



# NEWS AND VIEWS

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## **WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES – AGAIN!!!**



*Never been to a mouse race?* They're a blast! **Just ask anyone who attended the event last year.** It's like an evening at the racetrack, but the horses are replaced by mice. The buzzer sounds, the gates are lifted and they're off! We guarantee betting on these mice will get your adrenalin flowing. There's also 50/50 mouse roulette, a silent auction and raffle.

The \$25 admission price includes a free taco station and other snacks, as well as free beer, wine and soda – what a bargain! (You also have the option to bring your own beverages.)

While you're having fun socializing with your friends and family, you're also contributing to a great cause – Lafayette's employees with developmental disabilities. It's a WIN-WIN for everyone.

***You don't want to miss this fun event!*** Attendance is limited to 300, so make your reservations early. Registration forms will be available starting February 20<sup>th</sup> at the front desk and registration forms will also be included in the March newsletter. In addition, you can register online with a credit card at [www.lafayetteindustries.com](http://www.lafayetteindustries.com). ***Online registration is now open.***

Please feel free to contact Mary Beckerle at [mbeckerle@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:mbeckerle@lafayetteindustries.com) or at 636-227-5666, x1127 with questions.

### **PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MOUSE RACE**

**SEEKING AUCTION ITEMS:** If anyone has season sports, concert or theatre tickets (or works for a company that has them), please consider donating a set for auction items at the upcoming Mouse Races on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Other popular auction items are gift certificates of any kind, wine, liquor or food baskets, small electronics and toys. *We can't accept clothing or used items.* If you have something to donate please contact Mary Beckerle at 636-227-5666 x1127 or [mbeckerle@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:mbeckerle@lafayetteindustries.com) before March 15<sup>th</sup>. All donations are tax deductible. Thanks!



Rob Libera  
Executive Director  
[rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com)

**Mission:** The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons who are developmentally disabled / mentally retarded and persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

**Goals:** ♦ To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled ♦ To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment ♦ To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits ♦ To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment ♦ To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings ♦ To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner ♦ To provide fair wages and good benefits

# SAVE THE DATE!

LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES'

2nd ANNUAL

MOUSE RACES



Saturday, March 24, 2012

Doors Open 6:45 First Race 7:30

Trinity Lutheran Church\*

14088 Clayton Rd. (at Hwy.141)

\$25 admission per person (\$20 for Lafayette workers)

Invite your friends and family for a fun evening to benefit Lafayette Industries

*\*note new location*

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES

By The Editor



Lafayette always seems to be a place of drama and excitement, but it reached its height last Wednesday with the presentation of four gold watches to four of our employees who have worked at Lafayette 25 years each! That's 100 years of experience!! That's a lifetime and they are very proud of what they have accomplished. They got pictures taken with Rob Libera, our Executive Director, then had their photos taken with the folks they had invited. Since it was such a large group and we didn't get everyone's names, we are going to just put the names of the employees who got their watches. They were: Debbie Kapp, Bob Byers, Brian Bradshaw and Jerry Butler. After they were finished with the photographs, they all shared in a special celebratory



cake honoring their service. Lafayette is pleased to have such hard, dedicated and loyal employees. This type of celebration isn't always yearly, but we usually don't go too long without recognizing someone who has worked here for that long. If you look at the picture at the left, it's a sign of the times - cameras everywhere, and you would think it was a celebrity being filmed. In a way everyone who gets the watch is a celebrity in the sense that they have managed something rare in a time where people don't stay long at one job. Here's to 25 more years of service!!!!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE, BOB, BRIAN AND JERRY!**



**FIVE SCAMS TO WATCH FOR IN 2012**

**(Part 2)**

**FACEBOOK UNFRIENDLIES**

- \*Tipoff: An organization or person you don't know attempts to "friend" you.
- \*Tricks: They exploit your trust of the "safe" social network environment.
- \*Targets: Social Network Users.

Facebook, LinkedIn and similar social networking websites are redefining how we interact as a society. However, they also provide a ready-made "victim pool" for scammers. Scammers launch topical pages in order to fish for like-minded network users. Once "friended", they link their victims out of the safe environment to an external site where they can be attacked by viruses or pitched scam offers.

Do not respond to any "friend" request from any person or organization you do not know from outside the social network. Never reveal your personal information or that of your loved ones, your travel plans or other information on the social networking site. Some experts advise against any use of social networking sites, comparing it to "entering a tiger's cage wearing a pork chop suit".

**OUTRAGEOUS REQUESTS**

- \*Tipoff: They ask for information they should already have.
- \*Tricks: Use of publicly available information to convince you they are legitimate.
- \*Targets: Anyone with bank or credit card accounts.

"Phishing" is what security professionals call attempts to trick computer users into providing personal or financial information. Phishers have branched out from the net and now use cell phones, and landlines to operate their scams. Armed with your name, address and phone number, they call with requests to "verify" personal information such as your social security, bank or credit card numbers. NEVER provide any personal or financial information to anyone who contacts you. Do not engage in conversation with these people. If they say they are from your bank or credit card company, hang up or log off, independently determine the phone number or website of your bank or credit company, and call or email them.

The information provided in this article is adapted from AARP's Bulletin.



Far left: Our friends from Artistic Friend

Middle: Ornament and cookies were the surprise for our employees

Far right: A treat for the road at the end of the day

**ARTISTIC FRIENDS MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:** The Artistic Friend Club is a group of artists that get together and make artful items for the disadvantaged. They showed up at Lafayette again this year bearing homemade ornaments and homebaked cookies. Every sheltered employee lined up single file to receive their gift and say hello to the club members. Everyone at Lafayette appreciates the time and thoughtfulness that goes into these gifts. It something we look forward to every Christmas season. In addition, The Artistic Friend Club made a \$250 donation. Thank you for all that you do and give!



**LAST CALL FOR TAX PREPARATION** By **Dick Kallemeier:** Becky Stillwell [bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com) and I [dickkall@charter.net](mailto:dickkall@charter.net) began accepting email requests for tax preparation appointments January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The one hour appointments at the Lafayette West office will begin Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The free service is available to all Lafayette employees and immediate family members. If you do not have access to a computer please call Becky Stillwell at (636) 227-5666, ext 1100.

Remember to bring all income forms (W2, 1099R, Social Security, SSI Letter, Interest, Dividends, Capital Gains), adjustments to income (IRA contribution, student loan interest, etc.), Real Estate Tax receipts, rent receipts, medical insurance expenses, and if you itemize (mortgage interest, charity gifts, medical expenses including mileage). Also needed is proof of age, Social Security Number verification, direct deposit account numbers and a copy of last year's tax return.

Many Lafayette employees owe no tax but may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and possibly the Missouri Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker). A review of the employee's income, disability status and housing rental expense determines eligibility. Tax returns will be completed on the IRS computer tax preparation system and efiled with the IRS. Federal income, state income and property tax credit (if applicable) forms are completed as one package.





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARIANS!!



### NORTH

Carl	Lampkin	1	Janay	Edwards	8
Lynn	Reyland	2	Terry	Foerster	10
Michael	Harris	3	John	Sturgeon	11
Antoine	Edwards	4	Felita	Jenkins	12
Blake	Heida	4	Christy	Mertz	25
James	Bateman	8			

### WEST

Pat	Clark	2	Shirley	Cumberland	15
John	Aleman	5	Joshua	Stuart	15
Neal	Cohen	6	Sherri	Farmer	16
Mary Lee	Golliday	6	Zach	Leeker	16
Christina	Miller	7	Nancy	Taylor	20
Mark	Grosch	9	Chris	Moore	23
James	Stuart	10	Ronald	Hantak	24
Austin	Cude	11	Gloria	Yowell	26
Sarah	Sanchez	13	Michael	Gaglio	27
David	Vanek	14	Bryan	Sink	28

"Please don't retouch my wrinkles. It took me so long to earn them." - Anna Magnani



**GREG MCCARTHY** By Tom Heitert: One of Lafayette's original employees was lost to us last month. Greg McCarthy started in June of 1979. He had an awesome work ethic, which he carried to the very end. He loved to work, and did a lot of it.

Greg bravely fought serious illness these past years, showing a tough-mindedness we can all try to imitate. He remained upbeat and positive. We all know that's difficult to do. It's such an admirable trait.

Living proof that you can't keep a good man down, Greg was preparing to play basketball one week before he left us. Having seen him play, I assure you, his upbeat personality translated to hoops as well.

He wore his Cardinal, Rams and Blues colors proudly around the shop. It's a privilege to have been around such a gentle dignity.

He's missed already.



### FRIENDS OF I.T.E.

By Judy Way

#### For Calendar:

- The February Knights of Columbus Dance at Valley Industries is scheduled for **February 10** (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in February).
- The next meeting of Friends of I.T.E. Lafayette North is at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **February 8**, in the Lafayette North conference room.

**Friends of I.T.E. Lafayette North 2011-2012 Membership:** Since we last published our membership list, the following folks have joined or renewed their memberships for 2011-2012:

Willie & Curtistean Doss  
Judy O'Leary

Paul & Kathy Gerth  
Bernice Parciak

Fred & Lois Kornfeld  
Ada & Marina Raskin

Thanks to all of you – none of our activities would be possible without your membership.

**LWC WEST AUXILIARY MEETING:** Please attend the meeting on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, in the large board room at Lafayette Industries, 179 Gaywood Drive, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing auxiliary finances and an important topic which needs membership feedback.

#### **EIGHT YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** By The Editor

Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> was Rob Libera's eighth year as Executive Director. I can remember when I met Rob I thought he was outgoing and friendly. When he learned parent's names I thought that was awesome. When he reached his 8<sup>th</sup> year, I thought how lucky we were. Congrats, Rob, on your achievement! It wouldn't be the same place without you!





**Sunday, February 12, 2012**  
**Valentine Dinner/Dance**  
**For Lafayette Work Center employees and their family**  
**and friends**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**14088 Clayton Road ▪ Chesterfield, MO 63017**  
**From 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Only \$10 per person for a great dinner catered by Calliers and the music you love to listen and dance to provided by Sounsational D.J. Service.**

**Please return the form below to the LWC office by Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, to ensure your reservation.**

Also, return release forms for guests and yourself if you haven't been to an LWC event within the past year. They will be available at the office front desk. If you have any questions, phone Gloria Marek at (636) 256-3976 or (314) 799-7684.

**LWC VALENTINE PARTY RESERVATION FORM**

**Name(s):**

**Contact Phone Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check(s) payable to LWC Auxiliary

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash enclosed in sealed envelope (how much?)

Returning by Call-A-Ride \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes



Smiles are the order of the day!



Proud family and friends share a moment!



Our employees show that work is important!

**2011 LAFAYETTE NORTH AWARDS CEREMONY!**

By Sherry Hardy

With the holidays finally past us, things are finally returning to normal at Lafayette North. We are still hearing from the workers that this year's Christmas Party with a D.J., dancing and catered meal "Was The Best Ever!!".

We celebrated Attendance Awards on December 20th to honor the top 20 employees with many family members and friends of our recipients present to celebrate. The employees are as follows: Kristina Schrader, Eddie Brown, Marina Raskin, Tamara Little, Anthony Williams, Randy Berrong, James Bateman, Jason, Doss, Phillip Johnson, Veronica Quinn, Walter Murray, Stefanie Taylor, Tim Hubbard, James Campbell, Karl Gill, Vaughn Caldwell, Sally Grant, Cynthia Behan, Dennis Reuber, Derek Mattingly. All recipients received monetary awards as well as a pin to wear in recognition of their achievement. Cake and coffee, as well as conversation was enjoyed by all after the presentations.

Welcome Back, Blake Heida... We have all missed him during his recuperation!

***Cheers to the New Year and Looking Forward to A Successful 2012 for Lafayette Industries!!!***





LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES  
 179 GAYWOOD DRIVE  
 MANCHESTER, MO 63021-5421

Non-Profit Org.  
 U. S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Valley Park, MO  
 Permit No. 46

MAILED JANUARY 24, 2012  
 DATED MATERIAL  
 DELIVER BY FEBRUARY 1, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Tu B'Shvat - Wed., Feb. 8th 			1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4
5 Super Bowl XLVI 	6	7 Full Moon 	8 9:00 a.m. - Friends of ITE Meet	9	10 North - Knights of Columbus Dance - Valley Ind. - 7:30-10:00 PAY DAY 	11 West - Knights of Columbus Dance - St. Clare of Assisi School - 7:00-10:00 
12 Valentine's Dance - 1:00-4:00 p.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church 	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 7:00 p.m. - Executive Comm. meets 7:30 p.m. - Board of Directors meets	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day -  <u>Workshops Open!!</u>	21 Mardi Gras 	22 Ash Wednesday 	23	24 PAY DAY 	25
26	27	28	29 Leap Year 			