



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

Gazebo Update

Now that a beautiful new floor has been installed in our Gazebo, it's time to refresh the rest of it! Jeff Prentice and Don Orban will be painting and giving this hallowed structure a fresh look in the coming weeks – weather permitting of course!

Thanks guys!

Watch Out

Can you believe that summer is over? It went way too fast for me! Kids have returned to school and that means they'll be walking to bus stops and cross walks.

Please be on the lookout for kids as you SAFELY drive through Lafayette Place.

Important Amendment

As detailed in our last Newsletter, the LPIA Board of Directors is proposing an important Amendment to the LPIA Restrictive Covenants to enable LPIA to recover, from the defendants, costs incurred in legal actions taken by the LPIA. The proposed amendment is necessary for the financial health of Lafayette Place.

Amendments require the approval of 66% of resident owners. Volunteers will be going throughout Lafayette Place to obtain signatures to approve this Amendment. Please support your neighborhood by signing the Petition. Contact Westley Falcaro at 456-1608 to sign the Petition or for more information. **There is no cost to any resident to amend the Covenants.**

Welcome!

We know that Lafayette Place is a great place to live, and so far this year, 17 new residents have discovered this too!

For new residents who have provided your email address and are reading this right now - we welcome you and your families and hope to get to know all of you in the near future!

If you've met a new family, tell them about this important free communication and ask if they're getting the Newsletter. If they aren't getting it, let them know they can contact Westley Falcaro by email at westley.falcaro@frontier.com or by phone at 456-1608 to be added to the email list for all future Newsletters.

A warm **Lafayette Place Welcome** to all new residents. Thanks for choosing Lafayette Place as your new home – we're glad you're here!

Hit and Run

Unfortunately, our beautiful Lafayette Place marker at the corner of Lafayette Street and Sherwood Terrace was damaged recently by a hit and run driver.

Considerable damage was done to the right (north) side of the marker requiring rebuilding of the brick side, metal top, and the concrete front.

The Board took quick action and Creative Sign Resources (the original builder) is in the process of repairs. LPIA's Insurance covered all costs but our \$250 deductible.

ALWAYS Lock Your Vehicle

There have been several vehicle break-ins and theft from vehicles in neighborhoods surrounding Lafayette Place and even some reported in our neighborhood. Some vehicles were parked in the driveway or right in front of the house. And thieves are striking in the daytime as well as nighttime.

Our Fort Wayne Police Department liaison officer advises everyone to **always** lock your vehicle, **even if it's parked in your driveway!**

It is also important that you DO NOT leave valuables in sight in your vehicle. Wallets/purses, money, cell phones, iPads, and laptop computers are all enticing to a thief.

Talk If You Can - Call If You Must

There are many complaints that are called in to LPIA Board members that can only be resolved by you, as an individual and resident.

If you have a problem with a neighbor, we suggest you "keep it neighborly." Whatever the complaint or situation, **talk** to the offending neighbor **first** and try to handle it in an amicable way. That might be all it takes!

The "311 Call to City Hall" is a sort of "one stop shop" in that they take the actual reports for some things or refer you to the proper agency for others.

When you call 311, you will hear a list of some of the City departments or issues you may want to address. Complaints or problems that address things such as streets, lighting, cars, etc. can all be directed to 311. Trash complaints and Neighborhood Code Enforcement calls for issues such as tall grass or weeds, broken windows, unkempt property, etc. are also accessed through 311.

The 311 Operator will give you a control number of your report. Keep this number as a reference of your call as it might take several calls before action is taken.

Always call 911 in an emergency

What is Your Address?

It is a City Ordinance that every owner of a building on any street is required to place the address numbers of that building in a "**conspicuous place on the front of the building.**"

The Ordinance further states "the numbers shall consist of figures not less than three inches in length, and so made as to be distinctly or easily read."

Failure to place your house numbers in a manner described above can result in a fine by the City.

Everyone's compliance helps Police and Fire departments find your house in an emergency.

This is the Perfect Time

It's hard to believe, but summer is winding down. With cooler temperatures, NOW is the perfect time to prepare your house and yard for what is just around the corner ... Indiana winter.

Check to see if you need paint touch ups or any exterior repairs to windows, doors, or siding. Clearing gutters and downspouts of tree and leaf debris will allow rain and snow move through them and help prevent cracking or breaking. Any needed roof, foundation, chimney repairs, or driveway cracks should be on your "to do" list before bad weather rears its ugly head.

And don't forget the plumbing! Frozen pipes from leaky faucets can be an expensive headache.

Get ready for a possible winter blast by getting your home and mechanical systems in shipshape!

Fun Historical Trivia

In English taverns, pubs, and bars in the 17th century, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

SO MANY SCAMS!

Telephone and Email scams are so common – don't be a victim! Read this important information.

Phone scams: **NEVER** have a conversation from a telephone number you don't recognize. Let the call go to voice mail. Scam and spam callers use local telephone numbers as well as 800 numbers and area codes from all over the country and the world.

Scammers also use artificial intelligence that can clone your voice using just a few words from your actual voice! They can create a "voiceprint" that enables them to use your voice for ANYTHING using any words they want.

Another trick is a caller asks you if you can hear them? **DO NOT SAY YES.** They can then sign you up for any number of products or contracts using your voice and the word YES to show you agreed to them.

NEVER give out personal information such as any account numbers, credit card information or bank information. If these companies have an issue, they will have your information and not need you to provide it. If you do get a call from one of your credit card companies or bank, **HANG UP** and verify the reason for the call by calling that company or bank directly. **DO NOT CALL** a number they give you. Call the contact number you usually use or from a recent statement. Remember, Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid will not call you if there is a legitimate situation. They will contact you by mail.

Email scams: These are rampant right now! You get an email from a service you use informing you that your account is out of date or closing for any reason. It looks like it is coming from someone you may know, like a bank, search engine, employer, or a friend. They then want you to click on a link for an attachment. **DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK!** This is a type of cyber fraud that steals your information or sneaks malicious software onto your computer or device.

Look at the email **CLOSELY.** Look for grammatical errors or misspellings as well as the sender's address. Check a company logo for accuracy. **Look for these features:**

- **Grammatical errors and misspellings in the message as well as the sender's email address**
- **Company logos that are not correct**
- **Links that are malicious (you may be able to identify bogus links by hovering your mouse over them and reviewing the actual URL)**
- **A familiar sender (a friend, colleague, or another contact) emailing with a generic or clickbait subject line, such as "Look what I found," and a link**
- **A scary subject line**
- **A subject line offering something for free**
- **A message that evokes an emotional response or sense of urgency**
- **Sketchy-looking file attachments**
- **File-sharing links that require you to enter your password in another window**
- **A sender who claims to be tech support**

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