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WEST  
LAFAYETTE

# CONNECTION



## View from the City Summit

Looking back over the past year, Mayor John Dennis called attention to the many success stories of West Lafayette in his annual State of the City address on February 3 at City Hall. Topping the list was the fruition of the annexation project which began five years ago and is now a reality. The positive effects from this expansion will be felt for generations to come. The City is currently working with Purdue and Purdue Research Foundation to re-imagine and revamp State Street from the river to the new 231 corridor. The State Street Master Plan intends to optimize and showcase this vital artery.

The progress on roadwork has been remarkable in 2013, with the Northwestern Gateway Project completed on time and \$400,000 under budget. The Engineering Department supervised over \$700,000 in street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, and ADA ramps throughout the City. To keep roads safe and drivable, the Street Department applied over 3,500 tons of salt and sand, 42,000 gallons of salt brine, and 1,770 gallons of Beet Heet to fight snow and ice. Curbside recycling has increased, thanks to the City-provided recycling carts; and combined sewer overflow discharges have decreased, thanks to a milestone project in Wastewater Utility.

The Police and Fire Departments continue to exceed expectations. The most current five-year FBI Uniform Crime Reporting statistics confirm that West Lafayette has the lowest combined rate of violent crime and property crime compared to any of the Big Ten university cities, and compared to any of the major university cities in Indiana. 2013 was a stellar year for the Fire Department with record-setting run volume, grant awards, new equipment, and the annexation of nearly 4,000 acres which will just about double fire and police coverage in 2014.

The Parks and Recreation Department moved to offices at 1101 Kalberer Road, but it didn't stop them from adding six miles of trails and trailhead signs along the Wabash Heritage Trail last year. Currently, there are nearly 27 miles of paved trails in our network. More than 2,000 children enjoyed the Playground Program, summer sports, camps, and swimming in the municipal pool in 2013. But no matter how good the view was from the rear-view mirror last year, the road ahead promises even brighter vistas.

**Did You Know?** Volunteers for the Lilly Nature Center and the West Lafayette Tree Fund contributed approximately 2,550 hours of work last year. The efforts of these two groups of volunteers are valued at over \$40,000. Many thanks to all of our volunteers!



## Helping Hands



Sheila Koller

**Sheila Koller | Natural Resource** Sheila is a valuable resource in the Lilly Nature Center at the Celery Bog Nature Area, where she has volunteered for 12 years. Whether she's educating visitors about wildlife and plants found there or through her children's nature book, *Bog Buddies*, Sheila shares her expertise of nature to both young and old alike. She is a Master Naturalist and Master Gardener, as well as a volunteer at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center in Battle Ground.



Gretel Kulupka

**Gretel Kulupka | Supporting the Arts** Gretel, the owner of Gretel's Fine Gifts in West Lafayette, is being recognized for her outstanding contributions for Art on the Wabash. She organizes vendors so attendees have coffee and lunch available on the grounds in support of the arts. She also organizes the People's Choice Awards and serves on the planning committee for the art fair.

**Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer – All Over the Map** Shelley's skills and interests range from small business owner to Tippecanoe Arts Federation Executive Director; from West Africa serving as teacher and business manager of the American School of Niamey in Niger to West Lafayette serving as the first director of the Morton Community Center. Shelley is being honored for her extraordinary efforts working on the planning committee for Art on the Wabash.



Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer

**Margy Deverall | Artistic Planner** Margy's outstanding volunteer efforts at Art on the Wabash, among others, are greatly appreciated. Her love of all things art-related, along with her expertise in planning and management for the City of Lafayette, combine to create the perfect mix to help coordinate hilltop to hilltop projects like Before I Die, the upcoming InsideOut art project, and cultural districting to strengthen links between Lafayette and West Lafayette.



Margy Deverall

**Kurt Wahl | Historic Preservationist** Kurt's expertise in historic architecture has grown his own business, Wahl Architecture, and helped preserve Greater Lafayette's historic buildings and neighborhoods. Besides serving on the board for the Tippecanoe Arts Federation and providing community service to the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Kurt serves on the Historic Preservation Commissions for both cities. Chandler Poole, Director of Development, noted that "Kurt was the driving force of the creation of the commission. He has been a great resource to our commission, and we honestly could not have done it without him." His contributions to our community are greatly appreciated.



Kurt Wahl

## City New Hires

**Elizabeth DeHahn**  
Fire Department  
Part-time Office  
Assistant

**Peng Li**  
Wastewater  
Treatment Utility  
Laboratory Manager



**Red Alert** | Attention gardeners! Red is West Lafayette's flower color for 2014.



### Mayor's Column

## Moving Forward

That's the direction we're taking the City into the next century with annexation. Forward. Our vision to include and work alongside Purdue brings more value to the community without surrendering any of the uniqueness and value offered to residents and the community at large. And bringing the new US 231 corridor within City limits creates incredible development opportunities.

This is a great time to unify the City and Purdue. West Lafayette and Purdue Police and Fire Departments already work well together to protect our City. We share

resources and back each other up to best serve residents and students. So giving more of the student population the ability to vote in elections is a very positive move. Although students are already represented on the Council by means of an elected Councilman, we will also have non-voting student members serve on the Council as well, to be able to voice their specific concerns and opinions.

Over the last 50 years we have grown significantly to the point where we really needed expansion to build our business community. Our vision is to achieve strategic growth along the five miles of the 231 corridor to include businesses, such as intellectual industries, health services, technology firms, and the hotel/restaurant industry to name a few that will reflect the unique personality of West Lafayette. Controlled growth will be accomplished through zoning, incentives, building codes, and our current good relationships with developers and Purdue University. The US 231 corridor will provide a welcoming gateway into the City for the 70,000 people who live and work here, and provide opportunities to grow our economy.

What's next? We will move forward to complete the annexation, begin the process of linking City services to the newly-annexed areas (which will be in place by 2015), and initiate the development of the 231 corridor. Our goal is to make West Lafayette the greatest place to live in Indiana.

Don't forget to check out *Fun with the Mayor* on YouTube. It's my lighthearted approach to issues that you care about, such as snow removal, "What's that smell?" and annexation implications,

featuring City officials perched in a snowplow blade or on commodes on top of wastewater tanks. The video blog is a fun way to get the City scoop and meet the folks who drive us forward.

[www.funwiththemayor.com](http://www.funwiththemayor.com)

## Reimagining State Street

The opportunity to revitalize State Street is at hand. One public survey and two public brainstorming sessions yielded creative ideas to include in the State Street Master Plan. Think of all the possibilities. Think bicycle and pedestrian-friendly travel on a multi-use trail. Think open space and urban street tree canopy. Think larger-scale local shopping. Think thriving Big Ten and top-tier campus communities.

Five groups of stakeholders (apartment owners, Purdue, business owners, residents, and developers) met with urban planning consultants to craft the plan to create a cohesive corridor from the river to the new 231. The next public meetings will be held on March 13: one at Purdue Stewart Center Room 202 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm; the other at the West Lafayette Public Library at 5:30 pm. The target date for the unveiling of the Master Plan is May 2014. Learn more and participate: [www.facebook.com/statestreetmasterplan](http://www.facebook.com/statestreetmasterplan).



State Street Photo courtesy of the Journal & Courier

"Go back?" he thought.  
"No good at all! Go sideways?  
Impossible! Go forward?"

Only thing to do! On we go!"

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*



Northwestern Avenue Photo courtesy of The Schneider Corporation

## On the Road Again

Public Works Director Dave Buck outlines major construction projects for 2014 that will enhance our City and begin as soon as weather permits. Here's what's coming down the road:

**Salisbury Street, Phase III** (Rainbow Drive to US 52) Starting in April, construction will go into full swing to redo Salisbury Street's traffic signals, curbs, sidewalks, and add ADA-compliant ramps to improve safety and functionality. Be aware that traffic will be restricted on Salisbury Street. Use Yeager, Northwestern, Lindberg Road, Cumberland Ave., or US 231 bypass as alternate routes during construction. Traffic restrictions will be over by August but work will continue through October.

**Cumberland, Phase III** (Salisbury to Soldiers Home Road) As the last phase of a key project for the City, we will be busy realigning turn lanes, installing new traffic signals, replacing pavement and adding new curbs, sidewalks, drainage improvements and trails to the avenue. Creating an improved school drop-off traffic pattern for Cumberland School is also planned. Construction will commence in August or September 2014, and will take a full year to complete. The street will

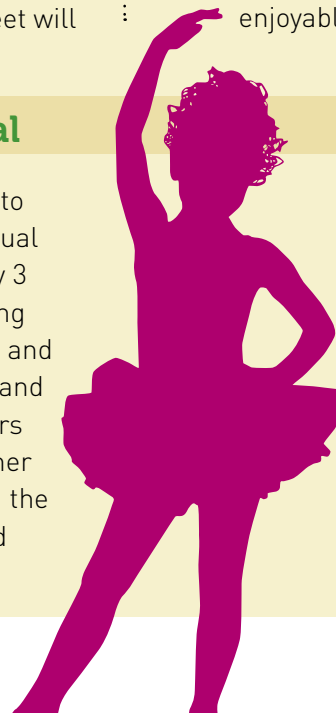
be open for traffic, but pedestrian detours and possible side street closures may occur during construction.

**Happy Hollow Road** (Old State Road 443) Changes are in store for Happy Hollow Road to convert the state highway into a modern city street. Most notably, a walking trail will be constructed to connect Sagamore Parkway to Happy Hollow Park. New curbs, enclosed drainage system, and bus shelters will also be added. The River Road intersection will be elevated to reduce closures from Wabash River flooding. Work should begin by September and will last until fall of 2015, with north-bound traffic closed during construction.

**Northwestern Avenue** (Lindberg to North Street) Future plans include landscaping and the addition of safety improvements to ensure safe crossing of this busy avenue. Traffic signals equipped with fiber optic communications will be installed to better manage the variable traffic flow on Northwestern, no matter the time of day or season we're in. At the end of the road, all of the improvements we're investing in will make your travel more efficient, pedestrians safer, and the ride more enjoyable.

## 21st Annual Mor' Dancin' Recital

Hundreds of brightly-costumed dancers, ages 2 ½ to adult, will strap on their dancing shoes for the annual recital at Purdue Loeb Playhouse on Saturday, May 3 at 4 pm. Months of rehearsal culminate in a dazzling display of jazz, ballet, modern, lyrical jazz, hip hop, and the awe-inspiring "Dad's dances." Uplifting music and brilliant lighting enhance the experience for dancers and audience alike. Director LaVerne Mikhail and her talented cast of instructors teach and choreograph the dance numbers for your enjoyment. For tickets and program information, contact Bess Witcosky, (765) 775-5120, at Morton Community Center.



## Making Music

Morton Center is offering 30-minute private keyboard lessons to kids (ages 5 and older) and adults throughout the winter.

Classes are offered on Monday evenings or Saturday afternoons. Instructor Bobby Egan makes learning fun and you'll be playing in no time! See the 2014 Winter/Spring Recreation Brochure for more information.

If you want grown-ups to recycle, just tell their kids the importance of recycling, and they'll be all over it.

Bill Nye

## Where Clean Meets Green

Springtime is the perfect time to clear out clutter. Keep West Lafayette green by utilizing the Neighborhood Resource Team and the Street & Sanitation Department's clean up event on May 9, 10, and 11 in select locations for residents to discard or recycle unwanted items. Besides dumpsters and Goodwill drop-off containers, the City will provide a "shred-it" service for documents on May 10 from 9 am – noon at City Hall. Look for all upcoming details on the City website, [www.wl.in.gov](http://www.wl.in.gov).

**Electronics** should be recycled at Oscar Winski's e-Recycling facility at 2217 N. Ninth Street, Lafayette. For a full listing of acceptable items and fees, see [www.oscarwinski.com/erecycling](http://www.oscarwinski.com/erecycling).

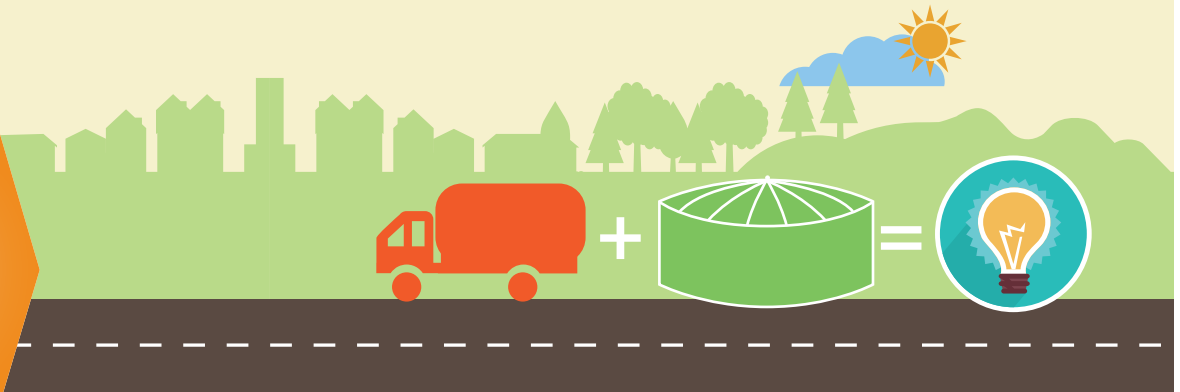
**Household hazardous waste**, such as oil-based paint, pesticides, household cleaners, pool and spa

chemicals, etc. may be taken to Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District, 2770 N. 9th Street, Lafayette (765) 423-2858 for free disposal.

**The Street & Sanitation Department** accepts plastics, mixed paper, aluminum and tin cans, flattened cardboard, and glass during recycling day pick-ups. The drop-off center on South River Road also accepts motor oil, used car batteries, and cooking oil/grease (in specially marked containers). Did you know that cooking oil/grease is used to create energy when added to the Wastewater Treatment Plant digesters? Sixteen percent of the wastewater plant's power was generated onsite in 2013!

Use it up,  
wear it out,  
make it do or  
do without.

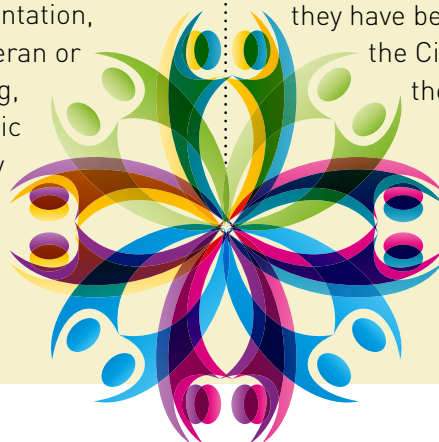
*New England  
proverb*



## Respect is Key to the City

West Lafayette values every citizen and does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of age, race, sex, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, familial status (families with children under 18, or who are expecting a child), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and veteran or disability status in the areas of housing, employment, education, or in any public accommodations. Respecting diversity makes for a stronger community and a better place for all to live.

The mission of the Human Relations Commission is empowered by City Ordinance 11-68 in accordance with Indiana state law, and provides a place for residents to voice concerns if they feel they have been a victim of discrimination within the City limits. For more information see the City website: [www.wl.in.gov](http://www.wl.in.gov).



**NEWS BY EMAIL:** To receive City newsletters by email, visit the eNotify signup page under Site Tools at [www.wl.in.gov](http://www.wl.in.gov)

John Dennis • Mayor  
765/775-5100  
[mayor@wl.in.gov](mailto:mayor@wl.in.gov)

Judy Rhodes • Clerk-Treasurer  
765/775-5150  
[clerk@wl.in.gov](mailto:clerk@wl.in.gov)

[www.wl.in.gov](http://www.wl.in.gov)

West Lafayette City Hall  
609 West Navajo Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Stay connected at [www.wl.in.gov](http://www.wl.in.gov)

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA



## Let's Go Event Calendar

### Drug Drop-off

Thursdays | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
March 13 | April 10 | May 8  
West Lafayette Police Station

### City Hall CLOSED

February 17 | Presidents' Day  
April 18 | Good Friday  
May 6 | Primary Election Day  
May 26 | Memorial Day

### State Street Master Plan Meeting

Thursday | March 13  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm.  
Purdue Stewart Center Room 202

Thursday | March 13 | 5:30 pm  
West Lafayette Public Library

### Riverside Skating Center

Call (765) 743-7465 for hours  
\$5 per person | \$3 skate rental  
Tapawingo Park

### Purdue Convocations

2/16 Charlotte's Web | Family  
2/21 St. Petersburg Philharmonic  
Orchestra | Classical  
2/27 Simone Dinnerstein | Classical  
3/6 Hugo Wolf Quartett | Classical  
3/7 TEDxPurdueU | Lecture  
3/13 Justin Moore | Concert  
3/29 Hamlet | Theater  
3/30 Rosencrantz & Guildenstern  
Are Dead | Theater  
4/4 STREB | Dance/Dance Theater  
4/17 Brad Mehldau Trio |  
Jazz & Roots  
4/24 West Side Story | Broadway

[www.convocations.org](http://www.convocations.org)

### Friends of the WL Public Library Book Sale

April 4 | Members-only pre-sale  
April 5 | 13th: Open to all  
WL Public Library

### Purdue Spring Fest and Bug Bowl

April 12 & 13 | 10 am - 4 pm  
Purdue campus  
[www.purdue.edu/springfest](http://www.purdue.edu/springfest)

### Purdue Grand Prix

Saturday | April 26  
Purdue Grand Prix Track  
[www.purduegrandprix.org](http://www.purduegrandprix.org)

### 21st Annual Mor' Danc'n Recital

Saturday | May 3 | 4 pm  
Purdue Loeb Playhouse

### Sagamore West Farmers Market

Wednesday afternoons beginning May 7  
Cumberland Park

### Round the Fountain Art Fair

Saturday | May 24 | 9 am - 4 pm  
Courthouse Square

