



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
March 2026 Issue Westley Falcaro, Editor

DON'T MISS THIS!

Lafayette Place Annual Association Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Please come a little early to sign-in

Shawnee Branch Public Library

Corner of Calhoun and Noll Avenue
(Just past Unity Lutheran School)

GUEST SPEAKER:

Derek Camp, Wayne Township Assessor

Topics include:

- How property values affect your property tax
- How property values are established
- How the appeal process works

Your input matters! All property owners in Lafayette Place are members of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association (LPIA) per your property deed. The Annual Association meeting is a great opportunity to learn about your neighborhood and ensure Lafayette Place continues to be a great place to live.

DUES MAY BE PAID AT THE MEETING BY CHECK, MONEY ORDER, CASH OR CREDITCARD.

Hope to see you there!

2026 Spring Leaf Pick Up

The city will pick up leaves from March 23 to April 3 but **ONLY IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS. DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS!**

You must place these bags at the curb/median in front of your house and call 311 for pick up. The spring leaf pick up crews do not check streets for leaf pick up – you must call for pick up They will pick up the bags within 2 business days.

Marker Hit Again!

The marker at Lafayette and Sherwood Terrace was hit **AGAIN** and severely damaged. The cost to repair it is \$6,600. LPIA received \$5,030 from Insurance after our \$250 deductible. The additional \$1,570 would be paid if we replace the marker as it was for the \$6,600 cost. The cost to demolish it is \$1,475.

This marker was installed before the large brick and concrete marker and green space at Lafayette & Pettit, and the aluminum sign and garden at Calhoun & Pettit were created. It was the only marker at a side street entrance. We now have markers or signage at all main entrances to Lafayette Place; therefore, the LPIA Board has decided to remove the remaining damaged marker and use the \$3,555 difference for other projects as needed.

It's Repaired

The high 70mph winds we had last week blew off the door to the Little Free Library at Fleming & the Esplanade. Thanks to **Bob Gomez** for replacing it!

2026 Improvement Grant

The LPIA Board of Directors has applied for a Neighborhood Improvement Grant for the manufacture and installation of neighborhood identity signs, as seen in neighborhoods throughout the city. They would be placed on streetlight poles on both external and internal streets throughout the neighborhood.

These Aluminum signs are approximately 12' x 16' and are attached by an attractive scroll hanger. The Grant is for an amount up to \$5,000 and we've applied for the manufacture and installation of 15 signs for a total cost of \$4,414.00.

NO Great American Clean Up

After discussion, the LPIA Board voted to **not** participate in the city-wide Great American Clean-Up for 2026.

Reasons for this decision were two-fold:

- 1) Reduced interest in resident participation
- 2) No major need identified

Fortunately, the neighborhood is looking pretty good. However, all residents are encouraged to help keep it that way by:

- Picking up any trash & debris you find as you walk through the neighborhood
- Removing the debris/leaves, etc covering any sewer drains near your home
- Using the large trash bins throughout the Esplanade for trash you create or collect

Hug the Curb

As we all know, the streets in Lafayette Place are not overly wide. School buses, Fed-Ex and UPS trucks, as well as Garbage Trucks sometime have a difficult time driving through our streets when many cars are parked on the street.

If you **MUST** park on the street instead of a driveway or garage, **PLEASE** park as close to the curb as possible. That small space between the actual curb and the street is not the line definition, park in it! Ask any visitors to do this also.

Lafayette Park Re-Design

The Fort Wayne Parks Department is investing over \$300,000 to re-design Lafayette Park.

Representatives contacted LPIA President, Westley Falcaro, to inform her of their plans and welcomed comments and suggestions. Westley sought input from several residents, especially those with small children, who use the park facilities on a frequent basis. She related those suggestions to the Parks Department rep who gladly incorporated them into the re-design.

Big changes include the location of the playground, the updated and expanded equipment, and the addition of astro turf versus mulch. Sidewalks for easy access will also be added throughout the playground.

Construction should begin in mid-April with completion by the end of May, depending on weather.

An illustration of the design will be available to see at the Annual Meeting on April 8.

It's Actually the Law

No one wants to walk through the Esplanade, or any of our common areas, and step in your pet's waste! Not only is it common courtesy to pick up after your pet, it's the law!

Per City Ordinance 91.018 Removal of Excrement: "Person(s) responsible for an Animal(s), excluding a sight impaired Person using a Service Animal, shall immediately remove the Animal's excrement from public property and the private property of another Person."

For your convenience, three (3) Pet Waste Stations with bags and four (4) trash bins have been provided throughout the Esplanade to dispose of your pet waste.

NEVER allow your pet to do its business in a resident's yard. If that happens by mistake, make sure you clean up after your pet!

Additionally, city ordinances and Allen County code require dogs to be properly restrained and under control when off their owner's property. When walking in public, dogs must be on a leash.

Building A Good Neighborhood

Although I firmly believe we already ARE a good neighborhood, with many good (if not GREAT) neighbors in Lafayette Place, I recently came across an actual list called “How To Build A Community.” I’m publishing some of that list here, as I believe it provides great points that we all can do to be a good (or better) neighbor and therefore, a good (or great) neighborhood!

- * Greet people as you walk down the street (even wearing a mask, you can nod your head!)
- * Teach your children how to be a good neighbor
- * Plant flowers
- * Pick up after your dog
- * Buy from local merchants
- * Pick up litter
- * Hire neighborhood young people for odd jobs
- * Share your skills
- * Turn down your music in your house AND your car
- * Listen before you react to anger
- * Mediate a conflict
- * Participate in neighborhood events
- * Do not race or rev up your vehicle’s engine - car, motorcycle, moped, or whatever

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