



Keeping *ōn*, Keeping *cōnnected*!

Several times when writing this front page article, I would look back at previous editions to see what the key messages were for that month. Looking back at the last several years of the September issues, many times the front page listed all the key events that would be taking place such as Hot Dog day, Safety week, Pigeon Races, start of the monthly dances, etc., all which are now taking a “pause” during this unusual time. Several of these we can call “Signature” Events for our dedicated Lafayette workers. Normally one would follow protocol and list all those events with the words “Cancelled”, “Postponed”, or “Rescheduled” after it.

Leaves sort of an incomplete feeling, doesn't it? Well, I'm not going to let that happen. So I kept searching and found a front page that I wrote that sums up how I feel, and I am sure you will feel the same way as you read it.

One of our great parents (at this point I know you are saying, “Aren't we all great?!”) was Captain Daniel Rechtién, a former St. Louis Police precinct captain who wrote monthly safety and awareness articles for us — everything from how to avoid credit card fraud and identify theft to how to resolve disputes. Our “Capt'n Dan” battled cancer for several years, and I wrote a front page article on him when he left this life. But although he is no longer with us, he won — because his words live on, and they couldn't be more relevant today than they were when he wrote them.

We have so many positive things happening right now, as everyone has pulled together to “Keep On and Keep Connected”, that it is reason to feel good about ourselves. We have over 400 of us connected in some way every day, and we will continue to do that as we go along. Lafayette's 44th “birthday” is this month, and we aim to have many, many more as well.

Capt'n Dan's key words; and don't forget: “The only disability in Life, is a bad attitude”. See you on the website!

1. God gave you a talent, share it with others.
2. Don't be afraid to ask for help, you just might get it ---- learn something to boot.
3. Prior planning prevents poor outcomes.
4. Be persistent. This will take time and effort, but only you can correct the problem that you have.
5. Be positive; it's easy, and takes less energy than the alternative.
6. Take care of yourself so you will be able to take care of others.
7. Leave your campsite a little better than the way you found it.



Rob Libera

CEO & Executive Director
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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

RECORD HEAVY RAINS IN ST. LOUIS ON AUGUST 8TH-9TH CAUSED DAMAGING FLOODING TO WEST

On Saturday, Aug. 8th into Sunday, August 9th, western St. Louis County experienced rainfalls of 3-7". When asked, one of the Manchester public works men who did preparatory cleanup work, said that 4½" of rain had fallen locally in Manchester. Locally, Grand Glaize Creek flooded from Manchester Road to Howard George Drive. In the flooding, it damaged several businesses, including Lafayette. The rocks by the side of the building got redistributed via the force of the flood, the pavement by the receiving dock was buckled, and there was other debris lying around. The pavement by the dock and along the front drive to the crosswalk had to be torn up and re-done. St. Louis Paving Company got the assignment, and they did a great job. See the pictures below and be glad that we weren't working during this time. Thanks to everyone for working hard to get the repair work done, and getting us going again.





6th Annual Employee Celebration "Drive Thru" Picnic

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Event held at both Workshop locations

***"Drive Thru"* at West Workshop: 1pm to 2pm**

***"Drive Thru"* at North Workshop: 2:30pm to 3:30pm**

**Drive through the celebration displays and pick up a
PICNIC TO GO at each workshop
all from the safety of your vehicle.**

Let's all picnic "together" at home!

**This is a free event for Lafayette Employees.
Registration is required with a limit of
four (4) guests per employee.**

Join the celebration as a Sponsor

Sponsor Levels

***Dream Builder* - \$1,000**

***Visionary* - \$500**

***Champion* - \$300**

***Advocate* - \$200**

***Patron* - \$100**

Join the Friend Wall for \$25

Support
Lafayette
employees
during these
changing
times!

Sponsorship
Banners on
display at
both
workshops!

Thank you in advance for your critical support!



PRIDE. DIGNITY. SAFETY. WORK. OPPORTUNITY

29th Annual Charity Raffle

\$5 a chance

1st Prize: \$1,000 CASH

2nd Prize: 2021 Cardinal Tickets

3rd Prize: St. Louis Aquarium unlimited passes for four

Buy tickets at lafayetteindustries.com/donate
Contact Alesia Roccia for details and paper tickets:
aroccia@lafayetteindustries.com

Throughout this adjusted environment, Lafayette Industries employees take PRIDE in the DIGNITY of full-time WORK. We practice SAFETY every day and appreciate the OPPORTUNITY and DREAMS we build. Proceeds from the *29th Annual Charity Raffle* directly impact over 400 Lafayette employees through our safety programs, free flu shots, and free monthly lunches.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SEPTEMBERITES

NORTH

Passion	Noldon	1
Kristina	Schrader	5
Natasha Reena	Torres	6
Dorothy	Gilmore	8
Elois	Rogers	8
Cameron	Bransford	11
Joe	Clark	15
Tamara	Little	15
Erica	Pratt	15
Barbara	Richter	15
Jasmine	McCoy	19
Elizabeth	Moore	20
Robert	McCoy	21
Stanley	Parciak	24
Taylor	Bandsma	27
Kathleen	Branson	27
Chabrielle	Muse	27
Stephen	Settles	27
Andrew	Causey	30

WEST

Shad	Burnett	2
Hannah	Moeser	5
Allison	Pfeiffer	9
David	Dust	11
Ralph	St. Leger	11
Scott	Schmitz	13
Leslie	Kallemeier	14
Timothy	Hopkins	15
Robin	Corpora	16
Stephan	Dolan	16
Ann	Kelly	16
William	Maurer	16
Carol	Sax	16
Shelly	Schmitt	16
Kurt	Pfeiffer	17
Catherine	Curry	18
Kristine	Kuehl-Johnson	21
Aida	Przulj	21
Emma	Michaelson	23
Josiah	Shedd	24
Lillian	Kwok	25
Jim	Eppel	28
Cathy	Schmid	29
Ryan	Snover	30



There was a major fire at my house last night. Well, it was the candles on your birthday cake. Enough smoke from them to set off the smoke alarms.

- Anonymous

FLU VACCINATIONS: VERY IMPORTANT THIS YEAR!!

We all have had our excuses as to why we don't get a regular flu vaccination every year. Lots of us have made the excuse, at some point about getting the flu from the shot. Then there are a lot of people who just don't like to get the shot and the discomfort they feel afterwards. Whatever your reasons for not getting it, this year the healthcare providers, the same ones we are always saying are terrific, are asking people to PLEASE be sure to get a regular flu vaccination. With Covid-19 still in the news daily, we need to start taking the health warnings seriously. The flu season is going to be nastier than usual this year. You are not taking precautions for yourself, but for others. "Others" aren't always older folks. Sometimes it's younger people who have health issues, but they can also be carriers. The regular flu vaccination may not keep you from getting the flu, but it reduces your chances significantly. Please get the shot, and do something nice for others. Believe it or not, for some of us this is a life and death issue.

ATTENDANCE NOTES FOR LAFAYETTE WEST

If you have plans to drop off someone late at West or pick them early, please, give us a heads up. Drop a note to bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com. Also, if someone is taking a day off and going to be gone – designate whether it's a personal day, vacation day or unpaid time. These are important things that we need to know for daily attendance. Also, if someone comes in late, they have to have their masks on already, they have to have their temperature checked and they have to use hand sanitizer. Let us know if you are coming in late or leaving early. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



KATIE MOORE BECOMES NEW AUNT

By Connie Moore (Proud Mother and Grandmother) and Jim Moore (Proud Father and Grandfather)

Katie Moore became an aunt for the third time in May - another nephew, Luca Antonio. Luca is the first child of Katie's brother Kevin and sister in law Stefania. Because of the coronavirus, we had to cancel two planned trips to



Luxembourg to meet little Luca.

While she's waiting to go meet her nephew for the first time, we recently introduced Katie to root beer floats. She has really enjoyed them, and her Dad does too. Double thumbs up.

WEST JULY 2020 CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL



Far left: Emily Prado

Immediate left: Louis Barnhart (Photobomber in the picture is the *persistent* Rob Libera)



WEST JULY 2020 CAUGHT BEING SAFE



Far left: Jerry Butler

Immediate right: Allison Pfeiffer





SAFETY TIP FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 – DESKS AND FILE CABINET

By Tom Heitert (Home, Work and Play Safety Guru)

Can you believe OSHA actually has a lot to say about these seemingly mundane pieces of office furniture? Yup.

Here are a few safety tips from their office of Training and Education:

There are just three major threats to our well-being that come from them. The most obvious are tripping hazards that come from leaving the lower drawers open when we move about the office or leave entirely. Don't know about you, but I've been there and done that.

A second recommendation is to be sure there are safety STOPS on each drawer. These could spare you from using that 4-letter word when you slam the drawer on your finger. Very embarrassing.

The third recommendation regards the really tall file cabinets. They have been known to tip over. These babies can do great harm if one of you were nearby, and at the least could make a prodigious mess. So, what can be done to avoid such mishaps?

- 1) Open one drawer at a time;
- 2) Heavier items should always be in bottom drawers;
- 3) Do not place large piles of paperwork or equipment or that Most Improved Player trophy on it;
- 4) The safest approach would be anchoring the cabinets to a wall.

Well, I hope this helps. We don't want to give the Emergency Room staff something to talk about over dinner that evening.

More later, Tom



TIM GREGERSON'S RETIREMENT By Kathie Boyer (Best Fill-In Sub Around)

Immediate left: Tim holding his goodbye card signed by all his friends.

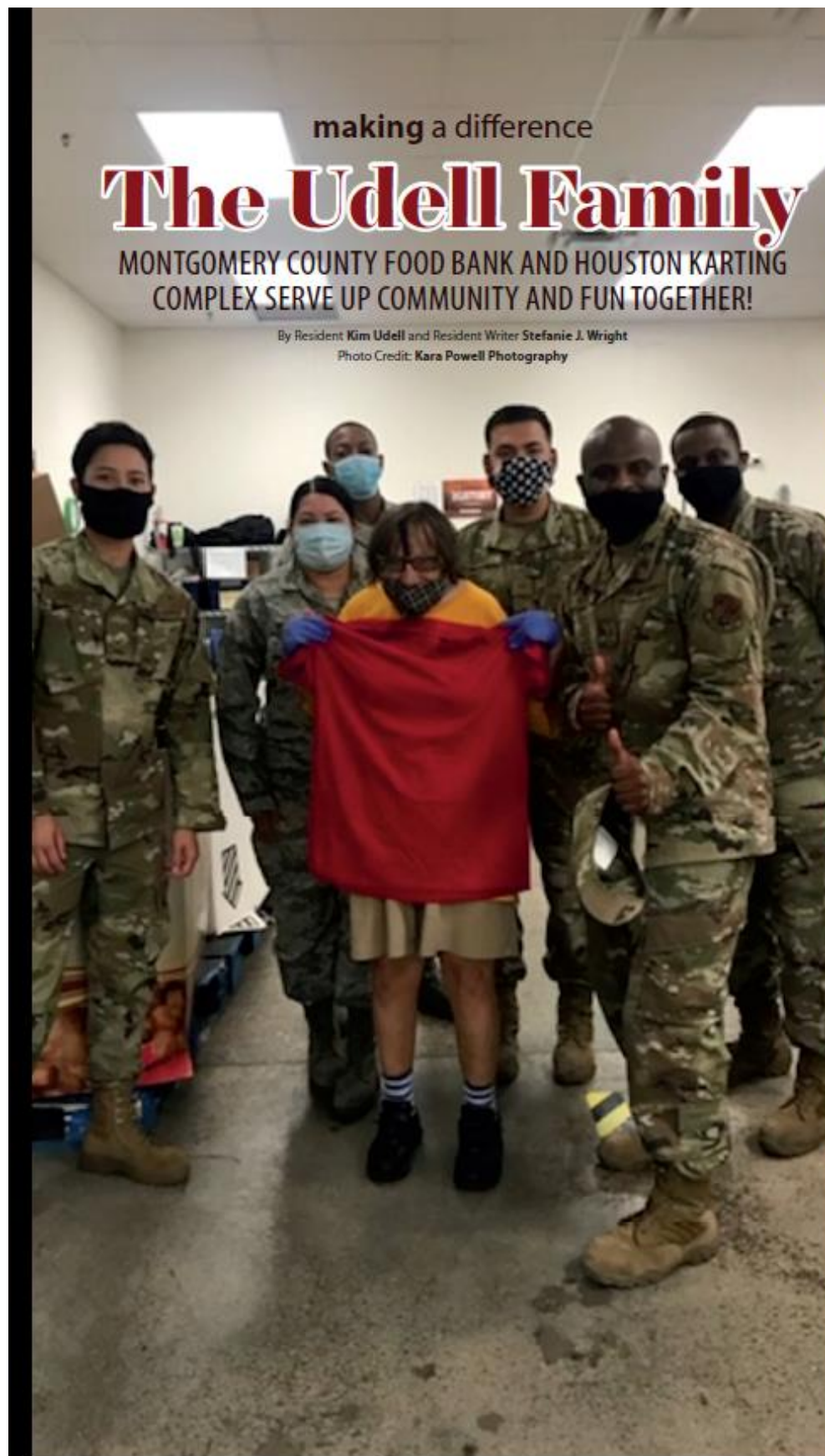
Immediate right: Dan eating one of the retirement celebration cupcakes.



On August 24, 2020, Lafayette had a very special visitor come to say his final goodbyes. Tim Gregerson, who retired and moved to Florida with his brother, returned to St. Louis for a short visit. With the pandemic, his retirement celebration was put on hold. Tim's brother, Ron, brought Tim to Lafayette for the day to spend a day working in his area and seeing his friends again. Everyone signed a card and shared cupcakes for the Retirement Celebration.

Lafayette thanks you, Tim, for your years of service to Lafayette. Have a great retirement. You'll be missed!

Wonder how Brenda Udell is doing since she left Lafayette West? Read on. Lori Williams is the publisher of *Life Along the Shore* publication. She gave us the permission to run the article about Brenda. *Life Along the Shore* is a Social Publication of the East Shore Community, The Woodlands, Texas. Photos were provided by Kara Powell Photography. The article was written by Resident Kim Udell and Resident Writer Stefanie J. Wright. Thanks, everyone.



making a difference

The Udell Family

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOOD BANK AND HOUSTON KARTING COMPLEX SERVE UP COMMUNITY AND FUN TOGETHER!

By Resident Kim Udell and Resident Writer Stefanie J. Wright
Photo Credit: Kara Powell Photography



Brenda Udell accepting her "VIP Red Shirt" for her numerous volunteer hours at MCFB

When we consider how life has drastically changed due to COVID-19, "blessing in disguise" is not generally the first description that comes to mind. However, upon hearing the Udell family's experience, one might be convinced to reconsider. Longtime East Shore neighbors Kim and Bob Udell have indeed discovered that "good has come from COVID that doesn't always make the news."

It all began in May of 2019 when Bob Udell's parents, Chuck and Bonnie, and sister, Brenda, relocated from St. Louis to The Woodlands. Brenda, though mentally handicapped, had lived and worked independently in St. Louis for thirty years. She worked at Lafayette Industries, a contract packager offering shrink wrap, blister pack, display assemblies, and other business services. The company employs hundreds of adults with disabilities within structured and safe surroundings. "Through extensive training and support programs, our employees learn to maximize their abilities to be successful in a productive and professional work environment," states Lafayette Industries.

Certainly, Lafayette Industries gave Brenda an incredibly unique opportunity that is difficult to replicate. After months of struggling to find meaningful "work" for Brenda, Kim Udell, informed by her background in special needs education, thought the **Montgomery County Food Bank (MCFB)** might be a good fit for Brenda's skill set. So in early March of this year, Kim and Brenda began their daily volunteer shifts at the MCFB, where they were welcomed with open arms. Facing the difficulties of moving from one part of the country to another, leaving behind gainful employment, and then navigating the uncertain world of the Corona pandemic, made for an extremely challenging moment in time. But thankfully, the MCFB stepped in and became a saving grace for the entire family, Brenda in particular. After Kim and Brenda worked three solid weeks of volunteer shifts at MCFB, Governor Abbott approved the Texas National Guard to assist at food banks in response to COVID-19 to meet the growing need. There are currently over forty committed soldiers helping with the organization and distribution of food at the MCFB. Nevertheless, MCFB graciously accommodated Brenda's desire to help, allowing her to continue her work alongside the National Guard at a time when some restrictions had to be placed on outside volunteers. The volunteers and soldiers at the food bank "made Brenda feel valued during a difficult time. We are so thankful for this extraordinary gift," states the Udell family.

Nowadays, Brenda's daily routine consists of taking long walks along the many walking trails in The Woodlands in the mornings and sorting food during her volunteer shift at the MCFB in the afternoons beside either her mother, Bonnie, her niece, Kayla, or Kim, of course. In gratitude, Kim effuses, "In the last two months, Brenda made such great strides adjusting to the craziness of life in a pandemic. This was due in great part to the structure, support, and positive interaction at the food bank." Since starting her work back in March, Brenda has achieved the great honor of becoming a "Red Shirt Volunteer," which signifies having given fifty or more hours of service to earn red-shirt status. This makes her a "VIP" of sorts at the MCFB.

In order to repay the MCFB and the National Guard for the great kindness shown to Brenda, as well as to thank them for their ser-



Montgomery County Food Bank/Houston Karting Complex COVID 19 National Guard Challenge Winner's Trophies



June 15, 2020, National Guard Finale Night at HKC

Trophy Winners at HKC

vice to the local community, the Udell family – business partners in the **Houston Karting Complex (HKC)** – hosted the National Guard for dinner and karting free of charge. On June 1, June 8, and June 15, the soldiers gladly came out to drive the fastest karts in Texas. There was an abundance of food, fun, and most certainly goodwill as they competed to find out who was the fastest guard! Though much has been lost in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, certainly there have been moments of unexpected joy found within our community. For that, we can all feel blessed.

To learn more:

Montgomery County Food Bank in Conroe is a non-profit organization with a mission to collect and distribute food and resources to those in need in our community. Through the support of volunteers, donors, and partner agencies, the food bank provided 10 million nutritious meals in the last year. For more information, call 936-271-8800 or email info@mcfdbank.org.

Houston Karting Complex is a rental kart race track, housed at Motorsports Development Complex in Conroe where the motto is "Work hard. Play hard." The go-karts drive an adrenaline-pumping 55 mph plus. At this family-owned track, racing runs in the blood. Alec Udell, son of Kim and Bob and nephew of Brenda, is a professional race car driver as well as the HKC resident teaching professional for those looking to boost their driving skill to the next level. In addition, the complex recently opened MDC Garage, a 9,800 square foot building for storing cars for owners in concierge fashion. For further information, contact Chuck Udell at 636-236-5709 or Alec Udell at 936-499-7772. Otherwise, email info@houstonkarting.com.



Do you support a nonprofit agency and would like to spread the word? Please submit the information to Lori.Williams@n2pub.com.

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 North gets out at 1:30 p.m. for the Holiday	5
6	7 Labor Day – Both Workshops are <u>CLOSED</u> for the Holiday	8	9	10 PAY DAY	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Grandparents Day	14	15	16 6:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting	17	18	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	21	22 Autumn Begins	23 6:00 pm – Board of Directors meeting	24	25 PAY DAY	26
27	28 Yom Kippur	29	30 Last Day of Lafayette's fiscal year!			