

The Times of Noblesville presents...

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025



For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to
booking #1232517

TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God

Hamilton Happenings

Lions International started in 1917 in Chicago Illinois. Twenty-five years later, in 1942, the Noblesville Lions Club was founded and is now enjoying its 82nd anniversary. The Club's primary focus is helping kids in a multitude of ways. You can be a part of that. The Lions Club will be hosting an Information Open House on Wednesday Oct. 9 at Ginger's Café, 1111 S. 10th Street at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to know more about what the club does to help the community, please come check us out. You can find out more on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/noblesvillelionsclub> or visit our website at <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/noblesville>. Another way is to talk to a Lion member you may know.

Three Things You Should Know

- Approximately 600 Indiana National Guard soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division bid farewell to loved ones during a departure ceremony at Camp Atterbury recently. The troops deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The deployment is slated for about nine months, with the soldiers' mobilization lasting approximately a year.
- As the excitement of summer vacations fades, the reality of back-to-school routines and the onset of cooler weather can leave many people feeling a bit down. So what do we do about it? Well, a recent survey by Mission Connection involving 3,000 respondents, sought to uncover the September events that Hoosiers most look forward to as a way to lift their spirits. The top three events that emerged are an end of summer road trip, fall foliage viewing and attending a harvest festival.
- What are the odds that you'll celebrate your 100th Birthday? The Census Bureau reports that about 101,000 Americans will reach that milestone in 2024 and that the numbers of centenarians in the U.S. will grow steadily in the coming years. More importantly, the National Council on Aging reports that America's seniors "are healthier overall and living independently for longer." Take Helen Denmark in Birmingham, Alabama. She turned 108 years of age recently and says that she stays young by "drinking wine, eating dessert, and flirting with men with mustaches."

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!

October

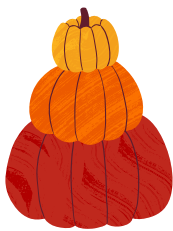
Tomorrow, we kick off the spookiest month of the year, October! See you in September? Well, only for a few more hours and then the 10th month of the Year of our Lord 2024 begins. Come on along with us for a stroll through some of the numbers that make up October!

8 The name of the month - October - actually comes from the Latin word octo, which means eight. That's what month it was in the Roman calendar.



2nd The second Monday in October, this year it's 10-14-24, is officially recognized as Columbus Day, marking the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World (on 10-12-1492).

10-13-24 That's the date Comet C/2023 A3 will pass at its closest spot to good, ol' Mother Earth. Don't fret though, the comet will actually be about 27 million miles away. We should still be able to see it with the naked eye starting around Oct. 11 and continuing until around Oct. 20. By the way, the comet is named that because it was spotted by the Tsuchinshan Chinese Observatory and the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System.



10-22-24 The comet isn't the only thing going on in the October night sky. The peak of the Orionid meteor shower should occur on Oct. 22, remaining pretty active through mid-November. With the right conditions, you should be able to see 10 to 20 meteors per hour. The Orionids are dust from Halley's Comet. Also, on Oct. 28, the Hunter's Moon, also known as the blood moon, will rise above the horizon. And on Oct. 14, there will be a solar eclipse - although viewing in Indiana won't be as spectacular as last time!



180,610

The miles per hour the comet is traveling at. If you have a small telescope by checking the location and then checking it again in 10-15 minutes.

\$12,000,000,000!

Yep, that's 12 billion - with a B! That's about how much we're planning on spending this Halloween. No worries, Christmas is still way higher. We spent around \$220 billion last year!



86 And we wrap up this edition of By The Numbers with how many shopping days you have until Christmas! Remember, you read it here first!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

It's critical for kids, especially teens to get plenty of sleep to help with mood, school performance and appetite.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"You have to believe in yourself when no one else does."

Serena Williams

OBITUARIES

None

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



TODAY'S JOKE

What happens when winter arrives?
Autumn leaves.

Laugh, Cry With 6 Women in CCP's 'Steel Magnolias'



Photo courtesy of Samantha Kelly and Carmel Community Players

Carmel Community Players' "Steel Magnolias" play, Oct. 4-13 at The Cat, follows the lives of six female friends who work in a beauty shop, played by Gabrielle Patterson (from left), Susan Smith, Tanya Haas, Emily Haus, Phoebe Aldridge and Casey Clouser.



BETSY REASON
Columnist

"I do not see plays, because I can nap at home for free."

While this is one of many iconic lines from the "Steel Magnolias" play script, live audiences will stay wide awake for Carmel Community Players' production of the play, opening this weekend at The Cat in Carmel.

"No one will be napping at this show. They will be laughing," said Elizabeth Ruddell, the show's director.

"Steel Magnolias" -- the first show of CCP's 2024-25 theater season -- will make you laugh until you cry.

The play is about the enduring friendship among a diverse group of six women who visit Truvy's beauty salon in a tiny town in Louisiana.

"They are bonded together not only because they frequent the same salon, but all of the women have faced some sort of trial in their lives and have gained strength through it," said Ruddell. The comedy/drama, "Steel Magnolias," opens Friday and continues through Oct. 13 at The Cat, a cozy 110-seat venue in downtown Carmel. Tickets are available at carmelplayers.org

The play was written by Robert Harling in 1987, based on the true story of his sister, Susan, her 1985 death, and the extraordinary women in the

See BETSY Page A4

OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Alison Voss from American Family Insurance

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Center for Performing Arts Getting New Name

The Center for the Performing Arts and financial services provider Allied Solutions have entered a seven-year sponsorship agreement that will rename the nonprofit arts organization and the three-venue campus it operates at Carmel City Center.

For the newly dubbed Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, the partnership reinforces financial stability and provides a greater pool of resources to sustain and expand programming, President/CEO Jeffrey C. McDermott said. Opened in 2011, Allied Solutions Center is best known for the annual *Center Presents* concert season, which features national and international artists in a range of genres, as well as a broad menu of educational and experiential opportunities for people of all ages.

"Allied Solutions has supported the center from the very beginning, and that relationship has provided great value on all sides," McDermott said. "We couldn't be more pleased that such a highly respected national company, headquartered right here in our community, sees the value of taking our partnership to a new level that will prove transformative for the center in the years to come."

Carmel-based Allied Solutions, which has sponsored the *Center Presents* season since 2015, fits the arts organization's stated goal of securing not just a financial investor, McDermott said, but a true partner with shared values and a mutual commitment to enhancing quality of life in central Indiana. Allied Solutions has strong community partnerships and continues to make investments in the communities where its employees live and work.

"We're invested in creating vibrant communities for our employees, residents and visitors," Allied Solutions CEO Pete Hilger said. "Through this partnership, we are supporting some of the most dynamic arts and performance venues in the region and a campus which also serves as a community hub, hosting award-winning cultural events, including Carmel's Christkindlmarkt."

McDermott said the support from Allied Solutions will provide more flexibility in booking artists for the *Center Presents* season and enable the continued expansion of educational programs while making them more affordable and accessible to underserved groups. Programs launched recently include free Student Matinee performances for



Photo courtesy Center for the Performing Arts / Bill Crawford/Harbor Pictures

From left, Allied Solutions Center President/CEO Jeffrey C. McDermott, Allied Solutions CEO Pete Hilger and Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam.

school groups, a Transportation Grant program to lower participation costs for schools, a commission program for local performing and visual artists, and an annual performing arts camp for youth with disabilities.

With the 1,500-seat Palladium concert hall and the neighboring James Building, which houses the Tarkington and the Studio Theater, the center's 6.5-acre campus on City Center Drive provides a rent-free home for six resident arts companies: Actors Theatre of

Indiana, Carmel Symphony Orchestra, Central Indiana Dance Ensemble, Civic Theatre, Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre and Indiana Wind Symphony. The campus welcomes more than 140,000 ticketed patrons each year, along with hundreds of thousands of other visitors to events such as the Carmel Farmers Market and the holiday Christkindlmarkt.

The agreement was announced last week. Financial details were not disclosed.

Westfield Man Sentenced for Wire Fraud

A 40-year-old Westfield man has been sentenced to two years of probation and has been ordered to pay \$49,255 in restitution after pleading guilty to wire fraud.

According to court documents, Christopher Markham was employed by the Social Security Administration and assigned to an office in Anderson, Indiana. Between February 13, 2019, and June 17, 2022, Markham engaged in a scheme by which he made it appear as though he was teleworking full-time for Social Security Administration (SSA) during workdays, when in reality he was earning income working as a home inspector for his personal business. Markham was paid his full federal salary and benefits, while concealing the fact that he was working for his personal business and not for SSA.

Markham routinely performed home inspections for his personal business during the workweek while purporting to "telework" on official SSA time. He concealed the fact that he was not performing SSA work during official work hours by having his wife and his mother access the SSA computer system and send emails to supervisors to make it appear as though he was online and working.

Markham nevertheless sought to be paid in full during this period and submitted 53 fraudulent time reports to SSA's online timekeeping portal, as well as falsified daily work logs to his supervisors.

Additionally, Markham engaged in other fraud schemes to obtain Emergency Paid Leave by falsely claiming he was required to stay home to take care of his children. In fact, his children were in daycare, and he was again performing work for and earning income from his personal business. He allegedly performed at least 70 home inspections for his personal business while claiming to be providing emergency care for his children.

Finally, on multiple occasions, Markham fraudulently claimed benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") by falsely claiming he was unable to work due to illness—when he was

actually doing home inspections for his personal business. Markham even attended an F.C. Tucker retreat promoting his business while claiming he was on FMLA leave.

On June 4 and 5, 2020, Markham was granted administrative leave after claiming that the internet wire to his home had been cut. Markham advised that his internet provider would not be able to send anyone to his home to repair the wire until Friday, June 5, 2020. In reality, his internet provider had no record of a damaged wire, and Markham used the administrative leave to take an unapproved, paid vacation to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

In total, Markham's fraudulent conduct caused a loss to the SSA of approximately \$49,255, which he has been court ordered to repay. Markham's failure to perform his duties caused needy members of the public to have their social security benefits delayed, including people with autism, blindness, and end stage cancer.

"Telework and emergency leave policies exist to provide needed flexibility and support to hard-working federal employees—not to supplement the incomes of no-show employees who want to double-dip on the public's dime while working for a private business," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "The defendant's conduct was even more egregious because his failure to work harmed Americans who were depending on him to receive the much-needed benefits to which they were entitled. Public service is a public trust, and those who abuse that trust will be held accountable."

The Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Sarah Evans Barker.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Bradley P. Shepard, who prosecuted this case.

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Wearing Used Clothes



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I wear used clothes. I remember going to clothing stores years ago and buying new clothes. But about the time I stopped wearing business suits and flying in airplanes for work, I started going to used clothing stores. Then I discovered online consignment stores and, since then, I've hardly bought a new item of clothing except socks and shoes and underwear.

I like used clothes.

Of course, I like the prices. I've always been frugal and when I see how much a pair of new jeans cost or a new dress, I am shocked. But buying used clothes also eliminates buyer's regret. If the jeans I bought refuse to stay on my hips, or the color of a top is brighter than I like, or my sister tells me I look like an automatic car wash in the new dress I bought for Christmas (and once you see a thing like that, it's hard to unsee), I can donate the clothes to another used clothing store and let them go on their merry way to the next customer, guilt-free.

My mother tells me she wore almost exclusively hand-me-downs as a child, which is not surprising since she was the ninth of 11 children, and most of them were girls. She remembers when she got what she called her "Joyce coat," which delighted her to no end because, instead of coming from several sisters before her, this coat had been owned by only one person—a neighbor named Joyce—before my mother got it. There is a picture of her standing in front of the farmhouse wearing her Joyce coat, and she looks very pleased.

I was much more spoiled and usually had new clothes as a child. I occasionally got hand-me-downs from a neighbor across the street who was the same age as me but much taller. Lynn was the youngest in her family

and the only girl, so she had a lot of nice clothes that she quickly outgrew. I remember I got a beautiful green dress from Lynn that required about an hour to iron. My mother was grateful when I also outgrew it.

These days, I occasionally wonder where my clothes came from.

It sometimes feels wicked to imagine my clothes living on someone else's body. I imagine there are people who wouldn't like the idea, and that's why they buy new clothes. But I have lived in plenty of houses where other people have lived, so the idea that my clothes have had another life is not troubling.

Still, it would be interesting to know the history of my clothes. They are usually in good shape and a lot of my used dresses still have the tags on and little bags of extra buttons, which I promptly lose. I wonder why a particular dress never worked out. I wonder if it was purchased for some occasion that never materialized. I wonder if that was disappointing. Maybe it was bought to wear when the owner lost 20 pounds that remained stubbornly where they were. I will never know. But at some point, someone decided it would be better to get a few pennies on the dollar than to keep it in their closet, and that is where every dress I own has come from.

"Where have you been?" I want to ask. The dress remains mum. And that's OK.

I imagine my dress had a very dull life, living in someone's closet, never being worn. It makes me want to put that dress on and make sure I have an especially good time while wearing it.

Till next time, Carrie

And Now Hear This



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

My wife convinced me to get hearing aids about three years ago. However, I frequently forgot to wear them. I had to keep asking, "What?" After a while, it annoyed my friends and family, so I added a little variety, like, "Say what?" and "Excuse me?" When I returned to New York for a fall visit, I asked, "Are you talking to me?" Mary Ellen kept telling me I wasn't hearing well. I'm not sure she was correct. I think the proper grammar is "You are not hearing good," but I need to check that with my editor, who happens to be my wife, so now the case is closed.

Years ago, I began to realize I needed glasses. This kind of problem is usually more self-evident. You don't need your spouse to point out vision issues. You get a lot of practical feedback walking into a glass door or putting on two different colored socks...or a sneaker and a loafer.

When Mary Ellen realized I was having trouble driving at night and reading a menu, she told me I wasn't good looking, or maybe she said you don't look well. This time, I didn't care about the grammar. I didn't like the sound of either one.

Back to hearing aids. They are relatively easy to use. You put them in your ears, both of them; then you put both of the hearing aids into both of your ears. Then, at night, you take them out of both of your ears. I'm glad I read the directions. I am quite good at inserting them, although sometimes I would put them in the wrong ears, making it more challenging to understand people on my right. Sorry, I don't mean that politically.

I fell asleep the other night in my La-Z-Boy while listening to music in the family room, so I neglected to remove the devices from my ears. I thrash around when I doze, so when I woke up, they had fallen out, lost somewhere in my chair, I assumed. The search began. First, I felt around the insides of the cushion. I did find two pencils, three dimes, and my Costco card. I also found a cluster of dog hair, which is pretty troubling because we haven't had a dog for 10 years.

My wife is usually quite helpful in situations like this. The last time I thought I had misplaced my glasses, she pointed out I was still wearing them, so her question, "Did you check your ears?" seemed quite reasonable.

Mary Ellen then asked me if the hearing aids had a Bluetooth connection that might emit a tiny sound to alert me of their location. How could I hear that if I can't hear the doorbell ringing?

No, they weren't in my ears, lost in the cushion, or on the floor. Because I take prescription sleep meds, I wondered if I could have unknowingly wandered about the house in my sleep, a possible side effect of this drug. I checked the bathroom, the laundry room, and the second bedroom. I finally found them in a very unlikely place. They seemed to work fine...after I defrosted them.

– 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Fishers
Fishers, Indiana
Nickel Plate Trail Bridge over 96th Street

General Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Public Works and Safety of Fishers, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive bids for the following project:
Bridge and trail construction work in Fishers, Indiana
Online Bids for the construction of the Project will be received for the project until October 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read at a special Bid Opening meeting at 10:15 am (local time) on October 14th, 2024, in the Fishers Hamilton Conference Room, located at 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46037. The bid opening can also be joined virtually. No late bids will be accepted. Project Manuals will be available for purchase starting September 23, 2024.
Microsoft Teams Meeting Bid Opening: Meeting ID: 224-231-196-964, Passcode: UDFyJL
For special accommodations required for handicapped individuals planning to attend the public bid opening meeting, please call or notify the City of Fishers at (317) 595-3160 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto.
In general, the Work shall be completed by State of Indiana certified/qualified Contractor and Subcontractors for the Project and consists of: Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Construction at the intersection of 96th Street and Nickel Plate Trail in Hamilton County, Fishers, Indiana.
Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Project Manuals will be available for purchase starting September 23rd, 2024.
Bid Documents and Plans can be obtained digitally from the City of Fishers via link: <https://qepi.questcdn.com/cdn/posting/?group=8012654&provider=8012654&projType=all> and/or www.questcdn.com Reference Quest Number 9330440. To be considered a plan holder for bids, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the bidding documents in digital form at a cost of \$42.00. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder's receive automatic notice of addenda, other bid updates and access to vBid, online bidding via QuestCDN. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or Support@QuestCDN.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading digital bidding documents and vBid questions.
Interested parties may view the contract documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder.
To access the electronic bid form, download the digital bidding documents and click the 'Online Bid' button or Online Bidding 'Available' button on the bid posting page.
Bids will ONLY be received and accepted through vBid via QuestCDN.com. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holder list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.
All payments for Bidding Documents are non-refundable. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.
Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on September 27th, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. (local time). Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required. Virtual attendance information is below. If attending in person, the meeting will be held in the Pavilion Conference Room.
Microsoft Teams Meeting Pre-Bid Conf: 224 231 196 964 , Passcode: UDFyJL
Instructions to Bidders.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
Work shall be constructed under a Unit Price Contract.
A Bid Bond or certified check in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount bid must be submitted with each Bid. Performance and Payment Bonds each worth 100% of the Bid will be required of the successful Bidder.
Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets of Drawings and Contract Documents and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in Bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets of drawings and Contract Documents.
Bids shall be properly and completely executed on a State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2010). Each Bid shall be accompanied by the Contractor's Bid Attachments (included in the project manual and proposal packet). A financial Statement (completely filled out and signed) shall also be submitted as required by Form 96.
Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. No bidder may withdraw any bid or proposal within a period of ninety (90) days following the date set for receiving bids or proposals. The City of Fishers reserves the right to hold any or all bids or proposals for a period of not more than ninety (90) days and said bids or proposal shall remain in full force and effect during said period.
Submission of a signed Bid by the Bidder constitutes acknowledgment of and acceptance of all the documents and terms and conditions of the Contract-Legal Requirements and Technical Sections of the specifications in the Project Manual.
The City reserves the right to waive any informalities or minor defects in bids or bidding procedure, or reject any and all bids, or to accept any bid as may be lowest responsive or most responsible as exclusively determined by the City of Fishers. The City of Fishers reserves the right to reject and/or cancel any and all bids, solicitations and/or offers in whole or in part as specified in the solicitations when it is not in the best interests of the governmental body as determined by the purchasing agency in accordance with IC 5-22-18-2.
A conditional or qualified bid will not be accepted. Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.
In accordance with Indiana Code 22-5-1-7-11, Contractors entering into a contract with the Owner will be required to enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all newly hired employees through the E-Verify program.
In accordance with Indiana Code 5-22-16.5, Contractors entering into a contract with the Owner will be required to certify they are not engaged in business with the Government of Iran, as defined in IC 5-22-16.5.
The Contractor to whom the work is awarded will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Payment Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.

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↓ BETSY

From Page A1

town of Natchitoches, La. "It had a very successful Off Broadway run and was on Broadway in 2005 for a limited run," Ruddell said.

The 1989 movie, "Steel Magnolias," a popular chick flick, was filled with stars, featuring Sally Field as M'Lynn, Julia Roberts as Shelby, Shirley MaLaîne as Ouiser, Dolly Parton as Truvy, Olympia Dukakis as Clairee and Daryl Hannah as Annelle. In 2012, the story was made into a Lifetime movie, a contemporary retelling of the story, starring Queen Latifah.

CCP's "Steel Magnolias" is a "funny, heartfelt play" that differs from the movie in that all of the action takes place in "Truvy's Beauty Spot" and it focuses on the six female characters, Ruddell said.

What is the key to this comedy/drama and making it heartfelt and believable and comical at the proper times?

"The women should not be played as caricatures but as complex, deep and humorous women," Ruddell said.

"I think what the audience will like is the humor most of all," she said. "These ladies have some very iconic lines."

These iconic lines touch on patience, men, hair, beauty, fashion, emotions and aging.

Like Shelby's line, "I would rather have 30 minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special."

Ouiser's line: "I'm not crazy. I've just been in a very bad mood for 40 years."

And Truvy's line: "Honey, time marches on and eventually you realize it is marchin' across your face."

Ruddell said last week, "As a cast, the actresses have bonded very closely."

And it was easy for cast members to create the dialect.

"The southern accents that we use in the show not only reflects the location of Louisiana but also reflects the class differences among the women," said Ruddell, whose assistant director for the show is Samantha Kelly. "We spent some time going over the different accents, and the actresses picked up on the accents very quickly."

The cast features "two ladies in their 20s, two in midlife and two that are older," she said.

"I believe the audience, both men and women, will find one character that they can especially relate to," Ruddell said.

It's her third time directing for CCP. It's also the third time that CCP has presented "Steel Magnolias," previously in 1999 and 2013.

Ruddell is very familiar with the show, in which she previously acted in the play portraying the role of Truvy — her then favorite character, because she adores Dolly Parton — with The Dramatic Club in Indianapolis. "But now that I am in another season of life, I would rather play Clairee or Ouiser," Ruddell said.

The show's six actresses - - who hail from as close as Noblesville and Carmel and as far away as Camby -- come from a wide variety of backgrounds and theatrical experience.

"We have an actress that is a playwright, one who has worked professionally in theater, some that are mothers, grandmothers, single and married ladies," Ruddell said. "It is a very diverse and delightful cast."

Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

Want TO GO?

What: Carmel Community Players presents "Steel Magnolias," a comical and touching play by Robert Harling and directed by Elizabeth Ruddell.

When: Oct. 4-13. Showtimes at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (Oct. 4, 5, 11 and 12) and Thursday (Oct. 10) and 2:30 p.m. Sundays (Oct. 6 and 13).

Where: The Cat in Carmel, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

How much: \$18, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; \$13 Thursday. No ticket fee charged if purchased online.

Tickets: <https://carmelplayers.org/> or 317-815-9387.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Carrier and Carmel Community Players

Carmel Community Players' "Steel Magnolias" play, Oct. 4-13 at The Cat, follows the lives of six female friends who work in a beauty shop, played by Gabrielle Patterson (back left), Tanya Haas, Susan Smith and Casey Clouser, Phoebe Aldridge (front left) and Emily Haus.



Photo courtesy of Duane Mercier and Carmel Community Players

Gabrielle Patterson (back left), Casey Clouser, Tanya Haas; and Susan Smith (front left), Emily Haus and Phoebe Aldridge pose for a photo before costumes, stage makeup and "hairdos at the beauty shop."

MEET THE CAST

Annelle, Phoebe Aldridge, Lawrence; Truvy, Casey Clouser, Indianapolis; Clairee, Susan Smith, Carmel; Shelby, Emily Haus, Noblesville; M'Lynn, Tanya Haas, Carmel; and Ouiser, Gabrielle Patterson, Camby.

CARMEL COMMUNITY PLAYERS' 2024-25 SEASON

Carmel Community Players' 2024-25 theater season features "Steel Magnolias," Oct. 4-13, 2024; "Peter and the Starcatcher," Nov. 15-24, 2024; "Pride & Prejudice," Feb. 28-March 9, 2025; "Ruthless! The Musical," April 4-13, 2025; "This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing," a CCP Rising Star youth production, June 13-22, 2025; and "American Son," Aug. 8-17, 2025.

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County Surveyor Kent Ward Best in State



Photo courtesy Association of Indiana Counties

From left, Nancy Marsh, AIC President; Hamilton County Surveyor Kent Ward; and Jarrod Hahn, Indiana Surveyors Association President.

The Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) announced that Hamilton County Surveyor Kent Ward received the 2024 Outstanding Surveyor Award. The award recognized Kent's contributions made to county government throughout his years of public service.

Kent has been serving as the Hamilton County Surveyor since 1977. He holds an associate in applied science in architectural technology and a Bachelor of Science in construction technology from Purdue University. He also earned a Certificate in Public Management and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University.

In 1995, Kent was appointed by Governor Evan Bayh to serve on a work group which compiled the Indiana Drainage Handbook utilized by stormwater designers throughout Indiana. In 2002 and 2003, he served on IDEM's external group writing Rule 13 so Indiana would be in compliance with EPA's Stormwaters Regulations.

He is a graduate of the AIC's Institute for Excellence in County Government, a certified flood plain manager, certified erosion and

sediment storm water inspector, certified professional in municipal stormwater management and a certified inspector of sediment and erosion control.

Kent has served on several national organizations, serving as President of the National Association of County Surveyors. Kent is the AIC's appointment to the National Association of Counties Board of Directors, and he serves on multiple NACo Committees, including the Chair of the GIS Subcommittee for NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee.

Kent is a recipient of AIC's Himsel Award, and he has served as President of the AIC.

The award was presented during the AIC's 66th Annual Conference in Switzerland County. The AIC's Annual Conference is the largest gathering of county officials in the state. Representatives from public agencies, private entities, and local elected officials addressed issues such as: Retirement, Transportation, Public Records, Human Resources, Elections, Public Health Funding, Cybersecurity, and the Future of Local Funding.

Noblesville Lions Introduced to Ivy Tech



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

Last week the Noblesville Lions Club entertained speaker Dr. Rachel Kartz, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College. Ms. Kartz's career experience is quite extensive, and she is very proud of Ivy Tech. The program offerings at Ivy Tech are quite extensive from nursing, entrepreneurship, health sciences, manufacturing, business, IT, to social services and arts, science & education. Ivy Tech is a full service campus, and one can learn more at IvyTech.edu/CareerLink. Ivy Tech is a major contribution to the successes of Hamilton County. In the photo, Kartz is thanked by Lions Vice President Hayden Parsons.



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911 Rolls Out New Technology to Streamline Dispatch

Hamilton County 911 recently rolled out a new countywide location system aimed at significantly improving emergency response times and communication for first responders. This new technology will streamline dispatch processes, allowing first responders to receive critical information more quickly and accurately.

The location system automates emergency alerts, providing essential details such as location and nature of the call immediately upon dispatch. This ensures that first responders are alerted without unnecessary delays. The system is designed to facilitate "zoned" dispatching, ensuring that only those first responders who are needed for a specific call receive the alert, minimizing disruptions to others.

"We are excited to introduce this system to our county's emergency response teams," said Mike Hubbs, Director of the 911 Communications Department. "This system not only enhances our operational efficiency



but also improves the service we provide to our community. By reducing the time it takes to dispatch responders, we are ultimately saving lives."

The innovative system also allows dispatchers to maintain communication with callers while sending out alerts, ensuring that vital information can be relayed in real-time without compromising the speed of response.

"Our goal with this rollout is to ensure that our responders have the tools they need to perform their duties effectively," Hubbs added. "With this system in place, we are taking a significant step forward in modernizing our dispatch operations and improving overall safety for our residents."

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Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Noblesville Times is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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Powerful, Sophisticated 2024 Chevy Colorado Z71 Makes You Wonder If You Really Need That Full-Size Pickup After All



1975 Chevy C10



1982 Chevy S10



2024 Chevy Colorado Z71



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

I love my dad, but he sometimes lives in the 1980s. He still believes he needs a full-size pickup to tow my parents' camper and fishing boat. When I was a kid, he drove a 1979 Chevy C10 full-size pickup, with the 167-horsepower 5.7-liter V8. Towing capacity? Around 6,000 lbs. He could be forgiven, though, because the compact S10 of the day moved 2,000 lbs. less. But, Chevy's smallest truck today, the 2024 Colorado Z71, tows up to 7,700 lbs. How may surprise you.

The Colorado Z71 is a hunky lad with its black mask of a grille, squinty LED headlamps and chiseled hood. The crew cab body flaunts its wares with crisp beefy fenders hulking over 18" wheels wearing all-terrain tires. Around

back, check pre-wiring for trailers, hitch receiver and spray-in bedliner. Concealed storage in the tailgate, household-style power plug and tie-down points make activities more convenient. The bed's a little short for commercial work, but large enough to haul mulch or a couple of bicycles.

Interiors crib Chevy's new EVs like the Blazer and Silverado. Big air vents, red stitching, and textured vinyl are suave, but can also be easily wiped down after a day of play. Our Z71 added luxury touches like heated/ventilated front seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and Bose audio. There's no sunroof, but devices connect easily with wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and a charging pad. Drivers even get an underbody camera for navigating challenging trails.

There are some missing controls, however. There's a volume knob, but none for tuning. One must swipe or tap-tap on the touchscreen. No matter the system, all cars should have two knobs. On my way to get coffee early one morning, I looked for the headlamp switch. The stalk has wipers and brights ala old-school GM, but only the trailer brake controller is on the left dash. Headlamps are automatic, so it makes sense, but manual controls are hidden on the touchscreen! OK, but really?

At least safety will be of little concern as the truck comes with automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, adaptive cruise, front/rear pedestrian alerts, and rear seat child reminder.

My dad would lose his entire kit over this truck's 2.7-liter

"TurboMax" four-cylinder engine. But, he should just chill as it whips up 310 horsepower and 430 lb.-ft. of torque – sent to the road through an 8-speed automatic transmission and electronic four-wheel-drive. That's a fair bit more than my dad's old Chevy pickup on which I learned to drive and it gets considerably better fuel economy too: 19/23-MPG city/highway.

A key advantage of driving a smaller pickup is maneuverability. The Colorado actually fits in my urban driveway, can squeeze down narrow side streets and is easier to parallel park. The Z71 off-road suspension soaks up potholes in the city and bridge joints on the highway...and absorbs the rough stuff beyond streets. Going slow or fast, the Colorado's turbo-four seemed always to have power in reserve.

I don't suspect I'll ever get my dad to buy a smaller four-cylinder pickup, but the Colorado Z71 is a smart choice for many. It does everything most full-size pickup owners need, but with enhanced efficiency and maneuverability. It's also priced reasonably, starting under \$30,000 and coming to \$47,550 as-tested – about the same as a proper mid-

size crossover. Competitors include the Ford Ranger, Nissan Frontier, Toyota Tacoma, Honda Ridgeline, and similar GMC Canyon.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

Likes

- Turbo-four engine
- Buff styling
- Twin-screen interior

Dislikes

- No tuning knob
- No headlamp switch
- No sunroof

2024 Chevy Colorado Z71

Five-passenger, 4WD Pickup
Powertrain: 2.7-liter T-4, 8-spd
Output: 310hp/430 lb.-ft.
Suspension f/r: Ind/Solid axle
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing capacity: 7,700 lbs.
Fuel economy city/hwy: 19/23-MPG
Assembly: Wentzville, MO
Base/as-tested price: \$29,800/\$47,550

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Long-Time Heights Bus Driver Named Husky Hero

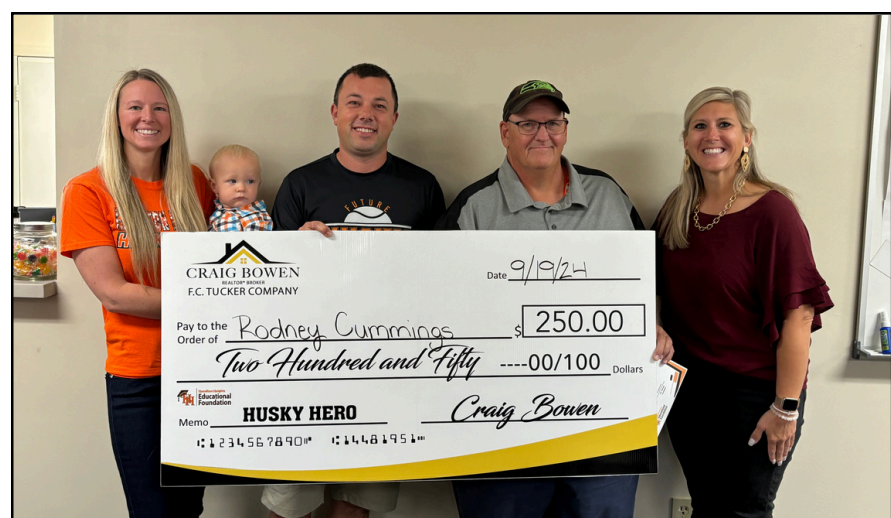


Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Photo caption: Rodney Cummings, a bus driver for Hamilton Heights High School, was selected as the Husky Hero for the month of August. From left, Amber Bowen, Laken Bowen, Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), Rodney Cummings and Amy Prater (HHEF Board Member).

Rodney Cummings, a bus driver for Hamilton Heights High School, has been named the Husky Hero for the month of August. Cummings, who has been driving for Heights for more than two decades, is not just a beloved bus driver, he is a fan favorite among the students who ride his bus and their families. He is also a friend, mentor, and treasured resource for colleagues and the department sharing his time, knowledge, and experience. For Cummings, being a bus driver is more than a job, it's an adventure. He loves his work, and it shows.

"This was a totally an unexpected and a very nice surprise," Cummings said when receiving the award. "It is a great honor just to know people recognize the things you do. It's the kids, you can always learn something from them. Twenty years of driving, there's never a dull moment. And as a bus trainer, knowing that you're going to help somebody accomplish their goal of being a bus driver, it's very rewarding."

Rodney has been a proud Husky employee since 2005.

"Rodney has many hats here at HHSC," said Jaymie Wickstrom, Hamilton Heights Transportation Director. "First, he drives a bus on a daily route where he has made long standing relationships with his families. Most recently he invited his entire bus to join him at the high school football game for a cook-out. Rodney helps provide transportation to many events for athletics. He's well known with the teams, coaches, parents, and staff. When Rodney isn't driving the bus, he's training our newest staff "to become a bus driver." Rodney dedicates more than 25 hours per driver of training to ensure we have the best on the road. Next up, Rodney will put on his mechanic hat. In recent years, Rodney has joined our mechanics to help prepare for our annual bus inspection. He brings a different perspective and fresh set of eyes to the needs of our fleet. As Rodney's direct supervisor he is always

a helpful hand with any need for the Husky family."

Parent Sara Smith also wrote in to compliment Cummings. "We appreciate Mr. Rodney for his daily concern and attention to our kids on his bus," she said. "He is superb and goes above and beyond daily to have fun with the kids and get them to and from school safe. He is great in so many ways." "This award truly makes you feel like you've accomplished things in your life," Cummings added. "Just knowing that people around you are watching and appreciate the things you do makes you want to do better. It was truly an honor - thank you!"

Do you know a Husky Hero? Nomination forms and information about this special recognition program for Hamilton Heights employees are available at: <https://bit.ly/hhschuskyhero>. The Husky Hero Recognition program is made possible through the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation in partnership with Craig and Amber Bowen (FC Tucker). #hhedfoundation

FOR THE RECORD

HAMILTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

ONE HAMILTON COUNTY SQUARE, SUITE 13 NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA 46060

DATE: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, second floor courtroom, 33 North 9th Street, Noblesville, Indiana (Enter using west side entry doors)

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Communication/Reports:
4. Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2024
5. Public Comment:
6. Correspondence:
7. President's Report:
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
 - PC-0004-05-2024 Secondary Plat

A subdivision application concerning the Hamilton County Unified Development Ordinance Article 27 in order to subdivide two parcels totaling approximately 55.82 acres into three lots. Lot 1 to be 10.02 acres. Lot 2 to be 11.09 acres and Lot 3 to be 34.71 acres.
Project Address: 0 E. 206th St. Noblesville, IN 46060
Parcel Nos.: 12-07-22-00-00-001.000 & 10-07-21-00-00-008.000
Zone District: A-3 and R-1
Owners: Leanna K. VanVoorst, Amy Stern Domek & William K. Stern
PC-0005-05-2024 Secondary Plat
- A subdivision application concerning the Hamilton County Unified Development Ordinance Article 27 in order to subdivide one 30.0-acre parcel into two parcels. One parcel to be 27.0 acres and the second parcel to be 3.0 acres.
Project Address: 6779 Atlantic Road, Noblesville, IN 46060
Parcel No: 12-12-17-00-00-008.000
Zone District: A-2 (S)
Owners: Eldon L. and Marilyn J. Garber
PC-0006-10-2024 Subdivision / Primary Plat
- A subdivision application concerning the Hamilton County Unified Development Ordinance Article 27 in order to subdivide one 80-acre parcel into two parcels. One parcel to be 7.0 acres and the second parcel to be 73.0 acres. To include a waiver to allow a parcel of less than the minimum required 10 acres.
Project Address: 28921 Arthur Baker Road, Atlanta, IN 46031
Parcel Nos.: 01-01-01-00-00-017.000 and 01-01-01-00-00-017.001
Zone District: A-2
Petitioner's Name: R. Wesley Farr & Kathryn Rowley Farr
10. Directors Report:
11. Legal Counsel Report:
12. Next Plan Commission Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024
13. Adjournment

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Noblesville Times. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Times encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

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Inaugural Genealogy Conference in Noblesville

Family historians, genealogists, and enthusiasts will gather for the First Annual Family History Day Genealogy Conference, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Noblesville Library. This event, hosted by Crossroads Discovery Center at the Hamilton East Public Library, promises to be an unparalleled opportunity for individuals passionate about uncovering their family's history to connect, learn, and share their experiences.

The conference will feature a range of educational sessions, engaging presentations, and expert-led discussions on topics such as all levels on censuses, newspapers, DNA, cemeteries, land records and more. Historical, genealogical, and lineage groups will be available to answer questions and provide more information on their work throughout the event. Attendees will have the chance to network with both historians and genealogy enthusiasts, who share their passion for family history.

Keynote Speaker and Featured Guests
The event will be headlined by Juliana Szucs, a celebrated speaker and expert in the field of genealogy research, known for their work with Ancestry.com.

Additional featured speakers include:

- JaKobi Burton, Indiana African American Genealogy Group
- Nancy Massey, Hamilton County Genealogist
- Kamia Jackson, Program Committee Chair of Indiana African American Genealogy Group (IAAGG)
- Lauren Peightel, Manager of Engagement at Indiana Historical Society
- Amber Oldenburg, One Branch at a Time Genealogy
- Glory-June Greiff, Historian-At-Large

Sessions

The conference will also include sessions designed for all skill levels, from beginners to seasoned genealogists. Topics include:

- Tuning Into the DNA of Your Ancestors
- Navigating Federal Census Records
- Genealogy Next Steps: Digging Deeper
- Breaking the Silence: Understanding One Man's Naval Experience in World War II
- Land For the Landless: Homestead Records and How to Use Them
- Sermons in Stones: the Symbolism of Grave Markers and Cemetery Art

A Unique Opportunity to Build Your Family History

Attendees will leave the conference equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to continue their family history research with confidence. Whether you're just beginning to trace your ancestry or are a seasoned genealogist, this event will provide invaluable insights, tips, and strategies for making the most of your research.

"The Crossroads Discovery Center staff are thrilled to offer this free genealogy conference right here at the Noblesville Library," Crossroads Discovery Center Assistant Manager Ann Grilliot said. "Learn from top notch speakers. Connect with fellow researchers and discover more about local history and genealogy groups. Whatever the stage of your genealogy research, just curious, starting again, or seasoned veteran, wherever your ancestors are from, you'll find new ways to uncover family history."

Registration Information
Registration for the Family History Day Genealogy Conference is free and available at hamiltoneastpl.org.

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Heights Takes Top Honors



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights FFA Area 6 Skillathon competitors. Back row from left, Marshall Frye, Ryann Liggett, Maddie Shively, Madison McLendon, Quentin Derrer, Lauren Happel, Kaden Derrer, Cooper Rollins, Brooklyn McMillen, Caden Hine and Emilie Carson (Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor). Front row from left, Hallie Sheller, Davie Sheller, Leah Happel, Annie Sheller, Joani Swinford and Cheyenne Boggs.

It was a good day to be a Husky with all teams placing in the Top 10 at the Area 6 Livestock Skillathon held earlier this month. The event drew in competition from 46 teams representing 15 schools in Area 6.

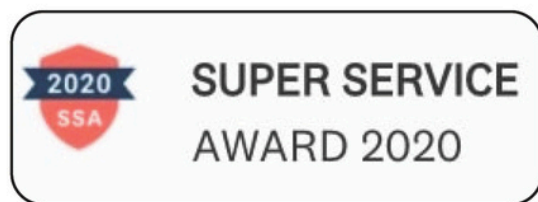
Livestock Skillathon is a contest where students are tested on their knowledge of identifying livestock equipment, breeds, feeds, and meats; along with a livestock quality assurance quiz and general livestock knowledge exam. The HHHS 4-H Senior team took first place and the HHHS FFA Orange team placed fourth. Both advance to state next month. HHHS 4-H Senior

team members include: Madison McLendon (2nd High Individual), Lauren Happel (5th High Individual), Quentin Derrer (11th Individual), and Kaden Derrer (15th Individual). HHHS FFA Orange team members include: Cooper Rollins (3rd High Individual), Ryann Liggett (14th Individual), Cheyenne Boggs (27th Individual) and Maddie Shively. HHHS FFA White Senior Team (9th) members include Marshall Frye (8th High Individual), Caden Hine, Brooklyn McMillen, and Joani Swinford. HHHS Junior Team (5th) members include Annie Sheller (7th High Individual,

Hallie Sheller (25th Individual), Leah Happel (26th Individual) and Davie Sheller.

"This is really exciting for our students," said Emilie Carson, Hamilton Heights High School Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor. "The students work very hard in preparing for this event. This is only the second time we have ever won the area contest (2018). Our area is tough, and we are better for it. We did this for Faith [Lehman]!"

The State Livestock Skillathon will be held at Purdue University on Saturday, Oct. 5.



Angi Super Service Award Winner (formerly Angie's List)



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County Wins Statewide Award for Water Study



Photo courtesy Association of Indiana Counties

From left, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, Hendricks County Auditor and AIC President Nancy Marsh, Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger, Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman, Hamilton County Commissioner, Hamilton County Project Engineer Gary Duncan and Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor

The Association of Indiana Counties has awarded Hamilton County the 2024 County Achievement Award for their water study. Hamilton County has embarked on an innovative three-year study to assess and manage its groundwater resources, establishing Indiana's first county-based groundwater information system. This initiative aims to enhance understanding of groundwater quantity and location in the state's fastest-growing county, addressing critical water supply concerns.

The study, initiated in response to a 2021 report from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) that highlighted potential future water supply shortages in the region, brings together county officials, city leaders, municipal utilities, private businesses, and landowner volunteers. Together, they are creating a comprehensive network of water well monitors throughout Hamilton County.

Goals of the Study:

- Evaluate current water availability using existing data.

- Identify data gaps and design a monitoring network to fill them.
- Create a user-friendly Water Study Dashboard for real-time water level tracking.
- Continuously update the system to provide the most accurate data possible.

The three-year study will involve monitoring both aquifer and surface-water levels to identify seasonal variations and possible water-use conflicts. The use of next-generation acoustic sensor technology will allow for the transformation of residential, agricultural, industrial, and irrigation wells into a comprehensive real-time monitoring network.

As Hamilton County continues to grow, ensuring a sustainable water supply is essential for supporting the community's development and quality of life. This pioneering initiative positions Hamilton County as a leader in groundwater management and serves as a model for

other regions in Indiana and beyond.

Counties that win this prestigious award must demonstrate that the project meets the following criteria:

- Cooperation between one or more municipalities and county(s).
- Shows innovation.
- Positive impact on the community and the participating governmental units.
- Potential for the activity to serve as a model for other local governments.

The award was announced Wednesday, September 25, 2024, during the AIC Annual Conference in Switzerland County. Counties that win this award are chosen by a committee comprised of elected county officials from across the state.

During the conference, the AIC's Board of Directors also adopted its 2025 legislative platform and held elections for its executive board of directors. The AIC Board sets policies and legislative goals for the Association of Indiana Counties which represents all 92 Indiana counties.

County Hires Dedicated Cybersecurity Expert

Hamilton County's Information Systems Services Department has hired a Chief Information Security Officer, a position created to enhance the county's cybersecurity posture. Timothy Renick brings extensive experience from his previous roles as Head of Technology for the City of Carmel and Madison County, Ill.

The establishment of this dedicated cybersecurity role comes in response to increasing cyber threats affecting municipalities across Indiana and nationwide. As part of the 2024 budget process, additional funds were allocated to secure the expertise required for this critical position.

"Having a dedicated CISO is essential for Hamilton County," said Chris Mertens, Director of the ISS Department. "We have various cybersecurity measures in place, but it's crucial

to have someone overseeing the entire landscape to identify any potential gaps. The reality is that cyber threats are not going away; we must be proactive in protecting our community's resources."

In his role, Renick will oversee the establishment and execution of security strategies, policies, and standards, including those related to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. He will also work to safeguard the county's information assets, conduct risk assessments, manage compliance issues, and coordinate incident response plans to ensure critical services remain operational. "The recent surge in cyber-attacks has highlighted the necessity of being prepared," Mertens adds. "With the vast amount of data we



Timothy Renick



Chris Mertens

manage, this is the right time to strengthen our defenses and ensure consistency in our security practices across all departments. Having someone solely dedicated to cybersecurity is a significant and positive step for our long-term resilience."

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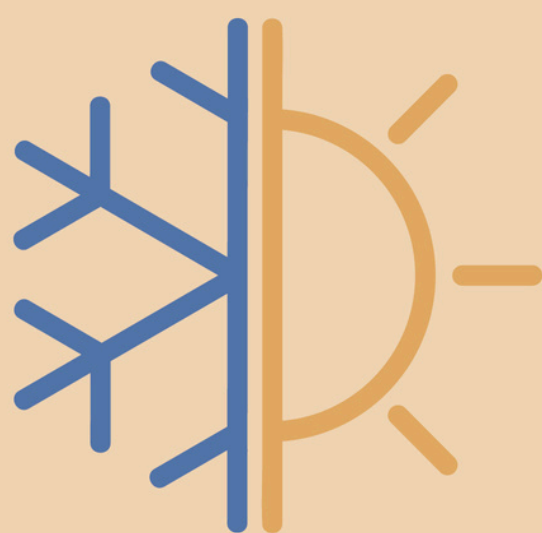
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October 7,21,28 at 10:30am Discovery Time (up to 3years)

Preschool:

October 2 at 10:30am Mindful Kids (ages 2-6)

October 9, 23, 30 at 10:30am Little Learners Story Time (ages 3-6)

October 22 at 6pm PJ Story Time (ages 3-6)

Grades K-5:

October 10 at 3:30pm After School Club-Crafternoon: Halloween lanterns

September 24 at 3:30pm After School Club-Mad Science: Halloween Slime

Grades 6-12:

October 8 at 3:30pm Teen Scary Movie + Snacks: Pack treat bags

October 29 at 3:30pm Pumpkin Painting

Adults:

October 1 at 3pm Adult Bingo (Sponsored by Robert Owen)

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11am Needle Crafters

October 21 at 6pm Pinners (Pinterest Group)

October 16 at 5:30pm Sheridan Readers Book Club; Child of the River by Irma Joubert

All Ages:

October 1-31 Hallo-Read Reading Challenge: Visit our website to register on Beanstack

October 14-19 Scavenger Hunt; throughout library

October 17 at 11am Fall Coloring Cafe

October 18 at 6pm Family Bingo Night; free event with prizes

October 26 at 10:30am Family Halloween Party; costumes welcome

For more information on programming and services, please visit:

<https://sheridan.lib.in.us>

Carmel Fire Department Gets Grants

The Carmel Fire Department is proud to announce the receipt of several significant grants aimed at enhancing training programs, emergency response capabilities and community safety initiatives. These grants, totaling more than \$169,000, will fund critical equipment, personnel training and innovative safety programs benefiting the Carmel community.

“These grants are crucial in enabling us to continue our work of protecting the Carmel community,” Fire Chief Joel Thacker said. “From enhancing our training programs to equipping our firefighters with the best tools and providing critical community safety initiatives, this funding ensures that we are always ready to respond to emergencies and address evolving public safety needs. We’re grateful to the organizations for supporting our firefighters and, by extension, the citizens of Carmel.”

The public safety grants awarded to the CFD include:

- Indiana Department of Workforce Development - Next Level Jobs: Employer Training Grant: CFD was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support its 2024 recruit class. The funding covered expenses such as textbooks, testing fees and personnel costs to help train the next generation of firefighters. This grant is part of Indiana’s effort to help employers fill in-demand positions, including firefighting, by

supporting workforce development.

- Indiana Department of Homeland Security - 2024 Paramedic School: CFD has been awarded a \$41,500 grant to cover expenses related to the upcoming 2024 paramedic class, including tuition and training costs for future paramedics. This funding will ensure that CFD remains equipped to handle the growing demand for advanced medical services. The grant will be distributed upon the program’s completion in December 2024/January 2025.
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security - EMS Commission: Mobile Integrated Health Program: To proactively reduce fall incidents and improve safety for Carmel’s aging population and residents with mobility issues, CFD has received a \$32,875 grant to develop the Steady Steps: Journey to Fall-Free Living program. The initiative aims to lessen the burden on emergency services by addressing community health needs through the Fall Prevention initiative. The grant is to be fully utilized by December 2024.
- Central Indiana Community Foundation - Hamilton County Community Foundation: Behavioral Health: CFD received \$7,500 to fund the full-day International



Carmel Fire Chief Joel Thacker

Association of Fire Fighters Resiliency Training workshop, "Learn to Survive and Thrive in the Fire Service." The workshop was held on Sept. 25 and addressed pressing mental health challenges within the fire service, including post-traumatic stress, substance abuse and burnout, focusing on building individual and organizational resilience.

- Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation: CFD was awarded \$37,211 to purchase a rescue boat that will enhance the department’s water rescue operations. With the expansion of Conner Prairie and increased activity along the White River, this new equipment will significantly improve emergency response efforts. The rescue boat is currently on order and expected to arrive in October 2024.

These grants represent the continued efforts of the Carmel Fire Department to lead the way in emergency preparedness, advanced medical care and community health initiatives.

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