Thank you...

“A Festooned Fourth” is made possible by the generous donations of local businesses, the citizens of Lafayette, and the Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood Association. Each year, hundreds of dollars are needed to replace faded and weathered flags. Sadly, some flags are vandalized or stolen. We appreciate the community’s help in keeping this display alive!

We are deeply grateful to our local American Legion and VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). We also thank you for your support of “A Festooned Fourth” and for visiting our historic neighborhood!

The Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood Association is a not-for-profit corporation and your contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Contributions to support “A Festooned Fourth” flag display may be sent to: Treasurer - Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood, 421 S. 9th Street, Lafayette IN 47901.

Thank you... presented by The Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood

The old Ninth Street Hill neighborhood is Lafayette, Indiana’s premier downtown neighborhood and is known for its friendliness and its enthusiastic community spirit.

A Dream of Revitalization

The association was formed in 1986 after a group of residents met to discuss garbage and the deterioration of properties on Ninth Street Hill. Residents wanted to revitalize their old neighborhood… and the rest is history!

Neighborhood is the Key

The neighborhood association is comprised of all residents of Ninth Street Hill and several of its adjoining streets, and the emphasis is on neighborhood. Tenant, home owner, past resident, landlord – all are welcome. Neighbors enjoying each other and continually celebrating a grand old street is the cornerstone of this dynamic neighborhood association.

Community Spirit and Involvement

“Hillers” are known for their community spirit through association events, such as the yearly Holiday Luminaria Display, “A Festooned Fourth” display of flags, and the Old Fashioned Fourth of July Children’s Box Parade. Their annual “Spirit of the Hill” award recognizes others in Lafayette who have improved the quality of life in older neighborhoods. And, whenever citizens gather to discuss or support civic and historic preservation events and issues, representatives of the Ninth Street Hill neighborhood will be found!

Special Awards of Ninth Street Hill

• Historic Landmarks of Indiana recognized our success in marshaling public support of historic preservation by presenting us with the prestigious SERRAS Award.
• We were honored with the local Marquis de Lafayette award for neighborhood spirit and beautification.
• We are Lafayette’s first residential Local Historic District.
• We are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
• In 2001, we were awarded a historical marker erected by the State of Indiana.
• In 2005, Disney’s FamilyFun magazine recognized Ninth Street Hill as one of “America’s Most Fun Neighborhoods.”

Welcome to Historic Ninth Street Hill & A Festooned Fourth!

As you tour our old neighborhood during the week surrounding the 4th of July, you will see a display of patriotic decorations and colors reminiscent of the turn of the last century. At that time in our country’s history, patriotism flourished, and the 4th of July called for decorations on houses, storefronts, and public buildings… often done with the Victorian philosophy of “Too much is not enough!”

In a true Victorian tradition, the Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood is an exuberant display of red, white, and blue. Over 600 flags adorn the homes and walkways; iron fences and porch railings are festooned with bunting; pleased fans hang around windows and doors; and parkway trees boast patriotic streamers!

Inside this brochure you will find information about the special historic flags on display. Each flag tells part of the story of America’s great history. These roots of the Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood hope your walking tour is both enjoyable and educational!

We invite you to carry home the spirit of “A Festooned Fourth,” and join your neighborhood with ours as we celebrate America’s great patriotic heritage.

The Neighborhood Association...

Directions to Historic Ninth Street Hill: Take Indiana Highway 26 (South and Columbia streets) to downtown Lafayette; turn south on Ninth Street. The Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood is between South and Kossuth Streets.

HISTORIC NINTH STREET HILL

Patriotic Display of flags & colors

The week surrounding July 4th

presented by
The Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood
Lafayette, Indiana’s first Residential Local Historic District
Proudly listed on The National Register of Historic Places
www.ninthstreethill.org

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The special American history flags are listed in order as you walk up Ninth Street Hill, beginning at4th Street (from north to south).


During the War of 1812, Captain James Wilson and his men were tasked with defending the lake. As they disappeared from the battle, “Don’t give up the ship” was the battle cry. This flag is symbolized by the battle cry of Lake Erie, which was a significant battle in the War of 1812. This flag represents the Lake Erie region, which includes the areas of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie, where American forces won a decisive victory.

301 S. 9th: The Mt. Moulton Liberty flag.

During the American Revolution, this flag was flown over Fort Moulton in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, during the unsuccessful British raid and battle on June 28, 1776. It became part of the American South Carolina state flag. The design of this flag is based on a two-tone red and white color scheme, which was a common symbol of American resistance against British control.

220 S. 9th: Hanging on this home is a 16-Star flag.

This flag is a symbol of American unity during the War of 1812. It includes 16 stars, each representing a state that was part of the Union at the time. The flag features a red and white color scheme, which is reminiscent of the American flag.

207 S. 9th: The 44 star flag was the official U.S. flag when this home was built in 1895.

The 44-star flag was introduced in 1898 following the acquisition of Hawaii and the Philippines. It featured 44 stars, reflecting the 44 states of the Union at the time. This flag is a symbol of expansion and the growth of the United States.


In 1775 George Washington wrote to his secretary, Col. Joseph Reed, proposing all American ships fly a New England flag. This “Americanized” version of the flag was known as a “New England” flag, with our familiar national colors.

313 S. 9th: The St. George Cross flag.

This flag represents the first tie to the British Empire and the New World. This flag was carried by early English explorers in North America and is a symbol of the early colonial settlement.

216 S. 9th: Flag experts say the Burner Hill flag is probably not the actual flag used during the battle of Burner Hill because the English Cross of St. George appears in the corner of the flag and symbolizes the British flag.

225 S. 9th: Continental flag.

The Continental flag was one of many flags in use during the American Revolution. It was a symbol of the nation’s commitment to independence and unity.

404 S. 9th: St. George Cross flag.

In 1794 the new federal government imposed new flags for the U.S. Capitol and the state of New York. Many Pennsylvania farmers supported the flag in sympathy with the independent spirit of Patrick Henry. Many Green Mountain Boys stole the American flag and burned it in Bennington, Vermont. The flag was then presented to the Vermont Historical Society.

455 S. 9th: whiskey Rebellion flag.

In 1794, the flag was modified to include the words “United States,” the stars, and a blue field with a white star. This flag is a symbol of the nation’s commitment to unity and the power of the federal government.

560 S. 9th: The Spanish Cross.

The Spanish Cross was not a 45-star flag. The 45-star flag was introduced in 1876, but the Spanish Cross was not adopted until 1898. This flag is a symbol of the nation’s commitment to the rights of American citizens abroad.

614 S. 9th: The First Minnesota Volunteer flag.

The First Minnesota Volunteer was one of the first units to see action in the Civil War. It was a symbol of the nation’s commitment to the preservation of the Union.

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