

PROGRESS

A SUPPLEMENT OF THE *Journal Review*



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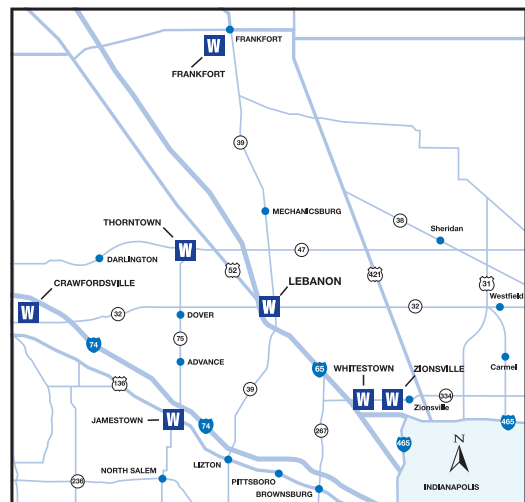
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Tempur Sealy opens new plant Officials gather for ceremonial ribbon cutting

Tina McGrady

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Tempur Sealy officials gathered in early October to snip the ceremonial ribbon to open its \$138 million foam-pouring plant near Crawfordsville.

The celebration came almost two years to the day from when the Lexington, Kentucky-based mattress and bedding manufacturer broke ground on its largest production facility in the world. Construction of the new 700,000 square foot plant, which sits on 200 acres between C.R. 250E and Nucor Road, was completed earlier this year. The manufacturer is expected to bring 300 jobs to the area by the end of 2025.

“Two years ago, on Oct. 7, 2021, we broke ground on this facility and now we are sitting in what will be the largest Tempur Sealy manufacturing facility in the world, and our third domestic foam-pouring plant,” said Tao Zhu, Director of Manufacturing. “This state-of-the-art facility was designed through collaboration and integration of the best practices of our existing foam pouring and fabrication plants as well as the latest equipment and building technology.”

Zhu acknowledged the hard work and dedication brought by the Tempur Sealy team as

well as city, county and state officials.

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton said Tempur Sealy’s decision to locate near Crawfordsville will “impact generations to come.”

“I know on the day of the ground-breaking it wasn’t just about moving dirt, pouring concrete and erecting steel,” Barton said. “It was, and still is, about much, much more. Today is about more than opening a new manufacturing facility to make high-quality bedding ... It’s also about transformation and growth. It’s about the future. It’s about the transformation and growth of Tempur Sealy as a company, our community, and most importantly the people of our community.”

Barton shared his gratitude for the investment Tempur Sealy has made in its facility and the community. He called the partnerships that have been formed between the company, the Indiana Economic Development Commission, the Montgomery County Council and Commissioners, Montgomery County Redevelopment Commission, Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power and others “a testament to community teamwork.”

“Lives will be changed as careers are built, new rela-



Tempur Sealy celebrated the opening of its newest manufacturing facility in Crawfordsville. Helping cut the ceremonial ribbon Thursday, are, from left, Mayor Todd Barton; Scott Vollet, EVP of Global Operations; Tao Zhu, Director of Manufacturing; and Cliff Buster, North American CEO.

tionships are formed and the citizens in West Central Indiana have the opportunity to become a part of a world class company,” Barton said.

Cliff Buster, North American CEO, said Tempur-Pedic is the No. 2 selling brand in the United States, following Sealy, its sister brand.

“The new facility will be key and instrumental to our growth and success in the future,” he said.

Buster added that community support and available workforce were among the reasons Tempur Sealy chose Crawfordsville after a nationwide search.

“We are proud to be a part of Indiana’s manufacturing landscape,” he said.

The company is looking forward to being a long-term

community partner.

“We are feverishly and aggressively working to hire,” said Scott Vollet, EVP of Global Operations. “And by the end of the year we will be producing a tremendous number of mattresses out of this facility.”

Vollet complimented the hard work and dedication everyone has contributed to make this dream a reality. He was especially grateful for the infrastructure that was provided for the project, including a new access road, a one-million-gallon water tower, sewer, electric and a four-mile water main.

Tempur manufactures bedding products and components for brands including Tempur-Pedic and Stearns & Foster.

Nucor to make \$400M investment

Steel maker conducts groundbreaking for modernization, expansion project

Tina McGrady

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Nucor Steel teammates and several local and state officials, including Gov. Eric Holcomb, gathered in mid-April for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the company's \$400 million steel mill modernization and expansion project.

Nucor plans to make the investment over the next five years at its Crawfordsville

site.

An investment of \$290 million will be used to add a construction grade continuous galvanizing line and a pre-paint line to its operations at 4537 Nucor Road. The galvanizing line will have a capacity of 300,000 tons per year, and the pre-paint line will have an annual capacity of 250,000 tons. The project entails constructing a new complex for the two lines. The new lines will add 80 full-

time, high-way positions to Montgomery County.

The remainder of the investment will be used to upgraded production capabilities at the existing mill.

Launched in 1989, Nucor Steel Indiana was Nucor's first steel sheet mill. The company later pioneered its electric arc furnace thin-slab casting at its Crawfordsville mill and has since continued to invest in advanced sheet steel products and technolo-

gies. Nucor operates several sheet mills that utilize thin slab casters throughout North America.

Nucor employs nearly 31,000 teammates at its locations throughout North American, including 2,500 teammates in Indiana and 750 teammates in Crawfordsville.

"The groundbreaking we are celebrating today builds on the company's history," said Nathan Fraser, vice pres-

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ident and general manager. “Our modernization project is about expanding the capabilities of our Crawfordsville mill to meet the needs of our customers today and in the future, as well as create opportunities for our team to compete in those markets. The investment here is part of Nucor’s overall strategy to grow the core and expand the types of products we can offer customers across Nucor.”

Dan Needham, an executive vice president with Nucor’s corporate team, returned to Crawfordsville for the historic day. Previously Needham served as controller and general manager at the Crawfordsville mill. He acknowledged the company’s success can be contributed to the unrelenting desire of local teammates to deliver the next chapter of Nucor’s great story.

“It’s the not resting on your laurels,” he said. “That’s why we are here today to celebrate the beginning of that next chapter.”

Needham added that Nucor changed the steel industry forever in Crawfordsville in 1989.

“Before Crawfordsville no other company had made commercially viable hot roll and cold roll sheet before, we were told that mill will never succeed, and it will also bring down Nucor. We didn’t

believe that for a second ... Our Indiana teammates have been proving the skeptics wrong day in and day out for over three decades.”

Nucor is now the largest producer of steel and steel products in America. Its arc furnaces turned more than 22 million tons of scrap into new steel last year, making the company the largest recyclers of any type in the Western hemisphere and one of the top five recyclers in the world.

“Nucor could not exist without the community,” Needham said. “Montgomery County is one of the best ... with its shared values of hard work, determination, and teamwork. That’s why we came back and doubled the capacity of this mill in 1993 and why we are coming back 30 years later and investing \$400 million in this upgrade.”

Needham also thanked the state of Indiana for contributing to the company’s success, calling Indiana a champion for manufacturing.

“Manufacturers in Indiana directly contribute over \$100 billion into the Indiana economy every year,” he noted.

Holcomb took his turn at the podium to offer praise.

“This team is pretty special and has a lot to celebrate,” Holcomb said. “This is his-

toric, what a trajectory. To think about what you have pioneered here, the different techniques and technologies and innovations that have been borne out of getting the job done and becoming the industry standard.”

He acknowledged that Indiana is the number one steel producing state in America, with 28% coming from the Hoosier state.

“We had \$22 billion in capital investment last year, and that was breaking our previous record of \$8.7 billion, and we’ve done over \$4.5 billion already this year,” Holcomb said. “Our pipeline is fuller this year than last year and that means we need more steel, and your customers around the country and around the world need more steel, so you bet we will supply you so you can supply your customers.”

Nucor’s presence will never be taken for granted, he added.

Montgomery County Commissioner John Frey echoed the governor’s sentiments.

“This is a huge day for Montgomery County,” he said. “We have a national spotlight on us today. We have created the environment that people, business, and industry want to be a part of.”

Job creation is always the goal, but so is job retention.

“Keeping our best employers in the community is paramount,” Frey said. “This \$400 million investment assures us that Nucor is not going anywhere.”

Frey added that the county has provided \$40 million in incentives and infrastructure improvements for this project.

“We invest in Nucor because Nucor invests in Montgomery County,” he said. “Over the last 35 years Nucor has given millions to local charities and to our schools ... they are a great corporate citizen.”

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton also offered remarks during the ceremony.

“Nucor’s commitment is exceptional,” he said. “It’s hard to believe all this started with wide open fields, big dreams and a massive amount of grit and determination Today it’s impossible to imagine this community without Nucor.”

“Today we celebrate Nucor’s continued commitment to our community as they break ground on a complex that will not only further solidify their position as an industry leader, but reaffirm their partnership with our community, a partnership of trust, loyalty and unmatched corporate citizenship for which we all are incredibly grateful.”



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Nucor expands investment with \$115M utility structures manufacturing facility

Journal Review

Nucor Corporation, the largest U.S.-based steel producer, announced in mid-June that the company's Towers & Structures business unit will build a new state-of-the-art utility structures manufacturing facility in Crawfordsville, investing \$115 million and creating up to 200 new jobs by the end of 2027.

"Today is truly yet another exciting day for Nucor, Indiana and our state's growing energy ecosystem," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "Nucor has been a great company partner to our state for decades, and this new Towers & Structures operation is a true testament to the company's commitment to the Montgomery County region and to our Hoosier pro-growth business climate and skilled workforce."

The new facility will be located adjacent to the Nucor Steel Indiana sheet steel mill, which has been operating in Montgomery County since 1989. Nucor's Towers & Structures facility will be highly automated, utilizing efficient straight-line production and will also include advanced hot-dip galvanizing operations. The new facility will be well equipped to provide a wide array of engineered utility structures necessary to support our nation's electri-

fication initiatives, such as grid hardening, renewable energy projects and building a nationwide network of EV charging stations.

"Nucor's investment in Crawfordsville furthers Indiana's momentum in energy storage and production," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. "Nucor's new Towers & Structures production facility will not only create new community investment and quality career opportunities, it will also power the future of the energy sector across the U.S., supporting electrification and continued clean energy efforts."

Construction is expected to begin late 2023 to early 2024 with production in Crawfordsville expected to start by mid-2025.

"Nucor has been doing business in Indiana since 1972, and today we have more than 2,500 teammates working at 20 different locations across the state," said Laurent De May, General Manager of Nucor Towers & Structures. "We are excited to build on that history with our new Towers & Structures production facility. We appreciate the support

we have received from state and local officials, including Governor Eric Holcomb, Secretary of Commerce, Brad Chambers, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Montgomery County and the City of Crawfordsville."

The new Montgomery County facility will accelerate Nucor's growth of its Towers & Structures business unit, which it formed in 2022 after acquiring Summit Utility Structures LLC, a producer of steel utility structures. In December, the company announced plans to establish a nationwide footprint by building two new utility structure manufacturing facilities for a combined \$270 million dollars. In February, the company announced plans for its first facility in Decatur, Alabama.

"We are excited that Nucor has chosen to locate their new towers and structures manufacturing facility in Montgomery County," said Montgomery County Commissioner John Frey. "Our county team has worked hard to create the environment to attract new jobs and investment in the

county, and we are starting to see the results of these efforts."

Today's news comes on the heels of Nucor's recent investment in its Indiana sheet steel mill, where it is investing \$290 million to expand and modernize its operations. The expansion, which kicked off with a groundbreaking in April, will enable the plant to increase the capacity of its galvanizing and pre-paint lines, further expanding Nucor's existing operations across North America.

Launched in 1989, Nucor Steel Indiana was Nucor's first sheet steel mill. Nucor employs more than 31,000 teammates in its locations throughout North America, including more than 2,500 in Indiana.

Pending approval of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation board of directors, the IEDC will commit an investment in Nucor Towers & Structures of up to \$3.25 million in the form of incentive-based tax credits and up to \$3.75 million in conditional structured performance payments based on the company's job creation and investment plans. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired and investments are made.





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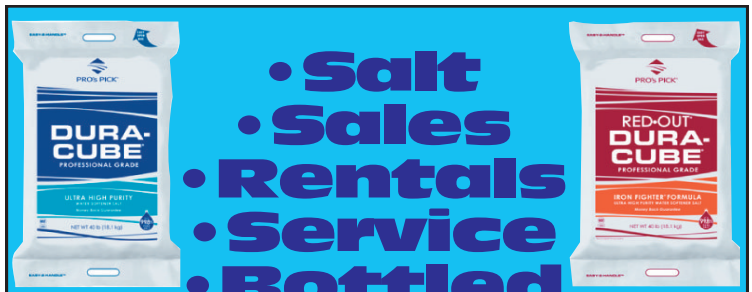
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International Paper looks to invest in local facility

Journal Review

International Paper Company is looking to invest in improvements to its Crawfordsville corrugated packaging business. As part of the decision-making process, they will seek a tax abatement incentive from the City of Crawfordsville. If approved by the city, the planned improvements include the addition of state-of-the-art equipment which will allow the facility to accommodate additional production and increase operation efficiencies.

“Crawfordsville is an important part of International Paper’s corrugated packaging

business,” said Mandi Gilliland, region general manager, International Paper. “We are excited to identify improvement opportunities for the facility and continue to make a positive impact in the local community.”

International Paper’s Crawfordsville facility employs approximately 160 employees and produces corrugated packaging for chemicals, pharmaceuticals, processed food, beverage, shipping, distribution and e-commerce customers.

“International Paper has a long history of success in our community,” Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton



said. “The decision to invest in further enhancing their manufacturing operations in Crawfordsville positions them to remain highly competitive well into the future. We truly appreciate their

continued confidence in our community, to work alongside the high-quality team they’ve assembled locally, in ensuring the success of their new investment.”

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Crawfordsville has always needed more options for casual upscale dining. Whether to celebrate a birthday, have a nice glass of wine with some friends, or enjoy live music and some appetizers—we are here for it! Our new full service dinner menu debut should be both exhilarating and a breathe of fresh air for our customers. It is going to be a seasonally changing menu, including drink specials, imported wines, classic beers, and fun food specials that you normally don’t get so close to home.

As of November 2023, we can officially make the announcement that we have a liquor license for our restaurant! Maxine’s ribbon cutting ceremony and invitational only weekend to celebrate our licensing and new full service dinner menu is schedule for December 2023.

For the latest news on our happenings, please visit our website or other social media. You can always give us a call as well - 765.307.2507.

Chamber recognizes 2023 business award winners

Tina McGrady

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A Ladoga restaurant and a Crawfordsville lighting systems manufacturer were among the top businesses recognized in September at the annual Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce awards program at Stone Creek Lodge.

The Emporium 109 was named Small Business of the Year for its efforts to make the restaurant “the place to be.” Recent renovations to the downtown Ladoga property as well as vision and hard work for both the business and the community were cited in their nomination.

Acuity Brands earned the Large Business of the Year Award for going above and beyond in many areas and for establishing a strong connection with the community. Acuity was nominated for taking pride in its associates and its commitment to providing a clean, safe work environment.

Furthermore, Acuity drives shared values in the way it conducts business. “Curiosity, integrity, mentorship and collaboration across all departments allows for professional growth and development within the organization, thus providing the best place, for the best people to come and do their best work,” said Kim Keeling, the award presenter.

Winning the Emerald Educators Award were Jenny Veatch, Crawfordsville schools; Joy Jarvis, North Montgom-

ery schools; and Erin Jones, South Montgomery schools.

Veatch was recognized for her effectiveness, passion and caring nature as a teacher and a school leader. Jarvis was honored for her deep understanding of reading instruction and her demeanor as joyful and kind to all. Jones was nominated for always going above and beyond for students, staff and the community.

Entrepreneur of the Year honors went to Ice Creams La Michoacana.

The Crawfordsville business on South Grant Avenue has made quite a splash with its many varieties of homemade ice cream, treats and Mexican foods.

Through the Gate, a residential treatment facility on Whitlock Avenue, was awarded the Community Organization of the Year Award. Presenter Brad Monts said the nonprofit works hard to help women learn a new way of living and doing. It takes women facing life dominating issues, like addiction, and helps them find resources for healing.

Dr. Jill Lambertson of Wabash College was presented the Champion of Change Award for her work in diversity, equality and inclusion. She was nominated for her tireless efforts to make the college and Crawfordsville a more welcoming place for people from all backgrounds. She has helped write grants and begin programs that help support and uplift people.

Erin Azar was the recipient of the Woman of the



Year Award. Since moving to Crawfordsville in 2016, her focus has been on building and expanding the civil engineering business and raising her family in a Hoosier hometown. DES Engineering moved its business downtown to partner with historic district progress. Azar joined the Crawfordsville Main Street board of directors and has become the leading force in an architecture and engineering conditions assessment grant program for historic downtown property owners. She also serves as Chamber ambassador and is a member of Tri Kappa and Rotary Club.

Brittany Carr was awarded the Rising Star Young Professional of the Year Award. Carr works at a local credit

union and serves as the president of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. She also is a board member of the Education Foundation and Women in Business. She also serves as secretary for her children’s PTO board.

The keynote speaker for this year’s event was Nate Feltman, co-owner and CEO of the Indiana Business Journal and the Indiana Lawyer. He shared his thoughts on Indiana’s strengths and weaknesses.

Fifty-five member organizations attended the banquet as well as city and county officeholders, and State Sen. Brian Buchanan from District 7 and State Sen. Beau Baird from District 44 and U.S. Congressman Jim Baird from District 4.



Acuity Brands won the Large Business of the Year Award.



Dr. Jill Lamberton received the Champion of Change Award.



Erin Azar, right, received the Woman of the Year Award.



Brittany Carr, center, received the Rising Star Young Professional of the Year Award.



Joy Jarvis, second from left, Jenny Veatch and Erin Jones.



Ice Creams La Michoacana received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



Emporium 109 earned the Small Business of the Year Award.



Through the Gate won the Community Organization of the Year Award.



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City, Arbor Homes announce partnership for residential development

Journal Review

The City of Crawfordsville and Arbor Homes announced in late April a partnership to mitigate the challenges of housing availability in workforce attraction.

Arbor Homes plans to develop a 173-home subdivision called Hawkview. This 60-acre development will be located south of the Woodcreek Shoppes in the 2100 block of US 231S, Crawfordsville. The average home price will be \$285,000, and the average home will be approximately 2,300 square feet. While this is their first project in Crawfordsville, Arbor Homes has been a leading home builder for over 25 years in Central Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Total development costs for land acquisition and

infrastructure construction, such as streets and utilities is expected to be \$13.9 million. The city plans to utilize Residential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist with financing infrastructure costs associated with the development. Residential TIF is a new tool established by the state legislature in 2019, and allows for the capture of future taxes from homes located in the new development for use in financing the infrastructure needed to serve them. Residential TIF is a tool only available to communities in which new housing starts have remained below an established threshold and has been unable to meet demand. The multi-step local approval process of the Residential TIF for Hawkview is expected to begin in May.

“Our biggest challenge in attracting the workforce needed to ensure the success of our local businesses is the lack of available housing,” said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. “We’ve experienced a housing shortage at all price points for some time now, and this project is a significant step forward in addressing that challenge. We are fortunate to have unprecedented employment opportunities and a great quality of life. Increasing the availability of housing is the next step in attracting and retaining the talent needed for success. I am very excited to welcome a strong partner like Arbor Homes to our community.”

As part of their project analysis, Arbor Homes conducted a housing market study of Crawfordsville in 2021 to determine both the

need for more quality housing and the price range buyers would consider. Of the 250 respondents, 31% were searching for homes and preferred a price range between \$200,000 to \$299,000.

“We’re very excited about the Crawfordsville market and recognize the need for attainable housing in the area,” said Ben Watkins, chief marketing officer. “Mayor Barton and the city have been great to work with. At Arbor we believe wealth accumulation for families happens through homeownership and in working with the city of Crawfordsville, it’s clear the city has its residents’ best interest in mind.”

Arbor Homes estimates construction will begin in December 2024.

Teeter appointed assistant police chief at CPD

Journal Review

Ryan Teeter was promoted to assistant police chief by Chief Aaron Mattingly in late May.

Teeter is a 2012 Crawfordsville High School graduate hired by the Crawfordsville Police Department in November 2015 and attended the police academy in 2016. He has been with the Crawfordsville Police Department for eight years, started his career as a patrol officer, was promoted to a patrol sergeant, and in November 2020 he began

working investigations.

“My goal has always been to serve this community and help the officers within the department,” Teeter said. “With this new role, that goal doesn’t change, the capacity of my role is just different.”

He originally joined the police force because he cares about our Crawfordsville community and wanted to give back. He has family who has been involved in the community for generations and he, too, wanted to do his part.



“Ryan is someone that is trustworthy, driven, and works extremely well with everyone,” Mattingly said.

“He is a leader and I know he will make immediate impacts and connections within the police department and the community. Ryan has goals and the determination to accomplish them.”

With his work in various roles, Teeter recognizes the opportunity in capabilities and technology within the police department. He looks forward to assisting with that growth and improvement to serve the community in Crawfordsville and Montgomery County.

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Allen appointed director of operations and community development

Journal Review

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton announced in January the appointment of Brandy Allen as director of operations and community development for the City of Crawfordsville, effective immediately.

The position directly reports to the mayor and has full authority to represent and act on behalf of the mayor to implement community development plans and projects. Allen will be responsible for fostering a community development plan that promotes efficiency, growth, economic vitality, and an enhanced quality of life for the city. This includes overseeing the implementation of strategic projects and initiatives designed to achieve the

community development plan, and further improve the quality of place and life for all residents and businesses.

“Brandy has contributed significantly in helping us create a vision for a thriving community,” Barton said. “We co-authored Crawfordsville’s winning Stellar Communities Plan and much of our success would not have been possible without her visionary leadership. I have the utmost confidence in Brandy, and elevating her to this position creates an incredibly strong team, further enhancing our ability to



take Crawfordsville to the next level.”

The new position has been expanded by combining the previous roles of director of operations and Allen’s former position as director of planning and

community development within the city’s planning department. Allen will retain responsibility for community development from her previous position. Responsibility for overseeing the building department, permitting and zoning regulations will remain in the city’s planning department.

“I am so excited to continue to serve Crawfordsville

in this new position,” Allen said. “All I have ever wanted is to make Crawfordsville the best place to live, work, and raise a family. I am looking forward to continuing to dedicate my career to the city and assist Mayor Barton in helping our community reach its full potential in the years to come.”

Allen graduated with honors from Ball State University with a bachelor’s degree in urban planning and development in 2006. She interned with the City’s planning department in 2005 before graduating and was hired on as a staff planner for the City planning department in 2006.

Allen is married to Mitch Allen, and they have two children – Hayden, 13, and Harper, 11.

Cox selected to head street department

Journal Review

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton appointed Mark Cox as the new Street Commissioner for the City of Crawfordsville Street Department in early March.

Cox, a Crawfordsville native, has worked for the City of Crawfordsville for 40 years. Cox retired as an officer for the Crawfordsville City Police Department before joining the street department in 2006.

“I am honored to have been entrusted with this position, and my transition has been a smooth one with the help of the great employees here at the street department,” Cox said. “We are going to continue to keep improving the quality and quantity of service we can provide for city residents. My hope is to work with Mayor Barton, and the entire Crawfordsville team, towards improving city streets and our stormwater

drainage system.”

Cox is a Crawfordsville High School graduate, U.S. Marine Corps. veteran and graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. While serving in the Marine Corps., Cox completed schooling in heavy equipment operation and continued his education through his time with the street department. He has also completed the local technical assistance program through Purdue University.

The City of Crawfordsville Street Department Commissioner oversees the daily operations of city streets, sanitation, storm water and the Rodney Jenkins Memorial Yard Waste Site. The department patches potholes, ensures street repairs, repairs and replaces inlets and storm water pipes, oversees city trash pickup, and removes snow, ice and other weather-related obstacles from the city streets for safe travel.

City announces official new brand

Journal Review

The City of Crawfordsville announced in February its official new brand, including a fresh seal, logo and tagline, allowing the city to better market itself and engage with the community and its visitors.

The seal is a modern dedication to the historical General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, the logo reflects the Crawfordsville blend of downtown charm with the outdoor recreation offered to visitors and residents, and the city will promote the new tagline, "Crawfordsville. Be Here. Be Known," emphasizing that Crawfordsville is an ideal destination where anyone can make a life for themselves.

"The City of Crawfordsville is a small, historic town with opportunities to attract diverse



Hoosiers and beyond," said Mayor Todd Barton. "That is the essence we wanted to capture with the new brand. We wanted to reflect our forward-thinking community. This community encompasses so many facets, and this brand not only nods to our history, but celebrates our progress, innovation and quality of life."

To accurately reflect the community, the City of Crawfordsville incorporated citizens' opinions and perspectives throughout the rebranding process. Several steps were taken in crafting

the new brand and logo including conducting extensive research to benchmark cities of similar size, demographic and economy; surveying local businesses, residents, leaders and visitors to determine the overall story; hosting a forum with key stakeholders to discuss the overarching perception and community needs; determining an asset analysis of interpreted strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and finalizing key messaging to increase traction and a positive perception of the community.

Collectively, the new brand — logo, tagline and seal — will work together to tell the story of Crawfordsville within the community and also those visiting. Each play a role in sharing the qualities that make Crawfordsville a place to live, work, play and visit.

Follow the City of Crawfordsville on social media to engage with the new brand and stay tuned over the next couple of months as the brand begins to rollout city-wide.



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Fountain demolition begins

Crews to replace water feature, renovate plaza

Tina McGrady

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Demolition and replacement of a downtown city water feature enjoyed by many began in September.

The Crawfordsville Board of Public Works & Safety approved a request from Tom Fansler of Smock Fansler Corp., Indianapolis, to close the Marie Canine Plaza while crews replace the fountain and make other renovations to the site at the corner of East Main and Green streets.

The project will begin Monday and is expected to be completed by November.

The board gave Fansler permission to use six parking spaces on the east side of the adjacent parking lot for the duration of the project as well as two parking spaces along East Main Street as needed. The board also approved the closure of the sidewalks during the demolition phase and during the concrete work phase.

The entire area will be fenced off during the project and there

will be no public access to the plaza.

The fountain, which was built in 2003, has been repaired several times over the years due to mischief and aging of the structure. Another new pump was installed in July, but the repair was short-lived.

According to information shared in a recent city podcast, the new fountain will take up roughly the same space as the old fountain. It will be built from more durable materials and include light features and wind sensors that will adjust the water flow.

The design of the new fountain will hearken to the original intent and vision of the then newly born Crawfordsville Main Street organization. Members envisioned the site as Crawford Place, paying homage to the Crawford Hotel that stood there for 72 years. The hotel, which was demolished in 1971, later became a parking lot with minimal landscaping and a decorative clock donated by the Journal Review. The city



gave up half of the parking lot for the creation of the plaza and relocated the clock to the southeast corner of East Main and Water streets across from the post office.

The plaza has hosted a variety of community events and has been a gathering place for the past 20 years.

The site will continue to be known as the Marie Canine Plaza, which honors the Canine family whose generous donation helped bring the plaza to fruition. The new fountain will pay homage to the Crawford Hotel. Design elements from the hotel will be incorporated into the new fountain and help

reflect the history of the site.

Other changes to the plaza include removing two poles near the current fountain to make the space more accessible and renovating the hard scape around the fountain.

During the renovations, the public is encouraged to monitor the project's progress by viewing the public access camera. The link can be found on the Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power website at <https://celp.com/citys-cameras/>.

Funding for the project comes from the city's American Rescue Plan Act allocation as well as donations from corporations and private individuals.



Curless earns national business aviation award

Tina McGrady

tmcgrady@jrpress.com

Lori Curless describes herself as both humbled and honored to be named a 2023 Business Aviation Top 40 Under 40 recipient.

The manager of the Crawfordsville Regional Airport was in Las Vegas in mid-October to receive the award from the National Business Aviation Association. She was honored Oct. 20 with a surprise reception at the local airport.

“There were more than 550 nominations received and to be one of the 40 selected is quite an honor,” Curless said. “But what it really says to me is I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing.”

Curless has worked in the aviation field for 16 years — the last six at the Crawfordsville Regional Airport. She is a commercial-rated pilot and holds dual degrees in aviation management and flight. With years of experience as a successful airport manager and director, Curless said her

most rewarding days are those spent sharing her passion for aviation with children, hosting field trips and community days and as an EAA Young Eagles coordinator.

“One of the things I enjoy most about my job is fostering the youth,” she said. “Being able to teach the future generation about aviation is where I draw my passion. During the field trips you get to share your knowledge and see the excitement. It helps reignite something inside of me and makes me feel like this is the right spot, this is where I want to be.”

Curless also is proud of the relationships she has built with her staff.

“We all work together so well and respect each other and truly care about what goes on beyond these walls,” she said.

Curless also is appreciative of the relationships she has built with the airport tenants, many who generously help with Airport Day and other events.

“They truly feel this is a home and they want to help teach the future generations about aviation,” Curless said.

She believes it is that connection with the youth that made her NBAA nomination stand out.

“Anytime we see one of our staff members win an award on a national level it means a lot,” said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. “To see Lori recognized on that national level really drives home what we already know. She does a fantastic job. Her knowledge of the aviation industry and how to make an airport work has been exceptional.

“We’ve seen dramatic growth at our airport in terms of the takeoffs and landings and the fuel sales and all the things that happen here, and it’s been due to Lori’s leadership. She understands the industry and how to make those things happen.”

Barton expressed pride in the team that Curless has built since taking over leadership at the airport in 2017.

“They get the job done and make things happen,” Barton said. “They are the often the front door to our community.”

The local airport is an important asset.

“It’s more than what people think,” Barton said. “A lot of people think it’s just for the recreational flier, and that is certainly part of what happens here, but it is also about our business and industry.”

The airport also serves many students from the Lift Academy and Purdue University’s aviation program.

Both Curless and Barton are excited about the future of the facility as it continues to evolve and grow.

Curless and members of the appointed aviation board continue to work on short- and long-term plans, which include an FAA mandated fencing project around the airport and an expansion of the apron, which provides aircraft parking. The planned projects follow a runway extension and lighting improvements.

City to develop Shortz Nature Park

Journal Review

The City of Crawfordsville announced plans in late March to develop a 47-acre nature park on the city's southwest side near the intersection of State Road 47 and State Road 32.

Crawfordsville native Will Shortz currently owns the property, and the nature park is being made possible by his donation of the property to the city. Shortz, a well-known puzzle creator and editor, is best known for his work as crossword puzzle editor for the New York Times. He grew up in Crawfordsville on the plot of land he is donating for the park.

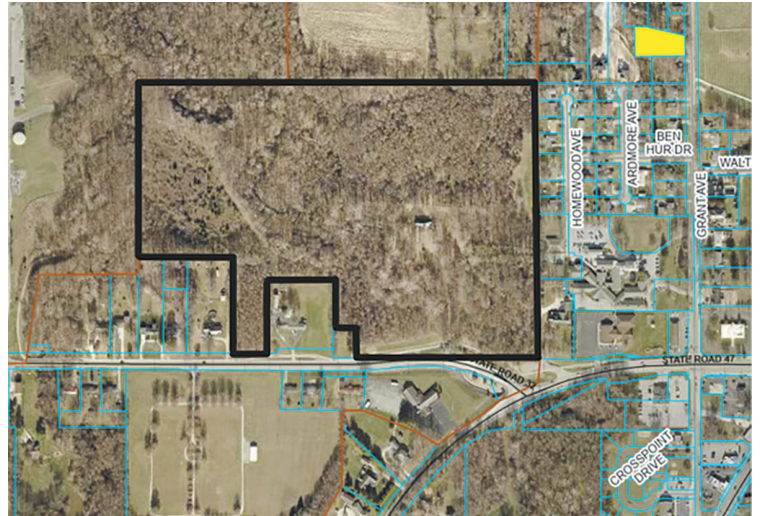
The park will be named the Shortz Nature Park in honor of the Shortz family.

The city is preparing to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to fund

many of the amenities that will be a part of the new park, and grant awards will be announced in 2024.

Upon learning the status of grant funding, the city will engage the services of a professional design team, and public input will be sought as plans for the new park are developed. Preliminary plans call for a public parking area, trails connecting to the Sugar Creek Trail, a small bridge spanning the stream that flows through the property, a sledding hill, and a small picnic area. In addition, the park will feature a puzzle theme in honor of the work of Shortz.

"This is an invaluable gift to this and future generations of area residents and will serve as another contribution to the overall quality of life in our community," said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. "The property is beautifully wooded and within walking distance, for most people to



enjoy. I truly appreciate Mr. Shortz's generosity and willingness to set this land aside for the enjoyment of all."

"I'm donating the property to honor my parents, Lyle and Wilma Shortz; my sister, the late April Curtis; and my brother, Richard Shortz," Shortz said "I owe so much to Crawfordsville. It pleases me that the land will continue to be enjoyed by others."

In addition to the Shortz

Nature Park, the City of Crawfordsville will be simultaneously developing the Brickyard Nature Park on a 100-acre parcel of land located on the north side of the city, with funding provided by Indiana's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative. The Brickyard Nature Park is scheduled to be completed by June 2024.

Huckstep appointed director of planning and building services

Journal Review

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton announced in January the appointment of Megan Huckstep as director of planning and building services for the city of Crawfordsville, effective immediately.

The director of planning and building services is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. The position reports to the Mayor's office and works closely with the director of operations and community development.

"Megan has been a wonderful asset to the planning department for many years," Barton said. "She has the experience and knowledge needed to excel in this position, and we are very happy to have her stepping into this role for the department."

Huckstep will coordinate with other city departments to further the economic and administrative goals of the city, including land use issues, city zoning code, ordinances and economic development.

"Crawfordsville has always

been home to me, and I take a lot of pride in the community I am blessed to be a part of," Huckstep said. "I look forward to continuing to make Crawfordsville a place where people want to live, work, raise a family and enjoy life."

Huckstep is a Crawfordsville native and Crawfordsville High School graduate who lives in the city with her son Rylan, 17. Huckstep graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in human services in 2003. She was hired on as an executive



assistant for the city's planning department in 2004.

City continues to build case for crossing improvement

Tina McGrady

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The City of Crawfordsville is continuing to build its case for potential improvements to the existing CSX railroad crossing on Market Street.

A public open house was conducted in June at Fusion 54 with staff from HWC Engineering. The Indianapolis-based firm shared data they have collected from the intersection over the past nine months and led roundtable discussions with those in attendance.

Their goal is to collect information on how this rail crossing affects citizens, businesses, schools and visitors. The city and HWC will use this data to apply for a Federal Railroad Association planning grant. The grant process is a national competition and highly competitive.

HWC staff explained there is no simple solution to the current situation. If so, something would have been done already. Engineers stressed they do not have a solution right now, and that their immediate purpose is to build a case for what is problematic about the current crossing and how it is negatively impacting residents.

Prior to the public meeting, HWC staff and the city organized an online survey and conducted meetings with various stakeholders.

HWC reported 1,570 people had responded to the online survey, making it



The City of Crawfordsville and HWC Engineering conducted a public open house Tuesday at Fusion 54 to gather information regarding the current railroad crossing on Market Street. The city is seeking a planning grant from the Federal Railroad Association for potential improvements to the crossing.

the highest response of any survey they have done.

Survey results indicate 43% drive this more than 10 times a week; 96% have been delayed by a stopped train; 72% have been late to work due to a stopped train; and 31% have a child who's been late to school because of a stopped train.

Furthermore, 95% of respondents have had to take an alternate route due to a slow moving or stopped train; 63% have witnessed drivers trying to drive around the crossing gates; and 99% support improvements to this intersection.

HWC staff also shared information they gleaned from meetings with business owners, public safety and school officials and nearby residents.

Businesses reported problems with delayed deliveries as well as having to direct clients different ways to

avoid the intersection. Wabash College representatives tell students and parents to avoid the crossing and to come into town by a different direction. They believe the current situation makes a bad impression on these visitors.

Customers also complain about the traffic, how the walk ability of the route is impacted and how alternate routes get congested when there is a stopped train.

Others shared how the rail line has influenced where people are choosing to live. Some reported they did not want to deal with the intersection when driving from their home to their place of employment.

Public safety officials report they must reroute emergency traffic regularly due to stopped trains, which increases their response times. Frustrated motorists often tie up central dispatch

with emergency calls in response to the traffic delays or stopped trains. School officials also report buses full of children get stopped regularly, and it is not a positive situation.

Residents who live near Whitlock Avenue report seeing people walking along the tracks, which is disturbing and unsafe, and others climbing through stopped trains, which also is dangerous. They reported traffic backs up into their neighborhoods and that alternate routes are deteriorating. Some added they'd like to walk from their neighborhood to the downtown but are unable to do so with the current crossing. Furthermore, crossing the intersection in a wheelchair is impossible.

Since HWC began monitoring the crossing nine months ago, their staff report there has been 97 hours of blockage. This equates to 24 minutes of delay or blockage per day. With 14,960 vehicles per day using Market Street, that's more than \$100,000 a day in cost of time delay.

However, there is more than an economic impact to the community. Several near-miss incidents at the crossing have been recorded and a pedestrian fatality occurred on the rail line in October 2022.

The grant application was due in October. If selected, the city would receive funds in 2024 to begin planning and designing solutions for the area.



Community turns out for Frances Wooden Park dedication

Andria Grady
Journal Review

Community pride proved strong as approximately 100 people attended the Frances Wooden Park dedication ceremony in October. Children laughed on the playground. Adults reminisced with friends. It was a sweet time, and not just because of the s'mores and donuts available to guests.

The park has undergone significant renovations thanks to an anonymous donor, the Montgomery County Community Foundation and the City of Crawfordsville. Park upgrades include new play equipment, concrete pathways, a fortified

shelter, several benches and a name change. Improvements serve to acknowledge the site's vital history and neighborhood volunteers.

Community leaders, including Mayor Todd Barton; Fawn Johnson, Director of Crawfordsville Parks and Recreation; Kelly Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Montgomery County Community Foundation; and Vicke Hudson-Swisher, Bethel AME historian, spoke to the crowd about the roots of the northside. In particular, each leader provided insight into the park's namesake and gave recognition to the many hands

that made this current project possible.

LOCATION HISTORY

The park is situated on the original site of the John Speed Cabin. Speed was a stonemason from Scotland who immigrated to the United States and found his way to Crawfordsville. Speed was a strong abolitionist. He used his home as a stop on the Underground Railroad as enslaved people made their way toward free Canada. Following the end of the Civil War, Speed served as the Mayor of Crawfordsville from 1868 to 1869.

The park location is also

next to the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was built here in 1892. It was built around architectural details from the original building constructed in 1847 and now demolished. The Bethel AME Church grew a strong congregation throughout Crawfordsville's history and helped facilitate the activities of the Underground Railroad.

Progress near the turn of the century saw a Neighborhood Chapel develop at this spot. The Neighborhood Chapel was a mission for youth and families in the north end of Crawfordsville. The building

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changed hands many times between area congregations and was eventually turned over to the city.

The city established the Northside Recreation Center. The park's namesake, Frances Wooden, served many years as a director for the recreation area. Her influence and ingenuity at the center were testaments to her character.

FRANCES WOODEN

Frances Wooden grew up in a hardworking family that emphasized structure and biblical principles. Polio claimed the full use of her right leg at an early age, but she was determined not to let that slow her down.

She was a student at the Lincoln School for Colored Children and a graduating member of the integrated Crawfordsville High School Class of 1935. Scripture and music were her two greatest joys. In school, she belonged to the Sunshine Society and the choir.

Wooden dreamed of attend-

ing Purdue University and earning a degree in dietetics. However, she chose to stay in town and devote her life to community service. She worked for Tuttle Elementary School, the YMCA, and the Northside Rec Center, to name a few. She had a deep passion for working with children and young mothers. Her retirement in 1982 was hallmarked by more than 35 years of service to young people.

Wooden's virtuous deeds did not go unnoticed. She received honors from both Mayor Glenn Knecht and Governor Robert Orr. The best of her impact is/was visible in the lives of the people she shaped. Today, her legacy lives on through the Frances Wooden Park despite her death in 1987.

TODAY

The revamp of the park is remarkable. Thoughtful, careful planning went into every detail. For example, sturdy benches highlight significant moments in history, such as 1847, Congress passes the



13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States. Visitors have a place to learn and reflect on those moments.

Several picnic tables and a grill are part of the new shelter. The shelter provides a place for families and friends to gather for fellowship and fun.

Distinctive features give recognition to the memory of

Wooden. First, her love of song shines in the oversized musical instruments designed as playground equipment. Learning centers serve as teaching tools for children. Wide concrete pathways are ADA-accessible, providing easy routes for all to enter the park. These are all details that exemplify Wooden's life.

New pocket park adds color to downtown

Journal Review

Residents saw added improvements to an alleyway that runs from East Main Street to Pike Street.

The alley was already the home of a downtown floral mural, but additional upgrades were added this year.

The city hired Spencer Construction to make enhancements to the space that included special

colored lighting, seating, a gateway and painting on the pavement.

"We want to turn this project into a meeting place," Mayor Todd Barton said.

Barton was joined by Montgomery County Community Foundation members and others in August to cut the ceremonial ribbon on the city's newest downtown pocket park.



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Burget excited take new leadership position

Bob Cox

Journal Review

Linden resident Jessica Burget was named the county's new Emergency Management Administration director in late February.

Burget is excited to continue to serve the county.

She was the EMA interim director after long-time director Shari Harrington stepped down from the position. She has served in that role since November 2022. Burget has been involved with EMA for several years as a CERT volunteer and as an employee in the emergency department.

Burget also has been a volunteer firefighter with Coal Creek Township Fire and Rescue since 2019.

The mother of two said serving the community is a high priority for her.

"I love my community," Burget said. "That is why I have volunteered for years. Giving back for the safety of the community is important to me."

Montgomery County Commission President John Frey participated on the search committee for the job opening. He said the committee had gone through more than a dozen applications, but Burget's resume stood out among all the applicants.

"The committee worked hard to come to this point," Frey said. "I did not realize how complex the procedure of finding a new director would be. Jessica ended up being the easy choice for the job."

Frey mentioned in just the three months Burget has served as the interim director, she has worked hard to obtain several certifications involving emergency management.

Frey also mentioned Burget has already dealt with three emergencies which is more than the whole previous year combined.

"We had the Wingate fire that was hazmat related as was a diesel spill was another hazmat occurrence," Burget said. "The third occur-



Jessica Burget, second from left poses with Montgomery County Commissioners, Dan Guard, Jim Fulwider and John Frey on Monday after being named the new director for the county's Emergency Management Agency.

rence was the wall collapse at the Journal Review."

One Burget's first jobs after being appointed is to find some help.

"One of my first priorities is to hire a deputy director," Burget said.

Burget thanked Harrington for leaving the department in good shape and she hopes to continue the

good things her predecessor accomplished plus more.

"I just want to be able to build upon what Shari did and make it better yet," she said.

Burget is married to Chuck Burget, and they have two children, Raelynn and Jamason.



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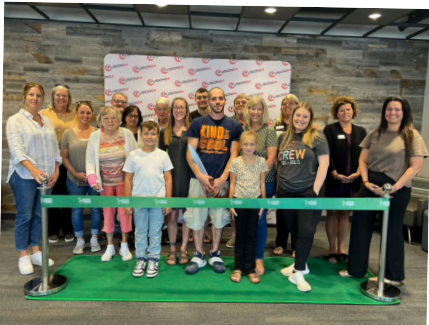
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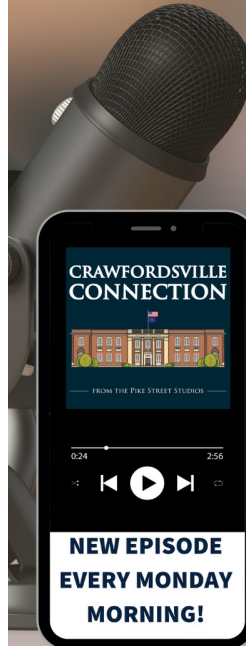
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CLOSED SUNDAY

Commissioners celebrate their history

Bob Cox

Journal Review

March 1, 2023, is of historical importance in Montgomery County. It is exactly 200 years since the county government held its first commissioners meeting on March 1, 1823.

Montgomery County Administrator Tom Klein and other bicentennial committee members worked hard to celebrate the county's bicentennial, and Klein did not want the first meeting date to go unnoticed.

"This is an important date in county history," Klein said. "It was 200 years ago the commissioners got organized to lead the new county."

Klein, with the assistance of county attorney Dan Taylor, read a portion of 200-year-old minutes which are stored in the county archives. Klein said

the minutes are somewhat difficult to read because they are written in pen and in a cursive letter style.

The minutes recorded the names of the first commissioners as William Offield, James Blevins and John McCullough.

McCullough presented the certificates from Sheriff Samuel D. Maxwell showing the three men were duly elected and had taken their oaths of office.

An interesting component of the minutes say besides taking an oath to support the constitution, the men also took an oath to prevent dueling.

"I guess dueling was still a thing back then," Klein said to the chuckling meeting attendees. "They agreed not to shoot each other."

Commissioners appointed John Vawter as clerk pro tem to the board during the meeting.

Two days later commissioners met again and appointed William Ramey as agent and ordered him to sell certain lots owned by the county. They also told to give notice of an election to be held March 22, 1823. One of the justices had to be from the western part of the county and the other from the eastern part of the county. No resident of Crawfordsville would be allowed to run in the election.

Other appointments were James Stitt as county treasurer and Joseph Hahn, John Gowan and William Miller as fence viewers.

Webster dictionary describes a fencer viewer as "a town or city official who administers fence laws by inspecting new fences and settles disputes arising from

trespass by livestock that have escaped enclosure."

Hahn and Richard McCafferty were appointed as overseers of the poor. Samuel McClung was appointed supervisor for the township school. It is noted there was just one township in 1823.

Commissioners also ordered a bond with Major Ambrose Whitlock for the sale to the county for 85 in-lots (plots of land within a larger parcel of land).

There is also mention of "three acres of land for a burying ground."

"Thank you Tom for finding the information," said commission president John Frey said. "It is really cool to hear this and to think we have come a long way from the early days. It is worth remembering our beginning."

County drainage board hands over Shelley Drain to city

Bob Cox

Journal Review

Residents along the William Shelley Drain on the east side of Crawfordsville can breath a sigh of relief.

A proposal by Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton to have the city take over the legal drain from the county was approved in late June by Montgomery County Drainage Board members.

The plan is expected to save residents a lot of money on their property tax bills.

Problems along Shelley Drain are a result of the city's growth and expansion in that area. The drain is located within the city

limits, and 95% of its watershed also is within city limits. A recent study conducted by the county concluded a total reconstruction of the drain was needed at an estimated cost of \$3.2 million. If pursued by the county, residents within the watershed would see their drain assessment costs increase by several hundreds of dollars. However, with the city's plan, property tax bills will decrease. Existing drain assessments will go away at the end of the year.

Barton stressed that reconstruction costs will be funded by sources other than taxpayers. He said the city plans to pursue funding from tax

increment financing from the industrial growth in that area.

"We wanted to work out a solution in the best interest of everyone," Barton said. "We have a mess to clean up and no assessment will be added on property owners."

Drainage board member Doug Mills worked with Barton to reach the intralocal agreement and encouraged the board to accept the city's offer.

"I encourage all of you to vote in favor of the resolution to hand the Shelley Drain to the city," Mills said. "Everything will be handed over to the city."

Per the agreement, the drain will be transferred to the city

and the county will no longer be responsible for the drain. There will be no loss of right ways along the drain. The resolution also calls for the city to pay the county \$36,459 for engineering costs already incurred, plus other fees.

Barton said the engineering firms used by the city and the county have been in discussion and it was determined the county report can be used in the city's plan.

The city's ownership of the drain will begin July 1.

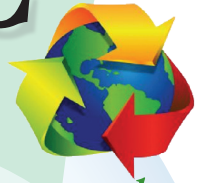
Barton said reconstructing the drain will help future development in the northeast part of the city.

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Adams named EMA deputy

Bob Cox

Journal Review



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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Luke Adams was introduced in early May as the new Montgomery County Emergency Management Deputy Director.

The announcement came during a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

Adams has experience in emergency response. The Hillsboro native has been an EMT for two years and has served on the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department for five years starting at the

age of 15.

Adams will graduate with a criminal justice degree Saturday from Ivy Tech and will enter coroner school soon. He earned his EMT certification in the vocational program at Southmont High School.

“I look forward to serving the people of Montgomery County and look forward to gaining more knowledge,”

Adams said. “I am excited to be here.”

On his first day, EMA was called to a dump truck crash which included a hazmat response from emergency personnel. His response and actions drew praise from EMA Director Jessica Burget.

“I know Luke is going to be good at this job,” Burget said. “On his first day I got to see him work the accident and he



did his job very well.”

Adams resides south of Hillsboro.



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CIVICS/GROUPS

HELPING OTHERS GROW

Seed library opens at CDPL

Journal Review

“Helping Others Grow” is the motto of the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program. Montgomery County Master Gardener Association is taking that motto to heart by joining with the Crawfordsville District Public Library to start a local seed library.

A seed library is not a library in the traditional sense of checking something out and bringing something back. A seed library is a place to receive free seeds for community members to participate in growing their own food. Education and growing resources are also available for seed recipients through workshops, speaker series, handouts and reading material.

“The seed library will be a great opportunity for gardeners to sample seeds they’ve never grown before,” said Janella Nunan, Master Gardener and CDPL employee.

“It will also give new gardeners a taste of what grows best in our community.”

Locally, Montgomery County falls somewhere in between a food desert and a food swamp. A food desert is defined as a place where it is not easy to buy fresh, healthy foods, like fruits and vegetables, due to a lack of adequate grocery stores. With only two major grocery outlets available to Montgomery County residents, many live miles away from the nearest grocery store.

A food swamp describes an environment with an overabundance of unhealthy, less nutritious food choices. This includes food from fast food joints, convenience stores and gas stations. It also includes places where the poorer food choices are offered at discounted or bundled deals. It is easier to choose the quick, affordable “bad food” over the “good food” even though they threaten public health and

can lead to obesity.

“We are helping put healthy choices back into the hands of the consumer,” said Master Gardener Andria Grady.

“While we can’t change the retail stores, we can help the individual learn how to grow their own food and have fun doing it. We can shrink the size of the swamp.”

Seeds became available to the public March 1. It included more than 50 varieties of vegetables, flowers and herbs. The seed library will be housed on the second floor of the library, near the reference desk. Patrons may select seed packets and sign up for garden activities at their leisure. While the seed library will have a wide range of seeds to choose from, the patron should keep in mind to limit their packets to about 10 per person for everyone to have the opportunity to have seeds.

“We are very excited about our partnership with the Master Gardeners and Pur-

due Extension,” said Ivette de Assis-Wilson Ph.D., head of reference and local history at CDPL. “A seed library will benefit our users, who can pick various seeds for free at CDPL. The modern library is more than just books; this is one more item we are happy to add to our collection. I hope our community takes advantage of this opportunity to grow local nutritious food at home.”

Sponsorship for the project has come from many sources. Locally, funds have been received from Valero, Nucor, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, The Environmental Transformation Podcast, Growing Common Ground, BeeNeu and Potager and Petals.

The Master Gardener Seed Library has also been awarded products from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, High Mowing Seeds and Seed Saver’s Exchange.

Local DAR celebrates 125th anniversary

Bob Cox

Journal Review

For 125 years the local Dorothy Q Chapter NSDAR has upheld the ideals of patriotism, historical preservation and historical education in Montgomery County.

In January, the local DAR Society celebrated with an open house tea at the Elston Historical Home.

The 125th anniversary committee was comprised of Regent Michelle Borden, Vice Regent Susan Fisher, Treasurer Rachel Brown and Past Regent Terri Fyffe.

"We are grateful to be able to educate with historical presentations," Borden said. "We are here to help preserve history and promote patriotism. We are proud to have served our community for 125 years."

Founded Jan. 16, 1898, the chapter became the eighth Daughters of the American Revolution chapter in Indiana to organize.

To become a DAR member one has to document that your ancestry is linked to a veteran of the Revolutionary War against England.

One of the main missions of the chapter is to recognize those who served in the war. The Dorothy Q Chapter has documented 30 Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Montgomery County.

The local chapter has been active in honoring past veterans. Through the years, the local chapter has donated to many projects that commemorate veterans.

Their footprint can be seen on the David Wallace Memorial at the General Lew Wallace Study. Wallace was



Indiana's governor from 1837 to 1840 and father of Gen. Lew Wallace.

The chapter also honors Revolutionary War veteran Jacob Westfall with a monument at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Many other veteran projects across the United States have received monetary donations from the chapter.

During World War I the chapter helped sell war bonds, make surgical dress-

ings, volunteered with the Red Cross, sold war stamps even donated toward the purchase of the Indiana DAR ambulance. The chapter also adopted a French orphan and helped with the restoration of Tilloly, France. Dorothy Q members repeated the same type of assistance during World War II and financial supported a girl from England.

The chapter is currently

offering Montgomery County residents an opportunity to recognize veterans with a Military Tribute Banner program. The goal is to adorn city light poles with banners portraying veterans as a way to honor those who have served.

If interested in joining the Dorothy Q Chapter, or have questions about the banner project, contact Borden at 765-366-7708.



Veterans Memorial Park taking shape

Bob Cox

Journal Review

Two more pieces of military memorabilia arrived at the new Veterans Memorial Park this week. An M42 Duster and M110 Howitzer are the two latest additions to the park near the Byron Cox Post 72 American Legion.

The Duster was placed in the park Sept. 29. It is a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun, but was effective in providing ground support during the Vietnam War. American soldiers named the gun a duster due to the large amount of dust it produced while traveling on Vietnam gravel roads. The Viet Cong called the gun “Dragon’s Breath” because of the weapons rapid fire capabilities.

During the war, the gun was used primarily for point security, convoy transport and perimeter defense since the Viet Cong air force was not a factor in the conflict.

Introduced in 1953 during the Korean War, the Duster was effective in providing low

air support against the Korean air force. The maximum speed was 35 miles per hour and had a combat weight of 49,500 pounds.

The gun was taken out of service in 1972.

The second piece of artillery was placed in the park Wednesday. It is a self-propelled M110 howitzer and was used in Vietnam and both Gulf Wars. The 32-ton howitzer has an 11-foot long barrel that can fire its 200-pound projectile 10-16 miles. During the battles in the Gulf, the cannon was adapted to fire nuclear ammunition.

The GM motor maximum speed was 30 miles per hour and could shoot three rounds in two minutes.

The M110 was used by the Army in the Korean War and primarily used by the United State Marine Corps in the gulf wars. The Howitzer delivered Wednesday is marked USMC.

The gun was retired in 1972.

Both guns came from the AAF Tank Museum located in

Danville, Virginia.

In November, a refurbished Huey helicopter is due to arrive here from Florida.

The job of unloading and placing the pieces was taken on by Froedges Inc. as a donation in-kind. Froedges’ owner Loyal Bell was on hand to watch his employees meticulously unload the heavy equipment. Bell called the project worthy and he is happy to be a part of it.

“I want to help the community and this project is important to help us remember the people who have served in the military,” Froedge said. “I had classmates that lost their lives in Vietnam and have worked with veterans from the war. This is one way to remember and thank those guys.”

Veterans Memorial Park board member Mike Spencer said the park is ahead of schedule and he is thankful for the help the project has received from the community.

“We are probably six to nine months ahead of where

we thought we would be,” Spencer said. “Without the generosity of the local people, we would not be as far along as we are. We are very grateful for the support we are receiving.”

The board also is selling commemorative bricks to be used at the main display in the park. Any individual, family, organization or business can purchase an engraved brick. The bricks have three lines that can have 18 characters, not including spaces, available for the veteran’s name and military information. Bricks are \$100 each. Forms are available at Hoosier Heartland State Bank and at the American Legion Post.

The park committee is still in need of monetary donations. All donations can be sent to the American Legion Post 72, 101 Walter Remley Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Make checks payable to the Veterans Memorial Park.

SUN shines bright here

Homeowners, businesses eligible to join solar co-op

Tina McGrady

tmcgrady@jrpress.com

Local homeowners and businesses can learn more about solar and leverage bulk purchasing power with the formation of a new cooperative.

In mid-May, both Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties launched Solar United Neighbors. Elected officials and community partners gathered at the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau for local kickoff ceremonies. A separate ceremony was conducted in Lafayette later that same day.

“The communities in Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties have done great work to promote and develop clean, sustainable energy,” said Dan Robinson with Solar United Neighbors, the nonprofit organization leading the solar co-op. “We’re excited to partner with them to help county residents go solar, creating good local jobs, making the grid more resilient, and building a clean energy future for everyone.”

Robinson said the Crawfordsville launch is the national nonprofit group’s first effort in the area.

The MCYSB facility at 808 W. Pike St. installed solar panels last year and served as the host for SUN’s local launch.

“This is exciting news for our community and an exciting opportunity,” Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton said. “Today we celebrate the beginning of a new co-op that will allow local residents and businesses to install



solar-generating capacity to supply their own homes and businesses by participating in the power of group purchasing, truly a win-win.”

Barton is especially proud of local efforts to embrace renewable energy.

“Through a partnership with Indiana Municipal Power Agency, Crawfordsville is able to produce 27 megawatts of power from our five solar parks,” he said. “Crawfordsville’s normal daily load is around 50 megawatts, so you can say more than half of our power is coming from solar, and much more than our old, old coal-fired plant. This is a remarkable achievement for

a community our size and a testament to our resolve to further diversify our generating capacity in a manner that is both economical and has the least environmental impact.”

Robinson added that “it’s really exciting to be working with a community and a city that is so forward thinking about the benefits of renewable energy.”

John Smillie, Climate Team Chair with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, urged residents and businesses to explore solar. He pointed to the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act that allows

homeowners, businesses, and now nonprofits, including state and local governments, to take advantage of 30% tax credits.

He added that the city of Crawfordsville may soon qualify as an Energy Community under the federal government guidelines, making businesses and nonprofits eligible for an additional 10% in tax credits.

“So, the tax credit just got even better and with the co-op you’re saving about 10% on the front end, so that’s about half off on your solar,” Smillie said. “You combine that with the fact CEL&P still has net metering for systems

up to 10 kilowatts and you're looking at returns that are better than the stock market for something that also reduces air pollution and is more certain than the stock market."

Karen Branch, executive director of the MCYSB, said that since the solar panels on their building went live, the agency has saved about \$150 a month on its electric bill.

"When we multiple that out to about \$1,500 a year you're talking we can run three sessions of Teen Court with that or train 10 volunteers for the JUMP program," she said. "So, it is the gift that keeps on giving as long as the panels

are there, and we keep seeing those savings that's more money we can direct right back to the kids."

The YSB isn't the only local agency turning to solar. The Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County is planning to add solar panels to its facility at 1001 Whitlock Ave.

Robinson stressed that the co-ops are free to join and open to homeowners, non-profit organizations and business owners in Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties. Together, co-op members will learn about solar energy and leverage their numbers to purchase individual solar systems at a competitive price

and quality.

Residents can sign up for the co-op for free to receive a site visit and the information they need to make an informed decision; there is no requirement that they go solar.

After a competitive bidding process facilitated by SUN, which remains vendor neutral, co-op members will select a single solar company to complete the installations. Joining the co-op does not obligate members to purchase solar. Instead, members have the option to individually purchase panels, batteries and electric vehicle chargers based on the install-

er's group rate.

SUN of Indiana has completed 17 solar co-ops across the state. According to the group's estimates, 256 homes and businesses across the state now have solar panels because of solar co-ops, representing more than 2 megawatts of solar power, \$6.1 million invested in the regional economy, and more than 109 million pounds of lifetime carbon offsets.

These installations are estimated to generate nearly \$300 million in electric bill savings for co-op members while their solar panels are in service.

YSB to expand services with Lilly Endowment grant

Journal Review

The Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau received a grant of \$527,179 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help expand its programming.

This expansion will include three components. First, the YSB will be hiring a full-time therapist. This therapist will be a bridge for youth who are on a waiting list for mental health services at local mental health centers. They will be able to see youth in the gap while they are waiting for longer term services. This program will be free of charge and will serve YSB youth and other community youth as there is availability.

Second, the YSB will start a Middle School Alternative School, modeled after the successful High School Alternative School program YSB already provides. Additional

details will be announced in the future.

Third, the YSB will start a boys group mentoring program for middle and high school students. The YSB already has a girls group mentoring program called Inspire.

These programs are being funded through Lilly Endowment's initiative, Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana. The aim of this initiative is to help youth-serving organizations working throughout Indiana improve their abilities to promote the academic, physical and social well-being of young people, ages five through 18.

The goal for these new services is to fill gaps in the continuum of care for youth. These particular programs were chosen after evaluating the needs of the youth in the community.

"We are so grateful to Lilly

Endowment for its support of these much-needed programs, said Karen Branch, YSB executive director.

"Having access to mental health services, educational programming for exceptional needs and mentoring will have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of our youth. These are programs we have wanted to implement for some time but did not have the funding to move forward."

The money being provided will fund programs for the next three years.

"Lilly Endowment is making a tremendous investment in Montgomery County and across the state of Indiana, and helping to change lives and communities with its support," Branch said.

The Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau is one of 187 organizations receiving grants through Strengthening

Youth Programs in Indiana.

"Indiana's youth-serving organizations are crucial to the healthy development of children and youth across the state," said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment's vice president for education. "The challenges these organizations have faced in meeting the needs of young people in recent years have made their work increasingly difficult. Lilly Endowment is pleased to support their efforts to strengthen programs and serve more youth more effectively."

Lilly Endowment launched Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana Initiative in 2022 with an invitational round of grants to nine national youth-serving organizations to help them expand and enhance the work of their Indiana affiliates or chapters.



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Lunch on the Plaza celebrates 20 years

Andria Grady
Journal Review

Beautiful skies and perfect weather packed the plaza for the final Friday in the summer lunch series.

It was a standing room only as crowds gathered for the meal and entertainment. Lunch was provided by Maxine's on Green and introduced Chef Hannah Thompson's new fall menu items, including a Muenster Mash sandwich and Fall Harvest Salad. The food was so fantastic that, at one point, it sold out, and the restaurant team hurried to make more.

The smooth sounds of the Danny Weiss Jazz Trio soothed attendees. Weiss is a jazz history lecturer, woodwinds musician and occasional composer at Purdue University when he is not delighting crowds with his performances.

Jessica Bokhardt from Market Street Wealth Management was the cornerstone sponsor for the event. Market Street Wealth Management provides clients with sound financial planning and in-

vestment advice to help them make the most of their money. Bokhardt treated guests with a sweet box of truffles by local Miss Sugar Ray Chocolatier Raylee Carpenter.

Sue Lucas, Crawfordsville Main Street program director, reminded guests of the history of the Marie Canine Plaza. This year is the 20th year since the plaza's dedication to the City of Crawfordsville. Recognition was given to community members who put the plaza project in motion all those years ago. Lucas also shared brief details on the upcoming revitalization efforts coming to the location that will honor the Crawford Hotel.

The Marie Canine Plaza on the corner of Main and Green streets sits at the original location of the Crawford Hotel, built in 1899. It served as a Crawfordsville landmark from 1900-1974. The current plaza was to be called "Crawford Plaza" until a generous donation from the Canine family secured the project. Upcoming renovations will honor the Crawford Hotel and include architectural details from the historic building.

MCCF recognizes volunteers at annual meeting

Journal Review

Montgomery County Community Foundation held its annual meeting in May at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank's Success Center.

President Jim McBee presided over the meeting. Following the standard items of business, outgoing and incoming board members were recognized. The lone outgoing board member was Jim McBee. During his two terms, in addition to serving as president, he was a former vice president and treasurer. He chaired the investment committee, the audit and finance committee and was on the executive committee.

Newly elected board members recognized were Tracey Barr, Jack Grimble and Brenda Lovold. Incumbent board member, Ron Dickerson, will serve an additional year to assist the board with a special project.

The balance of the 13-member board includes: Erin Gobel, Cathy Caldwell, Debbie Schavietello, Preston Bost, Anna Bravo-Moore, Wendy Feller, Sheila McCormick, Zach Hockersmith and Marta Sweek.

Since 1996, the recognition of outstanding volunteers has been a staple of the MCCF annual meeting. Two awards were presented, one to an adult and another, the Peggy Herzog Youth Volunteer award goes a young person.

The 2023 MCCF Volunteer of the Year is Nancy Sennett, nominated for her service to the Montgomery County Free Clinic. After a long and successful career in healthcare, serving on the clinic's board seemed the natural way for Sennett to share her time and talents with the community. But when an unexpected

health emergency caused the then MCFC executive director to step down, Sennett resigned her board role and took on the executive director's position in a volunteer capacity.

During that time the board took the time to restructure staffing, develop a strong resource development plan and search for and hire the clinic's first dedicated chief executive. Her leadership during that pivotal time kept the clinic running smoothly while maintaining the highest standard of care for the patients.

McBee presented Sennett with a plaque commemorating her service and a \$1,000 grant Montgomery County Free Clinic in her honor.

Seven other individuals were nominated. McBee presented each with a certificate of recognition and a small gift. They include the following:

- Amy Cochran, Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau. Cochran has served as a long-time mentor with the JUMP program, and now for the past six years, has served on the Youth Service Bureau board of directors.

- Sally Gooden, Animal Welfare League. A former AWL board member, Gooden continues to volunteer, nearly daily to complete office work and other duties in the building as needed, and occasionally transports cats and dogs to various spay and neuter clinic in the area.

- Mary Sue Measel, Pam's Promise Transitional Housing. Measel is one of the longest serving volunteers at Pam's Promise, serving as the financial director.

- Mike Reidy, Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation. Reidy serves on the board but his work doesn't end in the board room. He is always eager to help with events and



projects, no matter how hard or how dirty.

- Karen Thada, Crawfordsville Main Street. Karen's quiet servant-leadership skills have been a constant through her board service and as a committee and event volunteer.

- Ann Watson, Crawfordsville District Public Library. Watson has been a Homebound Program volunteer for 17 years, delivering books to patrons who cannot get out.

- Richard "Dick" Young, Grace & Mercy Food Pantry. Young has served as the operations director of the pantry for more than 10 years. He is there four to five days handling every aspect of the operation which is open to the public three days per week.

The Peggy Herzog Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, was presented to Melanie Dowd for her service to The Kid's Closet. For two years

Dowd has been doing laundry, tackling three to six 33 gallon bags of clothes at a time. She washes it, dries it and neatly folds it, and then returns it to The Kids Closet to be distributed to children in need. A real leader, she has recruited her school friends to help too. They have made new labels for storage tote and are organizing a clothing drive.

McBee presented Dowd with a plaque commemorating her service along with a \$1,000 check to The Kid's Closet in honor of her service.

McBee wrapped up the accomplishments of 2022 in which \$1.6 million was awarded in grants and scholarships. A video capturing highlights of the past year was shown. The video, along with the electronic version of the 2022 annual report is on the MCCF website, www.mccf-in.org.

Visitors Bureau to purchase tracking program

Bob Cox

Journal Review

The Montgomery County Visitors Bureau will soon have a new tool to better track the success of local events.

In June, the bureau received a \$25,000 grant from the Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Commission to purchase a web-based location application that instantly generates foot traffic reports, and more, at any location.

With the funds, Visitors Bureau Director Heather Shirk will purchase the Placer.ai program. The new technology will be able to track visitors, residents, employees

and passersby at any location in the United States.

The bureau will use the program to collect data on the number of visitors to an event or location in the county. The program will analyze visitors using the city's trail system, museums and festivals as well as events hosted in the county's smaller towns. Wabash College events will be tracked for visitors for their sporting events such as homecoming and the Monon Bell rivalry games.

The bureau will be able to view data reflecting visitor metrics, sales trends, daily visits, hourly visits and length of stay, plus much more.

John Frey, a CVC member



and Montgomery County Commissioner, said the program should help give the CVC much needed information about events to help them make future decisions.

"This program can help us understand who is visiting the county and all of our events," Frey said. "I think

this can be a great tool and I believe we should approve the grant request to purchase the program."

Commission member Isaac Hook believes the Placer.ai program is a step forward. The information it can provide will help support future requests from the bureau.

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EDUCATION

MCCF receives grant to support infants, toddlers

Local agency awarded \$374,200; and is one of 86 chosen to help Hoosier families

Journal Review

The Montgomery County Community Foundation announced in September that it has been selected as a recipient of the Early Years Initiative from Early Learning Indiana.

The Early Years Initiative is a \$50 million competitive grant program focused on enhancing the learning and development of infants and toddlers in Indiana communities. The support for this initiative comes from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Through this grant, MCCF will receive \$374,200 in funding to increase professional development opportunities for local child care programs and partner with the City of Crawfordsville to expand the Project Swaddle and Project Bundle programs. The Early Years Initiative places special emphasis on serving families in low-income households.

Project Swaddle and Proj-

ect Bundle are home-visiting programs operated by the Crawfordsville Fire Department to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Using community paramedics and registered nurses as physician extenders, the programs provide wrap-around care for perinatal mothers, infants, and their families who face health, social, and environmental challenges.

“Project Swaddle and Project Bundle have proven highly effective, and have had an immeasurable impact that will be felt in the lives of those served for decades to come,” said Mayor Todd Barton. “The ability to further enhance these programs is a tremendous win for families in our community.”

Another key component of the grant is professional development for local child care programs. In 2022, MCCF launched professional development workshops for

early childhood educators and with this grant the workshops will provide focused training for educators serving children ages infant to three. This initiative aligns with the mission of the Montgomery County Early Childhood Coalition, a leadership initiative of MCCF, which is to create a collaborative and high quality early childhood education system that supports development and early education.

“Early childhood education and ensuring the youngest members of our community get a great start in the early years is key to building a stronger, more vibrant Montgomery County,” said Kelly Taylor, CEO of the Montgomery County Community Foundation. “With this grant funding, we will be able to serve children, their families and early childhood educators to build that critical early foundation for lifelong learning.”



Maureen Weber, president and CEO of Early Learning Indiana, said, “We only have a few short years to set our youngest Hoosiers on a path to thrive in life, and the work of our grantees across the state will enable us to make the most of these years while deepening our understanding about which efforts are most effective.”

For more information about the Early Years Initiative Grant received by MCCF, visit www.mccf-in.org/news.

Wabash makes history with Giant Steps campaign

More than \$250M raised from 12,000 donors in record-setting effort

For the Journal Review

Wabash College celebrated the conclusion of Giant Steps — the largest and most successful comprehensive campaign in its 191-year history — with a gala event in October in Knowing Fieldhouse.

Since its open on July 1, 2017, to its conclusion on June 30, 2023, the Giant Steps Campaign raised more than \$250,638,000 in gifts and pledges from 12,029 unique donors who made 82,272 gifts.

“This is a remarkable achievement in the long and storied history of Wabash College,” said President Scott E. Feller. “To exceed our audacious goal of \$225 million for Giant Steps — through a presidential transition, the pandemic, and economic uncertainty that followed — speaks volumes about the generosity of our alumni and friends. Giant Steps has given us so much momentum as we look to our bicentennial in 2032.”

The Giant Steps Campaign was led by co-chairs Paul Woolls ’75 and Betty O’Shaughnessy Woolls and Steve ’68 and Joanie Bowen; presidential families Gregory and Lora Hess and Scott and Wendy Feller; and staffed by Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen and Campaign Director Joe Klen.

“When we undertook the process of raising twice the amount of the goal of the College’s last campaign during the early days of Giant Steps, Betty and I quietly hoped that we could at least get close to \$225 million,” said Paul Woolls, a retired attorney who now



owns Progeny Winery in Napa, California. “We need not have worried. Thanks to the generosity and resolve of the Wabash nation, the campaign exceeded the \$225 million goal by a full 15%.”

The Woolls’ \$40 million gift kick-started Giant Steps at the public launch in November 2018, at which time the College had secured \$150 million in funding.

“It has been an honor to serve with such a dedicated group of volunteer leaders,” said Betty Woolls, a former real estate developer who founded O’Shaughnessy Estate Winery in Napa in 1996. “We have bonded as a group and are greatly pleased by the results of this historic effort.”

Focused on strengthening opportunities for Wabash students and faculty through investment in scholarships, endowed professorships and program funds, the College’s Annual Fund, and capital projects, Giant Steps delivered by raising more than \$313,000 per student and nearly \$18,000 per alumnus. Respectively, those figures rank seventh and 19th nationally among liberal arts colleges with campaigns in the same time frame.



“My colleagues in Advancement are astounded by the extraordinary results of the Giant Steps Campaign — clearly we punched way above our weight given our size,” said Dean Janssen. “I attribute our astounding success to a donor- and relationship-focused Campaign Executive Cabinet whose unstinting generosity and commitment has no comparable peer.”

During Giant Steps, Wabash established 123 new endowed funds, including six endowed professorships and faculty chairs; 36 academic department, internship, special program, and immersion experience funds; and 81 new scholarship funds.

Two new academic majors were established through Giant Steps — computer science and philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) — and 10 new student initiatives or centers were funded, including the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship; Global Health Initiative; Greater Chicagoland Initiative; President’s Distinguished Speaker Series; Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism; Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse; Walsh Center for Polit-

ical Economy; Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program, and the Wabash Women’s Collective.

“Receiving more than 82,000 gifts from 12,000 benefactors is a very clear vote of confidence in the important work our faculty, staff, and coaches do each day to educate, mentor, and guide our students,” Klen said. “I thank all who took part in Giant Steps and call on them and others to continue to strengthen all we do at Wabash with annual philanthropic generosity. This ongoing support will add to the momentum created by the campaign and position the College for even greater success in our third century.”

While capital projects were not the focus of Giant Steps, Wabash built stunning new student housing in the Ott Residential Life District and remodeled Martindale Hall; a new campus gateway was dedicated, along with the construction of the Shelbourne Wrestling Center and Little Giant Stadium, while the Allen Athletics and Recreation Center got major upgrades in its weight and fitness rooms and Chadwick Court.

“The Giant Steps campaign provided funding for scholarships, faculty and academic programs, immersive experiences, and our physical campus,” said Steve Bowen, a retired attorney and former chair of the Wabash Board of Trustees. “My wife Joanie and I were honored to help lead this historic effort and are astounded at the remarkable response from alumni and benefactors from far and wide.”

Ivy Tech cuts ribbon on Industrial Career Academy

Students gain pathway to high-wage, high-demand jobs

Tina McGrady

tmcgrady@jrpress.com

Ivy Tech Community College marked the grand opening of the new Industrial Career Academy at its Crawfordsville satellite campus in late August.

Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann and Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton joined other academic and business leaders for the ribbon cutting.

The academy is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at bridging the gap between education and industry, ensuring a skilled workforce that meets the evolving demands of today's competitive job market. Ivy Tech is partnering with the Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center, or IN-MaC, at Purdue University, West Central Indiana CTE and several industry partners to create a high school-to-career pathway for students in Montgomery and Boone counties.

Through the academy, students will be connected with industry partners to obtain skills training and work experience in manufacturing with the goal of being able to make informed decisions about their future upon graduation. The industry partners include Lakeside Book Co., an Illinois-based printing services company with a presence in Crawfordsville, as well as Pace Dairy Foods in Crawfordsville and Closure Systems International in Indianapolis.

"As the Mayor of Crawfordsville, I am thrilled to witness the realization of the Industrial Career Academy at Ivy Tech



Community College," Barton said. "This collaborative endeavor underscores our commitment to addressing the critical demand for skilled maintenance technicians within our local workforce. The academy's focus on providing top-tier education and training aligns perfectly with our vision of equipping our residents with the tools they need for successful, high-quality, and well-paying jobs."

Barton said the biggest challenge facing the community is the workforce.

"It is our fundamental challenge. We have to come to terms with workforce before we can solve any of the other challenges we face. We are not alone in that. We know that, but if we are to succeed, we must successfully meet this challenge, and if we are to excel, we must meet this challenge in new and innovative ways. The Industrial Career Academy will help us do just that."

Sara Nicodemus, director of West Central Indiana CTE, is equally enthusiastic about the new academy and its inaugural class of six area students.

"These partnerships aren't just transactional, they

are transformative," she said. "They are the bridge between theory and practice, classroom, and career. They are forming the bedrock of our students' success. The significance of this program extends beyond these walls. The ICA isn't just a place of learning, it's a launchpad for their dreams, the generator of opportunities, and the catalyst for growth in our community." Dan Wheeler, who works in human resources at Lakeside Book Company, called the academy a win, win, win.

"A win for our students, a win for our community and a win for our industries in town," Wheeler said. "We have talked about the loss of skills in our community, the wave of craft or skilled retirements in the community, and now we are doing something about it. This is action, not just talk."

Wheeler is hopeful for the future success of the program and its students.

"I look at the students and I see a highly paid, skilled machine operator in the future. I see a highly skilled maintenance technician in the future. I see a highly paid electrician in the future."

The launch of the Industrial

Career Academy is a true testament to the power of partnerships between education and industry, said Aaron Baute, chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College.

"This academy represents our unwavering commitment to providing our students with the tools, knowledge and experience they need to thrive in their careers while driving meaningful economic growth in Crawfordsville," he said.

Ellspermann described the new academy as "incredible."

"Good things happen when you bring partnerships like this together," she said. "We all work together to provide the best opportunities for students to succeed, to stay in our communities, to thrive, to be the workforce that you are looking for. These partnerships with local employers are just critical to fill the jobs of the future. They are exciting jobs, they're high-tech jobs, they are incredibly important positions."

The two-year program will be open to high school juniors and seniors in the Crawfordsville, North Montgomery, Southmont, and Western Boone school districts.

Juniors in the program will work one day per week with an industry partner, following a supervised training plan. In the first semester of their senior year, students will move up to three days per week before moving into a paid internship in the second semester.

Students will also be able to earn credits at Ivy Tech and work toward an Industrial Electrical Certificate.

Scholarship honors Hearson, a longtime-professor

Journal Review

Throughout the 30 years he taught at Wabash College, Dr. Lester Hearson grew to view many of the young men he interacted with on campus as something more than students.

“Many of them became sons,” Hearson said with a smile while sitting inside his quiet Crawfordsville home.

During his time at Wabash, Hearson taught and mentored countless students who went on to have distinguished and fulfilling careers in the health sciences.

Two of those students include Dr. Randy Williams '83 and Dr. John Roberts '83.

“Dr. Hearson had this unique combination of being someone who had incredibly high standards but was also compassionate and empathetic about each of his students,” said Williams, a first-generation college student who became a cardiologist and founded Pharos Innovations. “We were, academically and personally, better students and men because of him.”

Williams said he also leaned on Hearson as a guide after Wabash as he attended graduate school and later started his professional career in medicine.

“I’m not alone in this, and I didn’t feel like I was deserving of any special attention from him, but I always got it nonetheless,” Williams said. “I have always felt a debt of gratitude to him.”

Roberts said Hearson put



in so much effort, in and out of class, to engage with his students.

“As my professor and advisor from day one, I looked up to him as a father-figure,” said Roberts, a Wabash College physician, founding member of the committee that brought the Montgomery County Free Clinic to life, and who spent his career as a family physician in Crawfordsville.

“One fond memory I have is when his wife Pat would bake sourdough bread and he would bring it to his advisees’ living units during finals week,” he said. “Dr. Hearson was always supportive and made sure we were taken care of.”

As a way to show their gratitude and to celebrate Hearson’s continued impact on the College and its alum-

ni, the two took a giant step for students and established an endowed scholarship in his honor.

The Dr. Lester L. Hearson H’70 Scholarship will provide support for Wabash students in their junior and senior years who have achieved academic excellence and intend to pursue a career in the health sciences.

In addition to their financial contributions, Williams and Roberts have also played an essential role in gathering funding from a growing group of supporters who were impacted by the work of Dr. Hearson. So far, more than a dozen other alumni have contributed to the scholarship.

“We hope this scholarship continues the legacy that Dr. Hearson started. We want to

give students, who are heavily invested in academic excellence and have compassion for others, the ability to pursue health sciences at Wabash and beyond,” Williams said. “Health sciences are the perfect manifestation of (Hearson), what he’s good at, and what he invested in us. Now it’s our (alumni’s) turn to invest in future generations of young men.”

News of the scholarship came as a surprise to Hearson, a soft-spoken, humble man who doesn’t demand accolades for the tireless effort he has given the College and Crawfordsville community.

“I feel a great sense of appreciation and honor,” Hearson said. “What made Wabash students so special was their dedication.”

He held a stack of heart-felt handwritten letters addressed to him from former students — most of which had been delivered many years after Hearson's retirement from the College in 1998.

One note, in part, read: "I continue to reflect often on how grateful I am to you and Wabash for helping me get to where I wanted to go. My life would have been much different without you."

Another read: "As I look back on it, an 18-year-old freshman, pre-med student, away from home for the first time, can be a rather fragile and pitiful creature. I would have never made it without your patience, advice, and encouragement. What I learned from you goes well beyond any particular classroom or degree."

Hearson came to Wabash College in 1967 to teach developmental biology after earning degrees in biology and chemistry at Kansas State University and a Ph.D. in zoology from Michigan State University.

He also took on the role of registrar in 1985 and acting director of financial aid in 1991, and continued to teach while in both administrator roles until retirement.

His dedication to students earned him the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award in 1972 and the Outstanding Professor of the Year Award in 1974 from the Sphinx Club.

"I loved Wabash. My years spent there were special," said Hearson, who was named an honorary member of the Class of 1970 by the National Association of

Wabash Men (NAWM).

"My goal with teaching (in courses like embryology and anatomy) was to make my lectures and all the materials interesting and enjoyable, but also profitable so that they could see in a realistic way, how it pertains to their lives or future careers," he said. "The students were always willing to do the work. Their dedication transferred and inspired me to be more dedicated."

Beyond campus, Hearson served the community for more than a decade as a member of the Crawfordsville City Council. His community service also includes serving as a member of Family Crisis Shelter board, MUFFY board, Boy Scouts, president of the Crawfordsville Community School Board, and founder of Craw-

fordsville Main Street. He also chaired several boards and committees at First United Methodist Church of Crawfordsville.

Williams said his goal for the scholarship is to also unify alumni and friends of Hearson's around a common goal of supporting future Wabash men.

"I thought there's no better way to honor Dr. Hearson," he said, "and to bring together people, whose lives he impacted."

Those interested in participating or learning more information about the Dr. Lester L. Hearson H'70 Scholarship are asked to contact Dr. Randy Williams at rwilliams@wellsaid.ai. The Wabash Advancement Office can also be reached at giving@wabash.edu or 877-743-4545.



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Reeves retires from Boys & Girls Club

Journal Review

Craig Reeves, longtime director and Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County retired at the end of July.

Reeves began working for the club in 1988 as the athletic director. Three years later he was moved to executive director. When Reeves came to the club, it was cash-strapped with a budget of less than \$50,000 and only two employees. Today, the club's budget approaches \$1 million, and Reeves manages a staff of more than 20 employees.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the profound impact that Craig has had on the club, its kids, and our community," said longtime board member Bobby Horton. "He has helped improve the lives of thousands of kids and has jumpstarted the careers of countless employees through his intense devotion to the mission of Boys and Girls Clubs of America and his genuine concern for the welfare of our county's youth. I am proud to have worked with him and am excited by the foundation he has set from which the club can build."

Indeed, Reeves has been instrumental in establishing partnerships and building a strong network of support for the club, including a capital campaign that raised more than \$2.5 million and enabled the club to move from an outdated facility on Chestnut Street to the facility the club now occupies on Whitlock Avenue.

"I understand the time and hard work that goes into



different things and projects by our club as a whole; including, the club's staff, club members, board members, and even by families and friends, and recruited volunteers ... all of who choose to help out during a time in need," Reeves said.

The Boys Club, as it was called when it opened its Crawfordsville doors in the mid 1950s, has grown exponentially under Reeves' watch. Before he arrived, members primarily came from children who lived within walking distance of the Chestnut facility. Today, the club serves kids from all three school corporations on a daily basis, and membership has tripled in size, to more than 3,000 members. The after school program has grown from around three dozen kids to 150, and the summer program has gone from 30 to 130.

"The club is a great facility with financial stability, both of which should be celebrated with wonderful things on the horizon," Reeves said. "It is exciting and an answer to prayer for so many. All of this because of the great support and work

we have accomplished over the last 35 years."

Reeves has garnered many awards and honors over the years, including being named Professional of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of America.

"I am thankful of the impact that we have made in the lives of so many kids and their families," Reeves said. "You may know many of them, but their stories are all their own. I feel blessed when they randomly sit in my office for me to return from a meeting or they stay on hold while I'm on another call with someone. It's not about me, I truly enjoy hearing about how the Club has made a difference in their lives. I'm proud of those kids with their success stories ... but I also have compassion and empathy for those that share their lesser stories and the fact that they reach out to talk about them. It is and always has been about the club.

"We are thankful and grateful for our entire community for supporting us and the children that we serve," Reeves added. "I have been blessed with having dedicated



and caring staff members who did all the important work. I am grateful for our past and present board members who gave a 23-year-old kid a chance as well as all for the volunteers who coached our athletic teams and helped out at our special events, community dinners, afterschool and more.

And the club's board is certainly thankful for Reeves' work.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Craig, and his family, for their dedicated service of 35 years at the club," said Troy Mitchell, current board president and former club kid. "Throughout his tenure, Craig has devoted a substantial amount of time and effort, sometimes at the expense of his own family, for the betterment of the club. Most people strive to leave something better than they found it, and Craig has undoubtedly achieved that. I wish Craig nothing but the best in all his future endeavors."

The board of directors will hold a celebratory open house in honor of Reeves from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 4 at the club's Whitlock Avenue facility. His final day is scheduled for July 28.

TIMELINE

1988: Hired as athletic director, two staff members (less than \$5,000 in bank) fundraising was less than \$5,000

1991: Hired as executive director (\$100,000 budget)

1996: Conversation started on building new facility (70 kids in after school)

1997: Hired consultant for needs assessment

1997: Acquired Montgomery County Youth Soccer Program and 17 acres of land on Whitlock Avenue

1998: Set \$2.5 million fundraising goal/facility drawings completed

1998: Fundraising goal met

1999: Groundbreaking on Whitlock Avenue

2000: New 34,000 square foot facility opens

2001: \$300,000 budget, eight staff members

2001-2010: \$400,000 budget, new playground, club hosts Indiana Area Council Conference for Indiana Clubs, 12 staff, agreement with all three school districts to provide transportation to club. Club purchases two mini buses to transport kids from middle schools. Club began annual partnership with League of Womens Voters in hosting Reality Store for all eighth grade students.

2011-2015: Community dinner program, first annual campaign raised \$17,000, partnered with Youth Service Bureau and hosted alternative school until new YSB building was ready, provided transportation with Inspire Program through YSB.

2016: \$500,000 budget, fundraising tops \$289,000, 14 staff members

2016-2019: Budget over

\$700,000, shelter house built, annual campaign tops \$80,000, combined fundraising efforts reach \$367,000

2020-2023: Budget set at \$947,000, \$1,150,000 if large grant included. Purchased two mini buses, security video surveillance with front entrance monitoring. Annual campaign goes over \$100,000, fundraising efforts exceed \$600,000 or over \$800,000 with large grant. Over 20 staff, kept club open during COVID and kept all staff working which included a meal program for our families and internet activities for our kids, adapted after-school program to classroom model which became popular with parents, new afterschool partnership with Crawfordsville schools in the fall of 2023 with site at Hose Elementary School, new before school care program beginning in the fall of 2023. Solar energy

panels completed by August.

The Club has been blessed by the many Community Partnerships including but not limited to Nucor Steel, C&F Fabricating, IDEX/Banjo Corporation, Pace Dairy, Valero Renewables, Duke Energy, American Legion Post 72, Lakeside Book Company, Random House, Central Indiana Rubber, Montgomery County Community Foundation, Franciscan Hospital, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, League of Women's Voters, Tri-County Bank, Bane-Welker Farm Equipment, Wabash College, Montgomery County United Way, YSB, Crawfordsville School Corporation, North Montgomery School Corporation, South Montgomery School Corporation, Edge Information Technologies, International Paper, City of Crawfordsville and many more.



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HEALTH

MIH program reps speak at two national conferences

Journal Review

Representatives from the nationally recognized Mobile Integrated Health program had the opportunity late last month to speak at two national conferences.

MIH has programs such as Project Swaddle and Project Bundle, that support pregnant mothers and their newborn babies, as well as a chronic disease program that helps elderly Montgomery County residents age safely in place.

On Sept. 22, Lindsey Cord, a registered nurse, and Olivia Wood, a social worker, presented at the EMS World Expo in New Orleans, which is the largest EMS-dedicated event in the world with thousands of attendees from more than 50 countries.

Cord and Wood had the opportunity to present “Advanced Community Paramedicine Team Building – Diversifying Your Practitioners” which shares how the Crawfordsville Fire Department MIH team has expanded its roles alongside



the community paramedics to use a comprehensive approach to patient care. The addition of these roles has helped to bridge the gap within care through education and better access to services and resources.

A week later, on Sept. 28, Darren Forman, firefighter/paramedic and Samantha Swearingen, project manager presented at Radically Rural Annual Summit in Keene, New Hampshire. The summit focuses on building networks of engaged and innovative people who want to take action and provide resources to

their small communities.

Forman and Swearingen had the opportunity to present “Folks Helping Folks: Using the Community Paramedicine Model to Support a Community’s Unique Needs.” This presentation focused on how Project Swaddle is used in tailoring a community paramedicine model to better fill the needs and bridge the gaps left by medical deserts, which are areas lacking healthcare either generally or in specialty areas.

“Our programs are truly innovative and we’re grateful for the opportunity to share



what we’ve done,” said Division Chief Paul Miller. “We have had the ability to impact the lives of many in our own community and by sharing what we’re doing, we are creating the ability for others to positively impact their communities too.”



Clinic earns gold quality rating

Journal Review

The Montgomery County Free Clinic earned a gold rating from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Quality Standards Program for 2023. Gold rating is the highest quality of care standard awarded by the association.

The Montgomery County Free Clinic Inc. was established in 2009 when Christian Nursing Service, operators of a free clinic since 1968, reorganized to better provide medical and dental care for uninsured people in the community.

"The NAFC gold standard recognition is a reflection of the commitment and dedication of the board, volunteers,

staff and donors of the Montgomery County Free Clinic. We are proud to have a dedicated team supporting the clinic's mission," said Donna Hendrickson, president of the Montgomery County Free Clinic board of directors. "Providing our community with safe and reliable quality care is our highest priority."

The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinic's mission is building healthy communities for all through quality, equitable, accessible healthcare. The NAFC and its members are dedicated to ensuring that patients receive access to quality healthcare regardless of their ability to pay. To quantify and qualify the care provided at the Free

and Charitable Clinic network, the NAFC formalized a set of Quality Standards for member organizations.

NAFC members submit information to the NAFC on the various policies and procedures in place to attain their standards rating and successfully incorporate these standards within their organization.

NAFC quality standards elements include policies and procedures related to the following areas: administrative, clinic/pharmacy responsibilities, credentialing and privileging systems, patient care and risk management systems.

"We simply could not provide high quality medical

services without the support of our many partners, including the NAFC," said David Johnson, MCFC executive director. "Their knowledge and experience combined with our passionate community members who donate, advocate, and volunteer make our organization better and our community a better place for all of us to live."

For more information on the NAFC, visit www.nafc-clinics.org.

For more information on the services provided, eligibility requirements or to discover ways to support the Montgomery County Free Clinic, visit www.mcfreeclinic.org or email information@mcfreeclinic.org.

HISTORIC PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

86 of 92 counties opted in to receive new funding to improve core services

Journal Review

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb announced that 86 of Indiana's 92 counties have opted-in to receive historic funding to improve the health of Hoosiers through local partnerships between public health, healthcare, nonprofits and other entities as a result of legislation passed in the 2023 legislative session.

The overwhelming participation in the initiative known as Health First Indiana, which was made possible by passage of SEA 4 (2023) and HEA 1001 (2023), means that nearly 96% of Hoosiers will be guaranteed access to core public health services that will help address issues such as childhood lead poisoning, heart disease, tobacco cessation, obesity and maternal and infant mortality, and take additional steps to improve Indiana's health outcomes.

"From the beginning of the public health commission, we were committed not just to identifying problems, but to solving Indiana's pressing health problems in a way that meets the unique needs of Hoosiers, regardless of where they live," Holcomb said. "Communities across the state are recognizing this 1,500% increased state

investment as a game-changer for Hoosiers not just today, but for generations to come."

Historically, Indiana's 92 counties shared a pot of \$6.9 million in public health funding annually from the state; under the new legislation, \$75 million will be distributed to counties that opted-in beginning Jan. 1, 2024, and another \$150 million will be allocated beginning in 2025. Counties that did not opt-in to the enhanced funding will have the opportunity to opt-in for 2025. Participating counties are working to finalize plans for the funding so they can formalize programming once the money is distributed.

Gov. Holcomb, who launched efforts to improve the delivery of public health services in August 2021 with the formation of the Governor's Public Health Commission, said the state investment will be life-changing for many Hoosiers. Recognizing that counties are best positioned to address the health needs of their communities, the Health First Indiana funding allows counties to create innovative solutions aimed at improving local health outcomes.

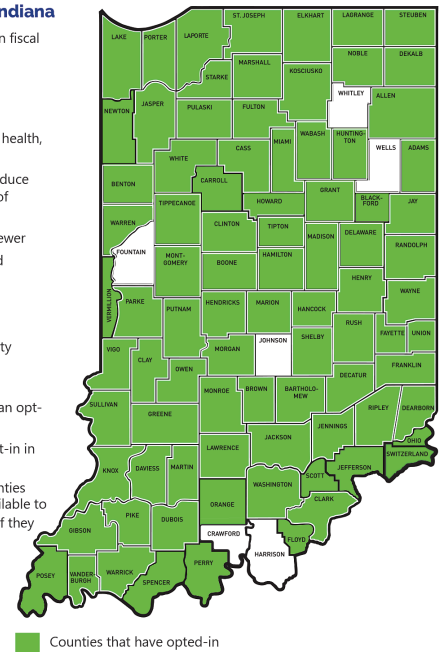
State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D.,

Quick Facts about Health First Indiana

- \$75 million in fiscal year 2024, \$150 million in fiscal year 2025
- Investment in prevention leads to healthier communities and workforce, which attracts businesses and benefits the economy
- Brings together local elected officials, public health, clinical health and community partners
- Partnerships allow us to identify gaps and reduce duplication to ensure the efficient delivery of services.
- Benefits rural communities that often have fewer resources, such as free health screenings and connection to care

Process for Counties to Opt-in

- County Commissioner's vote to opt-in, County Council approves the budget
- Opt-in deadline was Sept. 1
- If a county does not opt-in the first year, it can opt-in for any future fiscal years
- Counties may also vote to withdraw their opt-in in future years
- Visit healthfirstindiana.com to see which counties have opted-in and how much funding is available to each county (including their legacy amount if they don't opt-in)



Updated: 8/24/23

FACEP, is actively traveling the state to discuss the implementation of Health First Indiana and believes counties are embracing the opportunity to focus on preventing diseases and working with partners to improve the well-being of their communities.

"In every community I visit, I hear about exciting new partnerships and programs that are breaking down silos and bringing public health, nonprofits, community groups and health care together to deliver local solutions to improve Hoosiers'


health," Weaver said. "Good health is the foundation on which successful families, businesses and communities are built. By providing the financial resources and renewing the focus on prevention, Indiana is in the best position it has ever been to create the safest, healthiest state possible."

To see a map of participating counties, their funding amounts, a list of core public health services and learn more about Health First Indiana, visit www.healthfirstindiana.com.

At least 60% of HFI funding must be spent on these core services

 Communicable disease prevention and control	 Vital records	 Tobacco prevention and cessation
 Student health	 Fatality review (child, suicide, overdose)	 Maternal and child health
 Testing/counseling for HIV, HCV, STI	 TB control and case management	 Emergency preparedness
 Referrals to clinical care	 Chronic disease prevention and reduction	 Childhood lead screenings and case management
	 Trauma and injury prevention and education	 Child and adult immunizations

No more than 40% of funding may be spent on these core services

 Food protection	 Pest/vector control and abatement	 Public/semipublic pool inspection and testing
 Residential onsite sewage system permitting and inspections	 Orders for decontamination of property used to illegally manufacture controlled substances	
 Sanitary inspection and surveys of public buildings	 Sanitary operation of tattoo parlors and body piercing facilities	 Sanitary operation of facilities where eyelash extensions are performed



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