

November

City of Lafayette

Edition: 2020-11

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City emergency contact – Al Fox 276-1707

November 2020

1– Daylight Savings ends “FALL” back 1 hour

2– Fire Department meeting – Fire Hall

3 – General Election Day

9 – City Council –7 pm – Community Center

10 – Lions Meeting – 6:45 – TBD – v with Lions

10 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm – Technology Room

11 – Veteran’s Day – Federal Holiday

12 – Bookmobile 10:15 – 10:45 am Esther Avenue

17– Legion Post 300 – TBD – v with Legion

23 – Bloodmobile – St. Gregory’s see info below

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

26– Happy Thanksgiving

27 – Office Closed

30 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

December 2020

5 – Fire Relief Pork Chop, Drive – up dinner

7– Fire Department meeting – Fire Hall

7 – 1st Truth in Taxation / budget workshop 7PM

8 – Lions Meeting – 6:45 – TBD – v with Lions

8 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm – Tech. Rm

10 – Bookmobile 10:15 – 10:45am Esther Avenue

14 – City Council –7 pm – Community Center

15– Legion Post 300 – TBD – v with Legion

24 – Office closes at noon

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

25– Christmas – Office closed

28 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

31 – New Year’s Eve – office closes at noon

January 1, 2021 New Year’s Day – Office Closed

Garbage & Recycling info:

November 12, holiday week November 27 collection

December 10, 24

BOOKMOBILE:

The Bookmobile is on the road again and will be in Lafayette on October 29, November 12 and December 10. There is a limit of one family or school class at a time. Everyone will need to be in masks. Hand sanitizer will be available also a thermometer to check for symptoms. This is a great way to get books without the hassle of going to the Library. Amy, our bookmobile librarian has library card applications available too.

BLOODMOBILE:

Will be in Lafayette on Monday, November 23, 2020 from 12:30 to 6:30pm, the event will be held at the St. Gregory fellowship hall at 440 6th Street, Lafayette.

SNOW FYI:

Mid October snows are unprecedented and temps are usually in the mid-fifties. That being said, when a snow event happens there are certain criteria and circumstances that take place for the clean-up to happen. Lafayette tries to do what they can with our equipment, but certain times we need the big machines to come to our assistance! We cannot do the wet, heavy snow or deep snow and when those happen we have to call for help. Regardless of whether we can do it ourselves or not, hauling away those downtown snow piles – our winter “round-a-bouts” are always contracted. It is a HUGE guessing game for Council each year to set the budget for the contracted snow removal services. The 15 years prior to this was from a low of \$1,300 and a high of \$14,500 and an average of just over \$7,200. From January to April 2020 we used 93% of the 2020 budgeted amount of \$10,000 for contracted snow removal. This does not mean the city won’t contract the snow removal from now until the end of the year, it just means we will need to tighten spending elsewhere in the general fund budget. No matter in which city you live, everyone’s perception of how the snow plowing is done is not always the same and we try to do the best we can!

To help the snow removal process, in March of 2020, council amended the winter parking city code printed below.

In a nutshell, Section (A) was added to clarify snow removal times and to be able to designate certain areas (with the downtown blocks in mind) as a no parking area when a snow event happens. Also, on the residential streets, if a car is parked and the plows go by residents need to move their vehicle to a cleaned area to allow the curb to curb clean up. If vehicles are not removed, they may be towed to allow for proper cleaning.

§ 71.03 WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS.

(A) *It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on a public street for a continuous period in excess of 24 hours during the time period from November 15 through April 30 of the following year.*

The city can require vehicles to be moved during snow removal operations. The city may also designate an area to be “no parking at any time” for the purpose of snow removal. Written notice of the designation will be sent to all homeowners in that area.

(B) *The City will begin snow removal operations within 24 hours of a snow event when the snow accumulates to a depth of three (3) inches or more, unless windy conditions prompt a snow removal event. During the snow plowing and snow clean-up process, no vehicle shall be parked on any public street until snow has been removed. Vehicles that are not removed from the city street will be subject to towing at the city’s discretion. The owner of a vehicle that is towed will be responsible for any expenses incurred in towing and impounding the vehicle.*

(C) *It shall be unlawful for any person to place snow on public roadways or sidewalks, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 169.42, as amended.*

Other winter notes:

- The compost area will soon be closed for the season.
- Adopt a fire hydrant on your block. After streets and alleys are cleared the city will double check that the fire hydrants are cleared.
- Please don’t park in front of mail boxes.
- The office has people call asking if we know of people for help in snow removal. If you offer this call the office and the entire list will be shared with callers.

Sump Pump Waivers:

Last month waivers were sent to homes that have applied in the past. If you get a form and do not have a sump pump, just send me a note that you do not have a sump pump. If you have a sump pump or have recently added a sump pump and did not get a waiver form, call me and I will get one to you ASAP! They will be approved by council the next meeting after they are submitted.

Nicollet County CARES:

Nicollet County has posted information for assistance to small businesses (50 employees or less), nonprofits and schools to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; there is also Child Care funding and Crisis assistance for families facing things like utility shut-off, eviction, etc. Use the link or go to the Nicollet County website or Facebook page for links.

<https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/800/Nicollet-County-CARES>

State COVID-19 Assistance:

MN COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

Facts about the program/eligibility:

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid19housingassistanceprogramFAQ>

Application: <https://www.housinghelpmn.org/>

Cold Weather Rule information:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=216b.096>

<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/Publications/UtilityDisconnection.asp>

Energy Assistance - If you are having trouble paying your energy bill contact MN Valley Action Council 507-345-6822

Community Center:

FREE PIANO!!!

The Community Center is having some updates during this COVID shutdown. Many years ago a piano was brought to the community center and it is time to find it a new home. Contact the clerk's office if you would like it! They have great repurpose potential for things like desks, book shelves, coffee, wine or liquor bars, clocks, mantles...the possibilities are endless – oh, you can also make music with them! 😊

Cash Payment:

During the weekend before Monday, June 1, 2020 there was a cash payment dropped off at the City office without any account information; if this was your payment call the office so it can be credited.

Fire Relief Pork Chop Dinner:

Lafayette Fire Relief is holding a drive-up Pork Chop dinner fundraiser. The event will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2020 from 11 am until 2 pm. Details are on the posters around town.

10/12/2020 - Council Briefs:

Consent agenda approved and included: 9/14 minutes, bills totaling \$61,393.52, approval of the two (2) payment plans and twelve sump pump waivers presented.

Reports: Fox: Clarifier is working; the skim arm will be modified. MESERB offered suggestions for the WWTF permit process. He will be attending an online recertification class in December. All receipts were turned in to the State for possible reimbursement of the July 25 rain event. **Schuelke:** Three applicants, one approved, Pork Chop drive-up dinner December 5th for the Fire Relief. **Dick:** Proud to be awarded the South Central EMS Life Safe Award!

Business:

CRF: The second report was submitted for \$2,863.42 in expenses using the Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Adopted Ord. 132 Relating to Designation and Registration of Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous dogs and the memorandum of understanding between the City and Nicollet county pertaining to Ord. 132

Also approved: a resolution supporting the refinancing of the 2015 RS Fiber GO Bonds, Dave's Place 2021 Liquor License, accepted a private donation to the ambulance service for \$120, scheduled a public hearing for the proposed certifying of delinquent utilities for four properties and rejected a proposal from an employee to be compensated additionally for working while another recovers from surgery. Had a discussion of what the city can do with ordinance violators and directed Burger to send a letter to the County Attorney on what steps the city needs to take in order to be able to prosecute a violation. Reed presented an application from the New Ulm Area Food Shelf to designate a spot for their new Mobile Food Shelf to deliver pre-ordered assistance boxes to Lafayette residents. Burger was in contact with Pastor Hagstrom at 1st Lutheran for utilizing the parking area for the monthly food drops.

Next Council meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the community center.

This is just a glimpse of the council meeting. Full minutes are posted on the city website once they are approved at the following council regular meeting.

Truth in Taxation:

The Lafayette City Council will hold two "Truth in Taxation" hearings in December, this year they are December 7 and 14. These hearings are held as an opportunity for residents to ask questions and voice their concerns to the city council about the city levy/budget for next year. There are separate hearings at the county and school district level as well. The council will have its final budget workshop after the December 7, Truth in Taxation hearing and then approve the 2021 Property Tax Levy and operating budget at the December 14, 2020 meeting.