

New Earth Festival September 26-27

53rd Atlanta New Earth Festival

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.
Scattered showers and storms.

Tonight: Scattered showers
and storms.

HIGH: 87 LOW: 70



Cieslak's summer snowscape

Zionsville man's yard is covered in millions of white blossoms

By **STU CLAMPITT**
news@readthereporter.com

Jerry Cieslak has a yard that, at a glance, looks like it gets covered in snow every summer and fall. Cieslak's unique landscape has been decades in the making, and he was kind enough to speak to The Reporter about how this fascinating floral field came to fruition.

The photos in today's edition are sweet autumn clematis, which he calls "white lace," but that's only what you will see this season. Earlier each year, Cieslak's yard is dotted with islands of daffodils and tulips.

"All these beds are full of tulips and daffodils," Cieslak said. "What happens is they go ahead and bloom in the spring of the year and the white lace dies down. It really doesn't die. It kind of hides when it goes below the tulips and daffodils, and then it can go ahead and the tulips and daffodils can die, and then the white lace takes over."

This landscape grew out of an interest in roadside flowers Cieslak developed when he was driving around Indiana running his plumbing company, Cieslak Pump, Well and Water System Service.

"When I was in business, I would go down the interstate

and I would see it blooming, and I didn't know what it was, and I'd take a start of it," Cieslak said. "I've had my company for a long time, and I thought it would look good in the yard, and anyway, I've got a lot."

He estimates his annual blooms to be in the millions each year.

While there are multiple varieties of clematis, and they have different leaf shapes, the flowers bloom the same. Cieslak knew by the leaves what would eventually bloom, so he took cuttings from several varieties to grow his flowerbeds.

At the beginning of this article, we mentioned that Cieslak's yard looks like it is covered in snow. That simile was intentional.

"When I bought the property in 1972, all it was was a barren field," Cieslak told The Reporter. "I got the property in '72 and I paid for it in '77. I used that for collateral to build my house. Then I moved into my house the day before the blizzard of '78. The blizzard came out of the east, and the snow was up to my gutters in the front of the house."

See *Snowscape* . . . Page 3



Photo provided by Leah Haak

One of Jerry Cieslak's dear friends, Leah Haak, was kind enough to supply The Reporter with this photo of Cieslak and some of the millions of flowers on his property.



Photo provided

The Sydney marathon

WOW! Sydney, you were a tough one. We knew going into this fifth world marathon major that it was going to be challenging for my husband with the duo bike. The hills of the New York City marathon still haunt him, and going into this one, he was nervous knowing hills were a big part of it.

You can research and watch videos of the racecourse, but until you are on it, you cannot imagine the rolling hills of the Sydney marathon. I realized very quickly my encouragement of "you've got this, almost to the top!" was not going to work. I would have been saying that nonstop.

Along with the rolling hills, the racecourse itself was tight. As with Berlin, we had to start back in the corral that we would be in as a "typical" runner with our time. We talked to race officials ahead of time and told them it really is ideal and safest for us to start behind the wheelchair participants. Sydney is still new to the majors, so this was only their second year. They are still ironing out the kinks. Especially for the athletes with disabilities.

See *Sydney* . . . Page 2

Appreciating Mr. Chuck Sears

Editor's note: The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School's Accelerated English 9 class, taught by Ellie Arrowood.

For the past four years at Sheridan Middle School, Chuck Sears has been teaching eighth-grade math. Overall, he's been teaching for 42 years.

The Hamilton County Reporter wrote, "Before joining Sheridan, Sears taught seventh- and eighth-grade science at Cowan Jr./Sr. High School and coached junior varsity boys basketball for two years. He then taught math and coached varsity boys basketball at Morristown Jr./Sr. High School for two years. He spent 29 years at Belzer Middle School teaching seventh-grade science and coaching boys' basketball and girls' softball, earning a Teacher of the Year award. He also taught Algebra at Beech Grove High School for five years."

See *Chuck Sears* . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

HSE Kindergarten students experience the arts through community partnership

Submitted by HSE Schools

Hamilton Southeastern Schools is bringing a new guaranteed student experience to approximately 1,100 Kindergarten students across the district's 13 elementary schools, introducing HSE's youngest learners to the arts through hands-on exploration and community partnerships.

The program, called *The Arts, a Kindergarten Experience*, was piloted last spring and is now being fully implemented. The initiative is a partnership between Hamilton Southeastern Schools, the Fishers Arts Center, a division of the Indianapolis Arts Center, and the Hamilton East Public Library.

As part of the experience, every HSE Kindergarten student will visit the Fishers Art Center and the Hamilton East Public Library during the school year. Students will explore watercolor painting, clay sculpture, and movement through drumming, while also discovering how storytelling and literacy connect to the arts.

The program aligns with the Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and English/Language Arts, ensuring the experience supports classroom learning while expanding students' exposure to creative opportunities in the community.



"This experience reflects our belief that learning should be engaging, creative, and connected to the world beyond the classroom," HSE Schools Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "Thanks to our partnerships with the Fishers Arts Center and Hamilton East Public Library, our kindergarten students can explore the arts in meaningful ways."

See *Arts* . . . Page 2

Westfield's 2027 budget proposal continues to prioritize public safety, infrastructure & quality of life

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield's proposed 2027 budget continues investments in public safety, infrastructure, and quality-of-life initiatives while maintaining the administration's focus on fiscal responsibility.

The proposed 2027 operations budget totals \$89,392,368, while the Civil City budget totals \$141,525,099, and was introduced to the Westfield City Council during its Sept. 14 meeting, which also included a public hearing. Final adoption is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 12.

More than half of the recommended budget is dedicated to the Westfield Police and

Fire departments, reflecting city officials' continued emphasis on maintaining public safety services as Westfield grows.

"The Westfield city tax rate has dropped each year of this administration despite the rapid growth, and that's something to be proud of," Mayor Scott Willis said. "This budget continues to make thoughtful investments in the services and infrastructure our residents depend on while preparing Westfield for the growth we know is ahead."

The city's estimated 2027 tax rate is \$0.7162 per \$100 of assessed value, compared with \$0.7163 in 2026. The



Willis

proposed budget was again developed using a zero-based budgeting approach.

The budget was developed as Westfield continues to navigate the impacts of Senate Enrolled Act 1. The city anticipates approximately \$3.5 million in lost property tax revenue in 2027, increasing to approximately \$6.5 million in 2028 and \$10.9 million in 2029.

Key features of the proposed 2027 budget include:

- Public safety**
 - Funding for five additional police officers and two civilian positions
 - Expansion of the Police Department's Emergency Re-

sponse Drone program

- Funding for occupational cancer screenings for Westfield firefighters
- Continued EMS equipment support and investment in growing Fire Department operations

The investments come as public safety demands continue to increase. Fire Department run volume is projected to increase 23.5 percent from 2024 through 2026, while the city has added 36 Fire Department positions since 2024. Westfield Police has added 11 sworn officers and four civilian positions during 2025 and 2026 while maintaining stable crime levels despite significant population growth.

See *Budget* . . . Page 2

NYSA

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CHUCK SEARS

Chuck Sears is a wonderful math teacher. He’s so kind and has a great sense of humor. He is also patient with students who don’t understand math, while being encouraging and making it feel less stressful. Mr. Sears teaches math in a way that helps students of all levels understand, even when it gets stressful. We want to thank Mr. Sears for always being there for his students

and understanding how to teach math in a way that all students can understand. In the 2024-2025 school year, Mr. Sears won the Rookie of the Year award. This award is for teachers who are in their first, second, or third year of teaching at Sheridan Community Schools and who have demonstrated outstanding teaching. Sheridan Middle School appreciates Chuck

Sears because he is an outstanding math teacher, and he teaches all students as equals. Also, during this same time, he won the Shining Star Award. This award is given to a teacher who has been working with SCS for fewer than five years and has made a big impact in a short amount of time. Overall, Mr. Sears has made Sheridan Middle School a better place.

from Page 1

BUDGET

Roads & infrastructure

- Continued funding for roadway resurfacing
- Construction of a roundabout at Grand Park Boulevard and John Dippel Boulevard
- Ditch Road reconstruction
- Crosswalk upgrades to improve pedestrian safety
- Sidewalk repairs to improve ADA compliance
- Continued work on the 191st Street widening project, including improvements at Horton Road, Spring Mill Road, and 191st Street
- Jersey Street improvements and extension
- Continued efforts to connect gaps in the city’s trail network

Since 2024, Westfield has invested more than \$90 million in infrastructure and

resurfaced or reconstructed nearly 36 miles of roadway through its maintenance program.

Parks & quality of life

- Development of a master plan for the Mary Ann White property, including consideration of a permanent Farmers Market building
- Refurbishment of headstones at Old Friends Cemetery
- A new playground at Freedom Trail Park
- Continued community programming, including Jams at the Junction and the Kids Summer Series
- Development of Woods Family Park and Trailhead near 191st Street and the Monon Trail

Preparing for continued growth

The proposed budget

also positions the city for several operational changes associated with Westfield’s growth, including preparations for the transition to a second-class city, implementation of an integrated enterprise resource planning platform, planning for the next phase of City Hall, and preparations for a future City Court.

The city continues to plan for growth through its recently completed Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Revitalization Plan, Grand Park District Plan, and first Capital Improvement Plan, establishing long-term priorities for infrastructure, development, and community investment.

For the latest updates and detailed budget information, visit westfieldin.gov/budget.

from Page 1

ARTS

To ensure the program was developmentally appropriate and engaging for young learners, HSE Schools convened a planning committee that included kindergarten teachers, art, music, and physical education teachers, building principals, and leadership from both the Fishers Arts Center and Hamilton East Public Library.

The committee worked collaboratively to design an experience that blends visual art, movement, and literacy, while also highlighting community arts resources available to families in Fishers.

“We are incredibly proud to partner with Hamilton Southeastern Schools on the HSE Kindergarten Experience and to welcome young learners into the Fishers Art Center at such an important point in their development,”

said Michelle O’Hollaren, Executive Vice President of Education and Innovation, Indianapolis Art Center/Fishers Art Center. “For many students, this may be their first experience visiting an art center and creating in a professional arts environment. By giving every HSE kindergartener the opportunity to explore, make, and experience art firsthand, we are helping build creativity, confidence, and curiosity that can extend far beyond the art studio. We are grateful to HSE Schools for recognizing the value of the arts as an essential part of a child’s education.”

Melissa Loiselle, Hamilton East Public Library Director, said this program fits well with the library’s mission to serve the community at large.

“Working alongside the City of Fishers and Ham-

ilton Southeastern Schools to provide an art-inspired field trip experience for local Kindergarten students is very much in line with the library’s mission to serve as our community’s essential connector to information and ideas,” she said. “The Ignite Studio is an incredible makerspace at our Fishers Library that we are excited to share with our community’s youngest innovators! It is a privilege to work on this initiative alongside our key partners at the City and HSE Schools.”

The Arts, a Kindergarten Experience is HSE Schools’ sixth guaranteed student experience, part of the district’s expanding collection of opportunities designed to ensure every student participates in meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities throughout their educational journey.

from Page 1

SYDNEY

Despite our efforts, they would not change our starting position. We had to go with it.

Along with filming and documenting with my camera, the folks at Abbott World Marathon Majors had given me a GoPro to capture our perspective of the marathon. Although I was excited for the opportunity, I knew I had my work cut out for me. Juggling two cameras, my husband’s race nutrition, and watching out for our safety and the safety of the other runners from the bike, at all times. It was a heavy mental load. Plus, I wanted to take in all the sights in Sydney along the way and engage with the amazing crowds.



Photo provided

Speaking of crowds, we had met Chloe who works in Sydney as a sport journalist. She was working with Abbott that weekend. When she was interviewing us before the marathon, she told us the crowds would be next level. She was not wrong. I would rank Sydney at the top for crowd participation along the course. Pretty cool to see the human spirit in full force, and such diversity. It always gives me chills.

Early in the race, I could gauge that this was not going to be Jamie’s best race. I could just feel it from his energy. With each hill, and like I said they were plentiful, I felt him getting more discouraged. I felt helpless. I did my best to keep producing new and encouraging things to say. My energy felt off that day too. Perhaps it was the 14-hour time difference still getting us down?

At one point he said, “I’m sorry babe.” I said, “For what?” He said, “For having to walk up some of these hills.” That broke my heart. There were several points where I told him we should stop and rest, but in true Jamie fashion, that was not an option.

Through it all, he never stopped. He kept pushing. We kept pushing together.

Our day had started at 3 a.m. Sydney is not an out and back course, which meant traveling to the start line, as we always stay closer to the

finish for obvious reasons. We had to get out early, because by 4:30, all the roads near us would close and taking public transportation was not an option with our large duo bike.

We contracted the same driver who picked us and our large bike up at the airport when we arrived in Sydney. He was a Godsend to us on this trip. He even waited with us for an hour after getting us to our destination before the gates opened, so we did not have to wait in the cold.

Going into this race, one of our biggest fears is that we would not have a way to the start line. This was a huge relief to us.

I mentioned the amazing crowds, but also many of our fellow runners encouraged us along the way. We could not go a minute without someone telling Jamie he was amazing (they were not wrong!) and to keep going. Their encouragement means to the world to us, and especially him.

As we neared the finish line, I messaged my Aussie friend and told her we were getting close.

She and her family scored a prime spot on the accessible platform by the finish line. It was incredible that she could sit in her wheelchair and have a front

row seat to us coming by. Unfortunately, our tracking for the race was not working that day, which was so disappointing to all our family and friends who wanted to track us along the course.

Running right by them, and seeing them cheering us on, was a moment I will never forget. I paused and thought, God you are amazing. The way you have orchestrated this very moment is breathtaking. All that had led us to that moment had me in awe.

As we crossed the finish line, we both breathed a sigh of relief that we had made it through this one. We gave a post-race interview with Abbott, where I confirmed with Chloe that she was right.

The crowds were amazing, my husband was amazing, and having my friend who lives with my same diagnosis there to see it all with her family was simply beautiful.

Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of The Reporter’s Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.org and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

WILD, WILD WESTFIELD

[Fall Fest & Premier Chili Cook-Off] Free Event

4-7 PM SATURDAY, SEPT 26

Petting Zoo, Face Painting, Live Music, Inflatables, Silent Auction, Balloon Twisters, Pony Rides, Fun Games, Great Food, Kids Train, Inflatable Maze, and Manny the Mechanical Bull!

Find Out More Here:

Event at CrossRoads Church at Westfield 19201 Grassy Branch Rd, Westfield

Hamilton County's Premier Chili Cook-Off

Bring a crock pot of your favorite chili to CrossRoads by 4:15 pm on Saturday, September 26, 2026

Participants must register their chili prior to the event.

Register Chili Here >>>

4 Chili Categories

4 Winners of \$100

• Beef Chili • Poultry Chili

• Vegetarian Chili

• Other Meats Chili + Grand Prize Winner!

For Our Neighbor is an effort of CrossRoads Church at Westfield to meet, know, engage, and serve our local neighbors, Find our more online at ForOurNeighbor.Life

Thank you for reading The Reporter!

SNOWSCAPE

from Page 1

Cieslak spends time tending to his garden almost every day. He kneels in the clematis to pull weeds from the berm surrounding each bed, which he calls his therapy.

“After I had my stroke and my heart attacks, I couldn’t talk, walk, read, or write, and this is my therapy,” Cieslak said. “From the grass to the white lace, I’ve got a berm, maybe a foot, and I keep that clean. With

the rain, my oh my, I’ve got hundreds and thousands of weeds come up. I mean, usually I don’t have a weed here and a weed there, but oh man, you know what? The weeds don’t come up and the white lace crowds around.”

If you’d like to see Jerry Cieslak’s sea of flowers, all you have to do is drive past 1815 S. County Road 1100 East, Zionsville. Photos do not do it justice.



Photos by Leah Haak

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Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month @ 4:00 PM

HAMILTON EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Photo provided

Hamilton North Public Library ready to show off new Mosaic Mural

The REPORTER

The Hamilton North Public Library's (HNPL) 8-by-8-foot Mosaic Mural is completed, and the public is invited to come to the Main Lobby of the library to see it.

From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, HNPL will take time to thank everyone for their participation in creating this amazing piece of art. A total of 350 tiles

were painted by people in the community: art classes, clubs, parents, grandparents, children of all ages, local artists – and so many more.

Come and celebrate, enjoy drinks and cookies, and find your tile. There will be postcards of the mural available if you want to take home a special memory.

All funds raised support library art programs and Makerspace.



Next Indianapolis Coffee & Cars meetup takes place Saturday

The REPORTER

Indianapolis Cars & Coffee will host its July meetup from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis.

The free, family-friendly event will benefit Folds of Honor Indiana and its schol-

arship mission.

Indianapolis Cars & Coffee partners with local businesses to host car-related events that create a safe, memorable experience for all attendees. In 2025, Indianapolis Cars & Coffee raised over \$65,000 in scholarship

funds for Folds of Honor Indiana, and over the past four years, the organization has raised more than \$250,000.

Folds of Honor Indiana is known for its commitment to providing life-changing educational scholarships to spouses and children of fall-

en or disabled military personnel and first responders. Since its inception in 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded nearly 73,000 scholarships totaling over \$340 million across the United States. Learn more at indiana.foldsofhonor.org.

Creative Economy Pitch Night puts Indiana's creative thinkers in the room where decisions get made

Submitted

What if an artist could help solve the next big challenge facing an Indiana community? What if creativity could influence how cities build neighborhoods, attract visitors, strengthen local businesses, create unforgettable places, and make Central Indiana an even better place to call home?

From 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Noblesville Creates will put those questions center stage with its inaugural Creative Economy Pitch Night, a high-energy evening at Conner Prairie combining the competitive excitement of *Shark Tank*, the big ideas of a TED Talk, and the community impact of Noblesville Creates' primary fundraiser of the year.

Unlike most fundraisers, the audience won't simply watch. They'll help decide which ideas deserve to move forward.

Eight creative entrepreneurs. Big ideas. One stage.

Eight Creative Entrepreneur presenters repre-

senting different corners of Indiana's creative economy will take the stage with short, compelling pitches for ways creativity can drive economic development, strengthen communities, and build Hoosier pride.

This year's presenters are Cory Constantine of 900 North Studios, Ros Demaree of Indiana Artisan, Rachel Kavathe, Cairo Morada of Cairo Cious, Nica Post of Looking Glass Pottery, Eric Thornbury of Avant Guard, Caroline and Marianne Vogt of Capavo Creations/SillyHeart Art, and Katina D. Washington of Katina Washington LLC. Their ideas will explore topics ranging from incorporating artists into planning and development to public art, needed creative spaces, place-defining events, and new ways to celebrate Hamilton County's artistic identity.

A four-person panel of regional leaders will evaluate the pitches and ultimately select a winner, who will receive a cash prize along with donated professional services to help advance

their idea.

• Karen Radcliff, President and CEO of Hamilton County Tourism

• Jake Bates, Vice President of Development at BW Development

• Erin Bourff, Operations Manager at Citizens State Bank

• Hannah Morrison, Corporate Communications Manager at SMC Corporation of America

But the judges won't have the only say.

Audience members will cast votes for their favorite presenters, putting everyone in the room directly into the conversation about the future of Central Indiana's creative economy.

"Creative people are natural problem-solvers," Noblesville Creates Executive Director Ailithir McGill said. "Pitch Night gives artists and creative entrepreneurs a seat at the economic development table and asks a powerful question: what could happen if we invested in their ideas? We want people to leave inspired not only by what they heard, but by what those ideas could mean for the future of our communities."

This isn't your typical fundraiser

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and live music before the pitch competition gets underway at 6:30 p.m. The program will also explore the impact of Central Indiana's creative economy and culminate with the 2026 Noblesville Creates Awards, recognizing individuals and organizations demonstrating leadership in arts and culture.

Then there's the fun.

Guests can try their luck with fundraising games and raffles, including Noblesville Creates' Whiskey Pull, where a \$50 entry guarantees a donated bottle valued at \$50 or more – with some special bottles waiting to be discovered. (Gaming License #015150)

The evening concludes with a celebration and networking session, giving attendees an opportunity to meet the creative entrepreneurs, civic leaders and fellow supporters helping shape Central Indiana's creative future.

Don't just applaud creativity. Invest in it.

Creative Economy Pitch Night also serves as Noblesville Creates' primary fundraising event of 2026, giving attendees and businesses several ways to invest directly in the region's creative future.

Guests can purchase tickets and tables, participate in interactive fundraising opportunities throughout the evening, cast votes for their favorite pitches and contribute during a special Fund-A-Need appeal supporting the continued work of Noblesville Creates.

Businesses and community organizations can make an even larger investment through event sponsorship, putting their organizations alongside the artists, entrepreneurs and community leaders working to strengthen Central Indiana through creativity.

Funds raised support Noblesville Creates' mission to connect people with art, artists with opportunities and communities with the creative resources that help them thrive.

Community partners are already investing

Creative Economy Pitch Night is possible because businesses and community organizations have already stepped forward to invest in the people, ideas and partnerships that strengthen Central Indiana's creative economy.

Noblesville Creates gratefully recognizes Conner Prairie as the event's Venue Sponsor; Peterson Architecture and Boomerang Development as Presentation Sponsors; Citizens State Bank and American Structurepoint, Inc. as Award Sponsors; and Indiana Artisan, Fishers Arts Council, Coverdale Consulting and Copper Z Creative Wellness as Prize Sponsors.

Their support does more than make one evening possible. It demonstrates the kind of cross-sector investment Creative Economy Pitch Night hopes to inspire: businesses, civic organizations and creative leaders working together to give strong ideas the resources and relationships they need to grow.

"Creative economies don't grow through artists alone – they grow when communities choose to invest in their creative people," said McGill. "We're incredibly grateful to each of our sponsors for demonstrating that commitment and helping us create a space where new relationships, new ideas and new opportunities can begin."

Get tickets and learn more about Creative Economy Pitch Night at [this link](https://thislink). Businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities may email Ailithir McGill at amcgill@noblesvillecreates.org.

Skull-scratching trivia, contests, and more!

Sat. Oct. 3. 7pm | Pebble Brook Golf Course Pavilion

Trick or Trivia

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Immediate traffic rule changes in Westfield



Photos provided by City of Westfield

At the Westfield City Council meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, two updates were made to the city’s traffic ordinance. These changes are effective immediately. (ABOVE LEFT) The speed limit on Tomlinson Road from 191st Street to 203rd Street was adjusted from 40mph to 30mph. Violations can carry a minimum \$175 fine. (ABOVE RIGHT) The intersection of 191st Street and Horton Road is now a three-way stop. Be sure to use caution while driving and through construction zones. *Editor’s note: While we aren’t certain of the directions noted by the sign, this photo was, in fact, taken at the 191st Street and Horton Road intersection looking west. Note that you cannot turn left at this intersection.*

Southbound I-69 opening in final configuration this weekend

Submitted by INDOT

Southbound Interstate 69 traffic is expected to open to its final configuration on or after Monday, Sept. 21, marking another major milestone for the Clear Path 465 Project. This shift will restore access to westbound I-465 and southbound Binford Boulevard from the 82nd Street ramp.

Once the traffic shift is complete, the ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard will be temporarily reduced to one lane until mid-October for permanent barrier wall installation.

Overnight ramp and lane restrictions are scheduled this week and weekend to move traffic to the new roadway. Delays are expected over the weekend on southbound I-69 in Fishers and northeast Indianapolis. Drivers should plan ahead and seek alternate routes when possible.

Overnight restrictions this week

Overnight weekday restrictions are 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

- Ramp from 116th Street to southbound I-69 closed
- Ramp from 106th Street to southbound I-69 closed
- Southbound I-69 reduced to three lanes between 116th Street and 96th Street

Thursday, Sept. 17

- Southbound I-69 reduced to two lanes between 96th Street and 82nd Street

Weekend restrictions

Drivers can expect the following closures this

weekend:

Friday, Sept. 18 (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.)

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound I-465 reduced to one lane
- Ramp from 82nd Street to southbound I-69 closed

Saturday, Sept. 19 (Beginning at 9 p.m.)

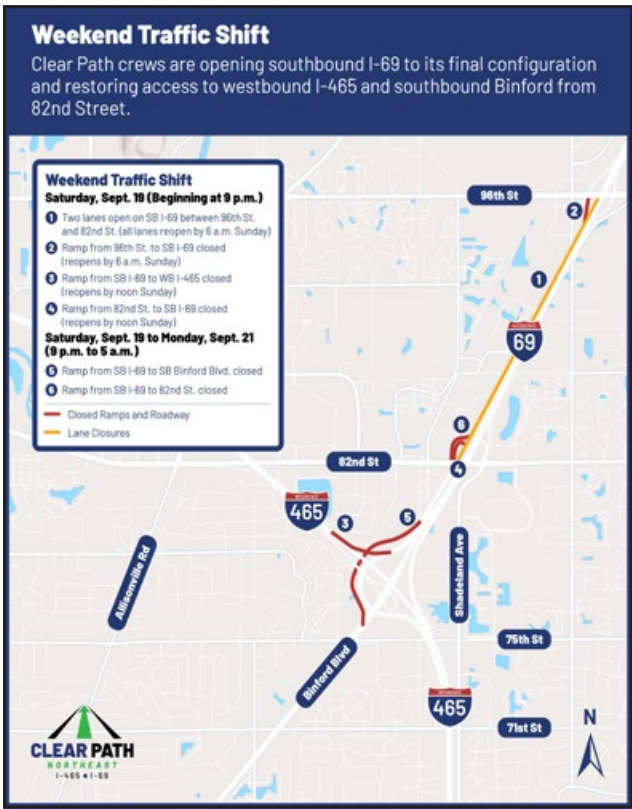
- Two lanes open on southbound I-69 between 96th Street and 82nd Street (all lanes reopen by 6 a.m. Sunday)
- Ramp from 96th Street to southbound I-69 closed (reopens by 6 a.m. Sunday)
- Ramp from southbound I-69 to westbound I-465 closed (reopens by noon Sunday)
- Signed detour: Southbound I-69 to southbound I-465 and turn around at U.S. 36.
- Ramp from 82nd Street to southbound I-69 closed (reopens by noon Sunday)

Saturday, Sept. 19 to Monday, Sept. 21 (9 p.m. Saturday to 5 a.m. Monday)

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed
- Ramp from southbound I-69 to 82nd Street closed
- Emergency access will be maintained. Actual dates and anticipated work may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances occur.

Construction remains active throughout the corridor and drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns.

For schedule updates, subscribe to email and text message alerts at ClearPath465.com.



Community News

State Rep. Garcia Wilburn to hold Education Town Hall in Fishers

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) will hold an education town hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Hamilton East Public Library’s Center/Stage Meeting Room, 5 Municipal Drive, Fishers.

Guests will hear about legislative changes in education along with other legislative issues and have an opportunity to share thoughts and ask questions.

Sheridan Phi Beta Psi’s annual Lasagna Dinner

Friday, Sept. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.
Sheridan High School cafeteria

Lasagna, breadsticks, salad, dessert & drink
Gluten-free & carry-out available

Adult Tickets: \$15 both pre-sale and at the door
Children ages 3 to 12: \$8 pre-sale and at the door
Tickets available from members and at the Sheridan Public Library

Proceeds go to two \$1,000 medical studies scholarships for Sheridan High School seniors. The annual Lasagna Dinner is held in loving memory for Sheridan Phi Beta Psi sister Martha Rockey.

The Dani Robinson difference

- What’s the market value of my home?
- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
- Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?



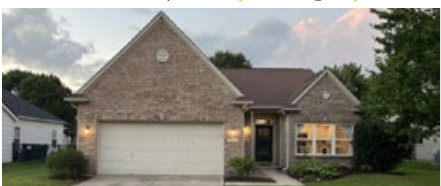
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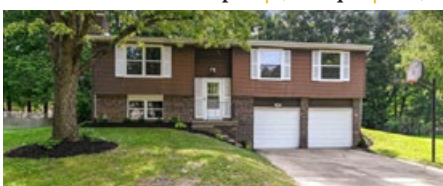
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Carmel to hold block party to celebrate reopening of College Avenue Corridor

Submitted by City of Carmel

The City of Carmel invites community members and local business owners to celebrate the completion of the College Avenue reconstruction project at the College Avenue Block Party from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

Hosted at Rosie’s Gardens & Hughes Landscape, 10402 N. College Ave., the block party serves as a special community thank-you to nearby residents and businesses for their patience and cooperation during the extensive corridor improvements.

The celebration will combine the interactive community engagement elements of Mayor Sue Finkam’s Neighborhood Pop-ups with vibrant local entertainment, food, and drink.

Event highlights

- **5:30 p.m.:** Event begins / Neighborhood Pop-up activities open
- **5:45 p.m.:** Remarks from Mayor Sue Finkam

and City of Carmel officials

- **6 to 8 p.m.:** Live Performance by Naptown Hepcats, a popular local Rockabilly band

Food & beverage

- **Greek Tony’s:** Offering a free slice of pizza, breadstick, and a drink to the first 200 attendees.

- **Bier Brewery:** Serving craft beverages available for purchase.

“Our construction projects are vital to Carmel’s growth and infrastructure, but we know they require flexibility and patience from the neighbors who live and work near them every day,” Mayor Sue Finkam said. “This block party is our way of saying thank you to the College Avenue community, coming together to enjoy the new roadway, local business partners and great live music.”

The event is free and open to the public. Parking will be available on-site at Rosie’s Gardens & Hughes Landscape.

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The Cicero Street and Utilities Department has a full-time position opening for a **Labor-Class I, II, III.**

The position will be responsible for a variety of duties involved with operating, repairing/maintaining the street, potable water and wastewater operations and facilities according to applicable rules, regulations and laws for the Town of Cicero. For a full job description, please visit the Town of Cicero’s website at www.ciceroin.org and click on the Government tab followed by the Job Opportunities tab. From here you will also be able to access the Town’s application, which will be required.

Applications will be accepted through October 9, 2026.

Please send application, along with any other pertinent documents to

Terry Cooper,

1159 Stringtown Pike, PO Box 391,

Cicero, IN 46034

or tcooper@townofcicero.in.gov



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Bells Across America

Bring a bell to Coxhall Gardens & help commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution

By **JON BALDWIN**
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

The Clay Township Military Library and Museum is pleased to help spread the word about Bells Across America, hosted by the Jonathan Jennings Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in cooperation with Hamilton County Parks & Recreation.

The celebration will take place Thursday, Sept. 17, at the West Bell Tower in Coxhall Gardens, 2000 W. 116th St., Carmel. The pro-

gram begins at 3:30 p.m., followed by the nationwide bell ringing at 4 p.m. Eastern Time. This free event is open to the public; just bring a bell and join in!

This year’s gathering commemorates the 239th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution and continues the tradition of citizens ringing bells together across America.

We are especially grateful for the support the museum has received from our local DAR chapters in Carmel and Noblesville. As part

of our revitalization, DAR members have offered to assist with research for our Veteran Profiles, helping us preserve the photographs, service histories, and personal stories of Hamilton County veterans.

Partnerships like these strengthen our shared commitment to preserving history, honoring service, and passing these stories to future generations. We hope our members, volunteers, veterans, and friends will join the DAR at Coxhall Gardens for this meaningful community observance.

Fewer ‘hold on’ moments, more breakthroughs: What Indiana classrooms really need

During an independent reading lesson, I bounced from student to student. Every few steps, a student needed my attention. One required help decoding a difficult passage. Another had a question about the directions. Across the room, two students needed a reminder to stay on task.

Every few seconds I caught myself saying, “Hold on just a second.” One of my fifth graders, Kate, looked up at me and asked, “Mr. Heideman, have you noticed you say ‘Hold on just a second’ a lot?” I told her the truth: there is only one of me and 29 of them, and I am doing my best to meet everyone’s needs at once.

That interaction stuck with me. While our school has aides who support specific students with legal learning plans, general education teachers like me spend most of the day flying solo. It raises an important question: is the one-teacher-alone-in-a-room model still the right design to meet the needs of our students?

With the school year underway, teachers like me juggle lesson delivery, emotional regulation, behavior management, and individualized support. We can do it, but can we do it well for every single child? At what point does a classroom staffing decision undermine the effectiveness of the education they receive?

With surveys showing that **70 percent of educators** report that their schools are understaffed and **83 percent** say insufficient support staff is a major barrier, some schools have started to answer that differently. For instance, through Arizona State University’s Next Edu-

cation Workforce, schools in Mesa have moved away from one teacher alone with one roster of students, **building teams of educators** who share a larger group of students and **take on different roles based on their strengths and expertise.**

At my school in Fishers, other teachers and I have had class sizes of over 30 students. Paraprofessionals and aides provide legally required accommodations and instruction, but every year I have students without formal learning plans who need small-group or one-on-one support to understand a concept. Modern classrooms require a team, not just a solo teacher. Indiana must invest in strategic staffing, so that teachers work in teams led by an accomplished teacher-leader, so educators can deliver the individualized support every child craves.

In pockets of the state, Indiana districts have adopted Opportunity Culture, a model where an accomplished teacher leads and coaches a small team of colleagues and is paid more for that added responsibility. With growing interest in scaling strategic staffing models statewide, we can turn to other states to offer a roadmap.

Districts across North Carolina and Tennessee have built Opportunity Culture models into how their schools are staffed, not as pilots but as standard practice. Indiana has the pieces in place to do the same. Texas created a Teacher Incentive Allotment that pays designated teachers substantially more to stay in high-need classrooms and extend their reach to more students. What we need now is the commitment to scale it, so that no

teacher is left alone to balance the needs of nearly 30 students.

A team is not only made up of teachers. For example, paraprofessionals are part of it, and strategic staffing means giving them roles that are clearly defined and well supported, rather than asking them to fill whatever gap opens up that day. **With increasing student needs and growing behavioral and attention concerns,** including students with Individualized Education Program (IEPs) plans and those who are multilingual learners, it is becoming increasingly difficult for teachers to provide consistent, one-on-one instruction and behavioral support to every student without the support of aides all day long. When paraprofessionals have the training and direction to do the work they were hired to do as a part of the team model, they are able to do it well, and the adults in the room are not stretched thin covering for one another. If students like Kate miss a day or need assistance on an assignment, that extra adult help should always be available.

I still think about Kate’s observation and how I try to divide my time for each and every learner in my classroom. While staffing our classrooms as teams won’t solve every issue in our schools, it delivers the one resource we need most: time. Indiana has the power to change the narrative in our classrooms, so fewer students hear “Hold on just a second,” and more hear “I’m here. Let’s figure it out together.”

Josh Heideman is a fifth-grade reading, writing, and social studies teacher at Fall Creek Intermediate in Fishers and a 2026-2027 Teach Plus Indiana Returning Policy Fellow.

Sen. Young introduces bipartisan legislation to end unfair tax burden on sexual assault survivors

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Todd Young

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) introduced bipartisan legislation to eliminate an unfair tax burden on survivors of sexual assault.

The *Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act* would ensure that survivors of sexual assault are not taxed on settlement income they earn in a lawsuit against their abuser.

After prevailing legally against their abuser, the IRS requires sexual abuse survivors to pay income tax on any settlement money they receive unless they can show visible evidence of physical injury. However, injuries resulting from sexual assault are not always visible or may

have healed by the time a settlement is reached. The *Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act* would correct this unfair treatment.

“Survivors of sexual assault who have courageously sought justice should not face an additional, unfair burden from our tax code,” Sen. Young said. “Our bipartisan legislation will fix this injustice and ensure survivors can receive the full compensation they are owed. This common-sense change will provide greater fairness for survivors and ensure the tax code does not create another obstacle on the path to justice.”



Young

Specifically, the *Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act* would allow damages to qualify for the tax exclusion when a victim presents to the IRS a court decision or settlement agreement stating that such damages were received on account of any sexual act or sexual contact, as defined in the federal criminal code.

The legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives earlier this Congress by Representatives Lloyd Smucker (R-Pa.) and Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) and passed unanimously out of the House in April.

Click here to read the full text of the bill.

County celebrates completion of 146th Street & Allisonville Road interchange

Commissioners award contract for 146th Street & Hazel Dell Parkway interchange

The REPORTER

Hamilton County officials gathered Monday morning, Sept. 14, to cut the ribbon on the new 146th Street and Allisonville Road interchange, marking the official completion of one of the county's largest recent infrastructure projects.

The interchange has been open to traffic for several months, but crews spent the summer completing finishing touches like paving and landscaping. The project replaced the former signalized intersection with a grade-separated interchange featuring a roundabout on Allisonville Road beneath 146th Street.

"This intersection looks and functions completely differently than it did just a few years ago," said Christine Altman, President of the Hamilton County Commissioners. "We appreciate everyone who endured the



Photo provided by Hamilton County Government

construction to get us here. This is an investment that will serve our residents and businesses for decades to come."

Hamilton County is already preparing to begin its next grade-separated interchange at 146th Street and Hazel Dell Parkway. The Hamilton County Commis-

sioners awarded the \$39.9 million contract to Carmel-based Gradex at Monday's meeting. Work will begin this fall and continue into 2029. Like Allisonville Road, the project is designed to improve safety, traffic flow, and the overall level of service along the busy 146th Street corridor.

"The Allisonville Road interchange gives people a good idea of what we're working toward at Hazel Dell," Hamilton County Highway Director Brad Davis said. "These are major projects, but they allow us to address congestion in a way that will serve this corridor for decades."

\$39.9 million roundabout project set to begin at 146th Street & Hazel Dell Road

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Hamilton County commissioners on Monday hired a Carmel-based company to build a **new roundabout at Hazel Dell Parkway beneath 146th Street** on the border of Carmel and Noblesville.

The county hired Gradex for \$39.9 million to lead the project, which will start this fall and continue through 2029. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization granted \$8.7 million for the project.

Much like the recently finished roundabout at Allisonville Road below 146th Street on the Fishers-Noblesville border, the Hazel Dell Road project will be designed to make the busy 146th Street corridor safer and keep traffic moving, officials said. The intersection is known for a high crash rate.

"The Allisonville Road interchange gives people



Rendering provided by Hamilton County Government

This rendering shows how a planned roundabout on Hazel Dell Road beneath 146th Street could look on the Carmel-Noblesville border.

a good idea of what we're working toward at Hazel Dell," said Hamilton County Highway Director Brad Davis in a news release issued Monday. "These are major projects, but they allow us to address congestion in a way that will serve this corridor for decades."

The \$44 million project at Allisonville Road and 146th Street was described

Monday as one of the largest infrastructure investments in the county government's history. About \$9.5 million of that total came from federal funds, with the remainder from local government sources.

In April, the county announced that the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization awarded \$6 million to begin plans for

a similar roundabout interchange at 146th Street and Gray Road at the Carmel-Noblesville-Westfield border. That construction could begin in 2029.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/39-9-million-roundabout-project-set-to-begin-at-146th-street-hazel-dell-road.



Graphic provided

Last chance to register for 'Baby on the Way' 5K

The REPORTER

Fall is in the air, and it's the perfect time to fall for the 5K.

Whether you're ready to run, walk, push a stroller, or cheer from the sidelines, please join The O'Connor House for the Baby on the Way 5K at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

For a limited time, use code FALLFOR5K to save 20 percent on registration until Friday, Sept. 18.

The O'Connor House is celebrating 21 years, and they hope you plan to attend this annual Baby on the Way 5K. This family-friendly event features a 5K run/walk

and a free fun run for kids under 10. Come celebrate, support moms and babies in need, and enjoy a morning of community and purpose.

The 5K will take place at Guerin Catholic High School, 15300 Gray Road, Noblesville.

The race is open to adults and children of all ages and abilities, with a special fun-run for children to participate. Whether you're racing, walking, cheering, or pushing a stroller, it's a morning full of community, fun, and purpose.

Register right now at tinyurl.com/BabyOnTheWay2026.

Clubhouse completed at Silver Collection at Saxony in Fishers

The REPORTER

Silver Companies, a national, diversified real estate investment, capital, and development firm with roots dating to 1941, has completed the clubhouse at Silver Collection at Saxony, a 362-residence resort-style luxury apartment community currently under construction in Fishers.

The development marks the company's first Silver Collection community in Indiana and the continued national expansion of its Silver Collection multifamily brand.

Located at 13450 Dockside Drive in the thriving Fishers-Noblesville corridor, Silver Collection at Saxony represents a multi-million-dollar investment in one of Central Indiana's fastest-growing communities. The project will add 362 new residences to the local housing market while supporting employment opportunities through ongoing

property management, hospitality, maintenance, leasing, and resident services positions.

While Silver Collection at Saxony is the company's first branded residential development in Indiana, Silver Companies has maintained a presence in the state for nearly four decades through ownership and management of land, apartment communities, and retail properties.

"Indiana has been part of our story for nearly four decades, and Silver Collection at Saxony is the culmination of that long-term commitment to the state," Silver Companies President Spencer B. Silver said. "It's also a defining moment for the Silver Collection brand: what began in Virginia and North Carolina now extends to Indiana and soon to Alabama. We build places that reflect how people want to live, and we're excited to

See *Silver* . . . Page 8

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Bell to bell

What Indiana’s phone law has changed inside one high school

Around the middle of second block my hand goes toward a pocket that’s empty, and it happens before I’ve decided anything. Then reality hits, I put my hand down and go back to whatever I was doing.

GUEST COLUMNIST

CHARLOTTE LAWRENCE

argue against now. In a roughly 80-minute block there used to be a point were almost instantly the room quietly came apart. That happens later now. Some days it doesn’t happen

by spring, the research doesn’t back that. If someone tells you it’s damaging a generation, the research doesn’t back that either.

So is it too far?

Extremes usually mean a more precise tool already failed. The 2024 law did fail, not because keeping phones out of class was the wrong idea, but because we asked individual teachers to enforce it one student at a time, and that was never going to hold. Bell to bell isn’t the ideal policy. It’s the enforceable one. I understand how we got here.

But enforceable and right sized are two different standards, and I don’t think the first should quietly stand in for the second. There’s room between a phone in every hand and no headphones anywhere in the building. I’d rather watch a district actually test that room than assume the widest possible rule is the only one that stays standing.

One last thing

To the people who wrote this law: you didn’t take away a toy. You took away the thing my generation runs almost everything through, including some things you would want us to keep doing. Most of us are adjusting. Some of that adjustment has been genuinely good, and I want to be on record saying I did not expect to write that sentence.

Just don’t mistake us following the rule for the experiment being finished, and don’t mistake a quieter hallway for a solved problem. The dependency that’s going to shape my graduating class isn’t sitting in a backpack at the front of the room. It’s the one that answers in four seconds and never makes us sit in not-knowing long enough to learn anything.

We put the phones away. That was the easy part.

Charlotte Lawrence is a senior at Fishers High School, and is currently serving as a high school intern for Tiffanie Ditlevson.

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SILVER

from Page 7

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Upon completion, Silver Collection at Saxony will offer one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartment homes featuring stainless steel appliances alongside an extensive amenity package anchored by a 20,000 square-foot clubhouse. Planned amenities include a resort-style saltwater pool, high-end fitness center with steam room and sauna, co-working spaces and meeting rooms, pickleball court, pet spa, and dog park.

To learn more about Silver Collection at Saxony, visit silvercollectionatsaxony.com.

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Honor POWs & commemorate Air Force’s birthday on Friday

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

This Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., visit the Clay Township Military Library and Museum, 10801 N. College Ave., Carmel, then find us at City Hall that evening.

Friday, Sept. 18, is a day to remember, honor, and celebrate.

The Clay Township Military Library and Museum invites you to join us as we observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day and commemorate the 79th birthday of the United

States Air Force.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day honors Americans who endured captivity, those who remain missing or unaccounted for, and the families who continue to await answers. On the same date, we salute the generations of Airmen whose service has defended our nation since the U.S. Air Force became an independent military service on Sept. 18, 1947.

Explore military history, reflect on the meaning of “You Are Not Forgotten,” and test your knowledge with U.S. Air Force birthday trivia. Admission

is free; donations are appreciated and help our all-volunteer museum preserve the stories of local veterans.

Then meet us at Carmel City Hall

Our volunteers will host a tabletop display from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. during Carmel’s 50th anniversary celebration at City Hall. The city’s old-fashioned Ice Cream Social runs from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Carmel City Hall and the Minnie Doane Gazebo, with live music, games, historical memories, and family activities.

Whether you visit us



at the museum, stop by our City Hall table or do both, please help us honor those who served, remember those who have not returned and celebrate the proud heritage of the United States Air Force.

Fishers Music Works’ season-opening concert set for Oct. 3 at Legacy Bible Church

The REPORTER

Fishers Music Works announces the opening concert of its 2026-27 season, *Through Time and Space*, by the White River Wind Symphony, directed by Dr. Keith Kunda. This captivating performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Legacy Bible Church, 13490 Howe Road, Fishers.

Through Time and Space is a musical collage featuring songs inspired by time and space. The concert will spotlight featured soloist Darlies Jones on flugelhorn, performing The Beatles’ classic, “Yesterday.” Other songs include “Tomorrow,” “Dance of the Hours,” “Syncopat-

ed Clock,” “Jupiter,” and “Blackstar,” for example.

Tickets and additional information are available at FishersMusicWorks.org. Group ticket discounts are offered, and patrons can save 20 percent with a season ticket package. Fishers Music Works also provides free admission to every concert for guests under 18, with tickets available through the organization’s website.

Group Ticket Discounts

- 10 Tickets: 10 percent discount
- 15 Tickets: 15 percent discount
- 25 Tickets: 20 percent discount

Riley Children’s Health ranked among the nation’s best children’s hospitals

The REPORTER

Riley Children’s Health has once again been named among the nation’s leading children’s hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, earning a spot on the 2026-2027 **Best Children’s Hospitals** list for the 19th consecutive year.

Riley Children’s Health is the No. 1 ranked children’s hospital in Indiana and fourth in the Midwest*. It is one of only 18 children’s hospitals in the nation ranked across all 11 pediatric specialties, placing it among a small group of pediatric hospitals recognized for excellence across the full spectrum of specialty care.

The 2026-2027 rankings recognize Riley among the nation’s leading programs, including top 10 rankings in pediatric urology (No. 4) and pulmonology and lung surgery (No. 10**), as well as top 25 recognition in six specialties.

“This recognition reflects the extraordinary people who make Riley what it is every day,” Riley Children’s Health President David Biggerstaff said. “The dedication and expertise of our physicians, nurses, advanced practice providers, researchers and clinical, operational and support teams are what allows us to provide nationally recognized pediatric care close to



home. Their commitment to achieving strong outcomes, advancing pediatric medicine, and continually investing in the health of children is what sets Riley apart. We are honored that this work continues to be recognized nationally and, most importantly, trusted by the families we serve.”

Based on a combination of clinical data and reputation among pediatric clinical specialists nationwide, *U.S. News* ranked Riley Children’s in each of the 11 pediatric specialties evaluated:

- Cancer
 - Cardiology & Heart Surgery
 - Diabetes & Endocrinology
 - Gastroenterology & GI Surgery
 - Neonatology
 - Nephrology
 - Neurology & Neurosurgery
 - Orthopedics
 - Pediatric & Adolescent Behavioral Health
 - Pulmonology & Lung Surgery
 - Urology
- “Riley is honored to stand among the nation’s strongest children’s hospitals, with *U.S. News & World Report*’s rigorous methodology reflecting the

volume and complexity of the patients we serve, our exceptional outcomes, scientific advancement, and national reputation for excellence,” said Dr. Mara Nitu, chief medical officer at Riley Children’s Health.

U.S. News & World Report introduced the Best Children’s Hospitals rankings in 2007 to provide families with information about the quality of pediatric care available at leading children’s hospitals nationwide.

For the 2026-2027 rankings, *U.S. News*, together with RTI International, a North Carolina-based research firm, **collected and analyzed data from 114 children’s hospitals** and surveyed thousands of pediatric specialists. Children’s hospitals awarded a “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, compliance with established best practices, and level and quality of hospital resources directly related to patient care.

**Riley Children’s Health is tied with one children’s hospital in the Midwest for fourth.*

***Riley Children’s Health is tied with one children’s hospital for 10th in pulmonology and lung surgery.*

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Almost, MAINE

by JOHN CARIANI

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Let's Talk

Home sales & prices continue increasing in Hamilton County

The REPORTER

The central Indiana housing market offered buyers more choices in August as available inventory increased 17.8 percent from a year ago, while home prices remained relatively steady and pending home sales moderated, according to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies.

The residential real estate market in Noblesville and Hamilton County experienced the following in August 2026:

Noblesville

- Closed home sales increased 24.7 percent compared to August 2025.
- The median home sale price increased 19.7 percent to \$454,950, compared to this time last year. The me-

dian price per square foot for a Noblesville home decreased 3.3 percent to \$175.

- Homes sold in 14 days on average, selling nine days faster than this time last year.

Hamilton County

- Available housing inventory increased by 8.4 percent.
- Pended home sales increased 2.8 percent year-over-year.
- The median home sale price was \$475,000, a 4.1 percent increase compared to this time last year – the highest year-to-date median home sale price in the region.
- Homes in Hamilton County spent one more day on the market than this time last year for a total of 10 days.

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Our annual lasagna dinner is held in loving memory of our sister, Martha Rockey.

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The REPORTER
Tickets for the following events and more at Carmel's Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts are available now at [TheCenterPresents.org](#).

Center Presents Season Performances
Sponsored by Allied Solutions Demola Live!
Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Special Guest – BAYEM
Demola is a singer-songwriter, record producer, award-winning, self-taught multi-genre violinist and electrifying live performer known for redefining the sound and cultural perception of the violin in contemporary music. Born in Nigeria and now based in Houston, he has become a viral and social media sensation, with over 8 million followers across platforms. His music draws from many genres and cultures around the world, including pop, Afrobeats, reggae, hip-hop, jazz, classical, country and rock. Now on his fourth headlining world tour, he has released several solo albums and toured with artists including Tony! Toni! Toné!, Keith Sweat, Jelly Roll, Bobby Brown and New Edition.

[Click here](#) for tickets.
Pure Prairie League & Pablo Cruise
Saturday, Oct. 3 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Two great bands team up for an evening of timeless music. Pure Prairie League exemplified the country-rock wave of the 1970s with hits such as “Amie,” “Falling in and Out of Love,” “Two Lane Highway” and “Let Me Love You Tonight.” Pablo Cruise, anchored by founding members David Jenkins, Cory Lerios and Steve Price, pioneered the yacht rock sound with Top 10 singles like “Love Will Find a Way” and “Whatcha Gonna Do (When She Says Goodbye)?”
[Click here](#) for tickets.
Art Garfunkel: What a Wonderful World Concerts
Monday, Oct. 5 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Celebrated as the “Voice of Generations,” Art Garfunkel is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, winner of eight Grammys (including the Lifetime Achievement Award) and one of Rolling Stone’s 100 Greatest Singers of All Time. As co-founder of

the folk duo Simon & Garfunkel, he shaped popular culture with songs such as “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “The Sound of Silence” and “Mrs. Robinson.” His solo hits have included “I Only Have Eyes for You,” “(What a Wonderful World)” and “All I Know.” Garfunkel also is a poet and actor, with films including *Carnal Knowledge*, *Catch-22* and *Bad Timing*.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
The Billy Joel Legacy: A Tribute Experience
Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
From the producers of *The Simon and Garfunkel Story* and *The Life and Music of George Michael* comes *The Billy Joel Legacy: A Tribute Experience* – a dynamic celebration of the legendary singer-songwriter’s greatest hits and the story of the man behind the melodies. This concert experience takes you on a journey through Joel’s legendary career, from his humble beginnings to becoming one of the greatest songwriters and performers of all time. Through faithful recreation of the original music, stunning visuals, and compelling narration, you’ll discover how his music has shaped generations and why his legacy endures.

[Click here](#) for tickets.
LIVE! from the Stand-Up Comedy Class
Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
The Studio Theater
Come on out for a fun night of comedy! Adult students in Allied Solutions Center’s *Intro to Stand-Up Comedy* class have been honing their short routines for the past 4 weeks. Now they are ready to make us laugh! Join us for their special “graduation” show hosted by professional comedian and class instructor Sherra Lasley. See your friends, family, and community members as they perform stand-up for the first time!
[Click here](#) for tickets.
Peanut Butter & Jam: Sing Me a Story with Indianapolis Opera
Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10:30 a.m.
The Studio Theater
Every year, the Indianapolis Opera Education Department creates a brand-new children’s opera to share with children and their families. These operas are a part of our *Sing Me A Story* series, which focuses on bringing the power of music and live performance to children of all backgrounds. Often inspired by fairy tales and fables, each children’s

opera has a moral at the center of its story. Children are not only exposed to the thrill of live opera singing, but they are also given the opportunity to learn about important topics like bullying, overcoming fears, acceptance, and making new friends.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers: Indigo Park Tour
Sunday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Special Guest – The Light Echo
Bruce Hornsby rose to fame with *The Way It Is*, his Grammy-winning 1986 debut album with The Range. The title track became the most-played song on American radio in 1987. A 13-time Grammy nominee, Hornsby played over 100 shows with the Grateful Dead and has collaborated with artists including Bonnie Raitt (on her iconic hit “I Can’t Make You Love Me”), Bob Dylan, Don Henley, Stevie Nicks, Ricky Skaggs, Bob Seger, Chaka Khan, Bon Iver, Brandon Flowers, Sting, Mavis Staples, Willie Nelson and more. This tour with The Noisemakers will feature material from throughout Hornsby’s storied career and from his new album, *Indigo Park*.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

The War And Treaty
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Founded in 2014 by the husband-and-wife duo Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter, The War And Treaty is one of the most electrifying new acts in American music, blending soul, country and other influences for a sound that transcends barriers. They were nominated for Best New Artist and Best American Roots Song at the 2024 Grammy Awards and also nominated for Duo of the Year at the CMA Awards two years in a row. Other career highlights have included opening stadium shows for the likes of the Rolling Stones and Zach Bryan. The War And Treaty’s sixth studio album, *The Story of Michael and Tanya*, was released in June.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
The Sixties Show
Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Get ready for a supercharged journey through time when The Sixties Show brings its immersive, multimedia experience to Allied Solutions Center. This award-winning, off-Broadway theatrical production

brilliantly recreates the 1960s with a ferocious energy that transports audiences to the music, the politics, the pop culture, and the soul of an influential decade that reshaped the world. Powerfully dramatized by archival footage, newsreel audio, theatrical lighting and time-bending narration, the result is a spectacular multidimensional history lesson, with every note performed live using authentic 1960s-era gear. The set list features not just Top 40 hits, but rare B-sides and deep cuts that defined the ’60s soundscape.
[Click here](#) for tickets
INVINCIBLE: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson
Friday, Oct. 16 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Take a mesmerizing journey through the musical legacy of the King of Pop with *Invincible*, hailed as the No. 1 Michael Jackson tribute show in the world. *Invincible* immerses audiences in the electrifying world of Jackson’s artistry, capturing the heart and soul of his greatest hits and iconic dance moves, crafted under the masterful choreography of Jackson’s longtime collaborator Lavelle Smith Jr. From the gravity-defying moonwalk to the signature sequined glove, every detail is brought to life with authenticity and flair. Incorporating state-of-the-art visuals, dynamic choreography and a powerhouse cast of talented performers, *Invincible* promises an evening of pure entertainment and nostalgia.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

Niladri Kumaar: The Space Between the Notes
Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Indian tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain was scheduled to perform at Allied Solutions Center for the fourth time in 2024 before passing away at age 73. Sitar maestro and composer Niladri Kumaar frequently collaborated with Hussain, and the two Indian music legends were profiled in a 2017 documentary, *The Space Between the Notes*. Under that same title, Kumaar is releasing a live album from his only recorded concert with Hussain and leading an ensemble with keyboards (Agnelo Fernandes), drums (Sambit Chatterjee) and tabla (Satyajit Talwalkar) on a tour paying tribute to his late friend.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
Michael Carbonaro: Wonderboy
Friday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Best known as the star

of the hit truTV series *The Carbonaro Effect*, magician, actor, and comedian Michael Carbonaro has built a career turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. Named Magician of the Year by the Academy of Magical Arts, he also has appeared on *Law & Order: SVU*, *CSI: Miami*, and *Grey’s Anatomy*. His all-new live tour, *Wonderboy*, blends quick-witted comedy with jaw-dropping illusions for a high-energy, laugh-filled experience packed with audience participation, sly improv, and Carbonaro’s signature reality-twisting illusions.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
Sharpe Family Singers: The Best of Broadway
Saturday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
You’ve seen them on Broadway, *American Idol* and *America’s Got Talent*, and in dozens of national TV commercials. Or maybe you are among the 14 million fans who follow them on social media or the 100 million who watch their fun viral videos on YouTube and TikTok every month. The Sharpe Family Singers have put the “family” back into wholesome family entertainment for the whole family. Their live *Best of Broadway* show – a tightly choreographed, interactive multimedia production – features Broadway showstoppers from smash hit musicals, mega-hits from the Disney songbook, blockbuster soundtracks from popular films and a wide variety of Top 40/Contemporary pop hits.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

Hasta La Muerte
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Hasta La Muerte is an enthralling new production created by Las Cafeteras in the spirit of the Indigenous/Mexican practice known as Day of the Dead. The two-act theatrical and musical performance explores the stages of grief and loss through the celebration of life and death. The production revisits Mexican folklore to tell new stories, engage old archetypes, challenge patriarchy, uplift the role of curanderas and re-examine our imagination about death and the afterlife. *Hasta La Muerte* combines mesmerizing choreography, poetry, and a score of original and traditional songs for a night of transcendent color and sound and a moving invitation to travel through time, rhythm, and memory.
[Click here](#) for tickets.
BLKBOK
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.
The Tarkington
Born and raised in

Detroit, BLKBOK (born Charles Wilson III) was an acclaimed piano prodigy by age 8, winning statewide accolades and college-level competitions. He chose the name BLKBOK as a nod to one of the greatest keyboardists and composers of all time and a reflection of his journey from pop and hip-hop to his critically acclaimed neo-classical work. In 2025, he released *Urban Etudes: Vol. 1*, a collaborative EP with Beats by JT that blends classical form with rhythm in a powerful sonic dialogue. His latest effort is *Peaceful Piano: The Self-Love Mixtape*, an intimate and reflective project centered on breath, space, and emotional clarity.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

Ryan Ahlwardt: Crying in the Canyon Release Concert
Friday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m.
The Tarkington
Ryan Ahlwardt is an Emmy Award-winning host, singer-songwriter, and live entertainer whose career spans national television, world-class concert halls, and stages across Indiana and beyond. The Fishers resident is an alumnus of the internationally renowned vocal group Straight No Chaser and former host of *Indy Now* on FOX59 and CBS4. Since 2005, Ryan has released 10 independent albums rooted in memory, family, faith, and place. His forthcoming 11th album, *Crying in the Canyon*, expands that vision with a warm, cinematic blend of nostalgic Americana and intimate acoustic storytelling.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

Yefim Bronfman, Piano
Friday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias Palladium
One of the world’s most acclaimed and admired pianists, Yefim Bronfman is known for his commanding technique, power, and exceptional lyrical gifts. Born in the Soviet Union, he immigrated to Israel in 1973 and studied in the United States at The Juilliard School, Marlboro School of Music, and the Curtis Institute of Music. He is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, the Jean Gimbel Lane prize in piano performance from Northwestern University and an honorary doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music.
Program
• Schubert – Four Impromptus Op. 90, D899
• Schubert/Liszt – “Ave Maria”
• Liszt – Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12
• Schumann – Arabeske
• Beethoven – Sonata Op. 57, *Appassionata*
[Click here](#) for tickets.

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Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Sept 16 - Soccer and Volleyball
5:30 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Boys JV Gold Soccer | Noblesville Sports Network
6:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Girls JV Soccer | Fishers Sports Network
7:20 pm Monrovia vs Covenant Christian | Girls Volleyball | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Girls Varsity Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Thurs Sept 17 - Volleyball
6:00 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports
6:50 pm Bethesda vs Horizon Christian | Volleyball | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

Fri Sept 18 - Football
6:45 pm **Sheridan** vs Clinton Prairie | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports Media
6:50 pm **Noblesville** vs Zionsville | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Bloomington South vs Greenfield Central | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Scecina vs Covenant Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Wes Del vs Heritage Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
7:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | IHSAA Football | Fishers Sports Network
7:00 pm Western vs **Hamilton Heights** | IHSAA Football | Husky Sports Network

Sat Sept 19 - Football and Boys Soccer
10:00am Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Fresman Football | Fishers Sports Network
12:00pm Center Grove vs **Noblesville** | JV Gold Boys Soccer | Noblesville Sports
1:15 pm Calvin vs Franklin College | HCAC Football | Indiana SRN

Available on the Web [www.HCTV1.com](#) [www.HCTV2.com](#)

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE LORD IS GOD

You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other. From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

CITIES OF REFUGE

Then Moses set aside three cities east of the Jordan, to which anyone who had killed a person could flee if they had unintentionally killed a neighbor without malice aforethought. They could flee into one of these cities and save their life. The cities were these: Bezer in the wilderness plateau, for the Reubenites; Ramoth in Gilead, for the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan, for the Manassites.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW

This is the law Moses set before the Israelites. These are the stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them when they came out of Egypt and were in the valley near Beth Peor east of the Jordan, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon and was defeated by Moses and the Israelites as they came out of Egypt. They took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. This land extended from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Gorge to Mount Sirion (that is, Hermon), and included all the Arabah east of the Jordan, as far as the Dead Sea, below the slopes of Pisgah.

Deuteronomy 4:35-49 (NIV)

Janet Scherer Weber

February 6, 1950 – September 12, 2026

Janet Scherer Weber, 76, Westfield, passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Independence Village of Carmel. She was born on February 6, 1950, to Charles and Gladys (Hiller) Scherer in Noblesville.



Janet was a 1968 graduate of Hamilton Heights High School and a 1972 graduate of Indiana University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education. She later received her master's degree from IUPUI in 1976.

Janet dedicated 36 years to teaching at Hamilton Heights Schools, where she touched the lives of many students throughout her career. She also served as Science Fair Coordinator for 10 years and National Honor Society Advisor for 10 years. Janet was a member of the Hamilton Heights Classroom Teachers Association and ISTA and was a charter member of Ruffles, the middle school social association. After retiring, she continued her love of education by substitute teaching for Westfield Schools for another 10 years.

Janet was a lifetime member of Bethel Lutheran Church. She was an avid fan of IU football, IU basketball, and the Indianapolis Colts and loved cheering on her favorite teams. She and Denis also enjoyed traveling together, with memorable trips and cruises to Antarctica, Pompeii, Australia, New Zealand, and many other destinations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Gladys Scherer.

Most important to Janet was her family. She was a loving wife, mother, and proud grandmother who treasured the time spent with those she loved. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Denis E. Weber; daughters, Megan (James) Gruesser and Lauren (Ankur) Pandya; grandchildren, Aiden Gruesser, Addison Gruesser, Marlow Pandya, and Laine Pandya; sister, Vicki (Arnett) Cooper; and brother, Jeff (Mary) Scherer.

Janet will be remembered for her dedication to education, her love of family, and the many lives she touched throughout her life.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 20650 Cumberland Road, Noblesville. A fellowship dinner will follow the service in the church reception hall.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Meeting Notice

The Carmel Fire Pension Board will meet in an executive session at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) for the discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

An open meeting will follow at 10:05 a.m. or immediately after the executive session (whichever is later) in the Conference Room at the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

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.

— CARMEL —

NOTICE

Board of Public Works and Safety
One Civic Square
City of Carmel, Indiana 46032
Project: 6" Water Main Gray Rd to Hazel Dell
Project # IFB-2026-015

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Public Works and Safety for the City of Carmel, Hamilton County, Indiana, will receive sealed bids for the above-described "6" Water Main Gray Rd to Hazel Dell" via the City's e-Procurement Portal, <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/carmel>, **until 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 7, 2026** and commencing as soon as practicable thereafter on the same date such bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Council Chambers of City Hall. **No late bids will be accepted.**

All bids and proposals shall be properly and completely executed on the proposal forms provided with the plans and specifications, which will include the non-collusion affidavit as required by the State of Indiana.

A bid bond or certified check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount bid must be submitted with each bid. A one hundred percent (100%) performance and payment bond will also be required of the successful bidder. It is intended that actual construction of all work divisions shall be started as soon as practicable, and each bidder shall be prepared to enter promptly into a construction contract, furnish a performance bond, and begin work without delay in the event the award is made to the bidder.

The Project consists of, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

Directional drilling approximately 2,600 feet of 6 inch water main from Gray Road to the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Hazel Dell. Running along 96th street.

Contract Documents and drawings for the Project can be found in this solicitation and the attachments section.

Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets of drawings and Contract Documents and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets of drawings and Contract Documents.

This Project will be funded by the City of Carmel.

A **Mandatory pre-bid conference** for discussions of the Project, the bidding requirements and other important matters will be held on **Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 8:30 am** at 9609 Hazel Dell Parkway, Carmel, IN 46280. All prospective bidders are invited to attend the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid conference is **Mandatory**.

For accommodations needed by persons with disabilities planning to attend the pre-bid conference or public bid opening meeting, please call or notify the City of Carmel, Utilities, at (317) 571-2400 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto.

No bidder may withdraw any bid or proposal within a period of sixty (60) days following the date set for receiving bids or proposals. The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety reserves the right to hold any or all bids or proposals for a period of not more than sixty (60) days and said bids or proposal shall remain in full force and effect during said period. The City of Carmel reserves the right to reject and/or cancel any and all bids, solicitations and/or offers in whole or in part as specified in the solicitations when it is not in the best interests of the governmental body as determined by the purchasing agency in accordance with IC 36-1-12.

Contract will be awarded to the lowest and responsive and responsible bidder. *R8674 9/16/26, 9/21/26, 9/23/21, 9/28/21*

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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IMPROVED PRICE!

LAKEFRONT!
20971 Shoreline
Unit 410
NOBLESVILLE

Enjoy low-maintenance waterfront living in this gated 2BR, 2BA Morse Lake condo. Features include fresh paint, new carpet, boat slip, two garage spots, storage, and stainless kitchen. Luxury meets convenience.

Listed at \$299,900

NEW LISTING!

9919 FOUNTAIN COVE DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS

This 3 bed, 2.5 bath beauty near Geist Reservoir offers an open concept floor plan, new roof, carpet, and remodeled primary bath. Enjoy the versatile living spaces, updated kitchen, spacious fenced-in backyard, and a heated golf simulator garage!

Listed at \$299,900

SOLD!

18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT
NOBLESVILLE

Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you.

Listed at \$559,900

SOLD!

18149 ATLANTIC ROAD
NOBLESVILLE

Own this charming 1.5-acre country retreat! Features 2,000+ sq ft, 4BR, 2BA, and a new roof. Enjoy a cozy fireplace, spacious kitchen, and fenced yard. Perfectly located near Hamilton Town Center and I-69.

Won't last long!
Listed at \$274,900

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.

Listed at \$339,900

“SPEAK TO DEAK!”

Jennifer
Peggy

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