



**Far left:** Charlie Weaver with the North staff.

## **CHARLIE WEAVER RETIRES – MARCH 31, 2022**

By Sheila Zigrye  
 (Proud Lafayette Staff)

Charlie Weaver has been working in sheltered workshops since 1977. He started working at the Universal Workshop when he was in college. From there he wound up at Independence Through Employment (ITE) as the Production Manager. When Lafayette Industries took over ITE, we were lucky to have Charlie stay on as the Production Manager.



Charlie has said that he is happy to retire. He'll spend more time with his grandkids, golfing and traveling. His wife has not retired, so the traveling has not been in full swing yet.

Charlie has also decided to stay and work at Lafayette Industries North two to three days a week. He said he would miss the sheltered employees too much to fully retire. They are what make his job so enjoyable.

So while Charlie has retired, has he really??!



Rob Libera  
 CEO & Executive Director  
[rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto: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

**Editorial Note:** Tom Heitert does our monthly safety article for our newsletter, and we thank him for lending his talent to us each month. He's very concerned about our safety both at home and on the job. He's equally as vocal about his former employee, Fred Ahrens, who served as his assistant supervisor while here. He wanted to write up an article on Fred, since Fred will be retiring this Thursday. Fred, we've come a long way from ordering sodas, haven't we? Have a great retirement, Cuz!!



## **ONE OF THE GREAT ONES**

By Tom Heitert (Proud Retired Lafayette Staff)

One of the beauties of Lafayette Industries is that SO MANY great employees work here. They just keep coming. However, one of the truly great ones is retiring on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Fred Ahrens is one of the originals from the company's earliest years. Thus, when I arrived as a supervisor, Fred had already established himself as a hardworking, dependable, and intelligent individual. Each supervisor at the time was given an assistant supervisor from among the employees. They had a pin to wear recognizing the fact. At that time, I was given a choice of two individuals meriting the honor. Fred was my choice. The Production Manager at the time said Fred was "the salt of the earth". I concur.

He had other responsibilities at the time, so we adjusted. In those early days the soda machine needed to be filled daily, and the money taken out and taken to the Front Desk. Obviously, one had to be above reproach, and Fred is. He was proud of this responsibility, and so he should have been.

He was incredibly strong at that time, at least more so than he is now. He could lift most any product we handled, and that, all day. Once, a production order came to our shop requiring us to disassemble candy displays with dozens of candy bars in them. We would then put each in the appropriate shipping case. Needless to say, those cases of chocolate got REAL heavy. We would then put each case on its separate pallet for later shipment. He could sure throw those cases around. Remarkable. If any of you have received a playful jab in the arm from Fred when he thought something was funny, you KNOW what I mean.

He was often seen walking the aisles of the shop floor, and many thought aimlessly, but that was never the case. Like any good supervisor, he kept himself informed of where every part our team used was, what other teams were working on, the names of the other supervisors, and what, if anything, appeared wrong. If we needed anything, chances are he knew where to find it. He saved me hours of looking, not to mention being away from my team. Invaluable.



Things can happen suddenly on our shop floor, and decisions must be made quickly. Fred knew me so well, he would often already have put the appropriate response in motion. Loved him for that. If a team member was making a mistake or placing themselves in danger, he would spot the activity and inform me immediately. Priceless.

I will never forget you, Fred. I didn't deserve you. You made me appear better than I was. You deserve a rest, buddy. Thank you and enjoy retirement.

Your friend - Tom Heitert (Fred's former boss)



COUNTRY MUSIC STAR  
**STEVE  
AZAR**

LIVE AT  
**THE FACTORY CHESTERFIELD**  
**JULY 9, 2022**

**SHOW STARTS @ 7PM**

**FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL LAFAYETTE EMPLOYEES + 1 CAREGIVER OR RELATIVE**  
**LIMITED SEATING-COMplete REGISTRATION FORM BELOW BY JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Any employee who wishes to attend the Benefit will get in free *along with* a caregiver or relative. All attendees **MUST** complete the below registration form and return to:

*Becky at Lafayette West or Jerry at Lafayette North or*

Scan and email to [rsvp@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:rsvp@lafayetteindustries.com)

Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver/Relative Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

For **ANY** questions regarding registration, please call *Vicky James at (636) 227-5666 x 1118*  
or *Kate Gregor at (636) 227-5666 x 1103*



## **WEST AND NORTH CELEBRATE - NO MORE MANDATORY MASKS!!**



### **Immediate left:**

One of the teams at West waits for what is obviously a big announcement.

### **Below:**

Folks on another West team hear the announcement about no more masks required, and they celebrate in their own unique styles!



**Above:** North folks do high fives and show big smiles at the announcement of no more masks required!



**Above:** In the lunchroom North really really show they're happy with a leap, a fist pump or two and hands raised to celebrate the announcement.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY FOLKS!!



### NORTH

Roosevelt	Ore	3
D'Marcus	Merritt	5
Keith	Muldrew	7
Laird	Simpson	7
James	Campbell	8
Cary	Bailey	14
Terrance	Williams	14
Margot	Elgert	15
Charles	Young	19
Alphonso "Lamont"	Jackson	21
Michael	Kelly	22
Chris	Lott	24
Genece	Jordan	26
Devin	Taber	26
Mark	Bowman	28
Morgan	Williams	31

### WEST

Ryan	Preston	4	Logan	Coffman	20
Ryan	Dillon	5	John	Hardcastle	21
Martha	Sanderson	5	Joyce	Klipsch	26
Robert	Gregg	9	Casey	Florent	28
Tim	Sitek	10	Jacquelynn	Wainz	28
Thomas	Mondello	12	Ryan	Zimpfer	28
Kim	Lamb	16	Brad	Davis	29
Debra	Draper	17	Carrie	McKaskel	29
Wendy	Johnson	17	Richard	Hardcastle	30
Ian	Bagley	19	Valerie	Shaw	31
Katie	Sears	19			

Did the Fire Department show up for your last birthday party only to find out there wasn't a real fire that was reported by a neighbor? It was just your birthday cake getting all those candles lit. Feeling a little old?



### CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> – 3:00-6:00P – SCHROEDER PARK

**\$25 through April 30<sup>th</sup>      \$30 on May 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>  
\$35 day – or, if tickets remain**

Join us and Circle 7 Ranch TapHouse & Grill at the 2022 Manchester Craft Beer Festival in Schroeder Park! Treat your taste buds with an incredible variety of featured samples from over 20 craft breweries! A portion of the proceeds will benefit Lafayette Industries. **Thanks to our sponsors – William Adams with Farmer's Insurance & Promotions Pronto!**

### WEST – MARCH 2022 – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE



**RESPECT:** Geoffrey Reusch, Carl Berger – United Healthcare, Mary Klevorn.

**SAFETY:** Petra Bauer, Carl Berger – United Healthcare, Chas Pfeil







## **PIONEER BAKERY CAFÉ HAS AN ICE CREAM BAR!!**

By Jean Klevorn (Proud Mother of Mary Klevorn)

When my mom and I had lunch at the Pioneer Bakery we both had the BLTA (bacon, lettuce, tomato, avocado) sandwich. It was so filling we did not have room for dessert.

When we went on Monday and the bakery was closed, we came back the next day so that we could specifically get lunch there.

**Immediate left:** Ice cream bar at Pioneer Bakery Café

## **WE'RE BACK!!**

There is no doubt we're trying to bring a sense of normalcy back to everyday life as the pandemic begins to hopefully wind down. That was not any more evident than in the 2022 Season Opener for the St. Louis Cardinals. It was an epic game right out of the Cardinals playbook. Three massive Cardinal fan favorites are back together again – Wainwright, Molinas and now Pujols! The team blew the game wide open from the beginning against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Final score was 9-0!! Wainwright taught the younger pitchers that age is a relative thing. Six perfect innings without a meaningful hit from the opposing team set the tone for the rest of the ball game as the Cardinal's bats were not quiet. Way to go, Cards!!!!!!! (Thank you to Rob Libera, diehard Cardinal fan, for the pictures!)



**Above, left:** The Clydesdales set the tone for the Opener.

**Far left:** Cardinal Hall of Famers step out to welcome everyone back to Busch Stadium.

**Immediate left:** Cardinal great, Albert Pujols, taking batting practice.

## NORTH ADDS NINE EMPLOYEES

By Jerry Phillips (Proud Lafayette Staff)

I want to **WELCOME** North's nine new hires:

Cecelia Brown  
Jewell Hroboski  
Willie Moore  
Paul Spears  
Joe Turner

Charles Cooper  
Matthew Knipshild  
Adrian Robinson  
Kevin Thompson

### 2022 LAFAYETTE NIGHT AT THE CARDINALS GAME

This year Lafayette Night at the Cardinal Game is going to be on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared for the hot weather, folks - it's August in St. Louis! Mark the date on your calendar – **Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**, starting @ 7:15 p.m. Our opponents will be the **New York Yankees**. We are sitting in Sections 128, 129 and 130 this year. We will see how we like these seats in comparison to our usual ones. The tickets are first come, first served and when we're out of tickets then we're out of tickets. Wheelchair seating will be available. The cost of the tickets is the same as it has always been – **Lafayette employees get their first four tickets for just \$5.00 each.** We want to remind you that after the first four tickets the cost of additional tickets go up to \$40.00 each. This is what the Cardinals are charging Lafayette for the price on additional tickets. We will have no giveaways this year as we've had in the past. Below is the order blank for the tickets, as promised for May, so you can start sending in your orders for those tickets.



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Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$5 each for **Lafayette** Employees (\$40 each for additional tickets after the first 4 for employees)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail the tickets to me. \_\_\_\_\_ **Make check payable to Lafayette Industries.**

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## **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR MAY 2022**

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

### **THE CRITTERS OF SUMMER**

Quick, name the likely most dangerous critter of the warm weather seasons. Did anyone say mosquitoes? Correctomundo! They not only have a bite that can drive a person stark mad scratching, but they carry numerous diseases. Examples are the West Nile Virus, dengue, yellow fever and malaria. All of these can be life-threatening for certain people. My father caught malaria in the Marines, and it plagued him till late in life. I strongly suggest you take the necessary steps to avoid them. Avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk, fix the screens where you live, look for and remedy any standing water around your living quarters and use repellents that have the chemical DEET. May I suggest any of the fine line of Cutter products that our plant packages for one of our loyal customers.

Another mini-monster are the ticks we find in our lawns, woods and fields. The black-legged deer tick is of particular concern this year. Tick bites left untreated invite all kinds of problems. The major threat is Lyme Disease. This disease causes problems all over the body, from your heart to your joints. Ticks often go undetected, so a careful inspection of our bodies, if in these outdoors spaces, is a good idea. One can help oneself by wearing long pants. When hiking, stay in the center of trails, keep your grass cut short, and, of course, avail yourself of the fine repellants produced by Cutter.

What would summer be without the wasps, hornets and yellowjackets. More than half a million cases turn up in the emergency rooms every year in our country with stings. When my lovely wife was a very young child, she was walking in the woods with her father and much older brother. A log was knocked over and thousands of hornets attacked all three of them. My wife was covered with them. The two adults knew this could kill the young child so they immediately started brushing them off while they were being stung themselves. Off to the emergency room all three went. My wife obviously had after-effects because later in life she saw me as sort of cute. I'm no doctor but, hmmmmmm - blurred vision, maybe? We suggest you paint all untreated wood, keep lids on the garbage cans and avoid sweet-smelling perfumes.

This not to suggest we cower in our homes this summer. Just take appropriate precautions.

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

### **LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN**

As an employee of Lafayette Industries, you are eligible to participate in the Lafayette Industries 403(b) Retirement Plan if you work 20 or more hours per week. Through payroll deduction you can contribute a portion of your pay (even as little as 1%) to your retirement savings account in the 403(b) plan.

For eligible employees who have been employed with Lafayette one year (with at least 1000 hours of service) and are age 21 or older, Lafayette will match your contribution, dollar for dollar up to the first 4%. This match **doubles** the amount of your investment (for the first 4%), and is a significant contribution to your retirement savings plan.

Representatives from Renaissance Financial will be onsite to answer investment questions you may have about your investments in your account in the Lafayette Industries' 403(b) Retirement Plan. If you're not currently an active participant in the plan, the representatives can answer your questions about this valuable benefit and provide enrollment documents.

To schedule an appointment during the times shown below at either location, call Vicki Whiteside, Human Resources, 636-227-5666, ext. 1120 or email to: [hr@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:hr@lafayetteindustries.com).

<b>Lafayette North - Lunchroom</b> <b>Monday, May 16, 2022</b> <b>1:00 pm – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Lafayette West - Office</b> <b>Thursday, May 19, 2022</b> <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>
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## **DID IT JUST SN\*\* IN APRIL??**

Yes, it did, and in wind-driven sheets at one point. It sn\*\*ed and sl\*\*ed on Friday, **APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>!!** The Editor refuses to say those two words in April. They are winter words, not spring words. It's one thing if it's March and snow shows up. It's a transitional month. We hear we have a freeze warning out with the sn\*\*, which again is okay

in March, but not in April. We only have one request here in Missouri: Let's get warm and stay warm, pretty please! This cold weather is causing lots of stress to our plants. A dogwood in full blossom, for cryin' out loud??!!

## **CHARLIE BRIGHT DRIVES OUR NEW BOAT**

By Tracy Bright (Proud Mother)



We recently took out our new boat. Charlie was given the job of steering us onto Lake of Egypt in Marion, Illinois. It was chilly, but Charlie perked right up when his dad said, "Drive".

## **VALERIE SHAW'S SKI TRIP TO COLORADO**

By Brenda Shaw (Proud Mother)



Upper left: Valerie and I take the ski lift up to the ski slopes.

Upper middle: Valerie and I arrive at the top, ready to ski.

Upper right: Valerie spends quality time with Taylor, her new niece, in Breckenridge, Colorado.

## 2021 TAX YEAR REPORT

By Dick Kallemeier



Thanks to Becky Stillwell's organizational skills and my partner Peter LaSalle's tax preparation skills we prepared 52 tax returns in a season shortened by two major snow storms and pandemic limitations. 28 sheltered workers, three also needed 2020 returns completed, 8 staff members, and 14 family members utilized the service. That is two more than last year but 20 fewer than 3 years ago prior to the pandemic.

Of the 28 workers, 22 were eligible for earned income credit and / or income tax-withholding refunds averaging \$856 each. Two received the \$1400 recovery rebate credit, probably not received because their 2020 tax returns were not submitted. Plus several were eligible for the state property tax credit averaging \$584.

If you receive a letter from the IRS or the state of Missouri requesting additional information about tax returns we have filed, **do not** panic, please contact me [dickkall@charter.net](mailto:dickkall@charter.net). Usually we can quickly help resolve the issue.

Again, tax fraud has been reduced but do not give your social security number or bank account information to anyone without being absolutely sure they represent a legitimate organization. The IRS does not call or email taxpayers and request social security numbers or bank account information. A basic rule should be **do not** give information over the phone, hang up!

Thank you to the Lafayette staff for their support and willingness to open the office for us and our clients.

**THANK YOU, DICK KALLEMEIER AND PETER LASALLE, FOR  
GOING THAT EXTRA MILE TO HELP US PREPARE OUR  
TAXES AND GIVING FREELY OF YOUR TIME TOWARDS THIS  
EFFORT. YOU GUYS ARE THE VERY BEST THERE ARE!  
WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

### MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 PAY DAY	11	12	13	14 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria - 7:00 – 10:00p – Patriotic Celebration – wear your red, white & blue (Last dance of the year until September)
15	16	17	18 6:00p – Board of Directors meeting	19 North's Free Lunch	20	21
22	23	24	25 PAY DAY	26 West's Free Lunch	27 North closes at 1:00p for the Holiday weekend	28
29	30 Memorial Day Both Workshops are closed for the Holiday	31				