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THURSDAY, OCT. 29, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
Tonight: Partly cloudy evening, with a few spotty showers possible. Clearing overnight.
HIGH: 76 **LOW**: 50

paulpoteet.com

Walmart's Spark Good program supports Boys & Girls Club kids

The REPORTER

The Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville (BGCN) was recently awarded a $2,000 grant from Noblesville Walmart Store #923.

As an investor is the Club's mission, Walmart continues to provide more than 2,200 local youth access a safe, supportive environment after school and during out-of-school hours where they can participate in valuable programs encouraging leadership, academic success, character development, workforce readiness, and healthy lifestyles.

Learn more about the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville serves children at **bgcni.org**.



Photo provided by Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville
(From left) BGCN Development Director Nathan Helm, Pharmacy Manager Sean Collett, and Vision Center Manager Lucas Jordan.

Carmel Christkindlmarkt unveils 2026 lineup of vendors, artisans & live music

The REPORTER

Carmel Christkindlmarkt, Inc. (CCI) has unveiled the event schedule and vendor list for the ninth Carmel Christkindlmarkt season. In 2026, attendees can look forward to 60 authentic German vendor huts – including two new booths – over 160 hours of live music, nine visiting German artisans, seven cherished traditional events and an expanded free shuttle service. The Market will officially open on Nov. 21 and run through Dec. 24.

The Market's free shuttle service is back by popular demand, with expanded capacity to alleviate parking challenges for the over a quarter-million visitors expected to visit the Carmel Christkindlmarkt this year. The ADA-accessible service will be available to all patrons on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the Market season. Every 15 minutes, Market shuttles will pick up visitors at a parking lot on CNO Financial Group's former campus (550 College Drive) and drop them off at the Market's entrance on 3rd Avenue.

"We are eager to welcome visitors back to the Market and create joyful spaces where they can make memories that become traditions," CCI CEO Jason Adamowicz said. "The Carmel Christkindlmarkt team has been preparing year-round

See *Market* . . . Page 2



Photo provided by Roben Bellomo / Bellomo Studios / Carmel Christkindlmarkt
Returning for its ninth season, the popular Carmel Christkindlmarkt promises to pack Carter Green with that undeniable Christmas spirit.

Livuzzle's Christmas trivia puzzles sold nationwide are made in Tipton County

Submitted

Question: In what U.S. state is the town of Santa Claus located?

Answer: Indiana.

It's one of 72 questions that come with Livuzzle's Christmas Trivia Puzzle, and fittingly, the puzzle itself is made in Indiana. Livuzzle, a small puzzle company based in Boise, Idaho, manufactures its puzzles in Tipton and sells them nationwide on Amazon.

The 1,000-piece Christmas Trivia Puzzle (19.3 x 26.6 inches, ages 13 and up, $24.99) comes with an insert of 72 Christmas trivia questions and answers, and every answer is drawn somewhere in the puzzle's hand-illustrated Christmas scene. Families build the puzzle, read the questions out loud, then hunt for each answer in the picture: a jigsaw puzzle, a trivia game, and a seek-and-find in one box.

The questions range from "For what holiday was the song 'Jingle Bells' originally written?" (Thanksgiving) to "Are Santa's reindeer male or female?" (Female. Male reindeer lose their antlers in November.)

For younger puzzlers, (or simply a quicker Christmas party activity) the 72-piece Christmas Trivia Puzzle (ages 6 to 10, $34.99) has big, extra-thick pieces that build into a 2-by-3-foot floor puzzle, with a Christmas trivia question and answer on the back of every piece. It was a 2025 ASTRA Play Award finalist.

See *Puzzles* . . . Page 2

Bugs, sunrise alarm clocks & hygge



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

It's time for another one of my famous three-part columns, where my mind jumps to three different topics I must share with you all at once. Here we go:

1. Bugs

Most of us know life changes when we become parents. One unexpected thing for me was all I've learned thanks to being a mom.

Last week, I was enjoying a chat in the park with my dear friend Cara. I saw something out of the corner of my eye – a little creature leaping into our shelter. And I mean *little* – an insect.

"Oh! I see a big ol' bug over there," I said, bounding from the picnic table to check out what had landed on my bike tire. Thankfully, Cara isn't squeamish, and we both bent over to check out the little guy – a grasshopper.

"I love grasshoppers!" I exclaimed.

Pre-Mom Amy would never have paid attention to bugs. In fact, she often squished them, which I now regret. My oldest son Jonathon fell in love with insects at an early age. In fact, one of his (and our) favorite Halloween costumes was the time Jonathon dressed as an entomologist – a scientist who studies insects.

Equipped with a butterfly net, battery-operated bug catcher, fake glasses, a magnifying glass, and a floppy hat, Jonathon looked truly adorable. He taught me to appreciate insects and their benefits (even spiders). Now, if I see one in my house, I'm the queen of the "glass and paper swoop," scooping up the creature and setting it safely outside.

2. Sunrise alarm clocks

It's been tough waking up lately, hasn't it? And yes, while we turn our clocks back an hour this weekend, eventually we'll return to those dark mornings as winter arrives. One of my favorite things to help is having a sunrise alarm clock.

A sunrise alarm clock, or light alarm, gradually brightens your bedroom, using light to help you wake up naturally. This makes so much sense to me.

When we go to bed, we don't fall asleep instantly, at least most of the time. So why should we force ourselves to wake up instantly? I know there's the good old snooze button, but this can leave us feeling even more groggy in the morning. I've had a sunrise alarm clock for a couple of years now, and it's been life changing. When I get out of bed at the time I'm supposed to, I don't feel sleepy. Instead, I'm ready to go!

If you need a little help waking up, especially now, I highly recommend getting one of these clocks.

See *Three Things* . . . Page 2

Come meet the candidates

The Reporter is doing our part to help voters make informed decisions when casting their ballots whether early, absentee, or on Election Day.

The Reporter will publish Candidate Bios for all candidates who choose to engage with our readers. Those will publish every Monday through Friday through Election Day (and at **this link**), and those pages will be updated as more candidates choose to submit their information.

Election Day polling places are listed on Page 8 at **this link**. *Please note that Vote Centers will* ***not*** *take effect in Hamilton County until the May 2027 primary election.*

This is a free public service we are providing both to candidates and our readers.

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Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Wednesday, Oct. 28, listed by polling location. ***Click here*** *for more information on early voting.*

Judicial Center	9,303
4-H Fairgrounds	15,059
Carmel Clay Public Library	3,047
Jill Perelman Pavilion, Carmel	3,050
Wilfong Pavilion, Carmel	2,193
Billericay Park Bldg., Fishers	3,357
Roy G. Holland Bldg., Fishers	2,733
Cool Creek Nature Center	2,950
Westfield City Hall	1,770
Westfield Washington Twp. Bldg.	1,674
Cicero Library	328
Sheridan Library	216
TOTAL	**45,680**

Three Things

from Page 1

3. Hygge

Speaking of darkness … while it's awesome to gain some morning light this coming weekend, it means we lose evening light. This is your yearly reminder to help this situation by embracing the Danish and Norwegian concept of hygge (pronounced HOO-guh).

Hygge means "comfort or console." The early evening darkness can beckon us to enjoy candles, a fire, soft blankets … anything to create the feeling of coziness and warmth.

I used to despise winter, and it wasn't even the cold or freezing conditions that troubled me the most. Battling the darkness was the worst. Thanks to discovering ways to embrace the darkness through hygge, rather than fight it, I've learned to appreciate the dark, quiet evenings. It's a chance to slow down, breathe, and enjoy some of the simpler things in life.

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



Photo provided by Amy Shankland

Our columnist is ready for the dark evenings thanks to her hygge kit.

Puzzles

from Page 1

"I noticed that if you put a jigsaw puzzle out on a table, people naturally gather to it – a puzzle gives people something to do, which makes social gatherings easier," Livuzzle Co-Founder Valerie Abenoth said. "We took that a step further and added a conversational component to all of our puzzles (trivia, jokes, quotes, and seek/find activities) to get people talking, laughing, and learning together as they gather around a puzzle. It's a connect-while-you-connect sort of idea. We're proud that our puzzles are made in Tipton, and we love that a Christmas puzzle with a question about Santa Claus, Indiana, is made in Indiana, too."

Livuzzle puzzles are made on extra-sturdy puzzle board and are recyclable. The children's sizes have passed children's product safety testing, so they're made to last and to be passed on for years. The company manufactures all of its inventory in Tipton, including its USA History Trivia Puzzle, a 1,000-piece puzzle with 72 American history questions, made for America's 250th birthday.

Both Christmas Trivia Puzzles are available now on Amazon. Learn more at **livuzzle.com**.



Photo provided by Livuzzle

Market

from Page 1

for this event, making intentional updates such as selecting new vendors, expanded shuttle service and more. All of this is done with the goal of creating a magical Market experience for every one of our guests."

Authentic food, drink and handmade gifts sourced from Germany and German-speaking countries, exclusively available at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, will be sold by vendors at 60 festive wooden huts throughout the Market's footprint. The 2026 Market will feature two new vendors and several returning crowd-favorites.

New vendors

• **Ino Schaller Papiermaché** – Discover traditional German papier-mâché figurines made in Meilschnitz, Germany. These charming handcrafted pieces are perfect for adding a little German tradition to your holiday collection.

• **Brathaus** – Serving traditional German bratwurst, including Nürnberger Bratwürste and Käsekrainer, along with ham and bean soup. This is the first-ever vendor to serve Nürnberger Bratwürste at the Market, providing yet another delicious taste of Germany.



Adamowicz

Carmel Christkindlmarkt's traveling artisan program is also returning for the 2026 season. From Nov. 21 through Dec. 24, a rotation of nine artisans will travel from Germany and take up residence in the Werkstatt (Workshop). There, they will showcase their crafts – from woodworking to glassblowing – during live demonstrations. Visitors are welcome to meet the artisans, share stories, swap tricks and tips, and feel inspired by this opportunity for cultural exchange.

"In a world where so much is mass-manufactured, we remain committed to preserving the traditions behind what people see, taste and experience at Carmel Christkindlmarkt," Adamowicz said. "Our stringent authenticity and quality requirements for vendors, performers and artisans are what make our Market one of the most authentic German Christmas market experiences in the U.S."

In addition to vendors and artisans, over 160 hours of live musical performances are scheduled at the Market's Winter Pavilion throughout the 2026 season. Artists include:

• **Alex Meixner** – a Grammy-nominated polka artist known for his modern twist on traditional folk music.

• **Duke Tumatoe** – a renowned blues guitarist, songwriter, and vocalist.

• **Johnny Koenig Band** – a "polkastar" and recognized force in the genre.

• **Midwest Alphorns** – an unforgettable ensemble of 12-foot-long Swiss alphorns, performing beloved German cultural songs and Christmas favorites.

• **Mollie B** – Award-winning vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, and polka performer.

CCI will also host seven special events in 2026, which have quickly become beloved traditions:

• **Opening Ceremony (Nov. 21)** – Celebrate the new Market season with the ringing of the inaugural opening bell and live music.

• **Tree Lighting Ceremony (Nov. 21)** – Experience the magic of the Christmas tree at Carter Green as it lights up for the first time.

• **Sankt Martinstag (Nov. 25)** – A cozy celebration honoring the timeless story of St. Martin's kindness.

• **Sankt Nikolaustag (Dec. 5)** – Bring the kids to meet St. Nikolaus and participate in craftmaking in the Kindereke.

• **German Sing-Along and Ornament Exchange (Dec. 9)** – Join in singing German carols and swap ornaments with other visitors.

• **Glühwein Gallop 5k (Dec. 12)** – A festive 5k race that starts and finishes at the Market, complete with a costume contest.

• **Military Appreciation Day (Dec. 21)** – A special ceremony honoring active and retired military members.

A full schedule of the Market's 2026 lineup of performances, events and activities can be found at **carmelchristkindlmarkt.com/schedule**.

The Carmel Christkindlmarkt is made possible each year by the City of Carmel and the support of **generous sponsors**, including Tom Wood Porsche and Ascension St. Vincent, which operates the Market's first aid hut.

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Carmel announces official Trick-or-Treat hours

The REPORTER

Carmel's official hours of trick-or-treating will be 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. Homes welcoming trick-or-treaters should turn on their porch lights. If you do not wish to participate, or run out of treats, please turn off your porch lights.

While there are many neighborhoods and other organizations that hold their own Halloween events and celebrations, city officials encourage those who want to trick-or-treat door-to-door to use the official hours to do so.

City officials also remind its residents of a few guidelines and proper safety procedures to follow for a safer celebration. While preparing for Halloween festivities, there are several important safety tips to keep in mind:



Photo illustration provided by City of Carmel

• Motorists should drive with extra caution and keep an eye out for "little goblins" roaming the neighborhood.

• Adults should always accompany their children and use a flashlight at night, staying within their own neighborhood and known homes. The use of glow sticks or reflective tape on costumes can also help with visibility.

• Watch for traffic before crossing any street.

• Avoid costumes that are long, which could cause tripping or costumes that have hard plastic or wood props like swords that could be a hazard.

• Face paint is often a safer alternative to masks that may obstruct vision.

• It is also important to inspect candy before allowing children to have it; dispose of any candy that is unwrapped.


Photo provided by Sheridan Community Schools

Sheridan Elementary's Monster Mash was a spooktacular success

By VALERIE ROBERTS
SES Principal

Sheridan Elementary students had a fantastic time at the SES Monster Mash on Thursday, Oct. 22. Students enjoyed dressing up in their favorite costumes, dancing to music, eating snacks, playing games, and spending time with friends and family. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, smiles, and plenty of Halloween fun!

Sheridan also offered a special sensory-friendly time from 5:30 to 6 p.m. for students who preferred the lights on and the music turned down, helping everyone enjoy the festivities in a way that felt comfortable for them.

A huge thank-you to the SES PTO for doing such a fantastic job planning and organizing yet another terrific event for SES students and families. SES is so grateful for their time, creativity, and dedication to making special memories for the Blackhawk community.


Photo provided by Sheridan Community Schools

Civic Theatre to stage *Annie* in December

The REPORTER

Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, *Annie* has become a worldwide phenomenon and was the winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The beloved book and score by Tony Award winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin, features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written, including "Tomorrow."

The show runs Dec. 4 to 26 at The Tarkington at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. **Click here** to get your tickets.

Synopsis

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations … and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.





ReadTheReporter.com

Sheridan fourth graders take in local history

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools





Last week, Sheridan Elementary School fourth graders visited and toured the Boxley Cabin, Sheridan Library, and the Sheridan Historical Society Museum.

All three locations offer so much history to the foundation of Sheridan and surrounding areas. Boxley Cabin was built in 1828 by Virginia-born abolitionist George Boxley, who fled Spotsylvania County, Va., after allegedly starting a slave rebellion in the winter of 1816. Boxley escaped jail using a spring saw smuggled by his wife, Hannah. He vanished, heading north. But his life as a fugitive meant that he was chased relentlessly by bounty hunters for 12 years.

The Sheridan Library was completed in 1912, when, at the turn of the 20th century, Sheridan was the second-largest town in the county. In order to build the library, the town applied to Andrew Carnegie for funds.

The Sheridan Historical Society Museum offers an insight into the local history along with artifacts. On display are pioneer collections from early settlement days and the history of Sheridan and Adams Township, including a host bluegrass jam feature. There is also genealogy archives with research records tracking more than 500 area families, as well as local historical logs.

These students gained insight into the community's history as they explored information about Sheridan athletics, the cabin's origins, Veterans Park, and the benefits of the local library.







Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools





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Noblesville Common Council approves 2027 city budget

Submitted by
City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Common Council has approved the Civil City 2027 budget, prioritizing responsible stewardship of public funds and return on investments for the benefit of taxpayers. The approved budget totals $143,619,604 to fund city operations, personnel, projects, and programs.

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and city leaders strategically developed the 2027 budget over a period of six months through a rigorous analysis and review process that included three Council work sessions, revenue forecast updates, Finance Committee scrutiny, and stakeholder input. Similar to prior years, the adopted budget balances the core service and infrastructure management needs of a fast-growing community while ensuring that the city continues to live within available resources. The 2027 budget makes targeted investments and adjustments with a fiscally responsible approach amid uncertainty surrounding effects of recently enacted legislative changes and potential additional changes to municipal finance laws.

Much of the city's budgeting efforts focus on the core operational budget, which represents the funds and resources that can discretionarily be allocated to community priorities. Previously approved debt service obligations and pension benefit payments are not within the scope of the core operational budget.

Growth in the ongoing 2027 core operational budget was limited to five percent, consistent with the city's Fiscal Plan and revenue forecast. The core operational budget includes $97.2 million in ongoing expenses and $10.8 million in one-time expenses. Much of the one-time expenses support capital projects and community investments like road and trail improvements to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety and improve connectivity across the city.



Jensen



Davis

"As Noblesville continues to grow, we must balance the needs of our community with our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars," Mayor Jensen. "I appreciate the collaboration with the Noblesville Common Council and city department leaders to develop a budget that prioritizes public safety, makes strategic investments in the future of America's Hometown, and advances critical infrastructure improvements. It is vital that we continue to advance economic and community development initiatives that make sense for Noblesville so we can expand job opportunities and provide future resource capacity for the private and public sectors to address community needs."

The 2027 budget continues the city's focus on safety, allocating 57 percent of the ongoing core operational budget to public safety – up from 55 percent in 2026 and the highest share in the past six years.

The 2027 core operational budget is $11.5 million more than the 2026 adopted budget, largely due to one-time capital investments and rising operating costs. Ongoing core operational funding increases five percent year-over-year to maintain existing services, while $17.8 million in total one-time expenses supports capital projects and community investments. The budget does not include property or income tax increases as the city is maintaining a $1.10 property tax rate despite implementation of state-mandated credits and deductions and increased local service demands.

"This budget reflects our commitment to responsibly managing taxpayer dollars while continuing to invest in Noblesville's future," Common Council President Mike Davis said. "The 2027 budget maintains essential services, prioritizes public safety and important capital projects, and supports programs that enhance the quality of life for our residents. The council appreciates the collaboration with Mayor Jensen and city department leaders to develop a fiscally responsible budget."

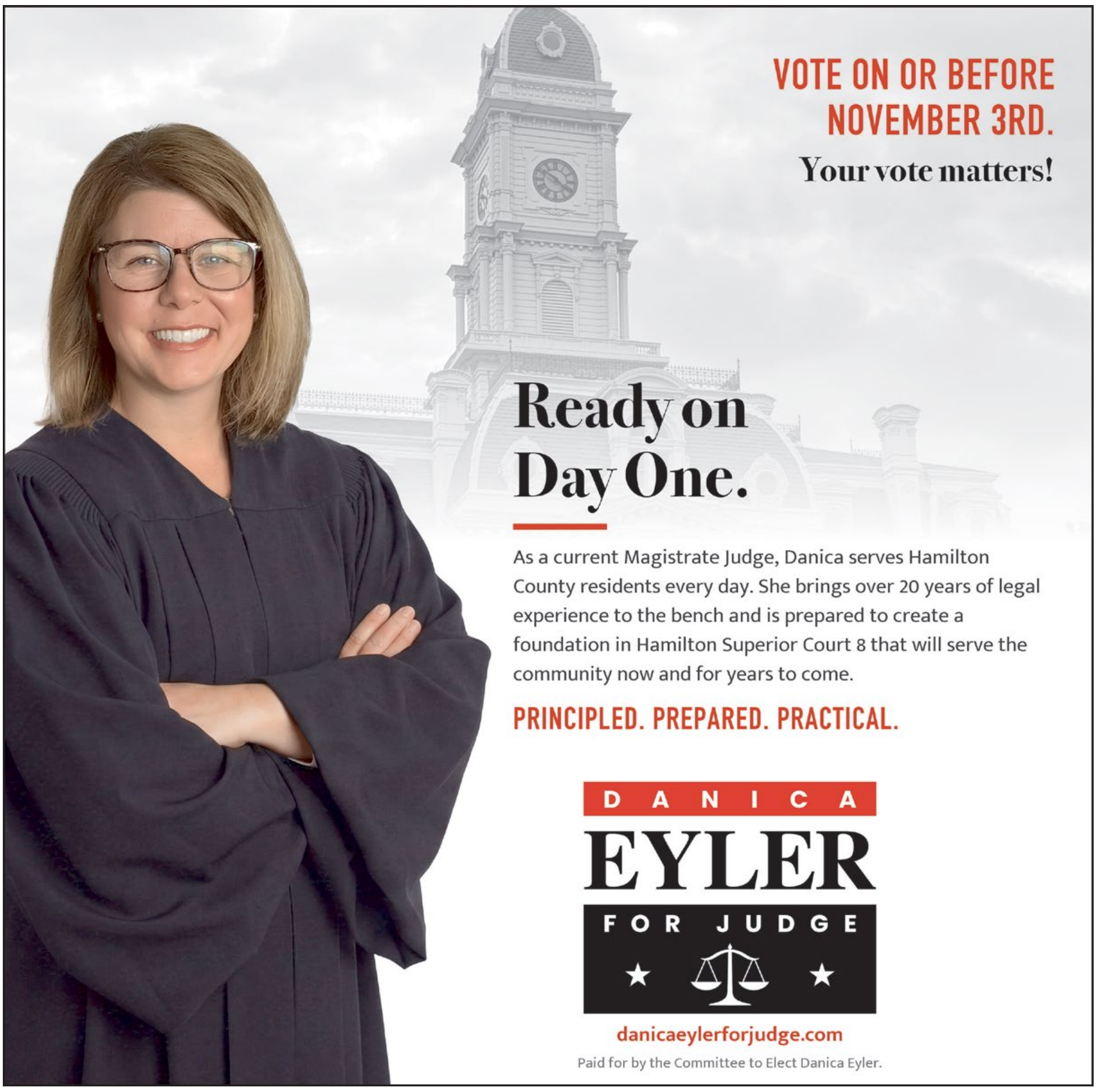
The city will redirect $11.9 million in Rainy Day

See *Budget* . . . Page 6









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Letter to the Editor

Westfield Superintendent Dr. John Ahta: referendum decision is up to residents alone

Dear Editor:

As we approach the Nov. 3 election, I want to share a few final thoughts about the Westfield Washington Schools operating referendum and what it means for our students, staff, and community.

Throughout this process, we've striven to provide transparent, accurate information about our district's finances, the proposed referendum, and its potential impact on taxpayers. I have spent countless hours meeting with residents, answering questions, reviewing numbers, and explaining the challenges we face. My goal has never been to tell people what to think, but to ensure they have the facts needed to make an informed decision.

As I have said before, I do not want to run a referendum.

I recognize that no one wants to pay more taxes. Our families face rising costs, and asking our community to consider additional financial support is not something we take lightly. However, as superintendent, I have a responsibility to be honest about the financial realities our schools face.

Westfield continues to grow, yet changes in state funding and property tax legislation have created significant financial pressures. Today, Westfield Washington Schools receives approximately $558 less per student in state funding than the statewide average, representing nearly $6 million annually. Property tax caps and recent legislative changes have further reduced the revenue available to operate our schools.

We have worked hard to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars through efficiencies, restructuring, and cost-saving measures. However, we cannot continually absorb enrollment growth, inflation, and reduced revenue without eventually affecting the educational opportunities we provide.

This proposed eight-year operating referendum would support school safety, student services, competitive staff compensation, manageable class sizes, student supports, and the programs that help prepare our students to be Life Ready. These dollars are for instruction and learning, not construction and buildings.

$873 messaging is misleading

I also want to directly address the $873 annual tax increase being circulated in recent campaign mailers. Presenting this figure as the increase Westfield homeowners will pay is misleading and inaccurate.

• The proposed referendum replaces our existing $0.17 operating referendum rather than being added to it.

• Individual tax impacts vary based on assessed property values, deductions, and applicable tax caps.

I encourage residents to use the **district's tax calculator** to understand their individual circumstances.

A local decision; no status quo

Indiana established school referendums so local communities could decide what level of investment they wanted to make in their public schools. That decision belongs to Westfield residents, who understand our schools and community and deserve accurate information when making this choice.

I respect that residents have different perspectives on taxes and school funding. However, it is important to understand that a no vote is not the status quo. Without additional operating revenue, we will face increasingly difficult decisions affecting staffing, class sizes, safety, student support, and educational opportunities.

As a Westfield resident, a parent of three Westfield graduates, and your superintendent, I understand this decision from several perspectives. As a parent, I have experienced the value of our schools, and I see firsthand the return on our community's investment through our students' accomplishments, our educators' dedication, and the opportunities available to our children. Excellent schools have helped make Westfield an excellent community.

Early voting continues through Saturday in Westfield, with Election Day next Tuesday, Nov. 3. I encourage every resident to review the facts, ask questions, and exercise their right to vote.

These are our schools, our students, and our community. The decision about their future belongs to Westfield.

Dr. John Atha
Superintendent,
Westfield Washington Schools

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE SAYING YES TO
PEOPLE, PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS SHINE

CONTINUED ACADEMIC SUCCESS
Nationally ranked STEM programs, career pathways, and award-winning music and academic programs

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
Counselors, social workers, partnerships, academic supports, and mental health education

SCHOOL SAFETY
School resource officers, crisis and threat management resources, and ongoing safety initiatives

MILLER YES
VOTE YES ON NOVEMBER 3
PAID FOR BY STRONG SCHOOLS NOBLESVILLE

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 and letters in response to new topics will no longer be accepted.

Straight letters of endorsement that do not introduce new political topics of discussion nor mention a candidate's opponent 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.

Letter to the Editor

Sheridan voters endorse passage of school referendum

Dear Editor:

A strong public school system is one of the foundations of a strong community. That is why we support the Sheridan Community Schools referendum.

For a small, rural community like Sheridan, our schools are about much more than classrooms and test scores. They are places where children learn, families build relationships, teachers invest in the next generation, and the community comes together. Strong schools also help attract families, support local businesses, and maintain the vitality of the community we call home.

The proposed referendum is intended to help sustain the stability of Sheridan Community Schools and the educational opportunities they provide, including retaining and attracting teachers and staff, maintaining academic programs, and covering operational expenses.

This is ultimately about more than a tax rate or a line item in a school budget. It is about maintaining the quality of education and the strength of the community that Sheridan families have built together over generations.

Strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand. Supporting our schools means investing in our children, our families, our local workforce, and the future of Sheridan itself.

Our schools are an investment in Sheridan's future.

David & Becky Christman
Sheridan

*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.*

Budget

from Page 5

Fund reserves toward strategic priorities and near-term capital projects. The budget prioritizes economic development, infrastructure, roads and trails, and managing operating costs. The city will complete or advance capital projects such as a new police headquarters, Fire Station 78, trail maintenance and trail gap programs, and street and sidewalk rehabilitation.

The adopted budget also includes more than $900,000 in contribution increases to police and firefighter pension plans based on a recent state mandate to increase the local contribution rate. The city budget also supports funding grants, such as the Neighborhood Match Grant and Facade Improvement Grant Program, to support aesthetic improvements and quality-of-life projects.

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



Carmel boys basketball delivers slam dunk for Universal Cares

Submitted by Jill Hinds
Universal Cares



Photo provided

What a slam dunk for Universal Cares!

We are so grateful to Hamilton County Parks & Recreation and the incredible leaders at Coxhall Gardens in Carmel for welcoming us as we hosted the Carmel High School basketball teams for our annual Cleanup for Cares Day.

A huge shoutout to Coach Osborne for bringing together more than 70 student-athletes to roll up their sleeves, get involved, and learn about the importance of caring for the parks that make our communities so special.

When you have more than 70 hungry athletes working hard, you need some serious fuel. A big thank-you to Chick-fil-A at Greyhound Pass for generously donating food to keep these hardworking athletes energized. You helped make the day even better.

Each year, we look forward to bringing our youth together to learn that parks are more than just places to play basketball, walk, or enjoy the outdoors. They are essential gathering places that bring neighbors together, strengthen communities, and create memories for generations.

Teaching our young people to take pride in their community and keep these spaces clean, safe, and well-maintained is a win for everyone!

At Universal Cares, we believe small acts of service add up to BIG community impact!

Guerin Catholic President Deacon Rick Wagner announces retirement

Submitted

Guerin Catholic High School President Deacon Rick Wagner announced on Wednesday, Oct. 28, that he will retire at the conclusion of the 2026-27 school year, bringing to a close an extraordinary 42-year career dedicated to Catholic education and faith-based leadership.

Wagner has devoted his professional life to forming students academically, spiritually, and personally through Catholic education. His career has included leadership roles at Bishop Chatard High School, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, and Guerin Catholic. Since 2021, he has served as Guerin Catholic's president, having previously led the school as principal from 2007 to 2013.

Throughout his tenure, Wagner has been recognized for his steadfast commitment to the mission of Catholic education, his servant leadership, and his dedication to fostering a faith-filled community where students are encouraged to grow in wisdom, faith, and service.

"Deacon Rick has faithfully dedicated his life to Catholic education and has profoundly impacted countless students, families, faculty, and staff throughout his career," said Trudy Young, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. "His leadership at Guerin Catholic has strengthened our mission and left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire our community for years to come."

Reflecting on his decision, Wagner shared that retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife, Carol, their children, and grandchildren. He also plans to continue sharing his passion for ministry by leading retreats and workshops while remaining active in service to the Catholic Church.

"My years serving in Catholic schools as a teacher, coach, and administrator have been life-giving," Wagner said. "It has been a joy to be surrounded by loving, caring adults who want the best for the young people in their charge. I have been blessed to have a leadership role at Guerin Catholic and am humbled by the trust Bishop Doherty and Trudy Young placed in me. I am certain that the school will continue to flourish for years to come."



Photo provided by Guerin Catholic

In addition to his ongoing ministry work, he will continue serving as a deacon for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at his home parish, St. Pius X.

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana will begin the search for Guerin Catholic's next president in the coming weeks. According to Young, a search committee will be established with the goal of naming the school's next president by March 1, 2027, ensuring a smooth and thoughtful leadership transition.

Click here to read Deacon Rick Wagner's letter to the Guerin Catholic community.

Founded in 2004, Guerin Catholic High School is a diocesan Catholic high school in Noblesville, dedicated to forming the whole person through academic excellence, faith development, and student life to live out the gospel message.

Letter to the Editor

Calling attention to unsafe vape disposal

Dear Editor:

A Westfield resident recently shared on Facebook that a local vape and tobacco shop has been throwing nicotine and THC vape products into its dumpster, and that children have been pulling them out of the trash and using them. I've shared this with local health, law enforcement, and state tobacco officials, and I trust them to look into it. But this issue is bigger than one store, and every parent and retailer in Hamilton County should know about it.

A discarded vape is not harmless trash. Many still contain nicotine or THC, and a curious child who finds one can be exposed to a highly addictive or impairing substance with no age check at all. The lithium batteries inside can also catch fire when crushed in a dumpster or garbage truck.

These products aren't supposed to go in the regular trash at all. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency treats discarded nicotine e-liquid as an acute hazardous waste and vape batteries as hazardous waste. Retailers are expected to use licensed disposal services, not the dumpster out back.

I'd ask three things of our community:

1. Retailers: Review how your store disposes of expired or returned vape products, and secure your dumpsters. The EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management offer free guidance.

2. Parents: Talk with your kids about what they might find and why they should leave it alone. If you find vapes in public trash or on the ground, report it.

3. Everyone: If you see vape products being discarded where kids can reach them, contact the Hamilton County Health Department or your local police.

Keeping kids safe also takes people in our schools. On Nov. 3, Westfield Washington Township voters will decide the school operating referendum, which would fund School Resource Officers in every school along with more counselors, social workers, and mental health supports. I'll be voting yes, and I hope you'll join me.

Our community works hard to keep these products out of young hands. Careless disposal shouldn't undo that work. If you or someone you love is ready to stop vaping or using tobacco, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) for free help.

Stacy Collins
Westfield

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Letter to the Editor

Fishers resident says city's Parks & Rec should not partner with Silly Safaris

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed to learn that Fishers Parks and Recreation is once again partnering with Silly Safaris for this year's Boo Bash event. The exhibit, which promises "creepy crawlers" and other animals as part of the entertainment lineup, raises serious concerns about animal welfare, public safety, and the message these displays send to children and families in our community.

Silly Safaris states that its mission is to create positive human-animal interactions that inspire responsible pet ownership and wildlife conservation. Yet traveling animal exhibitions do little to teach audiences about animals' natural behaviors, habitats, or conservation needs. Instead, they rely on confining stressed wild animals, carting them from event to event, and subjecting them to repeated handling, loud crowds, and unfamiliar environments for human entertainment.

That's not education, it's exploitation.

Exhibits that encourage close contact with wild animals not only create unnecessary safety risks by placing stressed animals in close proximity to children and families; they also perpetuate the false and harmful idea that wild animals can be handled, displayed, and treated like pets for our enjoyment.

Fishers' continued partnership with Silly Safaris is especially troubling given the company's documented history of animal welfare concerns. U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors have previously cited the organization for Animal Welfare Act violations involving veterinary care for multiple animals, including a reindeer whose halter had become embedded in the animal's nose, causing bleeding and pain; a deer left for months with a mass hanging from the side of his head; and a rabbit suffering from eye discharge that had not been properly addressed. Inspectors also cited the facility using a carbon dioxide chamber to kill animals. These citations should give Fishers officials pause before continuing to partner with this exhibitor for community events.

Fishers has partnered with Silly Safaris repeatedly, from Boo Bash to holiday attractions featuring reindeer. Rather than continuing to rely on traveling wild animal displays, the city should pursue genuinely educational alternatives that teach respect for animals in the natural world. Families deserve programming that fosters curiosity about wildlife without exploiting animals in the process.

Fishers can, and should, do better.

Samantha Chapman
Fishers

Upcoming Fall Festivals & Halloween Events

Harvest Festival at Stuckey Farm Orchard and Cider Mill

Every Saturday and Sunday through Nov. 1

A full-blown Harvest Festival with corn mazes, hayrides, pig races, apple cannons, and Adventure Acres are all part of the fun, along with fresh cider, caramel apples, and apple cider donuts.

Boo Bash at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater

Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fishers' biggest Halloween celebration, a free event featuring live, interactive stage entertainment, themed costumes and costume parades across the AMP stage, decorated booths from local businesses and organizations handing out Halloween goodies, food trucks and more.

Have a safe Halloween at Christ Lutheran Church

Oct. 31

Christ Lutheran Church will hold a fun, safe, family-friendly Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The church is located at 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville.

Noblesville Creates celebrates Day of the Dead

Nov. 1

A rich cultural experience honoring traditional Mexican heritage. Visitors can explore community-curated ofrendas (altars), shop an artisan market featuring authentic Mexican artists, enjoy live music and dance, and sample traditional foods.

*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.*

Meeting Notice

The Jackson Township Advisory Board will meet to discuss general township business and 2027 budget matters at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026, in the community room at the Jackson Township Trustee's Office, 7450 E. 266th St., Arcadia.

*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**.*

— CICERO —

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R8900 *10/29/26, 11/2/26*

NOTICE
On November 4, 2026, the Cicero Town Council will hold an Executive Session at 6:00 pm at Cicero Town Hall, 70 N Byron Street, Cicero, IN purusant to the following: IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) (B) For discussion of strategy with respect to the initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. As used in this clause, "litigation" includes any judicial action or administrative law proceeding under federal or state law. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation, employee specific compensation, or employment matters of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a general discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process.
R8905 *10/29/26, 11/2/26*

Thanks for reading!

Carmel Police Chief Drake Sterling named to prestigious 2026 IACP 40 Under 40 list

Submitted by City of Carmel

The City of Carmel announces that Police Chief Drake Sterling has been selected as a recipient of the 2026 International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 Award.



Sterling

This global award recognizes 40 law enforcement leaders under age 40 who demonstrate outstanding leadership, inspire innovation, and exhibit a deep commitment to the policing profession and their local communities. The **2026 award recipients** represent a diverse group of leaders from across the United States and five other countries, highlighting the international reach of this recognition.

"Chief Sterling represents the very best of our department and the future of modern law enforcement," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "His dedication, problem-solving mindset and strong connection to the people we serve make this a well-deserved honor."

A graduate of the FBI National Academy, Chief Sterling demonstrates a commitment to excellence and forward-thinking leadership. Since his appointment as chief of police in 2024, he has driven meaningful modernization across operations, officer well-being, leadership development and community safety.

Under his leadership, CPD has expanded a comprehensive officer wellness program that includes both mental and physical health evaluations and resources.

Additionally, Chief Sterling helped launch one of Indiana's earliest Drone as First Responder programs, which integrate advanced technology with a real-time information center to enhance situational awareness and improve emergency response times.

Beyond operational advancements, Chief Sterling serves as director-at-large on the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police as well as on several regional boards advocating for youth services and crime reduction.

"I am deeply humbled to receive this recognition from the IACP," Sterling said. "This award is a reflection of the hard work and support of the incredible men and women I serve alongside and our shared commitment to keeping Carmel safe."

The IACP 40 Under 40 awardees were formally recognized during the IACP Annual Conference and Exposition in Orlando, Fla., on Oct. 26.

Braun administration working to power automotive industry with $10M grant program

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun announced on Tuesday, Oct. 27, the launch of a new grant program to help Indiana small- and medium-sized businesses compete in manufacturing the cars of the future.

The program, named ADAPT, will provide match funding to help Indiana automotive suppliers expand their operations to support hybrid, electric and hydrogen powered engines, strengthening Indiana's automotive sector and ensuring the growth of in-demand jobs for Hoosiers.

"Indiana is a leading state for automotive manufacturing, and the ADAPT grant program will help position the sector for future growth while skilling up our workforce and creating high-demand jobs for Hoosiers," Gov. Braun said. "The program will help manufacturers meet growing demand for hybrid, electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, ensuring Indiana remains a global leader in the automotive supply chain. Growing this sector will support the future of our small- and mid-size manufacturers while protecting thousands of Hoosier jobs."

ADAPT is being funded by a $10.79 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Indiana was one of five states with a significant automotive workforce selected to receive a share of $50 million designed to support the transition to new vehicle and engine models while creating and preserving hundreds of jobs at small- and mid-sized suppliers.



Braun

In Indiana, grants will range from $100,000 to $1 million and will help small- and medium-sized automotive manufacturers invest in and develop new, commercial-ready capabilities to serve multiple vehicle markets and protect their workforce. The awards, which require a minimum one-to-one match investment from the company, will help offset costs related to new equipment and software and workforce training.

The program is designed to future-proof the state's robust automotive manufacturing industry that hosts more than 500 automotive parts suppliers and produces 1.3 million cars and trucks annually, ranking No. 2 in the nation in overall production. Indiana's automotive supply chain boasts approximately 320 small- and medium-sized manufacturers that support more than 34,000 jobs across the state.

"Indiana's automotive sector has a strong history, and with ADAPT, Gov. Braun will help ensure that it continues to adapt, innovate and grow for years to come," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Chuck Goodrich. "This program is designed to ensure our smaller suppliers and their workers remain competitive and are equipped to serve the full propulsion spectrum, from combustion engines to battery electric to hydrogen and beyond."

According to the Center for Automotive Research, approximately 65 percent of U.S.-made light vehicles will contain a battery-equipped propulsion system and approximately 60 percent will still be equipped with traditional engines – which, like hybrid vehicles, may also feature battery-equipped propulsion – by 2032, signaling the importance of manufacturing for a diversified market.

Applications are open through Jan. 8, 2027.

Indiana-headquartered manufacturers are encouraged to apply for funding through ADAPT starting today, Oct. 27, 2026. Awards will range from $100,000 to $1 million, require a 1:1 match investment from the company, and will be reimbursement-based, meaning the company will invest first and then be reimbursed for eligible expenses. Selected companies will have two years, or until Dec. 31, 2028, to implement the projects, upgrades and workforce training.

To be eligible for ADAPT, companies must:

Be headquartered in Indiana and conduct a significant portion of its operations from Indiana;

Be a for-profit small- to medium-sized auto manufacturer (less than 1,500 employees, with a preference for companies of 500 or fewer);

Be concentrated in producing components for internal combustion engine vehicles;

Provide at least a 1:1 investment match in each expense category, including capital equipment, capital-expense software and workforce training;

Be willing and able to serve as a sub-recipient of a federal grant.

Proposed projects should be a new initiative or expansion focused on commercial-ready capabilities related to and required for hybrid, plug-in hybrid, battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that would not otherwise happen without the grant award. Companies receiving grant funding will become a federal sub-recipient of Indiana's DOE award, meaning projects will be reviewed and approved by both the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the DOE and companies will be required to submit quarterly reports.

Applications must be submitted by Jan. 8, 2027.

Applications will be evaluated through a competitive review process in partnership with Conexus Indiana, the state's advanced manufacturing- and logistics-focused organization. After companies are reviewed and selected by the IEDC, they will progress to the federal application and review process. Awards are expected to be finalized in the spring of 2027.

Interested companies can learn more and apply **online**.

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Collective Soul & Edwin McCain to perform at Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation's Legacy Celebration concert

The REPORTER

Two legendary '90s rock acts are teaming up for an unforgettable night of hit after hit after hit when Collective Soul and very special guest Edwin McCain perform live at the Fishers Event Center for the third annual Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation (HSEF) Legacy Celebration on Friday, Feb. 19, 2027.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30 at **FishersEventCenter.com**. All proceeds will benefit the staff and students of Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

For multi-Platinum selling band Collective Soul – Ed Roland (vocals/guitar), Dean Roland (rhythm guitar), Will Turpin (bass/background vocals), Johnny Rabb (drums), and Jesse Triplett (lead guitar/background vocals) – seeing eye to eye and ear to ear is part of the secret of why they continue to both record and perform at such a high level together for over 32 years.

Roland can describe over three decades in Collective Soul with two words: "It's an honor and privilege," said the frontman and songwriter behind the Georgia-born rockers known for their time-tested hits. "It's that simple. Just being able to do what you love."

With 13 studio albums – including 1995's triple Platinum self-titled album, Roland is unwaveringly driven in his desire to double down on doing more of what they do best: creating music and performing live onstage. They cut through a noisy 1990s rock scene with a knack for unforgettable melodies, roof-shaking guitars, and a touch of Southern grit. They were one of only five artists to have performed at both Woodstock festivals in '94 and '99. Collective Soul has sold over 15 million albums worldwide, six of which have gone Gold or Platinum and boasted eight No.-1 hits like "Shine," "December," "The World I Know," "Heavy," and "Where The River Flows." These fiery rockers are only just getting started with the next phase of their thriving career that has moved millions of records and wowed multitudes of fans across the world.

* * *

Veteran singer/songwriter Edwin McCain had his major-label breakout in the mid-'90s with *Honor Among Thieves*. McCain became a Top 40 "Radio Star" with chart-topping singles and soundtrack success with the songs "I'll Be" and "I Could Not Ask For More." More recently, Edwin has been touring with Hootie & the Blowfish, Collective Soul, and Train; and had a "breathtaking" experience performing hit songs disguised as Nessy, The Loch Ness Monster during a run to the Final Five during season 13 of the hit U.S. TV show *The Masked Singer*. His first full studio album in 15 years was released in 2025.

McCain co-produced *Lucky* with Lee Brice and Jerrod Niemann. Dubbed a "great American romantic" by *The New York Times*, McCain continues to connect with fans through his music as well as viral TikTok videos where his witty, self-deprecating humor – often at the expense of his exasperated daughter – has won over a new generation of fans. A podcast based on his TikTok life and more touring are in the near future for McCain, but the fame part of the life does not phase him.

"I found myself in this sweet spot doing this for 35 years," Edwin said. "And if I end up playing for tourists on a deck in Hilton Head one day? That would be OK, too."

About the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation

The Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation (HSEF) is a non-profit organization committed to enhancing the educational experiences of students within the Hamilton Southeastern School District. Founded in 2001, with the vision of empowering students and supporting educators, HSEF works to fund programs, initiatives, and resources that go beyond the traditional classroom setting. Through partnerships with local businesses, community members, and alumni, the Foundation helps ensure that all students have the tools they need to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing world.



Graphic provided

The Foundation provides grants to teachers for creative classroom projects, funds scholarships for graduating seniors, and helps to ensure that students have access to extracurricular opportunities that complement their academic achievements. For more information, visit **HSEFoundation.org**.

Longtime Indy TV news anchor Scott Swan to speak at Arcadia Brethren Church

Submitted by Pastor Ben Poole
Arcadia Brethren Church

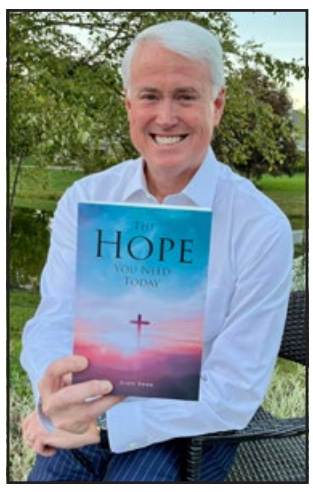


Photo provided

You never know what is going on off the camera. The person you see on TV every night is carrying things you may never know about.

Many of you probably recognize Scott Swan from the news. But there's a lot more to him than what you see on TV. He spent 10 years battling panic attacks and nearly lost his life to internal bleeding in 2017.

This Sunday, Nov. 1, we're welcoming WTHR anchor Scott Swan to Arcadia Brethren Church, 8989 E. 266th St., to hear his story.

Scott will talk about what those experiences taught him about faith, getting through difficult seasons, and finding hope when life doesn't go the way you expected. He wrote about much of that in his 365-day devotional, The Hope You Need Today.

We'll have free coffee and donuts starting at 9:45 a.m., with the service beginning at 10 a.m. Scott's book will be available for $20, and he'll be around afterward to sign copies and visit. You can also find his book on Amazon.

You don't need to be a churchgoer to join us. No need to dress up. Jeans are perfectly fine. If you could use some encouragement, or you're simply interested in hearing Scott's story, we'd love to have you.

Come spend the morning with us. You belong here.

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11/22 – Drag Me to Brunch
11/27 & 11/28 – ESQUE: Burlesque
11/29 – The Magic of David Ranalli
12/4 – Franc D'Ambrosio: Holiday Cheer
12/5 – A Sinatra Christmas

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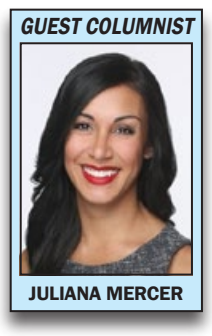
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Washington has a chance to save veterans' lives



I graduated from Marine Corps boot camp a couple weeks before September 11, 2001. I had no idea how profoundly 9/11 would change the trajectory of my life.

I went on to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. Between deployments, I worked at the Wounded Warrior Battalion in San Diego, supporting Marines as they rebuilt their lives. What I did not understand was how deeply I was absorbing their grief and losses.

That became clearer when I later deployed to Afghanistan during one of the deadliest periods of the war for Marines. I purposefully stopped counting the flag-draped coffins as they were loaded onto planes to return home, swallowing my grief so I could return to the mission.

I became paralyzed watching young Marines go outside the base, thinking about their families and whether they would see them again. I began hallucinating that wounded Marines I cared for were walking toward me in the war zone. I now recognize that, alongside my own PTSD, I was carrying secondary PTSD from caring for wounded Marines.

With every loss, I swallowed what I felt just to keep functioning. I kept moving forward, until everything I buried became impossible to ignore.

I did not recognize what was happening until five years after returning home. I sought help. Therapy helped me feel less alone, but my symptoms continued to affect my life and relationships.

My experience is not unique. 870,000 veterans receiving VA health care were diagnosed with PTSD in 2024. Since 9/11, nearly 150,000 veterans have died by suicide. Many continue searching for relief after available treatments have failed.

That is why veterans are cautiously hopeful about psychedelic treatments.

Studies of psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression show significant reductions in depressive symptoms, with up to one-third of patients achieving remission in some trials. Research involving veterans with PTSD found that 75 percent were in remission one month after psilocybin treatment.

I followed the research before pursuing psilocybin treatment myself. During that experience, I was finally able to access the grief I spent decades burying. It did not erase what happened or the memories of the Marines I lost. It changed my relationship with those memories. They no longer controlled my life.

I reconnected to the self I had lost and was able to feel joy and love again.

Psychedelic medicines are not a cure-all. But veterans pursuing them are not looking for shortcuts. Many have spent years doing everything the medical system asked while continuing to search for relief.

Our government is beginning to recognize the potential of new approaches.

This year, President Trump signed an executive order to accelerate research and reduce barriers to psychedelic treatments for serious mental illness. VA is conducting clinical trials of MDMA for PTSD and psilocybin for depression. In July, FDA finalized guidance for clinical trials involving psychedelic drugs.

If these treatments receive FDA approval, the healthcare system must be ready to deliver them responsibly -- through DEA action, clear safeguards, and VA facilities prepared to provide care.

Our country asks a great deal of those who serve. If evidence demonstrates that these treatments are safe and effective, veterans should not wait years longer because Washington failed to prepare for success.

Juliana Mercer is a Marine Corps veteran and executive director of Healing Breakthrough. A version of this column was published in Stars and Stripes.

More than $1M in state grants coming to Hamilton County for infrastructure projects

The REPORTER

Indiana Governor Mike Braun presented $109.9 million in state matching funds to local communities on Wednesday, Oct. 28, that will be used to improve infrastructure in 346 Indiana cities, towns, and counties.

Locally, grants amount to the following:

- Hamilton County: $367,607.25
- Fishers: $340,793
- Noblesville: $314,808.50

"I am glad to see communities in Senate District 31 receive funding through the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program, which will help ensure Hoosiers and visitors alike have well maintained and safe roads and bridges when they travel," State Senator Kyle Walker said. "As Hamilton and Marion counties continue to face impacts from the August floods, this funding will be critical in ensuring Indiana continues to be the Crossroads of America."


Walker


Baldwin


Braun

State Senator Scott Baldwin concurred, saying, "As Noblesville and Hamilton County continue to grow, maintaining our roads and bridges is critical to ensure our community continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. I am glad to see local communities take advantage of this funding, and I look forward to seeing how this round of funding will support road projects in the wake of the recent severe weather still affecting Hamilton County."

The Governor presented the INDOT Community Crossings Matching Grants during the 43rd annual Indiana MPO-IARC Conference in Kokomo.

"Good roads and bridges are essential to strong communities and a growing economy," Gov. Braun said. "This funding ensures hundreds of Indiana communities have the necessary resources to make improvements that Hoosiers will see and use every day. What makes Community Crossings work is that local governments have skin in the game. They're investing alongside the state to get these projects done, making roads safer, supporting local businesses, and creating more opportunities for communities across Indiana to grow."

Communities submitted applications during the FY 2027 call for projects in September. Funding for Community Crossings comes from the state's local road and bridge matching grant fund.

"More than $2 billion in matching funds have been awarded for local road improvements since 2016," said INDOT Commissioner Lyndsay Quist. "Community Crossings is a testament to the strong partnerships between INDOT and local communities that help provide safe, efficient transportation infrastructure for our cities, towns and counties."

The Indiana General Assembly identified long-term funding for Community Crossings as part of House Enrolled Act 1002, passed in 2017. Following recent legislative changes to the program, the matching grant cap is now set at $100 million per year, and the annual cap is reduced to $1 million per local unit of government per state fiscal year. Cost favorability has allowed INDOT to exceed the annual $100 million cap the past two fiscal years.

The Reporter: Accurate. Balanced. Local.

Gov. Braun announces program to help Hoosier veterans acquire existing Indiana businesses

The REPORTER

Governor Mike Braun has announced a new program that prepares veterans and military-connected leaders to buy, run, and grow existing Indiana businesses. The program, Pass the Guidon: Veteran ETA Cohort, advances the Governor's Keep IN initiative that helps keep Hoosier businesses, jobs, and talent anchored in Indiana.



Braun



Goodrich



Zaugg

"Hoosier veterans are capable leaders with a proven commitment to serve that makes them perfect candidates to lead Indiana's small businesses," Gov. Braun said. "When a veteran steps in to buy a business that might otherwise close, the jobs stay here, the business stays here, and Indiana gets stronger."

More than half of Indiana businesses are owned by people aged 55 or older, and many have no succession plan. When those businesses close, communities lose jobs, services, and tax base. Pass the Guidon is a program from VentureVets and powered by the Indiana Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OEI) that connects that need with a ready pool of leaders who already know how to take command of an existing operation and lead it forward.

"Entrepreneurship does not always start with a blank page," Indiana Secretary of Commerce Chuck Goodrich said. "Buying and growing an established company is one of the fastest ways to build lasting ownership in Indiana, and veterans are ready to take on that opportunity."

The part-time cohort is built for working professionals. It opens with an in-person kickoff led by Courtney Zaugg of VentureVets and John Panaccione of VETtoCEO and moves through four modules: finding the right business, due diligence on financials and contracts, the purchase agreement and legal process, and the franchise path. Participants learn from business brokers, CPAs, bankers, acquisition attorneys, SBA lenders, and veteran franchise owners. The cohort meets every other week in the evening to work through real case studies and closes with an in-person capstone conference.

"In the military, passing the guidon is how command changes hands," said Courtney Zaugg, co-founder and managing partner of VentureVets. "The unit keeps its colors, its people, and its mission. That is what we want for Indiana's small businesses. Our veterans are ready to take command. This cohort gives them the playbook, the network and the confidence to do it here in Indiana."

Pass the Guidon is delivered with partners including VETtoCEO and 16 Tech. The first cohort begins in January 2027 and is open to veterans and military-connected leaders. Learn more and **apply online** by Nov. 30.

Nickel Row housing community opens in Fishers

The REPORTER

Onyx+East has announced the official opening of Nickel Row, a 35-unit luxury townhome community located at 11365 Fishers Pointe Blvd., Fishers. The community marks Onyx+East's 20th development in Indiana and its first in Fishers.



Rendering provided by Onyx+East

Designed to offer a walkable, urban lifestyle, Nickel Row's three-story townhomes are available for sale starting in the mid-$500,000s. Each brick home features flexible, open-concept interiors, energy-efficient technology, high-end finishes, and an attached two-car garage. Buyers can choose from multiple floor plans ranging from 2,190 to 2,317 square feet, with three to four bedrooms and 2.5 to 3.5 bathrooms. Twelve homes offer the option to include a private elevator. Buyers can also work with Onyx+East's experienced professionals at its local design center to personalize finishes and features.



Lawrence



Fadness



Impicciche

"Nickel Row marks an exciting milestone for Onyx+East as we officially open our first community in Fishers as part of our Hamilton County expansion," Onyx+East CEO Kelli Lawrence said. "We've always believed a home should be part of something bigger. At Nickel Row, that means thoughtfully designed homes in a walkable setting, just steps from downtown Fishers and the Nickel Plate Trail. As Fishers continues to grow, we're excited to contribute to a community where residents can connect with the city around them while enjoying the design, quality, and character that define Onyx+East."

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said Nickel Row helps bring his vision for downtown to life.

"Nickel Row brings new housing options to the Nickel Plate District that bring our vision of a walkable, vibrant downtown Fishers to reality," Mayor Fadness said. "Fishers continues to rank as one of the top places to live in the country, and as we celebrate the completion of this project, we know the residents who live here will be proud to call Fishers home."

Nickel Row was developed in partnership with Holy Family Episcopal Church, which sold the property on which the community was built.

"Holy Family has been part of the Fishers community for more than 30 years, and we are grateful to be part of its continued growth," said The Reverend Frank Impicchiche of Holy Family Episcopal Church. "The sale of a portion of our property to Onyx + East allows us to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us while strengthening our ability to serve our neighbors and the wider community. We look forward to welcoming our new neighbors and continuing to be a place of faith, connection, and community for years to come."



Photo provided by Onyx+East

Interested buyers can tour Nickel Row's model home to experience the community firsthand. Two move-in-ready townhomes are available now, both located directly along the trail, while additional homes in a second building are slated for completion in February 2027, with opportunities to personalize select finishes. Buyers can also choose to build a home tailored to their preferences.

Nickel Row is part of Onyx+East's continued growth across Hamilton County. The builder recently opened Flora in Carmel, a 121-home community spanning 37 acres. In 2027, Onyx+East will enter the Westfield market for the first time with the opening of Trillium, a 105-home community along the Monon Trail.

To learn more about Onyx+East and stay updated on Nickel Row and other developments, visit **onyxandeast.com**.

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To learn more, visit *westfieldin.gov/veteransdayceremony*.



2027 Songbook Academy applications now open

The REPORTER

Know a talented high school singer ready to take their performance to the next level? Encourage them to apply for the 2027 Songbook Academy!

Forty high school vocalists will be selected for an immersive eight-day experience July 17 to 24, 2027, in Carmel. Participants will learn from Broadway stars, award-winning recording artists, leading vocal coaches and accomplished music educators through personalized coaching, workshops, and performances at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

Students in grades 9 through 12, including homeschooled students, are eligible to apply by submitting two contrasting audition videos. Applying early offers several advantages:

• **Save on the application fee.** Submit an application by Dec. 31, 2026, to receive the early-bird rate of $35. The fee increases to $50 after that date.

• **Receive an earlier admission decision.** Students who submit complete applications by March 21, 2027, will receive an admission decision by April 14, 2027.

• **Keep the final deadline in mind.** All applications must be submitted by March 28, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Applications submitted after the March 21 priority deadline may receive a decision after April 14.

Every applicant receives written feedback from a national panel of music professionals and educators, regardless of admission status.

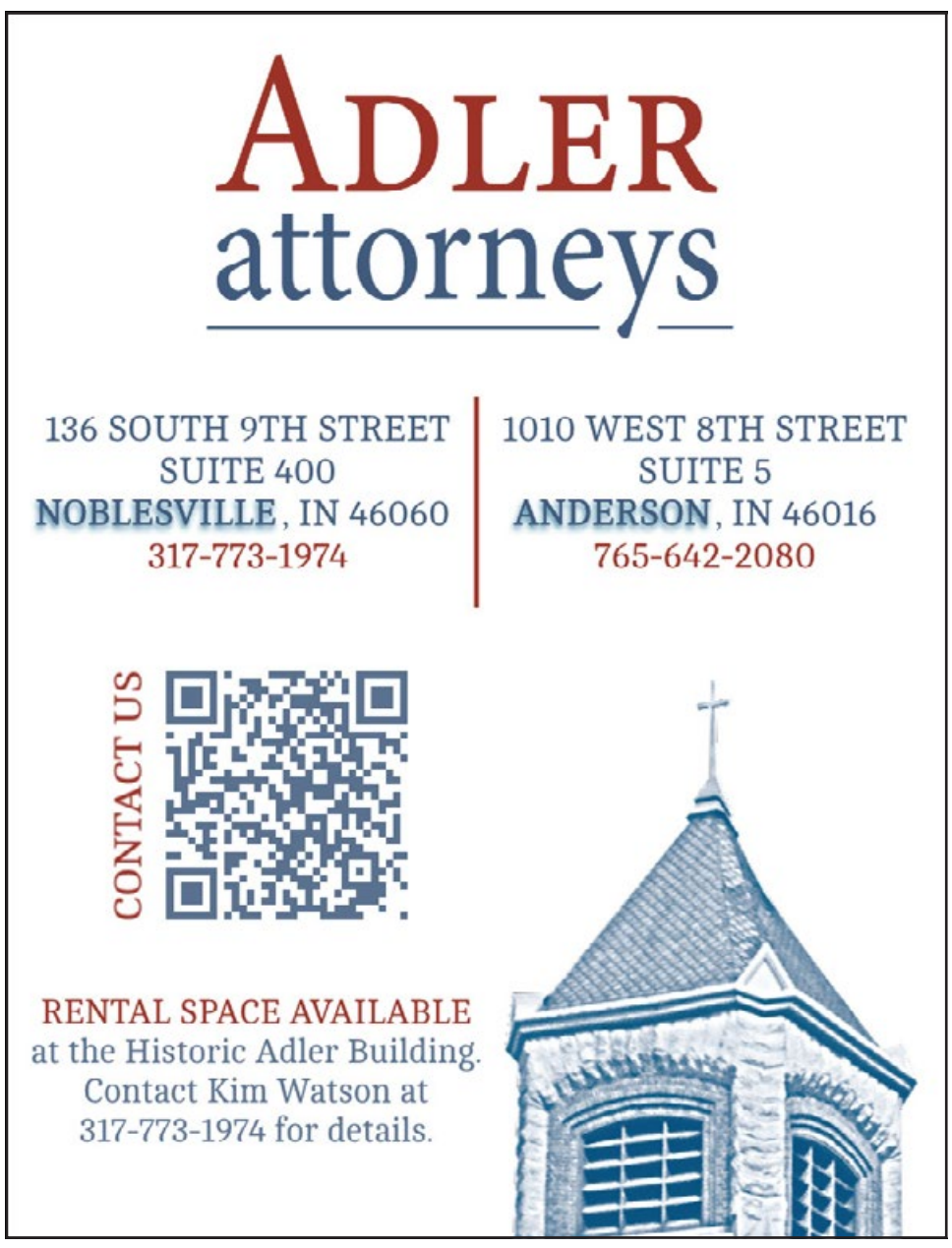
Fees & financial assistance

The program fee is $1,250 and covers tuition, room and board, and transportation between program housing and scheduled activities. Full and partial financial assistance and application fee waivers are available.

Find complete eligibility criteria, audition requirements, financial assistance details, and application instructions at **TheSongbook.org/SongbookAcademy**.

If you have questions, email **SongbookAcademy@TheSongbook.org**.

Whether you're a Songbook Academy alum, parent, teacher, or supporter of the Songbook Foundation, you can help the next generation of singers discover this opportunity. Share the application with the talented high school vocalists in your life and encourage them to apply by Dec. 31 to take advantage of the early-bird rate.



Mat Kearney to perform next season at Allied Solutions Center

The REPORTER

Known for such hits as "Nothing Left to Lose" and "Ships in the Night," singer-songwriter Mat Kearney will visit Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in November 2027.



Photo by Jon Taylor Sweet

Across eight studio albums, Kearney has built a career defined by honest songwriting, genre-blending production, and an unmistakable voice. The multi-Platinum songwriter and producer has appeared on multiple *Billboard* charts, landed four songs on the Hot 100, and amassed more than 2.6 billion global streams.

The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, 2027, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets starting at $35 go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at **TheCenterPresents.org**, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

Part of the Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series, the concert is the first to be announced from the 2027-2028 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.

Kearney's brand-new album, *Hanging by a Heartstring*, marks a new chapter for the Oregon native. Part love letter to Nashville and part reflection on the road behind him, the record explores enduring love, family, self-reflection, and the balance between chasing a dream and holding on to what matters most.

Kearney has performed on *Today*, *Ellen*, *The Tonight Show*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* while earning praise from *USA Today*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *People*, *Billboard*, *Parade*, and *Marie Claire*. A seasoned touring artist, he has shared the road with John Mayer, Lady A, Train, NEEDTOBREATHE, Judah & the Lion, Mutemath, and Owl City, while building an extensive headline touring career of his own.

Noblesville Boom to host open scrimmage ahead of 2026-27 season

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, will tip off the 2026-27 season with an open scrimmage at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile.

The free and public event will give fans their first opportunity to meet the 2026-27 Boom roster and coaching staff, participate in family-friendly activities and interactive experiences, and get a first look at this year's team during an intrasquad scrimmage.

Activities will include:

• Team and coaching staff introductions

• Boom intrasquad scrimmage

• Autograph sessions

• Photos with select players and Bobby the Bobcat

• Face painting and balloon art on the concourse

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and admission is free. Free tickets will be available beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Feel the Boom

Season tickets and single-game tickets for the 2026-27 Noblesville Boom season are available now. Season Ticket Members receive the best value, best seat locations and exclusive benefits throughout the season.

• **Click here** for season tickets.

• **Click here** for single-game tickets.





Jean Elizabeth Fleming

February 25, 1945 – October 26, 2026



Jean Elizabeth Fleming, 81, Noblesville, passed away on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Bridgewater Healthcare Center in Carmel, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of love, kindness, service, and unwavering devotion to her family and community.

Born on February 25, 1945, to R. Wayne Musselman and Helen Costomiris Musselman, Jean lived her life with a servant's heart, a gentle spirit, and a genuine love for others. She was a woman whose warmth could be felt the moment you met her, whose smile could brighten any room, and whose kindness was extended freely to everyone she encountered.

On December 31, 1965, Jean married the love of her life, Ronald J. Fleming. Together, they shared more than 60 years of marriage, building a life centered on love, family, and service to others.

Jean is survived by her loving husband, Ronald; her two children, Scott Allen Fleming (Gina) and Jill Marie Barnes (Alan); and her eight beloved grandsons: Andrew (Nicole) and Noah Fleming; Maddux and McCoy Fulk; and Jack, Cole (Anna), Luke, and Will Barnes. She is survived by siblings Patricia Overdorf, David Musselman (Cherie Query), and Diana Musselman (Phil Hall), and was preceded in death by siblings Joyce Wiggins and Gary Musselman. Several nieces, nephews, and cousins survive as well.

Being a grandmother was one of Jean's greatest joys. She absolutely adored her grandsons and took tremendous pride in each of them. She was always eager to hear how they were doing and what was happening in their lives. Never one to miss an opportunity to brag about her boys, Jean delighted in sharing their accomplishments and celebrating the young men they have become. Each held a special place in her heart, and her love for them was immeasurable.

A proud 1963 graduate of Noblesville High School, Jean's love for her hometown and the Noblesville Millers ran deep. She devoted 32 years of her life to teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at NHS, touching countless lives along the way. For Jean, teaching was far more than a profession; it was an opportunity to encourage, nurture, and make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Her commitment to the school community did not end with retirement. Jean remained an integral part of the Noblesville High School family, maintaining the friendships, connections, and traditions that meant so much to her. She proudly wore the black and gold throughout her life, and few things brought her greater pride than watching her own children and grandchildren graduate from the same high school where she was a student and educator. Being a Noblesville Miller was a lifelong honor she treasured.

Jean's passion for education and service extended well beyond the classroom. She was a member of the Indiana State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, Tri Kappa sorority, and the Hamilton County Retired Teachers Association. She was also a member of First Christian Church of Noblesville.

For many years, Jean was actively involved with Prevail, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing free, confidential support and crisis intervention to survivors of crime and abuse. This was a cause especially near and dear to her. Her dedication to Prevail reflected her compassion for others and her desire to offer support, dignity, and hope to those facing difficult circumstances.

Those who knew Jean will remember her as a woman of extraordinary patience, gentleness, and kindness. She truly never met a stranger. Whether greeting a familiar face or meeting someone for the very first time, Jean had a remarkable ability to make people feel welcomed, valued, and cared for. Her kindness was not reserved for special occasions or grand gestures; it was simply how she lived, each and every day.

One of Jean's lifelong friends perhaps captured her spirit best when she shared that, in all the years she had known Jean, she could not recall ever seeing her angry. Instead, she remembered a woman who always had a smile on her face. That gentle, joyful presence was a gift Jean shared with everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Above all, Jean lived her life in service to others. Whether through her years as an educator, her involvement in the community, her commitment to causes she believed in, or the love and encouragement she gave so freely to her family. Jean made the world around her a kinder and more welcoming place. She led not by seeking recognition, but by quietly and consistently showing up for others with love, patience, and grace.

Jean's legacy will live on through her family, the generations of students she taught, the community she faithfully served, and the countless individuals whose lives were made brighter because she was part of them. She will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever cherished.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville.

An additional visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, November 2, 2026, at First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville, followed by a funeral service celebrating Jean's life at 11 a.m.

Burial will follow at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

For those wishing to honor Jean's memory, the family would be deeply grateful for memorial contributions made in her name to First Christian Church of Noblesville or Prevail, Inc., two organizations that held a special place in her heart.

The family sincerely appreciates the love, prayers, and kindness extended during this time.

Jean's was a life beautifully lived, a heart generously shared, and a legacy of love and service that will continue to inspire those she leaves behind.

Condolences: **randallroberts.com**

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

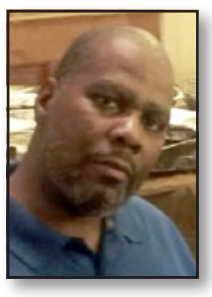
Love and Obey the Lord

So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 (NIV)

McClinton Brown

September 19, 1966 – October 27, 2026



McClinton Brown, 60, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Harbour Manor Care Center in Noblesville. He was born on September 19, 1966, in Detroit, Mich.

McClinton worked as a salesman for a cable company. He loved to read Bible scriptures and enjoyed computers and traveling.

No services are planned. Randall and Roberts Funeral Home has been entrusted with McClinton's care.

Condolences: **randallroberts.com**

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

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



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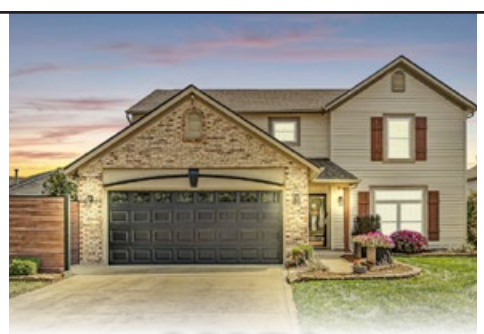
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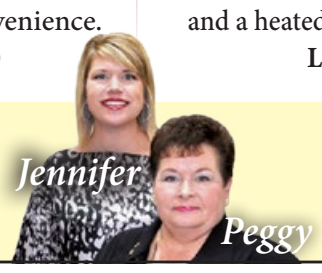
Mailing Address
136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
Noblesville, IN 46060


PENDING!
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 near Geist Reservoir offers an open concept floor plan, new roof, carpet, and remodeled primary bath. 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. 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.
Listed at $274,900

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