



Engineers' News

January 2023

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www.FortWayneEngineersClub.org

January Tour

Trelleborg Sealing Solutions

When: Thursday, January 19th @ 5:30 PM

Address: 2531 Bremer Rd, Fort Wayne IN 46803

Website: <https://www.trelleborg.com/en/seals>

Info: Trelleborg Sealing Solutions is a leading global supplier of polymer-based critical sealing solutions and components deployed in general industry, automotive and aerospace. Established in 1956, Trelleborg Sealing Solutions in Fort Wayne is a **full service manufacturing facility** specialized in the production of **Slipper Seals** in **PTFE, PU, PEEK**, other advanced plastics and rubber materials. Their products can be found across every major market segment, **including industrial, automotive and aerospace**. They offer a wide range of standard catalog products, in addition to custom solutions tailored to satisfy special customer needs

Note: Please see the picture below (red circle) for the correct entrance to meet at



December Social Summary

FWEC Holiday Social at the former International Harvester/Navistar Engineering Center.
December 1, 2022

This social was a combination of FWEC members and Harvester Homecoming volunteers. The Homecoming group maintain a proposed museum within the building and organize a summer gathering of International Harvester (IH) enthusiasts and vehicles from around the world. This sprawling 300,000 square foot building is normally closed and unheated except by prior arrangement. The evening turned out to be a bitterly cold and particularly dark moonless night, so most of the attendance was former employees with various personal interests in gaining access to the building.

Attendees quickly spread out across the mostly ground-level facility and groups changed participants as they encountered each other. First hand accounts were very enlightening and often involved individuals with different perspectives. The interior still contains furniture and cubicles largely unchanged since they were abandoned, but most of the removable machining and tools were relocated decades ago.

To read more, click [here](#)

Items of Note

FWEC member Rod Vargo is Chair of the 28 year-old and all-volunteer [Utility Advisory Group](#), which formally advises Fort Wayne City Utilities and often City Council. Your comments are welcome at rodvargo@comcast.net

Volunteer Positions within the Club

Membership and Contact Chair: Open
Northeast Indiana DiscoverE Chair: Open

Let us know if you're interested!

Volunteer

General Club Info

Fort Wayne Engineers Club dues are \$0. Donations are welcome but strictly voluntary. In recent years, club funds have helped support Discover-E, the Regional Science and Engineering Fair, annual bridge building contests in schools, academic awards, networking events, mentoring, our website, and facilitating free tours.

Please see FortWayneEngineersClub.org, [LinkedIn](#), or [Facebook](#) for updates on current Club activities, other news, and past newsletters.

Those participating in activities or hosting tours through FWEC do so strictly at their own risk, including disease exposures. Participation in club events is voluntary, free, nonprofit, and solely for the benefit of participants and the community at large. Anyone with an interest may participate unless restrictions are specified for specific events, such as minimum age or minimum safety attire.

Interested in hosting a tour?

Contact us today!

Host a Tour

FWEC Roster for FY2022-2023

President: Nate Berndt

Vice President: Nathaniel Wisel

Secretary: Marna Renteria

Treasurer: John Magsam

First-year Board Members: Ryan Stark, Ed Woodward

Second-year Board Member: Mike Magsam, Rod Vargo

Third-year Board Member: Dave Gordon, Bert Spellman

Editor of Engineer News: Pending

Membership and Contact Chair: Open

Northeast Indiana DiscoverE Chair: Open

Job posting and resumes listed

The club accepts both job openings from around the area, as well as resumes from those seeking employment. Please submit these to the following email address: Info@FortWayneEngineersClub.org

Advertise in the Engineers' News

The FWEC provides advertising space within the Engineers' News. Advertisements are only \$10 per issue and limited to ½ page of content.

Advertise Your Business

December Social Summary Continued

Some of the machine shop and custom/special assembly areas currently contain a wealth of restored and properly displayed motor vehicles ranging from a horse-drawn-style motorized delivery wagon to modern-looking semi-truck tractors. Interested folks need to visit to appreciate them. A good opportunity would be to attend the Harvester Homecoming weekend (information [online](#)).

There are also specialty rooms around the building including engines on display and artifacts relating attempts to improve engine emissions quickly enough for EPA deadlines. First hand discussions about

emissions efforts were particularly useful for understanding the items and the struggles underway at the time. These chats likely occur during harvester weekends, given the range of people involved then and now.

Various strong opinions circulate in Fort Wayne about business and research decisions pertaining to International Harvester and Navistar, including renaming of IH to Navistar.

The building might be worthy of tours regarding architecture. It is a mix of classic 20th century design and structural elements, but particularly well laid out. There are distinctly separate but interconnected sections and additions for functions such as executive, accounting, marketing, instruction, customer displays/hospitality, cafeteria, and general purpose gathering. The engineering, machining, and special assembly areas are arrayed off an inner hallway loop perhaps 1200 feet long in total. The hallway is a windowless walking thoroughfare reminiscent of a Starship Enterprise stage set. Seemingly endless rooms and short hallways on each side offer palpable explorations of history in both engineering and interior design.

Extensive repurposing of the facility would likely require a sobering total gut to meet commercial Code for most public or institutional uses. The timing of this Social was particularly poignant by coinciding with Allen County's decision to locate its court-mandated new jail and inmate mental health services on adjacent open ground. It seemed obvious this sprawling Engineering Center might be torn down or completely renovated for the mental health interventions. Recent discussions now include consolidating County operations in a renovated Engineering Center in addition to housing certain mental health needs. County Commissioner Peter Nelson says the Indiana State Legislature may decide in 2023 to fund a regional mental health residence (institution) as part of the development. Public policy and opinion since the 1980's about mental health funding and facilities is now completely reversing itself nationwide.

Allen County is aware of the International Harvester museum effort, which could plausibly be included in a redevelopment plan for the 140 acre area. Success will require widespread support by the many former employees and enthusiasts nationwide.

Rod Vargo





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