



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

## Car Safety Tips in Bad Weather

With our recent bit of snow and ice, I figured this is as good a time as any to remind you all of some tips to help you avoid the worst of winter hazards and keep you and your loved ones safe.

Whether you're traveling local streets or going on a trip, you never know when bad weather or traffic may put you in a dangerous situation.

### So remember:

- Don't let gas tank get below ¼
- Keep your tire pressure at recommended levels
- Carry in your car:
  - ✓ flashlight
  - ✓ flares
  - ✓ fix-a-flat
  - ✓ first aid kit
  - ✓ empty gas can
  - ✓ extra warm clothing
  - ✓ warm blanket

## FREE Tax Preparation Services

Now through April 13<sup>th</sup> there are various places in Fort Wayne that are offering free tax preparation services to people with incomes under \$54,000.

**There are specific requirements and documents you will need to take. Call 211 for details.**

## Hurray for the South Side!

It has been officially announced that a new “sit down” restaurant is coming to the south side! It will be on the corner of Fairfield and Maxine in the space that was home to **Hartley's** for 25 years and closed in 2009. The space was empty until **Chuck & Bird's Bistro** occupied the building briefly in 2011 and it became **My Grannies Table** in 2016.

I haven't heard of a name for the restaurant yet, but the owners, Corey and Amy Bowers, are a local couple. They will be serving “new American” cuisine with a rotating menu. There will be an emphasis on quality ingredients, sourced as locally as possible.

Corey Bowers spent many years in the Chicago culinary scene. He was a sous chef at HB Home Bistro in the Boystown neighborhood, where he was “dishing up inventive New American fare; familiar flavors executed in unfamiliar ways,” according to the Illinois Office of Tourism.

A tentative timeline has the restaurant opening in May.

I hope you'll plan to support this new restaurant. The only way we'll retain south side shops and services is if they thrive and the only way they'll thrive is if we support them whenever possible instead of traveling north or west!

We look forward to this needed addition to the south side!

## Be Safe With Natural Gas

Although we have seen a mild winter so far, it's still cold in Indiana in the winter and many people look for alternative or additional methods to staying warm. A common method is for people to turn on their stoves to help heat the house. Obviously, such a move is inviting the danger of a fire, whether you have an electric or gas stove, but gas stoves may pose an additional problem.

Although generally safe to use in the home, when natural gas does not burn up completely because of faulty installation or lack of ventilation, it emits a byproduct of **carbon monoxide**.

Carbon monoxide, CO, is a dangerous gas that you can't see or smell. It happens when appliances that burn fuel aren't working right. Carbon monoxide can make you very sick. You can often tell the difference between the flu and CO poisoning because you won't have a fever, everyone in your family may feel sick, or the symptoms might disappear when you leave the house. When humans breathe in carbon monoxide, it gets into our blood and stops the oxygen from getting to our brain.

Natural gas is odorless and highly flammable. Gas companies add a "rotten-egg" odor as a safety precaution because leaks, although rare, can occur.

Here are some safety tips if you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Whether there is a faint or strong gas odor, get out of your house **immediately**.
- Don't try to locate the source of smell/leak.
- Don't touch anything electrical, including switches and doorbells, and don't use a flashlight or telephone. ANY electric spark (even static electricity) could cause an explosion.
- Call the gas company from a neighbor's house or your cell phone once you are outside and far away from your house.

Consider installing gas detectors in your home. Check with NIPSCO for information.

## Protect Your Pipes

There's nothing more frustrating than waking up on a cold winter morning to find that you have no water because the pipes have frozen! It's not too late to head off a disaster by taking steps **now** 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 protect pipes, you may need to let the water run during very cold weather. Remember, 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.

**If you're taking a winter vacation, don't turn off the heat. Leaving the thermostat set to at least 55 can help keep pipes from freezing.**

### Water Meter

Customers of Fort Wayne City Utilities 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.

## **It's Not Too Early – Mark Your Calendar!**

### **The Lafayette Place Annual Association Meeting Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**SHAWNEE BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Corner of Calhoun and Noll Avenue**

As a property owner in Lafayette Place, you are automatically a member of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association (LPIA) per our Restrictive Covenants. The Annual Association meeting is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, review 2019 activities and budget, and find out what's planned for 2020.

FREE copies of the Lafayette Place Restrictive Covenants and our Hand Book will be available at the Annual Meeting, as well as the sign-up sheet for the Great American Clean up.

**Association dues may be paid at the Annual Meeting. Dues must be current to vote.**

#### **LPIA Board of Directors**

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Vice-President- Michelle Wood  
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