

Steve McDaniel, Director

- + Sandra and I presented our Department's budget to City Council on October 1st. We then defended three proposed cuts on October 22nd. All three cuts were withdrawn by Councilman Jehl. We will be presenting it to the board for their approval later this month.
- + I participated in a roundtable discussion with Arts United and the Fort Wayne Airport about design elements to make facilities more accessible in our community.
- + Over the course of the month, I had several meetings with the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association on key initiatives they are working on including the Public Awareness Campaign, Youth Mental Health, and the annual conference.
- + Rick and I met with a group to talk about set ups at the Foellinger Theatre. We have met with them on and off over the years and continue to work on future plans.
- + A few of the staff and I attended the National Recreation and Parks Associations annual conference in Atlanta Georgia. We were able to learn from several education sessions as well as talk with vendors in the expo hall. The team returned with several new leads that we will be working on over the next several months.
- + The staff and I attended a few training sessions provided by our City Human Resources team. This seems to be the start of a new initiative that they are working on for the entire city.
- + We brought the River Advisory Committee (RAC) back together to share our updates of where we are in the process of Phase 2. As we finalized the bids, this was a great opportunity to highlight bid packages and our hope on a time line for approvals of bids for construction to start.
- + October 19th saw a lot of activities in our parks. We started the morning with the Great Tree Canopy Comeback at Kreager and the Old Fort. The afternoon was filled with the Halloween Haunt and we wrapped up the night with the Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Botanical Conservatory.
- + Kathy, Steve and I visited Mishawaka to tour their National Fitness Campaign equipment to see how it is holding up. We were also given a tour of their Riverwalk including several of their parks. It was a great trip filled with many photos taken and ideas for us to look into for the future.
- + I walked with the Mayor in her 2nd District walk of the neighborhood representing Parks and Recreation. As most walks go, there weren't many complaints about our parks or facilities.
- + Bids were received for Phase 2 of Riverfront. Those were investigated with the various contractors and approval documents were then generated for both City Council and Park Board. Both will be discussed in the month of November with hopes of approvals so purchase orders can be issued.
- + Our Centers held their various Harvest Festivals towards the end of the month. Lots of candy and games were had by the kids and family members in the centers.
- + The final items were being worked on at Franke Park with regards to the Renaissance Project. Final paving happened as well as stonework on the shelter. The Franke Park Renaissance ribbon cutting ceremony for the roadway and bridge is scheduled for the first part of November with another ceremony scheduled for the new McMillen Family Pavilion in December.

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

+ Community Center

- Preschool Youth Open Gym - Fridays beginning on September 6th - We had 22 total people come to the open gyms this month.
- We will be offering Intro to Pickleball at McMillen for the winter session.



FW Parks & Recreation Dept. Staff Reports Submitted 10/17/24

- Drumming and Irish Dance (both new classes) reached the maximum this session.
- We are also offering an Intermediate Stain Glass class and Senior Chair Yoga; both of these classes are above the minimum.
- Line Dance Instructor Carol Fretz passed away, and Phil opted not to teach the fall session. Linda called Pam and Eagle Lindsey who Phil recommended. Pam and Eagle are teaching the Line Dance classes for the fall and winter.
- Linda did a Channel 55 interview for Active Aging Week.
- Josh is doing "Walk in the Park" on 10/22 to promote Veterans' Breakfast.
- Active Aging Week was held Sept. 28-Oct. 4th and there were over 400 event entries. There were 55 participants at the breakfast and health fair on Opening Day. Our biggest events were cornhole with 53 people and Shuffleboard with 45 people.
- Halloween Haunt (a Fright Night Event) was held Oct. 19th, 3-6 pm and over 1600 people were in attendance. It was a free, fun-filled event for the whole family. There were activities, games, Halloween trivia, face painting, and a Halloween movie. Concessions were available through the Lion's Club. We also hosted a Halloween-themed car show in our parking lot. It was a beautiful day and it was a lot of fun!
- SIF (Senior Information Fair) was held on September 19th at Turnstone. There were over 1000 people in attendance. The Community Center was represented by two volunteers - Sandy Benning and Cyndie Krill. Josh was there as a board member.

Weisser Youth Center

- On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the youth participated in our Pencil Through a Bag STEM session. The youth were amazed that when they stuck their sharpened pencil inside a sealed baggie the water did not spill out. Furthermore, they learned this was due to the baggie being made of polymer which is a chain of flexible molecules which makes a seal around the pencil preventing water to spill out the baggie.
- On Monday, September 30, 2024, in our Bucket Drumming session, the youth enjoyed a video of professional bucket drummers and practiced keeping the same pace, the "one band, on sound" approach.
- On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in our Positive Energy session, the youth enjoyed making their own individual fruit pizza using a sugar cookie, vanilla icing, yellow kiwis, grapes, strawberries and mandarin oranges.
- Wednesday, September 6, 2024, 13 of our 4th grade and up youth participated in Turner Chapel AME Ubuntu Learning Lab. The facilitators reviewed the meaning of the word Ubuntu. The youth continued practicing their introductions by working on speaking clearly. Many of them knew additional information about their parents and grandparents. For example, where they were born and/ or their first and last names. They also learned that there are 54 countries within the continent of Africa. The youth were informed to find out as much information as they can about their family roots because eventually they will complete a family tree. The elders also chatted with the youth about how they are doing in school, appropriate ways to solve conflicts and the youth had many questions for the elders. It was great to see the bridging of the youth and elders and them actually enjoying one another.
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024, the Greater Northeast Indiana Jack and Jill, Inc. shared with our youth the life of Carole Robertson. Carole Robertson was a member of the Jack and Jill teen group in

Birmingham, Alabama. She was killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing on September 15, 1963. That day, Carole was at the church preparing to march with other youth for civil rights. She was 14 years old at the time of her death. Fort Wayne Jack and Jill also provide our youth with pizza. We invited Jennings and McMillen Center youth to join us for this event and they were gracious enough to bring their youth so we could learn and enjoy this event together. Greater Northeast Indiana Jack and Jill, Inc. also gifted our center with a \$200.00 Visa Gift Card.

- On Monday, September 23, 2024, we took 15 youth to enjoy the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo on their day off from school.
- On Thursday, October 3, 2024, Zynette and Dalton attended the 35th Annual Great Kids Conference on Youth.

Jennings Youth Center

- Highlighting our Core Programs at Jennings, our youth have been vested in homework, reading, and math right after school. Our youth have experienced growth in areas of character & leadership by how they are positively communicating with one another and their staff. The staff has assisted with arts/crafts and STEAM activities; such as slime making, painting, and molding Play-Doh. There was also a floor puzzle challenge, broken up into 4 groups of 4.
- The Jennings Center youth went on three field trips since our last report. Jack & Jill presentation at Weisser Park Youth Center, where we learned about the long-standing tradition of elite organizations for our black and brown youth. Jennings youth attended Kreager Park to collect leaves for a STEAM project as well as see a new park for them. Jennings youth also attended the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo while we had leftover tickets from the summer.
- Jennings did a collaboration with Girl's Coalition for input from the girls on activities and programs they would like to experience. Jennings will be collaborating with Girl's Coalition to bring a program for Spring called "Creating World Travelers'."
- Chantell continues to work on the Cooper reopening proposal and information. She has spoken with many individuals and businesses to get input about some possibilities for the Cooper space. There is now an online survey out for Cooper and Chantell hopes to receive at least 150 surveys back by mid-November.

Golf

- Dave Weadock and Bryan Keister attended a "big dig" construction update meeting. They were told that the contractor would not finish up the part of the project that disrupts hole number six at Foster Park Golf Course until late fall or early spring. Bryan stated that with this timeline he will not be able to have grass in the affected areas until possibly June 2025.
- Jason Smith reported that he is working on a policy for inventory management and that it will be taught to the three golf clubhouse managers for the upcoming season. The policy will better ensure that there is more staff tracking.

Salomon Farm Park

- The flower U-pick at Salomon Farm Park concluded on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Salomon staff have started getting the fields ready for the winter season.
- The Annual Handmade Homemade Sale took place on Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This annual event invites local vendors to sell baked goods, crafts, personal care products, and other handmade or homegrown items. Attendance reached 555 patrons this year, a 55-person increase from last year. Vendors filled both the Old Barn and the Wolf Family Learning Center.



- Salomon staff and select animals participated in the annual Harvest Fest at McMillen Community Center on Thursday, October 24, 2024. Salomon brought farm animals for kids to interact with and offered wagon rides, giving attendees a memorable experience with the animals.
- Salomon Farm Park served as a satellite voting location for the 2024 General Election. Voting hours were Monday, October 28, through Friday, November 1, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, and Saturday, November 2, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- The annual Fall Harvest Festival took place on Friday, September 27, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Saturday, September 28, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. This two-day event featured farm animals, wagon rides, a children's maze, barrel train rides, antique farm equipment demonstrations, a tractor parade, a farmers' market, pony rides, and more. [Sweet Breeze](#)

Johnny Appleseed Campground


- Johnny Appleseed Campground officially closed for the season on Monday, October 4, 2024.
- All three sets of campground hosts plan to return for the 2025 season. Additionally, staff are planning to welcome one more set of hosts for approximately half of the season.

Lindenwood Nature Preserve

- Lindenwood held its annual Invasive Removal Day on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in partnership with the Indiana Invasive Society. Twelve volunteers participated in the event.
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve's annual Feather Fest took place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The event featured educational interactions with birds from Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rescue, live music by Sam Dell, kids' crafts and activities, hiking, and participation from partner organizations such as Little River Wetlands Project and Three Rivers Birding. The free event drew 225 attendees, about 75 fewer than in 2023.

Hurshtown Reservoir

- Hurshtown Reservoir closed for the season on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

-  **Miscellaneous** - Jason Smith and Chuck Reddinger reported that they met with representatives of 3RVS to discuss the relocation of the office and storage units at Franke Park. They were previously inside the BMX track. Chuck gave them permission to move them to the other side of the Pump Track in a horseshoe shape with the future plans of installing a fence around them.

Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager Payroll, Registrations, Budgets, Rentals, Tickets, Receptionist, Trust Fund Donations, Banking, Commercial Vouchers

Payroll:

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 276 employees (136 full-time and 140 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending November 2nd, and paid on November 8th, 2024.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of October 31st, 2024:
 - Heavy Equipment Operator – 2 positions (Fund 121)

- Grounds Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
- Manager VI – Grounds (Fund 121)
- Program Coordinator – Neighborhood Programs – Jennings (Fund 121)
- Program Coordinator – Riverfront/Headwaters (Fund 439)
- We have separated a large number of our seasonal employees. We still have some employees on at the golf courses, and have been able to transfer some over to the Ice Rink as they prepare to open.
- Ice Rink staff is largely hired in, have cleared and are ready for training starting on November 12th.
- Attendance on Demand Payroll Implementation:
 - Phase 1 of our Attendance on Demand system went live for half of our employees and Managers/Supervisors on November 3rd.
 - Phase 2 is ready to begin soon and we have our training scheduled for November 12th and November 19th.
 - We have been working diligently to ensure that all of our information in the system is correct, and that our time clocks are functioning correctly.
 - We have been offering in-person training and assistance to help our staff feel comfortable and confident in this transitional period.
 - We will continue to use our paper time cards as backup until December 15th, at which time we hope to have both Phase 1 and Phase 2 successfully integrated to Attendance on Demand.
- We have been working on seasonal hiring preparations for the 2025 season and updating our requisition so that we can get it to HR as early as possible for applicants to be able to apply during their holiday break.

Rental/Reception Office:

- Pavilion rentals were still going strong in October. The mild falls we have now make using even the outdoor pavilions enjoyable into October.
- The summer pavilions closed on October 31st for the year. Beginning November 1st, we will only be renting eight pavilions: Sears, Psi Ote Upper, Psi Ote Lower, Franke #1, Franke Pond, David Hefner, Riverlodge and Lakeside #1. Many families celebrate the holidays year after year at one of these pavilions.
- Hurshtown Reservoir has closed for the year. This will decrease the amount of daily reports processed by the front office staff just in time to begin processing the new Headwaters Ice Skating Rink daily reports.
- The Johnny Appleseed Campground will close on November 3rd. Reservations for the campground rentals for next year will now be handled by the Front Office until April 1st, when the Campground opens again.
- The Winter Fun Times registration begins November 6th. The most popular programs in this brochure in the past have been Breakfast with Santa at the Conservatory, the Holiday Dinner and Light Tour at the Community Center, the cooking classes and The Christmas Carol production, both at Salomon Farm.
- Rhonda met with the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department to answer questions for them regarding our registration/reservation software. They are investigating various software systems and were looking for advice. She has done this several times for different cities considering using Vermont Systems as we have used them for over 17 years now.
- Rhonda attended the NRPA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia with several other Fort Wayne Park and Recreation staff. She was able to attend many valuable learning sessions to use to help herself and the front office staff improve our customer service and/or staff relations. She was very grateful that she was able to attend this year.

Accounts Payable and Budget:

- In October, we processed the following: 713 accounts payable invoices, 47 P-card statements and 6 purchase requisitions, numerous change orders and 2 payroll periods.
- The 2025 Budget was approved during the October 22nd Council Meeting.

Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park

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

+ Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **259** for October. This is up from **252** in September.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Jehl Park, Lafayette Park, Martin Luther King Bridge, Lawton Park Skate Park, Turpie Park, Lawton Kids Crossing Playground, and Franklin Park.
- Facilities Staff pressure washed the following locations: Lawton Park, Northside Park, Turpie Park, McCulloch Park, and McMillen Park.
- Vandalism occurred at the following locations: Foster Park West- Toilet paper dispenser, McMillen Park- Soap Dispensers, and Swinney Park West Toilet paper dispenser.
- This is the last month of the summer rental season for 2024. The summer rental season will start up again in May of 2025.

Maintenance Technicians

- Extensive work was completed at Lakeside Park to repair the electrical service damaged by a vehicle. This included; installing a new H frame pedestal, trenching in new conduit and power lines, and repairing several components inside the pavilion.
- The holiday light displays were installed at the downtown Community Center in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.
- Hurshtown Reservoir closed for the season on the 15th. All docks and piers were removed and the guard shack was secured for the winter.
- Seasonal water service termination has begun. All non-heated facilities and drinking fountains will have water shut off until next spring. This process will last through November.
- Shade structures at Kreager Park's Taylors Dream, McKinney Commons, and the downtown Community Center have all been removed for the season.
- Replacement tables for the Buckner Park shelter were installed.
- Two new memorial benches were installed along the walk path at Salomon Farm Park.
- Concrete sidewalk repairs were completed at Reservoir Park along with the installation of three new public grills.
- Wall repair work continued at the Northside Park administration building in conjunction with the contracted flooring installation.
- There were 33 after hours calls to the weekly on call phone resulting in 7 in person responses. Of the 33 calls, 16 were door lock code issues, 6 were dispatch calls about alarms and the remaining 20 were generalized questions about facilities.

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Mowing has ramped back up and we are in the process of moving into the leaf mulching time of the year.
- All parks athletic fields are shut down for the season and we are starting our winter renovations to get them ready for the spring.

- We are assisting with the delivery of equipment to Headwaters for the ice rink.
- The garbage truck has backed down to three days a week and we are in the process of removing all the extra summer trash cans for the winter.
- We are in the process of clearing leaves and debris from the River Greenway.
- Heavy Equipment assisted with the removal of Sweet Breeze and helped put her in storage.

Volunteers

- Volunteers mulched the playground and paint picnic tables at Hamilton Park. We also had a group mulch the Psi Ote playground, giving us a total of 62 volunteer hours for the month.
- Nicole also helped Lynda with the school plant show by helping the schools with picking up their show ribbons.

Lawton Garage/Operations/Highlights/Storeroom and Property

- 178 work orders were scheduled this month, 40 of which were services.
- A Ford Maverick from the 2024 lease was cancelled when the order deadline was missed. With this money, a 2019 Ford E450 step van was located to replace the 1982 GMC step van currently in use at the Botanical Conservatory. Preliminary plans have been made to apply a vinyl wrap to this new vehicle to promote the Conservatory.
- Management staff have begun submitting requests for vehicle and equipment needs for 2025. These will be evaluated and quotes received to prioritize purchases for next year.
- Truck 162 had a new engine installed. The old engine had a valve train issue which resulted in a damaged piston. A new long block and intake manifold were sourced from Ford and installed.
- Nearly \$7,000 was raised for the department by the sale of 5 vehicles at the fall city auction. These funds will be credited back to the department for equipment purchases.
- The zoo train had ongoing ignition and electrical problems which required several days of repairs. A new distributor, ignition box, and wiring had to be installed to keep the train operational.
- Sweet Breeze was removed from the river with the assistance of garage mechanics. Winter repairs will be conducted by the Staff as needed.
- The Headwaters Zamboni had its yearly maintenance done and is ready to be transported to the ice rink for the skating season.
- A passenger van was used by Mayor Sharon Tucker's office for a trip and another was used by City Utilities for plant tours.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement – Installation completed. System computer interface in progress.
- Brewer Park Construction – Pavilion foundations in progress.
- Buckner and Kreager Park Site Furniture – Decorative picnic tables purchase in progress. Installation late 2024, early 2025.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Restoration plan for holes 7 and 8 are complete. Awaiting schedule from City Utilities.
- Foster Park Golf Course Irrigation – Bids received. Awaiting for approval of purchase order.
- Foster Golf Course Cart Path Bridge Renovation – Project in progress.
- Franke Park Playground Equipment – Request for proposals in progress.
- Foster Park West Bridge Renovation – Work planned for early November.
- Hamilton Park Trail Renovation – Work planned for mid-November.
- Hanna Homestead – Bidding in progress.

- Headwaters Park Fountain – Approvals in progress.
- Headwaters Park Lighting Improvements – Lighting installed. Final fine tuning in progress.
- Indian Village Park Playground Equipment – Project approval in progress.
- Jehl Park Playground Equipment – Project approval in progress.
- Jehl Park Playground Border – Construction to begin in November.
- Lakeside Park Playground Equipment – Project approval in progress.
- Lawton Park Trestle Bridge – Bridge fabrication in progress.
- Lawton Park Pavilion Deck Replacement – Work to begin November 11.
- Lions Park Tennis Courts – Recoating plans in progress.
- McCormick Park Playground Equipment – Project approval in progress.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Work in progress. Paint and rust removal in progress on west side of bridge.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn – Planning in progress.
- Waynedale Park Playground Equipment – Project approval in progress.
- Waynedale Park Playground Border – Construction to begin in November.

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 10-29-24. 5 employees were present.
- 4 vehicle crashes were reported for this time period.
- 4 employee injuries were reported during this time.
- 21 work site safety checks were done this period.
- *Mandatory Compliance Training* continues. 75 employees in 6 departments were trained this period.
- 2 *CPR/FA* classes were held. 9 Parks employees were certified
- A *Chainsaw/Chipper Safety* class was held. 40 employees from various CoFW departments were trained.
- The review of Parks & Recreation Safety Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is completed.

Chad Shaw, Deputy Director of Planning & Development, Forestry,

Landscape & Horticulture, Riparian and the



Planning Report – Planning Report – October 2024

- We are approaching the finish line on construction of the first phase of the Franke Park Renaissance Project. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for early November for the new entrance, road and bridge off of Goshen Road, with a grand opening scheduled for December. The design and construction team are completing punch lists, with contractors following up on finalizing items. The building and site are really taking shape as these details are completed.
- Bids were received for Riverfront Phase II, and we will be seeking various approvals in November. The project has come in within our budget, with both base bid and both alternates accepted. Following approvals, we will work with Hagerman on sharpening the project schedule, with preconstruction meetings and groundbreaking to follow.
- Groundbreaking for the Packard Park Redevelopment project is scheduled for mid-November; we look forward to working through that project with Hamilton Hunter Builders. The park is anticipated to be completed by May 2025.

- Playground proposals were requested and received for Packard Park. A successful provider was chosen (Recreation inSites), and approvals will be sought in November.
- Construction on Brewer Park Redevelopment continues. Building foundations have been poured, and utilities and associated structures are anticipated in early November.
- A pre-construction meeting was held for the Lawton Park/Fourth Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. McCoy is scheduled to begin work in November once the county floodplain permit is in hand.
- Staff continues to coordinate with City Utilities on the work being done in Foster Park. With the exception of site restoration, work on the Indian Village consolidation sewer should be complete in mid-November. The final connection to the Woodhurst neighborhood will begin in earnest in December, with completion in spring 2025.
- The design team has prepared schematic design options for the Foster Park Entrance Design project; these will be reviewed in mid-November. Efforts are still being made to align permitting efforts with other city projects as needed.
- Chad attended the Rooted Symposium, hosted by the High Line Network, in Detroit. The conference focused on equity and neighborhood collaboration/input in public space design. We were provided this opportunity via the Community Foundation and their relationship with the Knight Foundation.
- Staff hosted a volunteer planting day, along with Parks gardening staff and neighborhood residents at Rudisill Park. 300 prairie dropseed plugs were planted in the recently refurbished planting beds.
- Chad served as docent on the Sweet Breeze Canal Boat, offering patrons a look and description of past, current and future Riverfront development throughout downtown.
- Staff presented information on the Parks Comprehensive Plan and Franke Park Renaissance to Recreation Division staff at their annual meeting.
- Chad began as Parks representative on the Public Art Commission in October. One of the first opportunities was serving on the selection committee for a sculpture to be erected as part of Riverfront Phase II; this piece will be unveiled to the public in December.
- Staff presented Parks past, current and future accessibility work to the Inclusion Institute at AWS. It was a well-attended meeting, with very good input and suggestions taken for further improvements that can be made towards achieving the goal of universal design throughout the parks system.
- Staff continues to meet regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. We continue to explore and implement ways to improve the physical facility and visitor experience.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- October 2024

- The Lakeside Park team focused on daily litter pickup; weekly mowing and spin trimming; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance including vacuuming; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; rose bed maintenance that included deadheading, fertilization, and pesticide treatments. Staff also removed all annual flowers; prepped and installed all bulbs; began leaf pickup; began cutting back spent perennials; removed stumps in preparation for fall replacement trees, and did some mulching of landscape beds.
- The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup; weekly mowing of the bridal glen, regularly removing tree debris from the tennis courts; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance and cleaning; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; perennial bed cleanup, and turf repair. Staff also spent time applying pre-emergent herbicides for weed control; cleanup of leaf litter; removing honeysuckle in a wooded area south of the gardens; removing annual flower beds; and amending soils in these beds. Bulb planting began this month as well and the fountain was turned off and drained for the season.
- The Downtown Team focused on daily litter and trash removal in downtown parks; daily fountain

maintenance in Freimann Square; post emergent herbicide treatments at Headwaters, and Promenade; annual/perennial/shrub bed weeding at Headwaters, Riverfront IIA, Promenade, Freimann, Courthouse Green, Main Street Medians, Community Center, Meyers Park, Japanese Garden, and Little Turtle; deadheading in all annual beds and pruning shrubs at Promenade Park. The Freimann fountain was cleaned, drained, and winterized for the season. Staff finished repairing damaged turf in Headwaters park due to the 3-Rivers Festival. Staff also pulled annuals, began planting bulbs, planted Mums in all Community Center pots, and power washed at Freimann on the square. Community Corrections assisted staff in cutting and removing all spent daylilies for the season from the Main Street Medians.

- The City Team continued to mow Bob Arnold/Northside Park, and Lawton Park weekly, adding in leaf cleanup as part of their duties. Post-emergent herbicide applications and general weeding/bed cleanups were made in McMillen, McKinnie Commons, Shoaff, Indian Village Parks, and the Sears Pavilion, Franke, Kreager, Swinney, McCulloch, Memorial, Indian Village Boulevard, Foellinger Theatre, Franklin, Jehl, and Rea Parks. Staff also spent time grinding stumps and working on turf repair projects at Lawton, McMillen, Jehl, and Shoaff Parks. All annuals were pulled from the Swinney Letterbed. Staff did their annual landscape maintenance at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary. While they were there they also cleaned out all the bluebird and wood duck houses.
- Irrigation was turned off in all parks.
- Landscape staff moved all the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo tropical plants back to the greenhouse for the winter season.
- The 23rd annual Great Tree Canopy Comeback was held on October 19th this year. Staff assisted volunteers in planting 50 trees at Kreager Park and helped remove invasive shrubs at the Old Fort on the banks of the St. Mary's River.
- Landscape staff assisted volunteers in replanting approximately 300 grasses in Rudisill Park.
- Staff completed Workplace Violence training, Harassment training, Chainsaw/Chipper training, Chainsaw Maintenance training, CPR/First Aid, General Safety training, and ESS training.
- One seasonal staff team member worked their last day of the season this month.
- Pride Landcare, Mow Baby Mow, and MJK Lawncare continued with their annual mow maintenance contract. They began leaf pickups in selective parks per contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their annual turf fertilization and weed control contract.
- Olympia Pool continued sweeping Freimann fountain every other week until it was drained.
- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per contract.
- Over 700 plants, mums, ornamental Kale and Cabbage, grasses, sedum and ornamental peppers were sent to the Conservatory for the Pumpkin Path.
- Seeding began for 2025 crops with seed sown for the Conservatory Butterfly Show.

Riparian Management Report- October 2024

- Guldlin boat ramp was maintained and dock was kept clean and free from debris continuously throughout the month. All docks maintained and pressure washed throughout the month.
- Crew removed and treated honeysuckle at Johnny Appleseed along St Joe River (approximately 3 tons).
- Several woody debris cache point locations were improved and widened to better assist the cooperation between Public Works and Parks.
- Fallen debris removed from Headwaters along the dock system and the riparian zone.
- Shoaff dock system was successfully removed on October 24th and stored for the season due to the seasonal flashboard removal at the St Joe Dam at Johnny Appleseed.
- Idle Speed Zone buoys were removed for the season on the St Marys River.

- Litter and debris removed from all three rivers continuously throughout the month. (Approximately .25 tons)
- Attended several training sessions throughout the month: Management Training, Chainsaw/Chipper training, several Timeclock Integration training, and General Facility Safety Compliance training.
- Sweet Breeze was successfully hauled for the season on October 16th.
- Assisted Sweet Breeze operation with pressure washing immediately after it was hauled out.
- Led the committee group tasked with upgrading the current volunteer management throughout Parks. Software has been acquired and the process of integration has begun.

Forestry Report- October 2024

- This year's fall tree planting project has been delayed because of the unusually dry conditions. We still anticipate completion before the end of the year.
- Bids were accepted for the 2024/2025 Street Tree Removal project. This project will be presented at the November 14th, Board of Park Commissioners monthly meeting.
- Mudrack Tree Service has agreed to extend their unit cost tree stump removal pricing for an additional contract. A stump removal contract with Mudrack Tree Service will also be presented at the November 14th, Board of Park Commissioners monthly meeting.
- Responded to one Tort Claim during October. Tort Claims can be filed when a tree fails and causes personal injury or property loss. It is not possible to eliminate all risks associated with trees. Some level of risk must be accepted to enjoy the benefits that trees offer.
- Collaborated with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) about a Spongy Moth infestation within Lindenwood Nature Preserve. Lindenwood was identified by IDNR as an area of concern through its annual aerial inspection.
- In August, Forestry crews completed 36 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to facilitate buses, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs.
- In-house crews removed 36 trees in September. 3 of these were storm-related.
- Crews responded to and cleared 24 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 1 of these was a privately owned tree impacting the right of way.
- Responded to and closed 82, 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

Botanical Conservatory Report – October 2024

- “Raise a Glass!” continued to welcome enthusiastic visitors into a space of celebration, boasting a stunning display of vibrant color. “Raise a Glass!” marks the end of the Botanical Conservatory’s 40th anniversary year with an inspired art glass display featuring reimagined pieces from the Botanical Conservatory’s 20th anniversary exhibit, “Kaleidoscope”, which earned the Botanical Conservatory, at that time, a feature in the Chicago Tribune; the artist behind “Kaleidoscope”, James Michael Kahle, visited “Raise a Glass!” in July and was inspired by the display – he even returned in September and was able to record a surprise interview with Living Local 15. Also featured prominently are glass flowers by local glass blower Eran Park, owner of The Glass Park, and a pergola with a faux-glass ceiling constructed by the team of talented Maintenance Technicians at Lawton Park.
- The Botanical Conservatory facilitated several well-received events and programs in October 2024 including Pumpkin Path (Open October 1 - 27), Botanical Brew (October 4), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 19), and Garden Trick-or-Treat (October 26). Staff are gearing up for Gnome for the Holidays (Opens November 23), \$1 Night of Lights (November 27), Black Friday featuring Those 2 Guys in Suits &

Ties (November 29), and Holly Shopping (November 30), as well as several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.

- Katie Pratt has been hired as Seasonal Maintenance. There is a vacancy for Seasonal Gardener (1) – applications are being accepted

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- In October 2024, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory saw an 11.44% increase in attendance, with 7,922 visitors compared to 7,109 in October 2023. Year-to-date (YTD) attendance grew by 6.71%, reaching 91,038 visitors.
- Admissions revenue for October 2024 rose by 19.76%, totaling \$35,455.78, with YTD admissions revenue up 12.74%. Membership revenue saw a substantial increase of 106.79% for October, and YTD membership revenue grew by 10.36%. Conservatory Shop revenue also had a significant October boost of 29.57%, with YTD shop revenue rising 14.90%.
- Rental and catering revenue for October decreased by 28.38%, contributing to a YTD decrease of 13.76%. Total conservatory revenue for October dropped by 21.19%, though YTD total revenue remains up by 4.69%, reaching \$1,124,580.13.

- **Attendance**

October 2023:	7,109 visitors
October 2024:	7,922 visitors

An increase of 813 visitors or +11.44% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Attendance:	85,317 visitors
2024 Attendance:	91,038 visitors

An increase of 5,721 visitors or +6.71% to 2023

Admissions Revenue

October 2023:	\$29,606.80
October 2024:	\$35,455.78

An increase of \$5,848.98 or +19.76% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$308,115.48
2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$347,363.46

An increase of \$39,247.98 or +12.74% to 2023

Membership Revenue

October 2023:	\$2,753.00
October 2024:	\$5,693.00

An increase of \$2,940.00 or +106.79% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Membership Revenue:	\$68,950.26
2024 Membership Revenue:	\$76,093.00

An increase of \$7,142.74 or +10.36% to 2023

Conservatory Shop Revenue

October 2023:	\$15,270.21
October 2024:	\$19,785.60

An increase of \$4,515.39 or +29.57% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$225,405.94
2024 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$258,986.70

An increase of \$33,580.76 or +14.90% to 2023

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

October 2023:	\$8,572.50
October 2024:	\$6,140.00

A decrease of \$2,432.50 or -28.38% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Rental Revenue:	\$84,768.50
2024 Rental Revenue:	\$73,105.00

A decrease of \$11,663.50 or -13.76% to 2023

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

October 2023:	\$29,755.88
October 2024:	\$669.64

YTD Comparisons

2023 Other Revenue:	\$386,938.77
2024 Other Revenue:	\$369,031.97

Conservatory Total Revenue

October 2023:	\$85,958.39
October 2024:	\$67,744.02

A decrease of \$18,214.37 or -21.19% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Total Revenue:	\$1,074,178.95
2024 Total Revenue:	\$1,124,580.13

An increase of \$50,401.18 or +4.69% to 2023

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted an application for \$1,500 support for the Botanical Conservatory's greenhouse berms native species project to the Indiana Native Plant Society (biodiversity grant).
- Staff completed the intake form for possible funding of the Conservatory's Glass Replacements Project from the 2024 Read 2.0 state funding program. The Park Department decided not to submit the request as our match funding is still to be determined and the request would not be as strong of an application as we would like to present to the NEI committee.

- Staff submitted the 2025 corporate sponsorships pdf/brochure to the marketing contacts at 86 local and area corporations. Additional submissions and follow-ups will continue in November.
- Staff submitted information for the final grant report to the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation for their support of the Headwaters Splash Pad and 2024 Showcase Garden Exhibits. These reports enable us to apply for funding for the 2025 exhibits.
- Staff met with PBS Fort Wayne to discuss media sponsorship of the 2025 Showcase Garden exhibits. Staff secured the PBS agreement to serve as a media sponsor of the 2025-2026 Train Trails and Garden Tales Exhibit (November 22, 2025 – April 12, 2026)
- Staff submitted final sponsorship reports to WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for support of the 2024 Botanical Brew. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to PBS Fort Wayne and Majic 95.1 for the 2024 Gnome for the Holidays exhibit. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.
- Staff coordinated information for the Holiday 2024 Member ENews – it will be sent the first week of November.

Conservatory Public Programs – Events

- *Botanical Brew* (October 4)
- In its 3rd year, Botanical Brew proved to be even more successful with attendance growing by 26% to a total of 1,327 guests. Beverage vendors held at 14, the same volume as 2023, representing coffee, tea, cane juice, cider, beer, wine, and spirits. Five different food vendors offered a variety of meals. Also present were artisans ranging from pottery to handcrafted jewelry to wall art, stationary, and soaps. Guests greatly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with many different vendors in addition to enjoying musical talent by Joe Justice who performed indoors and Dave Pagan who entertained outdoors as well as several buskers who performed throughout the facility. As an all ages event kicking off the month of October, more families enjoyed Botanical Brew in 2024 than in the previous two years.
- *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (October 19)
- It was the 16th year of screening the Rocky Horror Picture Show in collaboration with Downtown Fort Wayne at the Botanical Conservatory. This year's event evolved to add a three-category Costume Contest and Fright Night Market before the cult classic movie began. Both were quite popular additions! A jumbotron returned for a second year of viewing the film after being well received in 2023. A marked increase in costumes was noted plus attendance grew by 32% to 619 guests.
- *Garden Trick-or-Treat* (October 26)
- This popular annual event was attended by a record 901 guests, including 363 young trick-or-treaters. The total number of guests continues to rise with an additional 11% increase from 2023. As trick-or-treaters visited each of the nine interactive stations to find Boo the friendly ghost, they were also able to pot their own plant, play pumpkin ring toss, do a photo boo-th, paint a pumpkin, receive toothbrushes, create spooky boo-kmarks, and more!

Education

- *Bones for Life®* (October 1-November 5)
- This pre-registered program met minimum enrollment with 10 registrants and was fully executed for a second time by certified instructor, Liz Monnier. Regular participants, some from T'ai Chi, appreciate the opportunity of learning how to use their movement and posture to both improve strength and decrease pain.

- *T'ai Chi Tuesdays* (October 8-November 5)
- Sandy Gebhard remains a popular returning instructor during T'ai Chi Tuesdays currently running with 19 participants out of a maximum enrollment of 20. This longtime series often achieves or nears capacity enrollment. Fortunately for the Botanical Conservatory, Sandy plans to continue T'ai Chi instruction into the new year.
- *Succulent Pumpkins* (October 17)
- In this returning Thursday evening workshop, 24 pre-registered participants crafted succulent accented pumpkins as seasonal living décor. Conservatory program staff prepared for and led this popular workshop with succulents grown at Lawton Park Greenhouse. As a full class with an additional waitlist, it is expected to return again come fall of 2025!

Youth Field Trips

- Ten school groups brought 512 students to enjoy field trip programming at the Botanical Conservatory in the month of October. Seven groups brought 218 students in 2023; 1 group of 54 children in 2022; 1 group of 26 students in 2021; 1 group of 12 students in 2020; and 4 groups totaling 76 students in 2019.

Exhibits & Displays

- Raise a Glass! (June 29-November 17)
 - An absolutely stunning showcase, this year's summer/fall exhibit commemorates a final celebration of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory's 40th Anniversary. Conservatory guests find themselves in awe as they enter the garden to see a large center pond with varying levels of hanging glass bowls. These colorful bowls from a 2004 exhibit have been renewed from storage and repurposed 20 years later as a major feature in 2024. Hand-blown by artist James Michael Kahle, they are available for purchase and pickup at the end of the exhibit. Also featured are glass-blown flowers locally made at Glass Park. In addition, there is a beautiful, abstract sculpture and a captivating pergola that was built on-site to reflect rays of light. Let us come together to celebrate the continued health, happiness, and success of this community treasure. Cheers to a vibrant future!
- From Concept to Celebration (June 29-November 17)
 - The latest display in the Gallery Hallway highlights the history of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory from an original idea to its current-day 40th Anniversary. It is truly awe-inspiring to see how much has happened over the years! A collaboration of archives from both the Foellinger Foundation and Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory made this visual timeline possible.
- Pumpkin Path (September 30-October 27)
 - This year's outdoor display was truly the best one yet! Via a well-executed plan by Program Coordinator, Kelsey Gerig, supporting staff were eager to see the big picture come together while following a particular order of steps. This implementation proved to be both efficient and successful for such a big undertaking involving several different areas and a handful of different volunteer groups. The 2024 display also benefited from increased volunteer support during both setup and teardown. Throughout its duration, guests enjoyed a search and find activity in addition to such beautiful fall scenery.

Volunteers/Staff

- During October, 8 volunteers covered 36 shifts at the Front Desk while 11 volunteers covered 43 shifts in the Gift Shop. As one of the summer SWAT volunteers continues through the offseason months grooming interior gardens, 3 Career Academy Students and a couple instructors have been grooming exterior spaces.

CAS committed a total of 18 hours in October to clearing more Euonymus in addition to planting perennials in the Beverforden Garden. On DOR Gives Back Day, 5 staff from the Indiana Department of Revenue contributed toward the major undertaking of clearing berms in preparation for prairie grass planting. Individual volunteers with Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana continue to sweep pathways and sort colored glass pieces for an upcoming showcase exhibit.

- For teardown of the Pumpkin Path Display, Southside High School presented 5 students and 2 staff who made a huge difference in getting the job done; also assisting were 8 Conservatory volunteers. Regular Conservatory volunteers made possible three significant events in October – Botanical Brew, Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Garden Trick-or-Treat! Botanical Brew was supported by a total of 16 volunteers, Rocky Horror Picture Show by 8, and Garden Trick-or-Treat by 10. Five pageant crown winners also assisted with Garden Trick-or-Treat. Three new Conservatory volunteers began service in October with orientation completed by Program Coordinator, Kim Hartman.

Upcoming:

- June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! garden exhibit
- June 29-November 17: From Concept to Celebration, visual timeline
- November 23-January 5: Gnome for the Holidays, garden exhibit
- November 27-December 20: \$1 Night Light Display, Thursday & Friday evenings
- November 7: Cornucopia Centerpiece, pre-registered
- November 18-22: Showchange
- November 23: Gnome for the Holidays, opening day
- November 27: \$1 Night of Lights at the Conservatory
- November 28: CLOSED Thanksgiving Day
- November 29: Those 2 Guys in Suits & Ties, \$1 Night Light Display
- November 30: Days of Holly Shopping
- December 5: Believe in a Dream, \$1 Night Light Display
- December 7, 14 & 21: Santa and Reindeer Saturdays
- December 7: Breakfast with Santa, pre-registered program
- December 8: Succulent Christmas Tree, pre-registered program
- December 11: Member & Volunteer Holi-Day
- December 12 & 14: Evergreen Centerpiece, pre-registered program December 13: PFW Holiday Carolers, \$1 Night Light Display
- December 15: Suzuki Strings Holiday Performance
- December 24 & 25: CLOSED Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- Pride Landcare installed crushed stone and soil in the Terrace Garden ponds to prepare them for planting. An irrigation system will be added to the beds in early spring prior to planting. MT staff core drilled the walls to allow for the inclusion of irrigation lines in the spring.
- Horticulture staff are finalizing plant selections for the Terrace Garden ponds. The garden area will be themed to be a moonlight garden with white-flowered plants and/or plants with silver/blue foliage. Plants will primarily be perennial with some annuals added during the initial year to provide substance to the beds as the permanent plants continue to grow.
- Steve Perry Creations has nearly completed the decorative retaining walls in the Arid House. The contractor will be applying the final coats of paint and stain. They will then seal the wall for increased durability.

- Sycamore Tree Care, who helped us hang the glass bowls in the Raise a Glass Showcase exhibit, will be assisting us in the deinstallation of the hardware and will be assisting with the removal of old theatre lighting through the use of climbing ropes, saddles, and rigging. Sycamore Tree Care arborists will also be assisting with the installation of the donated cut evergreens for Gnome for the Holidays.
- Annual plants have been removed from the outdoor plantings with tulip bulb planting now well underway. A long-season mix will be planted in the front beds. The long-season red mix utilized earlier this year in the front beds will be planted in the Prado Garden in recognition of Parkinson's Disease.
- Plans for holiday décor in the Tropical House and Arid House are nearly complete. The holiday displays will include plant displays of poinsettias, bright anthurium, dramatic bromeliads, and unique ferns. Sycamore Tree Care will be hanging hardware in the Tropical House for seasonal installations of hanging décor and plants.
- Students from the Center for Academic Success (CAS) have assisted staff in the continued removal of invasive wintercreeper and Japanese honeysuckle from the outdoor gardens. They also assisted staff in planting perennials in the Beverforden Garden to add to the curb appeal along Calhoun Street. The perennials will provide color nearly all season long with bloom times from mid-spring to fall.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Props for Gnome for the Holidays are under construction and/or being brought in from off-site storage.
- Allied Mechanical is finalizing components of the Boiler replacement project. The boilers are now in place and functioning. Conserv will be making connectivity to the controls system and final work on the flues will be completed in the near future. Allied Mechanical will be making repairs to the flues to the water heater under a separate order to seal exhaust ducts
- Interviews were conducted and a new candidate was selected to fill our open position of seasonal maintenance. Katie Pratt will be onboarded with us in the first week of November.
- Coleman Flooring and Blinds completed the install of the new blinds in the Jaenicke and Kessler Rooms.
- Mutton Rentals removed the large tent from the Terrace Garden for the end of the season. The outside restrooms will be closed out for the season.
- New lighting was installed by Moir electric behind the building. The replacement and new LED lighting increase security and safety for our staff and volunteers. It also increases efficiency. Moir also prepared electrical connectivity for the new video screen in the Kessler Room and new blinds in the Jaenicke and Kessler Rooms.



Guests of Botanical Brew enjoy fall scenery while exploring a variety of beverage



Audience enjoying participatory viewing during the Rocky Horror Picture Show



Event attendees taking advantage of a fall photo op during Garden Trick-or-



Stunning view of glass bowls with a featured pergola in the Raise a Glass!



One of the featured mum trees as part of the 2024 Pumpkin Path



Volunteer, Nancy and Staff, Julia manning the Front Desk during



Employees with Department of Revenue volunteering on DOR Gives Back Day



Students from South Side High School assisting with deconstruction of the



CAS Students removing invasive species for the addition of new



A volunteer assisting those in costume to pot a plant during Garden Trick-or-

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 2,706 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 2,861 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 990 hits in October.

✚ The Marketing Team held one press conference: Lakeside/Shoaff Sculptures (October 1), and one

photo op: Sweet Breeze end of the season (October 16).

✚ Arranged for 9 media interviews with select staff.

✚ **Web Statistics:** Users: 34,454 Hits: 103,957

✚ Completed Winter Fun Times. Released on November 6th. Marketing Team to work next on web and social media promotion for this book.

✚ Finalized Conservatory showcase graphics for 2025 and 2026.

✚ Produced all printed materials for donation appeals for the Botanical Conservatory and Department.

✚ Discussed Forestry grant through EPA, may be combining forces with another city department to complete a larger application.

✚ Created a physical mailer for the November/December Donation drive.

✚ Set-up November meetings with media sponsors to discuss 2025 plans.

✚ Several Social media promotions created, including;

- Parks Podcasts
- Sweet Breeze
- SCFVA Show
- Cooper Survey
- GTCC

✚ **October Media Mentions: 72**

✚ **Social Media**   

FB Followers	97,534
FB Reach	1,215,619
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	14,166
Instagram Followers	26,845

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

✚ 2024 is finishing strong for golf. The weather has been very good, and play has been solid for this time of year. Despite all the disruptions, Foster Park had a better October this year than last, although revenue for the year is down a bit. The difference in revenue is not nearly as great as what was expected.

✚ Listed here, are the year over year comparisons for October, as well as year-to-date totals:

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>	
2023 REVENUE	\$34,255.75	\$20,461.50	\$32,993.25	
2024 REVENUE	\$35,086.75	\$34,368.25	\$48,758.25	
YTD 2023	\$462,413	\$284,450	\$550,679.25	
YTD 2024	\$434,545	\$342,066.75	\$652,913.05	
% CHANGE (23-24)	(-6.4%)	+20.25%	+18.6%	TOTAL - +10.2%

- All three golf courses will close at the conclusion of play on Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11. As is our custom, Veterans will pay no green fees on this day. All three courses will close on this day for the second year in a row. Many years prior Shoaff had shut down at the end of October, and this was confusing to the public with a staggered close.
- The golf cart situation continues to improve. As of the end of this season, all of the 2006/2007 era carts have been rotated out of normal use. The golf cart fleet now is all 2015 and newer, with most of the carts being 2022 and newer. Foster Park now has a fleet of 42 carts (up from 40), and McMillen Park has increased from 24 to 28. Moving forward, we will start incrementally replacing the 2015-era carts and continue to increase the fleet size.
- Play at Foster Park will continue to be affected by the City Utilities project in 2025. Work has shifted from near the entrance to the south end of the golf course. The current front nine will still have a provisional green in play next year and the (traditional) 7th hole will still not be in play, but #8 will return as a par 5. We are also going to flip the nines next year, so current #10 will be the first hole, #11 will become #2, and so on. New scorecards and signage will reflect this.
- The golf courses are finishing up their third year of alcohol sales. Employees who got their serving permits the first year are having them renewed as they come to expiration. Sales from year one to year two increased dramatically, and this year is very consistent with the last. Here are the alcohol sales totals:
2022 - \$35,891 2023 - \$55,339 **2024 - \$54,939**
- It would appear that approximately \$55,000 would be the "average" year moving forward and would increase incrementally as play increases. Offering alcohol has been beneficial to the courses, and we have not experienced any issues with the sale of it.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- The Covington Road Trail has been paved. The pedestrian bridge will be delivered and set on 11/20.
- Crosby Excavating is 80% done with putting down the stone sub base and 90% finished with installing pipe on the Pufferbelly Trail project. They have only been working on the segment north of Coliseum Boulevard.



- ✚ We continue to check all trails older than 10 years for maintenance issues. We'll assign a ranking to help prioritize these sections and put a 3-5-year plan together for fixing the maintenance issues.
- ✚ We have finished the inspection of all the pedestrian bridges and boardwalks.
- ✚ A State Trails Planning Charette will be held by the DNR on November 15th. Dawn Ritchie will attend.
- ✚ Our contractor will place park benches in three locations on the Rivergreenway by The Plex and PFW, as well as one park bench along the Oxford Street Trail near the entrance to McMillen Park in November or early December.
- ✚ We have hired API Construction to fix asphalt issues on three of our trails.
- ✚ We are nearly done with crack-sealing on numerous trails. We will do some additional trails next spring or summer.
- ✚ We'll be removing some dead trees on five trails soon, as well as planting some new trees and shrubs on four trails.
- ✚ National Take a Hike Day is November 17th. We'll be hosting a 3-mile hike on the Pufferbelly Trail starting at the Parkview Y at 2 p.m.
- ✚ We'll be taping a segment on City TV on November 20th to discuss trail accomplishments in 2024 and give a preview for 2025.

Division News and Media Coverage:



Raise a Glass! \$1 Nights

Thursdays, until November 14, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Here's a toast celebrating not only 40 years as a unique botanical venue for public education and enjoyment, but 200 years since Allen County was officially born. During the Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit, take advantage of \$1 admission every Thursday evening from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Cheers to the Botanical Conservatory as a community treasure serving over 3,000,000 tourists and residents since opening its doors in 1983...and here's to Allen County steadfast since 1824 with 400,000+ residents thriving and residing today. Together, the Botanical Conservatory and Bicentennial Executive Board wish to celebrate the past, present and future with you!

WANE, Social media message from Mayor Tucker following recent violence involving teens

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/i-need-your-help-mayor-tucker-responds-after-young-victims-identified-in-recent-shootings/>

WANE, City Council recap – Brightpoint/small business loans

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-city-council-brightpoint-partner-for-small-business-loans/>



WPTA, City Council recap – EMS task force idea put on hold again

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/11/13/joint-task-force-resolution-put-hold-again-councilmembers-say-traa-continues-improve/>

Input FW, Packard Park improvements

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/news/PackardPark-gbc-2024.aspx>

Raise a Glass! Exhibit

Until November 17, public hours

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

The Botanical Conservatory is celebrating 40 years! Since 1983, this unique botanical venue has served as a cultural anchor in Fort Wayne, having welcomed nearly three million visitors from near and far! During its 40th anniversary, the Botanical Conservatory is capturing vivid streams of light and reflecting into glimmers of a vibrant future. Raise your glass to the continued health, happiness and success of this community treasure. Sponsored by: Fort Wayne Park Foundation, English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Majic 95.1, WANE 15 and Sycamore Tree Care.

WFFT, Solid waste collection changes coming

https://www.wfft.com/news/some-gfl-garbage-and-recycling-customers-will-see-collection-day-changes/article_400f4e62-a118-11ef-836b-cbe2f07b1ac6.html

WANE, Coats for Kids feature – FWFD featured as part of the story

<https://www.wane.com/news/coats-for-kids-is-positively-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Memorial Park's origins reside in World War I, Veterans Day

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/memorial-parks-origins-reside-in-world-war-i-veterans-day/>

WOWO, FWFD welcomes 29 new firefighters

<https://wowo.com/fwfd-welcomes-29-new-firefighters/>

City TV, 'News Around Town' program with features on Brewer Park, Neighborhood Identity program, Innovative Housing Showcase, Leaf collection, and Pierson Drain improvements

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=CSyYbVaGMoMv3e6O>

WFFT, New entrance for Franke Park

https://www.wfft.com/news/phase-one-completed-franke-park-new-entrance-officially-opens/article_f49c1da0-9e30-11ef-a449-cba5e3d86221.html

**Dance Promenade: Latin Dance Fundamentals Wednesdays, November 13 and 20, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
*Park Foundation Pavilion***

Dance Promenade returns with an in-depth three-part workshop focused on fundamental techniques along with musicality and styling for Latin dance including Salsa, Bachata, Cha Cha and Rumba. Join instructor Brenda Diaz as she reviews weight transfer, body position, hand styling and more. If you don't know how to move your hips, this class is for you. It's designed for anyone from a beginner to intermediate dancer.

Register online at www.FortWayneParks.org or by phone at 260-427-6000 by the Tuesday before each class. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available (credit card only).

WPTA, Walk in the Park feature on upcoming event on the Pufferbelly Trail

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/11/08/walk-park-national-take-hike-day/>

WANE, Fort Wayne UNITED update

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/15-finds-out-whats-next-for-fort-wayne-united/>

WELT Radio, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with City Controller Garry Morr as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/city-controller-garry-morr>

From Concept to Celebration

Until November 16, public hours

Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

This visual timeline displays the history of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory from an original idea to our current-day fortieth anniversary! Images, news articles and short stories provide historical context during the celebratory Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit. Enjoy this unique display as a collaboration of archives from both the Foellinger Foundation and the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.



Katie Pratt gives a spin to, from left, Sienna Robey, 2, Jesse Parsons, 3, and Jack Frost, 3; on Wednesday afternoon at ***Hamilton Park***. Stan Sussina |The Journal Gazette 11.06.24

WFFT, First communities receiving *I Am Allen* sculptures announced

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/first-communities-receiving-i-am-allen-sculptures-announced/article_41608f3a-9c6b-11ef-9688-bbb641a25d86.html

Industrial park

A dedication ceremony for the Tom Henry Industrial Park is set for 9 a.m. Wednesday at McFadden Way, off Bluffton Road between Winters and Pleasant Center roads, a news release said. The property comprises 12 lots, built to suit.

The Zacher Co. and Allied Commercial will host the hourlong event. Scheduled speakers include city and county leaders and a representative from the Henry family.

Henry died March 28 of complications related to late-stage stomach cancer. He was previously the mayor for more than 16 years.

USF

The University of Saint Francis has a new strategic plan it hopes to implement over the next few years – provided an event as disruptive as the coronavirus pandemic doesn't interfere.

Known as Renew 2028, the plan describes five goals. Becoming a Midwest destination for Catholic higher education tops the list.

"That's really the heart of the plan," said Lance Richey, university president.

The guide for the next three-plus years took only five months to develop, but the campus has been waiting for it much longer, Richey said.

He explained implementation of the previous version – which was approved in summer 2019 under the leadership of then-President Sister M. Elise Kriss – was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But, Richey said, maybe that was a blessing after all.

"It allowed us time to adjust to a post-COVID world, to settle on leadership and a new mission and to make sure the plan executes on who we want to be – not who we used to be," said Richey, the university's second president since Kriss' 2020 retirement.

Richey repeatedly referenced the university's new mission statement while discussing the strategic plan, noting the guide is an extension of that.

"This summer, our founders, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, gave the university a renewed mission statement that reaffirms our work serving God by forming students for lives of virtue, service and joy," Richey said.

"This emphasis on forming the whole person distinguishes a University of Saint Francis education and makes our work in the world uniquely valuable."

The other goals:

- Form graduates committed to professional excellence, spiritual growth and service to others
- Cultivate a vibrant and relational environment that supports learning and human development
- Create a thriving workplace and institutional excellence
- Generate new philanthropic resources.

Construction and renovation projects could stem from the plan along with a comprehensive capital campaign to fund initiatives aligned to the goals.

Officials are exploring options about potential campus improvements. Along with talk of a new student center, the university is considering expanding its dormitories and renovating spaces to meet the needs of today's students – not the students of 30 or 40 years ago, Richey said.

The university's most recent building projects were the construction of a freestanding chapel and the expansion and renovation of Achatz Hall of Science. Both broke ground in 2017.



Richey said those now-finished projects are a model for what Saint Francis is trying to accomplish.

“The chapel puts our mission at the heart of campus, and Achatz is the most popular building on campus for its spaces and its very social design,” he said. “We want to take those principles and make sure that everywhere on campus students have a place to encounter and engage.”

Richey said the university is eager to share details about Renew 2028, which the Board of Trustees approved late last month. It is available at www.sf.edu.

“We are a part of this community, and we want to be a partner with this community,” he said. “They can’t partner if they don’t know what we’re doing.”

The University of Saint Francis has 1,763 students. Here’s a breakdown of their religious affiliation and other demographic statistics:

33% – Religious affiliation unknown	3% – Methodist
27% – Catholic	2% – Baptist
26% – Other Christian	1% – Non-Christian
5% – Lutheran	68% – Female
4% – No religious affiliation	34% – Self-identified students of color

Letter

Three cheers to Chuck and Lisa Surack!

My wife and I had the privilege recently to tour the new Pearl Street Arts Center and to hear a fine performance by the Back Row Trio. What a wonderful experience.

The Sur-acks are to be commended for this terrific addition to downtown Fort Wayne. This facility will help introduce music to young people and be a bonus for the whole community. It is a beautiful space, with fascinating artwork and sculpture. I’m certain it will become a popular gathering place.

Thank you, Suracks! Larry Brubaker, Fort Wayne

Letter

Kudos to the Journal Gazette for featuring Waste Works (Five questions, Oct. 27).

I don’t know the people at Waste Works personally, but I am a customer. Over the years, I have been close to this world, working to win contracts for local companies, fighting to get through the permitting labyrinth for a small section of the local landfill, and testifying before City Council. All this was before the great Red River trash debacle.

As a customer of Waste Works, we had switched from another carrier only months after moving. The new bins were either new or well cleaned, so clean that new was very likely. Only a few weeks ago, as new customers, we forgot to put out our bin on the designated day; we called and asked for a special pickup, letting Waste Works know it was our fault. When we had done this with a previous carrier, it was impossible to get a pickup, and we still got a bill. Waste Works showed up the same day as our call; the company owner took our trash and didn’t add it to our bill.

Service in today’s world is hit and miss. When a local company steps up and does a great job in a difficult industry, it should be recognized. Hopefully, the City Council will consider service, not just price, in the next round of bids. But as a county resident, I’m glad to have a choice and to have chosen Waste Works. Paul Lagemann, Fort Wayne



WPTA, Soccer stadium update

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/11/04/new-soccer-stadium-coming-fort-wayne-2026/>

WFFT, Pierson Drain stormwater project begins 2nd phase

https://www.wfft.com/news/groundbreaking-ceremony-marks-the-beginning-of-phase-two-for-flood-prevention-program/article_1ddb7ad2-9b0f-11ef-a34d-7badbdf82c7.html

WANE, Casino update

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/full-house-resorts-release-design-concepts-and-other-details-of-proposed-new-haven-casino/>

WANE, Feature on Blue Star Banner program

<https://www.wane.com/news/positively-fort-wayne/mayor-henry-initiative-marks-10-years-honoring-local-military-members-is-positively-fort-wayne/>

WPTA, Walk in the Park segment with Parks and Recreation

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/11/01/walk-park-lindenwood-nature-preserve/>

WFFT, Leaf collection begins

https://www.wfft.com/news/leaf-collection-begins-in-fort-wayne/article_205fdf88-9578-11ef-97a6-73390023bf06.html

WANE, Junk Ditch Brewing announces closure

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/junk-ditch-brewing-company-announces-closure-amid-legal-troubles/>

📌 [November 2024 – Parks & Recreation \[Intro - Cover1\]](#) (On the website, use the arrows to scroll right)

📌 [Trees for All | Open Space | National Recreation and Park Association](#)

📌 [Fort Wayne magazine November 2024 | FortWayne.com](#)

📌 FW Bus Weekly, Feature on Arneo development

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_68fef69a-911b-11ef-82b1-bb7ae32c049b.html?utm_source=fwbusiness.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletters%2Fheadlines%2F%3Fdc%3D1730196009&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline