

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER



Resilient (ri-'zil-yənt)

“Capable of withstanding shock without permanent deformation; tending to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change”

What a year it has been. Just about a year ago, this thing called “COVID-19” changed the way we lived and worked. Information about it, and advice to deal with it, seemed to change almost every day. Pictured above is the “normal” routine that we have adjusted to — temperature taking, hand sanitization, and our encyclopedia of rules, regulations, protocols, alerts, bulletins, and notes accumulated from this past year.

Through it all, you have remain resilient and positive, while doing your job whether at the workshops or at home. **“Keeping On, Keeping Connected”** has been our mantra, our raison d’être, Lafayette’s symbol for its primary purpose — Building Dreams and Creating Opportunities for work, that our dedicated Lafayette employees, with a wide variety of abilities, perform flawlessly every day with a smile on their faces-that you can actually see through their masks! Thank you all for your support and patience; through all of this, we have not lost anyone, have not lost a customer, and remain the largest *single* full-time employer of adults with developmental disabilities in the State.

BRAVO!!




Rob Libera

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

CEO & Executive Director
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL FOLKS!



NORTH

Tyrone	Staton	4
Roxanna	Robinson	5
India	Stewart	5
Daniel	Kuminowski	6
Vaughon	Caldwell	9
Pamela	Randall	11
Sean	Watson	12
Mattie	Abercumbia	17
Tamu	Johnson	18
Jasmine	Butler	21
Pedro	Cruz	25
Sally	Grant	25
Kenneth	Fields	26
Karl	Gill	27
Pflederer	Ronesha	27
Laura	Fortus	29

WEST

Margo	Bates	1	Craig	Marek	14
Andrew	Martinez	1	Jonathan	Walle	15
Sheri	Cooley	2	Amy	Loftus	16
Kathleen	Murphy	2	David	Pfeiffer	16
Sandy	Scott	2	Joseph	Oxler	17
Elizabeth	Cendekowitsch	3	Mary	Good	18
DeWendel	Williams, II	3	Mark	Carlson	19
Justin	Moslander	8	Tim	Roccia	20
Carli	Binek	10	Pamela	Walsh	23
Robyn	Zerillo	10	Steven	Sosnoff	24
John	Woerner	11	Tara	Rehagen	25
Pam	Gardner	12	Matthew	Gamewell	26
Andrew	Villaire	12	Cynthia	Jacobson	26
Ryan	Clemente	13	Barris	Burns	30

ANNIE GETS A VISIT FROM A FRIEND

by Trish Walters (Proud Mother)



Julie came to visit Annie on St Simons Island in February. The two friends had a fun time.

NORTH MASK GALLERY



NORTH MASK GALLERY – CONTINUED:



We have one more months' worth of mask pictures for North. Their participation has been great!! Remember, if you want to show us your favorite style of mask, please let Sheila at North know. We'll be glad to take your picture in your favorite mask and put it in the newsletter. Thanks to those who have participated.

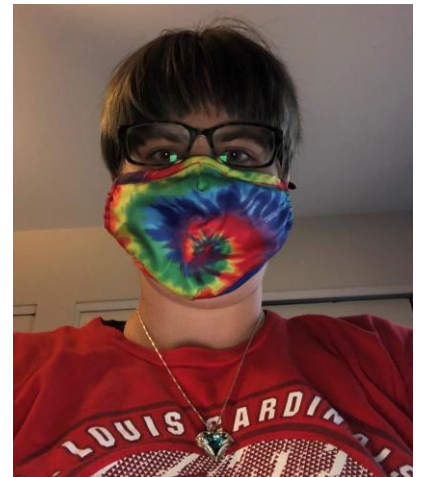


WEST MASK GALLERY

Batman remains a much-loved mask, and here's our second Batman mask, modeled by Ryan, as he shows off the Caped Crusader's logo. Great job!

Alli is modeling us her favorite mask because she loves tie-dye.

These'll be our last masks from West, and thanks to all who participated in this fun project.



NORTH – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – MARCH 2021

Immediate left: Glendall Davis

Glendall Davis, without being asked, pushes all the chairs in after break and lunch in the lunchroom. We appreciate his thoughtfulness in keeping us safe from trips and falls!

NORTH'S OWN FELITA JENKINS CELEBRATES 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



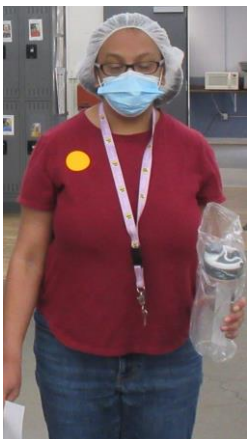
Congratulations to Felita Jenkins, who celebrated her 25th anniversary!! This moment is always special, and not often reached these days. Felita, we know that you have been at North for a long time, day in and day out over the years, being a great employee. You have given 100% to Lafayette, and we want to acknowledge your special moment. Thank you, Felita, from Lafayette to you!



WEST – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – FEBRUARY 2021

Far left: Katie Moore

Immediate left: Louis Barnhart



WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL –

FEBRUARY 2021

Far left: Petra Bauer

Immediate left: Mark Carlson



PETRA BAUER'S 28TH BIRTHDAY (3/22/2021)

By Julie Bauer (Proud Mother)

Petra was so excited about her birthday recently. However, I had to send a message your way because as soon as she stepped in the door from getting off Oats, she said, "No one at work wished me a happy birthday." (She said it with her hands on her hips, lol). Then she told me to email Becky! 😊 So, here's the email. 😊

We are sharing a few fun photos from her "Special Day." Petra requested pizza from Joey B's, and a cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes!!

Petra had lots of fun celebrating with her family!!!

SAFETY TIP FOR APRIL 2021 – SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

By Tom Heitert (Safety Guru)



It is Severe Weather Awareness Week across the country, so it seems apropos to direct our attention this month to our own local weather phenomenon, the tornado. April, May, and June are the most active months in our area, with May having the highest rate of storms. However, there have been storms in every single month of the year in Missouri. Many of us likely remember the New Year's Eve, 2010 tornado that hit Sunset Hills. There are so many variables to a storm season's volatility; not the least of which is the location of the Jet Stream during any particular time of year.

Which time of day typically has the most active hours? Most tornadoes have hit an area between the hours of 12:00 and 8:00 p.m. But (I know, never begin a sentence with a conjunction – small act of rebellion), BUT one year ago in Putnam County, Tennessee, an EF-4 cyclone killed 19 citizens when the storm hit just before 2 a.m.

It would behoove us to prepare ahead. The Weather Service gives both a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. The Watch simply states the conditions are favorable, be prepared. The Warning means a storm has been spotted, happening and to expect one. Best locations will always be INSIDE when possible. Once indoors, get away from windows. Basements are best, but a room with interior walls can save you.

Lafayette has had and will continue to have safety drills for just such eventualities. All the employees know where we will find safety, and the time needed to get there is repeatedly kept and studied by the Safety Committee.

Final word on this. We have all seen pictures after the storm has hit an area, and they are horrific. It will never compare with seeing the damage in person. Coming home from the Lake of the Ozarks one summer, the party I was with and myself drove through a town where two days prior a tornado had flattened entire city blocks. You could follow the path the storm took through the neighborhoods. The path was a half mile wide. Just awful. We hope all take this threat seriously, and have a safe year.

More later - Tom

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!



TAX FILING DATE EXTENDED

By Dick Kallemeier

The IRS has extended the 2020 tax filing date to May 17th. This was caused by the two-week delay opening the filing season, and the tax law changes passed by Congress just two weeks ago. We are continuing to do taxes on Wednesday mornings at Lafayette Industries. If you would like an appointment email Becky Stillwell bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com or the writer dickcall@charter.net. If you do not have computer access then call Becky at (636) 227-5666, ext. 1100. Please keep smiling and be safe.



MARCH: NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

March is National Disability Awareness Month. Several cities around St. Louis County honored Lafayette employees with Official Proclamations recognizing Lafayette's positive impact for all abilities.

Immediate left: Kirkwood Mayor Tim Griffin presents Rob with the Official Proclamation at the Pioneer Bakery.



Immediate left: Manchester Mayor Mike Clement presents Rob and Lafayette employees with the Official Proclamation at Lafayette Industries.

Editorial note: Did we really believe that a full year (+) later that we would still be talking about Coronavirus and Covid-19, much less have at least 3 vaccines that can take it on and keep the person healthy? Remembering back a year ago, here's a poem that Rob put together last year when we were still in the thick of it all. Missouri fared better than some states, but don't let your guard down. We've still got the coronavirus around, so we'll need to keep up doing what we know to do so we can stay safe. If you haven't gotten your vaccine yet, keep trying to get one. Hopefully they'll be doing even better in the next few weeks. Stay safe, everyone!

LAFAYETTE AND COVID-19

By Rob Libera (Lafayette's Poet Laureate)

Lafayette is here, Lafayette is there,
Lafayette seems to be everywhere;
Either here or there or in whatever place -
We keep our distance, respect your space -
Chuggin' along, keepin' on,
Keeping the economic churning along -

It will end one day and get the all clear,
We'll be back together,
With the Mission to steer -

So all keep washing those hands and don't touch your face--
And soon we'll all be back together in our Happy Place!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday North dismisses ½ hour early	3
4 Easter	5	6	7	8	9 PAY DAY	10
11	12	13	14	15 NORTH FREE LUNCH	16	17
18	19	20	21 6:00 p.m. – Board of Directors meeting	22 WEST FREE LUNCH	23	24
25	26 PAY DAY	27	28	29	30	

APRIL 2021