Meeting Notes – Aug. 6, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met at the Alfa Insurance Building for its weekly meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. Rotarian Diane Sherriff invited Ansley Emfinger, Senior Project Manager with the Chambers County Development Authority (CCDA), to speak on their new leadership program. Accompanying Ansley was Andie Roberts, Project Manager with the CCDA.

The leadership program initiative, Leadership Chambers County, was started by Chambers County Commissioners Sam Bradford and Debra Riley in conjunction with the CCDA, the Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Chambers County Extension Office. Their mission is to train, educate and inspire existing and future leaders in our community. Leadership Chambers County aims to build a pipeline of leaders for the community for future generations. The program is open to Chambers County residents who will be 21 years of age or older as of January 1, 2025 (or, in the future, January 1 of the year of the program). Applicants must not have participated in this program previously and must attend all sessions in order to graduate. Applications open in October 2024 and will close in November 2024. Classes/Sessions will begin in January 2025. There will be a total of four sessions throughout the year. As the previous class graduates, a new class will be applying.

Applicants can be nominated by a business, municipality, individual or past participant via the nomination form. If nominated, the applicant must still apply. A nomination does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Class size will be limited to 15 participants and there is a cost of $500.00 per participant. This covers the cost of meals, speakers, and other expenses. A business or municipality can sponsor a participant, and the program hopes to make scholarships available. Participants will be selected by a group of five unbiased individuals. Rather than having a project to complete during the program, the participants may have a book to read. Meetings will be held in different parts of the county.

Leadership Chambers County has sent out 100 letters in hopes of gaining sponsors and has submitted an application for 501c3 status. Their by-laws have been completed. They are governed by a seven-member board comprised of Lauren Dabbs, Melanie Caldwell, Janet McMillan, Jennifer Crawley, Louis Davidson, Jonathan Herston and Rachel Snoddy.

Participants will study fifteen different topics during the program:

Government

Civic clubs

Healthcare

Education

Public Servies

General Leadership

Non-profits

Economic development

Chamber and tourism

Agriculture and industry

Infrastructure

Community development

Judicial and jails

County history

Racial relations

Diane Sheriff