



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association  
April-May 2019 Issue

Westley Falcaro, Editor

## Annual Meeting Summary

The 2019 Annual Meeting was held April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Shawnee Branch Public Library. Unfortunately, this was the first year in MANY years that we had to struggle and make calls to get a quorum. We finally did at 7:20pm.

Business included the Treasurer's Report, which itemized expenses and income for 2018, showing a significant drop in dues payments received, and Budgets and planned spending for 2019; the results of last year's events and activities; Planned events and activities for 2019; and the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors for 2019-2021. As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate was unanimously passed.

The Most Improved Property Award for 2018 was presented to Kaufmann Properties for their great rehab of 121 Congress Avenue, which is being sold.

A summary of the legal expenses and results were detailed. It was also noted that the permanent sign for the Butterfly Garden was installed and plans for some public relations were outlined. Of particular interest is a plan for an educational/informational seminar specifically for our Burmese residents using interpreters. This will be held in early summer at the Lafayette Park pavilion.

Westley Falcaro announced that, after 2 years of work, the empty lot at the corner of Calhoun & Pettit has been deeded to the LPIA at no cost to us! Additionally, a City grant of \$3,707 has been approved for beautification of that lot. Work should begin in May – weather permitting.

## A Privilege and a Duty

As we know from the countless advertisements on TV and articles in the newspapers, the **Primary Election Day is May 7.**

Don't make the mistake of thinking that a "Primary Election" is not important ... **it absolutely is!**

Make sure you're aware of who's running for a specific office and familiarize yourself with their platform. This is the time and opportunity to make your voice heard. If you don't vote, you can't complain about our various representatives!

**Our location for voting has been changed to the Many Nations Church located at 5100 Gaywood Drive, off Pettit Avenue. You may also vote at the City/County building (Rousseau Center) through May 6.**

If you have questions or need additional information, you can call 449-7154 or go online to **[www.allencounty.us/voter-registration](http://www.allencounty.us/voter-registration)**.

- Take I.D with you – driver's license or state issued photo I.D.
- Polls are less likely to be crowded during off hours: 10 -11:30am & 1:30 - 3:30pm.
- If you need help, ask a poll worker to assist you. That's why they're there!

**Whatever your party affiliation,  
voting is an important privilege.  
Use it on May 7th!**

## Rain = Mosquitoes & West Nile

This has been an extremely WET spring and all this rain makes mosquitoes very happy. So this is an important time to remember about the West Nile virus: it is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

Out of the 60 different varieties of mosquitoes, there are three types that have been found to be West Nile virus carriers in the Fort Wayne area, and another type that carries LaCrosse encephalitis.

Mosquitoes need water to multiply and standing water can be found almost everywhere, so it is very important to keep your property cleaned up and grass mowed.

Clogged gutters, rimless tires, tall grass and weeds also harbor mosquitoes; even a wet plastic bottle cap has enough water for the female mosquito to lay her eggs.

Prevention includes spraying clothing with repellants containing DEET and applying insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. Repellants should NOT be applied to children three years old and under. Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors during peak mosquito times.

For more information about West Nile, go to: [www.allencountyhealth.com](http://www.allencountyhealth.com) - click on Vector Control.

## Great American Clean Up Cancelled

Our participation in this City-wide event was cancelled due to the extremely soggy, muddy conditions of the common areas that we focus on during this event.

All residents can help out by picking up any trash & debris you find as you walk through the neighborhood – especially any sewer grates near your home. There are several large trash bins throughout the Esplanade for your convenience.

## Neighborhood Code Patrols

The City Neighborhood Code Enforcement Agency is starting their patrols for **grass and weed violations**, as well as **exterior house violations**.

Contrary to some perceptions, Neighborhood Code Enforcement is a **good thing for neighborhoods**, and Lafayette Place benefits from their vigilance.

Complaints go through the 311 Call Center, and the Code Inspectors are responsible for canvassing their specific territories. When a complaint is received, the inspector visits the property to determine if it violates code. In the case of tall grass, weeds, or noxious vegetation violations, a placard is placed in the yard, and a courtesy notice to abate is sent to the owner of record. Property owners then have five (5) days to correct the violation. If not corrected within that timeframe, the City's mowing contractors will cut the lawn and/or remove the noxious vegetation, and subsequently, the owner will be charged for the cost of the mowing, which will include an administrative fee. If the mowing invoice is not paid within 30 days, a lien will be placed on the property.

Complaints may also address peeling paint as well as failing gutters, porches, steps, and roofs, to name a few.

If you want to report a violation, call 311 or visit the 311 website. You will need to have the property's street address or specific location. Complaints may be made anonymously.

## LPIA Garage Sale

If you're stuck inside because of all the rain, this is a great time to go through all your "stuff" and put things aside for the LPIA Garage Sale, scheduled for Friday June 14 & Saturday June 15.

We put an ad in both newspapers announcing an addition-wide garage sale, but feel free to place your own ad if you have a lot of things to offer! Although we specify the sale is "Addition-wide," sometimes the public only go to the sales on the Esplanade & don't venture onto the side streets. So make sure the public is aware of your sale, either through your own ad or signs, balloons. Etc.

## Are You Ready?

Warm weather is just starting, so this is the perfect time to do all those outside repair or clean up projects you've been putting off. Don't wait until it's too hot to work outside, and certainly, don't wait until Neighborhood Code Enforcement sends you a notice or a ticket!

Keeping your property (home exterior, yard, and driveway) clean and in good condition maintains 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:

- Keep bushes and shrubs trimmed
- If the curb and street areas in front of your house are littered with papers or trash, this makes your house and the 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 as needed; don't wait until you need a huge, overwhelming, full-blown paint job.

## LPIA Board of Directors

### Officers

**President - Westley Falcaro**  
**Vice-President- Michelle Wood**  
**Treasurer – Amy Grubbs**  
**Secretary – Don Orban**

### Members

**Anne Gregory**  
**Kevin Rarey**  
**Wayne Reeves**