



BE THANKFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE

By Bill Taylor (Proud Lafayette Employee)

We're almost to the end of another year and while there have certainly been plenty of challenges, it's also important to remember that there are plenty of things to be thankful for as we approach the holiday season.

The holidays are a time to reflect on all you have accomplished as well as all the fun memories you have had. It's a time to be thankful for all you have in life. Lafayette has been dedicated to providing employment to people with disabilities for many years. Without this place, many of them wouldn't have jobs and would never have met all the great friends they have now. I am forever thankful that they gave me my start when no one else would. Lafayette has allowed me and everyone else to make a living, keep a roof over our heads and given us an appreciation for the simple things in life.

It's important to be thankful for your family and friends too. They are and have been our biggest support system. They put a lot of time and effort into helping us do our best every single day, making us all better people for it. We don't always see it right away what they did, but with time we have the chance to appreciate all they did for us and understand why they did what they did.

The word of the month is gratitude. Be thankful for all the simple things. Of course, during this holiday season, you can't forget to be thankful for all the yummy food you're going to get to eat as well. Take time to remember what the holidays are about, and remember to keep enjoying life and working hard!! Stay warm and safe, Lafayette friends!!



Rob Libera
CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to 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

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – OCTOBER 2024



CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL

Immediate left: Vicky James (staff), Stas Johnston, Mike Owens, and Elizabeth Eilers

CAUGHT BEING SAFE

Immediate right: Becky Crump, Vicky James (staff), Matt Martien



FELITA JENKINS RETIRES

By Fran Jenkins (Proud Mother)



After 29 years of employment with Lafayette Industries, Felita Jenkins retired from Lafayette North on Friday, November 8, 2024. In the photos above, she's seen with her siblings Joy, Audrey, Earl, one of her favorite nephews Freddy "Scooter", and Fran along with her co-workers, supervisors and managers. Everyone gave her a warm and loving send-off.



MEDAL WINNERS IN BOWLING: Recently they had the St. Louis Regional Special Olympics held in St. Louis on Saturday, November 9th. Lafayette won a number of medals, and we couldn't be prouder.

Immediate left: Andy Rossel and Robbie Gregg

Immediate right: Jennifer Schweiss



DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DEBRA COLEMAN

By Sheila Zigrye (Proud Lafayette Staff)



Debra Coleman passed away on October 22, 2024.

Debra worked for Lafayette Industries North for 19 years.

She worked in the balloon room during her time here.

Her supervisors and co-workers are missing her so much. Here are some of their thoughts:

- Debra was always saying something to make us laugh.
- She was like a second mother to us. She gave us a positive outlook and great advice.
- She was Mattie's best friend.
- Debra's smile always came through, even when she was in pain.
- She was Mattie's best friend. They met when they lived at the same apartment complex.
- Mattie came to work at Lafayette Industries North, and she worked with Debra in the balloon room.
- Debra, you are missed and will be thought of often.

 REST IN PEACE, DEBRA 

MEDAL WINNERS IN BOWLING

By Ellen Esther (Proud Mother)

James Esther and Jason Marx took bronze in 3 game doubles teams in bowling for Lafayette West at the St Louis Regional Special Olympics on Saturday, November 9. They are looking forward to participating together again as a team at the state level in March.

Pictures below: James Esther (James is in the hat) and Jason Marx brought home the bronze.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER FOLKS!

NORTH

Markus	Allen	1
Lois	Ross	1
Tim	Hubbard	3
James	Nelson	3
Michael	Sweeney	3
Tina	Tackett	5
Jamika	Jones	10
Tiffany	Sudin	10
Angela	Taylor	12
Glen	Moore	14
Sheila	Zigrye	16
Torrey	Watson	19
Christina	Sanders	26
Glendall	Davis	29

WEST

Daniel	Zeller	1	Paula	Aleto	17
Atul	Kakaiya	7	Camille	Lawrence	17
Ian	Wainz	7	Jeffrey	Beckerle	18
Vicky	James	10	Mackenzie	Carr	19
Nathan	Hughes	12	Daniel	Scholl	26
Keenan	Retzlaff	12	Samantha	Behlmann	29
Anna	Walters	13	Emily	Prado	29
Elizabeth	Goodwin	14	Grace	Quinn	30
Matt	Berry	16			



HEADS UP ON FREE LUNCHESES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

You need to know that there will only be one “Free Lunch” in the month of December. The “Free Lunch” will be served up at the holiday parties. The West’s Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 20th, 11:30a-1:00p, while the North’s Holiday Party is scheduled for Monday, December 23rd, 7:30-10:00a. Lafayette considers that though it is a holiday party day, we also consider it a workday. Let us know if you are unable to be there that day or not.

We hope you will be able to come to your workshop’s Holiday Party. Becky S. from West is asking if she can get parents and / or guardians to help again during the meal. We have several different places where we can put you to work. Serving food, helping hand out beverages, helping hand out cake, etc., are just some of the jobs where we can put you to work. Hope to hear from you – contact me at bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com or call me at 636-227-5666, x1100. Thanks in advance.



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2024

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

HIGH WATER

Okay, okay – I'm a tad late with this. The floods were last month, Safety Captain! But with the way our weather has changed in the last bunch of years, you just might need this information. Here's hoping you don't.

This knowledge can save a life and it, indeed, came to my attention last month. If you should find yourself underwater in your automobile, remember these five critically important points:

- 1) Don't waste your energy trying to push the door open!
- 2) Don't open the window because the force of the water coming in won't allow you to exit.
- 3) Take out the headrest.
- 4) Use the steel tip to break out the back window. The back windows have kick out glass.
- 5) The cars are engineered to float, and the rear window should be above water for a while.

So there you have it. Act quickly and without panic. You will be fine. May you never, ever need this!

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - **MORE LATER!**



THE LAFAYETTE ARCADE: PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

By Bill Taylor (Proud Lafayette Employee)

We would always like to get things right on the first try. As in other things in life, sometimes that is not possible. For example, say you are playing a racing game and there is a course you are struggling with or there's an action game and it is a struggle to get past a level. That can be a tough thing to deal with, particularly if there is a big reward for you at the end. The important thing to do is to be patient. Experiment with different tactics or strategies. If it is a racing game, maybe you can find a shortcut. Take your time learning. Remember, it's just a game. You can always take a break if you need to take care of other responsibilities while you think of how to handle the situation. Practice makes perfect!!

POETRY CORNER

Editorial note: The West Poetry Corner comes from a group of employees who meet on a Monday every now and then. They are learning what it takes to be a good poet, and write excellent poetry. If your household makes poetry a part of what you read or write, you are very fortunate. This group enjoys what they are doing, and thank you to Vicky James for sending me some of their poetry. That way we can share it with you via our newsletter. Thank you to all of our own Poet Laureates. They are enthusiastic, talented and reading their poetry can make you happy. Enjoy!

FALL By Casey Florent

Leaves falling
Colorful leaves
Falling off trees
Falling falling raking
Raking raking

WORK By Tim Sitek

make lunch
get ready
tired
dark out
moon shines
Monday again

A POEM By Alison Hanners

Working at Lafayette Industries
Breaktime's fun
Eating my lunch
With my friends Fun Fun

WORK By Pam Gardner

It's PAYDAY!
Hip, Hip, Hooray
Show me the money!
Direct deposit
and
Poetry. YES!

GRACE QUINN HAS A NEW NEPHEW

By Jennifer Quinn (Proud Mother)



My daughter, Grace, is thrilled to announce the arrival of her new nephew, Rex Herich. He was born November 12, 2024, and weighed 6 pounds 2 oz. His parents are Grace's sister and brother-in-law, Becca and Phil Herich. Grace has been very busy helping out with Rex and his two older sisters!

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 St. Clement K of C Christmas Party and check presentation	6	7
8	9 Art Concert at Manchester UMC, 129 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester Art Exhibit open 6:30 Doors open for Art Show 7:00 Glee Clubs perform	10 Pay Day	11	12	13	14 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p – Christmas Party With Santa & Mrs. Claus
15	16	17	18	19 St. Joseph K of C Christmas Party and presentation	20 West – Holiday Party at First Free Church on 1375 Carman Rd., Ballwin, 63021 11:30a – 1:00p (will serve as our only Free Lunch)	21
22	23 Pay Day North's Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast – 7:30-10a (will serve as our only Free Lunch)	24 Holiday Eve - <u>Both Workshops Closed!</u>	25 Holiday – <u>Both Workshops Closed!</u>	26 Post Holiday off – <u>Both Workshops Closed!</u> Kwanzaa and Hannukah begins	27 <u>Yes, we are open!</u>	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve – <u>Yes, we are open!</u> North – Closing at 1:00p West – Closing at 2:30p	<u>Holiday – New Year's 2025 – January 1st – Both Workshops Closed!</u>			