chips, sharp edges, etc.
  - e. Inspect the ladder for non-slip pads at the bottom of the ladder rails and on the steps.
2. What should you inspect before climbing a ladder?
  - a. Always inspect the ladder for damage on the rungs, rail, or pads.
  - b. Look for cracks, corrosion, dents, bends, sharp edges, hinge damage, and frayed rope.
3. How should you set up a ladder before climbing it?
  - a. The ladder's base should be 1 foot away from the wall for every 4 feet you climb upward (from the top of the ladder straight down to the ground). For example, if the ladder touches a height 24 feet above the ground then move the ladder's base 6 feet away from the wall ( $24/4 = 6$ ).
- b. Be sure stepladder hinges are fully open and never stand on the very top of the ladder.
- c. Place the ladder on a level, dry, sturdy surface. If possible put the legs in two level ground holes or try to level the ground. Leg height adjusters can be purchased and attached. Do not use narrow leveling objects under the legs such as fire bricks or 2x4's.
- d. Always check your environment for electrical wires and nearby ground traffic.
- e. Allow the ladder to extend 3 feet (about 3 steps) beyond the roof level (beyond gutters) if you are going on a roof. Use a "ladder hook" to keep the ladder from slipping or moving left or right.
4. How should you climb up and down a ladder?
  - a. Always maintain three points of contact with the ladder when you climb (both hands on the rail and one foot on a step or both feet on the step and one hand on the rail).
  - b. Keep your belt buckle half way between the rails when climbing to keep a center balance.
  - c. Climb slowly, don't climb the last 2-3 steps, miss the last step, or wear flip-flops.
5. How to work while on a ladder
  - a. Never overreach with tools and keep your body and feet between the two side rails.
  - b. Use a ladder hook or tie the ladder to something sturdy to stabilize the ladder.
  - c. Use a tool belt (not overloaded) or hoist tools up with a rope instead of carrying them.
  - d. Do not climb in bad weather (ex. rain storms, high winds).
  - e. If possible, have a person as a spotter at the bottom of the ladder.
  - f. Always face toward the ladder. Don't lean out or stand facing away from the ladder.
  - g. Avoid using electric tools with electric cords. Properly use bucket hooks when painting.

**Stay Safe,**  
**Stephen Pitoniak**  
**Town of LaFayette Chief Safety Officer**



## Stock Cars Roar in LaFayette

### *A Brief History of the LaFayette Speedway-by Gregory Titus, Former Town Historian*

From 1949-1956 on Sunday afternoons from May through October, a roar of stock car engines could be heard just south of the dead end on Persse Road. This was the location of the Lafayette Speedway. The track was owned by Jack Brandt who resided on Eager Road. In the late 1940's Mr. Brandt was hired by the Indian Motorcycle Company as a test driver. He would enter races trying out the latest models for his employer. At that time there was a shortage of motorcycle racing venues, so Brandt bought an old highway grader and cut out a ½ mile oval on the hillside above his residence and, in 1947, he opened the LaFayette Speedway as a motorcycle track. By 1949, stock car racing was gaining popularity and Mr. Brandt began holding car races in addition to motorcycles. To accommodate the stock cars, improvements were made to the facility. The track was widened. An announcer's platform and a snack bar were constructed as well as the addition of safety fencing to protect the spectators. The track was an elongated oval running north and south. The terrain was steeply sloped directly to the east so if a racer left the track on the backstretch a rollover accident was very possible, adding to the excitement for both driver and spectator. The pit area was located just off the 4<sup>th</sup> turn. There was no seating, therefore, spectators would bring blankets and sit on the ground or watch the action from their cars in the adjacent parking lot. Admission was \$1.50 for adults. Drawings for door prizes were held each week during the racing season.

A typical racing card would include 3 ten lap qualifying heats, 2 semi-final heats, a consolation heat, and the final or the feature event. Prize money was paid from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> places in each heat. Winnings barely covered the costs of racing for the owners and drivers. Bragging rights were far superior to money for most participants. Two or three times a season, Mr. Brandt would organize a feature race for the women called "Powder Puff" races. There were usually 6-10 entries, mostly wives of drivers, who would borrow cars and equipment from the men for a 12-lap feature.



The drivers organized a mutual benefit club called the "LaFayette Stock Car Racing Club". Its function was to work with the management to oversee the competition of LaFayette Speedway. The club had a "Technical Committee" which checked the specs on each car in an effort to promote fair racing and sportsmanship. Each racing season there were two 50 lap features, one at mid-season and one called the Harvest Championship to finish up the year. These races usually had corporate sponsors, so the purses were larger and trophies were awarded. Yearly trophies were also given out for Track Champion based on the points accumulated by order of finish for each race during the year. LaFayette Speedway had its share of damaged cars, but there was never a serious injury to any driver. One of the most serious injuries was to a woman in the crowd and unrelated to any race. She was seated on the hillside when a parked car's hand brake malfunctioned, and it coasted toward the track and ran over the woman. She was caught up under the car and dragged about 100 feet. She was badly bruised and suffered a broken leg. Luckily her injuries weren't more severe. Racing at the LaFayette Speedway, because of its unique design, was a pleasant change of pace for the drivers. According to local driver Carl Wager, "winning was 1/3 car, 1/3 driver and 1/3 luck." The "luck" ran out at the end of the 1956 season when the LaFayette Speedway closed for good. Dwindling gate receipts, increased insurance costs as well as pressure from the state in the form of the "Blue Laws" all contributed to the demise of the track. Both driver and fan would greatly miss the competition of this enjoyable diversion on Sunday afternoons.

—Rick Stout

## From the Community Council



Questions about recreational activities can be found 24/7 at the following link [www.playlcc.com](http://www.playlcc.com), on the main navigation bar or by calling the Community Council phone, 315-677-7272. Messages will be retrieved at least three times per week and an LCC board member will return your call. Emails are also accepted at [playlccny@gmail.com](mailto:playlccny@gmail.com). The mailing address is: LCC, PO Box 98, LaFayette, NY 13084. Follow us on Facebook: LaFayette Community Council.



### LCC NEEDS YOU!!!!

We have one current vacancy on our board and 3 of the 4 current officers are moving up with their athletes at the end of next year. Please let a board member know if you are interested in learning the ropes to ensure our amazing LCC programs continue.

#### Youth Programs:

**Winter Sports:** Wrestling season concluded for pre-K through 6th with over 60 participants and basketball concluded for 1st through 6th with over 110 participants.

Thank you to all our volunteer coaches and assistants for helping make a great season happen!

Volleyball is underway for 3rd through 6th grade with over 50 participants.

**Spring Sports:** Softball, baseball and tee ball registration was sent out in February, stay tuned for details on practice start dates. Lacrosse registration was sent out in March, stay tuned for details on practice start dates.

#### 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:

**Memorial Day Parade:** Participants of all LCC Sports are invited to join us with adult supervision to march in the Memorial Day Parade.

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 on our website. 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 Bevins

## From the 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, Door #7 downstairs

**Come check us out!**

**Questions? Contact:**

**Charmaine:** [ccaffrey@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:ccaffrey@twcnny.rr.com)

**Jackie:** [pcpicciano@yahoo.com](mailto:pcpicciano@yahoo.com)



## From Scouting America Troop 100

With spring, our Troop switches gear from indoor activities like cooking contests and making fire starters to camping and hiking. In March, we'll have a few new scouts cross over from Cub Scouts, which is an exciting experience for our units.



@Christian-Borchert



**venmo**

Also, this season, we'll see older scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects. One scout is leading the effort to overhaul a deck at the VFW and through an initial generous donation, he is one step closer to executing that project. Another scout is collaborating with the Optimists to oversee the installation of two new park maps and at least one water bottle filling station at Stafford Park.

How can you support these projects? Water bottles will be sold by our scouts locally and will be available at the Town Offices as well. Checks made out to "Troop 100" with "Eagle Scout Project Deck or Water" in the memo mailed to Committee Chair, Christian Borchert, 1722 Meeker Hill Rd. Or you can use Venmo and let me know which project you are supporting. Thank you. —Christian Borchert



Hudson Borchert asking the Town Board for permission to sell his water bottles in the Town Office to fund raise for his map and water station project at Stafford Park

## From the LaFayette Rural Cemetery

Happy 200th Anniversary to the Town of LaFayette. Spring is always a very busy time at the cemetery. Once the snow is gone, work will begin cleaning and sprucing up the grounds. If you placed a Christmas wreath on your loved one's grave, please know it must be removed no later than Sunday, April 27.

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- Tuesday, May 20—Cemetery's Annual Meeting at 7:00 pm  
The meeting will take place in the Session Building at Columbian Presbyterian Church. We welcome questions pertaining to cemetery upkeep, maintenance, policies and fees. We hope you join us.
- Monday, May 26—Memorial Day Parade begins at 9:00 am and ends with a short service.

As a reminder, to prevent damage to the mowers and trimmers, and to prevent accidents to those running the machines, we no longer permit artificial flowers, wreaths, shepherds hooks, or trinkets on graves and flat markers. Live flowers may be planted in the ground, no further than 12 inches from the headstone. For families wishing to use a pot for live flowers, only one pot is allowed per headstone. If possible, the pot

should be recessed in the ground, and should be within 12 inches of the headstone. No flowers are to be planted by flush markers. The cemetery will continue to place flags on veteran's graves from Memorial Day through July 4th. As always, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to email us at [lafayetteruralcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:lafayetteruralcemetery@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual meeting, the Memorial Day observance. Happy Spring!

—Elizabeth Esmark





# COMMUNITY DAY 2025

**Annual LaFayette Community Day**  
**Saturday, May 31, 2025 3:00 pm**  
**Stafford Park, Route 11, LaFayette**

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

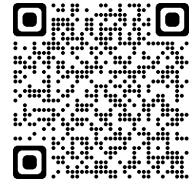


**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

LaFayette Fire Dept.  
 12:30 pm—5:00pm  
 April 8, 2025 and  
 June 10, 2025  
 To schedule



**SCAN QR CODE**



LaFayette Outreach Food Pantry is reaching out to the Community to help with supplying some items (see list) Also, any other canned food or non-perishable items will be appreciated! You may fill a box yourself, with a classroom, a business or with friends and neighbors. Please deliver your box to the LaFayette Outreach Food Pantry located at St Joseph's Church. Open hours are every Tuesday 9:30 – 12:00 noon, or the first and third Thursday of the month 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. You can call 315-677-5221 with any questions or to set up a delivery time if needed. Please note we can only accept un-opened packages and non-expired items.

The Volunteers wish to Thank the Community for all the support you have given to the LaFayette Outreach Food Pantry.  
 —Cathy Nagel

## DONATE FOOD HERE



|               |                 |                           |                      |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Crackers      | Spaghetti Sauce | Toilet Bowl Cleaner       | Jelly                |
| Pasta         | Aluminum Foil   | Stuffing mix              | Bread mix            |
| Plastic wrap  | Box Potatoes    | Flour                     | Waxed paper          |
| Sugar         | Sandwich Bags   | Canned fruit              | Oatmeal              |
| Storage bags  | Cereal          | Razors                    | Canned Tomatoes      |
| Peanut Butter | Bath soap       | Canned meat               | Deodorant            |
| Soups         | Paper Towels    | Canned vegetables         | Coffee/tea/cocoa mix |
| Sponges       | Fruit juice     | Feminine Hygiene Products | Vinegar              |
| Laundry soap  | Oil             | Dish soap                 | Apple Sauce          |

# From the LaFayette Optimists

Greetings from the Optimists!

Winterfest was held this past February. The event was a great success and everyone who braved the cold had a great time.

Thank you to all who were able to join us. Also special thanks to:

- Fritz’s Polka Band for providing entertainment,
- Shute’s Logging for providing firewood for the bonfire and warming stations,
- Lafayette Community Council for providing popcorn.
- Darren Moore of Moore Designs for providing the woodcarving
- Karen Grimm for providing the ice skates
- Town Highway Department for building the sledding hill

The 7th/8th grade boys’ basketball tournament was unfortunately cancelled this year due to the weather. We are looking forward to having this wonderful event back next January.

With Spring on its way, the Optimists are doing our annual clean-up of Stafford Park. We will also be making some improvements at Stafford and Bailey Parks.

Saturday May 10th will be the annual Kid’s Fishing Derby at the Park. Dig your fishing rods out of the basement and get out to pick some nightcrawlers! As always, the pond will be stocked with trout and there will be plenty of prizes to be won.

Another great Optimist Spring event is the Oratorical Contest. The event will take place on May 6th at 6pm, at the High School library. We look forward to seeing our Lancers show off their writing and speaking skills!

—David Coakley



## Chili Contest Winners

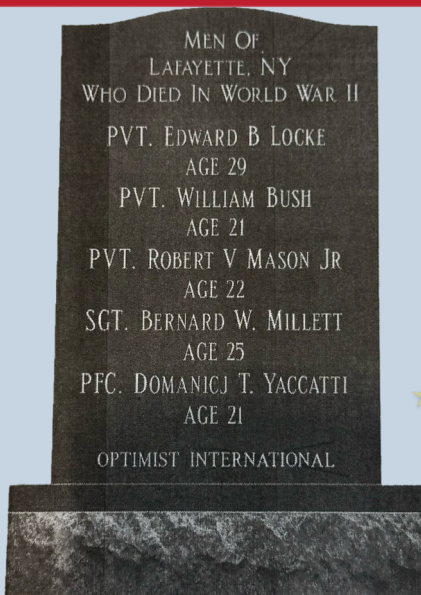
1. Claire Malcolm
2. Scott Heath
3. Mike McClary

Saturday, May 10, 2025



*To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future*

*— The Optimist Creed*



This is a draft of the monument the LaFayette Optimist would like to place under the American flags at Stafford Park. The LaFayette Optimist Club gives (2) \$1K scholarships each year, and hosts numerous annual Community events like the Fishing Derby, the Halloween Party, Winter Fest and Spelling Contest to name a few. But the development of Stafford Park is our top endeavor and I personally feel that this tribute to these hero’s ranks right up there with the park.

Donations can be made by check made payable to LaFayette Optimist WWII Memorial and mailed to Ron Bush 5969 US Route 20, LaFayette, NY 13084 or by venmo: @Lafayette-Optimists. We thank you in advance for any and all donations.

—Ron Bush

# Court Corner

NYS Unified Court System has a website for court related help. Visit [www.nycourthelp.gov](http://www.nycourthelp.gov)

Judges: Hon. Maureen A. Perrin  
Hon. Adrian W. Shute

Clerks: Megan Henderson  
Michelle Hotchkiss

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30—5:00  
Closed for lunch: 12:30—1:30

Closed on Fridays

Phone: 315-677-9350

Fax: 315-677-4622

Email:

[lafayettetowncourt@nycourts.gov](mailto:lafayettetowncourt@nycourts.gov)

Website:

[www.townoflafayette.com/court.html](http://www.townoflafayette.com/court.html)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 135  
LaFayette, NY 13084

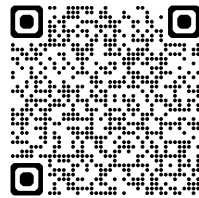


## Rehabilitation Work Begins at the Crossroads Property



Since the last newsletter, the LaFayette Redevelopment Corporation (LRC) and the Morgan's completed the property transfer of the Crossroads Building

(LaFayette Hamlet). The Town commenced the first phase of rehabilitation, which is expected to be completed by the end of May. After that, the new owner plans to complete the remaining phases of the rehabilitation, which is expected to take until mid to late 2026. An article that summarizes the



background of this project was recently posted on the Town's social media platforms, and can be viewed on our website by scanning the displayed QR Code or visiting this link:

[article background on crossroads.pdf](#)

—Mark Distler



**The Southern Hills Garden Club** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. We typically meet at the Lafayette Fire Department community room. Our meetings vary between different guest speakers every month, to garden tours, planting workshops and holiday celebrations. Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to join. Dues currently are \$15 for the year but are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact [animallover82003@gmail.com](mailto:animallover82003@gmail.com) for more information. We'd love to see you there!

—Susan Mason

## From the LaFayette Library—Upcoming Events

| April  | May   | June  |
|--|---|---|
| Toddler Story Time Tuesdays 10:30 am         | Toddler Story Time Tuesdays 10:30 am          | Toddler Story Time Tuesdays 10:30 am          |
| Teen Art Time Tuesdays 3:15 pm               | Teen Art Time Tuesdays 3:15 pm                | June 5 4:15 pm Craft: Cardboard Tube Village  |
| April 5 12:30pm Craft: Contact Paper Collage | May 1 4:15pm Craft: Cupcake Liner Flowers     | June 7 10:00am LGBT & Storytime & Craft       |
| April 7 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available  | May 5 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available     | June 7 12:30pm Craft: Beaded Earring/Bracelet |
| April 10 4:15pm Craft: Mini Canvases         | May 10 12:30pm Kinetic Sand Playtime          | June 9 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available    |
| April 12 12:30pm Bluey Play Time             | May 15 4:15pm Craft: Painting Terracotta Pots | June 12 4:15pm Craft: Decorating Bags         |
| April 17 4:15pm Craft: Puffy Stars           | May 17 12:30pm Model Magic Slime              | June 19 4:30pm Teen Movie Night               |
| April 19 12:30pm Craft: Ribbon Hair Barrette | May 19 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available    | June 21 12:30pm LEGO Play                     |
| April 21 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available | May 24 12:30 pm Oobleck                       | June 23 New Make & Take Craft Kit Available   |
| April 24 12:30pm Make a Routine Chart        | May 29 4:15pm Craft: Air Dry Clay Pinch Pots  | June 26 4:15 pm Floam Slime                   |

**June 28 10:00 am SUMMER READING KICK-OFF PARTY! Color our World! (we suggest you wear clothes that can get messy)**





## Sunday Services

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



## Church Events

### LaFayette Alliance Church

|                                   |  |   |               |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------------|--|
| Sunday School                     | Sundays  |  | 9:00—10:00 am | LaFayette Alliance Church  |
| Coffee and Fellowship             | Sundays  |   | 10:00—10:25am | 315-677-9810   |
| Ignite Prayer Ministry            | 1st & 3rd Sundays  |   | 6:00 pm       | <a href="http://www.lafayettealliance.org">www.lafayettealliance.org</a> |
| Olympians Ministry 1st-6th grade  | 1st, 3rd & 5th Wed of April                              |   | 6:30—8:00 pm  |  |
| Summit Youth Group 7th-12th grade | Wednesdays LaFayette Alliance or Pompey Community Church |   | 6:15 pm       |  |
| Clothing Giveaway                 | Saturday, April 12                                       |   | 9:00am—noon   |  |



### Columbian Presbyterian Church

|                    |  |  |               |  |
|--------------------|--|--|---------------|--|
| April 2            |  Lent | Lenten Soup—Apple Valley United Methodist Church | 6:00 pm       | Columbian Presbyterian Church<br>315-677-3293  |
| April 9            |  | Lenten Soup—Onativia                             | 6:00 pm       | <a href="mailto:cpresbyt@twcny.rr.com">cpresbyt@twcny.rr.com</a>                             |
| April 12           |  | Easter Egg Hunt                                  | 11:00 am      | <a href="http://www.columbianpresbyterianchurch.com">www.columbianpresbyterianchurch.com</a> |
| April 17           |  | Maundy Thursday Service                          | 7:00 pm       |  |
| April 18           |  | Good Friday Tenebrae Service                     | 7:00 pm       |  |
| Saturday, April 19 |       | Chicken Barbecue                                 | 11:00 am-gone |  |
| Saturday, May 17   |  | Chicken Barbecue                                 | 11:00 am-gone |  |
| Saturday, June 21  |  | Chicken Barbecue                                 | 11:00 am-gone |  |



### St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity

|                         |  |                        |               |  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------|--|
| April 13                |  | Palm Sunday            | 9:30 am       | St. Joseph's Church of the Nativity  |
| April 20                |  | Easter Sunday          | 9:30 am       | 315-677-3439   |
| First Communion         |  | May 4                  | 9:30 am       | <a href="http://www.stjosephslafayette.org">www.stjosephslafayette.org</a> |
| Confirmation Ceremony   |  | May 18                 | 2:00 pm       |  |
| Faith Formation Classes |  | Sundays                | 10:20 am      |  |
| Confirmation Classes    |  | Sundays                | As scheduled  |  |
| Holy Hour               |  | Mondays                | 6:00 pm       |  |
| Confession Available    |  | Mondays                | 6:00pm-7:00pm |  |
| Coffee Hour             |  | 2nd Sunday every Month | 10:30 am      |  |





CELEBRATING  
200  
YEARS



## Upcoming Events—APRIL-MAY-JUNE

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|----------------|--|----------------------|
| April 8, 2025  | Red Cross Blood Drive—LaFayette Fire Department                        | 12:30—5:00 pm        |
| April 12, 2025 | Passport Day—LaFayette Town Hall                                       | 8:00 am—Noon         |
| April 12, 2025 | Clothing Giveaway LaFayette Alliance Church                            | 9:00 am—noon         |
| April 14, 2025 | Mammography Van—LaFayette Town Hall lower parking lot                  | 9:00 am—3:00 pm      |
| Apr 14-May 1   | Annual Brush Pickup—no bags/leaves/debris—butt end first -8' min       | Roadside by April 14 |
| April 15, 2025 | 200th Anniversary Celebration/Town Board Mtg.-LaFayette Jr./Sr. HS     | 5:00 pm              |
| April 19       | Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church                         | 11:00—gone           |
| April 26, 2025 | Earth Day Litter Dropoff—LaFayette Highway Department                  | 9:00 am—2:00 pm      |
| April 26, 2025 | Fire Department Open House—LaFayette Firehouse                         | 11:00 am—3:00 pm     |
| April 27       | VFW Pancake Breakfast—LaFayette VFW                                    | 8:00 am—noon         |
| May 6          | Optimist Oratorical Contest-LaFayette High School Library              | 6:00 pm              |
| May 10, 2025   | Free Shredding and Medication Disposal Town Hall Upper Parking Lot     | 9:00 am—noon         |
| May 3 & May 10 | Town Clean up Days—Groth Rd. Landfill                                  | 9:00 am—4:00 pm      |
| May 5-May 9    | Town Clean up Days—Groth Rd. Landfill                                  | 12:00 noon—6:00 pm   |
| May 10, 2025   | Optimist Fishing Derby—Stafford Park                                   | 9:00 am—noon         |
| May 13, 2025   | Town Board Meeting—LaFayette Town Hall                                 | 6:30 pm              |
| May 17, 2025   | Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church                         | 11:00 am—gone        |
| May 20, 2025   | Annual LaFayette Rural Cemetery Meeting —LaFayette Presbyterian Church | 7:00 pm              |
| May 26, 2025   | VFW Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue—LaFayette VFW                        | 10:30—gone           |
| May 26, 2025   | Memorial Day Parade Town Center marching to cemetery                   | 9:00 am              |
| May 31, 2025   | Community Day—Stafford Park  | 3:00 pm—dark         |
| June 10, 2025  | Town Board Meeting—LaFayette Town Hall                                 | 6:30 pm              |
| June 10, 2025  | Red Cross Blood Drive—LaFayette Fire Department                        | 12:30—5:00 pm        |
| June 21, 2025  | Chicken Barbecue—Columbian Presbyterian Church                         | 11:00 am—gone        |

LaFayette Town Offices — PO Box 193, 2577 Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084  
 Ph.: 677-3674 Fax: 677-7806  
 LaFayette Info Officer: [infoofficer@townoflafayette.com](mailto:infoofficer@townoflafayette.com)  
 Town website — <http://www.townoflafayette.com>  
 Facebook—Town of LaFayette —<https://www.facebook.com/townoflafayetteNY>  
 X- <https://twitter.com/townoflafayette>  
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/townoflafayetteny>

Deadline for July newsletter is June 13  
 Covers Jul-Aug-Sept  
 Summer Edition  
 Submit to:  
[infoofficer@townoflafayette.com](mailto:infoofficer@townoflafayette.com)