

## West Lafayette Beautification Award

August, 2015

### Town and Gown Bistro

Just steps away from one of West Lafayette's busiest intersections is a colorful landscape surrounding the Town and Gown Bistro, with many floral plantings providing a pleasant outdoor dining experience. Proprietor Matt O'Neill began his gardening as a young boy in Ireland and a few years later at age 14 started his career in the restaurant industry. He has used his gardening talents to relieve the stress of opening a new restaurant and thinks he has been able to create a sense of place with urban art that reflects Purdue's energy.

This summer Matt has focused on colorful annuals plus pots of tomatoes. He has a great crop of sunflowers attracting finches and butterflies. Hummingbirds flock to his petunias. Future plans include window boxes at the second floor level and perennials like coneflowers. The gardens surrounding the restaurant soften all the concrete of River Road and make this an attractive place to dine. Thanks, Chef O'Neill.

