

media **north** collective



MEET THE
**CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR 2025**

Carol Fike Baker

Auburn and North Fort Wayne
Kendallville, Churubusco, Huntertown, and New Haven



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

56th Annual Auburn Auction & Show

Kruse Auctions, 5634 Opportunity Blvd.

Sept. 2: 9 AM–6 PM

Sept. 3–4: 9 AM–8 PM

Auction begins 11 AM

Sept. 5 main event around 5 PM

www.acdfestival.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Tri-State Labor Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival

Noble County Community Fairgrounds

Daily stage schedule not yet posted; Thursday is free Community Night

www.visitnoblecounty.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

10:00am - 2:00pm

ACD Vendor Market

220 E 7th St, Auburn

Join for a fun Sunday Vendor Market! Sign up to be a vendor or plan to visit, shop, and explore this holiday market for all kinds of unique finds, food and more.

www.auburnmainstreet.org

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Labor Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

10:00am

14th Annual Stomp Out the Stigma 5K

Bixler Lake Park

Join for the 14th annual Stomp Out the Stigma 5k Run/Walk!

This event supports the mission of New Hope Clubhouse and, more importantly, helps to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness.

www.nec.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Noon – 5:00pm

2026 Kendallville Car Show

South Main Street, downtown Kendallville

Join for the 21th annual Kendallville Car Show. Typically drawing over 300 classic cars, trucks and rat rods, there's something for everyone to see!

www.kendallvillemainstreet.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Auburn After Hours

1600 Main Street, Auburn

Late night dining, shopping, and exploring.

www.auburnmainstreet.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

9:00am - 11:00am

September Cars & Coffee Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum

Join hundreds of regional car owners and fans for this family-friendly event. Bring your favorite car and enjoy wonderful, Hoosier brewed coffee and local donuts. Cars & Coffee is free and open to all vehicles including: classic, exotic, muscle, and favorite car.

www.automobilemuseum.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

SATURDAY 10AM – 6PM

SUNDAY 10AM – 5PM

Johnny Appleseed Festival 2026

1500 East Coliseum Boulevard

We hope you'll come out and enjoy a wonderful family festival event at the largest festival in Fort Wayne. Step back in time to Johnny's day around 1842 and smell, see and enjoy all the sights and sounds that could have been around during Johnny's lifetime.

www.johnnyappleseedfest.com

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Food Truck Fridays

Main Street, Kendallville

Main Street between Mitchell and William streets.

www.chamberorganizer.com

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27TH**

Noble County Fall & Holiday Expo
Community Learning Center, 401 E. Diamond St.
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
www.noblecountyevents.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

Kendall Cup Disc Golf Championships
Woodland Trail, 524 S. Allen Chapel Rd.
Kendallville Elks Lodge, 120 Weston Ave.
Check-in 7:45–8:30 AM; tee-off 9 AM; awards 4:30–
5:30 PM
www.discgolfscene.com

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3RD**

DeKalb County Free Fall Fair
Downtown Auburn and DeKalb County
Fairgrounds, 708 S. Union St.
General hours TBA;
Sept. 29 choir show at 6 PM
Sept. 30 Forever Seger at 7 PM
www.dekalbcountyfair.org

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

7:00pm
Miss DeKalb County Queen Pageant
DeKalb County Free Fall Fair Main Stage, 708 S.
Union St.
www.dekalbcountyfair.org

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

7:00pm
Steven Adler with Opener Big Caddy Daddy
DeKalb County Free Fall Fair Main Stage, 708 S.
Union St.
www.dekalbcountyfair.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

7:00pm
Colt Ford with Opener All Gone Blue Band
DeKalb County Free Fall Fair Main Stage, 708 S.
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www.dekalbcountyfair.org



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Citizen of the Year 2025

A Champion for Every Student

CAROL FIKE BAKER

Her award honors a life of turning inclusion into confidence, friendship, and opportunity.

Carol Fike Baker's influence can be seen wherever confidence is built one small victory at a time: in a classroom discussion, during a practice, or when a student steps forward to lead. The DeKalb High School special education teacher has spent years making sure young people of every ability have a real place on the team - and a real chance to shine.

The City of Auburn named Baker its 2025 Citizen of the Year in recognition of that steady, far-reaching service. When the honor was announced at a City Council meeting in February 2026, her family, friends, and Baron students were there for the surprise. The gathering reflected the nature of her work: personal, joyful, and rooted in relationships.

At DeKalb High School, Baker helped launch the nationally recognized Unified Sports program and now coaches five teams. Unified Sports brings students with and without intellectual disabilities together as teammates, creating opportunities to compete, lead, and form friendships that last beyond a season.

That vision also produces results. In October 2025, DeKalb defeated Warren Central 53-35 to win the IHSA Unified Flag Football state championship. It was the program's second title, following its 2021 victory, and made DeKalb the first school to win the championship twice.

Everyone contributes. Everyone belongs.

Still, trophies tell only part of the story. Baker's work matters because she sees potential first. Her students are not asked to stand at the edge of school life; they are invited into it as athletes, partners, leaders, and friends. That expectation has changed the culture around her.

Baker's service reaches well beyond the high school. As Area 3 Director for Special Olympics Indiana, she supports programs across northeast Indiana. The city's award announcement also recognized her selection to represent Indiana at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games - another example of how her local leadership opens doors to larger opportunities.

That is why this honor fits. Baker does not simply open doors; she brings people through them, helps them find their footing, and celebrates as they discover what they can do. Her leadership is practical, patient, and generous - qualities that have made Auburn and DeKalb County stronger.

Citizen of the Year is often described as an award for service. In Baker's case, it also recognizes a movement she has helped build: one where inclusion is not a special event, but part of how a community learns, competes, and grows together.



Carol Fike Baker celebrates with Unified Barons students and supporters.

SOURCES & PHOTO CREDIT

1. City of Auburn, Indiana. "Citizen of the Year 2025: Carol Fike Baker." February 18, 2026. Article and photograph.
2. Indiana High School Athletic Association. "DeKalb Barons cap special season with Unified Flag Football title." October 18, 2025.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

DeKalb / Noble / Allen Counties

SEPTEMBER

A Note from Adan

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the first issue of North Media Collective. This first edition marks the beginning of something we hope will grow with and because of you: a place where local voices are heard, good work is celebrated, and neighbors find new ways to support one another.

Our mission is to strengthen our communities by sharing stories that inspire, connect, and encourage service - not just to our community, but to each other. In every issue, we will shine a light on the people, organizations, businesses, and everyday acts of kindness that make this a place we are proud to call home.

Community is more than where we live. It is the relationships we build, the needs we notice, and our choice to show up. I hope these pages spark meaningful conversations, deepen connections, and inspire each of us to lend a hand where we can.

Thank you for joining us at the beginning. I am honored to take this journey with you. Together, we can make a lasting difference - one story, one act of service, and one neighbor at a time.

With gratitude,

Adan Beckett



MATTHEW 22:39

"Love your neighbor as yourself"



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(260) 347-2452	Kendallville Utility Billing
(260) 347-4226	Noble Transit
(260) 347-0352	Kendallville City Hall

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SO MUCH TO SMILE ABOUT...



Auburn City Steakhouse occupies an 1859 building that operated as a hardware store for more than 150 years and changed ownership only four times.



The Strand Theatre showed its first motion picture in 1909 after years of hosting opera, vaudeville and touring stage productions.



The Sprinkling Can has served Auburn since 1977, acts as a DeKalb Humane Shelter drop-off site and has a shop dog named Zuri.



Jen's Bistro hosts Wednesday open-mic nights from May through October, bringing live entertainment to downtown Kendallville.



Cookie Cottage is a sister-run Fort Wayne bakery that can produce more than 12,000 handmade cookies in a single day during peak season.



9th Street Brew is known for its "Duesy" cookie and rents its downtown Auburn space for private gatherings after closing.



Mad Anthony's Auburn Tap Room opened inside the former Blackwells Department Store as an expansion of what was once Indiana's eighth brewery.



In downtown Kendallville the Main Boutique & Gifts occupies a circa-1890 building whose tiled entrance still bears the historic name "Cohen & Son."

NORTH MEDIA COLLECTIVE

SEPTEMBER EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Auburn After Dark



3RD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 | 5-8 PM

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HOW TO MAKE THE SCARIEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME

A 4-WEEK PLAN TO AWESOME

The best costumes don't come from the store, they're built. Follow this month-long plan to create a terrifying, unforgettable look that will leave everyone speechless.

WATCH & BUILD THIS COSTUME!

Follow along with this step-by-step YouTube tutorial for the full build.



SCAN TO WATCH ON YOUTUBE
DIY Grim Reaper Costume Tutorial

WEEK 1



PLAN & GATHER THE FOUNDATION



- Choose your character
- Collect inspiration and references
- Make a list of materials
- Order key items online
- Start any DIY pieces early

GOAL: Have your plan and materials in hand.

WEEK 2



BUILD & CONSTRUCT BRING IT TO LIFE



- Alter clothing for a distressed look
- Build or modify props
- Assemble armor, masks or details
- Test fit and make adjustments
- Start weathering and aging

GOAL: A complete base costume with all major pieces.

WEEK 3



PAINT & WEATHER ADD THE FEAR



- Paint your mask and props
- Add dirt, blood, rust or decay
- Dark wash fabrics for depth
- Add foam, latex or fabric effects
- Layer details for a realistic finish

GOAL: A worn, realistic, terrifying look.

WEEK 4



PERFECT & PRACTICE OWN THE COSTUME



- Do a full test run
- Adjust for comfort and movement
- Add final touches (makeup, sound, lighting, effects)
- Practice your walk, pose and presence

GOAL: You're ready to scare the night away.

PRO TIPS FOR NEXT-LEVEL SCARY



Focus on texture: rips, dirt and layers add instant realism.



Lighting changes everything. Add LEDs or use a lantern.



Sound or movement effects take your costume to the next level.



Take photos during each step to track progress and share!

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THE FAMILY THAT TAUGHT AUBURN TO MOVE

A father built carriages. Two sons saw the automobile coming. Auburn still carries their legacy.



THE ECKHART FAMILY, AUBURN, C. 1890S

ARCHIVE IMAGE: AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

THE ECKHARTS / AUBURN, INDIANA

Charles Eckhart came to Auburn from Pennsylvania in 1874 with his wife, Barbara, and their four children. He brought a carriage maker's skill, a ferocious work ethic, and the business that would become the city's automotive foundation.

Around 1895, Charles stepped back and sons Frank and Morris took over the Eckhart Carriage Company. They saw the automobile coming. The business soon became the Auburn Automobile Company, incorporated in 1903. That year its single-cylinder, water-cooled car made about six horsepower and sold for \$1,450.

It was a generational handoff: Charles built a durable shop; Frank and Morris aimed it at a new century. After Charles died in 1915, the brothers continued until selling to Chicago investors in 1919. The Beauty-Six introduced under new ownership had been designed by the Eckharts before the sale.

The glamorous Cord-era Auburns came later, but the platform was theirs. Charles also paid for the Eckhart Public Library, completed in 1910, then funded a YMCA and Eckhart Park. His legacy joined private enterprise to public life.

The 1890s portrait above looks motionless. The story behind it is not. One generation made carriages. The next wagered on gasoline. More than a century later, Auburn's identity as the Home of the Classics still begins with the Eckhart family.

WANT TO BE OUR NEXT FEATURED FAMILY?

Nominate your family - or someone you know - for the next issue. Email the family's story, contact information, and photos to:

editor.northmediacollective@gmail.com

REPORTING SOURCES

Eckhart Public Library, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, Photos: ACD Automobile Museum, Willennar Genealogy Center/Eckhart Public Library.



1909 / AUBURN

CHARLES ECKHART AT THE REINS

IMAGE: WILLENNAR GENEALOGY CENTER
/ ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Hoosier Harvest Pork Tenderloin

WITH APPLE, SWEET POTATO & MAPLE GLAZE

September in Indiana brings cooler evenings, colorful leaves, and the best of the harvest. This hearty, flavorful dish celebrates local produce and farm-fresh pork for a meal that feels like fall on a plate.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (1 to 1.5 lb) pork tenderloin
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 large sweet potato, diced
- 1 apple (Honeycrisp or Gala), sliced
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- Fresh rosemary, for garnish (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Season pork tenderloin with olive oil, garlic powder, thyme, salt, and pepper.
3. In a large oven-safe skillet, sear pork over medium-high heat for 2 to 3 minutes per side until golden brown.
4. Remove pork and set aside. In the same skillet, add sweet potatoes and cook for 5 minutes. Add apple slices and cook 2 more minutes.
5. In a small bowl, whisk together maple syrup, Dijon mustard, and apple cider vinegar. Pour over the sweet potatoes and apples. Stir in butter.
6. Place pork back in the skillet nestling it among the vegetables.
7. Transfer skillet to oven and roast for 18 to 22 minutes or until pork reaches an internal temperature of 145°F and sweet potatoes are tender.
8. Let rest for 5 minutes. Slice and serve with the roasted apples and sweet potatoes. Garnish with fresh rosemary if desired.



Local Tip

Look for Indiana-grown sweet potatoes and apples at local farmers markets or roadside stands this month for the freshest flavor.



DeKalb County's First Public Splash Pad

Coming to Memorial Park in Auburn, Indiana

Fortify Play is bringing a new place for families to gather, play, and cool off. Planned as DeKalb County's first public splash pad, this exciting project will feature 10 interactive water elements in a fun, accessible setting for children of all ages. Located at Memorial Park, the space is designed with family convenience in mind, including nearby parking, restrooms, picnic areas, and room to relax and enjoy the park together.



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Rendering inspired by Fortify Play concept materials.



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Where History Meets the Table

Auburn City Steakhouse serves as an elevated evening inside one of downtown Auburn's most storied spaces.

COME. RELAX. ENJOY.

A Downtown Story, Beautifully Preserved

In 1859, the Davis family opened a hardware store in the heart of Auburn. More than a century and a half later, that same landmark welcomes guests for dinner. The James family purchased the building in 2016 with a vision for a fine dining steakhouse, joining third generation restaurateur Bob Lebamoff to bring the idea to life.

The restoration honors the building at every turn. Original hardwood floors, tin ceilings, leaded glass, brick walls and the old freight elevator remain part of the experience. Antique cash registers, hardware drawers, and familiar fixtures create a setting that feels less like a themed room and more like living inside of Auburn's history.

At the table, the focus is classic American steakhouse dining, from slow cooked prime rib and hand selected steaks to chops, seafood, and thoughtfully prepared accompaniments. Upstairs, the Davis & James Lounge adds a polished place for cocktails, while private rooms make the landmark a natural choice for celebrations and gatherings.

203 S. MAIN STREET | AUBURN | 260.333.7337

Information and photography: Auburn City Steakhouse and MKM architecture + design

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A DAY MADE FOR PLAY

Pine Hills Block Party

Saturday, September 12, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pine Hills
Church | 4704 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne

FREE FAMILY FUN

Make room for music, movement and a whole lot of play. The Pine Hills Block Party brings Fort Wayne families together for a live DJ, food trucks, a farmers market, bounce houses, obstacle courses, yard and indoor games, prizes and an indoor playland.

Families can also take guided tours, cool off inside or simply relax and connect with neighbors. The event is free and wheelchair accessible.

Wear play-ready shoes, pack water and sunscreen, and pick a meeting spot before the fun begins.

www.visitfortwayne.com



FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | SOCCER

DaMarcus Beasley

A Fort Wayne kid became the first U.S. man to play in four World Cups - then came home to help build the city's professional game.

Interview-style profile. Answers summarize cited reporting; quotation marks indicate Beasley's exact words.

WHAT MAKES THIS A CAREER WORTH CELEBRATING?

The record book starts with 126 U.S. Men's National Team appearances from 2001-2017 and four World Cups. The National Soccer Hall of Fame inducted Beasley in 2023. MLS also records a 2003 Best XI selection and three U.S. Open Cup championships.

WHAT KEPT HIM AT THE TOP?

"My mentality and what I brought to the game was always at a high level," Beasley told U.S. Soccer. He emphasized details, defensive effort and extra work - the parts of performance that do not always appear beside goals and assists.

HOW FAR DID THE FORT WAYNE PATH TRAVEL?

After signing with MLS at 16, Beasley starred for the Chicago Fire, then played for PSV Eindhoven, Manchester City, Rangers, Hannover 96, and Puebla before finishing with Houston Dynamo. His role evolved from speedy winger to experienced defender.

WHY COME HOME?

Beasley joined Fort Wayne FC's ownership group after retiring in 2019 and is now co-owner and Director of Football Operations. "This is about giving back to the city that shaped my soccer journey," he said as the club prepared to enter the professional ranks.

WHAT IS HIS LOCAL IMPACT NOW?

Fort Wayne FC began its first USL League One season in 2026. The club says its professional move is intended to create youth-development opportunities, strengthen the local economy and unite fans across Northeast Indiana. Beasley's journey has come full circle.

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SOURCES & PHOTOCREDITS

[1] National Soccer Hall of Fame - Beasley profile [2] MLS - player profile and honors [3] U.S. Soccer - A Legacy of Longevity [4] Houston Dynamo FC - Hall of Fame announcement

[5] Fort Wayne FC - professional team; 2026 club profile

Photos: Hefebreo / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 2.0); Philipp Zachl

A CITY GROWING TOGETHER

With deep local roots and a practical vision, Mayor Dave Clark is working to move Auburn forward, together.

“When we stand together, we are a stronger community.”



DAVE CLARK

MAYOR OF AUBURN

ROOTED HERE. READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.

Mayor Dave Clark’s connection to Auburn began long before he entered public office. When he and his wife searched for a place to build their life together, they chose Auburn for its small town warmth, community celebrations and opportunities. They married in 2001, welcomed their daughter in 2007, and later opened their home to three exchange students through Cultural Homestay International. After more than two decades here, Clark’s story is closely tied to the community he now leads.

His path to public office was shaped by many years of practical service. Clark spent nearly 17 years in the steel industry and served as an Auburn firefighter from 2008 through 2017. His state certifications included Medical First Responder, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and Firefighter I and II. Clark attended IPFW, now Purdue Fort Wayne, and the F.C. Tucker School of Real Estate. In 2016, he began a new career in real estate focused on serving people.

Together, those experiences gave Clark a firsthand understanding of the decisions facing a growing city: how to welcome investment, preserve quality of life, protect families and ensure that new growth is supported by dependable public services, strong infrastructure and thoughtful planning.

As mayor, Clark has organized his agenda around six priorities: economic growth, housing affordability, infrastructure, public safety, transparency and fiscal responsibility. He wants Auburn to welcome development of all sizes, create more housing local families can afford, extend utilities and broadband thoughtfully, and give police and fire departments the staffing, training and equipment they need as the city grows. He also emphasizes open government and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

That approach can be seen in projects such as The Auburn, a downtown development rising at Ninth and Main. The new building will combine commercial space and housing while honoring the look and history of the former Auburn Hotel. At the 2025 groundbreaking, Clark highlighted the partnership behind a project intended to serve downtown for generations. His administration has also emphasized personal connection through Coffee and Conversation events.

Clark’s message is ambitious but unmistakably local: Auburn can grow while remaining recognizable, welcoming and accountable. For a city known as the Home of the Classics, it is a vision focused on the future and grounded in familiar values: hard work, service, partnership and community pride.

THE MAYOR'S SIX PRIORITIES

01 ECONOMIC
GROWTH

02 AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

03 INFRASTRUCTURE

04 PUBLIC SAFETY

05 TRANSPARENCY

06 FISCAL CARE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

210 E. Ninth Street, Auburn | 260.925.5430 | Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Information and portrait: City of Auburn Mayor's Office and City News. Portrait listed by the city as Visit DeKalb.

TRI STATE LABOR DAY WEEKEND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

50TH
YEAR

SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2026

★ NOBLE COUNTY ★
4-H FAIRGROUNDS

580 N FAIR ST,
KENDALLVILLE, IN 46755

*Wrap up the summer with
four unforgettable days of
bluegrass music, camping,
jam sessions, and community.*

★ 2026 LINEUP ★

- ★ KEVIN PRATER BAND ★
- ★ HILLBILLY CHIC ★
- ★ MUDDY KRICK MOUNTAIN BAND ★
- ★ MILES OVER MOUNTAINS ★
- ★ OTTAWA COUNTY ★
- ★ BOOZE HOUNDS BLUEGRASS ★
- ★ BLUE HOLLER ★
- ★ SUGAR MULES ★
- ★ WATERSHED RAMBLERS ★
- ★ THE MATCHSELLERS ★
- ★ THE DEBUTANTS ★

★ SPECIAL ★
SATURDAY
BLUEGRASS
SHOWDOWN

★★★★★
THE
DEBUTANTS
VS.
THE
MATCHSELLERS

★ MUSIC ★
THU & FRI NIGHTS,
ALL DAY
SAT & SUN!

WEEKEND PASSES

\$50

NON-MEMBERS

CAMPING STARTS

8/27

★ \$18/NT ★

BLUEGRASS ★ GOOD TIMES ★ COMMUNITY

BEYOND THE BALLPARK

Parkview Field transforms a celebrated downtown destination into a flexible setting for meetings, weddings, and memorable private events.



Downtown Fort Wayne provides a distinctive backdrop for events inside and around Parkview Field.

A VENUE WITH RANGE

Most people know Parkview Field as the home of the Fort Wayne TinCaps. Yet beyond the crack of the bat, this downtown landmark is also one of the city's most adaptable event destinations. The state of the art facility welcomes companies, individuals, and charitable organizations with more than 11,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, several outdoor options, and an unmistakable view of the Fort Wayne skyline. That combination gives planners something rare: a familiar local setting that can feel polished, personal and completely different from a conventional banquet hall.

ROOM TO THINK BIG

The 5,000 square foot Suite Level Lounge pairs an upscale bar with a view from behind home plate. Tables, seating and a portable dance floor can be arranged for receptions, dinners or presentations, and the room can welcome up to 220 guests. Across the ballpark, the Lincoln Financial Event Center offers more than 5,000 square feet beyond the right field wall. It can be divided into four rooms, each with an outside entrance, and connects directly to the Treetops Rooftop Party Area and the parking garage. For a smaller meeting, the Neoti Tech Center provides WiFi, a large HD LED screen and comfortable seating for up to 25 people. The 400 Club and The Summit add indoor and rooftop options above center field, while the covered Concourse and tiered Amphitheater open the door to ceremonies and larger gatherings.

THE DETAILS ARE COVERED

Parkview Field also takes much of the work off the host's plate. A standard room rental includes up to six hours, house tables and chairs, setup, tear down, table linens, napkins, and service ware. On site catering can be customized for breakfast, brunch, lunch, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, snacks, and beverage service. Planners can add unmistakably ballpark touches such as the video board, fireworks, batting cages, a behind the scenes tour, a visit from Johnny TinCap, or a popcorn cart. On non game days, event parking can be reserved in the Silver Lot at Brackenridge and Ewing Streets.

AT A GLANCE

11,000+	SQUARE FEET INDOORS
220	LARGEST INDOOR ROOM
6 HOURS	STANDARD RENTAL TIME
YEAR ROUND	INDOOR OPTIONS

SPACE BY SPACE

LARGE INDOOR ROOMS

Each primary indoor room: up to 220 guests

NEOTI TECH CENTER

18 chairs or 25 with couches

400 CLUB AND THE SUMMIT

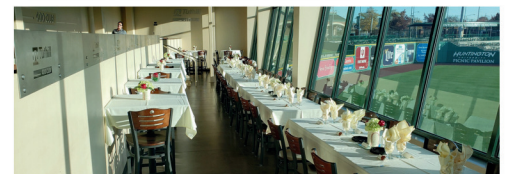
Capacity depends on setup

CONCOURSE AND AMPHITHEATER

Varies by event



LINCOLN FINANCIAL EVENT CENTER



400 CLUB WITH A FIELD VIEW

Information and photography courtesy of Parkview Field.
Confirm availability and capacity directly with the venue.



2026 SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 @GL	4 @GL
5 @GL	6	7 LAN 6:35PM	8 LAN 6:35PM	9 LAN 7:05PM	10 LAN 7:05PM	11 LAN 1:05PM
12 LAN 1:05PM	13	14 @LC	15 @LC	16 @LC	17 @LC	18 @LC
19 @LC	20	21 WIS 6:35PM	22 WIS 6:35PM	23 WIS 7:05PM	24 WIS 7:05PM	25 WIS 1:05PM
26 WIS 1:05PM	27	28 @SB	29 @SB	30 @SB		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 @SB	2 @SB
3 @SB	4	5 BEL 6:35PM	6 BEL 6:35PM	7 BEL 7:05PM	8 BEL 7:05PM	9 BEL 6:35PM ★
10 BEL 1:05PM	11	12 @CR	13 @CR	14 @CR	15 @CR	16 @CR
17 @CR	18	19 DAY 6:35PM	20 DAY 6:35PM	21 DAY 7:05PM ★	22 DAY 7:05PM ★	23 DAY 6:35PM ★
24 DAY 6:35PM ★	25	26 @SB	27 @SB	28 @SB	29 @SB	30 @SB
31 @SB						

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 LC 7:05PM	3 LC 7:05PM	4 LC 7:05PM ★	5 LC 7:05PM ★	6 LC 6:35PM ★
7 LC 1:05PM	8	9 @DAY	10 @DAY	11 @DAY	12 @DAY	13 @DAY
14 @DAY	15	16 SB 7:05PM ★	17 SB 7:05PM	18 SB 7:05PM ★	19 SB 7:05PM ★	20 SB 6:35PM ★
21 SB 1:05PM	22	23 @LC	24 @LC	25 @LC	26 @LC	27 @LC
28 @LC	29	30 GL 7:05PM				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 GL 7:05PM	2 GL 7:05PM ★	3 GL 7:05PM ★	4 GL 6:05PM ★
5 GL 1:05PM	6	7 @WM	8 @WM	9 @WM	10 @WM	11 @WM
12 @WM	13	14	15	16	17 @LAN	18 @LAN
19 @LAN	20	21 LC 7:05PM	22 LC 12:05PM	23 LC 7:05PM ★	24 LC 7:05PM ★	25 LC 6:35PM ★
26 LC 1:05PM	27	28 @GL	29 @GL	30 @GL	31 @GL	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 @GL
2 @GL	3	4 WM 6:35PM ★	5 WM 6:35PM	6 WM 7:05PM ★	7 WM 7:05PM ★	8 WM 6:35PM ★
9 WM 1:05PM	10	11 @QC	12 @QC	13 @QC	14 @QC	15 @QC
16 @QC	17	18 GL 6:35PM	19 GL 6:35PM	20 GL 7:05PM ★	21 GL 7:05PM ★	22 GL 6:35PM ★
23 GL 1:05PM	24	25 DAY 6:35PM	26 DAY 6:35PM	27 DAY 7:05PM ★	28 DAY 7:05PM ★	29 DAY 6:35PM ★
30 DAY 1:05PM	31					

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 @LAN	2 @LAN	3 @LAN	4 @LAN	5 @LAN
6 @LAN	7	8	9	10	11	12

Game times subject to change based on MLB approval



Fort Wayne TinCaps • Parkview Field • 1301 Ewing Street • Fort Wayne, IN 46802 • (260) 482-6400 • TinCaps.com

PROTECT AND SERVE

Two stations. Career and part-time firefighters. One focus: Protecting the people and property Auburn values most.

1,809

CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2025

38

CAREER AND PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

3,090

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING HOURS

333

COMPLETED

CONTACT & STATIONS

260-925-8255

Station 1
4553 County Road
35
Station 2
902 S. Grandstaff
Drive

Staffed 24 hours a day

ESTABLISHED 1885



STATION 2 | 902 S. GRANDSTAFF DRIVE

ANSWERING AUBURN'S CALL

Every hour of every day, the Auburn Fire Department protects Auburn, Union Township and Jackson Township from two strategically located stations. Its 2025 team included 25 career and 13 part time firefighters who answered 1,809 calls for service. The work reached far beyond structure fires: crews handled 1,002 emergency medical calls, 310 service calls, 75 fires and 59 hazardous condition incidents, along with motor-vehicle crashes, rescues and severe weather responses.

WHEN DEMAND OVERLAPS

Emergency readiness also means managing more than one need at once. During 2025, two or more calls occurred simultaneously on 135 occasions, and multiple calls arrived within a single hour 539 times. That pace makes staffing, station placement and mutual aid partnerships essential to dependable service.

TRAINING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Readiness is built through disciplined practice. Auburn firefighters completed **3,090 training hours** in 336 sessions covering live fire, medical care, technical rescue, driving, hazardous materials and command. The department's expanded 1.6-acre hazardous materials training area gives crews realistic experience for complex incidents while also supporting instruction for neighboring departments.

SAFETY BEFORE THE SIREN

Prevention remains a daily priority. In 2025, staff completed **333 fire inspections** and 75 public-education sessions that reached 1,823 children and 166 adults. School visits, community appearances and the Survive Alive House at Station 2 help residents practice safer choices before an emergency begins.

READY EVERY HOUR

*Protecting
what you value.*

From medical emergencies and vehicle crashes to fires, hazardous conditions, and severe weather, Auburn crews stand ready around the clock.

FOR RESIDENTS

ALARM ASSISTANCE

Call ahead about smoke and grant-funded CO alarm availability.

CADET PROGRAM

Free hands-on training for young adults age 15 and older.

BUSINESS SAFETY

Inspection guidance and KnoxBox rapid-access support.



TRUCK 27 | 100-FOOT AERIAL PLATFORM



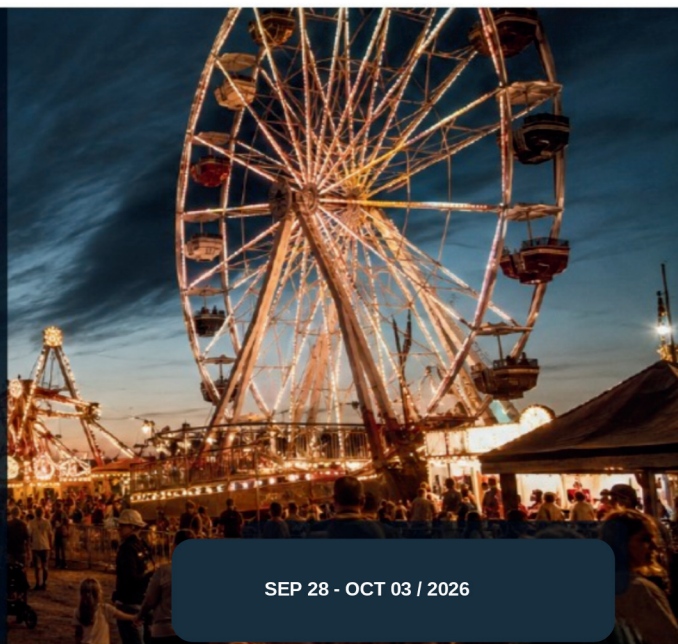
CADETS TRAIN ALONGSIDE FIREFIGHTERS

Sources: City of Auburn Fire Department Photos: City of Auburn / Auburn Fire Department.

WHEN AUBURN TAKES THE STREETS

For six fall days, downtown Auburn and the fairgrounds come together for one celebration with free admission, farming, food, rides and live music.

SEP 28 - OCT 03 / 2026



A 2026 FESTIVAL PREVIEW

HISTORY / TRADITION / THE WEEK AHEAD

FROM HARVEST TABLES TO MIDWAY LIGHTS

By late September, Auburn does more than host a fair. For six days, the fair becomes part of the city. Midway lights glow near the courthouse, and the smell of fried dough fills the streets. Livestock shows, parades, food stands, vendors and music bring downtown Auburn and the DeKalb County Fairgrounds to life. The event calls itself “America’s Family Reunion.” The name fits because it feels like a homecoming for the entire county.

The fair’s history began more than 170 years ago. For its 90th anniversary, the DeKalb County Fair Association and Eckhart Public Library created a history of the event. It explains that DeKalb County’s earliest settlers held agricultural gatherings. Families displayed their crops, animals and household work. Neighbors came together to compare their work, compete and learn from one another.

During the late 1800s, Auburn and Waterloo held separate fairs. Both events attracted visitors, but they also divided the county’s support. After both fairs struggled, the community came together around one celebration in Auburn. PBS’s *Going Home: DeKalb County* reports that the fair has filled the streets around the courthouse since 1907. It is not hidden behind a gate outside town. It takes place in the heart of Auburn.

THE PART THAT NEVER CHANGES

The Free Fall Fair took its modern form in the early 1930s. It celebrated its 90th fair in 2021 after the 2020 event was canceled because of the pandemic. Over the years, the fair has grown without leaving its traditions behind. Visitors can still enjoy youth livestock shows, produce and household exhibits, parades, rides, local fundraisers and free entertainment.

Rock, country and tribute bands perform during the same week as the queen pageant and choir performances. The merchant tent covers 45,000 square feet and holds more than 200 vendors. Local traditions are what make the fair feel special. Families arrive early for the parade. Young exhibitors proudly lead their animals into the show ring. Friends meet along the square and Union Street. Many visitors wait all year for the warm doughnuts sold by the Spencerville Eastern Star. Even the largest concerts feel like community events because the main stage shows are free.

The 2026 fair will run from September 28 through October 3. Farm traditions will once again share the week with rides, bright lights, food and live music. That mix is what makes the Free Fall Fair different. Auburn does not have to choose between its history and a lively celebration. For six days, the community gets to enjoy both.

Auburn does not close for the fair. It becomes the fair.



The full general schedule is still pending. These parade and Main Stage times are the officially published anchors available as of August 17, 2026.

ALL WEEK **FREE GATE + FREE MAIN STAGE**

MIDWAY / 4-H / 200+ VENDORS / RIDES + FOOD EXTRA

MONDAY

SEP 28

7:00 PM Queen's Parade*

7:00 PM Miss DeKalb County Queen Pageant*

THURSDAY

OCT 01

7:00 PM Big Caddy Daddy + Steven Adler

TUESDAY

SEP 29

6:00 PM High School Choir Show

THRU 8 PM DeKalb-area school choirs

FRIDAY

OCT 02

10:45 AM Pet Parade

7:00 PM All Gone Blue Band + Colt Ford

WEDNESDAY

SEP 30

7:00 PM Scout Parade*

7:00 PM OK Boomer + Forever Seger*

SATURDAY

OCT 03

10:00 AM Grand Finale Parade

7:00 PM JD3 + REKT

PLAN SMART *The official pages currently place Monday's Queen's Parade and Queen Pageant at 7:00 PM, and Wednesday's Scout Parade and concert at 7:00 PM. Check the final general schedule before choosing between simultaneous events. Parade routes and event details can change.

SOURCES + STATUS

2026 dates, entertainment, parades and schedule status: dekalbcountyfair.org (Home, Schedule, Entertainment and Event Map). Merchant tent figures: dekalbcountyfair.org/project/merchant-registration. Historical context: DeKalb County Fair Association + Eckhart Public Library, The History of the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair; PBS, Going Home: DeKalb County. General event mix: acdfestival.org/events/auburn-events. Information checked August 17, 2026. Verify updates at dekalbcountyfair.org or 260-925-1834.



Forty Years of Fall Tradition

40 YEARS

Kendallville's Apple Festival celebrates its 40th year with two days of history, harvest flavor, and family fun.

Kendallville has always known how to make autumn feel like an occasion. This October, the Apple Festival of Kendallville reaches an especially meaningful milestone: its 40th year. On Saturday, October 3rd, and Sunday, October 4th, the Noble County Community Fairgrounds will once again become a gathering place for neighbors, visitors, artisans, and families ready to welcome the season.

The festival's appeal comes from the way it lets guests step into another time. A primitive traders village, historical demonstration buildings and a Civil War encampment bring the years 1800 to 1865 to life through skilled crafts and living history. Around them, the fairgrounds take on the texture of an old fashioned village, filled with handmade goods, period inspired displays and the steady rhythm of demonstrations.

Apples remain at the heart of the weekend. The scent of baked treats and cider mingles with the crisp air while food vendors serve sweet and savory favorites. There is plenty to explore between bites, from crafts and antiques to entertainment throughout the grounds. Younger guests have their own area with games, activities, crafts and rides, making the festival an easy tradition for families to share across generations.

Perhaps that is why Kendallville's Apple Festival has endured. It is more than a stop on a fall calendar. It is a celebration of local character, volunteer spirit and the simple pleasure of slowing down together. Arrive early, wear comfortable shoes, bring an appetite and leave room in the day to wander. In its 40th year, this beloved Noble County tradition is ready to show why some of the best autumn memories are made close to home.



THE FLAVORS OF FALL



HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

PLAN YOUR VISIT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd | 9 AM TO 6 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th | 9 AM TO 5 PM

Noble County Community Fairgrounds
580 Fair Street, Kendallville

Free admission | On site parking \$5

A Walk Through Time



Downtown Auburn, looking north along South Main Street.



A 1929 Cord L 29 at an Auburn gathering.

Auburn's story begins at a crossroads. In February 1836, Wesley Park and John Badlam Howe chose land along Cedar Creek where two important trails met. Park laid out a public square at the town's center, a space now known as Courthouse Square. When DeKalb County was organized in May 1837, the young settlement quickly became its civic and commercial heart.

Plan, Protect and Grow with CFA.



**COMPASS
FINANCIAL
ADVISORS**

- Independent firm with two offices located in Fort Wayne and Chesterton, IN
- Personalized Individual Wealth Management Strategies
- Customized Business Retirement Plans and Employee Benefit Packages
- Retirement and Cash Flow Planning
- College Education Planning
- Estate and Generational Wealth Management Planning



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By the 1880s, Auburn factories were producing windmills, wagons, carriages and supporting parts. That skilled workforce prepared the city for the horseless carriage. Charles Eckhart built an automobile at the Eckhart Carriage Company in 1900. In 1903, the Auburn Automobile Company was organized, opening the chapter that would carry Auburn's name around the world.

Under entrepreneur E. L. Cord, the 1920s and 1930s became Auburn's most glamorous era. Auburn, Cord and Duesenberg automobiles paired advanced engineering with elegant design. Many were hand-assembled specialty cars, created in a complex where ideas moved from drafting tables to the showroom floor.

Production ended in 1937, but the community preserved its legacy. The company's Art Deco showroom, completed in 1929 and occupied in 1930, opened as the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum in 1974. The surviving facility was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2005.

Today, a walk from Courthouse Square to South Wayne Street connects Auburn's frontier beginnings with its age of rolling sculpture. The annual Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival keeps the story in motion. "Home of the Classics" remains a living account of craftsmanship, ambition and community pride.

SOURCES & PHOTO CREDITS

National Park Service, Downtown Auburn Historic District nomination, 1984.
National Park Service, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Facility nomination, 2005.
Auburn Essential Services, Our History; Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival.
Photos: Michael Walter


DAYSPRING
CHURCH

GATHERED HERE. SENT EVERYWHERE.

Dayspring Community Church is building a multigenerational community around worship, Scripture, service and everyday disciple-making.

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

A CHURCH BUILT TO GATHER AND GO

At Dayspring Community Church in Auburn, Sunday morning is the starting point, not the finish line. The congregation describes its rhythm simply: gather in Christ exalting worship, then scatter into daily life to make disciples. That purpose shapes everything from the music and biblical teaching to the way volunteers welcome families at the door.

Each Sunday, the auditorium fills for three gatherings at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Visitors can stop at the Welcome Desk, receive a gift, and grab a free coffee before worship. The church's teaching is rooted in Scripture and designed to help people follow Jesus faithfully at home, at work and throughout the community.

The message is clear: church is not meant to be a weekly spectator event. Dayspring invites people to learn, pray, serve and take practical next steps together.

That multigenerational approach begins with Dayspring Kids, where age-specific classes combine teaching, worship, prayer, fun and snacks. The 8:00 a.m. gathering offers infant and toddler care; the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. gatherings provide programming for infants through fifth grade.

Students in grades six through twelve worship with adults on Sundays, then return for Student Ministry on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Games, age appropriate lessons, and middle school and high school discussion groups help teens understand what they believe and why it matters.

Adults can connect through Growth Groups, men's and women's ministries, a grandparents group, marriage support and smaller discipleship groups. Baptism, membership, missions and volunteer teams offer clear ways to move from attending to participating.

"We are deeply passionate about equipping people to grow as disciples."

THIS IS DAYSPRING

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

8:00a.m. | 9:30a.m. | 11:00a.m.

In person and online

MINISTRY LEADERS

Josh Freed, Lead Pastor
Brandon Dyben, Pastor of Discipleship
Jake Husted, Worship Arts Pastor
Tami Mosier, Kids Ministry Director
Lindsey Bledsoe, Student Ministry Director

2305 N INDIANA AVE. | AUBURN

260-925-4599 | dayspringchurch.com

THE MONTH AHEAD

opens the door to a major fall conference.

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

6-27
SUNDAYS

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27 | 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Christ-centered worship, Bible teaching and community. Kids programming varies by gathering; students worship in the auditorium.

09
WEDNESDAY

STUDENT MINISTRY KICKOFF

6:00-8:00P.M. | GRADES 6-12

The new season begins with games, an age-appropriate lesson and separate middle school and high school discussion groups.

16-30
WEDNESDAYS

STUDENT MINISTRY CONTINUES

SEPT. 16, 23 & 30 | 6:00-8:00P.M.

Weekly gatherings help students know Jesus, grow in faith, serve others and build friendships that last beyond the room.

15
TUESDAY

MADE2MAKE EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

\$50 THROUGH SEPT. 15 | CONFERENCE NOV. 14

Register before the price rises to \$75 on Sept. 16. Lunch, practical teaching, encouragement and breakout sessions are included.



PHOTO: DAYSPRING KIDS



PHOTO: CONNECTIONS TEAM

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2026



MADE2MAKE
CONFERENCE

FOR THE EVERYDAY DISCIPLE-MAKER

Made2Make equips believers to move beyond attending church and live out the call to make disciples wherever God has placed them.

EARLY \$50 | REGULAR \$75 | LATE \$90
Lunch is included. Volunteers attend free.

FEATURED VOICES

Keynote speaker John Cassetto, plus Vicki Gatchell, Jake Husted, Bob Davis, Lance Burton, Don Leick, Brandon Dyben, Tyler Monroe, and Lance and Michelle Yoder.

CONNECT ALL MONTH

Growth Groups | Men's Ministry | Women's Ministry | Grandparents Group | Marriage Ministry | Discipleship Groups

Volunteer with Kids, Students, Connections, Facilities, Worship, Prayer or Creative teams.

AVILLA FIRE DEPARTMENT

TOUCH A TRUCK

BIG TRUCKS • BIG FUN • BIG MEMORIES

CLIMB IN • LOOK AROUND • HONK THE HORN



SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HANDS-ON FAMILY EVENT

AVILLA FIRE DEPARTMENT

200 SOUTH MAIN STREET • AVILLA, IN 46710

GET UP CLOSE & EXPLORE ALL KINDS OF TRUCKS!

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

CLEARED FOR A GOOD TIME

Hangar 9 brings food, drinks and entertainment together in one easygoing Auburn spot. Guests can watch the game, meet friends for dinner, play pool or stay late for live music, karaoke and dancing.

HANGAR 9 BAR & GRILLE • AUBURN, INDIANA

HANGAR
BAR & GRILLE

25+

SCREENS

FOOD, SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Hangar 9 Bar & Grille is a casual place to eat, watch sports and spend time with friends. Located on South Wayne Street in Auburn, it has more than 25 televisions, a full bar, pool tables, darts, a stage and plenty of open space.

The menu includes familiar favorites such as wings, tacos, tenderloins, burgers and loaded appetizers. Food is served on red checked paper, which adds to the relaxed neighborhood bar feel. It works just as well for a quick dinner as it does for a night out.

Sports are a big part of Hangar 9. With televisions throughout the room, guests can follow several games at once. Later in the evening, the space can be used for karaoke, live music or dancing. Regular customers and first time visitors can enjoy the same friendly atmosphere.

That variety is what makes Hangar 9 stand out. It is not only a sports bar or a restaurant. It is a local gathering place where people can eat, have a drink, watch a game and enjoy entertainment in one place.

The aviation theme gives Hangar 9 its name, but the experience stays simple: good food, friendly service and plenty of ways to have fun.



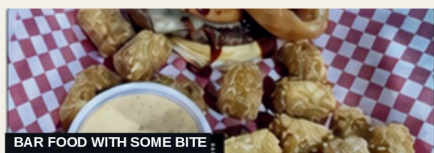
THE ROOM SETS THE PACE

**“SPORTS, FOOD AND
LIVE MUSIC. ALL IN ONE PLACE.**



**SAME OWNERS.
TWO LOCAL SPOTS.**

The owners of Hangar 9 have also purchased Sit 'N Bull Pub & Patio in LaOtto. Sit 'N Bull has served the community for 43 years and will continue to offer the familiar pub and patio setting customers know. Hangar 9 provides a larger sports bar with live entertainment, while Sit 'N Bull keeps its comfortable neighborhood feel. Both locations focus on good food, friendly service and the local community.



BAR FOOD WITH SOME BITE



SEPTEMBER YARD GAME PLAN

PLANT NOW FOR A BETTER SPRING

The essential September jobs that prepare trees, turf and garden beds for the season ahead.



September is one of the most productive months for yard work in Northeast Indiana. Cooler air places less stress on new plants, while warm soil supports root development. Early September is also an important time to seed grasses suited to cool weather, plant bulbs that bloom in spring, and prepare trees and garden beds for winter.

WHAT TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER

Trees and shrubs sold in containers, hardy perennials, and grasses suited to cool weather can all be planted in September. Bulbs that bloom in spring can be planted during fall before the ground freezes. Match every plant to the site by checking sunlight, drainage, mature size, and cold hardiness.

GIVE ROOTS THE RIGHT START

Dig the hole about as deep as the tree's root ball and a little wider. Set the tree so the place where the trunk starts to widen is level with or slightly above the ground. Fill the hole with the soil you removed and water it well. Add fertilizer only if a soil test says it is needed.

GIVE GRASS TIME TO GROW

In northern Indiana, the best time to seed grass is August 15 through September 15. Seed as early as possible during that window. Rake away loose leaves and dead grass so the seed can touch the soil. Keep the surface evenly damp until the new grass begins to grow.

GET BULBS PLANTED BEFORE THE FREEZE

Choose bulbs that feel firm and have no soft spots, mold, or damage. Daffodils, tulips, crocuses, and hyacinths are common choices for spring color. Pick a location that matches the sunlight directions on the package and does not hold water after rain.

Make the hole about three times as deep as the bulb is tall. Place the pointed end up, follow the package directions for spacing, and cover the bulbs with soil. Water the area after planting to settle the soil. Finish planting before the ground freezes.

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15

Best grass seeding window in northern Indiana

ABOUT ONE INCH

Water needed during a dry week

THREE TIMES THE BULB HEIGHT

General planting depth for most spring bulbs

TWO TO THREE INCHES

Recommended depth for mulch

Once the planting is finished, the next step is to...



protect new roots and prepare the rest of the yard for winter.

PROTECT NEW PLANTS BEFORE WINTER

New trees and shrubs still need water after the weather cools. During dry weeks, give them about one inch of water and continue until the ground freezes. Water slowly so moisture reaches the roots instead of running across the surface. Spread two to three inches of mulch over the soil around the plant. Keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk or main stems. Mulch helps hold moisture and protects roots from quick temperature changes. Do not pile it against the bark.

PREPARE BEDS FOR WINTER

Remove weeds before they drop more seed, and take out plants that show signs of disease. Put diseased material in the trash instead of the compost pile. Healthy flower stems and seed heads can stay in place through winter. They provide food for birds and shelter for helpful insects.

Leave a light layer of healthy leaves in garden beds to protect the soil and add organic matter. Move thick piles of leaves away from the bases of plants. Remove leaves from the lawn so they do not block light or trap too much moisture.



- AVOID TWO COMMON MISTAKES
- DO NOT PLANT TREES TOO DEEP.
- DO NOT PILE MULCH AGAINST THE TRUNK.

These jobs do not need to be finished in one day. Start with grass seed and new plants, then move to bulbs, watering, mulch, and cleanup. Completing the work before the ground freezes gives roots more time to grow and reduces the amount of work needed when spring returns.

SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

- Call 811 before digging.
- Plant trees and perennials.
- Seed grass by September 15.
- Plant bulbs before the ground freezes.
- Water new plants and add mulch.
- Remove weeds and plants that show disease.

THE 1800s. FULL FORCE.

For one September weekend, Fort Wayne runs on woodfire, handtools and hard rules.

THE STANDARD

The festival does not use the 1800s as decoration. Vendors wear period clothing, work without electricity or running water, and prepare approved foods over open flame. Goods, demonstrations and entertainment must fit the period. That discipline creates the edge: the iron is hot, the smoke is real, and the work happens in front of you.

THE GROUNDS

More than 200 vendors spread through Johnny Appleseed Park across food, crafts, antiques, a farmers market, children's games, trappers and traders, military encampments, music and working demonstrations. Choose a few priority stops, then let the sound of hammering and the scent of open fire cooking pull you through the rest.

WHY IT LASTS

The festival honors John Chapman and the pioneer life connected to his years in the region. His gravesite sits inside the park along the St. Joseph River. An all volunteer board keeps the standards tight, which is why this Fort Wayne tradition still feels distinct after more than five decades.

SATURDAY SEPT 19 | 10 AM TO 6 PM

SUNDAY SEPT 20 | 10 AM TO 5 PM

**JOHNNY APPLESEED PARK
1502 HARRY W. BAALS DR, FORT WAYNE**

PHOTOS Courtesy Johnny Appleseed Festival via WBOI.

SOURCES Johnny Appleseed Festival, Inc



OPEN FIRE COOKING



LIVING HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 19 + 20 | 51ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL



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