



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
May-June 2020 Issue Westley Falcaro, Editor

Rain = Mosquitoes & West Nile

I know we're all tired of viruses and the restrictions that have been part of the Coronavirus, but we need to be aware of another virus: the **West Nile Virus**.

We've had extremely WET weather lately, so this is an important time to know 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 repellant 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 the West Nile Virus, go to: www.allencountyhealth.com - click on Vector Control.

LPIA Garage Sale Is OFF!

LPIA Garage Sale, scheduled for Friday June 12 & Saturday June 13 has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

I have also just learned that Southwood Park and Woodhurst Associations are also canceling their garage sales scheduled for June.

We may re-schedule this event for a time later in the summer or in the fall, depending on the pandemic status and no second wave of COVID-19. Both Southwood Park and Woodhurst are considering the fall also.

Rudisill-Broadway Update

City Utilities representatives held a Zoom meeting with the Presidents of the 5 neighborhoods closest to and most affected by the project at Foster Park. Due to past delays and some new work required, the neighborhood leaders were given 2 options regarding the work and completion dates. One would open limited (and tight) traffic on some streets, pedestrian traffic and the trail would remain closed, access to Foster park would continue to be re-routed, and work would continue through February of 2021. The better option would maintain the closed traffic as it is and finish all the utility work and paving in September of this year.

Needless to say the leaders voted to maintain the status quo so all could be finished this September.

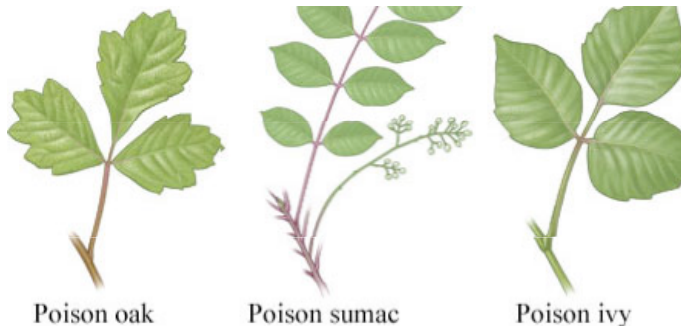
A Health Hazard Among Us

There is a lot of poison ivy in our neighborhood. Some properties have an overabundance and it is very dangerous. **Poison ivy** leaves grow in clusters of three on vines that can grow up into trees and trail along the ground.

Mistaking these for weeds and pulling them out can have hazardous results.

A glyphosate-based herbicide **concentrate**, such as Roundup™, Kleenup™, or a specific poison ivy killer, should be mixed with water 3 times the normal strength. **Ready-mix herbicides are not strong enough to destroy poison ivy.**

DO NOT BURN THESE PLANTS – burning can cause severe lung problems. For information about these plants and how to **safely** get rid of them, there is a good step-by-step list at www.gardensalive.com



Another Event Postponed

The City-wide Great American Clean Up has been postponed. - another victim of the Coronavirus. The new date is scheduled for September 19.

Although Lafayette Place has been a regular participant in previous years, it has not yet been decided if we will participate this year. Watch future LPIA Newsletters for information about this event.

Lafayette Park Program Cancelled

The Summer Playground Program provided by the Parks and Recreation Department has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The free program, which has been held in Lafayette Park for many years, is included in all of the summer camps and programs cancelled for this year.

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:

Tox-Way Tuesdays Are Back

This resource, which was closed during the “Stay-at-Home” order, is now open, but only as a drive-thru program. You must drive into the facility and staff members with personal protective gloves and masks will take disposables and cash without anyone leaving their vehicle.

All materials must be placed in the trunk or rear of your vehicle.

The CDC advises the **use of simple cloth face coverings** to slow the spread of the virus in our community.

Fees May Apply - Accepted items include:

- * Automotive fluids
- * Cooking oil
- * Household batteries (must be taped)
- * Household cleaners
- * Mercury
- * Fluorescent light bulbs
- * Paint, stains, aerosol cans
- * Pesticides & herbicides
- * Pool chemicals

Hours: Tuesdays (except Holidays) 9am-2pm

2260 Carroll Road

Enter via Fort Recovery Rd from Lima Road

Building A Good Neighborhood

We often talk and write about being a good neighbor. But we've never actually given any clues or steps to achieve that and build a good neighborhood in doing so.

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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