

## ARE YOU SEEING *DOUBLE*?

When you look at the calendar for March you may think you are seeing *double*. However, the Board of Directors for Lafayette decided to double the number of Free Lunches at both locations, since it is a popular item with most of our employees. Starting in March we will have two Free Lunches at both the North and West locations. North will still have their Free Lunch on the third week of the month followed by West on the fourth week of the month. In addition we will be adding a Free Lunch in the first half of the month at both locations. In March North's *new* Free Lunch will be on the 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by West on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Then North's *second* Free Lunch will be held on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by West on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Lafayette has a Board of Directors that is always watching out for their employees, so we appreciate the special things that they do for them. Most people don't realize how much the Board does behind the scenes for both the staff and the employees. They are committed to us and to the Mission of Lafayette Industries. It is rare to find people like them these days. A big thank you!



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 - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 – 3:00-3:45P



Register today for April. 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, April 5<sup>th</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, APRIL 10<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.

\_\_\_\_\_



## METRO CALL-A-RIDE PHONE SYSTEM UPDATE – COMING 2/19/24

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, I got an email from Vicky James. She had received an email from the ADA Coordinator at Metro, which went out to quite a few folks. Below is the information she received about an update in the Call-A-Ride system that lots of folks got. Current customers should watch out for a postcard with the same information below. Thanks, Vicky, for getting this important information to us!

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**From:** adadirector <[adadirector@MetroStLouis.org](mailto:adadirector@MetroStLouis.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 9:00:30 AM  
**To:** adadirector <[adadirector@MetroStLouis.org](mailto:adadirector@MetroStLouis.org)>  
**Subject:** Metro Call-A-Ride Phone System Update Coming February 19, 2024

Good Morning,

I'm writing to share some news about the Call-A-Ride phone system. Thank you for helping spread the news.

Starting February 19, 2024, the Call-A-Ride phone system will be updated. Customers can begin to use a single number. Call 314-982-1505 and select the option needed. This change should shorten phone wait times.

We encourage Call-A-Ride Customers to update the numbers saved into their phones to this single number effective February 19<sup>th</sup>. During the transition, the current numbers will re-direct callers to the updated number.

Attached, and at the bottom of this email, you can find a Quick Reference Guide with the phone number and menu options.

Current Call-A-Ride Customers can be on the lookout for a postcard with this information.

\*If this information has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive updates directly, please email [ADACoordinator@MetroStLouis.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@MetroStLouis.org) with "Send me ADA Updates" in the subject line. If you would no longer like to receive these emails, please send "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Amy Parker, ADA Coordinator, Metro Transit  
T 314-982-1525 ♦ M 314-799-5744 ♦ F 314-335-3419 ♦ [ADACoordinator@MetroStLouis.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@MetroStLouis.org)

### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Updated Call-A-Ride Phone Number - *Starting February 19, 2024 – 314-982-1505*

#### **Then Choose Your Option:**

**Press 1:** Call-A-Ride Eligibility  
**Press 2:** Check on/Change Trip  
**Press 3:** Reservations  
**Press 4:** Alert Letters  
**Press 5:** Commendation / Complaint  
**Press 6:** General Questions  
**Press 9:** Repeat Options

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH FOLKS!

### NORTH

Sandra	Hite	1
Jason	Doss	3
Linda	Hagedorn	4
Mickeal	Phillips	7
Debra	Coleman	8
Stefanie	Taylor	9
Leona	Shadwick	11
Charles	Cooper	16
Jerry	Irons	16
Stephen	Bindbeutel	19
Erica	Schwarztrauber	19
Michael	Terry	19
Travis	Carter	24
Jason	Boedicker	26
Donna	Love	28

### WEST

Travis	Nichols	7
Jeanine	Adelsberger	9
Courtney	Guenther	14
Christopher	Brock	15
Marla	DeHahn	16
Mark	Becker	19
Peter	Johnston	20
Petra	Bauer	22
Meri	Rohan	25
Jacob	Huber	26
Jennifer	Schweiss	29
Ben	Kaufmann	30



Happy birthday to our springtime birthday folks – May every flower you see remind you of how old you are getting!

### WEST POETRY CLASS – FEBRUARY 14, 2024



We are slowly coming back from the pandemic, and adding in activities that we hadn't done before. One of the groups that was unable to meet over these past few years was the small poetry class that West had going on alongside the Glee Club and Art Classes. They met this past Monday for the first time in a very long time. The class is small because poetry requires lots of help and lots of concentration and thinking. The leader of the poetry class is Terry, and the girls she's helping out with their poetry are Casey, Pam and Alli. Tim was trying poetry out for the first time, and Vicky was helping him along the way. He came into the front office to run off a copy of his poem. He and Vicky read the poem,

and it had all of us laughing. We wrote a note to his parents, Tim and Debbie, to see if we could use his picture and include one of his poems in the newsletter. They said yes, so here it is:

I love when it's Spring.  
Let's play golf.  
Tim, Dad, Ted putting around.

By Tim Sitek

Thank you to all of our poets. I hope to see more of their poems at the Art Concert in December. Tim, keep it up, dude! You got a real touch, and I could see the 3 of you trying to putt a golf ball into the hole!

**LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES  
PRESENTS**

***12th Annual Mouse Races***

**Saturday, March 23**

**Doors Open 6:30pm**

**First Race 7:00pm**

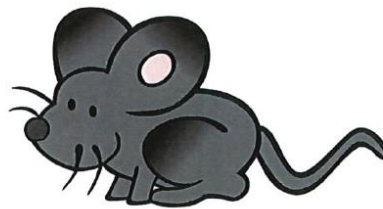
**Trinity Lutheran Church  
14088 Clayton Road**

***\$25/person ~ \$20/Lafayette employee***

***Table of 8 for \$200***

***Sponsor a Mouse for \$25***

***Sponsor a Race for \$100***



***Ticket price includes snacks, soda, beer and wine.  
You may bring your own food. Tables of 8 available.***

***This event sells out quickly!***

**Click the QR code to register or**

***Contact Vicky James***

***636.227.5666, ext. 1118***

***www.lafayetteindustries.com***





### **THE THOELE FAMILY – MEMORIAL LUNCH FOR BOB – FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

On Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, a special luncheon in memory of Bob Thoele was held. His family came to visit Lafayette West employees during their Free Lunch. Then they got an opportunity to take a tour to see where Bob had spent his working time at West. Their tour guide was Rob Libera, our Executive Director. In Bob's former work area they have hung a sign naming that work area after him. The background of the sign was pictures of the many ways he contributed to life at the West location. We were very glad to have the family present. Our employees had made cards telling the family how much Bob meant to them. There were also some of our employees who talked directly with them to let them know how much he meant to them. Some of West's retired staff who worked with him were there as well. It was a wonderful time to have a chance to share what his loss meant to everyone. Whether he was a friend, a boss, a colleague or a beloved family member – we all will miss him in different ways. As Rob said in the last newsletter of Bob – Rest In Peace.

### **WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – JANUARY 2024**



**Respectful – left to right:** Becky Crump (employee), Scott Skarstad (staff), Caroline Staab (employee) and Bradley Jandro (employee).



**Safe – left to right:** Donald Cline (employee), Scott Skarstad (staff) and James Riester (employee).

## 2024 WEST AND NORTH VACCINATION CLINICS

We heard from the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) that they are going to be joining the SSM Health Network. They'll still be doing the flu vaccination clinics, and invited us to call them if we had questions, etc. We did – the Editor wanted to get down the dates for both locations for their annual flu clinics. That way we would be able to turn our concentration towards new items that we have coming up. Please put these two dates down – Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:30a – will be the West's flu clinic; Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00-10:30a – will be the North's flu clinic. We won't have any papers to fill out until the end of August, and at that time we'll get them to everyone who is going to sign up. Mark your calendars ahead of time, and we'll keep you posted as we get nearer.

## COLTON'S CARE CORNER – RIBBON-CUTTING

By Vicky James (Proud Lafayette Staff)



Colton's Care Corner Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Lafayette. Friends of Colton's Care and Lafayette Industries gathered with a total of 75 guests that witnessed the official opening of Colton's Corner. Jason Ashley provided music entertainment by singing songs written and recorded by him, as well as taking requests from guests. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to working together with Colton's Cause on other projects. Special thanks to John and Angie Kane for providing food and beverages for the gathering.



**Immediate left:** Rob Libera and Dan Libera

## 15 YEARS AT LAFAYETTE

You could tell today that Rob Libera was very proud of his son, Dan, as he celebrated 15 years of service to Lafayette Industries. Congratulations, Dan, it's been fun watching you grow into a professional family man. May you have 15 more years at least!!

## LAFAYETTE NIGHT OUT AT THE BALLPARK



Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is a date to put on your calendars for the Lafayette Night Out At The Ballpark. We will be playing the Colorado Rockies, and we want to extend the message from last month's article that we won't be taking money for tickets until you see the order blank in the newsletter. That'll be your clue to start signing up for your tickets. The tickets themselves won't be distributed until mid-May. We have been assigned our seating sections for the year by the Cardinals – Sections 167, 168, 169 and 170 are where our seats will be this year. These sections are down in the left field area, and Rob says they are going to be in the shade. Yay! The start time for the game will be 7:15p. There will be 410 tickets available. We'll keep you posted as we go along. And as always – Go Cards!!

## IN HONOR OF THE CARDINALS

In honor of the 2024 Cardinal season, and our hope they win the World Series again, and in honor of the Poetry class meeting again, the Editor decided to revisit the first of the newsletters that I did in which we featured the poetry of Esther Goldstein. Esther was a former Lafayette employee who did a few poems over a couple of years back when I first started doing the newsletters. The one below gives us her view of a Cardinal's game that she went to and how she felt about it. The sentiment that she brought to her poem is reminiscent of many Cardinal fans feel after a game sometimes. We hope you enjoy her poem. She was a great gal who had beaucoup loads of talent:

### An Almost Perfect Night

By Esther Goldstein (former Lafayette employee)



Everything seemed so perfect  
For the Lafayette baseball night  
The weather was just right  
And our seats, although handicapped  
Let us see everything in sight  
We were even treated to a fireworks display  
You can't see that every day  
The only problem was the Cardinal's bats went flat  
Anyone who hoped that a win was a go  
Saw the Cardinals lose their eighth game in a row.



## ASCENSION CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHESTERFIELD – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #11139



**Picture at immediate left – left to right:** Vicky James (staff), Hazel Owen (employee), Bill Lucas (Knight), John Bruegger (Knight) and Rob Libera (staff).

The Ascension Catholic Church of Chesterfield has a hard-working Council #11139 of the Knights of Columbus. John Bruegger and Bill Lucas came to visit us recently bearing a check from their last year's Tootsie Roll Drive proceeds. We called up Hazel Owen, a member of the church and one of Lafayette's employees, who accepted the check on behalf of Lafayette West. In every religious institution there is usually at least one group that is the cornerstone of that church. The Knights of Columbus are the cornerstones in the parishes in which they serve. Those who have taken part in a Tootsie Roll Drives understand the hard work that these people do in collecting the funds from the drive, but also in getting people to even volunteer their time. The gentleman in the teal shirt without a jacket, is Bill Lucas. Bill is part of a group that founded Felice Cuores Party Time, a dance that occurs at St. Clare of Assissi School Cafeteria, on the second Saturday of every month. The dance is for those with developmental disabilities. These gentlemen stay busy helping others and the community in which they live. We appreciate and thank Mr. Bruegger and Mr. Lucas for making a bright spot in our day. The funds will be put to good use.

**LAST 1½ YEARS:** In case all of you don't know, I've had the pleasure of being the newsletter editor since 2006. Hope you've enjoyed it. As of October 2025, if not before then, it'll be time to retire after a long work career. I have 1½ years left before 70, and if I do decide to stay that long, I'll be teaching an experienced successor what I've learned about putting together a newsletter. They'll learn what works and doesn't work, and I know they'll make the newsletter their own creation. There've been a lot of changes, but still a lot to come with the hand-off to a new staffperson. Stay tuned – I'll keep you informed. – By Becky Stillwell (Current Newsletter Editor)



*The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mouse Races*  
Are just around the corner  
On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
At Trinity Lutheran Church  
Buy a Table, Sponsor a Race, Name a Mouse,  
Donate a Basket Items or Gift Cards  
Go to [lafayetteindustries.com](http://lafayetteindustries.com) for more information  
Or contact Vicky James at (314) 893-7311  
Space is Limited!!!

**DAN RECHTIEN RETIRES ON 2.28.2024**



mother, Margaret, and his brother, John, came to visit and support him on his last work day. He sat and talked with Rob and Kim during the lunch break. He and Rob have been buddies a long time as well. He got some cupcakes to share with his team, and some to take home with him. Dan, enjoy retirement, and be sure to come back and visit every now and then. I think that Hot Dog Day would make an excellent time to visit. Keep listening to that music and sharing time with your family. We'll see you when we see you.

Dan Rechten has been at Lafayette for a long time, working alongside his girlfriend, Debbie. He's a great guy if you get to know him, and he wears shirts with names of bands that I am not familiar with and decorated with wild graphics. I asked him once if they were heavy metal groups, and he answered yes. I then looked at him and told him that I would listen to any band if they were good musicians, no matter what the music sounded like. Truly he was a one-of-a-kind person, and we will miss him. His



## **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024**

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

### **KNIVES**

Last year there was a “Knife Show” in our town. It surprised me at first, but on further thought I realized that knives tell stories about us. The first knife I remember is my dad’s pocketknife. It seems all men of his generation carried one. They used it for letters, threads, fingernails and even scraping paint. Soon I had my own, and the neighborhood boys and I would play Mumblety-peg. It’s a fun game, look it up. Now the Ol’ Safety Captain is trying his hand at cooking. Got to have good knives there!

It’s time I “cut to the chase” (pun) and make my intended “point” (pun).

At Lafayette Industries knives are indispensable. However, only one type of knife is allowed: the utility or box knife. It is by far the safest type of knife. Before anyone can carry one at the shop they must undergo training, and an annual test is given by their supervisor.

There are three tried-and-true rules when using ANY knife:

- 1) Never talk to someone who is using it or while you are using one. Never. There have been some serious injuries from this. One would hate to be the cause of someone seriously injuring themselves.
- 2) Keep your knives sharp. With utility knives, you simply change the blade. Other knives require sharpeners in some form.
- 3) Cut away from your second hand. If it is being used to hold an item, arrange the item so the knife is moving away from your second hand. This is without a doubt the most common type of knife injury.

Time for the Safety Column Quiz. Who said, “That’s not a knife, THAT’S a knife.” Answer found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Answer: Crocodile Dundee when a young thug tried to rob him of his wallet.

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

## **NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – JANUARY 2024**



**Caught Being Respectful:** Lady on right with glasses – Tiffany Sudin

**Caught Being Safe:** Lady on left with Looney Tunes shirt – Janiah Sanders

## MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 North Free Lunch	8	9 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7-10p – St. Patrick’s Party – Wearin’ of the Greens
10 Daylight Savings Time begins – Spring Forward	11 Pay Day	12	13	14 West Free Lunch	15	16
17 St. Patrick’s Day	18	19 Spring begins	20	21 North Free Lunch	22	23 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mouse Races – Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road – First Race – 7:00p
24 Palm Sunday	25 Pay Day	26	27	28 West Free Lunch	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday						