



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **City Prepares for Year-Long Bicentennial Celebration with Community Events, Costume Ball, Sculpture Dedication, and Much More!**

**LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – November 22, 2024** – 2025 marks a historic feat for the City of Lafayette as we prepare to celebrate our 200th birthday. To commemorate two centuries of growth, culture, and community spirit, the city is launching a year-long celebration filled with exciting events, unique local business collaborations, a monument dedication, and the release of a commemorative video and book.

"Our bicentennial is not only a celebration of our past but a reminder of the resilience, unity, and forward-thinking spirit that have defined our city for two centuries," said Mayor Tony Roswarski. "As we reflect on our achievements and honor those who have paved the way, we are also looking ahead to a bright future for the Star City. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating this incredible milestone throughout the year."

#### **A Year of Celebration**

The city will host a variety of events throughout the year in 2025, designed to honor its rich history while looking forward to a bright future. From family-oriented community events to educational programs and community gatherings, the celebration will highlight the city's milestones, traditions, and contributions to the region. So, we want to hear from you. Tell us why you LOVE Lafayette as we gather heart-felt memories and share it throughout the year.



Your memories could be of a friendly face, favorite spot in the community, an unforgettable event, or a cherished celebration. Please share with us by **January 1, 2025**, by visiting [www.lafayette.in.gov/love](http://www.lafayette.in.gov/love).

### **Commemorative Video**

To kick-off and celebrate this historic year, the city has produced a special bicentennial video, showcasing its history, achievements, and vibrant community. The video features archival photos from yesteryear to footage of today that highlights the city's transformation. The video will be available for viewing on the city's website and social media channels, providing a glimpse into Lafayette's journey from its founding to the thriving city it is today. Special thanks to Lafayette native Jack Klink for producing our video.

### **Local Business Branded Products**

In honor of the bicentennial, a range of products will be available for purchase, featuring a special bicentennial logo. Local businesses have come forward to create unique products and experiences that celebrate the city's past and present. These products will be available for sale throughout the year, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to take home a piece of the celebration. To date, there are special fragrant candles from Antique Candle Company and Flora Candle Company; crafted local teas from TeAqua Teas, and logo-branded shirts. It's not too late for businesses and organizations to get involved and create a sample of your products to celebrate your history as part of Lafayette's bicentennial. Contact David Huhnke, Director of Communications and Marketing, City of Lafayette, at [dhuhnke@lafayette.in.gov](mailto:dhuhnke@lafayette.in.gov) for further information.

### **Community Celebrations**

May 25 is the date Lafayette was founded and to celebrate our community, Columbian Park will host a full weekend of events throughout Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-26. Discounts to the zoo, train rides, pedal boats, plus inflatable games and obstacle courses on the field at Loeb Stadium, a FREE movie night at Loeb Stadium, and the Lafayette Citizens Band's Bicentennial Concert will be held on Monday, May 26. A special film festival honoring Lafayette native Sydney Pollock will be held at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in July; festive afternoon teas and tours will be held at the Haan Museum; featured art exhibits of local artists at The Arts Federation and the Haan Museum; Civic's Youth Theatre will produce a special performance on Lafayette's history; Exploration Acres will showcase a bicentennial corn maze next fall; a special concert at Loeb Stadium; historic tours by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association; plus, much more! To see a list of activities and events, visit the city's website at [www.lafayette200.com](http://www.lafayette200.com).

### **School Participation**

The students at Lafayette School Corporation and the Tippecanoe School Corporation will join in the celebration as part of their current curriculum to devote **200** hours of service back to our community with various projects. Students will also showcase their talents with art projects throughout the community and with an essay and poetry contest that expresses their thoughts on the bicentennial.



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### **Bicentennial Costume Ball**

The highlight of the year will be the Bicentennial Costume Ball at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds on June 28. The coliseum will be transformed into an enchanted evening featuring dinner, live entertainment, and dancing, with music provided by the Lafayette Symphony's Big Swing Band. Start now by designing your costume from your favorite decade as prizes will be awarded.

### **Monument Dedication**

The celebration would not be complete without a dedicated sculpture to honor the city's founding on the Wabash River. This will honor the contributions of the many individuals, families, and businesses that have shaped the community over the past two centuries. The dedication ceremony is scheduled to celebrate Marquis de Lafayette's birthday, our city's namesake, in early September. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift towards the monument, please contact Dennis Carson, Economic Development Director at [dcarson@lafayette.in.gov](mailto:dcarson@lafayette.in.gov). More on the selected sculpture can be found at [www.lafayette200.com](http://www.lafayette200.com).

### **Join Us in Celebrating!**

The bicentennial celebration promises to be an unforgettable year for Lafayette. Residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in the events and activities and share in the pride of being part of this milestone. If you are from Lafayette or spent part of your life here and have moved away, we want to welcome you back for this year-long homecoming celebration! Make plans now for your visit. If you can't make it back, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association is putting together a special commemorative book that will spotlight 200 events/people/places celebrating the bicentennial of Lafayette in 2025 and the bicentennial of Tippecanoe County in 2026. Watch for that publication in the fall of 2025.

For a full schedule of events and more information, visit [www.lafayette200.com](http://www.lafayette200.com).

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