



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association
March 2024 Issue
Westley Falcaro, Editor

It's Important - Don't Miss This!

The **Lafayette Place Annual Association Meeting** is right around the corner! 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 learn about your neighborhood and ensure Lafayette Place continues to be a great place in which to live. And to meet your neighbors if you haven't already!

Whether you're new to the neighborhood, or a long-time resident, this meeting is important for you to attend. **Your input matters!**

GUEST SPEAKER:

**Chris Blauvelt, Deputy Director
Neighborhood Code Compliance**

MEETING TOPICS INCLUDE:

Overview of 2023

What's planned for 2024

Election of the Board of Directors for 2024-2026

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

Please come a little early to sign-in

Shawnee Branch Public Library

Corner of Calhoun and Noll Avenue
(Just past Unity Lutheran School)

Hope to see you there!

2024 Spring Leaf Pick Up

The city will pick up leaves from April 1 to April 12 but **ONLY IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS.**

You must place these bags at the curb/median in front of your house and call 311 for pick up. The spring leaf pick up crews do not check streets for leaf pick up – you must call for pick up They will pick up the bags within 2 business days.

Do NOT rake leaves into the median or into the Esplanade or street. **They will NOT be picked up.** Biodegradable (paper) lawn bags are the only thing in which to place leaves or other lawn & yard waste for the spring leaf pick up.

Great American Clean Up (GAC)

As in previous years, Lafayette Place is planning to participate in this Nation-wide event by cleaning up our neighborhood. We didn't get enough volunteers last year to participate, so we hope to change that this year! Volunteers will meet at the Gazebo on **Saturday, May 4 at 10am** and work until noon. Areas will be assigned. The city provides garbage bags, gloves, and T-shirts.

A volunteer celebration with food, drinks, prizes, and live entertainment will be held at Headwaters West from 11:30am to 2pm. Your GAC shirt is your entry.

Please join us - contact Westley at 456-1608 or sign up at the Annual Meeting on April 10.

Neighborhood Code Patrols

The City Neighborhood Code Enforcement Agency will soon be starting their patrols for **grass and weed violations**, as well as **exterior house violations**.

Contrary to some perceptions, Neighborhood Code Enforcement is a **good thing for neighborhoods**, and Lafayette Place benefits from their vigilance.

Complaints go through the 311 Call Center, and the Code Inspectors are responsible for canvassing their specific territories. When a complaint is received, the inspector visits the property to determine if it violates code. In the case of tall grass, weeds, or noxious vegetation violations, a placard is placed in the yard, and a courtesy notice to abate is sent to the owner of record. Property owners then have five (5) days to correct the violation. If not corrected within that timeframe, the City's mowing contractors will cut the lawn and/or remove the noxious vegetation, and subsequently, the owner will be charged for the cost of the mowing, which will include an administrative fee. If the mowing invoice is not paid within 30 days, a lien will be placed on the property.

Complaints may also address peeling paint as well as failing gutters, porches, steps, and roofs, to name a few.

If you want to report a violation, call 311 or visit the 311 website. You will need to have the property's street address or specific location. Complaints may be made anonymously.

Want a Book ... Have a Book?

We are fortunate to have 2 **Little Free Libraries** at the north and south ends of the Esplanade.

Lafayette Place residents are encouraged to take any book they'd like to read from the Little Free Library, read it at their leisure, and **then return it**. **Or** if you'd like to keep it, you can **leave a different book for others to read and enjoy**.

Feel free to stock these libraries with any books you have around the house that you'd like to share. Reading material should be appropriate for both children and adults. Magazines are not acceptable.

A Great Resource

With the prospect of spring around the corner, many of us are thinking of our yards, including the condition of the grass, past and future plants., soil condition, and garden pests. We are fortunate to have a wonderful resource in Fort Wayne to help us with these issues and more - the Purdue Allen County Extension Office.

Here are some services you may want to check out:

Garden Hotline: For information or helps with your garden, lawn, trees, or plants in general you may contact the Master Gardner Hotline via email at mghotline@gmail.com or call 481-6425. **This is a free service.**

Plant Diagnostic & Pest ID: This is a great resource! Just take a sample of the plant or pest and take it to the offices at 4001 Crescent Avenue, or call 481-6826 for more info. There is a very nominal fee of \$5.00 for this service – well worth it!

Soil Tests: You may take soil samples to the extension office to be tested for general fertility, soil pH, and organic matter. A consultation with an Extension Educator is included in the \$20 fee to help determine an action plan based upon test results for better lawns, landscapes, and crops. Call (260) 481-6826 to learn more.

Purdue Allen County Extension Office
4001 Crescent Avenue
PH: 481-6826

We're Growing!

In 2023, and to date in 2024, 39 new residents have made Lafayette Place their home!

This growth has a lot to do with the upkeep of our common areas and your work on keeping your homes in great condition, providing good “curb appeal.”

If you have new neighbors, please get to know them and show them the friendliness and hospitality that Fort Wayne “south siders” are known for!

Thank you for your part in keeping Lafayette Place a GREAT place to live!

Items that can always be placed in your recycling cart include:



Items that can never be placed in your recycling cart include:



Paper



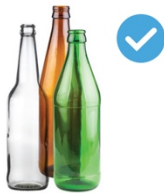
Flattened Cardboard



Metal Cans



Plastic Containers, Bottles & Jugs



Glass



Plastic Bags & Wrappers



Soiled Paper



Styrofoam*

*Styrofoam is a registered trademark of the Dow Chemical Co., Inc.



Clothing & Shoes



Greasy Pizza Boxes



Food



Tools



Toys



Scrap Metal



Diapers



Yard Waste



Medical Waste



Construction Waste



Electronics & Batteries



Plastic Caps & Lids

How to prepare your recyclables:



Empty. Clean. Dry.

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid.



Don't Bag It.

Never put recyclables in containers or bags.

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