



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
June-July 2019 Issue Westley Falcaro, Editor

Making Progress!

I hope you've noticed that the corner of Calhoun & Pettit is now fenced and has a Lafayette Place sign!

This is all part of the grant the LPIA received for the Calhoun Street Gateway project. We had hoped to have all the trees and gardens planted by now, but the rain and ground conditions put us behind our original schedule. We now have to wait until this fall to plant the trees, but are working now on getting the gardens ready. We hope to have beautiful flowers to show off during this summer.

Lafayette Place Garage Sales

I'm pleased to report that there were more Lafayette Place residents having garage sales this year than we've had for several years! And customer traffic looked pretty good too. If you had a sale, I hope you did well and unloaded stuff and made some money!

Fireworks Rules

According to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, Fireworks are NEVER allowed in any Fort Wayne Parks. This includes the Lafayette Place Park in our neighborhood. This is a City Ordinance and it will be enforced. Anyone who sees a citizen setting off fireworks in Lafayette Place Park should call the police department at 427-1222.

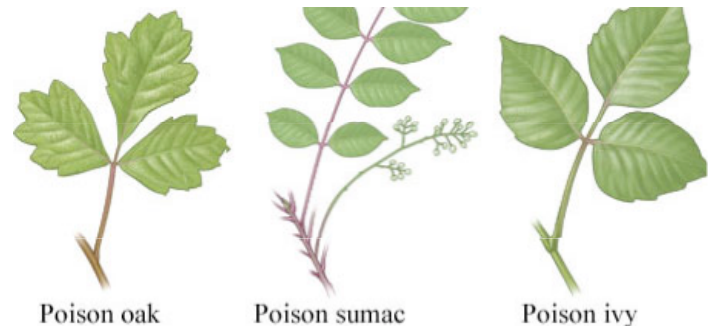
A Health Hazard Among Us

There is a lot of poison ivy in our neighborhood. Some properties have an overabundance and it is very dangerous. **Poison ivy** leaves grow in clusters of three on vines that can grow up into trees and trail along the ground.

Mistaking these for weeds and pulling them out can have hazardous results.

A glyphosphate-based herbicide **concentrate**, such as Roundup™, Kleenup™, or a specific poison ivy killer, should be mixed with water 3 times the normal strength. **Ready-mix herbicides are not strong enough to destroy poison ivy.**

DO NOT BURN THESE PLANTS – burning can cause severe lung problems. For information about these plants and how to **safely** get rid of them, there is a good step-by-step list at www.gardensalive.com



Grasscycling

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings are 75-85% water, so they decompose quickly, returning valuable nutrients back into the lawn.

Benefits:

- Reduces time spent mowing and maintaining your lawn
- Prevents common turf diseases
- Reduces the need to fertilize, as 50% of your lawn's fertilizer needs are met
- Does not cause thatch, it helps prevent it
- Makes turf greener and tougher
- Cuts down on watering needs and costs
Eliminates disposal of grass clippings (and sometimes leaves too)

Mowing

Mow your lawn when the grass is dry and keep mower blades sharp. Mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 the length of the grass blade is cut in any one mowing.

Clean-Up

When grass clippings are washed into a storm drain, they can clog the drain. They also carry lawn chemicals into waterways. After mowing, sweep or blow grass clippings from the street or sidewalk.

Watering

If you water, do so early in the morning to reduce evaporation and prevent disease. Deep, infrequent watering produces a stronger, more extensive root system. Lawns watered too frequently can develop shallow root systems that make the grass more susceptible to stress and disease. During prolonged dry weather grass may look dead. In fact it is probably just dormant and will turn green again when temperatures drop and it rains.

Volunteering is Good for Everyone!

According to the University of Maryland's "Do Good Institute," any time given to a worthwhile cause has benefits — whether or not it's through a formal arrangement with an official organization.

"Volunteers are more likely to stay stronger emotionally, mentally, and physically, especially as they age," its report notes. "Volunteering also encourages other types of civic participation, discourages antisocial behavior, and promotes socioeconomic achievement — yielding direct benefits for the volunteers and indirect benefits for their communities."

The physical and emotional benefits of volunteering are becoming more widely known, and there is ample evidence that volunteering contributes to an increased overall sense of connection and happiness.

We'd like all our residents to have a sense of connection and happiness by volunteering in Lafayette Place! Keeping your neighborhood a beautiful and vibrant place to live is certainly a worthwhile cause!

Your volunteer help would be much appreciated in things like helping to plant new flowers and plants in the soon-to-be gardens at Calhoun & Pettit, or helping to maintain them once they're growing and beautiful; delivering flyers for our events; participating in events like The Great American Clean Up; cleaning out the sewer grates throughout our neighborhood or at least on your block; maintaining the Little Free Libraries.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above suggestions, or have some suggestions yourself, please contact Westley Falcaro at 456-1608.

Volunteering is one more way to create a sense of community – the Lafayette Place community!

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019

**A NIGHT OF MUSIC
AT THE GAZEBO**



**Lafayette Place Esplanade
(Between Congress & Sherwood Terrace)
Todd Harrold & Nick Bobay**

**7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
FREE & Open to the Public**

**Bring friends & family and
A lawn chair or blanket (outdoor venue)**

Vendor – Hot Dog Boyz will be selling: Hot dogs, Nachos, Root Beer Floats, Sodas, Chips & more!

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