



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
February 2012 Issue

Westley Falcaro, Editor

Crime Prevention Seminars

In an effort to increase community policing crime prevention outreach, the Fort Wayne Police Department will be offering monthly seminars at the Public Safety Academy at Southtown Center, behind Wal-Mart. These sessions, which will be open to area businesses and residents, will provide members of our community with valuable information which will help reduce their chances of becoming crime victims.

The seminars will include “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” (CPTED) information, as well as preventative measures which can be taken to avoid becoming a victim of robbery, financial fraud, motor vehicle theft, burglary, and scam artists. The interrelationship between crime prevention, community oriented policing and problem-solving policing will also be a component of the seminar.

These seminars will be free to the public, and will be held the third Wednesday of every month from 7:00—8:00 pm at the Public Safety Academy, with the first session to begin March 21, 2012.

For more information, go to the Crime Prevention link at www.fwpd.org or contact the FWPD Crime Prevention Bureau at 427-1207.

An Event Of Interest

Elizabeth Smart is coming to Fort Wayne on Thursday, March 8th at the Scottish Rite Auditorium.

If the name rings a bell, but you’re not sure who she is, read on ...

The abduction of, then, 14 year-old Elizabeth Smart, from her Salt Lake City, Utah bedroom, was one of the most followed child abduction cases of our time. Elizabeth was abducted on June 5, 2002 and her captors controlled her by threatening to kill her and her family if she tried to escape.

After being held prisoner for 9 months, only 18 miles from her home, the fact that she was found alive was a miracle. Her courageous testimony, about the nightmare she suffered during her captivity, led to her captor’s conviction.

Elizabeth’s triumphant story is one of courage and self-determinism. Her traumatic experience has led her to become an advocate for change related to child abduction, recovery programs and National legislation. She is currently involved in the “Elizabeth Smart Foundation” and has helped to promote The National AMBER Alert, The Adam Walsh Child Protection & Safety Act and other safety legislation to help prevent abductions.

For ticket prices and information:

Call the Women’s Bureau at 424-7977 or go online to www.womensbureau.com.

Progress?

In the continuing saga of the turning problems at the corner of Lafayette Street and Pettit Avenue, LPIA President Westley Falcaro has added Glynn Hines, City Councilman for our area, and Cherise Dixie, SE Neighborhood Advocate to the City of Fort Wayne, to the large list of City officials to whom we are appealing for assistance.

Westley has been told that this situation is “on the books for 2012,” but no solution or confirmation of such has been received.

Additionally, Westley has contacted the City’s Property Manager to address the condition, and lack of maintenance, of the large lot at that corner and future plans for it. The lot is now owned by the City of Fort Wayne.

Westley will continue to aggressively pursue both situations.

Useful Tips

We received favorable comments from our tips in the last newsletter, so here are some more. These are from “Hints From Heloise” ...

Uses for those plastic inserts in pizza boxes:

1. Use as a ring holder by the sink
2. Place several on a cake to protect the frosting when covering with plastic wrap
3. Use to pierce a potato when microwaving
4. Use to aerate plants

Dues Are Due

Invoices for your 2012 Lafayette Place Improvement Association dues were mailed out the first week in January. Dues are to be paid in full at the beginning of the year. Annual dues are only \$15.00.

If you live here, you are automatically a member of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association. Lafayette Place is very unique in that **membership in the Lafayette Place Improvement Association is legally part of the deed of the property. Association dues are mandatory and do not move with the person.** Since they are bound to the property, dues are to be paid by the current owner of a property.

Your invoice will list any outstanding dues or liens. We urge you to bring your dues current and avoid being turned over to a collection agency or having a lien placed on your house. The Treasurer of the LPIA Board of Directors is very willing to work out a payment plan for you if necessary.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Anne Gregory, Treasurer, or Westley Falcaro, President. You can call Westley at 456-1608 or contact us by mail at Lafayette Place Improvement Association, PO Box 11446, Fort Wayne, IN 46858.

Restrictive Covenants Violations

The Board continues to work with attorney Andrew Boxberger regarding violators of the rental restriction covenant. We have received a considerable amount of response from landlords and believe we are making progress in our efforts.

We have also been working with the new co-owner of a property that has an illegal shed in addition to a garage. After years of no response or progress from the original owner, we have recently been assured that this structure will be removed by March 4th.

Persistence does pay off!

Be Safe With Natural Gas

Natural gas is an essential part of many of our lives. It is used for a variety of everyday needs such as hot water, cooking and heating.

Natural gas is odorless and highly flammable. Gas companies add a “rotten-egg” odor as a safety precaution because leaks, although rare, can occur.

Here are some safety tips if you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Whether there is a faint or strong gas odor, get out of your house **immediately**.
- Don't try to locate the source of smell/leak.
- Don't touch anything electrical, including switches and doorbells, and don't use a flashlight or telephone. ANY electric spark (even static electricity) could cause an explosion.
- Call the gas company from a neighbor's house or your cell phone once you are outside and far away from your house.

Consider installing gas detectors in your home. Check with NIPSCO for information.

Historic Register Update

The LPIA Board has been informed by ARCH that they have completed the research and documentation for their nomination of Lafayette Place to the National Register of Historic Places. The packet now goes to the local Historic Preservation Office which is scheduled to review it on March 26th. After local approval, the nomination packet goes to state and then to the national review for designation.

Don Orban, City Historical Preservationist and LPIA Board member, feels the process is on schedule. We hope to know the results by the end of this year.

Introducing ...

Officer Kim Seiss, the new FWPD liaison to Lafayette Place. In light of Captain Jim Zamora's retirement from the FWPD, a new liaison for Lafayette Place was needed. After several weeks of communication with Deputy Chief Nancy Chamberlain, Office Seiss has been assigned to us.

Officer Seiss has been with the Fort Wayne Police Department for 10 years. She says she is partial to the south side of Fort Wayne and currently patrols the southeast quadrant (our area).

She was previously assigned as a liaison to businesses in the McKinnie and South Anthony area. Although she has enjoyed that, she says she is very excited about working with homeowners.

We look forward to working with Office Seiss and continuing our good relationship with the FWPD.

FREE Tax Help

Whether we like it or not, it's tax season. There are various places throughout Fort Wayne that are offering free tax services, to people with incomes under \$50,000, now through April 14th.

There are specific requirements and documents you will need to take. Call 211 for details.

Some of the tax sites are:

CANI – 227 E. Washington Blvd., Mon, Tues and Wed: 6 - 8pm. Saturday 9am – 1pm

St. Mary's Catholic Church – 1101 Lafayette St., Mon, Tue and Wed: 12noon – 3pm.

Call 211 for more information

Lafayette Place Addition Annual Association Meeting

**The Lafayette Place Association Annual Meeting will be held
Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Shawnee Branch Library
Calhoun and Noll Avenue**

As a property owner in Lafayette Place, you are automatically a member of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association (LPIA). The Annual Association meeting is a great opportunity to learn about your neighborhood and what it takes to ensure Lafayette Place continues to be a great place in which to live!

Elections to fill Board positions for the next two years will be held.

Editor's Note: Residents who have requested home delivery of this newsletter will receive it through postal mail during the winter months, due to inclement weather.



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