



Lafayette Place  
Neighborhood Association

#828 Cour Marie | 248.705.9306 | www.lpna.net | info@lpna.net

## JULY NEWSLETTER

Hi Neighbors,

### ANOTHER APOLOGY

I hope this isn't going to become a habit, but unfortunately the individual that was supposed to do grass cutting for the Association decided not to do it. If you paid him in advance, please ask for your money back. All further grass cutting that goes through the Association will be done by me personally. So just text me your address at the number above and I promise to be more reliable. The cost is \$20 for trim, cut and clean, and you can put it on your credit card by submitting the \$20 donation on the website.

### YOUR SHOW OF APPRECIATION

Believe it or not, the Association has fans! I get 4-6 calls a week from Neighbors who just want to talk, to have someone listen to their concerns, and those that just need to vent. I love helping my Neighbors get through a frustrating time, so even if I can't do anything about their issue, I can at least be their when they need someone at that moment. What really make me feel blessed are comments like these: "I hope you never leave." - "You made my day with your garden Certificate." - "I hope that God shines his grace upon you for what you do for us." WOW!!

### GRASS EDGING, SIDEWALK WEEDS AND POWER WASHING

Having your grass cut is one thing. But having the edges sculpted makes all the visual difference in the world. Since I had to buy new lawn equipment from the last theft, I decided to purchase an actual edger. So here's the deal. I'll edge your grass for FREE regardless of who you use for your cutting if you'll clean up the mess. Also, if you have weeds growing out of your sidewalk, I'll cut and spray them, also for FREE. Texting me seems to be the best way to make arrangements. Remember, if you want to power wash your home, you can use the Association power washer for FREE.

### SAFETY FOR YOUR FAMILY

Folks, this is a picture of the furnace cover from the last home I painted. You have to know that this is one of the quickest ways to start a fire in your home. The filters only cost a couple of bucks, which is well worth it to keep your family safe. Also, make sure your dryer vent is connected because lint will also start a fire, and makes breathing more difficult if you have respiratory issues. BE SAFE!!

### OUR NEIGHBORS GARDEN PICTURES

In June, the Association recognized in June 36 residents who received Certificates for their beautification efforts with their gardens. I took 93 pictures and placed them on the Home page of the website. Might be overkill, but they looked so beautiful I couldn't help myself. Take a look, both computer and cell phone. Maybe you'll receive one in July.

### WHY I REALLY STARTED THE ASSOCIATION

As I started researching Sun Communities, I wanted to find out what other Sun properties were experiencing around the country in their communities. What I found were page after



page of complaints that sounded a whole lot like what could, and is happening here. It seemed like they all stemmed around three major complaints: Exorbitant increases in rent, eliminating services, and not following up on resident issues. With the \$50 increase in my rent this year, if they continue with these increases, within 8 years I'll be paying \$1000 per month for a slab. Don't take my word for it, just Google "Sun Community Complaints." I also created a new Complaint Page where I randomly took several dozen complaints from around the country for you to review. Feel free to voice yours.

I have no power here. They won't even respond to my emails. In fact, I'm not very well liked by Management and Sun. They don't want the Association here because they don't want to be monitored, and called out for decisions they make that affects our Community. They look at us as nothing more than rent. If they treat the Association this way, an organization that does nothing but want to help their residents experience a better quality of life, I imagine they're treating you the same way. But I will at least remain one voice to stick up for, and stand behind my Neighbors. I don't want a big uprising against the Corporate Goliath, but you need to feel comfortable complaining if you have an issue. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Don't let Sun walk all over you. They will if you let them.

### **PARAGRAPH A ON YOUR LEASE**

- A. Minor Repairs: The TENANT is responsible for all minor repairs, including but not limited to: toilet leaks, running toilets, faucet drips, furnace filter replacements, carpet and floor cleaning and upkeep, general home cleaning, pest control, wall repairs for nail and screw holes, lawn upkeep (including mowing, weeding and trimming), replacing dislodged skirting panels, replacing light bulbs, touchup painting, or any damage done to the home by the tenant or its guest(s).

I read through the Michigan Legislatures Rules for Landlord/Tenant rights regarding this, and their explanation wasn't clear. Some say that renters, according to the law, do not have to pay for minor repairs and others say they should. I don't think they should and here's why?

(You'll need to read the rest on the website since I just don't have enough room in the Newsletter)

### **MICHIGAN LEGISLATURES RULES FOR LANDLORD/TENANT RIGHTS**

If you have the capabilities of downloading this file, I have it on the Complaints Page. I recommend you download it and take this file wherever you go so you'll have your rights at your fingertips.

### **WHAT IS A NEIGHBOR?**

I know I've been pushing this Neighborhood stuff pretty hard, because it's important. We all came from different backgrounds, different lifestyles, different upbringing. To expect everyone to sing Kumbaya is a little far-fetched. But the beginnings can be very easy. I have Neighbors on either side of me. I have talked with them and know their names. But the chances of us getting together socially will not likely happen. But here's the thing. They know they can count on me, and I on them, if they need a favor or advice. That's a good start. You shouldn't have to be afraid to ask your Neighbor to lower their music, or ask for a favor. If done with sensitivity and respect, why would anyone not want to have this type of relationship with your Neighbor?

### **HOMEWORK**

Start developing your Neighborhood philosophy by saying HI to everyone you pass in the park. It's gotten to the point where everyone just lowers their head when they pass by someone, as if we're afraid to recognize one of our Neighbors. Why? It's easy, it's free, and will possibly develop a friendship that will last. Maya Angelou said, "A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face."

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Amy Poehler said, "Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change you life." Oprah Winfrey said, "The best gift anyone can give, I believe, is the gift of sharing themselves."

And finally, Marcel Proust said, "Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Have a great July Holiday. Mike