



## **LAFAYETTE ACQUIRES A NEW WORKSHOP**

By Bill Taylor (Proud Lafayette Staff)

Since 1976, Lafayette Industries has dedicated itself to Building Dreams and Creating Opportunities for adults with disabilities in two St. Louis County locations. We have recently expanded our Lafayette family to include Jeffco Subcontracting Inc., a workshop in Jefferson County.

Lafayette aims to help the new workshop expand and grow by implementing the same strategies that make our Manchester and Berkeley locations run smoothly. JSI, now known as Lafayette JeffCo, has a strong team assisting with the transition, and this acquisition will help open more doors for employment for disabled folks in Jefferson County. Lafayette has hired Scott Shelton as Site Manager for the new location. Scott is a Jefferson County resident who has decades of experience helping businesses serve people better.

When commenting on the transition, Lafayette's CEO and Executive Director Rob Libera said, "This partnership is about more than growth - it's about preserving JSI's legacy while equipping it with the resources and stability needed to thrive long into the future."

Lafayette is committed to furthering our mission of providing employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities. JeffCo has the same goal in of helping people with disabilities thrive. Welcome to the Lafayette family, Lafayette JeffCo. We all wish you success!!



**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



## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE EDITOR

By Bill Taylor

Hello, Lafayette. My name is Bill Taylor, and I'm thrilled to announce that I will be taking over the newsletter editing duties moving forward. I have been a proud Lafayette employee for six years. I have been on the production floor at Lafayette West for a good chunk of that time, and I could not be prouder of the people I've worked with over the years. Recently, I have been doing a lot of office work. This is my first time putting all this together, and I would be lying a little if I said I was not nervous. That said, I am looking forward to providing you all with some fun content from myself and all the hard-working folks here at Lafayette.

If you have any articles or pictures you would like in the newsletter, please send them to [frontdesk@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:frontdesk@lafayetteindustries.com).

## .NORTH – JANUARY 2025 – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE



### CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL

Immediate left: Taylor Bandsma

### CAUGHT BEING SAFE

Immediate right: Shawn Flaherty



## LAFAYETTE NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK UPDATE



The Cardinals are going to play the Cincinnati Reds on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We have 400 tickets available in sections 162, 163 and 165. 10 of those will be wheelchair seating. We will not be handing out any tickets until late May or early June. The deadline is to be determined but it will be around that timeframe. The start time will be 6:15p. Also, there will be an hour-long performance from Cole Swindell for 30 minutes after the game's conclusion. This is a free concert. Stay tuned for further details on purchasing tickets. We hope you can join us!!

## EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION PICNIC

Mark your calendars! Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> is the Lafayette Employee Celebration Picnic which will be held at Grant's Farm for the second year running. Registration information will be published in the April Newsletter. This event is free for all attendees. We hope to see you all there!

## MOUSE RACES ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you for your support on the Mouse Races—we are SOLD OUT!! Good job!! If you would still like to contribute, we are accepting donations of gift cards with a value of \$25 or higher for a Gift Card Game and any items/experiences we can add to our silent auction baskets. Thank you all again for your support!! (Becky S. asked to request that you don't give her mouse any encouragement to win.)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH FOLKS!!

### NORTH

Jason	Doss	3
Linda	Hagedorn	4
Mickeal	Phillips	7
Leona	Shadwick	11
Charles	Cooper	16
Jerry	Irons	16
Stephen	Bindbeutel	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 March folks!! This is a month for new opportunities to bloom your way. Make the most of it!! - Editor



## THE LAFAYETTE ARCADE: GAMING IS FOR EVERYONE

By Bill Taylor

Playing video games can be one of the most exciting experiences in life. They are very much like the movies you see on TV. It can be difficult to get some people to understand that and that is OK. Gaming is just as valid a hobby as art or sports. There are many different kinds of games for different people with different interests and tastes. Maybe you can introduce the folks that don't play regularly to something nice and easy that they can just pick up and play. At other times, they just don't see the joy of playing video games and that's fine. Some gamers are older people. Don't be ashamed if you are one of them. It's OK!! Gaming is not just for kids. It can be a fun time or a nice escape from the world when life gets tough. Just don't forget to game responsibly..

## FLU SHOTS

We know it's just getting close to spring, but it's never too early to start thinking about getting your flu shot for next year, especially after the rough season this year. There will be ample reminders coming your way up to October when we do the appointments so please stay tuned and keep your information handy.



## WELCOME, ATTICUS OWEN

By Carolyn Owen (Proud Mother)

Atticus Len Aronhalt was born Wednesday January 29th. He weighed 9 lbs. and 6 oz. He is the nephew of Cory Owen and grandson of Dennis Owen. Atticus joins big brother Elias and big sister, Ava Lynn. His mom and dad are Cara and Dan Aronhalt. Uncle Cory and Granddaddy Dennis along with Grandmother Carolyn are proud of the new addition to their family.



### WEST – JANUARY 2025 – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE

#### CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL

##### Immediate left (from left to right):

Jasmine Bryant (employee), Anne Morissey (employee), Kim Lamb (staff) and Rob Libera (staff)

Immediate right: Ryan Preston (employee)



#### CAUGHT BEING SAFE

##### Immediate right: (from left to right)

Kim Lamb (staff), Daniel Scholl (employee) Angela Gentile (employee) Don Klein (employee) Rob Libera (staff)



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - SPRING FORWARD

Ready for an extra hour of daylight? Daylight savings time is coming soon!! We gain an extra hour to go with the added daylight. Please remember to set your clocks forward before heading to bed on March 9<sup>th</sup>.



## **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR MARCH 2025**

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

### **WIND**

I have a childhood friend who flew kites when we were in grade school. He is still doing it. He instructed his son, and I would imagine his son taught his own. Innocent stuff. However, a significantly high wind is a safety concern. We are soon to start seeing thunderstorms, and the high winds that come with them. They present safety issues at home, in the car, and at work. Here are a few safety tips for each location you may find yourself at.

### **HOME**

- 1) Stay away from windows and doors. I have witnessed a huge pile of gravel getting picked up and fly directly at a guard shack I was standing in. We ducked just in time. It took out all the glass, spraying it all over us.
- 2) Secure furniture, equipment, awnings, etc.
- 3) Check the emergency supplies. (Flashlights, radio, etc.)

### **DRIVING**

- 1) Keep a firm grip on the wheel. You can expect gusts that can change your drive path.
- 2) Maintain a safe distance from high profile vehicles
- 3) Slowing down will give you better control of the vehicle.


### **WORKPLACE**

- 1) Protective glasses or goggles for dusty conditions.
- 2) Postpone dangerous tasks during high wind event.

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

# March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p St. Patrick’s Party - Wearin’ of the Green
9	10 PAY DAY	11	12	13 North Free Lunch  West Free Lunch	14 Holi and Purim	15
16	17 St. Patrick’s Day  	18	19	20	21	22 Mouse Races are Sold out!
23	24	25 Spring Equinox  PAY DAY	26	27 North Free Lunch  West Free Lunch	28	29
30	31					