

An Opinionated Resident's Guide to Food and Miscellaneous Other Items in Lafayette, West Lafayette and Environs

By Kay Widdows
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Food and Drink.

Note: there has been a veritable explosion of new restaurants and bars in Lafayette and West Lafayette in the last couple of years. New places are being added all the time, so not being on the list might just mean that a place is new – not that it's not worth checking out.

Pubs/Pub Food/Breweries

The Black Sparrow – (765) 429-0405, 223 Main Street, Downtown Lafayette. Primarily a bar and a music venue but food is served (tapas-style appetizers, pizza, salads). Comprises two nicely restored rooms in an historic building. Casual. Bar features a very good selection of regional microbrewery beers, usually about six or seven taps that alternate. Menu selections are creative; the goat cheese and fig pizza is great. Managed by the spouse of Kate, a manager at the LBC. Good people.

Chumley's - (765) 420-9372, 122 N 3rd St., Lafayette
Sports-type bar downtown with huge beer selection (50 beers on tap including 3 Floyds, Peoples, Goose Island) and so-so food. Very crowded Thursday nights, and very loud after about 9 PM.

Lafayette Brewing Company – (765) 742-2591, 622 Main St., Downtown Lafayette. Pub food including burgers, salads, sandwiches and dinner specials. Beer selections change frequently and there's always a lot of choice. Recent IPA's have been outstanding. Sandwiches around 6-7 dollars, entrées in the 10-12 dollar range. Staff will customize entrées if you ask them. Nonsmoking. Often interesting live music (and pizza) upstairs, especially during the academic year, brought to you through Friends of Bob, a non-profit that supports live music in the Lafayette area (<http://www.friends-of-bob.org/>). Owned by a Wabash alum. You can buy bottled beer for takeout on Sundays, as it is officially classified as a brewery (new Indiana law).

People's Brewing Company - (765) 714-2777, 2006 N. 9th St., Lafayette.
Relatively new brewery that doesn't serve food but has a tasting room at the above address. The beer continues to improve and can also be found on tap at several places around Lafayette and Indianapolis, as well as in stores. You can also purchase bottled beer and growlers from them Sundays.

Nine Irish Brothers, aka O'Bryans, aka The Irish Pub – (765) 746-4782, close to Wabash Landing, West Lafayette, at 119 Howard Street. Second location in the Kmart shopping plaza on US 52 and 26 in Lafayette.

Facsimile of Irish pub complete with fittings imported from the Old Sod (i.e. not one of those made-to-measure Irish pubs). Pub fare is English-Irish, including the best fish and chips in the area, and a very passable Shepherd's Pie. There are several TV screens continuously showing soccer, rugby or hurling, and many nights there is good quality live Irish music. Free Irish dancing lessons Tuesday evenings. Outdoor seating available seasonally. The West Lafayette parking has expanded to the lot across the street. Owners are often around and are very nice people. Last time I checked they served People's (local) beer.

Scotty's – Wabash Landing, West Lafayette.

Pub serving enormous portions of mostly fried food, lots of plasma screens all over showing sporting events. Several international and micro-brewery beers on tap – try the Boddington's if it is available. Outdoor dining available seasonally. Absolutely wild on football weekends – avoid at all cost. Gets crowded on weekend nights when Purdue is in session.

Dinner

Bistro 501- (765) 423-4501 -- 501 Main Street, Lafayette. Unquestionably the best restaurant in town and my choice for a special occasion. Seasonal French, attractive provençal décor, great martini menu, great desserts (try the spoon samplers for just a bite). Outdoor seating seasonally. Entrées fifteen to thirty dollars, decent wine list. I especially like the Vegetable Napoleon. Closed Sundays and for Saturday lunch.

Blue Nile – (765) 743-9330 -117 Northwestern Avenue, W. Lafayette. Hard to find as it's not visible from the street. Good though standard middle-eastern food, inexpensive and very informal.

Bombay – 111 S. River Road, Suite B, (River City Market), W. Lafayette. Pretty good Indian popular with some faculty for their lunch buffet. They now have a hookah scene, however, and seem to be re-imagining themselves as a night spot. Good vegetarian selections. Dinners ten to fifteen dollars. Note: there are a couple of other small Indian restaurants close to the Purdue campus on Northwestern Avenue near the intersection with State St. Of those, Khana Khazana (also offering lunch and dinner buffets) seems to be the most popular. There is also a strictly takeout Indian place we haven't tried called Shaikin Indian Fast Food located in the River Apartments complex on 231 and State St., but they open irregular hours (5:30 to 9:30 pm) and sometimes close for weeks at a time without warning.

The Great Wall – (765)-447-0606 - Sagamore Pkwy North, Lafayette. The food is hit-or-miss and lately mostly miss, but clearly better if you order off the ‘traditional’ menu. Avoid the buffet at all costs. I hear from the Chinese students that Thursday is the best night to go, as the kitchen is restocked that day. (Note: Szechuan Garden, New Cheng Du and O-Ishi are better Chinese choices.) Ask the Wabash Chinese students for the most current info.

Heisei – (765) 463-1682, 1048 Sagamore Pkwy (52) West Lafayette, IN 47906 (in the Payless Shopping Center). The oldest Japanese restaurant in Lafayette located in a more traditional setting than Kokoro (you can sit on the floor if you wish) with a classic (that is, more traditional) menu. Very good sushi though it can be pricey.

Kokoro - (765) 742-8180, 526 Main St, Downtown Lafayette. Japanese. Owned and operated by Tony, a local character who came to Lafayette years ago with the Subaru/Isuzu plant and subsequently struck out on his own, Kokoro features good sushi and other traditional Japanese (and some Korean) dishes, along with draft Kirin Ichiban. Lovely barbecued eel. Urban chic but casual ambiance; popular with Purdue students and faculty. Entrées ten to forty dollars; sushi by the piece.

La Scala Italian Restaurant & Café - (765) 420-8171 - 312 Main Street, Lafayette. Not stellar, but the best Italian in town. Chef-owned. Quality is good and portions huge. Pleasant, casual atmosphere; patio seating available seasonally. Decent selection of inexpensive wines. Dinners ten to twenty dollar range. Convenient hours.

McGraw’s – (765) 743-3932 - 2707 S. River Rd., West Lafayette. Lovely location overlooking the Wabash River and a wine list that regularly wins Wine Spectator award. Dinners fifteen to thirty dollars, well-prepared but very Midwestern. Not great for vegetarians, but still a fun place to go when you feel like a steak. Reservations suggested (although you cannot reserve a window table overlooking the river – those are first come, first served). Good place to take out-of-town guests for an Indiana experience. There is a picture of the owner with George W. in a side room.

Maza (765) 838-3000 - 705 Sagamore Pkwy W West Lafayette, IN 47906
<http://www.mazadining.com>

Mediterranean/Italian place that used to be located in Chauncey Village. Nice ambiance, good food and service. A big step up from the other middle eastern places, but it has a slightly higher price point with most appetizer dishes in the six to twelve range. Good vegetarian selections. They are now offering kebabs and other items for takeout cookout.

New Cheng Du - (765) 449-8728, 3800 State Road 26 E Lafayette. Formerly Nanjing, possibly the best Chinese food in town, but no guarantees unless you order from the ‘traditional’ menu. Not much ambiance, but excellent food, good service, and inexpensive. Ask your Chinese students because the chef has changed recently.

O-Ishi - (765) 743-3838, 213 E State St, West Lafayette. The other contender for the best Chinese food in town – pretty authentic and a lot closer to downtown. It also has a wide variety of Japanese dishes, including shabu-shabu (hot pot). Not fancy by any stretch, but a hit with Purdue's Asian students, who know what they're doing when it comes to food.

Olive House – (765) 743-564 – 105 North Chauncey, W. Lafayette (right by the Purdue campus). Features inexpensive standard Mediterranean cuisine including hummus, falafel, and various kebabs. Good vegetarian selections. Very casual atmosphere better suited to lunch than dinner. Similar to the Blue Nile. Stephen Morillo recommends.

Walt's Other Pub – (765) 474-9527 - 3001 S. 9th Street, Lafayette. On the south side, so a little closer to C'ville than downtown places. Moved a couple of years ago from a nicer site across the street. Good daily specials including fish, steaks, and pasta. Very good BBQ ribs on the menu, as well as sandwiches and salads and their signature white chili. Don't look for anything non-traditional, though. Bell's Two-Hearted Amber often on tap but poor wine selections. Sandwiches and salads five to ten dollars; dinners around twenty. Outside seating available, although the view of the strip mall across Ninth St. is not exactly inspiring.

Red Seven – ((765) 742-7337 - 225 N 2nd St, Lafayette, IN 47901. Downtown. Lovely room, outside dining available seasonally. Trendy place to meet for cocktails. Not a lot of choice, but the food is acceptable and it's a good place to people watch. Dinners fifteen to thirty, not particularly vegetarian friendly last time we were there.

Toscana Italian Bar and Grill, Holiday Inn City Centre, Downtown Lafayette. Pizza and pasta, mainly serving hotel guests.

South Street Smoke House - 3305 South St, Lafayette. Very good BBQ in a, how shall I say, rustic atmosphere (read: takeout!). Hand-rubbed, hickory-smoked house specialties include babyback and St. Louis spare ribs, spicy beef brisket, beef BBQ, and Carolina-style pulled pork. Also down-home side dishes – everything from fresh cornbread to onion rings, though the coleslaw at D and R is better (see below). Serves beer. Moderate prices. The brisket in particular is superb.

Xin Chinese Bistro – (765) 463-2900, 3457 Bethel Dr, West Lafayette (in the same strip mall as the Hana Market and Gaza Korean Restaurant)
New place replacing the wonderful Korean bakery (goodbye, custard tarts!) Chinese-Korean food such as seafood pancakes. Service can be spotty and 18% gratuity is automatically included (just FYI).

Breakfast and Lunch Places (that may do dinner, too)

Baja Peninsula (765)-463-4327, 1904 US 52 W., West Lafayette. Their lemon ricotta pancakes are legendary. Good salads and sandwiches, too. Inexpensive for lunch. They now have a liquor license, but if ambience is important to you I'd stick to lunch rather than dinner. Service indifferent. A favorite of Purdue administrators.

Christo's - 1018 Sagamore Pkwy West, West Lafayette and 3291 Teal Rd. Lafayette. Great place for breakfast; inexpensive. We like the gyros omelet.

D&R BBQ and Catering – (765) 449-4000, 135 North Creasy Lane, Lafayette. Across the street from Home Depot in a strip mall. Wonderful smoked brisket, pulled pork, smoked pork chops, chickens, sometimes turkey legs, and ribs. Also great sides, including those fabulous Midwestern style green beans cooked to death with bacon. You can take out or eat in, though the few tables and chairs are pretty basic. Generous portions and friendly service. One of our favorites.

Dawson's School House of Chili – (765) 269-7802, 102 N. Chauncey, W. Lafayette. An odd little place, but we sometimes swing by when we are in the mood for a chili dog. Five or six different types of chili offered, with interesting “bases” (like mac and cheese, for example). Several taps of nice local beer on tap, including People's. Friendly people, but sometimes the chili is lukewarm.

Downtowner – (765)-447-4156 - Market Square Mall, 2200 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette. Neighborhood breakfast place, very popular with locals. Inexpensive.

Exotic Thai – (765)-449-8898 – 3614 State Rd 38E. Somewhat remote from Crawfordsville, as it is on the way out of town on 38E in a strip mall. We ate there for lunch, and were a little disappointed – wilted, browning lettuce and “watered down” Thai spices, but then again I'm a pretty tough critic because my sister-in-law is Thai and a fabulous cook. It could have just been an off day. Decent ambiance. Has Singha beer.

Gaza Korean Grill - (765) 497-2346 - 3457 Bethel Dr, West Lafayette, IN 47906
The only Korean BBQ place in town as far as I know. Cook your own, very authentic. Obviously not for vegetarians. It's right next to the Hana Market (see below under Ethnic Grocers). They just opened a second location, Gaza II, on US 52 and SR 38, next to Starbucks, in Lafayette, that doesn't seem to be as good as the original.

Green Leaf Vietnamese Cuisine – (765) 743-2288. 111 S. River Road, West Lafayette (just South of the big intersection with State Street, in the same complex as Bombay). Serves the kind of streetside food one gets in Vietnam in a casual strip mall setting. Very reasonable prices and extremely popular with Purdue Asian students. Spring rolls in rice paper very good. Pho noodles are pretty authentic. Fried tofu a little stale and dry the last time we went but we still like the place a lot. They offer Asian beer in bottles and soju (Korean hooch).

Green Sprout (Korean Cuisine) - (765) 269 – 7393, 102 N. Chauncey Ave., West Lafayette (right by the Purdue campus). Neighborhood Korean place. My favorite item is the Kimchi Udon soup but they have lots of choices, including freshly made Asian-style baked goods. Every order prepared individually by the friendly staff. You can also grab “triangle rice” (onigiri) to go in lots of flavors like tuna kimchi. If you want to round out your meal with a Bubble Tea, you can try BasilThai and Bubble Tea in Chauncey Hill Mall around the corner (<http://www.basilthai.net>).

Greyhouse Coffee – (765) 743-3316 – 100 Northwestern, W. Lafayette. Independent coffee house close to campus, often crowded with students during the academic year who use it as an office. Good coffee and tea as well as food such as crepes and gelato. Service can be slow. Popular with Wabash faculty.

Hunter’s Pub. Three locations. The one on Concord Road (Hunter’s Pub South), just off 350 South (Veteran’s Parkway) is handy for a quick exit to Crawfordsville. Serves a Sunday brunch from 10:30-2:30. Mediocre food, but catfish strip fish and chips are surprisingly good, and Bell’s and People’s beers are sometimes on tap. Dreadful wine selection.

Jane’s Gourmet Deli and Catering - (765) 742-5000, 524 North 4th Street, Lafayette. Well-prepared salads, soups, sandwiches as well as a selection of chi-chi gourmet items at elevated prices. Some take-out available, and you can order in advance as well.

Panera Bread – Wabash Landing in West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe Mall. Soups, salads, sandwiches, and pastries. Really crowded on weekends.

Parthenon – (765) 743-6778, Cortez & US 52, West Lafayette. Recently relocated from its eons-old place in Chauncey Village. Reliable food for years. Gyros, salads, roast lamb, Greek chicken, baklava - all served cafeteria style. (Companion to the Akropolis, 3311 South Street, Lafayette.) They also serve dinner, though the cafeteria setting doesn’t make for charming ambiance. Inexpensive. They also do takeout and catering now.

La Perla Tapatia – (765) 464-8215 - 2801 Klondike Rd., West Lafayette. (Formerly La Guadalupano.) Authentic Mexican food, although it is essentially four tables in the middle of a small Mexican grocery store. Great tacos, tortas, and other eats; inexpensive, and serves breakfast all day. Try the beef cheek tacos.

Purdue Memorial Union (yes, Purdue Memorial Union!). PMU, the student center, underwent a major transformation of its catering, and has several decent options available including Thai, Mexican, Flatbread (very popular with the students), a bad pizza place, and a diner. There is also a Japanese-influenced soup bar where you can get soba and other varieties of noodles, and a full-service Starbucks. It is still somewhat institutional, but a viable option if you happen to be on campus during the day and you want something quick.

Sharma's Indiana Kitchen (765) 769-4455) - 1403 Sagamore Pkwy, Lafayette. Probably the best Indian buffet in town (try the goat curry). Jon Stern recommends.

Shelly's Café – 1400 Teal Road, South side of Lafayette. My spouse's former administrative assistant, a longtime Lafayette resident, says "For REAL country breakfasts and the BEST biscuits in the WORLD check out Shelly's Café." Obviously an artery stopper. If you're headed out to Tippecanoe Mall from C'ville, it's on the way.

Southside Diner – (765) 838-0176, 2108 Veterans Memorial Pkwy South, Lafayette
Great little family-owned place, serves breakfast all day in addition to lunch and dinner. Homemade pie. Great service, very well-prepared food. Open every day.

Sunrise Diner, 5th & Columbia, Lafayette. Another place for that Midwest delicacy, biscuits & gravy. It's open early Saturday morning and a fun place to have breakfast before or after shopping at the downtown Farmers' Market (see below).

Thai Essence - (765) 269-9380- 1534 Win Henschel Blvd., West Lafayette, IN 47906
Best Thai place in town, though service is very slow. Nicely paired wines available. There is also a Thai lunch place, Basil Thai and Bubble Tea, in the Chauncey Hill mall next to the Purdue campus in WL that does decent (and quick) pad Thai.

Vienna Café – (765) 743-4446, 208 South Street, West Lafayette. Close to campus, nice atmosphere, nice sandwiches and quiches. Pastries are available for eating there or taking out. (If you need a cake for a special occasion, this is the place but you have to order in advance.) Not expensive but service slow. Popular with the lamentably few alternative students at Purdue. Small outdoor area and indoor seating can be tight during the academic year.

Lafayette Institutions

The Chocolate Shop (Harry's), 329 W. State St. (Near Campus), West Lafayette, 765-743-1467. The primo undergraduate hang-out. An absolute animal show on football weekends when the beer-swilling "Breakfast Club" starts at 7:30 a.m. with students roaming the streets dressed in all manner of colorful and often risqué costumes. Long waits starting at noon on Thursdays. Woodwork has carvings from many prior generations of Purdue students. "Go ugly early" is their signature.

Columbian Park Zoo (Wallace Avenue, Lafayette)

Been there forever, though recently remodeled with kid-friendly bubble fountains and whimsical sculptures. Thankfully, they have traded away the bigger mammals that they couldn't care for (a zebra froze to death there many years ago) in favor of smaller residents. Fun for kids, and free. Also on the park grounds is a baseball stadium that hosts the Colts' World Series every August, a huge aquatics park, a golf course, a little train, and lots of picnic shelters. Feels like you're in a time warp.

Frozen Custard, 2319 Wallace Ave., Lafayette (next to Columbian Park). Homemade soft-serve ice cream cones and other novelties. Closed in the winter, but there are a couple of other places in town called Igloo and Snowbear that have essentially the same ice cream but less atmosphere. Don't miss the pumpkin ice cream available in the fall! (It's up and running 10/1, I hear.)

Triple XXX, 2 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette, 765-743-5373. Twice featured on the Food Channel. A greasy spoon serving breakfast at all hours as well as burgers and fries. The menu includes the famous peanut-butter covered "Purvis burger" named after Duane Purvis, an erstwhile Boilermaker, as well as the new "Boudia burger", named after the Olympic medal-winning Purdue diver. (An offshoot of this establishment called Route 66 at 1566 Win Hentschel Blvd., W. Lafayette next to Kitchen Art, serves traditional diner food and is popular for breakfast and lunch.) Inexpensive. Very lively after 2 am.

Not Too Far from Crawfordsville and Lafayette

The Beef House - 16501 N State Road 63, Covington IN (about 30 minutes from C'ville) West on I74. Known primarily for their steaks and traditional Indiana dishes. Reasonably well-prepared food with a loyal following, but don't go expecting cutting edge cuisine or an intimate setting. If you're on your way back from U of Illinois, it's a good place to stop.

Bijou - 111 West Main Street, Lebanon IN - 765-482-7090. (about 30 minutes from C'ville). A faculty favorite – French food ranging from \$16-\$34 for entrees. Closed Sunday and Monday; dinner only other days of the week (5 pm-10 pm). Reservations a must.

Three Floyd's Brewpub, 9570 Indiana Parkway, Munster IN. OK, this place is more than halfway to Chicago and hard to find, but the beers have a cult following and the food is excellent (think veal sweetbreads sandwich with burrata cheese and sautéed gypsy peppers, e.g.). The beer is world famous – and rightly so. Watch out for the "Dark Lord" release event once a year (summer) which draws pilgrims from all over the US. Impossible to negotiate unless you have planned otherwise.

Bakeries

Baker's Peak - (765) 463-0219, 1185 Sagamore Parkway West (52), West Lafayette Also serves food. Prices for cakes roughly comparable to supermarket cakes but much better quality. Great lemon squares.

Great Harvest, 15th & Kossuth, Lafayette. Fresh bread and pastries. Ask for complimentary freezer bags.

Green Sprout Korean Restaurant and Bakery – see entry above for Restaurants. Mostly Asian flavors like red bean paste.

Mama Ines Mexican Bakery – (765) 446-2629, 1440 Sagamore Pkwy N # 5-6, Lafayette. Mexican pastries of all sorts. Very cheap and fun to visit.

Panera Bread (see above)

Vienna Café (see above)

Beer and Wine

The Village Bottle Shop, 404 Sagamore Parkway W. (US 52), Lafayette. Smaller than the behemoths in Indianapolis, but well-managed and one of the best liquor stores in the state. Great wine selection as well as extensive offerings of craft beers. Ask for Donna if you want advice on wine, or Nathan for advice on beer. If you don't see what you want, chances are they can order it for you, though Indiana liquor laws are Byzantine in their complexity.

Ethnic Groceries (selected)

Asia Market, 2400 Yeager Rd., West Lafayette. Great place to shop if you like to cook. Inexpensive source of all manner of ethnic packaged goods, including Brazilian, Indian, Thai, Japanese, Turkish, as well as Chinese. Interesting produce, including Asian eggplants, snakebeans, pea sprouts, baby bokchoy, fresh bamboo shoots, curry leaves, Chinese broccoli, lotus root – and the Taiwanese owner will even tell you how to cook it if you ask. Don't buy basil, spices, or limes anywhere else. Crowded, densely packed shelves, so if you don't see what you want, ask. Closed on Monday.

Hana Market - Bethel Drive Suite A, W. Lafayette. Japanese and Korean grocer. Similar to Asia Market but more warehouse-like. Large selection of frozen food including kimchi dumplings and green onion pancakes and, of course, a wide selection of kimchi. Some fresh selections, too. Closed on Tuesday.

Kyber Super Market - 134 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906
Near Purdue but a little hard to find and park. Very friendly owners, halal meat and frozen naan and roti as well as fresh curry leaves, cheese, and a great selection of South Asian dry goods like dal.

La Tapatia, 3100 Cincinnati St, Lafayette. Big Latino supermarket, a bit hard to find but worth the effort. The primo supermarket for the local Latino community. Bulk chilies of all kinds, good fresh food section, and Modelo beers. Limes five for a dollar last week – what can I say? Great selection of cooked foods to go on weekends, mainly. There are also some interesting non-food items for sale. Very nice owners. (Note: There are many other good Mexican markets in Lafayette.)

Other Food Resources (selected)

Note: Purdue's Extension Service and Wabash have produced a Local Food Guide for Montgomery County which I will not reproduce. You can find it here:

<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/montgomery/Documents/Local%20Food%20Project%20Web%20Version%20indd.pdf>

D&R Market - (765) 448-6196, 101 N Creasy Ln., Lafayette. A wonderful small specialty grocery and butcher ... one of my favorites! Especially good for locally-grown, farm-fresh and organic stuff. They also run a BBQ place just a few doors down in the same strip mall (see above).

Moody's Meats 9348 S. 550 E., Ladoga, IN 47954; another location at 235 N. SR 267, Avon, IN 46123 and one in Zionsville (11145 North Michigan Road Weston Pointe Shoppes Zionsville, IN 46077). The Ladoga shop is about 20 minutes from C'ville. Excellent quality locally processed, grass-fed beef as well as pork and fresh fish at the Avon store. The filet mignons are to die for, though pricey. They also have free range fresh eggs (though they run out of them frequently). Fresh chicken is available Fridays only the last time I checked.

The Juniper Spoon – A Lebanon-based catering company that uses fresh organic produce and delivers. The Art Department uses them for all their openings, but Lali Hess (who used to work for the Art Department) and her husband also will do dinners, brunches, and conversation platters. Very vegetarian friendly. <http://www.thejuniperspoon.com/> Don't miss their dinner delivery service during the academic year; Lali also has recently started occasionally purveying her delectables out of a truck in the Fine Arts parking lot. Ask Wendy Feller for more info. This is a don't miss, folks.

Sunspot Natural Market - (765) 453-5555, 500 Sagamore Pkw, West Lafayette. Sort of like a poor-person's Whole Foods, only smaller, both in terms of selection and expense. Not bad for those crunchy-granola cravings or for fine selection of bulk foods.

Traders' Pointe Creamery, 9101 Moore Road, Zionsville IN 317-733-1700. Wonderful fresh yogurt, milk, chocolate milk, ice cream, some soft cheese and a lovely hard cheese called Fleur de la Terre. Not far from the Trader Joe's on 86th. When last I checked, D and R Market in Lafayette carried some of their products, as does the Lafayette Farmer's Market.

Books

Barnes and Noble, Tippecanoe Mall on US 52, Lafayette. The usual. We've been doing the New York Times Sunday crossword in the café ever since it opened.

Von's Books, 315 West State St., West Lafayette. A wonderful, independently-owned bookstore next to the Purdue campus. They have a much better fiction collection (especially mysteries) than the big boxes. Also have a large selection of good greeting cards, beads and music, and a fine used book section in the basement. Nearest thing to a "head shop" in town. Carries the print New York Times and a selection of the only decent (i.e., non-saccherine) greeting cards around town.

Art Galleries (very very selected because there are a lot of places)

Artists' Own - 518B Main Street, downtown Lafayette. A cooperative gallery featuring 26 local artists. The media featured includes art glass, fiber, painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, wood, wearable art, baskets, and mixed media. A great place to buy holiday gifts.

Inspired Fire - 2124 St. Rd. 25 South, Lafayette. Owned by Sharon Owens, a gallery and studio that features Sharon's glasswork as well as glass, pottery, and painting by other local artists. Sharon also offers weekend classes for beginning as well as experienced glass workers. Another great place to buy gifts.

Downtown Lafayette Gallery Walk – monthly during non-winter months. Visit <http://www.tippecanoearts.org/> for the date of the next one.

Shops across Downtown Lafayette and West Lafayette welcome artists to present and display original artworks from time to time. Gallery exhibitors offer live music and refreshments, too. Tour maps are available at numerous locations and on the free Wabash Trolley Line. If the weather is nice, it's a lot of fun and a good way to get to know the gallery scene, such as it is. Fill up on wine and cheese at the shops, because it's impossible to get into a downtown restaurant.

Miscellaneous

Beers Across the Wabash – Saturday, August 24, 2013. An Indiana beer festival held on the pedestrian bridge connecting Lafayette and West Lafayette. Tickets at the Village Bottle Shop or at the gate. Several Wabash alumni own breweries that participate.

Celery Bog Nature Center – Lindberg Road, W. Lafayette. 185 acres containing four miles of trails through woods and along a marsh. Abounds with birds. About three miles of trails. A nice walk or bike ride. Free.

Clegg Botanical Gardens - (765) 423-1325 - 1782 North 400 East, Lafayette. Very lovely park is on the banks of the Wildcat Creek. Beautiful wildflowers, ravines and natural surroundings. A nice walk. Free.

Farmer's Market - 5th Street between Main and Columbia Streets, Downtown Lafayette. Open on Tuesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May through October. A city block of vendors offering fresh produce, local meat, not very good cakes and pies made from syrupy ingredients, flowers, and herbs. In August, the heirloom tomatoes are spectacular. Other locations: Purdue Campus, 403 Wood Street in the Dauch Alumni Center lot, Thursday afternoons 3-6:30 pm; and Sagamore West Farmer's Market, Cumberland Park, WL, 3-6:30 Wednesday afternoons.

Feast of the Hunters' Moon – October 5-6, 2013, Fort Ouiatenon, South River Rd. about 4 miles south of West Lafayette. This is one of the Midwest's most colorful festivals with an authentic recreation of an 18th century gathering of French and Native Americans. A military encampment, a voyageur encampment, over 50 "blanket traders", 60 period merchants, lots of traditional crafts and French and Native American foods, and four performing areas for music, dancing and re-enactments. Contact 765-476-8402 for more information. I would be remiss if I did not point out that tickets have gotten expensive (\$12 at the gate, \$10 online in advance but you can get a one-day family pass for \$25 if you buy it in advance), and that the inexorable creep of commercialism in form of the proliferation of vendors has, to my mind, undermined the Feast's original mission to familiarize people with the history of the area.

Indiana Fiddlers Gathering (<http://dcwi.com/fiddlers/Welcome.html>)

A three-day acoustic music festival held in Battleground (just north of Lafayette) in late June annually. Features old-time, swing, bluegrass, and some Celtic fiddling. Lots of fun if you like fiddle music, but be sure you put on lots of Deet and hope it doesn't pour.

Kitchen Art – 1550 Win Henschel Blvd, W. Lafayette. Lafayette's version of Williams-Sonoma or Sur La Table offering upscale cooking equipment and some gourmet ingredients. Also offers cooking classes and occasional tours of the Chicago ethnic markets. I have my knives sharpened there. The owner, Larry Oates, is a great guy and very active in the West Lafayette arts community. Excellent service and the perfect place to browse if you like to cook.

Prophetstown State Park – Battleground, IN

Close to the intersection of SR 43 and US-65. Lovely park located where the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers meet. Hiking and bike trails, picnic shelters, and one of those living-history operations. They are in the process of adding a huge water park. Great for birders. Gate fee is \$6 per vehicle, but we always buy an Indiana State Park Annual pass for \$40 that lets you in free to any park (including Shades and Turkey Run). You can buy a pass at <http://stores.intuitwebsites.com/IndianaStateParks/-strse-2013-State-Park-Permits/Categories.bok>

Purdue Convocations Series (<https://www.purdue.edu/convocations/calendar.asp>)
Purdue's version of our Fine Arts Series. There are a couple of venues – a huge hall (Eliot Hall) that has big acts and musicals (this year includes Blue Man Group, West Wide Story, and Million Dollar Quartet, for example); and two smaller venues for classical and international music (this year including the Hugo Wolf Quartet, the Lysander Piano Trio, and the Popovich Comedy Pet Theater. The programming is often very creative, especially for children.

Riverfront Ice Skating Rink 100 Tapawingo Drive North, Across from Wabash Landing in West Lafayette.

A small ice skating rink open during the winter. Admission is \$3 per person and \$2 per pair for skate rental per session.

'Round the Fountain Art Fair – Courthouse Square in downtown Lafayette
Every year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. A great little art fair that attracts some real talent. A fun way to spend the day.

Silver Dipper Ice Cream, 201 East State St., W. Lafayette in the River Market Complex
Great ice cream, locally owned, friendly service. (Be warned, however, that it is a strictly cash only operation.)

Starbuck's- several locations - 342 East State St. in the Wabash Landing shopping center; 545 Sagamore Parkway West, W. Lafayette, Purdue Memorial Union, and one in the shopping center at Creasy Lane near the intersection with US 26. There is also a Starbucks in the Super Target Store on 26th. You can get the NYT there (also at Von's Books and at Marsh grocery stores).

Wabash Heritage Trail

<http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/parks/division.asp?fDD=17-66>

This is a 13-mile linear trail that starts in the Tippecanoe Battlefield Park and goes along Burnetts' Creek to Fort Ouiatenon. All you need is comfortable shoes, since there are no hills in this part of Indiana.

Indianapolis Tips (Very very Selected)

- Two locations for Trader Joe's
- Flat 12 Brewery, 414 N. Dorman, near downtown. Good beer, patio seating. No food but they host different food trucks and are located right across from The Smoking Goose, a great little charcuterie, which offers many delectables that can be carried across the street for consumption. (Don't miss the fig and pig pate.)
Very weird hours – Thursday 4-7 PM, Noon-8 PM Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 on Sunday.
- Indianapolis Museum of Art – excellent, especially for its size. Gorgeous grounds. Main collection is free. Thanks to Elizabeth Morton, Wabash and our students are very involved. One of my favorites.

- Penrod Art Fair – Saturday, 9/7/2013, on the IMA grounds. \$15 in advance. You can buy tickets online. Very high quality event with lots of entertainment and food. Fun day out.
- The Indianapolis Violin Competition – held every four years and this is not the one. Forty incredibly talented young people compete for the prestigious top prize, which includes a year’s use of Joseph Gingold’s Strad. Tickets very inexpensive. Next one is 2014, though there is terrific programming every year. Starting next year, the Violin Society of America will hold its biannual violin-making competition at the same time and venue. Info at <http://www.violin.org>
- The Ensemble Music Society of Indianapolis – Headed by John Failey, Wabash’s first music major and a great and generous benefactor of the college, this group brings in top quality chamber music five times a season on a Wednesday evening at the Indiana History Center in downtown Indy. The programming is excellent, and often includes some real cutting-edge work. Ridiculously cheap tickets for the quality of the performances. Go to <http://www.ensemblemusic.org> for this year’s calendar, which includes the Juilliard Quartet (which I am currently boycotting because they were rude to two of my students), and the Takacs Quartet.
- Indianapolis Repertory Theater – Eight productions a year, downtown Indy. See www.irtlive.com for this year’s calendar, which includes The Crucible, The Mountaintop, and A Christmas Carol.
- Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra – Good quality orchestra, though the programming is very traditional and it suffers having the Chicago Symphony one state over. Joshua Bell usually plays there once a year. They have a new and very exciting conductor in Krzysztof Urbanski, who is getting a lot of attention.
- Unzicker Brothers Pottery (317) 439-7730, 5449 W. 650 N. Thorntown, IN Not in Indianapolis, but more or less on the way. Wood-fired stoneware, Asian-inspired design, including some spectacular large jars that unfortunately are too big for my small patio. Inexpensive for the quality, fun to visit, and a great place to buy unique gifts. The two brothers are very personable and love to talk about their work.

Other Resources

Several Wabash faculty and emeriti live in Indy and can give you much better advice than I can on restaurants and other things to do. Greg Huebner probably knows the city as well as anyone. As for Chicago restaurant recommendations, Tobey Herzog or David Kubiak are excellent sources of information. There is also a Michelin guide to Chicago restaurant – its first. I’ve got a copy – just ask if you want to consult it.