



Celery Bog | Photography by Sam Postlethwait

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

West Lafayette is fortunate to have such a talented group of recently-elected officials to usher in a new era for the City. Our new leadership is like our Farmers Market – high quality, fresh, and locally grown. Meet the newest members of the WL team.

Aseem Jha | Council Member | District 3 My first priority is the best interest of the City. I want to help implement common-sense solutions to problems and ensure that we are getting the best value for our money with respect to the State Street project. Now that we're a Class Two city, we face a few logistical challenges as the City Government grows to accommodate the needs of our growing population, but I'm confident that together we can make West Lafayette one of the best places to live in the state and one of the best college towns in the country. I'm most excited to represent a student perspective in local government and to help my constituents become involved in local government and the community. I'm an undergraduate student studying Electrical Engineering at Purdue. I'm also a Peer TA.

Larry Leverenz | Council Member | District 4 West Lafayette is a great community with great people. While the State Street project, the development of the US 231 corridor, and replacing City Hall create challenges, they also present us with the opportunity to make this great city better. I look forward to serving the citizens of District 4 and all of West Lafayette. I've lived here since 1991, joining the Purdue faculty as Clinical Professor of Health & Kinesiology with primary responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education. I've served for over 40 years as an athletic training clinician working with athletes

with a variety of sports, most notably, as the athletic trainer for Purdue Men's Basketball from 1993-2006. In addition, I'm one of the lead investigators in the Purdue Neurotrauma Group studying head trauma to football and girls' soccer athletes at West Lafayette, Harrison, and Jefferson High Schools. I serve on the Medical Advisory Board for the GE-NFL Head Health Initiative, and am currently President of the World Federation of Athletic Training & Therapy.

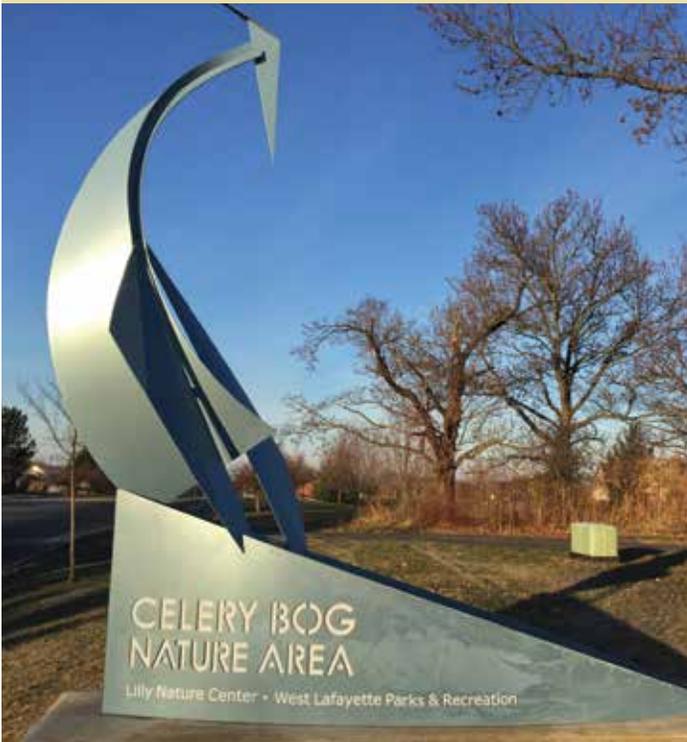
David Sanders | Council Member | At Large I am an Associate Professor in Biological Sciences at Purdue University and a long-term resident of West Lafayette. Basketball and cultural experiences are important components of my life, and I provide support for a broad array of community and cultural organizations. My three sons attended West Lafayette Public Schools. It is a priority that West Lafayette is a desirable place for visitors, students and residents to live. The Wabash River and State Street should be sustained as community assets. It is my goal to ensure that West Lafayette is a public-health leader in Indiana.

Norris Wang | Council Member | District 6 My parents came to the US during WWII and got married while doing their post-doctoral studies at Purdue. My godparents were Norris and Eleanor Shreve. Growing up I was always visiting them at Purdue. It was natural that I settled here. I'd like the City to maintain its high standard of living and it will be the Mayor and Council's job to manage and plan the growth. The next couple of years will be exciting. I do worry

ASHES TO ASHES

If your ash street tree is dying and needs to be removed this spring, please contact Beverly Shaw, Greenspace Administrator, at bshaw@wl.in.gov. For detailed information about the emerald ash borer which kills ash trees, please consult the Purdue Extension website.

NEWLY LANDED: HERON



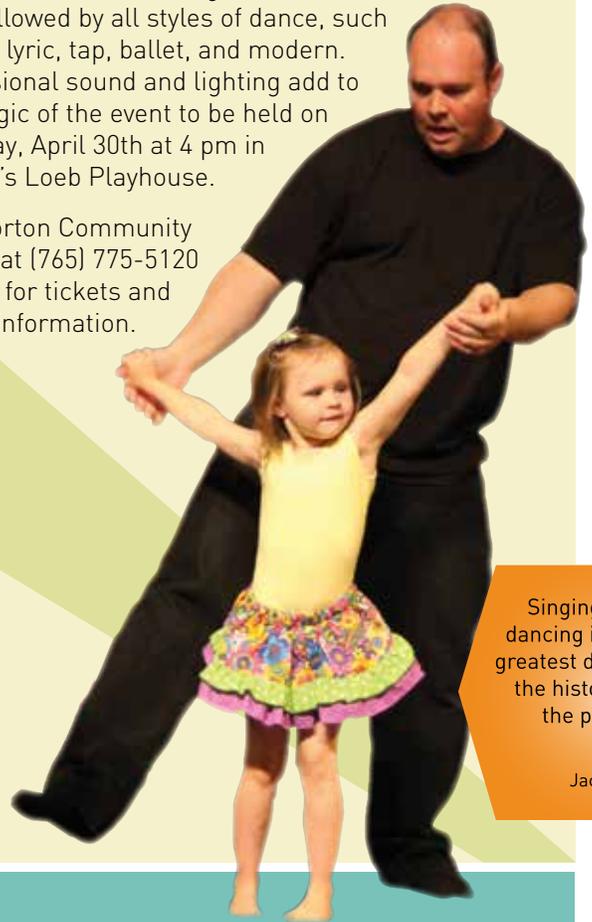
Public arts team project by Jeff Laramore on Lindberg Road.

IT'S TIME TO DANCE!

What has 400 feet, moves rhythmically to music under the lights, and varies from 3-17 years old? The 200 talented and colorfully-costumed dancers starring in the Mor' Danc'n Recital!

Leading off the show, students with their adult dance partners will rock the stage with "Come Dance with Me" followed by all styles of dance, such as jazz, lyric, tap, ballet, and modern. Professional sound and lighting add to the magic of the event to be held on Saturday, April 30th at 4 pm in Purdue's Loeb Playhouse.

Call Morton Community Center at (765) 775-5120 in April for tickets and recital information.



Singing and dancing is the greatest diet in the history of the planet.

Hugh Jackman

CITY NEWS

NEW HIRES

Sana Booker

Clerk's Department
Clerk

Erica Cundiff

Accounting II
Clerk's Department

Peter Gray

Finance Department
Controller

Angela Cruz-Hernandez

Wastewater Treatment Utility
Part-time Lab Technician

Karla Hiser

Police Department
Records Division Clerk

Jeremy Hood

Wastewater Treatment Utility
Facility Operator

Eric Lamb

Fire Department
Entry Level Firefighter

Kevin Noe

Parks and Recreation
Department
Skating Rink and Pool
Manager

Michael Parsons

Fire Department
Entry Level Firefighter

Chad Spitznagle

Engineering Department
Deputy Building
Commissioner

Lindsey Strawser

Clerk's Department
Part-time Administrative
Assistant

Shane Watson

Wastewater Treatment Utility
Part-time Lab Technician

RETIREMENTS

Deputy Chief Chris Leroux

Police Department

Kathy McIntosh

Police Department

Judith Rhodes

Clerk-Treasurer



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Dennis delivered the State of the City Address on February 1, 2016. Read it in its entirety at www.wl.gov. Here are the highlights.

I am proud and honored to report that the state of our City is sound. Having completed our first full calendar year of annexation, all of the City departments rose to the challenge of delivering high-quality services to a growing population.

The West Lafayette Police Department received 28,333 calls for service, an increase of 2% from the previous year. While criminal and juvenile arrests increased, total alcohol arrests decreased to the lowest number in decades. The five-year FBI Uniform Crime Reporting statistics confirm that West Lafayette continues to have one of the lowest combined rates of violent crime and property crime of any of the Big Ten University cities.

The West Lafayette Fire Department responded to 2,095 total calls for assistance, the majority assisting residents in medical emergencies. Through grants, the department will purchase new digital portable radios, and water rescue equipment. A new fire engine was purchased, and the new Fire Inspector/Prevention/Investigation Division was created.

The best way to predict the future is to design it.

R. Buckminster Fuller

Our City took the final steps towards solidifying the largest infrastructure project in our history, State Street. With the leadership of our City Council, our Redevelopment Commission, our partners at Purdue, and the support of our citizens, the approvals are in the works to get this transformative project out of the offices of our buildings and onto the streets where it will be built. Thanks to Larry Oates, President of our Redevelopment Commission, and Eric Burns and Tom Brooks from our City's legal team and our Public Works Director, Dave Buck, for their tireless efforts to bring this concept to reality.

The Engineering Department completed Cumberland Avenue and added safety improvements along Northwestern Avenue and Grant Streets, put in new curbs and sidewalks on Fifth and Sixth Streets, and extended the Cattail Trail. 2016 includes completion of Happy Hollow Road, the installation of the CSO relief interceptor on River Road, and transforming State Street into a truly great street.

Our Street and Sanitation Department collected over 786 tons of leaves, 3,512 tons of trash, 2,630 tons of recyclable materials, and 845 tons of yard waste. Our lives are better through their hard work and dedication.

The Parks and Recreation Department added playground safety surfacing to all playgrounds, installed ADA accessible grills and drinking fountains to Happy Hollow shelters, and created two Little Free Libraries at Lommel and Lincoln Parks. Two grants were secured for the purchase of a table and slab roller for Morton's pottery studio, and funds for "Arts in the Parks," several mini workshops at Prophetstown State Park for the Indiana Bicentennial.

I'd like to commend the work of the Council and our City employees who deliver City services with efficiency and integrity, representing a commitment that runs through this Administration. Moreover, this City is what it is because our citizens are who THEY are. I am grateful for the ideas, energy, and participation of all West Lafayette residents who have made us a top city in the nation to live, learn, work, and play.

ALL SYSTEMS GOING

Public Works Director Dave Buck is orchestrating several big projects that will change how we get around town, where we bike and hike, and what won't end up in the Wabash.

State Street redevelopment planning and financial negotiations are underway to eventually make it more bike and pedestrian friendly, and spur new development and revitalization along Purdue's main artery. The \$122M project is jointly supported by the City of WL, Purdue University, and the Purdue Research Foundation.

www.statestreetwl.com

New CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) relief interceptor construction will commence in March on River Road in advance of State Street redevelopment. This major project will provide a place for storm water to collect before being sent to the Wastewater Treatment Utility, thus significantly reducing CSO occurrences. In order to place the 8-ft diameter pipe in the ground, the west half of River Road from Robinson Street to the Wastewater Utility will be dug out. Prepare to see backhoes and detours in this area. A new roundabout at Williams and Tapawingo will be built as well. Construction will continue through the end of 2016.

Happy Hollow Road construction is going strong through the winter months with some of the traffic now diverted to a newly-completed lane to give contractors more room to build or reinforce retaining walls and storm sewer lines. Traffic will continue to be southbound only during construction, which is slated for completion in fall 2016.



Photo by Ed Garrison

VOLUNTEER WINNERS

Zonda Bryant | Connecting Children to Nature

Combining her education in science (she is an analytical chemist) and love of nature with her love of children, Zonda has carved out a special place where both meet and thrive. She began the Junior Nature Club, an environmental education program, at the Celery Bog Nature Area in 2012 with a dozen children. It has grown to 122 youth in grades K-8 throughout Tippecanoe County. A wide variety of nature topics are covered, including raising tadpoles and butterflies, planting seeds, making items for animals, and learning about wildflowers, trees, clouds, birds, and all things in the natural world.

Zonda and others created a non-profit organization called Hands of the Future, Inc. to connect children with nature. Grants help fund Living Schoolyards, a program that provides a framework where students and teachers can create pockets of nature in their school yards.

In addition, Zonda has been a Girl Scout leader, a Red Cross Instructor, and started a food bank in Montgomery County back in the early 1990s. She loves children, the outdoors, and being creative. Her passions have ignited a love of nature in countless children, planting in them seeds to bloom for generations to come. Thank you for sharing your passions so selflessly with our community's children.



Steve Green | Prolific Grant Writer

Money makes things happen and Steve Green makes money happen. His volunteer grant writing efforts have successfully raised over \$100,000 for the community for significant items such as: the shade sail and dining court at the West Lafayette Farmers Market (WLFM); a robust marketing program for the WLFM with banners, bus tails, radio spots, and social media; future planting islands with shade trees at the WLFM; 153 new trees in Prophets Ridge, Barberry Heights and Amberleigh Village; 90 trees in Blackbird Farms; 30 trees in a Tree Trial on Kalberer Road; future updates to city-wide street tree inventory and management; and public art projects.

Additionally, Steve volunteers with both the WLFM and WL Tree Friends. You can find him setting up the market, tweaking vendor contracts, pruning street trees, or planting Tribute Trees when he's not writing grants.

Steve retired from the Krannert School of Management after serving the university for 25 years as an accomplished professor. Prior to Purdue, Steve was a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati for 11 years. He is also a US Navy veteran. Steve loves to read, hike, bike, travel, watch Purdue sports, and spend time with his family (Helen, his high school sweetheart/wife, two sons in the Indy area, one daughter-in-law, and three grandsons, 8, 5, 3 years old). The entire City benefits from Steve's unselfish gifts of time and talent, and for that we award him the recognition he is due.

PARK WHERE YOU LIVE



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Here's your chance to voice your opinion about WL Parks. What do you like? What needs to be improved? Any suggestions for new or different facilities? We want to know. All responses are anonymous. To help us develop a 5-year

plan, please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire via <http://tiny.cc/wlparkssurvey> or QR code on your smart phone. Printed surveys are available at the Parks Service Center on Kalberer Road, Morton Community Center, Riverside Skating Rink, and Lilly Nature Center. If you have any questions, contact us at parksmasterplan@wl.in.gov or 765-775-5110.

Three new audio boxes | Lilly Nature Center Thanks to a generous grant from SIA, with just a touch of a button you'll hear 12 recordings of outdoor scenes and topics at the Nature Center play out in front of you, powered by hand crank or solar energy. Listen and learn about the history and beauty of the Celery Bog while you explore the trails.

Certified Playground Safety Inspectors

Jon Munn and Tom James received certifications as Certified Playground Safety Inspectors from the National Recreation & Parks Association. Their specialized training and regular inspections of playground equipment and grounds will help WL Parks continue to be a safe and fun place to play.

Pennie Ainsworth | Distinguished Life Member

Congratulations to Pennie, WL Parks and Recreation Assistant Superintendent, who received recognition for her 41 years of leadership, community outreach, and contributions from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association.

Sam Postlethwait | Distinguished Citizen Award

Professor Emeritus Sam Postlethwait, 97, was the sole recipient of this illustrious award from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association for his lifetime of contributions to Indiana Parks.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

John Muir

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Hampton Inn and Suites being built on Tapawingo Drive will help meet the need for additional hotel rooms.

The 105-room complex is expected to open in fall 2016. "We're happy to see continued investment in West Lafayette," said Director of Development Chandler Poole. "The Hampton Inn will add value to the front door of State Street."

Rolls-Royce building construction near the airport will start in late spring 2016. As the main tenant of the aerospace technology park, this research facility is poised to attract other technology businesses to the district and create a number of high-paying jobs.

IMI's (Indiana Manufacturing Institute) presence in the Research Park is a joint venture between the university, West Lafayette, and the Purdue Research Foundation. The goal of the venture is to advance research of composites manufacturing to boost America's competitiveness in the market, including clean energy production. The 62,000 sq. ft. facility is slated to open mid-2016.

SWEATERS SAVE LIVES



When West Lafayette Tree Friends yarn-bomb new trees, their mission is to protect the young trees from vandalism or accidental breakage. The colorful knitted tree sweaters alert residents to take extra care around them. Signs attached to the sweaters carry messages, such as, "These trees are loved by little old ladies with knitting needles ... and they're not afraid to use them," to remind people that considerable effort and expense are invested in planting new trees.

Sixty-six new trees were planted last fall, thanks to grants from the Community Development Block Grant and the Department of Natural Resources and donations to the West Lafayette Tree Friends.



Linda Schmidt, Lynn Layden, and Jack Kelley



Left to right: Nick DeBoer, District 1 | Larry Leverenz, District 4 | Aseem Jha, District 3 | Gerry Keen, District 5 | Peter Bunder, District 2, President | Sana Booker, Clerk | John Dennis, Mayor | Norris Wang, District 6 | Steve Dietrich, At Large | Gerald Thomas, At Large | David Sanders, At Large — not pictured

CHALLENGE continued from page 1

about how much City projects will cost and that we can be fiscally responsible. The most exciting aspect of my position will be meeting people and extending a helping hand. I worked 15 years as a deputy prosecutor here and retired as Magistrate Judge after 8 years. I currently am an adjunct professor at Ivy Tech in the paralegal studies and criminal justice programs.

Sana Booker | City Clerk I am not new to the work of City Government. As a member of the Board of Works for seven years, I have worked with a team to keep our City moving forward. I believe in the importance of a progressive, productive, and inclusive living environment, and a City Government that is connected to the residents it serves. As the home of a Big 10 University and a partner to top manufacturing companies, West Lafayette has always been a cutting edge community. But now we are growing and becoming even better. The most important part of all of this is that West Lafayette is the home of my family, my friends, and my neighbors and I want our City to be a great place to live, build business, and offer the best educational opportunities.

Peter Gray | Controller West Lafayette is a great place to live! As a West Lafayette native, I was very happy to have the opportunity to move back a number of years ago. There is a deep sense of belonging and responsibility to the community when my children are born in the same hospital as both myself and my father, and go to the same high school from which my parents and I graduated. I have seen many changes as the City has grown and I am honored to be a part of the team as we embark on the first year as a Class Two city.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY INDIANA!

Plant flowers in Indiana's State colors of blue and yellow this spring to commemorate the 2016 Indiana Bicentennial. You might try pansies and marigolds. Peonies are the State flowers, and reputed to live 100 years. Plant one with the hopes it will see Indiana's Tricentennial!



NEWS BY EMAIL: To receive City newsletters by email, visit the eNotify signup page under Site Tools at www.wl.in.gov

John Dennis • Mayor
765/775-5100
mayor@wl.in.gov

Sana Booker • Clerk
765/775-5150
clerk@wl.in.gov

www.wl.in.gov

West Lafayette City Hall (Police Dept.)
711 West Navajo Street
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA



LET'S GO EVENT CALENDAR

Drug Drop-off

11:30 am - 1:30 pm
February 11 | March 10
April 14 | May 12
2nd Thursday of each month
West Lafayette Police Station

City Offices CLOSED

February 15 | Presidents' Day
March 25 | Good Friday
May 30 | Memorial Day

Wednesdays in the Wild

Wednesdays | Lilly Nature Center
www.wl.in.gov/parks

Riverside Skating Center

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

West Lafayette Farmers Market

Wednesdays beginning May 4
3:30 - 7 pm | Cumberland Park

Purdue Spring Fest and Bug Bowl

April 16 & 17 | 10 am - 4 pm
Purdue campus
www.purdue.edu/springfest



Purdue Grand Prix

Saturday | April 23
Purdue Grand Prix Track
1500 McCormick Road
www.purduegrandprix.org

23rd Annual Mor' Danc'n Recital

Saturday | April 30 | 4 pm
Purdue Loeb Playhouse

Round the Fountain Art Fair

Saturday | May 28 | 9 am - 4:30 pm
Courthouse Square

Purdue Convocations

- 2/20 Philip Glass: The Complete Piano Etudes
- 2/27 Meklit
- 3/3 42nd Street
- 3/5 Manual Cinema
- 4/2 Mark Morris Dance Group: Dido and Aeneas
- 4/7 SFJAZZ Collective: The Michael Jackson Project
- 4/9 TEDxPurdueU
- 4/16 Les Violons du Roy
- 4/21 Once
- 4/27 The Illusionists



www.funwiththemayor.com

