

THINGS TO DO

- Dulcimer Gathering:** 7-9 p.m. today, Centennial Park, corner of Sixth and Brown streets. In case of rain, meet at Trinity Education Building, Sixth and North streets. Free. Call 765-743-5707.
- Fowler Fourth of July Festival:** noon today, Fowler Town Park, Fowler. Food vendors, kids games, bike show contest, live music and more.
- Tunes on Tuesday:** 6-7:30 p.m. today, Dog N Suds West, 401 Sagamore Parkway West, West Lafayette. Featuring Steven Hill. Call 765-497-7113.
- Absolutely Beginning Drawing Classes:** 6-8 p.m. today, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, 102 S. 10th St.
- Wolcott Summer Festival:** 5-9 p.m. today, town of Wolcott.

WEDNESDAY

- Stars and Stripes Celebration:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Riehle Plaza, 200 N. Second St. Featuring the Lafayette Citizens Band, the Greater Lafayette Freedom Singers, the Purdue University Summer Jazz Band, the Indiana All-Star High School Show Choir and The Tippecanoe Ancient Fife and Drum Corps. Concert ends at 10 p.m. followed by 25-minute fireworks display, which will be synchronized to music. Those not in earshot of the depot may tune into WASK-FM. Bring seating. No rain date. Call 765-502-4470.
- Canal Days:** noon-4 p.m. Wednesday, Wabash & Erie Canal Center, 1030 N. Washington St., Delphi. Wednesday is Toledo Day. Mid-week boat rides and tours of the Reed Case House offered at the regular ticket prices. Boat tour time is 1 pm. Call 765-564-2870.
- Fowler Fourth of July Festival:** 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Fowler Town Park, Fowler. Features 5K run/walk, pancake breakfast in the Pavilion, flag raising, fishing tournament, baby contest, co-ed softball tournament, food vendors, children's activities, Mr. & Miss Firecracker contest, parade at 3 p.m., beer garden, washoo tournament, skateboard competition, bake-off, salsa cook-off, live music, raffle drawing. Fireworks at dark.
- Frankfort Fourth of July Fireworks:** 9 p.m. Wednesday, TPA Park, 301 E. Clinton St., Frankfort.
- Sagamore West Farmers Market:** 3-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Cumberland Park, Salisbury Street and Kalberer Road, West Lafayette. Free admission. Call 765-775-5161 or email bshaw@westlafayette.in.gov. Visit www.westlafayette.in.gov/farmersmarket for musician and events calendar.
- Wolcott Summer Festival:** 7 a.m. Wednesday, downtown Wolcott. Fireworks begin at dark.
- The Leadsmen:** Wednesday, Milligan Park, Crawfordsville. Band will play before fireworks on Baldwin Field. The '60s band features Ray Kirtley, Dan Wills, Kenn Clark and John Ford.
- Seventh Annual First Christian Church Gospel Fest:** 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Flora Park, Flora. Featuring Falling Higher, Malachi Jagers and Resurrection. Fireworks to follow.

THURSDAY

- Lafayette Citizens Band Concert:** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Riehle Plaza, 200 N. Second St. Concert band music by The Lafayette Citizens Band Free. Visit www.lafayettecitizensband.org.
- Bike Nite:** 6 p.m. Thursday, Pechin's Linnwood Tavern, 1244 N. 14th St. Features ride and food.
- Farmers Market:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Centennial Mall, West Lafayette.
- "Rabbit Hole":** 8 p.m. Thursday, Red Barn Summer Theatre, 2101 E. 150 South, Frankfort. Becca and Howie Corbett have everything a family could want, until the event of one long afternoon. Tickets for adults are \$24 Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and \$21 Wednesday and Sunday; Students are \$13. Call 765-659-1657. Visit www.redbarntheatre.net.

SATURDAY

- Eighth Annual Proud to be an American:** all day Saturday, Lake Freeman, Monticello. Features patriotic boat parade, military flyovers, food, games, live music and more. Call 574-583-9751.

Email calendar events to calendar@jconline.com at least 10 days in advance. For full listings, see TGIF in Friday's Journal & Courier.



Emily Carter, left holding Rook Thompson, Ian Thompson and Mary Lehmkuhl with Tippecanoe Urban Farmers at Thompson's home in Lafayette. Tippecanoe Urban Farmers is an organization focused on promoting local gardens and increasing self-grown food in the Lafayette area. BY MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

Urban growth

Local gardeners work city soil for delicious benefits

By **CHRISTEN GALL**
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A collection of farmers from Lafayette — the urban kind — are joining a growing number of alternative farmers across the United States. Tippecanoe Urban Farmers are a new breed of agriculturally aware community members in the city. The farmers are a mix of self-taught gardeners, a media specialist, a community advocate and a permaculture designer. But this diverse group all have one thing in common: the desire to bring people closer to their food.

Emily Carter, involved in media for her full-time vocation, is an urban farmer and one of five other members of the group.

"We're less of a business, and more of a club," Carter said. "It was sort of the brainchild of Ian Thompson." "He thought we'd be like-minded; we all had very similar ideas about how to bring people closer to their food," Carter said.

When the group first started, the purpose was mainly for providing consultation and labor for community members who were hoping to improve their gardens, explained Ian Thompson, the group's unofficial founder.

MORE ONLINE

To find out more about Tippecanoe Urban Farmers, visit the group's website at www.tufarmers.com.

"We've backed away from the business part of it to more of an outreach," Thompson said.

An increased awareness about local farming has started in the past few years across the nation. In November 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released research on direct and intermediated marketing of local foods in the United States.

Small to medium-sized farms were found to dominate local foods sales marketed exclusively through direct-to-consumer channels, such as farmers' markets and roadside stands. Farmers markets are most prominent in the Northeast and the West Coast regions and in areas close to densely populated urban markets.

"Across the country there is a recent increase in people who are revisiting or starting gardens — growing from a balcony to a project that is several city blocks in size," Thompson said. This trend, which started in the coastal regions, is moving to the Midwest, and can be seen in Lafayette with start-up groups such as Tippecanoe Urban Farmers.

Thompson believes the

return to natural food has more to do with the economy than with current trends. He points to major economic crises, and major events such as World War II, as examples of historical times when Americans have increased efforts to grow their own food.

Regardless of the reason behind the shift, Tippecanoe Urban Farmers holds to a simple mission — "We hope to be a resource for the Lafayette area's urban agriculture through creating dialogue and educational opportunities. Our passion is to build a delicious world for all people everywhere."

"One thing that we're most passionate about is giving back to the community," Carter said.

Growing Power, a Milwaukee-based urban farm initiative, has been a source of inspiration for Tippecanoe Urban Farmers. Growing Power found Will Allen seeks to have healthy communities in the city by teaching people to grow healthy food. Tippecanoe Urban Farmers have followed Allen's lead with their involvement in the North 10th Street Co-op Garden in collaboration with Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club.

"I always plug the North 10th Street garden," Thompson said. He also encourages the public to vote for the garden in the Edy's Fruit Bars contest to win an orchard, which would add fruit trees to the plots of vegetables already in the garden. Voting for the online contest is at www.communities.takeroot.com.

"There's a huge interest in growing your own in an urban setting," Carter said. "It's not viewed as being as easy as it actually is. We wanted to bring the food to the city."

IN BRIEF

Free ear plugs offered today for Fourth

Between 9 and 10:30 a.m. today, Whisper Hearing Center will provide free foam ear plugs to the public.

The ear plugs are intended to help filter noise from Fourth of July fireworks. There is a limit of two pairs per person.

Whisper Hearing Center is at 750 Park East Blvd., Suite No. 3, about a quarter mile south of Mike's Car Wash on Indiana 26 East.

To learn more, contact audiologist Judy Marquess-Lara at 765-447-3272.

— Staff reports

MEETINGS

TUESDAY

NAMI-WCI Family-to-Family Workshop: 7-8:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, room 4-901. Call 765-423-6939.

Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group: 10 a.m., Center@Jenks Rest; call 765-447-2311.

La Leche League of Greater Lafayette: 7 p.m., St. Elizabeth School of Nursing; call 765-743-2396.

Caregiver Support Group: 1:30 p.m., Joseph Behler Building, 612 Wabash Ave.; call 765-423-1879.

SHARE Support Group: 7 p.m., Kathryn Weil Center, 415 N. 26th St., miscarriage, neonatal loss or stillbirth; call 765-449-5133.

Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild: 7:15 p.m., Morton Community Center, 222 N. Chauncey St., West Lafayette; call 765-449-4123.

Joy in the Morning, Bible study/support group: 11 a.m., Westminster Village, 2741 N. Salisbury St., West Lafayette; call 765-743-8246.

NAMI-WCI Connection Support Group: 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, 1508 Tippecanoe St., west lounge, first floor, open to anyone suffering from mental illness, confidential; call 765-429-0467.

Lafayette Noon Rotary Club: noon, University Inn, West Lafayette.

Twin Lakes Senior Citizens Bowlers: 1:30 p.m., Monticello Lanes.

Celebrate Recovery: Calvary Baptist Church, 310 Kalberer Road, West Lafayette; 5:45 p.m. fellowship; 6:30 p.m., large group worship/teaching; 7:30 p.m. open share groups; 765-463-2622.

Barnes & Noble Knitting Club: 7 p.m., B&N cafe.

Reynolds Crossroads AA Group: 7:30 p.m., Reynolds United Methodist Church, 502 U.S. 24 East; call 219-279-3140.

Tippecanotes Barbershop Chorus: 7 p.m. weekly, Christ United Methodist Church, 3610 S. 18th St.; call 765-449-1602.

WEDNESDAY

Extended Family: 7 p.m., Woodbridge Health Campus, 602 Woodbridge Ave., Logansport; call 765-432-1479.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha: 7 p.m., Old National Bank at Pavilions.

Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild: 9:30 a.m., Morton Community Center, 222 N. Chauncey St., West Lafayette; call 765-449-4123.

Diabetes Support Group: 10 a.m., Senior Center of Tippecanoe; call 765-447-2311.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group: 6:30 p.m., Rosewalk Village, 1904 Union St., club room; call 765-447-9431.

VFW Post 1154: 6:30 p.m., 2660 Duncan Road; membership meeting.

Masonic Lodge 123: 7 p.m., Masonic Temple, 522 Columbia St.; call 765-447-0053.



For a complete list of meetings, go to jconline.com/meetings.

CONTACT US

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OPEN HOUSE

The children of Jim and Barbara Quinisk will host an open house to celebrate the couple's 50th wedding anniversary from 1 to 6 p.m.

Saturday at the Uptowners Club on Barton Beach Road off Indiana 25 North in Lafayette.

ON JCONLINE.COM

Add an event to our arts and entertainment calendar. Go to Entertainment, Events Calendar, then Add Your Own Event.