



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

Lafayette Place/South Leaf Pick Up

- Round 1 – Nov 16-20
- Round 2 – Dec 14-18

- Rake leaves to the median strip by 7am on the first day of our scheduled week
- DO NOT put leaves in the street
- DO NOT put leaves in the garbage or recycling cart
- DO NOT burn leaves – violation of City code & a \$50 - \$75 fine
- DO NOT place leaves in storm drains

If you use Biodegradable paper bags you can call 311 for pick up anytime during the pick up season. The bags will be picked up within 2 business days.

Save your Drain!

It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Recipes for many holiday foods contain gravy, butter, cream, shortening and other fats. These ingredients can clog your drains and sewer pipes.

Never pour grease down your drain or flush in the toilet. Using hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain doesn't work. It can still harden in your pipes or sewer line.

You can dispose of oil and grease by placing it in an empty milk carton, vegetable can, or plastic butter container. If you've taken something out of a "zip lock" bag, pour grease in this when you're finished with it.

Holiday Trash Pick-Up Reminder

Since our normal trash pick up day is Thursday, the only Holiday that is affected is Thanksgiving.

There will be NO pick up on Thanksgiving day, Thursday November 26. Trash pick up will be one day later, Friday November 27. That week is NOT a recycling week for our neighborhood.

Beware of Scams

There are a lot of telephone scams going on and a lot of them start with asking, "Can you hear me?" **DO NOT SAY "YES!" That one word can then be cut and applied to an approval for whatever it is they are selling even if you didn't approve anything! And it's recorded, so they've got you!**

You have several choices when you hear them ask if you can hear them:

1. Hang up
2. Say "No"
3. Say, "I hear you, can you hear me?"
4. Don't say anything, just listen

If anything other than "yes" is responded, the call automatically hangs up.

These scams are from various companies and even use local telephone numbers, so it looks like a local call from someone you think you know.

BE AWARE!

Protect Your Pipes

This is Indiana, so a cold winter is just around the corner, and 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.

People In – Wildlife Out

With cold weather, we want to stay inside where it's warm. Guess what? So do raccoons and other wildlife!

If you have deteriorated trim and fascia boards, holes in attic vents, or an open chimney, you can bet the neighborhood critters are planning on spending the winter with you.

Sealing up any openings now can help prevent the problems the critters cause when they nest in your home.

Before closing, sealing, or capping any potential entry points, make absolutely sure there are no animals already inside.

If you suspect raccoons, it's best to call a professional to remove the animal(s) and seal up the places where they're entering. You'll also want to make sure a professional cleans up any of the raccoon waste, which can contain raccoon roundworm. This parasitic worm can infect humans (and even pets) and is spread by the egg spores, which easily become airborne and can be breathed in. These egg spores can live for years as dry pods. Raccoons can also carry other illness-causing bacteria, as well as lice and fleas. And while raccoons can carry rabies, most people never get close enough to be bitten and therefore infected.

The exterior of your house can also be an invitation to wildlife. Make sure that you:

- Secure trash container lids if they are outside
- Keep tree branches trimmed six feet away from your house to not only limit access for wildlife, but to prevent damage to the roof that may allow animal entry in the future
- Clean up debris—especially leaf piles—in gutters and around the foundation annually.

Recycle Right & Safely

SPECIAL RULES THROUGH COVID:

- * If someone in your home has COVID-19 or suspects they have COVID-19, you must **treat your recyclables as trash until all household members are out of isolation.**
- * Only **one item** such as furniture, mattresses, etc. can be placed outside of the trash cart for pick up

Follow these simple guidelines to recycle correctly and safely

DO ...

- Only place accepted materials into your recycling container. If you aren't sure what recyclables that are accepted, visit **www.RecycleFortWayne.org** or call 260-427-8311.
- Wrap mattresses & box springs in plastic or they will NOT be picked up.
- Empty, rinse, and dry bottles, cans, and jugs before putting them into your recycling cart.
- Break down and flatten cardboard boxes. Cut large boxes into pieces, if needed, to fit **inside** the recycling cart.
- Put LOOSE recyclables into your recycling cart, NOT in bags.
- Place all recyclables and trash INSIDE your containers with the lids closed, NOT on the ground.

DON'T ...

- Bag your recycling.
- Put disposable masks, sanitizing or other wipes, latex gloves, tissues, or paper towels into your recycling cart. **All of these items go into the trash bin.**
- Put food or liquids into the recycling cart.
- Put clothing, textiles, hoses, cords, or plastic bags into the recycling cart.
- Put any kind of batteries or battery containing devices into your recycling cart. Go to **[www.acwastewatcher.org/ programs/household-battery-recycling](http://www.acwastewatcher.org/programs/household-battery-recycling)** for disposal information.
- Overfill your cart or put extra recyclables on the ground or lid. Cart will NOT be picked up if overfilled.

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