

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Hamilton Happenings

Simon, the global leader in premier shopping, dining, entertainment and mixed-use destinations, recently announced the latest addition to Hamilton Town Center, Lovesac, an American furniture retailer specializing in a patented modular furniture system, will open this summer. Their signature piece, Sactionals, consists of two combinable pieces, "Seats" and "Sides." Lovesac will be located between Victoria's Secret and White House Black Market. For more information visit <https://www.simon.com/mall/hamilton-town-center>.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Poor little dik-diks are as cute as cute can get. The little antelopes, the biggest of which grow to less than 16 inches in height and, at best, weigh in at somewhere between 6 and 15 pounds, may not be on an endangered species list but they are in danger, nonetheless. Carnivores in the grasslands of eastern and southern Africa such as jackals, lizards, hyenas, wild dogs, pythons, birds of prey hunt them. Humans, too, track and kill them for their hides to make fancy gloves.

2 The U.K. Antarctic Heritage Trust owns and operates what is known as "the penguin post office" located at the Port Lockroy base on Goudier Island. It will soon be the beginning of winter down under and they need to hire three English employees to sort the mail and to keep watch over some 1,500 penguins. While it is, indeed, a "unique opportunity to live in a landscape that makes you feel pure awe and wonder" it's not a job for anyone. The new employees will need to risk a few hardships such as cabin fever and the lack of running water.

3 They call themselves The Most Famous Artists and a few years ago they claimed that they were responsible for several silver monolith that mysteriously showed up in the U.S. and Europe in 2020. But no one has claimed the sudden appearance recently of a similar monolith on a hillside in Wales. Photographer Richard Haynes came across it and said that "it was about 10-foot-tall at least and triangular, definitely stainless steel. It was hollow and I imagine pretty light, light enough for two people to carry it up and plant it in the ground."

The **TIMES**



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!



Yes, today is April Fool's Day. How did it start? According to legend – well, there are multiple stories. The one we like the most is from Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. But others say it came from the French and still others say it is distinctly American. There are still others who claim the day goes all the way back to ancient Roman days and the festival Hilaria, which is a Latin word meaning joyful. Who are we to judge? We just know it's a day that some people like and some people don't . . .

4-1

45

From the same poll, the percentage of U.S. adults who think the day is fun. (Kind of sounds like the Biden-Trump numbers, huh!)



47



59

That's the number (percentage-wise) of your fellow citizens who don't appreciate a good April Fool's Day joke!

According to a YouGov America poll, that's the percentage of American adults who found April Fool's antics less than pleasing.



46

The percent of us who enjoy a good April fool's Day prank – played on someone else!

1957



The BBC reported that Italy was enjoying a bumper year with their spaghetti crop. There were even photos showing farmers harvesting noodles. See, those Brits weren't so formal and stiff after all!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Influenza is in town – wash your hands frequently and stay home if you have a cough and high fever.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"You can't be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, overthinking it. You have to go down the chute."
Tina Fey

OBITUARIES

None

TODAY'S JOKE

Want to hear an April Fool's joke about elevators? It works on many levels.

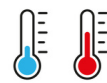
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The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 7:27 am
SET: 8:09 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 65°F
LOW: 39°F



Today is...

- Dyngus Day
- International Fun at Work Day



What Happened On This Day

- **1976** Apple Inc. is founded. The computer company, which has evolved into a multinational corporation and whose best-known product is the iPhone, was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne. In 2012, the company's global revenue amounted to \$156 billion.
- **1939** General Franco proclaims victory in the Spanish civil war. The dictator ruled Spain until his death in 1975. His regime was responsible for gross human rights violations, including murdering numerous political opponents.



Births On This Day

- **1961** Susan Boyle - Scottish singer
- **1940** Wangari Maathai - Kenyan environmentalist, Nobel Prize laureate

Deaths On This Day

- **1984** Marvin Gaye - American singer-songwriter
- **1976** Max Ernst - German painter, sculptor, poet

Diane Nevitt Retiring After 30+ Years at Historical Society



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Historical Society

A retirement reception is scheduled for Diane on April 28 at the Noblesville Township Community Center.

The Hamilton County Historical Society, located on the square in Noblesville in the Old Sheriff's Residence and Jail, would like to announce the retirement of our long-time museum director, Diane Zeiss Nevitt.

Diane Nevitt first became involved at the Historical Society over 30 years ago and served in several roles on the board before becoming the Museum Director in 1999. Diane retired at the end of 2023.

During her tenure, the society offered programs, tours, and experiences for all ages. Many of our guests remember getting a tour from Diane in 4th grade,

then coming back as adults, sometimes with their own children. Diane also managed volunteers and provided research services for history and genealogy questions. Diane's impact cannot be measured here, so the Historical Society is pleased to invite the community to a retirement reception in her honor.

Join us on April 28th, 2024, from 2-5pm at the Noblesville Township Community Center (388 S 8th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060). There will be light refreshments and remarks at 2:30pm.

Please RSVP to info@hamiltoncoins.com or 317-770-0775.

Heights DECA Recognized for Outstanding School-Based Enterprise

Hamilton Heights Husky Fan Shop the school-based enterprise at Hamilton Heights High School was among 728 school-based enterprises (SBE) achieving GOLD for the 2023-2024 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California. Heights is among 12 chapters in Indiana to achieve GOLD certification. In addition, earning GOLD certification qualifies 2 officers to attend the DECA ICDC competition in Anaheim, California, April 27-30. Hannah Beechler from Hamilton Heights placed first in Sports & Entertainment Marketing earning her the ticket to ICDC. Sara Totten also placed in the top 10 in Human Resource Management.

A school-based enterprise is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet the needs of the market. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate National Curriculum Standards in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA advisors have utilized this effective educational tool for over four decades to provide their students with realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, enhance 21st century skill development, and prepare students for college and careers.

The Hamilton Heights DECA members who contributed to the certification were led by Melissa Lovell, Store

Manager. Other members included: Hannah Beechler, Sara Totten, Tquan Spencer, Jackson Massicotte, Autumn Anderson, Addison Mann, Isaiah Grimsey, Maddie Heffelmire, Sarah Toll, Addyson Ferguson, Jenna Gascho, Bella McDole, Micah Colvin and Adalynn Gould with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, Ms. Kim Kaiser. Other students assisting with the Husky Fan Shop were Simon Knott and Alex Furst. The SBE at Hamilton Heights HS has operated for over six years and is to be commended for this achievement. The HFS has received gold certification 3 of the past 4 years.

The Husky Fan Shop also earned the THRIVE recognition earlier in the year. Hamilton Heights DECA was among 525 chapters to achieve THRIVE level recognition this year and will be commended at DECA's International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in April in Anaheim, CA.

Each fall, DECA offers four campaigns for chapters to complete as part of their program of leadership for the year. These campaigns are designed to grow membership engagement and build lasting partnerships within the school and local community. Chapters that achieve THRIVE level receive a commemorative pennant, flag, and plaque. Campaigns including the community service, ethical leadership, and social media promotion are performed to earn this honor.

The DECA organization is made up of marketing students that manage and

operate the Husky Fan Shop. The shop sells Husky apparel and accessories to promote school spirit. The community service promotional campaign highlights activities that the Husky Fan Shop has participated such as "Back to School Bash", Cicero & Arcadia Street Festivals, and Ryan White Fest. The promotional campaign featured new items the Husky Fan Shop offers in the shop to generate sales and recognition such as the "Red for

Ed" shirts and senior tee shirts and yard signs. The "Red for Ed" shirts are designed with the help of HHCTA and offered to personnel to promote public education and recognition of our staff. The Husky Fan Shop also has included new items such as school logo lanyards, license plates, baseball caps, beanies, earrings and blankets. Our "Heritage" and "Husky Gear" items are stock items kept in the store.



Hamilton Heights High School students who also staff the Husky Fan Shop, model a selection of shirts available at the highly successful, student-run Husky Fan Shop. Pictured front row from left Maddie Heffelmire, Melissa Lovell, Sara Totten and Autumn Anderson. Back row from left Tquan Spencer, Isaiah Grimsey, Simon Knott, Jackson Massicotte and Alex Furst. Check it out at: www.huskyfanshoponline.com



Heights is among just 12 schools in Indiana to hold a DECA GOLD certification. Heights DECA members who attended the DECA Indiana State Career Development Conference in Indianapolis include front row, from left Addison Mann, Hannah Beechler, Autumn Anderson, Sara Totten and Sarah Toll. Back row from left Melissa Lovell, Isaiah Grimsey, Jackson Massicotte, Tquan Spencer and Addyson Ferguson



Students attending the DECA Fall Leadership Conference were able to attend a Pacer Game. Pictured front row Jenna Gascho. Second row from left Tquan Spencer, Sara Totten, Autumn Anderson, Hannah Beechler and Maddie Heffelmire. Back row from left Addison Mann, Adalynn Gould, Sarah Toll, Addyson Ferguson, Melissa Lovell, Bella McDole, Jackson Massicotte and Isaiah Grimsey.

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Hamilton Heights senior Sara Totten placed in Top 10 in the written exam for Human Resources Management at the DECA Indiana State Career Development Conference in Indianapolis earlier this month



Hamilton Heights senior Hannah Beechler placed first in Sports & Entertainment Marketing at the DECA Indiana State Career Development Conference in Indianapolis earlier this month.

We appreciate our readers!

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Rod Stewart Hair



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

"I like your hair!" a woman at the party said.

This is always nice to hear. My hair is my least endearing feature, primarily because there is not much of it. But since my husband, Peter, started cutting it, I worry a lot less.

"How does my hair look?" I ask as I head out the door. Peter always pretends to take this question very seriously. (He should, as my hairdresser.) He scrutinizes the top of my head for a long moment. He asks me to turn all the way around. Then he reaches over and tousles something on the top.

"Perfect!" he says. And I choose to believe him.

"My husband cuts it," I told the woman at the party. "He cuts his own hair, too!"

"Ooh! Isn't that hard?"

"He's been doing it since he was 17, when the local barber wouldn't give him the haircut he wanted."

This is true. Peter started cutting his hair when the barber was threatening to give him a buzz cut—because that was the only kind of haircut he gave. Peter got up from the barber chair, walked out, and cut it himself. I like that story. Peter has always known what he wanted and has always figured he could learn new things.

"Don't tell people I cut my own hair!" Peter told me on the walk home.

"Why not?"

"They'll think I'm strange."

"You're married to me! I think they may have already formed an opinion."

Peter granted this was true. As it happens, I was feeling particularly pleased with my hair that evening because Peter had given me a haircut just that morning. Usually, the haircuts were his idea.

"Your hair could use a trim," he will announce in a way that makes it clear I am looking pretty scruffy. So I put on a raincoat, and raise my office chair as high as it will go, and he gets out his sharp scissors that make a satisfying "Snick! Snick! Snick!" noise and, in less than five minutes, he has cut my hair. He doesn't have much to work with, after all.

But this time, getting a haircut was my idea. I'd just watched an interview with Rod Stewart, the iconic rock star. He is 79 years old, and he has just released a jazz album. He is also a keen builder of model trains. But I was more interested in his hair than either his jazz or his trains. His hair looked great. I wondered how a man approaching 80 managed to have such ineffable style, and I decided it was, in large part, because he wasn't too worried about being tidy. Rod Stewart has the untidiest hair you're likely to find on an octogenarian (outside a long-term senior care facility), and I decided he was my new role model. His music is good. But his hair is terrific.

"I want hair like Rod Stewart!" I announced, after watching the interview, and Peter got out his noisy little scissors and set to work.

I'm not saying I look like Rod Stewart. I don't. He has a lot more hair and a lot more experience looking unkempt. But I woke up this morning and looked at myself in the mirror. I left the comb on the shelf. I ran my fingers through my hair and made it stand a little more on end than usual.

"How do you like your haircut?" my hairstylist asked.

"I love it," I told him. "I look just like Rod Stewart!"

"You do," he said.

And I choose to believe him.

Till next time,
Carrie

Just Like The Cat



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

"Dick, I know that the snoring is not intentional. But it has some devastating effects on our health and well-being. What are we going to do about it?"

"I've tried everything. It must have to do with the sleeping position."

"Well, that's tough to control. But we have to do something."

"I'll call the vet first thing in the morning."

Yes, we have a pet that snores. But it's not a dog. Believe it or not, we have a cat that snores.

Yes, seriously, a cat! Her name is Angel.

We have had two dogs over the years that snored. Both Barney and my second beagle, Toby, were snorers. It wasn't the occasional snort that kept us awake; it was a full-blown, get out of my way foghorn. Both dogs woke themselves up every night, which made them cranky the next day. Dogs need their 18 hours.

I specifically remember the first onset of Toby's snoring. Knee surgery had slowed him down a bit, resulting in a modest weight gain, a factor in snoring. I had observed no increase in smoking or alcohol consumption in the hound, another common cause. I googled pets and snoring. Apparently, there's a real epidemic of sleep disorders in the canine world: narcolepsy, jet lag, insomnia, night terrors and restless paw syndrome.

But cats?

The first thing I learned was those animals with short, flat faces—like bulldogs, pugs, Pekingese—are more apt to snore. If your human partner has a short, flat face you just better accept it. Or trade your significant other for a horse.

The site also noted that

when pets sleep on their backs, snoring is more apt to occur. The best solution is to roust them out of a deep sleep, then abruptly flip them over on their stomachs. Mary Ellen thought this sounded like a good idea because that method worked temporarily on me several years ago.

But I still snore. Just like the cat.

One pet owner suggested gluing a tennis ball on a leather belt and wrapping it around the cat's torso, so the bulge on his back would prevent him from rolling over. I tried this with Toby and Barney years ago. Both were pretty adept at twisting themselves into a knot, snatching the ball from the strap, and then dropping it on my head at two in the morning so we could play fetch.

I got back on Google. I saw that one woman recommended nasal strips for a pet that snores, but sticking one of those on a beagle's nose is like trying to keep a bandage on a peeled banana. Another idea was giving your pet a nice foam cushioning to prop his head up at night, thus opening the nasal airway. Angel had no interest in this. But both beagles loved the pillows. Every bite of them.

Mary Ellen finally googled the cat snoring issue. It said there wasn't much you could do to stop a cat from snoring. A vet on the site suggested having the cat sleep in the basement, but my wife quickly rejected that solution. But that did give her another thought. Now she's calling my doctor to see if he would advise her to do the same thing with me.

— Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Hamilton County Students Shine in College

A host of local students have achieved various honors at their colleges. The Times is proud to recognize these wonderful achievements.

Ball State University
Bryn Edwards and Tierra Williams, Hamilton County natives and Honors College students at Ball State University, have been awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to support their study abroad endeavors. Edwards, a junior from Carmel, will study at Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany from April-July 2024. With majors in German and Psychology and a minor in Counseling, she intends to pursue a career as a therapist. Williams, a sophomore from Fishers, is participating in a Winter break trip to Greece. She has a major in Computer Science, with concentrations in Data Analytics & Machine Learning and Cybersecurity & Secure Software Design.

Biola University
Lillian Vannoy, Vannoy, a Cinema and Media Arts major from Carmel, was named to Biola University's Dean's List for academic excellence. Vannoy was one of approximately 1,600 students who were named to the dean's list in Fall 2023. Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

Lawrence University
Eitan Price of Carmel and a Lawrence University sophomore linguistics major, attended the Linguistics Society of America's Summer Institute, a program mostly attended by graduate students. It is described as an "intellectual summer camp" by its organizers, made to forward the study of linguistics by gathering the foremost professionals and students in linguistics studies. Missouri Wesley Moore, a senior majoring in nuclear engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology, made the honor list for the Fall 2023 semester. To be included on the honor list, students must have carried a minimum of 12 hours and had grade point averages of 3.2 or above out of a possible 4.0. Moore is from Fishers.

Morningside University
Courtney Fey was one of 53 students who recently earned graduate degrees from Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa. Fey, from Westfield, earned a Master of Arts in Teaching.



Bryn Edwards



Tierra Williams

Phi Kappa Phi
Three Hamilton County students were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Benjamin Shim of Carmel along with Evan Wang and Hongwei Liu, both of Fishers, are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction. Shim and Wang were initiated at Purdue and Liu was initiated at Logan University.

Trine University
Joseph Langeman of the Trine University men's wrestling team clinched a spot at the 2024 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships with a third-place finish on the final day of the Central Regional. Langeman, of Carmel, needed three straight wins in the consolation bracket at 133 to earn his spot. He started off with a 14-4 major decision in his first match before winning a hardfought second by the score of 7-5, only taking the lead in the final period with a crucial takedown before securing the win with riding time. The senior led the third-place match from start to finish, scoring an early takedown and three additional nearfall points in the opening minutes of the match before cruising to the 14-7 victory. At the national championship, Langeman lost in the Friday match on a decision.

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Spring in Fishers features fun for all ages

Spring has arrived, and the City of Fishers and Fishers Parks are gearing up for a season of outdoor adventures and favorite community traditions. The spring event and programming lineup includes:

Spring Break Camp
April 1 – 5 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily | Holland Park (1 Park Drive)
This one-week camp is modeled after Fishers Parks' popular summer camp program and offers variety of fun opportunities for outdoor play, STEM, music, arts and crafts, and more. Led by Fishers Parks staff and counselors, this day camp will keep kids ages 5-10 active and learning during the Hamilton Southeastern Schools spring break week. Registration is required. Learn more and register at [FishersParks.com/](https://fishersparks.com/)

Spring City Recycling Day
Saturday, April 6 | 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Billericay Park (12690 Promise Road) | Free
Residents can recycle electronics, household items, hazardous wastes, and more at this free recycling event. Paper recycling and off-site confidential document shredding is also available. Learn more and find a list of accepted items at [FishersIN.gov/](https://fishersin.gov/)

2024 Total Solar Eclipse
Monday, April 8 | Approximately 3:06 p.m.
On Monday, April 8, Fishers will experience the Total Solar Eclipse. Totality in Fishers will begin at 3:06 p.m. and last three minutes and thirty seconds, the longest length of totality in Hamilton County. The City of Fishers, Fishers Police Department and Fishers Fire and Emergency Services have been preparing over the past six months with county officials to ensure the public safety of residents and expected influx of visitors as they experience the celestial event. Follow the City

of Fishers on Facebook

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
Friday, April 26 | 4 – 6 p.m. | Fishers AgriPark (11171 Florida Road) | Free
Fishers Parks' annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway returns to the Fishers AgriPark! Drop by to get a free white or red oak (limited quantities available on a first-come, first-served basis) and enjoy additional Arbor Day fun with your friends and family. Learn more at [FishersParks.com](https://fishersparks.com/).

May Mental Health Awareness Month
Join the community during Mental Health Awareness Month in creating a Stigma Free Fishers through events, community stories, and educational opportunities all month long. Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School's Bring Change to Mind student clubs in partnership with the Fishers Health Department will host the annual Hope for Happiness event at the Fishers Farmers Market on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to noon to raise awareness about mental health and the city's Stigma Free initiative. Learn more about Mental Health Awareness Month at [FishersIN.gov/](https://fishersin.gov/)

Fishers AgriPark Opening
Opens for the season Wednesday, May 1 | Fishers AgriPark (11171 Florida Road)
A 33-acre urban farm and one of the city's most unique assets, the Fishers AgriPark is one of the nation's largest urban farms and pays homage to Fishers' agricultural roots. Every year, May through October, residents are invited to the AgriPark for u-pick opportunities in the public fields and gardens, animal encounters, and special programming. Learn more at [FishersParks.com/](https://fishersparks.com/)

Make48
Friday, May 3 – Sunday, May 5 | Maker Playground
Fishers Parks' Maker Playground will again host the Indiana Make48 competition. Make 48 is a 48-hour

nationally televised competition where teams are presented with a challenge and tasked to build a physical prototype, create a sales sheet, produce a 1-minute marketing video, and pitch their big idea to a panel of judges. This year, FFA chapters from across the state will be the competitors, and with access to expert tool technicians and high-tech equipment, competing teams will have the power to build almost anything at Maker Playground. Make 48 and Maker Playground are actively recruiting volunteer tool techs and general volunteers be directly involved with the competition helping teams. Learn more about getting involved and sign up at [FishersParks.com/Make 48](https://fishersparks.com/make48)

Fishers Farmers Market
Saturdays, May 4 – September 28 | 8 a.m. – noon | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater (6 Municipal Drive) | Free
Rated one of the top farmers markets in the region, the Fishers Farmers Market showcases vendors from Central Indiana offering fresh produce, baked goods, honey, specialty food items, meats, coffee, plants, and more. Learn more at [FishersParks.com/](https://fishersparks.com/)

Free Fishing Day
Sunday, May 12 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Flat Fork Creek Park (16141 E. 101st Street) | Free
Join the Fishers Parks team for free, pop-up fishing! Bring your own supplies or borrow equipment on site. Free Fishing Days are designated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana residents do not need a fishing license to fish in the state's public waters on these dates. Learn more at [FishersParks.com/ Fishing](https://fishersparks.com/fishing)

Touch-a-Truck
Tuesday, May 21 | 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free
In honor of National Public Works Week, check out Fishers' fleet of big rigs, including a firetruck, snowplow, police car, and more at this family-friendly

event around the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater. Learn more at [FishersIN.gov/](https://fishersin.gov/)

Geist Waterfront Park Opening Day
Opening Day: Saturday, May 25 | Noon – 8 p.m.
Regular Beach Hours: Daily through Labor Day (September 2) | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Geist Waterfront Park (10811 Olio Road)
The 70-acre waterfront park in east Fishers features beach and water access to Geist Reservoir, non-motorized boat launch and dock access for kayaks and canoes, walking trails, playground, and public gathering amenities. Beach access is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. This year, Fishers parks will add additional programming and events to the summer lineup. Learn more at [FishersParks.com/](https://fishersparks.com/)

Splash Pad Opening Day
Opening Day: Saturday, May 25

Open Daily | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
The free splash pads at Holland Park (1 Park Drive) and Billericay Park (12690 Promise Road) and the fountain at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater Pavilion (10 Municipal Drive) will open daily through Labor Day. Learn more at [FishersParks.com/Water Amenities](https://fishersparks.com/wateramenities)

Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 27 | 10 a.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free
Join the City of Fishers to honor the service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom at this special ceremony. After the ceremony, take a walk around the Central Green and Nickel Plate District Amphitheater to view the light pole banners honoring local veterans and active duty service members in the Fishers community. You can also honor a hero by purchasing an Engraved Brick Paver, which will become a

permanent addition to the Liberty Plaza walkway. Learn more at [FishersIN.gov/](https://fishersin.gov/)

Get Outdoors this Spring
There's no better time to enjoy the warmer weather and spring blooms than at our city's diverse collection of parks and trails! From the wooded trails and wildflowers at Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve—one of only two nature preserves in Hamilton County—to bird watching at Geist Waterfront Park and play amenities for the whole family at Holland Park, there's no shortage of outdoor fun to be had at Fishers' parks. Learn more at playfishers.com

Get Involved
Looking for ways to make an impact in the community? Whether you're volunteering solo or as a group, there are ways to get involved for all ages, interests, and abilities. See current volunteer opportunities for Park and Rain Garden Stewards, Spark!Fishers, the Geist Half Race Series, Fishers Farmers Market, Fishers AgriPark and more at volunteerfishers.com

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

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Noblesville Sunrisers



Saturday, April 20, 2024

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2024 Alfa Romeo Tonale Plug-In is the Dodge Hornet's Alla Moda Italian Sibling



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

If the Alfa Romeo Tonale Veloce compact crossover looks a little familiar to you, it's because it shares most of its body, interior, and architecture with the Dodge Hornet. Don't get me wrong, both harbor accomplished bits straight from Italy. Our little Alfa goes further with a proper plug-in hybrid powertrain that optimizes efficiency while providing quick weekend reflexes. The question, though, "Is the Hornet a bargain Alfa Romeo or is the Tonale a fancy Dodge?"

Smooth Italian Style

Styling is all Italian with a smooth curvaceous body cribbed from the larger Alfa Stelvio crossover. The front pays homage to the Alfa Romeo Zagato concept with the brand's trademark grille, triple-sided headlamps, and angry mesh lower air intake. Proper Grigio 20" five-hole alloy wheels and red brake calipers convey purpose. It

leaves its last impression with a thin light strip containing six more segments and a lower diffuser. It's all mostly for show, but connects to a storied heritage.

Alfas are about driving, and in this one, everything falls readily at-hand. The thick leather-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel is canted forward in the Italian tradition, seats wrap tightly, and large analog gauges add sporting touches. Of course, in a modern Alfa, gauges are flatscreen, a large touchscreen controls infotainment, and devices connect wirelessly via Apple CarPlay plus Android Auto. Charge wirelessly too. Heated front seats, heated steering wheel, and thumping Harman Kardon audio system add delights to the drive.

Despite some very upscale features, the interior does not feel as rich as one might expect in an Alfa Romeo. There's a lot of hard plastic, even on the rear door tops - cost-cutting more appropriate in a Fiat than an Alfa Romeo.

The expanse of light plastic across the dash looks cheapish in daylight, but has a very nice ambient glow at night. The steering wheel and seats are some of my favorite parts of the cabin.

Safety definitely was not done on the cheap. Adaptive cruise takes stress off the drive while automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind-spot warning, and rear cross path detection provide peace of mind. A rear seat reminder and driver attention monitor actively watch over occupants.

Enjoying Open Roads

Out on the road, the powertrain combines a 1.3-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, six-speed automatic transmission, and batteries/motors for combined 285 horsepower, 347 lb.-ft. of torque, and 77-MPGe. After plugging in, the Tonale can travel about 30 miles before the gas engine fires up. You can drive to the office and back on electricity, or coast-to-coast on gas, without looking for an outlet. Those looking

for an EV without hassle will appreciate this set-up.

But, driving it is a mixed bag. On smooth Autostrada, the Tonale's tight adaptive suspension and quick steering are an absolute joy, but not so much as it jitters over rough city streets. Drive modes adjust from maximum power to advanced efficiency, and it scoots from 0-60 mph in under 6 seconds, but you'll wish for a nice Japanese crossover on rougher roads. My daughter and I made a two-hour Interstate run to have lunch with mother. It was a delightful drive.

I could have written nearly all of this about the Dodge Hornet. They're both legit Italian crossovers, fun to drive and beautiful to view, but it's a little easier to excuse some harshness and hard interior materials on a Dodge. A base price of \$43,845 rose to \$57,450 for our well-equipped Veloce plug-in. Competitors include the Lincoln Corsair PHEV and Lexus NX plug-in hybrid.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at

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2024 Alfa Romeo Tonale PHEV
Five-passenger, AWD SUV
Powertrain: 1.3-liter T4, Batteries
Output: 285hp/347 lb.-ft.
All-electric range: 30 miles
Suspension f/r: Adap. Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
0-60 mph: 5.9s
Fuel economy: 77-MPGe
Assembly: Naples, Italy
Base/as-tested price: \$43,845/57,450

Likes

- Italian style
- Spirited performance
- Electric driving

Dislikes

- Interior plastics
- Jittery suspension
- Sassy price

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The Times

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