



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
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Car Safety Tips in Bad Weather

We recently had our first big snowfall of the year and more snow and ice continue to be forecast. So, here are 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:

- Don't let the 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

Lutheran Life Villages on South Anthony is offering free tax preparation services to seniors. It is (virtual) on-line only so call 209-4662 for an appointment. St. Mary's Catholic Church at 1101 Lafayette in downtown Fort Wayne is offering free tax preparation to anyone who qualifies. Call 424-8231 for information.

Both of these services have specific criteria for qualification. Call to find out if you qualify and what documents will be required.

Health Care Comes to Southeast

Hurray! Several health care providers recently opened clinics on the southeast side of Fort Wayne.

The closest clinic to Lafayette Place residents is the new **IU Health Primary Care** medical office in Southgate Plaza. It is in the east corner of the main strip, next to the Dialysis Center. Dr. Hector Perez and Dr. Cynthia Vanderbosch are family medicine specialists who will provide In-person and virtual visits, and X-ray services at this new facility. Address: 256 E. Pettit / Phone: 234-5400.

The new **Bowen Health Clinic** is housed in the Rudisill Plaza at Rudisill and Clinton. This clinic provides care for both child and adult patients, with or without insurance coverage or who are on Medicare or Medicaid. A sliding scale will be used for those who are uninsured or pay privately. Walk-ins are welcome. The Center will have insurance navigators to help people obtain health insurance and a list of translators for those who do not speak English. Address: 201 E. Rudisill, Suite 106 / Phone: 443-7543.

Parkview Health opened **Alliance Health Centers** in the Lafayette Medical Center building at Lafayette and Pontiac. The center will offer a sliding fee scale discount for those who qualify and will not turn away anyone for inability to pay. A certified navigator will help ALL resident (not just patients) with applications for Indiana Health Coverage Programs such as Medicaid. It is staffed with providers from Parkview Physicians Group and Park Center provides mental health services.

Address: 2700 Lafayette Street, Suite 050 (lower level) / Phone: 266-0780.

Social Security Phone Scams

The Social Security Administration has warned there are phone scams occurring regarding Social Security. Scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

If communication is needed, the Social Security Administration will only contact you by mail on official letterhead.

If you receive a suspicious call:

1. **HANG UP!**
2. **DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION**
3. **REPORT THE SCAM AT
OIG.SSA.GOV**

TV Recycling Fees Waived

Through March 1 only, ACDEM, the Allen County Department of Environmental Management, is **waiving** residential electronic recycling fees for up to 2 televisions per household. This applies to residents of Allen County only.

All sizes, working or not, are accepted. Fees still apply for other electronics and additional TVs. This is for residents only – business electronics are not included.

Where: OmniSource
1430 Meyer Road

When: Mon – Fri – 8am to 5pm
Saturday – 8am to 12 noon

Do You Remember?

- Candy cigarettes
- Party lines on the telephone
- Howdy Doody
- S&H green stamps
- Roller skate keys

City Home Repair Program

The City of Fort Wayne's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services is currently offering a Homeowner Repair Loan program to City residents.

The **Heating/Air Conditioning and Roof Replacement Program** provides 0% interest ten-year loans for heating/air conditioning replacement projects. Following are a **some** of the criteria needed to qualify for the program:

- Applicants must own their home and it must be their primary residence.
- The home must be located within the City limits.
- **Homes being purchased on land contract are NOT eligible for this program.**
- Applicants must have a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Please call to have a staff member help you calculate the income limit based on your household size.
- Applicants must have homeowner's insurance.
- Applicant must be up to date on mortgage payments.
- Applicants must not be involved in a pending bankruptcy or have liens placed against their home.

There are more qualifications, especially for the Roof program, which is included in the program guidelines. These can be obtained online or residents may call **260-427-8585** to leave their information on a voice mail system. Someone from the Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services will then call them back to determine their eligibility.

Funding is limited for this program, so qualified homeowners are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Coyote Sightings

There have been several sightings of coyotes in Fort Wayne lately, including the south side. Although you might be scared or uncomfortable at seeing a coyote, the DNR released a statement which stressed that such sightings shouldn't be cause for alarm, especially during winter. That's their active season; they typically breed in January and young coyotes are leaving their parents to find a new home.

The release further explained that coyotes like to live among people because of the abundant food that comes with human development. They like to eat animals and plants that thrive around homes and yards and their diet includes rabbits, mice, squirrels, and fruit. Coyotes can even help control rodent populations and are generally harmless to humans.

If you have unwanted coyotes in your yard or around your home, the DNR suggests these steps to discourage them from visiting - yell to shoo them away; wave; throw tennis balls or small stones; spray with a hose; make noise with a jar of coins or small air horn. DO NOT corner or chase a coyote. They should have a clear escape path to get away from you.

The DNR recommends that residents keep pets leashed or contained, keep outdoor garbage cans secure, and ensure that pet food and treats are not left outside. NEVER intentionally feed a coyote. It is important that a coyote maintains its natural fear of humans.

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