



## 2024 Local Content and Service Report

### How Does PBS FW Inspire You?



*Learning about my world even at my age of 77. Glad you are my teacher. You make me a better person.*

- Margaret J.  
Auburn, IN

### ***Enriching community through engaging content.***



#### **PBS FW is a valued service in northeast Indiana:**

PBS FW is a free educational, cultural, and civic broadcast service, available to any home or classroom, regardless of income, education, gender, ethnic background, or age.

For every dollar of federal funding received, PBS FW raises nearly three additional dollars locally, providing a 265% return on the federal investment for a most successful and effective public-private partnership.

With community governance, an area advisory board, local management and regional support, PBS FW is responsive, relational and relevant to its service area.

#### **PBS FW educates, engages across northeast Indiana:**

PBS FW reaches more than 800,000 persons in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio with children's educational programming 24-hours a day on air and online.

Since 2019, PBS FW provides the only dedicated broadcast channel providing live National Weather Service radar and information.

PBS FW broadcasts local historical documentaries, including its new production, *Truck Town: A History of International Harvester in Ft. Wayne.*

For nearly 50 years, PBS FW is the only public television station in northeast Indiana and the region's only locally owned and operated full-power television service.

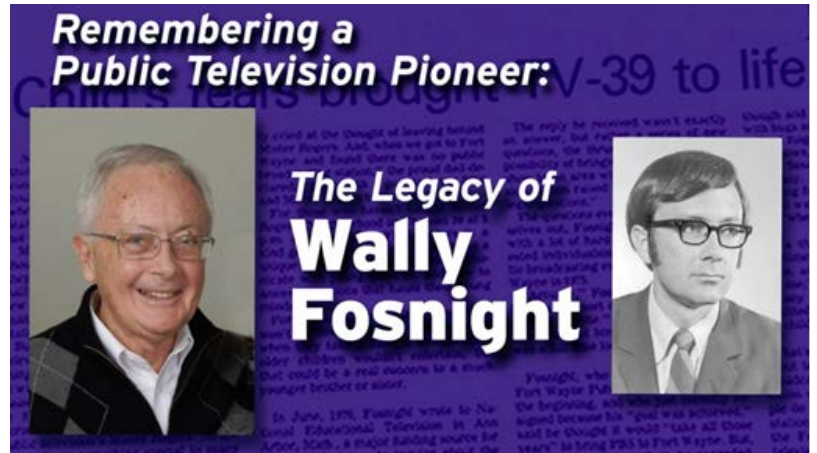
#### **In 2024, PBS FW provided a variety of key local services:**

Continued production of local interest programs each weeknight at 7:30 pm, covering community developments, health and wellness, regional arts, state government, and area public affairs.

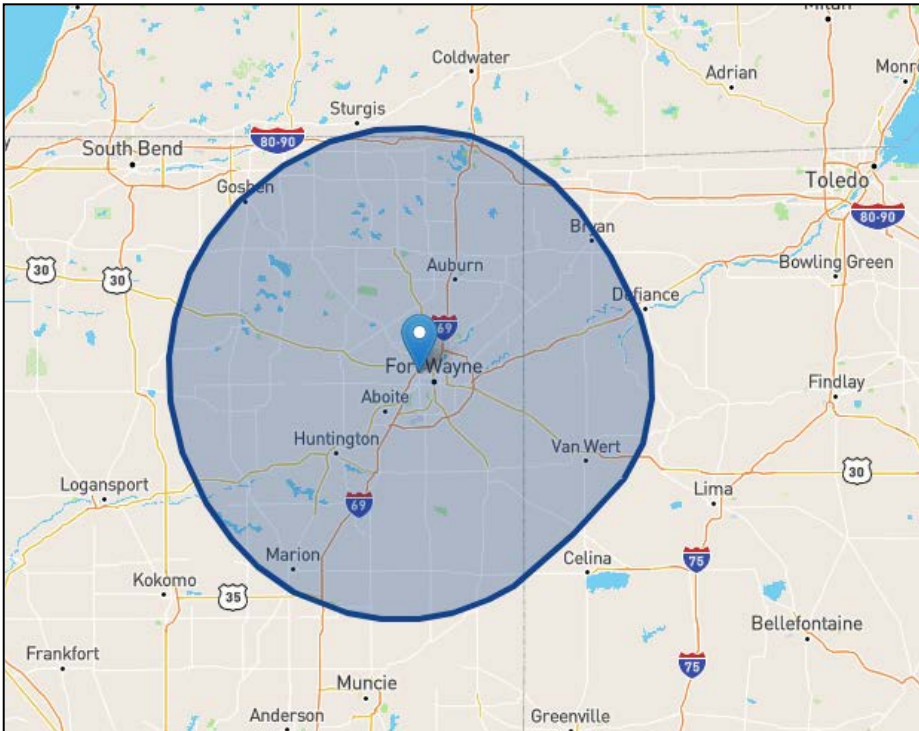
Expanded platforms for accessing local content and livestreaming on YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, PBS.org, YouTube TV, DIRECTV Stream, Local Now, the PBS App, PBS FW App & PBSFortWayne.org.

Provided closed captioning broadcasts for the hearing impaired, descriptive video service for the sight impaired, and carriage of Allen County Public Library's Audio Reading service on a second audio channel of PBS FW Explore (39-4).

PBS Fort Wayne exists thanks to a visionary father's commitment to fulfill the educational needs of his little girl. When Wally Fosnight moved to Fort Wayne from Pittsburgh in 1969, he soon discovered that his young daughter's favorite program, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, could not be seen locally. Motivated to address this void, Mr. Fosnight networked, wrote letters, and made calls - and the more he researched, the more he was convinced that public television was not only possible here, but needed here. Mr. Fosnight and others guided the efforts and the engineering to bring public television to the region in 1975. Wally Fosnight would serve as the first chairman of the station's Board of Directors.



For nearly 50 years, PBS FW has been the only public television station in northeast Indiana and is today the only locally owned and operated full power television service in the region. Digital technology provides PBS FW the ability to align its mission with programming across five broadcast channels that reach more than 800,000 persons in 11 northeast Indiana and three northwest Ohio counties. This highly rural area includes 6.8% of persons who live below the poverty level.



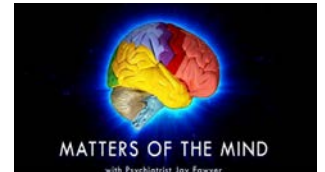
In addition to PBS FW's main channel (39-1), viewers can receive PBS FW Kids (39-2), a 24-hour free service dedicated to quality, non-commercial, educational children's programming. Beyond broadcast, PBS FW Kids streams live online for children and families to watch on a variety of devices over the free PBS FW mobile app. PBS FW Create (39-3) offers a national schedule of "How To..." and travel programs. PBS FW Explore (39-4) airs local and Indiana-centric programs, international news, public affairs, and the best of PBS. PBS FW WX (39.5) provides continuous near real-time (within 30-seconds) National Weather Service Doppler radar, weather warnings and NWS audio. With a broadcast signal of more than 350,000-watts, and the expansion of program delivery via livestreaming on digital platforms, PBS FW is well positioned to serve its region more than ever before.

Fort Wayne Public Television, Inc. (PBS Fort Wayne) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization chartered by the state of Indiana and licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate as a non-commercial, educational, public television station. The station operates as a community licensee and is governed by a 20-member board of directors. A 12-member community advisory board meets quarterly. PBS FW is staffed by 18 full time and 15 part-time employees. PBS FW is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service, the Indiana Broadcasters Association, Greater Fort Wayne, and Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations. To its varied audiences, PBS FW is a free, over the air broadcast service, including closed captioning broadcasts for the hearing impaired, descriptive video service for the sight impaired, and carriage of Allen County Public Library's Audio Reading service on a secondary channel of PBS FW Explore (39-4).

### Empowering Local Connections

Meeting the broad range of needs and interests of the community is the heart of PBS FW's mission - *enriching community through engaging content*. The organization's vision statement carries that mission to an anticipated future: *a curious, inspired, and engaged community*. PBS FW provides a schedule of locally produced public affairs, health, cultural, and community information programs Monday-Friday at 7:30 pm. Nearly all of these are live studio broadcasts allowing viewers to call in with questions for the guests:

**Matters of the Mind** - hosted by Dr. Jay Fawver, Mondays at 7:30pm. This program offers viewers the chance to interact with one of this area's most respected mental health experts.



**HealthLine** - since January 1996, this informative half-hour has featured local experts from diverse resources and backgrounds to put these developments and trends into a local perspective. *HealthLine* keeps viewers informed of the latest developments in the worlds of medicine, health and wellness.

**LIFE Ahead** - on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, serves as a weekly call-in resource devoted to offering an interactive news and discussion forum for adults. Hosted by veteran broadcaster Sandy Thomson.



**arts IN focus** - the region's only locally produced weekly regional arts magazine airs Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Filmed on location, the program introduces viewers to area artists, and cultural organizations.

**Did You Know: arts IN focus, earned a 2023 Bronze Telly for Television/Series/Education and Discovery!**

**PrimeTime** - a live weekly news, analysis, and cultural update forum, *PrimeTime* airs Fridays at 7:30pm. During the most recent session of the General Assembly, *Primetime* hosted programs featuring legislators from across northeast Indiana. The lawmakers' visits to the station for these call-in programs help them learn more about PBS FW's public service while informing the region's viewers about their work at the Statehouse.



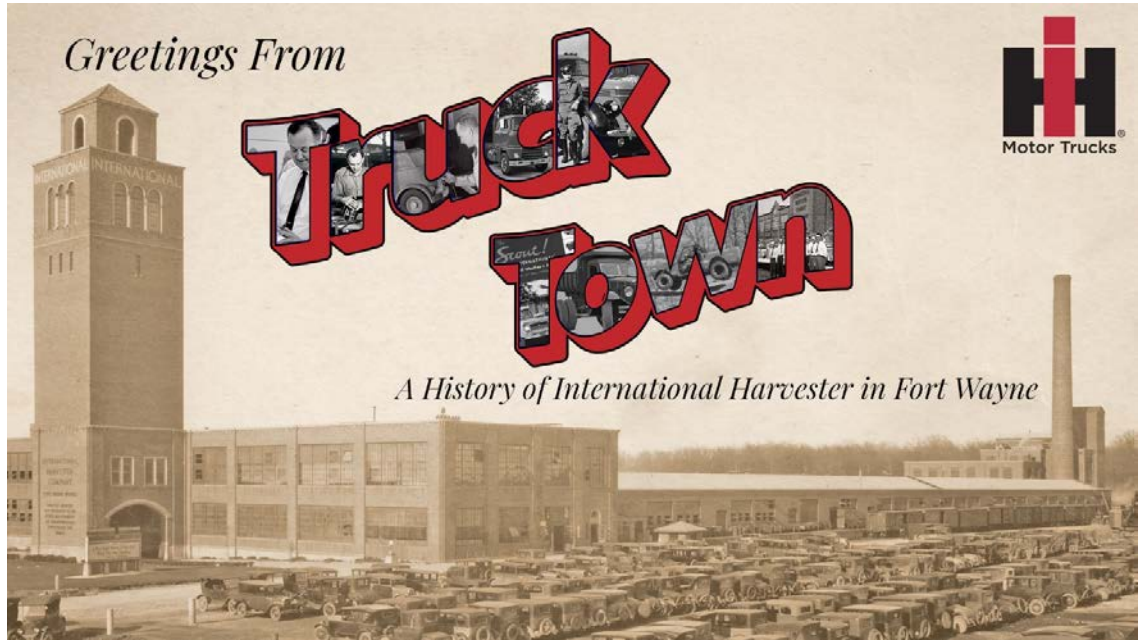
Beyond this weekly lineup are initiatives that arise from area partnerships that are realized through the production of local educational, informational, and cultural programs. In 2024, this work included:

- "Canvassing the Streets," is an online series of interviews with local artists to be aired on YouTube. The programs uncover the inspirations behind artists' public art pieces, moving from discussion to on-site exploration of murals and sculptures. By intimately connecting viewers with the artists and their creations, the aim is to cultivate appreciation for the art that surrounds us daily, encouraging audiences to seek out and interpret these installations for themselves.
- In December, the station produced its tenth annual live broadcast of the Purdue Fort Wayne School of Music's *Home for the Holidays* concert. PBS FW also oversaw a filming of Handel's *Messiah* performed by the Mennonite Choral Society at The First Mennonite Church of Berne. The production will air in December 2025.
- Now in its 25th year, the annual PBS FW KIDS Writers Contest took place in 2025. The contest engages students from kindergarten through third grade to celebrate the power of creativity and artistic expression. Community libraries and schools administer the contest and collect entries for judging at PBS FW with awards given for each grade level at a ceremony in May. The first-place winners have their stories produced for broadcast.

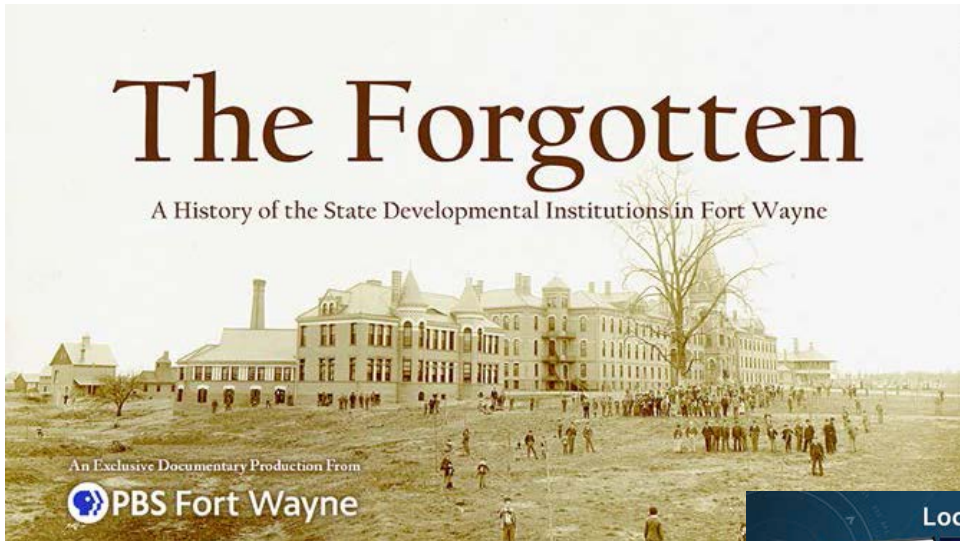


## Sharing Our Region’s Stories, Preserving Local History

Since its inception in 1975, PBS FW has produced more than 50 local historical and biographical documentaries, including the station’s newest program, *Truck Town: A History of International Harvester in Ft. Wayne*, which premiered in June 2024. The program takes viewers from Harvester’s first trucks made in Fort Wayne in 1923, to the company’s World War II effort, and on to decades where trucks of all sizes were designed and built in the “Heavy Duty Truck Capital of the World.”



The documentary combines archival material with more than 30 interviews to tell the story of the family ties and fond memories of IH’s 60-year history in Fort Wayne.

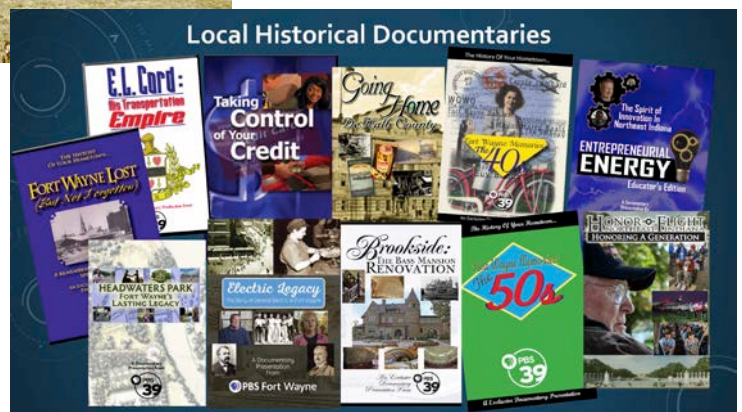


**Did You Know:**

*The Forgotten: A History of the State Developmental Institutions in Fort Wayne* won a Gold Telly in the Television, Documentary, Long Form category at The Telly Awards in June 2023!

For this documentary, PBS FW acquired more than 2,000 images from various sources, most of which have never been published or publicly viewed. The station transferred and reviewed over 150 video tapes from the State Developmental Center.

Other recent PBS FW local historical productions include *Electric Legacy: The Story of General Electric in Fort Wayne*, *Entrepreneurial Energy* (detailing entrepreneurship in northeast Indiana), and *Honor Flight* profiling area veterans traveling to Washington, DC. The station plans to showcase a local documentary each Thursday, 9 pm, in a series called “Rewind” as part of PBS FW’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary starting in January 2025.

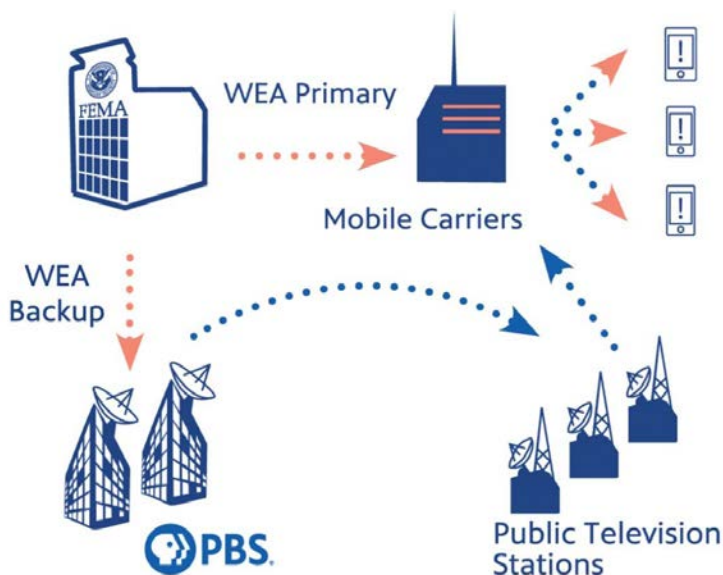


## Profiling Local Architecture for Northeast Indiana Arts

*A Home for the Arts* premiered in January 2024. The documentary tells the story of Fort Wayne's Arts United Center, from the shared bold visions of area leaders along with world renowned architect Louis I. Kahn. Viewers follow the creation of this landmark through its construction to now, more than 50 years later, as the centerpiece for the Arts Campus in downtown Fort Wayne. The performing arts center celebrated its 50th anniversary in October 2023. Renovations to modernize and expand the building are began in 2024.



## PBS FW Gets Next Generation Warning System Grant to Improve Regional Alerts



The funding from a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) will improve the reliability and resiliency of PBS FW's warning system and support the installation of several updated equipment components. PBS stations play a crucial role by ensuring uninterrupted distribution of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs), including severe weather warnings and AMBER alerts. PBS WARN (Warning, Alert, Response Network) uses PBS stations' reach, reliability, and local connections to provide a vital backup path for the WEA system, allowing local, state and national government agencies (like FEMA) to send short message warnings from geo-targeted cell phone towers directly to mobile devices. If a cybersecurity incident or internet disruption to a carrier facility breaks its connection to FEMA, PBS WARN provides an immediate alternate source of inbound WEA messages. PBS Fort Wayne is the sole PBS resource for the northeast Indiana region, an area featuring a large number of rural viewers.

## PBS FW Wins National Awards for Local Productions

*It's another incredible year for the incredibly creative team of producers at PBS FW!* The station won three silver Telly awards and one bronze Telly award at the 45th annual Telly Awards in 2024. The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television across all screens.

- FW Ballet Dancer's Legacy - Edward Stierle (TV - Dance & Performance-Silver)
- A Home for the Arts (TV Documentary: Short Form Under 40 Minutes-Silver)
- Writer's Contest 2023 (TV: Series: Children-Silver)
- Joy "FW Ballet Dancer's Legacy - Edward Stierle Promo" (Social Video, Music, Dance/ Performance - Bronze)





**Tenth Annual Explorer Day  
a Family Favorite**

PBS Fort Wayne's Explorer Day (June 8 at Parkview Field) is an annual event for kids and their parents/caregivers to enjoy a FREE day of fun and hands-on learning! PBS FW provides PBS KIDS reading materials to parents and children to help bridge summer learning loss. In 2024, nearly 1,000 persons attended, and more than 30 local businesses and non-profits brought educational activities.

### New Online Platforms Yield New Audience, New Service

In 2023, PBS FW began expanding the reach and impact of its local content by creating YouTube channels for the five weeknight shows, then adding local documentaries, specials and online first productions. Workflows and best practices were developed, as well as social media campaigns supporting the station's presence on the platform.

Data available from online viewing helps understand usage and next steps; such as #Views, Click Through Rate, Demographics, geography and device type. In 2024, PBS offered up a multi-channel network system to incorporate Local Stations YouTube Channels. Currently, three of our channels fall under the PBS Multi-Channel Network.

**PBS Fort Wayne**  
@pbsfortwayne · 44 subscribers · 8 videos  
Serving the northeast Indiana/tri-state area, PBS Fort Wayne (WFWA) has been broadcasti... >

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**PBS Fort Wayne Programs**

 <b>arts IN focus</b> 581 subscribers Subscribe	 <b>Matters of the Mind</b> 91 subscribers Subscribe	 <b>HealthLine</b> 31 subscribers Subscribe	 <b>LIFE Ahead</b> 15 subscribers Subscribe	 <b>PrimeTime</b> 9 subscribers Subscribe
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**Videos** ▶ Play all

 <b>The Adventures of Mystery Girl</b> by Madalyn Craun   202... 2.1K views · 6 days ago	 <b>A Home for the Arts</b> Documentary 164 views · 2 weeks ago	 <b>International Harvester</b> Documentary Trailer 2023 344 views · 5 months ago
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**Did You Know: Find program and station information, access to a free mobile streaming app, and more at [pbsfortwayne.org](https://pbsfortwayne.org)!**