## MONDAY

November 4, 2024

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**

Philippians 3:13 "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

## Hamilton Happenings

The fall due date for property tax payments is Tuesday, Nov. 12. Taxpayers can make a payment in the Treasurer's office by cash or check only. Credit / Debit cards are accepted only on the county's website with an addition 2.5 percent fee or by e-check for \$1. https:// secure2.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/ PropertyReports/index.aspx.The following banks in the county will accept payments until end of business Tuesday, Nov. 12: BMO Harris. Community First, Farmers, First Farmers, First Merchants, Horizon, Merchants and Star Financial. There is also a dropbox on the West side of the Historic Courthouse that payments may be placed in until midnight Nov. 12 and still be considered on time.

## Three Things You Should Know

## Daniel Shackle is stepping down

as the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Shackle was appointed Commissioner of DLGF in June of 2023. His last day as Commissioner will be Dec. 6. Deputy Commissioner / Chief of Staff Scott Maitland will take over as acting commissioner Dec. 9. Maitland has been with DLGF since 2018.

What do you think about Indiana State Parks? The Indiana DNR wants feedback on your favorite activities and priorities for management of state parks. To that end, Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for Indiana State Parks, said they have a survey at dnr.IN.gov/state-parks/aboutus/whats-new for Hoosiers to take. It will be available through Dec. 1. It should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. DNR conducted a similar survey five years ago. Survey results will be used to help DNR plan future facilities and services at Indiana State Parks.

As the nights start to draw in, and the weather turns crisp, it's only natural to think about wanting to cozy up with a significant other and make the most of all that fall has to offer. Colorful leaves? Tick Warm cider? Tick. Snuggled up by the fireplace? Our friends at datingadvice.com surveyed 3,000 couples to identify the most romantic fall destinations and Madison emerged as the favorite choice in Indiana. followed by Brown County and Indiana Dunes

Times readers can submit an entry to win two free tickets to the Christmas Gift & Hobby Show that begins Wednesday and runs through

Sunday at the



Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Send name, contact phone number and why you want to attend the show, to Betsy Reason at Betsy@TheTimes24-7.com. When you're at the show, please take a selfie and send it back to us so we can share with all our readers!



**NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA** 

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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!.

Thank Goodness, it's almost over! (Wait, did we say that?) For good, bad or somewhere in between, this election is coming to a close . . . at least we hope so. Then again, both sides have an army of lawyers waiting in the wings so this just might play out a lot longer. At any rate, we're bringing back a look at how we elect presidents, the Electoral College . . . By The Numbers.

The magic number

either former President Donald Trump or current Vice President Kamala Harris to secure the Oval Office.



That's how many total Electoral Votes are

available. The number of votes allocated to each state is based on the last U.S. Census and will remain the same through the 2028 election. Depending on the results of he 2030 Census, the numbers could change when we elect a president in 2032.



The number of **Electoral Votes** Indiana has.

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP** 

If you have diabetes, it's important to

do aerobic AND weight training.

Today's health tip was brought

to you by Dr. John Roberts.



Each state (and DC) and their Electoral Votes (from largest to

California	54	Oregon	8
Texas	40	Connecticut	7
Florida	30	Oklahoma	7
New York	28	Arkansas	6
Illinois	19	Iowa	6
Pennsylvania	19	Kansas	6
Ohio	17	Mississippi	6
Georgia	16	Nevada	6
North Carolina	16	Utah	6
Michigan	15	Nebraska	5
New Jersey	14	New Mexico	5
Virginia	13	Hawaii	4
Washington	12	Idaho	4
Indiana	11	Maine	4
Arizona	11	Montana	4
Massachusetts	11	New Hampshire	4
Tennessee	11	Rhode Island	4
Colorado	10	West Virginia	4
Maryland	10	Alaska	3
Minnesota	10	Delaware	3
Missouri	10	District of Columbia	3
Wisconsin	10	North Dakota	3
Alabama	9	South Dakota	3
South Carolina	9	Vermont	3
Kentucky	8	Wyoming	3
Louisiana	8		

#### **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Martin Luther King Jr.



#### **TODAY'S JOKE**

Forgive us, but we're in the spirit of Christmas so we're starting the Yule jokes a little early this year (hey, with all the strife in the world, can't we all use some holiday cheer)!

What goes Ho, Ho, Ho, thump? Santa laughing his head off!

## **Heavy Turnout Continues in Local Voting**

95,000 Votes Already Cast In Our County



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Rain on Halloween didn't seem to deter Hamilton County voters on Oct. 31 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville, where early voting continues until noon today. Tomorrow, 111 polling sites will be open for inperson voting from 6 a.m. to 6



A reminder that Election Day is Tuesday.

to remind any

**BETSY REASON** Columnist

election year.

their vote.

registered voters, since we've all been bombarded by campaign ads on television and social media of

I probably don't need

As Election Day has grown closer, the local lines to early vote have gotten longer with voters making sure they cast

this very important presidential

Rain on Halloween didn't even seem to deter Hamilton County voters at the voting locations. I drove through the parking lot of the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, where the line to vote snaked around the outside of the building.

As of presstime, the Hamilton County Election Office had received back about 18,000 completed absentee ballots. Add that number to the early inperson votes.

"So ultimately, we have about 95,000 votes in already," said **Hamilton County Elections** administrator Beth Sheller at the end of the day on Thursday, when early voting ended at 8:15 p.m. at the Jill Perelman Pavilion in Carmel, and Roy G. Holland Memorial Park and Billericay Park, both in Fishers. The seven satellite locations closed at 7 p.m. "So that wasn't bad for getting all of those people

See BETSY Page A4

## **OBITUARIES**

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

## **DUR GENERATION**

with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Alison Voss from **American Family Insurance**  Click to WATCHROW

Be sure to subscribe so you don't miss a single interview!







PAGE A2 • MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

# **CPD Launches Drone First Responder Program**



Photo courtesy Carmel Police Department

Carmel is the first police department in Indiana to use a DFR program in conjunction with a Real Time Information Center.

The Carmel Police Department announced the launch of its Drone First Responder Program which serves to enhance the existing patrol-led drone operations under the Carmel Police Air Support Unit. Operating under a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), our DFR drones respond directly to calls for service along with patrol officers and often arrive on the scene before them.

The improved response efficiency allows the drones to provide valuable information to the responding officers, allowing them to escalate or de-escalate their response accordingly, and sometimes clear the call before an officer arrives. This translates to increased safety

for both officers and citizens, decreased response times and more efficient responses to calls for service.

Carmel is the second police department in Indiana to utilize a DFR program and the first to use it in conjunction with a Real Time Information Center. Nationwide, there are a small but growing number of police agencies that have begun using DFR, representing a fundamental shift in the way in which drones are being used in public safety. The City of Carmel's police department is proud to be at the leading edge of this technology as it exemplifies our commitment to innovation to provide the highest level of service to our community.

# Don't forget to renew your subscription!



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## **State of the Schools**



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile told a large crowd that the school's tax rate has gone down for the sixth year in a row and the 2025 budget maintains strong reserves and continues to pay off debt at an aggressive pace. The statements were part of Hile's recent State of the Schools address that's part of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce luncheon series. \The superintendent also mentioned lots of achievements, including national recognition for STEM for the seventh year in a row, national recognition for music education for the 10th year in a row, the school system being designated the 18th-best midsize employer in the nation by Forbes Magazine and more. To see a video of the address, go to https://www.noblesvilleschools.org/news-details/~board/ns-news/post/state-of-the-schools-2024

#### Parks and Recreation Gets Funding for Indoor Archery Facility

Hamilton County
Parks and Recreation
has received notice of
funding approval for
the development of a
state-of-the-art indoor
archery facility at
Strawtown Koteewi
Park.

The indoor archery facility will complement the park's existing outdoor archery range and 3-D trail, Koteewi Range, which has experienced increasing popularity since opening in 2015. The new facility will be constructed amid a fully operational outdoor recreation complex (Koteewi Adventure Area) that hosts an equestrian stable and rental service, aerial ropes courses and ziplines, miles of hiking trails, a snow tubing hill, and a fishing lake, in addition to the range.

Currently, there are no indoor archery facilities within a 20-mile radius of the range, and no large-scale, full-service facilities within 150 miles. The addition of indoor space will provide the ability to host large-scale tournaments and educational programs regardless of weather.

This project was awarded funding via the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shooting Range grant. The Federal Wildlife Restoration Program provides funding for the DNR's Shooting Range Program. Program monies are generated through a tax on firearms, ammunition, and

archery equipment. The total budget for the project is \$4.7 million, with the grant covering 90% of the project's costs. The remaining 10 percent is being funded by HCPR's budget.

"Securing this federal funding for our new indoor archery facility is a monumental step forward for Hamilton County Parks and Recreation," said **Hamilton County** Parks and Recreation Director Chris Stice. "This facility will provide unparalleled opportunities for our community to engage in archery and host major tournaments. We're excited to see this project come to fruition and to offer a world-class venue for

archery enthusiasts of all ages."

With federal approval of funding received, the facility's design process has begun. This stage includes the planning and permitting for the project's civil, architectural, structural. mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

For more information about this project, upcoming events, or to learn how to support Hamilton County Parks, please visit myhamilton countyparks.com or call (317) 770-4400.









**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE HAMILTON COUNTY BUSINESSES!** 

## Making a Little Noise A Puzzling Column



**CLASSON** The Postscript

construction

who have

been making

the terrible

noise are

still at it.

on our building began in the early spring, before my husband, Peter, and I returned from Mexico. When we arrived, scaffolding had been set up all around the building and blue plastic had been taped over our windows to protect them from flying debris. Our balcony was unusable, and the driveway was blocked off, filled with piles of bricks.

And every morning at 8:00 exactly, they began to jackhammer out the bricks.

The project entailed removing rows of bricks from every side and every story of the building because water was getting in. Some sort of magic was performed beneath them (I am not an engineer, in case you were wondering) and new bricks were put in place. The loudest and longest part of this project was the removal of the bricks, but there was also grinding down of edges once the new ones were in, and some pressure washing and, throughout it all and at every stage, a tremendous amount of noise.

The building leaked. There wasn't much we could do.

I decided early on that I could not vacate to a coffee shop every time I needed to write. I don't like wearing earplugs, and I'm not sure they would have done much good. Instead, I wrote through the noise. If I had to talk to Peter, I would go to the room he was in and stand close to him, because inter-room hollering was no longer possible (which might have been one small ancillary benefit of the façade repair).

They were all guys, and they were all quite large. Hammering out bricks and replacing them with more bricks while on a narrow platform high in the air is serious work. These guys did it five days a week from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, taking only a

half-hour off for lunch.

I always said "hello." They always apologized for all the noise—as if there was anything they could do about it. Sometimes I would thank them for the wake-up call. They always laughed and thanked me for being a good sport.

"We should get them snacks to thank them for their hard work," Peter

Peter believes every hardworking person deserves snacks. It is one of the many things I love about him. So I went to the bakery, and I bought a bunch of barsbrownies and lemon bars and Rice Krispies bars and pumpkin-and Peter and I delivered them one day when they took their short lunch break.

"I want a souvenir!" I told the foreman.

"What kind of souvenir?" he asked.

"I want a brick!"

"We've got bricks everywhere!" He laughed.

"Yes, but I want a signed brick. I want your autographs."

"Why would you want that?" he asked.

"I want it to remember this summer of noise!"

They all laughed, and just when we were getting ready to return to Mexico (which we usually think of as the noisier of our two homes), Peter said, "There's something for you outside the door."

And, of course, it was my brick, with everyone's name written on it. I was so pleased.

It reminds me of those hardworking guys outside my window, hanging off the side of the building day after day. It reminds me that, whatever hard work I think I am doing, there are much harder jobs out there. Sitting at my computer, putting up with a little noise, it reminds me that I have it pretty good.

Till next time, Carrie

for reading The Times



DICK WOLFSIE

Who will win the election on November 5? I don't know. Nor do you.

Funny Bone

Jeremiah Farrell, a

former professor of mathematics at Butler University and creator of what is considered by many to be the greatest crossword puzzle ever, didn't know either, so he hedged his bet.

Jerry passed away in 2022, but he left behind what Hoosier Will Shortz called his favorite crossword puzzle of all time. This is quite a compliment from a man who edited and created thousands of these brain teasers.

The puzzle appeared in the New York Times on election day in November of 1996, the day of the Bob Dole and Bill Clinton presidential match-up.

Professor Farrell, an accomplished puzzle solver and creator, had done more than a few Sunday puzzles for The Gray Lady (The New York Times' nickname) and dozens of other publications. All Times' puzzles are carefully edited and scrutinized; and certain rules, both written and unwritten, must be followed.

That's why Jerry's entry caused quite a stir. One of the clues (39 across) read: Lead story in tomorrow's newspaper. It was a prediction of who would win. The uproar came from both Democrats and Republicans. It seemed like intentional bias, whoever they picked.

BOBDOLE or CLINTON. Note that both answers had seven letters. But how could they both work? That's where Jerry's genius was evident, as former colleague Professor Lacey Echols told me, "He was brilliant and always festering with ideas."

The puzzle had two correct ways of being solved. "BobDole elected" and "Clinton elected." All the down clues were designed so that two different solutions would work. Shortz called it an "amazing feat, possibly the most creative crossword ever."

Here are the clues:

39 Down: Black Halloween animal (Could be Cat or Bat)

40 Down: French word (Lui or Oui)

41 Down: Provider of support (IRA or Bra, and that's my favorite)

23 Down: Sewing shop purchase (Yarn or Yard)

27 Down: Short writings (Bits or Bios)

35 Down: Trumpet (Boast or Blast)

42 Down: Much debated political initials (NRA or

Most people who did the puzzle did not realize there were alternative answers that could spell BOBDOLE\_ELECTED or CLINTON\_ELECTED. As noted, many complained that this was an inappropriate clue, showing favoritism by the puzzle creator and The Times.

I created something similar with DTRUMP and HARRIS. Here's what I came up with.

Show of disapproval: Hiss or Diss

Body part: Arm or Toe

Informer: Rat (I only need one solution here)

A sports judge (Abbreviation): Ref or

Type of group: Ilk or

A close relative (Slang): Sis or Pop

How'd I do? Notice how the alternative spelling can give us both candidates: HARRIS or DTRUMP. Of course, I would also have to create the entire puzzle, but I'm 77, so I'm not sure I have the time.

So, who will win the election? I don't have a clue.

I have six.

- 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.

#### FOR THE RECORD

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.

#### **NOBLESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

The Noblesville Parks and Recreation Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024 at 6 p.m. has been canceled.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING**

One Hamilton County Square, Suite 13 Noblesville, Indiana 46060

DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024

TIME: 7 p.m.

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

Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. Declaration of Quorum

3. Communication/Reports:

4. Approval of Minutes - Oct. 23, 2024

5. Old Business:

6. New Business:

Docket No. BZA-SU-0009-11-2024

A Special Use Application concerning Article 03, A-2, 2 of the Hamilton County Unified Development Ordinance No. 07-25-2022-A as amended 07-10-2023 to allow the expansion of an existing business onto adjoining parcels that includes composting, outdoor storage, and outdoor sales in the A-2 zoning district. The special use, if approved, will apply to ~28.39 acres of the total ~39.05 acres described below. Project Address: O Durbin Road, Noblesville, IN

Parcel number(s): 12-11-01-00-00-016.000 12-11-01-00-00-016.001 12-11-01-00-00-016.003 12-11-01-00-00-017.000

Property is zoned: A-2

Size of property: ~39.05 acres Owner: Frank and Nikki Gieseking

7. Director's Report:

8. Legal Counsel Report:

9. Next BZA Meeting - Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, second floor courtroom, 33 N. 9th St., Noblesville

10. Adjournment

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.

Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

E-mail jobs@thetimes24-7.com

## THE TIMES

## THE TIMES







## **BETSY**

through when they didn't begin until 2 p.m.," said Sheller, who responded after 9 p.m. Thursday. At Perelman, 5,227 voters cast their votes, including a record 898 voters on Oct. 30, 888 on Oct. 24 and 884 on Oct. 31.

As of presstime, the busiest early voting day, since early voting opened on Oct. 8, was Wednesday, Oct. 30, with a total of 9,112 registered voters casting their early votes at nine Hamilton County locations, including seven satellite locations. The second-busiest early voting day was Oct. 31 with 8,533 registered voters casting their early votes. Before that, the busiest early voting day was Oct. 25 with 8,399 registered voters casting their early votes at the nine locations.

The busiest locations continue to be the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center with a reported record 1,519 early voters on Oct. 31 and the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds with a record 1,329 early voters on Oct. 25. As of Oct. 31, 77,259 registered voters had early voted in Hamilton County, including 20,739 at the Judicial Center, and 22,116 at the Fairgrounds. The busiest satellite location has been Billericay Park, with 5,288 voters casting early votes.

In 2020, a total 94,472 registered voters cast early votes at eight locations, including six satellite locations. Sheller originally estimated that the Election Office would have about 100,000 ballots cast before Election Day.

"It looks like it will be more than that," Sheller said Thursday night.

In Hamilton County, there are 285,971 registered voters.

"If we vote the average 70 percent, like typical in a presidential election, then we will still need to vote 90,000 or so, I think, on Election Day," she said.

As of this newspaper presstime, I still hoped to vote early. But if not, I will vote Tuesday morning at my own precinct, which is rarely busy except on a Presidential Election year.

through noon today at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial

Early voting continues

#### From Page A1

Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville; and Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, Hall C, 2003 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Voters who are completing an absentee ballot also have a deadline of noon today to turn in their completed ballots at the Hamilton County Elections Office. On Election Day, polls will be open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday at 111 polling sites that will encompass 220 precincts.

As a reminder to voters, the school board elections are nonpartisan, so the only way to vote for your school board candidates is to not vote a straight ticket.

Any registered voters who don't know their precinct can easily find it on the Hamilton County Elections Office website.

Plus, there will be plenty of Election Day workers manning the phones in the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center on Tuesday to help anyone with questions. And if you go to the Judicial Center, you'll probably see voting machine technician Brad Cowan, who will be available all day for any poll workers who have technical trouble with the machines.

As always, before voting, voters should do their homework. Figure out where you stand and the candidates you support. Jot down your choices before you head to the polls so you won't get confused with so many names on the ballot.

For election information on Election Day, visit https://www.hamilton county.in.gov and click on Elections Office. Precinct maps are available on the website. Questions may be directed to the Elections Office at 317-776-8476. Voters should bring along their identification (Indiana Driver's License, Indiana State ID, U.S. Passport, or U.S. Military ID). Voters may check their voter registration status at https://indiana voters.in.gov/ or call Hamilton County Voter Registration Office at (317) 776-9632.

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



#### Westfield Passes 2025 Budget

Westfield City Council members voted to approve the 2025 city budget on recently. The operational budget of \$78,151,375, which excludes bond payments, aligns with Mayor Willis's Advancing Westfield plan to further smart and sustained growth within the city.

The budget also maintains a flat property tax of \$0.7175 per \$100 of assessed value for the third consecutive year. This rate does not include any school referendums.

The 2025 budget continues strategic investment that prioritizes public safety, economic development, road and infrastructure improvements, and quality of life initiatives for residents.

"Thank you to all city councilors and department leadership who worked tirelessly over the last several months to reach this point," stated Mayor Willis. "It was important that while we worked through this new zerobased budgeting approach, we maintained a flat tax rate while also serving Indiana's fastest-growing community. 2025 will be an exciting year of growth for the city."

The 2025 proposed city budget was formally presented to the council on August 26. The Civil City budget totals \$120,895,621 including operations and bond payments.

Key features of the 2025 budget include:

**Public Safety** 

• Hiring additional personnel to both

meet the community's growing needs

- Adding additional outdoor warning
- Designing and constructing a new police department headquarters to meet the expanding needs of the department

Roads and Infrastructure

· Increased funding for the resurfacing program

Design and

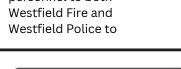
construction of several Capital Improvement Plan projects, including roundabouts at 161st Street and Spring Mill Boulevard, 181st Street and Wheeler Road, and expansion of 191st Street from Tomlinson Road to **Grand Park** Boulevard

**Economic Development** 

- Acquisition of land for downtown parking garages
- Funding for a streetscape project for the Park Street Acquisition of land
- near Grand Park

Quality of Life

- Funding for new community initiatives, including \$240,000 for the Neighborhood Vibrancy Program for improvements
- Continued funding for community events such as Westfield Rocks the 4th, Jams at the Junction, and Westfield in Lights
- Completion of Simon Moon Park Phase 2
- Constructing permanent restrooms at Freedom Trail Park
- Funding for a new park



**AWARD 2020** 

Angi Super Service Award Winner

(formerly Angie's List)





www.hamiltoncountylawncare.com

317-489-1822





#### NFD Responds to **House Fire**



Photo courtesy Noblesville Fire Department

Noblesville first responders were called to a house fire on Chip Shot Lane earlier this week. A 911 call was made a little after 5 and thankfully no one was injured - and one cat was rescued.

#### **Fishers Names Director for New Community Center**

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness announced today Mike Lindbloom as director of the city's first-ever community center, scheduled to open next fall.

"I'm excited as we take the next step toward opening the **Fishers Community** Center with a solid leader who embodies our Culture of Health initiative and embraces our vision for Fishers' next chapter," said Fadness. "Mike brings years of experience in leadership and supporting others in achieving their health and fitness goals. I can't wait to see him bring our vision to life and help us unveil this major new community amenity next fall."

The 105,000-squarefoot facility located at Hoosier Road and 121st Street will serve as a dynamic community hub and support Fishers' Culture of Health initiative dedicated to fostering a healthier community for residents of all ages. The facility will include amenities such as an indoor walking track and playground; aquatics facility; gymnasium with basketball, pickleball, and volleyball courts; three-acre dog park; fitness and wellness center; Sahm's Community Café; Fishers Health Department clinic and offices; Outside the Box adult day program; and more.

Lindbloom has over 15 years of experience in the health and fitness sector, most of his time devoted to managing facility operations. Most recently, he served as executive director of the Shelby County YMCA and MHP Community Wellness Center where he oversaw daily operations. He has previously served as associate executive director at both the

Fishers YMCA and



Mike Lindbloom

Ransburg YMCA, along with wellness director at the Fishers YMCA. Before his time at the YMCA he worked as a physical activity specialist at the Indiana State Department of Health where he partnered with communities throughout Indiana to improve health and reduce obesity through work on built environments, bicycle friendly community planning, and more. Lindbloom received his master's degree in exercise science from Miami University and bachelor's degree in recreation from Truman State

University.

"I am extremely excited to see the Fishers Community Center taking shape," said Lindbloom, a Fishers resident with since 2006. "The Fishers Community Center will be a tremendous community asset that provides an inclusive space that promotes health, community, and wellness for both residents and nonresidents. I feel now, more than ever, that providing highquality recreational experiences plays a major role in helping our community continue to thrive."

One of Lindbloom's immediate priorities is hiring a Membership Manager to focus on membership acquisition and retention. Memberships will be available for purchase for both residents and nonresidents beginning in early 2025. Memberships will not be required for the indoor walking track, indoor playground, and Sahm's

Community Café.

## Witham November Schedule

Witham Health Services has offices in Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Jamestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Whitestown at Anson and Zionsville. The health-care provider has a number of ongoing programs as well as specific events in November.

- Diabetes Self-Management Class – Call the Diabetes Education Department at (765) 485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.
- Restorative Yoga is held weekly on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at (765) 485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing
   1 & 2 held weekly
   at 9 a.m. on
   Mondays and
   Wednesdays at the
   Witham Health
   Services South
   Pavilion Wellness
   Center. Please call
   the Wellness
   Department at (765)
   485-8126 for more
   information on
   scheduling and
   pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing
   3 & 4 held weekly
   at 10 a.m. on
   Mondays and
   Wednesdays at the
   Witham Health
   Services South
   Pavilion Wellness
   Center. Please call
   the Wellness
   Department at (765)
   485-8126 for more
   information on
   scheduling and
   pricing.
- SilverSneakers –
  held weekly at 11:15
  a.m. on Mondays for
  those 65 or older at
  the Witham Health
  Services South
  Pavilion

Cantlon.

- Wellness Center.
  Please call the
  Wellness
  Department at (765)
  485-8126 for more
  information on
  scheduling and
  pricing.
- SilverSneakers Cardio
   held weekly at 11:15
  a.m. on Wednesdays
  for those 65 or older
  at the Witham Health
  Services South
  Pavilion Wellness
  Center. Please call
  the Wellness
  Department at (765)
  485-8126 for more
  information on
  scheduling and
  pricing.
- SilverSneakers Chair Yoga - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at (765) 485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- BeMoved Dance will be offered on Tuesdays at 6 pm at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center
- Tai Chi for Health –
  Will be held weekly on
  Tuesdays and
  Thursdays at 9 a.m. at
  the Witham Health
  Services South
  Pavilion Wellness
  Center. Please call
  the Wellness
  Department at (765)
  485-8126 for more
  information. Cost is
  \$5 per Class.

• Indoor Cycling – This

FREE indoor cycling

and stretching program is designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing or help manage your weight. Held weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursday's at 10 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness

**Heights Middle Runs to Championship** 

Center.

- Flow Yoga held weekly on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at (765) 485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Pilates Class held Thursdays at 1 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at (765) 485-8126 for more information on scheduling and cost is \$10 per class.
- Breastfeeding Support Group – is held weekly on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Individualized Breastfeeding Support is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call (765) 485-8411.
- Alzheimer's Support Group – Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness – Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society.
- Cancer Support Group – Monday, Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. at Boone Co. Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon

#### Heights Launches Handle with Care Program

Council on Alcohol & Other Drugs Hopes to Take the Pilot Program Countywide

The Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs has partnered with the Hamilton Heights School Corporation to launch the "Handle with Care" program. Heights is the first school district in Hamilton County to adopt the program which is designed to support students who have experienced traumatic events at home.

"We can't always know what happens to our students when they leave our building at night," says Mary Ann Haymaker, Early Intervention Advocate for the Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program. "When something traumatic happens at home, it's only natural for the child to bring that to school with them the next day. We want to give them the grace they need to cope with life's challenges."

The Handle with Care program enables police officers to alert



**Monica Greer** 

schools about a traumatic event involving a studentsuch as domestic violence or a parent being arrested -by scanning a QR code. The alert provides the student's name and grade while maintaining confidentiality regarding the incident. The goal is to empower teachers and staff to provide necessary support without delving into the details of the trauma, allowing for a more compassionate and understanding school environment.

Superintendent Dr.
Derek Arrowood says
the school district has
activated the program
five times this school
year. "Our job, first
and foremost, is to



Dr. Derek Arrowood

love on our kids. If that means they don't have to turn in homework or take a test that day, so be it. We want to be sure they have the space to work through the challenges outside of school. We can figure out the rest later."

Monica Greer, Executive Director of the Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, has been a strong advocate for this program since learning about it at a conference several years ago. "I am eager to see this initiative implemented in **Hamilton County** schools and hope other districts will follow Hamilton Heights' lead. It's been incredibly beneficial for the students who need it."

#### **Carmel Opens Transparency in Government**

In a continued effort to make government more transparent and accessible, the City of Carmel recently announced the launch of its financial transparency portal. The portal will provide residents with a clear and detailed look into the city's financials, making it easier than ever to track where and how public funds are being spent. The portal was detailed at Tuesday's State of the City address and stems from one of Mayor Sue Finkam's key goals for her first year in office ensuring greater transparency in local government

"Our residents have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent, and the portal system makes it easier than ever to access that information," said Mayor Sue Finkam. "By providing a clear and user-friendly platform, we're empowering citizens, businesses, and stakeholders to stay informed about the city's financial decisions anytime, from anywhere."

operations.

The portal was created and tailored specifically for the City of Carmel by Stone Municipal Group. Working closely with the city's finance department, led by CFO/Controller Zac Jackson (pictured) and Deputy

CFO/Controller Ann Bingman, Stone Municipal Group has been in constant communication to ensure the seamless integration of Carmel's financial data into this easy-to-navigate platform.

Key Features of the portal include:

- Comprehensive Data Access: The platform highlights key financial areas, including:
  - General Fund spending
  - Revenue and expense breakdowns
  - Revenue trends, property taxes and related data
     Department,
  - commission,
    board and
    committee
    spending data
     Employee data
- Visual, User-Friendly Interface: The system takes raw financial data from the City and converts it into clear, easy-to-understand visuals. With tabs that break down specific areas, residents can explore everything from general fund expenditures to department-specific costs.
- Up-to-Date and Historical Data: While the City has always provided historical data, the system will now offer more current financial information, updated regularly for realtime access.



Zac Jackson

Mobile and iPad Compatibility: Designed with accessibility in mind, the platform is fully compatible with mobile and tablet devices, allowing users to explore the City's finances on-the-

"We believe the financial transparency portal will foster increased trust between the City and our residents," said Jackson. "People want to feel confident that their local leaders are good stewards of taxpayer dollars, and this is an important way to demonstrate that."

The portal is seamlessly integrated into the City of Carmel website and can be accessed on the Finance department's page. This portal is the City's first step in finding creative ways to share and engage on the topic of financial transparency. The site should be considered a test drive or proof of concept into how best to engage with the City of Carmel stakeholders.



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights Middle School's Boys Cross Country team defended their MIC Championship and brought the traveling trophy home again this year. The boys dominated by having all 7 runners in the top 11 out of 61 runners. Nick Bragg was the MIC champion with a time of 10:29 and Tommy Girolamo was the runner-up. The others placing in the top 11 were Benji Girolamo 5th, Levi Heuer 6th, Kaden Cantlon 7th, Jonah Wolfgang 8th and Luke Allwardt 11th. "The team this year has been very competitive against other teams and themselves," said Meg Hite, HHMS Boys/Girls Cross County Head Coach. Back row from left, Nick Bragg, Tommy Girolamo and Luke Allwardt; middle from left, Benji Girlolamo and Jonah Wolfgang; and in front, Kaden

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March 18 - 24, 2025

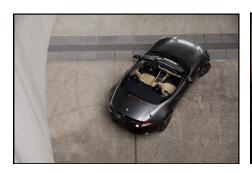
Magical Northern Lights

For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking 1322317

## 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata Is the Pumpkin Spiced Cure for Some Driving "Me Time"











Life is tough. With busy kids, stressful work, and little respite WILLIAMS for ourselves, Auto Reviews We

sometimes need a little "me time". Whether you're rolling into the office, going to collect offspring, or connecting your music library for a wicked weekend two-lane adventure, driving an engaging automobile can only make "you time" better - especially when your host is the 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata.

Whether you call it "MX-5" or "Miata", and either is fine, you know what it is: A classically inspired roadster with the reliability and efficiency of a Japanese compact. But, this generation's more aggressive styling gives off vibes that are more MX-5 and less Miata.

Classic long hood, short deck proportions remain, but this Miata

looks to be harboring some anger issues behind its squinty adaptive LED headlamps. The hood's a little swoopier, fenders wrap more sensuously around 17" wheels, and the voluptuous rear ports inset round taillamps. It's still friendly, beautiful, sexy, but also a little bit mischievous. I specially enjoy it in Aero Gray

Once you fold yourself inside, our Grand Touring edition makes you feel special. Tan Nappa leather seats with cross-stitching, Frenchstitched dashboard, and body color door tops that simulate sheetmetal are pretty fancy - as are automatic climate control, Bose audio with headrest speakers, and heated seats. Safety tech includes blind spot, lane departure warning, and rear cross traffic alert

There's nothing better

than looking beyond the classic analog gauges, out over the flared fenders, with hands grasping the perfectlysized leather-wrapped steering wheel. Mazda's decrepit joywheel infotainment controller remains, but you can also touch the dash-top screen for commands. Unlike many modern sports cars you wear like a scarf, the Miata's low beltline still welcomes a relaxed arm. Given the tiny trunk, though, I'd pack a couple of duffels and little more.

Going for a drive brings my favorite part of the Miata: Its manually folding top. You don't even have to get out of the driver's seat to deploy it - any stop light will do. Flip the one header latch, toss it over your head, and hear it click. The top forms its own flush tonneau. Easy peasey.

You can get the Miata with an automatic transmission, but I'd



you if that's what you chose because the sixspeed manual is one of the most enjoyable click-click snick-snicks in the business. A light clutch is engaging during on backroad stress relief runs, but won't wear you out in traffic.

So, put down the pumpkin spice café, click the stick, and rev out your aggression. Miata won't mind.

The 2.0-liter DOHC fourcylinder engine whizzes out 181 horsepower and 151 lb.-ft. of torque. It has plenty of power for a lightweight sports car, but you'll have to work to get it to the rear wheels. Fuel economy is rated a frugal 26/34-MPG city/highway, so feel free to grab another latte and take another

That's when you'll understand what's been the fuss over Miatas for the past 35 years. They aren't Corvettes; ripping point. They're about feeling the car around you, the tight steering, delightful gauges, and feeling at one with an automobile. And, if that's what you need to relive a little stress, then you deserve it.

You know what makes this dream even better? The Miata is no more expensive than a sporty Japanese compact like the Subaru Impreza or

Honda Civic. Base models start at just \$28,985, coming to \$36,200 for our luxurious GT. Competitors include the Subaru BRZ, Toyota GR86, and BMW Z4.

Storm Forward!

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

#### Likes

- Renowned
  - reliability Delightful
- handling
- Snick-snick shifter

#### **Dislikes**

- · Tight interior
- Limited luggage
- **Decrepit** joywheel

#### 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata

Two-passenger, RWD Roadster Powertrain: 2.0-liter 14, 6-spd Output: 181hp/151 lb.-ft. Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Fuel economy city/hwy: 26/34-

Assembly: Hiroshima, Japan Base/as-tested price: \$28,985/\$36,200

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The Carmel Fire Department and the City of Carmel proudly present the Movember event "Everyone Deserves Their Morning Sun" dedicated to raising awareness for men's health. On Monday, Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. the roundabout at Range Line Road, Clay Terrace Boulevard and Lowes Way will be transformed into a vibrant tribute to men impacted by prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health challenges. This event goes beyond a

fundraiser - it's a

statement of hope and strength for everyone touched by the issues Movember seeks to address.

A Beacon of Courage and

"Morning Sun" by artist Brad Howe, is one of Carmel's most recognizable public art pieces. Next month it will take on new significance as it transforms into a place of remembrance. support and victory through the month of November. Its rounded, rising shape - just like the sun that shines after every storm - is a metaphor for the cause

at the heart of Movember: men's

"I am very proud of this piece," said Howe. "I'm honored and delighted that it will be used for such an important campaign." This year, every \$5 received for Movember will go towards the placement of a white flag in the center of the roundabout. These flags will represent survivors, loved ones and supporters and will create a visible and powerful display of

unity and shared

courage.

The hope is that the center of the roundabout will be a sea of flags that tell stories of triumph over the health challenges Movember shines a light on and will serve as reminders that overcoming them is not just a personal victory, but a shared one. Help Carmel Shine Brighter With "Morning Sun" at the center of this event, CFD's goal is to make it a beloved and meaningful spot in Carmel throughout the month of November of beyond - a place that symbolizes

resilience, community



The event goes beyond a fundraiser - it's a statement of hope and strength for everyone touched by the issues Movember seeks to address.

and the unstoppable spirit of those who continue to fight for better health outcomes for men. The Nov. 4 event will be a

celebration but also a moment of reflection and inspiration that will be remembered long after the sun sets.



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## Tracy Zachary Named Husky Hero Fishers Art Council Seeking Volunteers



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

From left, Melissa Martin (HHEF President/HHSC Technology Integration),

Tracy Zachary, Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), Laken Bowen, and Amber Bowen.

special education teacher at Hamilton Heights Elementary School, has been named the Husky Hero for the month of September. Now in her 26th year in education, Zachary loves her Hamilton Heights community inside and outside of the classroom.

Tracy Zachary, a

"Tracy has a servant heart in all that she does," said Julie Griffey, Principal, Hamilton Heights Elementary School. "Tracy is also a teacher leader that supports both teachers and students. She serves as the Special Education PLC leader. She also serves as the leader of our K-Kids Kiwanis student chapter that supports HHES events like grade level Penny Wars to earn money to buy Christmas presents for HHSC students. She is deeply involved with the elementary's annual Veteran's Day Program with K-Kids leading that charge. She organizes yearly staff volleyball game to earn money for Riley Children's Hospital. The list goes on. Tracy is an amazing Husky

"Being nominated and chosen as a Husky Hero is incredibly encouraging, as it shows that my daily

Servant Leader!"

and appreciated," said Tracy Zachary, who has lived in the community since she has been a toddler and a member of Hamilton Heights Class of 1996. "I truly love what I do, and my students mean the world to me. Helping them become better individuals is my ultimate goal. I hope to be that one person for each of my students and their families, someone they know believes in them and will always be their biggest cheerleader."

"Tracy Zachary is one of the most kind, loving humans I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Day after day she puts the needs of her students on the top of her priorities. She genuinely cares for each student and advocates for their needs, wants and supports them in any way shape or form. She shows up for her students in and out of the classroom by extending her love for them at games, birthdays or when they are sick. As a mom, I have not had a student go through her care. I have however had the pleasure of working beside her and to witness her daily devotion is something I hold dearly in my heart. She's a wonderful teacher even to adults. To have a Tracy

corner is a blessing but, to have a Tracy Zachary as a teacher is the biggest blessing of all." -Chenoa Spurlock "She always goes above and beyond for her students. She's so great at communicating with parents and I'm beyond grateful she has been with my daughter for a couple of years. She's nothing but kind and patient with her students and their parents. Couldn't have asked for a better teacher." - Amanda Roberts

"Receiving this award will have a lasting impact on me, as it's a strong reminder that going above and beyond in my role is noticed and appreciated," Zachary added. "Knowing this encourages me to keep remembering why I do what I do."

Do you know 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 #hhedfoundation



Photo courtesy Fishers Art Council

Want to join in with these volunteers? Back row from left, Douglas Dusseau, Ross Hilleary, Chris Hayes, Tom Rich and Philip Paluso. Front row from left, Les Reinhardt. Pat Grabill, Laura Villanyi and Tyna Green Seall.

Fishers Arts Council is looking for a few good people. We are seeking applications from individuals who want to help FAC promote visual and performing arts in the city of Fishers. Our mission is:

To support, advocate, and cultivate visual and performing arts opportunities that educate, enhance, and/or enrich the lives of those who live, work, and visit Fishers.

We are looking for individuals who are:

- 1. Willing to give 2-3 hours each month to promote and grow public and private art in the city through participation at meetings, on juries, or by volunteering at art events and activities.
- 2. Creative and willing to get their hands dirty.

If you are one of these individuals, we need you to help us continue to promote the visual and performing arts in Fishers. Don't leave the decision to others. Board members play active roles in all that we do - this is a working board who helps support our parttime Executive Director. Your time, talent, and treasure truly make a difference in all that we do.

Obtain an application at fishersarts council.org/how-tohelp and scroll down to the Board Application button. Both a printable PDF and online application are available. All are invited to come meet current board members and tour the galleries during our Second Friday **GALLERY HOP** reception on Friday, Nov. 8 from 6-8 p.m. in the FAC Hub Gallery at the **Hamilton County** Community Foundation, 11810 Technology Dr. in Fishers and at the Art Gallery at City Hall at 1 Municipal Drive. Ask questions and decide if you will be a part of shaping the future of art in Fishers! Applications are due

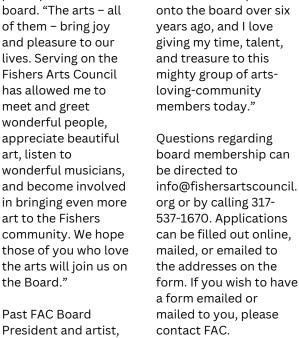
Pat Grabill, FAC board member and watercolorist, shares her thoughts on her participation on the board. "The arts - all of them - bring joy and pleasure to our lives. Serving on the Fishers Arts Council has allowed me to meet and greet wonderful people, appreciate beautiful art, listen to wonderful musicians, and become involved in bringing even more art to the Fishers community. We hope those of you who love the arts will join us on the Board."

no later than Dec. 17.

President and artist,

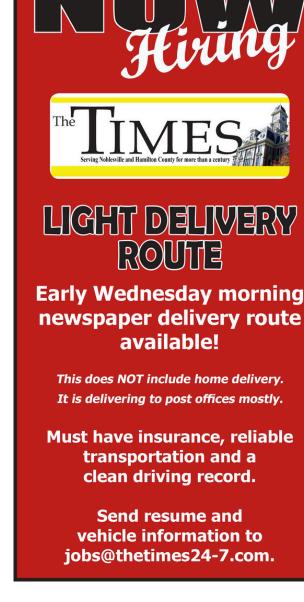
Laura Villanyi, was first drawn to joining FAC because of the colorful electrical boxes sprinkled along 116th street. "As soon as I saw those I wanted to join. The Fishers Arts Council is a rewarding experience. We have the ability to create opportunities for local artists to show and sell their art."

Les Reinhardt, Executive Director, echoes Pat's and Laura's sentiments. "Having originally joined FAC in early 2018 as the Board Treasurer, I've seen the wonderful things we can do, simply based on the incredible people we have on our team. The ideas that come forward and spring to life, the connections we make with artists of all disciplines, the strong partnerships and relationships in our city and county - it is truly rewarding in so many ways. I feel honored to have been accepted onto the board over six years ago, and I love giving my time, talent, and treasure to this mighty group of arts-





THE TIMES





Thank you for reading
The Times

#### **Creating VR Autism jobs in Hamilton County**

BeeFree is excited to announce an expansion of its vocational rehabilitation (VR) training program through its nonprofit arm, BeeFree Bakes. This initiative, developed in partnership with Invest Hamilton County, is specifically designed to combat the 85 percent unemployment rate among adults with autism and other disabilities.

What began as a mother's drive to find tasty, gluten free snacks for her son with autism, has grown into a nationally recognized brand leading the industry in taste, quality and innovation. Driven by a commitment to real ingredients and family friendly recipes, BeeFree's signature product, Warrior Snack Mix is sold in thousands of stores like Kroger, Whole Foods, Meijer, Costco, including 11 airports across the country.

Building on this foundation, BeeFree's non-profit, BeeFree Bakes, offers a robust 12-week job training program that equips participants with

essential skills for food service, hotel services, and e-commerce fulfillment. "Our goal is to provide not just training, but a bridge to meaningful employment. This program gives participants the tools they need for their first job, which is often the hardest step in starting a career," explains Jennifer Wiese, founder and CEO of BeeFree.

The training sessions, held in active food service and hotel environments, are designed to provide real-world experience, preparing participants for a variety of roles in the community. By focusing on practical skills and job readiness, BeeFree Bakes aims to significantly reduce the employment barriers faced by individuals with disabilities.

"Our community thrives because of the collaboration shown in initiatives like this training program with BeeFree Bakes, and we look forward to helping people build a more solid foundation for their

dreams and aspirations." said Mike Thibideau, President & CEO of Invest Hamilton County.

**Invest Hamilton County** serves as a partner with BeeFree on this training program. Invest Hamilton County's InvestInvestAbility programs, which include this and other community-based training opportunities, are supported through a partnership between the **Hamilton County** Commissioners, the Indiana FSSA's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and investments by Hamilton County Tourism and the Hamilton County Community Foundation.

"We believe in the power of food to bring people together, and the power of work to give purpose and pride," Jennifer adds. The VR training program is set to welcome 12 trainees per session, with four sessions planned each year, reinforcing BeeFree's commitment to long-term community impact.

For more information about BeeFree and the vocational training program, visit www. BeeFreeBakes.org or email contact@ beefreebakes.org



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Readers' Choice

Voting is under way in The Times' ever-popular Readers' Choice promotion! This year, in order to open the ballot boxes to even more people, we are including the ballot in our Print AND Online Editions. And, in the spirit of votes coming out of suitcases after midnight, rigged elections and false claims, we are going back to the future with paper ballots only! No, we're not requiring voter registration or ID – heck, we still encourage everyone to vote early and vote often – but we are setting up the ballot so you can use pencil, pen, magic marker, blood from a turnip . . . whatever you like. Simply mark the box next to the person, place or thing you are voting for and send the ballot to Sagamore News Media, Box 579 Noblesville, IN 46060 – or email it to ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com. We'll tabulate

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