



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
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Westley Falcaro, Editor

Calhoun Street Gateway

It's completed and beautiful! I'm talking about the corner lot at Calhoun and Pettit of course. What had once been a blighted lot is now a beautiful compliment to Lafayette Place, with fencing, a garden, new trees and the Lafayette Place sign. The final phase of the installation of four trees was done on October 28. Now all the trees and plants will rest for the winter.

That corner will be absolutely beautiful this spring – watch for it!

Heating Help Available

It's already colder than I want it to be and, if insects and the Farmers Almanac are to be believed, we might be in for a really cold winter. Temperatures are dropping and furnaces are being turned on.

If you need assistance keeping warm, following is a list of social service agencies that **may** offer utility assistance:

Catholic Charities – 422-5625

Brightpoint – 423-3546

Wayne Township Trustee 449-7000

If you need assistance, it's better to contact these agencies as soon as possible as the programs fill up quickly.

Help Prevent Flooding

Recent rain and winds have brought down a lot of leaves – and more will be coming. Fallen leaves can block storm drain inlets causing standing water and flooding even during smaller rainstorms.

City Utilities cleans the city's approximately 19,500 inlets about once every three years. But the City also relies on your efforts as a good neighbor to reduce flooding and protect our neighborhood.

Some of the drains, at the intersections of streets throughout our neighborhood, are clogged with leaves and other debris. This can cause a problem with flooding. If you live close to a drain, will you please take a few minutes to sweep out the drain and dispose of the debris? Your effort will be greatly appreciated!

What A Difference!

The house at 4640 Calumet Avenue has been an eyesore and blight to our neighborhood for quite some time, but **you should see it now!** The new owner is a young man who plans to rehab and flip it through his company called Real Homes LLC. He has been working MANY hours a day for several weeks and the exterior is a compliment to him and to Lafayette Place.

He even allowed a neighbor to pick out the exterior colors to ensure it would be a major upgrade from what it was previously!

We can't wait to see the inside finished product!

Beware of Scams

There are a lot of telephone scams happening right now. A lot of them start with stating who they are and that the phone call is being recorded – THEN, **they ask if you can hear them. DO NOT SAY YES! That one word will then be applied to an approval for whatever it is they are selling! And it's recorded, so they've got you!**

It doesn't matter that you didn't approve anything, they take the recording of your voice saying "yes" and cut it from the tape and apply it elsewhere.

You have several choices when you hear them ask if you can hear them:

1. Hang up
2. Say "No"
3. Say, "I hear you, can you hear me?"
4. Don't say anything, just listen

If anything other than "yes" is responded, the call automatically hangs up.

These scams are from various companies and even use local telephone numbers, so it looks like a local call from someone you think you know.

You can also listen for the name of the company, write down the phone number they're using, and report it to the local office of the Better Business Bureau at 260-423-4433.

Save your Drain!

It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Recipes for many holiday foods contain gravy, butter, cream, shortening and other fats. These ingredients can clog your drains and sewer pipes.

Never pour grease down your drain or flush in the toilet. Using hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain doesn't work. It can still harden in your pipes or sewer line.

You can dispose of oil and grease by placing it in an empty milk carton, vegetable can, or plastic butter container. If you've taken something out of a "zip lock" bag, pour grease in this when you're finished with it.

Protect Your Pipes

Don't take the chance of waking up on a cold winter morning to find that you have no water because the pipes have frozen! **Now** is the time to head off a disaster by taking steps to protect your pipes. Here are some tips from Fort Wayne City Utilities:

Indoor Pipes: The pipes that are most vulnerable to freezing are those located in un-insulated spaces such as crawl spaces, basements, attics and garages, or in exterior walls.

Insulate pipes in these exposed areas with foam insulation at a minimum. If you have experienced frozen pipes in the past, consider wrapping those pipes with electrical heating tape and then insulating them.

If you can't insulate or wrap pipes, you may need to let the water run during very cold weather. Hot water pipes can also freeze; so let a small steady stream of **lukewarm** water run. For sinks against outside walls, it may also help to open cabinet doors below the sink so warm air can circulate.

Exterior Faucets and Hoses: A dripping outdoor water faucet can cause the faucet and water pipe that feeds it to freeze and break. Turn off the water to the faucet inside the house, if possible, and then drain the faucet by turning it on for a few moments. If there is no inside shut-off, consider putting an insulated cover over the hose bib.

Disconnect the garden hose. Leaving the hose connected to the outside faucet can cause water to remain in the faucet. If it freezes, it can burst the pipe.

Water Meter: As a Fort Wayne City Utilities customer, YOU are responsible for making sure the water meter is protected from freezing. If the meter is in an unheated garage, keep the garage door closed to hold in as much heat as possible. Protect the meter in a basement or crawl space by closing off crawl space vents and doors, repairing broken windows and making sure basement doors and windows close tightly. You might also consider installing an insulated meter cover.

If the meter does freeze, City Utilities customers may be charged more than \$130 for a replacement.

People In – Wildlife Out

With cold weather, we want to stay inside where it's warm. Guess what? So do raccoons and other wildlife!

If you have deteriorated trim and fascia boards, holes in attic vents, or an open chimney, you can bet the neighborhood critters are planning on spending the winter with you.

Sealing up any openings now can help prevent the problems the critters cause when they nest in your home.

Before closing, sealing, or capping any potential entry points, make absolutely sure there are no animals already inside.

If you suspect raccoons, it's best to call a professional to remove the animal(s) and seal up the places where they're entering. You'll also want to make sure a professional cleans up any of the raccoon waste, which can contain raccoon roundworm. This parasitic worm can infect humans (and even pets) and is spread by the egg spores, which easily become airborne and can be breathed in. These egg spores can live for years as dry pods. Raccoons can also carry other illness-causing bacteria, as well as lice and fleas. And while raccoons can carry rabies, most people never get close enough to be bitten and therefore infected.

The exterior of your house can also be an invitation to wildlife. Make sure that you:

- Secure trash container lids if they are outside
- Keep tree branches trimmed six feet away from your house to not only limit access for wildlife, but to prevent damage to the roof that may allow animal entry in the future
- Clean up debris—especially leaf piles—in gutters and around the foundation

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