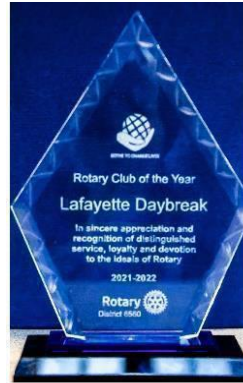




# THE DAYBREAKER

February 15th, 2024



Today we had 17 in person attendees and 4 ZOOM attendees.

## Service Opportunities:

1. United Way's Read to Succeed program needs volunteers to work with elementary school students: To sign up go to [www.unlafayette.org/readtosucceed](http://www.unlafayette.org/readtosucceed). To learn more about the program contact Amy O'Shey @ [aoshey@uwlafayette.org](mailto:aoshey@uwlafayette.org) or call 765- 742-9077 ext. 244.

2. Donate to the Joyful Journey matching program – with the District Foundation match and Gerard's match this will be a 3 for 1 donation! You can send checks to Gerard Benner @ 9281 Quarry Drive in Naples, FL 34120 or scan the checks and send them to his email of [cfotogo@yahoo.com](mailto:cfotogo@yahoo.com).



## **Our Rotary Rollers!**

**3. John Polles needs help with supporting our efforts at LUM – please contact him if you are interested in helping with this important Rotary project.**

## **4. A Toast to Mental**

**Health – Thursday, May 2 You are welcome to support this with sponsorships, but also to provide auction items. Please save the date to be able to assist the Club in our largest fundraising activity of the year!**

**This quarter Happy Bucks go to the Joyful Journey Match!**

**GUESTS:** None

**INVOCATION:** Linc Perkins

**Program:** Chief Harris – West Lafayette Police Department Update

Chief Troy Harris was introduced by Rebecca, noting that he is a Purdue grad, but has also obtained further degrees and training from Northwestern University and Ball State University. He lives in West Lafayette with his wife and 3 children.

Chief Harris began by presenting the Annual Report he presented to the West Lafayette City Council. He summarized the statistics for last year:

- Homicides – 0 for the 13<sup>th</sup> year
- Rapes down 79%
- Robberies up 150%
- Aggravated assaults down 67%
- Burglaries up 2 %
- Auto Thefts down 34%
- Larcenies up 28%

He went on to note that West Lafayette was again one of the safest cities in Indiana. He explained that he had challenged his officers to make the streets safer from OWI drivers and had been successful in this. He also noted that while arrests were up 36%

there had only been 10 use-of-force incidents and praised the training of his officers in their training, particularly in de-escalation techniques. He reported that they had



received over 25,000 calls in 2023 and made 1,676 arrests.

Chief Harris explained that many of their calls are actually for mental health issues and their officers have all received Crisis Intervention Training and work with MHA and NAMI to deal with these difficult situations. They also have hired a Crisis Response Specialist in Devon Moore, and she works to address these situations with the officers. She is a qualified Clinical Social

Worker and has already shown her value to the Department and community.

He noted that recruiting officers continues to be an issue and that at one point they were down 18% in staffing. They were able to bring on 6 new officers last year and did this without lowering their standards for new officers. Each applicant has to have either an Associate's Degree or 4 years of military service and then has to take a physical test and a standardized written test. Those who move on from this are reviewed by a Captain's Board and then have an extensive background check and pass a lie detector test. At this point they are further interviewed by the Police Merit Commission. Those who are hired are then sent to the Police Academy and finish a full year of on-the-job training before they are sent out on their own. After that they, like all the department, receive extensive in-service training, with over 4,000 hours of training given by the department last year. They are also eligible for scholarship reimbursement to get further education. Specialized training includes the 3 K-9 handlers on the department. He was pleased with this group, which has been valuable to the department on many occasions but there has only been 1 canine bite in 3 years.

The Department also has a Neighborhood Resource Team that works with quality-of-life issues in the city and is active in Community Engagement with an emphasis on listening to the community. This also includes self-defense training classes, monthly drug return opportunities and the support of CASA.

Chief Harris was proud that the Department received over \$177K in grants last year and has used some of this to purchase ballistic helmets for all of their officers.

In answer to questions, he noted their biggest challenges are drug and alcohol abuse in the community as well as the proliferation of guns. He stressed that they also have taken a pro-active stance in providing mental health support to the officers, particularly when they are exposed to single high profile stressful events of an accumulation of stressful situations.

**Thought of the Week:** Whenever I feel bad, I use that feeling to motivate me to work harder. I only allow myself one day to feel sorry for myself.

When I'm not feeling my best, I ask myself, "What are you gonna do about it?" I use the negativity to fuel the transformation into a better me. —  
Beyoncé Knowles

**Trivia Question for the week:** Why do we have leap years?

**Answer to last week's trivia question:** Which years will be a leap year?



Leap years have 366 days instead of the usual 365 days and occur almost every four years. How do you remember if it's a leap year? Simple: If the last two digits of the year are divisible by four (e.g. 2016, 2020, 2024...) then it's a leap year. Century years are the exception to this rule. They must be divisible by 400 to be leap years. According to these rules, the years 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, and 2500 are not leap years. As a bonus, U.S. leap years almost always coincide with election years.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mayor Tony Roswarski – State of the City of Lafayette

February 29<sup>th</sup> – Cory Shively – Cars for Keeps

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Chad Aldridge – McAllister Rec Center

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Brad Cohen – Arni's