



The Official Newsletter of the Lafayette Place Improvement Association  
November-December 2024 Issue  
Westley Falcaro, Editor

## Want to win a \$100 gift card?

Participate in the LPIA Holiday Decorating Contest for a chance to win! We had good participation last year, so we're doing it again this year!

From December 11 - December 21, judges from outside our neighborhood will be looking at all the holiday decorations in **Lafayette Place** and will determine the **house** that has the MOST FESTIVE Holiday Decorations!

The winner will be notified in person and presented with a \$100 Gift Card.

We look forward to seeing all the beautiful decorations throughout the neighborhood!

## Holiday Events

There are so many Holiday festivities in Fort Wayne that it's impossible to list them all! Some fun things to do include all the activities associated with the Night of Lights in downtown Fort Wayne starting Nov 27, holiday events at the Botanical Gardens, Festival of Trees at the Embassy, Christmas at the Old Fort, holiday activities at the Swinney Homestead and the Riverfront, and of course ice skating at Headwaters Ice Rink. For outdoor nature lovers, Solomon Farm Park has their FREE Winter Solstice Walk/Ride & Campfire Dec 21.

There's SO much to do and you won't want to miss the fun. You can get information on these and other events at the Fort Wayne Parks Department. Call 427-6000 or go to [fortwayneparks.org](http://fortwayneparks.org)

## Thank You VERY Much

It's hard to believe that we're getting close to the end of the year. So, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who provided their time and talents to Lafayette Place in 2024. We wouldn't have the great neighborhood we have without these folks:

Residents who deliver all our flyers:

**Luke Bassett**  
**Ethan & Iana Bassett**  
**John Lehner**  
**Christine Slattery**  
**Jim Vaughn**  
**Autumn Wybo**

Resident who maintains the LPIA Facebook Page:

**Autumn Wybo**

Residents who maintain the trash cans throughout the Esplanade and the Lafayette-Pettit Green Space AND maintain the Pet Waste Stations in those areas:

**Chuck Bell and Angel Campos**

The resident who puts out all the signs for our events and **beautifully decorates** the Gazebo for the Holidays:

**Jeff Prentice**

The resident who keeps the butterfly garden, and all our various gardens and green spaces beautiful:

**Don Orban**

And of course, my fellow LPIA Board of Directors who give so much of their time, wisdom, and talent:

**Colton Bickel**  
**Tyrell Hollis**  
**Don Orban**  
**Jim Vaughn**  
**Andrew Williams**  
**Nick Wybo**

## Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The Holiday Season is upon us and many of you are making Holiday plans and getting your house ready for visits, decorations, and gifts.

Preparing your home and starting your Holiday shopping can be fun, but please remember to take precautions. Although we're fortunate to live in a very safe neighborhood, the holiday season can attract criminals from any distance. Following are some crime prevention tips for home & while shopping:

### At Home:

- \* Keep all doors & windows locked when leaving your house.
- \* If leaving for an extended period of time over the holidays, leave on some lights and TV or radio. to give the impression that someone is home.
- \* Hide large gifts that can be seen through windows.
- \* Don't leave a key outdoors.
- \* Do not leave your garage door open.

### While Shopping:

- \* If possible, go shopping with a friend. Criminals are less likely to approach you if you're not alone.
- \* Lock **all** valuables & purchases in your trunk **before** reaching your destination.
- \* Never leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- \* Make sure cashiers return your credit card.
- \* Purses should be held close to the body.

## Lafayette Place/South Leaf Pick Up

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Dec 2-6

- 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 garbage or recycling carts
- DO NOT burn leaves – it's a violation of City Code with a \$50 - \$75 fine

## Holiday Recycling Information

### You CAN Put These Items in Your Recycle Cart:

- non-metallic wrapping paper and Gift bags (handles removed)
- tissue paper
- cardboard
- gift boxes and shoe boxes
- aluminum foil and food trays (rinse to remove food)
- greeting cards, envelopes, gift cards, and tags
- old calendars (remove metal or plastic coils; staples OK)

### DO NOT Put These Items in Your Recycle Cart:

- No foil or metal-looking wrapping paper or gift bags
- No ribbons, bows, beads, string, garland, or tinsel
- No holiday decorations (lights, bells, ornaments, etc.)
- No bubble wrap
- No plastics toys
- No batteries, electronics, or
- No artificial Christmas trees

## LIVE Christmas Tree Recycling

**Live** Christmas trees can be recycled for **FREE** from Dec 26-Jan 12. Ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands, and plastic bags **must be removed before it is dropped off.**

**Wreaths are not accepted at the Christmas tree recycling locations. Wreaths may be placed in your garbage cart.**

### Locations closest to us:

**Fort Wayne City Utilities Biosolids Handling Facility (closed Dec 26 & Jan 1)**

6202 Lake Avenue  
Mon-Fri 7am-3pm

### **New Haven Utility Shop**

2201 Summit Street, New Haven  
Daily dawn to dusk

# *Seasons Greetings*

**The LPIA Board of Directors  
wish you and your family  
safe and joyful  
Holidays**

**Christmas tree drop-off sites will be listed in the January Newsletter.**

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE ESPLANADE**

## **LPIA Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

**President - Westley Falcaro  
Vice-President- Don Orban  
Treasurer – Colton Bickel  
Secretary – Andrew Williams**

### **Members**

**Tyrell Hollis  
Jim Vaughn**