Meeting Notes – Mar. 22, 2022 –

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Craig Brown, executive director of Valley Haven School, was our speaker. Craig is celebrating his 25th year at Valley Haven and has been the executive director since 2015. He spoke of the impact the school has had on him and in particular, the impact of one specific student. Craig said he learned from that student to love unconditionally and enjoy life.

Craig also spoke of the impact that COVID 19 has had on the school. Prior to the pandemic, they served 74 adult clients. When they reopened, only 23 returned. As of December 2021, they were back up to 31. Currently they are serving 53 adults. The pandemic also had a financial impact on the school, since finding is based on client attendance. The last audit in the fall of 2021 revealed they were $189,000.00 in the hole. Craig felt the school was very fortunate to have received two payroll protection loans.

Craig also spoke of upcoming fundraising events. On April 3 there will be a Sheriff's call-in radio show held on Gator Radio. April 9 will be LaFayette Day. That event was cancelled the last two years, in 2020 because of the pandemic and in 2021 because of weather. While not as many vendors have signed up yet compared to pre-pandemic numbers, he is hopeful those numbers will increase closer to the date of the event. Our club will have a booth set up on LaFayette Day. On Aril 21 there will be a fun walk at the school that the students will participate in. An auction will be held April 29. The big event, the Hike Bike Run (HBR), is scheduled for May 7. This is the 47th HBR. There will be a 4K, 5K, and 1 mile course.

Diane Sherriff