



NEWS AND VIEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

JUNE 2012

PREVIOUS SAFETY RECORD BROKEN



Far left: Mayor Wilson and Dan Zeller showing him safety sign



Middle: Kristin Kallansrud, Cindy Jacobson and Dennis Palmissano - Working safe but happy



Far right: Steve Sosnoff models his new shirt



Far left: Rob Libera standing by while Mayor Wilson congratulates Lafayette employees on their good safety record



Left: John Grunz shows off his new shirt

Congratulations to our wonderful workers at Lafayette Industries West as they surpassed their previous Safety record of 1,130 consecutive days of working safely on Wednesday, May 16! The next day, Mayor Wilson of Manchester came to the shop to announce the record and help celebrate the event with a hot dog lunch, provided by the Chesterfield Lions, and pass out a Safety T-shirt for everyone (Lafayette North is doing well also as they are up to over 660 consecutive workdays).

Congratulations, and keep up the good work!



Rob Libera
Executive Director
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



2011 Tax Season Wrap-up

By Dick Kallemeier:

This year a total of 37 people used the free income tax service at Lafayette sponsored by the AARP Tax Aide Foundation. 21 workers, 5 staff members and 11 family members filed returns. That is a 48% increase in participation over last year.

For the workers a total of \$11,517 was refunded from the Federal government and \$7,758 from Missouri. The average Federal refund was \$501, and the average state refund was \$554. These refunds are created by the Federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the state Property Tax Credit (PTC). Everyone who needed to file a federal return qualified for the EIC, 12 workers qualified for the PTC. One worker didn't know he was eligible for these credits and was able to late file 2009 and 2010 returns.

Special thanks to Lafayette Industries for providing the time and space to accomplish this task and to Becky Stillwell for handling the appointments, phone calls and keeping me on schedule. Hope to see you next year.



MY BABY CHICKS By Jennifer Schweiss: This is a true story about how I raised chickens at my house for a while. A lady had a chicken on a farm, and that chicken got eaten by a snake. The lady gave me a dozen eggs. Eight out of the 12 made it, but four eggs did not. I turned the eggs every morning, every afternoon and every night. I turned them three times a day, and on March 30th they hatched. They started out small but when they dried their wings they got big. They ate chick starter and drank water and apple cider vinegar. When they got bigger I put them in a Rubber Maid container. When they double in size that is when you have to let them go to a new home. Their new home was in Fenton, Missouri, and Gabe is the one we called. He will take care of chickens, horses and dogs and all animals. I miss my chickens, but that's okay because I get to visit them anytime I want. Gabe is a nice guy.

ELLEN WEBER AND SHERRY HARDY'S ROAD TRIP(S) By Sherry Hardy

On March 30th Ellen Weber and myself took a quick trip to Naples, Florida. Here are some of our pictures we took in our Lafayette shirts on the "Road Trip" back, as we traveled across Florida, through Georgia, the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. We had a blast doing the pictures. We forgot to bring our News And Views, however it will be with us and our families on any further excursions!!! P.S. The sweatshirt picture is from our New Year's trip to Lake of the Ozarks!!



MISS AMAZING PAGEANT FROM A PARENT'S VIEW

By Ann Kelly (Proud Mother)



Lafayette employees are very special people, but did you know that some of them are royalty? It's true. Three of our lovely ladies were recently crowned at the first-ever Missouri Miss Amazing Pageant held at Lindenwood University. Started by a former Miss Nebraska in 2007, the

pageant's goal is to help young ladies with disabilities learn poise and to build their confidence. They have one-on-one interviews with the judges, introduce themselves to the audience, and model their finest evening wear. There is also an optional talent portion, and of course, all three of our talented ladies participated. At the end of the pageant, every contestant was crowned a princess of Missouri and one young lady from each age division was crowned queen. So the next time you see Princess Shirley Cumberland, Princess Carli Binek or Queen Colleen Kelly, you might want to give them a bow or curtsy. Congratulations to our Lafayette royalty.



Everyone is getting pumped up.....



The chorus singers were one big, happy group



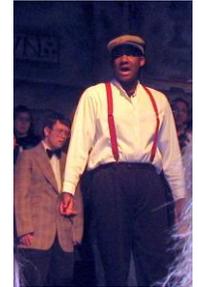
Audrey II



Skid Row “bums” wait to sing their part



The dentist sings his solo



“Seymour” belts out his song

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS By The Editor: On Sunday, May 29th, Theatre Unlimited did “Little Shop of Horrors” at the Jewish Community Center located in the Creve Coeur area. Sheila, one of our production supervisors at West, came up one day and asked me if I wanted to go to the musical. I really wanted to go, but didn’t want to go by myself, so we met at Lafayette that afternoon and went up together to go see it. It was one of my favorite musicals of all time, and we knew that some of our Lafayette employees from both West and North were going to be performing in it. When we arrived, the place was already filling up. We found Ann, another Lafayette staffer in the front rows, and sat with them. The chorus singers up on the stage began to take their seats, and the girls who were playing the part of the Skid Row bums took their places as well. Then the piano began the introduction and everyone’s attention focused on the stage. Playing the part of one of the lead characters, Seymour, was Lafayette North’s own Darrius Roberts. Darrius did a great job of acting and singing his solos. Not to be outshone, though, were the other folks in the chorus who are Lafayette employees. They were: Neal Cohen, Ryan Dillon, Laura Fortus, Barbara Hall, Colleen Kelly, Ann Morrissey, Meri Rohan, Valerie Shaw and Claude Turner. People who were former Lafayette employees participated as well: Jeffrey Smith, Angie Wasserman and Lisa Mannion. It was the first time that I had been to one of these productions and it was a lot of fun. To the plant who ate everyone - Bad, bad plant! To everyone else - job well done! I encourage everyone that if you haven’t had a chance to go to one of these, next time they have one, try to go because you will laugh, you will tap your toes, and generally have a great time.



HOW TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT WHILE TRAVELING - PART ONE By Dan Rechten

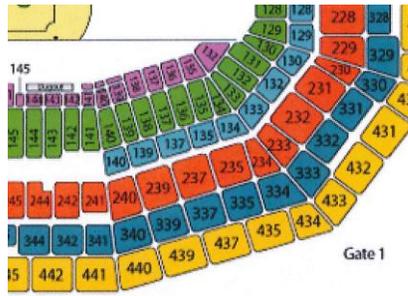
Before you leave home: - Stop your mail. Go to the post office or to USPS.gov to stop your mail. You can have all accumulated mail delivered when you return or pick it up yourself. A full mailbox with credit card bills and bank statements is a treasure trove for identity thieves and a sign to burglars you are away. Stop paper deliveries, use light timers to simulate occupancy, and notify your local police department you will be gone. If leaving cars parked outside, make sure they are locked, the alarm set, and garage door openers removed. Never inform friends through social media of your vacation until you are back home.

- Empty your wallet or purse. Take only two credit cards, one to carry while traveling and one to be locked in the hotel safe in case you lose the other. Do not carry or use debit cards while traveling. If you want to access ATM’s, ask your bank for a temporary ATM only card to use while traveling.

- Alert credit card providers as to where you are traveling, and your cell phone for emergency contact. If you live in St. Louis and suddenly your credit card shows numerous purchases in the Bahamas, your credit card provider may freeze your accounts unless you have previously notified them.

- Have all adults prepare and carry a “throw-down” wallet. If you are accosted, give the robber this fake wallet with a small amount of cash, an old license or expired credit card. He will probably run away with what he thinks is a windfall, while you have the real one hidden on your person.

- Leave your checkbook at home. You do not need it, and its loss or theft could cause you identity theft problems for years.



PLAY BALL: THE ANNUAL ST. LOUIS CARDINALS BASEBALL GAME!!

This year Lafayette will be making its journey to the St. Louis Cardinals ballgame on **Friday, July 20th**. We are getting \$44 tickets for \$10 each. The seats are in Sections 328, 329, 330 in the right outfield pavilion. **Employees** can buy up to 4 tickets @ the \$10 each rate. Any request beyond 4 tickets, then the price rises to \$32.00 each. These tickets are available on a first-come, first served basis. The tickets will become available some time in early June. Below is a form that you can use to sign up for your tickets. So mark the date on your calendar and plan now to help cheer the Cardinals on to victory. The deadline for getting tickets (no exceptions!) is Friday, July 6th.

Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ tickets at \$10 each (\$32.00 each after the first 4 for **employees**)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Make check payable to Lafayette Industries.

I will need **wheelchair** seating _____ It is okay to send the tickets home by sheltered employee. _____

Please mail the tickets to me. _____



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HELPS LAFAYETTE EMPLOYEE By Mary Beckerle

Mandy Doss, Personal Care Provider at Lafayette West, is the recipient of a Habitat for Humanity home that is now under construction. Mandy is a single mother of four daughters. They've been living in a small rental home in Kirkwood, which is bursting at the seams.

Mandy has always dreamed of being a homeowner, but never thought it would be possible. After a very long and arduous application process, Habitat for Humanity is making her dream come true! On April 26th there was a groundbreaking ceremony and on April 30th the framing began. Completion is scheduled for August.

Mandy's four daughters are very excited! Mandy says, "We are very blessed". Her smile grows bigger every day as the move approaches!



At left: Music group puts on a performance for parents and staff



LAFAYETTE GLEE CLUB By Ann Kelly

Spring is here and the birds are singing – so are our warblers in the Lafayette Glee Club. The glee club is hosted each Tuesday and Thursday by members of Maryville University. The members learn songs which they sometimes accompany with musical chimes. Since the sessions run the same time as the college semesters,

parents were treated to an end-of-the-session concert. And not only did we hear some wonderful music, we also saw some great dance moves to boot. All of the members are looking forward to starting again in the fall.

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY

....unless you are at Lafayette where the work keeps coming in (which is a good thing). Yes, it's Summertime and our business is better than ever. As we gear up to produce for our customers we need your help. Planning is critical, and having people here to do the jobs is one of the key aspects of the plan. That's where you come in. We are requesting that vacations for all employees be scheduled at least two weeks in advance and communicated to us promptly. Forms were sent home and - are available at the front desk and on Lafayette's website. On the website it will be treated as an announcement, and will be available in a few days. We appreciate your efforts in helping us grow Lafayette and our customers we serve. - Judi Hellman

Friends of ITE Lafayette North Annual Family Picnic & Auction: It's not too late to reserve your place the family picnic scheduled for Sunday, June 10th. The deadline has been extended to June 4th. Please return your reservation form today to Jerry Phillips at Lafayette North or mail it to Friends of ITE, 4621 World Parkway Circle, Berkeley, 63134.

Join us at the American Legion Post 338, 9655 Midland in Overland at 11:30 a.m. on June 10th for some good food, Bingo, face painting, tattoos and a special treat for employees. Jerry Phillips has agreed to be the target for water balloon tossing!

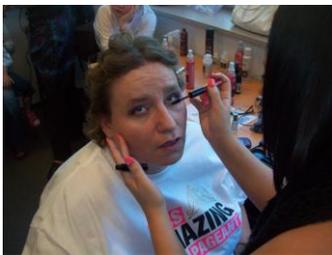
As in previous years we will have our White Elephant Sale and Silent Auction, so bring your checkbooks or a few bucks to take advantage of our great bargains. Remember that all money earned from these sales is used to fund the employee Holiday Party and gifts.

If you're not able to attend, we're providing a listing of our auction items and an absentee bid form. If you'd like more information about a particular item, simply call Sherry Hardy at 636-227-5666, extension 2107. Leave a message and she'll return your call. Please enter your best bid on the form below and return it to Sherry at Lafayette North. If you're the winner, you'll be notified on June 10th.

<u>Individual Auction Items:</u>	54 th Street Grill Gift Cards	Captain D's \$5 Gift Card	Cardinal Baseball Tickets (8/6)
Cardinal Baseball Tickets (8/8)	Christmas Doll	Christmas DVD	Coach Purse
Coca Cola Clock	Garden Stepping Stone	Home Depot \$25 Gift Card	Home Made Cheesecake
Mattingly's Sports & Grill \$25	Organ (100 Songs)	Schnuck's \$25 Gift Card	Target \$25 Gift Card
Piccadilly's Restaurant Gift Cards			

<u>Gift Baskets:</u>	Baby Boy	Baby Girl	Blessings	Candle Holders	Cardinals	Christmas
Christmas in June	Coca Cola	Dessert Toppings	Fall Basket	Garden Pot	Homemade Soap	Office Helpers
Oreo Cookie Set	Pampered Pooch	Quiet Pleasures	STL Sports	Summer Fun	Time to Smell the Flowers & Relax	
Wet Your Whistle						

Absentee Bid	
Name: _____	Phone #: _____
Auction Item _____	Bid Amount \$ _____



Far left: Getting ready takes time
 Middle: Shirley Cumberland with her two girls, Breanna and Annette
 Left: Shirley Cumberland with Colleen Kelly

MISS AMAZING PAGEANT By Shirley Cumberland (a view of the pageant from a contestant's point of view)

My name is Shirley Cumberland, for those of you who don't know me. I have worked at both Lafayette West and Lafayette North. I have been at Lafayette West for a little over 2 years now. I love my job and have grown a lot here. I have recently had the opportunity to be in Missouri's first-ever Miss Amazing pageant. I have never seen myself as a beautiful person until I had this opportunity. This is no ordinary pageant. You see, it is a pageant for girls and women, ages 5-55 with disabilities of all types, those you can see and those you can't. But I would like to focus on the ability of people like myself for a minute. I, myself, am a very strong and bright woman who has overcome a lot in my life as an individual. Some people like to put others who may not look, sound, talk or react like them, into a box. Sometimes, unknowingly, this may make people like myself feel like they are less of a person. But I'm proof that individuals with disabilities are just as capable of working, being a parent and accomplishing other life goals as a person who does not have a disability.

So the next time you interact with a person who has a disability, remember to allow them the chance to show you what their abilities are before you look at their disabilities. You may be surprised what a difference one person believing in someone with a disability can make to the disabled individuals. That is what I have taken from this experience of being in the pageant and working at Lafayette West. A BIG Thank You to both!!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: In response to increasing requests, in next's month issue we will announce our plans for an "e-copy" of our newsletter with extended coverage and pictures of what's happening at Lafayette!

LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES
 179 GAYWOOD DRIVE
 MANCHESTER, MO 63021-5421

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

MAILED MAY 24, 2012
 DATED MATERIAL
 DELIVER BY JUNE 1, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 st Day of Summer - Wednesday, June 20 th				1	2 
3	4 Full Moon 	5	6 9:00 a.m. - Friends of ITE meet - Lafayette North Conf. Room	7	8 North - Knights of Columbus Dance - Valley Ind. - 7:00-10:00 	9
10 Lafayette North Family Picnic - 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - American Legion Post 338, 9655 Midland, Overland	11 Pay Day 	12	13 	14 Flag Day 	15	16 
17 Father's Day Happy Father's Day 	18	19 	20 7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee 7:30 p.m. - Board of Directors	21	22 	23
24	25 Pay Day 	26	27	28 	29	30 