



July 2026 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Events

WEST LAFAYETTE'S GRANDVIEW CEMETERY & CARETAKER'S COTTAGE TOUR is scheduled for August 18, 2026. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. See registration information below.

PURDUE FALL SEMESTER CLASSES begin on August 24, 2026.

PURA EVENING AT CIVIC THEATRE is scheduled for September 9, 2026 at Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette located at 313 N. 5th Street in Lafayette. Attend the opening play of Civic's 2026-27 season free of charge. Reservations are required. See registration information below.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON** is scheduled for September 14, 2026 at the Courtyard Marriott at 150 Fairington Avenue in Lafayette. See registration information below.

RETIREE FLU SHOTS are scheduled for September 25 and October 2 and 9. See information below.

PURDUE HOMECOMING 2026 is scheduled for November 7, 2026.

The **2027 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 21, 2027 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON Large Meeting Rooms A & B Near the Railyard at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard, West Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast.

Parking in the lots around Kurz does not require a permit.

Time: 10:00 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, August 3, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Sarah Sowinski, Assistant Property Manager – Prophetstown State Park
- Topic: Prophetstown State Park.... So Much, So Close!
- Come hear about Indiana's newest state park, Prophetstown, located where the Tippecanoe River meets the Wabash near the town of Battle Ground northeast of Lafayette. The park's landscape has been shaped by ice from glaciers, moving water, fire, and human hands that helped maintain the vast tall prairie grass. Native American people hunted and lived along the two rivers for

thousands of years. Visitors can experience the 1920s farm lifestyles, stroll the trails in this 900-acre restored prairie site, enjoy the offerings of the Aquatic Center and gain a better understanding of Native American culture. Learn more about the park located in Purdue's backyard- Prophetstown State Park! Sarah will share more about the park's history, current and future projects, habitat restoration, and how you can get involved.

Monday, September 7, 2026 – No PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting.

Monday, October 5, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Dr Andrew D. Mesecar, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry, Robert W. Miller Directorship, Assistant Vice President for Research - Purdue
- Topic: Purdue Institute for Cancer Research

The July Monthly Meeting Program
Navigating Pharmacy for Older Adults



Sarah Kennedy speaking to PURA members at the monthly meeting on July 6, 2026

Our PURA Program in July was a very interesting presentation on “Navigating Pharmacy for Older Adults” featuring Sarah Kennedy, Outpatient Pharmacy Manager for the Indiana University Health West Region. 43 in-person attendees and 20 “Zoomers” were enlightened with very helpful information about medications, vaccines, supplements and other health related items and procedures for older adults. We were reminded that as we age our body reacts differently to medication and the combinations of

medication we take. We should strive to take fewer medications as every medication has benefits and risks. She suggested caution with supplements as it is an “unregulated” industry and “natural” does not always mean “safe.” Diet, exercise and staying busy are still our best course of action for good health. Sarah’s recommended on-line sources for questions include the CDC and American Society of Geriatrics. She had excellent slides, now available on our PURA website, including the BEERS List of medications that may cause more harm than benefit for adults. The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website: purdue.edu/retirees

Summary provided by John Sautter, Chair of the PURA Program Committee.

West Lafayette’s Grandview Cemetery & Caretaker’s Cottage Tour **August 18**

West Lafayette's historic 1903 Caretaker's Cottage at Grand View Cemetery was once on the Wabash Valley Trust's most endangered structures list. But thanks to a community supported restoration and preservation project this important piece of local architecture and history has been saved.

The West Lafayette Public Library opened the Caretaker’s Cottage Local History Center in March of 2024, with the aim of working with community partners to develop exhibits and displays that highlight local history topics.

The Caretaker’s Cottage and the West Lafayette cemetery will highlight a PURA tour on Tuesday, August 18, at 2:30 pm Two groups of 15 people each will tour the Cottage and cemetery and learn its history and the history of West Lafayette. One group will start in the cemetery and the other in the Cottage and then switch. The guided tour will last about 30 minutes, after which people are free to look around on their own. A bad weather date is September 1.

There is limited parking at the Cottage and more parking available across the street in the neighborhood.

A local group named CHiPS (Community Historic Project Support) raised donations and support and worked with the WL Redevelopment Commission to plan renovation of the Cottage. West Lafayette Public Library’s [Local History and Archive Collections](#) was brought in to develop the newly renovated space into a local history museum. Work was finished on this project in December of 2023.

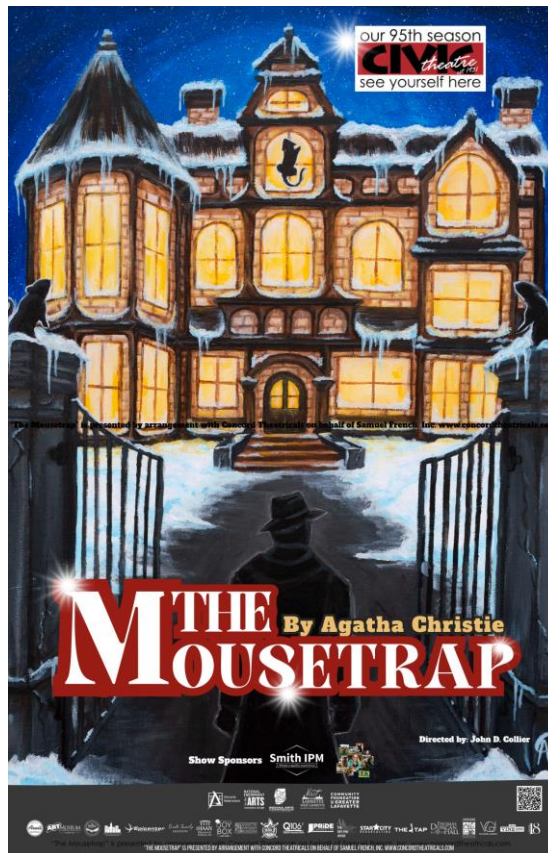
The names on the granite monuments in the cemetery are familiar to all of us. They are the names on local street signs and bridges, on buildings and prominent businesses, including Branigin, Kalberer, Mackey, Leslie, Lambert, McCormick, Morehouse, Stallard, Kettelhut, Shook, and more.

Cottage displays this summer include J.C. Allen: The Photographer and His Family; The Cottage Renovation Story; The Caretaker Who Wasn’t; Mayors of West Lafayette; and West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission -- Safeguarding History.

Tour leaders will be Nick Schenkel, retired West Lafayette Library director and historian, Devon Roddel, Local History Librarian/Archive Collections Head and the curator of the West Lafayette Caretaker’s Cottage Local History Center, and Linda Eales. Eales is president of the West Lafayette Public Library Foundation Board and served as curator of Samara, the John E. Christian House in West Lafayette, for 21 years. She is also the social media person for the Art League of the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette.

The tour is limited to the first 30 people who register. Registration is now open. To sign up contact John Norberg, norbergj@purdue.edu

PURA Evening at Civic Theatre – September 9



Registration is now open for a free evening at Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette, Wednesday September 9, to see the first performance of the Agatha Christie classic play, *The Mousetrap*.

The show is directed by Purdue retiree John Collier who is also designing the set. It is the opening show of Civic's new season. The Wednesday dress rehearsal performance is open exclusively to Purdue retirees thanks to a \$1,000 donation to Civic from PURA.

The lobby will open at 6 pm, and the bar will be open, selling Brokerage Beer and Wine from the Wine Cellar. Also available for purchase will be salty snacks, sodas, bottled water and products from Generation N/A. The doors to general seating (the theatre doors) will open at 7 pm. There are 155 seats. The show will start at 7:30 pm.

The Mousetrap is one of Christie's most loved plays. The murder mystery is filled with surprises and is a classic of the theater.

"I'm thrilled that fellow Purdue retirees will get the chance to see a special viewing of the show," Collier says. "I'm sure they will enjoy it as *The Mousetrap* is a classic Agatha Christie murder mystery. The setting is an English manor home during a blinding snowstorm in the early 1950s. The show is the longest running play in history. It has been playing in London's west end nonstop since the early 1950s. I'm looking forward to working with the cast and crew to bring *The Mousetrap* to life onstage for Civic Theatre's 95th season opener!"

Registration is now open to the first 155 people. Contact John Norberg at norbergj@purdue.edu

PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon – Registration Opens July 20

The 2025 PURA Kickoff Luncheon will be held September 14, 2026 at the Courtyard Marriott (150 Fairington Avenue, Lafayette). The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. that day with the luncheon beginning at 12:00 Noon. The keynote speaker will be Angie Klink, a local author. The title of her talk is: **Beyond-the-Binding an Author's Backstories**. Online registration will run from July 20 through August 21. The registration link is: <https://cvent.me/Ya4MMb>

Purdue Retiree Flu Shots

Purdue University is again offering flu shots to Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) members. Flu shots will be available at the William H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center located at 1340 Cherry Lane, West Lafayette, as follows:

- Friday, September 25 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 2 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 9 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

More detailed information will be shared in the coming weeks.

REMINDER - Purdue Retiree Parking Permit Renewal Information

Current Purdue retiree parking permits will expire on Aug. 15, 2026. Renewals for the 2026-2027 academic year are available now. Parking Services sent emails to retirees that held permits during 2025-2026 with instructions on how to renew their permits.

Additional Information about Retiree permits is available on the PURA website [Benefits Available to Retirees](#) and on the [Retiree Permits webpage](#).

Parking Operations staff are available until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 765-494-9497 or parking@purdue.edu, and the lobby in Stewart Center G054 is open until 4 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunity

Stay Connected to Purdue as an EPICS Design Reviewer

EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) gives Purdue students the chance to design real-world solutions for community partners. Community members from all backgrounds are invited to serve as design reviewers, offering feedback on student presentations twice each semester (October 5–9 and November 30–December 4, 2026). Each review requires as little as two hours and can be done in person or online. It's a flexible, meaningful way to stay involved, share your expertise, and support the next generation of Boilermakers.

For more information—or to be added to the invitation list—please contact Robyn Jakes, Lead Outreach Program Manager for EPICS, at rjakes@purdue.edu or by phone at 765-714-1380.

Tribute PURA Member and Volunteer – Jeris Eikenberry

With sadness we report the passing of Jeris G. Eikenberry, long-time music maker at PURA luncheon meetings at MCL Cafeteria. Jeris was very active in PURA and the Greater Lafayette community. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from Purdue ROTC, he retired from the Active U.S. Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was very active in his church, serving as an Elder, lay counselor, and being highly involved in the church's music programs. He served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Lafayette Public Transportation Corporation. As a member of the Purdue Class of 1959 Gift Committee, Jeris helped design and raise funds for the Purdue University Arch at the intersection of University and Stadium Streets. He was also active in Indiana agriculture, serving as assistant county agent in Randolph County, and County Extension Agent Youth in Madison County, before moving to the Office of the Indiana State Chemist, where he served for 34 years. One of his many awards is The Sagamore of the Wabash. But we in PURA fondly remember Jeris for his entertaining piano playing for PURA gatherings. He always brought joy to our meetings. Jeris, we miss you!

Submitted by Roy Johnson.

What to do if you are having problems receiving PURA emails

If you are not receiving PURA emails, send an email to gifts@purdue.edu explaining that you are a Purdue retiree and are not receiving emails from PURA (Purdue University Retirees Association) sent out through Purdue for Life. Purdue for Life maintains the Purdue retiree information including email addresses in its Salesforce CRM software. Please pass this information along to any retiree friends who are not receiving our emails.

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Visit the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees for information about PURA activities and benefits.

Questions about PURA may be sent to pura@purdue.edu.