

Steve McDaniel – Director

- ◆ Staff met with the Golf Committee to give an overview of the 2021 season. We discussed proposed changes for the 2022 season as well as long term goals. A Request for Proposal was also issued to start a Master Plan for Foster Golf Course. Proposals will be due in January from golf course designers.
- ◆ In November after Veterans Day, we shut down Foster and McMillen Golf Courses for the season. The team are working through all of the numbers for 2021, and first indications are we had a very good year for golf.
- ◆ Schematic designs continue to be developed for the new entrance and pavilion at Franke Park. We are on schedule to have this phase completed by early 2022.
- ◆ The team is working on a Request for Qualifications/Proposal for a Construction Management contract to manage the construction of the proposed work at Franke Park. The team is looking at a construction at risk format based on our experience at Riverfront as well as talking with colleagues at the Airport Authority and the School systems.
- ◆ We submitted Franke Park's project for READI funds. Northeast Indiana is meeting with IEDC to pitch our areas projects the first part of December. We will then wait to hear from IEDC to see if our projects were selected. If we are successful, then we will move into the next phase of the process. We hope to hear the outcome of the IEDC's decision in the next few months.
- ◆ We offered several programs at this year's Night of Lights on the night before Thanksgiving. We had good attendance at each facility. Attendees had a great time as part of the celebration of the holidays.
- ◆ The team has transformed the Showcase at the Botanical Conservatory to the Alpine Holiday Exhibit. There is always something fun to see and do at the Conservatory. Throughout the month of December, there are several special days of activities all centered around the alpine experience.
- ◆ Tim and the staff of the Theater are working with various performers management staff and promoters on several possible shows for our 2022 season. The staff are also working with the Projects Team on a few planned improvements to the facility.

Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director, Salomon Farm Park, Community Centers (Youth/Downtown/McMillen Park), Riverfront, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, Athletics, Special Events, Headwaters Park, and Travel Service

- ◆ Salomon Farm Park
 - Wrapping up the fall season heading into the winter, Salomon Farm Park's larger animals will be boarding with Allison Wheaton of Summit City Equestrian. This includes the two donkeys, one mini horse and our three sheep. Over the last several years, as resources and staff have allowed, we started to keep some of our smaller animals at Salomon Farm Park. Animals on the property as of, November 29, 2021 include chickens, ducks, goats including Vinnie and our pigs.
 - Christmas on the Farm at Salomon Farm Park is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Families can enjoy a visit from Father Christmas, live Christmas music, letters to Father Christmas, horse-drawn wagon rides, family photo opportunities, holiday vendors, dog sledding demonstration, live animals and concessions. This event is \$5 per car.

- Christmas tree sales will be available before and during the event, provided by Eric Plassman.
- ◆ **Community Youth Centers**
 - **Weisser Park Youth Center**
 - Monday Matters - Dominique facilitated our Monday Matters sessions. November 1, lesson *Don't Lose Sight*, Dominique had a discussion with the youth about various strategies they can use to help them succeed. November 8, lesson *Write It Out* the lesson was to help youth understand what they have control over and what they do not have control over and writing can help get things off their chest when they are frustrated instead of hurting others. The youth traced their hand and inside the hand wrote things they control and on the outside of their hand they wrote things that are out of their control. November 15, lesson *Honor Others* youth made cards to display to those they wanted to honor for someone in their lives that they respect. Prior to the activity there was a discussion about what it means to honor someone. November 22, Dmitri facilitated our Monday Matters by having a discussion with the youth about how Mondays sets the tone for the week. The youth shared how they prepare on Sunday for Monday.
 - Tuesday Character-Building – Zynette facilitated our Character-Building sessions. November 9, youth viewed the award-winning Anti-Bullying video *Silent* in which portrayed a deaf girl being bullied by her school peers. The entire video was silent. The video showed the various ways in which one could be bullied. For example, physical, verbal, social and cyber. Moreover, the video showed how one who observes the bullying can assist. For example, befriending the one being bullied, reframe from becoming an active bystander in the bullying, have a talk with the bullies to let them know you disapprove and/or report to a trusted adult. After the video, each youth had to give input on what they observed and learned.
 - Wednesday Challenges/ Ice Breakers - Dmitri facilitated our Challenge/ Ice Breaker sessions. November 3, youth enjoyed a Flag Tag challenge. They were split into two groups and had to capture a ball without the other group taking their flag. If their flag is taken they have to go out of bounds. The game continues until all of one team is out of bounds. November 17, the youth were challenged to learn from another youth how to make keychains using gimp.
 - Thursday STEAM - DaVontae facilitated our STEAM sessions. November 18, youth finished their containers for the Egg Drop Challenge. After completing the containers, the groups put their egg inside the container and went outside to the playground for the drop from the top of the slide. Of the four teams, one team egg cracked in the fall.
 - November 23, we had our Annual Holiday Dinner. The youth enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce and rolls.
 - On November 23rd, it was confirmed that a staff at Weisser Park tested positive for COVID-19. After discussion with the City's Risk Management Department it was decided to close Weisser Park Youth Center Wednesday Nov. 24-Dec. 3, 2021, due to all the staff having to Quarantine. Weisser will reopen on Monday Dec. 6th for the afterschool program. Ms. Zynette and Ms. Davis, contacted all of the of the parents of youth that attended the center from Wednesday November 17th- Friday November 19th and gave them information (based on information received from RISK Management) that a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. The staff and all youth that attended the center between those times needed to quarantine. Staff also contacted nearby Weisser Park School as many of the children affected attend there as well.
 - **Jennings Recreation Center**

- Jennings Recreation Center completed a fitness challenge with their youth in November. They challenged them to complete 3 exercises daily and weekly increased the number of reps to be done. These were completed while they were at the center. This challenge allowed the youth not only to challenge themselves but also learn discipline and commitment. The youth were also able to see their growth as some of them were unable to do a full push up in the beginning but now they can.
- The adult fitness class at Jennings (JC Fit) also conquered a challenge this month of jump roping. Each day there was a number randomly picked between 200 up to 800 and that number represented how many jumps had to be completed for that day. There were 8 ladies that completed the 30day challenge. In the 30 days of this challenge, there were over 15,000 jumps completed by each individual. The same disciplines that were shown to the youth, were also shown to the ladies.
- November 23, each center prepared and served a holiday meal to the youth. They served items such as turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, macaroni and cheese, Yams, cranberry sauce and rolls. The youth really enjoyed! Prior to dinner the staff and youth talked about what they are thankful for. They share stories and things experiences that have made them thankful.
- **Community Center (Downtown)**
 - On November 24th the Community Center hosted Santa’s Workshop as part of the Downtown Night of Lights. About 1500 people attended inside the building with many others watching outside as Daniel and Anna Spychalski lighted up our building this year. It was live on WANE TV.
 - Veteran’s Breakfast went well on November 5th with 86 in attendance. 50 people stayed to also play Bingo
- **McMillen Park Community Center**
 - Dream Team is a program for boys of age 5-18 years of age. This class will go on for 8 weeks. During this program boys will learn the importance of life skills, bullying, and other parts of life that teaches them to grow into young adults. This program is ran on Tuesdays at 3:30pm to 4:45pm and is now entering the third week of programming, so far 11 students have joined the program.
 - Readers of the Pack Book Club meets on Mondays. We are reading a book written by local author Tina Gasnarez. In November, we covered several topics in the books with corresponding activities including team work with special team building games with Antonio Cannon, Mastering the meet and greet by practicing the handshake, (with gloves on), & eye contact as well as pleasant niceties to say to someone you are just meeting. We covered historical landmarks including the oldest building in Fort Wayne which is the Chief Richardville House, as well as a special visit with Molly from the Hessen Cassel Branch Library to register students for their very own library card!
 - Youth Basketball has been going well. Every Monday, youth basketball development is taught from ages 5-10. Children are learning the basic skill of basketball and what it means to work hard and be a good team. For the month of November 69 children has attended.

- Flag Football is running on Thursdays as a free after school program. Students will eat dinner with the program at 4:30pm then meet in the greenroom to be broken up into teams and will play a game of flag football. 74 kids have participated
- Men’s Basketball League started on Thursday nights and is now entering the seventh week. Basketball league will be going on for 11 weeks, 8 regular season games plus 3 weeks of playoffs. Winner of playoffs will receive a first-place trophy.
- On November 20, 2021 the Turkey Give-Away was held. MPCC provided 600 turkeys to families in need in the community. The turkeys were donated by several local community agencies and a national organization.
- On November 23, 2021 the Annual Youth and Family Thanksgiving Dinner was held. Parents, youth and staff were provided with a dinner and the opportunity to discuss upcoming events and youth participation. 60 youth and their parents were in attendance. As a result of these discussions, a parent committee will be formed at McMillen Park Community Center. The function of the parent committee is to increase parent involvement and increase volunteerism by parents.

◆ **Riverfront**

- Dia de los Muertos was a cultural event to celebrate the Day of the Dead, a holiday in Mexico in which families welcome back the souls of the deceased and celebrate their brief reunion with food, drink, and festive activities. The event had media coverage from WANE 15 and FOX 55. Activities included themed crafts, face paintings, and learning about the traditions through an offerings table. Despite the cold and windy weather, post event surveys all showed overall satisfaction and positive influence from the event. Attendance for Dia de los Muertos: 65
- Community Transportation Network (CTN) hosted Brew Tour in the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park. The pavilion acted as a VIP pre-party location, sign-in spot, and stop #1 on the tour with Trubble Café and Tap. Based on what staff noticed, the event was well organized throughout the space and with parking the CTN buses on Wells St. Staff anticipates CTN to host the 2022 Brew Tour at Promenade Park again. Attendance of CTN’s Brew Tour: 230.

◆ **Athletics, Aquatics and Golf**

● **Golf**

- The golf courses officially closed for the season on November 12, 2021. Gary Whitacre and Jason Smith discussed having Foster Golf Course open if the weather permitted it. Due to the lack of staff and weather conditions it has not been open.

● **Tennis**

- Steve McDaniel, Chuck Reddinger and Jason Smith met with the Tennis Committee (John Crawford, Don Schmidt and Luke Grossman) to discuss all things tennis for 2021 and future plans. Topics of discussion were, tennis lesson numbers for the year, city tennis tournament, improvements to tennis facilities, tennis court usage monitoring and future plans.

Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 218 employees (129 full-time, 89 regular part-time and seasonal for the payroll ending November 20, 2021 and paid on November 26, 2021.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent positions open or in the process of being filled:
 - Full-time position, Supervisor IV – Neighborhood Programs – Cooper Center (Fund 121)
 - Full-time position, High Range Operator (Fund 121) - Four positions
 - Full-time position, Supervisor Horticulture – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 121)
 - Full-time position, Manager – Program & Events – Riverfront (Fund 121)
 - Full-time position, Manager – Communications (Fund 121)
 - Part-time position, Recreation Specialist – Preschool Youth and Special Events – Community Center (Fund 121)
- ◆ The Winter Fun Times registration began November 3rd. December through February programs are covered in this brochure.
- ◆ Sears, Franke #1, Pond, Lakeside #1, Hefner, Riverlodge, and Psi Ote Lower and Upper are available year-round. As on November 1st, we are now renting only those eight enclosed and heated pavilions listed above.
- ◆ The eight pavilions that we reserve in the winter are almost completely booked up through December 31, 2021 on Saturdays and Sundays. Most of the rentals are for holiday family gatherings.
- ◆ We are preparing dog park gate keys for the 2022 membership sales that begin January 3rd. In 2021 we sold 1024 memberships.
- ◆ Rhonda has completed updating the registration/reservation portion of the website. This was a several month process.
- ◆ We are requesting a Budget Transfer Adjustment to the 2021 Fund 121 Budget that is scheduled for final passage on December 13, 2021 by the City Council. We incurred a decrease in Seasonal Wages in 2021 due to the employee shortage (5100's), while at the same time we incurred an increase in the cost of Materials and Supplies (5200's) and Services (5300's).
- ◆ The Budget Transfer Adjustment will be as follows:
 - Decrease in Budget for the 121-5100's \$400,000
 - Increase in Budget for 121-5200's by \$200,000
 - Increase in Budget for 121-5300's by \$200,000

Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director, Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance, Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations

◆ **Facilities Maintenance**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: 146 for November. This is down from: 302 in October.
- All outdoor pavilions and rental facilities have been shut down for the winter season. This process entails shutting the water off to these facilities and changing the lock cores out to prevent unwanted access. This also brings a change of schedule to the facilities crew which is now working 7am-3pm instead of 6am-2pm.
- Relief workers have removed graffiti from the following locations: Martin Luther King Jr Bridge, Lawton Park Skate Park, Historic Old Fort bridge, Lawton Park's Kid's Crossing shelter and playground equipment.

- Franke Park center restroom was heavily vandalized and flooded due to vandals clogging the toilets and urinals.
- Relief workers have started gutter and roof cleaning. This has started at the Harris road barn and will continue at other locations throughout the month of December.
- Blue Jacket’s workers are using the Franke Pond pavilion during the Fantasy of Lights event and will continue to occupy the pavilion until the end of December.
- The modifications to the downtown Community Center’s Christmas lights were completed and the lights were installed and wired for operation the week prior to Thanksgiving. These lights, as well as the lights on the youth centers will remain up and running through the end of December.
- The holiday show change at the Botanical Conservatory took place the week of the 14th. This included removal of the previous “Old West” themed props and installing new holiday props. A building façade was repurposed from the previous show and used as decorations on the outside terrace.
- The fireplaces in both pavilions at Lakeside Park were upgraded. The problematic remote controls were eliminated and were replaced with a wall mount on/off switch. The new units also have enhanced safety features to prevent gas leaks and misfiring during ignition.
- A new dedicated hot water service line was installed in Trubble Brewing inside the pavilion at Promenade Park. This will ensure that the correct temperature of water (per board of health) will always be readily available.
- New exit signs replaced at the Northside Park main office 3rd floor.
- The vents for the greenhouse glass house and all window air conditioning units at Lawton Park were all covered for the winter.
- New deck boards were installed on grounds department equipment trailer #306.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 2 Alarms calls
 - 0 Appliance maintenance repairs
 - 20 Building maintenance repairs
 - 6 Carpentry repairs
 - 16 Electrical repairs
 - 8 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 2 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 37 Light Maintenance
 - 3 Lock maintenance issues
 - 15 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 19 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 4 Sign replacements
 - 5 Vandalism issues

◆ Grounds Maintenance

- The mowing crews started the month mowing grass and mulching leaves.
- Grass cutting transitioned to only leaf mulching mid-way through November.
- Leaf removal will continue through the beginning of December.

- Relief crews with debris blowers have assisted mowing crews with leaf removals.
- Extra time has been spent clearing leaves from the Johnny Appleseed campground.
- 15,000 lbs. of 30-0-6 fertilizer was applied to athletic fields and general park areas.
- The trails at the Gump Rd. nature preserve were cleared on last time before winter.
- A brush cutter was used at Salomon and the Franke sledding hill.
- Summer equipment was serviced and stored for the winter.
- The log splitting crew hauled the log splitter and tractor to Lawton to be checked over.
- Relief crews cleared brush from Shoaff, Foster, and the river greenway.
- Snow equipment was checked out and installed to prepare for snow season.
- Plows and salt spreaders were installed on the large dump trucks.
- Plow routes were marked with orange stakes.
- 100 tons of stone was added to the theatre overflow lot to improve the conditions.
- 20 tons of stone was added to the Harris Rd. service drive.
- Low areas along the fence at the Johnny Appleseed dog park were filled in.
- The garbage truck is only running twice a week and no longer on Sundays.
- Unneeded trash cans were removed from the parks and stored for the winter.
- A large debris blower is being used to remove leaves for the trail system 2-3 times per week.
- The greenway is still getting mowed to mulch leaves until we store all of the mowers.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass 2022 – Bidding planned for early 2022.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – Army Corps permitting completed. Awaiting approvals from IDEM and IDNR.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project – Roofing portion is complete. Awaiting materials for skylight replacement in December.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Planning in progress.
- Foellinger Theater Basement Waterproofing – Planning in progress. Project to begin as soon as possible.
- Foellinger Theater Entrance Sidewalk Drainage – Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Contractor starting on masonry work in November. Material acquisition in progress (12 weeks lead time)
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 I&M Electrical Service – Finalizing PO with electrician and I&M work
- Foster Park 2-5-Year-Old Playground Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Franke Park Playground 5-12-Year-Old Equipment – Project installation planned for March-April 2022.
- Franke Nature Lodge and Long House Roofing – Bidding in January 2022.
- Jennings Center Parking Lot Lighting – Temporary light fixture installed. Waiting on delivery of final materials in late January.
- Jennings Center Playground Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Kettler Pavilion Exterior and Interior Improvements – Exterior work completed, interior work nearing completion.
- Kreager Park Softball Fence Repairs – Project completed.

- Kreager Park Barn Structural Improvements – Construction in progress. Joist, beam and flooring replacement completed.
- Kreager Park Taylor’s Dream Playground Surface – Requisition in progress. Project planned for March-April 2022.
- Lakeside Park Arbors Improvements – Wood preparation and replacement in progress. Completion planned for end of April.
- Lakeside Park Trail Replacement – Planning in progress for spring project.
- Lions Park and Swinney Tennis Parking Lots Lighting Replacement – Projects completed.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Planning in progress. Construction planned for summer 2022.
- McMillen Golf Course Chemical Building – Planning in progress, working with manufacturer on final pricing.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Engineer has performed an updated inspection. Parks will coordinate next steps.
- Memorial Park Olen J. Pond Monument – Project has begun, Landscape Department heading project.
- Memorial Park Sons of Glory Monument – Project completed.
- Northside Park 2-5-Year-Old Play Equipment Replacement: Planning in progress.
- Old Fort Footbridge – Planning in progress for replacement of wood components on bridge steps near fort.
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Roof Replacement – Material fabrication and acquisition in progress. Contractor planning to have all materials available for a short construction window.
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Kitchen Exhaust System – Material fabrication and acquisition in progress. Contractor planning to have all materials available for a short construction window.
- Salomon Farm Livestock Water Service – Project completed.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Project planned for next year with bidding in early 2022.
- Sheldon Park Site Clearing – Construction starting end of October.
- Shoaff Park River Greenway Boardwalk Repair – Purchase order issued. Awaiting contractor schedule to perform work.
- Shoaff Pro Shop and Trail Paving – Project completed.
- Swinney Park Homestead Trim Painting – Project completed.
- Swinney Park Homestead Log House Roof Replacement – Bidding scheduled for early 2022.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Planning in progress, bidding early in 2022.
- Various Parks Pickle Ball Conversion – Planning in progress for Lakeside, Hamilton, Foster and Kettler parks.
- Various Parks Identification Signs – Installation in progress.

Storeroom and Property

Storeroom and Property:

- Preparations are being made for the end of year stock inventory.
- Multiple informational and directional signs were made for Christmas functions.
- Supplies and materials were supplied for the Conservatory show change.
- The storeroom keeper and courier were certified as underground storage tank Class B operators, an IDEM requirement
- Property Transactions:

Tk 1506, 2021 Ford F150 Pickup

P240, Grounds

V1184, Toro 1200 Mower	R212, McMillen Golf
V1185, Toro 1200 Mower	R213, Shoaff Golf
• 2021 Vehicle Lease Purchase Updates:	
Toro 1200 Towed Mower (2)	Delivered
Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van	21121084
Ford F150 Pickup Truck (non-lease)	Delivered

◆ Garage Operations Highlights:

- After waiting over three months for hydraulic line parts shipped from Denmark, the Riparian barge crane is back in service.
- The oil return line finally came in for Car 133 and the car is now back in service. Car 119 is still awaiting an ABS brake module.
- The Krueckenberg Auction last month generated \$9220 to go into parks fund.
- Winter cab and track assembly conversion of the Toro 7210 zero turn mowers has started.
- New greasing equipment was procured and a class on proper greasing given to large area mower operators by our mechanics.
- Crane truck 150 is at RPM Machinery for rebuild of a downrigger hydraulic cylinder.

The Safety Committee met on the last Tuesday of the month, with four members in attendance.

- There were no treatable personal injuries this period, for a total of 14 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total eleven for the year. 27 restricted days this period, and the annual total stands at 115 for seven incidents. Lost days for the year are 0. Worker compensation costs to date are \$14366.
- There was one property damage incident this period, yearly total is now thirteen. Total damages for the year are \$7562.

Alec Johnson – Deputy Director,

Landscape, & Riparian



Planning & Development, Forestry,

- ◆ Design work continues for Phase I of the Franke Park Renaissance. The team is working through refined site layout concepts and bridge design.
- ◆ Construction of the Conservatory Entry Landscape Project was taken as far as possible for the season. Paving, irrigation, electrical rough-in, and planting of trees, shrubs and sod was completed in November. Landscape touch-ups and planting of grasses and perennials will be completed in spring 2022.
- ◆ Staff continues to coordinate design efforts for Riverfront Phases IIA and IIB. Plans for IIA will be sent to permitting agencies in December, while the team continues to work towards construction document completion for IIB.
- ◆ Parks staff, along with Utilities, Community Development, and Public Works, reviewed proposals from five consultant teams for the completion of a River Activation Master Plan. Interviews for four of the teams will be held in early November.

- ◆ A third ‘Weed Wrangle’ was held at Foster Park; volunteers continued the removal of invasive bush honeysuckle within the wood line along the Rivergreenway.
- ◆ Design and scheduling for the ‘Alpine Holiday’ showcase was completed for the Botanical Conservatory. Installation of the exhibit was completed the week before Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Alec and Chad attended the American Society of Landscape Architects annual conference in Nashville, TN. It was a great conference, with several beneficial educational sessions attended.
- ◆ Construction of floating dock strong-arm markers began at Headwaters Park West; these will be completed in December, and will replace the use of poles currently holding the dock in place.
- ◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report- November 2021**
 - Landscape staff finished planting bulbs at Freimann, Courthouse Green, Community Center, and Lakeside. Foster continues to plant and is expected to be completed the first full week in December.
 - The “Alpine Holiday” exhibit was installed November 15th through the 19th at the Botanical Conservatory.
 - Landscape staff installed a new landscape around the new sign at Memorial Park.
 - Landscape staff began cutting perennials and ornamental grasses back in landscape beds. Leaf cleanup continued as necessary, followed by mulching in some locations.
 - Leaf cleanup has been on-going at Promenade Park.
 - Irrigation system winterizations were scheduled and completed.
 - Landscape staff at Lakeside began hilling all roses in the park for the winter. This is expected to be completed the second week in December.
 - Herbicide treatments ended. All spray equipment was winterized and stored for the winter.
 - Landscape staff installed greens in the Downtown Community Center’s Pots, as well as Lakeside’s Urns.
 - Landscape staff installed 8 Memorial trees.
 - Landscape staff installed supplemental plantings to areas in existing landscapes that had died over the years in Freimann, Kreager/Taylor’s Dream, and Foster Golf Clubhouse.
 - Additional trees and shrubs were planted in Bloomingdale along the riverbank stabilization project to replace dead plant material and comply with IDNR requirements.
 - Park tree plantings were located, mapped, and completed this month. Shade Trees Nursery was contracted to plant 360 trees total over 25 different parks. Planting began late November and should be completed early December.
 - Volunteers spread approximately 30 yards of mulch at Memorial Park.
 - Leeper’s Lawn Service continued with their maintenance contract consisting of mowing and leaf cleanup.
- ◆ **Riparian Management Report- November 2021**
 - *Riparian work*
 - Successfully removed all dock systems for winterization and stacked at Lawton
 - Shoaff dock
 - Guldlin dock

- Headwaters dock
- Promenade kayak launch

Riverfront Planning

- Continuing winterization of Sweet Breeze
 - Thoroughly cleaned holds
 - Installed bracing for winter wrap
 - Coordinated crew for final double wrapping
 - Continued coordination of engine maintenance and winterization
- Participated in discussion group of seasonal hiring practices for next hiring season
 - Lift weight for riparian seasonal reduced from 75 pounds to 50 pounds

Training

- Completed CPR training

◆ **Forestry Report- November 2021**

- Forestry continues seeking applicants for our four vacant High-Ranger Operator positions.
- Met with local tree care contractors to discuss strategies for attracting and retaining qualified tree care professionals.
- Tony McGuire and Derek Veit attended the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Louisville, KY.
- The 2021 fall tree planting is nearing completion. There are 179 street trees and 180 park trees still to plant.
- Inspected and prioritized tree concerns at Foster Golf, McMillen Golf, and Shoaff Golf. Accepted bids and anticipate presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners in December.
- Accepted bids for street tree stump removals. Preparing for presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners in December.
- Implemented operational adjustments intended to limit the spread of Oak Wilt in Fort Wayne.
- In-house forestry crew efforts will focus on tree removals and mitigating significant immediate risk until staffing levels allow for the reimplementation of routine maintenance.
- Completed 5 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$2,665.00 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- Crews pruned 0 street trees this month, bringing our total to 2,581 for the year. Our goal is to re-establish a 7-year pruning cycle.
- Completed 1 ‘out of cycle’ pruning request to address tree elevation and clearance concerns.
- 142 trees were identified as presenting an immediate risk and were removed by in-house crews from the right-of-way this month. (1 vehicle damage, 1 storm-related)
- Responded to 8 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs.
- 0 privately owned trees were removed from the roadway in November.
- Responded to 1 after-hour call concerning trees blocking the roadway.
- Responded to and resolved (37) 311 call center tickets this month.

◆ **Botanical Conservatory**

- Night of Lights at the Conservatory: Saturday, November 24 (418 adults, 270 children)
- A total of 688 people came to see the Conservatory's late-night lights in addition to visiting with Santa and the Reindeer. In 2020, there were just under 100 people who came during the pandemic and when the weather was not so favorable. There were 822 people in 2019 and 1,129 people in 2018. This year's weather was pleasant at 52 degree and cloudy. Visitors were guided along a one-way path leading them through the facility all decorated indoors and out, into the "Alpine Holiday" exhibit, and ending with holiday take-aways and a stop at the Conservatory Shop. A great view of the nearby firework display was a highlight of the evening in which visitors complimented their overall experience!
- Education
 - DNI- Vermicomposting: Thursday, November 4 (3 adults, 3 children)
 - Approximately 6 participants stopped by a self-serve station where they helped themselves to activity/info sheets on the topic of vermicomposting.
 - 1st Garden Glimpse: Saturday, November 20 (10 adults, 9 children)
 - On the opening day of the "Alpine Holiday" garden exhibit, 19 people helped themselves to winter sports and snowflake themed activities at a self-serve station in the garden where Missy A'Hearn was also available for tours.
 - Youth Field Trips:
 - There were no educational group visits in November 2021. In 2019, there 2 on-site visits totaling 19 students, and in 2018, there were 5 on-site visits with 94 students. There is currently 1 group of 19 students that are scheduled for December.
- Exhibits & Displays
 - Alpine Holiday: November 20, 2021-January 2, 2022
The latest Showcase Exhibit has beautifully depicted views of mountains with snowy slopes, a decorated chalet, and many scenic photo ops including a ski lift. Educational plant labels are also on display along with information on plant adaptations in alpine country. Of course, the classic tradition of the Conservatory's Poinsettia Tree is being enjoyed by all who visit!
- Volunteers/Staff
 - Conservatory staff partnered with volunteers to decorate the Atrium, Gallery Hall, etc. during the Conservatory's holiday installation. Volunteer participation has slightly picked up with holiday related program prep and events. Program staff continue to recruit volunteers for upcoming programs and events.
- Funding & Public Support
 - Awarded: \$100,000 from the Auer Foundation for funding of the HVAC controller system at the Conservatory.
 - Submitted: Summary and description of grant support to the Conservatory by the Auer Foundation. Sarah also sent the information for the Park Department. Total PD gifts are \$1,551,600 ~ including \$160,000 to the Conservatory over the years. Auer is sunsetting at the end of 2021.

- Submitted: 2022 media sponsorship proposals for the Conservatory to:
 - ABC21: Emergence Live Butterfly Exhibit and Father’s Day in the Garden
 - Adams Radio Group: Under the Big Top exhibit and Father’s Day in the Garden
 - 97.3 WMEE: Emergence Live Butterfly Exhibit

Majic 95.1/WLDE/ALT 102.3: Mother’s Day Plant Sale, Mother’s Day in the Garden, Paris: City of Light & Love exhibit, Pumpkin Path, Garden Trick-or-Treat, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Happy Small-idays Exhibit, Night of Lights at the Conservatory, Visits with Santa and Reindeer, Bunny Tails in the Garden

PBS Fort Wayne: Happy Small-idays Exhibit, Night of Lights at the Conservatory, Visits with Santa and Reindeer

WANE TV15: Under the Big Top exhibit, Paris: City of Light & Love exhibit, Jazzworks

WBOI: Jazzworks

So far media have agreed to sponsor the following events; we are meeting with the media contacts in the next few weeks to discuss the other proposals.

ABC21 – Emergence butterfly exhibit

PBS Fort Wayne – Happy Small-idays exhibit, Night of Lights and Santa and Reindeer

WANE TV15 – Jazzworks

WBO - Jazzworks

- Donations Annual Fall Appeal: The general donation letter was sent to our current members and volunteers on November 5th; the follow-up email will be sent on December 3rd.

- Donations in November to the Conservatory Trust: \$11,170.97
 - \$2,985.97 from the Nancy A. William estate for Conservatory operations (one GBU Life policy)*
 - \$6,840.00 from the Beverforden Endowment Fund at the FW Community Foundation
 - \$30.00 donation from Mark and Susan Ritter as a memorial for volunteer Darlene Stucky
 - \$300.00 donation from Jacob Sauer for Conservatory operations**
 - \$25.00 donation from Jane Ford as a memorial for volunteer Darlene Stucky
 - \$100.00 donation from David and Yvonne Fee as a memorial for volunteer Darlene Stucky
 - \$50.00 donation from B. Dahl as a memorial for Deborah Rucker
 - \$40.00 donation from Cheryl Belschner for Conservatory operations**
 - \$100.00 donation from Ronnie Greenberg for Conservatory operations**
 - \$25.00 donation from Jean and Richard Uhrick for Conservatory operations**
 - \$50.00 donation from Lori and Jill Beech as a memorial for volunteer Darlene Stucky
 - \$100.00 donation from Alfred and Carol Wick as a memorial for volunteer Darlene Stucky
 - \$25.00 donation from Linda Vyain for Conservatory operations**
 - \$500.00 donation from Brian Reus for Conservatory operations**

* Nancy A. William was a longtime Conservatory volunteer along with her husband Chuck William. They both designated the Conservatory as a beneficiary of their trust, along with the Fort Wayne Zoological Society.

** Fall 2021 Annual Appeal

- Facility Maintenance and Repairs

- Completed: Updated the special events and exhibit phone message for December.
- Completed: Updated the electronic sign with slides for 2021 holiday events and programs.
- Completed: Created and ordered new koi sign for the Tropical Garden; the sign should be installed within the next two weeks.
- Completed: Ordered name badge, mailbox name plate and supervisor name plate for new horticulturist Gilbert Young.

○ Facility Maintenance & Repairs

- The long-awaited final information and bids were received for the Major repairs to the HVAC controls system. These quotes were forwarded for consideration and approval.
- Allied made repairs to the blower motor on Boiler #3. The repairs returned us to full use for the upcoming season.
- I continued building props for the Holiday and Big Top shows.
- VFP made repairs to door alarm access program, An Air Duct detector and Video monitor system over the month.
- Props and supplies were gathered in preparation for the Show Change. I designed and helped install the outside light show and displays with the help of staff and many volunteers. The Old West show was removed and the Holiday show was installed. Clean up and prep for Night of Lights was completed. We opened the show on Night of lights to the delight of our guests. This project was a major part of this month's resources.
- I continued to help fill the gap in staffing for maintenance over the last month.
- I interviewed and forwarded a candidate to fill the vacant position of Seasonal Maintenance. I hope to have him start in the first weeks of December.

○ Attendance

November 2019: 6,225 visitors

November 2020: 2,448 visitors

November 2021: 4,740 visitors

A decrease of 1,485 or -23.86% to 2019 An increase of 2,292 or +93.63% to 2020 Year To Date ~ January through

November comparisons: 2019 Attendance: 87,073 visitors

2020 Attendance: 34,174 visitors

2021 Attendance: 59,568 visitors

A decrease of 27,505 or -31.59% to 2019 An increase of 25,394 or +74.31% to 2020 Admissions Revenue (General, Group Tours, Schools):

November Admissions 2019: \$19,556.00

November Admissions 2020: \$7,875.00

November Admissions 2021: \$16,006.00

A decrease of \$3,550.00 or -18.15% to 2019 An increase of \$8,131.00 or +3.25% to 2020 Year To Date ~ January through

November comparisons: 2019 Admissions Revenue: \$194,933.01
2020 Admissions Revenue: \$81,353.00
2021 Admissions Revenue: \$186,443.00

A decrease of \$8,490.01 or -4.36% to 2019 An increase of \$105,090.00 or +129.18% to 2020 Membership Revenue: November 2019: \$3,810.00
November 2020: \$2,035.00
November 2021: \$4,627.00

An increase of \$817.00 or +21.44% to 2019 An increase of \$2,592.00 or +127.37% to 2020 Year To Date ~ January through

November comparisons: 2019 Membership Revenue: \$47,205.00 2020 Membership Revenue: \$25,724.70
2021 Membership Revenue: \$50,118.00

An increase of \$2,913 or +6.17% to 2019 An increase of \$24,393.30 or +94.82% to 2020 Gift Shop Revenue: November 2019: \$8,930.52

November 2020: \$7,745.91

November 2021: \$14,548.16 An increase of \$5,617.64 or +62.90% to 2019 An increase of \$6,802.25 or +87.82% to 2020 Year To-

Date - January through November comparisons: 2019 Gift Shop Revenue: \$103,107.89 2020 Gift Shop Revenue: \$70,768.34 2021 Gift Shop Revenue: \$172,122.07

An increase of \$69,017.18 or +66.93% to 2019 An increase of \$101,353.73 or +143.22% to 2020 *2021 Gift Shop revenue has surpassed FY 2019, which was previously a record year for the Gift Shop. Rental & Catering Fee Revenue: November 2019: \$6,290.00

November 2020: \$2,572.50

November 2021: \$1,822.50

A decrease of \$4,467.50 or -71.03% to 2019 A decrease of \$750.00 or -29.15% to 2020 Year To-Date - January through November comparisons: 2019 Rental Revenue: \$83,175.00 2020 Rental Revenue: \$45,363.50 2021 Rental Revenue: \$55,452.17

A decrease of \$27,722.83 or -33.33% to 2019 An increase of \$10,088.67 or +22.24% to 2020 Other Revenue (Includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, etc.)

November 2019: \$6,715.52 November 2020: \$1,709.01

November 2021: \$11,968.14 Year To-Date - January through November comparisons: 2019 Other Revenue: \$356,639.53 2020 Other Revenue: \$320,250.46 2021 Other Revenue: \$327,322.35 Conservatory Total Revenue: November 2019 \$45,301.52 November 2020: \$21,837.42 November 2021: \$48,971.80 An increase of \$3,670.28 or +8.10% to 2019

An increase of \$27,134.39 or +124.26% to 2020 Year to Date Revenue - January through November comparisons: 2019 Total Revenue: \$785,060.43 2020 Total Revenue: \$543,460.00
2021 Total Revenue: \$791,457.59

An increase of \$6,397.16 or +0.81% to 2019 An increase of \$247,997.59 or +45.63% to 2020

○ Miscellaneous

- Hosted four rental tours
- Administered online membership sale
- Attended DTFW Retail Roundtable, United Front Training, NEIHA, and Parking Partners Meeting
- Recorded an episode of the Parks & Recreation Podcast
- Worked to produce a new gift shop displays, and priced inventory
- Provided Site Supervisor coverage to the Conservatory on 7 days including one weekend and Black Friday
- Completed BBP Training

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing



- ◆ Marketing Team is continuing to work on various Riverfront Marketing tasks with a special focus this month on promoting winter special events.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 3,423 hits and www.RiverfrontFW.org has 2,764 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 1,516 hits this month.
- ◆ Completed evaluation reports for: soccer (summer), McMillen Youth (fall), Muddy River Concerts, Community Inclusive Expo., Young Naturalist Series (fall), Lindenwood Programs (summer/fall), Lindenwood School Groups.
- ◆ 2022 Winter Fun Times content updates were completed including updating 3 calendars.
- ◆ Prepared for Christmas events (10 graphic projects).
- ◆ The 2022 Winter Fun Times was available on-line on November 3rd but mailed one week late due to staffing issues with the mailer.
- ◆ WAITING: READI grant from Regional Cities-we submitted for the Franke Renaissance Phase I. We focused on the Goshen Gateway revitalization, and worked with the Zoo and Trails to make our case for support.
- ◆ Received: youth scholarship funds from NIPSCO through a small yearly grant for \$3,800.

- ◆ Organized Santa’s Workshop media photo op.
- ◆ Produced Conservatory holidays podcast.
- ◆ November Media Mentions: 25.

◆ **Web Statistics:**

<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	
35,626	91,402	September	
25,537	67,859	October	<i>Note, web sites were down for 6 days in October impacting statistics.</i>
23,164	59,707	November	

◆ Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
FB Followers	67,453	68,097	68,488
FB Reach	210,595	139,769	119,081
 Twitter Followers	12,865	12,938	12,999
 Instagram Follower	19,428	19,603	19,751

Sarah's. Sayin' "So Long!"

Please join us for a RETIREMENT CELEBRATION in honor of

Sarah Nichter

Wednesday, December 15, 3-6 pm
at the David Hefner Pavilion in Franklin School Park



Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

◆ The golf season has finished for the year. Shoaff Park closed as of November 1, and Foster and McMillen closed after Veteran's Day. Wet and cold weather did not allow us to stay open any later. Here is 2021 by the numbers:

- Total rounds played

	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2020 rounds	14,110	10,646	18,780	43,536
2021 rounds	15,879	11,332	20,017	47,228

- Total golf revenue

2020	\$279,870.46	\$155,801.50	\$353,551.50	\$789,223.46
2021	\$318,488.25	\$180,745.75	\$391,968.00	\$891,202.00

- TOTAL ROUNDS PLAYED

2020 - 43,536		<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	
2021 - 47,228	+8.5%	2020 - \$789,223.46	
		2021 - \$891,202.00	+12.9%

- Weather overall was not a significant factor for the year, although fall was wet.
- With the acquisition of 24 new carts this year, the cart fleet is as follow:
 - 40 carts at Foster Park (24 - 2021 models. 16 - 2015 models
 - 24 carts at McMillen (all 2015 models
 - 24 carts at Shoaff (2002/2007 models)
- Alcohol sales started day after Labor Day.
 - soft roll out
 - staff trained, valuable experience gained
 - logistics figured out for payment/distribution
 - all equipment in place by early October
 - good position to start from next year
- Merchandise for 2021
 - stocked only staples (balls, gloves, tees)
 - end of season close out sale of carryover merchandise had decent success
- Courses were closed in good shape, and we are in a favorable position heading into 2022
- RFP for Foster Park was sent out by Dave Weadock
 - The RFP for Foster Golf will be advertised December 10th and 17th. The RFP is available now through www.QuestCDN.com.
 - Pre-proposal meeting via zoom conference: January 6, 2022 at 11am
 - Proposals due via QuestCDN submittal: January 27, 2022 at 11am

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- We submitted a Next Level Trails grant to the DNR on 12/1 for the Pufferbelly Trail between Washington Center Road and Ice Way. We requested \$2.67 million for the \$4.8 million trail. We have a very competitive, 45% local match, which includes \$222,000 raised by Fort Wayne Trails, Inc and donated easements from five property owners valued at \$44,000. The City’s match with money and in-kind staff time is \$1.9 million. We’ll find out in March if we received the grant.

- Public Works will be hiring some seasonal laborers in January and February to help with maintenance along our trails, bridges, flood levees and right of way landscaping areas. We are putting together work orders right now for the employees to begin working on in early 2022.
- The City’s Greenways & Trails Department, the Parks Department and Fort Wayne Trails, Inc will host a walk and bike ride on December 21st at Salomon Farm for the winter solstice. The event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a walk along the Salomon Farm Loop and also a 6.5 mile bike ride along the Salomon Farm Loop and the Pufferbelly Trail, followed by a bonfire.
- Neil Miller and I are spending a lot of time on the trails trying to familiarize Neil with the network. He’s also spending time learning about the Greenway Ranger program, Open Streets and the Adopt-A-Greenway program. He needs to begin creating the *Trek the Trail* rides together for 2022. Neil is also putting together our signage plan for the new Beckett’s Run Trail.
- We’ve been working with Derek Veit and Shade Trees Unlimited to plant trees along the southwest Fort Wayne trails, the new Beckett’s Run Trail and replacing dead trees along the Pufferbelly Trail.



Division News and Media Coverage:

COVID Safety

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation has thoroughly researched COVID safety precautions, working with local, state, and national organizations to determine best practices for our facilities, services, and programming. Please review guidelines regularly and carefully, as we are counting on you to help us keep our community healthy; as we will continue to keep our department, and the community informed should guidelines change. As of the date of this report, Staff, and all attendees to any Parks & Recreation hosted events, programming. As of September 7, 2021, ***mask*** ***are required in all City-owned buildings and facilities***, and we encourage each household or individuals to ***social distance*** when possible, following the guidelines set forth by the Allen County Board of Health.

Leaf Collection to Begin November 1st

Fort Wayne, Ind. – Beginning November 1, the Fort Wayne Street Department will collect leaves in the City’s more than 400 neighborhoods. This year’s leaf pick-up will run through December 17, but weather conditions or the volume of leaves in a particular area may cause the planned schedule to shift slightly. To keep residents informed of any changes in the schedule, leaf collection updates will be provided daily before 3:00 p.m. at cityoffortwayne.org/leaves. The daily updates will include what neighborhood the crews will be working in the following day. A collection map and guidelines for the process will also be located on the web page. Additionally, residents have the option to call 260-427-2603 to hear recorded daily updates. **The 2021 Fort Wayne Leaf Pick-Up schedule**

- ✓ ~~Central Neighborhoods, [November 1 – November 5 & November 29 – December 3](#)~~
- ✓ ~~South Neighborhoods, [November 8 – November 12 & December 6 – December 10](#)~~
- ✓ **North Neighborhoods, [November 15 – November 19 & December 13 – December 17](#)**

Residents are asked to rake leaves to the curb or park strip in front of their home, **but not in the street**. Leaves should be in the pick-up area by Monday at 7:00 a.m. on the collection week.

Collection Guidelines

- Rake leaves to the park strip by 7:00 a.m. on the first day of the week when crews will be in your area.
- Don't put leaves in your trash or recycling cart.
- Don't burn leaves. It's a violation of the City Code and can result in a fine.
- Don't place leaves in the street.
- Don't place leaves in or over storm drains.
- Parents should remind children not to play in leaf piles near the street for safety and to assist motorists.

Those who would like the flexibility of having leaves collected at their convenience may use the biodegradable bag system. Residents with bagged leaves are asked to call 311 to schedule a pick-up. The bags need to be placed at the curb before calling 311. Bagged leaf collection will run through the end of 2021, weather permitting. Last year, crews collected 25,895 leaf bags and hauled 5,170 truckloads of leaves. In March 2022, the Street Department will announce two additional weeks for bagged leaf collection.

Hessen Cassel

Fort Wayne officials celebrated a milestone Monday in the progress of the \$7 million project on Hessen Cassel Road.

Deputy Mayor Karl Bandemer and other city officials gathered at East Maple Grove Avenue and Hessen Cassel in the Village Woods neighborhood to observe the end of the project's second and largest phase, which focused on stormwater and sidewalk improvements. The multiphase project will improve drainage for 2,300 homes and 70 businesses, a news release said.

The project connects more than a dozen neighborhoods with new sidewalks on the Hessen Cassel corridor.

"After years of planning, we are pleased to see progress with this nearly \$7 million investment, not only to address standing water and drainage issues but to partner with Public Works to add sidewalks," said Anne Marie Smrcek, manager for sewer and stormwater engineering. "It's been a challenge to deal with the altered traffic patterns during construction. And, we appreciate the cooperation and support of the residents, the school district, and businesses during the project."

The \$3.87 million second phase stretches from Stardale Drive to Oxford Street with 2.7 miles of sidewalks on both sides of Hessen Cassel. The event also marked the completion of 3.5 miles of ditches, bioswales – typically vegetated channels instead of concrete gutters and storm sewers – and stormwater pipe.

The project's \$2.1 million first phase was completed in January with similar improvements from Tillman Road to Stardale Drive.

The third phase will bring a wetland to the Colonial Heritage neighborhood. It is under construction and is expected to be completed in 2022.

The project will benefit 13 neighborhoods: Branning Hills, Casselwood Terrace, Eastland Gardens, Hickory Grove, Trier Ridge Park, Continental Park, Rolling Rose, Village Woods Community, Congress-McKinnie, Village Green, Colonial Heritage, Hoevelwood and Greater McMillen Park.

FYPD

The Fort Wayne Police Department celebrated the hard work of officers and civilians at its Public Safety Awards ceremony Monday.

The annual night of honors was held at the Public Safety Academy. The ceremony is to recognize those “who have distinguished themselves by performing some notable act or service in the furtherance of law enforcement and community betterment,” according to the police department's order establishing the awards.

Officer Dustin Falk was recognized with the Distinguished Service Citation of Valor, which is awarded by the police chief or mayor to a department employee “who performs an act of heroism in the face of personal injury or risk of life,” the order said. For his work during a dangerous car chase, Falk received a gold medal, red-and-blue breast bar and a certificate.

Several people received Civilian Awards: Staff Sgt. Brian Chilidonia, Todd Eigenschink, Greg Ensley, Nickolas Gilbert, Michael Gilmore, Mitchell Keisling, Sam Kirori, Danny McGhee, James Meyer, Ethan Reum, Nathan Schaefer, Andrew Shubert and Logan Traylor.

Officers receive the Meritorious Service Citation for performing “an extremely laudable or extraordinary act,” the order said. Officers who received the Meritorious Service Citation are Ty Douglas, Keith Harris, Scotty Lewis, Nathan Mueller, Joel Saxton and Tom Vachon.

Many officers received Letters of Commendation, which are awarded for noteworthy acts or service based on determined and intelligent performance: Officer Bob Abels, Sgt. Chris Brautzsch, Sgt. Mark Brooks, Officer Michael Carrier, Officer Zach Chapman, Det. Chris Crasper, Det. Gavin Dambra, Det. Mark Deshaies, Sgt. Chris Faherty, Det. Matt Foote, Det. Casey Furge, Det. John Greenlee, Det. Chris Hawthorne, Det. Chris Hoffman, Det. Don Kidd, Sgt. Dave Klein, Officer Dave McCarran, Officer Jeremy Nicodemus, Det. Cameron Norris, Det. Robin Pfeiffer, Officer Ben Sloan, Officer Cameron Stuttle, Officer Rod Waters, Officer Everett White and Officer Will Winston.

Officers who received Community Service Awards are Officer Greg Addison, Officer Sherronda Blocher, Officer Steve Ealing, Officer Kyle Garritano, Dep. Chief Steve Haffner, Officer Darin Kenemore, Officer Joel Lengerich, Captain Kurt Letz, Officer Chris McAfee, Dep. Chief Mitch McKinney, Officer Amanda Miller, Det. Matt Newbauer, Officer James Payne, Cap. Sofia Rosales-Scatena, Sgt. Jim Seay, Officer Alisha Smith, Officer Tom Vachon, Officer Isaac Valencia and Officer Ben Young.

Many officers received Awards of Excellence, given to employees who deserve recognition at a lower level of the other awards. They are Officer Shay Beaver, Officer Steve Buffenbarger, Det. Tad Davis, Det. Tina Dickey, Officer Zach Eastburn, Det. Steve Espinoza, Officer Craig Fairchild, Det. Jean Gigli, Officer Keith Harris, Sgt. Josh Hartup, Officer Nicholas Heyerly, Officer Kylen Hill, Officer Christian Lichtsinn, Officer Nick Lichtsinn, Officer Dave McCarran, Officer Julian Mestre, Officer Spencer Munger, Sgt. Art Norton, Officer James Payne, Officer Alex Ramon, Officer Juana Saldana, Officer Joel Saxton, Officer Okey Sharp, Officer Ben Springer, Officer Gale Stelzer, Officer Sue Ulrich and Officer Greg Woods.

Plan Commission

Residents of neighboring housing additions shared with the Fort Wayne Plan Commission Monday their opposition to a proposed commercial development on Illinois Road.

Schoolhouse Lofts, located at 8010 Illinois Road, is planned as a three-building office park, including the old schoolhouse on the property. Owner Dennis Emley and his wife, Donna, lived in the schoolhouse before opening Emley Design Group in the space.

The additional two buildings will be designed to resemble the schoolhouse. Glenn Emley, the owner's attorney and brother, said the office park will be designed to blend in with the residential uses surrounding it.

Each of the two-story, 2,400-square-foot buildings will be designed to have a maximum of two tenants with one on each floor. The spaces will be designed for people to live and work in them, if they choose, Emley said. The development is planned to have 18 parking spaces, as well as some open space.

Emley said the developers will be looking for professional businesses without a high level of foot traffic, such as insurance agents, financial advisers, marketing and communications professionals and lawyers.

Michelle Wood, senior planner with the Department of Planning Services, suggested that the owners look into making a written commitment with the restricted uses. The property currently

has an allowance for Emley Design Group, but the current restrictions will be wiped out if the rezoning is approved, opening up the park for any type of commercial business.

Henry Mazzola, a nearby resident, said he opposes the plan because it will wedge the office park on less than one acre of land in between two developments – the Falls at Beaver Creek and Abbey Place. Both neighborhoods, he said, were designed to be “village-like communities isolated from commercial” uses.

“We think it will spoil the semi-rural look,” Mazzola said.

Schoolhouse Lofts would also be the view from the water feature that reflects the Falls at Beaver Creek's name.

Howard Fisetete said the commercial development would change the view out of his living room window.

“I would be looking right at the back of one of these buildings,” he said.

Fisetete also questioned if 18 spots would be enough for six tenants' homes and businesses.

More than 300 residents live in the two neighborhoods. Steve Mauldin, president of the Falls at Beaver Creek's homeowners association, said he didn't expect the small parcel between the two neighborhoods with a historic schoolhouse to be used commercially.

“I don't think any of our residents ever foresaw that that area would be changed in zoning,” he said. “I believe we all thought it was zoned residential.”

The Schoolhouse Lofts proposal will be discussed by the plan commission at its business meeting Dec. 13. The commission will also discuss requests for Ardmere Plaza, an industrial development, and a 10-townhome development on Getz Road, both of which did not garner public comments at Monday's meeting.

Editorial

If Statehouse Republicans hoped their disastrous seven-hour hearing on vaccine mandate restrictions would be overlooked in a busy holiday week, the Indiana attorney general didn't help the cause last Wednesday.

Just as news releases dropped announcing the one-day session scheduled for Tuesday was canceled, Todd Rokita posted a photo of himself and his son in the empty Senate chamber: “Giving #2 son a personal tour of the Statehouse today as he is off the rest of the week for Thanksgiving. Here we are at the State Senate...ready to pass a bill rescinding emergency powers and prohibiting businesses from requiring vax!”

Oops. The embarrassing effort to rush through limits on vaccine requirements had just been scrapped, but the attorney general was clearly not in the loop.

In addition to the wasteful day-long hearing, their blunder also resulted in extension of the state's public health emergency. The initial purpose of a one-day session was to approve language that would have allowed Gov. Eric Holcomb to lift the emergency while ensuring federal COVID-19 funding would be maintained. Instead, Holcomb was forced to extend the public health emergency for another month to keep the federal dollars coming.

But some lawmakers saw a chance to score political points. They threw together a measure that would have required private businesses to allow vaccine requirement exemptions for religious or medical reasons – including an employee who planned to become pregnant in the future. They also would have been required to give workers the choice to get tested weekly instead of vaccinated, although it was unclear who would pay for testing.

At last week's hearing before members of the House and Senate Rules Committees, Democratic Rep. Terri Austin asked her Republican colleagues why there was a rush to restrict vaccine requirements.

“I think I was where you might have been, Rep. Austin, until I got that call that said, 'I'm losing my job,'” Rep. Matt Lehman, R-Berne, said. “And I sat there and thought, 'Can I wait 30 more days and 20 more people lose their jobs and 50 more people lose their jobs?' This is an issue where, I think, the employment community and employees have said, 'You need to do something to wrap something around this to give us some guidance.’”

As of Monday morning, more than 3.4 million Hoosiers were fully vaccinated. That means 3.4 million Hoosiers have followed the advice of medical professionals or, at least, acknowledged the authority their employer has to require vaccines. But Lehman and other legislative leaders suddenly decided the rights of an individual trumped the rights of all others during a pandemic.

With the rush to adopt restrictions derailed, House Republicans decided to make it a priority in the regular session, which begins Jan. 4. House Bill 1001 incorporates the vaccine mandate provisions, although language allowing medical exemptions for “pregnancy or anticipated pregnancy” was wisely removed from the bill.

Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne, said the formal legislative process is preferable to the unprecedented route of releasing draft language on a Saturday and suspending rules to ask lawmakers to vote on it just over a week later.

“There will be a proper vetting,” said the House minority leader, “It's going to go through the proper process, with committee hearings and amendments. There's a reason we have these procedures. We have committee hearings to improve bills.”

GiaQuinta is undecided on his support for it.

“We'll see how the discussion goes, but I still think it's a problem,” he said. “What we heard from businesses is that they should have the right to protect their workers, their customers.”

And the newly filed bill doesn't erase the Republicans' initial blunder. Taxpayers will pick up the \$183 per-diem expense for each of the lawmakers at last week's hearing, a steep cost for a fool's errand. We can only hope the regular session doesn't prove to be as much of a waste.

Vandever

Longtime Fort Wayne advocate Jerry Vandever today will be named the 2021 Individual of Integrity by the Better Business Bureau Serving Northern Indiana.

Vandever is known for promoting health screenings and supporting local public safety departments. He and his late wife, Linda, were also involved in building the Police Memorial Garden at Baker Street and Fairfield Avenue in 2000.

The award is part of the BBB's annual Torch Awards program. All award winners demonstrate a high level of trust among their team members, their customers and their communities, officials say. Businesses, individuals and nonprofit organizations are recognized for exemplifying “the highest of marketplace ethics.”

Fort Wayne-based Vera Bradley, which makes women's handbags, luggage and accessories, will be named the 2021 Business of Integrity for large businesses. The ROP Shop, which sells rugged outdoor products in Bluffton, will be named the 2021 Business of Integrity in the medium category. M&M Home Remodeling Services of Crown Point will receive the same designation in the small business category.

Kate's Kart, a Fort Wayne nonprofit that gives books to hospitalized children, will be named the 2021 Charity of Integrity.

BNutty, a Portage snack maker, will be named 2021 Entrepreneur of Integrity, an award chosen by the BBB in partnership with Elevate Northeast. And South Bend's St. Joseph Funeral Home & Cemetery will be named the 2021 Pillar of the Community.

“These businesses, charity and individual stood out to our panel of judges as some who personify trust, integrity and ethics in today's marketplace,” Marjorie Stephens, the local BBB's president and CEO, said in a statement. “BBB's mission is to be the leader in advancing marketplace trust, and we're honored to celebrate those businesses that do it right.”

Vandever received the Key to the Fort in 2020 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 2016. The Key to the Fort is awarded to residents who have made an extraordinary commitment to the community through a life of stewardship and involvement, city officials said last year. The Sagamore is Indiana's highest civilian honor.

Fire

The New Haven-Adams Township Fire/EMS governing board will soon be no more.

The board unanimously voted to abolish itself as of Jan. 1 as part of the formation of the East Central Fire/EMS Protection Territory. The members also unanimously voted to spend more than \$500,000 on new equipment.

The new East Central agency will provide fire and emergency medical services in New Haven and Woodburn and unincorporated portions of Adams, Jefferson, Milan and Maumee townships. East Central will formulate its own board made up of representatives from the areas served.

As part of a special meeting Nov. 24 with the New Haven Board of Works, the existing fire and emergency medical services governing body voted to buy and equip an additional ambulance and buy new equipment for the dispatch center.

The ambulance, a demonstrator model from Crossroads Ambulance Sales & Service in Middlebury, costs \$268,291. A request to buy additional equipment to cost no more than \$60,000 also was approved.

The board also voted to spend \$182,032 to update dispatch center consoles after New Haven Fire Chief Joshua Hale said the equipment was urgently needed.

“This is extremely important to the fire department,” he said. “We had a recent tornado-like event and we had two fire departments in town that were not able to speak with dispatch because of the channels we were operating on.”

Hale said the city has had a good record with demonstrator ambulances and at a lower cost.

The process of aligning the area's fire and emergency medical services has been going on for some time, spurred by fire departments in rural areas that have been having greater difficulty finding volunteers. The new district has been accepting applications for several positions.

Republican Mayor Steve McMichael said the board was not disbanded because of job performance.

“New Haven-Adams Township has done amazing work in the last 30 years,” he said. “It was well ahead of its time when it was set up and provided service well beyond some of our neighbors.”

Hale agreed, saying “lots of lives have been saved (and) lots of great things have happened” with the fire and emergency departments.

Hale added he believed the East Central board would be responsive to needs of New Haven and Adams Township residents.

“It's a great day,” said board member Terry Werling, who is also a New Haven council member and former mayor.

What's Happening in the Parks

Fort Wayne, Ind. – The following events and programs are happening the week of December 6:
Pictures with Santa

December 11 & 12 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Sweetwater Bandshell, Promenade Park, 202 W. Superior St.

Bring friends, family, or furry loved ones to Promenade Park for a photo and Christmas singalongs with dancing Santa! With the touch of a button, our animatronic Santa will dance and sing-along to some favorite Holiday songs. It's a unique and fun experience! Find us at the Sweetwater Bandshell East. No reservation or fee is required. In the event of inclement weather, please check the Riverfront Fort Wayne Facebook page for updates.

American Legion Band of Fort Wayne & New Horizons Band

“A Festive Musical Christmas Holiday Concert”

Sunday, December 12, 2:00-3:00 pm

Park Foundation Pavilion

The American Legion Band and New Horizons Band will come together to will help Riverfront foster the holiday spirit with this free concert at the Park Foundation Pavilion in Promenade Park. The musicians will fill the space with familiar holiday classics like “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” and “Frosty The Snowman.” There will be a limit of 35 attendees at this performance, so please ‘Mask Up’ and join us.

Santa & Reindeer Saturdays

December 11, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Santa and his reindeer will be at the Botanical Conservatory on each of the three Saturdays before Christmas. Visit holiday-dressed reindeer who love petting and posing for pictures. Visitors are also invited to enjoy the “Alpine Holiday” exhibit and other jolly scenery on your way to see Santa himself! (NOTE: Santa takes a break from 2-2:30 p.m.) Regular admission fees apply.

Days of Holly Shopping

Saturdays through December 18, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

This year Shop Small Saturday will take place on not just one Saturday, but every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Experience the holiday excitement throughout Downtown Fort Wayne, the West Main Shops, and the Wells Street Corridor. Locally owned & operated shops will be ready to host visitors this Small Business Saturday, including our Conservatory Shop! Conservatory admission not required to shop during this experience in partnership with the Downtown Improvement District.

Suzuki Strings Performance

Sunday, December 12, 2:00-2:45 p.m.

As visitors walk into the “Alpine Holiday” showcase exhibit, listen for the children of Fort Wayne Suzuki playing holiday favorites on the violin and cello. These accomplished students are familiar with the Suzuki Method of instruction that is the “mother tongue method” based on the premise that music is learned like a language. Hear local Suzuki students perform music with holiday ear appeal. Included with regular Conservatory admission.

“Alpine Holiday” Showcase Exhibit

Through January 2, Public hours

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Imagine the sting of snow on your cheek, the brilliance of dusted slopes and the fragrance of mountain pines. The Botanical Conservatory’s version of the Alps offers a bold glacial display that will have visitors basking in the cool blues of winter offsetting the rich deep colors of holiday poinsettias. Wind down a mountain path and admire the scenery from the porch of a snow-capped ski hut. Sponsored by English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, PBS Fort Wayne and Majic 95.1 WAJL.

Late-Night Light Display

Thursdays & Fridays through December 17, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Amp up those holiday plans with a visit to the Botanical Conservatory where the gardens are all dressed up for the season! Dazzle at the display of stunning poinsettias, illuminated photo ops and charming scenes that bring a twinkle to the eye. Unique gifts are available for purchase in the Conservatory Shop. All this and more serves as ideal guest entertainment when the gardens in light are best seen at night, November 26 through December 17 during extended holiday hours from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday evenings. Included with regular Conservatory admission.

Yoga on the Riverfront

Sunday, December 12, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Promenade Park, 202 W. Superior St.

FREE yoga on the Riverfront continues this winter inside the Park Foundation Pavilion overlooking the St. Marys River. This relaxing, 1-hour flow is for all skill levels and led by instructor Chelsea Vona, owner of Discover Yoga.

Holiday Window Displays at Promenade Park Through January 3

Get a small glimpse of daily winter life at Promenade Park through our handmade paper cut light boxes. Paper cut light boxes are believed to have originated from China after paper was first invented. Many countries picked up the skill, but Switzerland remains the enduring leader referring to the art form as Scherenschnitt. The light boxes will be displayed in the windows of the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park from November 24 to January 3 and can be best viewed at dusk.

Adams Radio Group, Dec. 8, Ribbon cutting ceremony celebrates the reconstruction of Burns Blvd.

<https://1039waynefm.com/ribbon-cutting-ceremony-celebrates-the-reconstruction-of-burns-boulevard/>

WANE, Dec. 7, City agrees to new contract, raises for fire department

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-agrees-to-new-contract-raises-for-fire-department/>

WANE, Dec. 7, City Council declines to purchase Allen County Regional Sewer District

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-council-declines-to-purchase-allen-county-regional-sewer-district/>

WANE, Dec. 7, City Council keeps restrictions for adult businesses

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/city-council-keeps-restrictions-for-adult-businesses/>

WPTA, Dec. 7, Council approves contract with multiple raises for firefighters

<https://www.wpta21.com/2021/12/07/council-approves-contract-with-multiple-raises-fort-wayne-firefighters/>



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Join *Visit Fort Wayne* for a retirement celebration of Dan O'Connell's career and contributions to Fort Wayne and Indiana.

- **Thursday, December 16th**
- **Open House Reception: 4:30-6:30 pm, remarks and toast at 5:30 pm**
- **Parkview Field - Suite Level Lounge**

Learn more and RSVP at [VisitFortWayne.com/CongratsDan](https://www.visitfortwayne.com/CongratsDan).



Save the Date for Savor Fort Wayne 2022

Mark your calendars for **January 12 - 23, 2022**, and plan to support local restaurants as *Savor Fort Wayne* restaurant week returns! During these 12 delicious days, Fort Wayne restaurants will offer special deals on three-course menu options to be made available for dine in and carryout.

Registration is now available for restaurants who are interested in participating in *Savor Fort Wayne* 2022. Sign up [here](#), or contact **Emily Stuck** at emily@visitfortwayne.com or 260-424-3700 for more information. Restaurant registration will run through **mid-December**.

All participating restaurants will have their name and menu featured on [SavorFortWayne.com](https://www.savorfortwayne.com) which sees over 700,000 pageviews over the course of the event!



Get Your Tickets for NCAA DIII Men's Basketball in Fort Wayne!

The Tourney Returns! Experience the **2022 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship** back in Fort Wayne this March!

Tickets go on sale tomorrow, Friday, December 3, for the two-day finals being held at the Memorial Coliseum, **March 18 - 19, 2022**. Tickets start at \$30 for adults; \$25 for students/seniors/military for Friday and Saturday.

Tomorrow-only, get 4 tickets for \$80 with code **NCAAD3!**

[Get Your Tickets](#)

November 18, 2021, Department, by Sarah Krug and Michael A. Mulvaney

Excerpt from: We Are Parks and Recreation



In March 2020, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home orders brought the world to a surreal halt. Businesses shut down, transportation was immobilized, and people across the globe sheltered in place. More than a year later, the world is still grappling with the effects of COVID-19, and the park and recreation profession is no different. In fact, during the pandemic, participation in many outdoor recreation-based pursuits has been at an all-time high for many communities. This increased demand — coupled with ever-evolving safety guidelines, protocols, staff and budgetary constraints — has created additional challenges for many agencies.

Known for their resourcefulness and creativity, several park and recreation professionals discovered opportunities within these challenging conditions. These professionals have employed creative problem-solving to not only continue providing quality services, but also develop new and innovative approaches. In many ways, the pandemic accelerated industry innovation as agencies put together creative service-delivery models, including virtual programming, video-based services, “programs in a box,” etc.

One could argue that the pandemic empowered recreation professionals to move even further beyond their professional comfort zones and explore new managerial and operational strategies. Finding commonalities across these new approaches has the potential to help the profession learn how to better navigate future global events, grow and move forward together. ***(To be Continued...)***