

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me".



T-minus 5 days and counting to the Big Tax Day! Ever wonder why we continue to put up with politicians who spend more than our grandchildren can repay? Maybe instead of chucking the tea in the Harbor, we should chuck them?

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero's Annual Flower Sale is going on and it's about a lot more than selling flowers. It's the starting point for countless moments that shape the lives of children. It's the pride of a young leader stepping up in K-Kids, Builders Club or Key Club. It's a child opening a book through our Books for a Brighter Future program and discovering a whole new world. And it all starts with something as simple as a flower.

Here's how you can be part of it:

Order from any Cicero Kiwanis member

(Paper order forms are due Saturday, April 18)

Or order online at www.cicero-kiwanis.org

(Online orders are due Monday, April 20)

Then come be part of the tradition:

Flower Pick-Up: Friday, May 1 at the Gazebo in Cicero Community Park

Additional Sales: Visit us at the Cicero Farmers Market on Saturday, May 2 and May 9

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Death, taxes and childbirth! There's never any convenient time for any of them."

Margaret Mitchell

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How do accountants manage their money?
They act their wage.

■ ADOPT A PET HOOTIE



Hootie is hoping to level up from office lap cat to loyal couch potato. This 7-year-old male Domestic Shorthair has been available for adoption at HSHC since 12/11/25. Hootie is nearly 20 pounds of pure lap cat love and is looking for a family that can accommodate his lifestyle as a cat in diabetic remission (no insulin injections required!). He enjoys long brushing sessions, belly rubs, and chasing that ever-elusive red dot. Plus, he's proven himself as a rockstar house cat during his time in our foster program. To meet Hootie, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers Help! My Monthly Payment is Less

Dear Rusty: My last Social Security payment decreased by about \$400, so I went to my online SS account and found a November 2025 letter explaining that my 2024 tax return showed a greatly enlarged AGI (Adjusted Gross Income). Thus, SSA decided to withdraw monies, as of Jan 2026, from my bank account because I'd owed far more monies to them! The letter itemized my greatly diminished 2026 SSA monthly payment, explaining should my next tax return show a regular AGI, then SSA would return my SS income to regular amounts (and return every prior month's deficits?). Said letter also mentioned an optional recourse, that of compiling an "Appeal" to regain my ongoing decreased income! The extra amounts now withdrawn for Medicare Parts A and D alone are outrageously high. I'm a retired senior citizen on a fixed income.



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

According to SSA, my having sold a piece of land in 2024 allows SSA to decrease my SS income! Has this become a common practice against USA (senior) citizens? Thank you in advance for your input!

Signed: Feeling Wronged

Dear Feeling Wronged:

From what you have shared, it appears that your SS benefit amount has been affected by a provision known as "IRMAA" (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount). IRMAA isn't

really a Social Security issue, rather it is a Medicare premium thing. But when IRMAA applies, it reduces your net Social Security payment because Medicare premiums are automatically taken from your Social Security benefit, thus making your net SS payment less. If you look at your gross Social Security payment (at your online "my Social Security" account) you will see that your gross SS payment did not change, but your Medicare premium did, thus affecting your net SS

See Rusty Page 3

Prioritize Smoke, Carbon Monoxide Alarms During Spring House Cleaning

(StatePoint)

Spring is the perfect time for a home refresh! While dusting the ceiling fan and scrubbing the tub are likely already on your to-do list, the most essential task of all may not be on your radar: cleaning and testing your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. A fresh home is great, but a safe one is even better. Did you know that working smoke alarms in the home doubles your chances of safely escaping a house fire? That's according to the National Fire Protection

Association. This spring, Kidde, a pioneer in early smoke detection for over 100 years, is highlighting the importance of keeping your smoke and CO alarms up to date. Here's what they want you to know:

- Install devices throughout the house, on every level including the living room, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, basement and garage. It's also a good idea to keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen, basement, laundry room and garage.
- Smoke and CO devices aren't just plastic boxes – they're sophisticated mini-

computers. Their sensors and circuits constantly analyze air particles, and like any computer, dust and neglect can inhibit their functionality. Clean your alarms this spring, and regularly after that, to help prevent false alarms. Use compressed air or a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush to clean the vents, and then wipe the device with a dry microfiber cloth.

- Smoke and CO alarms are electronic devices with sensors and circuits that wear out over time.

See Smoke Page 2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The Salvation Army Indiana Division has received a \$3,000,000 matching grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Capital Project Initiative for Residential Youth Camps. The Salvation Army has launched the Transforming Lives Initiative to raise the \$3,000,000 needed to receive the full matching grant. The grant is one of 40 implementation grants being awarded through phase 3 of the Lilly Endowment initiative, which aims to help Indiana residential youth camps improve the overall camp experience and outcomes for youth through new, enhanced, and expanded facilities integral to quality youth camp programming. The latest grants, which were competitive, are providing partial support for large-scale capital projects.

2. USDA's Research, Education, and Economics Under Secretary Dr. Scott Hutchins announced the launch of the USDA National Proving Grounds Network for AgTech (NPG-Ag), a nationwide initiative designed to rigorously evaluate agricultural technologies under real-world U.S. farming and ranching conditions. The initiative has been designed to thoroughly test and validate both existing and emerging tools under real-world production conditions, ultimately providing farmers and ranchers with trusted, practical insights that they can rely upon when making technology-investment decisions. American farmers and ranchers are facing real pressures, and they need confidence that new technologies will deliver tangible value on the ground – whether through lower input costs, reduced labor demands, or greater overall efficiency. The NPG-Ag delivers a targeted solution to this agricultural challenge, meeting today's demands and preparing for tomorrow's needs.

3. New data from Compare the Market reveals the leading causes of death across all 50 states, ranked by deaths per 100,000 residents, highlighting geographic divides in Americans' health risks. Using the latest mortality data, the study ranks the top 10 causes of death in Indiana. Heart and vascular diseases cause 1,004.34 deaths per 100,000, cancer is second at 419.48 per 100,000 people and accidents were third at 251.06. This mirrors the U.S., except the national numbers are a little lower. Heart is at 920.07, cancer at 373.07 and accidents at 237.18. Want to see the whole report? Go to <https://www.comparethemarket.com.au/health-insurance/features/leading-causes-of-death/>



Hospitals: Hoosiers Face Rising Costs; Hospitals Left Unpaid



A new Payor Scorecard, analyzing data from 70 Indiana hospitals, shows hospitals delivered more than \$717 million in care in 2025 that went unpaid as insurers delayed or denied payments—while continuing to raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Hoosiers.

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) estimates that if all Indiana hospitals were included in the dataset, total unpaid care would exceed \$1.6 billion statewide. The findings reveal a widening gap between what insurers collect from patients and employers, and what hospitals are ultimately paid for care delivered.

"Hoosiers are paying more every year for health insurance, so the question is simple: where is that money going?" said IHA President Scott B. Tittle. "Insurers are shifting more costs onto patients through higher premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance, while also delaying and denying payments they already agreed to make to hospitals. That combination creates real barriers to care and financial stress for Hoosier families and our health care system."

What the data shows The Payor Scorecard analyzes hospital and physician billing and payment data to show how insurer practices affect patients and providers after care has been delivered, highlighting payment trends, denial patterns, and insurer behavior that threaten patient access and hospital sustainability. Produced by Kodiak Solutions, the scorecard uses Kodiak's advanced revenue cycle analytics and national benchmarking database—covering more than 2,300 hospitals—to compare payor performance across plans over time in Indiana and nationwide.

Key findings for Indiana in 2025:

\$717 million in lost hospital revenue due to claim denials and bad debt write-offs—money hospitals were contractually owed for covered care but never received.

Nearly 13% of dollars billed to insurers were initially denied, representing \$4.7 billion in delayed payments to hospitals.

According to Kodiak, more than 80% of those denials were ultimately overturned, but hospitals still had to spend significant time and money re-

See Hospitals Page 3

The TIMES

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Sen. Buck Shares Updates



District 21 Update

State Sen. Jim Buck

Hoosier veterans put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and way of life. Supporting our veterans is always one of my top legislative priorities, and that's why this year I supported a new law that provides tax relief for certain Hoosier veterans.

House Enrolled Act 1210 will:

End homestead property taxes for totally disabled veterans or their surviving spouses;

Offer a \$250 property tax credit for partially disabled, honorably discharged veterans age 62 and up or their surviving spouses; and

Grant a \$350 property tax credit for partially disabled, honorably discharged veterans who served during wartime or

their surviving spouses.

In recent years, the Indiana General Assembly has also eliminated the state income tax for income earned from active or reserve military service.

One of the most important things we can do at the Statehouse is ensure our veterans receive the benefits they deserve for defending our state and country.

Veterans with questions about accessing benefits should contact their local county veterans service office. A list of state resources for veterans can be found at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Veterans.

State Sen. Jim Buck represent District 21, which includes Tipton County and portions of Hamilton and Howard counties.

Indiana Bank Has Homeownership Grants Available

Community First Bank of Indiana, in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, secured \$949,000 in homeownership grant funding during the 2025 grant cycle, helping make homeownership and home maintenance more accessible for individuals and families across the communities CFB serves.

Through a combination of down payment assistance and home repair grant programs, these funds supported first-time homebuyers and existing homeowners facing financial barriers to maintaining safe, stable housing. Housing affordability and upkeep remain significant challenges for many families, and these grant programs play a critical role in helping individuals achieve and sustain

homeownership.

Looking ahead, Community First Bank and FHLBank Indianapolis will once again partner to offer several grant opportunities in 2026:

Launch – Down Payment Assistance provides down payment, housing counseling and closing costs assistance to qualified first-time homebuyers. The 2026 round opens April 14.

Revive – Home Repair Grant helps homeowners afford certain costly repairs and accessibility upgrades, allowing them to retain home value and age in place. The 2026 round opens May 28.

HomeBoost – Down Payment Assistance provides down payment assistance to first-generation, first-time homebuyers in Indiana and Michigan. The 2026 round opens July 8.

Westfield Parks to Host Green Day Event

The Westfield Parks & Recreation Department will host its annual Green Day event on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grand Junction Plaza (225 S. Union Street). This free, family-friendly event combines the City's Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations, encouraging residents to connect with and care for Westfield's natural spaces.

"Westfield is filled with beautiful green spaces, creeks, and parks," said Mayor Scott Willis. "As our community continues to grow, it's important to pause, appreciate the beauty of nature that surrounds us, and learn how to preserve them for future generations."

Attendees can explore sustainability practices and take part in interactive activities, including:

Free native tree sap-



Photo courtesy Westfield Parks

Attendees can explore sustainability practices and take part in interactive activities.

lings (White Pine, Tulip Tree, Pin Oak, and Silky Dogwood) available while supplies last, courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

A live reptiles and amphibians show presented by Indiana Jim

The second annual duck race in Grassy Branch Creek

Westfield High School's National Honor Society and Environmental Club

will also host hands-on activities, including take-home solar car kit, plant-a-seed activity, and UV pony bead bracelets.

In conjunction with Green Day, the Parks & Recreation Department will also introduce its new Adopt-a-Trail program, offering residents a way to make a lasting impact on the community's trail system.

The Adopt-a-Trail

Program is free and open to individuals and willing to commit to cleaning a 1- to 2-mile stretch of trail at least three times per season, March through October, for a two-year term. The city will provide participants with safety vests, trash grabbers, trash bags, and other supplies for each session.

To learn more about Green Day, visit westfieldin.gov/greenday.

NHS Holding Alumni Banquet in New Place

The Noblesville High School Alumni Association's Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new location for the annual NHS Alumni Banquet. For the first time, this year's banquet will be held at the Noblesville Schools Community Center. The Community Center is located at 1775 Field Dr. The banquet is always held

on the last Saturday in April. This year's date is April 25. Doors open at 5 p.m.

In recent memory, the annual banquet had been held in the NHS cafeteria going back as far as the Harrison Street location. The association is still offering a free shuttle service in the parking lot along with wheelchairs for those needing assistance entering

the building.

Reservations to attend the banquet on April 25 are required at a price of \$25 per person. Registration Deadline for the Alumni Banquet is April 18. For Reservations, please contact Debbie Davis Bastin, dlbastin53@gmail.com or (317) 459-1083. Monks Catering by Jeff Monks is providing the buffet and des-

serts and drinks are generously sponsored by Crandall's Carpet Cleaning and Beyond Elements Restoration.

On behalf of the entire board, we hope to see many returning alumni along with new attendees and members this year as we celebrate 100 Years of the Millers and our 50-year graduating class, Class of 1976.

Carmel Parks Offers Invasive Swap Program

This month, until April 29, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation is inviting the community to participate in its annual Invasive for Native Tree Swap. This program is an opportunity to remove invasive plants and replace them with native trees that support local ecosystems and biodiversity.

Participants who remove one or more invasive plants from their property can receive a free three-gallon native tree sapling. Available native species include river birch, redbud and vernal witch-hazel.

Getting started is simple: take a photo of the invasive plants you've removed and email it to naturalresources@carmelclayparks.com with the subject line, "Invasive Species Swap 2026." Once your submission is reviewed, CCPR will follow up to schedule a time for you to pick up your sapling. Limit of one sapling per household, available while supplies last. Both Carmel residents and non-residents are welcome to participate.

"We are excited to offer this



Photo courtesy Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

Learn more about planting native species at carmelclayparks.com.

incentive that gives back to our community and provides self-guided, hands-on education in support of healthy plants and pollinators," said Michael Allen, CCPR Parks and Natural Resources Director.

Invasive species are not native to Indiana and can cause long-term environmental harm. These plants spread quickly, outcompeting native

species for resources like water and sunlight. By replacing them with native trees, participants help support wildlife, improve water quality and protect our natural spaces.

To explore common invasive species in Indiana, visit the Indiana Invasive Species Council website. Learn more about planting native species at carmelclayparks.com.

SMOKE

Continued from Page 1

It's recommended to replace them every 5 to 10 years depending on the model. You can determine whether it's time to replace or upgrade your alarms by looking at the manufacturing date. Be sure to opt for self-testing devices that help ensure the alarms are operating as expected, like the Kidde Smoke Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered or the Combo Smoke CO Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered, which last a full decade. Kidde's Detect line of devices offer revolutionary

technology that provides fast, precise smoke detection, giving individuals and families more time to react and get to safety. The line also prioritizes enhanced sensing technology, which helps to reduce those nuisance alarms that can lead to consumers disabling their devices.

Remember, a self-testing device is not a substitute for a manual push test. No matter what style devices you have in your home, be sure to take time this spring to manually test

them, and then monthly after that.

More information about fire and CO safety can be found by visiting <https://www.kidde.com>.

"A happy, healthy home starts with safety. Make sure your fire and carbon monoxide detectors are part of your seasonal refresh routine: clean them, test them, and replace any units that have reached their limit," says Isis Wu, president of Global Residential Fire & Safety at Kidde.

The Times

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HOSPITALS

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submitting and appealing claims to receive payment.

More than one-third of denials—totaling \$1.8 billion—were driven by requests for additional information, even when care was appropriate and properly delivered.

On average, hospitals waited 46 days to receive payment from insurers after care was delivered. Nearly 30% of insurer payments were delayed more than 90 days.

Commercial insurers took three times longer to pay for care than traditional Medicare, straining hospital cash flow.

Medicare Advantage plans denied payments at roughly three times the rate of traditional Medicare, demonstrating a clear trend in insurer behavior.

In 2025 alone, Indiana hospitals spent over \$400 million pursuing payments insurers owed for care already delivered.

Commercial insurers are shifting a larger share of costs onto Hoosier patients and providers while reducing what insurers ultimately pay.

In 2025, nearly 25% of the allowable amount on commercial claims—the maximum amount a health insurance company will pay for a covered service—was attributed to patient responsibility, exceeding the national average.

When patients are unable to cover those growing out-of-pocket costs, Indiana hospi-

tals are left absorbing the cost of care provided but are never fully reimbursed. This leads to significant increases in bad debt. In fact, bad debt for Indiana hospitals rose nearly \$270 million from 2024 to 2025.

“What we’re seeing in Indiana mirrors national trends—higher denial rates, longer payment delays, and more administrative barriers after care has been delivered,” said Matt Szaflarski, vice president of revenue cycle intelligence at Kodiak Solutions. “The data shows these practices aren’t isolated incidents. They’re becoming standard operating behavior across many commercial and Medicare Advantage plans, creating downstream impacts for patients and providers alike.”

Hospital prices decline as patient costs rise

The Scorecard findings come at a time when Indiana hospitals have reduced prices. In 2024, all five of Indiana’s largest hospital systems lowered prices, according to a State-commissioned study, and national rankings show Indiana hospitals continue to make care more affordable for Hoosiers.

Despite these declines in hospital prices, patients are facing higher insurance premiums and rising out-of-pocket costs. Employer-sponsored health insurance premiums continue to rise in Indiana and

nationally, affecting individuals, families, and employers across the state.

The impact on Hoosiers

As insurance companies raise premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance, they are paying less while Hoosier patients pay more.

That results in: Financial stress for families facing higher out-of-pocket costs

Delays in care as claims are denied, disputed, or reprocessed

A growing burden of unpaid care absorbed by hospitals—costs that ripple through the entire health care system and raise costs for all Hoosiers

“In simple terms, insurers are collecting premiums but not reliably paying for care,” said Tittle. “This is the hidden cost of insurance—more paperwork, more waiting, and more financial uncertainty for Hoosier families.”

Holding insurers accountable

IHA is releasing the Scorecard as part of its Access Denied effort to expose harmful insurer practices and elevate patient voices. Hoosiers can share how insurer practices delay or deny care—and urge policymakers to take action.

To learn more or share your story, visit AccessDeniedIN.org.

“If we want to lower health care costs and protect access to care, insurers must be held accountable for the promises they make,” said Tittle.

Early Voting Under Way Across Indiana

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is reminding Hoosiers that early voting is now under way.

Beginning April 7, eligible voters across Indiana can take advantage of in-person absentee voting at designated locations in their county. Early voting allows Hoosiers to avoid long lines, accommodate busy schedules, and ensure their voices are heard.

“As a naturalized citizen and Indiana’s Chief Election Officer, voting is very personal to me. It is one of our most fundamental rights as Americans. Early voting provides flexibility for those who need it, but Election Day remains a

proud American tradition that I will always encourage eligible voters to participate in. Every eligible Hoosier should make a plan to vote, and if you’re able, take part in the time-honored tradition of voting in person on Election Day,” said Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State.

Hoosiers can vote early at their county election office or other satellite locations on designated days, during designated hours. Voters should check with their local county election office for specific times and locations. County election contacts can be found at:

[https://indianavoters.in.gov/CountyCon-](https://indianavoters.in.gov/CountyContact/Index)

tact/Index

To cast a ballot, voters must bring a valid government-issued photo ID. Those who are unsure of their registration status or polling information can visit IndianaVoters.com to verify registration and learn more about the voting process.

Early voting will continue until noon on the day before Election Day, May 5.

Secretary Morales encourages all eligible Hoosiers to make a plan to vote and take advantage of the resources available to ensure a smooth voting experience.

For more information, visit IndianaVoters.com.

Rain Barrel Sale Returns to County

Hamilton County residents have an opportunity this spring to conserve water and reduce runoff through the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District’s annual rain barrel sale, now open for pre-orders.

The program offers residents an easy way to collect and reuse rainwater from their rooftops, helping to reduce stormwater runoff that can carry pollutants into local streams and rivers. Collected rainwater can be used for gardens, landscaping, and other outdoor needs, providing a sustainable alternative to treated tap water.

“Rain barrels are one of the simplest ways residents can make a real impact at home,” said Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist at Hamilton County SWCD. “When you capture rain where it falls, you’re not only saving water for your own use—you’re helping protect our local waterways.”

Pre-orders are open now through May 12, with pickup scheduled for May 19 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. Barrels are available at an affordable cost and come ready to install, with components designed to connect directly to a home’s downspout. Optional accessories, including stands, diverters, and linking



Photo courtesy Hamilton County SWCD
Pre-orders for the terra cotta barrels are open now through May 12.

kits, are also available.

Stormwater runoff remains one of the leading contributors to water quality issues in urban and suburban areas. By slowing and capturing rainwater at the source, rain barrels help reduce erosion, flooding, and nutrient pollution—issues that can contribute to algae growth and declining water quality in ponds and streams. In addition to environmental benefits, rain barrels can help homeowners reduce water use during the growing season by providing a free source of water for plants and gardens.

The sale is open to the public, though all orders must be picked up in Noblesville. Quantities are limited,

and residents are encouraged to pre-order to guarantee availability and color selection.

More information and ordering details are available at: www.hamiltonswcd.org/rainbarrels

About Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District:

The Hamilton County SWCD is a community-focused conservation leader dedicated to improving soil and water resources through partnerships, education, and on-the-ground support. Established in 1968, the SWCD works with landowners, organizations, and residents to implement practices that strengthen environmental quality and enhance the beauty and resilience of our local landscapes. Learn more at <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org>

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

payment.

IRMAA, essentially, makes Medicare a “means tested” program, where those with a higher AGI can pay a higher Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium.

However, IRMAA is usually based on AGI from two years prior to the current year (because your current AGI information isn’t available from the IRS when Medicare premiums are determined in October of each year). FYI, you may have received a notice in the mail in early December telling you what your 2026 Social Security and Medicare amounts would be. In a nutshell, the land you sold in 2024 apparently increased your AGI to exceed the base IRMAA thresholds (which are \$109,000 if you file your taxes as a single, or \$218,000 if you file your income tax as “married/jointly”). And the IRMAA supplements are “progressive” (higher if your AGI is more), so if your Medicare premiums went up by about \$400 (about twice the 2026 standard premium) it’s likely that your 2024 AGI was over \$137,000 if you filed as a single

(or over \$274,000 if you filed as “married/jointly”). FYI, you can see the 2026 IRMAA brackets/premium amounts at this link: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html

A couple of additional points:

- Your Medicare premiums will, indeed, revert to the standard amounts for 2027, if your 2025 AGI amount is under the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status.

- There is no premium for Medicare Part A (which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization care) because you are receiving Social Security benefits. However, there is a premium for Part B of Medicare (which is coverage for outpatient medical services), and you must also separately pay a premium for Part D (which is coverage for prescription drugs offered by private insurers). And these IRMAA supplements apply even if you have a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

Unfortunately, your only “recourse” is, as SSA suggested, to appeal the IRMAA supplement, but that is usually successful only if you can prove

you had a “life changing event” which caused (or will cause) your AGI to be less than that used to determine your IRMAA surcharge. Your best option at this point will likely be to appeal using a “Request for Reconsideration” (Form SSA-561) asking that your 2026 Medicare premium be based on a recent year’s (e.g., 2025) lower income.

Finally, IRMAA isn’t really a new thing – it was enacted in 2003, effective in 2007. But it does have a profound effect on many seniors, as I explained in this article I recently published on the topic: <https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-surprise/>

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory/) or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org.

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BEFORE

AFTER

CRACKS
IN THE
BASEMENT?

Trio Leave Huge Shoes to Fill for Purdue Basketball



**SPORTS,
SPORTS, &
MORE SPORTS**
with Ken Thompson

Braden Smith may not have repeated as the Big Ten Conference Player of the Year or become the first two-time winner of the Bob Cousy Award as the nation's best point guard. However, the Indiana Mr. Basketball from Westfield did claim consensus first-team All-America honors.

After earning first-team All-America citations from the United States Basketball Writers Association and National Association of Basketball Coaches, Smith becomes Purdue's 30th consensus first-team All-America selection, the second most in NCAA history.

Smith also was selected to the Wooden Award All-America first team. He'll be honored alongside Purdue coach Matt Painter, this year's "Legends of Coaching" Award winner, at the 50th Anniversary Wooden Award Weekend on Friday at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Smith joins Terry Dischinger (1961, 1962), Rick Mount (1969, 1970) and Zach Edey (2023-2024) as two-time first-team consensus All-American Boilermakers.

Smith is joined on the consensus All-America first team by Arkansas' Darius Acuff Jr., Duke's Cameron Boozer, BYU's A.J. Dybantsa and Michigan's Yaxel Lendeborg.

Not since Duke from 1999 to 2002 has a school had a player earn consensus first-team All-America honors in four straight seasons. Smith's honor gives Purdue five consecutive years of having a player earn at least one first-team award. That

feat hadn't been accomplished since UCLA from 1971 to 1979.

Smith paced the nation with 345 assists on his way to becoming the NCAA's career leader with 1,103. Despite Smith leading the nation, this year's Cousy Award went to Acuff.

Smith also played a major role in helping Purdue set an NCAA single-season record with a 2.19 assist-to-turnover ratio (764 assists / 349 turnovers).

The best point guard in Purdue history also departs with 1,932 career points and 673 rebounds. No other player in NCAA history has at least 1,500 points, 1,000 assists and 500 rebounds.

Smith also became the NCAA leader in career minutes played by a four-year player with 5,067 minutes.

He leaves Purdue with school records for games played (149) and started (149). Smith's 1,932 points rank eighth in school history.

"I'm glad I was able to get the opportunity to even come to Purdue, because it was kind of a last-minute thing," Smith said. "I'm not even really supposed to be here, so for me just to be in a position and have an opportunity to play alongside people who enjoy the game just as much as I do and just want to win. I think it just makes it a no-brainer to not want to be a part of something like that."

Fletcher Loyer, who also played and started all 149 games of his Purdue career, finishes 11th in school history with 1,829 points. Loyer also departs with a school record of 309, 3-pointers.

"I think just the decision



Photos courtesy Purdue Athletics
Braden Smith

to come to Purdue obviously is going to turn out to be the best decision I've ever made to come play with these guys, to come play for Coach Painter and to attend Purdue University," Loyer said. "It's a special place, and I'm glad I did it."

"I learned so much with these guys. I've seen Braden have bad games. I've seen him have bad weeks, have bad days, but I've seen Trey have bad weeks, bad days, but every single day they showed up with a smile on their face, ready to work hard, ready to push me to be my best and push the rest of the guys on our team to be their best."

Trey Kaufman-Renn, a three-year starter, finishes his Purdue career with 1,655 points. That total ranks 19th in school history. Kaufman-Renn's 762 career rebounds are 11th in school history.

"Being able to get a great education, being able to play winning basketball ... as a 19-, 20-, 21-, 22-, 23-year-old, that's all you can ask for," Kaufman-Renn said.

The trio became the winningest senior class in Boilermaker history, going 117-32 with two regular season Big Ten titles and two Big Ten Tournament championships.

Painter paid tribute to Smith, Loyer and Kaufman-Renn before taking questions following Purdue's 79-64 loss to top-seeded Arizona in the West Regional final.

"Really proud of these



Trey Kaufman-Renn

three guys sitting right here and everything they've done for our program," Painter said. "Really set a standard of how to go about their business. It's going to be hard to emulate that."

"You know, they showed up every day and worked. That's what you want. All three of them will get their degrees from Purdue University, which means something."

"You can have it all. When you have the character that these guys have and the skill that these guys have, you can have it all. You can get a great education. You can treat people right. You can have a great basketball career. You can become a pro. I think these guys are great role models for young people out there to understand the big picture of things."

"The standard they set for our program, it's going to be tough to match. But that's what we're going to try to find. We're going to try to find guys like this that have character, that are wired to be successful."

Painter hopes he has found the successors to Smith, Loyer and Kaufman-Renn with the No. 1 ranked recruiting class according to 247 Sports.

Luke Ertel of Class 3A state champion Mt. Vernon is a heavy favorite to win Indiana Mr. Basketball like Smith. Ertel is ranked 41st nationally by 247 Sports, the second-highest ranked recruit in the Painter era behind future All-American Caleb Swanigan. Swanigan



Fletcher Loyer

was ranked 33rd coming out of Homestead and was voted Indiana Mr. Basketball in 2015.

Jacob Webber of LaLumiere is a highly regarded shooter much like Loyer. The 6-6 small forward is ranked 64th in the country and fourth in the Painter era behind Kaufman-Renn.

Sinan Huan continues Purdue's two-decade run of 7-footers. The Chinese native and standout at Georgetown Preparatory in Rockville, Md., is ranked 83rd in the Class of 2026.

Caden Pierce, the younger brother of Colts wide receiver Alec Pierce, could step into Kaufman-Renn's power forward role. The former Ivy League Player of the Year from Princeton committed to Purdue over national runner-up Connecticut.

Webber's LaLumiere teammate, 6-8 power forward Rivers Knight, is the lone Boilermaker incoming freshman ranked outside the 247 Sports Top 100. The three-star recruit is 211th overall.

The final member of the class won't arrive in West Lafayette until after his two-year Mormon mission. Jamyn Sondrup, a 6-9, 225-pound center, is a four-star recruit out of Springville, Utah.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

Good Things Come in Small Packages

Tiny Art Visits Art Gallery in Fishers City Hall

A brand new exhibit has been installed in the Art Gallery at City Hall in Fishers focusing on tiny art and poetry – proving that good things do come in small packages and are delightfully paired with poetic partners.

"We received the challenge from the City of Fishers early last year, asking for an exhibit with affordable prices to help folks who may have never bought original art before feel empowered to do so. The idea of a 'tiny art' show was brought up, and so I ran with it," says Les Reinhardt, Executive Director of Fishers Arts Council. "After looking at other 'tiny show' calls for art, I decided to go a little larger than most with 8" x 8" x 8" as our upper limit, but no lower limit. I also wanted to find ways to get more folks involved in the exhibit, so I added poetry to the call. This gave us a great

opportunity to pair poetry and visual art to tell a story together."

The exhibit features a variety of creative mediums – and some that are quite surprising. Woodworking, ceramics, watercolors, oils, and acrylics – but also pyrography (wood-burning), heavy texture acrylic, polymer clay jewelry, fused glass, fiber, wool, copper, and more. The pieces range from 1" up to 8"

and prices start at \$10, with most being around \$30-\$50.

The exhibit opened on March 30 and will be on display through April 17 at 1 Municipal Drive in Fishers. It can be seen Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. The free public Second Friday reception is com-

ing up on Friday, April 10 from 6-8pm at Fishers City Hall, featuring live music by Brandon Meeks, refreshments, and Focus on the Artist Programming at 6:45pm in the theater.

Questions about the exhibit can be directed to info@FisherArtsCouncil.org or call/text us at (317) 537-1670

An online gallery of art for sale can be found at bit.ly/ArtGalleryatCityHall

An ASL interpreter from GLOBO will be available to assist in communications.

The featured creatives on display are Angela Barnes, Lora Blount, Stephanie Brown, Regina Bunting, Stephanie Carignan, Ken Konklin, Jasmine Daniels, Krista Darrow, Amber Davis, Carrie Dodd, Kris-

tina Dougan, Jonathan Dow, M.A. Dubbs, Sandra Dueker, Nathan Evans, Megan Fasig, Kimberly Garvey, Patricia Grabill, Jessica Green, Marianne Guo, Gant Haverstick, Spencer Hayes, Emery Henderson, Trennis Henderson, Susan Hirsch, Angi Hoess, Kathy Huang, Rachel Jamieson, Linda Jordan, Chassidy King, V.K.

King, Patty Klunzinger, Raegan LaCava, Erica Lai, Izzy Liao, Avizia Long, Makwolf, Tina Mangos, Gus Marshall, Laura McCormick, Marie Meyers, Leigh Miller, Joni Morris, Kelly Mortell, Karen Naber, Lynda M. Parziale, Leigh Petersen, Emily Phillippe, Jenifer Pillock, Ruth Rojas,

Amy Ruddy, Frances Ruiz, Haley Russell, Mansoureh Sameni, Gary Schmitt, Ryan Shelton, Jennifer Shirley, Asma Siddiqui, Deb Slack, Eleanor Sparks, Denese Stack, Abigail Staffelbach, Nanci Stoeffler, Jes Valentine, Kathaleen Wessel, Casey Williams, Jennifer Wolfe, Stephanie Wong, Denise Yoder, Kylie Zheng, and Sabrina Zhou.

These visual artists and poets represent Anderson, Carmel, Elkhart, Fishers, Indianapolis, Greenwood, Lafayette, Lawrence, Marion, McCordsville, Mulberry, Muncie, Noblesville, Pendleton, Plainfield, Westfield, and Whitestown.

"The exhibit has only been up for a few days and we've already received several positive comments as well as sales. The florals are delicate, the animals adorable, abstracts are luscious, the poetry is thought-provoking – this exhibit truly warms my heart," says





Photo courtesy Hand, Inc.

This year's conference is set for April 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HAND Hosting 12th annual Suburban Housing Conference

HAND, Inc. will host its 12th annual Suburban Housing Conference on Thursday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the IMMI Conference Center in Westfield.

Presented by the Hamilton County Community Foundation, the conference will bring together local elected officials, municipal staff, developers, employers, lenders, and nonprofit leaders from across Hamilton, Boone, and Tipton counties for a focused, half-day experience exploring how housing impacts communities and local decision-making.

This year's theme, From Plans to Places: Turning Housing Systems into Real Homes, reflects a shift toward practical, action-oriented conversations grounded in real-world challenges.

Unlike traditional conferences, the 2026 event is structured as an interactive experience designed to move participants through a clear arc:

See It – understanding what is driving today's housing market
 Feel It – experiencing the real tradeoffs communities face through an interactive simulation led by the Urban Land Institute (ULI), launching in Indiana for the first time
 Translate It – hearing how these challenges are playing out locally
 Fix It – identifying opportunities for action

A key feature of this year's conference is the Indiana rollout of the Urban Land Institute's Homeward program, an interactive simulation designed to help participants better understand the complex decisions, constraints, and tradeoffs that shape housing outcomes. The session will be led by a member of ULI's team traveling from Boston, where the program was originally developed and launched.

"The goal of this conference is to help people connect the dots," said Andrea Davis, Executive Director of HAND. "Housing impacts workforce, economic development, schools, and the long-term health of our communities. We want people to leave with a clearer understanding of how the system works and where they can play a role."

The conference will also include a moderated panel featuring local leaders from government, planning, and development, offering an honest look at how housing challenges are playing out across communities and the real-world constraints shaping decisions.

Registration is now open. To learn more or reserve a seat, visit: <https://handincorporated.org/2026-suburban-housing-conference-april-23/>

Preserving History, One Piece at a Time

By Andy Chandler

As the United States of America celebrates its 250th year as a country this summer, the subject of history is naturally at the forefront. Aside from the culture wars; what will and will not be taught, and if what we teach should be used to solicit pride or shame, comes a question rarely asked: Who's preserving it all?

That is a question that State Representative Tim Yocum (R-District 42) wished to find the answer for recently. Yocum is from Helt Township in Vermillion County, site of the Ernie Pyle Birthplace and World War II Museum.

The museum has been through somewhat of a historical odyssey itself. From 1975 to 2009, the museum was owned and operated by the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources. After closing in 2009, it was reopened under non-profit ownership, the Friends of Ernie Pyle, and has been operated by them ever since.

During the 2009 closing, many of the artifacts were taken by the State to Indianapolis. Being that Pyle is a native son of the township, Yocum asked for permission to see the artifacts, and their current state of preservation.

A former county commissioner, the now state representative stated, "Being an official at the state level, I felt I could get some action on it. Preserving history is one of my biggest passions."

He recently was invited to tour the Indiana History Museum, and invited Friends of Ernie Pyle Board President Steve Key, and me along to meet the head curator, Dr. Susannah Koerber.

We were led to the lab and storage area. It is a temperature and light controlled area of historical timepieces as well as a lab for restoration resembling a college science laboratory. Cameras and wires run overhead.

We were shown Ernie Pyle's correspondent uniform, and several other pieces of clothing Pyle wore.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

From left, State Rep. Tim Yocum, head curator, Dr. Susannah Koerber and Friends of Ernie Pyle Board President Steve Key.



The patch Pyle and other war correspondents wore.



From left, Steve Key, Tim Yocum and Dr. Susannah Koerber.

"We arrange them by texture and fabric in order to preserve them in the same manner because clothing needs different levels," said Dr. Koerber.

One of the items mentioned in Pyle's column, which is known to be in the State's collection, was the suit coat that Pyle wore to see First Lady and columnist Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House in 1943. Sure enough, the suit still has the same holes in the elbows that Pyle described in his column about the meeting.

In addition to items such as Pyle's hats and typewriter bag, the curator has many other non-Pyle items to show. On the next table was a flag. It has a connection to a dark period of our history: it was a flag that was hanging from a nearby box at Ford's Theatre the night President Lincoln was shot. It was interesting to note the somber reverence, yet child-like enthusiasm Mr. Key and Rep. Yocum displayed when shown both the Pyle artifacts and the Ford's Theatre flag.

Overall, Mr. Key and Rep. Yocum were pleased and impressed with the efforts at preservation and restoration, and so, there will be more visits to the State Museum in the future.

As we are approaching the 250th anniversary of our nation and with the bicentennial of the state, ten years past, the people of Indiana should be proud that their heritage and legacy in the form of these objects and objects like them are being preserved in such a meticulous manner.

ISO Welcomes Jun Märkl Back to the Stage

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) welcomes Music Director Jun Märkl back to the podium this April for two weeks of performances at Hilbert Circle Theatre, featuring two classical programs, a spotlight on the orchestra's newest principal musicians, and immersive audience experiences.

Märkl's return begins April 17-18 with French Images: Debussy, Ravel & Fauré, a program celebrating the color, elegance, and expressive nuance of French music. This concert will highlight four of the ISO's newest principal musicians, Claire Thai, Principal Harp; Julianna Darby, Principal Clarinet; Bryson Karrer, Principal Second Violin; and Jungah Yoon, Principal Flute, showcasing their artistry in featured

roles throughout the program.

Tickets for all performances are available now at indianapolis-symphony.org or by calling the ISO Box Office at 317-639-4300.

Audiences will experience a vibrant selection of works including Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances and selections from Images, Ravel's virtuosic Tzigane, Saint-Saëns' Tarantelle, and Fauré's beloved Pavane.

Enhancing the evening on Friday, April 17, guests may also add Circle Theatre Tastings: A Taste of France, part of the ISO's new pre-concert tasting series. This guided wine experience invites patrons to explore a curated selection of French varietals inspired by the evening's program, adding

another layer of flavor and atmosphere to the concert experience. With the purchase of a concert ticket, patrons may reserve the tasting for \$30. Reservations are available while supplies last.

The week also includes Into the Music: Debussy on April 16 at 6:30 p.m., a free, pay-what-you-wish event designed to make classical music more accessible. Märkl will co-host the evening alongside Ryan Ahlwardt, offering an engaging onstage discussion and full orchestral performance of Debussy's Images. In partnership with Newfields, artwork will be displayed on screen throughout the event, visually connecting audiences to the music.

Märkl continues April 24-25 with Jun Märkl Conducts Rach-

maninoff and Dvořák, a program filled with sweeping melodies and vibrant energy. Pianist Drew Petersen joins the ISO for Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, one of the most

beloved works in the piano repertoire. The program also features selections from Bizet's L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2 and concludes with Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 and Slavonic Dance,

Op. 46, No. 8.

Together, these performances showcase Märkl's artistry and the ISO's commitment to both musical excellence and engaging audience experiences.

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Hamilton East Public Library Expands Local Author Fair



Photos courtesy Hamilton East Public Library
For more information and to register for workshops, visit hamilton-eastpl.org.

This year, the Local Author Fair is expanding into a full weekend of events.

The Hamilton East Public Library is excited to announce the expansion of its annual Local Author Fair into a full weekend of literary events, offering opportunities for both writers and readers to connect, learn and celebrate storytelling.

Saturday, April 18:
Writing Workshops for All Experience Levels

The weekend kicks off on Saturday, April 18 at HEPL's Noblesville Branch (1 Library Plaza, Noblesville) with a series of engaging writing workshops designed for writers and aspiring

authors of all ages and experience levels, covering topics like creative storytelling, self-publishing, and common writing pitfalls. Participants are encouraged to register for workshops through the library's online events calendar.

Sunday, April 19: Local Author Fair (Free Community Event)

HEPL's Local Author Fair returns on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00-4:00 PM at a new offsite location: the Hamilton County Fairgrounds Exhibition Center (2003 Pleasant St,

Noblesville). This free, open house-style event welcomes readers of all ages to meet and support local authors from across Central Indiana. Nearly 70 authors and literary organizations from Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Cicero, Indianapolis, and beyond will be present with books available for purchase and signing. Attendees can explore a wide variety of genres, including picture books, mystery and thriller, romance, science fiction, biography, local history, self-help, and

more.

Guests can also enjoy giveaways, including book bundles and other prizes throughout the event.

"We're excited for the return of this annual event showcasing the talent of local authors," said Allison Kartman, Systemwide Program Coordinator. "Our service area within Hamilton County, and Indiana at large, has many gifted writers, some of whom have self-published and others who have launched their works through tradition-

al publishing houses. The HEPL Local Author Fair provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with nearly 70 authors and literary organizations as you support local storytelling. During the event, you can purchase books for yourself or as gifts, network with other authors, ask them about their writing inspiration or process, and learn more about their journey to publishing."

For more information and to register for workshops, visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

Carmel Parks Hosts Beautification Month



Photo courtesy Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

The next opportunity to volunteer is at the Garlic Mustard Grab-a-thon at River Heritage Park on Wednesday, April 15 from 9-11 a.m.

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation will host Parks Beautification Month this April, inviting the community to take part in a series of volunteer opportunities focused on caring for and enhancing local parks.

"Parks Beautification Month is a time for our community to come together and show appreciation for the spaces we share," said Abby Wallace, CCPR Volunteer Coordinator. "Through hands-on projects like removing invasive species, picking up litter and planting trees, volunteers help make

a lasting impact while supporting the health and sustainability of our parks."

Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate in Parks Beautification Month activities. Volunteers ages 16 or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required for each project. Participants can create a CCPR volunteer account online to get started.

2026 Parks Beautification Month Events
Garlic Mustard Grab-a-thon at River Heritage Park | Wednesday, April 15 |

9-11 a.m.

Join the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) to remove invasive garlic mustard at River Heritage Park.

Arbor Day Tree Planting at Central Park | Friday, April 24 | 4-6 p.m.

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting native trees at Central Park.

Celebrate Trails Day Weed Wrangle at Monon Central Trailhead | Saturday, April 25 | 1-3 p.m.

Help remove invasive plants and clean up one of our most popular trails, the Monon Greenway.

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Heights Expands Digital Wellness Initiative

Hamilton Heights School Corporation is strengthening its commitment to student well-being with a renewed focus on Digital Wellness for the 2025–26 school year. As part of this initiative, seven Hamilton Heights High School Senior Mentors visited 4th-grade classrooms last to lead interactive lessons on digital safety and responsible online citizenship.

The peer-led program is designed to empower younger students with practical strategies for navigating the digital world, while giving seniors an opportunity to model positive online behavior and leadership.

During the classroom visits, mentors guided students through key topics including:

Private vs. Personal Information: Understanding what is safe to share online.

Digital Footprints: Recognizing the long-term impact of



Hamilton Heights seniors connect with fourth-grade students during a digital citizenship lesson, reinforcing the district's commitment to safety, leadership and healthy digital habits. The Senior Mentors visited 4th-grade classrooms to lead interactive lessons on digital safety and responsible online citizenship.

online actions and posts.

Healthy Digital Balance: Learning to create boundaries between digital engagement and real-world relationships, activities, and responsibilities.

“This mentorship

model is powerful because it connects our oldest and youngest Huskies in meaningful, age-appropriate conversations,” said Jessica Cantlon, Hamilton Heights School K-12 Reaching New Heights Coordinator and Director of School Coun-

seling. “When students hear these messages from peers they admire, it reinforces the importance of making safe, thoughtful choices online.”

The Digital Wellness initiative is one of several efforts supporting the district's broader



Photos courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

“Bell to Bell” transition, which emphasizes healthy habits, responsible technology use, and student well-being throughout the school day. Additional programming includes the district's upcoming Digital Safety Presentation on May 18, open

to families and community members.

By equipping students with the tools to navigate an increasingly digital world, Hamilton Heights continues to foster a culture of accountability, safety and leadership across grade levels.

Spring in Fishers features Many Events, Activities

The City of Fishers and Fishers Parks are stepping into spring with an exciting season of entertainment, outdoor adventures, and beloved community traditions.

From the Fishers Freight back in action at the Fishers Event Center to family favorites like Touch-A-Truck and the expanded Fishers Farmers Market, Presented by IU Health, along with new programs like Ninja Cross, Flag Football, and Triathlon Clinics at the Fishers Community Center, Strengthened by IU Health, there's something for everyone this spring around Fishers.

This year's spring lineup includes:

Fishers Event Center
11000 Stockdale Street, Fishers

Big names, exciting matchups, and unforgettable nights are all coming to the Fishers Event Center this spring. From live music to can't-miss sports, it's the go-to spot for entertainment all season long. Get tickets at FishersEventCenter.com. Upcoming events include:

April 11: Fishers Freight vs Iowa Barnstormers

April 12: Indy Ignite vs Atlanta Vibe

April 18: Chase Rice with Clayton Anderson

April 19: Indy Ignite vs Dallas Pulse & BIG 10 IU vs Purdue Spring Match

April 24 – 26: Billy Strings

April 30: THIRD DAY

May 2: Fishers Freight vs Green Bay Blizzard

May 3: Indy Ignite Final Home Game

Cyntheanne Park Soil Spread

Thursday, April 16 | 8:30 a.m. - noon | Cyntheanne Park

Help get the Community Gardens ready for the season with a family-friendly soil spread at Cyntheanne Park. It's the perfect way to give back to the community ahead of Earth Day! Register to volunteer at VolunteerFishers.com.

National Go Fly a Kite Day

Sunday, April 19 | Noon - 3 p.m. | Geist Waterfront Park (10811 Olio Road) | Free

Join Fishers Parks on the beach to fly kites and enjoy the waterfront. No registration required. Learn more

at FishersParks.com.

Arbor Day Celebration + Tree Giveaway

Friday, April 24 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Fishers AgriPark (11171 Florida Road) | Free

Pick up a free tree while you visit the Fishers AgriPark, Strengthened by IU Health, experience a special Arbor Day Story-Walk, and complete Arbor Day-themed craft activities. Learn more at FishersAgriPark.com.

Nickel Plate Trail: 96th Street Bridge Celebration Ride

Sunday, April 26 | 2 p.m. | Meet at Fishers Municipal Complex | Free

Celebrate the new 96th Street Bridge with a community bike ride along the Nickel Plate Trail. Hosted by Central Indiana Cycling, this family-friendly, beginner-level “slow roll” will travel from the Fishers Municipal Complex to Sahm Park and back, with a stop at the new bridge for photos. Learn more.

Fishers Community Center's Couch to 5K Clinic

Wednesdays, April 29 - June 17 | 6 - 7 p.m. | Fishers Community Center (11400 Johnson Farm Way) \$45/members, \$65.50/non-members

Join the Couch to 5K Program and build the confidence, endurance, and strength you need to start running! This clinic is the perfect opportunity to train for the Spark!Fishers 5K in June or get started on your Geist 5K training for the fall! Learn more about the clinic.

Fishers Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 2 - September 26 | 8 a.m. - noon | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater (6 Municipal Drive) | Free

This year, don't miss exciting expansions of the market throughout the entire Nickel Plate District Amphitheater with 37 new vendors. Rated one of the top farmers markets in the region, the Fishers Farmers Market, Presented by IU Health, showcases vendors from throughout the state, offering fresh produce, baked goods, honey, specialty food items, meats, coffee, plants, and more. Learn more at FishersParks.com/FarmersMar-

ket.

Hope for Happiness

Saturday, May 2 | 8 a.m. - noon | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Kick off Mental Health Awareness Month at the opening day of the Fishers Farmers Market with the annual Hope for Happiness event. Hosted by Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School's Bring Change to Mind student clubs in partnership with the Fishers Health Department, the event raises awareness about mental health and the city's StigmaFree Fishers initiative. Learn more at FishersIN.gov/MentalHealthMonth.

Second Friday Gallery Hop

Friday, May 8 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Nickel Plate District | Free

Join the Fishers Arts Council for a community celebration of creative expression as you venture around downtown Fishers to enjoy art, music, and more! Learn more at FishersArtsCouncil.org.

Fishers Health Department Maternal Child Health Fair

Wednesday, May 13 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fishers Community Center | Free

The Fishers Health Department will host a Maternal Child Health Fair designed for new and expecting parents to connect with local resources and support services. Attendees can learn about topics like prenatal and postpartum care, infant health, child development, and family support programs while engaging with community experts. Learn more at Health.FishersIN.gov.

National Police Week Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday, May 13 | 8 - 10 p.m. | Liberty Plaza (1 Municipal Drive) | Free

Join the Fishers Police Corps and Fishers Police Department for a Candlelight Vigil in honor of National Police Week. This event will include a live stream of the national vigil in Washington, D.C., as we remember and pay tribute to fallen officers from Hamilton County and across Indiana. Learn more at FishersPoliceCorps.org.

Fishers Sprint Triathlon

Saturday, May 16 | 7:30

a.m. | Geist Waterfront Park (10811 Olio Road) | Costs vary

Join the multisport fun for the Fishers Sprint Triathlon powered by FAST at Geist Waterfront Park. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or first-timer, this race has both individual and relay options available. Register at FastTigers.com.

Touch-A-Truck

Monday, May 18 | 4 - 7 p.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Kids can explore Fishers' fleet of big rigs, including tractors, snowplows, police cars, fire trucks, and more at this family-friendly event around the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater. Learn more at FishersIN.gov/TouchATruck.

Geist Waterfront Park's Beach Opening Day

Beach Opening Day: Saturday, May 23 | Regular Beach Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Park Hours: dawn to dusk daily

The 70-acre waterfront park in east Fishers features beach and water access to Geist Reservoir, non-motorized boat launch and dock access for kayaks and canoes, walking trails, playground, and public gathering amenities. Beach access is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Learn more at FishersParks.com/GeistWaterfrontPark.

Splash Pad Opening Day

Opening Day: Saturday, May 23 | Open daily | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Free

The free splash pads at Holland Park (1 Park Drive) and Billericay Park (12690 Promise Road), and the fountain at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater Pavilion (10 Municipal Drive) will open daily through Labor Day. Learn more at FishersParks.com/Water-Amenities.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 25 | 10 a.m. | Nickel Plate District Amphitheater | Free

Join the City of Fishers and the Fishers Armed Services Commission to honor the service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom at this special, annual event. Learn more at FishersIN.

gov/FishersHonors.

New Spring Programs at the Fishers Community Center

New programming at the Fishers Community Center, Strengthened by IU Health, offers ways for the entire family to have fun and stay active, from Ninja Cross, Flag Football, and Triathlon Clinics, to Kids Night Out, Lifeguard Certification, and the Couch to 5K program! Most programs are open to both members and non-members, with a 30% discount for members. Learn more.

Get Outdoors This Spring

Enjoy wooded paths and spring blooms at the first spring season of the new Fishers White River Park or Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve, waterfront views at Geist Waterfront Park, or play on the playground made from native Indiana locust wood at the Fishers AgriPark, Strengthened by IU Health.

The newly opened 96th Street Bridge along the Nickel Plate Trail, Strengthened by IU Health, enhances connectivity to Indianapolis from 96th Street to 146th Street to Noblesville, making it easier than ever to walk, run, or bike your way through our vibrant, connected community.

Fishers Art Center Spring Make It Take Its, Classes & Camps

Fishers Art Center (1 Municipal Drive) | Costs vary

Try your hand at acrylic pour painting, paint a portrait of your pet, or take a turn on the pottery wheel at the Fishers Art Center, located in the Fishers Municipal Complex. Registration is now open for spring classes, summer camps, and Make It Take It workshops for youth, teens, and adults at FishersArtCenter.org.

Serve Through Volunteering

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