

Skull-scratching Trivia | Sat. Oct 3. 7pm | Pebble Brook Golf Course Pavilion



Register your team today
BGCNI.ORG

Trick or Trivia

benefitting



TOM & SONI SHEEHAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NOBLESVILLE

Sponsored by



THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER Your Hometown Newspaper

FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Showers linger,
mainly in the morning.
Tonight: Decreasing
clouds and colder again.



HIGH: 67 LOW: 47

Books for a Bright Future gets growing community support



Reporter photos

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero welcomed well over 60 people to its Books for a Bright Future Dinner and Silent Auction, held last Saturday, Sept. 26, at the South Harbour Clubhouse in Noblesville. DeLullo's Trattoria catered the dinner. The Books for a Bright Future program ensures every student at Hamilton Heights Elementary School receives a new, age-appropriate book during the Scholastic Spring Book Fair, at no cost to the student or their family. This year's dinner brought in more than \$7,000 for the program. You can learn more and make a donation at cicerokiwanis.org/books-give.

The Final 62: making room for what's next

October has a way of making us pause.

The leaves begin to change, the mornings feel a little different, routines begin to settle into a rhythm, and suddenly we realize how quickly the year has moved. It feels like yesterday we were welcoming January with new intentions, new plans, and maybe even a few resolutions.

And now, here we are: the final quarter of the year.

From October through December, there are 62 working days remaining in 2026, after the federal holidays. Sixty-two days to finish what we started, adjust what isn't working, prepare for what is changing and perhaps make room for something new.

Sixty-two days may sound like a short amount of time, but think about how much can happen in 62 days.

A conversation can change a relationship. A decision can change a direction. A new habit can become a routine. A simple invitation can create a new connection. A small act of kindness can become someone else's reason to believe in community.

Change is one of the few things we can always expect. Sometimes we choose it. Sometimes it chooses us.

COLUMNIST



POOJA THAKKAR
Taste of Community

See Final 62 . . . Page 2

Late Harvest Kitchen gives time & space to help fight food insecurity



Reporter photos

Late Harvest Kitchen, 8605 River Crossing Blvd., Indianapolis, was the site of the annual dinner fundraiser for Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank (HCHFB), and the restaurant was at capacity on Sunday, Sept. 27. That alone speaks to the Hamilton County heart for service. Chef Nelson and his entire staff donated their time and the haute cuisine meal to raise money to help HCHFB in its ongoing mission to help those in need in Hamilton County. Learn more about Late Harvest Kitchen at lateharvestkitchen.com, and donate your time or money to fight food insecurity at hchfoodbank.org.

Sheridan's first year of fall marching band

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

This is Sheridan High School's first year of fall marching band. In previous years, we've done marching band during the summers, marching in parades on the Fourth of July, performing at the State Fair, and going to competitions. Now, we march at football games, making shapes that resemble our school's initials, SHS.

I, Morgan Ciambella, am No. 7 in our positions, and I play the clarinet. So far, this year has been a good way to experiment with marching band.

On the other hand and perspective, I, Maleah Seats, also known as Jupiter, am No. 26 in the positions and am usually located directly on the 50-yard mark of the football field. I play Percussion, and am marching Snare this year. I believe if more people try to show up, we will actually be able to make marching band fun again.

I, Morgan, remember first joining band in seventh grade. A lot of my friends were in band, and I've always loved music. At the start of that year, I became friends with Jupiter. Jupiter and I grew close really quickly, and they spoke about marching band a lot. I wanted to learn what marching was like, so I'm happy I got to experience it.

As for me, Jupiter, I joined as soon as I could. I had started drum lessons about a year beforehand, so I already had some experience going in. When I was going into the seventh grade, I was invited into the high school marching band. After I got back to school, that's all I talked about for months. I shared so many memories with my friends about everything that happened.

COLUMNIST



MORGAN CIAMBELLA
Sheridan High School Student

COLUMNIST



JUPITER SEATS
Sheridan High School Student

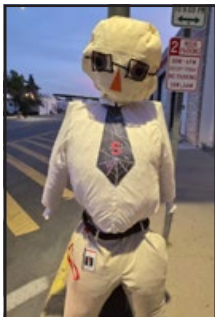
Crows not welcome on Sheridan's Main Street

Submitted by
Sheridan Events

Main Street in Sheridan is looking a little more festive for fall.

Scarecrows on Main, a Sheridan Events fundraiser, returns to Main Street for its second year. This year, the committee is excited to be more community-focused than ever.

What began as a creative way to raise funds while highlighting local businesses during the fall festival season has become a community-wide activation. This year, scarecrows extend beyond Main Street, with displays throughout town created by Sheridan residents, businesses, and organizations.



Photos provided

(From left) Last year's scarecrows included submissions from Sheridan Community Schools, the Sheridan Police Department, Waitt Trucking, and Cardinal Parts & Equipment.

The committee hopes the expanded Scarecrows on Main will encourage families to get out, interact with their town, and enjoy the fun and creative seasonal display together.

This year's theme celebrates

the Sheridan Blackhawk, and families are encouraged to find all of the scarecrows, and spy the Blackhawk hiding on each one. A map of all scarecrow locations will be available at SheridanEvents.org to help families make their way

around town. Kids who find every Blackhawk can claim a prize at the Sheridan Events trunk during the Main Street Halloween festivities on Oct. 31.

See Scarecrows . . . Page 2

See Marching Band . . . Page 2



NOBLESVILLE YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE

ONE COMMUNITY • 7000+ KIDS • 16 PROGRAMS

www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports

SCARECROWS

from Page 1

While you’re there, pick a favorite scarecrow and cast your vote with pocket change, too. The winner will receive the Golden Pumpkin, passed from winner to winner each year. The people’s choice scarecrow will also receive a check for half of the registration pot, which has already grown to more than \$700.

All of this autumn fun serves a larger purpose. Proceeds from Scarecrows on Main go directly toward funding free community events in Sheridan in 2027. This includes Rev’d Up Rides, the Town of Sheridan Fourth of July Celebration, Harvest Moon, and other programming

throughout the year.

Although Harvest Moon 2026 was canceled due to construction along State Road 47, the committee is already looking ahead and preparing for its hopeful return in 2027.

So this October, keep an eye on Main Street, or plan a visit to Sheridan; and start deciding which scarecrow deserves the Golden Pumpkin.

About Sheridan Events

Sheridan Events is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to provide affordable, accessible, and inclusive opportunities for the community to gather. Learn more at SheridanEvents.org.

62 DAYS

A new job. A child growing into a new stage. A relationship changing. A new responsibility. A dream that looks different than it did six months ago. Sometimes change arrives quietly, like the leaves changing colors. Other times, it arrives suddenly and asks us to adapt before we feel ready.

But perhaps adapting doesn’t mean having everything figured out.

Perhaps adapting simply means being willing to pause, look around and ask, “What does this season require from me?”

Fall reminds us that letting go is not failure. Trees don’t hold onto every leaf simply because it was once

part of them. They release what is no longer needed and make room for what comes next.

Maybe there is something we need to release, too.

An expectation that no longer fits. A habit that isn’t serving us. A fear that has been holding us back. Or perhaps a version of ourselves we have simply outgrown.

And maybe there is something we need to prepare for.

The beauty of community is that we don’t have to navigate change alone.

At a table, we share more than food. We share stories, experiences, questions and sometimes even uncertainty. Someone else’s story may give us courage for a change we are facing. Someone else’s perspective may help us see an opportunity where we only saw an obstacle.

That is what Taste of Community continues to mean to me: creating space for stories that remind us that we are not alone in the seasons we are experiencing.

So, as October begins, I invite you to look at these final 62 working days differently.

What are you working toward?

What needs your atten-



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

tion before the year ends? What change are you preparing for? What can you control, and what do you need to learn to release? Perhaps most importantly, who can walk alongside you?

We often enter the final months of the year focused on what still needs to be accomplished. But maybe this season is also an invitation to notice how far we have already come.

There is still time to make a decision, start a conversation, extend an invitation, repair a relationship, try something new, or simply slow down enough to listen to what your heart has been

telling you.

The season is changing. And so are we.

Let’s not fear the change ahead. Let’s prepare for it with curiosity, courage, and community.

Because sometimes the next chapter doesn’t require us to have all the answers. It simply asks us to turn the page.

What will you do with your next 62 working days? I’m happy to hear from you at TasteofCommunity25@gmail.com.

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

MARCHING BAND

from Page 1

Throughout this year, we’ve performed pre-game at three football games, and more soon. Trying to learn with so little time and marching “veterans” has been tricky. We’ve been practicing in the high school gyms. Many marchers have gotten frustrated with this because there are no direct spots to look off, meaning it’s more common than not that you have to take a guess at where you’ll be located that day. Luckily, we’ve started to get

a good feel for where our spots are, so you only ever move about a few inches on or off yesterday’s spot. When we do use the football field after school, it’s much easier to know where exactly we’re expected to be.

Putting all of that aside, though, marching band has been pretty fun. We’ve learned new songs and pieces, learned to get used to marching a lot, and are now one step closer to being able to march the half-

time shows!

We hope to gain more marchers and supporters for our marching band so we can eventually march in ISSMA contests. By going to these contests, it could help our school become more well-known and would hopefully encourage more people to come and join our band program.

We are a very welcoming community and always enjoy having new people come along.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
PUMPKIN SALE

Supporting Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

OCTOBER 8-31

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church,
1402 West Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032

Over 600 pumpkins of all shapes and sizes!
Swan Gourds, Star Gourds, and Elf Houses.
Perfect for decorating your home for fall.

All proceeds benefit

HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST
FOOD BANK

which provides food to more than 30 local
pantries serving neighbors in need.

Pick your pumpkin. Share the
harvest. Make a difference!
Scan to learn more.

American Bank
of Freedom

www.americanbankoffreedom.bank

NMLS#409183

Save time and open your account online!

Certificate of Deposit Specials

3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
4.00% APY*	4.50% APY*	4.50% APY*

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of this issue and subject to change at any time. APY assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. Minimum deposit of \$1,000 to open this account with a maximum deposit of \$240,000 per account. Minimum balance requirement of \$1,000 to earn interest. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Accounts may be subject to other fees, contact your local branch to learn more.

APPLIES TO NEW DEPOSITS ONLY.

American Bank of Freedom, Member FDIC.

Stop by or call your local branch today to learn more!

14611 N. Gray Road
Westfield, IN 46062
(463) 622-2930

Member
FDIC

FREE

POTTER'S BRIDGE FALL FESTIVAL

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

Potter's Bridge Park

19401 N. Allisonville Rd., Noblesville, IN 46060

100+ Vendors Fun Children's Activities
Live Music & Entertainment Food Trucks

Title Sponsor:

hamilton
county
tourism
inc



317-770-4400 • myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Reimagine Pleasant Street Project receives 2026 Aim Community Placemaking Award

The REPORTER

The Reimagine Pleasant Street project developed for the City of Noblesville, in partnership with Hamilton County, with American Structurepoint serving as program manager and lead design consultant, was selected as the recipient of the 2026 Aim Community Placemaking Award (Population Over 50,000).

The award was presented during the Aim Ideas Summit Awards Luncheon and recognizes projects that enhance community identity, improve quality of life, and create meaningful public spaces.

Completed in 2025, the \$125 million project created a new 2.5-mile east-west connection from State Road 32 to State Road 37. The project includes six roundabouts, three bridges, an extension of the Midland Trace Trail, pedestrian tunnels, public art installations, landscape improvements, historic interpretation features, and enhanced drainage infrastructure.

“We are honored to see Reimagine Pleasant Street recognized with the Aim Community Placemaking Award,” American Structurepoint President Cash Canfield said. “This project demonstrates what can

happen when a community envisions infrastructure as more than transportation. By bringing together engineering, planning, landscape architecture, public art, and historic preservation, the project creates a lasting investment that enhances how people move through and experience Noblesville.”

A defining feature of the project is its emphasis on placemaking. Public art, trail enhancements, landscaping, and historical storytelling were intentionally integrated throughout the corridor to reflect Noblesville’s history and identity. The project also preserved significant community assets, including minimizing impacts to the Plum Prairie Historic District.

“Reimagine Pleasant Street reflects the power of collaborative design and community engagement,” American Structurepoint CEO Rick Conner said. “We are proud to have worked alongside the City of Noblesville and Hamilton county to help deliver a project that not only addresses transportation needs but also strengthens economic vitality, supports recreation, celebrates local history, and creates a sense of place for generations to come.”



(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield Parks & Recreation Director Chris McConnell (center) receives the Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award. (ABOVE RIGHT) The Westfield Fire Department receives Aim’s Innovative Program Award for its Mobile Blood Response program.



Photos provided by City of Westfield

Westfield earns three statewide honors at Aim Ideas Summit

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield received three statewide honors at the 2026 Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (Aim) Ideas Summit, recognizing individual leadership, lifesaving public safety innovation, and city officials’ efforts to reimagine how local government serves a growing community.

Westfield Parks and Recreation Director Chris McConnell received the Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award, the Westfield Fire Department received the Innovative Program Award for its Mobile Blood Response program, and the city received the Stephen Goldsmith Prize for Innovation in Local Government for its proposed Westfield Civic

Intelligence Platform.

“To receive three awards recognizing such different areas of our organization speaks volumes about the caliber of the workforce we have at the City of Westfield,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “I am incredibly proud of our employees and the work they do every day on behalf of this community. Whether they are finding new ways to serve residents, responsibly managing public resources, or stepping up to lead, they consistently embody our core values of servant leadership, innovation, and stewardship. These awards are a reflection of that commitment and the culture our employees have built across the organization.”

McConnell receives Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award

McConnell has served the city since 2010 and has helped guide the growth and evolution of the city’s parks, trails, and recreation system alongside Westfield’s rapidly growing population.

During his tenure, Westfield has expanded its park system and trail network, added recreation opportunities, and invested in major public spaces designed to enhance residents’ quality of life. His leadership has been instrumental in projects including Grand Junction Plaza and the transformation of Simon Moon Park.

McConnell also helped establish a formal Parks and Recreation Department and Parks Board, while building a team culture focused on professional development, collaboration, and long-term planning.

The Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award recognizes outstanding municipal management and leadership in Indiana.

Westfield Fire Dept. recognized for Mobile Blood Response

The Westfield Fire Department received Aim’s Innovative Program Award for its Mobile Blood Response program, which launched in 2025 as Hamilton County’s first prehospital blood transfusion program.

The program allows specially trained Westfield paramedics to administer plasma and red blood cells to patients experiencing life-threatening blood loss before they arrive at a hospital. Blood products are maintained in a mobile refrigeration unit and can be transported directly to the scene of an emergency. The department also carries specialized equipment that allows paramedics to warm and rapidly administer blood when minutes matter.

The program was developed after Westfield Fire Department studied existing models and worked with medical experts to determine how blood products could safely and effectively be incorporated into prehospital emergency care.

Mobile Blood Response was also designed as a regional resource. Neighboring fire and EMS agencies can request Westfield’s assistance when they have a patient who could benefit from blood products, extending the program’s reach beyond Westfield.

Earlier this year, the program’s first patient, Drake Fuentes, reunited with the paramedics involved in his care during a Westfield Fire Department blood drive, highlighting the direct connection between community blood donors, first responders and the patients who rely on lifesaving blood products.

Westfield receives Stephen Goldsmith Prize for Civic Intelligence Platform

The City of Westfield also received the Stephen Goldsmith Prize for Innovation in Local Government, which recognizes and supports collaborative, high-impact solutions developed by local Hoosier leaders.

The award will support development of the Westfield Civic Intelligence Plat-

form, an initiative designed to transform how municipal information is organized, accessed, and used to serve residents, businesses, developers, elected officials, and City employees.

As Westfield has grown, so has the amount of information needed to operate the city, including ordinances, plans, engineering standards, policies, meeting records, forms, and operating procedures. That information often exists across multiple documents, systems, and departments, requiring employees to spend significant time searching for information, interpreting requirements, and responding to recurring questions.

The Civic Intelligence Platform is designed to create a trusted, governed knowledge system that makes authoritative city information easier to find and consistently apply.

Unlike a general-purpose chatbot, the platform will rely on approved city sources, defined content ownership, citations, human review, and clear escalation whenever legal, professional, or discretionary judgment is required.

Potential applications include a Development Navigator to help developers, architects, engineers, businesses, and residents better understand requirements and next steps, as well as a Community Response Assistant to help employees consistently respond to common questions about permits, services, projects, policies, and city responsibilities.

As part of the Goldsmith Prize, Westfield will work with a graduate fellow to help coordinate stakeholder engagement, identify high value uses for the platform, organize authoritative city information, support pilot programs, and establish measures to determine whether the initiative is improving service.

Westfield plans to evaluate measures including response times, staff hours recovered, reduced revision cycles, accuracy, user satisfaction and avoided costs. City officials also intend to document lessons learned and create a framework that could eventually be adapted by other municipalities.

The Stephen Goldsmith Prize is named in honor of former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith and celebrates his legacy of innovation, public-private collaboration, and community engagement in local government.

REGISTER NOW FOR HOPE'S 5K

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](#)

RACE PERKS

- Fun for the Family!
- Race T-Shirt & Sunglasses
- Top Finishers Award + Prizes
- Support HOPE

The Dani Robinson difference

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

Let's Talk **Tucker**

Looking for a place in the Country - Buy Dirt!

0 206TH STREET E. NOBLESVILLE, IN 13.27 Acres \$570,610	0 CREEK ROAD NOBLESVILLE, IN 40 Acres \$1,200,000	0 DURBIN ROAD NOBLESVILLE, IN 40 Acres \$1,480,000
0 PRAIRIE BAPTIST ROAD NOBLESVILLE, IN 40 Acres \$1,700,000	13163 E 216TH STREET NOBLESVILLE, IN 12 Acres \$549,000	0 E 191ST STREET NOBLESVILLE, IN 40 Acres \$3,400,000

Dani Robinson
REALTOR®/BROKER/SRES

317.407.6969
DaniR@talktotucker.com
TalkToDani.com

Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

EDUCATION STATION'S LITERARY LEADERS

“Not your ordinary book club” for ages 5-14

OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 12

2219 TAM-O-SHANTER CT.

(317)538-6997

\$125 REGISTRATION FEE

Director Marcia Seif & Instructor Aida Karim

Riverview Health launches new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program

The REPORTER

On Thursday, Oct. 1, Riverview Health launched its new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, expanding access to specialized, trauma-informed care for survivors of sexual assault in Hamilton County and surrounding counties. The new program will provide patients with access to highly trained nurses who are specially equipped to care for survivors of sexual assault, conduct forensic examinations, collect evidence, and connect patients with critical community resources and support services.

The launch represents months of planning and collaboration across Riverview Health, led by Molly Beck, Manager of Emergency Services. Beck developed a phased approach that enables Riverview Health to begin serving patients sooner while building toward a comprehensive, around-the-clock program.

“Our team recognized an important need within

our community and took action to create a program that provides compassionate, specialized care for survivors of sexual assault close to home,” Beck said. “This program reflects our commitment to ensuring patients receive expert clinical care in a safe, supportive environment during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.”

Over the past several months, Riverview Health has made significant progress in establishing the program. As part of the phased launch strategy, Riverview Health has already received all necessary SANE equipment, approved clinical policies, and established program workflows. The health system currently has two nurses fully trained in adult,



Griffin



Altman

adolescent, and pediatric SANE care, with an additional five nurses completing training through the IU Health didactic program. Program coordinator Jessica Bofing has also been working closely with community resource partners to prepare for the launch and strengthen support networks for patients.

“The launch of Riverview Health’s SANE program is a significant step forward for our community,” said Tim Griffin, Hamilton County District 1 Councilman and Carmel firefighter. “In both public service and emergency responses, I’ve seen firsthand the importance of ensuring survivors have immediate access to specialized care. I’ve been a strong advocate for estab-

lishing a SANE program locally, and I’m proud to see Riverview Health lead the way in providing this essential service.”

The initial phase of the program, which began development this summer, will provide intermittent SANE coverage while recruitment and onboarding efforts continue. During this phase, Riverview Health will focus on ensuring operational excellence, strengthening relationships with law enforcement and first responders, and expanding staffing resources. Services will initially focus on adult patients with pediatric services following shortly thereafter.

“This achievement reflects the power of collaboration between healthcare providers, public safety partners, and community leaders,” Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman said. “We are grateful to Riverview Health for bringing this critical resource to the resi-



dents and families of Hamilton County.”

The SANE program represents another step in Riverview Health’s ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care that meets the evolving needs of the community. To learn more, visit riverview.org.

About Riverview Health

Riverview Health is an independent, community-based health system offering comprehensive healthcare services throughout Hamilton County, in strategic partnership with Parkview Health to expand access to high-quality care and advanced clinical expertise. The system’s network includes a 156-bed hospital in Noblesville, a 16-bed hospital in Westfield, three additional combined ER and urgent care facilities, and 10 primary care locations. With expertise in more than 25 specialties, Riverview Health provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services and is consistently recognized for clinical and service excellence. Most recently, Riverview Health was certified as a Great Place to Work® for 2026 and received the Culture of Good Community Impact Award for 2026.



Photo provided

The Graveyard Stompers are (from left) Mickey Macabre on guitar and vocals (a.k.a. Matt Ruddick of Muncie), Jack D. Ripper on guitar (a.k.a. Greg Compton of Indianapolis), Dr. Umkit on drums and percussion (a.k.a. Tom DiMartino of Vero Beach, Calif.), Ophelia Shiver on brass and vocals (a.k.a. Heather King of Lapel), The Alchemist, Sound Engineer (a.k.a. Bill Miller of Lapel), Johnny Hellfire on brass and vocals (a.k.a. Derek Hobart of Carmel), The Czar on bass guitar (a.k.a. Eric Hahn of Columbus, Ind.), and Justin Sidious on brass and vocals (a.k.a. Tim King of Lapel).

The Graveyard stompers are ready for Rocktober! Are you?

The REPORTER

Every October, look around and you’re sure to find corn mazes, haunted houses, and costume parties, but did you know that you can also experience the thrilling Halloween band, The Graveyard Stompers?

This unique group, featuring multiple lead vocalists and live brass, will tour the area starting tonight, Oct. 2, at The Kokomo Band Shell and wrapping up on Saturday, Oct. 31, at the Indiana University Tailgate Party in Bloomington.

The rest of the month you can find them haunting venues and parties in Tipton, Columbus, and Indianapolis. Their current schedule includes:

- **Oct. 2:** Mad Lab Potion Commotion Post Party, downtown Kokomo. Opens at 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. show.
- **Oct. 9:** Old Oakland Golf Club, 11611 E. 75th St., Indianapolis. 5 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. show. \$25 tickets; reservations required.
- **Oct. 10:** Halloween Bash, Downtown Tipton. 6 p.m.
- **Oct. 17:** TBD
- **Oct. 23:** Cozy Lounge, 3870 25th St., Columbus, Ind. 9 p.m. \$5 cover charge.
- **Oct. 24:** Antelope Club, 615 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. 6:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 30:** The Coterie, 107 W. Sycamore St., Kokomo. Doors open at 8 p.m., 9 p.m. show. \$5 cover charge.

- **Oct. 31:** IU Football tailgate. Time TBA.

Dressed to the nines, and playing your favorite Halloween tunes, spine-tingling originals, and thematic classic rock, The Graveyard Stompers will definitely get you in the spirit! Be sure to catch them this Halloween season.

Reach out to them at [Facebook.com/graveyardstompers](https://www.facebook.com/graveyardstompers) . . . if you dare!

CARMEL COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS
A 2019 OLIVIER AWARD WINNING COMEDY BY LAURA WADE
DIRECTED BY NICOLE AMSLER
SEP 25-OCT 4, 2026

HOME

I'M DARLING

7:30 PM ON THURSDAY, FRIDAYS AND 1ST SATURDAY
2:30 PM ON SUNDAYS AND 2ND SATURDAY
TICKETS: \$20 (FRI, SAT, SUN) | \$15 (THURS)

THE CAT 254 VETERANS WAY, CARMEL, IN 46032
CARMEL INDIANA
CARMELPLAYERS.ORG | 317-815-9387

Trent Dowling named STAR Financial Bank’s South and Central Region president

Submitted

STAR Financial Bank has promoted Trent Dowling to South and Central Region President, expanding his leadership responsibilities across two of the bank’s key markets.

Dowling previously served as Central Region President, leading STAR’s commercial banking efforts in Muncie, Marion, Anderson, Kokomo, and surrounding communities. The South Region includes the Indianapolis area, and surrounding communities as Greenfield, Zionsville, and Noblesville.

In his expanded role, he will lead teams across both regions, support client relationships and help guide the bank’s continued growth.

“Trent is a proven lead-

er who understands that our success starts with strong teams, meaningful client relationships and a deep commitment to the communities we serve,” said Scott Bove, executive vice president of Capital Markets and Commercial Banking at STAR Financial Bank. “His experience, leadership and long-standing commitment to STAR make him the right person to bring greater alignment across our South and Central regions while continuing to position both for growth.”

Dowling has nearly 30 years of banking experience, including more than 20 years with STAR. Throughout his career with the bank, he has built relationships with businesses and community



Dowling

See Dowling . . . Page 6

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

MILLER ☒ YES
PAID FOR BY STRONG SCHOOLS NOBLESVILLE

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 Terry Cooper, 1159 Stringtown Pike, PO Box 391, Cicero, IN 46034 or tcooper@townofcicero.in.gov

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-Month

4.25 % APY*

9-Month

4.45 % APY*

1-Year

4.5 % APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Zachary Rinehart

Financial Advisor

120 W Jackson
P O Box 916
Cicero, IN 46034
317-606-4296

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 09/30/26. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867P-A-E-FL EXP 31 MAR 2028 AECSPAD 30234025

NOBLESVILLE, IN

Nickel Plate

HERITAGE RAILROAD

20 ESTD 17

NEW!

HOLIDAY LIGHT RAILBIKES

NOVEMBER 14–JANUARY 2

BIKE THE RAILS FROM FOREST PARK TO DOWNTOWN NOBLESVILLE

MAKE A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

Letter to the Editor

There are real faces behind this referendum

To the people of Noblesville, If we haven’t met, I’m Evan Elliott: a 2009 NHS graduate, former NHS speech and debate director, current volunteer assistant director for the NHS Thespian Troupe, and one of your city councilmen. For nearly 30 years, Noblesville Schools has been part of my life. Two rewarding campaigns for our school board pushed me to study how schools operate and how we pay for them. If you now follow my work on the city council, you know I ask tough questions. I challenge developers. I actually vote “no” sometimes. Common sense matters more to me than party affiliation. That same scrutiny is why I am voting YES to renewing our school referendum. We’ve all seen the faceless Facebook groups. The incredibly confusing numbers. The Harold Hill types shouting “oh, we’ve got trouble” on Noblesville Charter. The abundant AI flyers telling you a school district should just operate like a household budget. If it did, we wouldn’t have public schools anymore. So, cutting through all of that, what are we actually voting for? This is a vote to RENEW the operating referendum that was approved in 2018 and expires at the end of this year. And yes, many homeowners will pay slightly more. For a \$350,000 home, the district projects an average increase of about \$1.88 per month, or \$22.56 per year, over the eight-year referendum period compared with what that homeowner is paying currently. However, this is not “\$1,000 more than you’re already paying right now,” or whatever the Facebook talking point is this week. Not even close. That confusion largely comes from ballot language, which is regulated by the state and calculated as though the current referendum does not already exist. Okay, so what happens if the referendum doesn’t pass? The schools just have to find 20 percent of the current budget ... \$25 million. Hint: it’s not in the couch cushions. There’s no easy Plan B. No bake sale. No burning down the stadium for scrap metal. No changing the tax code overnight. Twenty. Five. Million. Dollars. And when you lose funding of that magnitude, people are inevitably part of

the equation. Why? Because 96 percent of our Education Fund, the district’s largest bucket of money, goes toward teacher and staff salaries and benefits. The referendum currently helps fund school safety, mental health services, appropriate class sizes, academic and career programming, and competitive salaries to recruit and retain strong teachers and staff. Guess what’s at risk if the referendum isn’t renewed? All of those things. And if you’re sitting there without a calculator thinking, “Eh, just fire a few administrators. No big deal,” the scale is considerably larger than that. A 20 percent reduction across a workforce of roughly 720 employees would represent approximately 144 positions. For additional perspective, if reductions of that scale came entirely from classroom teachers, it would be roughly equivalent to eliminating nearly the entire teaching staffs of White River, Stony Creek, Hazel Dell, and North Elementary combined. This is not a laughing matter. Non-passage would also put the schools in a very difficult position when it comes to retaining the faculty and staff who remain. Imagine morale. Our buildings would become more stressful, overworked, and anxious environments. That certainly doesn’t benefit students. Ask the questions. Interact on the Facebook groups. Marvel at “faceless Bob’s” newest AI flyer creation. But if someone tells you the district can lose \$25 million annually without hurting students, ask them to show their work. Which positions would they eliminate? Which services would they cut? How would they replace the funding? Behind every line in our schools’ budget is a real person. A student. A teacher. A counselor. A cafeteria worker. A custodian. Your neighbor. I’ve put my name behind my position. If you’re campaigning against renewal, I’d invite you to do the same. The faces behind our referendum deserve that respect. Evan Elliott Noblesville City Councilman

Letter to the Editor

Noblesville voters explain their reasons for supporting referendum

Dear Editor: We are retired and voting YES on the Noblesville Schools referendum. We’d like to tell you why. We came to Noblesville 45 years ago because it was geographically located between our then places of employment – Indianapolis and Anderson – but as our children arrived, we stayed for the schools. Our children attended Noblesville Schools from Kindergarten through high school. We believed they had a quality education, but we were assured of that when they went on to highly regarded universities where they felt well prepared. They have gone on to successful careers in other cities and states but have returned to Noblesville to raise their own children. We will be voting YES to the referendum question on the November ballot. The most important reason is that we want all children to continue the outstanding education we are witnessing at all three levels: elementary, middle, and high school.

Secondly, we believe the referendum will ensure that Noblesville remains a great place to live and work. Noblesville Schools is the largest employer in Noblesville. Most Noblesville Schools employees also live in Noblesville. What will happen to our local economy if 20 percent of these employees lose their jobs? A vote of YES is a vote for our own community. Finally, we want to be sure our property values remain high. We watch our spending closely. The ballot language is confusing as it does not take into consideration that the previous referendum is ending. In reality, it is a very small increase going forward. Ours will be less than \$15 next year. An investment in our schools is an investment in our personal home value. Please join us in voting YES on the referendum question – for the children, for the economy, for our property values. It’s the right thing to do! Jerrold & Holly Hochstedler 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.

DOWLING

from Page 5

leaders across central Indiana while focusing on the personalized service and local decision-making that distinguish community banking. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to expand my role and work alongside the talented teams serving our South and Central regions,” Dowling said. “I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place, strengthening relationships across our markets and continuing to deliver the level of service our clients and communities expect from STAR.” Outside of STAR, Dowling is an active volunteer and church member. He has served in board or officer roles with The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Hopewell Center, Meridian Health Services, the Anderson Revolving Loan Fund, the Madison County Chamber and Flagship Enterprise. Dowling earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Ball State University in Muncie. He lives in east central Indiana with his wife, two sons, and daughter-in-law. Learn more about STAR Financial Bank at starfinancial.com.

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Clay Board of School Trustees will hold a Workshop Session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E Main St. The agenda will include discussion of the terms of the tentative agreement of the teacher collective bargaining agreement, which is posted on the Carmel Clay Schools [website](#).

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026, in the Board Room at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a work session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, in Conference Room 1 at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road. A regular meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the high school.

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.

Everybody wants a little taste of Westfield

On Sept. 22, the Westfield Chamber of Commerce welcomed more than 500 residents, professionals, and community partners to the fourth annual Showcase & Taste of Westfield. Along with attendees, 116 exhibitors made this year's Taste the biggest one yet. Thank you to everyone involved making this a wonderful year of community celebration and local connection. Thank you to Title Sponsors Ascension St. Vincent, Citizen's Energy Group, Church Church Hittle + Antrim, First Bank Midwest, The Hagerman Group, Hamilton County Tourism, Hittle Landscaping, JRF Construction Inc, Keystone Group, Riverview Health, The Rocchio Agency, Westfield Washington Schools, and Westwood Vowery and Estate. Showcase & Taste was generously powered by Gaylor Electric. (Photos provided by Emily Pearson)



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
COMMUNITY FIRST BANK OF INDIANA

CITY OF
Westfield
 INDIANA

BUSINESS CARDS

Arvin Masonry

Historical tuckpointing
Foundation repair & replacement
All things masonry

Noblesville 317-645-7460

Explore, Play, and Connect with Hamilton County Parks & Recreation!
Beautiful trails, playgrounds, and special events.
myhamiltoncountyparks.com • 317-770-4400

Green Avenue

GRANTS & MORE

- Grant Research
- Proposal Writing
- Planning
- Other Fundraising

Your Road To Fundraising Success!

(317) 750-1204

www.greenavenue.info • amys@greenavenue.info

NOBLE BUSINESS ADVISORS

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Wendy Stevens CPA, CGMA, MSA

Certified Business Advisor

Phone | 317.281.9063 • Fax | 317.219.0510

wendy.stevens@wstevenscpa.com

52 South 9th Street, Suite 3 • Noblesville, IN 46060

www.wstevenscpa.com

Live Music At Pasto Italiano

Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday
1/2 Price Bottles of Wine On Wednesdays
Reservations Recommended

PASTO ITALIANO

RESTAURANT & BAR

3150 E. SR 32

Westfield

317-804-2051

Reservations Recommended

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

FOOTLITE MUSICALS

PERFORMANCE DATES

SEP 18-OCT 4

Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 PM, Sunday at 2:30 PM

Tickets Available At

FOOTLITE.ORG • (317) 926-6630 • BOXOFFICE@FOOTLITE.ORG

Westfield veterans invited to Oct. 21 information meeting

The REPORTER
Westfield-area veterans are invited to an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd., to discuss the possibility of rebuilding an organized veterans’ presence in the community.
The effort has been led by Westfield veteran Dan Kolzow, who has spent the past several months reaching out to local veterans, gathering survey responses and exploring whether there is enough interest to

establish a new American Legion presence in Westfield.
Westfield once had both American Legion and VFW posts, but neither organization currently maintains an active post in the city. With Westfield’s continued growth, Kolzow believes it is worth asking whether today’s veterans would support something new.
The emphasis is on a clean slate.
Any new American Legion post would still follow the traditions and structure of the national organization, but the goal would not be to simply recreate the stereotypical veterans post of the past. Instead, the hope is to build something welcoming to veterans of all generations, their families, and the broader community.
Representatives of the American Legion are expected to attend the Oct. 21 meeting to explain how a new post is formed, what membership involves and what support is available to a developing organization.
The meeting will also include results from a Westfield-area veterans survey and a brief look at a longer-term vision for a Westfield Veterans Center. A permanent facility remains a future possibility and is not necessary for a veterans’ organization to begin meeting, growing, and serving the community.
Veterans from all branches and eras of service are welcome. Membership in an existing veterans’ organization is not required.
Veterans interested in learning more are encouraged to attend and be part of the conversation.

Zionsville’s Carpenter Nature Preserve named Aim Green Project of the Year

Submitted by Town of Zionsville
The Town of Zionsville received the Community Green Project of the Year Award from **Accelerate Indiana Municipalities** (Aim) for Carpenter Nature Preserve during the 2026 Aim Ideas Summit on Wednesday in French Lick.
The statewide award recognizes Carpenter Nature Preserve’s transformation of a former golf course into a 215-acre nature preserve focused on habitat restoration, environmental education, and public access to nature. Aim judges highlighted the project’s innovation and scope, thoughtful planning, and incorporation of schoolchildren.
“It is gratifying that Aim would recognize what we have already learned in Zionsville,” Mayor John Stehr said. “The Carpenter Nature Preserve is vital to protecting part of the natural world in our town for generations of our families, friends, and neighbors to enjoy.”
Carpenter Nature Preserve opened to the public this summer following the completion of Phase 1. Lo-



Photo provided by Town of Zionsville
Zionsville representatives accept the Community Green Project of the Year Award at the 2026 Aim Ideas Summit. (From left) Mayor John Stehr, Communications Manager Alexa Lingg, Parks Superintendent Jarod Logsdon, Councilor Evan Norris, Executive Assistant Jenna Butler, and Deputy Mayor Justin Hage.

cated at 601 S. 900 East on the former Wolf Run Golf Club property, Carpenter is the first park in Union Township and the largest nature preserve in Boone County.
The former golf course is being restored into a mix of prairie, woodland, wetland, and riparian habitats. Phase 1 restoration included removing invasive vegetation across 10 acres, establishing 19 acres of native prairie, planting four acres of reforestation, and creating new wetland habitat.
“Nature was not simply the setting for Carpenter Nature Preserve; it was the inspiration and guiding force behind its design,” Parks Superintendent Jarod Logsdon said. “Every element of infrastructure was thoughtfully woven into the landscape, minimizing impact and habitat fragmentation while creating unique visitor opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the native ecology of Central Indiana.”
The preserve was shaped through extensive ecological planning and community input with the goal of balancing public access with protection of the Eagle Creek corridor. Its first phase includes the Prairie Pavilion and Nature Playground, one mile of asphalt and crushed limestone trails, an outdoor classroom and wildlife blind, two scenic overlooks, and habitat restoration.
Carpenter Nature Preserve continues to evolve, with future phases planned to include a nature center, enhanced wetlands, prairies and woodlands, a canopy walk, boardwalks, and additional Eagle Creek overlooks.
The Community Green Project of the Year Award is part of Aim’s annual awards program recognizing accomplishments by Indiana cities and towns.

Hamilton County Firefighters endorse Cook for Jackson Township Trustee

Submitted
The Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters Local 4416 has endorsed Robyn Cook for re-election as Jackson Township Trustee in the November general election.
In its endorsement letter, the organization stated that Cook is well qualified to continue serving as trustee and that Jackson Township residents would be well served by having her remain in office. The endorsement came directly from a vote of Local 4416 members.
Fire protection is one of the statutory responsibilities of the Jackson Township Trustee, making the en-

dorsement especially meaningful to Cook, who has worked closely with Jackson Township’s professional firefighters since taking office in January 2019.
During Cook’s tenure as trustee, Jackson Township entered into its first collective bargaining agreement with its professional firefighters – the first such agreement in Hamilton County. Cook said the agreement reflected a shared commitment to supporting firefighters while providing dependable fire and emer-

gency services to Jackson Township residents.
“Our firefighters are the helpers who come running on someone’s worst day,” Cook said. “They take care of our community when people need them most, and I have tremendous respect for the work they do. I’m proud of the relationship we’ve built over the years. Having the support of the men and women I work with every day, and firefighters throughout Hamilton County, means a great deal to me.”



Cook

INDIANA UNCLAIMED

What will you find?

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WAITING TO BE CLAIMED.

Take a second to search for yourself, your friends and your family!

VISIT IndianaUnclaimed.Gov

TEXT "FIND" to 46220

SCAN our QR code here

Indiana High School Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2027

The REPORTER

On Thursday, Oct. 1, the Indiana High School Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2027, a group of 22 swimmers and divers, four coaches and three special award recipients whose achievements span more than eight decades of Indiana high school swimming and diving. The class will be formally inducted on April 18, 2027, in Indianapolis.

This class of honorees reaches from Terre Haute Wiley’s Harley Pritchett, who competed in the early 1940s, to a remarkable wave of athletes from the 2010s who went on to star at the collegiate, national and international levels, including Olympic gold medalists Lilly King of Evansville F.J. Reitz and Blake Pieroni of Chesterton and Olympic silver medalist Sarah Bacon of Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter.

Carmel leads all schools with three inductees in the class.

“This class tells the story of what Indiana high school swimming and diving has

become,” Hall of Fame President Jennifer Kelsik said. “These athletes didn’t just win state titles; many went on to wear the Stars and Stripes, stand on international podiums and compete against the very best in the world. When we say this class represents some of the finest Indiana has produced, we also mean it represents some of the finest the United States and the world have seen. Their selection for the Hall of Fame, along with our coaches and honorees, is more than recognition of what they accomplished. It is an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, commitment, leadership and excellence that helped shape the sport for generations to follow.”

Locally, seven inductees and honorees are included:

Class of 2027 Swimmers & Divers

- **Claire Adams, Carmel (2013–16)** – 8 individual and 8 relay state titles, 12



state records and 4 national relay records and Mental Attitude Award.

- **Amy Bilquist, Carmel (2014–15)** – 4 individual and 4 relay state titles
- **Veronica Burchill, Carmel (2013–16)** – 3 individual and 12 relay state titles, 7 state records and 6 national relay records
- **Kyle DeCoursey, Zionsville (2012–15)** – 3 individual state titles with a state record and one relay state title

Class of 2027 Coaches

- **Stephen P. Hoefler, Hamilton Heights (1998–2024); North Central (2024–present)** - coached divers to a 1-2 finish at the state championships twice as well as three additional diving state champions and a state record that still stands.
- **Jess Preston, Penn (2008–2024); Noblesville (2024–present)** - coached

swimmers to 11 individual state titles with 2 state records, 3 relay titles and 3 team runners-up titles.

Special Award Honorees

- **Doc Counsilman Award: Jay Chambers** – Chambers built a coaching career spanning nearly four decades in Indiana, leading programs at West Lafayette Harrison (1980–1986), Zionsville (1986–1989), and Fishers (2010–2017) before joining USA Swimming in 2017, where he continues to serve today.

About the Indiana High School Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame

The Indiana High School Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame honors the athletes, coaches, and special contributors who have made a lasting impact on high school swimming and diving in Indiana. Through its annual induction class and the Hall of Fame Classic, the organization works to recognize, preserve, and promote the sport’s history in the state. Nominations for future classes are accepted year-round; more information is available at ihssdhof.org.

Meet the candidates running for Hamilton County Sheriff

Submitted

The Exchange is where business, government, and community leadership come together.

Join the Westfield and Noblesville Chambers of Commerce from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at The Bridgewater Club in Westfield. You’ll hear from Hamilton County Sheriff candidates Dustin Dixon and Charles Hollowell.



Dixon



Hollowell

build connections across the region – because the best ideas and strongest communities are built when everyone works together.

Please note: This event is not a promotion or endorsement of a political candidate but an opportunity for Chamber membership to connect with the candidates. According to the bylaws, the Chamber will not lend its endorsement to the election of any candidate for any political office.

If you are interested in future sponsorship opportunities for The Exchange Series, please reach out to Courtney Albright at calbright@westfield-chamberindy.com or Bob DuBois at bob@noblesvillechamber.com.

Noblesville Schools details potential cuts, school closure if referendum is not continued

Submitted by Noblesville Schools

On Thursday, Oct. 1, Noblesville Schools announced significant reductions to staff, academics, programs, and services if the continuation of the operating referendum is not approved by voters on Nov. 3.

Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile shared the update as part of his annual Noblesville Chamber of Commerce **State of the Schools presentation**.

Unlike neighboring school districts, Noblesville Schools’ current referendum funding is expiring at the end of 2026.

“We’ve been sharing for several months now that if the current referendum is not continued by voters that we’ll need to make significant reductions,” Hile said. “While no official decisions have been made yet, I hope these examples will give a sense of what we mean when we say that this funding is critical to our operating budget and that its loss would set our schools back 16 years.”

Hile shared that over the past few months district leaders and principals have considered how the district would need to adjust to a 20 percent reduction in the annual operating budget. As a result of those discussions, he noted the following examples of staff, programs and services that would be most at risk should referendum funding not continue.

Staffing cuts

- Approximately 20 percent staffing cuts across employee groups. For example, this would be a potential reduction of 145 teachers, 45 instructional assistants, 24 bus drivers, 24 maintenance/custodial staff, 13 secretaries and district support staff, 12 school and district leaders, etc.
- Employee health insurance and benefit reductions

Academic, career & extracurricular programs

- Reduce or eliminate STEM and career courses like engineering, biomedical, robotics, construction, journalism, manufacturing, business, finance, criminal justice, culinary, welding, nursing, and emergency medical technician

- Reduce or eliminate work-force development student professional certifications, internship programs and resources
- Reduce or eliminate high-ability and special education staff and programming
- Reduce or eliminate librarians, literacy, and media center programs
- Reduce or eliminate elementary specials (art, music, physical education, STEAM, library)
- Reduce or eliminate athletic programs, staff, and services
- Reduce or eliminate band, choir, orchestra, music, theatre and performing arts classes, programs, staff, and services
- Reduce or eliminate elective class options not required by state law (for example foreign language, art, family consumer science, wellness)

Student care & support

- Reduce or eliminate school resource officers and crisis/threat management resources
- Reduce or eliminate bus services/routes and create walk zones
- Reduce or eliminate social workers and counselors who support suicide and bullying prevention, low-income students, and student mental health needs
- Reduce or eliminate deans and staff who manage student misbehavior
- Reduce or eliminate student mentoring

Leadership & structure

- Close an elementary school building, redistricting students from all elementary schools to rebalance the school closure
- Increased class sizes across all grades K-12, with an estimated 25 percent increase in elementary class sizes (resulting in an average of about 30 students per class)
- Significant changes to school day structure and daily schedules at all academic levels
- Reduce or eliminate academic and special education instructional leaders



Hile

things, especially the possibility of a school closing, but these are the types of hard decisions that a funding loss of this magnitude would require us to consider,” Hile said.

Hile also shared that the district could face a mass departure of families and educators should the referendum fail, particularly if neighboring districts pass their referendums and have funding for academic programs, school safety and higher teacher salaries.

“Ultimately, we will respect whatever decision Noblesville voters make,” Hile said. “I just want to be very clear what a yes vote means and what a no vote means. Our schools belong to our community and there should be no surprises for the public.”

The community has approved referendum funding for Noblesville Schools since 2010 and it currently provides approximately \$25 million per year for the district, which is about 20 percent of their operating budget.

For the average Noblesville home valued at \$350,000, the proposal to continue funding would mean an annual increase of approximately \$1.88 more a month than what residents are paying currently.

“Voters will see legal-

ly required ballot language that shows a \$955 increase but that’s not accurate as residents have already been paying a portion of these costs for the existing referendum,” Hile said. “The ballot does not take into account that the current referendum is expiring and that the maximum rate noted on the ballot is not expected to be used.”

Hile concluded, “A lot is at stake with this vote and there has been a great deal of misinformation circulating online. I hope residents will reach out to me with any questions. My email is dan_hile@nobl.k12.in.us and my phone number is (317) 773-3171.”

The district is sharing factual information at noblesvilleschools.org/referendum, including a calculator that will show residents exactly what they’re paying currently and what they would pay under the continued funding. Hile is also hosting public meetings to answer questions and his meeting schedule is on the referendum website.

All Noblesville residents who live within the district’s boundary will see the referendum question on the Nov. 3 election ballot as Public Question No. 3. Visit indianavoters.in.gov to register to vote (by Monday, Oct. 5), confirm registration status, learn about early and absentee voting, or find your polling location.

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.



Beth Sheller for Hamilton County Clerk

Trusted Experience

Paid for by Beth Sheller for Clerk

All Local, All the Time!
ReadTheReporter.com

Wanda Lyons

(317) 345-3960

Lyons-Realty.com

LYONS REALTY



Photo provided by City of Carmel

Arts in Autumn returns to Carmel Midtown Plaza

Submitted by City of Carmel

Crisp fall air, vibrant art, and free family fun is taking over Midtown Plaza.

The City of Carmel announces the return of the beloved Arts in Autumn celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, bringing a creative energy to the heart of the city.

Designed for all ages, this year’s festival features hands-on craft stations, a lineup of local artisan and community vendors, interactive activities, and a showing of the movie Encanto on the Midtown screen.

Attendees will also enjoy the “Touch-a-Truck” event. See vehicles from the Carmel Fire, Police and Street departments up close.

Featured vendors & partners

Stroll through Midtown Plaza to shop, create and connect with a lineup of local makers and community favorites:

- All the Little Things, Co.
- Artist Ana Escalante
- Busybee Headbands
- Carmel Fire Department
- Carmel Police Department
- Carmel Street Department
- Cool Creek Family Health
- Fabulously Fun Company
- Get Local Books truck
- Newfields
- Renewal by Andersen

Thank you to **Allied Solutions** for the continued support of Arts in Autumn.

Braun Administration to hold flood recovery resource event at 4-H Fairgrounds

The REPORTER

This week, Governor Mike Braun announced the state of Indiana will hold a one-stop shop for three days in Hamilton County to bring disaster recovery resources directly to victims of August’s flood.



Braun

The event will take place in the Bicentennial Building at the 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville, at these dates and times:

- Thursday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Hoosiers, if you or your family was impacted by August’s devastating storms, be sure you apply for federal assistance before FEMA’s October 25 deadline,” Gov. Braun said. “I have directed resources like the one-stop shops, mobile registration intake centers and pop-up shops to be made available in impacted communities, ensuring all needs of Hoosiers recovering from these storms are met.”

Representatives from both FEMA and the Small Business Administration will be one hand.

Bring a valid state ID if you have one. Transportation services may be available in certain communities. Individuals should contact 211 by calling (866) 211-9966 to get assistance with transportation needs.

To date, more than 5,000 storm impacted Hoosiers have visited in-person sites for assistance, and nearly \$120 million from FEMA has been disbursed to 28,935 applicants. The deadline to apply for FEMA’s Individual Assistance is Oct. 25.

The one-stop shops bring representatives from multiple agencies together to a single location to provide information on available resources and assist Hoosiers in navigating the recovery process. Several services, including the ones listed below, may be completed on-site, helping residents get the support they need more efficiently.

Internships are on the rise at the Shamrock Station



Photo by Antonio Chapital, Chapital Photography

The Hamilton County Intern Collaborative (InternHC) held a successful kickoff event on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Shamrock Station in Westfield, bringing together local businesses and engaged high school and college students from across Hamilton County. The event gave students an opportunity to connect with local employers, explore future career opportunities, and begin building relationships within their community. InternHC is a workforce initiative championed by Westfield Washington Township in partnership with Invest Hamilton County and the Westfield Chamber of Commerce. Created to help high school and college students build meaningful connections with peers, local employers, and the community, the initiative offers career-focused programming and place-based experiences designed to encourage emerging talent to live, work, and thrive in Hamilton County long-term. Learn more at visit internhc.com.

Stay one step ahead of cybercriminals

COLUMNIST



COREY SYLVESTER
Cicero Edward Jones

Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts.

As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits can help protect you from many of today’s common threats.

Watch out for phishing

Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts, or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer, or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

word or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts

Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking, and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it’s offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they’re harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency

Scammers increasingly

use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos, and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors, and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money & identity

Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts, and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you’re unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a

financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you’ve done everything right. It’s smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity, and long-term financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

AG Rokita leads multistate coalition to stop DuPont shell game & hold companies accountable for PFAS contamination

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

On Thursday, Oct. 1, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita led a bipartisan coalition of 16 states and territories in a lawsuit against Indiana-based EIDP, Inc., the chemical company historically known as DuPont; its parent, Corteva; and a newly created entity, Vylor.

The suit seeks to unwind a coordinated transfer that moved DuPont’s most valuable business assets into Vylor and left the PFAS liabilities behind, out of reach of the states and other plaintiffs.

On Oct. 1, 2026, DuPont and Corteva transferred the Pioneer seeds business – a major corn and soybean operation – to Vylor. That business was about three-quarters of the value still in the companies. The transfer sends it out of reach of the states and other PFAS plaintiffs, and it was structured so Vylor took the assets

and none of the liabilities. Those stayed with DuPont, which kept the lawsuits and gave away most of what plaintiffs could have reached if they win a judgment.

The states are asking a Marion County court for a temporary restraining order freezing the assets. The proposed order would stop DuPont and Corteva from using remaining funds for dividends and stock buybacks and stop Vylor from selling or pledging the seeds assets it just received.

“Many families have been hurt, and are still being hurt, by these micro chemicals that several companies knew were dangerous, and we will not sit by and let them game the system by moving their most valuable assets out of reach and



Rokita

leaving the PFAS liabilities they created behind,” AG Rokita said. “They spent years setting up this transfer to avoid paying for actions that have harmed so many, and this lawsuit is how we stop them from getting away with it.”

AG Rokita is already in court with these companies. In April 2024, his office sued 22 PFAS manufacturers – including DuPont, EIDP, Corteva, Chemours, and 3M – in Shelby County, alleging they kept selling these chemicals after they knew the risks and hid that knowledge from the public.

That case rests on a long record. For decades, DuPont concealed from state regulators, the public, and consumers its growing knowledge of the risks these chemicals posed to human health and

the environment, failed to warn, and hid the dangerous nature of the products. Thousands of firefighters and others have made the same claim: DuPont knew or should have known the dangers when it made or sold products containing PFAS. Earlier restructurings, including the Chemours spinoff, already moved value away from those liabilities and were designed to shield assets from judgment.

The Vylor transaction continues that pattern, and it is aimed at creditors already in court, including Indiana.

If the transfer stands, state taxpayers will be left with the bill: tens of billions of dollars to remove PFAS from drinking water, clean up sources, and compensate the public for the costs and impacts of that chemistry.

Read the complaint [here](#) and the TRO [here](#). The TRO hearing is set for 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2.



When weather is unpredictable, you can trust Your Hometown Weatherman!



Noblesville Boom partners with two local school districts

Partnerships connect nearly 20,000 Noblesville & Westfield students to educational programming & exclusive experiences

Submitted

The Noblesville Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, announced on Thursday, Oct. 1, a new community partnership with Noblesville Schools and Westfield Washington Schools, strengthening the organization's commitment to education, youth development, and community engagement throughout Hamilton County.

During the 2026-27 season, the Boom will provide educational programming and unique game-day experiences to students, educators, and families across the two school districts. Partnership elements will include dedicated school-themed nights, special ticket packages, exclusive co-branded merchandise, player appearances and autograph sessions, a Court of Dreams experience, STEM-focused educational programming, and opportunities for students to participate in pregame and halftime performances during Boom home games throughout the season.

“Our goal is to be more than a basketball team and to serve as a meaningful community partner throughout Hamilton County,” said Chris Defendis, president of business operations for the Noblesville Boom. “Sports shape kids well beyond what happens on the court, teaching lessons about teamwork, discipline, and resilience that stay with them for life. These partnerships allow us to connect directly with students, educators, and families and to use the game of basketball to inspire learning and create experiences they’ll remember. We’re excited to work alongside two outstanding school districts to make a difference for the young people in our community.”

NOBLESVILLE BOOM



Noblesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile and Westfield Washington Schools Superintendent Dr. John Atha both lauded the partnership and the opportunities it presents.

“As the Boom’s home school district, we’re pleased to partner with them on these exciting opportunities for our students and families,” Hile said. “We appreciate their focus on learning, good sportsmanship, and creating strong community experiences in Noblesville.”

“This partnership with the Boom gives our students and families another great opportunity to learn, connect and celebrate together as a community,” Atha said. “It also carries a special meaning for our district. Braden Smith, a 2022 Westfield High School graduate, exemplifies what it means to be a Life Ready Shamrock through his hard work, character, and commitment to excellence. We are incredibly proud of Braden and excited to cheer him on as he represents our community with both the Indiana Pacers and the Noblesville Boom.”

As part of the partnership, Westfield Night will take place during the Boom’s



Hile



Atha

home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 10, against the Iowa Wolves, while Noblesville Night will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, against the Cleveland Charge. Additionally, both school districts will be invited to the team’s Education Day game on Wednesday, March 10, 2027, against the Greensboro Swarm, providing a STEM-focused learning experience.

The Boom’s full promotional schedule will be released at a later date. Additional details on school ticket packages, educational programming and exclusive partnership initiatives will be communicated to families through each school district as they become available.

About Noblesville Boom

The Noblesville Boom are the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers. The franchise enters its 20th season and has been part of Pacers Sports & Entertainment since 2015. The club plays its home games in Noblesville at Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile. Fans can visit [NoblesvilleBoom.com](https://noblesvilleboom.com) to get more information, sign up for email updates and purchase tickets.

Hello,
Hamilton
County

paulpoteet.com

LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS
Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

CLICK TO LISTEN

Carmel Clay Parks & Rec receives 2026 National Gold Medal Award

The REPORTER

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) was recently awarded the 2026 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced the six national winners at the 2026 NRPA Annual Conference in Philadelphia on Sept. 30. The award marks CCPR’s third Gold Medal win, making it the first three-time winner in Indiana history, with only 4 other park agencies in Indiana having won the award.

The Gold Medal Award is the highest honor for a park and recreation system. Agencies are evaluated on long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program, and professional development. CCPR first received the Class III Gold Medal Award for parks serving populations of 75,001 to 150,000 in 2014, and again in 2020. Following a mandatory six-year-sit-out period, 2026 marked the first year CCPR was once again eligible for the award. The award comes just as CCPR celebrated its 35th anniversary in August.

“Receiving the Gold Medal for a third time is an incredible honor for Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation and our entire community,”



Photo provided by CCPR

CCPR Director and CEO Michael Klitzing said. “This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Park Board and elected officials, and the continued support of the residents we serve. We are proud of how our park system has continued to evolve over its 35-year history while staying focused on creating exceptional experiences for our community.”

CCPR welcomes more than six million annual visits to its parks, trails, and facilities, creating meaningful experiences for community members and visitors alike. With a strong focus on inclusion and accessibility, CCPR’s playgrounds and adaptive programs provide opportunities for everyone to play and participate, while more than 2,800 recreation, fitness, and summer camp programs offered each year serve people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

At the center of CCPR’s focus is environmental leadership, demonstrated

by its involvement in the White River Vision Plan, a multi-jurisdictional effort to restore habitats, improve water quality, and connect communities. Additional programs, including the Park Resource Officers (PROs) program and Extended School Enrichment (ESE), demonstrate CCPR’s commitment to community safety and well-being. In partnership with the Carmel Police Department, the PROs program enhances safety throughout CCPR parks and facilities while building positive relationships with visitors. Additionally, ESE serves more than 2,000 students annually, providing safe, enriching before- and after-school care for Carmel Clay families.

CCPR will celebrate the award with a banner unveiling at the Monon Community Center at a later date and time to be announced.

For more information on the Gold Medal Awards, visit nrpa.org/goldmedal or aapra.org.

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

Upcoming Broadcasts

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

Available on the Web www.HCTV1.com YouTube www.HCTV2.com

On your Roku TV or Roku Device Search for HCTV1 On your Amazon Fire TV or Device Search for Hamilton County TV

ADLER attorneys

136 SOUTH 9TH STREET
SUITE 400
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060
317-773-1974

1010 WEST 8TH STREET
SUITE 5
ANDERSON, IN 46016
765-642-2080

CONTACT US

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE
at the Historic Adler Building.
Contact Kim Watson at
317-773-1974 for details.

Thank you for reading The Reporter!

Preventing football injuries is a team effort

Football's physical nature means injuries will occur, but many can be prevented or minimized through a proactive approach to player safety.

With high school, college, and NFL football seasons underway, Parkview orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist Dr. Michael Rosen reviewed some of the most common football injuries you might see on the field or hear in the injury report this year.

No sport comes without risk of injury, but the high-strength, high-speed, high-agility action of football is especially rough on an athlete's body. When injuries occur, proper evaluation, treatment and recovery time are essential. That can be challenging for athletes eager to return to the field, but it plays a critical role in preventing further injury.

“When we're talking about football, good coaching, proper equipment, conditioning, medical supervision and communication with parents can all make football a lot safer and more enjoyable for everyone,” Rosen said. “The relationship between athletes, their families, coaches, our athletic trainers and orthopedists is key to diagnosing and properly treating injuries to keep athletes healthy and in the game.”

Parkview Sports Medicine's in-school athletic trainers – who are embedded in more than 50 high schools and universities in Indiana and northwest



GUEST COLUMNIST
DR. MICHAEL ROSEN

Ohio – serve as a first line of response when on-field injuries occur. Trainers can help connect injured athletes to a specialist like Dr. Rosen as needed, and in turn, Rosen can relay instructions and rely on trainers to help supervise recovery.

“Athletic trainers build a tremendous amount of trust because they're with the athletes so much,” Rosen said. “They're really on top of that and a good communication bridge between athletes, parents, coaches, therapists and sports medicine doctors and surgeons.”

Of course, some injuries like bone fractures or ligament tears will require orthopedic care. But if an athlete experiences persistent or increasing pain, swelling, weakness or numbness from an injury that seemed minor at first, that's a signal to make an ortho appointment for further assessment, Rosen advised.

That follow-up will start with an X-ray and a detailed physical exam to home in on the exact problem, said Rosen, who practices in both Steuben and DeKalb counties. Depending on the type of injury, doctors might order an MRI or CAT scan to get more details about possible structural damage, he said. Since many games (even high school) are recorded and televised, Rosen said it's common for families to come with a video clip showing when the injury happened, which can give doctors further context

around the incident. “We know athletes want to get back in the game as soon as possible after an injury, but many sports injuries can be recurring if they don't get complete care,” Rosen said. “Getting the right rehab and taking the appropriate amount of time to let the body heal is important not just to recover from one injury but to reduce the risk of reinjury.”

Whether you're an athlete, parent or just a fan who wants to better understand what the weekly injury report means, Rosen explained five common football injuries, how they happen and how they're treated:

Cramps

Muscle cramping is not the most serious injury a player can suffer, but it's the most common and can be intensely painful.

Dehydration and electrolyte loss, particularly during prolonged exercise or hot conditions, can disrupt nerve signals from the brain to the muscles, causing them to involuntarily spasm. Cramps can be treated in the moment by an athletic trainer who will help stretch and loosen the muscle. Sometimes players can rehydrate on the sideline and get back in the game, but once hit with cramps, they can recur and keep a player down.

“When you're depleted and trying to exert yourself, the muscle can spasm or contract against your wishes,” Rosen said. “That's what a cramp is, just an involuntary contraction of that muscle. It's a severe and very intense contraction.”

Drinking water or sports drinks before and during

the game is important, but good hydration should start well before, Rosen said. Hydrating throughout the week leading up to game day can help prevent cramps.

Concussion

Because of the high-speed impact play of football, concussions are common and can be extremely dangerous for players.

A concussion occurs when a forceful hit causes the brain to move and contact the inside of the skull, Rosen said. Concussions are traumatic brain injuries and can range from mild instances that daze a player to debilitating hits that can cause a loss of consciousness.

Concussions cause symptoms in the moment – dizziness, disorientation, sensitivity to light or loss of consciousness – but lingering impairment can last for days or weeks after. From prep leagues to the pros, athletes must follow a “concussion protocol” to have a doctor evaluate and make sure they're recovered before clearing them to return to play.

“We try to never rush somebody back after a head injury,” Rosen said. “We want symptoms to be completely resolved for a significant duration. There is a protocol and the athletic trainers help us out a lot with that.”

Teaching good tackling techniques, proper fitting helmets and enforcement of rules that reduce contact to the head all help protect players and reduce concussion incidence.

ACL injuries

The anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, is one of the connective tissues that hold the knee in place, but foot-

ball is especially hard on knees due to the strong, fast cuts and direction changes players make.

ACL tears often occur without a player even getting hit, Rosen said, but can happen when a runner plants their foot to turn, but the pushing and twisting forces are too much for the knee to absorb.

“When an athlete goes to cut, if they land awkwardly or go to push off and that ligament is unable to handle it, it can cause strain. Given the velocity, strength and technique of that movement, it often leads to failure and the ACL just shreds,” Rosen said.

ACL tears are season-ending injuries and require surgical reconstruction followed by extensive rehab to rebuild strength around the knee. Athletes who have had one ACL injury are more likely to suffer another.

Although ACL injuries occur unexpectedly, players can reduce their risk of ACL injuries by practicing footwork and body control, specifically to reduce the force placed on their knees while running.

Shoulder dislocation

When a quarterback draws back to throw, his arm is vulnerable if it takes a hit during the throwing motion.

Shoulder dislocations occur when an impact causes the ball joint to slip out of alignment, and while quarterbacks are especially at risk, it can potentially happen to anyone who takes a wrenching hit to the arm or shoulder.

“Your shoulder joint is like a golf ball on a golf tee,” Rosen explained. “The

tee is flat and the ball is much larger than the socket it's sitting on. A dislocation can occur when the ball slides off that socket.”

Dislocation can stretch or tear surrounding muscles and cartilage and even damage the bone of the shoulder joint. A trainer can pop the shoulder joint back into place in the moment after it happens, but recovery is a much longer process.

Worse, Rosen noted, is that incidence rates after a first-time dislocation are very high, sometimes approaching 80 to 90 percent in the highest risk groups.

Muscle strains

Strength is a given for football players, so muscle strains are especially common when a player pushes their body too far.

Two muscle groups frequently injured in football are hip flexors at the leg joints and hamstrings, the big, meaty muscles on the rear of the leg. Again, due to the size, strength and speed of players, the stress placed on the legs during running, jumping, and tackling can overextend and damage those muscles, Rosen said.

Muscle strains are nagging injuries that take a long time to heal. Players will often return to play after feeling like they've recovered, only to reinjure the same area because it wasn't fully healed.

“Those can last the entire season because to really rehab that and recover, you're not going to be able to compete,” Rosen said. “It takes a period of rest, stretching and allowing it to heal itself.”

Michael Rosen, DO, is an orthopedic surgeon at Parkview Health.

Skull-scratching trivia, contests, and more!

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

Trick or Trivia

benefitting



TOM & SONI SHEEHAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NOBLESVILLE



Register your
team today
BGCNI.ORG

Sponsored by





Acclaimed cellist Alexander Hersh will move you with Dvořák’s Cello Concerto

The REPORTER

A soaring cello concerto, a celebrated guest artist and the beginning of a milestone season await as the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) launches its 50th Anniversary season with *HORIZONS: The Promise of a Vast Land*, presented by Pedcor Companies, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium.

Acclaimed cellist Alexander Hersh joins the orchestra for Antonín Dvořák’s powerful and deeply expressive *Cello Concerto*.

Hersh quickly established himself as one of the most exciting and versatile talents of his generation. He has appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony and Boston Pops and has received top prizes and awards in numerous international competitions, including the Astral Artists National Auditions, National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artists Competition, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award.

A passionate chamber musician, Hersh has performed throughout the United States and Europe at festivals including Marlboro, Ravinia, Music@Menlo, Caramoor, IMS Prussia Cove, Lucerne, Kneisel Hall, and the Amsterdam Cello Biennial. His repertoire encompasses the

complete string quartets of Bartók and Berg as well as much of the chamber music canon. Following his performance at the 2017 Queen Elisabeth Cello Competition, Belgian Radio’s Musiq3 praised his “scenic presence and charm.”

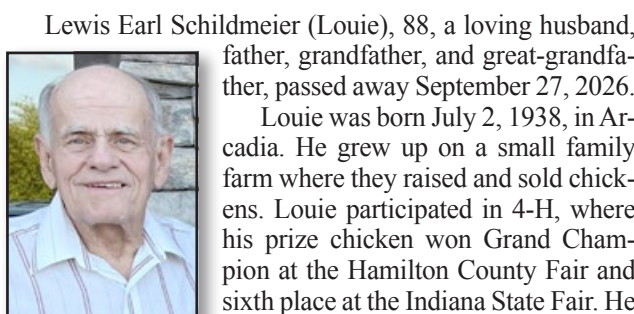
Hersh is co-artistic director of NEXUS Chamber Music, a Chicago-based collective dedicated to bringing exceptional chamber music to intimate and unconventional venues while presenting both standard and lesser-known works.

A fourth-generation string player, Hersh was raised in Chicago and began playing cello at age five. He studied with Steve Balderston, Hans Jørgen Jensen, Laurence Lesser, Paul Katz, and Kim Kashkashian, and studied with Nicolas Altstaedt at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik Berlin. He holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from New England Conservatory, where he graduated with academic honors. Hersh performs on a G.B. Rogeri cello generously loaned through Darn-ton & Hersh Fine Violins in Chicago.

Learn more at [AlexanderHersh.com](#).

[Click here](#) to find your best seats to see HORIZONS on Saturday, Oct. 10. You can also call the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800 for assistance.

Lewis Earl Schildmeier July 2, 1938 – September 27, 2026



Lewis Earl Schildmeier (Louie), 88, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away September 27, 2026.

Louie was born July 2, 1938, in Arcadia. He grew up on a small family farm where they raised and sold chickens. Louie participated in 4-H, where his prize chicken won Grand Champion at the Hamilton County Fair and sixth place at the Indiana State Fair. He was also a talented artist and painter during his junior high and high school years. Several of his paintings continue to decorate the walls of family members’ homes to this day.

Louie was a graduate of Jackson Central High School in the Class of 1956. Following graduation, he was employed by Firestone Industrial Products in Noblesville. He simultaneously continued his education by taking classes at Lain Technical College in Indianapolis, where he studied drafting and tool and die design, earning an associate’s degree. During his career, Louie worked in various roles at Firestone, including as a draftsman, a mechanical engineer, and supervisor over plant maintenance, retiring in 1995 after 38 years of dedicated service. During extended layoffs from his primary job during the 1960s, Louie worked for Harold Rigsby Home Construction, where he mastered carpentry and masonry skills. He also worked briefly at Allison Transmission in Indianapolis. After a few years of retirement, Louie went back to work, taking a job at Hamilton Heights School Corporation as a custodian, retiring again in 2014. Louie also was a real estate investor and landlord and maintained his real estate brokerage license for many years.

On December 30, 1960, Louie married Betty (Womack) Schildmeier. Louie built a new house in Arcadia shortly after their marriage, where they began their family by having two sons. After a few years, they relocated to Atlanta, where they became longtime residents, living in the same house for over 61 years.

Louie was a very talented and meticulous man who enjoyed working with his hands. In his spare time, Louie found joy in working on cars, building and remodeling houses, and maintaining their home and investment properties. If Louie built it, you could rest assured it was level, plumb, and square. He was also able to fabricate just about anything to make repairs to whatever needed fixing. If it was broken, Louie could find a way to fix it; he was a true do-it-yourselfer. He also enjoyed old classic cars and trucks and often reminisced about some of his favorite vehicles he had owned over the years. Louie enjoyed watching TV, especially football, NASCAR races, and old westerns.

Louie was a supportive man whose greatest joy was his family. He would do anything he could to help others with projects that needed done, offering invaluable insights and advice whenever and wherever he could. He is survived by his loving wife of over 65 years, Betty Schildmeier; his sons, Jimmy Schildmeier and Bryan (Diana) Schildmeier, both of Atlanta; his grandchildren, Heather (Derek) Sylte, James (fiancée Heidi) Schildmeier, Craig Schildmeier, and Brianna Schildmeier; his great-granddaughter Sophia Sylte, and several nieces and nephews. Louie was predeceased by his parents, Lewis Frederick and Eva (Coy) Schildmeier; sisters, Norma Comer and Naomi Johnson; and brothers, Glenis, Donald, and Harold Schildmeier.

Visitation for Louie will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. at the same location with Pastor Jody Brown officiating. Burial will take place following the funeral service at Arcadia Brethren Cemetery, and a luncheon for friends and family will be held at the Arcadia Town Hall following Louie’s graveside service.

We encourage all who knew and loved Louie to leave memories and upload photos to his memorial page. His legacy lives on in the lives of those he loved and the many structures and objects he crafted with his talented hands.

Condolences: [hartleyfuneralhomes.com](#)

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

DRIVING OUT THE NATIONS

You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?” But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear. Moreover, the Lord your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished. Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you. But the Lord your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them. The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the Lord your God. Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Regard it as vile and utterly detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

Deuteronomy 7:17-26 (NIV)

HARTLEY - DUNNICHAY
Funeral Homes

SERVING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH GOD’S GRACE

Pre-Arrangements
Celebrations of Life
Grief Support
Monuments

Honoring, Remembering, & Celebrating

317.984.3614
[www.hartleyfuneralhomes.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](#).

ACCURATE. BALANCED.

You’re reading

THE REPORTER

Thanks for reading!

Randall & Roberts
Funeral Homes

317-773-2584

Our family has been serving Hamilton County since 1953

1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville
1150 Logan Street, Noblesville
12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Contact Information

Email
[News@ReadTheReporter.com](#)

Web Address
[ReadTheReporter.com](#)

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
[Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com](#)
765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
[Ads@ReadTheReporter.com](#)
765-365-2316

Mailing Address
136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
Noblesville, IN 46060

IMPROVED PRICE!

LAKEFRONT!
20971 Shoreline Unit 410
NOBLESVILLE

Enjoy low-maintenance waterfront living in this gated 2BR, 2BA Morse Lake condo. Features include fresh paint, new carpet, boat slip, two garage spots, storage, and stainless kitchen. Luxury meets convenience.
Listed at \$299,900

SOLD!

9919 FOUNTAIN COVE DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS

This 3 bed, 2.5 bath beauty near Geist Reservoir offers an open concept floor plan, new roof, carpet, and remodeled primary bath. Enjoy the versatile living spaces, updated kitchen, spacious fenced-in backyard, and a heated golf simulator garage!
Listed at \$299,900

SOLD!

18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT
NOBLESVILLE

Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you.
Listed at \$559,900

SOLD!

18149 ATLANTIC ROAD
NOBLESVILLE

Own this charming 1.5-acre country retreat! Features 2,000+ sq ft, 4BR, 2BA, and a new roof. Enjoy a cozy fireplace, spacious kitchen, and fenced yard. Perfectly located near Hamilton Town Center and I-69. Won’t last long!
Listed at \$274,900

SOLD!

2513 SHERIDAN COURT
CICERO

This desirable 3BR, 2BA Cicero ranch on .44 acres features a remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, wood-burning fireplace, spacious primary suite, and private, wooded backyard with two storage sheds. Lake access and boat docks.
Listed at \$339,900

“SPEAK TO DEAK!”

Jennifer
Peggy

The Deakyne Team
REALTORS®
317.695.6032 JENNIFER | 317.439.3258 PEGGY

[SpeakToDeak.com](#)

F.C. TUCKER COMPANY