

## Morton Community Center Abuzz with Winter Activities

If your New Year's resolution is to try something new, head for Morton Community Center, where the picks range from get-active to get-creative opportunities.

### Fitness, Dance, Art, Languages

Upcoming fitness classes include music imaging, yoga and more. Like to dance? Go international, ballroom, belly or clogging. There's also gourd art, basket weaving, painting and pottery. French and Spanish classes. And for children and teens, cartooning and anime, drawing and alphabet adventures, among many more.

"Morton offers more than 650 classes a year," says Director Brenda Lorenz. Most sessions are 4 to 5 weeks; some are repeated.

Built in 1929 as a school, Morton was purchased by West Lafayette in 1991, creating today's cultural and community hub. "Our mission is to enhance our quality of life through educational, social and recreational activities," Lorenz says. Several groups meet to play bridge or euchre, and the center has dance, pottery and art studios.



Pictured is pottery student Paula Woods.

### International Flavor

"The people who come to Morton make it a great place," Lorenz says. "Instructors and students develop a passion for their interests. There is a great diversity among students. It is possible to learn about many countries and cultures."

## Development Department Touts Quality of Life

One of many benefits of living in West Lafayette is the abundance of arts and cultural events. Besides the city's own Morton Center, opportunities abound at the West Lafayette Public Library and Purdue.

"A strong connection between the community and the arts is essential in attracting and retaining businesses and their employees," says Development Director Chandler Poole. His department is partnering with Purdue to highlight events.

A sampling:

**STOMP** • the percussion group that uses everything but drums, 7 p.m., Elliott Hall of

Music, Tuesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 1; gather a group of 10 for a great discount. Information at [www.convocations.org](http://www.convocations.org), 496-1977.

**GALLERIES** • The Earth Texts, a wooden relief sculpture exhibit in Stewart Center Gallery through February 22, and Shrouds, Masks and the Floating World exhibit at Robert Ringel Gallery in Purdue Memorial Union through December 6. Both open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Information and newsletter available at [www.purdue.edu/galleries](http://www.purdue.edu/galleries), 496-7899, [galleries@purdue.edu](mailto:galleries@purdue.edu).

Keep your winter lively with dance, art, card playing or other opportunities at Morton Community Center, 222 N. Chauncey. Find out what is happening at the website, [www.parks.westlafayette.in.gov](http://www.parks.westlafayette.in.gov).



Evan and Wendi Powell enjoy Riverside Skating Center. For skate session dates, times and fees, check the website, [www.parks.westlafayette.in.gov](http://www.parks.westlafayette.in.gov).





## Wastewater Utility a Go-Green Star

by Mayor John Dennis

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, converting greenhouse gases and methane to electricity, and potentially powering electric or compressed-natural-gas vehicles are

just the beginning of the benefits the City of West Lafayette is bringing home as we near completion of our four-part, \$8.4 million wastewater treatment project.

### Fiscal Star, Too

Fiscal benefits are equally impressive: Our 20-year state revolving loan, at lower-than-market interest rates, will likely be repaid during the loan period with revenues from the fee-based, grease-receiving station that is part of the project.

Our utility director, David Henderson, calls this "a huge step forward in creating a more sustainable future for West Lafayette." And the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the city a PISCES Environmental Success Award in 2007 for innovative methods in the co-generation and grease-receiving parts of the project.

### Milestones Coming This Summer

Work at the Wastewater Utility, 500 S. River Road, began in October 2007, by Bowen Engineering Corp., using designs created by Martin Wessler, M.D. Wessler and Associates, with assistance from Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. We're now well on our way to completion of the four phases:

- ❶ Plant Digesters: Pipes and equipment are now being installed in the digester control building, the last step in treating processed waste before it is applied as land fertilizer.
- ❷ Backup Generator: Our generator has been delivered; it will power the plant if electric service is lost.
- ❸ Cogeneration Unit: Targeted to come online this summer, this will supply as much as 25 percent of the electricity needed to run the plant.
- ❹ Grease-receiving Station: Nearly complete, with late summer the likely time for receiving the first grease and fees.

Discussions are also underway on the feasibility of accepting solid food waste, which would increase the electricity we could generate.

West Lafayette can take great pride in the foresight, environmental pluses and fiscal benefits of this unique project.

## West Lafayette a Smart City

Forbes magazine recently ranked West Lafayette the 6th Most Educated Small Town (populations of 20,000 to 65,000) in the U.S. It is based on number of post-secondary degrees among those aged 25 and older. "It is quite an honor to receive national attention," says Mayor John Dennis.

## Firefighters Sharpen Skills

West Lafayette firefighters recently took part in simulated exercises, such as a rescue in a building with limited visibility and elevated heat. They used the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Mobile Live Fire Trainer, which was in West Lafayette for four days this fall, reports Fire Chief Phil Drew.

The 53-foot mobile training station can be used for laddering, search and rescue, fire suppression, ventilation and rapid intervention training. It has a non-toxic on-board smoke generation system, collapsible second-story room, internal staircase, shuttered windows and movable wall partitions. "Each of our shifts was able to use it for a day," Drew says.



Firefighters Ty Morris, left, and Keith Barker took part in recent training.

## Trail System to Grow

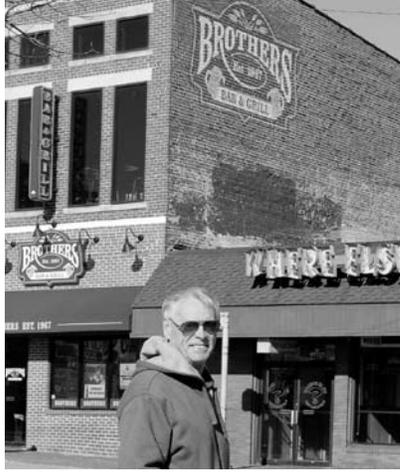
West Lafayette's renowned 17-mile trail system is about to top 18 miles, thanks to an \$812,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation that will pay 80-percent of the \$1 million project.

A 1.1-mile stretch on the west side of North River Road from Robinson Street to Happy Hollow Park will likely get underway mid-year, with completion in 2010, reports Joe Payne, parks and recreation superintendent. The new trail will connect the Wabash Heritage Trail in the Levee area with the city's paved, one-mile Trolley Line Trail.

## Wastewater Utility a Winner



West Lafayette's Wastewater Utility won the 2008 Safety Excellence Award from the Indiana Water Environment Association, based on its high-scoring audit. Dave Henderson, utility director, is pictured accepting the award.



## Beautification Winner

Mike Koning received the December 2008 Beautification Award for his ongoing work removing graffiti in the city. Recent work included 170 tags in the Chauncey Village area.



## Owl Rescued

Wastewater Treatment Utility maintenance supervisor John Poore rescued this owl from a utility lagoon last fall and took it to Carol Blacketer (pictured) at Wildcat Wildlife Center, who nursed it back to health and released it to the wild.

## Of Note

**Wastewater Bills:** The Wastewater Utility Billing Office has moved to the first floor of City Hall, 609 W. Navajo St. Payments may be mailed or made in person from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

**R.A.D. and r.a.dKids Training:** The police department's next Rape Aggression Defense class for women begins February 3; the Resisting Aggression Defensively training for ages 5 to 7 begins February 19. For information and upcoming dates, visit [www.westlafayettepd.us](http://www.westlafayettepd.us). Register for R.A.D by calling Officer Nancee Hetrick; for r.a.dKids, Sgt. Cindy Marion, both at 775-5200.

**Tapawingo Park:** Look for a new band shell/shelter at Tapawingo Park this summer.

**Trees:** Volunteers from the West Lafayette Tree Fund and Purdue students pruned 599 street trees in 2008, helping us maintain healthy trees and keep intersections clear.

**Building Permits:** October: \$2.4 million, including 11 new single-family homes; November: \$1.1 million, including 3 new single-family homes; December: \$2.6 million, with 3 new single-family homes. 2008 total building permits: \$46.9 million. Of that, \$15.7 million was for 92 new single-family homes.



## News from All Around West Lafayette

**Snow Removal.** When it snows, please help our plow crews by moving parked cars off the street. Also remember that city ordinance, susceptible to fines, requires that you shovel sidewalks within six hours after daylight or after snow stops falling. If you need help, check our contractor list at [www.westlafayette.in.gov/services/codeenforcement/snowremovalist.htm](http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/services/codeenforcement/snowremovalist.htm), or call our Code Enforcement office at 775-5160 for names of interested teens. If you have a complaint about noncompliance in your neighborhood, call 775-5160.

**Safe Routes to School.** Work is moving from design to installation of new school zone and pedestrian beacons for Happy Hollow and Cumberland schools. "The new lights will use solar power and be coordinated via Internet and cell phones," says City Engineer David Buck. "We should have them installed for the fall 2009 semester." Some sidewalk ramps and crosswalks are part of the project.

**Purdue Crew Boathouse.** Site work is complete and the design about to be chosen for the Purdue Crew Boathouse on two acres formerly occupied by Burnham's on the Levee. The Purdue Research Foundation will pay for the building and lease it to Purdue. "This is a great way to start redevelopment of the riverfront," says Development Director Chandler Poole, who anticipates a spring groundbreaking. Public use space is included for non-motorized boat access. "This will provide a new set of opportunities."

**Salisbury, Sycamore, Happy Hollow Park.** As the city says farewell to the former Burtsfield School, work begins this spring on Phase 2 of Salisbury Street improvements. Sycamore Lane's traffic calming project should be underway by June and completed by November. Work continues in Happy Hollow Park, where the slope is being re-graded and stabilized this winter and will be re-vegetated this spring, City Engineer David Buck reports.



**Dietrich Named to Council.** Steven Dietrich, a 1973 West Lafayette High School graduate and 1988 Purdue graduate in sociology/criminal justice, has been appointed to fill the at-large seat on the West Lafayette City Council vacated by Randy Truitt. Dietrich joined the Purdue University Police Department in 1984 after three years with the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department, and was promoted to captain in 1988. He is currently the senior watch officer for the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center. Constituents may contact him at 463-4793, [srdietrich@gmail.com](mailto:srdietrich@gmail.com).

**DARE Training.** DARE Officer Janet Shepherd will be speaking to 5th and 7th graders this spring on resisting drug and alcohol use.

# Commission Promotes Safe, Smooth Routes

A smooth-going, safe ride when you're out and about in West Lafayette is the goal of the city's Traffic Commission.

## Advisory Role

"This is an advisory commission," says Kumares Sinha, Purdue representative and chair of the commission. "We coordinate traffic activities, receive traffic complaints and comments, and make recommendations to the city and city councils on the ways and means of improving vehicular and pedestrian traffic."

A professor of transportation engineering, Sinha says he serves "because it is everyone's responsibility to help the community."

## Safety a Big Concern

Safety is a major focus, he says. "We look at neighborhoods, speeding, traffic calming, and people's perceptions of safety. In West Lafayette, people want a pedestrian-friendly and family-oriented community, so we try very hard to make neighborhoods for people. We encourage residents to bring their concerns, and we discuss them and come up with possible solutions."

The commission recently expanded its number to 18, with representatives from each council district, the city, Purdue, West Lafayette Community School Corp., Tippecanoe School Corp., Greater Lafayette Commerce and at-large.

"The city has changed," Sinha says. "We wanted to bring more businesses and citizens in to reflect the changing characteristics of the city."

The commission meets at City Hall at 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month.

## Traffic Commission Members

- David Buck • City traffic engineer
- Vicki Burch • City Council representative
- John Cox • Purdue police chief
- David Downey • City street commissioner
- Chris Leroux • West Lafayette Police

## Appointed by the City Council

- Bernadette Farris
- Boudewijn van Gelder
- Karen O'Farrell
- Chris Pekny
- Open: District 1 representative

## Named by the Mayor

- Joe Boorman • Greater Lafayette Commerce
- David Christian • At-large
- Carrie Ehresman • Greater Lafayette Commerce
- Jim Knapp • Purdue University
- Larry Preo • At-large
- Kumares Sinha • Purdue University
- Larry Wood • West Lafayette Community School Corp.
- Open: Representative of Tippecanoe School Corp.



Morton Community Center and  
Riverside Skating Center offer  
indoor and outdoor winter fun.

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