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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)

Hamilton Happenings

We have free tickets to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show ready and waiting for YOU! All you have to do is take a selfie with you and our front page (print or online doesn't matter) and email it to news@the times24-7.com. If we publish your picture (and we will!), you win two to four free tickets - valued at \$15 each! The Show is one of the oldest flower shows in the U.S. and is running now through Sunday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Don't pass up the chance for free tickets and a great day! Snap that selfie and email it to us today!

Three Things You Should Know

1 Indiana Newspapers are having a rally day at the Indiana Statehouse Wednesday and would love for you to come along. State lawmakers are trying to take legal notices out of newspapers and put them on a government website. Not only would that be like the fox guarding the henhouse, but it will cost taxpayers more than they are currently spending. It will also hurt, perhaps severely, some Hoosier newspapers. At 11 a.m. Wednesday, newspapers and supporters from all over Indiana are going to the Statehouse to show our opposition to the move. Newspapers are a part of Indiana history and an important part of an open government. The Founding Fathers thought so and put it in the First Amendment. We'd love it if you would help us preserve that!

2 The Office of Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced the first round Community Development Block Grants for 2025 is now open for applications. The following programs are accepting applications.
• Main Street Revitalization
• Wastewater/Drinking Water
• Stormwater Improvements
• Blight Clearance
• Public Facilities
For information on these programs, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg or contact the assigned OCRA regional community liaison .

3 The winter moratorium on utility disconnections has ended and CenterPoint Energy reminds customers of available resources to help manage their energy bills. More information can be found at CenterPointEnergy.com/ PaymentAssistance.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢

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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!

Happy St. Paddy's Day Wonderful Readers!

Today's the day most everyone feels at least a little bit Irish and takes the opportunity to wear the green, perhaps partake in a cold beverage and in general celebrate all things Irish! So come on along with us as we explore this somewhat unusual holiday . . . By The Numbers!



From left, Noblesville Schools Executive Director of Student Services Julie Thacker, Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and Adriann Young, Noblesville Schools Education Foundation CEO & President

Foundation Gets Boost From City

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation is proud to announce the expansion of its Mental Health Support Fund thanks to \$50,000 in support from the City of Noblesville.

The NSEF Mental Health Support Fund is a vital resource helping students and staff in Noblesville Schools access additional professional counseling services. With increasing rates of stress, anxiety and depression among students and staff, this initiative directly supports the well-being of the Noblesville Schools community.

"When we ask school leaders where NSEF funding can best support them, mental health resources consistently rank as a top area of need," said Adriann Young of NSEF. "By eliminating financial barriers to accessing professional care, we're ensuring that everyone in our school community can receive the full mental health support to ultimately support their success in school."

"We're thankful to the City of Noblesville and NSEF for their support of our students and staff," added Julie Thacker, executive director of student services for Noblesville Schools. "Our community is uniquely fortunate to have a partnership like this and this invaluable support allows students and staff members to access the mental health provider of their choice and receive reimbursement for those services."

Mental health support represents one of NSEF's most impactful programs and provides the following benefits:

See BOOST Page A3

1600s

St. Patrick's was placed on the liturgical calendar by the Roman Catholics in the early 1600s. In Ireland, that act as well as other factors have made it a national holiday - contrary to some people who say that it's not a big deal in the land of the leprechauns.



No. 1

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. However, he was not Irish. He was either born in Rome or perhaps Britain. He was a missionary in Ireland in the fifth century (some reports have him there in the fourth century). And he is regarded as a saint by the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Church of Ireland and others.



No. 1 (also)

One crystal ball of shamrocks is given to the U.S. president by Ireland's prime minister each year. That - and some of our other numbers today -- comes from the good folks at WalletHub.

5.3 million

Although everyone claims to be Irish today, the actual population of Ireland is approximately 5.3 million. That's roughly the size of South Carolina. Speaking of the Palmetto State, one of the largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S. takes place there annually. Know where? If you guessed Savannah, give yourself two points!

31.5 million

That's the number of our fellow citizens who claim to have Irish ancestry. We bet that number goes up today!



\$6.9 billion

The amount of money spent on St. Patrick's Day in 2023, according to our friends at WalletHub.

8 Spending on this holiday ranks eighth in the U.S. with other major holidays after Christmas, Thanksgiving, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween.



80 percent

About eight in 10 folks will wear green today. The legend has been passed down that if someone isn't wearing green you can pinch them. Not so fast friends! The ACTUAL legend says that if you aren't wearing green a LEPRECHAUN may pinch you! So if you don't don the green and get pinched, it's either a leprechaun or time to educate someone!



\$1.84 million

And we wrap up our celebration of St. Patrick's Day numbers with a wistful dream. If you were to find that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, WalletHub says the 1,000 gold coins in it would be worth \$1.84 million! Uh, hey, if you stop by the office today and we're not there, we might be outside looking for a rainbow!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

In addition to keeping track of what you eat, also determine how and why you eat to try and find ways to cut back.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, but if your name is Eisenhower, you've got to wear something green to show it."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

HONEST HOOSIER

Top o' the morning to you, m'lovelies! And here's hopin' a fine St. Patrick's Day on you all!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

TODAY'S JOKE

Have you heard about the Irish boomerang? It doesn't come back, it just sings sad songs about how it wants to.

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank NORM WAGONER for subscribing!

Kroger Breaks Ground on New 123,000 square foot Marketplace



Photos courtesy of Kroger

Ground was officially broken last week on the new Kroger store going in at 146th and Howe Road.



As part of its local commitment, Kroger donated \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville.



The new Kroger is scheduled to be open in mid-2026.

March 13, 2025 – Kroger today broke ground on its latest major investment in central Indiana. The grocer will build another Kroger Marketplace, this time in Noblesville. Construction will begin soon at the northeast corner of 146th Street and Howe Road, preparing a new level of service in another rapidly growing area of Hamilton County.

"This is an exciting time to be in Noblesville," said Colleen Juergensen, president of Kroger Central Division. "Kroger is thrilled to have such an important role in the awesome transformation taking place here. Our investment in this new store means Kroger is growing with Noblesville, supporting the city's ideals of commerce, culture and community. We're confident the new store will complement the quality of life that's drawing people here."

"We look forward to welcoming the Kroger Marketplace to Noblesville. This new location will increase access to quality

ingredients and provide more shopping options for our growing community. Kroger's commitment to giving back to the community and investing in our local economy will enhance our workforce and options available to residents," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen.

The new Kroger Marketplace will span nearly 123,000 square feet, room enough for more than two standard football fields under one roof. With the additional size the new store will feature wider aisles, Murray's Cheese and expanded deli options, Starbucks, popcorn made fresh in the store and an array of features that provide exceptional convenience and value for Kroger customers in Noblesville.

The new Noblesville store represents what Kroger calls an "aggressive" commitment to new stores in growing communities. In 2024, the grocer invested \$56 million in remodeling and construction across Indiana, highlighted by the January opening of Fishers' new Kroger Marketplace. Kroger will continue such investments in 2025,

dedicating an additional \$25 million to enhance the shopping experience for its Hoosier customers.

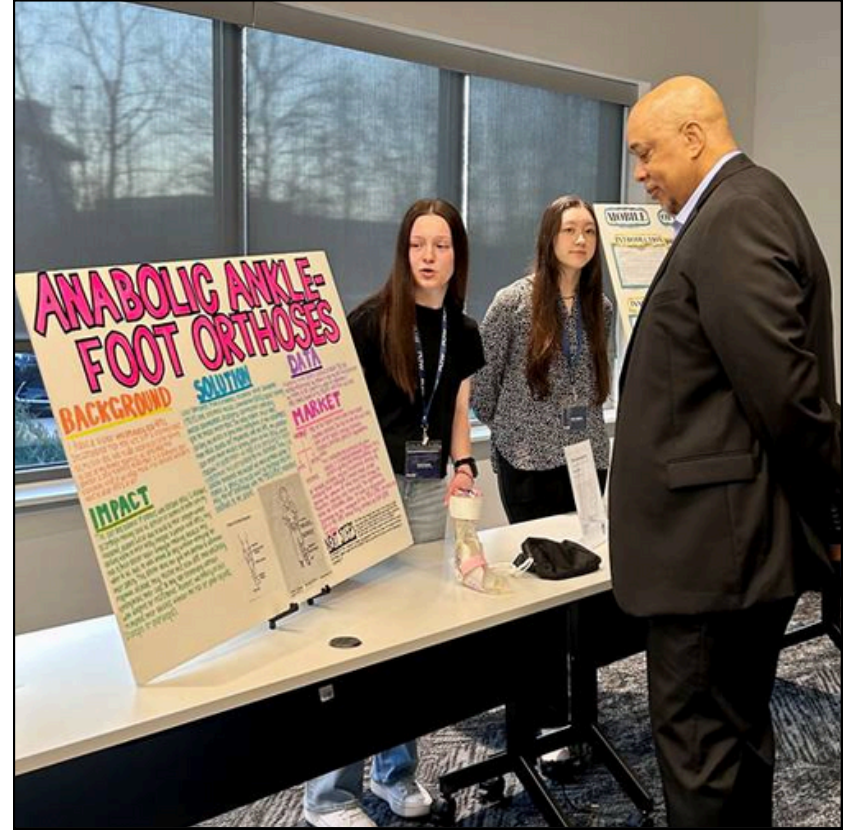
Kroger representatives also said the project represents more than a new store. It reflects the grocer's commitment to its communities. Kroger and Coca-Cola Consolidated, the largest Coca-Cola bottler in the United States, joined for a donation of \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, BGCN. The funds will help the club provide nutritious food to its young members.

"Each week, the Boys & Girls Club serves over 1,000 snacks during our after-school program," said Becky Terry, BGCN Executive Director. "This generous support from Kroger and Coca-Cola Consolidated will ensure that every child who walks through our doors has the energy to learn, play, and grow. Because when kids are fed, they're focused. When they're nourished, they thrive."

Kroger anticipates a ribbon-cutting to open the new store in mid-2026.

NHS Shines in Biomed!

Were you doing work like this in high school? NHS Biomedical Innovations students recently presented senior capstone projects to national Project Lead the Way STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum executives. Their work included research on topics such as mobile operating rooms, barriers to patient care and arthritis technology.



Photos courtesy Noblesville Schools

1933 Lounge by St. Elmo Coming to Carmel

Big news for Hamilton County's dining scene – Huse Culinary is bringing its celebrated 1933 Lounge by St. Elmo to Carmel.

This upscale restaurant is set to open Tuesday, April 1. Known for its post-Prohibition elegance and handcrafted cocktails, this new location offers the same refined menu and top-tier hospitality as its Fishers and downtown Indianapolis counterparts, while introducing a new, beautifully designed space tailored to Carmel's vibrant dining scene.

"Bringing the 1933 Lounge to Carmel has long been our vision, as the city embodies a deep appreciation for exceptional dining and craftsmanship," said Craig Huse, CEO of Huse Culinary. "This expansion reflects our commitment to excellence—not just in the food and cocktails we serve but in the atmosphere we create. Every detail of this

space, from rich textures to inviting ambiance, was designed to offer a sophisticated yet comfortable gathering place for the community."

With an opulent gold-domed bar, dramatic lounge seating and a year-round heated patio, the 8,200-square-foot restaurant seamlessly blends history with modern luxury.

The new location will bring 125-150 jobs, with seasoned Huse Culinary talent filling leadership roles. Wendy VanVelzen, previously general manager at 1933 Lounge Fishers, will take on the same role in Carmel. Jason Chesky, formerly Harry & Izzy's Northside executive chef, will oversee the kitchen.

"As we continue to grow with intention, our priority remains delivering an elevated experience while fostering strong connections within the communities we serve,"

Huse added. "Beyond the menu and ambiance, we're excited to create career opportunities, invest in local talent and provide a place where guests can celebrate everyday moments and special occasions."

The restaurant, located at 175 South Rangeline Road, Carmel, Ind. 46032, welcomes walk-in guests starting Tuesday, April 1, with reservations available beginning Monday, April 14. Hours of operation are Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., Friday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made online or by calling (317) 751-1933.

For more information about 1933 Lounge by St. Elmo, visit 1933Lounge.com.

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Thinking About My Hair



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I saw a photo of an author I admire recently, and she had no hair. I worried she was ill, so I immediately investigated. She was not ill. She had cut off all her hair and had done it for good reasons, she said. She had done a lot of thinking about her hair—a lot more than I had.

First of all, she said, she was not blond. "No one is blond," she added, or almost no one.

Less than 1% of the population is blond, and she implied she felt dishonest pretending she was blond when she wasn't. She went on to say that she had spent thousands of dollars and untold time on her hair. She sounded a little angry about the whole thing—the money spent, the dishonesty of it all.

I admit, I felt a little defensive because I am not blond either. I have never been blond. But I had never considered that I was part of some massive blond conspiracy, posing as blond to dupe the unsuspecting. I just assumed that everyone knew I was not blond. So for the record: I am not blond.

I am just not good at growing hair. I used to feel the need to apologize to my hairstylists. "I'm good at doing some things," I would insist. "Growing hair just isn't one of them!"

The hairstylist would work away for long minutes, and at the end, I would get up from the chair and there was no hair to see on the floor. It was as if the entire thing had been a pantomime involving scissors.

So now, my husband, Peter, cuts my hair. He finishes in less than five minutes and, given how little he has to work with, does a very fine job.

And, once every four months, I buy a box of hair dye and bleach my hair screaming blond. (I'm not sure if that's what the color is actually called, but it should be.) I figure, maybe if I'm blond, people won't notice that I don't have a lot of hair and that, what little there is, sticks up in odd directions.

But now I wonder how I'd feel if I cut off all my hair.

Peter would not like it, I know. When I still had other people cut my hair, I used to go to a haircutting school, and so I had very little say in how it was cut. Since there were so few options, this did not bother me. But one time, the teacher cut most of it off. Peter was shocked when I came home—which surprised me, since I had so little to start out with. Peter wants me to keep what little hair I have on my head, so for his sake, I do that.

But I don't think I would want to cut off all my hair anyway.

The feeling I had, reading what this author said, was that being a fake blond was evidence that I was not a very serious person. As I thought about it, I had to agree this was probably true. I am not very serious about my hair, at any rate.

I'm happy with my phony screaming blond hair. My "hairstyling routine" consists of the two seconds I spend every morning checking to see if I have snarls in my hair or if it's standing on end. After that, I can go for the rest of the day without thinking once about my hair.

And that's the way I like it.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Pronounced Problems



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

It all started when we changed our cell phone service. We had been thinking of doing that for a long time, but Mary Ellen and I are both creatures of habit—that's why we have been married for 44 years. I assumed the changeover would be long and painful, but despite a few bumps in the road, we were up and talking in about a day.

But there was one problem—and I am honestly not sure this had anything to do with the changeover—but all of a sudden, my cell phone did not recognize my voice commands. I first realized this when riding in my car one day when I said: CALL MY SON. I have probably used that command 500 times in the last several years. Never a problem. He either answered or I left a message. But here's what happened. (Note: All these examples are 100% true.)

DICK: CALL MY SON.

DR. TOWNS: HELLO THIS IS DR. TOWNS.

I recognized the voice. It was my dentist, Stephen Towns. He operates SONrisa Periodontal Spa. Those are my caps in Sonrisa so you can clearly see what may have happened.

DICK: DR. TOWNS, I DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL YOU. I WAS CALLING FOR MY SON.

DR. TOWNS: I'M SO SORRY. IS HE HAVING A DENTAL EMERGENCY? CAN'T EVEN TALK, HUH?

I explained to him what had probably happened and apologized. I then tried again:

DICK: CALL BRETT!

SIRI: CALLING TOM BRITT.

DICK: NO, NOT TOM BRITT, MY SON, BRETT.

TOM: HELLO, THIS IS TOM.

DICK: HI, TOM. NICE TO TALK TO YOU AFTER 15 YEARS. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CALL YOU.

I made one last attempt...

DICK: SIRI, CALL MY WIFE!

SIRI: SORRY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOUR WIFE IS.

I found this dumbfounding. Just a day earlier, Siri knew who the first president was to use a phone, be born in a hospital, or have prostate surgery. But she didn't know who my wife was. She has been connecting me with Mary Ellen for 12 years. Maybe she knows something I don't.

I finally called my new cellular service and explained the problem in some detail.

CELL SERVICE: SORRY, COULD YOU SAY THAT ALL AGAIN. YOU'RE GARBLING YOUR WORDS.

I decided that part of the explanation was that I listed way too many names in my phone log, many of which sounded similar. This gave me a good excuse to go through the phone and eliminate many unnecessary names. If you suspect you might be one of these people listed, there are four possibilities.

- 1: You have passed away.
- 2: I haven't talked to you in 20 years.
- 3: I have absolutely no memory of who you are.
- 4: I know exactly who you are. And that's why you are being deleted.

A final note: After I completed this column, I needed to call my housekeeper and ask her to come by to tidy up a little before a party we were giving.

DICK: CALL NETTIE.

Her answering machine picked up so I left a message that we needed her to clean the house. My cell rang later that day.

DICK: HELLO.

AUNT BETTY: THIS IS YOUR AUNT BETTY FROM NEW YORK. CLEAN YOUR OWN HOUSE. WHAT NERVE.

I'm pretty sure that as a result of this SIRI problem, I have annoyed a lot of people. I'm really a very nice guy. I'm just misunderstood.

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

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2025 Chevy Silverado EV is a Texas-Sized Truck with California Sensibilities that Plods Both Sides of the Political Highway



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

No matter where you land, politics have become harsh, dividing families and communities as if selecting teams for the Super Bowl. But we're not going to have that this week because this is about a Texas-sized truck with California sensibilities that plods both sides of the political highway. It's the 2025 Chevy Silverado EV RST.

Unlike the rather conservative approach taken by cross-town rivals Ford and Ram with their electric pickups, the Silverado is considerably more liberal. It's recognizable as a Chevy truck, but shares styling cues with the smaller Equinox and Blazer EVs which means a flush face, thin wrap-over driving lamps, and flanking LED headlamps. Deep body sculpting adds tension, wrapped around gargantuan 24" wheels. Power open the frunk to secure luggage, golf clubs, and camping

gear. You may have noticed a resemblance to the discontinued Chevy Avalanche. Like the classic, our new friend has a "Midgate" rear cab wall that folds down so owners can load from front seats to tailgate. And, that Multi-Flex Tailgate can be configured as a step or bed extender. Notice spray-in bedliner and an array of plugs in the bed wall for running camping gear and work tools. The rear window even comes out on nice summer days.

On any day, drivers confront twin screens and a head-up display hovering over the hood. Wireless device connections and charging keep everyone connected. It's comfortable, too, with heated and ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, and dual-zone automatic climate control. It's especially fetching with a red-stitched flat-bottom steering wheel. Rear passengers can

stretch their legs for long drives that come with a big battery pack.

Have your red state V8 if you want it, but hear me out about the blue state powertrain. How would you feel if your fuel-thirsty engine produced 754 horsepower and 785 lb.-ft. of torque? And, routed all of that power to the road through an advanced all-wheel-drive system? Since EVs pour all of that power instantaneously, 9,100 lbs. of truck runs 0-60 mph in just 4.1 seconds. It tows 10,000 lbs.

Going solo fully charged, the Silverado travels 440 miles without stopping. Fast charging adds 100 miles every ten minutes. Or, owners can fully recharge overnight on a 240v home charger. That means you could conceivably drive 800 miles with a recharge over lunch. Pulling a trailer will eat about half of your range, but

that's still plenty to get to a state park or lake for the weekend.

The air suspension provides comfy ride, but can be raised for off-roading. Four-wheel steering allows it to maneuver like a mid-size pickup and crab-walk to curbs – equally perfect for tight trails and city parking. GM's Super Cruise allows drivers to go hands-off on approved roads. Press the button, wait for green lights on the steering wheel, and relax. The vehicle maintains speed, steering, brakes and can even change lanes while you drink coffee while watching the road. I rode two hours on the Interstate while barely skimming brakes and steering.

No matter your color or politics, the Silverado EV aims to please. It's smooth and muscular, fast and frugal, simple and techy, conservative and liberal. It isn't cheap, though. A base Work Truck starts at \$58,000 while our top-trim RST

came to, um, cough, breathe, whoa, \$96,710. Beyond the Ford F-150 Lightning and Ram REV, consider the Rivian R1T.

Storm Forward!

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

Likes

- Extensive range
- Bed gymnastics
- Super Cruise

Dislikes

- Hefty footprint
- Headlamp controls
- Texas-size price

2025 Chevy Silverado EV RST

Five-passenger, AWD Pickup
Powertrain: Li-ion batteries/motors
Output: 754 hp/785 lb.-ft.
Suspension f/r: Air Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 24"/24" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
Driving range: 440 miles
0-60 mph: 4.1s
Fast charge: 45m
Assembly: Detroit, MI
Base/As-tested price: \$58,000/\$96,710

Chris Wooldridge Helps Students Build Something Better

While the name Chris Wooldridge may not sound familiar, his involvement in Hamilton Heights High School's Construction and Trades Education Program is making a huge impact.

Wooldridge and his wife Emily (a substitute nurse at Heights) have two children enrolled at Hamilton Heights. Several years ago, Dr. Derek Arrowood invited the Wooldridges to participate in the Superintendent Advisory Group, which meets quarterly offering parents the opportunity to learn more about the people, programs, and behind-the-scenes operations of the school district. From there, Wooldridge learned about the high school's CTE and ultimately met Kevin Sheets, the program's instructor.

"I was impressed," Wooldridge said. "I went straight into the workforce after I graduated from high school. I think I could have really benefitted from a skilled trades program like this when I was in high school. The more I learned about Heights' program, the more I felt I was in a perfect position to make an impact on students considering a career in the trades and the industry itself."

Wooldridge works as an Outside Account Manager for Bobcat of Indy North, which is part of a 60- plus store dealer group owned and operated by the Berry Company headquartered in

Wichita, Kansas. He serves a six-county territory that includes Hamilton County. Wooldridge loves what he does, and it shows.

Wooldridge lives and breathes something that is integral to the philosophy of the Berry Company – "We can build something great together." Great products, customer-focused, and building strong and lasting relationships has been the cornerstone of success for the family owned and operated business.

Last year, with the blessing of Bobcat of Indy North and the Berry Company, Wooldridge trailered various machinery to and from the Sandbox (the district's outdoor construction education classroom) for students to gain hands-on experience and/or earn a specialty certification. This included mini loaders, excavators, and on track loaders, etc. whatever the students needed to develop their skill and mastery of a specialized piece of equipment. Wooldridge also provided the basics of operations of that item and safety instructions prior to turning it over to Sheets and the students for the day. It was a big hit, giving students a marketable skill and competitive advantage while they are still in high school.

This year, there were some changes in regulations and sales personnel like



Photo Courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Chris Wooldridge has made an incredible impact on Hamilton Heights' CTE program through his time, knowledge, and support.

Wooldridge would no longer be able to transport equipment. Bobcat of Anderson and Bobcat Indy North stepped in to absorb the transportation costs and provide needed equipment for the students to use at no charge. "Heights is giving students a marketable skill and competitive advantage while they are still in high school," Wooldridge said. "It's a good feeling of being of part of helping them to jumpstart their careers."

"This really speaks volumes about Chris and the company he works for," said Kevin Sheets. "Chris has been a gift to the program and as well as an incredible resource sharing his time, knowledge, and resources. The kids always look forward to seeing Chris, going to the Sandbox, putting their knowledge to the test, and developing a new skill that has a lot of practical application.

Our program continues to grow and increase in value thanks to people like Chris and their companies that know investing in our youth pays big dividends."

"There are more people retiring from the skilled trades than are entering," added Wooldridge. "There is a definite need for more young people in the trades. Anything I can do, or the company can do, to help prepare students with the tools, experience, and confidence for this line of work is good for everyone. Dirt needs moved. We need young talent to support the future in building America. Business is driven by construction. The more operators, the more equipment is needed to start or support an existing business operating on the job site. Investing in our youth, who are interested in pursuing a career in our line of work just makes good sense."



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Councilman Hall Reports on February Timesheet



MARK HALL
Hamilton County Council

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 is 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.

The month of February I worked remotely from the Sunshine State. It worked OK, but admittedly it was a bit odd. Attending meetings virtually was something new for me regarding county business. While teams and zoom virtual meetings seem to dominate my business meetings these days, and Facetime chats with Grandkids are a way for us to stay connected, this is the first time I've been working on council and not in town. It worked, but it felt weird.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, February work included: a Central Indiana Water Planning meeting, a County Council Executive session, two Board of Commissioners public meetings, and two Noblesville Town Council meetings. The personnel committee meeting was moved to a poll of the members for two position reclassifications. Both were approved and

moved on to the full council for final approval. Although the Finance committee didn't meet during the month we have had plenty of communication and study during February preparing for the state legislature to finalize property tax reform. As I wrote last month, the pending legislation has the potential to impact county budgets tremendously. The most recent reports are that we are not close to a final version of the bill, but plan for a reduction in property tax revenue.

This month I received two constituent service requests and two very nice notes from neighbors expressing their appreciation for this column and for being transparent in government service. One request was regarding zoning and forced annexation into the City of Noblesville. This constituent owns property near a newly announced large residential development on the East side of Noblesville. As research revealed, the property in question was in Noblesville's City planning jurisdiction. It was not a part of the announced growth, nor was it listed on any of the development plans. We encouraged him to speak with the City of Noblesville as they have jurisdiction. The second request was directly related to property taxes. The constituent wanted to know how his property tax rate was calculated, and how that rate was established by the State of Indiana and Hamilton County. He also wanted to know how much of that went to the city of Noblesville, Hamilton County, Noblesville Schools, and any other taxing authority (Parks, Solid Waste, Libraries). After some research, I provided the taxpayer with the breakdown by percentages as per what is published on the Hamilton County Auditors web page.

Noteworthy items from February include an update on the Director of Council Operations position. After several rounds of interviews, screening, background and reference checks, the council has settled on a candidate and made an offer to an individual to fill the position. They are scheduled to begin employment on March 17.

The most noteworthy topic from February continues to be Property Tax reform. To be clear we need property tax reform, and I am told that some form of property tax and/or local income tax reform is coming from this legislative session. My time has been spent researching the various bills and their impact on Hamilton County. Potential changes in revenue require purposeful advance planning. For now, until we understand the final impact to Hamilton County, my position is to pull back on long term spending commitments that have not already been funded.

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

Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield Lions Assist Gleaners in March



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

Last Tuesday, the Lions clubs from Noblesville, Carmel and Westfield assisted Gleaner's Food Pantry with their monthly mobile pantry at Grand Park in Westfield. A total of 134 families received donations from the pantry. Some of those helping included, from left, Joe Connerley, Scott Willis, Linda Williamson, Jerry Baker, Ron Williamson, Steve Shaw, Jeanne Auffrey, Jim Foote, Ron Sinicki, Don Collins, Bill Ryan, Amber Best, Matt Best and Jeff Kozicki. Not pictured were Mark Bachar and Ron and Tiny Ekes.

Heights Students Shine at State -- 12 Head to Nationals



Photos courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

Members of Hamilton Heights High School Chapter of Business Professionals of America shined brightly at the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis.

Students from Hamilton Heights High School Chapter of Business Professionals of America recently returned from the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. The Huskies excelled on the state stage placing in the top 10 in 17 events with 12 students qualifying for nationals.



Bella McDole placed first in the state for Meeting and Event Planning.



Gwendolyn Pritsch placed first in the state for Ethics and Professionalism.

- Olivia Cosand:** 10th, 190 Financial Math and Concepts
- Bella McDole:** 1st, 590 Meeting and Event Planning
- Hailey Hall:** 9th, 591 Management Marketing and Human Resource Concepts
- Katelynn Bishop:** 6th, 594 Digital Marketing Concepts
- Grant Cavanaugh, Enzo Christy, Landon Faubion, Drew Laitas:** 6th, 160 Economic Research Team
- Kylie Hilton, Maddy Lustig, Zoe Pickett:** 5th, 455 User Experience Design Team
- Bekah Beechler, Brinley Flaherty, Anna Kauffman, Jessa Steffen:** 6th, 500 Global Marketing Team
- Julia Bearman, Sierra Bramel, Giselle Effing, Elyse Hurley:** 3rd, 510 Small Business Management Team
- Izzy Bailey, Addison Gilmore, Drew Hilton, Gwendolyn Pritsch:** 5th, 550 Parliamentary Procedure Team
- Lizzy Smith:** 4th, 420 Digital Media Production
- Hailey Hall:** 2nd, 535 Human Resource Management
- Gwendolyn Pritsch:** 1st, 540 Ethics and

- Professionalism
- Katelynn Bishop:** 4th, 110 Advanced Accounting
- Taylor Morrison:** 3rd, 125 Payroll Accounting
- Anna Kauffman:** 3rd, 600 Medical Coding
- Tessa Hartwick:** 8th, 605 Health Insurance and Billing
- Olivia Cosand:** 6th, 610 Health Admin Procedures

"I am so proud of the hard work I have seen among BPA students this year," said Austin Nicole, Business Department Head Teacher, Work-based Learning Coordinator, and BPA Advisor. "Hailey Hall, chapter president, has done a great job leading our chapter of 70 students. This combination has led to great professional growth across the board

for freshmen through seniors. Let's finish the year strong and get some hardware at NLC!"

This year's conference is expected to bring together delegates from across the country to vie for top honors in business and information technology skills competitions, attend leadership and professional development workshops, receive awards for community service activities and elect BPA's 2025-26 national student leadership team. The 2025 BPA National Leadership will take place in Orlando, Florida May 7 through 11. The opening session (May 7) and awards sessions (May 11) will be streamed live at <https://bpa.org/nlc/>.



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

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thetimes24-7.com/subscribe

LETTER TO EDITOR

What's True Cost of Project Next Door?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brian Daggy and Jim Love are members of the Boone County Preservation Group, an organization formed in opposition to the LEAP project. The group's mission is to create a unified community voice focused on preserving local farmland and natural resources, while supporting responsible land development. You can follow the Boone County Preservation Group on Facebook or find out more on their website.

Dear Editor,

The LEAP project is quickly shaping up to be one of the most expensive projects our state has ever seen—and yet, citizens are still being kept in the dark about the true cost and impact. As members of the Boone County Preservation Group, we strongly oppose this project because it threatens to deplete our precious farmland, drains our already limited water resources, and could raise the cost of living for all of us. But what's most frustrating is that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is running this project without any real transparency or accountability—especially considering it's funded by significant tax dollars. That hasn't changed in the years since news of this project first was leaked by farmers who had been approached to sell their land.

Recent reports from the Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism and the Indiana Capital Chronicle have uncovered just how much money is being poured into LEAP. Nearly \$1 billion has already been spent on this project, with more than \$427 million used to buy up 6,000 acres of prime farmland around Lebanon—land that has been carefully cultivated by farmers for generations to feed our state and country. We believe that our farmland should be preserved for future generations, not sacrificed for corporate interests.

It gets worse. Almost \$170 million has been set aside to pay for water services for this district. The industries the State hopes to attract to the area require huge amounts of water. This is at a time when Indiana's water supply is already stretched thin. We've heard experts warning that our water is in danger, yet the state is rushing forward with this plan without clear proof that it can handle the needs of the businesses and over 50,000 workers that the project claims it will support—most of which have not yet been identified.

Electricity is another resource in jeopardy. LEAP hopes to attract large data centers, and if they become reality, there will need to be vast improvements made to provide the large amounts of power these centers need. Citizens Action Coalition recently said, "If these data centers end up using less electricity than planned, or close early, other electric ratepayers (such as you) could be on the hook."

At a time when the state is considering cutting Medicaid costs and other spending, these data centers could also cost valuable state revenue. Why? Because the Indiana General Assembly approved a sales tax exemption for data centers in 2019. Experts say a typical data center will spend about \$500 million each year on its electric bill, meaning in Indiana they could receive more than \$1.7 billion in state sales tax subsidies over 50 years, or \$34 million per year. The \$34 million multiplied by the eight currently planned data centers is \$272 million per year. Even by government standards, we're starting to talk real money here!

These factors are all concerning, but the most troubling is the secrecy continuing to surround the LEAP project. The IEDC operates under a quasi-private setup, which means it can hide the financial details from the public. A large portion of the money is being spent to purchase farmland at inflated prices. This turns the IEDC into a large developer with a seemingly unlimited budget and no regard for return on investment. At the same time, the existing farms within the LEAP district and throughout Central Indiana are experiencing land values that make it impossible to grow or even sustain current operations. The far-reaching effect of state-sponsored destruction of agriculture will have deep effects within communities. Locally operated farms spend money locally on both goods and services. One specific case involves a young family that had a verbal agreement to purchase a farm they had been operating. By the time the paperwork was finished, the seller increased the price five times the original price - making the land unaffordable to farm. If a family was asked to make a priority list, we can only assume food would rank higher

than semiconductor chips, batteries, data centers or solar panels. At what point will we learn from mistakes of the past and protect our future?

In addition to the loss of farmland, there is the looming issue of the environmental cost. Boone County has been home to fertile, productive land for generations—land that will be irreversibly altered by this development. The loss of our farmland means the loss of our agricultural heritage, and once this land is developed, it's gone forever. As this project bulldozes through our natural resources, it also undermines the long-term sustainability of our region.

And what are we left with in return? A vast, taxpayer-funded district filled with uncertain promises and questionable financials. Eli Lilly & Co. is still the only confirmed tenant, with a signed deal, while the rest of the businesses that are supposed to fill this district remain unknown or uncommitted. The IEDC's refusal to disclose its full budget and expenses only adds to the growing uncertainty. How can we be expected to trust that this project will benefit our community when we have no insight into the true costs or who will ultimately benefit from this land grab?

The people of Boone County and the entire state deserve better. We deserve transparency, accountability, and a seat at the table when decisions about our future are being made. We deserve development that respects our land, our water, our electricity capacity and our communities, not one that devastates them. It is time for the IEDC to be held accountable, for local citizens to have a real say in the project's direction, and for the voices of those most affected by the LEAP project to be heard.

As we move forward, we will continue to fight for the preservation of our farmland, our water, and our future. We urge our fellow Hoosiers to join us in demanding greater transparency and accountability from the IEDC, and to stand with us in protecting what makes Indiana special.

Brian Daggy
Jim Love
Boone County Preservation Group

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<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">FUNERAL HOMES</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas</p> <p>BussellFamilyFunerals.com</p>  <p>Donna Bussell Owner/Director</p> <p>1621 E. Greyhound Pass Carmel, IN 46032 317-587-2001</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">FUNERAL HOMES</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Traditional Services Affordable Cremation Pre-Planning</p>  <p>1010 North Main Street Lapel, Indiana 46051 765-534-3131 www.hersbergerbozell.com</p>  </div>
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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 SCHOOLS

AGENDA / REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER BOARD ROOM
18025 River Road
Noblesville, Indiana
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
6:00 P.M.

FIRST PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

III. RECOGNITIONS

- * NHS Journalism
- * NHS Band, Jazz, Orchestra
- * NEMS / NWMS Band
- * Hare Teacher Spotlight / Noblesville West Middle School

IV. REPORTS

- * Building Spotlight / Noblesville West Middle School
Ryan Haughey, Principal
- * Hamilton East Public Library Update
Melissa Loiselle, Director of HEPL
- * Strategic Planning Presentation / Compassionate Care and Support
Julie Thacker, Ex. Dir. of Student Services

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA TOPICS

The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public an opportunity to share input with the Board about current agenda topics, pursuant to Policy H225, Public Comments and Concerns.

VI. CONSENT

By single motion, the board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of Board Policy and Indiana Code. Any items marked “Consent” may be moved from the list at the option of a board member or the superintendent and acted on separately.

- * Claims
- * Donations
- * Minutes / February 2025
- * Overnight and Out-of-State Trips
- * Personnel

VII. ACTION

By individual motions, the board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of Board Policy and Indiana Code.

- * Bids / Campus Paving Repairs Summer 2025 Project
- * Policy Adoption

VIII. POLICY CONSIDERATION / 1st READ

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA TOPICS

The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public an opportunity to share input with the Board about non-agenda topics, pursuant to Policy H225, Public Comments and Concerns.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The school board president asks for a motion to adjourn.
This is a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the Corporation’s

FIREFIGHTER MERIT COMMISSION

The City of Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. has been canceled.

CARMEL TOWN HALL

A Town Hall meeting with Carmel At-Large City Councilors Jeff Worrell, Matt Snyder and Rich Taylor is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. at Carmel Middle School, 300 S. Guilford Rd.

CARMEL PLAN COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT REPORT

MARCH 18, 2025

1. Docket No. PZ-2024-00222 PUD: US 421-WCD PUD Rezone. The applicant seeks PUD rezone approval to allow a new 360-unit apartment community with commercial and retail uses along Michigan Road. The site is located at 9998 N Michigan Road and is zoned I-1/Industrial within the US 421 Corridor Overlay. Filed by Jim Shinaver and Jon Dobosiewicz of Nelson & Frankenberger on behalf of Edward Rose Properties, Inc.

Project Overview: The applicant seeks approval to rezone approximately 22 acres of land to a PUD to facilitate a mixed-use development featuring multi-family residential and commercial components. The property is located west of Michigan Road, south of Retail Parkway extension, and north of 99th Street. The property is currently zoned I-1 Industrial and is within the US 421-Michigan Road Overlay District. To the west and south are I-1/Industrial zoned and used properties, to the north are B-2/Business zoned properties, and to the east is Michigan Road and then B-2 and B-3/Business properties. Please see the Petitioner’s Information Packet for more details.

Rezoning Process: The rezone process involves the following:

- The Plan Commission will hear the proposal brought forward by the Developer, so long as proper public notice has been given.
 - Once the public hearing has been held and subsequent committee meetings where the items are fully evaluated, the Plan Commission will then make a recommendation on the rezone to the City Council.
 - They can vote to send it to the City Council with a Favorable Recommendation, an Unfavorable Recommendation, or No Recommendation.
 - If this rezone is ultimately approved by the City Council, the developer would have to come back through the Plan Commission process for Development Plan and ADLS approval for the commercial areas, and Primary Plat approvals for the residential areas, to ensure compliance with the PUD.
- According to Section 9.05.A.3. of the UDO, in considering this PUD rezone proposal, both the Plan Commission and the Common Council shall pay reasonable regard to:

- The extent to which the PUD Ordinance provides 1) a mixed use development or 2) addresses unusual site conditions or surroundings;
- The Comprehensive Plan and any other adopted planning studies or reports;
- The extent to which the proposal fulfills the general purposes of the Subdivision Control/Zoning Ordinances
- Current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district and its surroundings;
- The most desirable use for which the land in each district is adapted;
- The conservation of property values throughout the City and the Township; and
- Responsible development and growth.

Comprehensive Plan Analysis:

- The Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) provides a guide for development and a common vision for the City.
- The Policy Goals and Objectives of the Comp Plan calls for a variety of things. Some goals include promoting a variety of housing types, a mixture of land uses, and opportunities that allow more residents to be located within a short walk or bike ride to many daily needs. This can be seen in this development.
- It also guides development to ensure the economic opportunities and benefits are available to all through workforce and affordable housing. The apartments in this project will be market rate and not affordable.
- Under Development Patterns in the Comp Plan, this area is classified as a Gateway which is intended to feature large lot mixed-use and commercial areas along or near access points into Carmel.
- It includes characteristics such as max heights of 5 stories; building coverage between 30% to 60; avoiding parking lot placement between front of building and the road; commercial, residential, retail, and light industrial/manufacturing uses.

Additional Analysis:

Change of Use:

- The proposed PUD would change the use of the site from industrial to residential.
- There are pros and cons to this change of use.
- Pros:
 - o Additional housing units will be provided. While the project would be market rate units, it would provide options for people that may not be able to afford to buy a single-family home.
 - o The proposed site plan includes a well thought out layout with a boulevard and pedestrian friendly streets, open space and amenities, and tree preservation. We are not guaranteed this with an industrial use.
 - o The architecture of the apartment buildings will enhance the aesthetics as compared to industrial style buildings.
 - o Having additional residents living in this area will boost the businesses along Michigan Road.
 - o Less heavy-duty vehicles that might come with Industrial businesses.
- Cons:
 - o Carmel will lose a potential industrial business site. The City already has very limited industrial zoned land. Only 1% of all land in Carmel is zoned I-1.(see map below with I-1 parcels circled.)
 - o This could also lead to a loss of employment opportunities.
 - o New residents in the apartments will be living next to existing industrially used parcels.
 - o While the proposed project will bring additional housing needed to Carmel, it will not fall under the affordable category.
 - o New apartments could limit future growth of Industrial uses as residents may remonstrate against new industrial businesses.

Concept Plan:

- The site plan consists of 7 multi-family buildings with 360 units and a retail outlot.
 - A new north/south boulevard street will be built to connect the Retail Parkway extension to 99th St.
 - Parking is accommodated through surface parking lots, perpendicular parking along private streets, garages in Buildings A, B, and C, and parallel parking.
 - The PUD will require 1.5 parking spaces per dwelling.
 - A traffic letter was completed by a third-party consultant to review the number of vehicles that will be generated and the surrounding roadway system.
 - The traffic letter states that the proposed project would not negatively affect the surrounding street system and would generate less traffic during the AM and PM peak than the existing office building.
 - 5 acres of common area are shown and include a central pond, 2 dog parks, a pool, and tree preservation.
 - Stormwater drainage will be accommodated through the central pond with native landscaping around it.
 - Future development of the retail outlot in Area B will be required to follow B-3/Business district standards as well as the Michigan Road Overlay standards.
 - Attached are the lists of Permitted Uses in the I-1 zone and the B-3 zone.
- Active Transportation:
- Sidewalks are shown throughout the development, and the developer has added additional connections per staff’s request and we continue to work with them on our comments.
 - They have agreed to provide a separate sidewalk and bike path exhibit so that it is clear where the pedestrian infrastructure is, and we look forward to reviewing that.
 - Petitioner, please investigate having a signalized pedestrian crosswalk across Michigan Road.
 - The PUD has been updated to provide short-term and long-term bike parking per the UDO.

Architectural Design:

- The PUD includes Architectural Character Imagery with modern style apartment buildings that appear to have quality building materials and well-designed architecture.
 - However, there are currently no architecture standards listed in the PUD, and staff has requested that some be added. The petitioner has agreed, and we will review those once submitted.
 - Maximum building height per the PUD is 60 ft. and the apartment buildings will be 3 and 4 stories.
 - The future retail outlot will follow the Michigan Road design standards.
- Landscaping:
- About 5 acres of the development will be common area.
 - Required amenities are listed in the PUD and include a pool, fitness area, roof terrace, and pet park.
 - Native vegetation areas shall be provided along the perimeter of the pond.
 - A minimum of 1.5 acres of tree preservation will be provided in the northwest corner of the site.
 - 10 ft. bufferyards will be provided along the north and west perimeter.
 - Foundation and parking lot plantings will comply with the standards in the UDO.

Signage: All signage will comply with the UDO.

DOCS Remaining Comments/Concerns: The petitioner has made changes to PUD based on Dept. feedback. The Dept. continues to work with the Petitioner on remaining comments as this project moves onto Committee. Some of the outstanding comments include:

1. Add Architectural standards to the PUD.
2. Add a sidewalk and path exhibit that clearly shows where 5 ft. sidewalks or 10 ft. path will be required.
3. Increase the minimum tree preservation acreage if possible.
4. Provide a cross section for the main north/south boulevard street.
5. Provide a conceptual retail layout to show how it can integrate with the walkable design of the apartments or provide standards to require certain layout designs for the retail.

Recommendation: The Dept. of Community Services recommends the Plan Commission sends this item to the Plan Commission Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 for further review and discussion.

Thank you for reading The Times!