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**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**  
Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.



**➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**  
*People who call our community their own.*


**What makes Remi Shirayanagi smile?** "A good joke, and my friends and family that contribute to my life make me happy," said the Carmel High School senior, who was named 2022 Citizen of the Year for the Horseshoe Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution during the annual DAR Good Citizen tea on Sunday at Noblesville Township Community Room. "I think it's really important to be a good citizen to contribute to society, to work toward creating progress in this great nation." Hobbies, passions? "I'm really into music. I've played violin for 12 years. I love to travel. I like learning new languages. I like learning about different cultures. And something random, I like Zillow (online real-estate marketplace); I look at Zillow all the time." Greatest achievements in high school? She is president of A5 (Advancement of Asian Americans in Arts & Athletics), a club of more than 160 students, which empowers students to break Asian American stereotypes. In high school, she's on the Carmel Debate Team and is head of Congressional Debate, is a section leader for the CHS Symphony Orchestra, is an AP Distinguished Scholar, is symphony class representative for the Orchestra Council, is a Social Studies peer tutor, Carmel Young Democrats member, DECA business club member and National Honor Society member. She is a National History Day state finalist, a delegate for American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and was a founding committee member and organizer of Carmel Pride. She was the Youth Ambassador to Taiwan for the Rotary Youth Exchange program and spent a year abroad at age 15, attending a local high school and taking Chinese classes at Chung-Yuan University. Inspiration? "The person who inspires me is my mother," said the daughter of Ikue Shirayanagi. "She has done a lot for me, growing up in a single-parent household. She immigrated here to help my brother and I support our dreams and give us opportunities."

**And Another Thing...**  
Beginning on or after Mon., May 2, 256th Street between SR-213 and Lacy Road will be closed to all thru traffic to replace two small structures. The estimated completion date is Mon., Aug 1.

# The Times

Hamilton County's Newspaper

**Elect Charlie McMillan FOR NOBLESVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
*Community Focused*



## Oldest-Living Member Recalls Early Years of Nature Study Club



**BETSY REASON**  
The Times Editor

Westfield's Joe Roberts remembers the Blatchley Nature Study Club when he was a kid. "My parents were members and, at that time, families attended," he said. "So as soon as I was old enough to keep quiet in meetings, they took me to the

Nature Club. I just have always attended." He said, "Next month, I'll turn 90, and so I've been going to the Nature Club for about 85 years." Roberts is the oldest-living member of the club. "I don't remember anybody who's been in there longer," he said. His parents, Justin A. and Mildred V. (Caca) Roberts, joined the Nature Study Club years before he started going, not long after the club's 1922 founding. "They were always active members. So probably they joined in the late '20s or so ... they were not charter members." "I enjoyed the meetings of the club," said Roberts, an only child who said nature programs back then weren't common. The club celebrates its 100th anniversary this week

at a special program at 7 p.m. Thursday during the club's next meeting, during which guests are welcome. A Spring Wildflower Walk and Centennial Celebration will be 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday on the Blatchley Nature Study Club grounds. This year marks the 100th year of the nature study club, which was founded on April 8, 1922, by Dr. Earl Brooks. The club, which is made up of individuals who share a love of nature, changed its name to The W.S. Blatchley Club to honor Indiana's greatest naturalist, Dr. Willis Stanley Blatchley (1859-1940). The Blatchley Nature Study Club was incorporated as a nonprofit on Nov. 12, 1941. Brooks deeded 15 acres of land to the club for use as a sanctuary and on which to

➔ See BETSY Page A8

## Noblesville Celebrates 32nd Tree City Status with Arbor Day Events This Saturday

The City of Noblesville was named a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the 32nd consecutive year Noblesville has earned this national distinction. "Being a Tree City USA member for over three decades shows the importance that the city and its citizens have for our

environment and its sustainability year after year," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen. "I also want to thank the Noblesville Tree Board for its overall care of city street trees and the educational outlet and projects it provides our residents." The Tree City USA program started in 1979. Only four cities

➔ See TREE CITY Page A8

## The Bird Man of Hamilton County



**PAULA DUNN**  
From Time to Thyme

With the Blatchley Nature Study Club celebrating its 100th anniversary this month, this seemed like the perfect time to devote a column to the man most responsible for the club's existence, Dr. Earl Brooks.

➔ See PAULA Page A6

## Bicentennial Commission Now Accepting Community Micro-Grant Applications



Grant applications are now available to support public programs in 2023 that celebrate Hamilton County's upcoming Bicentennial. Grant applications from non-profit organizations are due August 1, 2022, and approximately 25-40 micro-grants

of \$500 or less will be awarded later this year and distributed in 2023. Organizations that wish to create and develop commission-sanctioned program proposals may apply for a grant. These include exhibition development, public programs, interpretation, performances and more. All events must be open to the public, although a ticket fee may be charged to cover costs. While only non-profits are

➔ See GRANTS Page A8

## Noblesville High School Music Department to Host 7th Annual Mattress Fundraiser May 22nd

If you are looking to replace a bed in your home, now is the time. The Noblesville High School Music Department is excited to announce it will be hosting its 7th Annual one-day Mattress Fundraiser on Sunday, May 22nd, from 11am-6pm. For one day only, the NHS Auxiliary Gym will be transformed into a mattress showroom. For information about the sale, go to: bit.ly/beds4nhsmusic22. There will be 30 different mattress styles on display in all sizes for customers to try,

priced below retail. Adjustable power bases, premium pillows, bed frames, and mattress protectors will be available as well. The brands including Simmons Beautyrest, Therapedic, Southland, Intellibed, Innomax & Wellsville, come with full factory warranties, and are made to order. Mattresses are available 2-3 weeks after the Fundraiser. Delivery is available. Best of all, the Noblesville High School Music Department benefits from every purchase.

➔ See MATTRESS Page A6

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**  
Anyone feeling lucky with the lottery drawings tonight?



**➔ INSIDE TODAY**  
Obituaries..... A2  
Public Notices..... A2, A4, A5  
Service Directory..... A7  
Classifieds..... A7

**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**  
"The question isn't who is going to let me, it's who is going to stop me."  
- Ayn Rand

**➔ OBITUARIES**  
Clark Allen Biddle  
Russell Miles Clinton, Jr.  
Barbara Kay Castetter  
James Leland Johnson  
Thomas L. Wolfe

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**  
Icy sidewalks are an excuse not to take a walk - cold weather isn't. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **Aaron Culp** for subscribing!



**13 WTHR** 7 DAY FORECAST

55 MOSTLY SUNNY, COOL	34/58 PARTLY CLOUDY, MAINLY BREEZY	41/56 MOSTLY SUNNY, SOME CLOUDS POSSIBLE	46/58 PARTLY SUNNY	49/62 CHANCE OF SHOWERS, STORMS	52/76 WARMER & BREEZY	58/72 CHANCE RAIN & STORMS
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

## OBITUARIES

### Clark Allen Biddle

April 23, 1950 - April 21, 2022

Clark Allen Biddle, 71, of Lafayette, passed away on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at Franciscan Health in Lafayette.

He was born on April 23, 1950 to Clark Woodrow and Eva Mae (Zetterberg) Biddle in Elwood, Indiana.

Mr. Biddle was a machinist for the first half of his career then worked as equipment operator at Subaru before retirement. He enjoyed camping, being outside, and motorcycles. He loved to travel and spending time with Wilma. Most of all, Mr. Biddle loved spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife Wilma Biddle; two sons Clark Daniel (Grace) Biddle and Brian Curtis (Colleen) Biddle; two grandchildren Owen Biddle and Alyssa Biddle; three siblings Beulah (Phil) Baker, James Biddle and Leon (Penny) Biddle; his beloved Shih Tzu, Poppy; several nieces & nephews; and many very close friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his three siblings Daniel Biddle, Shirley Brown and Bob Biddle.

Services are scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street in Noblesville, with the Rev. Richard D. Bell officiating. Visitation is scheduled to be held from 12 p.m. to the time of the service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to National League of POW/MIA Families, 5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041, or <https://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>

Online condolences may be made at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).

### Russell Miles Clinton Jr.

June 23, 1935 - April 1, 2022

Russell Miles Clinton Jr., 86, of Fishers, passed away on Friday, April 1, 2022 at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis.

He was born on June 23, 1935 to Russell and Ida (Ehlinger) Clinton in Rochester, Indiana.

Mr. Clinton proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. He studied physics at IU and worked in IT as a programmer. He was a member of Rochester Masonic Blue Lodge #79, the Scottish Rite, and Mensa International. Mr. Clinton was active in the local community theater and was a master storyteller who loved telling jokes. His family and friends miss him dearly.

Survivors include his daughter Christy Clinton; son Russ (Juliana) Clinton; step-daughter Karen (Roger) Chaudion; grandson Kyle (Amy) Chaudion; great-granddaughter Kaylee; and great-grandson Andrew.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Nancy Clinton; step-son Brian Tescher; his first wife Diana; and his second wife Pamela.

Services are scheduled to be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. Burial will be at Rochester IOOF Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Processing Center, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394 ([www.lovetotherescue.org](http://www.lovetotherescue.org)).

Online condolences may be made at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).



### Barbara Kay Castetter

April 19, 1958 - April 25, 2022

Barbara Kay Castetter, 64, of Lapel, passed away on Monday, April 25, 2022 at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

She was born on April 19, 1958 to the late Burl and Ruth Ann (Fogle) Castetter in Noblesville, Indiana.

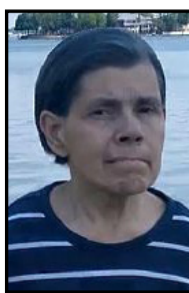
Ms. Castetter enjoyed being outdoors and watching TV. She had a wonderful smile and loved people.

Survivors include her brother Robbie Castetter; very special friends James and Mandy Miller; Robbie's God-daughters Megan and Amy Miller; and several loving friends.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., with services scheduled for 1 p.m., on Friday, April 29, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street, in Noblesville. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

To assist the family, memorial contributions may be made to Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, IN 46062.

Online condolences may be made at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).



### Thomas L. Wolfe

January 16, 1938 - April 23, 2022

Thomas L. Wolfe, 84, of Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

He was born on January 16, 1938 to Roy and Mabel (Boyce) Wolfe in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Wolfe proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He worked as a pipe fitter for Delco Electronics and was a 50-year member of the Masons and Shriners. He was an avid reader who loved history, especially WWII.

Mr. Wolfe was always dreaming and planning. He enjoyed traveling and lived life to the fullest. He loved his family; his grandchildren were his life.

Survivors include his wife Barbara J. Wolfe; three children Wilma McKee, David L. Wolfe and James T. Wolfe; eight grandchildren Darren, Deborah, Dustin, Brandon, Tiffany, Ella, Madeline and Lauren; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son Wayne A. Wolfe; and brother Charles B. Wolfe.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with Masonic Services scheduled for 6:30 pm, on Friday, April 29, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, in Noblesville. Burial is scheduled to be on Friday, May 6, 2022 at Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Memorial contributions may be made to Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, Inc., 525 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 ([www.imhf.org](http://www.imhf.org)); or Hamilton County Veterans Corp., 549 N. 14th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060-2022 ([www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com)).

Online condolences may be made at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).



### James Leland Johnson

December 26, 1942 - April 19, 2022

James Leland Johnson, 79, of Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

He was born on December 26, 1942 to Stanley and Lorene (Shelton) Johnson in Henderson, Kentucky.

Mr. Johnson held 4 things above all others in his lifetime: family, Ford, drag racing and his love of the Lord. He was a devout Christian and prayed that everyone he knew and loved would follow his faithfulness. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 47 years as a machine repairman. Mr. Johnson was proud of being a Ford man. He used to say, "Cut me, I bleed Ford blue." He knew so much about drag racing and passed that knowledge to anyone who wanted to learn. Mr. Johnson was proud of his family and relished the time he spent with them.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sara Johnson; and his three children Jay L. Johnson, Janet Weiser and Jennie Franklin.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Stanley Wright Johnson Jr. and Willie Bob Johnson.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services scheduled for 1 p.m., on Friday, April 22, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, in Noblesville. Daris Reynolds Jr. will officiate. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Online condolences may be made at [www.randallroberts.com](http://www.randallroberts.com).



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Hamilton County Department of Health

#### Public Notice of Petroleum Release, Spill or Overfill

- Local health departments are required by statute (IC 13-23-16) to inform the public of the discovery of released regulated substances at an underground storage tank site or in the surrounding area under 329 IAC 9-4-1 (1) or a spill or overfill under 329 IAC 9-4-4 (a). The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) was notified on April 8, 2022, of such an incident from the owner or operator of the Midway Truck Stop facility located at 27610 US 31 in or near Atlanta, Indiana in Hamilton County.
- For further information on the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, please go to [www.in.gov/idem/tanks/2333.htm](http://www.in.gov/idem/tanks/2333.htm).
- Or contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (317) 232-8900 or by e-mail at [LeakingUST@idem.IN.gov](mailto:LeakingUST@idem.IN.gov).

TL18973 4/27 1t hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF APPROVED ORDINANCE

#### AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF FISHERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

NOTICE IS HEREBY PROVIDED that on Monday, April 18, 2022, the Common Council for the City of Fishers, Hamilton, Indiana ("City"), meeting in a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with Ind. Code §36-4-3-5.1, passed Ordinance No. 032122A, annexing approximately 79.433 acres located outside of but contiguous to the City, generally known as the Abbott Commons Property (the "Annexed Territory"), located Fishers, IN. This Annexation Ordinance is available for review at Fishers City Hall, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46038. If you have specific questions please contact: City of Fishers Planning & Zoning Department [planning@fishers.in.us](mailto:planning@fishers.in.us) (317) 595-3155

TL19018 4/27 1t hspaxlp



## HAMILTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

### SUMMER POSITION AVAILABLE

#### Engineering Technician

Duties include: Conducting traffic counts, evaluating roads and pavement marking, inspecting and inventorying signs and small structures. Will also assist the engineering department in traffic studies, traffic investigations and inspection of projects. Must be 18 and have a valid driver's license.

This is a great opportunity for a student considering a career in engineering.

Applications are available on-line at [www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/jobs.aspx](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/jobs.aspx) (See part-Time Seasonal Engineering - Highway)

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**THE TIMES**  
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**GO with Gookins for Hamilton Superior 7**

**Stephenie Gookins**  
*For*  
**JUDGE**

Paid for & authorized by the Committee to Elect Gookins for Judge / Daniel J. Pfleging, Treasurer



# Early Voting Locations Now Open for Hamilton County

Early voting locations across Hamilton County opened to voters on Wednesday, April 20th. The dates, times and locations for early voting location are listed below.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot has now passed. Those wishing to vote absentee must have submitted an application by midnight on Thursday, April 21st.

Once you have voted, you can submit your ballot by mail or return it in person. All mailed-in ballots must be received by the Election Office on or before 6 p.m. on Election Day. You can also drop off your ballot in person at the Clerk's Office in Noblesville.

**Carmel:**  
1. Mercy Road Church, 2381 Pointe Pkwy, Carmel  
2. Jill Perelman Pavilion, 3000 W 116th Street, Carmel

These locations will be open during the following times:

- April 27-28 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Fishers:**  
• Roy G Holland Memorial Park Building, 1 Park Drive, Fishers  
• Billericay Park Building, 12690 Promise Road, Fishers

These locations will be open during the following times:

- April 27-28 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Noblesville:**  
• Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville

The Judicial Center early voting location will be open during the following times:

- April 25-29 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- April 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- May 2 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The second location for early voting in Noblesville is located at:

• Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville

The Hamilton County Fairgrounds early voting location will be open during the following times:

- April 25-30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- May 2 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Westfield:**  
• Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield  
• Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000-1 E 151st St, Carmel

These locations will be open during the following times:

- April 27-28 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# Enjoy Free Admission, Fishing Courtesy of DNR This Sunday



A free day of outdoor recreation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is coming your way on Sunday, May 1, kicking off Visit Indiana Week, a promotion of the Indiana Destinations Development Corporation that runs May 1-7.

For starters, the Indiana state parks, state recreation areas, reservoirs (on.IN.gov/stateparks)on.IN.gov/stateparks), and state forests (on.IN.gov/forestry) that charge a daily gate fee for each entering vehicle will waive that fee for all

guests on May 1. Sunday is also the first Free Fishing Day of the year. Indiana residents will be able to fish on that day without a fishing license or trout/salmon stamp, with all size and bag limits applying for those who keep fish.

Free Fishing Day applies to all public waters in Indiana, and free admission provides the perfect chance to fish at one of the many DNR destinations that offer fishing. You can find a fishing destination at on.IN.gov/recfinder.

Free Fishing Day is an ideal chance for anglers to share fishing with someone who does not have a license. To help them get started, fishing tips and videos are at on.IN.gov/learn2fish. You can find public

places to fish at on.IN.gov/where2fish. This year's other Free Fishing Days are June 4-5 and Sept. 24. Learn more at on.IN.gov/fishfree.

When you visit a DNR destination on May 1, regardless of whether you fish, make sure to check in with an Indiana State Nature Passport. Doing so will launch your eligibility for winning prizes from DNR. The grand prize is a package that includes a 2022 State Parks Pass, a \$50 gift card for camping, and a subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine.

In addition, those who donate to the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (on.IN.gov/nrfdonate) in May will earn a free check-in on their nature passport.

**12703 Sunrise Drive Noblesville • \$514,900**  
**NEW LISTING**



Perfect 4 BR, 2.5 BA w/loft and full basement, stunning kit w/walk-in pantry + huge island, LVP hardwoods on main level, beautiful primary suite, walk-in closets in all bedrooms. 3rd car tandem garage with 220 amp outlet. BLC#21848722

**17212 McKenna Way Noblesville • \$299,900**  
**SOLD!**



Spacious custom patio home in Willow Lake. Well maintained, 2 BR, 2 BA. Large open great room, kitchen (all appliances stay) dining area plus a sunroom and office/den. HOA provides lawn care and snow removal. BLC#21840686

**6236 Saw Mill Drive Noblesville • \$334,900**  
**PENDING**



Picture perfect 3 BR, 2.5 BA w/loft & 3-car garage in the wonderful Mill Grove neighborhood. Two story great room, spacious kitchen w/center island, newer appliances and walk-in pantry. Private backyard w/deck. BLC#218447288

**19347 Potters Bridge Road Noblesville • \$389,900**  
**PENDING**



Custom all brick ranch with full finished basement, 4 BR, 2 BA in beautiful Potters Woods. Great room has gas fireplace and is open to dining area and kitchen, 3-car finished garage. Being sold to settle estate. BLC#21844861

## Think Spring. Think New Home!

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DISTRICT THREE



- **The Conservative Values We Want**
- **The Independence We Need**
- **The Cooperative Spirit to get things done**

*“Elected officials serve so long that they become servants to government, no longer to the people.”*

**- Mark Hall**



# WWW.MARKFHALL.COM

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MARK HALL





**PAULA** From Page A1

Although Dr. Brooks is probably best known as a naturalist, that was just one facet of his amazing life. He truly was a “mover and shaker” during his lifetime — not just in Noblesville and Hamilton County, but on a state level as well.

Originally from Fall Creek Township, he graduated from Noblesville High School in 1902. Five years later, after finishing his studies at the Indiana Dental College in Indianapolis, he moved back to Noblesville and opened a practice which he kept up until his retirement 43 years later.

Dr. Brooks’ civic activities were so numerous, I only have room to name a few of them.

In 1913 he was elected to the Noblesville City Council at the age of 30, becoming the youngest person ever to hold a seat on the council at that time.

He was a charter member of Noblesville’s Kiwanis Club and served as the organization’s second president.

He was also the chairman of the first Forest Park Board, and played an important role in establishing Forest Park.

During the 1923 Hamilton County Centennial, he snapped photo after photo of the celebration that we wouldn’t otherwise have. (You can view Dr. Brooks’ photos at the

Indiana Memory website, <https://digital.library.in.gov>.)

Dr. Brooks’ state-wide activities include a stint as president of the Indiana Dental Association. He was also elected a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1934.

A member of the Indiana Audubon Society for over 30 years, Dr. Brooks served as the organization’s president from 1928 to 1936 and was its first editor.

From 1946 to 1959, he was the executive director of the society’s Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in Fayette County. Brooks Hall, the main meeting hall at the sanctuary, is named for him.

But, getting back to

his most significant local contribution . . .

In 1922, when Dr. Brooks was president of the Noblesville Kiwanis Club, the Kiwanis sponsored a lecture on birds by Dr. M. L. Fisher, the president of the Indiana State Audubon Society.

The public was invited to attend and the interest generated by that lecture resulted in the organization of the Hamilton County Nature Study Club, as the Blatchley Nature Study Club was originally known. (The name was later changed to honor Hoosier naturalist, W. S. Blatchley.)

In 1945, the Noblesville Daily Ledger ran a series of articles by Dr. Brooks on the birds of Hamilton

County.

Later that year, those articles, plus a chapter on Indiana birds not observed in this county, were published as “Common Birds of Indiana.” It was the first book about the birds of Indiana in nearly 50 years and was considered a “must have” for every public and school library in the state.

Dr. Brooks signed all rights to the book over to the Blatchley Club for their building fund, but his generosity didn’t stop there. In 1963 he deeded 15 acres of woodland just north of Potter’s Bridge to the club for the establishment of a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, and the construction of a clubhouse.

This weekend, you can visit Dr. Brooks’ gift to the club yourself and enjoy some late-blooming wildflowers.

In honor of the 100th anniversary, the Blatchley folks will again be offering Spring Wildflower Walks at their sanctuary, 125 Boulder Dr., Noblesville, this coming Saturday, April 30, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The guided tours are free and open to the public.

Thanks to Nancy Massey for additional research.

- Paula Dunn’s *From Time to Thyme* column appears on Wednesdays in *The Times*. Contact her at [younggardenerfriend@gmail.com](mailto:younggardenerfriend@gmail.com)

**MATTRESS** From Page A1

The company, Custom Fundraising Solutions (CFS) first introduced The Mattress Fundraiser to the Cleveland, Ohio market in 2005. The company now has nearly 100 locations and works with more than 3,000 schools nationwide. The unique business model helps schools raise thousands of dollars in

just one day, and to date, the company has given back over \$50 million.

Watch a quick video that explains how the Mattress Fundraiser works at <https://vimeo.com/637591323>

Contact [david.barnwell@cfsbeds.com](mailto:david.barnwell@cfsbeds.com) or call 765-413-4664 for more information.

Thanks for reading The Times!

**Diana THEATRE** (765) 675-4300  
**the BAD GUYS**  
 THUR FRI SAT SUN at 7:15 Last Showing Sunday 5/1  
 TIPTON ADULT \$5.00 CHILD \$3.00  
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 SAT 10 AM-11 PM  
 SUN 10 AM-9 PM

**MURPHY for JUDGE**  
 Hamilton County Indiana Superior Court 7

U.S. Army Veteran  
 Purple Heart Recipient  
 Experienced Magistrate Judge

ENDORSED BY: [Logos for Noblesville, Carmel, and FOP Lodge 185]

**Darren Murphy has spent over four years as an appointed Magistrate Judge, serving Hamilton County with integrity.**

Appointed Magistrate Judge by the seven elected Superior and Circuit Court judges of Hamilton County, Darren Murphy has proven his extensive ability to preside over the new Superior Court 7:

- Appointed Magistrate Judge in 2017
- Only candidate with judicial experience
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- Committee member for the State Judiciary Protective Order Committee
- Former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Hamilton County

Darren was inspired to go into law after he was awarded the Purple Heart and medically retired from the 3/75 Ranger Regiment of the U.S. Army due to injuries received during combat. He began his legal career with the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office in 1997, and continued to work in and around Hamilton County, including serving as Assistant County Attorney for Hamilton County and Assistant City Attorney for the City of Noblesville before he became an appointed Magistrate Judge.

Darren has lived with his family in Fishers for 22 years, and is honored to live and work in such a wonderful community.

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# IDVA Announces Grants Available for Non-Profit Organizations Serving Veterans Statewide



The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) will award grant money to non-profit organizations throughout the state that assist veterans with a variety of services.

Solicitation for awards through the Grants for Veterans Services (GVS) is open now through May 16. Eligible applicants must be a non-profit organization registered with the Indiana Secretary of State. The organizations must use the money to help veterans in any of the following areas:

- Work to eliminate homelessness
- Prevent near-term homelessness
- Provide assistance concerning safe and se-

cure living conditions

- Provide assistance for veterans moving from public housing programs toward home ownership or long-term rental status
- Provide assistance in finding available state and federal resources
- Provide therapeutic services
- Provide on-the-job training and job search assistance

Through the GVS program, the IDVA plans to award grants ranging from \$10,000 to

\$100,000 depending on the volume of eligible applicants, applicants' needs and the availability of funding.

"IDVA's previous GVS awards focused on veteran homelessness," said Dennis Wimer, IDVA director. "We are excited to continue that work in addition to providing grants to serve other critical needs for veterans including therapeutic services, connecting veterans with their state and federal benefits,

and job training and job search assistance."

All applications, procedures and documentation should follow Indiana Code, Indiana Administrative Code and Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs policies. Applications are due by 4 p.m. EST on May 16. The grant period of performance will begin July 1.

GVS may only be used to provide services to veterans who reside in the state of Indiana, who has served in any branch

of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the national guard, or in the Indiana National Guard, and has not received a dishonorable discharge as evidenced by a DD-214 or National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 22.

More information and a link to the application can be found on IDVA's homepage or by visiting <https://www.in.gov/dva/home/grants-for-veterans-services-gvs-solicitation/>.

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Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

## BETSY From Page A1



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Signage welcomes visitors to the Blatchley Nature Study Club grounds at 125 Boulder Drive, where the road deadends in an older neighborhood. Boulder Drive is accessible from Edith Avenue, north of the historic Potter's Bridge off of Cumberland Road in Noblesville.**

build a clubhouse on March 8, 1963. Roberts said for the first 45 years of the club's existence, before the clubhouse was built, Blatchley Nature Study Club met in members' homes.

"We had a limited membership (between 40 and 50), to be just enough people to fill a home, but not too many," said Roberts, whose family played host to members only once every year or two.

As one would guess, there wouldn't be enough chairs for people in members' homes. "In those days, what you did, you called the funeral home. There were three funeral homes in Noblesville. Part of their advertising was providing folding chairs for meetings," Roberts said.

"So if you had a meeting at your home, the afternoon of the meeting, a hearse would pull up in front of your house and deliver 20 or 30 chairs or however many were needed. We used those. That is how we were able to seat people ... They did it free of charge. That was the advertising."

During the summertime, sometimes, the club would have outdoor meetings. "Especially an interesting meeting each year was a meeting at Conner Prairie because Eli and Ruth Lilly were members of the club and they hosted us, and they were very gracious and interesting members ... They didn't usually attend except for the meeting that they hosted. But that would be a dinner meeting; we would have what we called a pitch-in or a carry-in dinner on the big porch which was on the west side of the Conner Home overlooking the Prairie. Eli and Ruth Lilly always said that was the best meal they had all year, when we had that carry-in dinner at their house ... It was at the brick home that William Conner built. Of course, in those times, there was no

Conner Prairie settlement. It was all private. Eli had reconstructed a barn and a trading post and a loom house and a distillery, so there were some out-buildings that were always of interest. I think some of those buildings are still there, the ones surrounding the Conner Home."

Roberts doesn't remember taking any hikes at Conner Prairie. "The last years, when the Lillys were still living, we met, sometimes, at what they called the China House. Those were always interesting meetings. The Lillys, of course, were interested in local history, so usually the programs at the Conner Home were having to do with local history."

There was always an interesting program during the meetings.

"Our meetings consisted of programs given by members. And every member was expected to give a program. In those days, before the internet and TV, the things that we have now, that meant that you had to go to the library and do research on a program ... In most years, there was an emphasis on one topic during the year. For instance, we would have a year on Astronomy or a year on Fungus Growth or a year on Edible Plants."

The first program Roberts presented was on Spiders. "I probably was in high school at that time," he said. The most recent program he presented was on Cloning Extinct Animals.

He said in the early years, the club didn't have the advantage of movies brought in. The club used an old slide projector that projected glass slides that were hand-colored, he said. "That was always a special program when he would have illustrated programs," he said.

The club through the years has had specialists, including Dr. Earl Brooks, who was known as a den-



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Joe Roberts of Westfield, who'll turn 90 on May 8, reminisces about growing up attending meetings of the Blatchley Nature Study Club, of which he's been a member for 85 years. The club celebrates its 100th anniversary this week.**

tal surgeon in Noblesville, and he was the authority on the American robin and wrote several articles about robins and gave programs about robins to the club. There was also Paul Ullmann, who was the assistant state entomologist, he was quite knowledgeable and often brought other specialists from the Department of Natural Resources to give programs. The two men were "both important assets to the club." Another was Dr. Sherman A. Minton (1919-1999) of Indianapolis, probably the country's leading authority on marine snakes, Roberts said. He came and gave interesting programs.

No pets have been allowed at the programs, unless it was the topic of the program. There have been owls, ferrets and snakes in the programs. He remembers one program on snakes. A high school student brought a snake in a box, and when the student opened the box, a couple of the women members jumped up, "my mother was one of them," Roberts said, and ran into another room, and another woman ran out the front door, and watched from outside until the snake was put back in its box at the end of the program.

With so much information being available today, both films and specialists available, he said, "We don't call on members to give programs as often as we used to."

The clubhouse (built with a generous monetary gift from the Eli Lilly family, who were members) and the sanctuary was dedicated on July 18, 1965. The Clubhouse is at 125 Boulder Drive, where the road deadends in an older neighborhood off. Boulder Drive is accessible from Edith Avenue, north of the

and build the clubhouse. It has been a different group and, of course, we were able to expand the membership."

Before having the clubhouse, when the meetings were in homes, he said.

Everyone was expected to attend every meeting. "If you couldn't be, you would call the hostess and let them know beforehand that you were not going to be there. That way they would know how many people to prepare refreshments for," he said.

If there wasn't enough space in a home, the club would rent Fryberger's Tea Room in Noblesville. It was a popular place to meet on South Ninth Street. "We would have meetings in the private tea rooms or the basement of churches. But there were really no other public auditoriums where we could meet at that time."

The Club met on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

"You have to remember, this was before television, before computers, before cell phones, and people enjoyed going out and meeting together. It was a different age, really," Roberts said.

He would guess there are between 60 and 100 members today. A number of school faculty are in the club, including Noblesville East Middle School science teacher Rick Towle, the club's president, and Promise Road Elementary art teacher Darlene Patterson.

"But now we only meet once a month. And attendance is good at the Nature Club, but people are not expected to meet as they were before. Now, attendance is spotty. People attend when they can," Roberts said.

When the club met in homes, members baked a pie or cake and served. "We had very fresh and very hot refreshments," he said. "Now people carry in something to drink and finger food or cake or small items." The club still has carry-in dinners at least once a year. The clubhouse's basement is now fixed up to have diners in the basement, and there is also a barbecue pit outside the clubhouse.

Membership was and still is a nominal fee. Roberts is a life member. Today, memberships range from \$5 for ages 18 and younger to a \$500 individual life membership.

The Blatchley Nature Study Club grounds are very natural. "It's all rough grounds of hills and valleys with newer stairways," said Roberts, who likes to go out and enjoy the large variety of

wildflowers. "Very early in the spring, the first thing that blooms is Salt and Pepper," he said.

Roberts recalled the generosity of Dr. Brooks. "When the hikes first opened, Dr. Brooks saw to it that we had an example of each of the Indiana orchids." The orchids have since died out, as has Blue Eyed Mary and other flowers. "We pretty much have let things grow as nature intended," he said. The unpaved trails at Blatchley he considers "moderate" difficulty because "it's uphill and down, and you have to be somewhat agile to handle it." He also said, "We encourage people to stay on the trail, or they're trampling on wildflowers."

Looking back on all of these years, he said what makes him smile the most is "remembering the variety of people who have been in the club through the years."

He also shared more about himself. "I'm a Noblesville native, was born here in 1932 and went through the Noblesville commons schools, graduated from high school in 1950. Went on to college and law school and then two years in the Army. When I was discharged, I came back and ran for Hamilton County Prosecutor and won that and served four years as prosecutor (1959-62) and entered my family law firm and practiced law for 42 years. I was the first prosecutor to move the office into the Courthouse. It had always been a part-time job before that. The job began to mushroom and required more time. I got an office in the Courthouse. And then I retired in 2002 and have been living on the farm since then."

"My wife's family had a farm there, which they entered from the government, never being out of the family. We moved to Westfield after we were married and the children came and we moved there in 1967. I've been there since."

He was married 54 years to Leanna Barker Roberts, a teacher, who passed three years ago, at age 94. He has two children, a son, Thomas, and daughter, Mary Kathryn, five grandchildren, Ramona, Rachel, Joseph, John and Paul, and one great-grandchild.

Today, Roberts enjoys doing what he likes to do in retirement. "I keep busy. I have a big yard to take care of. I try to keep tabs on the farm."

- Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

## GRANTS From Page A1

eligible for grants, those funds may be passed through to support artists, historians, content creators, designers, etc. whose talents are needed to support the program. Businesses may also partner with these non-profits to make their program stronger. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit grant ideas within the themes identified by the Bicentennial Commission: Education, Historic Preservation, Environment/Parks, Diversity/Inclusion, and Arts.

While there is no match requirement for these grants, applicants are encouraged to find additional resources through other grant programs, corporate sponsors, individual donors, etc. to complete your budgets. You can also partner with other cultural institutions who will be involved in the Bicentennial, including township representatives (a full list is on the website), historical societies and museums, libraries, and parks.

Sanctioned events also will be eligible for a free Bicentennial Celebration Kit in 2023 to assist with theming events and programs to the 200th anniversary of the county. The celebration kits will include items such as a banner, posters, a logo tablecloth, bookmarks, digital advertising materials, etc.

The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission will help promote and coordinate all sanctioned events for the celebration through paid and organic social media and other advertising. The Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission will market and promote events throughout the year.

No events that endorse a political viewpoint, party or candidate, and no events that supports a cause other than creating awareness for a local non-profit organization and history may receive funding.

Visit [hamcoturns200.com/plan-an-event](http://hamcoturns200.com/plan-an-event) for additional information.

## TREE CITY From Page A1

in Indiana have participated for as long as Noblesville - Bloomington, Indianapolis, Elkhart and Angola. Noblesville received Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance.

The city will celebrate its Tree City USA status during its Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 30 with a proclamation by Mayor Jensen at noon. The city will hold a tree planting along the White River to help improve the river corridor. Those interested in volunteering for a shift can register at [bit.ly/wrtv912](http://bit.ly/wrtv912) (9 a.m. to noon)

or [bit.ly/wrtv123](http://bit.ly/wrtv123) (noon to 3 p.m.). The planting is currently scheduled for rain or shine.

Starting at 10 a.m., the Tree Board will be giving away 3-gallon shade trees to the first 50 Noblesville residents who arrive and sign one of the Clear Choices Clean Water pledges (<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org>) in an effort to protect Indiana Waterways. The Tree Board also will have 100 Shagbark Hickory seedlings and forestry information available to residents at the Riverwalk Trailhead parking lot west of 5th Street, next to Riverside Cemetery.

"Trees are a unifying force in the world, and we think the time is now to capitalize on this part

of nature that we all have in common." Tree Board President Ashley Mulis said. "Trees provide our city with so many benefits (such as) clean air and water, erosion control, stormwater and pollution uptake, increased property values, positive mental health impacts, heating and cooling savings, shade and natural beauty, and the list goes on. We want to share that on Arbor Day and bring our community together."

On May 2, the Tree Board and the Noblesville High School AP environmental science class and Junior Lions Club members will plant six native Redbud trees inside the interior courtyards of the high school.

The Tree City USA pro-

gram is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the United States Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. For more information about the program, visit [www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

The Noblesville Tree Board is responsible for the development of a master plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, removal and disposition of street trees in the City of Noblesville. The board is comprised of the city urban forester, a common council member liaison and four members of the community. The board coordinates its efforts with related projects of such groups as the Park Board, Plan Commission and the Street Department.

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