



To kick off the holiday season, Mayor Sakbun got a visit from the Grinch! The Grinch is his favorite Christmas character...

Monthly News & Updates from Mayor Brandon Sakbun

December | Issue #22

End of the Year Run-Down from the Mayor

As we approach the close of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our progress, thank you for your engagement, and share a preview of what's ahead. It's been a meaningful year for our city, and I'm optimistic about what we will accomplish together in the year to come.

Year-in-Review

1. Public Safety First

Your safety is our number one priority. We have made historic investments in our first responders. For the first time in 15 years our THFD is fully staffed. We have also secured funding for new body cameras and vehicle cameras through federal grants as well as local funding sources.

Our [Safe Neighborhood and Property Crime Initiative](#), Internet Child Crimes Against Children Task Force, FBI Liaison Officer, and Special Response Team have all received praise from the media, and most importantly, the community. Their actions and disciplined efforts have helped keep our city safe one shift at a time. Our commitment to public safety means you and your family can feel safe in our community.

2. Neighborhood Cleanup & Demolition

One of our top priorities this year has been removing dilapidated and unsafe buildings, so our neighborhoods can thrive. Over the past year months, over 96 homes and structures have been cleared. These actions pave the way for productive reuse of land — whether infill housing, parks, or commercial development.

We've also completed demolition for key sites downtown: the former Vigo County School Corporation building and the old police station, which will make way for mixed-use projects (hotel, restaurant, apartments) and bring new life back to our core. Read below for more 2025 Redevelopment numbers.

3. Parks & Recreation Upgrades



CITY EVENTS

Check out what events are happening this month in Terre Haute!

CITY CLOSURES

View the planned City Hall closures for observed Holidays this month.

STREET CLOSURES

View the planned street closures within the city limits this month.

We've continued to invest in our public spaces, because parks are more than green-spaces, they're community spaces where our families build memories and keep active. At Rea Park, for example, phase one of the clubhouse renovation is underway, and we are also planning the addition of playground equipment, tennis and pickleball courts so that it serves not just Terre Haute, but all of southern Vigo County. Herz Rose Park is 99% complete. Our neighborhood parks have seen a number of improvements as well. I look forward to continuing to improve our parks through projects like the renovated YMCA, Booker T Washington renovation, and Neighborhood Parks Improvements Grant Program.

Our aim is to ensure every resident has access to safe, vibrant parks and recreation opportunities regardless of their zip-code.

4. Infrastructure, Housing & Growth

On the housing front, we began the year with approximately 119 vacant lots that met minimum "buildable" criteria and have since moved nearly 40 of those into active development. This is crucial as we face a housing shortage tied to incoming jobs and new development. Regarding commercial growth, we've seen private investment, streamlined permitting, and a dedication to working with staff to reduce delays and encourage builders to choose Terre Haute.

Through the Homes for the Future program with Thrive West Central, we've seen record results - 487 new residential units built in Vigo County in 2024 alone.

The numbers have continued to improve in 2025 as we celebrated the groundbreaking of several new housing projects ranging from market-rate to income-based housing.

Looking Ahead to the New Year

As we turn the page into 2026, there are several key initiatives that will shape our path:

- Expand park amenities: Beyond Rea Park, we will be launching designs and community input sessions for upgrades in other parks, with focus on accessibility, safety, and modern amenities (playgrounds, lighting, trails).
- Continue demolition & redevelopment: With many properties cleared, the next wave is active redevelopment — creating new homes, mixed-use space, and commercial opportunities for residents.
- Boost housing inventory: Our goal remains to reduce the number of vacant buildable lots while also incentivizing infill and strategic densification where appropriate.
- Maintain open communication: As your city government, we committed to transparency and responsiveness. Expect continued updates, forums, and newsletters that keep you in the loop and allow your voice to guide policy.

In Gratitude

Thank you for your involvement—whether you attended a meeting, offered feedback, volunteered, or simply took part in a neighborhood cleanup. The success of our city depends not just on plans and budgets, but on people.

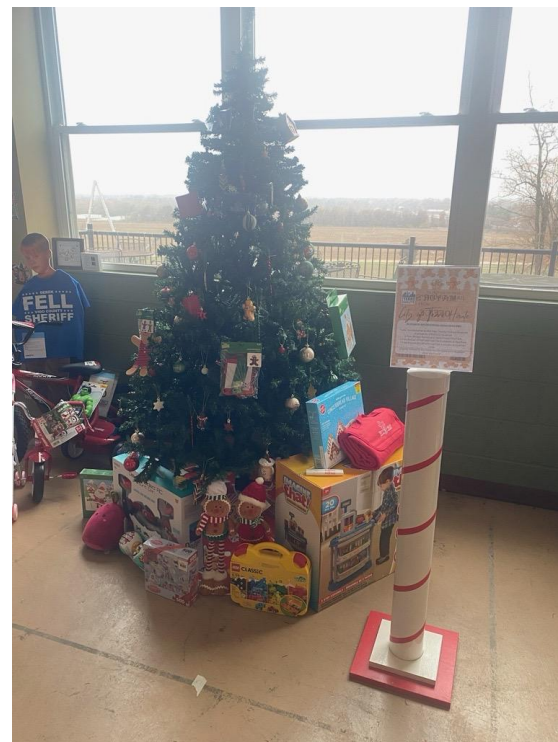
Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones. May the season bring rest, joy, and time together. And here's to a very Happy New Year—as we enter 2026, let's continue building a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant Terre Haute together.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Brandon Sakbun

Mayor, City of Terre Haute

City of Terre Haute Tree at the Festival of Tree Event

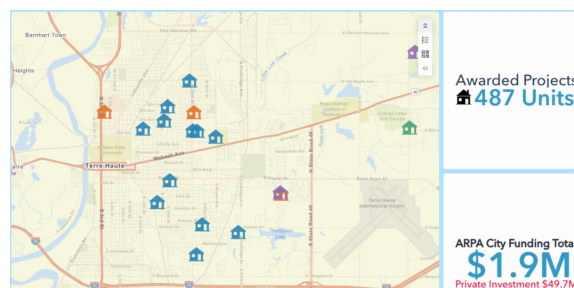


The City of Terre Haute donated a classic Christmas tree to this event full of fun opportunities to explore Terre Haute along with toys for kiddos of all ages.

Congrats to the lucky winner!



Parks Department setting up the Christmas tree in the City Hall Courtyard.



P.S. If you ever want to share thoughts, ask questions, or get involved in one of our upcoming projects, please don't hesitate to [reach out](#). Let's keep the momentum going!



We've tackled one of Terre Haute's biggest challenges head-on: our aging housing stock.

We're not just building houses; we're building neighborhoods and opportunities for families who want to make Terre Haute home.

Leaf Pickup Update from the Street Department

Due to the rain Terre Haute received over the last week of November, leaf pickup has been delayed.

Expect crews to finish the Orange Zone and transition to the Green Zone today, Monday, December 1st.

Potential freezing rain or snow accumulation may affect these dates.

View the map and find out what zone you're in by going [HERE](#).

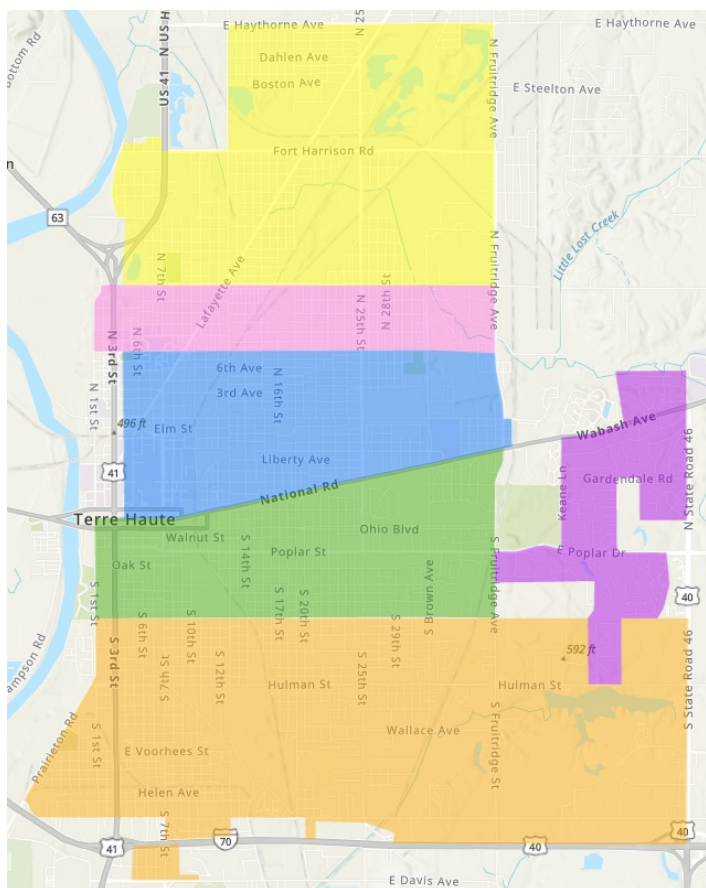
Residents are asked to:

- Rake leaves loose (not in bags) at the curbside in the city right-of-way.
- Do not place leaves near poles, mailboxes, wires, or any other structures.
- Do not rake leaves into the street. This blocks street drainage during rain events.
- Do not put brush or branches with the leaves as they will not be collected.

Additionally, you can put up to 10 sealed bags of leaves out with your garbage cans and Republic will pick them up, no call to 311 is needed!

Keep vehicles clear of leaf piles to help our crews work efficiently.

Updates to leaf pickup will be available on the [City website](#) and on [social media](#). Live tracking of our leaf vacuum trucks is available on the [interactive map](#).



2025 Redevelopment Demolition Numbers

64 houses condemned and demolished through the Redevelopment Department.

12 have been condemned, sent to a hearing and had a bid opening and the owner chose to demolish the structure themselves.

22 not released. These are properties that were in our October hearing and have been bid and awarded and due to

22 Not released. These are properties that were in our October hearing and have been bid and awarded and due to year end budget constraints have not been released yet. They will be released in January, 2026.

This will bring our total number of homes through the 2025 demolition process to 96.

Parks and Recreation End of Year Status Updates

"We are taking serious steps at the local level to improve our public health through parks investments. Every kid, regardless of zip code, deserves a quality park to play at. We've started to invest in our neighborhood parks/pocket parks, completed several large scale remodels, and we have so much more in store for 2026 and beyond.

Property tax caps in 2009 forced local leaders to flatten the budget for years. When you account for inflation, our parks receive \$1M less now than in 2009 for operations. Thanks to state and private grants, gaming revenue, capital stacking, the private sector, and smart planning/design by the parks department and parks board, our community is getting back on track with parks.

AND—we did it all with NO bonds (loans) and NO tax increase.

Let's give our kids something to do outside instead of complaining about why they aren't getting active. Here is a rendering of playground equipment that has been ordered for Spencer Park and should be installed in 2026. This list doesn't include the many small fixes that we do make or some of the deferred maintenance we are starting to get to. I wanted to give a huge shoutout to the staff for our Parks and Recreation Department. Our employees are our best asset and they make the magic happen year in and year out." - **Mayor Sakbun**

Projects under construction/nearing completion:

1. Herz Rose Park (December 2025) - Basketball Court to be completed in spring 2026
2. Rea Park (Spring 2026) - Trail work to begin in 2026 as well
3. Projects Starting in 2026:
4. Deming Park Pool- (Completion likely 2027, possibly end of 2026)
5. YMCA- (Interior work under construction currently, expansion beginning March 2026)
6. Collett Park Outdoor Playground
7. Large Scale Projects that are in the planning phase:
8. Deming Park Playground
9. Expansion of Booker T Washington Basketball Courts (Indoor)
10. Rea Park Phase 2 (Tennis courts and additional outdoor amenities)
11. Projects Completed in 2025:
12. Collett Park Tennis Courts
13. Multiple sections of cart paths improved at Hulman Links
14. Washington Park
15. Anaconda Park
16. Booker T Washington Outdoor Play space
17. Heritage Trail pavement update
18. Coy Park Outdoor Playground

City of Terre Haute Launches Urban Homescape Initiative to Boost Infill Housing

The City of Terre Haute, in partnership with **Thrive West Central**, has launched the **Urban Homescape Initiative**, a key component of the *Homes for the Future* program. The initiative aims to transform underused parcels, recently transferred from **Indiana State University** to the City, into vibrant, high-quality residential developments.

The initiative is rooted in a public-private collaborative model: the City of Terre Haute, Indiana State University, and Thrive West Central are working together to unlock housing opportunities and revitalize neighborhoods.

Through the program, **developers and homebuilders** are invited to propose infill housing projects that strengthen neighborhoods and expand local homeownership. Eligible sites may qualify for up to **\$6,500 per housing unit in infrastructure support** through Thrive West Central's funding resources.

Mayor **Brandon Sakbun** emphasized the initiative's community impact:

"By leveraging these parcels and partnering through the Urban Homescape Initiative, we are proving that homebuilding is much more than physical construction, it is also about building a community. We are focused on

investing in our neighborhoods and fighting to bring down housing costs by increasing the supply of housing. This is a difficult task that will not be accomplished overnight. Through public-private partnerships and a commitment to

is a difficult task that will not be accomplished overnight. Through public-private partnerships and a commitment to rebuild our city block by block, we can make this happen.” This initiative aligns with the City’s broader housing strategy, which includes making housing more accessible, improving the variety and quality of housing stock, and stimulating neighborhood vitality. For example, earlier efforts through Homes for the Future have supported new production, age-friendly housing, and infill developments across Vigo County and the City of Terre Haute.

Developers interested in participating in the Urban Homescape Initiative are encouraged to contact the City of Terre Haute Redevelopment Office and Thrive West Central for details on eligible parcels, program requirements, and how to apply. Information is available at Thrive West Central’s Housing Resource Hub at [Homes For The Future: Urban Homescape Initiative – Thrive West Central](#).

Recent Ribbon Cuttings with the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce



Happiness Bag



Parlor Doughnuts



Cowboy Talk Esthetics

"I ate TWO of these doughnuts in one sitting!"
-Mayor Sakbun

December Community Events



HOLIDAY EXPRESS

6PM-8PM WEATHER PERMITTING
\$1 PER PERSON

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 The League of Terre Haute	2 Delta Theta Tau	3 Heart to Heart Hospice	4 Delta Theta Tau	5 Terre Haute Humane Society	6 Wabash Valley Master Gardeners
7 Heart to Heart Hospice	8 The Arc Wabash Valley	9 Vigo County Public Library	10 River City Art Association	11 The League of Terre Haute	12 Wabash Valley Master Gardeners	13 Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra
14 Terre Haute Fire Department	15 The Arc Wabash Valley	16 River City Art Association	17 Happy Tails Animal Rescue	18 FCC Terre Haute	19 FCC Terre Haute	20 Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra
21 Wabash Valley Master Gardeners						

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 812-232-0147.

Please join us for

Christmas in the Park

Opening Night

December 1st at 6:00 pm

Please arrive by

5:30pm

DEMING PARK
500 S. FRUITRIDGE AVE.

Ornament Decorating

December 1, 2025
Deming Park Fort Harrison Room
5 pm - 6pm
Ages 5 - 12
FREE while supplies last




PICTURES WITH SANTA

DEMING PARK HOLIDAY HOUSE



December 1 & 8 from 6pm-9pm
December 6, 7, 13, & 14 from 5pm-8pm

**PLEASE PROVIDE
YOUR OWN CAMERA**

For more information, call 812-232-0147



miracle

WHERE SMALL TOWN CHARM MEETS BIG HOLIDAY MAGIC

DECEMBER 5, 5PM-9PM
DECEMBER 6, 12PM - 6PM @ HULMAN CENTER

LIGHT YOUR WAY PARADE, DOWNTOWN, SATURDAY @ 6PM

TREE DECORATING CONTEST ON DISPLAY AT
THE VIGO COUNTY HISTORY CENTER FROM DEC. 5-20 (\$)

NO ENTRY FEE TO HULMAN CENTER

- INDOOR VENDOR MARKET
- INDOOR AND OUTDOOR KIDS ACTIVITIES
- GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST VOTING (\$)
- PICTURES WITH SANTA (\$)
- LIVE MUSIC
- CASH BAR
- FOOD TRUCKS



MIRACLE 2025
IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY









SAVE THE DATE

Wabash Valley
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Holiday
Coffee

VIGO COUNTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Wabash Valley Community Foundation
200 South 8th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807

CLAY COUNTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025
8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Clay County Community Schools Central Office
1013 Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834

SULLIVAN COUNTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Sullivan City Hall Council Chambers
110 North Main Street, Sullivan, IN 47882

We are collecting toiletries and hygiene products to benefit those in need in Clay, Sullivan and Vigo counties.

If you are unable to attend, feel free to drop off items at our office.

VIGO COUNTY
HISTORY CENTER

HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE

VIGO COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

December 5th
3PM-7PM

EXPLORE THE FESTIVAL OF MIRACLE TREES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

- FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION
- DIRTY SODAS & HOT COCOA
- UNIQUE GIFTS AND TOYS FROM OUR GIFT SHOP
- FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

HAPPY TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE

Claus for a Cause: Toy Drive with Santa

Bring a new, unopened childrens toy and get a picture with santal!

December 6th 2025
Terre Haute
Brewing Company
4pm-8pm

PETS WELCOME!!

All donations go to help local children in need this holiday season

Age groups:

- 0-5y
- 6y-11y
- 12y-18y





Christmas Tree

Mosaic Tile Workshop

\$36
All Ages

Sun. December 14th
2PM-5PM

Register at statecsa.indstate.edu
or call 812-237-2528



Instructor Hayley Bean

Wabash Valley Road Runners
Christmas Eve Run

Grand Traverse Pie Co.
75 North Third Street

12 PM
Stay after for Pie!!



Proud Sponsor of Senior Education Ministries' Mingle with the Mayor



Mayor Brandon Sakbun

Please join us every month for an informal and relaxed gathering with Terre Haute Mayor, Brandon Sakbun. Various topics will be covered each month with opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns. Discussions will be held at the Grand Traverse Pie Company where free pie and coffee will be served courtesy of Clinton Gardens.

Event Location: Grand Traverse Pie Company
75 N. 3rd St., Terre Haute, 47807

**Please join us from 3 to 4 p.m.
on the following dates:**

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| • January 14 | • May 13 | • September 9 |
| • February 11 | • June 10 | • October 14 |
| • March 11 | • July 8 | • November 4 |
| • April 8 | • August 12 | • December 9 |

All dates and times are subject to change due to the Mayor's schedule. For more information, please contact Clinton Gardens at (765) 832-2491.

**Clinton
Gardens**

375 S. 11th St.
Clinton, IN 47842
(765) 832-2491



ASCCare.com



TERRE HAUTE CONVENTION CENTER

BREAKFAST With Santa

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 2025



**CAPTURE THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON AS
Santa Claus JOINS US DURING BREAKFAST.
ENJOY YOUR CHOICE OF **BREAKFAST**
FAVORITES, AND LET THE KIDS CREATE
THEIR OWN SPECIAL Reindeer Food**

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. TICKETS AVAILABLE ON [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)



TERRE HAUTE
CONVENTION CENTER

OVG
OAK VIEW GROUP

CHRISTMAS TREE GLAZING

JOIN HEATHER FROM
CUPCAKES' CLAY & KILN FOR A
FUN AFTERNOON OF GLAZING
YOUR CHOICE OF A SMALL OR
LARGE CERMAIC CHRISTMAS TREE!

ALL TREES WILL BE ABLE TO BE
LIT WITH LIGHTS AFTER BEING FIRED!



daughter's WINTER jubilee

TERRE HAUTE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

ANNUAL DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads (grandpas, uncles, brothers, stepdads, you get the idea) and daughters (ages 3-12) will enjoy winter themed experiments, photos, tasty treats, dancing, and activities to celebrate the holiday season.

December 13, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$15 / adult, \$10 / child, \$12 / family (2 adults, 2 children)



DECEMBER 13TH



12 - 2 PM



PRICES START

AT \$40

MUSEART TERRE HAUTE
2101 HULMAN STREET

SIGN UP NOW:
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR SIGN UP AT
MUSEARTTERREHAUTE.COM
UNDER "CLASSES"



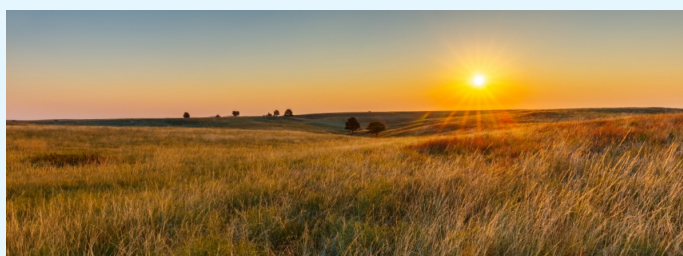
\$45/couple and \$10 for additional tickets

Early Bird: \$40/couple before Dec 2

To reserve tickets, please visit thchildrensmuseum.com/events

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

INTERNATIONAL PAPER FOUNDATION - NEWPORT MILL,
THE DANCE STUDIO, LUCKY REDDY FOR JUDGE,
DENTISTRY JUST FOR KIDS, IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY,
REFRESHMENT SERVICES PEPSI, SIMPLE TO ELEGANT



Christmas on the Plains

Native American traditions and western culture crafting.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Saturday, December 6th

Dobbs Memorial Park & Native American Museum
5170 E Poplar Dr Terre Haute, IN 47803

\$1.50 craft fee

For more events, check out the [Convention and Visitors Bureau Event Calendar](#) or [Haute Happenings Facebook Page!](#)

311 Citizen Contact Center

Do you have a municipal issue to report? Large item pickup at your City of Terre Haute residence?

Contact 311, A FREE resource.

[How to contact](#) | [What can I report?](#)



City of Terre Haute | 17 Harding Ave | Terre Haute, IN 47807 US

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