

New Earth Festival September 26-27

53rd Atlanta New Earth Festival

Come and be a part of this great event!
Sponsored by Gaylor Electric, Christine Altman, and Duke Energy
Free Entertainment & Kids Zone!

45 RPM Saturday and Living Proof Sunday
Stage sponsored by Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt

Interactive Learning!

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to tempt your palate!



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy.
Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 70 LOW: 49

Sheridan students get a glimpse at their futures

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, Sheridan Middle and High School held its quarterly Future Fair for high school students and eighth graders.

These college and career fairs are held each quarter for students to gain insight into the businesses, schools, and opportunities that await them after high school and beyond. This Future Fair was particularly exciting because it also took place during the school-wide College GO! Week. The week was dedicated to all-things-college as seniors, specifically, started applications and discovered what could be in store for their future.

At this quarter's Future Fair, students had the opportunity to learn about the various career paths and colleges while interacting with the representatives from the local businesses and organizations. Through the conversations, students were able to form a personal connection



Students met with numerous businesses and organizations at the last Future Fair.

and gain real-world insight into the different pathways. These experiences help bridge the gap between high school and post-graduation life while allowing students to better understand what they are capable of.

At the Future Fair, one student was overheard saying, "I hadn't planned to go to college because my parents have always told me what I'm going to

do. But this is really showing me that I have options!"

Jill Cali, the Education Professions and Early College coordinator for SHS, also said, "I love seeing our students interacting with guests at the SHS Future Fairs! Our students are learning that talking about college, technical training, military, or potential careers isn't scary and is worth their time

and effort. I'm also pleased that they're practicing the really valuable employability skills of effective communication and professionalism when they attend these events."

Students got to meet and make connections with the following businesses and organizations:

See Future . . . Page 2

The sixth Love Language

Many readers may be familiar with Gary Chapman's excellent 1992 book, *The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts*. While I had heard of the book, I didn't read it until a few years ago.

If you don't know Chapman's five love languages, they include:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Physical Touch
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Quality Time
5. Acts of Service

My best friend Stacey recommended the book when John and I encountered a rocky patch – a common occurrence in most marriages. I'm grateful to her because it helped us back then and continues to help us now.

John and I enjoyed talking about and discovering our top love languages. Conveniently for us, Words of Affirmation are both number one. Acts of Service is number two for me, while Quality Time is John's.

Recently, however, John and I have figured out there's a sixth love language – well, at least for us. We would call it Cooking Meals. Now, you may argue cooking meals fits in the category of Acts of Service or even Receiving Gifts. But we feel it's a whole other level.

We all must eat. But sometimes in this busy world, the thought of having to cook anything is overwhelming. Sure, we can turn to fast food, takeout, frozen dinners, etc. But of course, this comes at a cost, both financially and sometimes nutritionally.

See Love . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

Hoosiers screening marks 40th anniversary

Nov. 15 event to feature actors, creators & team bus from landmark movie

The REPORTER

A classic film about Indiana's signature pastime will be celebrated with an upcoming special event presented by Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

The basketball drama *Hoosiers*, initially released in November 1986, received two Academy Award nominations, earned a spot in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry, and is widely considered one of the greatest sports movies of all time. The script was inspired by the true story of underdog Milan High School's surprise win in the 1954 men's state championship.

A 40th anniversary screening set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium will include a live, in-person Q&A with four key figures from the film's production: screenwriter Angelo Pizzo, director David Anspaugh, and actors Brad Long, who butted heads with the coach as team captain Buddy Walker, and Maris Valainis, whose character Jimmy Chit-

wood made the last-second winning shot. Sports talk radio personality JMV of 93.5 & 107.5 The Fan will lead the post-screening discussion, which will be followed by an autograph session.

Also on hand will be one of the film's central props, the small, cherry-red 1939 Chevrolet school bus that transported the fictional Hickory Huskers team to their games. Fans are invited to take photos with the iconic vehicle as it is parked outside the building for the occasion.

Tickets starting at \$25 are available online at TheCenterPresents.org/Hoosiers, by phone at (317) 843-3800, and in person at the Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. A limited number of student tickets is available at \$15, and discounts are available for military personnel, veterans and first responders.

The event is part of the JPMorganChase Spotlight Series and the 2026-2027 *Center Presents* Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.



Photo provided
(TOP) Coach Norman Dale (Gene Hackman) gives his team a pep talk in a scene from *Hoosiers* (1986). (ABOVE) This 1939 Chevrolet school bus played a supporting role in the classic Indiana basketball drama.

Get behind the wheel of a Westfield school bus!

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) invites prospective bus drivers to a Drive the Bus hiring event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the WWS Transportation Center, 17900 Towne Road.

Attendees will have the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a school bus and drive around the Transportation Center lot alongside members of the WWS training team.

The event is designed to show that becoming a bus driver is more approachable than some may think. No previous school bus driving experience is necessary, and WWS provides

paid training to help new drivers prepare for the role and earn the required credentials.

"Driving a school bus can seem intimidating until you actually get behind the wheel," Director of Transportation Michael Reinhardt said. "This event gives people a chance to try it in a comfortable environment, ask questions, meet our team, and see if it might be the right fit for them."

Staff will be available throughout the event to answer questions about driving for WWS, training, and the application process. Prospective drivers who are ready to take the next step can complete an application on site.



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools
Now, come on. Who among us can say they haven't wanted to drive a school bus at least one time in life?

Carmel Fire Chief Joel Thacker to depart

The REPORTER

Carmel Fire Department Chief Joel Thacker will depart from his position effective Friday, Oct. 23, with Deputy Chief Lucas Ray stepping in as interim chief.

"Chief Thacker has provided dedication and leadership to our fire department and the entire Carmel community," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "I am grateful for his service, particularly his effort in securing vital equipment and technology upgrades and leading local flood recovery responses and I wish him the best in his next chapter."

Thacker started as Carmel Fire Department Chief in September 2024, and under his leadership the department has achieved several key milestones, including:

- Acquired a fifth ambulance to enhance EMS response capabilities
- Upgraded essential fire and EMS equipment and integrated emerging technology to support firefighter safety and efficiency
- Instituted a lateral hiring process and prioritized officer development programs
- Led the coordination of Emergency Operations Center flood recovery efforts

After leaving his role as fire chief, Thacker will return to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to lead the agency's newly created Office of Cybersecurity, [according to IDHS](#).

The City of Carmel will begin a search process to select a candidate to lead the department. Interested candidates can view the job posting and application details at [this link](#).



Thacker



Finkam

NYSA

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Sunday, October 4th | 2:30PM

Hamilton Heights HS Cross Country Course

\$35 Registration Fee

Click Link Below to Register as an Individual or Team or Donate to HOPE!

Click Here to Register or Donate for HOPE's 5K

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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.

4 Chili Categories

4 Winners of \$100

• Beef Chili • Poultry Chili

• Vegetarian Chili

• Other Meats Chili + Grand Prize Winner!

Register Chili Here >>>

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

First Financial Bank to hold food drive in October

The REPORTER
First Financial Bank will hold a Carmel-area food drive from Oct. 1 to 30, accepting donations of canned and nonperishable food items in marked bins at its financial center at 751 City Center Drive in Carmel, as well as in all locations in Central Indiana.

“In all that we do, we are committed to the well-being of our neighbors,” said Roddell McCullough, chief corporate responsibility officer. “This food drive builds on First Financial’s purpose of creating opportunities for our clients and communities to thrive.”

At the end of the drive, First Financial associates will select local organizations to receive donated food items for distribution throughout the community.

This is the fifth year that First Financial has organized a food drive. Last year’s campaign collected more than 9,800 food items throughout First Financial’s Midwestern footprint. More than 28,000 food items have been donated since the first year of the campaign.

First Financial Bank and its associates strive to

Photo provided by First Financial Bank
First Financial branches across Central Indiana will hold food drives in October.

be outstanding community partners through the food drive and other initiatives.

First Financial is now in the third year of its \$2.573 billion, five-year Community Benefits Agreement with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and partner organizations, and has already committed 62 percent of its goal. This goal was increased from \$2.4 billion to account for the new communities served by First Financial resulting from the Westfield Bank and Bank-Financial acquisitions.

First Financial has also

earned two consecutive ratings of Outstanding, the highest possible rating, for its performance under the Community Reinvestment Act. Additionally, last year, First Financial Bank and associates teamed up to donate \$4.6 million to local organizations through its broad philanthropy initiatives across its five-state footprint of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Illinois.

Find out more at First Financial Bank, including its products, services, and banking locations, at bankatfirst.com.

FUTURE

from Page 1

Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

- Built To Succeed – Indiana Careers in Construction Association
- Franklin College
- Grand Canyon University
- Hamilton County 911
- Huntington University
- Indiana Army and National Guard
- IU Bloomington – Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies
- IU Kokomo
- InvestEd
- IU Indianapolis
- Ivy Tech – Hamilton County
- KLR Medical Certification Training School
- Manchester University
- Marian University
- College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Taylor University

- The Pursuit Institute (TPI)
- The Vet Tech Institute of Indiana
- Trine University
- US Air Force, Space Force, Army, and Navy
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Southern Indiana

- Valparaiso University
- Wabash College
- Sheridan High School and Middle School appreciate the businesses and organizations for their time, support, and willingness to invest in students by providing meaningful conversations and real-world opportunities.

LOVE

from Page 1

I remember how I felt when people brought over homemade meals right after I gave birth to each of my two sons. This time of life was incredibly overwhelming, and to cross “dinner” off the list for a day was huge.

John and I genuinely enjoy planning and cooking meals for the people we love. We’re blessed to cook dinner every Sunday for our son Jonathon and his significant other, Olivia. It’s fun to brainstorm new ideas and see the look of joy on their faces when we present the meal.

Our kitchen is rather small, so working together takes some coordination. But cooking is a weekend tradition John and I love. And bonus – I’m a “clean as you go” cook. So, the kitchen ends up looking less like a war zone when we finally put dinner on the table.

This love language is

what motivated me to join Lasagna Love years ago. While I no longer am in the program (since I’m always discovering people in my own city who need meals) I highly recommend the organization if Cooking Meals is one of your love languages. Check ‘em out at lasagnalove.org.

One new thing I enjoy doing is praying for the people who will eat the meal I create. I feel it adds an extra layer of love.

Hats off to Mr. Chapman for such a life-changing concept and book. May we all learn our own Love Languages and spread their joy to those around us.

Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at amys@greenavenue.info.

PHI BETA PSI SORORITY

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 25th, 5:00-7:00 PM

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GLUTEN-FREE OPTION AVAILABLE

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Adults: \$15 pre-sale and at the door

Children (3-12 yrs): \$8 pre-sale & at the door

Tickets available from members and at Sheridan Public Library

Proceeds go toward two \$1000 medical scholarships for Sheridan seniors.

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

FREE



POTTER'S BRIDGE

FALL FESTIVAL

Sat., Oct. 3 | 11 AM-5 PM

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Community News

Three Indiana Pacers coming to Fishers to sign autographs

Front Row Collectables will hold a public autograph signing with Indiana Pacers players T.J. McConnell, Johnny Furphy, and Braden Smith from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Best Choice Fieldhouse, 11825 Technology Drive, Fishers.

This event will be part of the Midwest Monster Card Show (J&J All Star Card Shows, Oct. 2 and 3).

Tickets and mail-in orders can be purchased at frontrowcollectables.com.

Celebrate the dogs of Westfield at Barktoberfest

Submitted by City of Westfield

Barktoberfest, presented by Community First Bank, returns to Asa Bales Park, 205 W. Hoover St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, for a day of fur and fun. Net proceeds from Barktoberfest will be donated to the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC).

“Countless residents have adopted their best friends from the Humane Society for Hamilton County,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “I’m glad the city can continue hosting an event our residents – including those with four legs – love and doing our part to ensure more cats and dogs find their forever homes.”

Dogs of all ages, sizes, and breeds (and their humans) are invited to take part in this Westfield tradi-

tion where they can enjoy:

- Pet-related vendors
- Food and beer vendors
- An agility course for adventurous dogs
- Complimentary pet portraits
- Caricature and airbrush artists
- Stuffy Station (stuffed animal creation for an additional fee; cash and credit card are accepted on-site)
- Carnival-style games
- ... and more!

Those wanting to put their best paws forward may enter one of the costume contests. No purchase is necessary to enter the costume contests; contests will be hosted every hour (11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.) throughout the event. The entry categories are best duo/group, cutest

See Bark! . . . Page 6



Willis

Do we actually care who’s on the school board?

Four of seven HSE seats are up Nov. 3. Most students can’t vote on any of it. For the few who can, the deadline to register is Oct. 5.

Ask a student in the Hamilton Southeastern school district who sits on the school board, and you’ll usually get a moment of silence, then a guess.

It’s an easy thing not to know, especially for students. However, if there was a time to close this gap, it’s now, due to the upcoming ballot that is going to transform the board almost completely.

Four of the board’s seven seats are up for election, and none of the four members holding them (Tiffany Pascoe, Juanita Albright, Dawn Lang, and Ben Orr) appear on the candidate list, meaning the majority of the board’s seats will change when the new terms begin in January 2027.

Across Hamilton County, 27 candidates filed for 18 school board seats. This is also the first cycle under Senate Bill 287, signed by Gov. Mike Braun in 2025, which lets school board candidates list a political party on the ballot for the first time.

The math on who can actually vote

But how big of a difference can students really make? HSE graduated 1,754 students last spring, and this year’s class is around the same size. But Indiana requires you to be 18 by Election Day, and Indiana’s kindergarten cutoff means

most seniors have birthdays spread across a 12-month window starting in August.

This means that only students born on or before Nov. 3, 2008, qualify, which adds to around 400 or 500 seniors (around one in four). In a district of roughly 20,000 students, that’s about 2 percent.

So the honest framing isn’t “students should vote.” It’s that almost none of us can, which makes the handful who can matter more.

“It doesn’t change anything for me”

Chaney Ferris, a senior at Fishers High School, said, “Honestly, I’m not even registered. I graduate in May and then I’m gone, so whoever’s on the school board isn’t really my problem anymore. I don’t even know who’s running. Nobody’s ever explained why it matters to me.”

That argument stands stronger than adults like to admit. Board terms run four years. A senior voting in November graduates in June and is gone before most of what the new board does actually takes effect. Candidates also run within specific geographic districts, and voters may only cast ballots for candidates in the district where they live, so a student might have exactly one name to choose from.

Indiana students aren’t outliers here, either.

CIRCLE at Tufts found that 15 percent of eligible Hoosiers ages 18 to 29 voted in the 2022 midterm, among the lowest rates in the country, against 23 percent nationally.

What’s actually on the line

There’s a money question on the same ballot. HSE is asking voters to renew the referendum that pays its teachers. More than 97 percent of that money goes to teacher salaries and benefits, and the rest pays for school safety.

The ballot will show a big number, up to 36 cents for every \$100 a home is worth, over eight years. Superintendent Matt Kegley says HSE won’t charge that maximum in any year. For a typical homeowner, he estimates it comes out to about \$3 more a month starting in 2027.

That is not abstract. It’s whether your teachers stay. The referendum it replaces passed in 2023 with 70 percent support, but school finance experts estimate 40 to 50 Indiana districts will put referendum questions on ballots this fall.

Olivia Werbanowski, a senior at Hamilton Southeastern High School, said, “I’m registered and I’m voting. I spent 13 years in this district, so I have opinions about how it’s run. Leaving doesn’t mean I stop caring.”

Both things can be true

There’s a fair case on the other side. Some res-

idents argue that students voting on an eight-year tax they won’t pay isn’t a good idea. Plenty of voters will reject the referendum on cost and still back public schools. And a student who votes for a name they don’t know isn’t participating, they’re guessing. So, the standard isn’t “vote no matter what.” It’s if you’re eligible, learn your district’s candidates, understand the referendum, then decide either way.

Amiee Day, a now-retired teacher who is involved in the community, said, “I spent my whole career in a classroom. I know exactly who the school board’s decisions land on, and it’s the kids and the teachers. That’s why I never miss a vote.”

The deadline

Voter registration closes Monday, Oct. 5. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and early voting opens Oct. 6. Indiana has no same-day registration, so Oct. 5 is the date that counts. Register at indianavoters.in.gov, at a BMV branch, or at the Hamilton County Election Office in Noblesville.

If you’re 18 by Nov. 3, you’re one of maybe 450 students in this district with a vote on who runs it. That’s a small number. Small numbers decide local races.

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

BARKTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

11 A.M.—2 P.M.

ASA BALES PARK

205 W. HOOVER ST.

\$8 IN ADVANCE | \$10 ON EVENT DAY

KIDS AGES 5 & UNDER ARE FREE

PRESENTED BY
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New spaces to read, play & explore

Hamilton East Public Library celebrates renovated Fishers Youth Services

The REPORTER

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will celebrate newly renovated Fishers Youth Services spaces with an all-day celebration and ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The celebration marks the completion of renovations designed to create more welcoming, flexible, and engaging spaces for children and families at the Fishers Library. The updates are part of a series of renovation projects at both the Fishers and Noblesville Libraries focused on improving the library experience for the community.

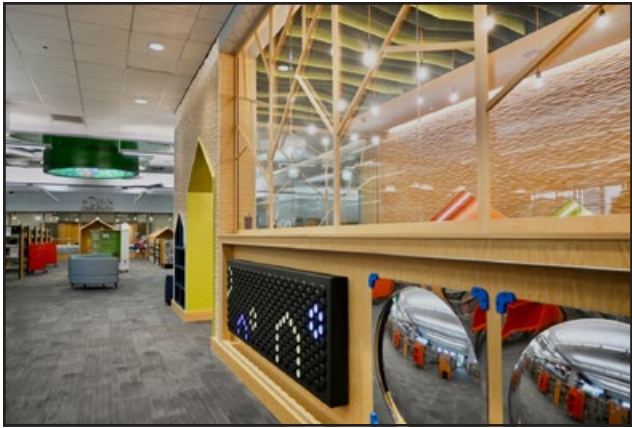
“Our Youth Services areas are generally some of our most-used spaces, where we see children and families spending a lot of time,” Library Director Melissa Loiselle said. “We wanted these renovations to create an environment where families can feel comfortable staying awhile, whether they’re choosing a book, playing together or simply enjoying time at the library.”

The most significant visual transformation can

be found in Fishers Youth Services, where renovations have created spaces for children and families to read, play, learn, and gather. The updates include expanded children’s program rooms, new treehouse-inspired reading nooks, an updated play area, and additional child-friendly seating throughout the department.

“The common word we keep hearing from families as they enter the newly renovated youth area in Fishers is ‘Wow!’,” Fishers Youth Services Manager Celeste Swanson said. “Since the space first opened, families have quickly embraced each new area. Whether it’s creating designs on the light-bright wall or cozying up with a stack of books in one of the new treehouses, patrons are truly enjoying this beautiful and functional space.”

The community is invited to come see the updates on Oct. 13, whether visiting for the first time or returning to celebrate. Throughout the day, families can enjoy special toys selected for the new



Photos provided by Lauren Belt of the Veridus Group & Hamilton East Public Library

department, snacks, and giveaways.

An official celebration and ribbon cutting will take place at 4 p.m., featuring remarks from Loiselle and Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness.

The Youth Services renovation is part of broader improvements at both HEPL locations. At the Fishers Library, those improvements also include

new furniture in meeting rooms, study spaces and seating areas, as well as updated meeting room flooring. Service points at both the Fishers and Noblesville Libraries were updated to improve visibility, accessibility and service flow, and new wayfinding signage was added throughout the buildings to make navigation easier for visitors.

For more information

about Hamilton East Public Library, visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

About Hamilton East Public Library

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) serves the communities of Fishers and Noblesville, providing access to resources, experiences, and spaces that inspire lifelong learning, creativity, and community connection. In addition to

offering storytimes, programs, and special events, HEPL is committed to supporting local residents through initiatives and community-driven partnerships. Through programs, outreach, and collaborative efforts, HEPL connects people of all ages to stories, ideas, and opportunities that enrich their lives and strengthen the community they share.

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- 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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Tucker
REALTORS

Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

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TUCKER LUXURY
THE art of FINE HOMES

20-acre luxury estate SOLD!

This beautiful Hamilton County property at 12131 E. 196th St. has been sold! This inviting home features luxurious bedrooms, a primary retreat with spa-like ensuite, and an upper-level theater and game room. The kitchen offers nostalgic charm with modern appliances. Car enthusiasts will love the 10 total garage bays, including a finished 6-bay area with a car wash. Equestrian amenities are unmatched, boasting a 60'x100' indoor arena, 33 stalls, and 5 pastures. Complete with a beautiful courtyard and a brand new June 2026 roof, this stunning estate has found its new owner.

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Talk to Tucker
REALTORS
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BARK! from Page 5

canine, and best character; prizes will be awarded to each category's winner.

HSHC will be on-site with adoptable dogs looking for their fur-ever homes. Back by popular demand, the 50/50 Fetch allows attendees to purchase a tennis ball on-site at the HSHC tent for \$10 for a chance to win half of the jackpot in the 50/50 raffle. For more information and full contest rules, visit westfieldin.gov/barktoberfest.

Tickets to attend are \$8 per person in advance, and \$10 on the day of the event (online or at the door). Children ages 5 and younger are free. Dogs do not need a separate ticket. All dogs must remain leashed throughout the event.

Free parking is available in the Westfield High School parking lot, 18250 N. Union St.

For more information, visit westfieldin.gov/barktoberfest.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

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Main Street Productions celebrates local talent at 2026 Westies awards

Submitted

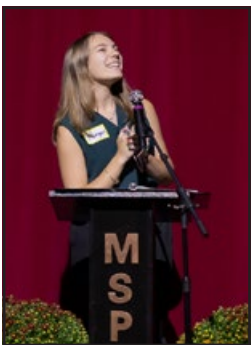
Main Street Productions (MSP) celebrated its 2025–2026 season Sunday, Sept. 20, with the 2026 Westies, an annual awards ceremony recognizing the performers, directors, designers, technicians, volunteers, and supporters who helped bring another season of community theater to the Basile Westfield Playhouse. More than 130 guests attended the celebration, which featured special performances, awards, food, and an evening honoring the people who make MSP possible. Hosted by local comedian, actor, singer, and event host Steve Jerk, the ceremony celebrated productions from across the 2025–2026 season, including *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Almost, Maine*, *The Drowning Girls*, and *The Secret Garden*, along with the youth production *Alice in Wonderland*.

The evening's top honors included Best Music Director for Laura Hicks of *The Secret Garden*, Best Director for Molly Bellner of *The Drowning Girls*, Best Production for *The Drowning Girls*, produced by Bill Miller, as well as Best Actress in a Leading Role for Susan Hill and Best Actor in a Leading Role for Aaron Moon, both for *Death of a Salesman*. MSP also presented three special recognitions: the Community Impact Award to Rob Slaven, Volunteer of the Year to Kristina Lawyer, and the Deacon Otis Student Scholarship to Lilah Cross.

2026 Westies Award Recipients

Technical Awards

- **Best Sound Operator:** Elianah Atwell & Oscar Otero – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Sound Design:** Elianah Atwell, Laura Hicks, & Oscar Otero – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Lighting Operator:** Andrew R. Young – *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Best Lighting Design:** Clay Howard – *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Best Stage Manager:** Fran Knapp & Nan Durant – *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Best Properties:** Kat Watson – *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Best Set Decoration:** Mason Odle – *The Secret Garden*



- **Best Set Design:** Jay Ganz – *Death of a Salesman*
- **Best Costumes:** Cathie Morgan – *The Drowning Girls*
- **Best Ensemble:** *The Drowning Girls* – Jo Bennett, Monya Wolf, and Sarah Eberhardt
- **Best Cameo Performance:** Tanner Brunson – *Death of a Salesman*
- **Best Singer in a Female Role:** Kata Ewigleben – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Singer in a Male Role:** Mike Lipphardt – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Minor Supporting Actress:** Heather Hansen – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Minor Supporting Actor:** Broden Irwin – *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Best Major Supporting Actress:** Tessa Gibbons – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Major Supporting Actor:** Connor Phelan – *Death of a Salesman*
- **Best Actress in a**

- **Leading Role:** Susan Hill – *Death of a Salesman*
- **Best Actor in a Leading Role:** Aaron Moon – *Death of a Salesman*
- **Overall Awards**
- **Best Music Director:** Laura Hicks – *The Secret Garden*
- **Best Director:** Molly Bellner – *The Drowning Girls*
- **Best Production:** *The Drowning Girls* – Bill Miller, Producer
- **Alice in Wonderland Youth Choice Awards**
- The youth awards were selected by members of the *Alice in Wonderland* company and recognized fellow young performers and crew members.
- **Best Performer:** Rylie Cuellar
- **Best Spirit:** Morgan Rusbasan
- **Best Major Supporting Performer:** Sydney Weitz
- **Best Minor Supporting Performer:** Katherine Weitz
- **Best Tech/Crew:** Teddy Cooper & Jackson Brammer



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

- **Special Recognition**
- **Community Impact Award:** Rob Slaven
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Kristina Lawyer
- **Deacon Otis Student Scholarship:** Lilah Cross
- MSP expressed its appreciation to the many volunteers, artists, judges,

donors, sponsors, and supporters who contributed to the 2025-2026 season and to the 2026 Westies. The organization will continue its 2026-2027 season at Basile Westfield Playhouse, with *The Crucible* opening Oct. 8, followed by *A Christmas Carol: A Live*

Radio Play in December and additional productions throughout the coming year. For more information about Main Street Productions, upcoming productions, auditions, volunteer opportunities, or membership, visit BasileWestfield-Playhouse.org.

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After a major flood, FEMA provides guidance, but local officials assess the damage

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Emergency Management has provided updated guidance to help residents understand Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvement requirements following flood events.

Hamilton County and all municipalities within it participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As part of this requirement, all jurisdictions must follow FEMA's standards when evaluating Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvement following a flood event.

FEMA's most current public guidance is summarized in the **Substantial Damage Quick Guide**. Local ordinances adopted by Noblesville, Fishers, Carmel, Westfield, and other communities in Hamilton County adhere to these federal standards at a minimum. Flood survivors should comply with the local ordinances governing the area where their property is located.

FEMA does not make Substantial Damage determinations. These determinations are made locally by city and county officials. Local staff review repair cost estimates,

compare them to the structure's pre-damage market value, and determine whether the structure meets FEMA's threshold for Substantial Damage. Initial flood impact assessments conducted by Hamilton County Emergency Management (HCEM) are separate from, and should not be interpreted as, official Substantial Damage determinations made by local permitting authorities.

Under FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements, a structure is considered Substantially Damaged if the cost to repair it to pre-flood condition equals or exceeds 50 percent of its pre-flood market value. Some communities may adopt stricter standards. For example, Noblesville initiates Substantial Damage review when repair costs reach 40 percent of a structure's market value. FEMA permits communities to adopt higher standards when managing

flood risk. Flood survivors should comply with the local ordinances governing the area where their property is located.

If a structure is determined to be Substantially Damaged, it must be brought into compliance with local floodplain regulations by elevating the structure, implementing approved floodproofing methods, or taking other mitigation steps intended to reduce future flood losses.

Residents with NFIP flood insurance may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in **Increased Cost of Compliance** (ICC) assistance to help cover the cost of elevation or other mitigation measures required by local permitting authorities and the construction codes in effect for their property.

Survivors with questions about local ordinances or rebuilding requirements are encouraged to contact their local planning and code enforcement offices for guidance.

All messaging provided by Hamilton County Emergency Management aligns with FEMA's **Substantial Damage Quick Guide** and NFIP guidance. This ensures clear, consistent communication with residents and supports continued community participation in the NFIP program.

About Hamilton County Emergency Operations

Hamilton County Emergency Operations (HCEO) integrates Emergency Management and Public Safety Communications to support countywide readiness and response. Emergency Management coordinates planning, mitigation, and public alerting efforts, including mobile app notifications, text alerts, and community preparedness resources. Public Safety Communications operates the county's consolidated 9-1-1 center, managing nearly 400,000 annual calls and dispatching law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies across Hamilton County. Together, HCEO delivers essential emergency coordination and communication services for one of Indiana's fastest growing counties.



Hamilton County Community Foundation awarded national grant to grow local civic engagement

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Community Foundation was awarded \$375,000 through a 2026 Civic Hub grant from the Trust for Civic Life, a national grantmaker supporting rural communities. The funding will support the Foundation's work to bring people together and strengthen civic life, with a particular focus on northern Hamilton County,

where rural and transitioning communities are experiencing rapid growth.

Through its Civic Hub grants and small grants program, the Trust for Civic Life invests \$10 million per year annually into locally-led groups across rural America that strengthen civic engagement and create opportunities for long-term community collaboration. These grants support a wide range of efforts like local events, public spaces, new programs, and community wide initiatives – all designed to bring neighbors together to solve challenges and build stronger connections.

The Trust's grants program aims to reach and fund groups working on the ground that are difficult for national philanthropy to find and fund. The latest round of funding awarded \$7.6 million in grants ranging from \$300,000 to \$425,000 each, with new grantees serving 16 states across the country. Hamilton County Community Foundation is the first organization in Indiana to receive a Civic Hub grant.

"These local Civic Hubs are rising to the moment and responding to the unique needs of their communities," said Charlie Brown, Executive Director of the Trust for Civic Life.



"In doing so, they build the connection, confidence, and capacity that community members need to shape the future they want. Because they have such a deep understanding of their communities, Civic Hubs can lead and adapt in ways national groups simply cannot."

Through this support, Hamilton County Community Foundation will deepen civic engagement across northern Hamilton County by expanding access to local leadership opportunities, creating more spaces for community dialogue, and supporting resident-led efforts to address local challenges. This work is designed to strengthen connections among neighbors and ensure more voices are reflected in shaping their communities.

"Strong communities are built when people feel connected and have meaningful opportunities to participate," Foundation President Danielle Stiles-Polk. "This funding will allow us to invest more consciously in our northern communi-

ties, helping residents come together, share their voices, and take an active role in addressing the challenges and possibilities within their own neighborhoods."

For more information about Hamilton County Community Foundation visit hamiltoncountycf.org.

About the Trust for Civic Life

The Trust for Civic Life is a grantmaking collaborative supporting the community efforts that help Americans connect, solve problems together, and feel confident in a shared future. Launched in 2024, the collaborative brings together a cross-ideological team of over 20 national funders to invest in a new wave of local civic opportunities that increase trust, agency, and belonging in rural America. Through its grantmaking, the Trust funds both the critical groundwork and promising experiments that allow civic participation to take hold in rural communities and spread across the country. Learn more at trustforcivillife.org.

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.

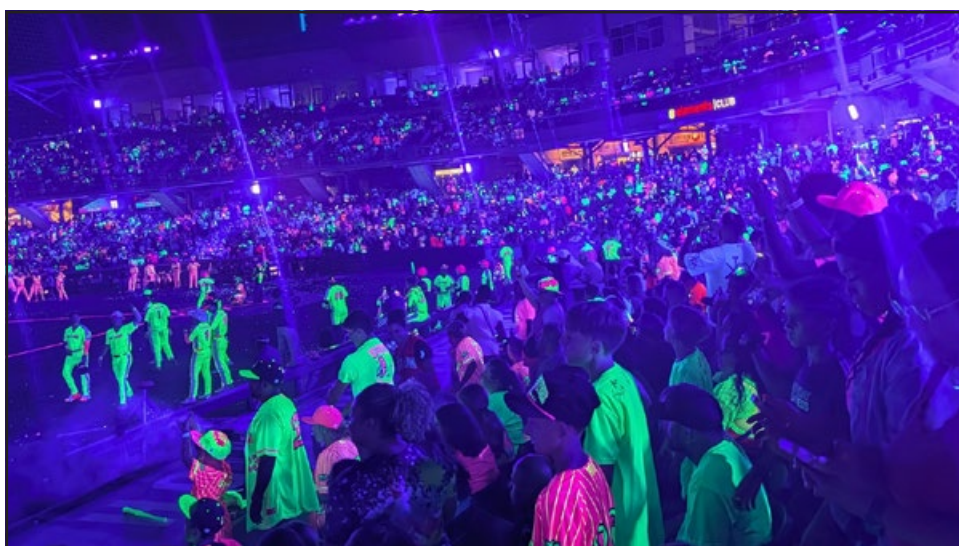
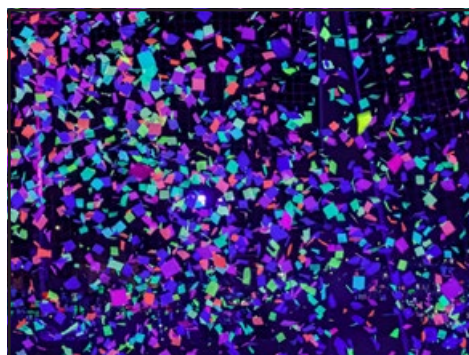
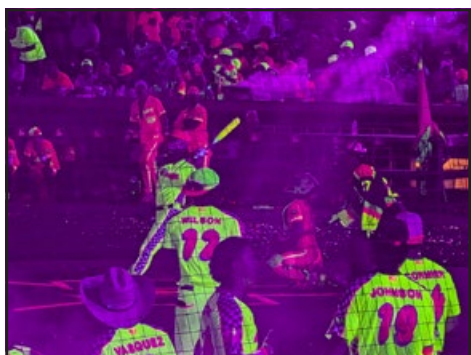
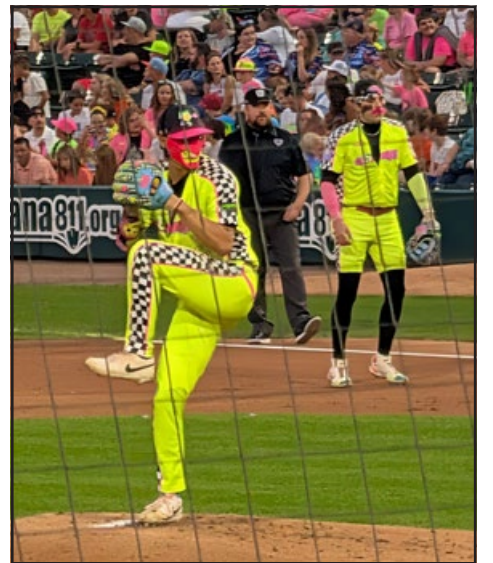
Please send your letters to
News@ReadTheReporter.com.

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



Cosmic Baseball hits Hoosier Heartland

The Cosmic Baseball Takeover Tour hit Victory Field in Indianapolis last week when the Chili Peppers played the Glow Mojis. Cosmic Baseball puts the focus on high-energy, glow-in-the-dark nifty-neon family fun! Originating in Colonial Heights, Va., and founded by Chris Martin, Cosmic Baseball is catching the country's attention – and for good reason. Tickets sell quickly, but you can find out how to get yours at ChiliPeppersBaseball.com. The Cosmic craze is expanding ... next year Cosmic Hockey will hit the ice at a handful of rinks, including at the Fishers Event Center. You can enter the ticket lottery now at CosmicHockey.com. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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Community News

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 of Sheridan Phi Beta Psi sister Martha Rocky.

Thanks for reading!

Labor – Class I, I, III
Position

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.cicero.in.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
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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s fall highlights include millennial pop queen favorites, Disney legend, Harry Potter & more

The REPORTER

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) kicks off another exciting fall season of concerts at Hilbert Circle Theatre that celebrate the power of live music. The 2026-27 season marks Maestro Jun Märkl’s second full year as music director, with performances that bring audiences everything from epic symphonies to film and pop culture favorites.

Tickets for all shows are on sale now. For tickets and more information on ISO concerts, visit IndianapolisSymphony.org or call (317) 639-4300.

Rite of Spring & Beethoven Concerto No. 4

Friday, Sept. 25 & Saturday, Sept. 26

Feel the full range – and full force – of the orchestra. Music Director Jun Märkl leads a journey from Musorgsky’s gleeful darkness to Beethoven’s grace and Stravinsky’s overwhelming power. Night on Bald Mountain turns supernatural horror into theatrical thrills, while pianist Spencer Myer – chair of the Piano Department at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and winner of the 2006 American Pianists Awards – brings humanity and lyricism to Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto. Then The Rite of Spring unleashes pounding rhythms, ritual intensity, and an enormous orchestral sound in music you may feel as powerfully as you hear.

Oops ... I Sang It Again!

Friday, Oct. 9 & Saturday, Oct. 10

From Britney to Beyoncé, the pop queens are back! Hit me, baby, one more time with the smash hits of the millennial pop queens. Go Gaga for the epic riffs of Britney, Beyoncé, Christina, and more as three powerhouse vocalists join the orchestra to spice up your life. Sing along to hits such as “No Scrubs” by TLC, “Complicated” by Avril Lavigne, “Get the Party Started” by Pink, “Rehab” by Amy Winehouse, and more. Join ISO for this world premiere with Principal Guest Conductor of Pops Enrico Lopez-Yañez.

Beethoven Concerto No. 2 & Mahler Symphony No. 1

Thursday, Oct. 15, Friday, Oct. 16 & Saturday, Oct. 17

2025 American Piano Awards winner Michael Davidman shines in Beethoven’s elegant Second Piano Concerto, as Music Director Jun Märkl guides a journey from Beethoven’s sparkling Prometheus Overture to the triumphant heights of Mahler’s exhilarating First Symphony.

Into the Music – FREE Admission!

Thursday, Oct. 15

Join the ISO for Into the Music, a free series featuring

a lively discussion followed by a performance – with full orchestra – of the highlighted classical work. Maestro Jun Märkl will co-host an on-stage discussion joined by Emmy Award-winner Ryan Ahlwardt. Whether you’re a classical beginner or a longtime enthusiast, Into the Music offers an intimate look at each classical work in a relaxed, accessible setting. Before the orchestra performs each piece, Maestro Märkl and Ryan Ahlwardt will chat onstage, providing background on each musical work and the composer, what the audience might pay special attention to as they listen and watch the orchestra, and countless insights designed to create a memorable experience with the ISO. Join Maestro Märkl as he explores the triumphant heights of Mahler’s exhilarating First Symphony.

An Evening with Lea Salonga – Disney Legend & Broadway sensation

Tuesday, Oct. 20

With her powerful voice and perfect pitch, Lea Salonga is best known for her Tony Award-winning portrayal of Kim in *Miss Saigon* and her roles in *Les Misérables*, *Allegiance*, and *Once on This Island*. Fans of all ages will recognize Salonga as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan from *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. For her portrayal of the princesses, the Walt Disney Company bestowed her with the honor of “Disney Legend.” This is Salonga’s fifth appearance with the ISO. Salonga will perform pieces from many Broadway shows including *Les Misérables*, *Wicked*, *Aladdin*, *Miss Saigon*, and more.

Conrad Tao, Beethoven Concerto No. 1, Mozart Symphony No. 39

Friday, Oct. 23 & Saturday, Oct. 24

Visionary pianist-composer Conrad Tao performs Beethoven’s youthful First Piano Concerto and his own captivating new concert work *The Hand*, written as a modern companion piece to Beethoven’s First Piano Concerto. Historical performance specialist Richard Egarr leads Mozart’s grand

Symphony No. 39, completing a vibrant musical experience.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ in Concert

Friday, Oct. 30, Saturday, Oct. 31 & Sunday, Nov. 1

Audiences will be able to relive the magical adventure of Harry Potter’s second year at school like never before. This concert features Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ in high-definition while the ISO performs John Williams’ otherworldly score. Experience the wonder of talking spiders, scolding letters, and giant snakes all over again!

Cinderella ft. the Indianapolis Ballet

Friday, Nov. 6, Saturday, Nov. 7 & Sunday, Nov. 8

Experience the magic of *Cinderella*, Indianapolis Ballet’s company premiere of the beloved fairytale ballet, choreographed and staged by Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director Emerita, Victoria Morgan. The first of three collaborations with the ISO during the 2026-27 season, this enchanting production at Clowes Memorial Hall brings a timeless story to life with dazzling choreography, Prokofiev’s rich, dramatic score performed live by the ISO, and unforgettable characters. Andrew Grams leads the orchestra with a distinctive blend of intensity, enthusiasm, and technical precision. It’s a perfect outing for audiences of all ages.

Rick Steves’ Europe: A Symphonic Journey

Friday, Nov. 13 & Saturday, Nov. 14

Rick Steves, America’s leading authority on European travel, teams up with the ISO for a spectacular musical journey through Europe. Playing musical tour guide, Steves utilizes his extensive knowledge of European history and culture to help set the context for each piece. Then, the orchestra performs a selection of stirring 19th-century anthems by Romantic-era composers, including Grieg, Smetana, Strauss, Berlioz, and Verdi. The music is accompanied by a montage of evocative video images from each country. Perfect for lovers of music, history, and travel.

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Governor's Arts Award nominations now open

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun announced on Tuesday, Sept. 22, that nominations are open for the 2026 Governor's Arts Awards, the highest honor the state gives in the arts, as well as a unique opportunity to create the physical award that will be presented to awardees.



Braun

"These prestigious awards celebrate the innovators, philanthropists, public servants and more who are powering our state's creative economy by using their talents to inspire, express themselves and improve quality of place for Hoosier families," Gov. Braun said. "I look forward to seeing the work of these individuals and encourage Hoosiers who may know someone deserving of this honor to submit a nomination."

The Governor's Arts Awards were established by the Office of the Governor and the Indiana Arts Commission in 1973 to recognize significant contributions to arts and creativity in Indiana. These awards are Indiana's highest honor in the arts, celebrating the outstanding contributions to arts and creativity on the state, national, or international level.

Potential recipients include artists, advocates, philanthropists, educators, elected officials, organizations, businesses, tourism entities, communities, schools, and libraries. Each award recipient will receive an original piece of artwork created specifically for the program by an Indiana artist and will be recognized at a Statehouse ceremony early in 2027.

The nominations for the 2026 Governor's Arts Awards are open now and will close at 11:59 p.m. Oct. 30. The nomination form consists of a narrative, which introduces the nominee's accomplishments and contributions, and optional support materials that further highlight the nominee.



Nominations are open to organizations or individuals who work or reside in Indiana or have significant ties to the state through some years of residency. A selection committee comprised of representatives from the Office of the Governor and the Indiana Arts Commission will review and evaluate nominations based on criteria such as depth and breadth of impact, quality of community engagement, and artistic excellence.

Click here to read the Request for Nominations, and click here to submit a nomination.

In addition to the award nominations, the Indiana Arts Commission is seeking an artist or artist team to submit qualifications for the creation of seven custom works of art for the 2026 Indiana Governor's Arts Awards. There are no restrictions on content, medium, or style, but each piece must reflect the purpose of the Governor's Arts Awards to recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to arts and creativity in Indiana.

Click here to read the Request for Qualifications.

nor's Arts Awards to recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to arts and creativity in Indiana.



Sen. Banks introduces bill to reserve Pell Grants for American students

Submitted by Office of U.S. Sen. Jim Banks

Sen. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) has introduced a new piece of legislation that would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require that recipients of Pell Grants be U.S. citizens, a move he said would "put American students first."

Unveiled Wednesday, Sept. 23, the "Pell for Americans Act" simply states that the federally funded aid grant should only go to American undergraduates, not foreigners.

Despite efforts to restrict eligibility for non-citizens in the "One Big Beautiful Bill," several classes, including refugees, asylees, immigration parolees, Cuban-Haitian entrants, and "conditional permanent residents," remain eligible.

In February of this year, the Hill reported that the Pell program "is in financial difficulties with a projected shortfall of billions of dollars that could lead to trouble for students as soon as 2028."

By the end of this fiscal

year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects the Pell Grant program will be \$5 billion in debt. Over the next 10 years, that number jumps to between \$104 billion and \$132 billion if nothing is done about the issue.

The projections come even after lawmakers gave the program a one-time boost of \$10.5 billion in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Sen. Banks said the bill is modeled after a piece of legislation originally introduced by House Democrats in 1994 that had the same stated goal of amending the



Banks

Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct Pell funds to Americans only.

"In 2026, Socialist-aligned Democrats fight harder for illegal aliens than their own constituents, but back in 1994, they led a bill that would ensure taxpayer-funded Pell Grants are reserved for American students only," Sen. Banks said. "American taxpayers have no business subsidizing the college tuitions of foreign nationals, and three decades later, I'm proud to reintroduce this commonsense bill to put American students first."



The public is invited to State of the Schools

Thursday,
October 1
4:30 - 6:00 pm
Noblesville High School



Registration Available:
noblesvillechamber.com



Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Sept 23 - Volleyball
6:00 pm **Carmel vs Noblesville** | Junior Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm **Carmel vs Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

Thurs Sept 24 - Girls Soccer
5:30 pm **Zionsville vs Noblesville** | Girls C-Team | Noblesville Sports

Fri Sept 25 - Football & Parade
4:00 pm **Noblesville 2026 Homecoming Parade with Kathy & Perry Williams**
6:45 pm **Taylor vs Sheridan** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports
6:50 pm **Guerin vs Chatard** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm **Ritter vs Heritage Christian** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm **Northeastern vs Lapel** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm **Franklin Central vs Noblesville** | IHSAA Football | HCTV Sports

Sat Sept 26 - Atlanta New Earth Festival
10:30am Atlanta New Earth Festival Free Stage : Branded Bluegrass
1:00 pm Atlanta New Earth Festival Free Stage : 45 RPM
4:00 pm Atlanta New Earth Festival Free Stage : Hill & Oaks

Mon Sept 28 - Soccer
5:30 pm **North Central vs Noblesville** | Boys JV Gold Soccer | Noblesville Sports
6:45 pm **North Central vs Noblesville** | Girls JV C-Team Soccer | Noblesville Sports
7:30 pm **Brebeuf vs Fishers** | Girls JV2 Soccer | Fishers Sports

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TODAY’S BIBLE READING

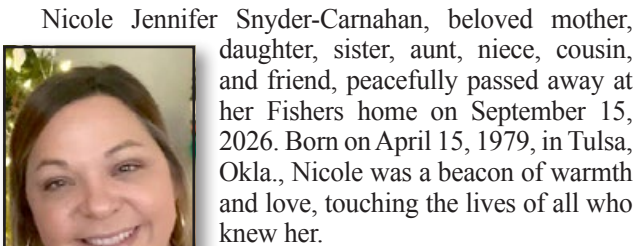
LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV)

Nicole Jennifer Snyder-Carnahan
April 15, 1979 – September 15, 2026



Nicole Jennifer Snyder-Carnahan, beloved mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, and friend, peacefully passed away at her Fishers home on September 15, 2026. Born on April 15, 1979, in Tulsa, Okla., Nicole was a beacon of warmth and love, touching the lives of all who knew her.

Nicole was the cherished daughter of Luann and Steve Snyder, who instilled in her a deep sense of compassion and resilience. She was predeceased by her loving mother, Luann Snyder, and her dear sister, Megan Ott.

Nicole is survived by her devoted son, Aaron Carnahan, brother-in-law Tom Ott, and her beloved nieces, Katherine Ott and Lauren Ott, with whom she shared a bond that transcended the ordinary.

A proud graduate of Ball State University, Nicole possessed a fervent love for learning and a keen intellect that she shared generously with her family and friends. Her career was marked by dedication and a genuine desire to make a positive impact in the world around her.

Nicole’s life was a testament to her unyielding spirit and her extraordinary ability to connect with others. Her laughter was infectious, and her kindness left an indelible mark on everyone she met. She had a remarkable talent for making people feel valued and loved, a gift she bestowed freely.

Outside of her professional life, Nicole was an ardent supporter of various charitable causes, including her role as Executive Director for the Megan S. Ott Foundation, seeking ways to help those in need. Her family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a charity of your choice in Nicole’s memory, a fitting tribute to a woman who dedicated her life to giving.

As we mourn the loss of Nicole, we also celebrate the wonderful life she led. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who knew her, a lasting reminder of a life well-lived. May her memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to us all.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 24, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, September 25, 2026, at the Peace Chapel of Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, 9700 Allisonville Road, Indianapolis, with Pastor Doug Gast officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Nicole’s name to the donor’s choice of charity.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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.

4-H Junior Leaders
invite you to annual
Halloween Carnival

The REPORTER

Come in costume and enjoy games, treats, hayrides, and more at the annual Community Halloween Carnival from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

The Carnival will be held at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville. This fun, family activity is offered at no charge.

Youth ages 10 and under should be accompanied

by an adult and are encouraged to come in costume to enjoy games, prizes, candy, refreshments, a haunted house, and a hayride. Hayrides begin at 6 p.m.

The evening is organized and sponsored by the Hamilton County 4-H Junior Leaders.

For more information on the Halloween Carnival, call (317) 776-0854 or go to [Facebook.com/events/1603936541461630](https://www.facebook.com/events/1603936541461630).



Ascension St. Vincent
Heart Center in Carmel
one of five heart hospitals
to earn national recognition

By Mariah Taylor
Becker’s Hospital Review

Editor’s note: This story was originally published at [BeckersCardiology.com](https://www.beckerscardiology.com) and was submitted to The Hamilton County Reporter by Ascension St. Vincent.

Only five heart hospitals earned five-star ratings for both overall hospital quality and patient experience.

Becker’s compared the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid’s Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey, which captures patients’ experiences during a recent hospital stay, with the agency’s

Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating, which factors mortality, safety of care, readmissions, patient experience, and timely and effective care.

In total, 61 hospitals earned five-star ratings in both measures, but only five are dedicated heart hospitals.

- Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota (Sioux Falls)
- Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital-Dallas (Texas)
- The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton (Texas)
- Oklahoma Heart Hospital South (Oklahoma City)
- St. Vincent Heart Center (Carmel)

H

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Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Board will meet at noon on Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, in the Commissioners’ Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet in an executive session at 12:15 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, 2026.

A regular meeting will follow at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square.

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.

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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.

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SOLD!
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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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