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TODAY'S VERSE

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Hamilton Happenings

Just a reminder, there will be no Noblesville Times Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day. There will also be no Noblesville Times Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. The Times will publish the regular Monday and Friday Online Editions both weeks.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Our friends who make wonderful kitchen cabinets, Fabuwood, recently conducted a survey of 3,000 respondents to see which regional dish they would most like to see on their tables this Christmas day. Two quintessential Indiana Christmas foods were voted among the most popular this festive season: Pork Tenderloin with Zesty Cranberry Sauce and for dessert, what else but a Sugar Cream Pie! Ham was also high on the national list, with Kentucky's Bourbon-Glazed, Vermont's Maple-Glazed and Wisconsin's Honey-Glazed all in the top 10.

2 Dearborn and Wabash counties were recently named 2024 Stellar Pathways designated communities by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative led by OCRA. The program works with communities in a self-determined region on a shared vision for community and economic development. Stellar Pathways aims to promote local and regional partnerships and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana's rural communities face.

3 Parents of a 10-year-old fourth-grader who was found dead by suicide in his bedroom this year in Greenfield have filed a wrongful death suit. Sam and Nicole Teusch described the terror their young son went through, and how the school failed to protect him. "Sammy's abusers urged him to hang himself; they chased him, stalked him, punched him, choked him – all while school officials for months callously dismissed and disregarded Sammy's pleas for protection," their attorney said. "This suit is about more than holding the Greenfield School Corporation accountable, it's about making sure no child ever experiences what Sammy experienced."

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! .

This week we wrap up our look at the Christmas holiday season. Last week, we featured the jolly old elf, Santa. This week, a few more tidbits to put the bow on the splendor that is Christmas . . . By The Numbers!

70 Number of mall Santa applications who had criminal backgrounds. That's according to pre-employ.com, an employee screening service. That's also pretty darn scary . . . and discouraging!



No. 2 Is it true that Rudolph tries harder? Maybe.

Well, the song dedicated to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is ranked second among the most popular Christmas songs of all time.



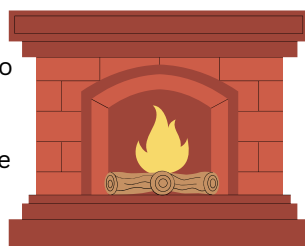
No. 1

It seems appropriate to us that the most popular Christmas song of all time is none other than White Christmas. We can just see Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Danny Kaye and Vera Ellen standing on stage singing it now!



0 The number of times that the three wise men are mentioned in the Bible. (No kidding!)

\$12 We've all seen the video of the wood-burning fireplace. Well, the original one that was a 90-minute videotape, complete with "real snap-crackling sounds" cost \$12 to make.



2,400

That's how many soldiers who took part in Gen. George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Eve in 1776.

364 That's how many gifts you would have if you got every present mentioned in "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

\$49,263

According to the 40th annual PNC Christmas Price Index, that's how much those 12 presents would cost in 2023 dollars.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

It's a myth that older people need less sleep.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:8-14

TODAY'S JOKE

What did Adam say to his partner on Dec. 24?
It's Christmas Eve!
What did Adam say to her the next day?
It's Christmas, Eve.
(See how important commas are!)

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

➔ See PARK Page A3

The Times of Noblesville presents...

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Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 - 24, 2025



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The Problem Isn't Guns; It's People



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

It's been a week and the shock, the outrage are fading . . . or have faded entirely. Young people and a teacher were killed a week ago at a Wisconsin school. A second-grader made the 911 call to report that a shooting was going on.

We live in a world where a 6- or 7-year-old has to make that kind of call? Where they have to live with that kind of reality?

In the wake of the most recent – AND FAR TOO OFTEN – school shooting, we all heard and watched the politicians, including our president, call for more gun control laws.

“It's shocking and unconscionable,” Pres. Biden said. “It is unacceptable that we are unable to protect our children from this scourge of gun violence . . . Congress must pass commonsense gun safety laws: Universal background checks. A national red flag law. A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. “My administration has taken aggressive action to combat the gun violence epidemic. We passed the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years, I have taken more executive action to reduce gun violence than any other President in history, and I created the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.”

According to CNN, Madison was the 83rd school shooting this year – breaking the record of 82 from the year before –which broke the record of 79 from the year before that – which broke the record . . .

83 school shootings.
38 dead
115 wounded
Just this year.
Just! This! Year!

How's that gun control thing working out, Mr. President?

School shootings are increasing, not decreasing. We're

averaging more than one a week. One a week!

I ask again, how's that rhetoric working out? How'd it work out in Wisconsin?

Could we shut down the damn political talk just this once?

38 dead.

What else do we need to know?

Will taking guns away really solve this problem?

Will taking cars away solve drunk driving? Will taking No. 2 pencils away solve poor test scores? Will taking my fork away solve my weight issue?

The problem is not a gun. The problem is people.

People who don't parent their children. People who abdicate parenting to video games. People who don't crack open the door to a church. People who don't crack open their heart to God. People who value power over legislating. People who think talking solves problems.

Guns. Cars. Pencils. Forks.

Not. The. Problem.

People. People. People.

How do we solve that? How do we step back from the abyss we're staring into in today's world?

I can't tell you the long-term answers, but I can tell you where they start. At home. At church. It really isn't that complicated.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Council Member Shares Timesheet on Recent Work



MARK HALL
Guest Columnist

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.

As your employee, it's important that you know what is being worked on as transparently as is possible in government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you will choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, consider volunteering, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of every month at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, November work included: a Regional Development

Commission meeting, a Board of Commissioners public meeting, a County Council work session, a Cicero Town council meeting, a quarterly Riverview Health review meeting, and a Noblesville Town Council meeting.

The November personnel committee meeting included five reclassification requests as well as one new position. The reclassifications were evaluated based upon the information provided to our outside consulting firm who scores and ranks the position based on responsibility and difficulty. The personnel committee sent the reclassifications to the full council for review and potential approval. Personnel requests are voted on as they occur, first, in the personnel committee and then at the next regular council meeting using a recommendation from the committee. The finance committee did not meet in November.

This month there were three constituent services requests. Requests require research, often with the right county department,

securing the correct answer and then following up with the taxpayer. One November request was regarding the potential reorganization of Jackson Township with Cicero and Arcadia. A family had received communication from a local government agency that led them to believe the annexation of their property in Arcadia was imminent. Further research revealed that the letter was introducing the potential of reorganization of local governments in Jackson Township. There was no Hamilton County government agency involvement.

A second request addressed concerns over communicating the anticipated operating costs for the Police and Fire Training Center to entities in the Northern part of Hamilton County. The expectation is that annual operating costs will be shared by the various agencies throughout the county. The constituent expressed concerns over how the costs would be allocated to the smaller agencies and further how the anticipated costs were not communicated to their local elected officials. Research revealed several prior communications to public safety officials in

the area and a follow-up meeting was held to address any remaining questions. Lastly, this month I received a request expressing dire concern over the impact of the potential Morse Village project on the eagles whose nest presently exists at 206th and Hague Road. This is not a Hamilton County project; however, her request was time sensitive given that the City of Noblesville would be voting on the project over the next few weeks. Working with county staff in discovery, the documentation provided by the developer of this project, were it to be approved, had provisions and plans for the required setbacks and for wetlands restoration that would ensure minimal impact on the Eagles that nest in the area.

Noteworthy items from November included finalizing and confirming the transfer of funds into the rainy-day account as per my October timesheet. Also, after years of debate, the council has agreed to search for a Director of County Council Operations.

County Council
➔ See MARK Page A3

Merry Christmas

from these Hamilton County businesses



Happy Holidays!

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thewanderingpeacock.com

Local Pottery

Happy Holidays
Have a safe & healthy
New Year!



Happy Holidays from your friends at the Noblesville Sunrisers Kiwanis



Son-Shine Service Inc.

Merry Christmas & Have a Safe New Year!

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Waiting for a Friend



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My husband, Peter, told me about the unlikely friendship.

rescue biz), and Reacher took an interest in this stray dog in his neighborhood.

I wasn't there, and neither was Peter, but according to Anita, Reacher tried to make friends with this dog. It was a slow process, but Reacher was determined and, eventually, the feral dog started cautiously following Reacher. One day, he followed Reacher home and walked right into the outdoor courtyard and stayed for a little while. Anita gave him some food. This continued and, finally, the dog (who Anita started calling Duke) followed Reacher all the way into Anita's house. And he stayed.

Duke was still very shy around people, but he trusted Reacher and soon he started to trust Anita and her husband. Duke started letting them pet him and make eye contact. Anita took him to the vet to be fixed. The vet said he thought Duke was about five years old. Duke was bathed. He had his teeth cleaned. He started sleeping on a couch. And now Duke is Anita's second dog and lives with Reacher.

Peter now sees Reacher and Duke and Anita on their walks together. Duke is very submissive and laid-back. Reacher is as exuberant as ever. "I think I could pet Duke now, if I wanted to," Peter told me.

Duke has bonded with Anita, and he is obviously Reacher's best friend. And none of it would have happened without Reacher.

I love this story so much. It seems to me that everyone made a lot of assumptions about Duke—the kind of assumptions I make every day—and all of those assumptions turned out to be wrong. It took someone like Reacher to see that Duke was just waiting for a friend.

Till next time, Carrie

Unitarian Church Lady



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

This past weekend, our church had its annual auction, a big fundraiser where I always have the honor of being the emcee. As we were cleaning up, I couldn't find my cell phone. I knew I had used my phone earlier to cheat when the congregation played trivia. (I'm kidding, I'm kidding. I really did know the first country to give women the right to vote. It was New Zealand in 1893. You're welcome.)

When I couldn't find my phone, I panicked. My wife, as always, was a calming influence, explaining to me that the cell had to be somewhere in the room. I asked my son to call on his phone to see where the device was hiding. No ring was heard, but...

"Hello, this is Amy."

"Amy, this is Brett Wolfsie, Dick's son. You were sitting with us all evening tonight. You must have taken my dad's cell phone home by mistake."

"I don't think so, Brett."

"Well, you're talking on his cell now. Turn it over and look at the back."

The back of my cell clearly directs what to do if found. I always debated whether the instructions should read: IF FOUND CALL... or IF LOST CALL. Both make sense, but my initial mistake was listing my own number to call. That person would just be calling me on my phone, which he had in his hand. What an Einstein, I am. But back to the story...

I took Brett's phone and explained to Amy that she would have to answer my phone that evening and pretend she was Mary Ellen. Otherwise, people would wonder what I was up to when a mysterious woman answered the phone at 11 pm. I also told Amy that I get a lot of calls late at night because I have several friends on the West Coast who like

to chat before they go to bed at 8 pm (their time). It's an older crowd.

"Dick, this was an honest mistake I made. I'll tell whoever calls that I have your phone because we spent the night together.

"Amy, please rephrase that."

The next morning, I was lost without a phone. I always check the weather and time before I get out of bed. I asked Alexa twice, but there was no response. The internet was down temporarily, but I knew Mary Ellen was in the kitchen having coffee...

"What time is it?" I screamed out from the bed. No answer.

"WHAT TIME IS IT?" Louder, this time.

No answer again.

Wait, I forgot the most important part. With Alexa, it has to be personal to work. I tried again.

"MARY ELLEN! What time is it?"

"Good morning, Dick, it's 8 am. Now, leave me alone, please. I'm having my coffee."

Well, at least she was connected and working.

Later that morning at church, Amy returned my phone and said she only got one call. It was from my sister who was visiting her daughter in California.

"I pretended I was Mary Ellen," said Amy, "but I'm not sure it worked."

"I guess she didn't recognize your voice?"

"She also didn't recognize my hair, nose, and eyes. She was using FaceTime."

– 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.

↓ PARK From Page A1

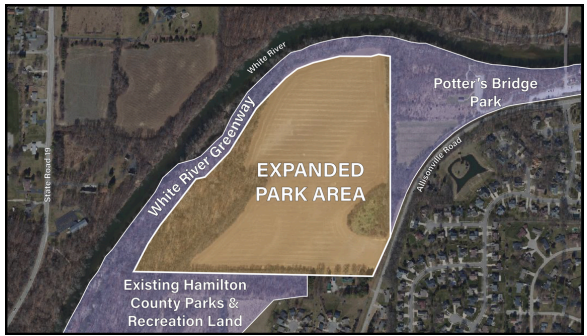


Photo courtesy Hamilton County Parks and Recreation

The illustration highlights the acquired land for the expansion of the park.

This acquisition aligns with the objectives outlined in the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation five-year master plan, emphasizing environmental sustainability, expanded recreational offerings, and enhanced community access to nature. "This acquisition allows us to fill a critical gap, creating a more connected and cohesive space at this park," said Chris Stice, Director of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation. "It's an

exciting opportunity to continue expanding Potter's Bridge Park and provide our community with more recreational space."

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is committed to developing and managing the county's parks and natural spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of all. The expansion of Potter's Bridge Park is a key component of this mission, further solidifying the park as a premier destination.

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↓ MARK From Page A2

positions are part-time, and most of the Council work full-time jobs in addition to our responsibilities to you on the Council. The size and scope of our work is such that we need a full-time resource coordinating the information of dozens of departments, briefing the Council on Commissioner's meetings, and representing the Council in meetings when we are otherwise obligated. I'll write more about this in future columns. Until recently I was not in favor of making this move. Even part-time, for me, county business is twenty-

five hours a week on average and is part of what has forced me to change my position. I believe that this investment will produce better results from the council and as such better results for taxpayers.

It was my honor to represent you this past month at the Purdue Extension Annual Meeting, at the Spotlight on Art fundraiser, at the Hamilton County Humane Societies 18th annual Tinsel & Tails Gala, and at Good Samaritan Network's 2024 Festival of Trees fundraiser.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during

November 2024. While my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important that I understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it is important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it is important that you can always do so.

Feel free to contact me at 317-832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. He writes a monthly column in The Times detailing his work as a county councilman.

Thank you

for reading The Times!

2024 FIAT 500e is the Electric City Car Inspired by Beauty and a Heap of Heritage



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Let's take a little trip back to Post-War Europe. We're talking the big war that left the continent in ruins and its industries tattered. Enamored with the Vespa scooter, FIAT designers set about to create a four-wheeled version ideal for city life.

aimed less at poor city folk and more at affluent urban fashionistas. Like the original, it looks the part with sparkling round LED headlamps, short hatchback body, and ovoid rear taillamps – all riding over 17” wheels. It's a car that's big enough to absorb traffic, but small enough to park almost anywhere.

wireless charging pad in the dash too.

Heated cream-colored seats look suave with FIAT stitching, but are faux leather for easy cleaning and better wear. Two passengers fit better than four, but kids can fit in the rear and the seats fold down to increase luggage space. Automatic climate control and rain-sensing wipers add convenience while safety is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning, blind-spot warning, and cross-path detection.

Fun Urban Driving

When it comes to driving, let's start with the positives. It's smooth, quiet, and peppy, employing 117 horsepower and 162 lb.-ft. of torque to run 0-60 mph in 8 seconds. Drivers can fast charge 10-80% in 30 minutes or fully recharge in 6.2 hours on a 240-volt home charger. Not bad, but you'll be doing that frequently given a scant 141 miles range if

driven in-town, but more like 125 miles if the freeway is involved. If you're looking for a long-distance EV, this isn't it, but it makes a great little city car.

City streets become your personal autocross circuit. It's fun to drive even if its chassis isn't all that complicated. An independent front, torsion beam rear suspension is normal fare for a compact hatchback, but it does a much better job of soaking up rough pavement than the last 500. It's 2-inches wider to better accommodate its lithium-ion batteries, but that also translates into more stable handling. It feels less tipsy than before.

As with the last-generation gas-powered Fiats, the 500e's trial is less about its merits and more about its competition. For about the same money, you can buy a five-seat Nissan Leaf with greater range. A next-generation Chevy Bolt

arrives in 2026 with close to 300 miles range. As with the original, though, there's nothing like the 500e. If you want exquisite classic style brought forward with modern luxuries and ease of maneuvering over city streets, you'll be hard-pressed to beat the 500e.

The car's base and as-tested prices are the same: \$36,000.

Storm Forward!

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

Iconic Heritage Advanced

Introduced in 1957, the 500 endeared drivers with cute round headlamps, two-cylinder rear-mounted engine, and enough space for four and their wares. Over 3.5 million were built 1957-1975, transcending mere automotive mortality to drive with the gods. Keep all of this in-mind for a moment because there's a new 500 that channels the original's spirit.

While it clearly has a family resemblance to its grandfather, let's think of the 2024 500e as more of a luxury four-wheel Segway scooter

Inspiration beyond storied heritage is key to the 500e's style. Ours is "Inspired by Beauty", which I suppose explains its Rose Gold paint. Others are "Inspired by LA" with an urban vibe and "Inspired by Music" with an edgier rock attitude. Choose what theme you want because the 500e is an open canvas.

Interiors channel the 500's ancestors' simple gauge pod and controls while greeting the EV age with flatscreen instrument cluster, 10.25-inch touchscreen on the dash, and wireless phone connections through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. There's a

Likes

- Chic style
- Interior comforts
- Urban driving

Dislikes

- Small interior
- Limited range
- Price tag

2024 Fiat 500e
Four-passenger, FWD Hatchback
Powertrain: Li-ion batteries/motors
Output: 117 hp/162 lb.-ft
Suspension f/r: Ind/Torsion beam
Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen discs
Driving range: 141 miles
Fast charge: 30 minutes
Home charge: 6.2 hours
0-60 mph: 8.0s
Assembly: Mirafiori, Italy
Base/As-tested price: \$36,000



Elks Step Up for Feeding Team

Noblesville Elks Lodge 576 recently made a Christmas donation to help hungry area neighbors. Steve Vallier current Elks Lodge 576 President and Geoff Robinson presented a \$1,000 donation to Lisa Hall, Co-Founder of The Feeding Team. "Elk's support for local charities is the very core of who we are as an organization," Vallier said. "This is our fourth year supporting Feeding Team and their mission to eliminate hunger in Hamilton County." Elks Lodge 576 is one of the largest lodges in Indiana with almost 600 members. Their mission to give back to the community happens through the efforts of dedicated members who raise funds throughout the year. Read more about the Elks at www.elks.org. Feedingteam.org provides non-perishable meals throughout Hamilton County through over seventy-five outdoor no questions asked pantries. Learn more at www.feedingteam.org.

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NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

The 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins April 14, 2025 and ends on June 17, 2025.

There will be two Leagues: 13-15 year old Competitive League and 16-18 year old Competitive League.

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 14, 2025. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 8-17, 2025.
* Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Registration Fee: 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 (plus processing fee applied at checkout) and includes team jersey, hat, and 2 tickets to the Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball League Pancake Breakfast/Picture Day scheduled for April 26, 2025 from 8 am-11 am at the Forest Park Inn.

Team/Player photos will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast. Additional tickets for the League Pancake Breakfast will be available at the door for \$5 each.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 16, 2025 from 2 pm-4 pm at Noblesville High School.

Register today at:
noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

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

Thank you for reading The Times!

Carmel Reminds All on Snow Removal Policy

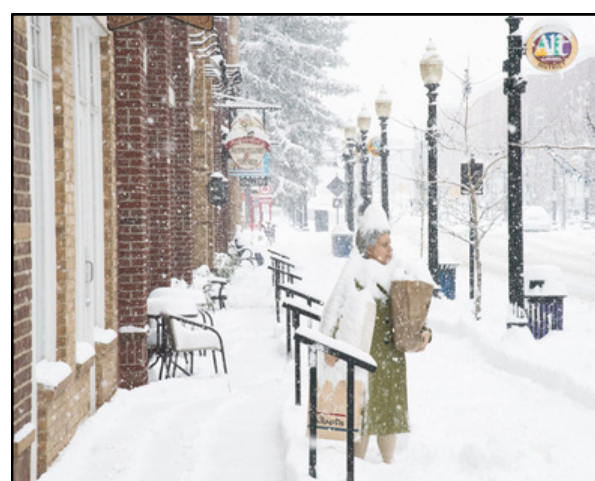


Photo courtesy City of Carmel

The city asks residents to keep their sidewalks shoveled.

The City of Carmel would like to remind all residents, property owners and business owners that it's important to keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Carmel is a city that embraces a spirit of walkability – whether that is for a walk to school, the grocery store or just to get out and exercise during these frigid winter months.

Help us continue this tradition of keeping our community walkable, no matter what the weather holds. Please shovel your sidewalks or arrange for others to help, so that your friends and neighbors can continue to make their way – safely – around the city.

The 'No-Bus Zones' created in 2021 has increased the number of students walking to school, even on snowy days. Residents, businesses and property owners within that roughly one-mile radius of schools should keep this in mind as they are maintaining sidewalks.

Many residents may not realize that the City is responsible for plowing the streets and our many trails and pathways, but it is the responsibility of residential property owners to clear their own sidewalks of all snow and ice within 72

hours of a major snowfall. If you own a business, the timeline is by noon the day after the snow event.

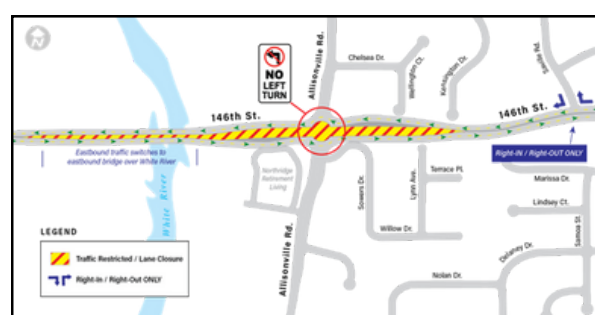
Paths that are located along City roadways are cleared by the Carmel Street Department as soon as possible after City streets are cleared. In most cases, they are cleared along with the adjacent section of roadway.

It should be noted that the Street Department does not clear trails outside of normal business hours and depending on the depth of snow, it may take up to 2-3 days to clear the paths. Additionally, in some areas, trails are not cleared on both sides of the roadway.

Trails and greenways are cleared by the Carmel Clay Parks Department, which begins clearing operations shortly after the end of the snowfall. Trails in Carmel are cleared but are not salted. No salt is used due to the threat of killing vegetation along the trails, causing injury to the paws of our pets and the potential damage to the asphalt.

Questions regarding snow removal on sidewalks can be directed to Code Enforcement at (317) 571-2491.

Next Phase of 146th & Allisonville Project Begins Soon



It may seem never-ending, but the next phase of the 146th Street and Allisonville Road Project is getting things that much closer to completion.

Beginning on or after Thursday, Jan. 9, the contractor will implement a traffic phase shift for eastbound 146th Street. Traffic will be shifted to the south

and will now utilize the bridge carrying eastbound 146th Street over the White River. The contractor will utilize construction barrels to delineate the driving area from the construction zone.

Please use extreme caution when driving in this area and watch for flaggers during the phase shift.

Lilly Scholarship Winners



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

Congratulations are in order to two Noblesville High School seniors, from left Israel (Josh) Tioua Ponpou and Vaibhav Patel. Josh and Vaibhav both won the prestigious Lilly Scholarship that pays all their expenses to any university in Indiana. It is very rare for the same high school to have two winners and this is the first time that it's happened at NHS. However, this is the third year in a row that NHS has produced a Lilly winner!

Two From County Join Indiana Chamber Board

A Noblesville and Carmel man are two of the 24 new directors on the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Board.

Nathan Stallings, president at Matrix Integration of Noblesville and Bob Kuzman, SVP of

member and government relations at MISO of Carmel will begin 2025 on the state board. They were officially installed during the Chamber's fall board meeting in November and are scheduled to serve three-year terms through fall 2027.

Spartz: Trump Has One Year to Save our Republic

Rep. Spartz issued the following statement on her refusal to participate in the Republican conference, its committees and resignation from the regional policy committee chair:



Rep. Spartz

“This election the American people sent a resounding message and mandate to the Republican party to govern - not deliver talking points and messaging bills. Our country is on a fiscal collision course and it will take some courage and structural changes in Congress to challenge the status quo, which is not happening. As a serious legislator and finance professional, not a clown, I am not going to continue being involved in circuses. I would rather spend my

energy helping President Trump, his appointees and DOGE to deliver on their promises through reconciliation. And I will be working hard doing real work for the people I represent - not presentations in committees for the lobbyists, spectacles and posts on Facebook and X to raise money. The swamp will be back in business in four years if not drained through the law. Congress cannot fail President Trump and the American people again.”

Former Superintendent Drops By



Photo courtesy Noblesville Schools

Former Noblesville Schools superintendent Dr. John Ellis toured the high school recently with superintendent Dan Hile and a few others. Ellis served from 1992-2004 and built the high school in 1996. A lot has changed since that time, including the large number of students the building now serves, and the wide variety of classes and opportunities available.

Noblesville Creates Readies Comic Book in a Day Challenge

The Noblesville Creates and Hamilton East Public Library's 12th Annual Comic Book in Day Challenge, presented by Fishers Arts and Culture Commission and sponsored by Browning Day and Griffy's Art Supply, is coming up in January 2025! This year, the competition has exciting new features to allow artists of all ages from all over the world to compete at their best and have the most fun.

This year, the in-person and virtual versions of the competition will be held on different days. Additionally, the in-person competition will consist of two divisions: a 4-hour competition for kids and a 7-hour competition for adults and teens. Challenge Artists of all ages and skill levels will have the opportunity to create a comic book entirely from scratch and compete for prizes.

This event will provide participants and visitors alike with access to expertise in many forms. The event will feature two Host artists - Erik Lundorf and Victor Dandridge – who are both comic book professionals and experts in coaching and teaching that will help contestants engage with each other and work through any creative challenges.

The Comic Book in a Day Judges – Stuart Sayger, Gavin Smith, and Deon Parson (widely recognized by the pen name “Supr Dee”) – are three industry leaders who will be available all day to talk to contestants and guests, demonstrate drawing techniques, sell their artwork and prints, and review all of the submissions at the end of the event. Returning champion Joseph Haas will also be participating as a Judge and sharing his experience with competitors and visitors to the event.

Stuart Sayger is an internationally renowned comic book artist who has produced interiors and covers for Lego Bionicle, DC Comics, IDW, Dynamite, his own book, *Shiver in the Dark*, and many others. Supr Dee is an acclaimed Ringo-nominated syndicated newspaper cartoonist, illustrator, animator, educator, and public speaker from Indiana. Gavin Smith is an artist and writer from Indianapolis who's worked on Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Heartpiercer, Godzilla, Star Trek: the Mirror War, Heavy Metal Magazine, Ghost in the Shell, and Dead Legends.

Joseph Haas is the 2024 “Best Overall” award winner and a regular attendee of Comic Book in a Day, having participated in 7

out of the 11 total competitions.

Signing up for the Challenge isn't the only way to enjoy the event! Everyone is welcome to swing by at any time during the day to check out the action, meet and shop for cool artwork from the Featured Artists, and have a go at some fun comic-themed art activities.

See below for details on the individual competitions.

Zoom International Competition – Jan. 17, 2025

Friday, January 17 will be the online competition held remotely via Zoom. Designed for aspiring adult pros, this new competition will provide a platform for the event to reach world-wide. Contestants will log in at 9 a.m. Eastern Time and stay connected to Zoom until 4 p.m. Eastern Time. All online artwork submissions are due at 4 p.m. and contestants will present their stories to one another starting at approximately 4:15 p.m.

For \$50, contestants will receive drawing supplies, guidance and inspiration from Featured Artists, and a printed copy of their work in a Comic Book Anthology.

To register, visit <https://noblesville-creates.square.site/product/2025-comic-book-in-a-day-artist-challenge/8133?cs=true&cst=custom>

Adult/Teen Division Competition – Jan. 18, 2025

January 18 will be the in-person competition held at the Ignite Studio at the Fishers library. The 7-hour Adult & Teen competition will kick off at 9 a.m. with a customary pep-talk and review of the rules. Contestants have until 4 p.m. to complete their story and turn in up to 8 pages. Contestants will then present their stories to the assembly of judges and fellow artists starting around 4:30 p.m.

For \$50, contestants will receive drawing supplies, guidance and inspiration from Featured Artists, and a printed copy of their work in a Comic Book Anthology.

To register, visit <https://noblesville-creates.square.site/product/2025-comic-book-in-a-day-artist-challenge/8133?cs=true&cst=custom>

Youth Division Competition – Jan. 18, 2025

The 4-hour Youth competition, for children 12 years and younger, will kick off on January 18 at 10:30 a.m. and contestants will have until 2:30 p.m.

➡ See COMIC Page A6

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HH Superintendent Shares Update



DR. ARROWOOD
Guest Columnist

As the first semester of school draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and experiences we have shared as a school community. It has been a time filled with growth, learning, challenge, opportunity, and connection.

This fall, collectively our students enjoyed many outstanding accomplishments in academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, the arts, and meaningful community service projects giving back to our community on and off campus. These achievements and contributions, large and small, demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our educators, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our students, staff, families, and community.

With the official start of the winter season right around the corner, I would like to remind our families about our district protocol for deciding on school delays, early dismissals, and cancellations due to inclement weather conditions. Indiana weather can be unpredictable and change quickly. Making the decision to have a weather-related school delay or cancellation is made after careful consideration and often in tandem with our local, county, and state partners. Ice, snow, fog, a power outage, and other things all play a role in the decision.

However, the primary factor in our decision to delay or cancel school is based on student and staff safety. Decisions to delay or close school are made as early as possible and usually before 6:00 a.m. If the decision to close is made, we will shift to our synchronous e-Learning format. In preparation for possible delays and closures in the months ahead, stay weather aware and up to date at the corporation's social media sites: X (@hhschuskie), Facebook, website, and/or the local media outlets.

As we prepare to ring in the New Year and start a new semester, now is the perfect time to reset priorities so that our students can prepare for success in the second semester. One important area of focus for all families should be school attendance, which is critical to academic success. Students who are in school regularly learn more, earn better grades, and are more likely to reach important academic goals at every grade level.

Consistent school attendance is crucial for a child's academic success and overall development. Being in school enables students to build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills in their early years, which is essential for more complex learning in later stages. Plus, regular attendance promotes good habits, such as punctuality, responsibility, and time management.

Being present in school allows students to benefit from social interactions, emotional support, and the structured environment that fosters personal growth and resilience. Thank you for helping to ensure your child arrives at school on time and is ready to learn every day.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your involvement in our school community. Your participation and involvement, whether through volunteering, attending meetings, or simply encouraging your children, makes a significant impact on our school environment. Together, we have fostered a sense of belonging, pride, and community that enriches the educational experience for all.

May the spirit of the season fill your hearts with joy, warmth, and endless wonder. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. #WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.

Heights Diver Signs with Cincinnati



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools / Jennifer Kauffman

Hamilton Heights' senior Campbell Lively-Mason (seated) signed with the University of Cincinnati. She is with her parents Casey Claus (stepfather), Carrie Lively (mother) and Cameron Mason (father).

Campbell Lively-Mason, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to dive for the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio this fall. University of Cincinnati is a member of the Big 12 Conference and a NCAA Division I athletic institution. She is the daughter of Carrie Lively, Cameron Mason, and Casey Claus.

It was her visit to the University of Cincinnati campus that sealed the deal. "All of the amenities available for student athletes allow them to succeed on and off the deck," said Campbell Lively-Mason, a two time conference diving champion, sectional champion, and a Top 10 State finalist who also participated in Hamilton Heights' Unified Flag Football and Unified Track programs. "Having a support staff for nutrition, strength, recovery, and academics convinced me this is what will set me up for success. The brand new educational buildings offer students new and advanced ways of learning along with hands-on training at UC's hospital." This was attractive to Lively-Mason who plans to major in physical therapy with the goal of working in a hospital or therapeutic setting.

Lively-Mason entered the sport of diving by chance her freshman year after an elbow injury sustained in gymnastics. She started training with Ripfest Diving in Arcadia. Shortly thereafter, she

began training full time during her summers, 6 days/40 hours each week. "I was dedicated to becoming a competitive Division 1 athlete," she recalled. "After a year of going through the recruiting process, I achieved my goal and became a Power 5 athlete (been diving for 4 ½ years)."

Lively-Mason credits her mom and her Ripfest coaches for their influence and support as she developed her diving skills. "They believed I could achieve things even when I didn't believe in myself," she noted.

"Campbell was a pleasure to work with," said Steve Hoefler, former Diving Coach, Hamilton Heights High School. "She has a great personality and will do great things at Cincinnati next Fall. Always wishing for the best for Campbell."

"We are very excited for Campbell to have the opportunity to continue diving at the next level," added Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director. "She has spent countless hours of training, both in the pool and doing dryland training, to earn this opportunity. We wish her the best at Cincinnati University."

When Lively-Mason is not in the water, she works as a gymnastics coach at Wrights 360 and serves as a student athletic aide in the fall, winter, and spring.

Heights Tanker Signs to Swim for DePauw



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools / Jennifer Kauffman

Heights' senior Sophia Hulen has signed a letter of intent to swim for the DePauw University Tigers in Greencastle this fall.

Sophia Hulen, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to swim for DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana this fall. DePauw University is a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. She is the daughter of Christopher and Lisa Hulen.

Hulen said DePauw stood out to her because of its strong academic programs and the opportunity to compete in college-level sports in a supportive environment. "The strong balance between high-level academics and athletics made DePauw a perfect fit for me," said Hulen, who plans to follow the university's pre-law pathway. Hulen intends to pursue a major in communications and double minor in business administration and philosophy then attend law school after graduation.

Hulen, a multi-sport athlete (cheerleading, track & field), has had a strong passion for swimming since the beginning of high school. Since then, she has dedicated a great deal of time investing in her future as a competitive athlete while training at Hamilton Heights and through the Fishers Area Swimming Tigers (FAST) club. She is highly recognized as a competitive swimmer and holds numerous school records including the 200 Relay Medley and 400 Free Relay record

holder, 2024 State Qualifier, Hoosier Conference 50 Free, 100 Free, 200 Medley Relay, 440 Free Relay record holder, 2024 Hamilton Heights Hoosier Conference Winter Sport Athlete, and 2021-22 Hamilton Heights High School Girls Swimming & Diving Rookie of the Year.

Hulen is as strong in the pool as she is in the classroom. She is Senior Class Vice President, a member of the National Honor Society, Hamilton Heights Business Professionals of America Chapter, and Llama Trekkers 4H Club. She serves as a Husky Ambassador, Hamilton County Llamas Youth President, and was Miss Hamilton County 1st Runner Up.

She credits her parents for playing a large role in supporting her inside and outside the pool. In addition, she wanted to recognize her coaches Brett Riley, Venni Clarke, Trey Harrison and Joe Keller for their guidance and encouragement to be the best athlete she could be.

"Sophia is one of those athletes who quietly gets the work done and leads by example," said Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director. "She's an outstanding student, a very polite young lady and an excellent role model for what we want to see in our Hamilton Heights athletes. We will miss her, but we wish her well at DePauw University."

COMIC

From Page A5

to complete their story and turn in up to 4 pages. Contestants in the youth division will present their stories to the judges and fellow competitors starting around 3 p.m.

For \$30, contestants will receive drawing supplies, guidance and inspiration from Featured Artists, and a printed copy of their work in a Comic Book Anthology.

To register, visit <https://noblesville-creates.square.site/product/2025-comic-book-in-a-day-artist-challenge/8133?cs=true&cst=custom>

The artwork produced during the in-person competitions will be displayed at the Ignite Studio. Each page will be scanned, along with the submissions from the online competition, and printed in a trade-paperback style comic book. Each registered contestant will receive a copy of a printed book with their artwork included once it is finished.

Awards Ceremony – Jan. 22, 2025

While the Featured Artists/Judges will each award one prize at the end of Comic Day in a Day Challenge, the top

awards will be presented at the Awards Program. This program will be held on Wednesday, January 22, from 6:30 to 7:30pm at the Ignite Studio in the Fishers Public Library.

This free event is open to contestants, friends, and the public.

Comic Book in a Day Workshops

Prior to the competitions, Noblesville Creates and the Hamilton East Public Library are offering a series of workshops to prepare for the Challenge and/or to celebrate individuals'

love of comics. These workshops are FREE and will be held at the Ignite Studio at the Fishers Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participation in the Challenge is not required to attend these workshops.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Stuart Sayger
How to Start Your Comic Book: This workshop will help you develop your story in words and pictures, reviewing the basic building blocks of comic books.

Registration opens December 25, 2024.

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Bill Wilkison
Great Comic Book Storytelling: If you are a fan of comics or are looking to make your own book, this workshop will explore aspects of what makes sequential art so great!
Registration opens December 30, 2024.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Erik Lundorf
Advanced Comic

Books: Our professional comic book artist will reveal tips and tricks to enhance your sequential art skills just in time for Comic Book in a Day or just for fun.
Registration opens Jan. 1, 2025.

To learn more about Comic Book in a Day 2025, visit <https://noblesvillecreates.org/comicbookinaday/>



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord
shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:8-14
King James Version



*From the Staff and Shareholders,
Merry Christmas to all our customers*