

“Many hands make light work!” John Haywood

(people can do things more quickly and easily when they work together)

Living in a small city, like Lafayette, it really takes everyone working together to make things happen! We have so many ways everyone in the community can join hands and truly become part of the community by working side by side and getting to know or reconnect with others. During the last few years, we have welcomed many new families into Lafayette and during the pandemic we did not hold community events, so there were not many opportunities to gather and help.

The city has made some amazing updates to our Culture department: during the pandemic and while the community center was closed, it got a beautiful update with a thorough cleaning and total paint update, at Lund park the pop shack was updated with a new kitchen and other updates, and the mini park has seen progress with the bandstand moving to a more permanent location, trees planted and a flag pole installed with electrical service to both the band stand and flag pole!

What’s Happening & How can you help?

Go to the city website or Facebook page to see the video of a vision of the future for the mini park!

Bandstand ramp and updates: In June the city and band applied for a grant from Southern MN Initiative fund for \$10,000 to help cover the costs of the materials for the band stand ramp and steel siding and if enough money was donated along with the grant, a sidewalk from Main Avenue to the flagpole area would be included. We were awarded the \$10,000 grant, also the Lions have donated \$5,000, the band took donations at their concerts and have donated \$765, Citizens employees have donated \$864, and now St. Gregory’s have pledged \$7,500 to the project! Band members have volunteered to help build the ramp, but we need more helpers! Skilled helpers are needed, but also runners, or even volunteers to bringing snacks/ meals to the workers! After council approves the donation and the project, the supplies will be ordered and a date of late September or early October will be set to begin the project. The bandstand project involves first the siding of the bandstand, and then the building of the ramp and new handicap accessible door for the west entrance. Our future vision for the bandstand is that not only does it get used for the Lafayette Band concerts, but other concerts and performances, who knows – maybe a summer community play! The sidewalk will be hired out.

Veteran’s and Citizen’s Memorial area: The Legion Post #300 is selling 8” X 16” memorial paver bricks, the Veteran pavers will be placed around the flagpole, any citizen memorials, or businesses and organizations, either current and long past, would be placed alongside the sidewalk from Main Avenue to the flagpole. In the spring, Joe Mages, Evolve Landscaping, LLC will be our guide and we again will need many hands helping! This project will be the build of the veteran’s memorial area around the flagpole and is an Eagle Scout project for Landon Uhde. The pre-sold pavers will be installed in the area as well as any per-sold civilian pavers along the sidewalk. Once we have a plan in place and date set, a call for help will be put out. Again, even if you are unable to physically help, there are other opportunities to volunteer too!

Fall Lund Park Cleanup: Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 3 to 6 pm - Join the families of the park and recreation group for a Fall cleanup of Lund park. And other volunteers, I would bet they would like snack and water!

Quasquicentennial Committee: In 2025 our city will be 125 years old! There was a huge community event in 2000 for the 100-year centennial celebration, and our hopes are we can do it again! We are looking for creative minds and many thoughts and ideas from EVERYONE! Be a part of something BIG and exciting in our community! Contact the office 228-8241 or [lafcityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lafcyclerk@gmail.com) with your commitment to help or your awesome ideas!

Consider becoming a member of our volunteer Ambulance or Fire Departments! This is a rewarding opportunity to enrich our small community and give you a huge sense of community pride! There is an annual stipend paid for call, meetings and trainings. Contact Mark Dick for any questions for ambulance and Nick Klingler for information for becoming a firefighter. Applications for either can be picked up in the city office.

Other opportunities to be involved: Do you play an instrument? Contact Pegeen Rozeske 218-491-5036 or Joe Hoffmann 507-276-0426 to join the band. The Lafayette Area Lions is a wonderful organization that is very involved in helping so many! Contact the 2022-2023 president Mark Haler 507-766-6327 or 1st vice-president Sandy Hartley 507-276-4692 to join. Also, if you are a veteran, join the Legion Post #300 Contact Neal Hoffmann 507-276-1444 or Mark Schuelke 507-720-4371!

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED! Just ask!

September 1, 2022