



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

Pictures for Reassessment

The Wayne Township assessor's team is starting to take pictures of the **front** of homes in specific Fort Wayne neighborhoods, and Lafayette Place is a neighborhood that is on this schedule.

Due to COVID-19, Staff will be driving for this task rather than going door-to-door. They will be using a County car, have IDs and wearing township t-shirts and masks. If necessary, the staff member may get out of the car to get a better picture of the house. So if you see a County car stopping in front of your house, or see someone taking pictures of your house, don't be alarmed as long as the car and person meet the above criteria.

If you have questions or concerns, call the Wayne Township office at 449-7173.

We Continue to Grow!

Lafayette Place has welcomed 15 new residents just since January! Realtors are saying that our neighborhood is one of the hottest and best-selling neighborhoods in Fort Wayne.

Property values in Lafayette Place have increased and buyers are paying list price and even above asking price! This growth has a lot to do with our beautiful and well-maintained common areas and your work on keeping your home in great condition; providing great "curb appeal."

This data supports what we have always known: **Lafayette Place is a GREAT place to live!**

Cooking Out?

July was almost too hot to cook outdoors, but August is actually cooling down and September could be perfect for outdoor cooking and socially-distanced picnic gatherings. If you're planning to cook outdoors, please keep these facts and safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in mind:

- * Gas grills, hibachis, and barbeques are involved in an average of 8,900 home fires each year. Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills add another 1,300 home fires per year.
- * Propane or charcoal grills are for outdoor use only and should be placed away from your home or deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- * Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area and never leave your grill unattended.
- * Keep your grill clean. Remove grease or fat buildup from grates and trays below the grill.
- * If you use a charcoal grill:
 - * Use only charcoal starter fluid or self-starting charcoal. If you choose an electric charcoal starter, use an extension cord specifically for outdoor use.
 - * Never **add** charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
 - * When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before transferring them to a metal container for disposal.

Stay Safe in Summer Heat

It's Indiana folks, where high heat and humidity often go hand-in-hand! It's a bad combination that can cause heat related illness or even death.

The Red Cross suggests the following to stay safe during such challenging weather:

- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.
- Eat small meals & eat more often.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothes.
- Stay indoors if possible.
- Slow down & avoid strenuous exercise. Try to limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
- Take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone, or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.
- Never leave children or pets alone in vehicles.
- Check on your animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat.

Looking Good!

Several exteriors to properties have recently been "spruced up" and look great! Whether new paint, gardening, a general clean up or a complete rehab, these property owners deserve a **Pat-On-The-Back** and a **Thank You** for keeping Lafayette Place beautiful. Some of the properties are:

208 McKinnie Circle	4515 Wilmette
209 Sherwood Terrace	4519 Lafayette Espl
216 Maple Grove	4526 Lafayette Espl
4422 Wilmette	4530 Wilmette
4430 Wilmette	4534 Wilmette
4431 Wilmette	4542 Wilmette
4435 Wilmette	4542 Wilmette
4511 Wilmette	4709 Lafayette Espl

WHAT TO DO WITH PLASTIC BAGS & PLASTIC FILM PACKAGING?

(Reprinted from City of Fort Wayne "Recycling Matters")

Plastic film packaging is recyclable — just not in your curbside recycle cart! Chances are, a lot of plastic film comes into your home. Film packaging includes plastic grocery, shopping, and produce bags; bread, sandwich, and food storage bags; newspaper sleeves; dry-cleaning bags; "air pillows" used to cushion shipments, bubble wrap, and Tyvek envelopes; case wraps from cases of water, toilet paper, and paper towels; and wraps from around furniture and electronics.

All of these materials are recyclable – just not in your curbside recycling carts! When they end up in curbside recycling carts, they cause problems.

First, they are lightweight and tend to blow out as the carts are lifted and emptied. Second, at the materials recovery facility, plastic bags get caught in conveyor belts and other equipment. Often the entire sorting line has to be shut down to remove tangled plastic film. So, please — don't put your recyclables into plastic bags, don't put loose plastic bags or film into the cart, and don't toss in bundled plastic film.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, local grocery stores and other retailers are no longer collecting these items either. Film plastic is accepted at Quincy Recycling in New Haven and Recycle Logic in Fort Wayne. Because the plastic film accepted at these locations is clean and uncontaminated, it can be turned into new bags, pallets, containers, crates, pipe, and composite lumber.

Remember — remove products, receipts, and crumbs before you drop off your bags for recycling!

Do You Know Your House Style?

We're very fortunate that Don Orban lives in Lafayette Place, for many reasons, but a big one is because he's the Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Fort Wayne and knows a lot about the architecture in our neighborhood.

According to Don, the most popular style of architecture in our neighborhood is Colonial Revival, followed by Tudor Revival, Craftsman and Minimal Traditional. Other styles include American Foursquare and Ranch.

Colonial Revival common identifying features of the style include: a symmetrically balanced facade with a central door and entry porch; classically inspired features such as pilasters, columns, pediments, fanlights, and sidelights; double-hung windows with multiple panes of glass; and prominent cornices decorated with dentils or modillions. **Examples are 4716 Lafayette Esplanade and 202 E. Fleming Ave.**

The **Tudor Revival** style became very popular after World War I. Tudors usually have steeply-pitched side gable roofs with at least one prominent front gable and large, decorative chimneys. Their most characteristic feature is decorative half-timbering with stucco or brick infill, which is usually found in gables or on second story walls. Brick, stucco, and stonewall surfaces were common, and windows were typically casements of wood or metal, in groups, with multiple panes of glass. **Examples are 4410 Champlain and 306 Glencoe Ave.**

Craftsman houses are simple in detail and massing, placing emphasis on "honesty" in their materials and construction. The best know expression of the Craftsman style is the "bungalow." Bungalows are one or one-and-a-half story houses of modest size with low-gabled roofs and wide porches, which are often integrated into the structure. **Examples are 4418 Champlain and 4410 Kenilworth.**

The depression of the 1930s brought a simplification in building. The **Minimal Traditional** style (c.1935-c.1956) reflect the Tudor or Colonial Revival styles, but roof pitches are lower, eaves are very shallow, and decorative detailing is minimal although there is often a large chimney. Small entry porches are common. **Examples are 4527 Lafayette Esplanade and 261 E. Maple Grove Ave.**

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