



**Lafayette Place
Neighborhood Association**

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

“Determination gives you the resolve to keep going in spite of the roadblocks that lay before you.”Denis Waitley

ANOTHER ROADBLOCK IN MY WAY

I received a letter from the US Postal Service informing me someone complained (can't imagine who that could have been) that I was putting my newsletter in the mailboxes. And of course, if I continued I'd be fined \$300 per occurrence. Which is why this newsletter was taped to your door.

This has actually become very stressful for me; to attempt to provide my Neighbors an Association whose main goal is to help, to be a voice for those who are not comfortable verbalizing themselves, and to let an entire Community know there's someone here who cares about them, regardless of who you are.

I average 4-6 calls a week from Neighbors who have a complaint, need some help, or just to let me know of a family event. How many of you would give your phone number to 250 families you don't even know, and some you never will? This is the commitment I made to you by starting the Association, and I won't back down despite the roadblocks put in my way.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE NEWSLETTER NOW?

If I had to look at the data, I really don't know how many read the newsletter and how many just throw it away. I know to deliver the newsletter to 250 homes by just dropping it in the mailbox is one thing, but if I have to tape it to the door, especially in the winter, that's more than this old body wants to take. And the bottom-line is, I really enjoy writing it for you. So here's how I'm going to do it.

My original thought was that I would stop doing a printed version, and just put it on the website. But then I would alienate those who don't like the web and would rather have the printed version. So instead of passing it out to every home, I'll have an all-weather box in front of my place where I'll put, let's say 50 newsletters at a time. Then, the first week, (usually day) of the month, those that want one can just drive by and pick one up. This should work really well since those that like the printed newsletter can have one, and those that don't want the newsletter will just save me that much ink and paper.

The newsletter will also be on the website where you can access it any time from your cell phone, computer or tablet.

I NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS

Since I started the Association a year ago, I haven't asked the Community for much, if anything. I'm asking for your help with this. I don't want to write the newsletter and only have 10 Neighbors take one out of the box every month. I hope you feel that the newsletter has enough value for you and your family that you'll walk or drive a few yards out of your way to pick one up. This is important to me. If I find that my Neighbors don't want one, I'll eliminate printing and just put it on the website the first of every month.

SO WHAT HAS THE ASSOCIATION DONE?

I know that the Association may not be for everyone. I'm sure many of you know who I am when you pass by and I wave, but most of you don't know what we've accomplished (since I don't like to boast). So here's just a few that happened over the summer:

- Professionally created website, business cards, brochures and signs at my expense
- Beautifully and profoundly written monthly newsletter
- Started the free Senior Snow Removal Program
- Beautifully cut grass for our Neighbors (only program I charge for)
- Free grass cutting for Unemployed Single Mothers who have no help
- Changed furnace filters and smoke detectors for my Seniors
- Fixed several porches for my home owners free
- Painted 2 houses for my Seniors free
- Painted several porches for my Seniors free
- Helped Neighbors with their gardens
- Gave away many free plants and gardening supplies to my Neighbors
- Allowed Neighbors to pay for lawn cutting with Credit Cards and CashApp
- Allowed Neighbors to borrow my lawn equipment if they wanted to cut it themselves
- Sat with dispondent Neighbor for several hours who put down her dog
- Helped a Neighbor with a water problem and one with an appliance issue
- Gave water to mailpersons and trash attendents on hot days
- Gave out 32 Property Beautification Certificates
- Smiled and waved to every car and walker who passes my place
- Helped our legislature with petitions for 2 major mobile home amendments. 53% of you voted!!

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTERS

At the very least, you should change your furnace filters twice a year. Since you'll be spending more time indoors, and allergy season is right around the corner, now would be a good time to do it. It will help keep your family healthy and safe. If you don't know how to change them, just send me a text and I'll come over and let you know what size to purchase. Once you get them, send me another text and I'll put them in for you. They're not expensive, couple bucks each. And it's well worth the expense even if it's not your furnace.

LEAF BLOWING AND SNOW REMOVAL

I can't believe I'm already bringing this up, but Autumn and Winter are right around the corner. To get ready to help our Neighbors, the Association has purchased a Leaf Vacuum and Mulcher, which is supposed to mulch 12 bags of leaves into one, and a larger snow blower especially to help our Seniors who have no one to clean their sidewalks. I haven't determined the cost or battery life, but as you already know the Association, it will be acceptable for our Neighbors. We'll continue to accept Credit Cards, CashApp, or Cash for your convenience.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

The most recent statistic stated that 60% of graduating Detroit High School Seniors can only read at a 6th grade level. From birth, babies are hardwired to develop language skills, and consistent exposure to a wide variety of language patterns is what helps them do exactly that. Just exposure to words is the single most important thing that you can do to help build the language pathways in your child's brain. Research has found that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who aren't read to regularly. They also develop - Empathy and Emotional Awareness and A Parent/Child Bond. So, read often to your kids.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I MISS MY N. LAFAYETTE NEIGHBORS!! Geographically, we're on opposite sides of the park where I'm on S. Lafayette, and I don't get to see you drive pass my place. So I need to ask you for your help. Since I won't be passing out the newsletters to each individual home, I need you to drive by and pick up a newsletter, which will be on a post in front of my home. I need you to have the newsletter every month, so if you like reading it, pick one up the first week of every month. If you don't like reading the newsletter, you'll save me ink and paper.
