

# HENDRICKS COUNTY ICON

February 23, 2024 • myhcion.com

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*Design Dream Team*

*Page 25*

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### ICON of the Week

Helee Adkins,  
Owner/Founder  
of Adkins  
Consulting

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Hendricks County  
ICONic Athlete  
Hannah Menser

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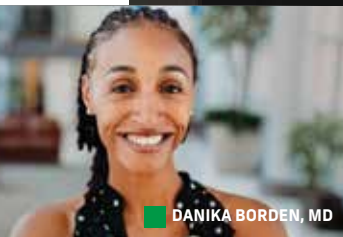
Avon Chief of Police  
recognizes officer  
for outstanding  
community efforts

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### Stories/News?

#### Have any news tips?

Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Kate Anderson at (317) 451-4088 or email her at [kate@myiconmedia.com](mailto:kate@myiconmedia.com). Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



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HENDRICKS COUNTY  
ICON

# on the WEB

## Registration for B&O Bicycle Tour Now Open

June 1 Bike Ride to Begin at Cardinal Park in Brownsburg



B&O Trail. (submitted photo)



The B&O Trail Association will host its annual B&O Bicycle Tour on June 1 with participants beginning and ending their rides at Cardinal Elementary School in Brownsburg. This new venue allows participants in the group's largest annual fundraiser immediate access to the B&O Trail, meaning that a larger percentage of the ride can take place on the actual trail. "I am very enthused about our new location," says Jeff Smallwood, president of the B&O Trail Association.

"We'll showcase portions of the B&O Trail, passing by the new Virgil Park, with longer routes venturing into the scenic countryside west of Brownsburg. Everyone can enjoy the live music and refreshments."

Registration for the event, whose title sponsor is Hendricks Regional Health, is now open on the BOTA website, [botrail.org](http://botrail.org). Since the inaugural event in 1993, the B&O Bicycle Tour has grown to attract more than 800 participants who choose from 11, 17, 25, 45 and 62-mile loops. All riders are encouraged to stay for lunch, which will be catered by Smokin' J's Barbecue.

Cardinal Elementary is located at 3590 South Hornaday Road in Brownsburg, and sign in begins at 7:30 a.m. All riders may depart once they have completed check-in, prepped their bikes, and donned a helmet. This is a rain or shine event.

Other upcoming BOTA events include a bike train to the Race to the Eclipse event at Lucas Oil Raceway Park on April 8, when a once-in-a-lifetime event full solar eclipse will briefly darken Hendricks County. For more information on all BOTA events, visit [botrail.org](http://botrail.org).

About the B&O Trail Association: With a mission of Blazing Trails, Connecting Communities, the B&O Trail Association (BOTA) is building a recreational trail along the abandoned B&O Railroad corridor. The non-profit, all-volunteer organization was formed in 1993 and has already completed 8.25 miles of paved trail. BOTA partners with the Speedway Trails Association (STA), which is constructing along the B&O corridor in Marion County from Michigan Street to western Marion County. The two groups will meet approximately halfway between I-465 and Girls School Road. To learn more, visit [botrail.org](http://botrail.org).

## ICONIC brief

### North Salem State Bank Presents Donation to Local BackPack Ministry



North Salem State Bank (NSSB) had the pleasure of presenting a donation to the Mill Creek/Cascade BackPack Ministry on Jan. 31. This amazing organization makes blessing bags for school-aged students in the Mill Creek community in an effort to stamp out food insecurity. School staff select children that would benefit by taking blessing bags (filled with nutritious meals) home on Friday to supplement their nutrition needs over the weekend. These bags are then delivered to the schools and distributed anonymously as they see fit. NSSB is proud to support such a helpful initiative.



Photo from left to right: Matt Howrey, NSSB President and CEO, Cascade THRIVE Members, Marlena Verhey, Cascade THRIVE Program, Walter Colvin, NSSB Commercial Lender, Carla Trowbridge, Mill Creek/Cascade Backpack Ministry, Angie Hunsicker, Mill Creek/Cascade Backpack Ministry, and Katrina Owens, Mill Creek/Cascade Backpack Ministry. (submitted photo)

## ICONIC brief



### Men needed for local elementary school reading to prevent abuse

"MEN, you are needed. You have a unique role to play in the prevention of abuse. We are asking YOU to read a book to students at a local elementary school on Thursday, March 14, 2024. You can help the next generation establish itself upon a foundation of trust, honor, and mutual respect. Visit [www.ShelteringWings.org/MenRead](http://www.ShelteringWings.org/MenRead) to register and learn more!"

SHELTERING WINGS

## ICONIC brief

### Washington Township Presents Award For a Job Well Done

Congratulations to Division Chief of EMS, Stephanie Winegar! She was presented with the 2023 Washington Township Employee of the Year by Trustee Ryan Miller. She is known as the hardest worker in the room and the best teammate a crew could ever have. She is a perpetual team player and devoted wife, mom, and friend to those who have the privilege of knowing her.

There were many great nominees among the Township, with a number of Fire and EMS personnel being represented.



Stephanie being presented award by Trustee Ryan Miller. (submitted photo)

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**ICONIC** brief**Prosecutor Loren Delp “Arrested”**

Prosecutor Loren Delp made the day for the high schoolers at Plainfield High School by being “arrested” by Sheriff Jack Sadler. The purpose of this arrest was an effort to raise funds for Plainfield High School’s “We the People” class. This team of extraordinary students is qualified to compete in the National Competition in Washington D.C. in April. They will attend and compete in a mock congressional hearing. “Not too many people knew about it, so the faces of people on the street were priceless,” commented Loren.

If you are interested in contributing to helping raise “bail” for Prosecutor Loren Delp, there is a Go Fund Me page set up.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/plainfield-high-school-we-the-people>



# BROWNSBURG HIRING FAIR

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**AVON**

**Thomas L. Fay**

U.S. Army veteran Thomas L. Fay, 93, Avon, passed away on Feb. 2. He was born on Feb. 20, 1930. He will be cremated and placed in the Columbarium next to his wife in the Funk Grove Cemetery, McLean, IL. later this spring.

**Roger C. Frank**

U.S. Marine veteran Roger C. Frank, 79, Avon, passed away on Feb. 10, 2024. He was born on Nov. 9, 1944. Services will be held on Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. at Conkle Funeral Home, 76 North Avon Avenue, Avon. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center, supporting child victims of abuse and violence.

**Michael (Mickey) James Kalsek Sr.**

U.S. Air Force veteran Michael (Mickey) James Kalsek Sr., 77, Avon, passed away on Feb. 12. He was born on Nov. 4, 1946. Services were held on Feb. 20 at St. Christopher Catholic Church, Speedway.

**Salvatore Richard Prevete**

U.S. Air Force veteran Salvatore Richard Prevete, 91, Avon, passed away on Feb. 9. He was born on Dec. 29, 1932. Services were held on Feb. 12 at St. Susanna Catholic Church, Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Gathering Together, 147 North Center Street, Plainfield.

**Mary Frances Shelton**

Mary Frances Shelton, 77, Avon, passed away on Feb. 6. She was born on Sept. 19, 1946. Services were held on Feb. 10 at Conkle Funeral Home, Avon.

**BROWNSBURG**

**Bonnie M. Brown**

Bonnie M. Brown, 95, formerly of Brownsburg, passed away on Feb. 13. She was born on July 31, 1928. Services were held on Feb. 17 at Matthews Mortuary, Brownsburg. In lieu of flowers, donations to Silver Linings Animal Rescue at [www.silverliningsrescue.org](http://www.silverliningsrescue.org), Dementia Society of America [www.dementiasociety.org](http://www.dementiasociety.org), or a charity of your choice are welcomed.

**Joanne Gruber**

Joanne Gruber, 86, Brownsburg, passed away on Feb. 6. She was born on Sept. 11, 1937. Services were held on Feb. 13 at Harmony Baptist Church, Avon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

**James Bernard King**

U.S. Army veteran James Bernard King, age 92, Brownsburg, passed away on Feb. 2. Jim was born on Dec. 21, 1931. Services were held on Feb. 16 at Matthews Mortuary, Brownsburg.

**CLAYTON**

**Sharril D. Reed**

Sharril D. Reed, 59, Clayton, passed away on Feb. 7. She was born on Dec. 10, 1964. Services were held on Feb. 13 at the Helton & Harris Funeral Home, Danville. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Sharril's name to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

**DANVILLE**

**Nancy Louise Meredith**

Nancy Louise Meredith, 57, Danville, passed away on Feb. 11. She was born on Oct. 7, 1966. Services were held on Feb. 16 at Grace Baptist Church, Coatesville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Shepherd's Bethel: PO Box 37, West Baden Springs, IN 47469; Cascade Middle School Special Needs Program: 6423 S CR 200 W, Clayton IN 46118; and Seedline International: 2747 E US Hwy 40, Brazil, IN 47834.

**Dale Russell West**

U.S. Army veteran Dale Russell West, 73, Danville, passed away on Feb. 11. He was born on Feb. 19, 1950. Services were held on Feb. 19 at the Blanton House Retreat and Conference Center, Danville.

**LIZTON**

**Deborah "Debby" Landreth**

Deborah "Debby" Landreth, 71, Lizton, passed away on Feb. 6. She was born on April 24, 1952. Services were held on Feb. 12 at Eric M.D. Bell Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

**PITTSBORO**

**Marjy Beth DeBoy**

Marjy Beth DeBoy, 78, Pittsboro, passed away on Feb. 3. She was born on April 26, 1945. Services were held on Feb. 8 at Conkle Funeral Home, Speedway. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dementia Society of America or the Breast Cancer Foundation, Susan G Komen.

**PLAINFIELD**

**Lola Mae Edwards**

Lola Mae Edwards, 94, Plainfield, passed away on Feb. 3. Lola was born on March 5, 1929. Services were held on Feb. 10 at Eric MD Bell Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

**Thomas Franklin "Tom" Hilligoss**

U.S. Air Force veteran Thomas Franklin "Tom" Hilligoss, 90, Plainfield, passed away on Feb. 2. He was born on Oct. 14, 1933. Services were held on Feb. 10 at Plainfield United Methodist Church. Contributions may be made to Plainfield United Methodist Church Family Assistance, 600 Simmons Street, Plainfield.

**Shirley June Irving**

Shirley June Irving, 95, Plainfield, passed away on Feb. 8. She was born Aug. 30, 1928. Services were held on Feb. 15 at St. Susanna Catholic Church, Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in remembrance of Shirley to the Hendricks County Humane Society.

**Doris A. (Weston) Jones**

Doris A. (Weston) Jones, 82, Plainfield, passed away on Feb. 8. She was born Oct. 25, 1941. Services were held on Feb. 13 at Jones Family Mortuary, Mooresville.

**Richard "Rick" Whitlow**

Richard "Rick" Whitlow, 56, Plainfield, passed away on Feb. 2. He was born on Sept. 21, 1967. Rick was the owner of Joe's Garage/Whitlow's 24-Hour Towing. Services were held on Feb. 13 at Plainfield Christian Church, Plainfield.



## Letter from the Editor

*"Wake up in anticipation that something great is going to happen today."*

- Unknown

By Kate Anderson

Are you a jump out of bed and start your day kind of person or do you wake up yawning, shuffling your way to the coffee maker for that all important first cup of coffee? I really wish that I was the energetic one, but usually I am the yawning and shuffling one. Every morning, I sit down with my coffee and planner and review my schedule for the day. Meetings, writing projects, interviews, and more meetings. Usually everyday resembles this format. I guess this is what is called "Adulting". I proceed to shake off the morning fog and get the day started in earnest. I go through my day with as much vim and vigor as I can muster, and as hard as I try, some days are harder than others. I know you're reading this, and it seems like I am being such a "Debbie Downer". I know, I know, but I have a point, I

swear. How many of us just go through our heavily scheduled days without the expectation of amazingness? How many of us feel "ho-hum" about what we have in store for us each day? What if we changed our attitudes to one of gratitude and expectancy? I wonder if, when I wake up in the morning, instead of seeing my schedule and immediately feeling the need to crawl back into bed, I become the "jump out of bed" kind person? Changing the way we think about the multitude of daily tasks can go a long way to making you not only a happier person, but also a person others want to be around. After all, the vibe we put out into the world, no matter how hard we try to hide it, rubs off on others. Today is the day to take our days from blah to YEAH! Let's do it! Who's with me?

## ICONIC brief

### E & Co. Hair Salon Celebrates Grand Opening

Congratulations to Elisha Anderson as she celebrates the grand opening of her new business E & Co. Hair Salon in Pittsboro. Elisha has been a stylist in the salon industry for 24 years and has helped train and develop the careers of over 55 stylists in the span of those years. She genuinely loves the relationships she develops with her clients, and one of her passions is solving her clients hair problems and working with them to come up with solutions. While she has an established clientele list from years of being behind the chair, she is excited to welcome new clients to her salon. Congratulations on your accomplishments, Elisha!





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**RACE TO THE ECLIPSE**

**LUCAS OIL INDIANAPOLIS RACEWAY PARK**

**Castrol EDGE**

## ICONIC brief

### Race to the Eclipse Camping & 5K Registration Now Open

On April 8, Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park, in conjunction with the Town of Brownsburg and Visit Hendricks County, will host the free Race to the Eclipse event at the track from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will include tons of activities and attractions, culminating with two dragsters speeding down the track during the three minutes of total darkness.

Among the many activities, the 5K Race to the Eclipse Fun Run held before the main Race to the Eclipse activities begin will give participants the opportunity to walk or run down the famed drag strip along with other one-of-a-kind perks. Registration is now open for this historic run by going to [www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/eclipse/race-to-the-eclipse/](http://www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/eclipse/race-to-the-eclipse/). For a limited time, early bird tickets cost \$24.99 for adults and \$14.99 for youth for the Fun Run.

At that same website, visitors can find more information about the afternoon activities, order T-shirts, enter to win a giveaway for a two-night stay at the Embassy Suites in Plainfield, and purchase a pass for the most affordable camping you will find in central Indiana for the eclipse. The camping is primitive, so no hookups, but only costs \$25 for two nights.

During the three hours of the partial and total eclipse, the track will host live music, including the Indianapolis band GrooveSmash, food trucks, family activities, a beer garden, and will pass out commemorative Race to the Eclipse glasses to the first 5,000 people in attendance.

Organizers of the nearby B&O trail also are encouraging residents to ride their bikes and will offer group trail rides to the track the day of the event. Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park is located at 10267 U.S. Highway 136 in Indianapolis.

**For more information about all the county's eclipse activities and more, visit: [www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/Eclipse](http://www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/Eclipse).**



## ICONIC brief

### Brownsburg Sertoma Receives Grant Promoting Mental Health

Sertoma International awarded a \$1,800 grant to the Brownsburg Sertoma Club to help support their program providing counseling for needy local youth with mental health issues. One in six youngsters have a mental health condition, like anxiety or depression, but only half receive any mental health services, mostly because there are not the resources to support the services so desperately needed. Untreated or unresolved mental health issues in childhood can result in enduring consequences like increased risk of drug use, experiencing violence, and even suicide. Brownsburg Sertoma has been providing \$350 a month to the Care to Change Counseling Center for a fund to provide counseling to local youngsters without financial support. With this grant, their donation will increase to \$500 a month which will be \$6,000 for a year.

"Our country is experiencing a mental health crisis, and Brownsburg Sertoma has stepped up to make sure our future generations have access to resources needed to grow into healthy, thriving adults. Thanks to Brownsburg Sertoma, kids and families will have opportunities not otherwise available. Just like everyone deserves safety and food - everyone deserves access to mental health services. Thank you, Sertoma, for making this possible," said April Bordeau, the Director of Care to Change.

The Sertoma Club is trying to make a positive difference today, and hopefully build a brighter future for our community. **For more information, visit [info@brownsburgsertoma.org](mailto:info@brownsburgsertoma.org).**

## Picnic for the Parks

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## Meet YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Julie Brackemyre

### 1. In what town do you live, and how long have you lived in Hendricks County?

We moved to Plainfield from Oxford, Ohio in 2015 for a job opportunity.

### 2. Describe your immediate family to us.

My husband, Jon, and I have been married for 19 years. We have an 18-year-old son, Johnathan, and a 10-year-old, tuxedo, female kitty, Lena.

### 3. Does your family identify with a certain faith, and if so, can you tell us more about the traditions in your faith?

Although we are not active in a church community, we believe in God. As a family, we listen to our hearts and practice kindness and unconditional love towards others.

### 4. If you do not identify with a certain faith, what inspires you?

We are inspired to treat others kindly and with

respect. We are naturally encouraged to help our community. Our family works in the customer service industry, and we thoroughly enjoy building relationships with our fellow neighbors.

### 5. Describe your perfect family outing.

Since we are born and bred Buckeyes, our perfect outing consists of traveling to Ohio to visit family and friends. Whilst in Ohio, we enjoy stopping at any of our favorite eateries such as Roosters, LaRosa's, Skyline, Frichs, and the seasonal Jolly's.

### 6. What is your favorite family tradition?

We are a busy, active family, but insist on sitting around the table every Sunday for dinner. It's a time to reflect on our days' past, plan for upcoming matters, and discuss current events.

### 7. What are three words to describe the reasons you choose to live in Hendricks County?

Community, Peaceful, Prosperity

## Carey Stephenson

Store Manager, Specks Pet Supply in Avon





# Hendricks County ICON of the Week

## Helee Adkins

By Julie Brackemyre

Helee Adkins is the owner and founder of Adkins Consulting. She is a licensed insurance agent that specializes in Medicare planning and evaluation. Helee helps those near retirement age to make an informed decision regarding their Medicare Benefits at no cost to her clients. After working for Hendricks County Senior Services (HCSS) for more than six years, she is in tune with the community resources available to the population she is serving. Listening to the big picture story of her client's needs, she is honored to refer several of her clients to HCSS for their wonderful services and programs. She serves as vice president of the Danville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the board of Get Real in Christ, the missions committee at her church (NWCC) where she is the pastor's wife, and is a programming committee member for Leadership Hendricks County (LHC class of 2022). Having family members diagnosed with this disease, Helee is passionate about Alzheimer's education. She has been a dementia educator for several years and has a heart for caregivers in the community, including her mom, Paula. Helee and her husband Rick reside in Danville, along with their canine rescue, Phoebe. The couple are empty nesters and spend time helping their parents and grandma age gracefully. In her spare time, Helee enjoys traveling, visiting her adult children, and singing.

### 1. What do you consider your greatest virtue?

I consider my great virtue to be fortitude. I want to go to my grave having courage in adversity or pain.

### 2. What do you most deplore in others?

The lack of authenticity

### 3. What do you like most about working in Hendricks County?

The people! I have lived in Hendricks County since the second grade and it brings me joy to run into classmates and their families. I also love meeting new people and have a wonderful network of local professionals I greatly enjoy spending time with.

### 4. If you had to live anywhere else, where would it be?

Near water. I love the sound of a babbling brooks and mighty waterfalls.

### 5. If you could begin life over, what would you change?

I would embrace my value and see myself more as God sees/created me versus seeking approval in others.

### 6. If money weren't an issue, where would you spend it?

Two things come to mind. I would spend more time traveling. I would also create a unique home designed with elderly family members in mind and employ a nurse/caregiver to assist with their needs.

### 7. What makes you happiest?

I am the happiest when I spend time with my family. I also find much joy in helping others reach their potential.

### 8. What is your favorite vacation spot?

I love the west. I recently enjoyed some time in Utah and Grand Junction, Colorado.

### 9. What do you do with your idle time?

When I have idle time, I love to grab a book and head to my hammock. It's a great place for new ideas.

### 10. What is it that makes you angry?

Abuse of the vulnerable.



### 11. What do you do to escape from reality?

I enjoy time with the Lord in prayer. I also enjoy going to the country setting of the family property that has been in our family for more than 100 years (Parke County).

### 12. What/who is the greatest love of your life?

My husband, Rick. He is my rock! I am thankful he supported my decision to start my own business this year.

### 13. What is the quality you most like in a person?

Transparency and authenticity.

### 14. What is your greatest extravagance?

Our annual cruise. Beyond that, I like to get my nails done.

### 15. What is your favorite restaurant?

There are so many wonderful restaurants in Hendricks County that I enjoy. I would have to say, Opa! and Beehive for lunch and the Bread Basket for breakfast.

### 16. Who is the most influential person in your life?

My Grandma Jo. She always finds the good in any situation and has shown me the best example on earth of unconditional love for others (even in the midst of Alzheimer's).

### 17. What are your fears/phobias?

Ants! As a five-year-old I sat on an ant hill and had to be thrown in water to get them off. Those bites hurt!

### 18. Which talent would you most like to possess?

I would love the ability to draw life-like pencil portraits of others.

### 19. What do you most value in your friends?

I value a friend who will love me enough to be honest, even if it stings. I treasure those that end our time together with a comma rather than a period.

### 20. Who is your favorite historical figure?

Esther, in scripture, who was reminded that perhaps God created her for that specific moment in time; "for such a time as this."

### 21. What is your greatest regret?

My greatest regret is being afraid to stand up for me in my younger years and not realizing my worth.

### 22. What tenet do you live by?

The platinum rule. The golden rule focuses on treating others how we want to be treated. The platinum rule emphasized understanding the needs and preferences of others and treating them how they want to be treated.

# TIC TACO

By Dick Wolfsie

The Wolfsies recently returned from a wonderful vacation in Mexico where we visited with Mary Ellen's brother Tom and his new bride, Cori. In preparation for the trip, I have been learning Spanish with an app called Duo Lingo. When airline safety instructions were given in Spanish, Mary Ellen asked me to translate. The only thing I am sure the flight attendant said was THANKS FOR FLYING AMERICAN... because that part was in English. Here are a few other funny things that happened on our journey...

During the flight, there was a mother and baby in the seat across the aisle. The baby never stopped screaming. When the flight landed, the mom apologized and said air travel made the baby's ears hurt. "Yes," I said. "That is exactly how I felt during the last two hours."

My wife was not without a few embarrassing moments. At the Indianapolis Airport, most passengers must take off their shoes before going through security. I am exempt from this requirement because I am over 75 years old. The restriction is lifted for super seniors because if I did have something dangerous stashed in my shoe, it would take me about 20 minutes just to bend over in my seat and extricate the contraband from my sneakers.

After we had all passed through airport security, we began to gather our belongings from the rubber trays provided for items like cell phones, belts, and wallets so they could move through the X-ray machine. I looked back to the beginning of the line and someone had taken off their shoes but neglected to place them on the conveyor belt. They had been left on the airport floor. Somewhere, someone was walking around barefoot. By the way, my wife has lovely feet and now everyone about to head for gate 32A knew it.

In Mexico one evening, Mary Ellen commented to her brother how beautiful

the songbird sounded warbling in the nearby park. But it was the burglar alarm of Tom's car that had accidentally been set off when he exited his vehicle. (Note: Mary Ellen never does goofy stuff like this, but this did make the vacation so much more fun for me.)

I was very good at asking questions in Spanish, but terrible at understanding the answers. Where is the bathroom? (Donde esta el baño?) seemed easy enough. But after simple inquiries, I'd often get lengthy responses that I didn't understand. When I asked the question: "Do you serve beer?" I was hoping for a simple response like "si, señor" but I think what I got was a dissertation on Mexican breweries, none of which I understood, although I did catch the words Corona every once in a while.

The streets in Puebla were very rocky and Mary Ellen told me that if I wasn't careful, I'd eventually trip and hurt myself. She was right. After stumbling for the seventh time, I took a nasty fall on the uneven street. I glared at my wife. "Why are you upset with me?" she asked. "I told you that if you didn't walk carefully, you were going to eventually trip and fall."

"Yes, but you didn't tell me which time."

On the final night, we all went out to dinner with Cori's immediate family. Her mother leaned over and offered a few thoughts in Spanish. I did the same in English. I have no idea what she said and she had no idea what I said, but I'm pretty sure we were both sharing how happy we were to all be together.



Dick Wolfsie's weekly humor column is published in more than 30 newspapers. Dick has written 14 books, including *Mornings with Barney* and *Indiana Curiosities*. His newest book, *The Right Fluff*, is a compilation of his most popular humor columns. He lives in Fishers with his wife Mary Ellen and a cat who doesn't like him.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"Spring will come and so will happiness.  
Hold on. Life will get warmer."**

— Anita Krizzan

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**Study indicates bad grammar wigs us out**

**GRAMMAR GUY**

By Curtis Honeycutt

It's science — hearing bad grammar raises our stress levels. I always knew this implicitly, but a recent study from the University of Birmingham shows this explicitly.

In a small sample of 41 British English-speaking adults, researchers played speech samples to the subjects, half of which featured grammatical errors. The subjects, connected to heart rate monitors, showed a decrease in heart rate variability (HRV) and an increase in heart rate. These two indicators reveal stress in the nervous system — a fight-or-flight response to egregious grammatical gaffes.

I've always maintained that good grammar makes your life better regarding career and relationship success, but now I'm comfortable going one step further by declaring good grammar also makes you healthier. True, there's probably a large overlap between word nerds and people who shop at Whole Foods, but the Birmingham crew hasn't yet measured that phenomenon.

We're also told regular dentist visits and steady exercise lead to healthier lives, but that doesn't mean we do it. Just because someone tells me kale is good for me doesn't mean I'm going to eat it. So, is there a way to convince people to improve their English language skills?

Unfortunately, the answer is

“probably not.” You can lead a horse to water, as they say, but you can't make him stop dangling his modifiers. If a watched pot falls in a forest, the grass isn't necessarily greener for whom the bell tolls. Or something like that.

Yet, even a wince at “This needs washed” is a tiny tremor in the earthquake of bad grammar. Each slip-up, each misplaced “who,” each forgotten comma chips away at the foundation of our shared language. If my biology classes in high school taught me anything, it's that survival of the fittest includes developing your muscles into Arnold Schwarzenegger-level behemoths — and your brain is a muscle!

So, while we may not force-feed everyone a thesaurus, we can at least acknowledge the subtle stress of a misplaced comma. We can celebrate the elegance of a well-turned phrase and the clarity of a concise sentence. Because for good grammar to truly prevail, it takes a village — a conscious, comma-loving, apostrophe-appreciating village. It's time to give our mental lexicons the workout they deserve for the sake of our sanity, our shared language, and, perhaps, even our heart rates.



Curtis Honeycutt is a wildly popular syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com)

**DUMB LAW**

***Our nation has all sorts of arcane, nonsensical laws on the books. Each issue, we'll share one with you ...***

In Indiana, it is illegal for any citizen to attend a cinema or theater nor ride in a public streetcar within at least four hours after eating garlic.

Source: [dumblaws.com](http://dumblaws.com)

# Hendricks County ICONIC Athlete

## FRESHMAN LEADING THE TEAM IN SCORING

*Menser Hoping to Lead the Lady Quakers to State Title Run*

By Josh George

Menser is a last name that many college basketball enthusiasts may remember. Michael Menser was an Indiana State Men's basketball player who played from 1997-2001. He led the Sycamores to the NCAA tournament in 2000, was an All-Missouri Valley conference selection, and is a member of the Indiana State Hall of Fame. He is a legend in college basketball and at Indiana State.

The Menser name is now popping up again, but it is his daughter, Hannah, who is in the spotlight as she is starring for the Plainfield Lady Quakers. The 5'8" freshman shooting guard is the leading scorer for the Quakers at 15.6 PPG. She is also averaging 3.7 RPG, 2.7 APG, 2.5 SPG, and 1.1 BPG. Michael is very much a part of Hannah's success, as he is an assistant coach with the Lady Quakers. The Quakers are enjoying a historical season, as they have won the sectional and regional to advance to the semi-state round against Lawrence Central at the time this article was written, Feb. 15, 2024.

**The ICON recently had a Q and A with Hannah and Coach Bengé about Hannah and the Quakers season to date:**

**Q and A with Plainfield Freshman Shooting Guard, Hannah Menser:**

**ICON:** Describe your sports journey through the years and highs and lows.

**Hannah:** I started playing basketball when I was three years old. My dad was a coach at Terre Haute North, and I would go to his practices and dribble around the gym. A low point



in my career was suffering a foot injury and not being able to play my eighth grade basketball season. Some of my highs include:  
\*Going undefeated in middle school basketball with two county championships and two conference championships  
\*Playing on the Under Armour circuit with IGB GUAA 16 and playing the top competition in the country  
\*Being blessed to receive my first college scholarship offer from Indiana State this past July

**ICON:** Your dad is in the Hall of Fame at Indiana State. How has he influenced your basketball career and how have your parents supported you?  
**Hannah:** Sporting activities are my family's life. My mom supports my

two sisters in their dance activities, but never misses a game of mine. My dad has coached me from the start of my career and really pushes me to improve daily. My dad has helped develop my skill level and especially my shot. He makes sure I am doing the right things and points out where I need to improve in all areas of my game. He used to beat me in shooting competitions consistently, but I am not sure that is true anymore!

**ICON:** How does it feel to have so much success as a freshman?  
**Hannah:** This year has been really fun getting to play Varsity basketball with a great group of girls. I have looked forward to playing high school basketball for several years now. Our 2027 class has blended well with the upper classes at PHS, which has helped us to be successful.

**ICON:** What are some things you love most about your high

school team?

**Hannah:** Nobody on the team feels like they are superior to other athletes. We all get along and have fun on the court as well as off the court. The energy we bring when we play is one of the major reasons we are successful.

**ICON:** How has Plainfield basketball and the coaches helped you as a student athlete and person?

**Hannah:** Plainfield basketball makes you play hard on both ends of the court. Coach Bengé and his staff make sure you are ready to compete each night. The coaches talk about being a good person and making good choices. They are making sure we are prepared for more than just basketball.

**Q and A with Coach Bengé:**

**ICON:** What makes Hannah a special basketball player and person?

**Coach Bengé:** That is a simple answer. She does little things on the floor and can communicate like a coach. She leads by example and works hard. She is not a boastful person so her teammates respect her when she has something to say. She is inherently unselfish and willing to share the ball.

**ICON:** What type of impact has Hannah had on the Plainfield program?

**Coach Bengé:** Hannah's impact has been felt both on and off the floor. She has helped build our culture with her attitude and work ethic. Her skills have made us a better basketball team on the floor and have played a huge part in our turnaround from last year, along with the other additions and the

development of our returning players.

**ICON:** Describe Hannah as a leader as a freshman.

**Coach Bengé:** Hannah is a quiet person by nature. She leads by example and not with words. As a freshman, that is a great way to lead. I think that is key in why our upperclassmen embrace her leadership. The key is that no one had to tell her that. It really demonstrates her maturity level.

**ICON:** This has been a special season for the Plainfield girl's basketball program. What has it meant to the players, the coaching staff, the school, and the community?

**Coach Bengé:** It is always a cool experience to advance in the state tournament. For me it has been neat to have kids who do things the right way get positive feedback. That does not always happen. The way our community has responded to these players with the send offs, crowd attendance, police escorts, etc. is something that these players will never forget and I know they are grateful. It means a lot to be able to bring positive attention to our school and community.



**Best of luck to the Plainfield Girls Basketball Team in the semi-state, and congrats to Hannah Menser on being the Hendricks County ICONIC Athlete of the Week!**



## Notables

Compiled by Josh George

### Girls Basketball

Plainfield – 48 | Pike – 43  
Berkeley Williams – 18 Points  
Hannah Menser – 12 Points  
Payton Bengé – 11 Points

Danville – 57 | Speedway – 23  
Addison Davis – 20 Points  
Emma Ancelet – 19 Points

### Boys Basketball

Tri-West – 59 | Crawfordsville – 39  
Drew Miller – 15 Points  
Max Robertson – 13 Points  
Avon – 71 | Danville – 60  
Rohan Pearson – 20 Points  
Deandre Lott-hancock – 18 Points  
Evan Lawrence – 30 Points  
Cascade – 61 | Northview – 56  
Toby Savini – 20 Points  
Brady Trebley – 14 Points  
Nick Parsons – 12 Points

**Congratulations to the Brownsburg High School wrestling team for winning the state title for the 2nd time in school history!**



**Avon Wrestling is sending 5 wrestlers on to the state finals**

**Addie Heyen sets school record in the 100-meter butterfly for Brownsburg Swimming**

# FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY, FEB 24  
5PM GAME TIME  
DOORS OPEN AT 4PM

SUNDAY, FEB 25  
4PM GAME TIME  
DOORS OPEN AT 3PM



HENDRICKS COUNTY  
**ICON**

**GAME LOCATION:  
THE LYONS DEN  
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**ICON**

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## DEFEND THE VALLEY

### *New Avon Weight Room has Everyone in the School and Community Excited About the Present and Future*

Avon High School has a new state of the art weight room that is right up there with some of the top high schools in the state. They also have new strength and speed coaches, Craig Ray and Chris Stevenson, that started last June and have been working with the Avon athletes and students since then. Their vision along with Athletic Director, Jason Young, has coaches, athletes, students, and the Avon High School and Avon community excited about the present and future. The Hendricks County ICON recently had a Q and A with Jason, Chris, and Craig to see how things are going and get their thoughts on the new weight room.

#### **Q and A with Avon High School Athletic Director Jason Young:**

**ICON:** Discuss the impact the new weight room will have on all the student athletes/teams?

**Jason Young:** The new fitness center has allowed us to bring in a large number of students each class period and for workouts after school. This has allowed athletes from all sports to work together and build a culture of hard work and togetherness.

**ICON:** How will the new weight room affect the entire student body?

**Jason Young:** OUR APC classes are open to any student at Avon High School. We have transitioned from an "athletes-only" course to open to an all-students course.

**ICON:** Avon transitioned to new strength and speed coaches this past summer. Discuss them both and the impact they have already had on the Avon athletes, and where you see Avon sports heading in the next few years with their direction in the weight room.

**Jason Young:** It was an easy hire. We knew that we needed to get back to building relationships with our student athletes and our coaches. We needed our student athletes to "want" to be working out, and we needed to get back to our coaches supporting efforts to get student-athletes in the weight room. What Craig and Chris do from a programming standpoint is truly remarkable. However, we felt their ability to build relationships with all students was what truly set them apart. Walking down to the new fitness center and watching them interact with our students is always a highlight in my day.

**ICON:** Is there anything else you would like us to know?

**Jason Young:** We have seen over 20 percent growth in enrollment in our APC classes. We feel that number will continue to rise.

#### **Q and A with Strength and Speed Coaches Craig Ray and Chris Stevenson:**

**ICON:** Discuss the impact the new weight room will have on all student athletes/teams.

**Craig and Chris:** The new Sports Performance Center allows us to accommodate well over 100 students per class, providing each student athlete with data to give them immediate feedback and help us program. With that feedback, a lot of students are going to find some intrinsic motivation to pop off a faster time or push the weight a little faster.

**ICON:** What new equipment and technology has been added to the weight room?

**Craig and Chris:** We added 17 EliteForm units to each of our 17 racks allowing us to track bar velocity and peak power. Along with EliteForm, we have four ShredMills, six Assault Runners, and 20 Assault Bikes. All of this equipment and technology gives us and our student athletes immediate feedback. This data is the vehicle through which we program and helps us tailor workouts to our students' strengths and weaknesses.

**ICON:** What excites you both most about the new weight room?

**Craig:** The overall size of the space and equipment allows us to design and implement workouts that are efficient given the amount of time we have with each student. EliteForm is a great feature that allows us to track bar speed and power output, but it also gives our students obtainable goals and targets to go after in real time.

**Chris:** ShredMills. Without question. With some of the other tools we already have-Bullet Belts, Sleds, SmartSpeed-ShredMills allows us to chase acceleration and top-end speed in a unique way. They fit perfectly within the framework of our speed/power lifts, diversifying workouts in a way that are unique in a course like ours. We are chasing speed, and speed is coming. Quickly!

**ICON:** You both were at Mooresville prior to transitioning to Avon. What made you both feel that it was the right situation and move to Avon to work with their student athletes?

**Craig and Chris:** It was not an easy decision. We loved everything about Mooresville from the top down, especially the students. We both talk about leaving people and places better than we found them, and we both feel like we did that at Mooresville. When Avon came knocking, we saw many similarities between Mooresville and Avon in terms of the support we were going to get and their willingness to get the tools we needed to get our program established here. The HCC is arguably the toughest conference in the Midwest, definitely the state, and that challenge was a factor in us becoming Orioles!

From talking with Jason, Craig, Chris, coaches, and athletes, you can feel the energy and excitement the new weight room has brought to everyone. Craig and Chris would like to invite you to follow how things are going on Instagram @ avon\_strength. As they put it, "Culture has become a buzzword in athletics. Go scroll through the feed on Instagram. The culture we are establishing will be easy to see. Defend the Valley!"



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**2 Indiana Basketball Teams**  
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- Across**
- 1 With 37- and 70-Across, writer of "When Early March Seems Like Middle May"
  - 6 IndyCar dashboard letters
  - 9 IMA artist Chagall
  - 13 Old Olds
  - 14 "Norma \_\_\_\_"
  - 15 Biblical twin
  - 16 Word after "Old" or "morning"
  - 17 Sault \_\_\_\_ Marie
  - 18 Bank statement abbr.
  - 19 Hornet relative
  - 21 Indiana Golden Gloves fight stopper
  - 23 Part of AARP (Abbr.)
  - 24 Similar
  - 26 Tuna type
  - 28 Chef's tool
  - 30 Indianapolis \_\_\_\_
  - 32 Angela Buchman weather map line
  - 33 Pot-bellied pet
  - 34 Amherst school, for short
  - 36 Cravings
  - 37 See 1-Across
  - 39 Prima donna
  - 42 Not fresh
  - 43 Hornets, on Pacers scoreboards
  - 46 "E" in Morse Code
  - 48 Mosquito-borne fever
  - 50 Extend a subscription to
  - 30-Across
  - 51 Appropriate
  - 52 Deep cut
  - 53 X-ray alternative
  - 54 Fond du \_\_\_\_, Wis.
  - 56 Panache
  - 58 Where a homemade Indiana iron-on patch sells for \$10.40
  - 60 Eiteljorg Museum tribe
  - 62 Stage whisper
  - 65 Mob scene
  - 66 Past do?
  - 67 "To reiterate..."
  - 68 Hourglass fill
  - 69 ICU hookups
  - 70 See 1-Across

- Down**
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  - 2 Completely
  - 3 Cat chat?
  - 4 Off the mark
  - 5 Some beans
  - 6 B&O, et al.
  - 7 Singer LuPone or LaBelle
  - 8 Unassertive
  - 9 \_\_\_\_ culpa
  - 10 Attribute
  - 11 Indy500 devotee
  - 12 Coast Guard boats

# NOTICE

## The Hendricks County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is Sponsoring Crisis Response Training

The Hendricks County Crisis Response Team (HCCRT) will conduct crisis response training on March 13, 14, and 15 at the County's Work Release Center located at 355 South Washington Street in Danville. The purpose of the HCCRT is to provide trauma mitigation and education in the aftermath of a critical traumatic event, such as a shooting, a life-threatening accident, or a drug overdose. This training, established by the National Organization of Victim Advocacy, will enable students to join the Hendricks County CRT and be part of the broader I-CART (Indiana-Crisis Assistance Response Team) call out process as well. The 24 hours of intensive training will be led by NOVA-Certified Crisis Response Trainers Bridgette Collins-George and Kim Walton, MSN, APRN. Educational material will be shared in lecture and group discussion formats. Seating is limited. For more information and a registration form, contact Tom Stempson at [stempson@gmail.com](mailto:stempson@gmail.com).

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- 20 Fortune teller with a hands-on approach
  - 22 Approves
  - 24 Mellencamp guitar attachment
  - 25 Pond carp
  - 27 Hotel chain with a downtown Indy location
  - 29 Texter's "butt out!"
  - 31 "Say what?"
  - 32 Set apart
  - 35 Mischief maker
  - 37 Walk in the White River
  - 38 A Simon
  - 39 Certain windows
  - 40 Subject of Newton's first law
  - 41 Deer meat
  - 43 Skull-related
  - 44 That guy's
  - 45 Ooh and \_\_\_\_
  - 47 Hoosier hooter
  - 49 Two-time US Open tennis champ
  - 51 When Juliet drinks the poison
  - 55 Tom Wood auto
  - 57 Animal home
  - 59 Since 1/1
  - 61 Some ICON staffers, briefly
  - 63 Conk out
  - 64 Big name in ice cream
- Answers on Page 38**



# HENDRICKS REGIONAL HEALTH CELEBRATES THE UNSTOPPABLE SPIRIT OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

*A feature in the Hendricks County ICON highlighting leaders of tomorrow.*

## Leading by example for his school and community

By Kate Anderson

In this world, there are those students who are born leaders. Those who lead by example, hard work, and service. Colton McClure, a junior at Plainfield High School, is one of those students. With a multitude of extracurricular, athletic, and academic activities, there isn't much down time in his active schedule. He thrives on being busy and makes the most out of every day. He balances his concentration on both his studies and his athletic endeavors, and he has been awarded not only many academic awards, but also athletic awards. With excellence in academics, he is not only a member of the National Honor Society, but has made Academic All-State, consistent honor roll, and maintains an excellent GPA. One of his great interests is his science classes, and he loves to spend frequent weekends with the Academic Science Bowl. "I really like it. I get to learn, go to competitions, and hang out with my friends," said Colton. He is also a member of HOSA (Future Health Professionals), which affords high school students many opportunities to those who have an interest in the health sciences. It is an international career and technical student organization which is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and Health Science Technology.

When he isn't hitting the books, he spends his time on the soccer field. He not only plays on the Varsity team at school,

but also for Westside United Club Soccer, and is First Team for the Indiana State Olympic Development Program. His athletic talents and commitment to his chosen sport have not gone unnoticed. Colton is a no-nonsense player who has won varsity awards, team leader awards for goals and assists, Mid State All-Conference Team, and Hendricks County Player of the Year Honorable Mention. He is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an organization whose mission is to lead both coaches and athletes into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his church. He has a great interest in giving back to his community and volunteers for Plainfield Optimist



Soccer and Plainfield Revolution Club Soccer, helping in any way that he can. "Giving back to Plainfield soccer teams is something I feel strongly about," said Colton.

In his spare time, he has a love for community-minded projects. He volunteers at his church, Fairfield Friends Church, Family Promise, mentors in local elementary schools, and takes part in volunteer projects for Key Club. "I love to give back to my community and help others reach their goals," said Colton. In 2023, he applied for the Student Leadership Program with Leadership Hendricks County. The LHC program develops leadership potential, fosters civic

awareness, and promotes responsible volunteerism among youth in the community. Considering his volunteer efforts, Colton was given the Leadership Hendricks County Youth Leader of the Year award at this year's Leadership Hendricks County Celebration of Leaders. "It was a great surprise and an honor," said Colton. It is no surprise that this young man with a heart for giving back to his community was given this esteemed award.

With his future in mind, he plans on getting a Bachelors and Master's with a concentration in architectural design and playing college club soccer. His goal-oriented attitude, both academic and extracurricular, has not gone unnoticed by his teachers and administrators. "I have known Colton for a very long time. I was his principal when he started kindergarten at Brentwood Elementary, and I have had the privilege of being his principal at Plainfield High School. Colton is an incredibly talented young man who demonstrates this in the classroom and on the soccer field. In addition, Colton is one of the most kind, respectful, hard-working, and humble students that I have the pleasure of working with," said Plainfield High School Principal Pat Cooney. I think the message is clear; this driven and determined young man has a promising future full of opportunity.

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HENDRICKS COUNTY  
**ICON**

2024  
SUMMER  
CAMP  
GUIDE

GET YOUR KIDS  
EXCITED FOR  
SUMMER BREAK!

Check out all that  
Hendricks County  
has to offer



# HENDRICKS COUNTY ICON SUMMER CAMP GUIDE 2024

Are you looking for some great summer camps to get your kids into? Well, you have come to the right place! Summer camps are great for the ever-evolving development of your child. Our list offers a variety of different types of camps to fit your child's interest and needs. Here are some reasons why it is important to get your child involved with summer camps.

1. **Camps are fun**
2. **Develops independence**
3. **Develops teamwork**
4. **Fosters growth**
5. **Develops relationships**
6. **Promotes exercise**
7. **Teaches kids to respect differences**
8. **Nurtures healthy living**
9. **Develops social skills**
10. **Improves self-esteem**

These are just a few reasons why it is important to consider putting your child/children into a summer camp. Lifelong memories and friendships can be developed from attending a summer camp. Hendricks County ICON hopes you find our list of camps below helpful and hope your kids have a fun-filled summer of camps!



## BROWNSBURG



### Brownsburg's Summer Camps: Adventure, Exploration, and Fun for Kids!

**Registration for summer camps opened Feb. 16:**

**<https://brownsburgparks.reg.eleyo.com>**

Are you looking for a summer camp that offers a perfect blend of adventure, exploration, and fun? Look no further than Brownsburg's Summer Camps! Brownsburg Parks is dedicated to providing a safe, hands-on learning experience for our campers as they build relationships, celebrate accomplishments, and develop a sense of belonging.

Choose from two active full-day camps, Adventure Camp, and Jr. Naturalist Camp, offering weekly programming, outdoor adventures, and special guest visitors. It's the perfect opportunity for children aged 6-15 to have the best summer while learning new skills and making new friends. The adventure starts here.

#### Adventure Camp (June 3 - July 26)

**Ages 6-8, 9-12, 9-15**

A traditional and active day full-day camp (eight-week traditional camp) experience that provides weekly themed programming, outdoor adventures, local field trips, weekly park days, and special guest visitors. The camp is divided into three age groups: Explorers (6-8), Pathfinders (9-12), and Trailblazers (9-15).

- Location: Cardinal Elementary School, Door J
- Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Cost (Explorers and Pathfinders): \$225 per week (includes \$75 deposit for payment plans) or \$215 per week when you pay in full
- Cost (Trailblazers): \$235 per week (includes \$75 deposit for payment plans) or \$225 per week when you pay in full

#### Jr. Naturalist Day Camps (June 3 - 7, July 8 - 12)

**Ages 6-8, 8-11**

This camp is perfect for young nature enthusiasts who want to learn more about the natural world around them. During the camp, campers will participate in fun activities that focus on environmental education, including plant and animal identification, nature games, and crafts. They will also explore local parks and trails to observe local wildlife and ecosystems. The camp will also include special guests from our community, and campers will document their observations in a keepsake nature journal.

- Location: Bundy Lodge, Arbuckle Acres Park
- Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4: p.m., Check-in: 8:30 - 9 a.m., Check-out: 3:30 - 4 p.m.
- Cost: \$225 per week

**More information on both camps can be found here:**

**<https://brownsburgparks.com/506/Camp>**

## Brownsburg Education Foundation, Pioneer Camp (June 17 - 20, 24 - 27)

### Open to all exiting 3rd-5th grade students

While at Brownsburg Education Foundation Camp, kids will enjoy what life was like as an Indiana pioneer child while doing many fun projects and tasks. Every day at Pioneer Camp will be a new and exciting experience. Some activities include cooking, catching bugs and insects, building bird houses and gardening boxes, milking goats, fishing, playing games, pioneer crafts, music, and much more. Registration limited to the first 20 participants per session.

- Location: Brownsburg Education Foundation
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)
- Cost: \$150

Learn more here:

[https://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org/pioneer-camp?blm\\_aid=23661](https://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org/pioneer-camp?blm_aid=23661)

Register here: [www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org)

## Natural Valley Ranch (at the bend on White Lick Creek) Traditional Summer Horse Camp (June 10 - 14, June 24 - 28)

### Ages 8 and up

An this camp, students will gain an understanding of beginning horsemanship as well as more advanced horsemanship depending on students age and ability. Each child will be evaluated by the instructor and given the opportunity to participate in different activities if they wish.

Camp includes horse safety, horse health, grooming, saddling, trail and arena riding, and stall cleaning. Advanced students will be able to learn the basics of contesting, western pleasure, and advanced trail riding.

- Location: Natural Valley Ranch
- Dates/hours of sessions are:
  - June 10-14: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. each day
  - June 10-14: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. each day
  - June 24-28: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. each day
  - June 24-28: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. each day
- Cost: \$300 per camper/per session

For more information and to register, visit <https://hendrickscountytrailrides.com>

## Mini Camp (July 16 - 18)

### Ages 6-7

At this Mini Camp, students will gain an understanding of beginning horsemanship as well as more advanced horsemanship depending on the students age and ability. Each child will be evaluated by the instructor and given the opportunity to participate in different activities if they wish. No experience necessary for our camps.

- Location: Natural Valley Ranch
- Hours: 9 - 11 a.m. each day
- Cost: \$175 per camper/per session

For more information and to register, visit <https://hendrickscountytrailrides.com>



# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP



## Registration opens March 1

At Washington Township Parks Department, we offer year-round programs for all ages that bring our community together around shared interests. Our camps provide hands-on learning about nature, with flexible enrollment, affordable childcare, and a wide range of activities every day.

## Little Explorers Preschool Camp (June 3 - August 1)

### Ages 3-5

This camp is an all-outdoors camp for preschool kids ages 3-5 years old. Campers will participate in a variety of fun activities, including organized games, story time, art, and nature exploration. We will also continue to support developmentally appropriate skills for our pre-k campers. Camp will be staffed by our preschool teacher and assistant teachers. All staff are CPR & first-aid certified. We will also have a 1:6 counselor to camp ratio. Potty training is not required, and a snack will be provided during camp. There are 18 spots available for each weekly session.

- Location: Washington Township Park Blue Jay Shelter
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday)
- Cost: \$40/week

Learn more here:

<https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/little-explorer-preschool-camp.html>

Register here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/camp-registration.html>

## Murphy Aquatic Swim Camp (June 3 - July 25)

### Students 2nd-6th grade

Campers grades second-sixth grade can explore our new water park. Children will be supervised by our counselors while having fun in the sun! There are 30 spots available for each day. Each camper will be required to take a swim test. If a life jacket is needed, campers may bring their own or use one of ours. Only Coast Guard approved life jackets are permitted at Murphy Aquatic Park. Coast Guard approved life jackets are labeled with the approval number on the inside of the jacket, typically on the back.

- Location: Murphy Aquatic Park
- Hours: 1 – 4 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)
- Cost: \$30/day

Learn more here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/map-swim-camp.html>

Register here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/camp-registration.html>

## Explorer Summer Camp (May 28 - August 2)

### Kindergarten-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade

(based on 2024-2025 grade level)

Our Explorer Summer Camp offers two age group options, which is based on 2024-2025 grade level: kindergarten – third grade, and fourth – sixth grade. Camp features 10 themed weeks packed with engaging activities, including water adventures and sports to health and wellness, crafts, nature exploration, science experiments, and large group activities. While we prioritize structure and planning, we also celebrate the power of imagination. Our camp encourages kids to propose fun and safe activities that, when approved by our counselors, become part of the adventure. There are 120 spots available for each camp, and 60 spots available for each day.

- Location: Washington Township Park (K-3rd grade: Lower Park, 4th – 6th grade: Upper Park)
- Hours: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- Cost: \$190/week, \$50/day

For K-3rd grade, learn more here:

<https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/explorer-kto3.html>

For 4th – 6th grade, learn more here:

<https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/explorer-4to6.html>

Register here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/camp-registration.html>

## Indiana Junior Master Naturalist Camp (June 10 - 14, June 24 - 28, July 9 and 11)

### Age 9-12

Join us for an immersive experience where young minds, aged 9-12, connect with our Park Naturalist to deepen their understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soils, and wildlife. The program is designed to foster a love for nature and encourage volunteer service in local communities. There are 20 spots available for each week. To receive a certificate of completion, children must commit a minimum of six hours of service. Those who complete their service hours will also be rewarded with a junior Indiana Master Naturalist Patch.

- Location: Pecar Nature Center
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- Cost: \$200/week

\*July 9 and 11 are volunteer days for Master Jr. Naturalist Certification, price included in weekly camp fee

Learn more here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/jr-naturalist-camp.html>

Register here: <https://www.washingtontwpparks.org/camp-registration.html>





**FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADE 1-8 IN THE FALL OF 2024**

Make music and make friends in a comprehensive music education experience!

To register visit: [icchoir.org/camp](https://icchoir.org/camp)



EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF MUSIC, ARTISTRY, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY.

**DATES:**  
June 3-6, 2024  
July 15-18, 2024

**A World Showcase Summer Music Camp**

Illustration of a city skyline with various buildings and a camel.



## DANVILLE



### Summer Parks Program (Weeks of June 10 - July 17)

#### Students 1st-8th grade

Danville Parks offers a free, six-week summer camp for Danville residents, and only \$5 per week for non-residents. Each week children will participate in different themed activities including arts and crafts, games, sports, and the occasional fun field trip. There are 110 spots available per week, and you must be registered. You can now sign up for each week under one tab. Please click all of the weeks that you would like to sign up your child. Ignore the "Monday" label for each week, as the sign up will be for the entire week.

- Location: 49 North Wayne Street at the Danville Athletic Club
- Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Cost: Free for residents, \$5/week for non-residents

Learn more here:

<https://danvilleparks.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Detail?programId=579>

Register here: <https://danvilleparks.recdesk.com/Community/Member/Login>



At our camp, we're dedicated to providing excellent care and support for your child throughout their stay. Don't miss this chance to give your child an amazing summer! Enrollment is now open, so reserve your spot today!

Weekly Camps Begin June 3rd through August 2nd (no camps July 1st -5th)

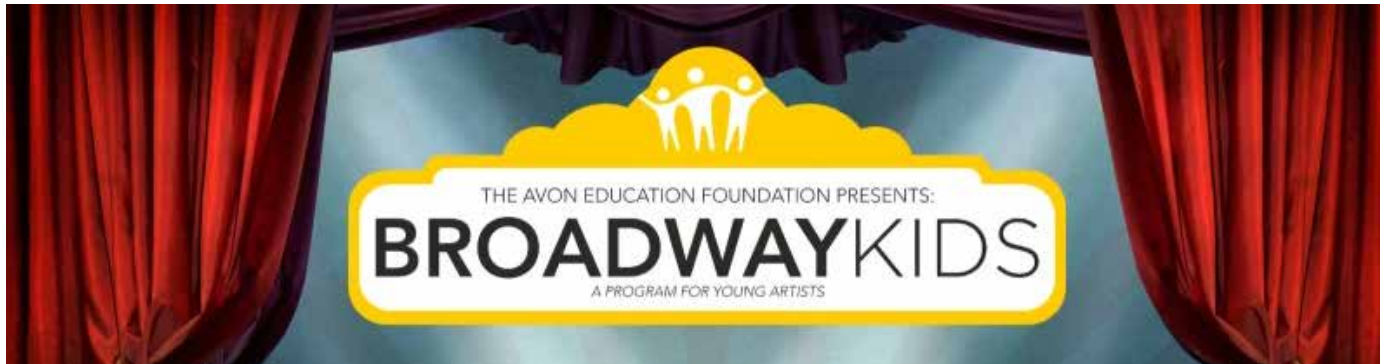
8am to 3pm \$200 per week (\$50 daily)  
8am to 12noon \$150 per week (\$35 daily)  
10% Sibling discounts applied at checkout.  
\$50 non-refundable deposit holds your spot.  
3pm to 5pm After Care available \$15 per day

**SIGN UP TODAY AT:**  
**THEFLIPZONE.COM**  
**SUMMER CAMPS**



Flip Zone Gymnastics \*880 Andico Road \* Suite 140 to 160 \*Plainfield \* Indiana  
317-838-0667 \* [theflipzonegym@gmail.com](mailto:theflipzonegym@gmail.com)

# AVON



## Avon Education Foundation – Broadway Kids Camp (June 17 - 21)

The Broadway Kids Camp introduces students to the fundamentals of musical theatre, experiencing all aspects of practicing, producing, and performing music through the ages. Through Avon Education Foundation (AEF) Broadway Kids Camp, students entering first to eighth grade will participate in various personal learning and team-building experiences while having fun. This is an entertaining and interactive singing, dancing, acting, and performing camp that will culminate in a performance for adoring fans. It's an experience where every child can be a star! Final performance is June 21 at 5:30 p.m. Only 50 spots available.

- Location: Avon Middle School South
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Cost: \$195/camper

Learn more here: <https://www.avoneducationfoundation.org/broadwaykids>

Register here: [https://avoneducationfoundation.formstack.com/forms/2024\\_broadway\\_kids\\_camp](https://avoneducationfoundation.formstack.com/forms/2024_broadway_kids_camp)



## Camp Invention - Where Bright Ideas Come to Life (June 10 - 14)

### Students 1st-6th grade

This year's all-new program sparks curiosity and builds confidence as campers collaborate in fun, hands-on STEM challenges led by qualified local educators to help their creativity shine.

- Location: Cedar Elementary School, Avon
- Hours: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (extended day hours are available)
- Cost: \$270/camper before discounts
  - You can save up to \$45 on registration by visiting online flyer

To view flyer and to register, visit: [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp) or call 800-968-4332.

Questions? Email Camp Director Nancy Moon at [nancmom10@gmail.com](mailto:nancmom10@gmail.com)



## USA OF INDIANA SUMMER SOCCER CAMPS

### BEGINNER SKILL CAMP

- June 24, 25, 26
- 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- Players born 2013 - 2018
- Varying beginner techniques & coaching



### BALL MASTERY & IVI TRAVEL CAMP

- June 22, 29 July 13, 20
- 9am to 11am - 2006 to 2011
- 10am to 11am - 2012 to 2017
- Ball mastery & skill techniques



### STRIKER & FINISHING TRAVEL CAMP

- June 27, July 11, 18, 25
- 5:30pm to 6:30pm - 2006 to 2011
- 6:30pm to 7:30pm - 2012 to 2017
- Focused finishing techniques



### SENIOR TRAVEL CAMP

- July 8, 9, 10
- 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- Players born 2006 to 2011
- Varying advanced techniques, strategies, and coaching



**REGISTER NOW**  
[USAofIndiana.org](http://USAofIndiana.org)



**Mary & John Geisse**  
**Soccer Complex**  
7225 W 56th St,  
Indianapolis, IN, 46254

**For more information**  
Call (317)767-0699  
or email  
[Info@USAofIndiana.org](mailto:Info@USAofIndiana.org)

# THE BIZ



The Biz Summer Camp 2024 dates have been finalized, and sign-ups were available mid-January. Camps fill up very quickly for the younger kids, so sign up as soon as possible. After you have signed up, you will be invoiced once we have gotten 30 kids on the camp roster. A place in the camp roster will not be held until full payment has been received.

## Stars to be Camp (June 10 - 14)

**Ages 6-11**



This camp is a great introduction to theatre. The campers will be put in groups according to their age. Their groups will rotate between classes in acting, singing, and dancing. All campers will learn four different songs and dances, as well as a scene to present at the end-of-week performance. Campers will receive a folder to hold their music and scripts, and a camp t-shirt. The last and final performance will take place on Friday, June 14 at 4 p.m., venue TBD.

- Location: The Biz Academy of Musical Theatre
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Cost: \$195

Find more information and the sign-up link here: <https://thebiz-academy.com/sheet/stars-to-be-camp>

## Rising Stars Camp, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS (July 8 - 19)

**Ages 6-11**



In this camp, actors will put on a full production of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS! All campers are cast members, but auditions will be held within the camp to cast the named characters. All campers will receive a libretto (the music and script) and a camp t-shirt. The final Friday will be spent at the performance venue, TBD, in Avon, rehearsing and staging the show. The final performance will be Friday, July 19 at 7 p.m.

- Location: The Biz Academy of Musical Theatre
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Cost: \$395

Find more information and the sign up link here: <https://thebiz-academy.com/sheet/rising-stars-camp>

## Encores Camp, 13 JR. (June 17 - 28)

**Ages 12 and up**



In this camp, actors will put on a full production of 13 JR.! All campers are cast members, but auditions will be held within the camp to cast the named characters. All campers will receive a libretto (the music and script) and a camp show t-shirt. The final Friday will be spent at the performance venue, TBD, rehearsing and staging the show. The final performance will be on Friday, June 28 at 7 p.m.

- Location: The Biz Academy of Musical Theatre
- Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Cost: \$395

Find more information and the sign up link here: <https://thebiz-academy.com/sheet/encores-camp>

# Washington Township Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Options

- Explorer Camp
- Little Explorer Preschool Camp
- Indiana Jr. Master Naturalist Camp
- Murphy Aquatic Park Swim Camp

**May 28-August 2**

*Camps vary in ages, prices,  
dates, and locations.*

Learn More: [washingtontwpparks.org/summer-camp](http://washingtontwpparks.org/summer-camp)



**SCAN  
ME!**



# MARY & MARTHA

By Kate Anderson

In the heart of Brownsburg on Green Street, amongst new real estate developments, restaurants, and other shopping, resides Mary & Martha Home. What used to be a somewhat hidden gem has quickly become a bright, shiny jewel and destination shopping hot-spot in Hendricks County. Though Mary & Martha opened their doors here in our community in 2022, the store has seen other locations in its time. For the first 20 plus years of its life, Mary & Martha existed as the premier home décor and gift destination in St. John, Indiana. Owner Dawn Johnson, a native of northwest Indiana or “The Region” as it is affectionately called, built her business from the ground up and raised her four kids while doing so. While it might seem as though the store is curiously named, Dawn aptly titled it after Mary and Martha, the two sisters in the bible who knew Jesus. The store’s name reminded her to keep her priorities in line whilst running a business and raising a family. While she doesn’t have kids to raise anymore, it still serves a daily reminder for her to this day.

Since the inception of Mary & Martha, Dawn has sought to bring her love of interior design and décor to both her clients and her customers. Over the years, she has decorated countless commercial and private spaces and has traveled all over the country sourcing new, fun, and exciting décor for her clients and for the retail side of her business. She has a passion for helping others define their style and uplift their space by finding that extra special piece to make their house a home.

In 2022, Dawn made the decision to relocate her business to Brownsburg to be closer to her children who have all made their homes in central Indiana. Her daughter, Sarah Chastain, lives here in Hendricks County with her husband and two children, so the move south felt like she was “coming home” in a way. Sarah grew up at the original Mary & Martha Home and over the years has taken after her mom, developing a keen eye for design, and decorating. Dawn brought Sarah on as her partner in the business and her eventual successor. Though Sarah’s focus is on the administrative side of the business, she takes an interest in client and customer relations.



Owners Dawn Johnson and daughter Sarah Chastain (Submitted photo)



Mary & Martha storefront (Submitted photo)



Custom Floral Arrangement from Mary & Martha’s (Submitted photo)

Now in their second year in Brownsburg, Mary & Martha is becoming a household name. Mary & Martha Home isn’t your typical design and décor store. The pair’s dedication to their clients, customers, and their store shines brightly. No surface is untouched by style and elegance. Upon entering their bright and cheery establishment, your senses are enlivened by cheerful colors, scents, and sounds of the season or upcoming season. Right now, it feels like spring at Mary and Martha. As you take a stroll around the store, notice the smartly designed and sophisticated vignettes featuring bright florals mixed with neutrals, creating a soothing, yet uplifting vibe. The gorgeous “real touch” floral stems are a favorite among their patrons, and clients have been known to bring in their own vessels to fill for the season with the help of Dawn and Sarah. Their service-minded attitude lends itself to their full-service way of doing business. It is this attitude that is setting them apart from their competitors.

One other way that they are setting themselves apart is carrying the London-based line, Jellycat. This line of adorable, well-made plushies is a massive hit with every person, young and old, and comes in all sizes, characters, and animals, from bunnies to daisies to elephants. This is a limited-retailer item and trust me when I say, you will find yourself wanting one to take home. They are THE destination for this sought after item. Like all other items at Mary & Martha, they have been thoughtfully merchandised.

Recently Dawn and Sarah noticed a desire for in-home design consulting and have brought this back into the fold of the business. When the business relocated to Hendricks County, this feature was not in their scope of services until now. Their mission is to help their customers create a home that they love and are proud of. Dawn’s passion for design remains as strong as ever, and the team feels invigorated to help serve their customers on an even deeper level. The message of Mary & Martha remains clear and concise. Both Dawn and Sarah are keeping their priorities in line, by providing services to their community and their clients and inspiring beauty every day.

**CURRENT**



# 2024 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY **GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE**



Presented by Current Publishing and sponsored exclusively by The Center for the Performing Arts.



**BRAD  
CHAMBERS**



**SUZANNE  
CROUCH**



**ERIC  
DODEN**



**CURTIS  
HILL**

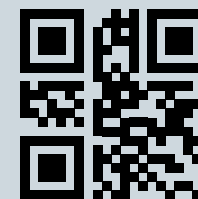


**JAMIE  
REITENOUR**

**7 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 11**

THE PALLADIUM AT THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1 CARTER GREEN

SCAN  
HERE  
FOR  
TICKETS





## FROM THE STATEHOUSE

*Rep. Haggard: My legislative priorities for the 2024 session*

This session, I'm focused on common sense and straightforward solutions that could help better protect Hoosiers in a variety of ways, including preventing hostile foreign influence, increasing human trafficking awareness, holding drug dealers more accountable, and stomping out antisemitism.

I authored House Bill 1177 to prohibit the state from contracting with people from hostile countries for goods and services, and the bill would ban individuals and entities from China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or other countries deemed a threat to our state from buying land in Indiana. Other states are already taking action to protect their security and interests. Indiana must do the same.

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world, and Indiana isn't immune to this problem. Our prime location as the Crossroads of America and reputation for hosting major conventions and sporting events means we're not only attracting visitors, but traffickers looking to capitalize. We must do everything we can to protect young women and girls from this scourge. That's why I collaborated with the lodging industry to craft legislation to require owners of hotels to train their employees on how to recognize and report potential human trafficking situations.

States like North Carolina have seen real estate companies use predatory practices to lock seniors and cash-strapped homeowners into exclusive, years-long service contracts that can be binding on future owners and add liens on property if they attempt to break the contract. To ensure vulnerable Hoosiers like seniors are protected, I authored House Bill 1222 to void contracts like these if services aren't rendered within one year. Homeownership is often a person's largest financial investment, and they shouldn't have to worry about falling prey to unscrupulous businesses seeking to lock them into agreements that could hinder their ability to sell.

I also authored House Bill 1223 to hold drug dealers more accountable and prevent drug-related injuries and deaths. In Indiana, a person can be charged with the most severe felony for dealing drugs that result in death. It's considered a Level 1 felony and an individual can be sentenced up to 40 years in prison and pay a \$10,000 fine. However, dealers who cause injuries are typically charged with the lowest level felonies, like a Level 5 or 6, and the sentence range starts at



just six months. My legislation would enhance that penalty to a Level 2 felony, which carries a sentence ranging from 10 to 30 years in prison. Until the federal government does a better job of slowing the flow of dangerous drugs like fentanyl into our country, this is another step we can take to hold drug dealers accountable in Indiana.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, reports of antisemitic events have increased by nearly 360 percent since the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023. To weed out antisemitism, I authored House Bill 1224 to define the concept and make it a discriminatory practice. The proposed definition is already adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Under the bill, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission would include the concept of antisemitism in its educational program on the harmful effects of prejudice against minority groups. With the rise of antisemitism across our state and nation, we must renew our focus on this issue.

I look forward to tackling these and other important issues during the legislative session, which must conclude by March 14. You can follow the legislation and watch committee and session by visiting [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov). You can also visit my website at [in.gov/h57](http://in.gov/h57) and sign up for my e-newsletter to receive updates on legislation and government programs.

**Constituents with questions or feedback can contact me at 317-232-9600 or [h57@iga.in.gov](mailto:h57@iga.in.gov).**



## ICONIC brief

### Brownsburg Man Sentenced to Nine Years in Federal Prison for Sharing Thousands of Child Sexual Abuse Videos and Images

Mario Parker, 22, of Brownsburg, has been sentenced to nine years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possession of child sexual abuse material. According to court documents, in June of 2021, investigators discovered that an individual living in California had been sharing sexually explicit images and videos via the social media application Kik with someone later identified as Mario Parker. In chats over Kik, Parker learned that the individual from California worked in a daycare and had a sexual interest in children. Knowing that, Parker asked the daycare employee to distribute sexually explicit images and videos of the children in the daycare to Parker knowing that it would result in their sexual exploitation. In one of the Kik conversations, Parker admitted that he would like to adopt a daughter with the intention of raping her.

On June 30, 2022, officers executed a federal search warrant at Parker's residence in Brownsburg and found a Samsung Galaxy cell phone. During a search of the phone, investigators located several graphic sexual abuse videos of children as young as three years old being forcefully tied down and raped by adult men, as well as videos depicting bestiality. In total, officers recovered thousands of images and approximately 889 videos of child sexual abuse from Parker's cell phone and accounts. In an interview with investigators, Parker admitted to using social media applications such as Kik, Snapchat, and Telegram to communicate about and share child sexual abuse material with users who shared his sexual interest in children.

"This pedophile revictimized hundreds of children across the world, many of whom we will never know. Even more disturbing, communicated with other like-minded criminals, sharing these horrific videos and their sick desires to perpetrate these abuses on even more children," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "Sexual abuse of children is more widespread than decent people understand, especially the proliferation of abuse images online. Our federal prosecutors will continue to partner with the FBI to identify these criminals, and work to put them where they cannot harm any more of our children."

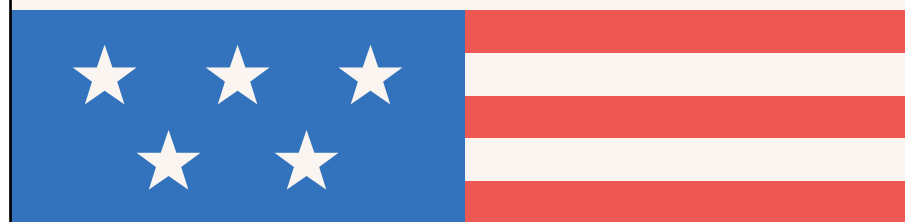
The FBI investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge, Jane Magnus-Stinson. Judge Stinson also ordered that Parker be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for 10 years following his release from federal prison and pay \$24,000 in restitution to victims. U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Tiffany J. Preston, who prosecuted this case.

**If you are a victim of child sexual exploitation, please contact your local police department. Resources for victims of child exploitation can be found on our website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/project-safe-childhood>.**

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

# HENDRICKS COUNTY Meet the Candidates

FORUM



**Meet candidates and learn why they are running for office!**

**March 5:**

State Representative District 28,  
State Representative District 40, State Senate District 07,  
State Senate District 24, State Senate District 35  
and Governor of Indiana

**March 7:**

Hendricks County Auditor, Hendricks County Council,  
Federal Representative, and Federal Senate

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**North and South Halls of the Hendricks County  
4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex**

The events will be broken up into parts, one for each  
of the contested elections by party.

For those that are unable to attend the events, they will be  
livestreamed on YouTube and recorded for future viewing.  
(Link will be shared with all registrants.)



SUBMIT QUESTIONS

Candidates will be invited to set up a  
table at each of the two forums.



VOTER RSVP

**This event brought to you by:**



**ICONIC** brief**Haggard, Steuerwald Respond to Gov. Holcomb Deploying Indiana National Guard for Texas Border Security Mission**

On Feb. 9, State Reps. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville) and Greg Steuerwald (R-Avon) issued the following statements in response to Gov. Eric Holcomb's decision to deploy the Indiana National Guard to support the ongoing border security mission in Texas. Following the recent direct request from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Holcomb announced he will send 50 Hoosier guardsmen to help the Texas National Guard during a 10-month deployment:

"Our U.S. southern border is enduring the highest flow of illegal immigrants on record, and the Biden Administration is failing its basic duty to secure it. This is an emergency affecting our entire country and cannot be ignored. Sending Hoosier guardsmen to Texas is critical to securing the border and reducing the flood of deadly drugs and other dangerous individuals," said State Rep. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville).

"The governor's decision to call up members of the Indiana National Guard to help Texas rightfully defend and protect itself is welcome and encouraging news, especially as they face record high illegal border crossings. The Hoosier state has a history of stepping up to help others whether it's in the wake of a natural disaster or other tragedy, and now our friends to the south are on the front lines of a humanitarian and national security crisis. The failed policies and leadership of the Biden Administration are directly impacting Americans and will for many years to come," said State Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Avon).

**For more information on the governor's press release, visit [events.in.gov](https://events.in.gov) and search "Texas Border Security Mission".**

For background purposes, in January, State Reps. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville) and Greg Steuerwald (R-Avon) signed onto a joint letter, along with many of their House colleagues, calling on Gov. Eric Holcomb to send Indiana guardsmen to support the Texas border security mission. To read the joint letter, go to [www.indianahouserepublicans.com](http://www.indianahouserepublicans.com).

**ICONIC** brief**Brownsburg Armed Career Criminal Convicted After Illegally Possessing Firearms and Selling them to an Indianapolis Pawn Shop**

A federal jury has found Jason Compliment, 42, of Brownsburg, guilty of unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon following a two-day trial.

According to court documents and evidence introduced at trial, on July 16, 2022, the defendant sold three firearms to a north Indianapolis pawnshop for \$725. Video surveillance footage captured him selling the firearms and receiving the pawn ticket in his own name. The jury also found that the defendant was an Armed Career Criminal because of his numerous prior felony convictions in Hendricks and Marion Counties—including eight burglaries, resisting law enforcement, and possession of methamphetamine. In one prior case, the defendant burglarized a church and stole funds meant for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Each one of these previous felony convictions prohibit the defendant from ever legally possessing a firearm again. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and IMPD investigated this case. U.S. District Court Judge James P. Hanlon presided over the trial and will impose sentence at a later date. The defendant faces 15 years up to life in federal prison.

U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Myers, of the Southern District of Indiana, thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeremy C. Fugate and Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted this case. This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

## Plainfield Town Council

*Town Council Approves Resolution Expressing Interest In Purchasing 2.9 Acres At Krewson Avenue*

Compiled by Amanda Babinec

The Plainfield Town Council met on Feb. 12. The council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Plainfield Civic Center (206 West Main Street) in the Council Chambers.

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Council approved the consent agenda.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The following is a non-inclusive list of items that were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- Approval to add the role of Superintendent to the Utilities department and begin recruitment, per the administrative services report.
- Acceptance of the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement of Matthew Murray, Plainfield Police Department, in accordance with Indiana Code 35-44.1-1.4, per the Controller's Report.
- Approval to sign the Provider Advisor Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement with AccuMed Group and Anthem Insurance, per the Public Safety Report.
- Approval to order 12 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV from Kelley Chevrolet for \$612,180, per the Public Safety Report (funded from CCI Fund).
- Approval of Amendment No. 1 with Etica Group, in an amount not to exceed \$95,270, for increased scope of the Northwest Pedestrian Improvement Project, per the Development Services Report (funded from EDIT).
- Approval of a contract for professional services with Banning Engineering, in the amount of \$16,060, for land survey and environmental studies associated with the potential Stout family land dedication, per the Development Services Report (funded from General Fund).
- Approval of Work Order No. 24-1 with Whitaker Engineering, in an amount not to exceed \$35,500, for Sewer Master Plan and Engineering Evaluations, per the Development Services Report (funded from Wastewater Operating and multiple TIF Funds).
- Approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 1-2022 for Work Order No. 20 with Butler Fairman & Seufert, in the amount of \$13,000 and Change Order No. 2 with Sullivan and Poore, in the amount of \$8,443.17 for additional professional services on the dehumidification unit replacement project, per the Community Services Report (funded from Food & Beverage fund).
- Approval of Change Order No. 1 with Patterson Horth, in the amount of \$424,865, for the Splash Island Expansion Project, per the Community Services Report (funded from Parks Bond and Food & Beverage Fund).
- Approval of Change Order No. 1 with JDH Contractors, in the amount of \$23,525, for added scope related to the Sodalis restroom facility, per the Community Services Report (funded from I-70 TIF and East End TIF Funds).
- Approval to release retainage of \$26,922.50, plus accrued interest to JDH Contracting for the construction of Sodalis restroom facility, per the Community Services Report.
- Approval of a purchase from EJ Prescott, in an amount not to exceed \$135,561, for residential meters and wireless radios, per the Community Services Report (funded from Water Availability Fund).
- Approval of a contract with Johnson Melloh, in an amount not to exceed \$46,200, for the replacement of an air handler at the North Wastewater Treatment Facility, per the Community Services Report (funded from Wastewater Operating Fund).
- Approval of a contract with National Water, in an amount not to exceed \$61,660, to rehabilitate wells 5 and 6, per the Community Services Report (funded from Water Operating Fund).
- Approval of Work Order No. 24-1 from KCI, in the amount not to exceed \$145,000 for a five-year maintenance of George Creek Ecological Corridor, per the Community Services Report (funded from Storm Water Operating Fund).
- Approval of quote from Wallace Construction, in an amount not to exceed \$49,234, for annual crack sealing of various town streets, per the Community Services Report (funded from Wheel Surtax Fund).
- Approval of Change Order No. 1 with ME Simpson, in the amount of \$11,510, for the Utilities Meter Audit, per the Community Services Report (funded from Water Operating Fund).
- Approval to purchase two 2023 F-250 regular cab 4x4 trucks from Andy Mohr Ford, in the amount of \$58,269 each, per the Community Services Report

- (funded from Water Distribution Fund).
- Approval to purchase an EnviroPrime High Head Pump and Trailer from Thompson Pump in the amount of \$98,527, in accordance with the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program, per the Community Services Report (funded from Wastewater Distribution Fund).
- Approval to amend the purchase agreement with Palfinger of a 2024 Bucket Truck, increasing the price to an amount not to exceed \$155,000 for additional accessories, per the Community Services Report (funded from Local Road and Street Fund).

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Council received a bid from Mike Ellis of Bargersville.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The council received a bid to farm land at \$266 per acre for a total of \$23,940 per year. The committee will review the bid.

**WHAT HAPPENED: Resolution No. 2024-04 was approved unanimously.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The resolution confirmed interest by the town in the purchase of real estate for public purposes (2.9 acres at Krewson Avenue).

## Danville Town Council

*Danville Town Council Approves Unified Development Ordinance*

Compiled by Ronald Hera

The Danville Town Council met on Feb. 7. These meetings can be viewed on the town's YouTube channel. The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Danville Town Hall, 49 North Wayne Street. The next scheduled meeting is Feb. 21.

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Manager, Mark Morgan, proposed Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP as legal counsel for the Town of Danville.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The present legal counsel for the town is Taft of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP. The Town Council approved the continuation of Taft to represent the town in legal matters.

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Manager, Mark Morgan, presented the Town Council with a letter for the council to sign supporting work in Danville by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The Town Council approved sending the letter.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Crawfordsville District Traffic Engineer Tim Watson recommended that INDOT support work on U.S. 36 that includes, but is not limited to, additional work at Urban Street to add a right turn lane from U.S. 36 onto Urban Street northbound, and additional work at Cross Street to improve the radii and relocate the signal located at Jefferson Street to Cross Street. The Town Council approved sending the letter to INDOT supporting Mr. Watson's recommendation.

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Council approved the plans to modify 124 East Twin Bridges Road.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Waste Management needs to cross Twin Bridges Road with heavy trucks as a necessary part of their business. Modifications to reinforce the road so it will take the additional weight were designed by Banning Engineering. Town officials reviewed and approved the plans. The Town Council approved those changes to the crossing for use by Waste Management for 18 months, and work will start in March. There is no cost to the Town of Danville. Waste Management will pay for the modifications.

**WHAT HAPPENED: The Town Council approved Ordinance 1-2024 Unified Development Ordinance.**

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The Ordinance repealed the existing Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Control Ordinance, and the Zoning Map, and adopted the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that combines all of the Ordinances and Zoning Map into one document, streamlining design standards, standards for land use, and organizing the management of those standards.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The Town Council approved Ordinance 2-2024 Amendment to the Salary Ordinance.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Town employee salaries are set for 2024. The Ordinance improves wording to help align titles and positions and includes a stipend increase for the position of Utility Director.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The Town Council approved the purchase of a Kubota U35 open station excavator and associated equipment.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The excavator will be purchased from Edwards Equipment for \$47,190 and used in tight quarters where presently owned equipment will not fit. It can also serve as a backup for presently owned equipment.

## Brownsburg Town Council

*Brownsburg Town Council Approves Review Of Land Donated By The B&O Trail Association*

Compiled by Ronald Hera

The Brownsburg Town Council met on Feb. 8. Meetings can be viewed at <https://www.brownsburg.org>. The Council meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Room, 61 North Green Street. The next meeting will be on Feb. 22.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The Town Council adopted Ordinance 2024-02, an ordinance amending Title V, Chapter 54, section 54.23 of the town code.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** This ordinance is an adjustment to the water meter charges on meter sets to bring the amounts up to what they are costing the town. Additionally, Aaron Kaytar, Capital Projects & Procurement Manager, recommended roughly a 2.5 percent increase in charges to account for any inflation costs. These fees will be reviewed yearly to assess the need for any increases and will be presented to the town council if such increases are needed.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Ordinance 2024-01 - amends the official zoning map from AG to a Combination of C2 and M3 Zoning for future development.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The approximate 53-acre property under consideration is bounded by the B&O trail on the south, CR300N on the north, and Ronald Reagan on the east. It is called The Reserve at Ronald Reagan. Presently zoned as Agriculture, the proposed new zoning is High Intensity General Commercial (C2) and High Density Multi-family Residential (M3). A plat will be brought forward within two years of the zoning approval to delineate the different zoning areas. Steve Pittman presented a proposed development plan to the Town Council after making some changes from former presentations. His proposal includes 112 single-family, one-story units and 275 apartments whose building is not to exceed two stories. The complex will have three access points to the trail and some amenities. The complex will be served by Hendricks County Sewer and Citizens Water. The town council requested a reduction in the number of total families in the complex, that each single-family unit have a two-car garage, and that all family units have no more than two bedrooms. Pittman is to make another presentation at the next Brownsburg Town Council Meeting.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The Town Council approved Resolution 2024-09 - a resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Brownsburg, authorizing certain actions relating to the donation of certain train area property.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The B&O Trail Association would like to donate trail property that extends from Ronald Reagan Parkway to Raceway Road to the Town of Brownsburg. This property consists of eight parcels totaling approximately 15.6+ acres. Town staff is in the process of completing all due diligence associated with the donation and would like direction to move forward. The Town Council approved moving forward.

## Avon Town Council

*Town Council Approves Voluntary Annexation For New Pulte Home Neighborhood*

Compiled by Amanda Babinec

The Avon Town Council met Feb. 8. Meetings can be viewed at [avonindiana.gov/livestream](http://avonindiana.gov/livestream). The

council will meet at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at Avon Town Hall, 6570 E. U.S. HWY 36. The next scheduled meeting is Feb. 22.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Shelby Pride, Parks Director, presented the Parks Department report.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Two new mowers that have been ordered are due to arrive shortly, and the parks maintenance staff will be attending the Maintenance Seminar at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds hosted by the Indiana Parks & Rec Association in April.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Betsy Porter, Public Works Project Coordinator, presented the Public Works Department report.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The 2024 Community Crossings Paving Project application for \$3 million was submitted, and that includes 26 roads. There is a small punch list left for Co. Rd. 100S reconstruction, including fixing of pipe joints and installing pipe liner. There is ongoing coordination with Hendricks County and Marion County's utilities and adjacent properties for the Co. Rd. 100 N roundabout. Utility coordination is ongoing with the 900E at Angelina Way roundabout (Costco). Dan Jones widening Phase I: EMB Paving is done for the winter. There will just be road surface and pavement markings in the spring. Dan Jones widening Phase II: Tree clearing is complete and the three houses have been demolished. Road construction will begin this spring. Dan Jones widening Phase III (US 36 to 100N): Field check plans are under revision and they are conducting utility coordination now that should bid out early 2025. Dan Jones widening Phase IV: Submitting a request for funding for this project. The department has also submitted for a \$1 million highway safety improvement program. This is for the preemption upgrades for emergency vehicle preemption equipment. Avon Heights drainage project is underway. Once finished, the town will repave all of the affected roads.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Chief Sean Stoops presented the Avon Police Department report.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Chief Stoops congratulated Officer Pete Michael for being recognized by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for his outstanding efforts in identifying and apprehending impaired drivers in 2023. Officer Michael apprehended 23 impaired drivers in total last year. On Feb. 12, the department's new Intelligence Analyst, Candace Reid, started. Chief Stoops congratulated Officers Kevin Kasperzyk and Sawyer Donovan for their second anniversary with the department. Those officers celebrating three years of service include Pete Michael, Tanner Brennan, Parker Roark, and Joe Davi, while Officer Shawn Diebold celebrates seven years. The hiring process is underway for the department, with written tests and physical tests beginning March 16. Officer Mike Wittl retired from the department after 20 years. This year's National Night Out is on July 25. Applications for the 2024 Citizens Police Academy will be opening soon.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Tyler Oaks, with Bose, McKinney and Evans, represented Gruma Corporation, the owner of Mission Foods, regarding a rezoning request.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** They are requesting rezoning at 9597 and 9643 E Co Rd 100S rezoning from R1 to I3. Gruma Corp. already owns property just west of this parcel and has been operating one of their main manufacturing plants since 2020. Notice letters have been sent to the adjacent neighborhood. Gruma Corp. prides itself on being a good neighbor and will provide a buffer between the neighborhood and the facility.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Melissa Gerard, Manager of Land Planning & Entitlements for Pulte Homes, presented a new project for annexation and initial zoning. The project is just west of the Hickory Mills neighborhood.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The town council accepted the voluntary annexation for the Pulte Homes neighborhood unanimously.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Julie Randall, Executive Director of Family Promise, submitted an application for a tax credit as well as an application for a donation of 0.017 acres for the purposes of a development by Family Promise of not more than seven rented townhomes.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The donation will not go through unless the tax credit is received, but allows Family Promise to apply for it. The town council approved the letter of intent for the donation of land. The town council approved. Greg Zusan abstained because he is on the Family Promise board.

## ICONIC brief

### Bill Holland Sworn in to Vacant Avon Town Council Seat

On Feb. 9, Anne Engelhardt, Republican County Chair, called a caucus consisting of 11 precinct committee men. Bill Holland was presented to fill the spot vacated by Town Councilman Tim Roberts. Holland won with six votes and was immediately sworn in by Julie Loker, Avon Town Clerk Treasurer.

“Mr. Holland is a long time friend to many in Avon, and we are grateful he will serve the residents of Avon as a councilman,” said Anne Engelhardt. Holland attended his first work session on Feb. 17. He is looking forward to his first town council meeting on Feb. 22.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### SENATE DISTRICT #4 PORTIONS OF HENDRICKS & PUTNAM COUNTY



ANNE ENGELHARDT

BRETT CLARK

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28TH**  
**5:30PM MEET & GREET**  
**6:00PM FORUM**

**SHAPE ROOM, BROWNSBURG LIBRARY**  
450 S Jefferson St, Brownsburg

Brownsburg Public Library is not sponsoring or endorsing the subject matter of this meeting.



## BUSINESS LEADER

### COVER PARTY

Thursday, May 7

**4:30pm - 6:00pm**  
**The Prestwick**  
**5197 Fairway Drive, Avon**



RSVP to Becca at [rebecca@myiconmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@myiconmedia.com)





## How cardiac rehab can help strengthen hearts

Jeremy Kimbley, IU Health West

After you suffer a cardiac event, there are certain steps you can follow to help strengthen your heart. One of those options is cardiac rehabilitation. Through this program, a trained team of experts can help you reach goals, tailored to your specific needs.

### What is cardiac rehabilitation?

Cardiac rehab is an exercise and education program designed to help someone after they have a cardiovascular event. For someone who has a cardiac event, such as a heart attack, stent placement, coronary artery bypass, valve replacement or repair, or even heart failure, our goal is to try to strengthen your heart as much as possible through exercise to increase your functional capacity to return to normal activities.

Cardiac rehab is also dedicated to helping with lifestyle education. From a cardiac standpoint, we look at the patient as a whole and try to figure out what may have led to their cardiovascular issues. If lifestyle changes can help, we will help educate those patients on how to make those changes.

### What does the process look like to get into the program?

An order from your physician is usually all that is necessary to enter the program. You can request this from your physician, or

we can request it for you. After we receive that order, we will contact the patient directly to get them on our schedule. Often, that phone call is educating the patient on exactly what cardiac rehab is and explaining what to expect on their first visit.

### What does the program look like?

Everything we do from an exercise standpoint is individualized to each patient. We start off with a six-minute walk test to give us a baseline of their functional capacity. Typically, with their individual goals in mind, we will start with 30 minutes of continuous cardiovascular exercise and then work them up to an hour of exercise as their heart gets stronger and their functional capacity increases. We will monitor heart rhythm, vital signs, and provide close team-to-patient interaction.

While the length of the program is tailored to each person, typically the minimum we recommend is four weeks, or 12 sessions. We can go up to three months, or 36 sessions.

If you have questions about how IU Health West's cardiac rehab program could benefit you, you can call 317.217.2983.



Jeremy Kimbley, exercise physiologist at IU Health West

## Tips from Bax Wellness

*Changing Habits and Looking Inward  
for the New Year*

By Beth Bax, Certified Health Coach



Are you a New Year's Resolution person? If so, how's it going so far? Are you sticking with it, or have you already slipped or completely forgotten what it was? Many of us set a goal or goals at the start of a new year, but few of us are able to achieve them. In James Clear's bestselling book *Atomic Habits*, Clear explains what we may be doing wrong and how to fix this problem.

One suggestion Clear describes is to break goals down into small changes that gradually lead us to big results. The first step in doing this is to figure out who we wish to become, not what we want to achieve. Clear talks about this in detail in Chapter 2 of his book, but here is a short summary.

Most people try to establish outcome-based habits, instead of what Clear calls "identity-based habits". Here's the difference: I often have clients who say they want to lose weight. Okay. Most of us do. But, as Clear points out, if they "don't shift the belief behind the behavior, then it becomes hard to stick with long-term changes." They have to know who they are first, or a switch to good habits will only be temporary.

The goal for a student, for example, is not to get good grades. The goal is to become a person who studies every day. The goal is not to win the game, but rather to become a person who practices every day. As Clear says, "The more you repeat a behavior, the more you reinforce the identity associated with that behavior. And the more you reinforce the identity, the more natural it will feel to repeat the behavior."

Here is a personal example: I am the type of person who cares about being physically fit. The habit I will be focusing on is going to the gym at least four times a week. I am the type of person who cares about my community. The habit I will focus on is doing volunteer work in my community at least once a month. Since these habits reinforce my identity, why would I not do them? Remember to start by focusing on who you want to become, not what you want to achieve.

Here's a simple homework assignment for you. Complete these two sentences: "I'm the type of person who \_\_\_\_\_". So "The habit I'll be focusing on is \_\_\_\_\_."

Enjoy discovering who you really are!

## GLASSWATER CREEK OF PLAINFIELD IS THE CHOICE FOR AN AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY.

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# NIGHT & day

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT  
ENTERTAINING

## EVENTS calendar

### FEBRUARY

#### 24 Saturday

##### *Indianapolis Rubber Stamp & Scrapbook Convention*

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville. Attendees can expect to find a variety of rubber stamps, scrapbooking supplies, and other craft-related items from local and international vendors. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase their products to a large audience and gain valuable insights into the latest trends in the industry. Price is \$30-\$80.

#### 24 Saturday

##### *Plainfield Parks Daddy-Daughter Dance*

2 – 4 p.m. (Activity Code: 1000402), 6 – 8 p.m. (Activity Code: 10004-03), Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center, 651 Vestal Road, Plainfield. Dance the night away with your little princess! Enjoy engaging activities and games. Light and delectable refreshments will be served. This dance is not limited to fathers; other male role-models (grandfathers, uncles, etc.) are welcome to join in the fun! \$30 per participant. Secure your spot by pre-registering. Visit: <https://register1.vermontsystems.com/wbwsc/inplainfield.wsc/splash.html>.

#### 24 Saturday

##### *Indiana Legends at Indiana Lyons*

5 – 8 p.m., Bosstick Gymnasium/Danville Town Hall, 49 North Wayne Street, Danville. Your 2022-23 ABA Champion Indiana Lyons host the Indiana Legends. Tipoff at 5 p.m., doors open at 4 p.m. Join us in the Lyons Den for inexpensive, family-friendly, high-scoring, fast-paced basketball action. Concessions and merchandise available for purchase. Tickets sold at the door, \$10/person. \$5 per child ages 6-17, seniors 55+, active military, military veterans, and first responders. Children ages 5 and under are free.

#### 24 Saturday

##### *A Night in the Stacks*

7 – 10 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Join us as we transform our building into one giant ball of fun activities, including a bounce house, board games, movie in a dome, cornhole, life-sized

games, cash bar, trivia, and more. A Night in the Stacks is \$15 per person and is a 21 and older event. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library. Special thanks to our friends at Books & Brew and Valkyrie's Vault for their assistance with the event. Register here: <https://bpljobs.wufoo.com/forms/zkxsrrx0ezcc2q/>.

#### 24 Saturday

##### *Finding Nemo, Jr.*

7:30 p.m., Avon Middle School North Auditorium, 1251 North Dan Jones Road, Avon. Adults are \$15, Seniors 63 and older \$12, Youth \$10. Purchase tickets at [Thebiz-theatrics.org](http://Thebiz-theatrics.org).

#### 25 Sunday

##### *Finding Nemo, Jr.*

2:30 p.m., Avon Middle School North Auditorium, 1251 North Dan Jones Road, Avon. Adults are \$15, Seniors 63 and older \$12, Youth \$10. Purchase tickets at [Thebiz-theatrics.org](http://Thebiz-theatrics.org).

#### 26 Monday

##### *Knit Night*

6 – 7 p.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 North Avon Avenue, Avon. Are you looking to knit with a group? Then come to the Avon Library's Knit Night! Registration is required: <https://avtp-cep.bc.sirsidynix.net/event/knit-night-2/>. This program is free and open to adults. Please bring your own supplies, however the library does have a limited amount of yarn and needles that you are welcome to use.

#### 27 Tuesday

##### *Pottery Classes at Pecar Nature Center*

2:30 – 4 p.m., Pecar Nature Park, 5203 East County Road 150 North, Avon. Unleash your creativity and join us for an exciting Animal Kingdom series of pottery classes.

#### 28 Wednesday

##### *Movie Matinee*

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Join BPL and BOAA every fourth Wednesday of the month for a movie in the afternoon. This month we'll be showing *The Notebook* (2004). Age 18 and over, welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks.

#### 28 Wednesday

##### *Cosmos Cadets*

5 p.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 North Avon, Avenue, Avon. Cosmos Cadets is a new STEM program with a focus on astronomy,

the solar system, and space exploration history for kids. Attendance earns a pair of solar eclipse glasses for an attending child. For grades 1-4.

#### 29 Thursday

##### *Wine Tasting Social*

5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Total Wine & More, 10350 East US Hwy 36, Avon. The Kiwanis Club of Avon is hosting a Wine Tasting; for more information, visit: <https://k15324.site.kiwanis.org/>.

### MARCH

#### 1 Friday

##### *Critter Feeding Time*

12 – 1 p.m., Pecar Park, 5203 East 150 North, Avon. Join the Pecar Park Naturalist and learn about the animals that live at the nature center and help feed the critters. Program fees help support the costs of food and medical care for the animals. No refunds due to being a fundraising event. Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their child during the event. \$5 per child, age three and up.

#### 1 Friday

##### *Finding Nemo, Jr.*

7:30 p.m., Avon Middle School North Auditorium, 1251 North Dan Jones Road, Avon. Adults are \$15, Seniors 63 and older \$12, Youth \$10. Purchase tickets at [Thebiz-theatrics.org](http://Thebiz-theatrics.org).

#### 2 Saturday

##### *Model Train Show*

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 North Avon Avenue, Avon. Are you looking for something fun to do? Then join us for the Model Train Show! Come and see an O-Gauge train and its impressive layout.

#### 2 Saturday

##### *Illinois Skulls at Indiana Lyons*

5 – 8 p.m., Bosstick Gymnasium/Danville Town Hall, 49 North Wayne Street, Danville. Your 2022-23 ABA Champion Indiana Lyons host the Illinois Skulls. Tipoff at 5 p.m., doors open at 4 p.m. Join us in the Lyons Den for inexpensive, family-friendly, high-scoring, fast-paced basketball action. Concessions and merchandise available for purchase. Tickets sold at the door, \$10/person. \$5 per child ages 6-17, seniors 55+, active military, military veterans, and first responders. Children ages five and under are free.

#### 2 Saturday

##### *Finding Nemo, Jr.*

7:30 p.m., Avon Middle School North Auditorium, 1251 North Dan Jones Road, Avon. Adults are \$15, Seniors 63 and older \$12, Youth \$10. Purchase tickets at [Thebiz-theatrics.org](http://Thebiz-theatrics.org).

#### 2 Saturday & 9 Saturday

##### *Maple Syrup Days/McCloud Pancake*

##### *Breakfast Fundraiser*

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem. It's syrup season, and McCloud Nature Park is full of sugar maple trees which produce sap with a high sugar content. Bring the whole family because Maple Syrup Days are free to attend. This event is held entirely outdoors, so be sure to dress for the weather. Discover the delicious history of maple sugaring as you take an outdoor tour around McCloud Nature Park and learn all about maple syrup -- the history, the process, and the trees. Then head on inside the McCloud Nature Center to enjoy all the pancakes you can eat! Reservations are highly recommended. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Freewill donations are accepted (suggested donations of \$10 per adult and \$6 per child) and all proceeds go to Hendricks County Parks & Recreation for future development of and improvements to McCloud Nature Park.

#### 3 Sunday

##### *Geek Meet Indy*

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center, 1900 East Main Street, Danville. Geek Meet Indy is back - discover toys, comics, collectibles, art, and more.

#### 3 Sunday

##### *Phi Beta Psi Purse Auction*

2 p.m., Lizton Lodge, 1392 Wyatt Way, Lizton. Doors open at 1 p.m. Food, fun, door prizes, and purse auction will benefit cancer research grant, scholarships, families in need, and projects within the Northwest Hendricks Community.

#### 7 Thursday

##### *Versiti Blood Drive*

1:30 – 6 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Selfless individuals answer the call to donate lifesaving blood, and you as one person can save up to three individuals by donating. Please register online to reserve your spot to donate. \*Note: 16-year-olds must bring the signed parental permission form to their scheduled appointment; 17+ need no parental permission. \*\*Registration

is required. Donations will take place in the Blood Mobile located in the library parking lot by the Gazebo.

## 9 Saturday

### *Father Daughter Dance*

5 - 9 p.m., Washington Township Park Pavilion, 115 South Road 575 East, Avon. Rock the Red Carpet for Project A.N.G.E.L. Music, dinner, dessert, dancing, and fun. Proceeds will help fund the 2024 Christmas Assistance Program. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [projectangelofhendrickscounty.com](http://projectangelofhendrickscounty.com).

## 10 Sunday

### *Pokémon League*

6 - 8 p.m., Books & Brews, 1551 North Green Street, Suite I, Brownsburg. Join us for Pokémon fun on the first and third Sunday of every month. Whether you're a seasoned trainer or just starting your journey, all ages and experience levels are welcome. Free to attend.

## 12 Tuesday

### *Daddy-Daughter Date Night*

6 - 8 p.m., Ash and Oak Weddings, 7498 East County Road 100 North, Avon. Chick-fil-A Avon and Beechwood Centre together with Ash and Oak Weddings will be hosting "Under the Sea" Daddy-Daughter Date Night with dinner, dancing, a cow appearance, and more.

## 13 Wednesday - 16 Saturday

### *Here We Grow Again - Indy North Spring/Summer Kids Consignment Sale*

Various times, Boone County Fairgrounds, 1300 East 100 South, Lebanon. Shop and consign at the Here We Grow Again Indy Spring/Summer Kids Consignment Sale. Find more information here: <https://herewegrowagain.com/sale/indywest/>.

## 15 Friday

### *Teen Egg Hunt*

6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Bundy Lodge, Arbuckle Acres Park, 7024 Lucas Drive, Brownsburg. Join us at Arbuckle Acres Park to enjoy the most colorful egg hunt yet, complete with color blast battle, sword fights, glow-off dance party, and more. Wear clothes you're not afraid to get a little dirty, and bring your competition. Check-in begins at 6:30 pm, and activities begin at 7 p.m. Free to attend, but registration is required. Register here: <https://laserfiche.brownsburg.org/Forms/BPRDteenwaiver>.

## 16 Saturday

### *Vandalia Trail Brisk Bike Rides*

9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Vandalia Trail, Southeast corner of Meijer parking lot, behind 302 Dan Jones Road, Plainfield. In its sixth winter, this monthly bike ride series in Plainfield by the Friends of the

Vandalia Trail ([www.nrht.org/vandalia](http://www.nrht.org/vandalia)) is held on one Saturday morning each month, November-March. Whether you're a regular cold weather rider or would like to try it for the first time, come on out and enjoy a relaxed opportunity to embrace winter, try out your cold weather gear, and exchange strategies on staying warm on the bike. The meeting point is behind Biggby's Coffee and the Metro Diner and in front of Meijer.

## 16 Saturday

### *Paddy's on the Square*

2 p.m., Danville Athletic Club and Danville Square, 625 North Washington Street, Danville. Immerse yourself in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day with enchanting bagpipe performances, a captivating fountain dyeing ceremony, and other surprises. Find out the day's schedule here: <https://danvillein.gov/department/division.php?structureid=147>.

## 16 Saturday

### *Mystery by Moonlight! A Glow Egg Scavenger Hunt!*

8 - 10 p.m., W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park, 4521 Gibbs Road, Avon. Walk along the Walnut Walkway trail and see if you can spot the Glow Eggs. Each egg has a clue that will lead you to the thief. This egg hunt is a Night Hike so it is geared toward tweens, teens, and adults with questions that may be harder for some younger folks to answer. (though ALL ages are welcome) \$5 per person. Advance registration required by March 9: <https://hcparks.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Detail?programId=850>.

## 18 Monday

### *Teddy Bear Concert*

11 a.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 Avon Avenue, Avon. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra presents the Teddy Bear Series program, The Giant's Violin! Young children are invited to move along to music as they listen to the mysterious tale of a boy who believes a giant and his violin live in the attic above his room. Designed for ages 3-6.

## 19 Tuesday

### *First Day of Spring Hike*

6 - 7 p.m., Pecar Nature Park, 5203 East County Road 150 North, Avon. Join us at Pock Woods within Pecar Nature Park for a spring hike - we will discover spring plants, search for animal habitats, and explore the nature center afterwards. Price is \$2 per person.

## 20 Wednesday

### *My College Planning - The Art of the Appeal, Virtual Program*

6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Now more than ever, colleges are willing to say 'yes' to appeals for more financial aid and scholarship

money for both new and returning students. This workshop provides detailed guidance for families on how to appeal to colleges for more financial aid and how to improve the likelihood of a successful appeal. Highly recommended for Class of 2024 families. Workshop speakers include high school counselors, financial aid experts, and Certified Financial Planners. Some workshops may have more than one speaker. Registration is required (one per family only please). Registration will open Feb. 28 and close March 20 at 6:15 p.m. You will be emailed a Zoom link once we receive your registration.

## 21 Thursday (EVERY Thurs. until 5/30)

### *GriefShare Series*

6 - 7:30 p.m., The Church by the Side of the Road, 10323 East County Road 100 South, Avon. GriefShare is a non-denominational, biblical support group, that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Whether your loss is recent, or years in the past, this is a place of healing here for you! We will meet March 21 - May 30. The \$20 registration fee includes materials, and scholarships are available if needed. Find more information at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## 23 Saturday

### *Sensory Easter*

9 - 11:30 a.m., Pecar Nature Park, 5203 East County Road 150 North, Avon. This program is designed for those that benefit from an individual, personalized egg hunt in a quieter setting. We have five hunts scheduled per 15 minutes, and two children can go together. We will also have crafts available for those who would like to participate. Event is free, but pre-registration is required: <https://www.washingtontwparks.org/programs.html>.

## 23 Saturday

### *Easter Scramble*

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Talon Stream Paved Trail, 5344 Pike Lane, Plainfield. Get ready for an egg-stravaganza event filled with thrilling activities such as pictures with the Easter Bunny, lively music, unleashing your creativity with exciting crafts, and many more free family activities. Don't miss out on the joyous festivities and food vendors - hop on over and make memories that will last a lifetime.

## 23 Saturday

### *McCloud Scavenger Hunt*

11 a.m. - 2 p.m., McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem. The Easter Bunny thought that it would be fun to have a Scavenger hunt at McCloud Nature Park. He has hidden clues around the Red-Tailed Ridge trail that will help answer a question. Just look for the table at the Truss Bridge to get your answer sheets and follow the Bunny Trail. There will also be some fun Easter crafts available in the Nature Center.

## EVERY Monday

### *Lenten Lunches*

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Danville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 180 West Main Street, Danville. Each Monday during Lent, the Danville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be serving free Lenten Lunches. Everyone is welcome, and free will donations will be used to help Danville area residents. Diners can get meals to go or eat in the dining room.

### *Trivia Night*

7 p.m., Nigh Brewing, 2067 Hadley Road, Plainfield. Nigh Brewing hosts trivia night every Monday at 7 p.m. Free to attend.

## EVERY Tuesday

### *Tuesday Trivia*

6:30 - 8:30 p.m., The Prewitt Restaurant, 121 West Main Street, Plainfield. Bring your friends, enjoy \$4 draft beers, and put your knowledge to the test. The game will begin at 7 p.m. and the winning team will receive a \$50 gift card.

## EVERY Thursday

### *Gentle Slow-Flow Yoga*

9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. A 60-minute class that incorporates conscious breathwork along with a sequence of dynamic and energetic poses designed to increase strength, flexibility, and balance in the body, mind, and spirit. The teacher will provide modifications of the different poses to meet the varying skills among the students in the class. Props will be provided but please bring your own mat. Cost per class is \$10 and paid at the door. Scholarships available, if needed.

### *Chair Yoga*

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Find your center and get grounded in body, mind and spirit in this gentle class. Chair yoga is practiced either sitting or using chairs for support in various postures and is designed to mindfully increase range of motion while meeting students where they are. We will work on stretching, range of motion, balance, breathing, and overall a sense of wellbeing. This class is ideal for students with limited mobility or healing from injury. Appropriate for students of all levels. Cost is \$10 per class and paid at the door. Scholarships available, if needed.

## EVERY Friday (In March)

### *Vita Free Tax Prep*

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 South Jefferson Street, Brownsburg. Indy Free Tax Prep is a network of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites that offers free tax preparation to individuals and families with a combined household income of \$66,000 or less in 2023. IRS-certified volunteers provide basic income tax return preparation and free electronic filing to qualified individuals. The most efficient way to book an appointment is to register here: <https://freetax.as.me/schedule.php>.

# Growing Vegetables from Seed

**GARDENING** By John Chapin

More and more people are starting vegetable gardening, both to save money and for the benefits of fresh, homegrown produce. One easy way to significantly save is to grow your vegetables from seed rather than buy transplants. Planting seeds opens up a huge selection of vegetable varieties beyond the ones offered at garden centers and big box stores. There are some tried and true varieties of popular vegetables that are highly recommended for both new and experienced gardeners. Check these out!

- 'Fortex' is a French heirloom pole bean that produces long, tender pods all summer till a hard freeze.
- 'Mortgage Lifter' beefsteak tomato yields huge, tasty fruit with deep flavor. 'Sun Gold' is a golden cherry tomato unmatched for sweetness.
- 'Sun King' broccoli not only produces large heads, but then sends out nice side-shoots all summer, doubling the harvest.
- 'Early Jersey Wakefield' has smaller tender heads that mature in early summer, while 'Late

Flat Dutch' produces huge heads that will last all winter in the crisper.

- 'White Corona' Cauliflower is surprisingly easy to grow, with huge tasty heads that can be stored for a few weeks.
- 'Ambrosia' is not only a very sweet cantaloupe, but it's ready to harvest when it slips off the vine, eliminating guessing.
- 'Patterson' onions will store all the way till the next summer!
- 'Super Sugar Snap' peas are stringless and super-sweet.

Special Note: Seed packets usually have way more seeds than you need, but all will be viable for next year and often years to come. Save money by storing extra seed in the refrigerator.



John Chapin is a retired school teacher and sole proprietor of Chapin Landscaping in Danville. He has over 30 years' experience in the landscaping business. Contact him at jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com

SEED VIABILITY ESTIMATES				
	FEDCO	JOHNNY'S	VERMONT EXT.	IOWA ST. EXT.
bean	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
beet	3-5 years	5 years	4 years	4 years
brassicas	3-5 years	5 years	3-5 years*	5 years*
carrot	2-3 years	3 years	3 years	
celery	2-3 years	5 years	3 years	
chard	3-5 years			
corn	2-3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
cucumber	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
eggplant	2-3 years	5 years	4 years	
lettuce	2-3 years	5 years	6 years	5 years
leek	2 years	3 years	2 years	
melon (muskmelon)	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
melon (watermelon)	5-10 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
onion	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
parsnip		1 year	1 year	
parsley		1 year	1 year	
peas	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
peppers	2-3 years	4 years	2 years	2 years
radish	3-5 years		5 years	5 years
spinach	2-3 years	1 year	3 years	5 years
squash/pumpkin	2-5 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
tomato	5-10 years	5 years	4 years	4 years

\*VT: kale 4, Brussels 4, cabbage 4, broccoli 3, collards 5  
\*IOWA ST: Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower 5

# How to Choose a Great Hotel in Europe

**TRAVEL** By Amy Maharas

When my husband and I travel in the U.S., we tend to stay at Marriott or Hilton hotels. We love the easy booking process, earning points, and knowing what to expect. When we travel overseas, though, I don't want to stay in an American brand - I want to stay in a hotel with unique, European features and feel immersed in the culture!

In choosing a hotel, I typically start with a booking engine like Booking.com to get a lay of the land and read reviews. I pick out a few options, then go to the websites of those hotels. Typically I can get a better rate booking directly with the hotel.

**Some things to consider:**

- Size of hotel: Do you prefer a small, boutique hotel or large, grand property? Personally, I love a small hotel with personality and charm.
- Features of room: Many hotel rooms in Europe are tiny, and the bathrooms are even tinier, so look at photos and choose one that meets your needs.
- Location: You will typically pay more to stay in the city center; look for locations off the beaten path, but with good transportation options to sites you wish to see.
- Breakfast: Many hotels do include breakfast free of charge or for a small fee. Do you prefer American buffet style or do you want more local cuisine options? Often you can find a combination of both.
- Parking: We have squeezed a rental car into

teeny tiny parking garages in various countries, but it is a challenge! If you will have a car, be sure to ask about parking.

No matter what hotel you choose, be sure to tell the staff "thank you" in the language of the country. This goes a long way to receiving great service. Happy travels!



Amy Maharas is an Avon resident and travel planner with Hi Ho Vacations. Contact her at Amy@HiHoVacations.com

# Let's Do Lunch!



By Kate Anderson

Let's have some wine with lunch, shall we? This week we head to Cooper's Hawk, where the food is delicious and the vineyard-like tasting room welcomes you in to have a glass of wine (or two!) from their signature wine selection, and then you can follow that with a fantastic meal. Their expansive menu caters to all tastes and appetites, from delicious salads, soups, and pasta, to a mouth-watering steak or chicken dish, there really is something for everyone. Don't forget their mouth-watering desserts. Go on, treat yourself to a little indulgence. You're worth it! They feature spacious booths and comfortable seating, so whether you are there for a business lunch, catching up with friends, or celebrating a birthday or otherwise, you'll be able to settle in for a great time and a great visit with the person or people across the table from you.



# Edward Jones®

## How can women bridge the retirement gap?

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day for celebrating the accomplishments of women around the globe. But many women still need to make up ground in one key area: retirement security.

Women's retirement challenges are due to several factors, including a wage gap, longer life expectancies and time away from the workforce to care for children and elderly parents.

To help close any retirement deficit you may face, contribute as much as you can afford, for as long as you can, to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Also, try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses. With this fund available, you might not have to dip into your retirement accounts to pay for unexpected costs, such as a major home repair.

Finally, maximize your Social Security benefits. If you can afford to wait until your full retirement age before collecting, your checks will be much bigger. If you're married, you might help yourself by coordinating your benefits with those of your spouse.

It's unfortunate, but women still must travel a more difficult road than men to reach retirement security. But making the right moves can help ease the journey.

## Samuel Lowe

Financial Advisor

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Member SIPC



## Hendricks County Bluebird Society Helping to Protect Eastern Bluebird Nesting Sites and Population

The North American Bluebird Society is a non-profit education, conservation, and research organization that promotes the recovery of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting bird species in North America. Affiliate organizations are groups that take this mission of conservation to a localized level where they can operate on a more personal basis, and here in Hendricks County, the Hendricks County Bluebird Society is doing just that. The Hendricks County Bluebird Society exists to protect and to promote the native eastern bluebird nesting sites and population in Hendricks County. The North American Bluebird Society endeavors to provide the Hendricks County society with start-up support and with the benefit of educational resources and information in order to better serve the



needs of their respective areas.

"Eastern bluebirds are returning to Hendricks County and are looking for nesting cavities. If you have a nesting box, or want to set one out, it's time to get them ready for the season," according to Mary Huber, Hendricks County Bluebird Society. "If you leave your boxes out all year round, they're going to need cleaning out. Chances are mice or other critters have used them over winter. Open them up and pull out any nesting materials." Huber continues, "Check the structure for damage and repair the nesting box. Doors that don't latch properly, a rotten floor, a roof that's askew, these are issues that are easier to address before the breeding/nesting season begins. Nesting boxes need to be in good shape for the safety and success of the broods."

### Other tips offered by Huber include:

- \* The most favorable location for a nesting box is in an open, grassy area where the adults can find insects and caterpillars
- \* If more than one box is being set, consider leaving plenty of space between them
- \* The ideal perch for nesting boxes is a thin metal pole. Attaching a box to a fence post or tree gives predators such as snakes, cats, and raccoons an easy climbing surface to the nest

Huber stresses, "One of the most important responsibilities of bluebird box owners is monitoring the nesting boxes.

Monitoring means observing the activity around the nesting box and recording data concerning the species of bird, number of eggs, number of babies that hatch, and how many fledge (leave the nest as young adults.)"

After the brood leaves the nest, the box needs to be cleaned out so a new brood can be produced. The nesting season runs from mid-April through mid-August. Since it takes about three weeks for a brood to fledge, nesting boxes need to be cleaned out several times over the season. Other native species of birds, including chickadees, tree swallows, tufted titmice, and house wrens, also nest in cavities and will compete with bluebirds for nesting sites. These birds are quite fun to observe and should not be harassed or harmed.

"One non-native invasive species however cannot be allowed to use your box! That's the English House Sparrow (not to be confused with other native species of sparrows that nest in trees and shrubs)," emphasizes Huber. "English House Sparrows not only compete for nesting sites, but will kill bluebirds to take over a spot. One of the most important responsibilities of monitoring a box is to quickly remove and eliminate non-native intruders' nests from nesting boxes."

With enough harassment, the sparrows will hopefully move on before they harm any nearby bluebirds. Information on identifying various species and their nests is readily available on the internet on the North American Bluebird Society's website, [www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org). The national website offers several informative pamphlets (in PDF format), including instructions for building your own boxes.

**For more information locally, contact the Hendricks County Bluebird Society at [hclubirdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hclubirdsociety@gmail.com), or check out these upcoming FREE programs and events:**

Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Putnam County Fairgrounds, 64 North US Highway 231, Greencastle, 2023 Garden Fair

Thursday, April 4, 6:45 p.m., Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, Educational program to be announced

Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, HC Master Gardeners' Spring Gardening Show



## ICONIC brief

### Indiana Grown Symposium Welcomes All

On March 19, Indiana Grown, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's local marketing initiative, will be hosting a day-long event focused on educational seminars for Indiana Grown members, Indiana agritourism operators, and food-based businesses. The event, which will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds, will be \$45 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Interested businesses and Indiana Grown members can register for the event at indianagrown.org. Organizations and businesses interested in being trade show vendors or a sponsors can find those opportunities at indianagrown.org as well. New to 2024, businesses do not have to be an Indiana Grown member to attend.

"This event is a great resource to all those who are interested in agriculture and agritourism," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This symposium offers a wide range of informational sessions and networking to everyone involved in agriculture who might be looking to become an agricultural destination."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to speak with and learn from industry professionals on a variety of topics, including social media, farm finances, operator liabilities, hiring and training employees, succession planning, event planning, zoning and insurance, building relationships with distributors, determining your product pricing, and more. There will also be a panel discussion and a trade show opportunity for attendees to meet with vendors. Attendees could include small agribusinesses looking to expand their products into new markets, agribusinesses interested in social media and marketing expertise, agritourism operations who would like to expand their on-farm attractions, creating a memorable guest experience, farm to table events, and much more.

"Indiana Grown is thrilled to be hosting our third Indiana Grown Symposium and to be opening this event to all business owners looking for support as they continue to expand their businesses," said Caroline Patrick, Indiana Grown Director. "This is a great opportunity to connect with experts from over 30 different business and agritourism topics, interact with Indiana Grown members, and learn what the Indiana Grown program has to offer. This is a one-of-a-kind event for Hoosier businesses, and we are so excited to gather our members for continued learning and networking."

#### ABOUT INDIANA GROWN

Indiana Grown is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in partnership with the lieutenant governor's office. The initiative educates consumers on the importance of buying Indiana Grown products, helps Indiana farmers and producers sell more products and supports Indiana businesses in their efforts to process more Indiana Grown products. Indiana Grown members and partners include farmers, producers, processors and artisans, as well as retailers, grocers, hospitals and restaurants.

For more information, visit [indianagrown.org](http://indianagrown.org).

## Five Pieces of Real Estate Advice for Homebuyers

By Dawn Whalen, Whalen Realty Group at F.C. Tucker Company

It's easy to hop onto a real estate app or website and adjust the filter to find properties that fit within certain parameters, but what's not easy is finding information about a neighborhood or area of town. Realtors who've worked in the industry for a few years are part of an information-sharing network where they can make a few calls, or send a few emails, to learn more about a neighborhood, schools, traffic patterns, construction in the area, or any other bits of knowledge that may be useful when considering a move. Here are five ways using the expertise of a well-connected, experienced realtor can help buyers find their ideal home faster.

#### 1. How much can you afford?

All parties involved in the real estate transaction should feel confident that the buyer has the means to afford the property. This is why it's critical to receive mortgage pre-approval, from a lender, before scheduling home tours. Lenders review a buyer's credit report, income, employment history, and possibly bank statements to determine loan eligibility. From there, the lending company may offer pre-approval for loans within a certain range. To start the pre-approval process, buyers can speak with their financial institution or their realtor for referrals to lending agents or mortgage brokers.

#### 2. What's the timeline?

Summer is a popular time to move, especially for families with kids in school, but that doesn't mean the home shopping process should start as soon as the last school bell rings. In fact, the sooner the search can begin, the better. Once the perfect home is found, it can easily take 30-45 days to get moved in. Plan in advance and be upfront with a realtor on the timeline for moving. If the goal is to be in a new place by early August, start the search in the spring. This allows more time to find the right home and be ready as soon as new properties hit the market.

#### 3. What do you want?

Whether it's more space, less space, a bigger yard, less traffic, a home office, or a basement, homebuyers have different criteria for their "must haves" in a new space. Communicate with a realtor about these "must haves" and identify which ones are requirements versus desires. When viewing homes, either online or in-person, speak openly with the realtor about what it has that meets the list and what may be missing. These candid conversations will help narrow down the field to find the ideal property.

#### 4. Listen to feedback

Realtors have seen it all, or pretty close to it when it comes to homes. They've seen the crazy bathroom designs, cabinets in strange locations, and carpet in weird places. These experiences have given realtors a wealth of knowledge and it's advantageous for buyers to listen and consider the information. While a home's décor may not meet the buyer's taste, by looking beyond the wallpaper and carpet, the structure may be sound and check the boxes on the "must have" list. It's not uncommon for one person's decorations to distract from the beauty of the actual space; realtors understand how to move past these distractions and help buyers focus on the actual space and potential. If renovations are a consideration, it's important to speak with licensed contractors to gauge the estimated expenses and what role those could play in the financing.

#### 5. Realtors are connected

Homebuyers are responsible for scheduling a home inspection, termite inspection, and any other inspections they want before purchasing a home. In many cases, buyers want referrals for these jobs. Oftentimes, a buyer may ask friends or co-workers for recommendations, but an experienced realtor has a vast network of these experts. It doesn't matter what side of town, or the state, a property is located, a good realtor has connections to find a quality and honest home inspector, chimney sweep, mold remediator, or handyman. Take advantage of the realtor's network because those connections have likely already been vetted by other agents and homeowners.

When it comes to buying a home, experience matters in finding a property that's safe, structurally sound, and checks off items on the "must haves" list. Searching for properties on an app or website is easy, but meeting deadlines, closing on time, inspecting all the necessary nooks and crannies, and keeping the process moving forward are skills a licensed realtor possesses.

**Dawn Whalen is the owner of Whalen Realty Group, at the F.C. Tucker Company, and has worked in residential real estate for more than 18 years. She's a licensed Realtor, broker, is a member of MIBOR, and is the founder of Whalen's Heroes, which provides funding to purchase service animals for veterans. She can be reached at [Dawn@whalenrealtygroup.com](mailto:Dawn@whalenrealtygroup.com).**

#### PUZZLES ANSWERS FROM PAGE 15

3	8	9	4	7	1	5	6	2
7	2	5	9	8	6	3	4	1
6	1	4	3	2	5	9	8	7
2	5	3	6	1	8	4	7	9
1	9	7	5	4	2	6	3	8
8	4	6	7	9	3	2	1	5
5	3	2	8	6	7	1	9	4
4	6	8	1	5	9	7	2	3
9	7	1	2	3	4	8	5	6

J	A	M	E	S		R	P	M		M	A	R	C
A	L	E	R	O		R	A	E		E	S	A	U
G	L	O	R	Y		S	T	E		A	C	C	T
	W	A	S	P		T	K	O		R	E	T	
A	K	I	N		A	H	I		K	N	I	F	E
M	O	N	T	H	L	Y		I	S	O	B	A	R
P	I	G		U	M	A	S		S	Y	E	N	S
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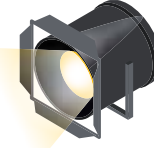
#### Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Parts: COVER, FOREWORD, GLOSSARY, INDEX, PREFACE, PROLOGUE;  
Pits: MOSH, ORCHESTRA, PEACH, SNAKE, TAR;  
Cities: CROWN POINT, GARY, HAMMOND, WHITING;  
Pass the: BUCK, HAT, TORCH;  
Teams: FEVER, PACERS;  
Nickname: SYCAMORES



# Local Business Spotlight

## *Ella Mae's Boutique*



By Julie Brackemyre

### **CHECK OUT THE BUSINESS**

#### 1. How many years has Ella Mae's Boutique been in business, and what inspired you to start/purchase/work with this business?

I started online in 2014. My kids were nine, six, four, and two at the time. I wanted comfortable, yet trendy clothes and always had to go out of town so I wanted to offer something local.

#### 2. Are you the original owner?

Yes.

#### 3. Describe your typical work day.

Now, I spend most of my time buying for the store, styling photo shoots every week, creating content, scheduling content, and analyzing data. In the beginning, I spent 17-18 hours doing everything. I now have a staff of 12 that helps with customer service, inventory processing, and scheduling.

#### 4. What inspires your work, and what sets you apart from everyone else?

Local women inspire me. I want to provide what they want. It's important to find comfortable, flattering apparel.

#### 5. If you could go back to the beginning knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently?

Probably find a good accountant from the start. Everything else I'm glad I've experienced. It has all made me a better business owner.

#### 6. What's your best advice for someone who wants to start their own business?

Don't let the hard days define you. Go for it. Be original and know there will be highs and lows.



*Ella Mae's  
Boutique*

### **CHECK OUT THE OWNER**

Name: Abby McKinney

Occupation: Owner, Ella Mae's Boutique

#### 1. How long have you worked with Ella Mae's Boutique? Tell me a little about your background and how you developed your skill set.

Former teacher, mom to four. All the skills I've used I learned from being a teacher and a mom.

#### 2. What has been your biggest success to date, and what has been your biggest challenge?

Biggest success? Creating a community of supportive women. Biggest challenge? Taxes.

#### 3. What inspires you to hit the ground running each morning?

This community and my kids.

#### 4. Tell me some of your hobbies, outside of working for Ella Mae's Boutique.

I love to travel with my family, be with my kids, read, listen to podcasts, walk, and create cooking videos.

#### 5. What's an interesting fact about your business that most people don't know?

As an autism mom, I'm really big into functional medicine. It has healed my son and keeps my kids healthy.



## ICONIC brief

### THE SHOPS AT Perry Crossing

#### Enjoy Sweet Memories This Winter with a Self-Guided Cocoa Crawl at The Shops At Perry Crossing

The Shops at Perry Crossing is hosting a self-guided Cocoa Crawl event now through Thursday, Feb. 29. The pay-as-you-go tour allows guests to visit select stores to enjoy a unique sweet treat experience at each location. The Cocoa Crawl is sponsored by Encore 55+ Boutique Apartments. "Our Cocoa Crawl is a fun and interactive way for shopping center guests to indulge in a variety of themed treats with friends and family to kick off the New Year in style," said Mandy Bishop, marketing manager for The Shops at Perry Crossing. "Our tenants are committed to curating moments that will enhance the shopping experience for our local community in 2024, starting with a variety of unique offerings in the Cocoa Crawl." Guests can start at their favorite store to pick and choose their treats or enjoy all offerings in the Cocoa Crawl for the full experience at select locations. Those who participate are encouraged to tag @ShopPerryCrossing to show off their goodies as they peruse through the center.

HENDRICKS COUNTY  
BUSINESS LEADER

# Women's Luncheon

MARCH 6

Luncheon Times: 11:30AM – 1:00PM

The Pavilion Center

Washington Township Park

435 Whipple Lane, Avon, IN



RSVP to Becca Thie at [rebecca@myiconmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@myiconmedia.com)