



For Students

August 13, 2025



Welcome to *Don Life* 2025–26

All of us at *Don Life*—Purdue Fort Wayne’s student newsletter—hope you’re having an amazing summer.

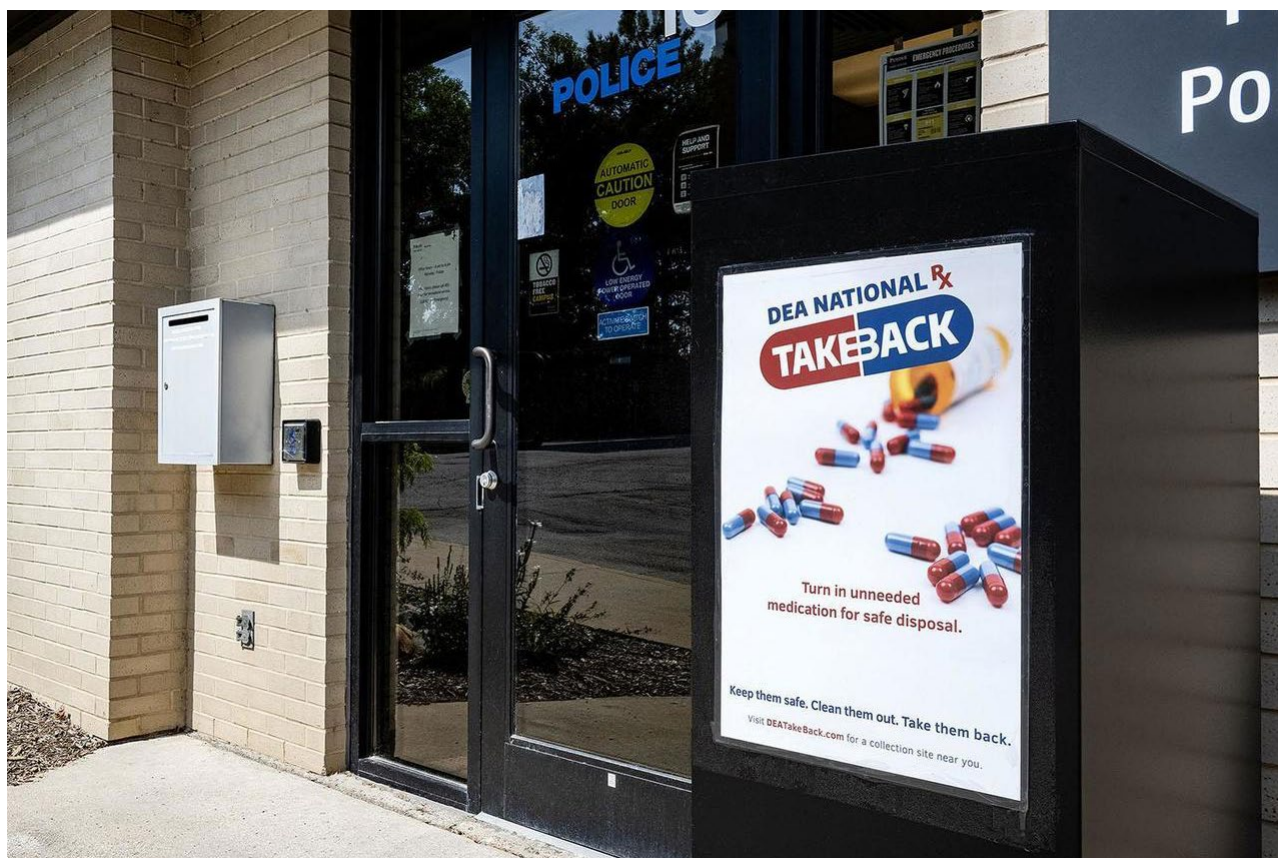
For those of you who are new to our campus community, welcome! *Don Life* is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all registered students. Here you’ll find big updates, news you can use, event listings, and features that help describe the student experience—your experience!

Don Life special editions delivered outside of the regular schedule mostly cover breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations. These communications can include items such as decisions to close the entire campus for reasons such as hazardous travel conditions and severe winter weather. [_____](#)

Every once in a while, a special edition will focus on stories you may have missed while you were away. That'll be the case Thursday afternoon when a summer roundup of PFW highlights from June, July, and August is delivered right to your inbox.

Much of the information you'll see in the newsletter is also posted to PFW's **News Center**, and you can visit the **Don Life archive** to find all the latest editions and back issues.

Enjoy the rest of your summer break, and see you very soon!



Purdue Fort Wayne Facilitates Safe Drug Disposal Year-Round

Every spring, Purdue University Fort Wayne participates in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. It's an opportunity for students, employees, and others to properly dispose of unneeded medications to help prevent misuse and opioid addiction.

Dave Herbst, an officer with the Purdue University Fort Wayne Police Department, and Eric Manor, associate chief of campus and community wellbeing, discussed a while back what it would take to offer the service on campus, year-round. Their curiosity and combined efforts have helped establish a permanent drop-off location on PFW's Main Campus. A secured collection bin is located outside the front door of the police office in the Support Services Building. That location is #11 on the campus map, which can be viewed by **clicking here**.

The bin can be used daily; items are later transported to the Indiana State Police post on Ellison Road for permanent disposal.

"Anyone can drop off the medication they don't want," said Andrew Cottrell of University Police. "It's open to the public and we empty it daily."

The Environmental Protectional Agency says drug take back programs are important to protect against abuse, accidental poisoning, and damage to the environment. Flushing medications or throwing them in the trash can lead to water contamination.

Cottrell said a senior citizen recently dropped off 10 years of unused drugs in pill bottles.

"It's not being recorded, and we have no interest in who it is—or what it is," Cottrell said. "We're just here to take it and get it off the streets. This is a way for anybody, including students, to safely dispose of anything they don't want, without fear of reprisal."

Share the story:



City Police Back on Campus for Annual Driving Skills Training

For the next two weeks, members of local law enforcement will be behind the wheel and in the classroom on the Main Campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

It's a collaboration between the Fort Wayne Police Department and University Police. Officers are taking part in the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course where they work on awareness, space management, and collision avoidance. They're required by the state to complete two hours of this type of training annually. It consists of one hour in a classroom setting and a second hour inside a vehicle.

The driving is taking place at a temporary track located on surface lots PL4 and PL5. At different times of the day, starting as early as 8 a.m. and concluding as late as 10 p.m., hard braking, sharp turns, and squad cars being driven in reverse may be visible.

The sessions are scheduled to conclude Aug. 23.



PFW's Collaborative Pianist: Dorion's 20-Year Legacy of Empowering Student Musicians

On June 29, many of Susan Dorion's former students celebrated her birthday by peppering her phone with messages. For those old enough to remember the cadence and sound of carriage returns in a typing pool, it was a little like that. Best wishes poured in from across the country.

"I really did enjoy that day," Dorion said with a bold smile.

Better than any gift, their remembrances showed how they could not forget who provided part of

the foundation of their chosen work. She helped them chip away to find what was underneath and build their futures.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



Mastodon Moments

Seen and noted around campus. Monitor our university social feeds for more great moments of Mastodon life.



Groundskeeper Holly Walters has been busy this summer keeping the campus looking spiffy. Here she is working on the Science Mall, the site for **Campus Kickoff** on Aug. 25, the first day of classes.

[Athletics](#)[Events Calendar](#)[News Center](#)[Don Life Archive](#)

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