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FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 2026

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CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny morning.
Partly sunny afternoon.
Lower humidity.

Tonight: Partly cloudy.
Scattered shower chances
after midnight.

HIGH: 83 LOW: 67



Farmers across Midwest gather for record-breaking Becknology Days

By HANNAH RAYL
Beck's Hybrids

Farmers from across the Midwest gathered throughout August for Beck's 2026 Becknology™ Days, a series of free, farmer-focused events designed to turn research, innovation, and product knowledge into more confident decisions on the farm.

Attendance increased at every location and on each of the 10 event days, with 26,421 farmers and guests participating across eight locations in seven states, the highest attendance in Becknology Days history.

At the center of this year's experience was SeedIQ™, the industry's first product management platform. SeedIQ combines AI-powered insights with decades of Beck's proprietary



Glendia Beck speaks with the next generation of America's farmers during Becknology Days.

research to help farmers select and manage products based on their unique fields, practices, and management styles.

Throughout Becknology Days, farmers saw how SeedIQ brings together insights from Root Reveal™, Silk Reveal™, Kernel

Reveal™, Product Characterization Research, LEARN plots, See *Becknology* . . . Page 3

Who will you show up for?

How do you feel going into September 2026?

It feels like just yesterday we were saying, "Happy New Year!" We were making plans, setting goals, choosing our word for the year, and telling ourselves, "This is going to be my year."

And now, somehow, we are already standing at the doorway of the final quarter.

Where did the time go?

It seems like the year simply *zooped* by before I could blink.

In these first eight months, so much has changed. Some of us welcomed new beginnings. Some experienced unexpected endings. Some celebrated milestones, while others quietly navigated moments nobody else could see. We met new people, lost touch with some, changed jobs, started schools, moved homes, celebrated birthdays, and perhaps discovered new versions of ourselves along the way.

And now comes the quarter of the year that seems to fill our calendars before we even realize it.

September brings new routines. October brings fall gatherings and celebrations. November reminds us of gratitude and family. December arrives with holidays, traditions, parties, food and, hopefully, a little time to pause.

It is the season of gathering. But before we rush into everything that is already waiting for us, I want to offer one simple invitation:

- Make your last quarter count – not by doing more, but by connecting more intentionally.
- Choose one person you have been meaning to call.
- Invite someone to your table.
- Thank someone who made a difference in your life.
- Show up for a community event you have never attended.
- Ask a neighbor how they are really doing.
- Sit beside someone who may be feeling unseen.

Because sometimes the most meaningful "good work" we can do is not measured by

See *Show Up* . . . Page 3

COLUMNIST



POOJA THAKKAR
Taste of Community

Hamilton Heights announces Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026

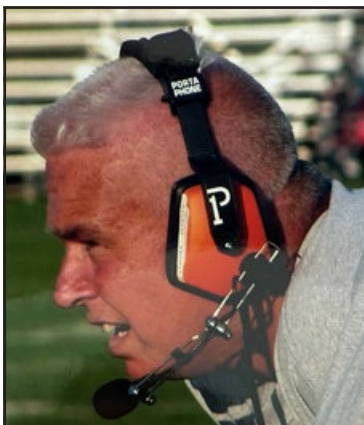
Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

The Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee announces its Class of 2026, featuring one exceptional team, three outstanding student-athletes, and the program's first coach inductee. This year's honorees include members and coaches of the 1975 Boys Basketball Team, Beth (Hoch) Sperry ('88), James Duncan ('91), Maria Mitchell ('21), and former Coach Chuck Reeves.

"On behalf of the committee, we are very pleased to welcome these deserving Huskies to the Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame," said Mitch Street, Committee Chairman and HHHS Assistant Principal. "They represent our seventh Athletic Hall of Fame class."

The Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame honors athletes, coaches, teams, and program contributors whose achievements and character have made a lasting impact on the school's athletic legacy. Through this program, the stories and accomplishments of past Huskies are preserved and celebrated – creating a tradition of excellence for generations to come.

See *Fame* . . . Page 2



Photos provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

(TOP LEFT) The Hamilton Heights Boys Basketball team (1975, Jackson Central High School). Team members include (first row, from left) Jon Hall, Scott Miller, Tom Ferguson, Mike Miller, Doug Mitchell, Kent Kaiser, and Dennis Tharp; (second row, from left) Head Coach Jim Petty, Assistant Coach Mike Jenkins, Bob Thomas, Steve Padgett, Rick Aldred, Mike Hartley, Greg Knapp, Bill Burkhardt, and Assistant Coach Bruce Hardy. (TOP RIGHT) Coach Chuck Reeves (Hamilton Heights High School). (ABOVE LEFT) Beth (Hoch) Sperry (Class of 1988, Hamilton Heights High School). (ABOVE CENTER) James Duncan (Class of 1991, Hamilton Heights High School). (ABOVE RIGHT) Maria (Mitchell) St. John (Class of 2021, Hamilton Heights High School).

TODAY: Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad debuts Tipton Pork Fest Express ride

The REPORTER

A railroad track in Tipton that has been dormant for more than a decade will soon be the site of a new experience just in time for [the town's famous Pork Festival](#).

Guests are invited to hop on board Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad's newest railbike adventure, The Pork Fest Express, today, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12.

About the Pork Fest Express

The **Pork Fest Express** is a 30-minute roundtrip railbiking adventure through the beautiful Tipton scenery. After departing from behind The Shack, guests will pedal their way through a short stretch of railroad that hasn't seen passenger traffic



Reporter photo

Tipton Mayor Keegan Schmicker leads Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad friends and supporters in a toast just before the first railbike ride down the tracks in Tipton.

in more than 10 years, making this a truly unique opportunity to experience a hidden piece of Tipton's railroad history. This one-mile journey is the perfect

experience for families and new railbike riders looking for something new to add to their day at the Pork Festival.

just \$12, this is an incredible experience that guests won't want to miss.

With [tickets starting at](#) See *Pork Express* . . . Page 2



Hire an HSE student, support a scholarship

Submitted by HSE Schools

Hamilton Southeastern High School students are ready to help community members tackle their fall to-do lists while raising money for a scholarship honoring a former HSE student.

The annual Carrie Colglazier Scholarship Community Service Workday will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20. Community members can hire students for an eight-hour workday with a minimum donation of \$25 per student worker. Jobs can include mulching, washing windows, painting, yard work, planting flowers, trimming bushes, raking leaves, cleaning gutters, cleaning garages, and other fall projects.

All proceeds benefit the Carrie Colglazier Scholarship Fund, which provides a \$16,000 scholarship distributed over four years to an HSE senior who has participated in girls soccer, girls track, FFA, or National Honor Society.

The scholarship honors Carrie Colglazier, a former HSE student-athlete who excelled in soccer and track and was also active in FFA, 4-H, and National Honor Society. The annual workday continues her legacy of leadership, service, and involvement at HSE.

Have a fall project that could use a few extra hands? Sign up to hire student workers at [carriecolglazier.org](#) by Monday, Sept. 14.

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Letter guidelines
this election season

With the approach of the Nov. 3 General Election, the Hamilton County Reporter is establishing some Letters to the Editor guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

Letters addressing new topics about the upcoming election or the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of the business day on Thursday, Oct. 22, and will be published on Friday, Oct. 23.

Letters in response to new topics published in our Oct. 23 edition will be accepted until Tuesday, Oct. 27, and will be published in our Wednesday, Oct. 28 edition.

These deadlines will give candidates and their supporters the opportunity to reply to letters addressing new topics.

Straight letters of endorsement will be accepted until Thursday, Oct. 29, and will publish on Friday, Oct. 30.

Please send your letters to
News@ReadTheReporter.com.

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinions of The Reporter or our staff.

Letters
to the Editor

Beth
Sheller
for
Hamilton
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Clerk

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PORK EXPRESS

The Inaugural Ride
Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad held the first official Pork Fest Express railbike rides at a VIP Night on Sept. 9. The night included members from both Noblesville and Tipton communities who came together to celebrate the opening of this new attraction with food from The Shack, a silent auction, and a railbike ride. Prominent guests on the inaugural ride included Tipton Mayor, Keegan Schmicker and Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad Board President Christine DeJoy. The night ended with a toast to the hope that this new experience provides joy to the people of Tipton.

About Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad
Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and operating historic railroad experiences in Hamilton County. Through excursions, educational programming, and seasonal attractions, the organization keeps railroad history in motion for future generations.

**All local.
All the time.**

Reporter photos
Tipton Mayor Schmicker along with his wife and one of their two daughters were among the first to pedal down the rails on Wednesday, Sept. 9. You, too, can enjoy the whole railbike experience today and tomorrow at the annual Tipton Pork Festival.

FAME

A special luncheon and induction ceremony will take place at noon on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Hamilton Heights High School, 25802 State Rod 19, Arcadia. Inductees will receive a commemorative metal display, and their names and photos will be permanently featured in the Athletic Hall of Fame located in the Athletic Center.

Tickets for the ceremony and luncheon are \$10. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Mitch Street at mstreet@hhschuskiies.org or call (317) 984-3551, ext. 1092. Tickets are also available at the high school's main office during school hours.

2026 Inductees
1975 Boys Basketball Team
This team was the first boys basketball team to win a basketball sectional and the only team to win a sectional in a single class system. Team members include Scott Miller, Jon Hall, Doug Mitchell, Bill Burkhardt, Mike Hartley, Rick Aldred, Steve Padgett, Bob Thomas, Greg Knapp, Tom Ferguson,

Mike Miller, and Kent Kaiser. Jim Petty (Head Coach), Mike Jenkins, and Bruce Hardy (Assistant Coaches).

Beth (Hoch) Sperry
Hamilton Heights High School, Class of 1988
Beth (Hoch) Sperry was a multisport athlete. She was a four-year varsity volleyball and basketball player. She was all-county and all-conference in 1986 and 1987. She was all-county and all-conference in 1986, 1987, and 1988, and she played on the 1986 sectional championship team. She went on to play volleyball at Ball State University.

James Duncan
Hamilton Heights High School, Class of 1991
James Duncan was a multisport athlete, where he participated in football, basketball, track and field, and one year of baseball. He was an all-county, all-conference, and all-state quarterback in the 1990 season. He was also all-county and all-conference in basketball. Likewise, he was also the county champion in the 300-meter hurdles. He went on to play football at the University of Evansville,

where he was all-conference in 1994 and 1995.

Maria (Mitchell) St. John
Hamilton Heights High School, Class of 2021
Maria (Mitchell) St. John was a multisport athlete and earned 16 varsity letters throughout her high school career. She participated in cross-country, soccer, swimming, and track and field. In cross-country she was a two-time all-state state selection. She had four medals at the state track and field meet and her junior year was canceled due to COVID. She held and still holds records in both cross-country and track and field. She went on to run at Grand Valley State and finished her career at Lee University.

Chuck Reeves
Hamilton Heights High School Coach
Chuck Reeves retired from teaching at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. He coached football at Hamilton Heights for 43 years. He was also the head track and field coach for 20 years as well. He coached multiple other sports during his time at Hamilton Heights. He is the first coach to be inducted into the Hamilton Heights Athletic Hall of Fame.

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BECKNOLOGY

from Page 1

Choice Trials, performance data, and Practical Farm Research (PFR)®.

By turning that research into clear product recommendations, management considerations, and in-season insights, SeedIQ helps farmers better understand how to unlock the full potential of every product.

“SeedIQ represents a different approach to helping farmers succeed,” Beck’s President Scott Beck said. “It goes beyond selecting a product based on geography or yield history. It helps us recommend products based on how each farmer manages their operation and then gives them the information they need to manage those products more effectively throughout the season.”

SeedIQ was one part of a broader Becknology Days experience built around practical, region-specific information. Farmers toured PFR studies, explored new products and technologies, and spoke directly with Beck’s agronomy and research teams. Topics included maximizing hybrid performance, managing corn-after-corn acres, evaluating fungicide programs, refining nitrogen strategies, and pursuing greater soybean yield potential.

Since 1964, Beck’s has welcomed farmers to experience field research first-hand, ask questions, and explore ideas they can take back to their operations. While Becknology Days continues to evolve alongside agriculture, its purpose remains the same: helping farmers succeed.

“At the heart of Becknology Days is the farmer,” Beck said. “Seeing a record number of farmers engage with the research and prepare for what’s next tells us these conversations matter. We are grateful for every farmer who chose to spend a day with us.”

In addition to the Atlanta, Ind., headquarters, the 2026 Becknology Days season included events in Salina, Kan.; Henderson, Ky.; Goehner, Neb.; Effingham and El Paso, Ill.; Colfax, Iowa; Olivia, Minn.

Learn more at [becks hybrids.com](https://becks.hybrids.com).



Photos provided by Beck’s Hybrids

SHOW UP

how much we accomplish. It is measured by how much belonging we help create.

We often enter the final months of the year thinking about what is left on our own checklist: the unfinished project, the unfulfilled goal, the places we haven’t visited, the things we haven’t purchased.

But what if we created a different kind of checklist?

Who needs to hear from me? Who needs a seat at my table? Whose story have I not heard? Where can I show up? What can I do to make someone feel that they belong?

Maybe that becomes our fourth-quarter goal.

Not perfection. Not productivity. Not another race against the clock.

Just presence.

The holidays have a way of reminding us that food tastes better when shared, celebrations feel richer when others are included, and traditions become more meaningful when stories travel from one generation to another.

So, as September begins, I am choosing to look at these final months not as the end of the year, but as one more opportunity to build community.

We may not be able to slow down the calendar.

from Page 1

But we can slow down enough to notice one another. Before 2026 zoops away, let’s make one intentional choice: leave a little more kindness, connection and belonging wherever we go.

Because when the year ends, perhaps the best question won’t be, “How much did I get done?” It will be, “Whose life was a little better because I showed up?”

That, to me, would be a year worth finishing strong.

Pooja Thakkar is working to build cultural connections. You can read her column each week in the pages of The Reporter.

Thanks for reading!

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Deputy Clerk Position

The Cicero Clerk Treasurer’s office has a full-time position opening for a **Deputy Clerk**.

The Deputy Clerk will be responsible for various clerical, payroll, Human Resource functions, bookkeeping, and utility activities. Process bi-weekly payroll, pension, and deductibles maintain all payroll records, and on-line filings. Payroll experience a plus. Assistant to the clerk treasurer for budget, attend meetings as necessary, filing, preparing reports, and serve and assist with utility billing activities, answering phones, waiting on customers and other duties as assigned.

Applications will be accepted through October 2nd, 2026.

**Please send résumé to Rhonda Gary,
331 E. Jackson St., P.O. Box 650, Cicero, IN 46034,
rgary@townofcicero.in.gov**

Town’s application will be required which may be picked up in our office, requested by e-mail or found at

<https://www.facebook.com/ciceroindiana>

or on the Town’s website,
www.cicero.in.org



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Flags lowered to half-staff on Patriot Day in remembrance of 9/11 victims

The REPORTER

Indiana Governor Mike Braun has directed flags to be flown at half-staff for Patriot Day in remembrance of those who perished on

September 11, 2001, and in honor of all of the heroes who answered the call to serve following the attacks.

Flags are lowered across all state government facili-

ties from sunrise to sunset.

All Hoosiers can help honor and remember the victims of 9/11 by lowering their flags to half-staff at their homes and businesses.

Fall flavors abound at Graeter’s Ice Cream

The REPORTER

Prost! Graeter’s Ice Cream, America’s oldest family-owned and operated craft ice cream maker, is raising a pint (of ice cream!) in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Oktoberfest Zinzinnati, the world’s largest Oktoberfest celebration outside of Munich.

Inspired by the traditional Southern Bavarian dessert, Graeter’s Apple Strudel Ice Cream features cinnamon ice cream loaded with baked apples, sweet icing, and cinnamon pastry pieces. The limited-edition flavor was created in partnership with the Cincinnati Regional Chamber, tying Graeter’s Cincinnati roots to one of the city’s biggest annual events.

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to Cincinnati’s downtown riverfront for four days of German food, music, beer, and festivities. In honor of the event’s 50th anniversary, Graeter’s ice cream



Photo provided

Graeter’s was already a friend of The Hamilton County Reporter before sending over a box of Salted Caramel Chip Wheels along with pints of both new fall flavors. Reporter Owner Ray Adler, along with Allie Weyer and Kathi Harrison from Adler Attorneys were more than happy to accept the gift. You can tell they were happy because Ray is *IN* a photo, rather than hiding behind the camera – a trick we believe he learned from our publisher.

food truck will be on site at Sawyer Point and Yeatman’s Cove throughout the festival, serving up scoops of Apple Strudel and other fan-favorite Graeter’s flavors, from Sept. 17 to 20.

This seasonal flavor will

be available by the scoop and in pints at all local Graeter’s scoop shops. Pints will also be available for local delivery through **order.graeters.com**, as well as online for nationwide shipping at **Graeters.com**.

HSE Schools names Tammy Harwood executive director of Human Resources

Submitted by HSE Schools

The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of School Trustees approved the appointment of Tammy Harwood as the district’s new Executive Director of Human Resources during its regular scheduled Board meeting.

Harwood brings more than a decade of human resources experience across higher education, private industry, and nonprofit organizations. She currently serves as Human Resources Director for Indiana University’s Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering, where she provides leadership in employee relations, workforce planning, performance management, and staff development.

In her new role, Harwood will lead human resources for HSE Schools, including recruitment and hiring, employee relations, compensation and benefits,

workforce planning, employee engagement, and retention. She will also serve on the superintendent’s executive leadership team.

“Tammy brings a lot of experience to this role, and I think she’ll be a great addition to our team,” Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. “Our people are what make HSE work, and this position plays an important role in making sure we’re hiring great employees, supporting them and giving them reasons to stay.”

Prior to joining Indiana University, Harwood held human resources leadership roles with several organizations in Colorado. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Ball State University and holds a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification.

“I’m looking forward to



Harwood

getting to know the people and schools that make up HSE,” Harwood said. “Human resources is about making sure employees have the support they need to be successful, and

I’m excited for the opportunity to contribute to that work in a district serving thousands of students and families.”

Harwood will fill the district’s Human Resources leadership role previously held by Ryan Taylor, who is moving into the vacant Chief Operations Officer position. Both Harwood and Taylor will report to Tim Brown, who will move from Chief Financial Officer to Assistant Superintendent of Finance. The restructuring will save the district approximately \$15,000. Harwood will begin her new role on Sept. 21.

Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park returns for 34th year with *The Comedy of Errors*

Submitted

The Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission will celebrate the 34th annual Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park with William Shakespeare’s uproarious comedy *The Comedy of Errors*, Sept. 16 to 19 at the Amphitheater at Federal Hill Commons, 175 Logan St. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The longest-running Shakespeare in the Park production in Central Indiana, Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park brings live theater to the community in an outdoor setting each fall.

The Comedy of Errors follows two sets of identical twins who were separated years earlier and unknowingly find themselves in the same city. When the twins are mistaken for one another, a simple reunion quickly turns into a whirlwind of mistaken identities, jealous spouses, wrongful arrests, accusations, and comic misunderstandings.



The production is directed by Jen Otterman and produced by Ka’Lena Cuevas. The creative team also includes Assistant Director and Stage Manager Rob Heighway, Light Designer Eric Matters, Lighting Operator Lori Raffel, Sound Engineer Clay Howard, Costumer Linda Findley Grow, Costume Assistants Scott Fleshood and Angela Osman, Properties by Jen Otterman and Rob Heighway, and Jay Herold is part of the run crew.

The cast includes Logan Laffin as Antipholus of Syracuse, Nathan Haston as Antipholus of Ephesus, Nathaniel Taff as Dromio of Syracuse, Adrian Blackwell as Dromio of Ephe-

sus, Phoebe Aldridge as Adriana, Adriana Menefee as Luciana, David Shaul as Egeon, Jennifer Wagar as Abbess Aemilia, Kevin Caraher as Duke Solinus, Scott Blackwell as Angelo, Kelli Conkin as Merchant, Angela Osman as Courtesan, Aaron Ploof as Pinch, and Rob Heighway as Jailor.

Audiences are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnics and enjoy an evening of live Shakespeare under the stars. No tickets are required.

For more information, follow Noblesville Shakespeare in the Park on **[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/noblesvillearts.org)** or visit the Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission online at **noblesvillearts.org**.

Don't miss free family fun at Nickel Plate Express Community Day

The REPORTER

Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad will hold its second annual Community Day at Hobbs Station in Noblesville's Forest Park. The fun will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

The free, family-friendly event will celebrate Noblesville's railroad heritage while bringing the community together for a day of education, entertainment, and hands-on experiences.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore historic railroad equipment and learn more about the history and preservation efforts of the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad. Activities will include touch-a-truck displays, food vendors, garage sale, en-



Photos provided by Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad

Bring your young train conductors to Community Day at Hobbs Station in Forest Park. They can even enjoy a ride on the Nickel Plate Express Caboose for \$5!

tainment, train safety information, and tours of historic train cars.

Take a ride on the train with \$5 Caboose Rides

Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad will \$5 Caboose

Rides during Community Day. This is a highlight of Community Day and offers guests the chance to experience a 15-minute rail journey with a scenic view of the White River.

Guests will need to book their Caboose Ride tickets ahead of Community Day, as these tickets sell out quickly. Go to nickelplateexpress.com/train-rides.

Kids Ink Books brings books, community & new family destination to Carmel

The REPORTER

Kids Ink Books is coming to Carmel this fall, with a new location at 22 N. Range Line Road. The woman- and family-owned independent children's bookstore is partnering with local, woman-owned Rock-A-Toy to create a destination designed around books, beautiful gifts, and families.

Anticipated to open Oct. 15, the new location will pair Kids Ink's curated collection of children's books with Rock-A-Toy's heirloom-quality children's clothing, toys, and gifts. Together, the partners are creating a warm, highly curated shopping experience for everything from a new baby gift to a child's next favorite book.

But the vision extends well beyond retail.

"We want to become part of the fabric of the Carmel community," Kids Ink Co-Owner Wendy Fitzgerald said. "We want families coming in for storytime, kids meeting authors, teachers, and librarians knowing they can call us when they need help, and children growing up thinking of Kids

Ink as their bookstore."

Kids Ink plans regular storytimes, author visits, family literacy activities, and community events at the Carmel location. The expansion will also grow the bookstore's work with area schools through Kids Ink School Partners, which supports schools with book fairs, classroom and library needs, author visits, and literacy initiatives.

That community work is supported by the newly established Kids Ink Literacy Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to ensure every child has access to books, literacy experiences, and the opportunity to become a lifelong reader. Its work includes supporting underserved schools, classroom libraries, book fairs, and author experiences.

"We believe every child deserves access to books and the experiences that help create readers," Fitzgerald said. "Opening in Carmel gives us another opportunity to build those connections, with families, with educators and throughout the community."

Kids Ink has served



Photo provided

Mother-daughter co-owners Kate (left) and Wendy Fitzgerald are set to open their new Kids Ink Book Carmel location on Oct. 15.

Indianapolis families for nearly four decades. Wendy Fitzgerald and her daughter, Kate Fitzgerald, acquired the bookstore in 2025 and have expanded its school, author, and community programming while continuing its focus exclusively on children and young readers.

About Kids Ink Books

Kids Ink Books is a

woman- and family-owned independent children's bookstore serving children, families and educators throughout Central Indiana through a curated collection of books, toys and gifts, school partnerships, author programming and community literacy initiatives. Learn more at KidsInkBooks.com.

Hamilton County traffic stop leads to arrest in Anderson homicide investigation

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A suspect was arrested Tuesday during a traffic stop in connection with the shooting death of a 31-year-old man on Sunday, the Anderson Police Department said in a news release issued Wednesday afternoon.

The release did not name the suspect, but said the Madison County Prosecutor's Office was considering criminal charges before issuing the police department's probable cause affidavit to a court. The suspect was being held on a 72-hour hold in the Madison County jail in Anderson pending that review.

The release said Fishers police on Tuesday helped investigators pull over the suspect's vehicle at an undisclosed location in Hamilton County.

Anderson officers at 1:54 a.m. Sunday heard gunshots and received a report of a person shot in the 1600 block of Madison Avenue. That's an area with a mix of

homes and vacant lots located two blocks south of State Road 32/West 14th Street and west of downtown.

Officers found Tomerious Smoots, of Anderson, with a gunshot wound to the chest. Smoots was taken to a hospital where he later died.

As part of its investigation, Anderson Police Department's SWAT Team and other agencies searched two homes in the 1800 block of Sheridan Street and the 2400 block of West 16th Street. The release did not say what, if anything, was found at the two homes.

Detectives were still following up on leads. Anyone with information was asked to call Detective Nolan Schaefer at (765) 648-6714. People who wish to remain anonymous can contact [Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana](https://CrimeStoppers.org) at (317) 262-8477.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/anderson-police-arrest-suspect-in-sunday-fatal-shooting-of-31-year-old.

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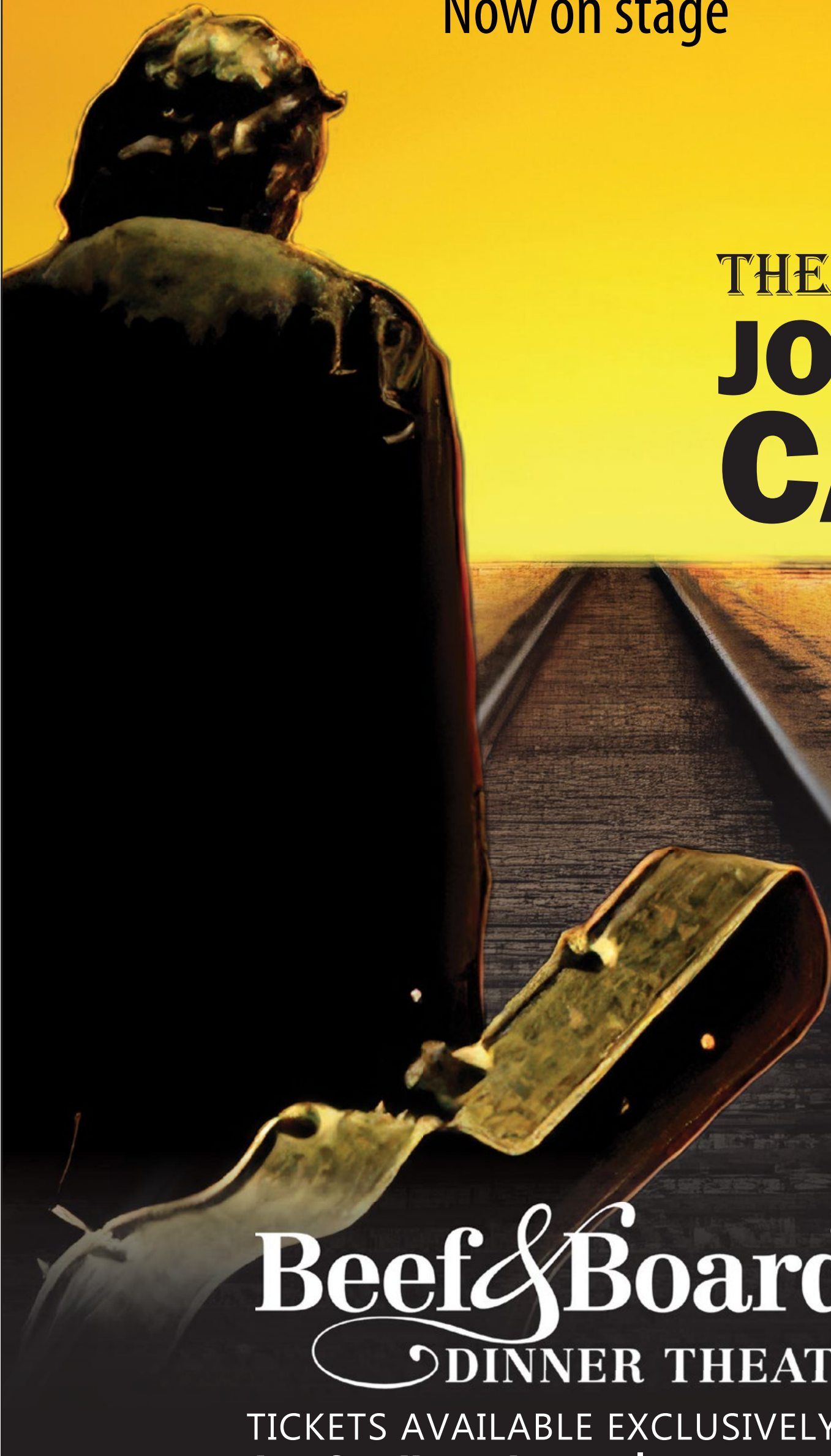
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A Night in Paradise: Matt Overton named 2026 Westfield Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield High School is preparing for Homecoming 2026 with the theme “A Night in Paradise.” While Homecoming is hosted by WHS, all of Westfield Washington Schools and the Westfield community are invited to celebrate.

The WHS Homecoming Parade will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. The celebration continues Friday night as the Shamrocks take on the Hamilton Southeastern Royals at Westfield High School.

Matt Overton, former Indianapolis Colts long snapper and Pro Bowler, has been named the 2026 Westfield Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal.

After a 13-year NFL career that took him to six teams, Overton and his family recently chose Westfield as the place to call home and raise their three children, Tru, Tatum, and Titus.

A California native, Overton played at Diablo Valley College before earning a scholarship to Western Washington University. After going undrafted in 2007, he continued pursuing his dream and earned a spot with the Indianapolis Colts in 2012. His NFL career would eventually also include time with the Jaguars, Titans, Chargers, Cowboys, and Dolphins.

It was during his time in Indianapolis that he met his wife, Bree, who was an Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader. After living in Nashville for the past six years, their family felt the pull back to Central Indiana and found their new home in Westfield.

“We wanted to be close to family and friends,” Overton said. “With the massive growth and trajectory of Westfield, we wanted to move to a community that had a lot to offer our children.”

Today, besides being a parent to WWS students, Overton is a licensed real estate agent with F.C. Tucker Company and the Paul Bates Real Estate Team. He also founded Matt Overton Long Snapping, where



Photo by Rocks Media House



Photo by Rocks Media House

he coaches, develops, and mentors young athletes. Grand Park is now providing him the opportunity to train athletes right here in his new hometown.

As a newcomer to Westfield, Overton said the community reminds him of his hometown of Tracy, Calif., a growing community that continues to hold onto its core values.

“Homecoming week is all about pride and community,” Overton said. “It unites everyone and gives them the opportunity to do so. I am excited to experience my first Homecoming week in Westfield. I am

certain there are so many deserving individuals for Grand Marshal. I am very honored and humbled to be selected.”

Overton’s message to Westfield students as they prepare for their own futures is simple: pursue what matters to you, serve others and be ready when opportunities come.

“I live by the Stay Ready motto,” Overton said. “Stay Ready for any opportunity that comes your way, Stay Ready for when the storms arrive and Stay Ready to serve others. Your simple act of kindness can change the trajectory of

someone’s life.”

WWS elementary schools and WMS will join the celebration and share details with their families on ways students can participate and show their support throughout Homecoming week.

More details about the Homecoming Parade

The Homecoming parade will feature WHS Athletics, clubs, performing arts, and Westfield schools, among other floats. The parade will begin near the U.S. 31 bridge on Hoover Street, travel east toward Union Street, head north on Union Street, and end at the West-



Photo by Rocks Media House



Photo provided the Overton Family

Matt and Bree Overton and their children are happy to call Westfield home.

field High School bus lot.

The parade route will close beginning at 5:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to arrive early, wear their green and gold, and find a spot along the route to cheer on our Rocks.

A special thank you to these 2026 Homecoming Parade sponsors for helping make this Shamrock tradition possible:

- **Gold Sponsor:** Central Indiana Insulation, LLC
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Thank you for supporting Westfield students,

schools, and the community. Go Rocks!

Volunteer at Homecoming

There are several ways for the community to get involved with Homecoming. WWS is currently seeking parade volunteers, sponsors, and convertible drivers to host members of the Homecoming Court.

- Parade Float Volunteer Form: bit.ly/ParadeFloat-VolunteerForm
- Parade Sponsorship: bit.ly/ParadeFloatVolunteerForm
- Parade Driver Sign-Up: bit.ly/2026ConvertibleDriverSignUp

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Hamilton Heights names eight August Coffee Bean award recipients

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School recognizes the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of August: Gabriella Austel, Jason Bowen, Victor Bailey Taylor, Stella Clark, Elijah Etter, Riley Franklin, Quinn Nagy, and Jacob Schofield.

The name and award, inspired by The Coffee Bean, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change.

All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. You can send a nomination by visiting the



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation (From left) Jacob Schofield, Eli Etter, Gaby Austel, Stella Clark, Quinn Nagy, and Victor Bailey Taylor. Not pictured: Jason (Frank) Bowen and Riley Franklin.

Student Services page at hs.hhschusky.org.

Westfield earns three 2026 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence Awards

Submitted by City of Westfield

Westfield has earned three 2026 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence Awards, receiving recognition for Professional Development, Compensation & Benefits, and Purpose & Values.

The Top Workplaces Culture Excellence Awards recognize organizations that prioritize people-first workplace cultures and create environments where employees feel valued, supported, and empowered to contribute. The awards are based on employee feedback collected through the research-backed Energage Workplace Survey.

The city was recognized in the following categories:

- **Professional Development** – honors organizations that place a special focus on developing employees’ careers and enabling their people to grow professionally.
- **Compensation & Benefits** – recognizes organizations that provide employees with compensation and benefits that meet their needs and contribute to a positive workplace experience.
- **Purpose & Values** –

recognizes organizations that successfully communicate their mission and integrate those aspirations into the workplace culture.

“This recognition is especially meaningful because it is based on feedback from the people who serve our community every day,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “Our employees are at the heart of everything we accomplish as a city, and we want Westfield to be a place where talented people can grow professionally, feel valued for their contributions and know that their work has a direct impact on the community we serve.”

The city employs approximately 360 full-time employees across departments responsible for public safety, infrastructure, parks and recreation, economic development, planning, administration, and other essential city services.

The Top Workplaces program is administered by Energage, an organization specializing in workplace culture research. Recognition is based solely on employee feedback gathered through its confidential workplace survey.



Willis

Braun cuts local debris cleanup costs for eligible communities recovering from August storms

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Gov. Mike Braun is reducing the cost of debris removal for communities recovering from August’s severe weather, ensuring eligible communities do not have to bear the cost of recovery alone.

“I want to make it clear that Hoosier communities, from our rural towns to the suburbs of our capital city, will not shoulder the recovery effort alone,” Gov. Braun said. “Debris removal is the next phase of this marathon, and we are with Hoosiers every step of the way.”

As part of the federal Major Disaster Declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse 75 percent of eligible debris removal costs in the 11 counties currently approved for Public Assistance. Gov. Braun announced Thursday, Sept. 10, that the State of

Indiana will cover 75 percent of the remaining local share, meaning local governments will ultimately be responsible for just 6.25 percent of eligible project costs.

The state has also secured contractors that can assist communities with debris removal and management.

How does cost sharing work?

FEMA reimburses local governments for 75 percent of the total eligible project cost. Normally, the remaining 25 percent is the non-federal share. Under Gov. Braun’s plan, the State of Indiana will pay 75 percent of that remaining share, equal to 18.75 percent of the total eligible cost.

That leaves the local jurisdiction responsible for 6.25 percent of the total eligible project cost.

For example, on a \$100,000 eligible debris removal project, FEMA would reimburse \$75,000, the state would provide \$18,750, and the local government would be responsible for \$6,250.

Who is eligible?

The state will cost-share on eligible FEMA Category A projects in the following counties: Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Henry, LaPorte, Lake, Madison, Porter, Tipton and Wayne. These are the only counties currently eligible for the state’s debris removal and management operations. Additional counties may be added to the major disaster declaration.

Eligible debris removal activities under Category A must meet the following criteria:

- Must be in the public interest;
- Must eliminate immediate threat to lives, public health and safety; and
- Must be a result of the declared incident.

What should local governments do next?

Local jurisdictions should work with their county emergency manager to report waterways, rights-of-ways, and private property for debris removal.

Who to contact for assistance

If you’re a property owner who needs assistance with debris removal, please contact Indiana 211.

Local governments interested in this program should email debris@eras-sist.com.

For additional information or media inquiries about this program, please contact the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at pio@dhs.in.gov.



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New report estimates 121.5 million taxpayers are eligible to claim Education Freedom Tax Credit

The REPORTER

A new report by the American Federation for Children (AFC) Growth Fund finds that 121.5 million taxpayers, or nearly three in four tax filers, will be eligible to claim a federal tax credit for donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) through the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) beginning in 2027.

The report is the first to estimate the full range of eligible donors for the EFTC using updated IRS Statistics of Income data published at the end of August.

The state-by-state analysis updates previous estimates to include the full universe of eligible donors and details the EFTC’s potential to secure significant new funding for K-12 scholarships:

- For every 5 percent of eligible taxpayers who participate, funding for K-12

students across the country increases by \$9.4 billion.

- If 10 percent of eligible taxpayers were to participate, the \$18.8 billion raised would exceed the tax deductions and credits incurred each year from charitable gifts to all schools, colleges, and universities.
- If 20 percent of eligible taxpayers were to participate, the \$37.6 billion raised would exceed current total federal spending on Title I and special education through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This is an unprecedented opportunity for Americans across nearly every income level to reduce their federal tax liability and support public and private school students for educational expenses like tutoring, tuition, special education services, and other critical academic supports.

Join the Blackhawk Alumni Club

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Are you a past Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) student, teacher, or employee? If so, you should join the Blackhawk Alumni Club. This club is a collection of individuals who share the same goal of staying informed and connected with SCS.

"Sheridan Community Schools has a long and incredible history of both former Blackhawk graduates and unbelievable employees," SCS Superintendent Dr. Dave Mundy said. "We want to continue to make sure these individuals are a part of the school's future and have a way to stay in contact, as well as involved, as we push towards a very bright future."

Mundy also noted the importance of staying true to the district's motto of "Once a Blackhawk, Always a Blackhawk."

The Blackhawk Alumni Club hopes to recognize those who have made achievements to help make the Sheridan community a better place through its main initiative, the Alumni Wall of Fame. Members will also network and connect with fellow alumni and employees, receive a monthly newsletter with updates on SCS events and happenings,



Mundy



and receive invitations to special alumni events.

"I'm part of a dedicated group of individuals whose mission is to bring together a growing, thriving school system with those – like me – who once roamed the halls of Dear Old SHS," Blackhawk Alumni Club President Chuck Godby said. "I hope everyone likes what we're doing. Onward Sheridan!"

In order to be a part of the Blackhawk Alumni Club, there is a one-time fee of \$50. This fee will fund special events at both

the Fall and Winter homecomings as well as provide a monthly newsletter to the members. Members also receive a one-of-a-kind Alumni Club T-shirt. The newsletter will be a recollection of all the great things that are going on in the community and schools.

If you are interested in being a part of the Blackhawk Alumni Club, email Dr. Mundy at dmundy@sheridan.k12.in.us or go to sheridan.revtrak.net/alumni.

Public invited to meetings about Noblesville Schools funding referendum

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile invites the community to any of the upcoming community meetings to discuss the school funding referendum that will be on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

• Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at Noblesville High School

• Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. at Noblesville City Hall

• Oct. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapter Book Lounge

• Oct. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Gathering House



Hile

Upcoming informational meetings about Westfield Washington Schools operating referendum

The REPORTER

Westfield community members are invited to learn more about the proposed operating referendum from Superintendent Dr. John Atha during the opportunities listed below:

• Monday, Sept 14 at 6 p.m.: WWS Community Presentation (Open to the Westfield community) in the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

• Tuesday, Sept 15 at 6:30 p.m.: Westfield GOP "State of Our Schools" in the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

• Wednesday, Sept 16 at

8 a.m.: OneZone Chamber Board of Directors Presentation at Gaylor Electric Headquarters, 10405 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis

• Thursday, Sept 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: State of the Schools Chamber Luncheon at Shamrock Station, 333 Hoover St. Indianapolis

• Thursday, Sept 17 at 7:30 p.m.: Lions Club, 1101 E. 169th St., Westfield

• Monday, Sept 21 at 6:30 p.m.: The Courtyards of Westfield, 2419 Collins Drive, Westfield

• Tuesday, Sept 29 at 6 p.m.: WWS Communi-



Atha

ty Presentation (Open to the Westfield community) in the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

• Thursday, Oct 8 at 7 p.m.: Village Farms HOA Clubhouse, 453 E. Greyhound Pass, Carmel

• Wednesday, Oct 28 at 6 p.m.: Kimblewick (55+ Community), 2598 Lord Murphy Drive, Carriage House

If you're part of a local organization that would like to invite Dr. Atha to speak, please email comms@wws.k12.in.us.

New at Sheridan Public Library

The REPORTER

Here are some of the new items that can be found at the Sheridan Public Library:

Fiction

• Big Bad Wolf – Laurie Gilmore

• Boat House – Fern Michaels

• Buried in the Woods Below – Daniel G. Miller

• Deceptions – Jeffery Deaver

• In the Likely Event – Rebecca Yarros

• Kiss, Slay, Replay – Rachel Harrison

• Shadow Friends – Tess Gerritsen

• The Most Dangerous Games – James Patterson

• These Ancient Bones – Heather Graham

• Variation – Rebecca Yarros

• Witches of Cambridge – Alice Hoffman

Children's

• Claydate – Dev Petty

• Claymates – Dev Petty

• Don't Close This Book (Toy Story 5) – Phaea Crede

• Don't Eat Bees – Dev Petty

• Don't Lose Mr. Cuddles – Dev Petty

• Don't Trust Cats – Dev Petty

• I'll Love You Till the Sloths Start School – K. Cristaldi

• Mac & Cheese: The Origin Story – Michael L. Benner

• Stitch Saves Christmas – Tim McCanna

• This Is Not a Christmas Book – Jory John

• Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Fall – Eric Carle

• What Will We Find in

This Box – Moe Willems

• Worry-Worry Whale & The Halloween Scaries – Deborah Diesen

• Yarn is Everything – Aaron Reynolds

Inspirational Fiction

• Library of Forbidden Books – Mario Escobar

• We Wish You a Messy Christmas – Melody Carlson

• Writer in Residence – Rhonda McKnight

Young Adult

• Blightfall – Brandon Sanderson

• Thornbird – E. Kenney

• Us Defiant Few – Alexis Patton

Movies

• Breadwinner

• Disclosure Day

• Mandalorian & Grogu (Star Wars)

• Sheep Detectives

Fishers Event Center announces free 'Movies in the Plaza' series

The REPORTER

The Fishers Event Center will host a free Movies in the Plaza series with three fan-favorite classic film showings this September and October.

Schedule

• *Back to the Future* on Saturday, Sept. 12: Travel back in time for a night of adventure, laughs, and 1980s nostalgia.

• *Miracle* on Saturday, Oct. 3: Cheer on an unforgettable underdog story and celebrate the spirit of teamwork, determination, and believing in something bigger.

• *Hocus Pocus* on Saturday, Oct. 10: Get into the Halloween spirit with a spellbinding favorite that's perfect for the whole family.

Gates open at 6 p.m., and showings start at 7 p.m. on the FORUM Credit Union Plaza at the Fishers Event Center, 11000 Stockdale St.

Know before you go

• These events are free admission, with no tickets or prior registration required.

• Free surface parking is available for spectators.

• Bring lawn chairs or blankets for comfortable seating, and weather-appropriate gear (sunglasses, ponchos, etc.), as it is an outdoor open-air venue).

• No outside food or beverages will be permitted. Themed menu items will be available for purchase inside Fishers Event Center with various options avail-

able for patrons.

Find more information at this link.

Wed Sept 9 - Girls Soccer

5:30 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Girls JV Soccer | HCTV Sports

6:45 pm **Fishers vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Girls Soccer | Southeastern Sports

7:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Girls Varsity Soccer | HCTV Sports

Thurs Sept 10 - Volleyball

7:20 pm Heritage Christian vs Covenant Christian | Varsity Volleyball | Indiana SRN

7:30 pm **Fishers vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Fishers Sports Network

Fri Sept 11 - Football

6:45 pm **Sheridan vs Clinton Central** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports Media

6:50 pm New Palestine HS vs Mt Vernon HS | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Covenant Christian vs Heritage Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Cathedral vs Chatard | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

7:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | IHSAA Football | HCTV Sports

Sat Sept 12 - Volleyball and Girls Soccer

9:00 am Lake Central vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

10:00am Homestead vs **Fishers** | Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

5:30 pm Crown Point vs **Fishers** | Girls soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Tues Sept 15 - Boys Soccer and Volleyball

5:30 pm **Zionsville vs Noblesville** | JV Boys Soccer | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm **Hamilton Heights vs Noblesville** | JV Volleyball | Noblesville Sports

7:00 pm **Zionsville vs Noblesville** | Varsity Boys Soccer | Varsity | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm **Hamilton Heights vs Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | Noblesville Sports

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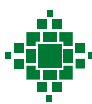
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Photos provided by Sheridan Public Library

From ideas to inventions

Sheridan Public Library launches new Maker Cart

The REPORTER

On Sept. 8, the Sheridan Public Library (SPL) was filled with building, experimenting, and things flying through the air as children and families gathered to celebrate the launch of the library's new Maker Cart.

Made possible by a generous \$2,200 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Sheridan, the Maker Cart is bringing new opportunities for hands-on learning, creativity, and STEAM exploration to the Sheridan community.

The launch party gave local children their first chance to dive in and put the new Maker Cart to work. Instead of simply unveiling the resource, the library invited young makers and their families to take on a playful challenge: build something that launches! Together, kids and parents created catapults, straw rockets, pom-pom shooters, paper airplanes and other high-flying inventions.

With simple materials and plenty of imagination, children designed and built their own launchers, then tested their creations to see how far they could send their objects flying. Some designs worked right away, while others required a little adjusting, rebuilding, and trying again.

And that is exactly the kind of learning the Maker Cart is designed to encourage.

The idea behind the Maker Cart is simple. Children don't need fancy equipment or a large makerspace to become makers. Sometimes they just need a



Photos provided by Sheridan Public Library

few supplies, a little encouragement, and the freedom to see what they can do.

The cart is filled with hands-on materials that can be used for a variety of STEAM activities, including science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. It will be incorporated into the library's children's programming, providing opportunities for kids to learn through building, testing, problem-solving and, of course, a little trial and error.

Families will find one side of the cart stocked with art supplies and consumables – paper, recyclables, markers, stickers, popsicle sticks, and more – while the other side invites building and engineering with materials such as Plus-Plus blocks, Brain Flakes, K'NEX, KEVA planks and other hands-on construction tools.

But the Maker Cart won't be limited to scheduled programs.

SPL will also offer Open Maker Hours, when children and families can drop in and spend time creating together. Participants can choose their own project

and see where their imagination takes them, or they can try the library's featured STEAM Challenge.

One week, that challenge might be to build the tallest tower. Another might ask participants to design a catapult, create a marble run or build something that can fly. There won't necessarily be one right answer. The fun is in figuring it out.

"My favorite part about making is the mindset it helps to develop," SPL Children's Library Elissa Dee said. Making encourages kids to be curious, take risks, solve problems, and keep trying when something doesn't work the way they expected. Those are skills that go far beyond the project they're working on."

The Maker Cart is also a great fit for Sheridan because it brings hands-on learning to the library without requiring a large dedicated makerspace. It can roll wherever it is needed and can be adapted for different ages, interests, and

programs.

While the cart itself may be small, the possibilities are anything but.

The library hopes the Maker Cart will become a place where families can spend time together, where children can discover new interests and where a simple pile of supplies can turn into an invention, a work of art or an idea nobody expected.

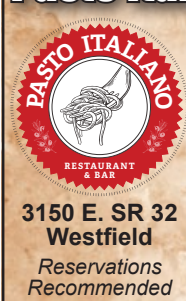
SPL is grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Sheridan for making the Maker Cart possible and helping create new opportunities for the children and families of the community.

The Sept. 8 launch was just the beginning. Now that the cart is officially on the move, the library is looking forward to seeing what Sheridan's young makers will dream up next.

Come curious. Come creative. Come make something!

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Indiana healthcare professionals mark 10th year of Perinatal Substance Use Conference

Submitted

Indiana healthcare leaders from across the state participated in the 10th annual Perinatal Substance Use Conference on Sept. 3 at FORUM Events Center in Fishers. Organized by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) in partnership with the Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC), more than 140 healthcare professionals attended.

"For the past 10 years, this conference has brought together healthcare professionals and community partners to share ideas, build collaboration and advance strategies that improve outcomes for Hoosier mothers and babies affected by substance use," said Brittany Waggoner, IHA's maternal and infant quality improvement advisor. "This milestone is an opportunity to celebrate what we have accomplished together over the past decade, while recognizing that there is still important work ahead to ensure every mother and baby has the opportunity for a healthy start."

According to Indiana's 2025 maternal mortality report, perinatal substance use remains the leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths in the state.

Opening this year's conference were IHA President Scott B. Tittle and Emily Fitz, MD, chief medical officer of the Indiana Department of Health, which plays a key role in leading the IPQIC.

"Indiana has made important innovations to improve maternal and infant health, but the data make clear that there is still significant work to be done to address perinatal substance use," Dr. Fitz said. "Through

initiatives like Health First Indiana and the Rural Health Transformation Program, we are strengthening the public health infrastructure, expanding local and rural resources, and improving connections between healthcare providers and the communities they serve. The work from this conference is an important part of that effort, and I look forward to seeing the ideas and partnerships developed there translate into meaningful action in communities across Indiana."

Keynote speakers helped attendees understand the neuroscience of substance use and its role in treatment and therapy for pregnant and postpartum women, and to identify strategies to support patients across the continuum of care. Attendees at the conference heard firsthand about the lived experience of a Hoosier woman affected by substance use disorder.

"Perinatal substance use is a complex issue that cannot be addressed by anyone, hospital, provider, organization, or community," IHA President Scott B. Tittle said. "It requires collaboration across healthcare, public health, behavioral health, social services, and community organizations. It also requires us to listen to the experiences of the women and families we serve and ensure that our systems of care are compassionate, evidence-based, and responsive to their needs."

The 10th annual Perinatal Substance Use Conference was underwritten by CHAMP and USDTL. Other sponsors included CHOICE Recovery, Dexur, Mental Health of America Indiana, Pregnancy Promise Program, and The Milk Bank.

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SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, September 12th, 2026 @ 6pm

PREVIEW DAY (One Day Only): Thursday, September 10th from 10am - 6pm

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PICK-UP SCHEDULE: Monday, September 14th & Tuesday, September 15th from 10am – 6pm or by appointment only. A forklift, and operators will be available during scheduled pick-up times.

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Second suspect accused of attacking 16-year-old at Westfield apartments in custody

By **MICHAELA SPRINGER**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The second suspect accused in a battery incident at a Westfield apartment complex that left a 16-year-old girl seriously hurt has been taken into custody.

The Westfield Police Department announced Tyanna Bonds’ arrest in a release Thursday morning.

Bonds and another suspect, Markeyzus Dean, face charges related to a battery incident at the Casey Acres Apartments off of West 176th Street and Ditch Road on Aug. 28.

News 8 previously reported that dispatchers received a 911 call around 3:41 a.m. reporting that a 16-year-old girl was hurt

in a disturbance with a firearm.

Officers and other first responders arrived and found the teen had been “battered with a blunt object,” leaving her with “significant” head and facial injuries.

As the investigation continued, officers identified Dean and Bonds as suspects.

Investigators set up a perimeter around the complex, warning residents and community members to stay indoors and avoid the area.

No one was inside the



Bonds



Dean

apartment when emergency services searched the area, though police did find an open window with a torn window screen. Officers say they believe Dean and Bonds fled the area on foot before the area was blocked off.

Both Dean and Bonds were on the run after the incident; Dean was later taken into custody in Marion County on an active warrant for possession of a firearm.

Bonds was not arrested until Wednesday, when investigators tracked her to a home on Prospect Street in Indianapolis. She was taken into custody on the following preliminary charges:

- Criminal confinement resulting in serious bodily injury
- Battery resulting in serious bodily injury
- Unlawful carrying of a handgun
- Battery by means of a deadly weapon
- Intimidation where defendant uses or draws a deadly weapon

Bonds and Dean were being held in the Hamilton and Marion County jails, respectively.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/tyanna-bonds-taken-custody-casey-acres.

Hoosier the Bison Indiana University Race Car bobblehead available for purchase

Submitted

On Thursday, Sept. 10, following Hoosier the Bison’s grand entrance in his new race car before Saturday’s home opener celebrating Indiana’s National Championship, the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum unveiled an officially licensed, limited-edition Hoosier the Bison Indiana University Race Car Bobblehead.

The special edition bobblehead is being produced by the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, an official licensee of Indiana University Bloomington.

These limited edition bobbleheads, which will be individually numbered up to 2,026, are \$40 each plus a flat-rate shipping charge

of \$8 per order. Expected to ship in February, they are now available at [this link](#).

Wearing his crimson sport shirt with “INDIANA” across the front, the Hoosier the Bison bobblehead is sitting behind the wheel of a custom red and white race car adorned with IU logos and racing stripes. The wheels of the race car will also spin.

“We’re excited to unveil this bobblehead of Hoosier the Bison in his stylish custom race car, which he showed off at the 2026 football season opener,” National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum Co-Founder and CEO Phil Sklar said. “After making his long-awaited return to Bloomington in 2025, Hoosier the Bison and the rest of the Hoosiers had a season to remember with the program’s first football national championship. This bobblehead is a must-have for Hoosier fans everywhere



Graphic provided

and we are sure that IU supporters will want one for their collection.”

[Click here](#) to learn more about the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum.

Community News

Candidates to speak at next North GOP Club dinner

The Northern Hamilton County GOP Club will meet for dinner at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, at Greek’s Pizzeria, 417 S. Main St., Sheridan.

Speakers will include County Commissioner Christine Altman, Election Administrator and Clerk candidate Beth Sheller, Sheriff candidate Dustin Dixon, Superior Court 8 judge candidate Danica Eyler, and several more Republican candidates and office holders.

This is a free event for members and sponsors. The charge for guests is \$10.

Please RSVP to emily.pearson317@gmail.com by Saturday, Sept. 12, if you plan to attend.

Cicero spaghetti dinner to benefit first responders

Please join Cicero Friends of the Park from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Red Bridge Park in Cicero for the Police, EMS, and Firefighters Spaghetti Dinner.

A free-will dinner will be served, but donations are accepted and will be split between the town’s fire and police departments.

Enjoy a concert on the pier with the Karma Band 5:30 to 8 p.m. Don’t forget the Jeep cruise-in from 5 to 8 p.m. and bounce houses for kids!

Help honor Cicero’s heroes while enjoying a delicious dinner.

Flood Relief Food Drive this Saturday in Westfield

Hoosier Hometown Markets will hold a Flood Relief Food Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the IMMI Conference Center, 18880 N. East St., Westfield. The food drive will take place as part of the Great Shop-tember Market.

Attendees can donate non-perishable food, which will go to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and its network of local pantries to support flood victims.

If you donate five or more items, you will get VIP discounts and offers. Thank you for doing your part.

Mental health first-aid training sessions in September & October

The public is invited to participate in an eight-hour Mental Health First Aid training at the University of Indianapolis, led by Hamilton County Health Department and the Metropolitan Indianapolis-Central Indiana Area Health Education Center.

Sessions will take place on Sept. 11 and Oct. 6. They will provide practical skills to recognize and respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

[Click here](#) to register for a free session.

Thanks for reading!

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Charles D. Woodard**March 13, 1939 – September 7, 2026**

Charles D. Woodard, 87, went home to his Lord and Savior on September 7, 2026. He was born on March 13, 1939, to Morris "Don" Woodard and Marjorie (Scudder) Woodard.

Charles was a proud 1957 graduate of Indianapolis Arsenal Tech High School. He later served his country as a veteran of the United States Air Force. Following his military service, Charles worked at International Harvester before beginning a career with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, where he dedicated 33 years of service.

On September 27, 1959, Charles married the love of his life, Karen (Rousch) Woodard. Together, they built a life centered around faith, family, and service to others.

Charles was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Karen; two daughters, Cheryl (Jeff) Heer and Dawn (Jeff) Hobson; six grandchildren, Ryan (Sarah) Heer, Jordan (Kaela) Heer, Brittany (Ben) Makin, Zachary (Amy) Hobson, Lexi Heer, and Lauren (Andy) Granados; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Charles was a member of Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Indianapolis, where his faith was an important part of his life. He was also a longtime member of the church choir. Through his words and, even more importantly, through the way he lived his life, Charles exemplified what it means to love God and love people.

His love of music also led him to become a member of the Indianapolis Barbershop Chorus, where he enjoyed sharing his love of singing with others.

In retirement, Charles faithfully served with the Widow's Jar Ministry, giving his time and energy to help others. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, reading, drinking iced tea, and caring for his beloved dog, Sadie. Above all, Charles cherished time spent with his family and found happiness in the simple, everyday moments that made life special.

Charles will be remembered for his strong faith, kind heart, gentle spirit, love of family, and willingness to serve others. His life was a testimony to the importance of loving God and loving people, and his influence will continue through the many lives he touched.

Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 2026, in Colonial Hills Baptist Church, where the Funeral Service will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Widow's Jar Ministry. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING**IDOLATRY FORBIDDEN**

After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger; I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

Deuteronomy 4:25-28 (NIV)

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Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, in the Board Room at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a public hearing for Ordinance 08-10-2026 at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville. The regularly scheduled board meeting will follow.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting to discuss the budget at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, in the Board Room at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road.

The Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, has been canceled.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions.

The Noblesville Advisory Council on Disabilities will meet from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Sept. 14
- Oct. 26
- Nov. 16
- Dec. 14

The meetings will be held in Conference Room A213 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions.

Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com.

— WESTFIELD —

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A PROPOSED LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The City of Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), as governing body of the City of Westfield Department of Redevelopment (the "Department") and the City of Westfield Redevelopment District (the "District"), is considering a proposed lease agreement, between the City of Westfield Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority"), as lessor, and the Commission, as lessee, under which the Commission would lease from the Authority certain existing street and road right-of-way and/or other local public improvements all located in the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), as more particularly described and identified in the Lease (the "Leased Premises"). The execution of the Lease will allow the Authority to issue one or more series of its revenue bonds, all or any portion of which may be taxable or tax-exempt for federal income tax purposes (the "Bonds"), payable from the lease rentals received from the Commission pursuant to the terms of the Lease.

The proceeds of the Bonds may be issued to: (a) acquire all or any portion of the Leased Premises, (b) finance or reimburse the costs of the design, acquisition, construction, installation and/or equipping of (i) a parking garage; (ii) water, sewer, stormwater, detention ponds or other utility improvements; (iii) roads, sidewalks and trails; and (iv) other public infrastructure and related facilities to serve and benefit the Grand Park District of the City (collectively, the "Projects"); (b) fund a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, if necessary; (c) pay capitalized interest on any series of the Bonds, if necessary; and (d) pay all costs incurred on account of or in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds, including the premiums for any credit enhancement or credit facility purchased in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. All of the Projects are or will be located in, or directly serving or benefiting, one or more redevelopment areas or economic development areas in the District. Pending the issuance of the Bonds, the Authority may also issue one or more series of its bond anticipation notes to provide interim financing for the Projects.

Pursuant to Indiana Code §36-7-14-25.2, as amended, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Lease and the Bonds at its meeting on September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Council Chambers at Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana. All interested parties will be provided the opportunity to be heard at the hearing. After the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission may adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the proposed Lease (subject to the approval of the Common Council of the City) if it finds that the service to be provided throughout the term of the proposed Lease will serve the public purpose of the City and is in the best interests of its residents and that the lease rental provided for is fair and reasonable. All interested persons desiring to present their views on the above-described Lease are encouraged to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. (local time) on September 18, 2026, via email to Jenell Fairman, Director of Economic Development, City of Westfield: jfairman@westfield.in.gov.

The Lease will have a term beginning in the calendar year in which the first series of Bonds is issued and ending in the calendar year that is not more than twenty-five (25) years thereafter. The Commission estimates that the Bonds will be authorized in a maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$23,000,000 and the maximum annual lease rentals payable during the term of the proposed Lease will not exceed \$1,950,000. The Commission's lease payments during the term of the proposed Lease will be secured by and payable solely from the any legally available revenues of the City held in any funds or accounts of the City that may be used for the purpose of making payments of rentals under the Lease, after accounting for any prior claims thereon or any other outstanding obligations payable from all or any portion of such general revenues (collectively, the "City General Revenues"). The Commission reserves the right and may pay any amounts due under the Lease from any other revenues legally available to the Commission; provided, however, the Commission shall be under no obligation to pay any amounts due under the Lease from any moneys or properties of the Commission, except the City General Revenues received by the Commission. The proposed Lease further provides for terms concerning the use, maintenance, repair, operating and utility costs, indemnification and insurance, destruction of the premises, defaults, remedies, option to purchase and miscellaneous other matters.

Dated 11th day of September, 2026.

CITY OF WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WESTFIELD, INDIANA
9/11/26, 9/14/26

R8639

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 500 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at
ReadTheReporter.com/obitform.

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SOLD!

2513 SHERIDAN COURT
CICERO

This desirable 3BR, 2BA Cicero ranch on .44 acres features a remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, wood-burning fireplace, spacious primary suite, and private, wooded backyard with two storage sheds. Lake access and boat docks.

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