

The Hamilton County Reporter

Your Hometown Newspaper

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2026

Arcadia | Atlanta | Cicero | Sheridan | Tipton
Carmel | Fishers | Noblesville | Westfield

WISHTV NEWS GATHERING PARTNER

Like & Follow us!

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Clouds increase. Shower chances by late afternoon.

Tonight: Showers and some rumbles of thunder.

HIGH: 64 **LOW**: 42

paulpoteet.com

T1L1 students from Heights & Sheridan help the hungry

Submitted by Kevin Yaney

On Thursday, Nov. 5, a total of 213 Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) students from Hamilton Heights Middle School and Sheridan Middle School combined forces to pack food for hungry people in Liberia, Haiti, and Guatemala. The food pack was part of a community service project conducted through International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES).

In two hours, the students packed 10,944 meals consisting of dried vegetables, grains, and vitamins, which were boxed and crated for delivery.

T1L1 is a community-led mentoring program that meets with students in their classroom each week. The program emphasizes 10 universal principles needed to be a successful leader. Those principles are respect, integrity, self-control, compassion, courage, teamwork, excellence, humility, enthusiasm, and honor.

Hamilton Heights was the first school district in Indiana to adopt T1L1 mentoring in 2019. Currently, Hamilton Heights fifth- and eighth-grade students participate in the program. This is the second year T1L1 has been operating in Sheridan Middle School. It currently has one sixth-grade classroom participating.

IDES provides disaster response in the form of food, shelter, medical supplies and other necessary items worldwide. They have connections with compassionate services in some of the most impoverished areas of the world. Based in Noblesville, IDES has been a key partner with T1L1 to help provide students with unique opportunities to live out compassion for others in need. You can learn more at ides.org.



Photo provided

Students from Sheridan and Hamilton Heights Middle Schools worked together to feed 10,944 meals to people in need around the world.

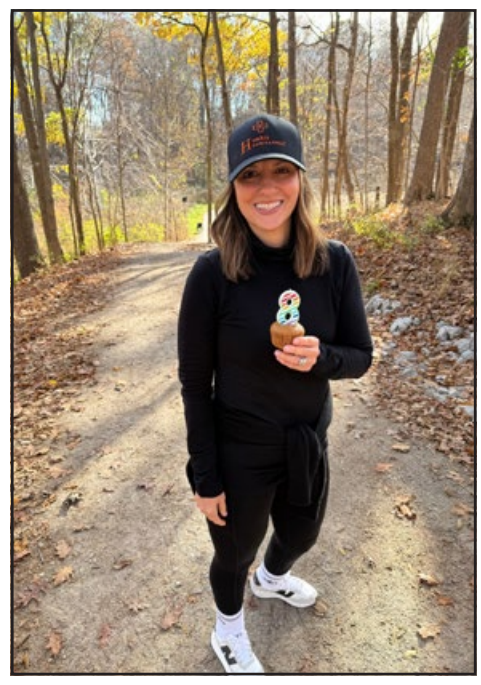


Photo provided

Our columnist celebrates the eighth anniversary of her Diagnosis Day. She's pictured here atop the big hill at MacGregor Park in Westfield.

In eight years



COLUMNIST

AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

For those of you who do not know me, I met a different version of myself eight years ago. In an instant, I felt like a brand-new version of me.

For 44 years, I lived in the confusing and isolating space of the uncertainty of my identity.

Then, one fateful day, I was released from the grips of the unknown and immediately thrust into a space of feeling completely known, by me.

It is mind blowing to me things I have done in the eight years since my diagnosis of Bethlem Myopathy Muscular Dystrophy. A diagnosis that was quite literally achieved through blood, sweat, and tears. A battle tirelessly fought and won.

What was the prize for such a long and hard-fought war searching for my identity?

A new heart, and a new chance at discovering my purpose. A heart that was painstakingly shaped over those 44 years.

See *Eight* . . . Page 2

BrewBQ helps fund NHS robotics



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Thank you to the Noblesville Rotary Club for their generous donation to the Noblesville High School Robotics Club. Over the past five years, Rotary has donated a total of $24,000 to NHS Robotics with proceeds from their annual BrewBQ fundraiser.

Carmel PorchFest Inc. awards 10 grants to student musicians

Submitted

Carmel PorchFest Inc. recently hosted its annual Donor and Grant Recipient Celebration at Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael, honoring key supporters and awarding $15,000 in musical arts funding to local youth.

The evening recognized VIP Lounge donors alongside venue and community partners Feinstein's and Meridian X Main Realty Partners for their continued support of the organization.

During the event, Carmel PorchFest Inc. awarded $1,500 grants to 10 young musicians from the Carmel area. Since the program began in 2022, Carmel PorchFest Inc. has contributed just over $50,000 to 25 local children and three local youth organizations. Local donor JoLeigh Rigsbee, who made a significant contribution to the program this year, personally presented two of the grants in memory of her son.

Designed for Carmel-area youth ages 6 to 18, the Carmel PorchFest Grant Program helps students pursue the musical arts by providing financial support for new instruments, lessons, music camps, and other enrichment opportunities. In exchange for funding, recipients complete at least four hours of volunteer service at Carmel PorchFest Inc. events.

See *Musicians* . . . Page 2



Photo provided

Young Carmel musicians were awarded $1,500 grants at Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael.

Westfield Library Foundation announces 2027 Art Wall artists

The REPORTER

The Westfield Library Foundation (WLF), in partnership with the Westfield Washington Public Library (WWPL), has announced the artists selected to exhibit their work on the Michael and Karen Heaton Art Gallery Wall in 2027. The rotating exhibits will feature a variety of artistic styles and mediums, including photography, painting, mixed media, and colored pencil drawings.

Located in high-traffic areas throughout the library – near the Rivet Café, along the Atrium staircase, and beside the elevator – the gallery wall provides local artists with an opportunity to share their creativity with thousands of library visitors.

"The library has always been a place for discovery, and that extends well beyond books," WLF Executive Director Erin Downey said. "The Art Gallery Wall gives talented artists a platform to share their work while bringing color, creativity, and inspiration into our library."



Downey

The 2027 Michael and Karen Heaton Art Gallery Wall schedule includes:

- January: Britt Ritchie (Oil)
- February: Westfield High School Student Art Show (Artists to be announced)

See *Art Wall* . . . Page 2

NYSA
NOBLESVILLE YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE
ONE COMMUNITY ● 7000+ KIDS ● 16 PROGRAMS
www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports

Art Wall

from Page 1

• March: Westfield Washington Schools Student Art Show (Artists to be announced)

• April: Kathleen Lattimer (Photography)

• May: Xun Wang (Watercolor) and Linda Havel (Mixed Media, Watercolor, Acrylic, Pastel)

• June: Jenell Fairman (Acrylic) and Carla Allgeier (Watercolor)

• July: Chris Winberg (Acrylic) and Dan Kokinda (Astrophotography)

• August: Linda Jordan (Colored Pencil) and Emily Beck (Watercolor, Acrylic)

• September: Hispanic Heritage Month (Artists to be announced)

• October: John Gaebler (Oil), John Harley Jr. (Watercolor)

• November: Judy Ann Evans (Acrylic, Watercolor, Oil, Mixed Media) and Jenna Hogberg (Graphite)

• December: Emily Dorlack (Watercolor, Acrylic, Oil, Pastel)

Residents are invited to enjoy the exhibits during regular library hours at WWPL. Some artwork may also be available for purchase directly from participating artists.



Sheridan Retirement
502 W. 7th St.
Sheridan, IN 46069
62 Years Old or Older. Disabled Any Legal Age
Water, Sewer and Weekly Trash Removal included in rent.
1 and 2 bedroom units available.
Limited Rental Assistance Available for those who qualify
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"
317-758-5061
TTY 711
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Eight

from Page 1

The process changed the landscape of my heart. What once felt like a force inside me that relentlessly fought against me, suddenly felt like an army of people, just like me, fighting alongside of me.

I am not the only person who has ever lived through decades of uncertainty. Far from it. That was hard to recognize while living smack dab in the middle of it. Buried alive by my own pain and frustration.

The funny thing is, that I did not necessarily have to dig my way out of that hellscape. For as much time as I spent free falling into that space, getting a diagnosis felt like a gentle nudge through all the muck and mire that had sunk me to the bottom of the pit.

I was catapulted to a fresh start.

All the confusing times of misdiagnosis, bullying, silent pain, and tears, and being left behind did not go away, but they took a backseat to my newfound version of me.

The new me, does not dwell and wonder anymore.

Those scars will always stay with me, but they no longer get a say in how I conduct my life.

I am in this space writing, speaking, and advocating because that is what I chose to do. Nothing is forcing me to do any of this.

Having a disability does not make someone obligated to pour their heart out to strangers' week after week or volunteer their time endlessly. It is a choice. For a long time, I was not ready to do any of that.

On Sunday, I celebrated my eight-year anniversary of getting my diagnosis of Bethlem Myopathy, a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. An estimated 1 in 200,000 people live with this disease.

That means, that I do not see people like me on a regular basis, or ever really. That means I must seek out friendships and connection of others who fight my same battle. Who know the nuances of living with this disease.

Each year, I take the time to celebrate this most miraculous and cleansing moment in my life. Sometimes, I celebrate alone, and other times my husband or my sons join me as I light my candle symbolizing my new beginning. Either way, it deserves to be celebrated.

It is a day of reflection and thanksgiving for the unique path that has been my life. I feel honored to have been trusted with such a precious gift.

The gift is that at the end of myself, I got to see that my purpose extended so far beyond me, that it feels endless with possibility and chances to serve, help, and connect with others.

Each diagnosis anniversary I write about how it has changed my life. Each year, I see growth into the new version of myself.

This year, I was inspired by my son Jack who did his first marathon last weekend. I suddenly felt like I wanted to light my celebratory candle at the top of the "big hill" at MacGregor Park.

If you have been around, you know that is a challenge I have been doing for several years now. If you know the "big hill" at MacGregor Park, then you know it's no small hill.

It was my hardest attempt yet. I doubted myself all the way to the top, but I got there. One small step at a time, with my husband's encouraging voice driving me to the top.

What a way to celebrate a day of renewal, and a reminder to never give up hope.

Until next time…

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

Musicians

from Page 1

"Music has always been the heartbeat of our organization, from our front porch stages to our Late Night on Main summer block parties," said Sondra Schwieterman, Executive Director of Carmel PorchFest Inc. "By providing these grants, we are making sure that financial barriers never stand in the way of a child's musical passion. Our ultimate goal is to someday have a child that we provided a grant to perform at Carmel PorchFest or Late Night on Main, the Palladium or Juilliard and beyond."

The grant funding was made possible through Feinstein's VIP Lounge program. Featured at every Carmel PorchFest Inc. event, the VIP Lounge provides local supporters with exclusive access to beer, wine, appetizers, and door prizes – turning community celebration directly into youth music opportunities.

To support the Carmel PorchFest Grant Program or find application details for students, visit **carmelporchfest.org**.

Recipient	Age / Grade & School	Intended Use of Grant Funds
Johnny Itzkowitz	Age 7, 2nd Grade, Smoky Row Elementary	Violin lessons and a new 1/2 size violin
Mila Suskovich	Age 10, 5th Grade, Clay Center Elementary	Piano lessons and music competitions
Adeline Suskovich	Age 8, 3rd Grade, Clay Center Elementary	Percussion lessons and music supplies for learning drums
Zosia Brinson	Age 10, 5th Grade, Clay Center Elementary	Piano lessons, music books, piano tuning, and competition fees (including the Young Hoosiers Indiana Arts Festival)
Elle Phares	Age 15, 10th Grade, Carmel High School	Show choir fees and vocal lessons
Oliver Musgrave	Age 11, 6th Grade, Carmel Middle School	Purchasing a baritone for school band class to eliminate rental fees
Janai Johnson	Age 13, 8th Grade, Eastwood Middle School	Purchasing a personal violin to end the need to borrow the instrument
Reese Phares	Age 15, 10th Grade, Carmel High School	Show choir fees and vocal lessons
Hudson Musgrave	Age 14, 8th Grade, Carmel Middle School	Purchasing a French horn for school band to eliminate rental fees
Lucille Micklash	Age 14, 9th Grade, Carmel High School	Musical theater camp fees

American Bank of Freedom
www.americanbankoffreedom.bank
NMLS#409183
Save time and open your account online!
Certificate of Deposit Specials
3 Months 4.00% APY*
6 Months 4.25% APY*
12 Months 4.25% 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
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Hitting on all cylinders



This month, we are writing about the complimentary food distributions the Feeding Team does in addition to 84 outdoor no-questions-asked pantries. Many neighbors are not aware that the Feeding Team offers alternatives to picking up a few meals out of one of the pantries.

For the last couple of years, the Feeding Team, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, has open food pick up in our offices. The model is quite simple. From 10 a.m. to noon, we open the office and provide groceries to families that walk-in for assistance. These food distributions include a wide variety of perishable and non-perishable food. Each month we secure perishable food specifically for neighbors who stop by our open office food pickup. Typical groceries include some form of meat, eggs, vegetables and produce. We rely on social media, word of mouth, volunteers, churches, and this column to get the word out about food availability. A typical Thursday morning will find around eight families that stop by and pick up groceries.

In addition, The Feeding Team, in conjunction with local Lions Clubs and Gleaners, offer two drive through food pickups monthly: one on the second Saturday morning of each month and a second one on the fourth Tuesday afternoon. I should point out that these events are weather permitting. Please watch our social media for regular updates. Neighbors begin lining up hours in advance and volunteers load a week or more worth of groceries in their cars in what can best be described as an assembly line that Henry Ford would be envious of. Normal fare for these events includes fresh meat, produce, vegetables, and fruit.

In addition to the pantries deployed throughout central Indiana, weather permitting, there is a food pickup event every week of the month. All our welcome to participate and we continue until we run out of food or run out of time.

A tip of the hat goes to Custom Concrete and to Mayor Scott Willis of Westfield. Working together, we were able to launch pantry number 84 a few weeks back along a trail head in Westfield. As our newest partner, Custom Concrete has adopted this pantry as one more way that they live out their corporate values in the community.

About FeedingTeam.org

More than 44,000 people in Hamilton County struggle with food needs. **FeedingTeam.org** is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers outdoor, no-questions-asked food pantries that are open 24/7, all year long. These pantries help families who may not qualify for other programs but still need a few meals to get by.

We are so thankful for all the volunteers, hosts, donors, and sponsors who help us every day. We love serving our neighbors and seeing how your generosity changes lives. Hunger doesn't always look the way people think it does, and every meal makes a big difference.

A simple can of food can mean everything to a parent who has nothing left to feed their kids. A few meals can change someone's life.

If you'd like to help, there are many volunteer opportunities. We are also looking for new spots for future pantries. If you know a good location, please contact us.

*Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at **lisa@feedingteam.org** and **mark@feedingteam.org** or by calling (317) 832-1123.*

FeedingTeam.org Facts

- 84 outdoor pantries
- Two drive-thru food pick-ups monthly and two in-office food pick-ups monthly
- 20,000 meals per month
- Over 30 volunteer families

Michael Graves welcomes Jacob Burris as architectural designer

Submitted

Michael Graves, an award-winning global leader in planning, architecture, and interior design, is pleased to announce the addition of Jacob Burris as Architectural Designer in the firm's Noblesville office.

Burris brings experience across a variety of commercial projects, including retail, industrial, religious and restaurant facilities.

Throughout his career, Burris has gained hands-on experience in multiple aspects of architectural design and project development. His diverse background has allowed him to contribute to projects of varying sizes and complexities, developing a solutions-oriented approach to design.

"Jacob brings a well-rounded, breadth of experience that aligns with how we serve our clients," said Darren Peterson, Managing Principal of Michael Graves' Noblesville office. "His experience across different project types and willingness to take on new challenges make him a great addition to our team. We're excited to have him on board."

Burris emphasizes functional, cost-effective design solutions that meet each client's unique needs. He particularly enjoys working collaboratively with clients who are actively engaged in the design process.

Burris holds a Master of Architecture from Ball State University and plans to continue pursuing his architectural licensure.

Clutch Kitchen celebrates grand reopening at Sun King Brewery Fishers with new kitchen & expanded menu

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers, in partnership with Sun King Brewery Fishers and celebrity chef Kelsey Murphy, is celebrating the grand reopening of Clutch Kitchen with four days of special events Nov. 12 to 15.

The celebration marks the completion of kitchen renovations and the debut of an expanded menu, giving guests more ways to enjoy Chef Murphy's culinary creations at Sun King Fishers.

Murphy, a longtime Fishers resident and winner of Season 11 of *MasterChef*, has created custom creations for her Fishers location, along with her signature dishes from her original location at Lucas Oil Stadium like Clutch Wings, the Clutch Cuban, and famous smash burgers. This new menu expands options such as Artisan Thin-Crust Pizzas, an all-new Pastrami Reuben, Sticky Pork Belly Bao Buns, Burrata Boards, Garlic Parmesan Mozzarella Sticks, and more.

The grand reopening represents another milestone in Fishers' ongoing efforts to foster culinary entrepreneurship and create unique dining experiences in Fishers District. Clutch Kitchen operates in the former Fishers Test Kitchen space at Sun King Fishers, which has been reimagined as a space for the hometown chef to test and expand her culinary offerings. The space was first introduced in 2020 as a restaurant accelerator designed to help emerging culinary concepts develop and grow in Fishers.

Murphy was among the entrepreneurs who launched a concept through the Fishers Test Kitchen, introducing her former Inspo restaurant in 2022, before expanding to Lucas Oil Stadium and later returning to Fishers District with the Clutch Kitchen concept.

"This new era of Clutch Kitchen is a testament to what happens when we invest in our community and our entrepreneurs," Mayor Scott Fadness said. "Chef Kelsey's journey from *MasterChef* to launching her culinary brand and returning home to Fishers to open Clutch Kitchen is exactly the kind of success we envisioned when we launched the Test Kitchen over six years ago."

With destinations including Sun King Brewery Fishers, Fishers Event Center, and a growing collection of restaurants, retail and entertainment offerings, Fishers District has become a hub for dining, sports, and entertainment experiences. Clutch Kitchen's continued growth adds to the district's mix of locally driven concepts and reinforces Fishers' commitment to creating opportunities for entrepreneurs.

"This grand reopening feels like coming home, and watching this kitchen transform is a dream come true," Chef Kelsey Murphy said. "We've been counting down the days to serve our new menu and I can't wait to see families sharing pizzas, enjoying a cookie skillet, and gathering before a game at the Fishers Event Center. Fishers has supported me from the beginning and I'm excited to bring something new to the community that helped me get my start."

Grand reopening weekend events

Clutch Kitchen will celebrate its grand reopening with four days of events at Sun King Brewery Fishers, 9713 District N Drive.

Golden Ticket Giveaway
Friday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13

Guests are invited to try out new Clutch Kitchen menu items to be entered into a limited giveaway. The first qualifying 50 orders between 4:30 to 6 p.m. will receive a golden ticket. At 6 p.m., winning tickets will be announced with prizes including merchandise, gift cards and more.

Taste the New Clutch, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14

Stop by for a complimentary menu tasting and beer pairings. Guests are invited to sample Clutch's new Pork Belly Bao Buns, Reuben, and Cinnamon Roll Pretzel Bites with a sample of the item's perfectly paired Sun King beer. Available for guests 21 and over.

Clutch Game Day Celebration, noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15

Join Clutch Kitchen and Sun King Brewery Fishers for gameday. All day Sunday, enjoy Clutch Kitchen's newest menu item while watching the Indianapolis Colts go up against the Miami Dolphins, and later, enjoy artisan pizza and beer ahead of the Indy Fuel Hockey game versus the Toledo Walleye at the Fishers Event Center.

To view the full new menu, visit **EatClutch.com**.

Sip and Shop

BENEFITING THE CARMEL FIRE BUFFS MUSEUM

11.18.2026

5:30PM-8:00PM

210 VETERANS WAY
CARMEL, IN

over 40 local vendors, flash tattoos, CFD apparel, artisans, sensory toys, Peacewater Winery, Mauckys Food Truck, and so much more!

PRESENTED BY CARMEL FIRE AUXILIARY

SPONSORED BY THE HEROES CLUB INC. Partners in Public Safety and Law Enforcement

ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY ON-LINE AUCTION

BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, November 3rd @ 5pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, November 14th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, November 12th from Noon-6pm
FIREARMS PREVIEW: Thursday, November 12th from 3pm - 5pm Only
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, November 16th from Noon - 6pm
& Tuesday, November 17th from Noon - 6pm

2007 United Cargo 12' Enclosed Trailer
2018 Sure-Trac 16' Trailer
Minneapolis-Moline Wheel Weights

Firearms & Ammo, Crossbows & Pocket Knives,
Artifacts & Arrowheads, Advertising & Signs,
Household & Collectibles, Furniture, Quilts
Hot Wheels, Little Tykes, Die Cast & Ertl Farm Toys
Vtg. Toys, Marbles, Comic Books, Men's Watches
Dazey Churns, Cast Iron, Quilts & Soft Goods
Christmas Trees & Holiday Decor

Power Tools & Hand Tools, Tool Boxes & Chests,
Brand New Shop Smith 510,
Ladders, Plumbing, Electrical, Automotive,
Fasteners & Hardware Box Lots,
Cummins Machinery Drill Press

Craftsman Snow Blower & Push Mower,
Craftsman LT2000 & Cub Cadet Riding Mowers,
Lawn & Garden Tools & Equipment, Chainsaws,
Generators,
Fischer Pro Series Lift

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:
Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com
Absentee Bidding is still Available
PREVIEW - PICKUP & PAY AT
Cripe's Auction Service, 3247 E. State Road 28, Tipton, IN
765-675-6909
www.cripesauction@yahoo.com
Wade Cripe, Auctioneer
#AU11000034

CRIPE'S AUCTION SERVICE
3247 East State Road 28
Tipton, IN 46072
www.cripesauction.com
Wade Cripe
Auctioneer
#AU11000034
765-860-6959
Echo Price
765-675-6909

BUSINESS CARDS

Arvin Masonry
Historical tuckpointing
Foundation repair & replacement
All things masonry
Noblesville 317-645-7460



Green Avenue
GRANT$ & 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
W. Stevens LLP DBA Noble Business Advisors

Live Music At Pasto Italiano
Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday
$25 Bottles of Select Wines on Wednesday
Reservations Recommended
PASTO ITALIANO RESTAURANT & BAR
3150 E. SR 32
Westfield
317-804-2051
Closed Sundays

Wanda Lyons
(317) 345-3960
Lyons-Realty.com
LYONS REALTY



THE HONEY BAKED Ham CO
Bring Home the Taste of the Holidays
Thru 12/31, purchase $500 in Honey Baked gift cards, get a $50 gift card FREE!
(must purchase gift cards in-store)
$7 off Any bone-in half ham 9 lbs or larger or whole boneless ham
coupon code 729709
$5 off Any bone-in half ham up to 9 lbs or any half boneless ham
coupon code 729710
$3 off Smoked or Roasted Turkey Breast
coupon code 729711
Carmel
2001 E. Greyhound Pass
honeybaked.com/stores/1705
Indy - Northwest
3905 W. 96th Street
honeybaked.com/stores/1704
Expires 11/30/2026 Only valid at participating retail locations. Must present coupon at time of purchase to receve offer. If ordering online, enter promo code when prompted, as coupons cannot be applied at time of pickup. May not be combined with other offers. One coupon per person, per visit. While supplies last. No cash value. Not valid on gift card purchases.

Fishers Rotary to honor Jim Hallett at WaterIsLife Charity Ball

The REPORTER

Fishers Rotary will present the 16th annual WaterIsLife Charity Ball on Friday, Dec. 4, with Jim Hallett serving as honorary chair.



Hallett

Beginning at 6 p.m. in the heated holiday pavilion behind Fishers City Hall, the evening will bring the community together to celebrate service and support WaterIsLife, a signature project of the Rotary Club of Fishers.

The Charity Ball gives neighbors, businesses, and civic leaders a way to put their generosity to work far beyond Hamilton County. Proceeds help fund deep borehole wells that bring clean water closer to home for families and communities in Sierra Leone.

Hallett is chairman of Hallett Sports & Entertainment and owner and chairman of the Indy Fuel. His community service includes support for Mabel's Ride, a partnership with Community Health Network that provides free transportation to health care for qualifying patients.

WaterIsLife's honorary chair tradition recognizes community leaders whose service reflects Rotary's ideal of "Service Above Self." Hallett joins past honorary chairs including Mayor Scott Fadness, Marissa Andretti, David Becker, and John Wechsler.

"One of the best things about Fishers is that when people see a need, they step forward," said James Thompson, President of Fishers Rotary for 2026-27. "Jim reflects that spirit. Through WaterIsLife, our community is helping families we may never meet have something every family should be able to count on: clean water."

WaterIsLife reports 225 wells funded, more than 200 completed and more than 500,000 people impacted. Last year's Charity Ball raised more than $200,000 in net proceeds and helped fund 23 additional wells. This year's gathering will help carry that work forward.



Photo provided

A resident draws water from a hand pump in Sierra Leone.

Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner, open bars, silent and live auctions, live big-band music, and dancing. The event runs from 6 to 11 p.m. at 1 Municipal Drive in Fishers.

Rotary Club of Fishers

Guests are invited to wear their holiday best.

Individual tickets are $175, and a table for eight is $1,400. Tickets, sponsorship information, and opportunities to give are available at **FishersWaterIsLife.com**. The community is invited to attend, bring friends or colleagues, and help turn a holiday evening in Fishers into lasting access to clean water.

Hamilton County Parks & Rec receives two Indiana Parks & Recreation Association awards

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation (HCPR) received two awards from the Indiana Park & Recreation Association (IPRA), earning the Outstanding Agency Award and the Innovative Program Award for the Strawberry Moon Market.





Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT, from left) HCPR Deputy Director Bruce Oldham, Park Board member Dr. Judith Campbell, and HCPR Director Chris Stice hold the awards. (ABOVE RIGHT) Events Coordinator Christopher Gullion and Historical Resource Manager Christy Brocken.

The Outstanding Agency Award recognizes HCPR's leadership, innovation, and service in one of Indiana's fastest-growing counties. The department manages 21 park properties totaling more than 1,800 acres and offers more than 500 free or low-cost programs. Through conservation, trail expansion, historic preservation, natural area restoration, and community partnerships, HCPR provides recreational opportunities while protecting the county's natural and historic resources.

HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

The Innovative Program Award recognizes the Strawberry Moon Market, which debuted in 2025 at Strawtown Koteewi Park. With a budget of approximately $2,300, the inaugural event welcomed more than 1,400 visitors, nearly three times the anticipated attendance, and supported 22 local artisans.

Inspired by the June full moon, the market brought together art, history, and nature within the park's recreated Native American village. Visitors enjoyed live music, food vendors, and interactive experiences, explored the Taylor Center of Natural History, and participated in telescope viewing and astronomy programming led by local astronomer Doug Balogh.

"These awards reflect the work our team does every day to serve Hamilton County residents," HCPR Director Chris Stice said. "We're committed to caring for our parks and natural resources while creating programs that bring people together and give them new ways to experience the places that make Hamilton County special."

ACCURATE
BALANCED
LOCAL NEWS

Indiana paving the way for corporations while leaving farmers behind

GUEST COLUMNIST



BRIAN DAGGY

Indiana's leaders love to celebrate big economic development announcements. Billions in corporate investments, thousands of promised jobs, and ambitious construction timelines make for impressive headlines. But what happens when the rush to deliver those projects comes at the expense of the Hoosiers who already live and work in these communities?

In Boone County, we're finding out firsthand.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recently closed County Road 300 North, a critical connection between State Road 39 and U.S. 52. The closure, expected to last through late November, comes at one of the worst possible times for local farmers: peak harvest season.

With this route unavailable, farmers moving equipment between fields in northern and western Boone County are being forced onto State Roads 47 and 32, which are already congested with construction vehicles, dump trucks, and workers traveling to the massive Eli Lilly and Meta projects within the LEAP District. Farm equipment often travels at speeds of just 25 mph, creating additional congestion and potential safety hazards on highways already struggling to accommodate increased traffic. There are also concerns that police and fire services won't be able to get to some homes in a timely manner.

What's perhaps most frustrating is the apparent lack of communication. According to local accounts, even the Boone County Highway Department was unaware of the closure until learning about it through Facebook. Many residents discovered the disruption only when they encountered closed roads, with little advance notice beyond signs posted a few days beforehand.

This isn't simply an inconvenience. It's another example of Indiana's leaders prioritizing the demands of major corporations over the needs of the communities they have moved into.

Ironically, the Boone County Farm Bureau and Purdue Extension have spent considerable time educating thousands of construction workers at the Lilly and Meta sites about farm road safety. Yet now, during the busiest season for agriculture, farmers are being pushed onto major highways to accommodate the very development creating these traffic concerns.

We recognize that economic development and job creation are important. But progress should not require sacrificing public safety, local infrastructure, or the livelihoods of those who have sustained Indiana's agricultural economy for generations.

And this issue extends far beyond Boone County. As Indiana continues pursuing massive corporate developments around the state, every Hoosier should be asking the same questions: Who is planning for the impact on existing communities? Who is protecting local interests? And who is being held accountable when those needs are ignored?

For too long, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and state leaders have measured success by the size of corporate investments and the number of jobs announced, without adequately accounting for the toll taken on local residents.

Boone County deserves better, and so does the rest of Indiana. Economic development should strengthen our communities, not force them to accommodate corporate timelines at any cost.

It's time for state leaders to stop treating local residents and farmers as an afterthought. Our roads, our safety, and our agricultural economy matter just as much as the next billion-dollar announcement.

Brian Daggy is a member of the Boone County Preservation Group, an organization formed in opposition to the LEAP project. The group's mission is to create a unified community voice focused on preserving local farmland and natural resources, while supporting responsible land development. You can follow the Boone County Preservation Group on ***Facebook****.*

Local first responder agencies receive grants from Duke Energy Foundation

The REPORTER

Local fire and police departments and emergency management agencies have received grants from the Duke Energy Foundation. The funding, which totals nearly $300,000 for organizations across the state, is being recognized during Indiana's annual Winter Weather Preparedness Week.



Pinegar

During major emergencies and natural disasters, local emergency management agencies play a critical role in providing information, resources and support that Duke Energy relies on to speed power restoration for its customers.

The grants will help public safety agencies increase their response capabilities during severe weather and other emergencies through advanced preparation, planning, equipment and training.

Locally, the shareholder-funded Duke Energy Foundation grants have been awarded to the following organizations, totaling $16,000

- **Hamilton County:** $10,000 to help equip emergency management and the highway department with lifesaving personal voltage detectors and traffic cone bars that, when connected with traffic cones, form improved barricades for road and sidewalk closures
- **Town of Zionsville:** $6,000 for a washing machine that cleans and decontaminates firefighter personal protective equipment such as coats, pants, and hoods, after exposure to smoke, soot, and carcinogens

"Our crews have already responded to 12 major storms in our Indiana service territory in 2026 – that's the highest number in three years," Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar said. "Fortunately, we work with first responders across the 69 counties we serve to respond to respond to these storms. We're thankful for their support and all they do to keep their communities safe."

From Army to real estate

Three veterans continue their commitment to service

Submitted by F.C. Tucker

For three F.C. Tucker Company real estate agents, the shared history formed during military service have carried into a second career helping Hoosiers find a place to call home.

Gene Tumbarello, Timeko Whitaker, and Brian Wignall first crossed paths while serving in Army recruiting at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. Decades later, all three are part of the F.C. Tucker family, bringing the leadership, discipline, and commitment to service they developed in the military to their work as real estate professionals.

As Veterans Day approaches, the three agents reflect on their shared history, the experiences that shaped their lives and the ways they continue to serve their communities.

A shared history of service

Tumbarello, a Vietnam veteran, served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army before retiring as a first sergeant in 1993. His military career took him around the world, from Vietnam and Germany to recruiting assignments throughout the United States. During his time in recruiting, he helped lead one of the Army's top-performing recruiting companies and trained fellow soldiers in leadership and recruiting practices.

After 11 moves in 15 years, Tumbarello decided to make Indianapolis his permanent home. Drawing on the sales and leadership skills he developed in the Army, he pursued a career in real estate, joining F.C. Tucker in 1993. He sold his first $1 million in real estate before officially leaving military service.

"Military service taught me the importance of professionalism, loyalty, organization and a strong work ethic," said Tumbarello, an agent with F.C. Tucker's Fishers/Geist office. "Those are qualities that have stayed with me throughout my real estate career. Whether you're serving your country or helping someone buy a home, you have a responsibility to show up, follow through and give your best."

Tumbarello's military connections also helped shape the careers of a fellow F.C. Tucker agent. He encouraged former Army colleague Timeko Whitaker to pursue real estate. He was also pleased to see Brian Wignall, a fellow colleague in Army recruiting, join the company.

* * *

Timeko Whitaker served 20 years in the active Army and Army National Guard combined, retiring as a sergeant first class in 2007. Her military accomplishments included multiple awards, completing the Army's rigorous Air Assault School, leading a recruiting station, and earning numerous awards for her performance as a top recruiter and guidance counselor.

Inspired by her daughter's encouragement, Whitaker pursued real estate as a second career, drawn to the opportunity to continue helping others.

"The Army helped shape the woman I am today," said Whitaker, an agent with F.C. Tucker's Fishers/Geist office. "It taught me discipline, resilience, leadership, perseverance and the importance of serving others. Those are values I carry with me every day, especially when helping clients navigate one of the most important decisions of their lives."

* * *

Brian Wignall, a Carmel-based F.C. Tucker agent, served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve for more than three decades. His military career includes multiple deployments to Iraq and assignments supporting soldiers throughout the Middle East. He served in a variety of positions in the Army including: Drill Sergeant, Airborne Infantryman, Combat Engineer, Army Recruiter, (where he was the Indianapolis Battalion Army Recruiter of the year three consecutive years), and even - at age 56 - became the oldest soldier to ever complete the "Combatives Master Trainer Course" and become a Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) Combatives trainer for the U.S. Army.

Like his fellow veterans, Wignall credits his military experience, particularly his time in recruiting, with preparing him for a career in real estate.

"One of the things I learned in the Army was the phrase 'Charlie-Mike,' which means to continue the mission until completion, no matter the obstacles you encounter," Wignall said. "In real estate, the process isn't always straightforward. Challenges come up, but you keep moving forward and finding solutions to help your clients achieve their goals. That determination and commitment to others is something the military instilled in me."

F.C. Tucker CEO Jim Litten continues a legacy of service

The connection between military service and real estate extends to F.C. Tucker's leadership. CEO Jim Litten is also a Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970 and earning a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Litten said his military experience helped shape his approach to leadership, particularly the importance of learning from others and recognizing the strengths each person brings to a team.

"Serving in Vietnam taught me lessons about leadership, teamwork and humility that have stayed with me throughout my life," Litten said. "I'm proud that veterans like Gene, Timeko and Brian have found a home at F.C. Tucker. Their commitment to service didn't end when they left active duty. They continue to make a difference by helping families and strengthening the communities we serve."

For all four veterans, Veterans Day is an opportunity to reflect on their experiences and recognize the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

"Veterans Day is so much more than a day on the calendar," Whitaker said. "It's a time to reflect on the honor, sacrifice and responsibility that comes with wearing the uniform. Every veteran has a story, and every story deserves to be honored and respected."

While their military journeys and paths to real estate have been different, Litten, Tumbarello, Whitaker, and Wignall share a lasting connection rooted in service. Today, they continue that mission through their work at F.C. Tucker, helping individuals and families throughout central Indiana find a place to call home.



Photos provided

Gene Tumbarello (Fishers/Geist office) is a Vietnam veteran who served more than 20 years in the Army before joining F.C. Tucker in 1993. He helped encourage Whitaker to pursue a career in real estate and recognized Wignall's potential when he joined the company.



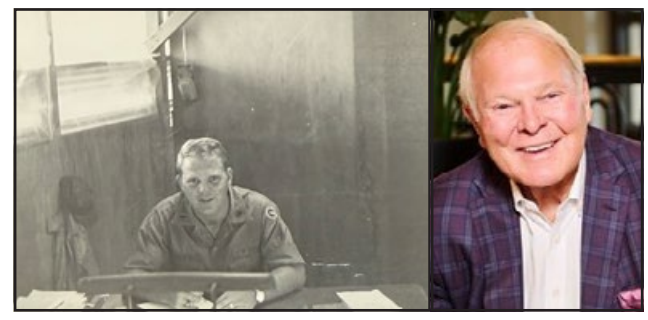
Photos provided

Timeko Whitaker (Fishers/Geist office) served 20 years in the active Army and Army National Guard combined and credits her military experience with shaping her approach to leadership, resilience and helping others.



Photos provided

Brian Wignall (Carmel office) is a longtime Army and Army Reserve veteran with multiple deployments to Iraq and the Middle East who applies the military philosophy of "Charlie-Mike," or continuing the mission to completion, to helping clients achieve homeownership.

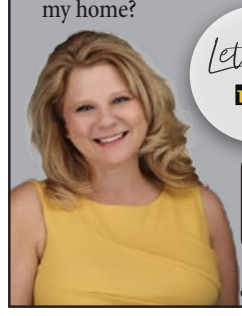


Photos provided

F.C. Tucker CEO Jim Litten is a Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970 and earning a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

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?



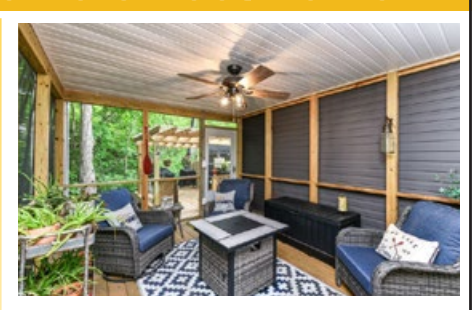
Let's Talk

Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

Call Cicero your "Home Sweet Home!"



22585 Vos Hiatt Avenue
Cicero, IN, 46034
Welcome to walkable Cicero. This 1.73-acre property features an open-concept interior, large kitchen, fenced yard, and huge barn. Enjoy new vinyl flooring, a new AC unit, and a new well pressure tank. Welcome home!
Listed at $419,000



30 Blue Water Drive
Cicero, IN, 46034
Welcome to your peaceful Morse Lake retreat featuring a screened porch with water views, a beautiful courtyard, an open kitchen, a primary suite, two bedrooms, a storage shed, and a new carport.
Listed at $249,900

Talk To Dani Robinson
REALTOR®/BROKER/SRES
317.407.6969
DaniR@talktotucker.com
TalkToDani.com
Talk to Tucker REALTORS
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Westfield's 'Name a Snowplow' contest returns

The REPORTER

The Name a Snowplow Contest is back for 2026 and bigger than before. Residents are encouraged to submit their punniest, most creative, snow-tastic ideas for a new snowplow name.

City staff will select their top five submissions, and the community will then have the chance to vote for their favorites.

Submit your idea at **this link** by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.



Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation wins inclusion award for adaptive Halloween event

The REPORTER

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) received the Inclusion Program for All Ages Award from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) for its Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail. The award recognizes CCPR's efforts to create inclusive recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Held annually at River Heritage Park, the Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail offers individuals with disabilities and their families an accessible alternative to traditional Halloween trick-or-treating. The event features a welcoming environment free from loud music, frightening decorations and other spooky surprises that can make trick-or-treating overwhelming.

Friendly volunteers dressed in non-threatening costumes hand out treats along the park's fully accessible trails, with seasonal games and activities available for participants to enjoy. The event welcomes individuals of all ages and abilities, allowing families to celebrate Halloween in a way that feels comfortable for them.



Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

Carmel • Clay Parks & Recreation

"Our goal is to create an environment where everyone can participate in the fun of the holiday without the barriers they might encounter at other Halloween events," CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor Kelvin Solares said. "Receiving this award is a wonderful recognition of the work that goes into making that possible."

The Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail is one of over 220 adaptive recreation programs offered by CCPR. Through these programs, CCPR works to remove barriers to participation and create opportunities for individuals of all abilities to connect with their community.

To learn more about CCPR adaptive programs, visit **carmelclayparks.com/programs/adaptive**.

Zionsville Parks & Recreation earns statewide leadership award

Submitted by Town of Zionsville

Zionsville Parks and Recreation received the 2026 Outstanding Medium Agency award from the Indiana Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The department accepted the award Friday, Nov. 6, at the association's Awards of Excellence luncheon in Fort Wayne.

"Zionsville's parks and trails are a big part of what makes this community special, and our staff never take that responsibility lightly," said Jarod Logsdon, superintendent of Parks and Recreation. "This honor from IPRA belongs to them, and to the residents, partners, and Town leaders who support our work. We're grateful, and we're more motivated than ever to keep raising the bar."

This year, Zionsville Parks and Recreation opened the first phase of Carpenter Nature Preserve, giving visitors access to new trails, a nature playground, and an outdoor classroom. In September, the Town received the Community Green Project of the Year Award from Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (Aim) for the preserve. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the Town will reopen Lincoln Park in downtown Zionsville with accessible walkways, a new gazebo, and a fountain.



Photo provided

Zionsville Parks & Rec Superintendent Jarod Logsdon accepts the award.

"The award from IPRA confirms what we already knew," Mayor John Stehr said. "Our team works hard, both behind the scenes and in public, to provide great public spaces and programming for our people. Congratulations to every member of our Parks Department on this well-deserved honor."



Braun expands opportunities for incarcerated Hoosiers through 10-year Ivy Tech partnership

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Gov. Mike Braun is expanding opportunities for incarcerated Hoosiers to gain skills to help them successfully reenter society through a new 10-year agreement between the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and Ivy Tech Community College.

The renewed partnership reflects Gov. Braun's commitment to strengthening programs that reduce barriers to employment for those exiting the criminal justice system.

Access to workforce training ahead of release is proven to ease that transition and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

"Strengthening reentry programs is a priority for my administration because what happens inside our correctional facilities has a direct impact on public safety," said Braun, who after taking office in 2025 directed IDOC to advance opportunities for the recently incarcerated to secure employment. "We have a responsibility to prepare people for life after prison and give them a real opportunity to succeed. Continuing this partnership with Ivy Tech is an important investment in that work."

A total of 140 Ivy Tech instructors provide educational services to 6,500 incarcerated people across 15 adult facilities in Indiana. Students receive career and technical training in programs that include welding, culinary arts, cosmetology and more, with opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications. Basic adult education in support of earning a high school equivalency diploma is also available.

IDOC Commissioner Lloyd Arnold considers the partnership with Ivy Tech a critical component of the department's efforts to prepare inmates for life after incarceration.

"Our responsibility is to give the people leaving our facilities the best possible chance," Arnold said. "We don't want them to be idle while serving time. We want them to take advantage of what's available to them through partnerships like the one we have with Ivy Tech."

The partnership has seen significant growth both in participation and student achievement. Since 2021, enrollment in correctional education programs has increased by more than 3,000 students, while annual program completions have more than doubled, rising from 1,272 in 2021 to 2,833 in 2025.

"Education has the power to change lives, and that opportunity should extend to individuals preparing for a second chance," Ivy Tech President Marty Pollio said. "Through this partnership, we are helping thousands of Hoosiers gain the skills, confidence and credentials they need to build meaningful careers and successfully reenter their communities."

"We are excited to build on this momentum over the next decade and help even more Hoosiers achieve their educational and career goals," added Amanda Harsin, chancellor of Ivy Tech's Madison campus, which oversees Ivy Tech's correctional education programs. "Every student who gains a new skill or completes a program is better positioned to pursue employment, support their family, and contribute to their community."

At a recent ceremony at Plainfield Correctional Facility, newly minted graduates of Ivy Tech programs reflected on what having access to education behind bars has meant to them. Antoine Bird, who also serves as a peer tutor for fellow inmates, was among those finding reasons to celebrate.

"I am not the man today that I was when I walked in here 22 years ago," he said.

White Christmas screening returns to Payne & Mencias Palladium

Songbook Foundation expands on popular seasonal tradition

The REPORTER

Following a sold-out screening last year, the Great American Songbook Foundation, in partnership with Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, will bring a beloved Christmas classic back to the big screen for an evening of timeless music and seasonal nostalgia at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

With music by legendary songwriter Irving Berlin, *White Christmas* highlights the enduring bonds formed through military service against a festive backdrop. In recognition of the film's military themes, the Songbook Foundation will spotlight the Armed Services Arts Partnership, a nonprofit organization that uses the arts to help veterans, service members, and their families to connect, create, and thrive.

New this year, seating is reserved, allowing guests to choose their seats when purchasing tickets. Tickets are $10 for Gallery seating and $12 for standard Orchestra seating. Discounted $5 tickets are available for military, veteran, and first responder households, as well as children ages 12 and under.

Guests can also purchase a $30 VIP Orchestra package, which includes:

- Premium center Orchestra seating
- An exclusive preshow conversation at 6 p.m. with Emily Rapoza, the Great American Songbook Foundation's Director of Library & Archives
- One complimentary drink voucher
- A special holiday snack

For film details and tickets, visit **TheSongbook.org**. Tickets are also available by calling (317) 843-3800 or in person at the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at the Payne & Mencias Palladium.

The screening is generously sponsored by Leo Brown Group and Libby & Randy Brown.

The event also complements the Songbook Foundation's newest exhibit, *Unforgettable: Celebrating the Soundtrack of America*, opening in November at the Traditions Senior Communities Songbook Gallery inside the Payne & Mencias Palladium. Visitors can step into a reimagining of Irving Berlin's personal songwriting studio, exploring his life and creative process alongside his historic transposing piano, which is preserved by the Foundation. Together, the exhibit and screening celebrate the lasting influence of Berlin, whose songs helped shape American popular music and remain a beloved part of the holiday season.



Photo provided

The Great American Songbook Foundation's holiday film screening is becoming a popular seasonal outing for local families and fans of movies and music.

About the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)

ASAP provides free art and comedy classes to veterans, service members, military family members and caregivers. ASAP is much more than a classroom; it's an inclusive and thriving community stretching across the country. Veterans in ASAP classes gain resilience, confidence, and connection. Learn more at **asapasap.org**.

Indiana Rural Summit Coalition sends record number of candidates to the Statehouse

Submitted

The Indiana Rural Summit is sending at least 16 members to the Indiana General Assembly next session, showing that rural races can be competitive if qualified candidates receive training, fundraising assistance, and regional coordination.

"The November 3 election results demonstrated that political power is not fixed and districts can change," Indiana Rural Summit Founder Michelle Higgs said. "Voters can organize. And communities that have been overlooked can make themselves heard. The work of our candidates, volunteers, and regional coalitions helped make that possible."

Indiana Rural Summit candidates elected to the legislature include:

Indiana Senate

- Rodney Pol – SD4
- Natasha Baker – SD22
- Kristina Moorhead – SD29

Indiana House of Representatives

- Ryan Kominakis – HD4
- Randy Novak – HD9
- Charles "Chuck" Moseley – HD10
- Racheal Bleicher – HD24
- Tiffany Stoner – HD25
- Sara Gullion – HD34
- Lindsay Gramlich – HD39
- William Colteryahn – HD40
- Amy Huffman Oliver – HD62
- Wendy Dant Chesser – HD71
- Michele "Shelly" Henry – HD72
- Stephanie Jo Yocum – HD88
- Jarren Hurt – HD91

Editor's note: All candidates listed here are Democrats.

The candidate list reflects the Summit's Nov. 4 election update and remains subject to final election results. The race between Indiana Rural Summit candidate Nick Marshall and Senator Chris Garten, the Republicans' choice for President Pro Tem, is currently under review and ballots are being recounted.

In the 2026 election, four Democratic challengers defeated sitting committee chairs in the Indiana General Assembly:

- Natasha Baker (Indiana Senate District 22) defeated Sen. Ron Alting (Public Policy Committee, 28 years in office).
- Ryan Kominakis (Indiana House District 4) defeated Rep. Ed Soliday (Utilities, Energy & Telecommunications Committee, 20 years).
- Stephanie Jo Yocum (Indiana House District 88) defeated Rep. Chris Jeter (Judiciary Committee, six years).
- Indiana Rural Summit-recruited Jarren Hurt (Indiana House District 91) defeated Rep. Bob Behning (Education Committee, 34 years).

Together, these four incumbents represented 88 years of legislative service. Two additional Democratic challengers defeated Republican legislative leaders:

- William Colteryahn (Indiana House District 40) unseated Rep. Greg Steuerwald (House Republican Caucus Chair, 19 years).
- Tiffany Stoner (Indiana House District 25) defeated Rep. Becky Cash (Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair, four years).

In total, six Indiana Rural Summit Democratic challengers defeated Republican incumbents holding legislative leadership positions, demonstrating that even long-established incumbents in positions of power can be held accountable at the ballot box.

"Perhaps the most significant story isn't simply who won, but how far districts moved," Higgs said. "In House District 71, Wendy Dant Chesser received 63.6 percent of the vote, producing a Democratic victory margin of 27.2 percentage points. In House District 62, Amy Huffman Oliver received 59.3 percent, winning by 18.6 percentage points. Across our coalition, candidates in some of Indiana's most difficult districts made measurable gains, even when they did not win their seats."

One of the Indiana Rural Summit's central strategies was built on a simple idea: candidates are stronger when campaigns work together rather than compete for limited resources. The Indiana Rural Summit created regional networks known as Power Packs that could share volunteers, visibility, organizing capacity, and voter engagement. That strategy helped propel candidates across the finish line and make races around the state more competitive.

"The relationships built this election, the volunteers activated, the candidates developed, and the communities engaged are the foundation for the next chapter," Higgs said.

LOCAL NEWS
LOCAL VIEWS
Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper
ReadTheReporter.com

WESTFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Hear from Westfield city planner Caleb Ernest

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce invites you "Pastry with a Planner," featuring Westfield Long-Range Planning Manager Caleb Ernest, AICP, where you will have a unique opportunity to connect with Westfield city planners and delve into all things Westfield.



Ernst

The event will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

The event is a time for community and learning. During the first 20 minutes, mingle, eat pastries, and drink beverages. Following that there will be a presentation by city staff/planners, and the remaining time will be for a Q&A from those attending. **Click here** to register.

Celebrate the holidays with the Songbook Academy

The REPORTER

The holidays are right around the corner, and the Great American Songbook Academy has the perfect addition to your plans.

On Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, the Songbook Academy Sings the Songs of the Season: the annual holiday concert featuring the incredible talents of Songbook Academy® alumni.

One of the Songbook Foundation's most anticipated performances each year, this special concert brings alumni back to the Payne & Mencias Palladium stage for an opportunity to reconnect, share their talents, and fill the hall with the music of the holidays.

There's even more room to join in. Due to popular demand, the concert will feature traditional orchestra-level seating, allowing more audience members to enjoy this favorite holiday tradition.

Tickets are just $15, and this year, you can choose your seats when you purchase at **thesongbook.org/holiday**.

Whether you're reconnecting with the Songbook Academy community, discovering the remarkable talents of these performers for the first time, or simply looking for a wonderful way to enjoy holiday music, you can make this concert part of your plans.

Can't make it in person? Good news! This performance will also be livestreamed for viewers nationwide.

Thanks for reading The REPORTER!
For more news, visit ReadTheReporter.com





Liven up your Christmas spirit with 'Janus Jingle'

The REPORTER

Janus Developmental Services and the For the Love of Janus Guild will present the seventh annual Janus Jingle on Sunday, Dec. 6. It is a great way to get into the holiday spirit and support Janus.

Tickets are $20 each and all the money goes directly to the Janus Guild to help fund programs for Janus participants. You will tour a beautifully decorated home with 45 Christmas trees and all the other decorations to go along with them. Enjoy Christmas cookies, a special Christmas coffee or Christmas punch, all while getting into the holiday spirit and visiting with friends and family.

Tickets are sold in time slots, so it is easier for everyone to enjoy. Time slots are 1 to 2 p.m., 2 to 3 p.m., and 3 to 4 p.m.



Photos provided

Click here to purchase tickets online. You will receive an email with the event details.

You can also purchase a ticket through a Guild Member or Jerry Jamison by emailing **jjamison@janus-inc.org**.



Westfield K-9 Billy retires



Photo provided by City of Westfield

After seven years of dedicated service (2019-2026) with the Westfield Police Department, K-9 Billy is officially hanging up his badge and enjoying a well-deserved retirement! As for Billy's retirement plans, he'll spend his days at home with his handler and partner, School Resource Officer Davin Nichols, trading his working duties for couch time, playing with his four-legged family members, and getting plenty of love and attention from the Nichols family. Congratulations to Billy on being the ultimate good boy!



Our Lady of Grace fifth graders up for a challenge in school's annual food drive

Submitted

Elementary students at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Noblesville are collecting food, diapers, and baby wipes as part of their annual charity drive to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Noblesville.

This competitive school tradition has been observed for more than 10 years, always coordinated by the fifth-grade class. This year's fifth graders are challenged to collect more items than the previous year's fifth graders, who were credited with donating more than 30,000 items to the pantry.

This year's donations will be loaded onto two trucks outside the school at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13. Students will accompany the trucks to St. Vincent de Paul and assist with unloading and stacking items in the pantry for distribution to those in need.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 1391 Greenfield Ave., Noblesville, provides food, clothing, furniture, and emergency budget relief to Hamilton County residents in need of assistance. The pantry distributes food three times every week: Wednesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, and Saturday morning.

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul provided food to more than 72,000 individuals through the Food Pantry (Value: $1,596,387). The organization is looking forward to expanding its outreach and is planning a Capital Campaign to construct a custom food pantry adjacent to the current building.

'A Motown Christmas' returns to Carmel

The REPORTER

A Motown Christmas features a world-class vocal group, assembled from past and present members of Motown legends The Miracles and The Contours, all backed by a six-piece band. A Motown Christmas is a powerful, family-oriented show combining Motown's greatest hits with everyone's favorite holiday classics.



Photo provided

Click here to get your tickets for the 7 p.m. concert on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

This show features those famous Motown trademarks, dazzling choreography and unforgettable harmonies performed in that memorable, soulful Motown style. This is an annual tradition not to be missed, so bring the family to dance, sing and enjoy this special holiday spectacular.



A Veteran's memories

COLUMNIST



KEN KLINGENMEIER
Another Opination

I mentioned joining the Navy in last week's column and was thanked for my service. So for Veteran's Day, I'd like to write a little about my military experience.

In 1968, the USA was embroiled in the Vietnam War – an unwinnable war as we found out much later and after much loss of American lives. It was a scary time to be a young man without a deferment. I had just lost my student deferment in June of 1967. Near the end of that year, I received my draft notice in the mail. It hadn't taken long for them to find me.

I had to make a decision – whether to be drafted for a two-year stint in the Army facing a possible tour in 'Nam, or choose a four-year enlistment in one of the other services. I didn't want to test the Army choice, so I walked into the Navy recruiting office and signed up for the longer stint – being guaranteed a position in Naval Air – I hoped to be an Air Traffic Controller and train for a job after my service time.

On Valentine's Day 1968, I signed the blank check issued in my name valued up to and including my life. Anyone who joins does the same. It is a solid commitment. I promised to do everything they told me to do. And to defend my country. In exchange they would train me, feed me, house me, and pay me.

After boot camp at Great Lakes Training Center north of Chicago (what a cold place to be in February, March, and April for 11 weeks) and after two weeks at home on leave, I was sent to Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J., the same place where the Hindenburg had crashed in 1937. Here I attended Aerographer's Mate school – AG school in Navy parlance. (I had failed one of the 10 or so eye tests they give you in order to qualify for AC school – my Air Traffic Controller hopes evaporated.)

AG school taught me about weather, weather observation taking, recording said obs and plotting weather maps from coded transmissions. It was very hot and the best thing about the posting was it was near the Jersey shore, so weekends could be by the water, and I met my first wife while I was there. (Another story for another time.)

My sea-duty deployment followed and my at-sea duty station was Guam. No ship, just a small eight-mile by four-mile island for 18 months. I was attached to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, an Air Force unit. I know – doesn't seem right. Sea duty with the Air Force. We kept watch for typhoons and issued warnings to the fleet, the force, and to populated areas.

By the end of my tour there, I was beginning to learn computer operations that predicted weather and was told I would be a computer operator in Monterey, Calif., after I went to Oceanographic School in Lakehurst. Again, a seafaring education for a land-based computer operator. Some of my Navy enlistment made little sense to me.

In Monterey, at the Fleet Numerical Weather Center, I ran the Research and Development computer, testing forecasting programs written by anxious programmers. Those were still the days of the punch-card: programs written one line at a time and entered on cards that were read into the computer, which happened to be – at that time – the fastest computer in the world, the CDC 6000.

I loved Monterey and went back to live there and go to college there after I was discharged – honorably, by the way.

When people thank me for serving my country, I accept it knowing that I was not a combatant, never a hero, never fired a shot. Our armed services are a network of dedicated and hardworking women and men who do a myriad of different tasks every day, all which contribute to the unbelievably complex job of protecting our nation. My jobs, which all provided weather alerts to the forces, were a small but vital part of that undertaking.

My military time was mostly well spent, I think. Mainly, for me personally, it was a transitional period from being a kid at home to becoming a young man in the wider world.

Ken Klingenmeier, a long-time reviewer of local theater productions, occasionally opines on other topics.

Fighting for Hoosier Veterans

GUEST COLUMNIST



U.S. SEN. JIM BANKS

This Veterans Day is a special one. 250 years after the founding of the greatest country in the history of the world, we remember and honor the men and women in uniform who continue to keep the spirit of 1776 alive. It was the greatest privilege of my life to wear the American flag on my uniform, and I join Hoosiers and all Americans in saying to our veterans: thank you for your service. We pay tribute to you for your sacrifices and hope that your service inspires the next generation of Americans to serve.

Fighting for Indiana's veterans is some of the most important work I do in the Senate. Indiana is home to over 400,000 veterans. Since the Indian Wars and the Civil War, there have been 99 Hoosier Medal of Honor recipients. Hoosiers are proud of our veterans' legacy of service, and you can see that pride in our war memorials all around our great state. You see it from the National Memorial Shrine in Fort Wayne, to the Military Honor Park and Museum in South Bend, to the Indiana Military Museum in Vincennes, to the Ernie Pyle Museum in Dana.

Veterans choose Indiana because this is a patriotic state that values service, honors sacrifice, and takes care of its own.

I am incredibly proud of what I have been able to accomplish for Hoosier veterans on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I worked with my colleagues to move legislation through the committee that improves the benefits claims process, makes sure veterans can be buried with their spouses in national cemeteries if they choose, reforms how the VA builds health care facilities, and guarantees that service-disabled veterans can access the prosthetics they need to exercise and play sports.

I'm also working to upgrade our VA medical facilities around the state. Last year, I made the case for a new Roudebush medical center repeatedly to Secretary Doug Collins and other VA leaders, and President Trump ranked it the VA's top construction priority in this year's budget. Roudebush is more than 75 years old, and veterans deserve a state-of-the-art, flagship hospital. In June, I organized a letter from the whole Indiana congressional delegation to the Appropriations Committee supporting full funding for the project. I'm looking forward to securing the dollars to build it in the next few months.

A new, major VA outpatient clinic in Fishers is also moving forward. I'm pushing the Senate to authorize the project before the end of the year. It will allow veterans north of Indy to get all their outpatient care closer to where they live, without going into the city. I'm also working with the VA to plan a new clinic in Northwest Indiana, and I expect the plans for that new clinic to be announced next year. Last week, I worked with DAV to establish a vet center community access point in Kokomo. Veterans, servicemembers, and their family members can now get counseling at DAV Chapter 28 in Kokomo. I'm grateful to Commander Ross Havrick for this great idea, and we made it happen in record time. I will keep pushing for a full-scale vet center in North Central Indiana.

Getting these projects approved is just the beginning. I will be working with our veteran service organizations, the VA, and community leaders to break ground on these facilities and build them as efficiently as possible. Indiana can set the example for the rest of the country in how to develop modern medical facilities for veterans faster, more affordably, and more innovatively.

Our veterans risked life and limb for this country, and I will not stop fighting to make sure that they have all the resources they need to thrive.

Jim Banks, a Republican, represents Indiana in the United States Senate.

Thank you to 250 years of Hoosier Veterans

GUEST COLUMNIST



U.S. SEN. TODD YOUNG

Every year on Veterans Day, we thank America's veterans and their families for their dedication to protecting our freedoms.

This year, as we celebrate America's 250th birthday, it is an opportunity to give thanks for our earliest Hoosier heroes – not only for the hardships they bore and the heroics they displayed to free our nation, but for their part in establishing our state. Many of the men who cleared Indiana's wilderness were also the soldiers who won America's independence.

One of the most significant victories of the Revolutionary War was fought here in the winter of 1779, when George Rogers Clark and a band of Virginia militiamen marched across flooded and frozen plains to siege Fort Sackville in Vincennes.

By raising the American flag over this lonely frontier outpost, Clark was claiming the Northwest Territory for the new nation, dramatically altering its map and future, and ensuring the eventual formation of Indiana.

Endorsing the construction of the grand monument to Clark's victory in Vincennes, a New York newspaper wrote in 1929: "It was as necessary as Yorktown. It was more significant than Bunker Hill. It was as inspiring as Valley Forge."

After the American Revolution was won, cash-strapped states rewarded their veterans not with money, but with land. Virginia awarded 150,000 acres north of the Ohio River – Clark's Grant – spanning present-day Clark, Floyd, and Scott counties. Hundreds of veterans then settled in the Indiana Territory, as America's first soldiers became Indiana's earliest settlers.

Veterans like Captain Robert George, an artillery officer who settled in Clark County and helped establish the first settlement on the Ohio River. His land tract helped found and develop the town of Utica. Upon his death in 1804, his property passed to his family and fellow veterans who were instrumental in founding the communities of Clark County.

Other Revolutionary veterans followed. Thomas Carr, Sr., a captain in the Continental Army, settled in Clark County near Fourteen Mile Creek. Carr served as a delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention, helping draft our state's founding charter and contributing to the design of Indiana's judicial and election systems.

As the nineteenth century began, thousands joined a migration into the newly created Indiana Territory, leading families over the Cumberland Gap, down the Ohio River, or through the wilderness of the Old Northwest.

Nearly 2,000 veterans of the American Revolution spent the remainder of their lives in Indiana. They rest in small churchyards, on family farms, deep in forests, even in densely populated urban areas, across from schools – often under crumbling headstones whose inscriptions have weathered beyond legibility, save for the faint, enduring words: "A Soldier of the Revolution."

The wilderness they encountered upon arriving in Indiana has been replaced by communities built upon the ideals these veterans fought for in their time.

Today's American service members serve across the world, but a chain of devotion connects these worn and crumbling graves to the men and women who wear the uniform today and keep us safe.

On this Veterans Day, let us give thanks to these first Hoosier veterans, the spirit of service and sacrifice they established, and the heroes who carry it forward today. May our nation never forget the selfless sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

Todd Young, a Republican, represents Indiana in the United States Senate.

Indiana Senate Democrats elect leadership team following five-seat gain

Submitted by Indiana Senate Democrats

Following an election that delivered five additional seats to the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus, Senate Democrats elected their leadership team to guide an expanded 15-member caucus into the 2027 legislative session.

Sen. Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington) was re-elected Senate Democratic leader, Sen. Rodney Pol Jr. (D-Chesterton) was elected assistant Democratic leader, and Sen. La Keisha Jackson (D-Indianapolis) was elected caucus chair.

The leadership elections follow significant Democratic gains across Indiana, with voters flipping five Republican-held Senate seats while retaining Democratic representation in Senate Districts 29 and 46. The results yield a 50 percent increase in Democratic representation in the Senate.

"Hoosiers sent a powerful message this election: They are tired of being ignored while the cost of living keeps climbing and the issues affecting their lives go unanswered," Yoder said. "Voters demanded change, and they gave us a stronger voice to fight for it. We intend to use that voice to hold those in power accountable, challenge decisions that hurt our communities and put the needs of Hoosiers back at the center of the Statehouse."

The caucus will welcome seven new members, including five Democrats elected to previously Republican-held seats: Scott Houldieson (District 1), Gabrianna Gratzol (District 11), Julie McGill (District 15), Natasha Baker (District 22), and Kerry Forestal (District 31). Kristina Moorhead (District 29) and Allissa Impink (District 46) were also elected to succeed outgoing Democratic senators.

See *Dems* . . . Page 10



TODAY'S BIBLE READING

The One Place of Worship

Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the Lord your God at the place the Lord your God will choose—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns—and you are to rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you put your hand to. Be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

When the Lord your God has enlarged your territory as he promised you, and you crave meat and say, "I would like some meat," then you may eat as much of it as you want. If the place where the Lord your God chooses to put his Name is too far away from you, you may slaughter animals from the herds and flocks the Lord has given you, as I have commanded you, and in your own towns you may eat as much of them as you want. Eat them as you would gazelle or deer. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat. But be sure you do not eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat. You must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water. Do not eat it, so that it may go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 12:18-25 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board will meet in an executive session at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, 2026.

A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. in the Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Park & Beach, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville.

The Ivy Tech Hamilton County Board of Trustees will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, in the Sue Ellspermann Board Room at the campus in Noblesville, 300 N. 19th St.

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, 2026, in Room 4006A at Noblesville High School, 18111 Cumberland Road, Noblesville. The public should enter from Gate 7.

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****.*

Senators Banks & Warren issue statement on national security concerns surrounding NVIDIA

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

U.S. Sen. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) in releasing the following statement following NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang's confirmation of a relationship with a suspected Chinese spy:



Banks

"In March, bipartisan members of Congress urged the Department of Commerce to suspend or reconsider NVIDIA's export licenses to China and conduct a full national security review. Since then, NVIDIA has reportedly received approvals to export hundreds of thousands of advanced AI chips to China, including to companies tied to China's military, all while attempting to influence the debate over chip controls in Washington, D.C.

"NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang's confirmation of a relationship with a suspected spy for China's intelligence service makes these national security concerns even more urgent and raises important questions NVIDIA must answer about the extent to which these activities were related.

"It is time for Congress to take decisive action to pass key bills like the AI Overwatch Act in the NDAA that will cut off the various pathways through which China accesses advanced chips. The Commerce Department should complement these efforts with immediate action to close export control loopholes and ensure that advanced AI chips are not going to China's military."

Background

In April 2026, Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced the AI OVERWATCH Act. This bill ensures that the chips powering the next generation of AI fuel American innovation and American national security, not the military and surveillance apparatus of the Chinese Communist Party.

The AI OVERWATCH Act codifies President Trump's restrictions on exports of the most advanced AI Chips to foreign adversaries and was included in the Senate's Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), ensuring that the chips powering the next generation of artificial intelligence strengthen American innovation and national security.

Dems

from Page 9

As the 2027 budget session approaches, the expanded caucus will confront the issues Hoosiers are demanding action on: skyrocketing utility bills, soaring grocery and housing costs, cuts to public schools and childcare, losing access to healthcare, and a government handing out massive tax breaks to billion-dollar corporations while families struggle to make ends meet.

"This election is not the finish line. It is a responsibility," Yoder said. "Hoosiers have made it clear they expect more from their government, and they deserve to see that reflected in the decisions we make. With new voices, new perspectives, and a stronger caucus, we are ready to turn that momentum into action, and we will never stop fighting for the people and communities counting on us."

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.



Hamilton County Reporter

Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

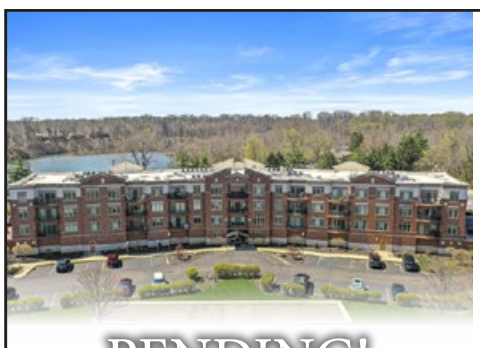
Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
Ads@ReadTheReporter.com
765-365-2316

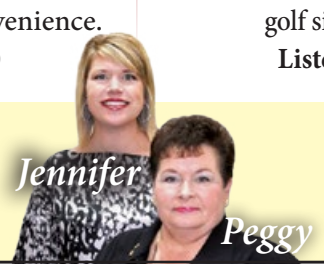
Mailing Address
136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
Noblesville, IN 46060


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 3BR, 2.5BA 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

JUST LISTED!
34 Blue Water Drive
CICERO
Enjoy waterfront living on Morse Reservoir. This spotless 2BR, 2BA manufactured home features new updates, a screened porch, private boat dock, and close proximity to Cicero's shops and restaurants. Vacation year-round!
New Price $374,900

JUST LISTED!
102 Maplewood Drive
NOBLESVILLE
Discover this desirable South Harbour ranch featuring a 3-car heated garage, updated kitchen, vaulted family room, patio, and fantastic neighborhood amenities including a lakeside pool and clubhouse.
Listed at $329,900

"Speak to Deak!"


The Deakyne Team REALTORS®
SpeakToDeak.com
317.695.6032 Jennifer | 317.439.3258 Peggy
Talk to Tucker REALTORS
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

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