



August 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 are required. **JUST A FEW SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!** 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. **SEATS STILL AVAILABLE, BUT DON'T DELAY RESERVING YOURS!** 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. **RESERVATIONS STILL AVAILABLE BUT SELLING QUICKLY!** 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, September 7, 2026 – No PURA Monthly Meeting, see you at the Kickoff Luncheon.

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

Monday, November 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Scott Ksander, Retired, Exec. Director IT Network & Security – Purdue
- Topic: Tech Toys & Other Computer Topics

The August Monthly Meeting Program
Prophetstown State Park: So Much, So Close



Sarah Sowinski speaking to PURA members at the monthly meeting on August 3, 2026

Our PURA Program in August focused on Prophetstown State Park and featured Sarah Sowinski, Assistant Property Manager. The topic brought out a nice crowd of 55 in-person attendees and 21 Zoomers. The state park is located northeast of Lafayette where the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers converge, near Battle Ground, occupies over 2,000 acres and attracts over 300,000 visitors annually. The state park uniquely combines local history, native American culture and offers a wide combination of outdoor activities. Occupied for thousands of years by native Americans, at its peak was home to around 3,000 native Americans representing 14 tribes. Fascinating stories abound of the conflict between Tecumseh, the Prophet and William Henry Harrison all taking place here. Activities offered in the state park include trails (open year-round) to hike, walk, bike...birdwatching, wildlife viewing, botanical viewing, swimming (an aquatic center with a lazy river float area), fishing, picnic, camping, playing basketball, volleyball and more. Interpretative naturalists provide insight into plant and animal life; there is a 1920's working farm area and their 100 camp sites are always in demand. Regular educational opportunities are offered year-round including a popular weekly activity of Phenology Fridays (study of periodic plant and animal cycles...think leaf budding, flowering and bird migration) and monthly activities like the October Annual

Trail of Scarecrows. Prophetstown State Park's is a one-of-a-kind experience, right in our backyard. The complete presentation, with beautiful slides, can be found on our PURA website:

<https://www.purdue.edu/retirees/>

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

Prophetstown Presentation Follow-up. As promised, Sarah Sowinski has provided the following answers to questions from her presentation:

Question: What was the primary language spoken at the Prophetstown settlement?

Answer: Many tribes shared a similar language base on Algonquian. Many individuals spoke more than one language.

Question: Is there any current ownership of land in Tippecanoe County by federally recognized tribes?

Answer: The State of Indiana recognizes no federally recognized tribes as having land holdings within the state. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma owns land in Indiana through a trust near Ft. Wayne. You can learn more about that here: <https://miamination.com/8760-2/>

Additional information: We have a track chair (motorized wheelchair) at Prophetstown that we received through Lilly Endowment funding. You can read more about them here: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/places-to-go/accessibility/trail-chairs> Please call the office at 765-567-4919 if interested in renting the track chair for use in the park - it's free!

West Lafayette's Grandview Cemetery & Caretaker's Cottage Tour **August 18 – It's Not Too Late to Join In**

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.

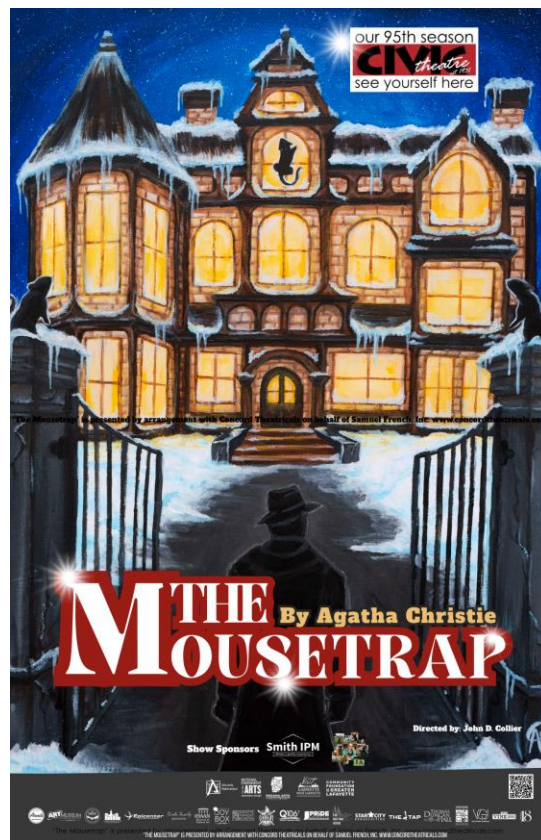
A local group named CHiPS (Community Historic Project Support) raised donations and support and worked with the WL Redevelopment Commission to plan renovation of the Cottage. West Lafayette Public Library's [Local History and Archive Collections](#) was brought in to develop the newly renovated space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

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.

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

PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon – Registration Open Until August 21

The 2026 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. 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 is open until August 21. The registration link is: <https://cvent.me/Ya4MMb>



2026 Annual Kickoff Luncheon Speaker - Angie Klink

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.

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.

Subscribe to Purdue Today to Keep Up with Campus News

Purdue Today, the university's e-newsletter for faculty, staff, and graduate student staff, provides updates on the latest Purdue news. Each issue celebrates achievements in research and innovation and highlights important information for employees. As a Purdue retiree you may find this newsletter a great way to stay connected to the campus. Sign up for Purdue Today at this link if you are not already a subscriber. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/faculty-staff/purdue-today/>

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.