



FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Did you know that 50% of home fires occur during December, January, and February? The usual suspects are Christmas trees, candles, space heaters, ovens, fireplaces, and plugged-up chimneys. Be fire smart as you deck the halls this season.

Choose fresh trees that will last all season long. As trees dry out, they become fire hazards. Keep trees three feet away from any heat source. Don't use strings of lights with worn or broken cords; don't over-connect strands, and use only lab-approved lights. Always turn off the Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Candles start more than one-third of home decoration fires. Keep candles away from decorations and be watchful of lit Advent wreaths! Blow out candles when leaving the room. Battery-operated candles are a safer alternative.

The West Lafayette Fire Department recommends getting a CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless, and tasteless and poses a greater danger in winter with home heating. Common household sources are gas space heaters, furnaces and chimneys, gas stoves, back-drafting from gas appliances, generators and other gasoline-powered equipment, and automobile exhaust from attached garages.

Never go to sleep with a portable space heater running, and inspect appliances and chimneys annually for leaks. Ovens and stoves should not be used as heating sources. For more winter fire safety tips, visit nfpa.org.

It's National Fire Prevention Day!
I'm doing my part
by not cooking.

Maxine

SNOW BUSINESS

Old Man Winter has a take-no-prisoners attitude when he arrives. Please keep your sidewalks shoveled and clear of snow and ice within six hours of daylight or after snowfall has ceased. Besides being a City Code, it's the nice thing to do for fellow pedestrians. Please consult westlafayette.in.gov for a list of fee-based snow removal services, if needed.

Driveway Shoveling Tips

- Shovel snow from your driveway & sidewalk into your yard, not the street.
- Keep streets clear of cars, and shovel snow away from your mailbox for snowplow and mail truck access.
- Place garbage and recycling totes at the foot of your driveway.

Snowplow Know-how

Please yield to snowplow drivers as they are emergency vehicles with a limited field of vision. Their priorities for plowing are

- 1 Main roads & streets,
- 2 Neighborhoods, and
- 3 Cul-de-sacs.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation!



John Dennis

TRAVELING BACK IN TIME

Thinking about this issue's column, I strolled back through time via the City Newsletter archive on our website. It was like reading a diary of a City, complete with all its growth spurts, changes, detours, and beautiful moments penned for historical reference.

When I became Mayor fourteen years ago, my department heads and I made a searching and fearless inventory of the state of our City, as we understood it. Looking at West Lafayette through fresh eyes revealed several areas of concern as well as a vast potential for improvement. We made large to-do lists to get us back in order that focused on maximizing our operations, finances, and physical attributes. But lists are just wishes until put into action with deadlines.

Our leadership team within the City and the partnerships formed outside City limits are the drivers behind our success. Purdue University, Purdue Research Foundation, the City of Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County are vital partners in development, fire and police safety, and collaborative projects. It is remarkable what we have accomplished together.

Operationally, we staffed our departments with those who bought into our leadership philosophy: One Team, One Dream, Motivated to Serve. Department heads and staff continue to work tirelessly to improve every aspect of West Lafayette.

Financially, we made a plan for future growth through annexation. As the City grew, so did the resources for better infrastructure. This, in turn, attracted more development like Saab, Rolls Royce, and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in the Aerospace District and Discovery Park's Purdue-affiliated start-ups. The economic momentum continues to grow with magnitude and direction.

Physically, we changed the landscape of State Street. Retail space and housing abound skyward, yet are part of a synchronized vision that respects greenspace, environmental impact, and diverse transportation. After many years of planning, we finally built the Wellness Center and a new City Hall. Our parks and trails continue to invite and expand.

But our story is not finished. There are more goals to pursue, more partnerships to make, more people to serve, more history to create.

Let today be a launching pad for future generations.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Give LIGHT and people will find the way.

Ella Baker

CITY HighLIGHTS

The Engineering and Development Departments have several projects in motion to improve streets, lighting, and trail expansion in West Lafayette.

Salisbury and Grant Redevelopment

The roadway is getting a facelift to accommodate a multi-use path on the west side of the right-of-way. We're going underground to bury the utility lines to eliminate fire hazards, accidents, safety risks, and power outages caused by downed lines. New commercial lighting will be installed north of Sagamore Parkway; new decorative street lighting will be installed south of Navajo.

Connecting trails within the City is one of the prime advantages of the project. This area will be open to traffic during construction, slated to continue through the end of 2022.

Street Lighting Updates | An initiative by the Redevelopment Committee to replace and update street lighting with new LED bulbs is underway. LED bulbs save the City money because of their lower energy cost and longer life. They reduce our carbon footprint because they create less heat output. Also, LEDs can deter crime by providing more visibility in urban areas.

Sagamore Parkway Trail | A new trail to connect the eastbound roadway of the 52 bridge in Lafayette to Soldiers Home Road and existing trails is accepting bids from contractors. This project will provide additional access across the Wabash River besides the Pedestrian Bridge. The project will begin in Spring 2022.

Soldiers Home Road Reconstruction

Poor drainage along the narrow roadway is prompting an entire redo along the road. This long-term project is in the design phase to map out ways to address the problem and add an adjoining trail for safe pedestrian travel.

For real-time alerts of traffic closures or detours, severe weather, or safety information, sign up at [nixle.com](https://www.nixle.com) to be in the know.

PARKS & REC MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Now is the time for the Parks and Recreation Department to craft plans for projects and priorities for the next five years. But first, we want to know what is important to YOU. Please take a moment to complete the survey.



In addition, we are hosting the final open house for public discussion at the Wellness Center on December 8 from 5 -7 pm. Here's your opportunity to improve the future!

In the last five years, the Parks & Recreation Department successfully:

- Delivered the \$32M West Lafayette Wellness Center in 2021
- Solidified land acquisition and began the design of Cason Family Park
- Opened West Lafayette's first dog park at Happy Hollow Park with a second dog park location set for Cumberland Park
- Migrated West Lafayette's urban forestry program to Parks and Recreation

To view the previous report that shows the impact that planning played over the last five years, please go to the Park's webpage and search the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.



Multimodal connections throughout WL promote safe travel while walking, cycling, and driving.



Newly-expanded rain garden at Lilly Nature Center

LET IT RAIN

The Celery Bog Nature Area recently expanded the beautiful rain garden in front of the Lilly Nature Center with the help of Purdue students from Dr. Lindsey Payne's Environmental & Ecological Engineering class. Rain gardens take full advantage of rainfall, catching it long enough to allow it to slowly percolate back into the ground instead of ending up as runoff. Rain gardens reduce flooding, improve the quality of streams and rivers, and provide a habitat for wildlife and butterflies.

These gardens are dug several inches below the surface and then partially back-filled with sandy soil to assist water filtration. Sites should be designed to encourage water flow into the garden. Most rain gardens feature moisture-tolerant perennial flowers, native wetland or wet prairie wildflowers, and grasses. The students planted 200 plants, including Dense Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, Monkey Flower, Joe Pye Weed, and New England Aster. The students received a Purdue Student Learning Grant to pay for the plants and soil. Thanks to Jenni Fifer, Marcellus Chang, Molly Sipes, and Hannah Conleton for their muscle, expertise, and funding.

CLIMATE ACTION SURVEY

Please take a minute today to help change tomorrow. Community surveys are vital to identify and prioritize potential program initiatives to address climate change proactively. Thanks for your input!



WINTER WELLNESS EVENTS

Youth Activities

Make this a perfect winter for the kids with fun activities all season long at the Wellness Center.

WINTER BREAK CAMP:

December 27-31 | January 3-5

Registration opens on November 15.

Camp activities: 9 am - 4 pm;

Before/After Care: 7:30 - 9 am and 4 - 5:30 pm

Cost: \$25 per day for members, \$30 per day for non-members; Ages: 5-12

Morning and afternoon snacks are provided. Campers need to bring their lunch and dress appropriately for indoor and outdoor activities.

SATURDAY STORY TIME:

Free to members and nonmembers. Sessions begin at 10 am. Registration is required through Civic Rec and opens on the 1st of the month. Limited space.

December 11: *The Gingerbread Man*

PARENTS NIGHT OUT:

December 17, 5:30 - 8 pm | Ages 4-12

Drop your kids off for a few hours and enjoy a night out! The kids will enjoy various activities in our gym and indoor play space as well as a pizza party. Cost: \$15 for a single child, \$10 per additional sibling. Pizza is provided at 6 pm.



Party Spaces

Need a place to host a holiday party or event? The Wellness Center has three community rooms, a party room, and several outdoor spaces for rent. For details, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at westlafayette.in.gov/parks/ under Room and Shelter Rentals.

If your kids are giving you a headache, follow the directions on the aspirin bottle, especially the part that says, 'Keep away from children.'

Susan Savannah

CYBER SECURITY SAVVY

Don't let cybercrime spoil your holidays. These simple steps can prevent an attack.

- Enable stronger authentication of online accounts. Use multi-factor authentication if available (i.e., one-time codes texted to a mobile device.)
- Make your passwords long and strong. Use unique passwords for different accounts.
- Keep a clean machine. Updating security software prevents attackers from taking advantage of known vulnerabilities.
- When in doubt, throw it out. Opening links can compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious, delete it.
- Share with care. Limit the amount of personal information you share online and use privacy settings.



CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM

Need help installing a child car seat? Can't afford to buy an approved child safety seat? The West Lafayette Fire Department has eight certified car seat installers. And thanks to Indiana Criminal Justice funding, the WLFD can now provide free car seats to any child, newborn to age 12. Research has shown that using age- and size-appropriate child restraints (car seats, booster seats, and seat belts) is the best way to save lives and reduce injuries in a car crash. Car accidents are the leading cause of death for those between one and 13 years old.

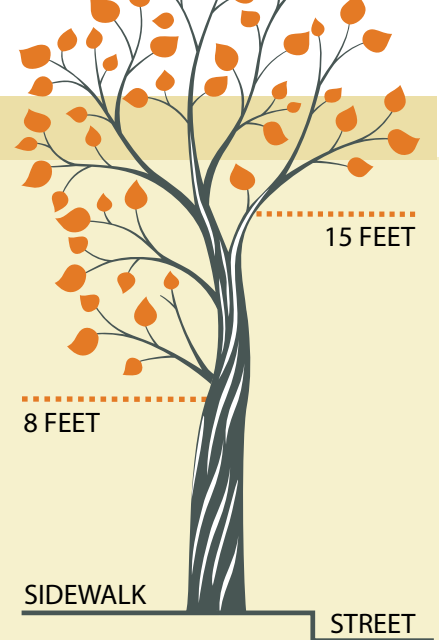
Car safety seats must comply with the manufacturer's guidelines for weight and age, and most expire six years from the manufacturer's date. Any seat involved in a car accident must be replaced ASAP, regardless of the extent of the impact. Contact the WLFD for more information about the child safety seat program: 765-775-5175.

JUST A LITTLE TRIM OFF THE SIDE, PLEASE

Trees and bushes, like hair, can grow unsightly if not trimmed regularly. When tree branches block vision or impede travel on City streets, they become potentially dangerous. Please trim tree branches to a minimum of eight feet above sidewalks and 15 feet over streets. Please do your part to keep West Lafayette beautiful AND safe for travelers.

What to do with the trimmings?

You can find your neighborhood's Yard Waste pickup schedule at westlafayette.in.gov under the Street & Sanitation Department. For your convenience, you may purchase a 48-gallon toter for \$59.33 from City Hall on Chauncey Avenue. Thanks for the trim!



CITY AWARDS

The City of West Lafayette received two awards from the Greater Lafayette Commerce at the recent 2021 Annual Celebrations Award Ceremony.

Center City Preservation Award for our very own Sonya L. Margerum City Hall for its historical rehabilitation compatible with the existing character of the center city.

Center City Development Award for the Chauncey Village Development for its improvements/new construction in the center city area that speak to growth and transformation.

BIKES & BREW

Brokerage Brewing Co. became the third business in West Lafayette to receive a Bike Friendly Business designation. They received the Bronze Award from the League of America Bicyclists based on encouraging a more welcoming atmosphere for bicycling employees, customers, and the community. Brokerage Brewing is located in the Bar Barry Heights neighborhood, serves craft beer and eats, and has a live stream camera of their bike rack to ensure a safe ride home. For more info on how to become a BFB, visit apply.bikeleague.org.



POLICE CARS GOING HYBRID

To support our efforts to reduce carbon emissions in West Lafayette, the Police Department is transitioning to a hybrid fleet. The electric-gas hybrid Ford Explorers are energy-efficient and will save the City thousands of dollars in fuel savings. Two hybrid patrol cars are on the road with five more planned for next year.

CITY NEWS

NEW HIRES

Mitchell Byers
Maintenance Tech II
Parks & Recreation

Ashley Conner
Youth Development
Coordinator
Parks & Recreation

Andrew Furstenberg
Custodian
Parks & Recreation

Julie Martin
Aquatics Coordinator
Parks & Recreation

Jacob Pool
Maintenance/Facility
Operator
Water Resource
Recovery Facility

Mark Robbins
Driver/Collector
Street & Sanitation

Conner Stacy
Entry Level Firefighter
West Lafayette Fire

Randall Weaver
Entry Level Firefighter
West Lafayette Fire



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Sonya L. Margerum City Hall
222 N. Chauncey Ave.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

West Lafayette is home to 44 miles of paved, bike and foot paths. Photo by Guy Martin

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA



LET'S GO EVENT CALENDAR

RX/OTC Take Back

2nd Thursday • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Dec 9 • Jan 13 • Feb 10
West Lafayette Police Station

City Offices Closed

Thanksgiving

Thursday & Friday
November 25 & 26

Christmas

Friday & Monday
December 24 & 27

New Year's Day Observed

Monday • January 3

Martin Luther King Day

Monday • January 17

President's Day

Monday • February 21

Best Wishes
2022



Thanksgiving Farmers Market

Wednesday • November 24 • 1 - 5 pm
West Lafayette Wellness Center

Riverside Skating Center

Opens Friday • November 26
(Weather Permitting)
Tapawingo Park

**Greater Lafayette
Christmas Parade**

Saturday • December 4 • 5:30 pm
Main Street • Downtown Lafayette
greaterlafayettecommerce.com

Virtual Purdue Christmas Show

December 17 livestream
pmobroadcasting.com for ticket info

