

## Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ Baskets started to get installed for a new Disc Golf course at Weisser Park. This is a partnership with Weisser Park Elementary School to install a 9-hole short course for disc golf. I want to thank the students, teachers, Weisser Park Youth Center team, and the FW Disc Golf Club for all their involvement.
- ✚ We hosted the 97<sup>th</sup> School Flower and Vegetable Association's Blue Ribbon Show. We had a ton of entries this year and gave away a lot of blue ribbons.
- ✚ We closed out our Foellinger Theatre season last month with REO Speedwagon, Cake & the Fort Wayne Philharmonic playing the songs of Star Wars Empire Strikes Back. It was a good season and I want to thank the staff and volunteers for making it work through our ups and downs. Also, I want to thank Rick Kinney for joining our team.
- ✚ Our newest version of the Foster Park Golf Master Plan is out on our website. We met with the Friends of Foster Park group and shared the plan with them. They seem very happy with it. We will be having another public meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at Sears Pavilion. We welcome the public to share their comments.
- ✚ We partnered with the Aging & Disability Vaccination Collaborative and hosted our first vaccination clinic at Weisser Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We have two more clinics set up in October with one at the Community Center and the other at McMillen's Center.
- ✚ Last month a new training module from human resources for all in the city who supervise staff members. There are three parts to this training.
- ✚ Chuck and I attended a Clean Drains event held by the Friends of the Rivers to help kick off their event at Promenade Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was a great way to celebrate those things that improve our rivers by keeping them clean.
- ✚ The team is working with a designer on a new plaza on Fairfield Ave. called Irish Town. This was part of the Packard Area Neighborhood Plan and the Mayor felt it should reside in Parks. It will be located just east of the intersection of Fairfield and Taylor.
- ✚ The 2024 Budget press conference and presentation was at the end of September. We will present to the City Council on October 10<sup>th</sup> and hopefully get the budget passed on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Chuck and I attended a DNR hearing regarding an application for work in the floodplain for River City Ventures. Several people spoke on the proposed plans and the staff of the DNR took their comments.

## Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director of Recreation

Salomon Farm Park, Neighborhood Outreach Community Centers (Youth/Downtown/McMillen Park), Riverfront, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, and Travel Service

### + General

- Recreation staff assisted with the South Bend Fusion Fest on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Fort Wayne staff provided dragon boat rides at their multicultural event to help highlight Chinese culture
- Patti Davis and Chuck Reddinger toured the Charles Black Youth Center in South Bend on September 8<sup>th</sup>. It was an opportunity to see this recently renovation youth center that focuses on underserved populations in South Bend.
- Riverfront water recreation was highlighted to the Indiana State Trail Advisory Board on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The group was touring Fort Wayne to see our various trail initiatives and this was an opportunity to highlight our water trails along with our initiatives to activate our rivers.

### + McMillen Park Community Center

- The 3:00-7:00 p.m. afterschool program is now in full swing, with an average of 25 kids per day.
- The teen lounge has been off to a fantastic start offering a haven within a Safe Haven for children with younger siblings who want a quiet place to get away. Inside the teen lounge, you can find the older kids playing table tennis, doing homework, playing pool, or Chinese checkers which has been a massive hit.
- On September 16, 2023, we had another Parents Night Out program and it went well. They had 14 people in attendance. They seemed to have enjoyed themselves.
- FWCS plant show was held here this month and there were over 300 entries. Feedback from Lynda Heavrin, Landscape Manager, was that “the show was amazing” and was happy with the turnout.

### + Salomon Farm Park

- The **NEW** Dinner in the Flower Field programs were held, in partnership with Mad Anthony’s / Shigs In Pit Catering. Guests dined amongst the blooms while enjoying a farm-focused dinner. Patrons enjoyed a 4-course meal, adult beverages, soft music, flowers, and conversation. Each participant was able to take home a bouquet. Dinners were held on Saturday, September 16 (**SOLD OUT** with 50 guests) and Thursday, September 28 (46 guests). Due to the success of the first two dinners another one was added for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Annual Fall Harvest Festival was Friday, September 22, 2023, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. This was a two-day celebration of the history and culture of the American farm. Event admission was free and open to all ages. Traditional activities included: interaction with farm animals, hands-on activities, antique farm equipment demonstration throughout Friday and Saturday, horse-drawn tractor rides, tractor rides, learn to drive a tractor, kids barrel rides, Farmers’ Market Saturday only, Antique Tractor Parade Saturday at noon and the Applejack cloggers performances on Saturday. **Attendance on Friday, September 22, 2023, was 2,000 Attendance on Saturday, September 23, 2023, was 7,000** Featured activities included:

- ✓ Hooley Pony Rides
- ✓ Bluegrass music by Poplar Gap
- ✓ Dog frisbee demonstrations are provided by Summit City Disc Dogs.
- ✓ Sunflower U-pick was available on both days during the festival.
- ✓ New this year was the pie eating contest and the very popular Kid's Maze. Pies were donated by the Hazelnut Baking Company.
- The last Farmers' Market of the 2023 season was held on Wednesday, September 6. Total attendance for the year was 5,160 for the 14 market dates. This was slightly better than attendance in 2022.

#### **Sweet Breeze**

- Three specialty tours were scheduled for September.
  - Friday, September 1, 2023, was the bird-watching tour. Patrons enjoyed bird watching from the canal boat. The guest speaker for this tour was the Stockbridge Audubon Society. Patrons learned about native bird species that rely on the rivers. Program time was 9:00 am – 10:30 am and it was \$35/ person. This was a new program and 23 tickets were sold.
  - Friday, September 8, 2023, was the Beer Tasting tour. Patron enjoyed a variety of appetizer choices provided by Ted's and was able to try a selection of locally brewed beer. Program time was 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm and it was \$55 / person. This was a new program and 25 tickets were sold.
  - Saturday, September 16, and Sunday, September 17, 2023, the Johnny Appleseed tours. In celebration of the Johnny Appleseed Festival, docents on this weekend's general public tours will cover John Chapman's life history, and apple cider will be served. These tours were \$35 / person and \$25 / person for the 45 minutes. Two tours were held on Saturday and two on Sunday. The 1:00 p.m. tours on both days were almost sold out at 37 tickets sold and the 2:45 p.m. tours on both dates were sold out.
- Reduced or free ticket price options were offered for three days in September.
  - In celebration of World Rivers Day and partnership with Friends of the Rivers, \$5 / person ticket prices were offered on Saturday, September 23, and Sunday, September 24, 2023. Fourteen 45-minute tours were offered and all but two were completely sold out.
  - Thanks to sponsor, Podlaski Attorneys, 5 free 45-minute tours were offered during the Be a Tourist event on Sunday, September 10, 2023. All trips were full.

#### **Lindenwood Nature Preserve**

- Feather Fest was held on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm at Lindenwood Nature Preserve. This event was free to all ages. The event included a live bird presentation from Soarin' Hawk, guided hikes, crafts and kids activities, and nature information provided by Little River Wetlands. Attendance was 135 people

#### **Golf**

- Bryan Keister has come up with a plan for the front 9 at Foster Golf Course to place a couple of temporary greens and tees so that the department can still offer 18 holes during the construction. If agreed upon, Bryan will start working on this project before the course closes for the season so that it will be in place at the start of the 2024 season.

- Gary Whitacre reported that seventeen (17) new Club Cart golf carts had finally arrived. With the arrival, seventeen (17) of Foster Park Golf Course existing golf carts will be transferred to Shoaff Park Golf Course.

#### **Pools**

- Jason Smith reported that after several months of waiting, the two (2) new aquatic lifts have arrived. Jason will work with Mike Gore to have the lifts assembled and delivered to Northside and McMillen Pools. Also, the old aquatic lifts will be removed.

#### **Community Center (233 W Main Street)**

- Community Center staff participated in the Senior Information Fair (SIF)- on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation is a Silver Sponsor for the event and there were about 1,200 in attendance.
- Linda reported that the computer lab has been updated for the Windows 10 class. we now have 4 computers with Windows 11 and 6 with Windows 10. the instructor, Keith, has been putting some work in with our it staff to make sure the computers are running and ready for class.
- Mary Wagner Stockman did a Living Local interview for WANE 15 TV
- The Community Center held a press conference scheduled for Active Aging Week on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Neighborhood Outreach Jennings / Weisser Park Youth Centers**

- The youth enjoyed a variety of fall arts and crafts projects facilitated by Patti and MaKayla. They made dot art, fall leaf colored trees, canvas painting, apple trees for Johnny Appleseed, and coloring sheets. They also enjoyed a variety of recreational games. They played castle ball, musical chairs, balloon cup race, crossover dodgeball, soccer and more
- On September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Weisser served the community as a Cooling Center. We did not have any participants on either day.
- On September 13<sup>th</sup> we held our Vaccination Clinic and Health Fair. We had 56 people receive vaccinations and 15 health and community organizations participated in the event.
- On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the Clever Braiding Academy facilitated by Candis Flowers and Cassie Rogers. 15 of our young girls and 15 young girls from the community participated. The young girls discussed manners, hygiene, and friendship and of course, learned of various hair-braiding techniques.

#### **Riverfront**

- September Riverfront Programs at Promenade Park kicked off with our partnership event with Visit Fort Wayne called "Be a Tourist in your Hometown". The park was filled with event patrons traveling from different areas of Fort Wayne. On that same Sunday at the Park, we had our monthly Yoga on the Riverfront continuing to bring in new attendees as we begin to wrap up the summer and the Sunday Heritage Concert Series. Along with these events was our new event Hula Hoop Dancing. This event was held on the Auer Lawn and although attendance wasn't as full as we expected the event had an active and engaged audience.
- The following Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> was another new event at the Park Foundation Pavilion called "Rollin' at the River". This event was a standup comedian night with local comedians and regionally known comedians. This event was also our first time partnering with Ted's Snack Bar by opening the door between each venue space and allowing event attendees to buy and bring food and drinks between the two

locations. A similar new event “Open Mic Night” was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and had a similar demographic and crowd engagement.

- On September 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted our annual Sensory Expo at the Park Foundation Pavilion which brings in local organizations to promote events and programs that cater to people with sensory issues. These partners include the Fort Wayne YMCA, Turnstone, Three Rivers Visiting Dogs, Mindcap, Main Stay Music, Great Heights ABA, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne Ballet, Autism Society of Indiana, and the Allen County Public Library.
- The annual Clean Drains Fest held on World Rivers Day was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Promenade Park. The event was held just on a Saturday this year and included many new aspects to the event. Kids activities filled the plaza and the water rill was home to boats from kids’ arts and crafts. The unveiling of the mural on the Nowak building was held just at the opening of the event. The St. Mary’s River was decorated with pool noodle art consisting of a giant dragon and much more. The New Haven Hoopers did a hula-hooping demonstration at the Bandshell. The event was held on a beautiful afternoon and had nearly 2,000 people in attendance. We hope to continue to partner with the Friends of the Rivers on this great event for next year!
- The final Riverfront event was one of our new events called “Act your Age: Trivia Night”. For this first-time event, we had close to 30 people who played trivia in teams to win multiple prizes at the end of the night. The event went well and was supported by Ted’s Snack Bar. We hope to improve attendance for this next event in November.
- Headwaters Park held its last rental event of the season on September 24<sup>th</sup> and staff began setting up for the ice rink the last week of September.

## **Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager**

- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 296 employees (137 full-time and 159 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, and paid on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023:
  - Heavy Equipment Operators (Fund 121) – Two positions open
  - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor IV – Community Outreach (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor V – Facilities and Trades (Fund 121)
  - Relief Person - Grounds (Fund 121)
- ✚ We have been continuing to work on separating seasonal employees. Foellinger Theatre’s 2023 season is through with separations for their seasonal staff being finalized.
- ✚ Seasonal hiring is infrequent at this time; there were only 3 seasonal hires that started in September.
- ✚ Seasonal positions for the Headwaters Ice Rink are beginning to be posted on the City website as of Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are two positions up currently (Ice Arena Attendant and Ice Rink Ice Guard), with two more positions (Ice Rink Maintenance and Ice Rink Lead Attendant) to be posted next.
- ✚ Fall registration is still going strong. Popular fall programs include cooking classes for both kids and adults at Salomon Farm Park, Lindenwood free hikes, adult recreational volleyball and basketball, and fall craft classes. We have a new event called Dinner in the Flower Field at Salomon Farm Park that has been a very popular program, with a third date added in October.

- ✚ So far, we have 28 classes/programs full from our Fall Fun Times. Pickleball lessons along with many of the cooking classes at Salomon are in this group.
- ✚ We are in the very beginning stages of preparing our RecTrac Registration software for the Winter Fun Times due to come out on November 1st.
- ✚ Sweet Breeze ticket sales were strong in September with two special events – Be A Tourist in Your Hometown and “World Rivers Day”. On September 10th, “Be a Tourist Day” was celebrated in Fort Wayne, and the Sweet Breeze offered five free tours. World Rivers Day was Saturday, September 23rd and Friends of the Rivers sponsored seven tours on Saturday and seven tours on Sunday charging riders just \$5 each. Both of these events sold out very quickly. October 15th is the last Sweet Breeze tour for the season.
- ✚ Foellinger Theatre’s season ended on September 16th and with that ticket sales are done for the season. Customers appreciate being able to come to the main office to purchase tickets and avoid any additional ticket fees.
- ✚ September is still a busy month for the pavilions. Most of the 22 pavilions were rented every Saturday and Sunday with moderate usage also during the week.
- ✚ Sandra and Rhonda have completed two of the three management classes offered by Human Resources to help educate management on city policies including the Americans with Disabilities Act, FMLA, and attendance.
- ✚ The 2024 Budget was introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings occurring on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Final budget passage occurring on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park

### Maintenance, Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance, Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations

#### ✚ Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **298** for September. This is up from **278** in August.
- Graffiti was removed from the flowing locations; Bowser Park Shelter, Bloomingdale Park’s river greenway, Jehl Park benches and tennis court, Foster Park’s pavilion #3, Justin Study Park playground, McCormick Park’s shelter, and the Lawton Park skate park.
- Working leader and seasonal pressure washed the Northside Pool to prepare for new paint application. The See-Bee building in Johnny Appleseed Park was also washed in preparation for the Johnny Apple Seed Festival.
- End of the rental season preparation began for the 9 facilities routes.

#### ✚ Maintenance Technicians

- Kiosk doors were replaced at Lawton Park.
- Work was completed for the annual Johnny Appleseed Festival. This included constructing stages, installing signs, and running electrical services. The process was then reversed the week following the festival.
- The well pump at the Lindenwood Nature Preserve was replaced.
- Assembly and set-up for the ice rink at Headwaters Park began. This will be the first year the rink will be set up and operated by the Parks Department.
- Repairs were made to various sections of the River Greenway boardwalk at Shoaff Park.
- Benches and picnic tables were repaired at the Hurshtown Reservoir.
- Lighting and plumbing upgrades were completed at the McMillen Park golf maintenance barn.

- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - ✓ 4 Alarms calls
  - ✓ 4 Paint projects
  - ✓ 9 Building maintenance repairs
  - ✓ 11 Carpentry repairs
  - ✓ 20 Electrical repairs
  - ✓ 0 HVAC maintenance issues
  - ✓ 5 Key core maintenance repairs
  - ✓ 19 Light Maintenance
  - ✓ 5 Lock maintenance issues
  - ✓ 3 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - ✓ 22 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - ✓ 10 Sign replacements
  - ✓ 19 Vandalism issues

### **Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment**

- Areas such as Gump Rd., Salomon Farm, and Buckner are only getting mowed as needed instead of weekly due to the slow-growing conditions.
- The athletic field crew had to continue watering fields to keep them green and healthy for the end of the athletic season.
- All three soccer fields at Foster West and the single field at Tillman have been shut down for the season and are being seeded and renovated.
- Turf repairs and infield work were performed at 2 of the diamonds at Hamilton Park, 3 at Foster Park, and 1 at each of Shoaff and Lions Park.
- Seasonal crews have continued to spin trim areas where spraying cannot be performed or are hard to reach with equipment.
- Fall aeration with solid tines was also able to be worked into the schedule for the athletic fields.
- The Ventrac mower with sickle bar was used to trim up spots at Memorial, Shoaff, and Lakeside Parks. The Ventrac was also used to uncover the Mechanic Street Bridge area in Swinney Park.
- Tree work was performed at Rockhill, Gren, Study, Memorial, 24 Strip, Pawster, Powell, and Lions Parks. Over 425 trees were pruned and the bases were cleaned up of grass and weeds.
- Heavy Equipment hauled playground mulch to Franke, Memorial, and Packard Parks.
- More than 40 stumps have been ground this month. All the holes have been cleaned out of shavings, backfilled with topsoil, and seeded and strawed.
- The garbage truck is running every day including Sundays. Extra cans were taken to Reservoir Park, Solomon Farm, and Lakeside Park for special events this month.
- We are using the Buffalo blower twice a week on the greenway to remove debris and leaves.

### **Manager of Facilities, Trades and Grounds**

- There were 40 after-hours calls: 26 code calls, 2 light problems, 2 door issues, 6 lock issues 2 electrical issues, 2 parking issues, 2 alarm calls, 1 playground equipment call, 1 appliance issue, 1 homeless call, and 4 miscellaneous calls.
- Allied was hired to take care of mold issues at the Foellinger Theater.
- Premier Communications installed additional cameras and monitors at the Foellinger Theater.
- Premiere Communications working on a quote for an additional camera and monitor for the Weisser Community Center.
- Varment Guard is trapping groundhogs at the Swinney homestead.
- Allied removed a heater in the back part of the Rea building so blocks can be stacked for the salt storage area.
- VFP is quoting connecting the range hoods to the fire alarm system at the McMillen Community Center and the Weisser Community Center.
- Verkada was brought in to fix their issues with the cameras at the Camp Canine.

## **Main Trac Coordinator**

- Main Trac Entries: 8,105 for the month.
- We have had 77, 311 calls this month.
- Busy entering timesheets, gas tickets, and contracted invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Chucks Recreation Staff.
- 363 volunteer hours were reported for this month. They worked in the greenhouse as well as helped Riparian and Landscape. Volunteers also helped with fiber in the playgrounds.
- Nicole is still working with many different people to see if it's possible to get out of the dark ages on how hours are put into the main track. Nicole has looked into GIS, Survey 123, and our Main trac system, trying to find the best one.

## **Lawton Garage/Operations: Garage Operations Highlights:**

- 154 work orders were scheduled this month, 20 of which were services.
- Quotes and estimates are being put together for the list of 2024 equipment and vehicle needs.
- Two purchase orders have been written for four 2020 Chevy 1500 pickup trucks that were acquired from Kelley Auto. These trucks will fully equip the Headwaters staff with newer vehicles.
- Truck 66 is still at Ford waiting on repairs to the truck bed to finish up.
- Four F250 pickup trucks from the 2023 equipment lease were delivered to the new fleet and will be released to the Parks as soon as they are entered into the computer system.
- The Headwaters ice rink glycol trailer was refurbished with new brakes, tires, and a new hitch so the new glycol tank could be installed.
- One of the three remaining vehicles from the 2022 equipment lease, A Ford 250 Transit cargo van was delivered to Lawton and now will need storage shelving installed.
- A tilt trailer for heavy equipment was delivered and has already been put into use.
- The replacement engine for the golf ball picker cart #1149g has been installed and the final details are being completed so the unit can be put back in service.
- A 2008 International 7600 dump truck was acquired from water maintenance and added to the heavy equipment fleet to allow extra hauling capacity for that crew.
- The forestry crane being rebuilt at RPM Machinery is complete. RPM went ahead and signed off on the crane's yearly inspection and the unit is back in service with forestry.
- The zoo skyride motor was removed and a spare unit was installed making that ride once again operational for the zoo.
- A rebuilt transmission was installed in truck 93 and other repairs were completed on this truck and it was put back into service.
- Auxiliary hydraulics and controls have been installed on the older backhoe to allow it to use a grapple bucket to extend the capabilities of the machine.
- Multiple 2021 Ford F150s have been involved in recalls involving windshield wiper motors and taillight wiring. The affected trucks are being sent to Ford as needed to get the repair performed.
- A pull-behind ride at Salomon farm needed emergency safety upgrades added before the fall festival. This included adding seatbelts, a rear-view mirror, safety chains, and new tires. The work was done and the ride passed the state of Indiana safety inspection.
- Stormwater inspections were performed at Lawton and Kreager Parks and corrective measures are being taken care of for the reinspection in 30 days.
- Quotes are being received to install concrete-filled bollards around the non-ethanol above-ground fuel tank at Lawton Park to make sure it passes the stormwater runoff reinspection.

## **Storeroom and Property:**

- Storeroom staff supported the Johnny Appleseed Festival setup and teardown.

- Support and materials were also provided for the annual Salomon fall festival.
- 15 passenger vans and a bus were utilized by City Utilities.
- The storeroom has been supplying locations with needed materials to make sure all areas are compliant with stormwater inspections.

**Property Transactions:**

Gold Medal Popcorn Machine	P210	Added into Inventory
23 Makita 18V Shop Vac	R710	Added into Inventory
23 Ford Transit 250 Cargo Van	P250	Added into Inventory
John Deere Tractor Barrel Ride	R530	Added into Inventory
23 Diamond C Tilt Trailer	P240	Added into Inventory
23 Milwaukee Grease Gun	P252	Added into Inventory
03 Phillips AED	P210	Added into Inventory
Graco Line Lazer Striper	Z200	Added into Inventory
08 International 7600 Truck	P240	Added into Inventory
23 Stihl BT45 Auger	P270	Added into Inventory

**2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:**

Toro Polartrac	22121156
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	22121156
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	22121156
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101
Chip Body for Above	21121154
Ford F150 Pickup	At Ford
Ford Transit 250 Van	Delivered

**2023 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:**

Club Car enclosed cabs (2)	Delivered
Replacement Plow for truck 159	23121188
John Deere 835M Gator	Delivered
Ventrac 4520z Tractor	Delivered
Phillips FRx AEDS (8)	Delivered
Dump Trailer	Delivered
Tilt Trailer	Delivered
Equipment Trailers (2)	23121217
John Deere greens mowers	23121200
John Deere Aercore 800	23121213
Ford F250 Pick Ups (4)	At new Fleet
Motorola Replacement radios	Waiting on updated quotes
Toro Dingo loader	23121211

**Superintendent**

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, & facilities dept.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- Going back over inspections of the Parks and doing new ones.
- Working on the 2023 Playground inspections follow-up, still.
- Working on River Greenway inspections.

- Working with supervisor staff to remind them of work that needs to be completed.
- Working on monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks, and finishing the summer paperwork as well.

### **Project Administration: Project Administration:**

- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Design – Design complete. The construction phase is beginning.
- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Roof – Work set to begin mid-October.
- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Interior Design – Planning in progress
- Botanical Conservatory Tropical Paths – Planning in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Electronic Sign – Renovation complete.
- Buckner Park Trail As-Built Services – Survey in progress and final drawings are yet to be prepared for Allen County Planning.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Project completed.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Revised master plan complete. A public meeting is planned for late October.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Headwaters Park Pavilion Report – The Architect’s work is in progress.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Project completed.
- Jennings Center – Security system additions in progress.
- Jennings Center Boiler Replacement – Project in progress.
- Kreager Park Houses Demolition – Project set to begin in early September.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- Lawton Park Trestle Bridge – Awaiting bid info from Landscape Dept.
- McMillen Park Reception Signage – Signage in fabrication, installation in September.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings provided to staff for review. Bidding to occur in late 2023.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.
- Parks Playground Improvements – City review process in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm North Garden Fence – Work beginning in early October.
- Salomon Farm South Field Watering System – Work is set to begin in early September.
- Salomon Farm Homestead Exterior Improvements – Work is set to begin in early September.
- Sheldon Park Signage – Park identification sign fabrication and installation are in progress.
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – Structural plans in progress for Little Crow Teepee.
- Weisser Center – Security System additions in progress.

### **Safety**

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on, 9-26-23. 2 employees and 1 guests were present.
- 1 vehicle crash has been reported for this period.
- 2 employee injury was reported during this period.
- Narcan Use training sessions and distribution continue.
- The CPSI certification class was completed, awaiting exam results.
- Stormwater pollution prevention inspections were completed at required Parks facilities.
- New AEDs have been placed at Salomon Farm and Hursttown Reservoir.
- Unscheduled worksite safety checks continue.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

## Alec Johnson, Deputy Director of Planning &

### Development, Forestry, Landscape & Horticulture, Riparian and

✚ An Herban Garden (opened July 1) emanates a sense of community for Botanical Conservatory visitors with bountiful herbs & vegetables, vibrant public art, urban scenery, and interactive opportunities for all ages. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received programs/events in September 2023 including Fall Plant Swap (September 2), Be A Tourist in Your Hometown (September 11), and Fall Bonsai Show (September 16). Staff are gearing up for Pumpkin Path Installation (October 2), Pumpkin Path Display (October 3 – 29), Botanical Brew (October 6), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 21), and Garden Trick or Treat October 28) in addition to several pre-registered classes and workshops.

#### ✚ Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- Overall, September 2023 wrapped up the first three quarters of the fiscal year with significant strides. Improvements in key metrics were achieved in Attendance (up 48.30%), Admissions, and Membership Revenue (up 138.41%). August through September trend as the lowest-traffic months for the Botanical Conservatory, except for higher rental event engagement, which has allowed staff to gear up for the very busy autumn and holiday seasons!

##### **Attendance**

September 2022: 5,515 visitors

September 2023: 8,179 visitors

An increase of 2,664 or +48.30% to 2022

##### **YTD Comparisons**

2022 Attendance: 61,716 visitors

2023 Attendance: 78,518 visitors

An increase of 16,802 or +27.22% to 2022

##### **Admissions Revenue**

September 2022: \$13,103.00

September 2023: \$13,567.00

An increase of \$464.00 or +3.54% to 2022

##### **YTD Comparisons**

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$231,634.70

2023 Admissions Revenue: \$288,911.33

An increase of \$57,276.63 or +24.73% to 2022

##### **Membership Revenue**

September 2022: \$1,135.00

September 2023: \$2,706.00

An increase of \$1,571.00 or +138.41% to 2022

##### **YTD Comparisons**

2022 Membership Revenue: \$50,428.00

2023 Membership Revenue: \$66,197.23

An increase of \$15,769.23 or +31.27% to 2022

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

September 2022: \$15,340.38

September 2023: \$16,236.18

An increase of \$895.80 or +5.84% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$178,161.59

2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$210,135.73

An increase of \$31,974.14 or +17.95% to 2022

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

September 2022: \$17,504.50

September 2023: \$7,130.00

A decrease of \$10,374.50 or -59.27% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Rental Revenue: \$80,817.38

2023 Rental Revenue: \$76,196.00

A decrease of \$4,621.38 or -5.72% to 2022

**Other Revenue (includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, Plant Sale, etc.)**

September 2022: \$18,421.06

September 2023: \$4,355.72

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Other Revenue: \$388,175.57

2023 Other Revenue: \$346,780.27

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

September 2022: \$65,503.94

September 2023: \$45,263.22

A decrease of \$20,240.72 or -30.90% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Total Revenue: \$929,217.24

2023 Total Revenue: \$988,220.56

An increase of \$59,003.32 or +6.35% to 2022

 Botanical Conservatory Business Development

 Staff submitted a grant for \$10,000 support of the 2024 Showcase Garden Exhibits to the English Bontar Mitchell Foundation. This application also included a request for the Headwaters Splash Pad, the total request by the Park Foundation is \$35,000.

 Staff submitted a grant for \$3,500 support of the 2023 Timeless Tradition Showcase Garden Exhibit to the McComb Family Foundation.

 Staff submitted a final grant report to the Wyatt Family as a sponsor of the 2023 Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit and as a memorial to their parents Jo Ann and William Wyatt (also Conservatory

volunteers). The Wyatt children have confirmed that they again will sponsor the 2024 exhibit in memory of their parents with a gift of \$4,000.

- ✚ Staff sent a report to the Linda Pickerman Family about the 2023 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit. The Pickerman family named the Conservatory's live butterfly exhibit as a memorial for their mother Linda Pickerman; Linda volunteered as a butterfly attendant for several years.
- ✚ Staff approved spots for the 2023 Botanical Brew by media sponsors WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI. Also picked up their banners to be displayed at the event.
- ✚ Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to Majic 95.1 for support of the 2023 Pumpkin Path; 89.1 WBOI, WANE 15, and Fort Wayne Metals for Botanical Brew; 99.5/ALT 102.3 for Rocky Horror Picture Show; and Majic 95.1 and Fox 55 for Garden Trick-or-Treat.
- ✚ Staff submitted a final media report to 93.3 XKE for support of the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest. This report will enable us to approach the station for continuing support of the 2024 ROOTS Music Fest.
- ✚ Conservatory donations in August 2023 totaled \$100: \$25 from Katie Hines, \$50 from Theodore Kucinski/Mad Horn Meadery and Catalyst, and \$25 from Lan Chi Nancy Fritz/Fritz Studio – all for support of the 2023 Botanical Brew.

✚ Conservatory Public Programs: Events

- Be a Tourist in Your Hometown (September 10)
- Once again, the Botanical Conservatory partnered with Visit Fort Wayne for this repeat event in September. Attendance was up by nearly 300 guests over 2022 – more than 14% with 2,361 total tourists (1,639 adults and 722 children). Each of them enjoyed a day of free admission and was also able to get their event passports stamped by volunteers.
- Fall Bonsai Show (September 16)
- The Bonsai Club held the attention of many guests throughout this Bonsai Show. The exhibit remained popular for its duration with 304 guests visiting the Botanical Conservatory.

*Club member explains the art of bonsai*

✚ Education: Fall Plant Swap (September 2)

- This fall program had increased attendance over the Spring Plant Swap by 29 participants. At least 6 were new to the swap! It began with an abundance of plants thanks to contributions from Lawton Greenhouse and donations from volunteers and the public. Several participants thanked staff for hosting the exchange, and 8 of them submitted comment cards ranking customer satisfaction 10 out of 10.
- Kokedama: Art of Moss Balls (September 14)
- The Japanese art of gardening within moss balls was shared with 18 participants in a paid pre-registered workshop taught by Conservatory Staff on a Thursday evening. Guests provided positive feedback after making their aloe and string of dolphins kokedama. This program was previously offered in June of 2022; however, it did not meet the minimum and was not able to run. Fortunately, promoting the program early on made a positive impact!



*Program participant  
making kokedama*



- T'ai Chi Tuesdays (September 26-October 31)
- This particular program was permitted to run over the max limit from 20 participants to a total of 24 paid. Instructor Sandy Gebhard continues to facilitate this popular repeat program that is still able to be held outdoors at this time of year.
- Foraging Wild Edibles Walk (September 30)
- This pre-registered program taught by Indiana plant Expert Carrie Vrabel used all five senses as she identified, prepared, and shared native edible plants with the 10 registered participants. Guests sampled dandelion coffee, crab apple, pawpaw, and more. This program is set to repeat on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Youth Field Trips
- This September, two school groups visited for a total of 42 children. One school of 82 third graders chose Flower Power Lab. In September 2022 2 schools visited with a total of 107 students. There were not any onsite youth field trips in September 2021. There was 1 group in 2020 with 9 children, and in 2019, there were 3 groups that brought 66 students.

#### **Exhibits & Displays**

- An Herban Garden (July 1-November 12)
- The Botanical Conservatory's latest summer/fall showcase exhibit is one of a kind with a mix of friendly views and visitors alike. All are invited to get hands-on while planting a seed and using their senses to interact with many different features where herbs and beautiful flowers are flourishing in peak season. There is even an alleyway inviting guests to leave their mark! To more immediately foster growing opportunities, there is also a Plant Quest activity, interpretative signage, and complimentary herb plants as part of the featured cityscape.



*A beautiful season in the Botanical  
Conservatory's own Herban Garden*

- Relearning to Draw My Judgement by Daniel Dienelt (August 22-November 12)
- The current art exhibit is on display in the main gallery hall with works utilizing mostly paint, ink, and photography while mixing in accent media such as beeswax and plaster. On August 25, an Artist Reception was hosted for Daniel Dienelt whose artwork revolves around skateboarding in an urban setting and the freedoms found while learning to navigate life with the challenges of hearing loss. His artwork is available for purchase at [shop.botanicalconservatory.org](http://shop.botanicalconservatory.org).

#### **Volunteers/Staff**

- Meet & Greet for Parks Employees (September 27)
- The program's team attended and represented the Botanical Conservatory during this special event at the McMillen Community Center. Flyers for upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities, and An Herban Garden provided examples of current offerings at the Botanical Conservatory in addition to other informational handouts. Visitors to the booth were invited to enter and win tickets to an upcoming event of their choice having answered, "What is your favorite thing about the Conservatory?" Conservatory staff found the event to be worthwhile.

- At the Front Desk, 7 volunteers covered 34 shifts while 9 volunteers filled 38 shifts in the Gift Shop. The SWAT Garden Team continued through September with 1 remaining volunteer. The Students as part of CAS, Career Academy Success returned and began volunteer work for the fall semester on September 27<sup>th</sup> with 2 shifts of students totaling 8 volunteers in all.

#### **Upcoming**

- Oct. 12: Foraging Wild Edibles, pre-registered
- Oct. 19: Succulent Pumpkins, pre-registered
- Oct. 21: Pumpkin Macramé, pre-registered
- Oct. 21: The Rocky Horror Picture Show
- Oct. 28: Garden Trick-or-Treat
- Thru October 31: T'ai Chi Tuesday, pre-registered
- Thru October 29: Pumpkin Path Display
- Thru November 12: Art Exhibit Daniel Dienelt- *Learning to Draw My Judgement*
- Thru November 12: "An Herban Garden" Summer/Fall Showcase Exhibit

#### **Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance**

- Lawton Park Maintenance Technicians replaced ADA touchless door openers with push buttons. The touchless openers proved to be unreliable.
- Gabet Cleaning completed a full carpet cleaning, which deep cleaned the hallway and meeting rooms.
- Fort Wayne Door installed a new large garage door motor, replacing a motor that was original to the building.
- Staff completed NARCAN training.
- Tropical Waterfall valve and pipe repairs were made in the service pit. Corrosion was causing issues with the flow through the pipes.

#### **Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture**

- Staff planted over 500 perennials on the outdoor property. Approximately 150 perennials were planted in the front landscape to replace failed plants and an additional 350 were planted in the Exploration Garden and at the corner of Douglas and Harrison. The corner of Douglas and Harrison is now more cohesive with taller grasses and pollinator-friendly selections.
- The Staff has turned the tide on Pest Control in the Tropical House, with lower pest pressure being observed across the permanent collection.
- The Staff has completed excavation and pump replacement in the Exploration Garden pond. Over the years, rocks and debris had been added to the pond, which limited its functionality and appeal; additionally, the previous pump failed after 10 years.
- The Staff has more aggressively controlled outdoor weeds in the Terrace, Exploration, and Front Landscape areas.

#### **Planning Report – September 2023**

Construction continues at Franke Park for the Franke Renaissance project. The pavilion's foundations are nearly complete, and paving preparation continues for the entrance drive, paths, and sidewalks. Riverfront Development Phase IIB design and permitting continues; planting plans have recently undergone fine-tuning and reviews, with final submission to permitting agencies expected the first week of October. Groundbreaking for the early bid package portion of Phase IIB took place in September. Work is beginning in earnest for this package in early October. Parks staff, along with Community Development, is coordinating efforts with Hagerman, the construction manager for the project.

- The final stakeholder meetings were held for the Comprehensive Plan throughout September, with an

Advisory Committee meeting held late in the month. Draft plan principles, goals, and action items have been created and will be shared with the public for feedback in mid-October.

- Planning for Brewer Park continues; our internal team has been working with the project consultant (JPR) through value engineering to bring the project within budget. Revisions are expected for review in early October. Construction documents are anticipated to be completed this fall, with bidding to take place shortly afterward.
- Anderson + Bohlander was selected as the project consultant for the Packard Park Redevelopment Project. Following City Council approval, work will begin on this project in October.
- Staff continues to coordinate with Utilities staff regarding upcoming impacts to Foster Park. Impacts to park trees were reviewed late in the month, with final questions, recommendations, and comments regarding tree removals, protection, and site restoration to be delivered to the utility team in early October. Construction is anticipated to begin in December or January.
- Staff continues to work with staff and students at AmpLab on a water quality project. Students are working towards completion of PSAs discussing water quality within the Upper Maumee Watershed.
- We were grateful and enthused to celebrate the announcement of a \$1 million grant announced by the Foellinger Foundation, set to benefit both the Botanical Conservatory and Foellinger Theatre.
- A complete landscape renovation began for the Sears Pavilion at Indian Village Park. Visionscapes is scheduled to complete the project in early October.
- Staff continues to work with ERI towards the completion of construction drawings for the trestle bridge replacement south of Lawton Park, over the Spy Run Creek. Pending permit approvals from the Army Corps, we will be bidding on this project in late 2023 for construction beginning in early 2024 (completion anticipated late summer 2024).
- Following neighborhood planning efforts by the Community Development division, plans were established for the Irishtown Plaza at the intersection of Fairfield and Taylor. Similar to McKinnie Commons and Powell Park, this park space was envisioned without the input of the Parks Department and was initially planned to be designed and completed through the CD office. Parks has recently transitioned to project lead and will be working with Earth Source, Inc. through the development of construction drawings, and will assume maintenance of the space upon completion.
- Staff recently met with Utilities to discuss the planned removal of a low-head dam on the Spy Run Creek in Lawton Park. This project, funded in part through successful grant applications by CUE (Fish and Wildlife, LARE), aims to improve aquatic habitat and recreation opportunities.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. Progress continues to be made on the various capital projects within the facility that were discovered through the facility assessment and internal discussions. Of note is the kickoff of an elevator replacement project, anticipated for completion in mid-late 2024.

#### **Horticulture and Landscape Report- September 2023**

- Landscape staff continued to apply post-emergency herbicides as needed.
- Landscape staff did a turf improvement project inside the Lincoln pavilion at Headwaters Park.
- Landscape staff cleaned up Johnny Appleseed before the festival.
- Downtown staff removed all spent daylily flowers from the Main Street Medians with the help of Community Corrections.
- Landscape staff picked up and stockpiled approximately 60 yards of aged horse manure that will be tilled into all the annual beds this fall to amend soils.
- Headwaters staff continued cleaning up beds, removing weeds, and dead trees and shrubs.
- Foster staff spent time supplementing the perennial bed and working on turf improvements.

- Lakeside staff spent time edging, weeding, mulching, trimming, and watering to keep things polished and green for weddings and other events.
- Promenade staff spent time in the perennial gardens separating, removing, and transplanting plants that had grown together. Approximately 110 perennials were installed in areas that had died out over the past few years.
- On September 15th, landscape staff assisted Lincoln Financial Group in spreading 30 yards of mulch in Buckner Park. Landscape staff spent time in Buckner prepping beds and pruning trees before mulch was applied.
- Gardeners completed their designs for their spring 2023 annual displays.
- Judging continued for the school SCFVA shows.
- All trees planted as part of the 2022 Park Tree contract were checked for health. Dead ones were noted and turned in to last year's contractor, Shade Trees Unlimited, who will be replacing them this fall as part of the warranty.
- MJK Total Lawn Care was awarded a contract to pick up and remove all leaf litter in Headwaters Park this fall. The contract also includes one pickup in the spring of 2024.
- Pride Landcare & Mow Baby Mow continued with their annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their annual turf fertilization and weed control contract.
- Riverfront IIB planting plans were reviewed and commented on.
- All future tree locations were flagged in preparation for the Great Tree Canopy Comeback. Underground private utilities were located.
- "A Walk in the Park" television interview was done with 21 Alive to promote the Great Tree Canopy Comeback.
- Old sprinkler heads were replaced at Freimann Square by Pfister Sprinkler Systems.
- RFQs for mulching at Swinney Park, Tillman Park, Indian Village Boulevard, and McMillen Park were solicited at the beginning of the month and received on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Employee Meet & Greet at McMillen Park was attended by landscape staff. A booth for the department was set up and occupied for the event.
- Management Training Session 1 was attended.
- Volunteers worked 239.75 hours in the greenhouse.

#### **Riparian Management Report- September 2023**

- Removed debris, log jams, and navigational hazards from St Marys, Maumee, and St Joe totaling approximately 65,620 lbs. (32.81 tons), keeping the rivers clear for recreational use. Tecumseh, Columbia, Spy Run, Old Fort Pedestrian, Harrison, Ewing, Jefferson, and Main Street bridges were all successfully cleared from obstructions.
- Continued coordination and assistance with the operation of Sweet Breeze.
- Attended virtual 2023 Beaver Summit to improve herbivory management. Provided informational booth at the 2023 Meet and Greet at McMillen Community Center. Attended the first phase of HR's Management Training Program.
- Coordinated with Oxford House to have a litter removal clean-up around Lawton and Headwaters Park. Continued coordination with future clean-ups and upcoming scheduled clean-ups.
- Removed debris from Bloomingdale Park (3.81 tons) and the Brookview Neighborhood (.42 tons in response to a 311 complaint).

#### **Forestry Report- September 2023**

- The 2023 Fall Tree Planting Project has been approved and work is expected to begin in the coming weeks. We anticipate all 997 trees to be planted by the first of the new year. These new

trees are expected to offer considerable environmental and immeasurable community health benefits over the next 50 years.

- Our level one tree risk assessment (windshield inspection) of the nearly 50,00 trees located along 1,300 miles of roadway is complete. In total, 794 trees have been identified as high-priority removals. This includes 128 trees located in our parks and golf courses. While this number may seem concerning, it is well below the 'typical' street tree annual mortality rate of 3.5-5.1%.
- We learned that we were not awarded our Inflation Reduction Act Grant request of nearly \$14,000,000. This request would have provided funding for the routine tree maintenance of nearly half of our inventoried trees over the next five years, all within areas of the City identified as disadvantaged. Despite the disappointing news, we continue efforts geared toward improving our efficiency while looking for funding opportunities that include tree maintenance.
- During September, Forestry crews completed 114 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to accommodate the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs.
- 17 high-priority trees were removed by in-house crews this month. These removals were determined necessary within a very short timeframe based on the findings of a more thorough tree risk assessment. Tree risk assessments consider the likelihood of failure, the likelihood of impacting a target, and the likely consequences of the tree failure.
- Mother Nature offered a break from storms during September. This month crews responded to 33 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs and 3 trees were impacted to the extent that required removal. We hope to see continued stabilized weather patterns in the coming months, allowing crews more time to address other requests for service.
- Forestry staff responded to and resolved 94, 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

## **Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing**

✚ [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) had 4,203 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 3,488 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,038 hits in September.

- ✚ The Marketing Team assisted with the Employee Meet & Greet on September 27 including preparing an Employee Yearbook, hosting a booth, and providing a day of assistance.
- ✚ Completed March-May Complaint Reports.
- ✚ Developed promos for Foster Park Golf Course Public Meeting (Oct. 25), Comprehensive Plan Open Houses (Oct. 10 and 11), Foster Park Golf Course Season Pass information due to Big Dig, and more.
- ✚ Completed 42 Design projects.

- + Started on Winter Fun Times.
- + Prepared 2024 Showcase graphic/ads.
- + Completed Community Center Sponsor & Rental Brochures.
- + Submitted grants for Headwaters Park and the Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory Showcase.
- + Submitted a 1 million dollar grant that was awarded to the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and the Foellinger Theatre.
- + Working with sponsors for Headwaters/Ice Rink.
- + Assisted with the Riverfront IIB Press Conference on September 20. Organized the Active Aging Press Conference on September 26
- + Working on a Park Board Podcast to be released in October.

+ **Social Media Total Mentions, including television, radio, newspaper, and websites:**  
**July 54                      August 102                      September 70 (as of 9/26/23)**

+ **Web Statistics:**

<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
55,525	150,482	July
50,952	141,648	August
46,149	122,728	September

+ **Social Media Totals for the months of:**

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
FB Followers	83,100	83,909	81,595
FB Reach	289,573	308,487	260,698
 Twitter Followers	13,686	13,718	13,746
 Instagram Followers	24,361	24,525	23,215

## **Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations**

- + The season continues to slow down as we move closer to the end of the year, but the revenue continues to greatly out-pace a very good 2022. A combination of a very good weather year with little time lost and the resurgence in the game of golf drives some impressive numbers. Here are the totals through September, in total the golf courses are up over 32% from last year:

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2022 REVENUE	45,203.75	27,855	54,913.75
<b>2023 REVENUE</b>	<b>69,998.50</b>	<b>43,406</b>	<b>70,924</b>
YTD 2022	311,811.25	189,482.50	413,518.75
<b>YTD 2023</b>	<b>428,157.25</b>	<b>263,9978.50</b>	<b>517,775.75</b>

- ✚ A total of 17 new golf carts were received on September 27 at Foster Park. 17 of Foster’s carts were taken to Shoaff Park to replace part of their very old fleet. This is the next step in taking care of our biggest issue, the number and reliability of the cart fleet. 16 additional carts are expected in the spring of 2024. These will be delivered to Foster Park, and at least 7 of Foster’s current carts will be shifted to Shoaff to complete phasing out their current (very) old fleet. The remainder (9 carts) of the older Foster carts will be appropriated to build the fleet. The goal we are shooting for is a fleet of 50 carts at Foster, and 30 each at McMillen and Shoaff.
- ✚ The parameters of the intrusion to the golf course at Foster for the next phase of the Big Dig project have been laid out, and we are trying to construct a way to keep 18 holes open as it begins next season. This will require some shortened holes and provisional greens/tees. This will significantly affect the amount of play on that course for some time. When a contingency plan is finalized, the leagues will be contacted as to how we will operate next season. We are not scheduling any outings.
- ✚ A public open house featuring the latest revisions to the Foster Park golf course master plan has been scheduled for October 25. We have already met with the leadership of the concerned neighborhood group and they seem to be pleased with the plan in its current form, so we do not expect opposition to this plan.
- ✚ The golf courses will close after Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11. If the weather is conducive, we will stay open for Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ 2023 has been a banner year for the golf courses, and we hope to continue to keep the positive momentum going forward.

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



FW PUBLIC WORKS  
**Greenways  
 & Trails**  
*In Your Neighborhood*

- ✚ We submitted a U.S. DOT Neighborhood Access & Equity grant to fund the rest of the 6-Mile Creek Trail from the intersection of Tillman Rd/Lemar Dr to the intersection of South Maplecrest Rd/Seiler Rd. We’ll find out this spring if we receive the grant. It’s a \$17 million project and the federal government will provide 100% funding. If successful, we will be able to link the Rivergreenway in Tillman Park to the Rivergreenway at

Maplecrest Rd, forming a nearly 23-mile loop in our network and connecting neighborhoods in SE Fort Wayne to many destinations.

- ✚ Construction began on the Summit Park Trail (south side of Ludwig Road from the Fishing Line Trail to Lima Road) the week of 10/2.
- ✚ Construction will begin on the Liberty Mills Road Trail from Middle Grove to the intersection of Falls Drive and Coventry Lane the week of 10/16. This trail provides connectivity for Aboite residents to the Village at Coventry.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail from Decatur Road to Burns Boulevard is out for bid.
- ✚ The County reported that the 4.3-mile-long Pufferbelly Trail Extension from Life Bridge Church (just north of Carroll Rd) to Fitch Rd will be paved by 10/6. The trail will not be officially opened until the backfilling, restoration work, and other items are completed.
- ✚ We are re-applying to the Knight Foundation for another grant to help fund our Open Streets event. In the past, they've provided two \$50,000 grants.
- ✚ We are looking for submissions for the 2023 Trail Volunteer of the Year Award. Nominations are due to Dawn Ritchie by 10/27.

## [Division News and Media Coverage:](#)



WFFT, Recognizing the people of the Miami Nation

[https://www.wfft.com/news/recognizing-the-people-of-the-miami-nation/article\\_4e5e8064-66e0-11ee-9d29-2bb767fdc41e.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/recognizing-the-people-of-the-miami-nation/article_4e5e8064-66e0-11ee-9d29-2bb767fdc41e.html)

WFFT, Parks and Rec to hold upcoming public meetings

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-to-hold-three-park-system-comprehensive-plan-open-houses/article\\_a9d31d4a-66c9-11ee-9c83-bbbc2698efd4.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-to-hold-three-park-system-comprehensive-plan-open-houses/article_a9d31d4a-66c9-11ee-9c83-bbbc2698efd4.html)

Feature on FWPD's drone program

<https://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=6644&i=803770&p=30&ver=html5>

WANE, a Fortune 100 company on board to build a data center campus

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fortune-100-company-on-board-to-build-data-center-campus-on-the-edge-of-new-haven/>

WBOI, Candidates for city offices say more balance is needed in city investments

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-10-09/fort-wayne-candidates-more-balance-needed-in-city-investments>

Adams Radio Group, Parks to host open houses

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2023/10/10/fort-wayne-parks-to-hold-three-open-houses/>

**Kids' Pirate Ship Specialty Tour**

**Saturday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**

**South Dock Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Listen to the story of the Kraken, create your very own Kraken-attack pirate ship craft, and collect candy! Tickets are \$20 per person. Call 260-427-6000 or go to [www.RideSweetBreeze.org](http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org) to reserve tickets.

WANE, Feature on upcoming event at FWACC

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/pets-celebrate-halloween-with-fort-wayne-animal-care-and-controls-howl-o-walkoween/>

WANE, City asks residents for input on plan for Northwest FW neighborhoods

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-asks-northwest-fort-wayne-residents-for-input-on-10-year-plan/>

WANE, Update on TRAA

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/how-joel-benz-has-defined-traas-road-to-redemption/>

**Murder Mystery Specialty Tour**

**Saturday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**South Dock Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Come down to the dock after dark—if you dare for an interactive tour with a comical murder mystery, a scavenger hunt, and spooky refreshments! Tickets are \$35 per person. Call 260-427-6000 or go to [www.RideSweetBreeze.org](http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org) to reserve tickets.

WANE, Feature on upcoming event at Conservatory

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/conservatory-hosts-2nd-annual-botanical-brew/>WBOI, Gov. Holcomb calls NE Ind. the economic hub of the state during Electric Works tour  
<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-10-05/governor-holcomb-calls-northeast-indiana-economic-hub-of-state-in-electric-works-tour>

WPTA, Upcoming events at the Conservatory

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/10/05/walk-park-october-events-botanical-conservatory/>

WFFT, City seeking input for Northwest FW neighborhood plan

[https://www.wfft.com/community/city-seeking-community-input-for-northwest-fort-wayne-neighborhood-plan/article\\_3818aad2-6474-11ee-a51d-8b40c6213ce3.html](https://www.wfft.com/community/city-seeking-community-input-for-northwest-fort-wayne-neighborhood-plan/article_3818aad2-6474-11ee-a51d-8b40c6213ce3.html)

WANE, \$12M project looks to further Fort Wayne’s elimination of combined sewer overflows

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/12m-project-looks-to-further-fort-waynes-elimination-of-combined-sewer-overflows/>

WANE, City Council budget recap

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/what-will-city-of-fort-wayne-employees-be-paid-in-2024/>

**Be Your Artist: Mask Making**

**Sunday, October 15, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Come and unmask the artist in you! Make a full-face mask with Carole Gordon, a studio artist who specializes in fabric-based mixed-media collages. Carole will guide us through the experience of revealing one of our varied faces—step by step using an array of fabrics in different colors, prints, and embellishments. All materials will be provided to create a fabric collage mask. This class is designed for

ages 18+. Pre-registration is required as the class has a limited number of spaces. Go to <https://riverfrontfw.org/event/40842/>. Cost is \$30 per person.

WFFT, E. State Blvd. construction

[https://www.wfft.com/news/when-will-the-construction-on-east-state-boulevard-finish/article\\_9cdaf840-632e-11ee-b006-075fec717163.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/when-will-the-construction-on-east-state-boulevard-finish/article_9cdaf840-632e-11ee-b006-075fec717163.html)

WFFT, Hillegas Rd. construction

[https://www.wfft.com/video/how-locals-are-feeling-about-hillegas-road-construction/video\\_b9308854-a0d8-525a-832e-255d146efd9f.html](https://www.wfft.com/video/how-locals-are-feeling-about-hillegas-road-construction/video_b9308854-a0d8-525a-832e-255d146efd9f.html)

### **Handmade Homemade Sale**

**Sunday, October 15, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

***Salomon Farm Park, 817 West Dupont Road***

It's not too early to start your holiday shopping! Crafters and artisans will be selling their handmade homemade goods in the Wolf Family Learning Center and the Old Barn. (Non-shoppers can enjoy an afternoon at the farm or walk the trail.

WANE, City Council looks at public safety budgets

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-city-council-looks-at-public-safety-budgets-including-7m-for-new-police-radios/>

Input FW, Arts United unveils plans for updates to the Arts United Center, launches public capital campaign

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/news/ArtsUnitedCenterCommunityGiving.aspx>

### **Dance Promenade: West Coast Swing**

**Wednesdays, October 18 to November 15**

***Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street***

Join us at the Park Foundation Pavilion to learn West Coast Swing with Melissa Culbertson. This is a beginner progressive class that builds on each lesson, so you do not want to miss any of the sessions! On November 15 there will be an open West Coast Swing dance party with modern and classic music to dance the night away. All ages are welcome. For questions, contact Jesus Rosario at [Jesus.Rosario@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Jesus.Rosario@cityoffortwayne.org) or 427-6216. Register in advance to guarantee your spot. Go to <https://riverfrontfw.org/event/40839/>. Drop-ins are welcome (\$12, credit card only) if space is available

WPTA, City to begin leaf collection Oct. 30

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/10/02/city-fort-wayne-begin-leaf-collection-oct-30/>

WFFT, Feature on FWFD's dive team

[https://www.wfft.com/news/a-deeper-dive-into-fort-wayne-fire-departments-dive-team/article\\_2e3995c6-6186-11ee-915d-4b81e751985c.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/a-deeper-dive-into-fort-wayne-fire-departments-dive-team/article_2e3995c6-6186-11ee-915d-4b81e751985c.html)

WANE, Residents can give input on future improvements to the Oxford St. area

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/residents-of-this-fort-wayne-neighborhood-can-give-city-input-on-future-improvements/>

WANE, Construction to continue at Foster Park as part of Old Mill Road reopens

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/construction-to-continue-at-foster-park-as-part-of-old-mill-road-reopens/>

Adams Radio Group, FWACC event

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2023/10/03/fwacc-and-bissell-hope-to-empty-the-shelters/>

**Open Mic Nights With Kyla J**

**Thursday, October 19, 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

***Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street***

Take your turn on stage and share your poetry, spoken word, tunes, or music in a welcoming, inclusive environment this fall at Open Mic Nights hosted by Kyla J Walters. The general theme for these free sessions will be “Changes.” Come out and share or just enjoy the creativity and talent within our community. To sign up for a guaranteed time slot, contact Jesus Rosario at [Jesus.Rosario@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Jesus.Rosario@cityoffortwayne.org).

**Riverfront Halloween Hunt**

**Saturday, October 21, 12:00–2:00 p.m.**

***Auer Lawn, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street***

Start your Fright Night fun at the riverfront! Children ages 5-12 are invited to join in the Halloween Hunt for eerie eggs filled with treats. Every egg is a winner in this not-so-spooky Halloween program. Prize sponsors: Science Central, Sky Zone, Fort Wayne TinCaps, Crazy Pinz, Lazer X, Walmart, and Oh Five Scoop Shop. The fee is \$5 per child. Pre-registration is required by October 13. Go to <https://riverfrontfw.org/event/40843/>.

WANE, Budget presentation to City Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-city-council-set-to-refine-approve-2024-budget/>

WANE, City looking to plant more trees

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-could-plant-almost-1000-trees-in-part-to-reduce-crime/>

WFFT, Parks and Recreation announces Active Aging Week activities

[https://www.wfft.com/news/annual-active-aging-week-begins-in-october/article\\_88167844-5c85-11ee-aa3b-ffe4ca45528e.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/annual-active-aging-week-begins-in-october/article_88167844-5c85-11ee-aa3b-ffe4ca45528e.html)

Adams Radio Group, Open house planned for Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2023/09/26/open-house-planned-for-foster-park-golf-course-master-plan/>

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

**Saturday, October 21, doors open at 7:00 p.m., Movie begins at 9:15 p.m.**

Join the Botanical Conservatory in its 15th-season screening of The Time Warp! Weather permitting, this cult classic movie is enjoyed outdoors in the Terrace Garden in conjunction with the Downtown Improvement District’s Fright Night. Lawn chairs are welcome and encouraged. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from Mad Anthony Brewing Company; no outside food or beverage will be permitted. Please no rice or confetti during this participatory movie event. The movie is rated R with content not suitable for younger audiences. Attendees 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by: ALT 99.5 FM & 102.3 FM and Mad Anthony Brewing Company. Admission: \$10 for all ages.

WANE, Casselwood Park receives new playground, repaved walkway

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/casselwood-park-receives-new-playground-repaved-walkway/>

WANE, Fort Wayne allocated \$35M in tax credits for revitalization

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-allocated-35-million-in-tax-credits-for-revitalization/>

### **Garden Trick-or-Treat**

**Saturday, October 28, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Just in time for Halloween, round up the kiddos for family-friendly festivities at the Botanical Conservatory! All are invited to wear their favorite costumes while scouting out tricks and treats in the garden. Also, snap beautiful photos together, as you make your way through the tricked-out Pumpkin Path Display. Regular Conservatory admission applies. Sponsored by: Majic 95.1 WAJI, Fox 55, and Koester's Body & Frame Shop.

WANE, DNR to hold hearing on controversial party boat project

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/dnr-to-hold-hearing-on-controversial-fort-wayne-party-boat-project/>

### **An Herban Garden Showcase Exhibit**

**Until November 12, public hours**

Digest the community impact of urban gardening and see herbs that flourish, mushrooms that thrive, and rooftops that grow. Forage some more to discover dynamic graffiti art and container gardens accompanying uptown views from your local stoop. It's a beautiful season in the neighborhood at the Botanical Conservatory's herban garden. Included with general admission. Sponsored by: the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Waterfield Foundation, and WANE 15.

WANE's Living Local 15 program – Parks and Rec featured for Active Aging Week

<https://www.wane.com/lifestyle/living-local-15/full-episode-september-27-2023/>

WBCL, Fort Wayne to receive \$35M in tax credits

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-to-receive-35-million-in-tax-credits>

WPTA, Great Tree Canopy Comeback

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/21/walk-park-great-tree-canopy-comeback/>

WOWO, Mayor Henry announces Fort Wayne awarded \$35M in New Markets Tax Credits

<https://wowo.com/mayor-henry-announces-fort-wayne-awarded-35m-in-new-markets-tax-credits/>

WOWO, Mayor's Commission to host Silent Witness display for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

<https://wowo.com/mayors-commission-to-host-silent-witness-display-for-domestic-violence-awareness-month/>



**BUY LOCAL**

**SUPPORT ARTISTS**

# HAND : HOME MADE : MADE SALE

Local bakers, crafters and artisans will be selling their homemade/home-grown and hand-crafted items just in time for your holiday shopping.

**SUNDAY  
OCT  
15** : **SALOMON  
FARM PARK** : **12-5  
PM.**  
817 W DUPONT RD  
FORT WAYNE, IN

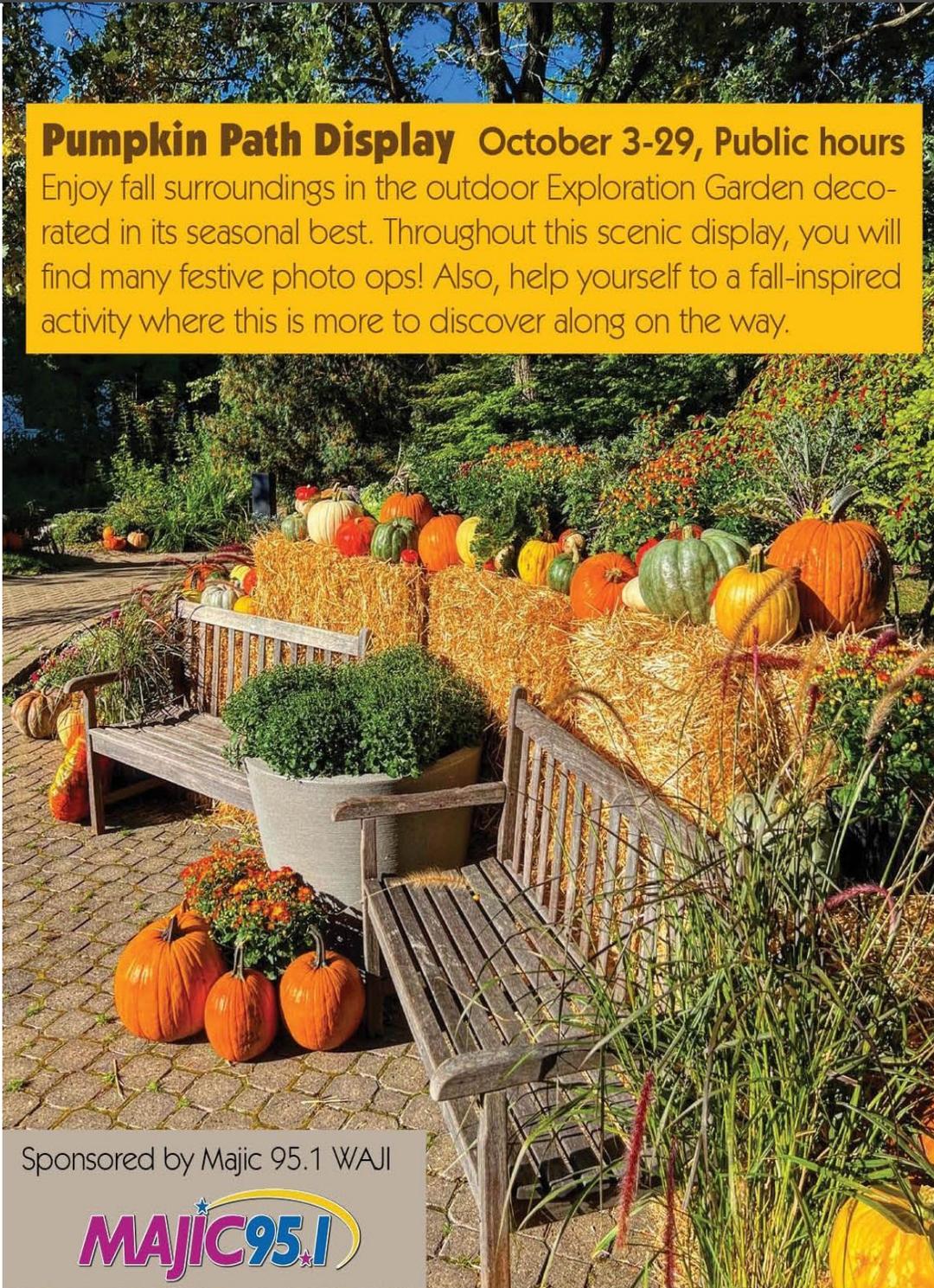
Admission and parking are FREE!  
Follow Salomon Farm Park on Facebook for updates on vendors and sale items.



**FORTWAYNEPARKS.ORG**    **427-6000**

## **Pumpkin Path Display October 3-29, Public hours**

Enjoy fall surroundings in the outdoor Exploration Garden decorated in its seasonal best. Throughout this scenic display, you will find many festive photo ops! Also, help yourself to a fall-inspired activity where this is more to discover along on the way.



Sponsored by Majic 95.1 WAJL



# THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



**Saturday, October 21**

**Doors open 7 pm | Movie starts at 9:15 pm**

Join the Conservatory in its 15th season screening the time warp! Weather permitting, this cult classic movie is enjoyed outdoors in the Terrace Garden in conjunction with the Downtown Improvement District's Fright Night. Lawn chairs welcome and encouraged. Food and beverage available for purchase from Mad Anthony Brewing Company; no outside food or beverage permitted. Please no rice or confetti during this participatory movie event. Rated R with content not suitable for younger audiences. Attendees 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission: \$10 for all ages. Sponsored by ALT 99.5 FM & 102.3 FM and Mad Anthony Brewing Company.



**Salomon Farm Park U-pick Flowers**

***Wednesday and Friday, 4:00–7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.***

***Salomon Farm Park, 817 West Dupont Road***

U-Pick flower fields are available on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays while flowers are blooming. Prices vary per type; \$2 per sunflower and \$1 per other stem. Follow the signs and look for the “red barn” trailer for supplies and checkout.

City TV, ‘Public Works In Your Neighborhood’ – Guest is Steve Gillette

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=bLjksspzABnRUeK>

WBCL, City releases proposed 2024 budget

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-releases-2024-proposed-budget>

WFFT, Splash pad closure dates announced by Parks and Recreation

[https://www.wfft.com/news/local/fort-wayne-announces-splash-pad-closure-dates/article\\_c4e8d380-595a-11ee-8c01-bfc07e95c45a.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/local/fort-wayne-announces-splash-pad-closure-dates/article_c4e8d380-595a-11ee-8c01-bfc07e95c45a.html)

WANE, Clean the Drains Fest recap

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/clean-the-drains-fest-honors-muralists-in-final-year-of-sidewalk-murals-initiative/>



**Great Tree Canopy Comeback 2023**  
**Volunteers needed for Saturday, Oct. 21**



**Halloween  
Haunt**

<b>Saturday October 21</b>	<b>Community Center</b> 233 W Main St	<b>3:00-6:00 pm</b>
--------------------------------	--	-------------------------

Sponsored by Glenbrook Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Center.

**AN AFTERNOON OF FRIGHTFUL FUN WITH  
KIDS' ACTIVITIES, GAMES, CONCESSIONS  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**FREE ADMISSION**



CALL 427-6460 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
or visit our website at [www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org)



<p><b>Riverfront</b> FORT WAYNE</p> <p>CANAL BOAT CRUISES</p> 	<h1>Murder Mystery Tour</h1> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct 14</b> 7:30 - 9 pm</p>  <p>COMICAL MURDER MYSTERY • SCAVENGER HUNT SPOOKY REFRESHMENTS</p> <p><a href="http://Ridesweetbreeze.org">Ridesweetbreeze.org</a></p>   <p><small>Sweet Breeze is owned by Friends of the River and operated by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.</small></p>
<p><b>Sweet Breeze</b> CANAL BOAT</p> 	
<p><b>Riverfront</b> FORT WAYNE</p> <p>CANAL BOAT CRUISES</p> 	<h1>PIRATE TOUR</h1> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct 14</b> 6-6:45 pm</p>  <p>Pirate Ship Tour Halloween Candy Kids Craft Activity</p> <p>Wear a costume!</p> <p><a href="http://Ridesweetbreeze.org">Ridesweetbreeze.org</a></p>   <p><small>Sweet Breeze is owned by Friends of the River and operated by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.</small></p>
<p><b>Sweet Breeze</b> CANAL BOAT</p> 	

# GARDEN *Trick or treat*

Just in time for Halloween, round up the kiddos for family-friendly festivities at the Conservatory! All are invited to wear their favorite costumes while scouting out tricks and treats in the garden. Also, snap boo-tiful photos together, as you make your way through the tricked-out Pumpkin Path Display. Sponsored by Majic 95.1 WAI and Fox 55.

MAJIC 95.1



**Saturday, October 28, 12-3 pm**

**Harvest Festival**  
Crafts Games Activities Food Family Fun

**FREE!**

**Thursday, October 26, 4:30-6:30 pm**  
Weisser Park Youth Center, 802 Eckart St.

FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

This poster features four cartoon characters: a girl dressed as a bee, a boy with a jack-o'-lantern head, a girl as a pirate, and a boy as a cat. The background is a dark blue night sky with a full moon and clouds. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation logo is in the bottom left corner.

**Harvest Festival**  
Games  
Activities  
Family Fun

**FREE!**

**Thursday, October 26, 5:30-7:00 pm**  
McMillen Park Community Center, 3901 Abbott St.

FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

PBS Fort Wayne

This poster features a close-up of a scarecrow's face made of burlap with straw hair. The background is a soft-focus field. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation logo is in the bottom right corner, and the PBS Fort Wayne logo is in the bottom left corner.



**Vaccination Clinic | Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. | McMillen Park Community Ctr.**

## **Vaccination Clinic & Health Fair**

**Free Vaccines** Shingles, Pneumonia, COVID, flu, etc.

Ages 18+ / ID and insurance card required **Assessments**

**Food Transportation Games/Prizes**

**McMillen Park Community Center**

Vaccine Clinic & Health Fair

**October 26, 9 am - Noon**

3901 Abbot Street

Fort Wayne, IN 46806