



NEWS AND VIEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

MARCH 2012

2nd Annual Mouse Races! Saturday March 24, 2012 Doors Open 6:45 First Race 7:30 Trinity Lutheran Church 14088 Clayton Rd. (at Woodsmill)

If you could not make our Mouse Race last year, you missed a good time! An event at which we all can socialize together --- family, friends, supporters, and our workers --- we have loads of fun and help raise funds and awareness for our mission of providing meaningful work for adults with developmental disabilities. The flyer and the reservation form are in the newsletter --- as well as an opportunity for you to sponsor one of the racing “stallions” with a name! Willing to take on a challenge? Sponsor a mouse and see if he / she can beat “Rob’s Rodent”! Seating is limited, so get your tables reserved ASAP!



Go Green

TRY PAPERLESS: Going green is very popular these days. People offer up all sorts of ways to “go green”, and we would like you to give some thought to this yet again. We have made the pitch before but got very few takers. Lafayette’s website has been reworked, and every month our newsletter is posted there. **It is actually better than the hard copy you get in the mail because the pictures are in color and the pictures are easier to see.** We would like to especially ask our parents who have a computer to consider going paperless. If interested, please contact Becky S. at bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com and let her know if you are interested in giving it a try.

Finally, consider joining our growing “Facebook” community. Go to Facebook and sign in and “Like” us; you will get updates on pictures posted on Lafayette’s page and other important events during the course of the month. We currently have 87 people who have liked us. Again, we hope you will come on board and join us in helping Lafayette “go green” in this small way.



Rob Libera
Executive Director
rilibera@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



NEW GREAT AUNT AT LAFAYETTE WEST: Crystal Halley is sharing her birthday with her new great-niece Johanna. Johanna was born on Friday, January 13, 2012. Her full name is a mouthful - Johanna Magnolia Venditte-Page. She was born at Missouri Baptist Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 5 ozs. and was 16.5" long. In the picture to the left it looks like Crystal's great-niece is singing Happy Birthday to her. The baby is called "Nolie" for short. Her parents are Jade and Joe Venditte-Page. Jade is Crystal's niece. Congratulations to Crystal on her birthday, but more importantly, congratulations on your new great-niece.



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - STEVE RANNEY MINISTRIES: Steve Ranney is the pastor at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. If you don't recognize this church's name, you should because it is one of the founding organizations of Lafayette Industries. Several of its members are intricately involved in the history of Lafayette. Boots Berry makes her church home here as does Ethel and Bob McLuen, both of whom are members of the Board of Directors for Lafayette. This group of dedicated volunteers came and served the free lunch and orange juice on Friday, January 27th, for our hungry, excited employees. After the free lunch our unofficial staffperson, Boots, who has been here since the beginning of Lafayette, helped conduct a tour of Lafayette West. There everyone got a chance to see our employees in action at their jobs. Thank you to the members of the Steven Ranney Ministries!



HUSCH BLACKWELL EMPLOYEES DONATE \$1,000: On January 26th a group of Lafayette employees accepted a check from Husch Blackwell at their Clayton offices. Jeanine Bermel, an HB partner, is Timmy Sitek's aunt. She nominated Lafayette (for the 3rd time) to get the proceeds from a Jeans Day, where HB employees can make a donation for the right to wear jeans to work on Casual Friday. Thanks Jeanine, for everything that you do for Lafayette, from volunteering to planning to donating funds and merchandise. And thanks to the employees at Husch Blackwell.

Left to right: Kasey Graf, Timmy Sitek, Kristen Kallansrud, Andrea Perolio, Jeanine Bermel, Mary Beckerle



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARCH FOLK!!



Patricia	Moorhouse	1	Marla	DeHahn	16	Timothy	Cagle	1	Stephen	Bindbeutel	19
Almira	Samardzic	2	Diane	Luebke	20	Jason	Doss	3	Michael	Terry	19
Travis	Nichols	7	Brian	Bradshaw	23	Randy	Berrong	7	Eric	Klein	22
Vickie	Dopuch	10	James	O'Daniel	24	Debra	Coleman	8	Jason	Boedicker	26
Jacob	Schimanski	10	Dennis	Palmisano	25	Keith	Muelken	8	Donna	Love	28
Linda	Hantak	12	Mary	Rohan	25	Mark	Becker	19			
Christopher	Brock	15	Jennifer	Schweiss	29						

"Isn't it fun getting older" is really a terrible fallacy. That's like saying I prefer driving an old car with a flat tire.

--Katharine Henburn

MISS AMAZING PAGEANT: *This is for girls and young women only.* The Miss Amazing Pageant provides an opportunity for girls and young women from **ages 10-35** with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem in a supportive environment. Participants will compete in three areas: interview, introduction and evening wear. The competition should be fun and relaxing as well as a learning experience. All participants will be awarded a crown and a trophy, and one representative in each age division will be selected to represent Missouri for the 2012-13 year. **When and Where:** April 13th (Optional Talent Showcase) and April 14th at Lindenwood University's Jelkyl Theater, 209 South Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301. For more information, check out the website: Missamazingpageant.com. If you are interested, see Becky S. in the front office, she has cards with the basic information on them. Rumor has it that our own Colleen Kelly will be participating in the pageant. We wish her all the best.



ANTHONY (TONY) J. PEROLIO

By Connie Scheppers (Proud Mother)

Tony was Andrea Perolio's big brother. He was born October 6, 1981. He was a giving and caring brother, concerned for others and always ready to help. Tony was very proud of his sister's accomplishments at Lafayette Industries.

Tony graduated from Marquette High School and went into the Marines in the summer of 2000. He attained Sergeant rank before he finished his tour in Iraq. He came home in the summer of 2004 and began his studies towards his eventual Masters in Structural Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He loved climbing and worked at Upper Limits Climbing Gym. He loved music and played drums. He joined several bands in St. Louis. He enjoyed working out, running and hanging with friends.

In November 2006 he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and began a new battle. He beat that cancer with a stem cell transplant in May 2007, and began to mend and move towards his future. He married Jessica Krusemark on May 29, 2009. They adopted two joyous poodles, Libby and Scout, and stayed busy with life and work in St. Louis.

He continued his studies and full life; however, complications from the transplant caused his health to falter until it was necessary for a second transplant. Tony fought a brave battle but sadly passed on January 25, 2012.

He always had a quick smile for new and old friends, and he made friends everywhere he'd go. He loved music, everything from R.E.M. to Radiohead to Beatles to Bon Iver. He was dedicated to Stray Rescue and saving animals. He loved chocolate and Jolly Ranchers, and for a while Star Bursts. He saw beauty in everything and everyone, he touched many lives. Thank you for remembering Tony.



Queen Leslie and King Tim



Taking time out of dancing for a photo



.....and a one.....and a two... and a one... and a two



Getting the steps down is a challenge



It's called The Stroll right? - I'm strolling



Right foot forward - right arm back

VALENTINE DINNER / DANCE

By Wayne and Gloria Marek

Many party-goers came with, or came looking for, their "sweeties" for a rockin' good time at the annual LWC Auxiliary event. Shortly after arriving and finding friends to share a table, everyone looked forward to dinner. Many returned for "seconds" after everyone was served. Background music became dancing music after everyone had eaten. Newly crowned King, Tim O'Leary, and Queen, Leslie Kallemeier, danced to "My Girl" before being joined by many others on the dance floor.

Later, D.J. Linda Lipka saw that some weren't dancing so to encourage them she tried something new for our crowd - The Stroll. Getting the guys on one side and the ladies opposite them wasn't too difficult, but having them travel down the "lane", two by two, was another story! Some resisted doing The Stroll with anyone other than their date, but, with assistance from several volunteers and several "Strolls" by each couple, the group seemed to get the idea.

We hope that everyone went home with nice memories of the afternoon.



LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES'



2ND ANNUAL MOUSE RACES

Place your bets and help raise funds for
Adults with Disabilities

Saturday Mar. 24, 2012

Doors Open 6:45 First Race 7:30

Trinity Lutheran Church

14088 Clayton Rd. (at Woodsmill)

\$25 per person

(\$20 for Lafayette workers)

Snacks, Soda, Beer and Wine provided

Mouse Racing, 50/50 Roulette

Silent Auction, Raffle

SEE REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER
(FORMS ALSO AVAILABLE AT LAFAYETTE FRONT DESK)

or register online now @ www.lafayetteindustries.com

CONTACT MARY 636-227-5666—mbeckerle@lafayetteindustries.com

Lafayette Industries is a non-profit organization

Providing adults with dev. disabilities jobs
performing assembly and packaging.



BUILDING DREAMS...
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...





REGISTRATION FORM

LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES 2ND ANNUAL MOUSE RACES



Saturday Mar. 24, 2012

REGISTER NOW! \$25/person (\$20 for Lafayette workers) Limited to 250

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Phone: _____ *(only required if you'd like an email confirmation of your registration)*
 Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

It will be open seating. However, if you're paying for 8 or more, we will automatically reserve a table for you.

\$25 x _____ (non-workers attending) + \$20 x _____ (workers attending) = \$_____ (A)

sponsor/name a mouse for \$20 each mouse name: _____

add \$20 for each additional mouse sponsorship and continue names on back of form

Your mouse will appear on the racing forms. We suggest naming it after your favorite Lafayette employee!

\$20 x _____ mouse sponsorship(s) = \$_____ (B) Total for Sponsorship(s)

TOTAL PAYMENT (A + B) \$_____

Pay by check and mail to:

Lafayette Industries
 179 Gaywood Dr.
 Manchester, MO 63021
 Attn: Mouse Payment

OR

Pay by credit card online at:

www.lafayetteindustries.com
 Click on *Donate Now*
 use *Comments* section to give us
 your reservation information



Eric and Joe pose by their new friend



Our new truck



Getting the lowdown on the new wheels



Learning the layout of the new dash

SHINY NEW WHEELS AT LAFAYETTE

By Eric Klein

Lafayette now has new wheels to be proud of. After 11 good years of faithful service to Lafayette, our 2001 Chevy Box truck was tired. The last two years of service were kind of rough for the Chevy, with a few breakdowns. It was time to jack up the radiator cap and put a new truck under it. It was an interesting project Rob asked me to do. It was time to do research and make some calls.

Speaking to Commercial Truck Salesmen is not like buying a family car. The three dealers I chose have very good salesmen and it was hard to choose, but the warranties told the story. We chose a Hino (Toyota) with a 24 foot box from Degel Truck Center. This dealer was very patient with us and they are glad to be associated with Lafayette.

She is big, white and shiny and the signage has not been applied yet. She looks great going down the highway, and she will look even better when she's lettered. She will advertise well for us. Other businesses will see by her that we are a successful company.

The Chevy broke down one more time on the way to the dealer to make the trade. It was time.....



FRONT OFFICE RECEIVES MAKEOVER: The front office at Lafayette West received the first makeover it has had since it was built back in 2004. It has received many bumps, scratches and dents along the way. This year Mary Beckerle, our Development Director, proved her interior decorating abilities when she took on the task of putting a new look together for the front lobby and the front office waiting area.

I asked her a couple of questions concerning the project, and even with her busy schedule, she took time to respond: **What prompted you to want to “makeover” the front foyer and front office?** Mary: First impressions are very important. Our entry and lobby were definitely due for updates. We need to portray a spirit of teamwork and friendship to our employees, donors, volunteers and job applicants. At the same time, it’s just as important to portray a high level of professionalism to our packaging clients. I think we’ve struck a good balance.

How did you pick your colors for the job, including the unique wallpaper? Mary: The colors play off our logo and the large, colorful plaque that honors our donors from the 2006 West building expansion. The grasscloth wallpaper was a good complement to tone down the brighter items. The biggest challenge that Mary faced was narrowing down the photos to only five when she had a whole group of potential candidates from which to select. Then her next biggest challenge was putting up the large slogans on the walls over the pictures and making sure they were level and centered. That last challenge was a painfully slow process, but she pulled it off and everything looks great. Next time you happen to be at Lafayette West, please be sure to drop by the office and look over Mary’s handiwork. The front foyer received a new bench and marquis to welcome special visiting groups. Remember, if you want to see these pictures in color, go to www.lafayetteindustries.com and you can see the colors there.



FRIENDS OF I.T.E.

By Judy Way

FOR CALENDAR:

- The March Knights of Columbus Dance at Valley Industries is scheduled for **March 9th** (second Friday in March).
- The next meeting of Friends of I.T.E. Lafayette North is at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **March 14th**, in the Lafayette North conference room.

SPECIAL THANKS: Friends of I.T.E. Lafayette North add our special thanks to the Knights of Columbus Fatima Council for their generous contribution they made to Lafayette Industries North from their recent Tootsie Roll Drive.

VALENTINE’S DAY AT LAFAYETTE NORTH: Friends of I.T.E. Lafayette North delivered special Valentine’s Day cupcakes to help the employees’ celebrate the day during their morning break.

FIRST SIGN OF SPRING!

By Mary Beckerle

Keep an eye out for a mailing you will be receiving at the end of this month with exciting information about the 21st Annual Golf Shootout and Employee Picnic and 5 Golf Shootout raffle tickets enclosed.



FRAUD PREVENTION TASKFORCE

By Dan Rechten, Coordinator

HOME IMPROVEMENT FRAUD - PART ONE

Springtime is fast approaching, and warm weather signals the start of the annual migration of home improvement con men and scammers. Try to avoid becoming a victim of this type of fraud by remembering some simple tips:

-Never do business with any repair or home improvement group which solicits door to door, particularly after damaging storms. If anyone tells you they have diagnosed a problem with your home while walking or driving past your home, they are criminals, and do not deal with them.

Home Improvement Fraud - Part One - Continued:

-After severe weather damage, be wary of anyone soliciting your business for repairs. Ask to see this person's driver's license to make certain they are local and will be around to back up their work. If 20 homes have been damaged on your block, do not sign up with a contractor who has given bids, even low bids, to your neighbors. Until that contractor has completed the work, you have no idea how good or honest they are.

-Always check the Missouri Attorney General and Better Business Bureau's contractor list to see if the contractor has had complaints. Do not be scared off just because a contractor has some complaints. Disagreements in business dealings are often unavoidable. Check to see if the complaints were resolved to the customer's satisfaction. If so, the contractor is likely to be OK.

-Never pay money upfront. Any legitimate contractor should be able to bid your job, purchase materials, and deliver the materials to your job site before receiving any money. You could pay one third when material is delivered, one third when work is completed, and the remainder when the city or county inspector has certified the work meets code. (-Rest of article continued in next month's)



A WORD FROM SHERYL HARDY

Editorial Note: Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, the photo card that was used to take pictures while everyone enjoyed cupcakes on Valentine's Day developed a technical issue that didn't allow us to use their pictures. We apologize to everyone. Everyone at North tried to rescue the pictures from the photo card, and we tried at West to transfer them but we weren't successful. Sherry wrote a great article, so let's read that, and we will be back next year with a back-up plan so all those pretty people get a chance to shine!

Greetings from Lafayette North!!! The biggest point of conversation here seems to be the crazy weather we have been having. All of the warm days have been a blessing and a chance for folks to get outside again.

Valentine's Day was celebrated at North with cupcakes provided by Friends of ITE. The workers enjoyed them thoroughly, and we had a blast!! Photo opportunities abounded and smiles filled the workshop all day as they exchanged their valentines for each other at breaks and lunches.

Our geese are back and on the roof waiting for any and all scraps they can find!! They REALLY Like us!!!

Looking forward to a beautiful spring with the sunshine and sweet smells that come with it, as well as The Mouse Races on March 24th. Donations for the silent auction are still needed and tickets will go fast. There is limited seating of 250, we get your tickets NOW!!!

MOUSE RACES - 2011 - SEE WHAT YOU MISSED:






LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES
 179 GAYWOOD DRIVE
 MANCHESTER, MO 63021-5421

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

MAILED FEBRUARY 28, 2012
 DATED MATERIAL
 DELIVER BY MARCH 1, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Purim 	8 Full Moon 	9 North - Knights of Columbus Dance - Valley Ind. - 7:30-10:00 PAY DAY 	10 West - Knights of Columbus Dance - St. Clare of Assisi School - 7:00-10:00 - Celebrate the Cardinals - Wear Cardinal Red 
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	12	13	14 9:00 a.m. - Friends of ITE Meet at Lafayette North	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 
18	19	20 First Day of Spring 	21 7:00 p.m. - Execu- tive Comm. meets 7:30 p.m. - Board of Directors meets	22	23	24  Mouse Races - Trinity Lutheran Church - 7:00-10:00 p.m.
25	26 PAY DAY 	27	28	29	30	31