



## 2024 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS CALENDARS



Rob brought these Cardinal calendars up to the front table. We've put them behind the front desk, so if you want one you can ask at the front desk, and they are available @ \$15.00 each. Some of the proceeds of the sales of the calendar are going to be donated to Lafayette Industries. Here's an opportunity for you to get a calendar of our home-town team while helping out Lafayette Industries. As you might already know, we have a Lafayette Industries Night at the Ballpark once a year during the summer. We've been going down to the ballpark (both the old one and the new one) since 2003, and the event has not really changed a lot. We hope you will consider picking one up as maybe a late holiday gift. Kwaanza's still going on, so it would make a great gift for the occasion. Thank you to the St. Louis Cardinals for this unique opportunity. We hope to get all of the calendars sold, while it'll remind you of the upcoming game this summer. If you are interested in purchasing one, call Becky S. at 636-227-5666, x1100 or send me an email at [bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com). Go, Cards!



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

## **WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND SAFE – NOVEMBER 2023**



**RESPECTFUL:** Angad Jangi (employee), Heather Rice (staff) and Mark Becker (employee).



**SAFE:** Mark Grosch (employee), Heather Rice (staff) and David Kendall (employee).

## **NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND SAFE – NOVEMBER 2023**



**North employees Caught Being Respectful for November 2023:** Marquette Anderson, Janay Edwards, Tamu Johnson, Raynell Bell, Lamont Jackson, Tracy Minion, Damien Allender, Jasmine McCoy, Dorothy Gilmore, India Stewart, Mariana Raskin, Brittany Sudin, Demitri Jamison, Tiffany Sudan, Jerry Ring, Jesse Carpenter, Antwuan Williams. The winner of the drawing for November 2023 for Respectful was Brittany Sudin (pictured immediate left).



**North employees Caught Being Safe for November**

**2023:** Jasmine McCoy, Sandra Hite, Dalana Graves, Paul Spears, Margo Elgert, Stephen Bindbeutel, Demitri Jamison, Cece Brown. The winner of the drawing for November 2023 for Being Safe was Stephen Bindbeutel (pictured above right).



## **WEST SAYS GOODBYE TO BLAKE MAURER**

**Immediate left:** Sherri Farmer, Blake Maurer, Twana Blue

On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Blake Maurer said goodbye to his friends and supervisors at the West location. He's moving to another state, and we wish him well as he gets settled in at his new location. We hope he'll find a job right away, and wish him the best in his endeavors ahead. We will miss you, Blake, but we know that you'll do well wherever you go.

**2023 WEST CHRISTMAS PARTY VOLUNTEERS:** Every one of our volunteers made the West party run very smoothly, including getting 100% of the coats back to the rightful owners. Thank you to our 15 volunteers who made it run smoothly: Brenda Shaw, Amy Grzeciowski, Denise Bovyn, Ed Carlson, Sue Pfeil, Chris Watson, Alan and Joann Bagley, Ron and Diane Gentile, Mike and Laura Wainz, Linda and Jim Vail, Gail Kathe and Donna Ahola. Each one had an area they had signed up for or helped where they were needed the most. We were so glad to have each and every one of you helping us out. Thanks a Million!





## **WE'VE LOST AN ORIGINAL**

By Tom Heitert (Proud Retired Lafayette Staff)

December 15, 2023, Fred Ahrens left all of us. I call him an original because he was.

He was among the first ever employees of Lafayette Industries. By the time I came to Lafayette, the company was well established and so was Fred. He was so respected and trusted by then, that unsupervised, he was responsible for restocking the lunchroom soda machine, and handling the money. It was customary back then that each supervisor had an assistant. So, after a while I was given a list of individuals that qualified and I was allowed to choose. Wish things were always that easy. I took Fred, of course, and had a friend the rest of his time here. We were together for 22 of

my 24 years there. That's 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 22 years. Man, he was good! The day I chose him, the production manager called him "the salt of the earth." Couldn't have said it better.

What do you hope for in an assistant? Someone who knows you enough to already have started what you were about to tell him to do. THAT was Fred. Someone who knows where everything and everybody is on the shop floor because you don't have time. THAT was Fred. Someone who could teach others on your team how I thought and what I needed. THAT was Fred. Someone who never sought credit but always made you look good. THAT was Fred. One who never took advantage of his standing with you and worked with the team as hard as they did. THAT was Fred.

What do you look for in a friend? Someone who seems willing to tolerate those things about you that no one else would. THAT was Fred. Someone who is genuine and honest with you. THAT was Fred. Someone who sticks by you through both the highs AND the lows. THAT was Fred. Someone who would forgive you when you were a jerk. THAT was Fred.

You get the idea. They don't come any better in this world. He was an original. There will never be another like him.

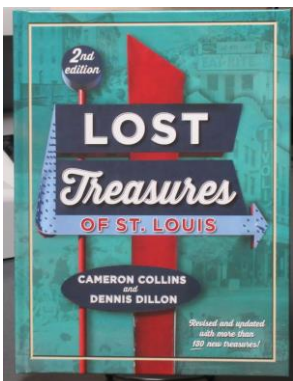


## **WEST - ARTISTIC FRIENDS CLUB HOLIDAY BAG GIVEAWAY**

This talented group has been doing this holiday bag giveaway for quite a while now. This year they came on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, to hand out their usual cookies, and a great holiday ornament. In exchange for meeting here to do their projects, they started handing out these bags and ornaments out as a way of saying thank

you to our folks for letting them do so. We really enjoy what they come up with every year. At left you can see the Grinch is their ornament they gave away. They also bake up cookies for them to have along with it. Why does the Grinch seem grumpy? Well, he doesn't get any cookies, so maybe he's green with jealousy?? Have a great day, ladies, and we appreciate your visits every year.

## **NEED A FUN READ ABOUT ST. LOUIS'S LOST TREASURES?**



Lost Treasures of St. Louis is a book co-authored by Cameron Collins and our own Dennis Dillon, a member of Lafayette's Board of Directors. The cost of the book is \$42.00, according to Amazon, and it's one that the editor sent to her sister in December. I thought she'd enjoy it, and she's having fun reading through it and finding out what she remembers and what's now missing. You can contact Dennis at [ddillon923@gmail.com](mailto:ddillon923@gmail.com). We hope you'll give it a thought, and if interested, and if interested, contact him.



## NORTH 2023 HOLIDAY PARTY (IN PICTURES)





## WEST 2023 HOLIDAY PARTY (IN PICTURES)





## WEST 2023 ART CONCERT



MORE PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGE



## MORE PICTURES FROM THE 2023 WEST ART CONCERT:



First here were the art projects that our artists had worked on throughout the year displayed gallery-style for everyone to review. It is always interesting to see what the art class leaders will come up with in terms of new art projects for this next year. The projects were an even bigger variety than last year. There were also our musicians who had to learn their songs and practice their programs. One of the groups got to have a snowball fight on a hand drum. The first group had to clap along to rhythmically difficult songs playing on a video on a wall. The families as well had an opportunity to listen to a concert on a huge four-rank organ. Everyone got to see friends that maybe they hadn't seen in a while. The Art Concert for 2023 is over, but the memories hopefully will last a lifetime. Thanks to all our participants and their leaders.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT HOLIDAY –  
HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR!!**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS'S CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES AND PRESENTATIONS OF CHECKS

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARIAN COUNCIL #9522



**Immediate left:** Rob Libera (Knights of Columbus Marian Council #9522 / Lafayette Industries), Joe Hagan and Colleen Sweeney (Lafayette Industries).

On Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Marian Council #9522 met for its annual Christmas party and check presentation. In attendance was our own Rob, Joe and Colleen, representing Lafayette Industries. We appreciate Joe and Colleen coming to the party and taking part in accepting the check on behalf of Lafayette. We hope to see you again next year for the Tootsie Roll Drive. We appreciate this council's faithfulness, as they've been supporters since before Rob came, which is 20 years for him at the

end of January. They've been there all along, and they do it quietly like all the Knights of Columbus Councils that help us out. We appreciate them, and can't imagine them not being there.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. CLEMENT COUNCIL #13604

**Immediate left:** Becky Stillwell and Becky Crump (Lafayette Industries), Tom Daly (Chairman of the Tootsie Roll Drive).

On Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the St. Clement Council #13604 met for its annual Christmas party and check presentation. Our photo came out a little fuzzy, but there was nothing fuzzy about the generosity of this Knights Council. We have partnered with them for at least 13 years now. They are one of the most steadfast

groups that we have the pleasure to work with. We appreciate what they have done for us, and for including us in their Tootsie Roll Drives. Tom presented how they got the donations together so they could present us with the great checks they do, and it is amazing how generous they really are. Except, Tom, you are talking to a financially challenged person. Your presentation was a challenge to me in understanding mathematics. How you all got the funds together had me thinking back to one of those math word puzzles when we were kids – a train leaving LA, traveling at 60 mph's, east-bound and a train leaving NYC, traveling at 50 mph's, going west-bound, stop for a 10 minute rest in Chicago. What time will they meet up? – Well, if they are traveling the same set of train tracks, then my thought about what time they would meet up is when you hear the passengers start screaming and jumping off the train, right in front of Godzilla, indicating there is a big issue. Seriously, whatever this Council does, it works and we appreciate it. We hope you'll make room to gain a new experience in 2024, and maybe come to help us out during the Tootsie Roll drive next year. In the meantime, we thank these quiet helpers. They teach the rest of us how to give of our time.



### REGIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Ed Carlson (Proud Lafayette Father)

**Immediate left – left to right:** Mark Carlson, Chas Pfeil and Steve Schroeder

Chas, Steve and Mark were part of a team that took home the silver medal in Special Olympics Regional tournament. They each distinguished themselves in defending their basketball net and scoring baskets.



## THEATER UNLIMITED PRESENTS THE LION KING

By Ann Kelly (Proud Lafayette Mother)



### Immediate left:

Meri Rohan, Laura Fortus, Colleen Kelly,  
and Ann Morrissey

### Immediate right:

Laura Fortus, Lisa Mannion, Colleen Kelly  
and Darrius Roberts



On December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> The Theater Unlimited presented The Lion King at the Jewish Community Center. It was a wonderful performance, and Lafayette Industries was well represented. It was so much fun to see the employees perform on stage in their costumes.

Darius Roberts as Simba  
Mindy as Sarabi  
Mary Rohan as a gazelle

Colleen Kelly and Laura Fortus as lionesses  
Annie Morrissey as a giraffe  
Hank Shelton as an elephant  
(No picture of Hank because I didn't see  
the elephant in the room)

The next performance by Theater Unlimited will be Peter Pan on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JANUARY FOLKS!

### NORTH

Kalvin	Ervin	1
Emmanuel	Lowe	4
Joshua	Nelson	8
Jessie	Carpenter	9
Telly	Mays	11
Briana	Beasley	15
Duvunier	Gear	19
Dalana	Graves	19
Homer	Wells	20
Melissa	Pettiford	22
Kevin	Thompson	25
Sharron	Williams	25
Terry	Stevenson	26
Marina	Raskin	30

### WEST

Craig	Conrad	4
Matt	Marien	5
Austin	Combs	5
Julie	Wefel	5
Mary	Klevorn	7
Joshua	Nelson	8
Heather	Rice	8
Laura	Meyer	9
Stacey	Elster	10
Julie	Aufdenspring	14
David	Reardon	14
Joseph	Hagan	17
Robin	Owen	17
Gayle	McAleese	20
Brian	Dunn	27
Arthur	McCarver	29
Hamid	Tariq	29
Brendan	Sonnabend	31
Scott	Skarstad	31



Happy New Year's!!

Happy Birthday!!



## CORPORA FAMILY HAS A GIRLS-ONLY TRIP TO LAS VEGAS

By Jane Corpora (Proud Lafayette Mother)



Far left: The Corpora girls on a girls-only trip to Las Vegas.

Middle left: Robin loved the gondolas at the Venetian.

Immediate left: Christmas shopping in Eureka Springs.

Robin Corpora enjoyed two “girls only” trips in 2023. In March, she traveled to Las Vegas with her mom and sister. She didn’t win anything at gambling, but did enjoy the sites and a Cirque de Soleil show about Michael Jackson.

## COLLEEN KELLY’S BIRTHDAY WEDDING By Ann Kelly (Proud Lafayette Mother)

On Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, Colleen Kelly celebrated her 40th birthday with a surprise birthday party. The theme of the birthday party was Wedding Reception, which is now called the Birthday Wedding.

Over 80 family and friends gathered at Andre's to celebrate. There was everything a wedding reception usually has, along with a birthday celebration.

Cousin Tre was the DJ, Aunt Judy made the wedding cake, and cousin Sandy (a professional wedding photographer) took the photos.

Colleen was very surprised by the birthday party but she and Joe Hagan (her "husband") were surprised again when she was told that this was also their wedding reception. Her bridesmaids **including coworker Lisa C.** came up and lined the runner and the flower girl and guy, her niece and nephew, spread rose petals as Colleen and Joe walked down the aisle.

They had their wedding dance, cut the wedding cake and danced all afternoon having a great time visiting with everyone.

It was a day she will never forget.



**First row:** 1. Surprise 2. Flower girl 3. Wedding party      **Second row:** 1. Wedding dance 2. Wedding toast 3. Wedding cake surrounded by memories

PICTURES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## **COLLEEN KELLY BIRTHDAY WEDDING PICTURES – CONTINUED:**



**First row:** 1. Colleen cuts cake 2. Colleen feeds Joe cake 3. Joe feeds Colleen cake

**Second row:** 1. Colleen with bridesmaids and Joe 2. Colleen with Mom



### **ZACH ADAMS NEW NEPHEW MONTY**

By Michelle Adams (Proud Lafayette Mother)

Zach wanted me to send you a couple of pictures of him with his new baby nephew, Monty. Zach had a cold over the last week, so he had to keep his distance a bit, but he still got to get some good time with his nephew. His new nephew's name is Monty Eugene. He was born on July 25, 2023. He weighed in at 6 lbs., 13 oz., and he was 19.1 inches long. His mom and dad's names are McKenna and Brandon. We couldn't be prouder.

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR –**

## **2024 IS GOING TO BE A LEAP YEAR.**

## **BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER.**



**JANUARY 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day  Both Workshops closed due to Holiday.	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 PAY DAY	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day – <u>Both</u> <u>Workshops are</u> <u>Open.</u>	16	17  Board meeting 6:00p at West	18  Free Lunch	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 PAY DAY  Free Lunch	26	27
28	29	30	31			