

Garbage & Recycling info: Recycle dates: January 10, 24 – February 7, 21 **Holiday Schedule: Garbage only January 4**
UPDATE Just in... Our garbage contractor met with the recycling processor. One new change as far as plastic bags...They do not want **ANY** plastic bags, plastic films, plastic wraps or salt pellet type bags of any sort in your recycling bin! Thanks.



City of Lafayette

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January 2019

- 1 – Happy New Year! Office Closed.
- 7 – Fire Department meeting – Fire Hall
- 8 – Lion’s Meeting– Community Center 6:45 pm
- 8 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm Technology room
- 10– Bookmobile – *Esther Avenue* – 10:30 to 11am
- 13 – Lion’s Annual Dad’s Belgian Waffles – Community Center
- 14 – City Council - 7 pm – City Bldg.
- 15– Legion Post 300 Meeting – Community Center
- 21– Martin Luther King Holiday - Office Closed.
- 24– Bookmobile – *Esther Avenue* – 10:30 to 11am
- 25 – **All Utility Payments Due!**
- 28 – Ambulance meeting
- 31 – Last day for \$2 dog/cat license fee

February 2019

- 2 – Polar Plunge St. Peter – Wild Game feed later at Dave’s Place
- 3 – SUPER BOWL!
- 4 - Fire Department meeting – Fire hall
- 7 – Bookmobile – *Esther Avenue* – 10:30 to 11am
- 11– City Council 7 pm – City Bldg.
- 12 – Lion’s meeting – Community Center 6:45 pm
- 12 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm Technology room
- 18– Presidents’ Day – Office Closed!
- 19– Legion Post 300 Meeting – Community Center
- 21 – Bookmobile – 311 Griebel Lane – 10-10:30am
- 24– LCS Annual PROS Auction
- 25 – All Utility Payments Due!**
- 25 – Ambulance meeting – Fire hall

Pet licenses:

ALL CATS AND DOGS must be licensed in the City of Lafayette. Stop by the office to get yours now! The discounted fee of \$2 per pet tag ends on January 31st, afterwards they return to \$8 per pet. All dogs and cats whether indoor or outdoor need to be licensed.

Home Mailboxes:

Note from our local postal mail carriers - please keep your home delivery mailboxes clear of snow and ice so that they can safely deliver your mail and packages.

LCS News

LCS PROS Auction: Sunday, February 24, 2019! A great way to support our local school through **PROS - Parents Reaching Out for Students!**

Community Coffees: 2:15pm.

January 23 – kindergarten class hosts

February 24 – 7th and 8th grade class hosts

DNR Classes:

Youth Snowmobile Online Field Day, Saturday, February 9, 2019.

Turkey Clinic Saturday, March 30, 2019.

ATV Hands-on riding class – June 22, 2019

For the information on these classes, they are posted on the website, or you can stop by the office.

Lions – Save the Date!

The Lions Annual **Dad’s Belgian Waffle** event will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Tickets are now available from any Lion member!

True Transit

Rural County-wide Public Transportation is now in Nicollet County! Go to truetransit.org for schedules and areas covered! Lafayette residents can ride if scheduled in advance! Call 800-560-1575 for more information!

Rent the Community Center:

Contact the city office 228-8241 to book your event! Make your reservations for 2019 now!

Support Our Local Polar Plunge Jumpers!

Saturday, February 2, 2019 is the Polar Plunge in St. Peter at 1 pm. Our Ambulance crew has had a team for many years to help support Special Olympics in MN! That evening the tradition is to hold the Wild Game pot luck at Dave’s Place and the proceeds are donated to the area Special Olympics group to help support their sports activities throughout the year!

Renville Sibley Sanitation:

Garbage fees will be going up slightly in your end of January billing. They have not raised rates since March 2016. Base fees have increased \$1.33 to \$1.61 depending on the service you choose. Bag tag fees also went up a few cents.

12/10/2018 - Council Briefs

- **Approved the consent agenda**, which included the 11/3/18 meeting minutes, recap of the 12/3 Truth in Taxation hearing/ budget workshop, bills for the month totaling \$57,723.09, moved \$32, 072 from street fund to street savings for future sealing, annual audit agreement, five sump pump waivers, and a directive that if the Water fund is negative at the end of the year, money will be moved from the Waste Water fund to bring it above negative.
- **Reports:** VanDeest – City pumper work completed, made council aware that Relief plans to do a raffle with the Ham dinner and will bring to council in January. Burger – Highlighted the fact that Renville Sibley Sanitation rates will increase in January due to cost increases. The last increase was in March 2016.
- **Unfinished Business: City Building** – Fox and Walton reviewed items listed in the Exchange Agreement. Council approved the agreement and will go forward with the building exchange between the City and Isenberg Electric. The building committee had met to update the floor plan. **Approved to adopt Ord. 127** – Enacting and Adopting Supplements 2017- S1 and 2018- S2 to the code.
- **New Business: Approved 2019 Fire Officers:** Scott VanDeest - Chief, Keith Schuelke – Asst. Chief, Savanna Clemon – Secretary, Matt Schiller and Mark Voges – Training Officers, Joe Sondag & Kurt Weikle – Truck Runners, and Craig Portner – Fire Marshal.
- **Water Filter Bids:** Bids were opened and sent to the City insurance for the water filter damage. Due to the fact the city had been approved for the upgrade of the water plant from the pilot project last year and some of the work would be the same, council approved to do the upgrade at the same time of the filter repairs, thus saving the city the cost of doing it separately. The city will pay \$61,186 for the upgrade portion and the insurance will pay \$123,020 for the filter repair portion.
- **Council** also approved certifying to a property the owner's past due utilities, created an ambulance levy of \$6,600 per year to repay the \$33,000 prepaid new ambulance per household assessment, once paid off will ear mark the same amount for a future ambulance. Adopted the final levy of \$118, 664 for the general fund and \$6,600 ambulance payable in 2019, and 2019 budget.
- **Mayor-elect Sandberg** took a few moments to thank Mayor Langhoff and councilor Verhelst for their service to the community. Mayor Langhoff thanked everyone for working together to get things done for the city.

Next Council meeting is Monday, January 14, 2019 and will be held at the city building at 700 9th Street at 7 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Understanding your city government:

LGA, Budget, Levy, Truth in Taxation

In July staff starts working on the budget for the upcoming year. Later in the month the State of MN certifies the Local Government Aid (LGA) amounts for each city. Once the city knows this information they can proceed to figure out the property tax levy needed for the following year. The levy is the difference of the city budget minus the LGA amount.

In September the city council adopts a preliminary levy/budget. This is always going to be a higher number as many factors for the upcoming year are still unknown, such as healthcare and property/casualty insurance premiums, etc. Once the preliminary levy/budget is approved, a certified copy is sent to Nicollet County. They prepare the next year's **Tax Statement**, which shows the proposed taxes for the county, city and school districts based on those preliminary numbers. The December Truth in Taxation meetings are then posted in the paper, city newsletter and at city hall. Truth in Taxation for the City of Lafayette is an opportunity for residents to ask questions and voice their concerns to the city council about the city levy/budget. There are separate hearings at the county and school district level.

At the time the 2019 preliminary levy was approved, council planned two separate buildings; a new downtown city hall and the shop with utilities and maintenance of two buildings. Another factor was a few years ago, the City Council joined the Joint Power's board for the RS Fiber Cooperative, along with that had committed to support the project by paying the city share of bond payments should there ever be a shortfall to make the payments. The payments were made on time for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and for 2019 there are funds for a partial payment with a shortfall amount of \$28,394 which the City needs to cover. The last factor was the purchase of a new Ambulance. All households, in the Lafayette Area Ambulance service area, support the Ambulance department and all households in that service area were assessed for the new ambulance. The city prepaid \$33,000 (the city per household amount) out of the general fund savings and put a plan into place to collect \$6,600 annually until that is repaid, and then continue collecting to save for a future ambulance.

The approved preliminary levy was: \$128,000 for the general operating budget, \$28,394 for the RS Fiber shortfall and ambulance \$6,600, or \$162,994 total. Once actual numbers came in for insurance, and a new plan for our city building, and other adjustments, council and staff dropped the amount of general operating to \$118, 664 and the ambulance \$6,600. Council will pay the RS Fiber bond payment out of the general savings. The final levy was approved for \$125,264, or \$37,730 less than the preliminary which was on your proposed tax statement. Your taxes will not be as high as the statement showed.

Of the residents who attended the hearings, many were concerned on the high increases in the value of their homes; Nicollet County will send information for the Board of Appeals in March.