

**WEST – SPECIAL FREE LUNCH VISITOR – 2/29/2024**



On Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated a very special day. It was Leap Year as well as Free Lunch at West, but that wasn't what made it special. We were celebrating a special visitor with us that day. At the very beginning of the journey to the start-up of Lafayette West, there were several groups vying for the Federal funds for a new workshop in the St. Louis West County area. A member of the government suggested that the groups band together so that they would have more resources to support a workshop. As Jerry Seinfeld said in his sitcom – "...and yada, yada, yada.....," out of which Lafayette Work Center was born. One of the groups that was instrumental in getting Lafayette off the ground was St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. At the Free Lunch on February 29<sup>th</sup> we had one of the key figures of those early years come to visit us for the first time in a long time. Rosella Gleason, wife of Rev. Howard Gleason of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, came to visit us and see what Lafayette is doing these days. We were so glad to have her here, and we are, as always, so grateful for the help of this group of faithful volunteers from her church.

Rosella helped us out with Free Lunch, and then she also got a chance to get caught up with things with Rob Libera, and get on events coming down the way. Rosella is the lady in the pink sweater in the first picture above, posing with Rob. In the second picture, we wanted to show everyone what our group of volunteers from St. Mark's does for West when they come to help out at lunchtime. It's all about serving up the food and having a work force that is well-fed. The last picture above is the same group, but in the picture they are now winding down after a very busy few hours spent getting those lines whittled down. Pictured above is Hugh, Ellen, Marilyn and Shirley standing behind Rosella. They are dedicated to us, and we are dedicated to them. I am so glad that we have them helping us out, and I never let them forget that we appreciate them. Rosella, come back and visit us any time. We are indebted to you and your husband for all your hard work in getting Lafayette West started up, along with the other groups who contributed time and effort as well. Your work has made a difference in countless lives here at the workshop as well as around the West County area.




**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

Lafayette

# 48th Annual EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION PICNIC

Saturday May 18  
10 am-1pm

Free for all Lafayette employees and  
STEPUP participants **and** up to 4 guests  
each

**!** RSVP is **REQUIRED** to  
**attend!**

**NEW!**

**At Grant's Farm  
this year!!!**

7385 Grant Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63123

**!** Return below form or register using  
QR code by **May 3, 2024**



Free transportation will be provided from the Lafayette North location.  
Leave North-9 am  
Return North-1:30 pm

Check box if interested



Call-a-Ride  
**does** go to  
Grant's Farm!

Book with Call-a-  
Ride by **May 15th**

**YES! I am attending the Picnic!**



Employee/Participant Name **(required)** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests **(required)** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Circle  
One**

North

West

STEPUP

**Return this form to Becky at West; Sheila or Jerry at North**  
Questions? Call Jerry (636)227-5666 x 2101 or Vicky (636) 227-5666 x 1118

## WEST - CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – FEBRUARY 2024



**RESPECTFUL – far left - left to right:** Katie Moore (employee), Robbie Gregg (employee) and Scott Skarstad (staff).

**SAFE – immediate left – left to right:** Petra Bauer (employee), Jason Rice (employee) and Scott Skarstad (staff).

**LOOKING BACK AT THE PAST THROUGH NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S EYES:** For a few months longer, please indulge me as I look back at past newsletter editions through the eyes of an editor. Some of these articles are my favorites, as we learned about all-things-Lafayette that we might not have known before. One of the responsibilities as an editor is that I have to figure out where we can go to get some information about a topic that we are researching if it’s not readily available on the internet. If one wanted to find out information about how your company was named, that seems to be something that would be simple enough. Wrong – it was anything but simple. Rod Goelz had asked me how we got the name Lafayette. Thus began my quest to find that information. Below is my finalized article from September 2008, as I looked around to see who knew the answer. Turns out one person had lots of answers while several persons had parts of answers. Hope you enjoy learning how Lafayette came to be called Lafayette!

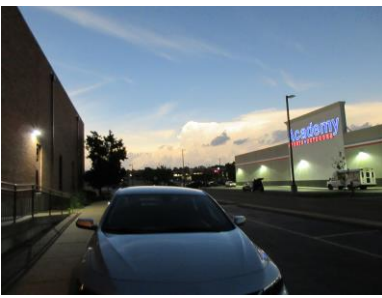
### **HOW DID LAFAYETTE GET ITS NAME?**

By The Editor (From September 2008)



Rod Goelz, one of our production supervisors, came up earlier this month to the front desk, and said that he had a question. He was looking at the building and was wondering how Lafayette got its name. Quite a few of us have read the history of our organization, but the question has been harder to find an answer to than you might think as to how it really got its name. Fritz Goodman, Ethel and Bob McLuen, Karen Van Berkel and Boots Berry all helped with bits and pieces of information. My goldmine, however, was Bob Hanson, a former history teacher, who provided a brief history of Lafayette’s name. I am so grateful to him for the bulk of the information in this article. In the mid 1970’s there were several groups competing for a federal grant to set up a sheltered workshop in the West County area. Two of the groups were West County Industries and St. Mark Workshop. John Teschner was former President of the Board of the West County group, and Phil Goss (sp?); Rev. Howard Gleason and others (including Bob Hanson), were involved with the St. Mark Group. They were told that they had a better chance at a grant if they joined together, which they did. Working with an employee from the Department of Mental Health, the Rehabilitation Division, they helped them to choose the name Lafayette Work Center, Inc.

In meetings that followed, as the name was discussed, the Boards of the two groups said Lafayette was suggested because: 1) It was located in the political voting township of Lafayette in the area of West County that included Ballwin, Manchester, Valley Park, etc. 2) It was also 1976, bicentennial of the American Revolution, when all the colonies declared independence. Count Lafayette of France was a military expert in French wars, and he volunteered to leave France and come to the US to help in any way he could. He helped George Washington to train recruits at Valley Forge during the terrible winter when they almost lost the war. He learned a lot about America, but he helped her volunteer soldiers to train and to eventually defeat the English and become an independent nation. When the name was presented to the Board, George Schumacher, then manager, said something like this: “We chose the name Lafayette because the businesses of this area with whom the Center would work would feel at home with it since it was known as the Lafayette area, but also because Lafayette helped America in the Revolutionary War 200 years ago so that the Lafayette Work Center could help the developmentally disabled in West County.” One of the earliest symbols of Lafayette was a pen and ink drawing in blue, and with Count Lafayette in a bust side view. The rest is history, as Lafayette continued and continues to grow and expand. Thank you to all who contributed to this article, and a BIG thank you to Bob Hanson for his invaluable input. So there you have it, Rod Goelz. That is how Lafayette got its name.



**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE:** Does anyone who's been at Lafayette for a while remember back to August 21, 2017? Do you remember the last total solar eclipse that came right across the St. Louis region that year? It was eerie when it turned dark in the middle of the day, and the masses of buzzing cicadas all went totally silent. Even the birds stopped singing. This month there is going to be another total solar eclipse happening on – **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** - but not here in St. Louis. The pathway of the eclipse will be across south central and southeast Missouri. Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Carbondale, Illinois are located right in path. It enters Missouri around 12:30p and exits the state around 3:17p. If you have relatives that you haven't seen in a while who live in the path of the eclipse, you might want to consider visiting them around the time its due to start, and leave for home after it's over. You won't overstay your welcome. It'll be an awe-inspiring event that'll keep everyone at Lafayette talking about it for long time. Looks like we'll have something to talk about on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully it'll be a pretty day when April 8<sup>th</sup> comes, but April tends to be rainy here, so hard to say. Stay tuned..... (Okay, I've used 2 stories with memories from past newsletter, but at least this one has ties to current events).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL FOLKS!**



**NORTH**

|           |            |    |
|-----------|------------|----|
| Roxanna   | Robinson   | 5  |
| India     | Stewart    | 5  |
| Vaughon   | Caldwell   | 9  |
| Marquette | Anderson   | 12 |
| Sean      | Watson     | 12 |
| Mattie    | Abercumbia | 17 |
| Tamu      | Johnson    | 18 |
| Paul      | Spears     | 18 |
| Demitri   | Jamison    | 21 |
| Pedro     | Cruz       | 25 |
| Sally     | Grant      | 25 |
| Laura     | Fortus     | 29 |

**WEST**

|           |               |    |          |          |    |
|-----------|---------------|----|----------|----------|----|
| Margo     | Bates         | 1  | Ryan     | Clemente | 13 |
| Andrew    | Martinez      | 1  | Craig    | Marek    | 14 |
| Sheri     | Cooley        | 2  | Jonathan | Walle    | 15 |
| Elizabeth | Cendekowitsch | 3  | David    | Pfeiffer | 16 |
| Samantha  | Waigand       | 3  | Mark     | Carlson  | 19 |
| DeWendel  | Williams      | 3  | Nicholas | Strate   | 20 |
| Justin    | Moslander     | 8  | Tim      | Roccia   | 20 |
| Carli     | Binek         | 10 | Pamela   | Walsh    | 23 |
| Teresa    | Cline         | 10 | Cynthia  | Jacobson | 26 |
| Robyn     | Zerillo       | 10 | Geoffrey | Reusch   | 28 |
| John      | Woerner       | 11 | BJ       | Burns    | 30 |
| Pam       | Gardner       | 12 |          |          |    |

**REMINDER TO WEST FOLKS:** Please be sure that when you are picking someone up early or dropping off someone late, that you give the office notice that you are doing so. There have been marked increases in the number of people just showing up at the door, and we have had no prior notice of parent or staff was coming. In a couple of the situations, staff was down the hall checking in on some items, and they didn't hear the bell right away. If we know you are coming, then we can keep an eye out for you. If you live in a place where you have staff that takes you places, please let them know as well. This notification is a way to be thoughtful to those around us, giving them a "heads up" that someone is keeping different hours that day. Thanks in advance.

**2024 LAFAYETTE NIGHT  
AT THE CARDINALS GAME**



This year Lafayette Night at the Cardinal Game is going to be on **Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**. Although we're going to be sitting in shade, whether it's early or later summer months, it still can be hot in St. Louis. Come prepared, but take time to read what's *\*not\** allowed at the ballpark – like cash. Our opponents will be the Colorado Rockies. We are sitting in Sections 167, 168, 169 and 170 this year. We will see how these seats in the shade feel compared to 2 years ago (last year's game was canceled due to *really* bad weather). The tickets are first come, first served and when we're out of tickets then we're out of tickets. A small number of wheelchair seats 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 goes up to \$40.00 each. This is what the Cardinals are charging Lafayette for the price on additional tickets. Again, 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 June, so you can start sending in your orders for those tickets. A little early, but the game is earlier in the summer than usual. By the way, we just learned that there is a giveaway that night.



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.***



**NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND SAFE – MARCH 2024**



**Immediate left:** Robert McCoy - Caught Being Respectful – March 2024



**Immediate right:** Tim Hubbard – Caught Being Respectful – March 2024

**WE HAVE AN APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> ART CLASS – CHECK OUT LAST MONTH’S NEWSLETTER OR [WWW.LAFAYETTEINDUSTRIES.COM](http://WWW.LAFAYETTEINDUSTRIES.COM) UNDER THE WEBSITE.**

**WEST - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024 – 3:00-3:45P**



Register today for May 8<sup>th</sup>. You have to register each month for each Art Class!!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station. **Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Questions: Call or email Vicky James [vjames@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:vjames@lafayetteindustries.com) 636-227-5666, ext.1118

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**WEST - ART CLASS – WEDNESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> – 3:00-3:45p**

Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name/phone number of person picking up art student at 3:45p.

\_\_\_\_\_



**June’s art class will be the last one for the summer. Art classes will resume in September.**

## JESSE BROOKS'S MARCH CRUISE

By Jennifer Brooks (Proud Mother)



Jesse boarded a ship to cruise to Cozumel and Yucatán with his parents. He enjoyed lots of great food and entertainment. The sun was hot, the pool and the water slide were cool, and the views were beautiful! He had a great time!!!



**Editorial note:** We have featured Monty, Zach Adams's nephew. He was born in July last year. Zach brought me more pictures, and I told Grandma that I would use the pictures in a story I made up. Written below is what my imagination was able to put together.

### THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING MONTY

When we last saw the diminutive human, Monty, it was in the January newsletter. He was doing typical baby activities like lying on a blanket on the floor kicking, and chomping on a pacifier. The idea for the rest of us was to find the baby irresistible. Even while he was still kicking and chomping, he muttered to himself, "If they only knew what I have planned for them." He kept up his "typical" baby behavior, and the adults around him oooooohed and aaaaahed about how cute he was. They were falling under his spell.

In the left picture above he is now laughing at "his" adults. His plan seems to be working. He is making the observation in the picture: "Teehee, ha, ha, they haven't guessed what I'm up to yet. They wouldn't smile so big if they only knew." What was Monty's diabolical plan? He was going to gather all the babies of the world together somehow, and they would take classes on how to be especially adorable. Once they were especially adorable, then the adults wouldn't be able to resist them, and they would be able to get away with whatever they wanted to do. They would be able to stay up to midnight every night. They would be able to have the other babies over any hour of the day or night. It would be babies running the world. Yes, it would be their world in every sense of the word. Monty smiled smugly and said out loud, "This is going to be fun."

In the right picture above, however, Monty had the hard task of acting just ordinarily cute. "One day.... one day soon it'll all be my own way. Before they know what's hit them they'll do whatever I say because I'll be irresistible." Will Monty be able to get the other babies to cooperate with him? Will he be able to get his own way with the adults in his life, to be able to stay up till midnight? Who will do the diaper changes for all of the babies? Stay tuned to further episodes of "The Adventures of The Amazing Monty...."

Becky Stillwell

Henry Robinson

Jessica Marlow

Julie Jones

Sandy Shaw

Shirley Farmer

Michael Kelly

Shelley Young

St. Farnum

Blackburn Lead

dear Buck

Ed Zyls

[Signature]

Kim Stevenson

Paula Helt

Coronda Edwards



[Signature]

Sara Starstal

Rachel

Aida Prael Diana Hemkens

Linda Hagado

Eric

Tracy Cooper

Leah Rice

[Signature]

Yvonne

[Signature]

Ken [Signature]

To the Lafayette Parents –

We ran late in thanking you this year, but we are sincere in thanking you for the wonderful Christmas bonus you gave to the staff. This thank you comes from the combined staff of Lafayette North and West. You are special, you make us smile, and we appreciate your family member works every day with us.

Have a great April, and now onto the next event.....

Your Lafayette Staff Members



**MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEN'S GROUP**



**Immediate left – front row:** Angela Gentile (employee), Cliff Hackman (Manchester UMM), Ian Bagley (employee).  
**Immediate left – back row:** Rob Libera (Lafayette), Travis Nichols (employee), Don Ehrhardt (Manchester UMM).

The Manchester United Methodist Church has hosted Lafayette's Art Concert in December since 2015, except during the pandemic years. Once a year the Manchester United Methodist Church Men's Group has a Christmas tree lot, and part of the proceeds come to Lafayette. This connection goes clear back to 2013, and they have been greatly appreciated as a consistent donor to Lafayette. We thank them again for

being a part of our lives, and we are grateful for what they have done for us over the years. Cliff Hackman and Don Ehrhardt are familiar faces to us, and again, thank you Manchester. You have made Christmas a magical time for our employees through the concert and the organ Christmas carol recital at the end of it all.



**GEESE LEAD PROTEST**

**ABOUT LIFE IN GENERAL**

**IN 60-STYLE SIT-IN**

Rob had just walked out the door when he came back in to say that the geese had taken it to a whole new level of stubbornness. He pointed in the general direction of the street

and off to the left. The geese could be heard honking their protests outside the door. Nothing could prepare anyone for the sight that met their eyes. Five geese were all "parked" in the middle of the street. They were right in front of Schubert's parking lot, and across from Academy's side lot. It put a big smile on my face. On a serious note, people around here aren't the best of drivers. They drive the backstreets way too fast and lots of them don't stop at the stop signs. We were afraid the geese might get hurt or even killed. So the Editor put her geese-wrangling skills to work and herded our feathered friends off the street and into the parking lot. The gentleman by the scooter in the background was as good as I was about wrangling geese, and he helped me get them to a safe place. Another goose whisperer, and though they don't appreciate it, the geese live to see another day. Within the last 5 minutes of the writing of this article, 5 of them have returned and are trying to nest in the front parking lot of West. The goose wrangler got tough with them this time, and they took to flight. It's clear of geese for the time being.

**SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR APRIL 2024**

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)



**STRANGULATION**

The St. Patrick's Day Parade goes right by our home. Literally. So, it is a must to be at Grandma's (notice whose house it is) each year. Our 3-year-old grandson was with us this year. He is out there with his bag for candy that they throw at you (a safety hazard to be sure), and people keep putting beads around his neck. I give this little thought, until while inside, he starts playing with them. He's taking them off, putting them on, throwing them, twirling them, using them with his cars, you name it.

It dawns on me that those puppies could be dangerous for a child. He could get caught on something and strangle himself. They could be caught up in a fan or something happen I am not even thinking of. Soon as he put them down to play with something else, I grabbed them and pitched them in the trash. Tragedy was averted and a safety column was born.

**(Continued on next page)**

## **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR APRIL 2024 – CONTINUED:**

Many employees wish to wear their IDs, keys, personal mementos, etc. around their neck so as not to lose them. So many of us are working with machines where this could be VERY dangerous. Leaning forward at our station may cause them to get caught in the machine and pull you along. If it does not stop in time, the outcome is frightening to think about.

Necklaces, scapulars or anything else around your neck presents the same problem. This applies at home as well as work.

I would implore you to take them off while working.

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

## **LAFAYETTE NIGHT AT THE BALLGAME GIVEAWAY**

*There \*is\* a giveaway at Lafayette Night at the Ballgame on June 7<sup>th</sup>, when we play the Colorado Rockies. Due to copyright concerns we can't post the picture of the giveaway. It's going to be an adult all-over print shirt of the Coke logo and Cardinals logo. The first 25,000+ fans will get one. You can do a search on the Cardinals website for Promotions & Giveaways, and scroll down to June 7<sup>th</sup>. You'll see a picture of it there. It's very cool and worth the time to go look at it. Go, Cards!*

## **HOW GOOD IS YOUR HYGIENE?**

Hygiene is a fancy word for watching out for our health and preventing illness, especially by keeping things clean (including ourselves). This can be everything from washing our hands after we visit the restroom to washing bedclothes if someone in our house has been ill. One good way to maintain health is to keep our shots up to date. Older folks, have we had our pneumonia shots, and have we kept our tetanus shots up to date? Younger folks, have you had your flu shots, and have you kept your routine vaccines up to date? In the fall North and West offer in-house flu clinics, given by the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA). It's a small step and a good thing to keep yourself moving forward and staying healthy. Why is it important? If you get sick you can spread your illness to others. What might be an inconvenient illness for you can prove far deadlier for others. So please, everyone, don't do it for you, do it for someone who can't fight it off, and could end up way sicker than they need to be. We care that you stay healthy. So, how good \*is\* your hygiene?

**APRIL 2024**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY  | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                         | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--------|---|---------|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
|        | 1<br>April's Fool's Day   | 2       | 3   | 4<br>North Free Lunch            | 5<br>Deadline for registering for West art classes | 6   |
| 7      | 8<br>Total Solar Eclipse Southwest, South Central and Southeast Missouri 12:30ish-3:30ish | 9       | 10<br>PAY DAY<br>West only – Art Classes begin – 3:00-3:45p | 11<br>West Free Lunch            | 12   | 13<br>K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7 – 10p – Celebrate the Cardinals with Fredbird |
| 14     | 15<br>Taxes Deadline – 2024 due!  | 16      | 17<br>Board meeting 6:00p at West                           | 18<br>North Free Lunch           | 19   | 20  |
| 21     | 22<br>Passover begins at sundown  | 23      | 24  | 25<br>PAY DAY<br>West Free Lunch | 26   | 27  |
| 28     | 29  | 30      |   |                                  |  |   |