



**State of the City of West Lafayette 2014
February 2, 2015**

It is with pleasure and a great sense of humility that I give to you, the citizens of West Lafayette, my State of the City address. It is hard to believe that eight years ago, I stood before you to give you my first State of the City. I will never forget it.

I hardly slept the night before. I was tossing and turning, trying to think how I could possibly represent this great City in a way that would give credit to those who have made such incredible contributions to our City over the years, and to encourage others to continue to do so. I reflected back on a time when I was in second grade at Cumberland Elementary School. We were doing a skit representing the process of solving a problem in the City of West Lafayette. My role in the play was that of Fire Chief (sorry Tim!) and the problem was one of dealing with bicycle safety. I, as a 7-year-old second grader, forgot my lines. I stood there onstage like a statue, staring speechlessly at the audience full of proud parents. Finally, I snapped out of my paralysis and chanted repeatedly “Call the Mayor.” As the natural context of my rehearsed speech was long forgotten, “Call the Mayor” became my response to all the problematic situations presented to me throughout the play.

So here we are, eight years later, a little older, a little grayer, a little balder and as a City, a lot bigger! You would think that by my 8th State of the City address I would be as cool as a cucumber on a hot summer day. But I still feel like I could easily fall into a blank stare and shout “Call the Mayor” in a similar fashion to Dustin Hoffman’s character in Rainman as he referenced Judge Wapner.

As earlier referred to, our City is poised for great things in our future. The West Lafayette City Council approved our transition from a Class 3 to a Class 2 City. With that comes several changes in our operational structure, from the number of Council members, voting districts and representatives on our boards and commissions, to how some of our public meetings are run, and who presides over them. Most significant of all changes is the loss of the office of Clerk – Treasurer. Its incumbent for the last 20 years, Judy Rhodes, has set a lofty standard for our entire state and her expertise and commitment to the highest possible financial standards will be missed greatly.

While the City is in the midst of the greatest growth in our history, we have continued to carefully utilize our resources. We closed 2014 with our general fund cash reserves at 22% of

our expenditures, which meets the nationally recognized standard for prudent government management. We are positioned to provide increased level of City services in 2015 even as our footprint, our population, and our economic activity continues to grow.

We have responded to the demands of growth by carefully managing the City's debt, by saving and spending within our means. We have been able to take advantage of refinancing utility debt again in 2014 to save our ratepayers over \$1,000,000 in debt payments over the next 12 years. This has enabled us to make long term investments in technology, to continue our environmental stewardship, and to expand our system to support growth to the west with no wastewater rate increase.

The Redevelopment Commission continued to fund our major capital and infrastructure projects from resources on hand in 2014. The Redevelopment Commission and West Lafayette City Council began a new budget process this year, conferring at the start of the process and then concluding with the formal filing of the Commission's budget with the Council, demonstrating the close cooperation of both bodies in furthering the City's development.

I don't know of any better way to start recognizing the many accomplishments of our hardworking and dedicated department heads than by starting with one of the most important and yet one of the most challenged departments in the City. When we talk about quality of life, which we do frequently in West Lafayette, public safety is tops on most citizens' lists. Whether it's bad guys, bicycles, bonfires, batteries or bananas, our Police and Fire Department, through their actions, show their courageous dedication to making West Lafayette one of the safest places to live in the country.

The City of West Lafayette, which now includes Purdue University, continues to be one of the safest college towns in the country. A primary reason for this is the leadership, dedication, passion and love of this City by Chief Jason Dombkowski and his well-trained and professional staff.

In early 2014, West Lafayette nearly doubled in size via the annexation of Purdue University and areas to the west to include the new US 231 corridor. As expected, calls for service increased in 2014. The department received 27,887 calls for service, an increase of 755 (3%) compared to 2013. This was the second consecutive year that the WLPD responded to more than 25,000 calls for service. Calls for service in 2014 increased 11% compared to the recent five-year average and police calls for service have increased 66% overall since 2007.

The number of criminal arrests decreased 15% in 2014 (1,446) compared to 2013 (1,701) and juvenile arrests decreased 33% (37) compared to 2013 (55). Total alcohol arrests decreased 13% in 2014 (402) from 2013 (463), with Minor in Possession of Alcohol arrests down 29% and Public Intoxication arrests down 11% in 2014. The WLPD's alcohol awareness and education program that was launched in 2008 has contributed to the steady decrease in alcohol arrests. Since 2007, total alcohol arrests have decreased 57%.

Public safety is the top priority for the WLPD. For the fifth consecutive year, the City of West Lafayette again had no homicides and no arsons. Other FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses for 2014 include rape down 67% (2), aggravated assaults down 12% (22), burglary down 51% (44), and larceny down 33% (286). The most current five-year FBI UCR statistics confirm that West Lafayette has one of the lowest combined rates of violent crime and property crime than any of the Big Ten University cities.

Traffic enforcement remains a priority for the WLPD with a continued focus on school zone safety. Officers made 11,537 traffic stops in 2014, an increase of 2%, including 1,729 stops in our school zones. Officers issued 1,551 traffic citations, an increase of 23%. While traffic crashes increased 5% overall in 2014, alcohol related crashes decreased 22% in 2014 after decreasing by 11% in 2013. There was one fatal vehicle crash in West Lafayette in 2014.

The Neighborhood Resource Team (NRT) and uniformed police officers continue to work closely together to address quality of life issues in our neighborhoods. The NRT focused on code enforcement, parking violations and animal control issues while responding to a record of 3,114 calls for service, a 29% increase over 2013 (2,410).

To quote Fire Chief Tim Heath, “It is an honor and a blessing to be the Fire Chief of the West Lafayette Fire Department, serving and protecting this beautiful city with such an outstanding group that always put the safety of our citizens first. Their courage, loyalty and dedication astound me.”

2014 was an extraordinary year for the WLFD. It started off with two incredible grants. The SAFER Grant allowed us to hire 8 new firefighters. Additionally a \$20,982.12 Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant allowed us to purchase 12 Heartstart FRx defibrillators with cases and 12 AED wall cabinet fast response kits. The WLFD began teaching ALL City employees CPR.

Also in the past year, the WLFD started using FIREHOUSE Software, the nation’s most trusted and most widely used Fire and EMS records management system. This new software will provide us with more accurate and more detailed fire run information.

The Redevelopment Commission approved funding for a new pumper which is being produced by KME. It is due to be delivered in October or early November, 2015.

And the WLFD kicked off its “Keep Me In & I’ll Get You Out” Public Education Program, reminding students of the importance of keeping batteries in their smoke detectors. Kidde Corporation donated 100 10-year smoke detectors, and Energizer donated over 1,300 9V and AA smoke detector batteries. The WLFD then went door-to-door throughout the community installing new smoke detectors and batteries where needed.

I am proud of our Fire Department and their commitment to our citizens.

There is nothing better than a smooth safe ribbon of roadway connecting the amazing and unique elements of our community. Whether we are commuting by car, bike or body, getting from point “A” to point “B” safely is the primary concern of our Public Works Director, Dave Buck. As I have said before, this City is fortunate to have a person of such great skill, vision, integrity and compassion within its ranks. Dave has the technical skills to oversee complicated, involved road projects, the compassion to handle the problems of the citizens most directly impacted by these projects, and the vision to take this growing City to the next level.

The following is a brief summary of the projects, developments, and day to day operations of the West Lafayette City Engineer’s Office in 2014.

Completed Road Projects:

- **Northwestern Avenue Safety Improvements, Phase 3:** This project was the third in a series of Northwestern Avenue safety improvement projects spanning from Dodge Street to Grant Street. This project consisted of replacing the signal at Stadium Avenue, installing a new signal at Dodge Street, and installing a signalized pedestrian intersection at the Northwestern parking garage. The project also added new curbed medians with landscape areas, decorative fencing, and updated LED lighting. This work has modernized the Northwestern corridor and increased safety for pedestrian traffic. Rieth-Riley completed the construction with a total project cost of \$ 1.6 Million. Purdue University partnered with the City to share the costs.
- **Salisbury Street, Phase 3:** The final phase of reconstruction work on Salisbury Street took place between Rainbow Drive and US 52. The work encompassed complete road reconstruction including ADA improvements, new sidewalks, curbs, landscaping, traffic signal replacement, and LED street lighting as well as traffic signal coordination all along the Salisbury Street corridor. This contract was completed by Milestone Contractors on time and under the \$1,225,000 awarded contract amount.
- **Mid-Block Crossing Project:** This project installed 2 flashing yellow pedestrian crossings in West Lafayette using 90% federal safety funding. The first was installed on Salisbury Street for the crossing from Lagrange Street to the Farmers Market located in Cumberland Park. The second pedestrian crossing is located on Tapawingo Drive for pedestrian traffic between the Wabash Landing shopping center and Tapawingo Park. Both of these crossings are equipped with push buttons that will initiate the high-intensity LED flashing lights allowing for safer crossing.
- **2014 Street Resurfacing, Sidewalk Repairs and ADA Ramps:** The Engineering Department staff oversaw just under \$600,000 in street resurfacing and repairs to our sidewalks, ramps and streets throughout the City. Work was completed on Navajo Street, Sheridan Road, Western Drive, Glenway Street, Stadium Avenue, Russell Street, 4th Street, Waldron Street, and Grant Street.

In-Progress Road Projects:

- Cumberland Avenue, Phase 3: The final segment of reconstruction on Cumberland Avenue is currently under construction. Work includes rebuilding Cumberland Avenue from Salisbury Street to Soldiers Home Road and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2015. Milestone Contractors is completing this \$5,000,000.00 investment in the City's infrastructure and neighborhoods.
- Happy Hollow Road: Utility work for the reconstruction of Happy Hollow Road is wrapping up and this federally funded project is scheduled to move into the construction phase in the spring of 2015. Work will rebuild the road with new curbs, pavement, storm sewers, and a continuous trail to connect neighborhoods to Happy Hollow Park. Rieth-Riley will be completing this \$6,000,000.00 project over the next 2 years.

In-Design Road Projects:

- Northwestern Avenue Safety Improvements, Phase 4: This project is the fourth in a series of Northwestern Avenue safety improvement projects spanning from Cherry Lane to Dodge Street and from Grant Street to North Street. This project will consist of replacing the signals at Cherry Lane and Grant Street. The project also will add new curbed medians, curb, sidewalk, landscape areas, decorative fencing, and updated LED lighting. This work will continue to modernize the Northwestern corridor, increase safety for pedestrian traffic, and enhance this nearly fully reconstructed gateway into West Lafayette and Purdue University.
- Lindberg Road Project: Design work for the reconstruction of Lindberg Road from Salisbury Street to Northwestern Avenue has begun. Work will rebuild the road with new storm water infrastructure, curbs, pavement, upgraded bike and pedestrian facilities, and possibly street lighting. Engineering and public input will take place in 2015 with Construction funding programmed for 2016.

Sidewalk Projects:

- Sidewalk and Curb Projects: The City installed new curbs and sidewalks along 4th Street, Waldron Street, and Russell Street with Community Development Block Grant Funds. The cost for the project was \$108,000.
- Sidewalk Trip Hazard Removal: The City continued to remove sidewalk trip hazards this year concentrating on the remaining hazards in the University Farm, Arbor Chase, and Bar Barry Heights subdivisions. This work will be complete in 2015. The cost of this project is \$97,000.
- Navajo Curb and Sidewalk, Phase 1: The City began a series of sidewalk and curb repairs along Navajo Street. The first phase went from Salisbury Street to Indian Trail Drive. The contract was completed by Fairfield Contractors at a cost of just under \$150,000. This

project was dovetailed with the improvements on Salisbury Street to minimize disruptions to the public and to speed up construction.

The Wastewater Utility, under the leadership of Dave Henderson, continues to be a leader in the state when it comes to being responsible stewards of our environment, and providing quality service to our citizens.

Work began on two projects that will impact the Utility and the City for the future.

First, the Cumberland Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension is a project to provide sewer service to the newly annexed area near the new US 231. This sewer ties into the Western Sanitary Sewer Interceptor and provides the backbone for growth and development along the US 231 corridor for years to come.

The second project involves work at the wastewater treatment plant. The project has two goals: to provide phosphorus removal to meet new State and Federal regulations and to provide additional treatment/storage capacity at our Wet Weather Treatment Facility along with improvements to the disinfection process. This is our first project in the next chapter in our CSO Long Term Control Plan as approved by the State.

Phosphorus is a nutrient essential to life, but an excess in our waterways can be problematic. With the completion of this project, we will reduce the City's phosphorus contribution to the Wabash River by up to 80%.

Our plant was recognized with the IWEA Plant Safety Award again this year. Our laboratory received an IWEA Laboratory Excellence Award this year. Our Utility has received both awards annually for a number of years.

The Utility is one of six facilities featured in the EPA publication *Food Waste to Energy: How Six Water Resource Recovery Facilities are Boosting Biogas Production and the Bottom Line*.

2014 saw significant changes in the way we do business at our Street Department. First, and foremost, David Downey, our Street Commissioner for the past three decades, retired. He was truly a presence in this City and will be missed. David's successor, Doug Payne, has embraced his new position with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Doug is constantly assessing the way we do things at the Street Department and looking at opportunities to improve service and make our roads and streets the best in the state.

The following is a breakdown of the general activity of our Street Department over the past year:

Snow Plowing and Ice Control

- 3,399.44 tons salt and sand

- 33,355.0 gallons of salt brine
- 550.0 gallons of calcium chloride
- 5,920.0 gallons of Beet Heet
- 1,669.5 regular hours and 764.0 over-time hours.

Street Maintenance- Increased from 86 miles to 126 miles of streets

- 1,309.0 hours and 269.11 tons of asphalt were used to maintain potholes in City streets.
- 131.5 over-time hours and 76.5 regular work hours were used to install the Game Day Barriers on Northwestern Avenue in Chauncey Village to help control foot traffic during the football game weekends.
- 1,839.0 regular hours were spent maintaining City vehicles by the department mechanic.

Traffic Maintenance

- 1,736.5 gallons traffic paint, 5,485.0 lbs. of glass beads and 3,615 ft. of 3M marking tape were used to remark the City street markings in 989.25 hours.
- 367.0 hours was spent replacing 106 street signs, 34 posts, and 32 sign brackets.
- 431.0 hours was spent maintaining the 32 traffic signals on West Lafayette City streets. We increased from 8 traffic signals to 32 traffic signals in 2013.

Pollution Control

- Sewer Cleaning -375.5 hours and 2.75 over-time hours, 41,625.0 liquid gallons collected.
- Catch Basin Cleaning – 340.25 regular hours and 18.0 over-time hours, 32,250.0 liquid gallons collected.
- Two sweepers collected 917.64 tons of debris off the City streets in 1,334.50 regular hours.
- 1,778.0 regular hours and 16.75 over-time hours were spent picking up 902.15 tons of leaves.

Storm and Sanitary Structure Maintenance

- Sewer Televising – 690.0 hours.
- Sewer Repairs – 138.5 regular hours and 10.0 over-time hours.
- Catch Basin Repairs – 307.0 hours and 1.0 over-time hours.
- Manhole Repairs – 283.5 hours.

Sanitation/Recycling

- Trash – 3,883.77 tons of trash land filled in 11,156.75 hours and 9.0 over-time hours. This is an increase of 99.41 tons over 2013. We began servicing Sugar Hill Subdivision in January after Tippecanoe Waste Disposal closed.

- Recycling – 2,896.18 tons recycled items in 5,221.25 hours and 26.75 over-time hours. This is an increase of 181.19 tons from 2013.
- Yard Waste –1,098.93 tons yard waste pick up in 3,688.5 hours and 31.5 over-time hours.
- The City provided recycling carts to each resident beginning in November of 2012 to encourage additional recycling. As a result, curbside recycling (cans, bottles, paper and glass) increased 4% from 26% in 2012 to 30% in 2013 and 2014. When you add composting to recycling, the percentage of items saved from going to the landfill increases to 45% of the total West Lafayette waste. The City brought in a total of \$29,727.06 from recycling.

Tree City USA

Each year the Street Department performs maintenance for city trees. In 2014, the department submitted the following information for the time period of 1/01/14-12/09/14 for the Tree City USA report:

- Yard Waste Removal

○ Leaf Removal	3,363.55 hours	cost \$117,724.25
○ Tree Removal	1,596.25 hours	cost \$55,868.75
○ Tree Trimming	773.5 hours	cost \$27,072.50
	36.5 hours	cost \$1,277.50
- Tree Removal Contracted:

○ Deaton Enterprises	\$6,455.00
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- Disposal & Storage of Yard Waste Cost:

○ Soilmaker, Inc.	\$12,300.00
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Starting a new job in a new community right at the time annual reports are due is a challenge. However, the change in leadership provides a new perspective on the qualities and characteristics of the West Lafayette Parks, people, and programs. Janet Fawley, our new Parks Superintendent, has taken this challenge in stride. Janet’s pride and passion for the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department is helping to shape the community into this wonderful place we call home.

Parks play a significant role in the economic development of West Lafayette. An example includes the Riverside Skating Center, which helps to bring people downtown to the Wabash Landing and the Levee area. People come for the skating, then they find the other activities like movies, restaurants, hotels, and local shops. Additionally, the West Lafayette trails make our community a better place to live through connectivity. Tourism from Purdue University is a major driver of the West Lafayette economy and the Parks also provide additional attractions to visitors while they are here. Our neighborhood parks make the livability of neighborhoods more attractive. Finally, large public events such as Wabash Riverfest, Global Fest, and Art on the Wabash use the parks’ public spaces and provide opportunities for local vendors to generate additional revenue.

In recent years, Parks has done a better job of helping to create a healthier population. West Lafayette's public space strategies have included access and proximity for residents. For example, trails are developed along with road improvements: Cumberland Avenue work, Northwestern Avenue, and the Cattail Trail. Playgrounds in neighborhood parks provide activity for children which is safe and close to home. WLPR also partners with local schools and churches to provide places to play: Cumberland School for basketball, Playground Programs in the summer, and spring & summer softball at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. West Lafayette has transportation availability, walkability and ample lighting. While the Community Gardens at Cumberland Park may not be a "Parks Program," it provides an opportunity for residents to learn about and grow sustainable food, and then share their knowledge about gardening with others. Finally, the Farmers Market, held at Cumberland Park, provides locally grown foods, which is good for the environment through reduced transportation, as well as healthier food alternatives.

It is also the role of the West Lafayette Parks to lead the way in "Green" infrastructure and technology. When and where we've been able to include "Green" processes, we have. At the Lilly Nature Center, we have installed both a rain garden and a test plot of pervious concrete. Both of these demonstration areas show that water can be handled differently. We have also installed parking lot lights, generated by solar cells at the Lilly Nature Center Parking Lot. The Parks Department has been working with both Purdue students and consulting firms to develop plans that will help reduce erosion at the Celery Bog and Happy Hollow Park. Prairie grasses at the Celery Bog help us to reduce mowing, restore wildlife habitat, and stabilize soil for reduced erosion. As a stakeholder of the Wabash River, WLPR has worked directly with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation to restore the streambank. We are also leading the way to implement, integrate, and educate the public with the West Lafayette Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Summing up the year of 2014

- Seven different Purdue classes partnered with the WLPR to:
- Develop education posters for our outdoor kiosks;
- Develop and publish an "App" featuring the Celery Bog;
- Study erosion control measures for Happy Hollow Park and the Celery Bog Nature Area;
- Finalize a feasibility study for a new trail designed for special needs individuals.

The City of West Lafayette moved some of their offices out of City Hall into the Morton Community Center. WLPR welcomes this additional activity in the Morton Community Center, yet it is a challenge. This loss of space for classes and rentals has reduced our revenue stream and some activities. One of those losses includes the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA) program for seniors. We hope to continue working with this organization to accommodate their needs.

The West Lafayette Fire Department provided the Parks Offices and the Morton Center with AED machines. Consequently, all WLPR employees received CPR/AED training.

After 21 years as Parks Superintendent, Joe Payne retired from his position. During Joe's tenure, the trail system was fully developed, the Riverside Skating Rink was constructed and became operational, the Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog were purchased and developed, and the Wabash River became the geographical focal point of West Lafayette. These are just a few of Joe's accomplishments, but his impact will be felt for many years to come! We wish him the best in his retirement.

Parks Works Towards Accessibility

The City of West Lafayette is covered under ADA, Title I - Employment, and Title II - Programs, Services and Activities. The American with Disabilities Act requires the City to make all its programs, services and activities readily accessible and useable by qualified persons with a disability when the programs, services and activities are viewed in their entirety. The Self Evaluation and Transition Plan are cornerstones to documenting and ensuring the City's effort to create and maintain inclusion as mandated by the ADA.

During calendar year 2014, the ADA Consultants of Indiana completed its self-evaluation of our programs, services, and activities throughout the City's parks. In addition, we were able to purchase compliant picnic tables for Happy Hollow Park shelters. At the Lilly Nature Center, the LOOP special hearing assistance device was installed in the meeting room to aid individuals with hearing problems. In 2015, we will complete the job of installing charcoal grills that were ordered/delivered in 2014.

By the Numbers:

- 13 Park Properties
- 450 Acres of land managed
- 12 Playgrounds, 14 Picnic Shelters
- 11,165 Rentals (shelters & classrooms)
- 1501 "Swim Safe" memories through instruction at the Happy Hollow Pool
- 7207 Gallons of gasoline used, 80,614 staff miles driven to provide quality facilities & programs
- 1044 Classes offered
- 5110 Happier & healthier people through Morton Community Center classes
- 2600 Hours donated at the Lilly Nature Center by dedicated volunteers
- 339 pairs of ice skates available for rent
- 46 "Wednesdays In the Wild" educational presentations
- 12,039 smiles at the Riverside Skating Rink
- 2500 Pounds of birdseed consumed by birds & other wildlife at Lilly Nature Center
- 27 Miles of paved trails utilized by bikers, walkers, & runners

Our Parks and Recreation Department and our amazing staff have many more roles in our community, and we hope that you continue to view us in those more traditional roles. As the future unfolds however, we look to you – the public – to help us integrate these updated roles of

economic development, better health, and green infrastructure into the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Community.

The City of West Lafayette has added a new department to our operations. That is the Facilities Department, which will be responsible for overall “health” of our buildings, mechanics and technology. Our Facilities Director, Tim Clark, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this challenge, and in a very short period of time, has proven to be a true asset to our employees and to our citizens by implementing many cost saving operations to our City.

As the Director of Facilities and IT for the City of West Lafayette, Tim and his departments have the following to report for our operations for the year 2014.

Facilities Department:

- Setting up contracts for all City services. Our goal is to have a contract for the contractors to sign as opposed to the City signing the contractor’s contracts. These contracts will also be set up to have a 30 day out clause. This has proven to be a major undertaking and is still in progress.
- City Hall – We had 2 major floods within City hall during the month of January. This caused many issues within the confines of the building. Due to the water damage and health and safety issues, we were forced to move City services to other City buildings. The Clerk’s office, Human Resources and the Mayor’s office moved to the Police Station at 711 W Navajo Street. Engineering and part of Development moved to Morton Community Center at 222 N Chauncey Avenue, and the IT Department and the remainder of Development moved to Fire Station #1 at 300 North Street. A consultant was hired to perform a complete facility evaluation, and it was deemed necessary to move in a different direction due to the enormity of the necessary repairs and upgrades to this facility. Therefore, City Hall will be demolished, all materials will be recycled, and the property will be planted with grass seed.
- In September, the Mayor and his Assistant moved their office to the Morton Community Center.
- Process has started to make all City building lighting systems LED. This will make all building systems more energy efficient and not only reduce energy consumption but decrease the cost of light bulb replacement. A cost analysis was performed and the pay back for these lights is less than 18 months.
- Process has been initiated to make all City building key system Primus. This will make the City buildings more secure and reduce the number of keys distributed.

Information Technology Department:

- Tracey Stanifer joined the IT Department in October. A recent IT graduate, she came to us from the City of Lafayette.

- Secure room accessibility procedures have been put into place for security and legal reasons. Due to the implementation of body cameras, anyone entering this room must have proper clearance and must sign into a log book for record keeping.
- Investigated the possibility of upgrading the City's website.
- Deployed Tyler/Munis and several of its modules for the City's financials
- Wireless expansion to the West Lafayette Farmers Market
- Upgrade in storage
- Camera projects for Police and City asset cameras
- Purdue agreement for wireless broadcast of PALS
- 6 new servers were built solely for Tyler/Munis
- <https://selfserve.wl.in.gov/mss> was released
- Firehouse software was implemented
- Security enhancements on firewall
- Fiber move at Morton Community Center
- Configuration of new switches across the City and integration with stop lights/ cameras
- Cabling at Morton Community Center
- Fiber move from City Hall to the Police Department
- Upgrade from VMware 5.1 to 5.5
- Upgrade 5 servers from 2003 to 2012
- Security audits and best practices were implemented

As you can see, it has been a very busy year for Tim and his staff. Tim is continuously looking for ways to improve our departments' operations and to do so in a way that provides a savings to our taxpayers.

When we talk about our vision of creating an environment in our City that is healthy for investment, safe for our citizens, supportive of arts and culture and most importantly, having the sensitivity to celebrate our diversity, we would be remiss if we did not focus our attention on our Department of Development, and its Director, Chandler Poole. 2014 was a historic year for the City of West Lafayette. With our annexation, which doubled our size, the addition of several developments, and the laying of the groundwork for a new downtown, our City is poised for great things. The following is a list of some of the accomplishments achieved by the Department of Development in the past year.

Annexation of Purdue University

The Department of Development spearheaded the City's successful effort to annex Purdue University. The result is a doubling of the geographical footprint of the City and a new population of approximately 42,000 residents. This new population total allowed West Lafayette to become a Class 2 city.

State Street Master Plan

After nearly 6 months of community involvement, MKSK delivered a plan and a vision for the redevelopment of the State Street corridor from the Wabash River to the intersection with 231-2.5 miles to the west. Purdue, PRF and West Lafayette sponsored and supported this initiative and are now working towards a plan to make this vision a reality.

Purdue Boilermaker Half Marathon

The City was instrumental in planning the 3rd Annual Purdue Boilermaker Half Marathon. This event was a great partnership with Purdue University, the City of Lafayette, and the City of West Lafayette. Over 2,500 people participated in the event from 30 states and 3 countries.

516 Building (Wang Hall)

Opened in 2014 to much success. The upper floors are taken by Purdue and house many different departments and offer students a place to study and learn.

The FUSE (720 Northwestern)

The Fuse opened in 2014. Fresh City Market opened and brought a grocery store to a long under-served area of West Lafayette. The rest of the commercial space is rented to CVS, Regions, Jimmy Johns, and Subway.

Purdue Research Park

The partnership with the Purdue Research Foundation continues to grow and the Purdue Research Park continues to expand its international footprint. The West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission is working with PRF to build a 62,000 sq. ft. facility that will house a new Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing, one of five that will be established in the United States.

Trees

West Lafayette planted over 1,000 new trees in 2014 and volunteers trimmed over 1,500 trees throughout the City.

Rental Housing

The Rental Housing Department inspected over 350 properties, or almost 700 units, in 2014. For the past 3 years, the DOD has gone to the State House to keep this valuable program from being cancelled by the legislature. In 2014, after testifying and negotiating with legislators, a bill was passed that grandfathered West Lafayette and Bloomington, allowing these programs to continue

and referencing them as an example to any communities that wish to initiate a rental inspection program.

Public Art

Three art installations:

- “Commune” – sculpture installation on Salisbury Street at Navajo Street
- “Tiny Places” – Tiny murals around the Chauncey Village area
- “Letting People In” – Mural on the corner of Northwestern Avenue and State Street

Working with our partners at Purdue and the Purdue Research Park, the future for our City is bright. The enthusiasm is high and, needless to say, the work has just begun.

Speaking of enthusiasm and growth within our City, I want to recognize our Human Resources Director, Diane Foster. Human Resources leads the City in employee recruitment and retention, benefits administration as well as employee relations, fair employment practices, and health and safety. Diane supports the goals and values of the City by providing services to nearly 200 employees and additional seasonal staff. In other words, she has to keep over 200 employees happy on a daily basis, which is not a simple task.

With the addition of eight new firefighters included in nearly 30 new hires and 100 seasonal employees, 2014 was a very busy year. We congratulated eight employees who retired throughout the year and were proud to acknowledge several employee milestones:

- 10 year anniversaries: 8 employees
- 15 year anniversaries: 5 employees
- 20 year anniversaries: 5 employees
- 25 year anniversaries: 1 employee
- 35 year anniversaries: 2 employees
- 40 year anniversaries: 1 employee

The City’s Health Promotion Committee, spearheaded by Human Resources, initiated a new wellness program entitled Trail Trek in 2014. Employees were encouraged to search for tags along the City’s extensive trail system. It was a great way to promote the trails and physical fitness. Once the employees completed the challenge, it was advertised to the public. Trail guides and clues are still available at the Lilly Nature Center to anyone interested in this fun scavenger hunt.

As I did eight years ago and still do now, with all my heart and soul, I believe in this amazing place we call home. The greatness of our City is derived from the greatness of our people. The enthusiasm that permeates the air in West Lafayette is the optimism that originates from our residents. And it is the quality of our residents, whether they be Purdue students or long time West Lafayette citizens that separate West Lafayette from every other City in the country.

In our great community, we take pride in the fact that we treat each other with respect, dignity and empathy. We find strength in our diversity. Rather than allowing ourselves to be defined by our differences, we meet adversity head-on, and come out stronger and better at the other end.

I am more optimistic about the future of our great City than I have ever been.

John R. Dennis, Mayor