

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN  
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Breezy. Partly sunny.  
Tonight: Partly cloudy.  
HIGH: 58    LOW: 41



# Get your absentee ballot sooner rather than later

The REPORTER

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton County, being aware that all eligible voters in Indiana are being encouraged to use absentee ballots, provides the following information to help people understand the process. Normally an individual must meet some criteria to use an absentee ballot, but

that has been waived. The Hamilton County government offices are closed to the public so everything must be handled by mail, email, fax or phone. Beth Sheller, the Hamilton County Elections Administrator, asks that everyone get their absentee ballots this sooner rather than later. Firstly, you must be

registered to vote by May 4 and that can be done at [indianavoters.in.gov](http://indianavoters.in.gov). If you have an address or name change, you can update your voter registration. Another way to register or update your record, is to print out and mail the form found at [this link](#). You may also call (317) 776-9632 to have a voter registration

form mailed to you. Voter registration forms must be mailed and cannot be returned using email or fax.

Secondly, you must apply for an absentee ballot. Everything you need to know can be found at [this link](#). You must submit an application by May 21. You

See Ballot . . . Page 2

# The success story of county's namesake

In this time of great stress, we need stories of success and perseverance, so here's one about the man for whom Hamilton County is named: Alexander Hamilton.

His story is stranger than fiction. An orphan, born out of wedlock on a remote Caribbean island, Hamilton's intelligence was recognized by an employer when he was a teenager. Hamilton was lucky enough to be sent by his employer to college in the American colonies.

He was a student in New York when the American Revolution broke out. He left school to join the army. Lucky again, he was noticed by Gen. George Washington and given trusted duties in the general's headquarters.

Toward the end of the war, he was given a field command and led a dramatic attack on British positions that help seal the final



COLUMNIST  
FRED SWIFT  
The County Line

victory at Yorktown.

Then came some of his greatest contributions. He knew that a national constitution was needed for the country. He took a lead role in 'selling' the constitution to the public by writing a majority of the Federalist Papers.

Washington, as president, recognizing Hamilton's abilities, then asked him to become Secretary of the Treasury. And, he was just getting started.

The original 13 states were all broke, and the national government had no income. So, Hamilton urged the government to take over the debts of the states. Crazy idea, said the critics.

But, he had a plan. He succeeded in getting tariffs levied on foreign-made products, developed a plan to sell millions of acres in the nation's newly acquired territory to settlers wanting to push westward, and

See County Line . . . Page 2

# And then there was grief

Mama said there would be days like this. Actually, Mama had no idea about these days.

This is hard. As I navigate through the second week of sheltering in place, I am still trying to figure what all this means.

Coronavirus. COVID-19. Pandemic.

I keep thinking I am in a movie that I never wanted to be a part of ... but I am.

So many questions. So many concerns. And so much grief. Yes, I said grief.

I grieve the normal. I want my routine back. I want to be able to hug my family. I miss my work family. I miss Tuesday morning coffee (therapy) with my bestie. I miss Saturday nights at Maria's Mexican Restaurant with Chuck.

As I watched Hoda Kotb break down on the Today Show on Friday, I finally broke down as well. I'm just sad. It's a new normal that brings with it a new kind of grief. I finally figured that out and now I am figuring out what to do with it.

Chuck and I are tucked away inside our little house on the alley. Daily, we venture out to walk and pick up trash along the sidewalks.



COLUMNIST  
JANET HART LEONARD  
From the Heart

We greet our neighbors, some, we have never met before now. Yes, we are keeping our six feet of social distancing.

For some reason on our walks, the birds seem to be singing a bit louder. I've

noticed the new life of the spring flowers that is giving promise to better days ahead. I'm slowing down and noticing what my busy life before had allowed me to miss.

Chuck works the crossword puzzles that I ordered online from Barnes and Noble and picked up curbside at their door. I have become a jigsaw puzzle addict. Who knew? I tell Chuck that I am practicing for retirement. But I'm not quite ready.

My house is getting a good spring cleaning. I tackle one room at a time, every other day. I reward myself with a reading, writing and fun day in between. I have found things in drawers I never knew I had. I can often be heard saying, "Oh my goodness, look what I found!"

I read an article about anticipatory grief this week. That explained a lot. It's like I am waiting for the next

See Grief . . . Page 2

# Fishers home sustains fire, smoke damage, but no injuries reported



Photo provided by Fishers Fire Department

Early Friday morning, Fishers firefighters responded to a house fire on Talbott Drive. Family and pets were able to safely exit the home. Firefighters had the fire under control in about 20 minutes, but there was heavy fire and smoke damage throughout the house.

# Carmel's Flowing Well Park to close for improvements

The REPORTER

On or after April 15, Flowing Well Park will close to undergo planned improvements, including Cool Creek bank stabilization, restroom construction, parking lot expansion and updated interpretive signage and trails. The Clay Township Impact Program funds these enhancements as part of Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation's Reimagining Parks initiative.

The park will reopen after construction is complete in December 2020.

"The updates will make Flowing Well Park more functional for the everyday visitor," said Michael Allen, CCPR Director of Parks & Natural Resources. "We are expanding not only access to trails, but recreational opportunities. To me, beyond being good stewards of quality habitat, the next most im-

portant thing is getting people to see it and value it."

Over the next three years, the Clay Township Impact Program will fund improvements to six parks in the community with a focus on parks and public safety. These improvements will provide benefits for all township residents, schools and businesses and make the community a better place to live, work and play.

To learn more about all the parks being reimagined, visit [carmelclayparks.com/reimagining-parks](http://carmelclayparks.com/reimagining-parks).

If you visit the park before April 15, due to COVID-19, CCPR encourages park visitors to refrain from using the artesian well. Water spigots should not be touched. Please continue using social distancing while utilizing the trails at the parks.

# Man in Fishers standoff had history of domestic violence

By STEPHANIE ZEPELIN  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

I-Team 8 has uncovered new information surrounding an apparent murder-suicide in Fishers. Our team found red flags in the suspect's background – including another incident where he was charged with raping the same woman.

These red flags show a pattern of domestic violence. Derrick Upshaw shut down part of Fishers and drew dozens of police to the apartment complex at State Road 37 and 141st Street. Police found him and Tiffany Plummer dead inside. On top of that, he had hurt Plummer before, and he had other



Photo provided

Dozens of police were on the scene during a standoff at an apartment complex on March 23.

victims.

In December 2017, Hamilton County prosecutors charged Upshaw with domestic battery in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, strangulation and

interference with reporting a crime. According to court documents, he strangled a woman and prevented a 13-year-old child in the home from telling police or 911 about the incident. He

pleaded it down to one class A misdemeanor, spent four days in jail and paid \$50.

Raio Krishnappa helps domestic violence victims with their court cases, as the Executive Director of the Center for Victim and Human Rights.

"The studies all show that the risk of re-offending is, of course, much higher if there's a prior domestic violence conviction," Krishnappa said.

He says the data shows we spend a lot of resources on people who re-offend.

While Upshaw was still on probation for the Hamilton County domestic violence

See Standoff . . . Page 2

# Sheriff warns of latest phone scam

The REPORTER

According to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, a new telephone scam is making its rounds across Hamilton County.

This new scam will likely inform you that you have missed a federal court date or an appointment for a handwriting analysis. These scammers are claiming to be calling on behalf of HCSO's own Captain of Investigations Scott McKinney.

Captain McKinney has not authorized these calls and states that his name and position are being used for this scam. This scam is said to have originated from outside of the United States.

If you're ever unsure of the authenticity of a call, please call the Sheriff Department's administration line at (317) 773-1872.





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## BALLOT

can download it from the website or call (317) 776-8476 to request an application. Do so Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., or you can leave a message with your name and address. The application can be returned to the Hamilton County Election Board in one of three ways:

1. By mail (address provided)
2. Scanned or a phone

## COUNTY LINE

worked to enact a national currency.

The country got back on its feet financially, and was on its way to becoming the world's greatest industrial power rather than the agrarian society that Thomas Jefferson and others had preferred.

Hamilton's fatal mistake came when he and the nation's vice president, Aaron Burr, agreed to a duel. Hamilton was killed at age 56. The country knew it was a great loss. Burr, of course, was blamed and left the country.

In the years following his death, Hamilton had dozens of towns, counties, schools, streets and parks named for him. Burr had virtually nothing named for him.

Our county was, of course, one of 10 U.S. counties named for Alexander Hamilton, the guy whose likeness is on the \$10 bill. But, how many people know the story that would be considered more unbelievable than a fiction novel?

## STANDOFF

case, he was arrested in Marion County. Tiffany Plummer told police Upshaw hit her in the face, ripped her hair out, kicked her body, bit her and threw a metal cup at her. She escaped by jumping off a third floor balcony. All this happened while her two children were in the apartment.

He was charged with rape, criminal confinement, battery and strangulation. In October 2019, he reached an agreement with prosecutors to include no additional jail time. He pleaded guilty

## GRIEF

plan that needs to be cancelled. Our granddaughter Emma's high school graduation? Not sure yet. Easter dinner with the families? Not sure yet. My calendar looks pretty blank right now except for the x's crossing out our plans.

And yet ...

I see hints of hope in the community where I am so blessed to live.

I see people picking up coffee by the curbside at Noble Coffee & Tea. Our community is supporting the small businesses.

I know meals and puzzles and acts of kindness are being shared in our community.

I saw the teachers from North Elementary driving through the streets of our neighborhood. I saw the smiles on their faces as well as on those of their students. They could not reach out and touch them physically but they could touch their hearts. It made a difference.

It really is the small differences that are making this bearable. It's what community is all about. We are all in this together and together we will make it through.

Jen Steubel Gibbs, pastor of the Castleton United Methodist Church, spoke about Hints of Hope in her sermon last Sunday via Facebook. This week I looked for them. They were there.

While I do grieve the normal upon which I have grown accustomed, I know that the exact old normal will never be there again and that is not a bad thing in many ways.

I will be more appreciative of those who have cared for our community during an absolutely exhausting time. Those who care for my mom at her health campus. The grocery store workers who can't keep up with the demands of shoppers. The truckers who meet themselves coming and going. Neighbors who offer to pick up items on a grocery run. Musicians who are bringing music to their online audience. To all of you I say thank you!

Kudos to parents who are juggling work and teaching their kids at home. I can't even imagine. Teaching is a calling. My daughter, Emily, will tell you that she never heard the call. She's doing it anyway.

I have found myself reading the scriptures more. I've read Psalms 91 over and over again the past couple of weeks. In moments of overwhelming uncertainty, I listen to the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Then I allow my heart to hear the words of the worship song, "No Longer a Slave to Fear."

And I pray, "Please Lord let this soon pass and be with my family and friends, until it does."

We are not promised an easy life but I know faith will sustain me and my family through these moments of grief and uncertainty. Until then, I will write and walk and organize and clean and cook.

And as my sweet mama reminded me this week when she said, "I am so ready for this THING to be over!"

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I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault – it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.) Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

– **Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville**

**To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:**

- Art supplies (for children to journal and express their emotions)
- Bottled water (8 oz. bottles, preferably)
- Individually packaged snacks
- Gas cards (many women have no access to funds after fleeing their abuser)

**Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.**





## What's new for 2020? The Atlas Cross Sport.



All **Atlas Cross Sport** models come with a touchscreen infotainment display with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration. Navigation is optional, as is a reconfigurable digital gauge display and SiriusXM satellite radio. The Volkswagen Car-Net connectivity app allows for remote starting and analytics while a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot allows occupants to remain connected to the internet with their smart devices while on the go.

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# Hamilton County community organizations 'Active in Disaster' Shepherd's Center, area seniors need your help now

## The REPORTER

It did not take long before Hamilton County's social services non-profits rallied to address the immediate crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and begin planning for its inevitable long-term impact.

Dozens of food pantries, health care service providers and houses of worship immediately began working nonstop to adapt their work in order to provide essential services to Hamilton County residents who could not afford to stockpile food in advance of the state's stay-at-home order.

The Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, which coordinates the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) emergency services network, scrambled to find food supplies to replenish pantries. Churches used their faith-based channels to provide supplemental support. The township trustees began coordinating work.

The Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF), along with the generous support of the community, quickly estab-

lished the Hamilton County Crisis Response Fund. This flexible fund will provide much-needed resources to non-profit organizations responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with essential services and experiencing financial challenges in meeting need.

The foundation's quick turn-around operating grants will focus on organizations that work with the elderly or infirmed, youth and economically vulnerable populations. Selection will be completed by HCCF staff and board in partnership with Hamilton County COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) Executive Committee. Non-profit organizations that meet the criteria, can visit [hamiltoncountycommunityfoundation.org/covid-19-for-information](http://hamiltoncountycommunityfoundation.org/covid-19-for-information).

A provision of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) currently includes a new above-normal donation of up to \$300 to individuals who give to charities as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The deduction will be available

to individuals who itemize and to those who do not when they file their taxes next year. It also will lift the existing cap on annual contributions for those who do itemize from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. Limits for corporations will increase from 15 to 25 percent.

"Contributions are needed now," said Good Samaritan Network Executive Director Nancy Chance, as there are now restrictions on in-kind food donations due to concerns over the virus. In addition, GSN is securing food by the truckload from throughout the United States to meet the food demand wherever possible.

"We also need to prepare for the eventual long-term impact the crisis will have on our community," Chance added. "Thousands of workers have already been laid off and it's likely to get worse before it stabilizes, creating an even greater need."

Hamilton County's housing partners also are already planning for that next phase as the eviction orders phase out post-crisis but

money may not be available to catch up.

A recent \$50,000 pledge from the Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund (C-CERF) will support various community programs through COAD and the Good Samaritan Network to help the community in crisis. C-CERF funding partners include the Central Indiana Community Foundation (through the Glick Fund and the Indianapolis Foundation), Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Eli Lilly and Co. Foundation and United Way of Central Indiana.

Visit [GSNLive.org](http://GSNLive.org) for information on donating to the Good Samaritan Network, which will distribute support to its COAD agencies.

Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. is hosting a #Love-HC platform to rally support around community organizations, local businesses and government during the pandemic. Learn more on how to help at [LoveHamiltonCounty.com](http://LoveHamiltonCounty.com).

## Thanks for reading The Reporter

## Riverview Health sets up support fund for staff on the front lines

### The REPORTER

The leadership members and healthcare professionals at Riverview Health, especially those on the front lines of patient care, are working diligently to provide safe, high-quality care and protect the well-being of everyone during this time of uncertainty. They are our heroes.

Although it's not known what tomorrow will bring, what is certain is that Riverview Health's dedicated

healthcare team of physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, housekeeping, food services and many more are ready to meet each new challenge.

The COVID-19 Support Fund will support Riverview Health staff members as they juggle caring for patients, their families, their homes and themselves. Your gift will be a huge support to the Riverview Health healthcare team as they continue to provide

safe, high-quality care to patients and the community. The COVID-19 Support Fund is designed to provide assistance as needs continue to be identified, increase or change.

If you would like to support this effort, visit [riverview.org/donate](http://riverview.org/donate) to make an online donation or send a check to Riverview Health Foundation (COVID-19 Support Fund) 395 Westfield Road, Noblesville, IN 46060.

## New statewide rule on invasive plants taking effect next month

### The REPORTER

Invasive plant species impact Indiana in various ways, including loss of biodiversity, degradation of natural habitats, decreased property values, declining agricultural yields, negative impacts on public utilities, recreation and tourism. Indiana landowners and managers spend more than \$8.6 million annually managing invasive species in Indiana.

Beginning April 18, the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule (312 IAC 18-3-25) will make it illegal to sell, gift, barter, exchange, distribute, transport or introduce in Indiana any of 44 invasive pest plant species without a permit. The rule was signed by Governor Holcomb and published March 18, 2019, but enforcement was delayed for one year in order to give Indiana's plant nursery industry time to rid its stock of invasive plants. Over the past year, state officials have been educating 350 growers, 3,500 nursery dealers and the public about these soon to be illegal plants.

As the regulatory agency, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (DEEP) has authority to issue a \$500 fine per violating incident per day once it becomes enforceable. While it will be illegal to transport or gift these 44 plants among private property owners, it will not be illegal to have these species on your property. However, you are encouraged to work to remove these species from your property.

Only 22 of the 44 listed plants are commonly sold in the nursery trade. Examples of these include Amur honeysuckle, Asian bittersweet, blunt-leaved privet, autumn olive, common buckthorn, Japanese barberry, Japanese honeysuckle, and wintercreeper.

All the species in the rule were assessed and ranked as highly invasive through a scientific and transparent system by the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC). IPAC is a team of experts comprised of representatives from horticulture, landscape, nursery, research, conservation, Purdue Agriculture and other universities.

Callery pear and Norway maple trees are two species

that were ranked high on the official list but were not included in the final rule because the state determined that their inclusion would cause too great of a monetary impact to growers of these species. These trees and other highly invasive species such as winged burning bush could be added to the rule through an amendment process in the coming years.

In the meantime, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) encourage you to avoid purchasing or planting these species.

More information about the Terrestrial Plant Rule including the full list of prohibited species, links to the individual invasive plant assessments, and information about identifying and managing invasive species on your property can be found at [hcinvasives.org](http://hcinvasives.org).

For additional information on invasive species in and around Hamilton County, contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District at (317) 773-2181 or visit [hamiltonswcd.org](http://hamiltonswcd.org).

## We are open. How can we help you? STAY HOME - STAY SAFE - STAY HEALTHY LET US KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE IT MORE COMFORTABLE!

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

We are always appreciative of your business and the fact that you allow us to come into your homes and even more so during these challenging times amid the COVID-19 virus situation.

We have been diligent about sanitizing each of our locations. Fortunately, the size of our stores does allow for the adequate social distancing now being called for.

If you have purchased furniture from us recently - we are still out making deliveries. Our delivery crews will have disinfectant wipes for their safety, as well as the safety of others.

If you have been thinking about a project now would be a great time to get started on something. As long as you're spending a great length of time at home right now, you may as well make it safe and comfortable.

Our sales staff is very experienced. They can help you over the phone or via text or the chat feature found in the lower right corner of our website. When you do want to come in and try some things out, we will be here! Check out our website for more information and to take a peek at some of the products that we offer.

Spring is arriving and we're staying positive and uplifted during this difficult time We are open, how can we help you?

Sincerely,  
Jeff Godby



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# Coronavirus from my view We need trees

*Editor's Note: The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School's 10th grade English class, taught by Abby Williams.*

By now everyone has been made aware of the current global epidemic: COVID-19. It is affecting everyone no matter the age, race, social standing, or ethnic background, and it's something that many people are panicking about. Schools have closed, sports canceled, workplaces closing, stores shelves emptied, and thousands of people in panic mode. Even full states, providences and countries have shut down to quarantine themselves from the spread of COVID-19. This is my view of the current epidemic.

A few weeks ago, no



one thought we would be where we are today. People from the U.S. were making and laughing at coronavirus memes thinking that something so far away could never make it halfway around the world and affect us the way it has. I personally didn't even think our school would close due to there not being any cases in our area. Although, as soon as Avon had its first closing, everything started to feel unreal. My track team started planning for what we would do if we were to have a school closure, teachers began to prep us for weeks of eLearning, giving us schedules and packets of work, the store shelves slowly lost more and more merchandise, and we prepped ourselves for at least a two-week self-quarantine.

At that point, nothing truly felt real and nothing truly did until about a week ago. I live alone with my dad and have for the past few years, therefore we are a one-income household. We are normally good at stretching funds, but we do tend to have to live paycheck to paycheck. I figured through this whole thing we would be financially okay due to my dad working for a big company that produces and sells signs all over the U.S. But, about a week ago, we got the news that his work was closing. This had been a fear in the back of my mind since the day I found out about everything closing, but I tried to keep good faith in the fact that it wouldn't happen.

When I got the news, it was as if a giant boulder was placed onto my shoulders. I've never had a very wealthy family, and I've dealt with tough financial

situations before, but this was something I hadn't been afraid of in years. I had lost my only source of steady income; we have bills to pay, food to purchase, and a car that needs gas. It's terrifying seeing your whole life slowly fall apart at the seams, everything you once knew and trusted pulled out from under you as if it were a loose rug.

This is one of those situations where you have to find any faith you have left in the world and hold onto it as if your life depended on it. We are all going through this together, and as long as we stick together through this whole situation, we will make it through it. Please donate to your local food banks or churches; there are people in need everywhere you turn and even the littlest things help. Keep those struggling in good thoughts or in your prayers. We will make it through this together.

It's spring. The trees are groaning and stretching as they again start their full-time job of taking care of us. These largest plants on earth are busy cleaning our air, water, and providing physical, mental and emotional benefits.

In this time of environmental stress, it is increasingly important to conserve, protect, and plant trees. Healthy trees and woodlots offer multitudes of benefits. They are not the single cure for the stresses the Earth is experiencing, but they are a major part of the answer.

Think about drops of rain. Follow a drop in your mind as it plods down and meanders its way to the storm sewers, picks up more drops, gaining speed as they make their way downhill. As the drops move along at a faster pace, they pick up oils, dirt, trash, and other varied surface pollutants before they rush into the gutters and drains and make their way to our streams, creeks, rivers and lakes.

Without trees, there is no tree canopy to slow the pelting rain, and no leaves, trunk, or roots to trap pollutants. Without trees, that raindrop and its buddies are not going to be pure or semi-pure when they finally enter our water supply.

Newly planted and mature trees in woodlots and forests intercept stormwater and pollutants from rain events. I visited a 41-inch Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) at Forest Park and plugged its vital statistics into an application called i-Tree. That tree intercepts 2,920 gallons of rainfall annually, while a young eight-inch Tulip tree I measured intercepted 385 gallons of rainfall this past year ([i-Treetools.org](http://i-Treetools.org)).

The more woodlands preserved and protected, the more trees planted in rural yards and urban landscapes, the cleaner the air. The leaves, twigs, bark and roots of trees are effective air filters and pollution captors.

For example, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is naturally present in the air, but, due to human impact, there is much more than the 0.03 percent that naturally occurs. In fact, there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air now than at any other time since consistent measurements of it began in 1958 (Yale School of Forestry).

Trees and all green plants via photosynthesis take in carbon dioxide, store it, and release oxygen as a byproduct. In fact, the 41-inch diameter Tulip tree at the park, stores 24,363.43 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> ([i-Treetools.org](http://i-Treetools.org)).

If one large tree can do that, think about what a grove of trees will do in their lifetime ... or a woods ... or a small woodlot ... or the trees in your backyard. These pollution fighters also remove carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen and sulfur dioxide, and trap particulate matter from the air.

In comparison, the young Tulip tree is storing 607.57 pounds of carbon. Tulip (our state tree), Oak, Maple, Hackberry, and small to medium species

all provide benefits. However, the larger the tree at maturity, the more benefits we receive. So, it is important to conserve, protect, and plant large maturing species.

Here is something to consider from USDA Forest Service researchers. One acre of trees annually absorbs the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> of a car driven 26,000 miles and puts out four tons of oxygen, which is enough to meet the annual clean air needs of 18 people.

Yet, what do we see in Hamilton County and throughout Indiana? We see bulldozing of woodlots, woodlands and edges, which inhibits cleaner air and water, and destroys habitats for birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. The destruction of woodlands and edges hurts humans in other ways as well.

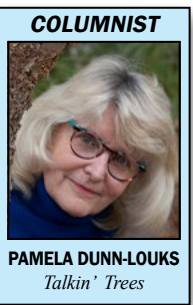
Take a break from COVID-19. Visit McGregor, Koteewi, Cool Creek, or Carmel's Central Park. Lean on the rail of the Rookery Preserve. Breathe in the cleaner air, sit or amble along and enjoy the trees and plants in your line of sight. Wow! Blood pressure and stress levels drop.

The early research of USDA Forest Service and university scientists has proven that when we have a view of trees or walk among the trees, we enjoy the physical response of destressing. Trees have numerous physical and mental benefits. There are too many to digest in a short column. Now that you have time, you may want to hit the search button and learn a bit more.

We are coming up on Arbor Day on April 24. It is not only a time to plant trees, but also time to thank the trees for the services they provide. The trees will only continue to provide these services if new ones are planted, the woodlands are conserved and protected, and trees on private and public lands well cared for and respected for the jobs they do for us.

In fact, now, is a great time to give a tree a well-deserved hug. It's OK. Trees do not require social distancing.

*Pamela Dunn-Louks, owner of In2Trees, is an ISA Certified Arborist, has a BA in Journalism from St. Mary of the Woods College, and is a nature photographer. Since retiring from the Indiana DNR as the state Community & Urban Forest Coordinator, she spends time visiting trees and offering tips and tools of the trade for their healthy upkeep. She is a lifelong resident of Hamilton County who lives in Cicero - with a lot of trees. Contact her at [pam@in2trees.com](mailto:pam@in2trees.com).*



PAMELA DUNN-LOUKS  
Talkin' Trees



Photo provided  
A maple tree getting ready to do its job.

## Where were "Hoosier" brand cabinets made?

### The REPORTER

**1863** – Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton was in Washington, D.C., to visit soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. He made speeches to the Indiana regiments and was received with great enthusiasm. Morton had been working closely with President Abraham Lincoln in the state's involvement in the Civil War. While in the city, Morton collected federal reimbursements of \$90,000 which would help in the continued operation of state government.

**1904** – A furniture store in Argos advertised a Hoosier Cabinet on sale for \$11. Indiana was home to a number of companies which manufactured free-standing kitchen cabinets which served several functions: Cupboard for plates, cups,

and silverware, work table, storage bin, and flower sifter. The "Hoosier" brand models were made in New Castle.

**1920** – The four Republican candidates for the upcoming Presidential election were making campaign tours through Indiana. Ohio Senator Warren G. Harding spoke at a rally in Richmond, along with California Senator Hiram Johnson. Ohio Governor Frank Lowden, also a candidate, spoke at a gathering at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. The fourth candidate, Major General Leonard Wood, also toured Indiana on the eve of the primary election. Harding went on to win the nomination and the election.

**1931** – Notre Dame football coach Knute



Rockne and six others were killed in the crash of a private plane in Kansas. Over 300,000 mourners lined the streets of South Bend as the funeral procession moved to the Sacred Heart Church on the Notre Dame campus.

**1948** – The Mercury Records "Caravan of Stars" performed at the Murat Theater in Indianapolis. At the top of the bill was Frankie Laine, along with Helen Hume, Flip Phillips, Buck Clayton, and the Mercury All-Star Orchestra. The

show was emceed by city deejay Easy Gwynn. A local reviewer observed that the evening proved that recording artists "must be seen as well as heard to be fully appreciated."

**April 4, 1968** – Robert F. Kennedy, in Indianapolis on a campaign tour, announced the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to a crowd at 17th and Broadway. His impassioned plea for peace on that night is considered one of the greatest addresses of the 20th Century.

## Fishers road construction updates, week of March 30

### The REPORTER

#### State Road 37

126th Street west of SR 37 is currently closed and is anticipated to reopen in July. During this time, cross access and all left turns will be restricted, with only right in and right out until this phase ends. Traffic on southbound SR 37 will shift to the northbound lanes and two lanes will remain in each direction. Local access to businesses will remain open via Lantern Road. The official detour route will direct drivers to use 116th Street or 131st Street to Allisonville Road. Detour route markers and advance warning signs will be in place prior to the closure.

On Monday, March 30, the northbound SR 37 lanes will be reduced from two lanes to one just north of 141st Street to 146th Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For a map of the detours, [click here](#). Please drive with caution through this area. To learn more about the State Road 37 Improvement Project and sign up to receive text updates, visit [37Thrives.com](http://37Thrives.com).

#### Stay-At-Home Order

Governor Holcomb has issued a Stay-At-Home Order effective 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 6. The Stay-At-Home Order applies to the entire state of Indiana and states that unless you work at an essen-

tial business or are doing an essential activity, you must stay at home. An FAQ on the order is available at [this link](#).

Residents are not restricted from walking, jogging, biking, or outdoor activities, including driving to local parks. The City of Fishers encourages you to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air.

#### 96th Street

Beginning on Thursday, April 2, 96th Street between Sargent Road and Cumberland Road will be closed. During this time, the Sargent Road roundabout will be constructed, the bridge over Mud Creek will be replaced with a widened structure and additional travel lanes will be added. Local access will remain open from Lantern Road to the River Life Church. The Sargent Road roundabout is anticipated to reopen in mid-June. 96th Street east of Sargent Road to Cumberland Road will remain closed and is anticipated to reopen in early November. The official detour route will direct drivers to use Lantern Road or Cumberland Road to 106th Street. View the detour map [here](#).

#### 116th Street

The northernmost westbound lane of 116th Street between Lantern Road and Municipal Drive is currently restricted day and night for approximately 45 days. Access remains open to

local businesses along the route.

Currently, westbound 116th Street between Municipal Drive and Post Office Road has lane restrictions in place for water main relocation.

#### 136th Street

On Tuesday, April 7, 136th Street will be closed between Southeastern Parkway and Prairie Baptist Road and is anticipated to reopen on Friday, April 10.

#### Spyglass Falls Subdivision

ADA ramp reconstruction and road resurfacing is currently taking place and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

#### Municipal Drive

Beginning on Monday, March 30, there will be lane restrictions on Municipal Drive behind the library in order to construct on-street parking and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

#### North Street

Beginning on Monday, March 30, North Street will be closed between Maple Street and Municipal Drive and is anticipated to reopen by Friday, April 3. Local access to businesses will remain open.

#### Maple Street

Beginning on Monday, March 30, Maple Street will be closed between North Street and 116th Street and is anticipated to reopen by

Friday, April 3. Local access to businesses will remain open.

#### Fishers Pointe Boulevard

Currently, there are daytime lane restrictions on Fishers Pointe Blvd. between 116th Street and Fishers Center Drive.

#### Lantern Road

Lantern Road is closed to thru traffic, beginning south of 116th Street to Fishers Pointe Boulevard, as part of the Downtown Infrastructure Improvement Project to improve the sanitary sewer underneath Lantern Road. Access to Fishers Elementary is available from 106th Street. Check out the project [Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

#### Keep Fishers DPW safe

Road construction continues around Fishers, so please remember to slow down and drive carefully around road workers. [Click here](#) to see the Fishers DPW crew talk about worker safety.

*While this list encompasses numerous project updates, it does not list all DPW projects throughout the city. The most recent projects are detailed, however please keep in mind that all construction activities are weather permitting. The city appreciates motorists' patience and caution while driving through construction sites.*

# SNYDER STRATEGY

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SNYDER STRATEGY

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Letter to the Editor

## Mike Davis asks you to support Dillinger

Hello Hamilton County, I have known Steve Dillinger since the sixth grade. He was my Noblesville Grinder Football Coach. He instilled in me the value of hard work, humility, teamwork, faith, honor and coming together for a common cause. Since those early years, I have always kept in touch with him.

Later in my late 20's, we became friends, and I went on several fishing trips with him. Decades later, he still continues to be a strong leader for our community in so many ways.

I admire the work Steve Dillinger has

accomplished while in office. He has been someone who has made my city a great place to grow up and raise a family in.

Steve Dillinger will always put Hamilton County first and look out for the taxpayers. His commitment to the people of Hamilton County has been unwavering, and I am honored to call him my Friend, Coach, and Hamilton County Commissioner.

Please join me in voting for Steve Dillinger for Hamilton County Commissioner.

**Mike Davis**

*Noblesville City Councilor*

Letter to the Editor

## Debbie Driskell encourages voters to re-elect Jeff Hern

Dear Hamilton County, As the Delaware Township Trustee, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Jeff Hern, current Hamilton County Councilor.

Prior to Jeff's elected role as County Councilor, he served as Fall Creek Township Trustee. During his tenure, I admired how he approached working with his constituents. As a Trustee, Jeff had many successes. Those included tripling the size of the food pantry without using taxpayer dollars, securing additional land for nature parks and trails, and implementing a 'Back to School'

backpack program.

When Jeff was elected Hamilton County Councilor, I was impressed to see him use the same core values that made him a successful as a Trustee. He has always aimed to keep government limited and easy to navigate, and be readily accessible and available to constituents.

As Jeff Hern runs for re-election for Hamilton County Councilor, I ask that you vote for someone who will always put you first.

**Debbie Driskell**

*Delaware Township Trustee*

*Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).*

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power; that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

*Acts 8:14-24 (KJV)*



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**Jennifer**  
**Peggy**






# Coronavirus cancellations

*Send your event cancellation notice to [Notices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Notices@ReadTheReporter.com)*

## Atlanta

### Mr. Muffin's closes train layout display to public

#### Submitted

For the health and safety of our customers and friends, the layout at Mr. Muffin's Trains in Atlanta will be closed for now. The shop will remain open for shipping and pickups. We

are taking additional safety precautions, including curbside pickup.

We strongly recommend placing credit card orders via the [website](#); you can still pick up the order by clicking the "Pickup in

Store" button in the shopping cart. We'll pull the product and notify you when it's ready to pick up.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call (765) 292-2022 or visit [MrMuffinsTrains.com](#).

#### Atlanta Town Council closes public places

At the Atlanta Town Council meeting on Friday, March 27, the following closures were announced and will remain in effect until further notice:

- Town Hall
- Community Center
- Playground at the park, but not the park itself

The Easter Egg Hunt has also been postponed until further notice.

## Noblesville

### NHS Alumni Banquet canceled

#### The REPORTER

The NHS Alumni Board has made the decision to cancel the 2020 NHS Alumni Banquet.

All reservation checks received will be returned as soon as possible.

The organization is still taking donations for

the scholarship fund and/or general fund. Goldstar donations of \$250 or more and in memory donations to help with scholarships for those graduating seniors for next year will still be accepted. All names will be posted in the 2021 newsletter.

Those donations can

be sent in a separate check to NHS Alumni, P.O. Box 818, Noblesville, IN 46061. Please include a note with your check to let the NHS Alumni Board know what your donation should be used for so your name can be added to the 2021 newsletter.

### Community First Bank limits lobby traffic, remains open for business

#### The REPORTER

During this time of extra caution due to COVID-19, Community First Bank (CFB) of Indiana remains committed to the health and well-being of its customers, employees, and surrounding communities.

All CFB branches have temporarily closed the lobbies to walk-in traffic. The Pebble Village branch in Noblesville will remain fully staffed and able to assist customers.

Banking will still be carried out via four drive-

up locations, six 24/7 ATMs, online banking, mobile app, night depository, and in-person appointments by request (including new account openings, loan appointments, etc.).

Please call (765) 236-0600 with any questions.

### Upcoming Noblestories presentation canceled

#### The REPORTER

The Noblestories presentation, sponsored by the Noblesville Preservation Alliance (NPA) and scheduled for March 29 at Preser-

vation Hall in Noblesville, has been postponed until further notice in recognition of the potential dangers posed by the coronavirus.

NPA will reschedule at

a future date once the scope of the outbreak has been determined and public health officials are assured that public gatherings are safe again.

#### Noblesville cancels three upcoming meetings

The City of Noblesville has canceled three upcoming meetings:

- Council Roads Committee, originally scheduled for April 3, 2020
- Tree Board, originally scheduled for April 6, 2020
- Plan Commission, originally scheduled for April 20, 2020

## Carmel

### Brainard closes playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, golf courses, along with Monon Greenway and Midtown Plaza

#### The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard on Thursday issued a clarification of orders from the Governor's office as it pertains to places of amusement. Under the state's order, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts and other similar areas of outdoor interaction have been closed.

In addition, Brainard has ordered all golf courses closed in Carmel because

golfers are touching flags, using carts, retrieving balls from cups – which poses a problem because the COVID-19 virus can live on these kinds of surfaces for up to three days.

Brainard has also ordered the closure of a section of the Monon Greenway and Midtown Plaza due to overcrowding, which hinders compliance with social distancing restrictions in place during

COVID-19 quarantine. Indiana Code Section 10-14-3-29 allows the mayor to take actions such as this during emergency situations.

The portion of the trail between Gradle Drive to the south and Main Street to the north will be closed until further notice. Seating and equipment are being removed from Midtown Plaza to further deter people from gathering there.

### Monon Community Center closes

#### The REPORTER

The Monon Community Center is closed until further notice.

The closure includes all Monon Community Center amenities: Fitness cen-

ter, indoor aquatics, gymnasium, KidZone, indoor track, group fitness classes, personal training and private lessons. The closure will be assessed on a daily basis based on recommen-

dations from public health officials.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit [carmelclayparks.com/coronavirus-information](#).

### Center for Performing Arts extends cancellations through May 11

#### The REPORTER

The Center for the Performing Arts is extending its previously announced suspension of all performances and other events on its campus through May 11.

The cancellations include performances by Actors Theatre of Indiana, Carmel Symphony Orchestra, Central Indiana Dance Ensemble, Civic Theatre, Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre and Indiana Wind

Symphony, as well as education events, rental events and *Center Presents* performances.

All ticketholders will be contacted and provided refunds or the option to donate the purchase amount to the presenting organization to help defray costs associated with the cancellations. The Center will work to reschedule the canceled events as feasible.

The Box Office and the

Great American Songbook Exhibit Gallery at the Palladium will be closed to the public through May 11, but ticket sales for events not affected by the suspension will continue online at [TheCenterPresents.org](#) or by phone at (317) 843-3800.

Patrons with questions or concerns may contact the Patron Services department at (317) 843-3800 or [tickets@TheCenterPresents.org](#).

### Carmel Community Players reschedules final two shows of this year's season

#### Dear Patrons:

CCP is closely following all protocols related to containment and prevention of COVID-19, and taking every step necessary to ensure the safety of our audiences, performers and crew. The following is an update on CCP performances, which can change at any time. If so, we will continue to update you, our loyal patrons.

The remaining two shows of our 2019-20 season will be delayed as follows:

*The Last Five Years*, which had been scheduled to run from April 24 to May 10, will shift forward to July 17-26, assuming rehearsals can start up again by May/June, for performances at The Cat.

We will officially start

our 2020-21 season in December, and will announce the full season at our Annual Membership meeting, which is normally held in May.

\*\*\*

[Click here](#) to make a tax-deductible donation to Carmel Community Players. For more information, call (317) 815-9387 or visit [carmelplayers.org](#).



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## Countywide

### Hamilton County Parks closes playgrounds

#### Parks, public restrooms remain open

#### The REPORTER

For the health and well-being of the community, playgrounds in all Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Parks are now closed until further notice.

Parks and restrooms will remain open, and increased cleaning and sanitation measures are being taken multiple times every day.

A list of precautions provided by the CDC can be viewed online at [this link](#).

The Cool Creek Nature Center located in Cool Creek Park, and the Taylor Center of Natural History and Koteewi Range Sport and Target Archery Center, both located in Strawtown Koteewi Park, remain closed until further notice.

Additionally, as a pre-

cautionary measure, all park programs, events and facility rentals are suspended through April 15.

To receive ongoing updates regarding HCPR park operations, the public is encouraged to visit the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation [Facebook page](#) or call the HCPR Administrative Office at (317) 770-4400.

### Prevail providing services despite temporary closure

#### To Our Community,

Over the past week Prevail staff have continued to provide limited staffing in the office, while meeting most of the needs of our clients by phone. With the Governor's announcement requiring us all to stay home, we will be closing the office and asking all employees to work from

home. If you are in need of Prevail services, please call us! Our community is very important to us and we will continue to serve those who need us.

Our business line, 317-773-6942, will be available for voicemail messages that will be checked throughout the day (with an option to press 1 to be

forwarded to the crisis line) and our crisis line, 317-776-3472, will be answered live during this time.

We look forward to continuing to support those who need our services in new and creative ways!

\*\*\*

For more information, visit [prevailinc.org](#).

### Riverview Health closes physician offices, limiting orthopedic hours

#### The REPORTER

Riverview Health has closed all but three primary care offices and limit hours for orthopedics offices.

The three primary care offices that will remain open include Noblesville Family Medicine, Sheridan

Family Medicine and Hazel Dell Family Care. The open orthopedics offices will be Riverview Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine – Carmel and Riverview Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine – Westfield.

Patients needing to schedule an appointment, refill a prescription or otherwise consult with their provider should call their physician's office.

No walk-ins will be allowed at any of the open offices.

### PrimeLife temporarily closes doors

#### The REPORTER

Due to the growing serious health threat of the coronavirus, PrimeLife Enrichment has temporarily closed its Center, located at 1078 Third Ave. SW in Carmel, effective immediately.

The facility will remain closed at least until April 6 and potentially longer.

Handy also announced that the Central Indiana Council on Aging (CICOA) will deliver lunches

to those in need. She encouraged PrimeLife Enrichment members to contact CICOA for additional information.

Visit [primelifeenrichment.org](#) for more information.

### Janus postpones fundraising breakfast

#### The REPORTER

Janus is committed to the safety and well-being of all staff and clients and is strictly following guidance and recommendations set out by local authorities and the Center for Disease

Control and Prevention. Janus has decided to move the Create, Connect and Commit Fundraising Breakfast from Friday, April 24 to Friday, Aug. 14. The breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

at the 502 East Event Center in Carmel.

Please plan to attend the breakfast on Aug. 14. Feel free to RSVP to Patty Steffen at [psteffen@janus-inc.org](#) prior to July 24.

#### Hamilton North Public Library closes branches

The Hamilton North Public Library is closed to the public until April 16.

#### Comprehensive Plan Update meeting postponed

The Hamilton County Plan Commission Comprehensive Plan Update public hearing scheduled for White River Township on April 16, 2020 has been postponed. A new date will be announced when officials have decided the coronavirus is no longer a threat.

## Westfield

### Westfield Lions Club postpones Poker for Sight tournament

#### The REPORTER

The Westfield Lions Poker for Sight Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournament, originally scheduled for April 17 and 18, will be postponed until Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13.

The Lions Poker for Sight tournaments are the largest fund raisers for the Westfield group. They are a

vital part of the club's philanthropic endeavors every year.

The drawing for the winner of the Zac Brown Band Concert VIP tickets will also be moved to the night of June 13 at the final round of the Poker for Sight Tournament.

For more information or to register for Lions

Poker for Sight go to [lions-poker.org](#).

For more information on the Westfield Lions Club go to [westfieldlions.org](#).

The Westfield Lions Club will keep everyone posted on additional developments as time gets closer. Thank you all for your support.

### Community First Bank limits lobby traffic, remains open for business

#### The REPORTER

During this time of extra caution due to COVID-19, Community First Bank (CFB) of Indiana remains committed to the health and well-being of its customers, employees, and surrounding communities.

All CFB branches have temporarily closed the lobbies to walk-in traffic. The Oak Ridge branch in Westfield will remain fully staffed and able to assist customers.

Banking will still be carried out via four drive-

up locations, six 24/7 ATMs, online banking, mobile app, night depository, and in-person appointments by request (including new account openings, loan appointments, etc.).

Please call (765) 236-0600 with any questions.

### Westfield Chamber cancels three events

#### The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce has released notices of the following cancellations:

- "Shark Tank" Luncheon: This event has been postponed until further notice.
- Westfield Young Professionals: At

this time all events are TBD. The next meet up is scheduled for April 2.

- **Coffee with the Chamber:** At this time all events are TBD. The next coffee is scheduled for April 14.

For more information, visit [westfield-chamber.org](#).

#### Westfield GOP Club postpones Congressional debate

The Westfield GOP Club has postponed the 5th District Congressional Debate. The Club's goal is to reschedule the debate for sometime in April. Updates will be provided.

## Fishers

#### Fishers GOP Club cancels Meet & Greet

The Fishers GOP Club has canceled its Meet & Greet scheduled for April 9 at the Delaware Township Community Center.

#### Lobby closed at Fishers Police Department Headquarters

The Fishers Police Department has closed the lobby of its headquarters. Please call (317) 595-3300 to speak to Records staff and (317) 773-1282 to speak with a Fishers police officer.



# Hamilton County Sports



## Sports Editor Richie Hall

Rhall1977@gmail.com  
Twitter: @Richie\_Hall

NOBLESVILLE, CARMEL, WESTFIELD, SHERIDAN, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, FISHERS, UNIVERSITY, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN

NHS sophomore a veteran of 40 competitions...

## Noblesville's Olivia Stone reflects on competition, balancing school and skating

By RICHIE HALL

Figure skating has been a part of Olivia Stone's life for a decade.

The Noblesville High School sophomore first took to the ice when she was 6 after participating in a public skate session. Now at 16, Stone is a veteran of over 40 competitions.

"Ever since I can remember, I skate six days per week," said Stone. "There is no off season in figure skating. Summer time is actually training time and the beginning of the competition season."

Soon after Stone made her first step on the ice, her parents signed her up for Learn To Skate lessons. That led to private coaching and competitions.

"I was 10 years old at my first competition at The Forum at Fishers now known as the Fuel Tank at Fishers," said Stone. The Fuel Tank has become a familiar place for her, as it is her home rink.

Stone has worked her way up the skating ladder over the years, currently competing in the discipline and level of Ladies Novice Free Skate. She explained that there are eight levels of figure skating, and competing at a certain level requires passing a Moves in the Field Test and a Freestyle test performed in front of specifically qualified judges.

"Each level takes at least a year to pass, and often much longer depending on your goals," said Stone.

The levels are, in order:

1. Pre-Preliminary
2. Preliminary
3. Pre-Juvenile
4. Juvenile (must be younger than 13)
5. Intermediate (must be younger than 18)
6. Novice
7. Junior
8. Senior

The Juvenile level is the first qualifying level, where a skater can start to qualify for sectional and national competitions. A skater must be at the Senior level to compete for national titles and the Olympics. Stone is currently at the Novice level.

"To attain the Senior Level can take some skaters well over a decade of intense daily training," said Stone. "And that's assuming all of the important tools necessary fall into place, such as: Coaching, funds needed, balancing school and NO injuries."

"I have found that once you reach the Novice Level, competition is fierce," said Stone. "All the girls have trained their entire lives. Everyone is elite and tough. It's kind of a pivotal point where you have to decide that you are willing to continue the sacrifice needed to keep competing. The amount of athleticism now required in this sport has morphed over the years and even this level is extreme with girls needing to perform double axels and triple jumps; and the top national competitors are attempting quadruple jumps."

"The number of years spent training to reach the national level can last a lifetime and even then only a very small percentage of skaters will ever make it to Nationals," said Stone. "Now there are many disciplines in figure skating in which those who do not take the single skating competitive route may find



Photo provided

Noblesville's Olivia Stone has devoted a decade to figure skating since first participating in an open skate at age 6. Stone, a sophomore at Noblesville High School, skates six days a week and will compete in local competitions to prepare for the October Regionals.

another way to get to Nationals. There is dance, pairs, theater on ice, national showcase and synchro."

Stone takes part in local competitions in Indiana and Ohio to prepare for the Regionals, which take place in October. She also competes in the Skate Detroit event in July. There are nine regions across the United States, with the top four girls in each Regional competition advancing to one of the three Sectionals. After that, the top four skaters from each section advance to the Nationals.

"It's tough," said Stone, who noted that a skater may be competing against 30 to 50 other girls.

"I have been fortunate enough to always do pretty well at Regionals, qualifying for the final round," said Stone. "I have yet to make it to Sectionals and that continues to be a major goal of mine."

Stone has won various competitions throughout her career, including two in 2018: The Ladies Intermediate Indiana

State Champion and the Ladies Intermediate Combined Winner Kathy Slack Troy Summer Competition.

"I did recently pass my Senior Moves in the Field Test which makes me a gold medalist," said Stone. "After two more leveled freestyle tests I will officially make it to the final Senior level."

Stone names three skaters as her favorite, starting with Russian Alena Kostornaia, the recent European champion and a fellow 16-year-old. Another favorite is another Russian, Evgenia Medvedeva, who was a silver medalist at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics in the Team and Singles events. Stone's third favorite is Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu, who has won the last two gold medals (2014 and 2018) in the men's singles event.

"I enjoy combining the athleticism and artistry of the sport," said Stone. "I often think it's a metaphor for life. When you fall down, you pick yourself back up and try again."

Stone said that NHS "has been so supportive" of her training schedule, and she skates every day before and after school if the ice schedule allows.

"I'm fortunate to have my home rink, The Fuel Tank at Fishers so close to me as I am competing against a nation of girls, most of whom are home schooled, so I have to be diligent in getting every second of ice in that I can," said Stone. "Daily off ice training is also an integral part of my training."

Stone admits that it is difficult to balance a high school schedule with training, but she wants to "persevere and compete again this year."

"My goal is to eventually make it to Sectionals and Nationals and if lucky enough, one day the Olympics," said Stone. "I have just made a coaching change, so I am currently in the process of developing and choreographing new programs for this season."



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# Two NHS swimmers honored by ICGSA

Two members of the Noblesville High School girls swimming team were recently honored by the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association for making the Academic All State Swimming Honorable Mention list. Christina Mathis and Emily DeCocq were both named to the list.

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Seth R. Wilson

# IMS historian calls race postponement unprecedented

By NINA CRISCUOLO  
WISH-TV

The move to postpone the Indianapolis 500 is something Indianapolis Motor Speedway has never done before.

If the Indianapolis 500 has happened, it has always occurred in the month of May. The month and the race are synonymous in Indiana. But this year for the very first time, the race will happen in another month and, according to Indianapolis Motor Speedway historian Donald Davidson, it's something that will go down in history.

"It just will be a little surreal I think to have Memorial Day weekend and no race, but more than that, when we come back and have the race at a totally different time of year, that will be very strange," Davidson said.

Davidson first attended the Indy 500 56 years ago and has since been a living Encyclopedia on the race.

"This is totally unprecedented. Since the inaugural running in 1911, it was not

held in 1917 and 1918 because of World War I, and then 1942 through '45 because of World War II and that's it. And there was even, with weather delays which has happened a few times, it's never gone later than May the 31st," Davidson said.

The 2020 race is not canceled as it was during wars, but it adds a variation to the history books.

"I'm thinking about writers and how they will word something to make it accurate, because it would be that other than for the war, every Memorial Day weekend since 1911, there's an Indianapolis 500. Next year, you won't be able to say that, you'll have to figure another way to reword it," Donaldson said.

This is not the first time a pandemic has affected IndyCar though. During the 1918 flu pandemic, driver and Indy native Johnny Aitken was a victim of the virus. That was during one of the six years the race didn't run due to wartime, but he was honored during the running of the Indy 500 in 1919.

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*As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. Prov. 27-19*

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