



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2026



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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a few spotty afternoon showers possible.
Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 80 LOW: 67



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(From left) Elections Administrator Beth Sheller, and Election Board members Kathy Kreag Williams, Ray Adler, and Greg Purvis hear testimony from a citizen on the vote center proposal.

Election Board unanimously approves Vote Centers

New model to take effect with 2027 municipal elections

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Election Board voted unanimously on Tuesday, Sept. 29, to transition from traditional precinct-based voting to a countywide Vote Center model beginning with the 2027 Municipal Elections.

Under the new system, Hamilton County voters will no longer be required to cast their ballot at an assigned precinct on Election Day. Instead, they will be able to vote at any designated Vote Center in the county.

Hamilton County currently operates 102 polling sites. Under the approved plan, the county will establish 57 Vote Centers – more than double the 28 locations required by state law based on Hamilton County’s registered voter population.

“This gives voters more flexibility while allowing us to build an election system that can better accommodate Hamilton County’s continued growth,” County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams said. “Beginning next year, voters can choose the Vote Center that works best for them rather than being tied to one specific location.”

The public speaks

Leading up to the Election Board’s meeting, the county conducted an online survey to gauge the public’s response to the Vote Center proposal. A total of 323 responses were submitted through Sept. 25.

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	254	78.6%
No	43	13.3%
Maybe	26	8.0%

The unanimous vote marks a change from last year, when the proposal fell one vote short of the unanimous approval required. Ray Adler, the Republican appointee to the Election Board, voted against the proposal at that time, saying he wanted to see how Vote Centers worked in Allen County before making such a significant change in Hamilton County.

“I had concerns last year because this is a major change that will affect hundreds of thousands of voters,” Adler said. “We’ve had another year to study the process, learn from other counties, and strengthen our own plan. I’m comfortable that we’re ready to move forward.”

See *Vote Centers . . . Page 2*

View from inside the Vote Center meeting

By RAY ADLER
Election Board Member

Hamilton County becomes the 73rd county to adopt voting centers.

Voting Centers will be primarily in local schools, so there will be a consistent location. Voters can vote at any of the centers, no matter where they live.

Steve Baranyk spoke in favor, specifically citing the ease of finding a voting place, the elimination of voters showing up at the wrong voting location, and not having time to get to the right polling place before it closed. Regarding the choice to put locations at schools, Baranyk said making sure there will be adequate parking and handicapped access are important.

Jennifer Fallis of Westfield, a recent resident, was in favor. She noted it would be easier to find a location to vote, and that vote centers would encourage more youth to vote.

Lisa Dick represented the League of Women Voters of Hamilton County, opining that the League wanted easy access and secure voting with no possibility of voter fraud. She remarked on the convenience and bringing out the youth vote.

Janet Chandler, a former government teacher, noted that when she had to arrive at work early, it was sometimes difficult to find time to vote.

Before coming to the Election Board, the proposal was unanimously supported by both the Hamilton County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Council.

The next meeting of the Election Board will be the public test of voting machines 10 a.m. Oct. 2 at 609 Westfield Road, Noblesville. That location is just between Ace Hardware and Dollar General.

Seeing old friends

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

On Friday evening, my sweet husband informed me that the next evening was his 35th class reunion. This gave me about 24 hours’ notice. Bless his heart.

How could he not know that a woman needs time to prepare for such an event? Although he was a year older than me in school, I know several of his friends and former classmates since we went to the same high school.

Of course, “What in the world will I wear?” went through my mind. With a closet full of clothes, a decision like that makes all the options disappear and my mind goes blank.

All joking aside, I was disappointed in the first thought that went through my mind. Although I was disabled in high school, I always walked. I had not been around this group of people in my wheelchair. I felt anxious about it.

So much so that my first words to him were, “I am not sure I am going to go.” I told him my thoughts and he listened. He knows that being around crowds is not my thing anyway. He told me he was fine with whatever I decided to do.

Eventually, the mental boxing match going on in my mind ended. I decided that I wanted to go with him to support him, plus I was looking forward to seeing people I had not seen in a long time.

I not only needed time to plan my outfit, as shallow as that may sound, but I also needed to mentally prepare for how I may be received. If you have not lived disabled, it is a hard thing to explain. It boils down to a deep and prolonged insecurity.

See *Old Friends . . . Page 2*

Early voting begins Oct. 6

Additional voting locations to open throughout the month

The REPORTER

Early voting for the Nov. 3 General Election begins Tuesday, Oct. 6, giving registered voters several weeks and multiple locations to cast their ballots before Election Day.

Early voting will begin at the Hamilton County Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, and the Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Eight additional early voting locations in Carmel, Fishers, and Westfield will open Wednesday, Oct. 21. Locations in Sheridan and Cicero will open Wednesday, Oct. 28.

“Early voting gives residents more flexibility to cast their ballot when it works best for their schedule,” Hamilton County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams said. “With locations throughout the county and weekday, evening, and Saturday hours available, we hope voters will take advantage of the option that is most convenient for them.”

Any registered Hamilton County voter who otherwise meets the requirements to vote may vote early in person. No application or reason is required.

Voters should bring an acceptable photo ID. They can also check who is on their ballot and their voter registration status before heading to the polls at IndianaVoters.in.gov or by calling the Hamilton County Voter Registration Office at (317) 776-9632.

See *Early . . . Page 2*

Westfield gets so wild that kids drive the truck



Wild, Wild Westfield’s Premier Chili Cook-Off and Fall Fest came back for some 2026 action on Saturday, Sept. 26, at CrossRoads Church at Westfield, 19201 Grassy Branch Road. This free, family-friendly event drew so many new families that Pastor Eric Lohe told The Reporter he didn’t recognize most of the people in attendance. He said, “That’s exactly how it should be for a community event.” (ABOVE) Westfield Police and Fire were on hand to keep everyone safe, with a little help from their young assistant, who got to sit behind the wheel and be featured in the Hamilton County’s Hometown Newspaper. See more photos on Page 3 and at ReadTheReporter.com.



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Spartz campaign seeks public’s help identifying alleged sign thief

Submitted

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz’s campaign is asking for the public’s help identifying a man caught on camera stealing large Victoria Spartz campaign signs several times.

“Supporters of my opponents talk a lot about civility, but then come to shout at my town halls and steal my campaign signs,” Rep. Spartz said. “Elections are decided at the ballot box, not by stealing campaign signs.”

Anyone who can identify the man is asked to contact the Spartz campaign at info@spartzforcongress.com or call the Fishers Police Department at (317) 595-3300.



Photos provided by Spartz for Congress

Correction

In the story “[You just can’t break that Miller Spirit](#)” published on Tuesday, Sept. 29, Parade Grand Marshal Annetta Petty was incorrectly identified. The Reporter regrets the error.

VOTE CENTERS

from Page 1

Greg Purvis, the Democratic appointee to the Election Board, supported the proposal last year and again voted in favor of it Tuesday.

“We didn’t all start in the same place on this issue, but we took the time to work through the concerns and get to a plan we could all support,” Purvis said. “That’s how this process should work. Now we can focus on making sure voters understand the change and are prepared for 2027.”

The change will first be implemented during the 2027 Municipal Elections, giving election officials an opportunity to refine the process before the higher-turnout 2028 Presidential Election.

A key part of the plan is the renewed participation of Hamilton County’s local school districts. Several districts had previously stopped serving as polling locations because of security concerns, but all have now agreed to once again host voting locations throughout the county.

“One of the biggest reasons this proposal works is because our local school districts have stepped up as partners once again,” Williams said. “By opening their buildings as Vote Centers, they’re helping ensure voters across Hamilton County have a convenient place to cast their ballot close to home.”

Williams authored Indiana’s original Vote Center legislation while serving in the Indiana House of Representatives.

OLD FRIENDS

from Page 1

Not to mention that the location of the reunion was the same place of one of the most mortifying nights of my life. Many years ago, I was on a first date there, when a man came up to our table and told my date, “Good for you man, taking on a girl with a gimp like that!” I was not exactly anxious to return there. The pain from that encounter is still raw all these years later.

As we entered the bar/restaurant for the evening, we were greeted by an overly friendly couple of strangers. I thought they were former classmates that I did not recognize, but they were not. They were very curious about why I was in a wheelchair. The encounter was awkward. I spent five minutes trying to convince this lady that yes, I was indeed sure I have Muscular Dystrophy and not Multiple Sclerosis. I do not think she believed me in the end.

When we finally broke away, we headed to the back where his classmates were hanging out. They could not have cared less if I was in a wheelchair or not. I felt my anxiety melt away as we chatted the evening away, reminiscing and catching up on current life events.

The highlight of the evening was running into a guy who was in my graduating class. He was with me from the very beginning

from Kindergarten to high school. He was always one of the kind kids that stood up for me.

I thanked him that night for his kindness to me throughout the years. I wanted him to know how much that meant to me. He graciously accepted my compliments. He was the last person we hugged on our way out that night, and I left with a smile on my face.

I was so glad that I had not let insecurity win. I have done that so many times in my life and missed things because of fear. I was glad to leave that place with a new memory to replace the horrific one from many years ago.

Many of his classmates follow our marathon and mission journey, and it was nice to be able to hear their positive feedback.

I hope this serves as a reminder to me next time to face my fears and enjoy the good times.

Until next time...

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.

EARLY

from Page 1

Early voting locations include:

- Hamilton County Judicial Center, Noblesville
- Hamilton County Fairgrounds, Noblesville
- Westfield City Hall
- Cool Creek Nature Center, Westfield
- Westfield Washington Township Building
- Roy G. Holland Memorial Park Building, Fishers
- Billericay Park Building, Fishers
- Wilfong Pavilion at Founders Park, Carmel

- Jill Perelman Pavilion, Carmel
- Carmel Clay Public Library
- Sheridan Public Library
- Cicero Public Library

The Judicial Center and Fairgrounds will offer early voting beginning Oct. 6, while satellite locations will open later in the month. Hours vary by location and date.

For a complete list of early voting locations, dates and hours, visit the [Hamilton County Elections website](#).

Thanks for reading The Hamilton County Reporter!

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CrossRoads chili cookoff: it's how the West was won



Reporter photos





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Letter to the Editor

Hamilton County’s tech workforce needs AI override practice

Dear Editor:

Hamilton County continues to show strong demand for technical talent. Indiana Career Connect reported more than 1,000 advertised openings in computer and mathematical occupations in the county on Sept. 24.

As AI changes those jobs, employers should train for a skill that is easy to overlook: overriding the tool.

IBM’s September workforce study found that 71 percent of CHROs see the ability to supervise, validate, and override AI outputs as the most essential skill. Only 29 percent of employees ranked judgment as important.

Hamilton County employers can close that gap with short, supervised exercises. Give employees realistic AI outputs containing weak evidence, missing context, or a plausible error. Ask them to decide what to verify, when to escalate, and when to reject the recommendation.

Technical fluency matters. So does the confidence to say, “This output should not be trusted yet.”

A growing technology workforce needs both.

Gleb Tsipursky, PhD
Columbus, Ohio

Letter to the Editor

Reader has “firsthand experience” with Beth Sheller’s qualifications

Dear Editor:

I am proud to support Beth Sheller for Hamilton County Clerk.

My support is based on many years of firsthand experience working with Beth and observing her leadership in the administration of Hamilton County elections. Her qualifications for the position of County Clerk are exceptional, and her integrity is unmatched. Describing her professionalism, ethical standards, and attention to detail as impressive would be an understatement.

Elections demand thorough preparation, long hours, and the ability to respond effectively to unforeseen challenges. Beth has consistently demonstrated her capacity to manage these responsibilities with competence and composure.

I firmly believe that Beth Sheller will provide strong, reliable leadership while upholding the integrity, accountability, and professionalism that Hamilton County residents expect from their Clerk.

I respectfully encourage voters to consider electing Beth Sheller as the next Hamilton County Clerk.

Dianna Lynch
Hamilton County

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

ACCURATE. BALANCED.
You’re reading
THE REPORTER

“Avant Guard” takes top honors

Noblesville Creates’ inaugural Pitch Night hits 50 percent of fundraising goal

Submitted

The judges agreed. So did the audience.

At Noblesville Creates’ inaugural Creative Economy Pitch Night, Eric Thornbury’s “Avant Guard” project received both the Judges’ Recommendation and the People’s Choice Award, emerging from an evening designed to demonstrate what can happen when creative ideas are put in front of the community members and decision-makers capable of helping them grow.

“Avant Guard” highlights the need for a performing arts space capable of supporting ambitious creative work and helping give rise to a significant cultural arts performance.

The dual recognition represented a particularly fitting outcome for the inaugural event.

Approximately 120 attendees filled the Conner Prairie Banquet Room on Tuesday, Sept. 22, for the three-hour event, which

combined a competition-style format – think Shark Tank meets TED Talk – with networking, fundraising and recognition of creative leadership throughout the community.

Other pitches presented:

- “Beyond Public Art: How Artists Can Help Build Places that Thrive” by Rachel Kavathe – Earlier integration of creative voices to city planning and design help deepen a sense of community and home.
- “The Great Squirrel Stampede” by Cairo Morada – Remembering history through live art installations and story.
- “Bridging the Gap” by Cory Constantine (of 900 North) – Creative visions need translators when collaborators wield different languages for the same outcomes.
- “Capacity” by Katina Washington – Building a more nimble and creatively pivoting workforce through early induction and advocacy for entrepreneurship.



Noblesville Creates invites individuals, businesses, community organizations and potential investors to help determine what happens next. The organization has currently raised \$12,720 toward its \$25,000 Pitch Night Initiative funding goal – approximately 50.1 percent of the campaign. That leaves a \$12,280 funding gap as Noblesville Creates works to continue developing Pitch Night beyond its inaugural event.

If you have interest in getting involved with any of the presenters projects or in helping us grow the Pitch Night initiative, please contact Executive Director Aili McGill at amcgill@noblesvillecreates.org.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS?

They’re our city’s largest employer, and they shape property values, economic development, and quality of life for everyone who lives here.

Since 2010, voters have approved funding for Noblesville Schools. That funding expires at the end of 2026.

This fall, you’ll vote on whether to continue it.

CONTINUE WHAT WORKS. VOTE YES BY NOVEMBER 3.

Get the facts and estimate your cost:
noblesvilleschools.org/referendum

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Indiana boasts region’s lowest unemployment rate

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Under Indiana Governor Mike Braun's leadership, Indiana's unemployment rate has fallen to 3.3 percent, positioning the Hoosier state among the region's lowest and well below the national rate of 4.1 percent.

Since Gov. Braun took office, the state's unemployment rate has declined by 0.7 percentage points and reached its lowest level since May 2023.

Indiana also continues to outperform its neighboring states, with unemployment rates of 4.7 percent in Kentucky, 4.7 percent in Illinois and 5 percent in Michigan. Ohio is tied with Indiana at 3.3 percent.

Indiana's low unemployment rate is another indicator of the state's economic momentum being driven by Gov. Braun. Continued business investment, employer confidence and workforce initiatives are driving job growth while reinforcing Indiana's position as one of the nation's best places to work.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development helps sustain that momen-

tum by connecting job seekers with employers through its statewide WorkOne network. Hoosiers can access career coaching, training opportunities, resume assistance, hiring events and other resources that prepare them for in-demand careers while helping businesses find the skilled talent they need.

Indiana's labor force also remains strong. The state's labor force participation rate stands at 63 percent, well above the national average of 61.6 percent, reflecting continued workforce participation across the state.

"Indiana continues to prove that our state is the best place in the Midwest to live, work and build a future," Gov. Braun said. "By creating an environment where businesses can grow and workers can succeed, we're expanding opportunity for Hoosiers while keeping Indiana's economy strong and competitive."

Hoosiers interested in advancing their careers and employers looking to hire can learn more about workforce services by visiting a WorkOne office or [in.gov/dwd](https://www.in.gov/dwd).

Relive the music & moments of the ‘60s

The REPORTER

Get ready for a super-charged journey through time when The Sixties Show brings its immersive, multimedia experience to Allied Solutions Center.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium. [Click here](#) to get your tickets.

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



Photo provided

that reshaped the world. Powerfully dramatized by archival footage, newsreel audio, theatrical lighting and time-bending narration, the result is a spec-

tacular 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.

This show is part of the Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series.

Dan’s Fish Fry will benefit Fishers United Methodist Church’s food pantry & missions

The REPORTER

Fishers United Methodist Church, 9691 E. 116th St., invites you to a Dan's Fish Fry fundraiser from 4:15 to 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6.

The menu includes fish, chicken, baked beans, coleslaw or applesauce, and pie or brownies. The cost is \$14 for adults and \$8 for children above 5.

Tickets can be purchased online at [Fisher-UMC.org](https://fisher-umc.org) or at the door.

Dine-in, drive thru, and carry out are all available.

Proceeds from the event will be divided be-

tween the Come to Me Food Pantry and church missions. The pantry serves families in Hamilton County, as well as McCordsville, and Fortville. Each Wednesday, between 5,000 and 8,000

pounds of food is distributed from 1 to 7 p.m.

The youth and adult mission teams serve deprived areas within the United States doing repairs, cleaning, and building of areas in need.

Learn how you can participate in Source Water Protection Week with American Water

The REPORTER

In recognition of American Water Works Association's Annual Source Water Protection Week (Sept. 27 to Oct. 3), Indiana American Water is highlighting its commitment to providing customers with safe, clean, reliable water services.

"Protecting our source water is the first step in providing safe, clean, reliable drinking water," Indiana American Water President Barry Suits said. "Keeping our rivers, lakes and groundwater free from pollution reduces potential risks that could negatively impact the quality of the water supply and keeps treatment costs down."

Indiana American Water (IAW) helps protect drinking water sources through active participation in the Upper White River Watershed Management Plan and Upper East Fork Whitewater River Watershed Plan committees. Working alongside the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, local governments, soil and water conservation districts, and conservation partners, the company helps identify water quality priorities, support watershed protection strategies, advance agricultural best management practices, and secure funding for long-term restoration projects. These collaborative efforts strengthen watershed stewardship and help safeguard reliable wa-

ter supplies for communities across Indiana.

IAW's source water protection efforts include:

- Supporting watershed protection and land stewardship projects that help reduce erosion, nutrient runoff, and other potential sources of contamination before they impact water supplies.
- American Water conducts nearly 1 million tests each year at its state-of-the-art research laboratories.
- Application of the most advanced technology, equipment, and filtration processes.
- Constant collaborative work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and other state and local agencies to meet or surpass water quality standards and address emerging contaminants so that potential impacts to water quality are minimized.

[Click here](#) to read about how IAW strengthens operational readiness, uses technology to stay ahead of water quality challenges, builds stronger communities through partnership, and prepares for emerging issues through recent case studies in Indiana and other states across its service area.

"Source water protection is a year-round effort that requires community collaboration," said Alisha Cornwell, American Water Source Water Protection

Program Manager. "We all play a role in protecting and improving drinking water sources."

During Source Water Protection Week, IAW encourages individuals to take the following actions and incorporate them into their year-round practices:

- Plant landscaping around homes or businesses with more permeable surfaces, such as mulch, that allow water to soak into the ground.
- Do not over-apply chemicals to plants and avoid application immediately before it rains.
- Keep litter, pet waste and yard waste out of streets and storm drains. Pet waste contains bacteria that can find its way into waterways through runoff.
- Select non-toxic or less toxic alternatives to typical household products, such as cleaning agents.
- Dispose of pharmaceuticals by taking them to collection sites, where available. Don't flush them down the toilet!
- Use hazardous waste collection sites and services to dispose of items such as chemicals, paints, motor oil, and batteries. Report any hazardous material spills, illegal dumping, or suspicious activity to local or state authorities.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how water is treated and how it makes it to your tap.

REGISTER NOW FOR HOPE'S 5K

Sunday, October 4th | 2:30PM
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\$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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The public is invited to State of the Schools

Thursday, October 1
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NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS



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Letter to the Editor

Kenley: Noblesville Schools referendum is about local decision making among voters

Dear Editor:

Noblesville Schools, under the leadership of the School Board and the school administration, have prepared for two years to determine what they need in terms of the referendum renewal. They have examined every area of expense, and have made cuts amounting to more than \$2 million in terms of administrative salary expenses alone.

Despite a careful and thorough effort to reduce costs, they have, in public meetings supported by district-wide informational meetings, determined that they must ask the taxpayers to support the current ballot initiative.

The State of Indiana supports a large share of public education for all school districts, but they leave the final decision up to the discretion of each school district to determine what levels of spending they want to make for the education of their children in their own community. Property taxes are controlled by local elected officials, decision makers, and citizens. Noblesville has an enviable record of preparing our young people to be able to succeed in their future.

I am proud of Noblesville's commitment to education and consider it to be one of the most important uses of tax dollars. Other communities may make different decisions, but this is true local decision making in Indiana, and even though I no longer have children of school age, I am willing to pay my fair share.

I hope you will join me in that decision and vote for the referendum on the ballot this November.

Luke Kenley
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Noblesville grad & current teacher explains her 'Yes' referendum vote

Dear Editor:

I have spent over half of my life inside Noblesville Schools. First, as a student, and now I have the privilege of being a Noblesville Schools teacher.

Noblesville Schools played a huge role in shaping me into who I am today. Now I get to watch our schools shape the next generation every single day.

That is why this upcoming referendum means so much to me.

When people hear the word "referendum," they may immediately think about taxes and money. But as a teacher, when I hear "referendum," I don't think about a number. I think about my students. I think about my coworkers.

I think about the student who needs a little extra help understanding a lesson. I think about the student who needs someone to check in on them when they are having a difficult day. I think about the importance of having manageable class sizes so teachers can give all of their students the attention that they deserve.

I think about the teachers who spend hours planning lessons, grading papers, and answering emails. I think about the teachers who find any way to reach and support all of their students. I think about the teachers who put their personal lives on the back burner to be there for their students.

I think about what it takes to make school a place where children feel safe, supported, challenged, and cared for. This referendum helps support academic programming, mental health services, school safety, appropriate class sizes, and the recruitment and retention of teachers. Those aren't abstract things to me.

Those are my students. Those are my coworkers. That is my classroom.

I became a teacher because I believe children deserve teachers who have the time, resources, and support to do their jobs well. I believe every student in Noblesville should be able to have the resources I had as a student, and that students in our community have had since 2010. I believe teachers deserve to work in a community that continues to value what they do.

When it comes down to it, this is much simpler than a complicated ballot question.

Do you support our students? Do you support our teachers?

I do. That's why I will be voting yes for the Noblesville Referendum.

Mya Crosser
Noblesville Schools Class of 2020

Letter to the Editor

'No' vote on Noblesville Schools referendum will drive teachers away

Dear Editor:

Do we want strong public schools or not? I stand on the side of public education and the kids of Noblesville.

There are serious funding issues for public schools in the state of Indiana as evidenced by five of the six school systems in Hamilton County placing referendums on the ballot on Nov. 3.

Specifically, in Noblesville, a referendum is expiring which the community voted for eight years ago. That referendum was passed due at least in part to the tragic shooting at Noblesville West Middle School on May 25, 2018. That referendum addressed a need for enhanced security at all Noblesville Schools, mental health initiatives for both students and staff, and increased teacher pay. The money from the referendum even helped Noblesville Schools provide assistance to students with food and housing insecurities.

The 2026 referendum is only asking to continue the current programs and services that the 2018 referendum made possible. For a typical Noblesville home valued at \$350,000, the increase in property taxes will be about a dollar a month or about \$12.62 a year over what is currently paid.

For the opponents that say we are just throwing money at the same old problem, I really don't see the problem. Noblesville Schools is nationally recognized in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and music education. Noblesville Schools has a 99 percent graduation rate and ranks in the top 5 to 10 percent in standardized testing scores. Noblesville has a record number of AP scholars, National Merit Finalists, and Lilly Scholars who earned over \$6 million in scholarships in 2026.

The amount of misinformation, misunderstanding and conspiracy theories on social media is astounding. The new referendum, if passed, will raise the amount paid to Noblesville Schools on your property tax bill by about a dollar a month. For 2027, it raises the rate from 37 cents to 38.5 cents. It is miniscule – a very small price to pay for what the community gets in return.

Many opponents believe a NO vote would just keep the funding to Noblesville Schools at current levels. Nothing could be further from the truth.

A NO vote would be a devastating blow to Noblesville Schools and our community. It would take away 20 percent of the annual budget. It would take away \$25 million. As many as 140 teachers may lose their jobs. Every single student of the 10,000 who attend Noblesville Schools would be negatively affected.

Noblesville Schools has a 93.17 percent teacher retention rate. Vote NO and our best and most experienced teachers will leave in droves for better paying jobs at Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern, and Westfield.

Dr. Hile and the Noblesville School Board have been completely transparent from the beginning. Go to NoblesvilleSchools.org and watch Dr. Hile's video regarding the referendum. Pull down the menu to find it. It is clear and concise.

Also, please consider the Indiana State Legislature is sitting on nearly six billion unused dollars of your tax money. I urge you to contact your state legislators and tell them to fully fund public education.

For about a dollar a month, Noblesville Schools can continue the excellence it has shown the last decade. Vote YES for the sake of every student and our entire community.

I stand on the side of public education and the kids of Noblesville.

Tony Oilar
Noblesville

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter; its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



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.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

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Local Democrats to hold rally in Fishers

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Democratic Party will hold a rally and community gathering at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Delaware Township Community Center, 9094 E. 131st St., Fishers.

The event will bring together Democratic voters, candidates, and community members to meet the candidates, socialize, and gear up for the upcoming election season. Attendees are welcome to bring their friends, and rally behind their Democratic candidates to get out the vote.

This is an opportunity for Democrats across Hamilton County to unite, chat with candidates directly, and socialize with their neighbors. Members of the media are welcome to attend and cover the event.

This event is hosted by State Senators Fady Qadoura and Andrea Hunley to officially kick-off Get Out the Vote Canvassing in Hamilton County. You can also meet candidates, including U.S. House candidate J.D. Ford, State Treasurer candidate Coumba Kebe, and State Representative Victoria Garcia Wilburn.

Letter to the Editor

Retired HSE educator urges you to support referendum

Dear Editor:

I support the HSE Schools referendum and hope that you will join me in your support.

I recently retired from HSE Schools after decades of service. Last year, employees received no raise. Since I took the district's health insurance, I took home less money than the year before due to increased insurance costs. HSE competes with area schools to attract the best and brightest to teach and work in our schools. Passage of this referendum could help HSE to maintain world-class schools with dedicated employees to help our district's children.

The district offers a wide range of programs to help students succeed. Without referendum dollars, some of those programs could be cut to continue to save money. Of course, personnel is the most expensive line item in the Education Fund budget.

Please join me and vote YES on election day or before to help maintain HSE Schools' commitment to excellence.

Janet K. Chandler, J.D.
Fishers

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

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.

The Reporter will not publish Letters to the Editor containing personal attacks. [Click here](#) to read The Reporter's policy on attack ads and Letters to the Editor.

Please send your letters to News@ReadTheReporter.com.

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



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0 E 191ST STREET
NOBLESVILLE, IN
40 Acres | \$3,400,000



Letter to the Editor

Why I support Noblesville Schools

Dear Editor:

I don't like taxes.

As a fiscally conservative Republican, I believe government has an obligation to be disciplined with every dollar it receives. Taxes should never be taken lightly, and taxpayers deserve to know exactly what they're being asked to support.

That's why I took a hard look at the Noblesville Schools referendum that will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

And I support it.

I support it not just as the mayor of Noblesville, but as someone who grew up here, benefited personally from the schools, and whose children now attend Noblesville Schools.

I attended Noblesville Schools from Hinkle Creek Elementary through Noblesville High School. Some of my best memories are from those years. More importantly, the teachers who invested in me helped shape my life and my career.

I know firsthand what a strong school system can mean to a kid. As a child raised by a single mother, also an educator, I know the significant impact educators have on students and their families.

I also know what it means to a community.

As mayor, I regularly talk with businesses considering Noblesville.

One of the first questions they ask is simple: "How are the schools?"

They ask because schools matter to economic development. Businesses want to locate where their employees want to live. Families consider schools when deciding where to put down roots. Strong schools help make Noblesville an attractive place to live, work, and invest.

My perspective on education isn't shaped only by being a graduate. I was raised by a public educator, I married a public educator, and I'm a father of four kids who go to Noblesville Schools. I've seen up close the commitment educators make to our community and our children.

This referendum isn't about building a new stadium or school building. According to Noblesville Schools, the proposal would continue existing operating funding that supports teachers, academic programs, career and technical education, school safety, mental-health services, and other student programs. The current referendum represents about 20 percent of the district's operating funding.

I also wanted to understand what it means for taxpayers.

So I used the district's calculator myself. For my household, the projected increase came to 47 cents

per month.

Every taxpayer should run the numbers for their own property and make their own judgment. The district's current estimate for a \$350,000 Noblesville home is an average increase of approximately \$1.88 per month over the eight-year period.

For me, this comes down to a simple question: What are we willing to invest in the community that we want Noblesville to be?

I don't believe fiscal conservatism means saying no to every expenditure. I believe it means asking whether the investment has value.

I know the value of Noblesville Schools because I lived it.

The teachers who encouraged me. The education I received. The friendships and memories I made. The foundation that helped lead me to where I am today, and that now leads my children.

As mayor, I see every day how much strong schools contribute to the community we are building.

Noblesville gave me a great start.

I want to make sure the next generation has that same opportunity.

That's why I support the Noblesville Schools referendum on Nov. 3.

Chris Jensen

Noblesville Mayor, Resident & Noblesville Schools Parent

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Withholding bail from Indiana's most dangerous suspects

Seeing elected officials work together on an issue seems less common today; however, at the Statehouse bipartisanship is quite common. Since 2023 Republicans and Democrats at the Statehouse have worked together and overwhelmingly supported **Senate Joint Resolution 1**, which is a state constitutional amendment that would allow judges the ability to withhold bail from violent offenders.

Before an amendment can officially be part of our constitution, Hoosiers



SCOTT BALDWIN
State Senator

must weigh in at the ballot box. During the upcoming general election, Hoosiers will see Public Question 1 on their ballot, which will ask voters whether Indiana's judges should be given the tool of denying bail from violent offenders who are likely to harm the community or a specific person if released from jail.

Currently, Indiana's judges have had their hands tied since bail can only be withheld if a suspect is charged with murder or treason. If a majority of

Hoosiers approve Public Question 1, judges will be able to withhold bail if prosecutors can prove to them that the suspect poses a risk to a person or the community, another release option fails to ensure safety, and the evidence against the suspect is strong enough to presume the suspect's guilt.

To prevent the erosion of a suspect's rights, I supported **Senate Enrolled Act 2**, which ensures a suspect has the right to a speedy bail trial, an attorney, a written bail determination from the judge, and an opportunity to appeal their bail decision.

Hamilton County is continuously ranked among the safest places to live in the

nation. As Hoosiers continue to see crime creep into Hamilton County, law enforcement can only do so much to halt the revolving door of crime. This November, Indiana has the opportunity to join more than 30 states in the nation in denying bail from the worst of the worst and ending the revolving door of crime that threatens to undermine the safety that has made Hamilton County a great place to live, work and play.

State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) represents Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

Sen. Banks introduces bipartisan bill to improve Veterans' access to high-cost prescription medication in state homes

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

On Monday, Sept. 28, U.S. Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Angus King (I-Maine) introduced bipartisan legislation to improve access to high-cost prescription drugs for veterans living in state veterans' homes.

The Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reimburse state veterans' homes for high-cost medications or provide the drugs directly. Currently, VA only provides a limited per diem rate to cover drug costs, which is often insufficient.

"State veterans' homes should never have to turn away elderly and disabled veterans because lifesaving medications are too expensive," Sen. Banks said. "This bipartisan bill will help states cover those costs and expedite care for our nation's heroes."

Key provisions of the bill

- Requires the VA to reimburse state veterans' homes for prescription medications that cost more than the 8.5 percent applicable VA per diem rate.
- Allows the VA to pro-



Banks

vide high-cost medications directly to state veterans' homes as an alternative reimbursement.

- Gives state veterans' homes the same type of support that the VA already provides to many private contract nursing homes.

Helps prevent elderly and severely disabled veterans from being denied admission or discharged because of the cost of lifesaving medications.

"Veterans have earned the peace of mind that comes with reliable, affordable access to the medications they depend on," Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Jake Adams said. "The Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act reinforces that commitment by ensuring state veterans' homes have the resources

necessary to supply high-cost medications — allowing them to serve more veterans who need specialized care."

Background

The VA covers high-cost medications for eligible veterans living in VA community living centers and private contract nursing homes. However, veterans living in state veterans' homes do not receive the same coverage. Instead, they receive a daily per diem from the VA and are expected to use that payment to cover all necessary care, including prescription medications. Some lifesaving medications, including chemotherapy and cutting-edge cancer treatments, can cost as much as \$20,000 per month — far exceeding the VA's daily payment. As a result, state veterans' home may struggle to absorb the costs, deny admission to severely disabled veterans, or discharge residents whose medications become too expensive.



Thanks for reading!

Remember Woodstock? Tipton does!

The Hippie Fest came to the Tipton County 4-H Fairgrounds last Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27. Hippie Fest is a family-friendly music and arts festival for people of all ages. A grassroots organization is at the center of the festival with a mission to create unifying experiences that celebrate peace, love, and nostalgia. Attendees enjoyed hippie tribute bands, acres of bohemian vendor booths, a vintage hippie car show, delicious munchies, drum circles, DIY tie-dye, far-out sideshow performers, and thousands of free-spirited guests. Learn more about the traveling peace-and-love celebration at HippieFest.org. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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Hamilton County firefighters endorse Hall for County Council

Submitted

The Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters have endorsed Mark F. Hall for re-election to the Hamilton County Council in the upcoming general election, citing his consistent support for first-responders during his first term.

The organization stated, "The constituents of Hamilton

County will be well served by having Hall remain in office."

Hall added that he has consistently made public safety his top priority. The endorsement comes as Hamilton County continues rapid growth and rising demand on public safety agencies. Hall is seeking another term on the council this November.



Hall

State Bank welcomes Justin Quick as Commercial Banker in Carmel

Submitted

State Bank announces the addition of Justin Quick as Vice President/Commercial Banker based in the Bank's Carmel office.

In this role, Quick will focus on building relationships with local businesses, providing customized lending and treasury management solutions, and helping business owners achieve their financial goals.

Quick joins State Bank with an extensive background in leadership, relationship management, project management, and stakeholder engagement. A longtime educator and leader in the Hamilton County community, he most recently served at Carmel High School, where he taught Advanced Placement courses and held numerous leadership responsibilities, including Social Studies Department Chair. Throughout his career, Quick has demonstrated a passion for helping individuals succeed, building strong teams, and fostering meaningful community connections.

Quick holds a Master of Business Administra-

tion from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana University. He also maintains Indiana Life and Health Insurance licenses and has earned the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE), Series 7, and Series 66 licenses.

"Justin's commitment to serving others, his leadership experience, and his deep roots in the Carmel community make him a tremendous addition to our team," said Andy Pinegar, SVP and Market President for Hamilton and Madison Counties. "He has built a career centered on listening, understanding needs, and helping people succeed. Those qualities align perfectly with State Bank's relationship-focused approach to banking, and we are excited to welcome him to the organization."

Quick's experience working with students, families, administrators, and community stakeholders has equipped him with a unique perspective and a strong



Quick

foundation for serving local business owners. His ability to build trust, communicate effectively, and develop long-term relationships will be instrumental in supporting the growth and success of businesses throughout Central Indiana.

"I am excited to join State Bank and continue serving the Carmel community in a new capacity," Quick said. "State Bank's commitment to personal service, local decision-making, and community involvement is what drew me to the organization. I look forward to partnering with local business owners and helping them achieve their goals."

State Bank has proudly served communities since 1910, delivering personalized financial solutions to individuals, families, and businesses. Through local expertise and a commitment to exceptional customer service, State Bank continues to help communities grow and thrive. To learn more, visit StateBank1910.bank.

National Federation of Independent Business endorses Danny Lopez for Indiana House

Submitted

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, has endorsed Danny Lopez from its NFIB's Indiana PAC in his reelection campaign for the Indiana House of Representatives.

"Danny Lopez has demonstrated through his 100-percent NFIB voting record that he is a consistent advocate for Indiana's small businesses," NFIB Indiana State Director Natalie Carroll said. "NFIB is proud to endorse him for reelection and appreciates his commitment to the hardworking Hoosiers who own, operate, and grow small businesses cross our state."

The NFIB is the voice of thousands of small and inde-

pendent businesses, advocating for their priorities and perspectives. These small business owners represent every industry and employ Hoosiers in every community in our state.

"The NFIB is a powerful advocate for the needs of small business owners all across Indiana, and I am proud to have earned their support again this election," Lopez said. "We have real work to do to open up more opportunities for main street businesses, and I am excited to continue partnering with NFIB to build upon the momentum we have already generated."

The NFIB joins a number of local and statewide



Lopez

organizations that have endorsed Lopez's reelection campaign, including campaign co-chairs Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam and Westfield Mayor Scott Willis, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Association of Realtors, the OneZone Chamber of Commerce, the Indy Chamber of Commerce, the Carmel Fraternal Order of Police, the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, the Indiana State Police Alliance, the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana, the Indiana Farm Bureau, and more.

Learn more about Danny and join his campaign at LopezForIndiana.com.

Tara Anker promoted to Partner at Michael Graves

Submitted

Michael Graves, an award-winning architecture and design firm, announces the promotion of Tara Anker, AIA, to Partner in its Noblesville studio.

"Tara has been an important part of our team for the past decade, bringing strong design instincts, technical expertise and thoughtful leadership to every project," said Darren Peterson, AIA, Managing Principal of the Noblesville studio. "She has earned the trust of her colleagues and clients alike, and we look forward to the impact she will continue to make as a leader of the firm."

Anker joined Peterson Architecture, now part of Michael Graves, in 2016 as an architectural designer and project manager. She began her career in interior design before pursuing

architecture, giving her a valuable perspective on how buildings function and how people experience the spaces within them. She became a registered architect in Indiana shortly after joining the firm and has continued to take on increasing leadership responsibilities within the Noblesville studio.

Before joining Peterson Architecture, Anker worked with several architecture and design firms in Chicago and Massachusetts. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design, magna cum laude, from Endicott College and a Master of Architecture with an emphasis in Interior Architecture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is also



Anker

affiliated with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

About Michael Graves

Founded in 1964 by AIA Gold Medalist Michael Graves, Michael Graves is a multidisciplinary architecture and design firm serving clients worldwide. The firm provides architecture, interior design, product design, master planning, graphics and branding, design strategy, feasibility studies and research. Its clients range from global companies and emerging businesses to government, cultural, educational, and healthcare institutions, real estate developers, retailers and homeowners. For more information, visit michaelgraves.com.



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Wed Sept 30 - Volleyball and Soccer

6:00 pm Cathedral vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Franklin Central vs **Fishers** | JV Boys Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

6:00 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | JV Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports

7:25 pm Franklin Central vs **Fishers** | Varsity Boys Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

7:30 pm Cathedral vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Mt Vernon vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Varsity Boys Soccer | SSN Sports

Thurs Oct 1 - Girls Soccer and Volleyball

6:00 pm **Guerin** vs **Fishers** | JV Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

7:00 pm **Noblesville** vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

7:30 pm **Guerin** vs **Fishers** | Varsity Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Fri Oct 2 - Football

6:45 pm Delphi vs **Sheridan** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports

6:50 pm Southport vs Mt Vernon | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

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

6:50 pm Yorktown HS vs Greenfield Central HS | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

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

7:30 pm **Hamilton Heights** vs Benton Central | IHSAA Football | Husky Sports

Sat Oct 3 - Volleyball

10:30am Center Grove vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

Sun Oct 4 - Music

3:00 pm School of Rock Fishers: Fall 2026 Preview Show | HCTV Entertainment



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Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Meeting Notices

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Capital and Construction Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Atlanta Town Council will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process.

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

— WESTFIELD —

NOTICE OF INTENT

Wawa, Inc (260 W. Baltimore Pike, Wawa PA 19063) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environment Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of the Construction Stormwater General Permit to discharge stormwater from construction activities associated with Wawa located at the southeast corner of E 191st Street and Chad Hittle Drive, Westfield, IN 46074. Runoff from the project site will discharge to an existing regional detention basin. Please direct questions to Patrick Moone at patrick.moone@wawa.com.
R8738 9/30/26, 10/5/26

— FISHERS —

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA - 11100 USA PARKWAY, FISHERS, INDIANA

The City of Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana ("City"), hereby provides NOTICE that the City's Common Council ("Council"), at its September 21, 2026 meeting, approved R092126A - Request to Approve Declaratory Resolution designating certain property as an Economic Revitalization Area And Authorizing Personal And Real Property Tax Abatements - 11100 USA Parkway, Fishers, Indiana 46038 ("ERA"). Pursuant to Ind. Code §§ 6-1.1-12.1-2.5 and 5-3-1 et. seq., the City hereby provides notice that on October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., during its duly noticed and regularly scheduled meeting, the Council will hold a hearing on the ERA designation and will receive and hear all remonstrances and objections from interested persons. Following the hearing, the Council will consider whether to adopt a confirmatory resolution to establish the ERA and grant tax abatements to JD Sports (the Finish Line, Inc.). A depiction of the affected area is available and can be inspected in the Office of the Hamilton County Assessor.
R8739 9/30/26, 10/5/26

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.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

DRIVING OUT THE NATIONS

When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Deuteronomy 6:20-25 (NIV)

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Mary Margaret “Peggy” Heacox

November 9, 1924 – September 3, 2024

Two years gone, but never forgotten ...



MESA, Ariz. – Mary Margaret “Peggy” O’donnell Heacox passed away peacefully on September 3, 2024, two months shy of turning 100 years old. She was still living independently. She was born to the Reverend Dr. George Harvey O’donnell and Viola Elma (Martini) O’donnell in Rock, Mass., on November 9, 1924. She was the youngest of four children.

Peggy was born at home and grew up in parsonages in Franklin, N.H.; Aurora, Ind.; Louisville, Ky., and Indianapolis. A graduate of Shortridge High School, she played in band and orchestra, and was also one of the first female cheerleaders at Shortridge. Peggy attended Butler University on an academic scholarship and graduated with a teaching degree. Later she returned to Butler and obtained her Master’s in Education. Throughout her 40 years of teaching, she positively affected hundreds of young lives, including teaching at the Indiana School for the Blind. Peggy Heacox ended her career teaching Kindergarten and first grade for the Hamilton Heights School Corporation in Arcadia, Ind., where her skill and dedication were much appreciated. On June 20, 1948 Peggy O’donnell married Richard Orville Heacox, her husband for 61 years. Peggy made homes for her family in Indianapolis, Carmel, and Arcadia, and enjoyed almost 30 years of retirement living in Mesa, Ariz. Her wisdom, kindness and love of learning were felt by all who knew her: family, friends, neighbors, students, and classmates.

Peggy Heacox had many interests. Softball and tennis. Violin, piano and trombone. Gardening and observing nature. Sewing and cooking. Reading mystery novels. Taking care of her health. Cheering for the Chicago Cubs. A talented writer, she was a long-time member of the Poetry Society of Indiana. Several of her poems won state-wide and national awards. She often volunteered her artist abilities often for community events and for several years painted the oleo curtain for the Hamilton County Theater Guild. She is survived by her children, Kevin Heacox of Indianapolis and Kerry (Heacox) Winderman (husband John) of Bloomington, Ind. Also surviving are step-grandchildren Chris Carter, Chuck Carter, John Carter, and Beth (Carter) Nifong, all of Utica, Ind. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Dick, her sister Ruth Eileen (O’donnell) Goodman and step-daughter Donna Carter. Two brothers, George Jr. and Ronald Kent, died at young ages. She is laid to rest next to her husband at Clear Creek Cemetery in Bloomington, Ind. Condolences: allencares.com



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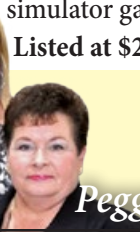
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