



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association  
June-July 2023 Issue Westley Falcaro, Editor

## Fireworks

Fireworks are part of our Nation's celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup>, and we hope you enjoy this special holiday. BUT, there are laws that govern fireworks use in the city limits. So, while enjoying your holiday, please follow these laws:

- Fireworks may be used only on the user's property, on the property of someone who has consented to the use of fireworks, or at a special discharge location designated by the State Fire Marshal).
- Children under 18 may only use fireworks when an adult is present.
- **Fireworks may be used only between 5:00 p.m. to two hours after dusk (approximately 11:00 p.m.) from June 29-July 3 and again from July 5-9.**
- On the day before July 4<sup>th</sup>, the hours are extended from 10 a.m. until midnight.

Fireworks are NEVER allowed in any Fort Wayne Parks. This includes the Lafayette Place Park in our neighborhood.

Penalties for violating fireworks laws can range from a Class A misdemeanor up to a Class C felony.

Anyone with a fireworks-related complaint is to call the Fort Wayne Police Department at 427-1222.

## Want A Tree?

In keeping with the beauty and tradition of Lafayette Place, the LPIA Board of Directors plans to plant trees on several streets that have no trees in the median – the strip of land between the sidewalk and the street.

As has been done in the past, trees will be purchased by the Lafayette Place Association through the Citizens Match Tree program at \$55 per tree which includes installation by the city. There will be no charge to any individual resident.

There are several streets in our neighborhood that have no or a minimal number of trees in the medians. The Board is in the process of identifying locations for the trees. In doing so, various residents will be contacted to see if they are interested in having a tree in front of their property and will participate in this neighborhood investment by watering the trees as needed.

If you are interested in having a tree planted in the median in front of your property, call Westley Falcaro at 456-1608 by June 30 to meet the deadline. Trees will be planted in the fall.

## Can You Lend a Hand?

Don Orban has been maintaining the 4 neighborhood common areas for a long time – and doing a beautiful job! It is a lot of work, and he would really appreciate a helping hand. No time or specific commitment is required.

If you could lend a hand in any of our gardens, please let him know. He would really appreciate it! Call and leave him a message at 745-3259.

## Changes in Recycling

I know it's confusing, but there are new guidelines for what is accepted in the recycling bins. Here's a breakdown of the main changes:

**Plastics:** Not all plastics are accepted at the local recycling facility. There is a move away from "recycling symbols" and "numbered plastics." If it is a plastic bottle, jug, or container – it can be recycled!

Single-use plastics (like plastic utensils), toys, hangers, **plastic bags** or any plastic film, and totes should be reused or placed in the trash bin, NOT the recycling bins.

**Styrofoam:** Styrofoam is NOT accepted or processed in Allen County. All Styrofoam materials (i.e. take-out boxes (shells), block, packing peanuts, etc.) should either be reused or placed in the trash bin.

**Caps/lids:** All caps and lids should be removed from bottles and containers before recycling. This will ensure that bottles, jugs, and containers are clean, empty, and dry.

To learn more about acceptable items go to:

<https://cityoffortwayne.org/one-cart-recycling.html>

## Update – Neighborhood Watch

The subject of a Neighborhood Watch was brought up at the Annual Meeting. After considerable investigation, it has been discovered that any type of formal Watch sanctioned by the Lafayette Place Improvement Association would cause considerable legal ramifications and extreme insurance cost increases and liability. **Therefore, no sanctioned or formal neighborhood watch will be established.**

The Board would like to encourage all residents to be especially aware of any activity that would be detrimental to our neighborhood. Please take it upon yourself to contact the police if you witness such activity, including vandalism. You can remain anonymous.

Kids vandalizing our neighborhood is not acceptable. But without taking the responsibility to report it, and hopefully stop it, it can, and will, continue.

## West Nile - Be Proactive

Just because there hasn't been a lot of rain doesn't mean there isn't standing water around. Why is that important you ask?

Standing water is a playground for mosquitoes, and with mosquitoes comes the risk of West Nile Virus - a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Three varieties of mosquitoes have been found to be West Nile virus carriers in the Fort Wayne area, as well as another type that carries LaCrosse encephalitis.

Mosquitoes need water to multiply and standing water can be found almost everywhere, even a wet plastic bottle cap has enough water for the female mosquito to lay her eggs.

The advent of the West Nile Virus makes it even more important to keep your property cleaned up. Clogged gutters, rimless tires, tall grass, and weeds also harbor mosquitoes

Prevention includes spraying clothing with repellants containing DEET and applying insect repellent 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](http://www.allencountyhealth.com) - click on Vector Control.

## Are Your Dues Paid?

Association Dues are **mandatory** and part of owning a property in Lafayette Place, as set forth in the Covenants. This obligation is attached to the **property** through the **deed**, not individual owners.

**If you are behind in your payments and cannot pay the total balance due and want to prevent legal action, we will be happy to set up a payment plan or work with you as needed. Call Westley Falcro at 456-1608.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**A NIGHT OF MUSIC  
AT THE GAZEBO  
Lafayette Esplanade  
(Between Congress & Sherwood Terrace)**

**The Todd Harrold Band**

**Saturday July 22, 2023**

**7:00pm to 10:00pm**

**FREE & Open to the public**

**Bring friends & family and  
A lawn chair or blanket (outdoor venue)  
(Rain or storms will cancel this event)**

**Hot Dog Boyz will be back selling hot dogs, nachos, root beer floats, & more!**

**LPIA Board of Directors**

**Officers**

**President - Westley Falcaro**

**Vice-President- Don Orban**

**Treasurer – Colton Bickel**

**Secretary – Michelle Wood**

**Members**

**Jeff Cyr**

**Anne Gregory**

**Nick Wybo**