



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
April 2020 Issue Westley Falcaro, Editor

Vote By Mail

The Allen County Election Board has announced that, due to concerns raised by COVID-19, ALL registered voters can vote by mail for ANY reason for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

To vote by mail, you must complete and submit an absentee ballot application, which is available at www.allencounty.us/voting-by-mail. You may also call the Election Board at 260-449-7329 or send an email to acebab@allencounty.us to request an application. **Application deadline is May 21.**

COVID-19 & Garbage Pick Up

Until at least May 3, only garbage and recycling placed in the City-issued carts will be picked up. No bags, boxes, personal containers or bulk items will be picked up – so DO NOT place these items curbside on our garbage pick up day. Make sure the lid on your cart is secured, as garbage handlers will not pick up items that fall out or are blown by the wind. **The restrictions may be extended after the May 3rd date if needed.**

Leaves Not Being Picked Up

Garbage and recycling crews will no longer pick up leaves and calling 311 for pick up is no longer an option. If you have placed lawn bags or plastic bags full of leaves at the curb for pick up, please remove these bags as they can harbor rodents in addition to being unattractive. You can take yard waste including, leaves, limbs and branches, to the City Utilities' Biosolids facility at 6202 Lake Avenue. Hours: Mon – Sat, 8am-6pm / Sun, noon-6pm. Drop off fees are \$1 per 100 pounds.

Care For Yourself During Crisis

We're all experiencing major changes as a result of various restrictions during the COVID-19 crisis. While we're following the guidelines and doing everything to ensure our physical health, let's not forget the mental stress or anxiety resulting from this crisis. Here are some suggestions from experts as posted on the Internet:

- **Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories and social media.** Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- **Take care of your body.** Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs.
- **Make time to unwind.** Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- **Connect with others.** Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- **Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way** of your daily activities for several days in a row.
- **If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed** with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others call 911.

Social Security Checks

If you are one of the millions of people who receive a Social Security check, you'll see no change in your regular monthly payment if you get it by direct deposit. You'll also continue to get your payments by mail. "There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail," according to the U.S. Postal Service, citing guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Surgeon General.

As you probably know, Social Security field offices are closed temporarily due to the Coronavirus, so you won't be able to get in-person help. However, you can get online help at Social Security's website, which can handle applications for benefits and replacement Social Security and Medicare cards, as well as set up direct deposit.

You can still call your local office's general inquiry line if you have not received a payment or if your benefits were suspended and can now be reinstated. Call 1-877-223-6061.

IMPORTANT - If you get a call purporting to be from Social Security and claiming there's a problem with your Social Security account, **hang up**. If there is a problem, Social Security will usually contact you by mail. One current exception: Due to field office closures, anyone who had an in-person appointment might get a call from Social Security to handle the appointment by phone.

Regardless, Social Security employees will never threaten you or demand money. If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report the call to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General.

Be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments, but that is not true - don't be fooled.

Since You're Home Anyway ...

This may be a great time to make sure your property (home exterior, yard, and driveway) is clean and in good condition. Not only will this give you something to ensure you're not too bored, these actions will help maintain the value of your property and that of the entire neighborhood.

In addition to the obvious, like keeping your grass mowed, here are some things you can do to maintain the appearance and value of your property:

- Trim bushes and shrubs
- If the curb and street areas in front of your house are littered with papers or trash, this makes your house and the entire neighborhood look bad. Be a good neighbor and clean it up!
- If you have a gutter that is hanging down or is loose, re-attach it. **It's a City Code violation.**
- Trash cans are to be stored in a location that is NOT visible from the street. **This is City Code Ordinance 50.05.**
- Touch up the paint on your house and garage if needed; don't wait until you need a huge, overwhelming, full-blown paint job.

Helpful Household Hints

To remove permanent marker:

| From | Use |
|------------------|---|
| Clothes | Hand sanitizer |
| Walls | Toothpaste or hairspray |
| Wood | Rubbing alcohol |
| Carpet | White vinegar |
| Furniture | Milk |
| Ceramic or glass | 1 part toothpaste to 1 part baking soda |

2020 Census – Do It At Home NOW!

You may have already received a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. If you haven't responded yet, now is the perfect time to complete the 2020 Census – and you can do it **online or by phone**.

Online go to: www.my2020census.gov.
Call: 1-844-330-2020

Why is the 2020 Census Important? The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. Territories. Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding our community receives, how our community plans for the future, and our representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods
- Determine number of congressional seats & Electoral College votes our state gets
- Draw congressional and state legislative districts

The Census count is required by law as mandated by Article 2, Section 2 of the US Constitution. It is to be conducted every 10 years. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time.

Make sure you're counted – Do it NOW!

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