

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE

Lafayette Industries is 45 years old! To commemorate that milestone, Lafayette is planning to participate in the Manchester Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Sept. 10. Arrive about 8:30 a.m., parade starts at 10:00 a.m., goes for about an hour.

But we need your help.

We're looking for parents/guardians and workers who can (1) ride on the back of a truck and throw candy along the parade route; (2) ride in their own vehicles; (3) or walk the route. We also need someone who has a truck or can get access to a truck.

Please respond to Chief Advancement Officer Vicky James (vjames@lafayetteindustries.com).

More details to come.



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

ST. LOUIS SPORTS LEGEND SURPRISES WEST WORKERS

By Dennis Dillon (Proud Lafayette Board Member)

The workers at Lafayette Industries West received a treat on May 4 when St. Louis football Cardinals legend Johnny Roland popped in for a surprise visit.

Executive Director Rob Libera and Chief Advancement Officer Vicky James led Roland and Byron Womack, a member of the St. Louis Football Cardinals Facebook Group, on a tour of the production floor.

It didn't matter that many of the workers thought Roland played for the baseball Cardinals — “Do you know Albert Pujols?” asked one — they cheered the former NFL running back, and scrambled to get their pictures taken with him.

“I guarantee your name will be mentioned lots of times at the dinner table tonight,” James told Roland.

If the workers were awed by Roland, he was just as dazzled by what he saw.

“I was just blown away,” said Roland, who also saw West’s Positive Behavior Center and massive warehouse during his tour. “Being in the football world and doing what I do, you don’t realize that there are a lot of people out there with disabilities. Then you see a well-run operation like this. I was highly impressed.”



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JUNE FOLKS!

NORTH

Irene	Webb	6
Tracy	Cooper	11
Joe	Turner	11
Glenn	Giofre	12
Kimberly	Lee	12
Phillip	Johnson	15
Cecelia	Brown	16
Gregg	McClellan	16
Martrese	Rollins	22
Mikhail	Chikin	28

WEST

Blake	Maurer	5	Angad	Jangi	14
Scott	Risley	5	Daniel	Stevenson	15
Scott	Royal	5	Charlie	Bright	19
Stephen	Schroeder	6	Alison	Hanners	19
Joe	Stringer	7	Kathleen	Karcher	19
Catharine	Woerner	8	Andrew	Pinkston	19
Lucas	Allison	12	Anne	Morrissey	20
Suzy	Morrow	13	Radha	Kakaiya	26



CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE



Caught Being Respectful – Immediate Left

Left to right: Bill Hawn, Carl Berger – United Healthcare, Mark Carlson

Caught Being Safe – Immediate Right

Left to Right: Samantha Behlmann, Carl Berger – United Healthcare, Doug Miller



MY DOG, ROSIE

By Ryan Dillon (Proud Lafayette Employee)

This is my dog, Rosie. She is a Lhasapoo, and she is eight years old.

Rosie likes to play fetch and tug-of-war with her Lamp Chop and other toys. She also likes to hop on to my lap, and lick my ears and my face.

We are always excited to see each other.

I love Rosie, and I know she loves me!

Editorial note: We'd love to keep sharing your pets in the newsletter, however we've only had about 2 people respond that have sent us pictures and an article. This'll be our last picture and article featuring animals unless we have someone step up and share with us.

CARDINAL BALLGAME TICKETS: To those of you who are going to the Cardinal vs. Yankees game on August 5th for Lafayette Night at the Ballpark, we won't assign the seats and give out the tickets until July. The second week of July is when we'll begin to make the assignments. The Editor has been doing the ballgame seat ticket assignments since 2003, when George Schumacher first told me about the ballgame. One of many surprises that year!! Now it's a fine art!!!



PRESENTS

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 27TH

ADDITIONAL TICKETS \$45

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

Employee Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Caregiver/Relative Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Additional Attendees: _____

No. of additional attendees: _____

\$45 per attendee = _____

(total amount)

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



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR JUNE 2022

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

FUELING AT THE PUMP

Imagine, if you will, that we are in the very heart of winter. It's cold. I mean REALLY Cold. Sure enough your vehicle is low on gas. You pull up to the pump with your vehicle of choice, get out while leaving the vehicle running and start pumping. If this is you, raise your hand. Mine's up.

So, at the risk of igniting a debate (get it?), let us investigate. We turn to Lauren Fix of The Car Coach for answers. The risk is real, though not very likely, that a fire or explosion can happen. The issue is not the fuel itself, but the fumes. The combination of it, with static electricity, can be dangerous. The fumes escape as the nozzle is in the fuel door. The static spark can come from a cell phone, a charger working inside the vehicle, and of course there is the yoyo at the next pump, who is smoking or vaping. It could happen.

So unplug the charger, set the phone down and turn off the car for just a minute.

There is another thing to consider. While there is no proof that pumping while fueling will hurt the vehicle, it may turn the pesky engine light on. The fuel tank is designed to be sealed. If the vehicle is running and the seal is broken (the pump in the fuel door) the light may come on. It could happen.

How about these tips about getting our money's worth at the pump? It's all about the vapors, folks. We are often told not to let the fuel gage go below a half a tank. One reason is the amount of vapor buildup. The more space in the tank, the more vapor. They will counter your effort to fill the tank to its optimum. Also consider getting the gas in the morning. The ground is still cool. Less vapor in the large fuel tanks and in your vehicle as well. As the heat builds up outside, so do the vapors inside. Finally, if you put the pump on the slowest setting, you will manage to avoid the vapor resisting your filling the tank. It could happen.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - MORE LATER!



PATIENCE REQUIRED: EMPLOYEE-IN-TRAINING

By Bill Taylor (Proud Lafayette Employee)

Having a big job requires a lot of hard work and a lot of patience. I have been working hard as a receptionist-in-training at the front desk of Lafayette Industries West since November 2021. After a little time has passed, I can safely say that my first statement is very true. To those who don't know, it may look like I sit at a desk every day for a half hour, but being at the front desk is very important, just as important as what is done on the production floor. Much like production the front desk comes with unique challenges and responsibilities. I have to make sure everybody that calls gets what they need, transfer calls to the right people, processing customer checks.... All of that can be tough at times, but perhaps the most important thing I'm learning is that like with most other jobs, you have to keep a cool head under pressure and rise up to the challenge with each new day and just go all in.

Angry callers.. dropped calls.. dropped phones.. tech issues. It's all happened. However, if there's one thing I can take away from my experiences at the front desk so far it is this: It's not always going to be a walk in the park, but if you soldier-on anyway and do your best, it will be worth the effort. Even if it seems hard, you would rather be anywhere else and the job looks big, never give up!!

Editorial note: Recently I became ill, and Bill filled in for the rest of the week. That week proved to be eventful, with a lot of things required of him. He proved to be ready to rise to the occasion. Now he's going to be a regular writer for the newsletter.



STEPHAN EYER SAYS GOODBYE

Stephan Eyer has been at Lafayette West since 11/17/1997. When we had the new part of West open up, there was a table in the front offices that contained a "coffee table" book about airplanes on it. Stephan loved airplanes, so he would always come and look at that book. One of his parents had a job in the airline industries. This fact had a profound effect on him, and he really loved airplanes. Earlier this week at West on his last day, his co-workers made a card for him to take with him as he walked out the door for the last time. Stephan, good luck to you as you move on to other new experiences. We will miss you, but we hope you will come to visit us every now and then.

WIOA (WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT)



Once a year Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation hosts an in-person session at West, and this in-person session is required for every employee. The session lasts about 30 minutes, with a team of employees watching a video and listening to a short presentation about employment options. All employees are required to participate in this training. This year's session was held on May 18, 2022, and the pictures above are of the session getting ready to start. What is WIOA? Stacey Elster provided me with a copy of the letter that went home with the paychecks that explains it all better. Again, the question is: What is WIOA? Please see the explanation below:

“The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and contained new regulations impacting services to people with disabilities. Included in the law is a section pertaining to subminimum wage employment, which requires all individuals earning subminimum wage in a sheltered workshop to receive two “services” or “trainings”—and to document that they have been received—to maintain employment at subminimum wage. Those “services” are:

1. Career Counseling and Information and Referral Services to state and federal programs. This is to be provided every six months during the first year of employment, and annually thereafter. Employees are to be provided with information regarding options for competitive employment and how to access those options.
2. Information about local self-advocacy, self-determination, and peer mentoring training opportunities, provided every six months during the first year of employment and annually thereafter. Employees are to be provided with options in their geographic area.

Who Must Attend? All Lafayette employees **must** attend, and documentation will be retained by Lafayette that they have received the training.

Who Provides the Training? The Missouri Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is responsible for the training, and they have scheduled these trainings with us.

What Information Will Be Provided? Information provided will be regarding options in competitive employment and other things to consider, and will be general in nature, unless an employee wishes to discuss specific competitive integrated employment options. At that time the parent/guardian will be contacted to discuss how to proceed.

Is There Anything That I Need To Do? There is no action that you need to do at this time. We wanted to make sure that you are aware of the WIOA law and that each employee will be attending one of these sessions and will have literature coming home with them.

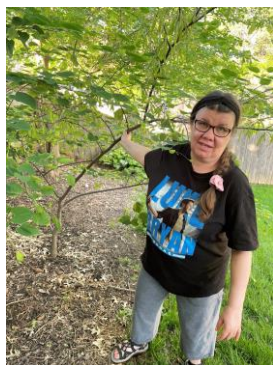
The intent of the law is to educate all employees regarding their options in employment. The individual and their family will always have a choice regarding what best meets their individual needs.”

** Stacey, thanks for the information. Kim, thanks for working so hard to contact everyone so they would have the word that they needed to take part in the sessions. We appreciate all our employees who made a special effort to come and attend these necessary sessions. The two ladies from Vocational Rehabilitation are pictured above left – Amy has the long blonde hair, and Tara has the short blonde hair. **

Editorial Note: Back on April 4, 2017, West received some trees for Arbor Day to hand out to our employees. Sarah Sanchez was one of those who received a tree that day, which is the first picture below left. The other pictures 3 pictures are of the tree planted at her house and Sarah now, 5 years later. Under her care you can see it thrived. Sarah left Lafayette a while ago, and she continues to thrive and grow, just like her tree. Thanks, Kathleen, for sharing these new memories with us.

SARAH'S TREE FROM LAFAYETTE

By Kathleen Allen (Proud Mother of Former Lafayette)



Sarah wanted me to share these with you all. They are pictures of her and the tree that she got from Lafayette about 4-5 years ago (I think it was for Earth Day or something). Anyway, it has grown like crazy! It has heart-shaped leaves, and she loves it. She still loves the memories she gained from Lafayette! She is starting to thrive at her new job. She still has challenges, but she seems to have adjusted well.

KATIE MOORE'S EUROPEAN TRIP

By Connie Moore (Proud Mother)



Katie Moore took a three week trip to Luxembourg and Belgium to celebrate the 2nd birthday of her nephew Luca. Luca is the son of Katie's brother, Kevin, and sister-in-law, Stefania. We went to Luxembourg City, Moselle and Clervaux in Luxembourg. We took a boat ride on the canals in Bruges, and tried the famous Belgian waffles, frites and, of course, we ate plenty of Belgian chocolate. It was a wonderful trip of spending time with family and of seeing two beautiful countries.

RYAN GRZESIEWSKI

By Amy Grzesiowski (Proud Mother)



Ryan had a wonderful vacation in Destin, Florida. The beach is truly his happy place!

ARIZONA GETAWAY

By Debbie Guenther (Proud Mother)



Courtney and her mom and dad vacationed in Scottsdale, Arizona. We hiked in the desert where there was cacti, scrub and mountains surrounding the area. We went to the Desert Botanical Garden and saw lots of cacti and Chihuly glass displays. Courtney enjoyed the various desert birds and animals. Our resort had palm trees, a mini golf course, a theatre and a nice pool. Scottsdale has a lot of nice sculptures around town. They are mostly cowboys, horses and American Indians. When shopping we found a display of Treat Planet dog treats that Lafayette packages!!

CHARLIE BRIGHT VISITS DISNEY FOR HIS 30TH BIRTHDAY

By Joshua Bright (Proud Brother)

This summer Charlie will be turning the big 3-0. If anyone knows anything about him it may be that he is unabashedly in love with all things Disney! For an early birthday present, his brother-in-law, Bradford, and I surprised him with a few days in Florida at Disney World. That is where they laughed and ate and swam and enjoyed all the roller coasters that Disney had to offer. After the park he was able to spend quality time with his brothers back in Washington, D.C., before coming home eager to tell all of his friends about his trip.



JUNE 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 PAY DAY	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15 6:00p – Board of Directors meeting	16 North Free Lunch	17	18
19 Father's Day Juneteenth	20	21	22	23 West Free Lunch	24 PAY DAY	25
26	27	28	29	30		