

▶ TODAY'S VERSE

Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good,
a strong hold in the day of
trouble; and He knoweth
them that trust in Him.

▶ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Molly, Assistant Manager at Sunflower Herbs & Vitamins offered one of our roving photographers a smile, with Sunflower's Readers' Choice Award. Thank you for your smile!

▶ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 From Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs; Indiana Veteran Families experiencing financial hardship can apply for \$500 per dependent child for back-to-school expenses. Students must live in a veteran's home. Children K-12 up to age 18 and Full-Time college students, up to age 23 qualify. Must provide Application, DD-214, Bank Statement, Proof of income, Proof of child's dependency, proof of child's residency. Use this link: <https://www.in.gov/dva/files/2023-BTS-app.pdf> to fill out the application.

2 Reed says it is important to have veterinarians from all walks of life in order to best serve patients and their animals. People are likely to gravitate toward and be more comfortable with professionals who look like them. Reed says this is also important when inspiring the next generation of veterinarians. Potential students are more likely to express interest in the field if they see people like them making a difference. Most people are familiar with the idea of vets taking care of pets and farm animals, but Reed says the job is much more than that. Since 60% of all infectious diseases originate from animals, veterinarians also play a large role in protecting human health.

3 Jennifer Smith is a clinical associate professor of special education in Purdue University's College of Education. In this video, she explains the teacher shortage and its effects on education. Currently, fewer students want to be teachers and there are not enough graduates to fill open teacher positions. Smith says the lack of consistent teachers in the classroom is negatively impacting students, especially following the pandemic. The U.S. has seen lower scores than before the pandemic on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, an assessment given to students, usually in fourth and eighth grades, to test math and language arts skills. Smith says these low scores are exacerbated by the teacher shortage. Smith also says we must consider teacher salaries in order to combat the teacher shortage, citing the disparity between minimum teacher salaries and inflation-adjusted wages from 2019. To support teachers, Smith recommends parents form positive relationships with their children's teachers and play an active role in communication. Smith also recommends that anyone interested in a career in teaching reach out to universities and talk with faculty.

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The Paper Photo

Mayor Todd Barton

LWVMC Invites Public: Lunch With The League & Well Read Citizen Book Club Meet This Week

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County invites the community to join us for two engaging public programs happening this week.

On Wednesday, August 2 at 7 pm in St. John's Fellowship Hall (212 S. Green Street) the Well Read Citizen's Book Club will discuss the young life of fictional Sarah Smolinsky (protagonist of *The Bread Givers*). On Friday, August 4 at noon in Fusion 54, Lunch with the League presents Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton to update the community on what's happening in our city.

Wednesday's book discussion of *The Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska will be led by Dr. Warren Rosenberg who invites participants to come whether they've read the novel or not.

After a century of voting rights, women take certain things for granted. Despite this enfranchisement, many questions remain about women's autonomy. The *Bread Givers* takes us back a century to meet a young woman born into poverty and oppression as the fourth daughter of Eastern European Jewish immigrants in New York City's Lower East Side. Sarah is constrained by family obligations, economic status, and the strict religious culture into which she was born. Her father is a religious scholar and teacher who

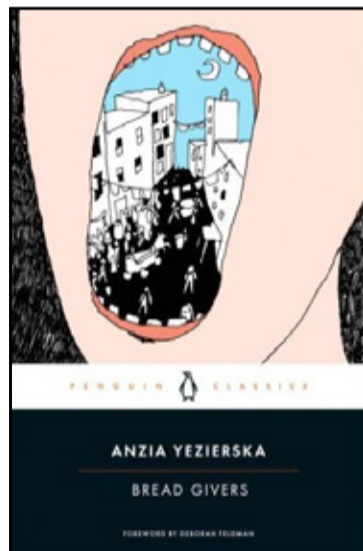


Photo courtesy of LWV

Cover of *Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska

presides over his family with implacable paternal authority.

Unwilling to be caught up in an arranged marriage and servitude, Sarah boldly leaves home and labors hard and long to create an independent destiny. Her hard-won striving for professional independence and her climb out of poverty come with big questions, questions we still ask today: can one ever leave family, religious heritage, and a hard scramble life behind? "Old ways" may haunt a New American Woman of any era, even in 2023. *The Bread Givers* was published in 1925.

▶ See LEAGUE Page A5

Butch Says To Take It Easy On Your Little Ballplayer



BUTCH DALE
COLUMNIST

When I was growing up in the 1950s and '60s, I played every sport that my school offered. Like the other small schools in Montgomery county, there were only three sports... baseball, basketball, and track, although three schools did start up football teams in the late 1960s. I enjoyed participating in all three, and was fairly successful at each, being named the county's most outstanding athlete during my senior year in 1966. Back in those days, when the season was over, I was glad I could relax several weeks before the next sport started up. And unlike today, there was no mandatory weight training, clinics, supervised practice, etc. during the off season...and I was glad!

Although my parents supported my participation in athletics, they never forced me to play. My Dad watched most of my baseball and basketball games through the years, but I don't recall him ever watching a track meet. My mother never watched me play in any sport in all of those years. She was too busy taking care of my four younger siblings, managing the household, helping on the farm, and doing her artwork for people. Believe it or not, Dad never offered any advice or suggestions with regards to improving my athletic skills, even though he had been an above average athlete in high school himself. He never criticized me if I did poorly, and he never praised me if I performed well. He believed this was the coach's job. Dad had served in the army in Europe during WWII. In General Patton's Third Army, he had fought the Germans and witnessed the horrors of war first hand. He was happy to come back safe and sound and in one piece. Some of his soldier buddies never made it back. He realized

▶ See BUTCH Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:44 a.m.
SET: 9:03 p.m.



High/Low
Temperatures
High: 85 °F
Low: 61 °F



Today is...

- Play Ball Day
- Spider-Man Day
- World Lung Cancer Day

What Happened
On This Day

- 1981 Music Television is launched. The channel, popularly known as MTV was mostly known for showing music videos and for being hosted by Video Jockeys.
- 1936 The XI Summer Olympics are opened in Berlin by Adolf Hitler. Initially, Jews and people of African descent were to be barred from the games, however, a boycott was threatened by several countries and the German organizers relented. 18 African-American athletes, including James "Jesse" Owens and Matthew "Mack" Robinson, placed well in the track and field events, winning several medals.
- 1834 Slavery abolished in British Empire. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into force a year after it was passed by the British Parliament. The act was repealed in 1998.

Births On This Day

- 1942 Jerry Garcia American singer-songwriter, guitarist
- 1819 Herman Melville American writer

Deaths On This Day

- 1970 Frances Farmer American actress
- 1714 Anne, Queen of Great Britain

▶ HONEST HOOSIER

Welcome to August - the month we used to chuckle at schools starting too early. Little did we know, huh? Let's go back to starting after Labor Day! All those in favor raise their hands



▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Do you spend a lot of time at a computer? Set a timer to take breaks every half hour or so to help prevent repetitive strain injuries.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



▶ OBITUARIES

None

▶ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

- Service Directory...A3
- Capital Chronicle...A4
- Classifieds.....A4
- Slim Randles.....A5
- Earth Talk.....A5

▶ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Schools Are Starting Soon:

School supply lists are posted on school websites and there are special sections in shops for Back To School.

▶ TODAY'S QUOTE

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color. Often at night there is lightning, but it quivers all alone." — Natalie Babbitt

▶ TODAY'S JOKE

What are a teacher's favorite three words:
June, July and August.

WTHR 13 7 DAY FORECAST

61/84 SUNNY & PLEASANT	61/85 HEAVY RAIN, REASONABLY WINDY	64/85 PARTLY SUNNY	66/86 BREEZY, 20% STORM CHANCE	70/87 MUCH IMPROVEMENT	67/87 MAINLY SUNNY	66/86 MAINLY SUNNY
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **Diane Thompson** for subscribing!



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Witham Volunteer Organization Hosts Recruitment Fair!

We are growing our team! Join us for the Witham Volunteer Organization Volunteer Recruitment Fair being held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 from 11a-1p at the main entrance and Beck Room of Witham Health Services in Lebanon.

Looking for something to do? Want to give back to your community and develop new relationships with others? An important part of the Witham team is our volunteers! Witham volunteers provide assistance in many ways throughout the hospital to help us provide the best possible care and experience for our patients and guests.

Witham is always looking for new volunteers to join our team! Volunteering is a great way to foster community involvement while helping others. The volunteer program at Witham has been in existence for nearly 100 years, and volunteers have always made a tremendous impact at Witham, giving of their time and



Photo courtesy of Witham

talents.

Some of the many volunteer service areas available include, (but are not limited to), patient transport, guest services representative, retail sales associate, administrative assistant, Dietary aid, Rehab aid, OB aid, pastoral care and chaplaincy, and so much more! Volunteers work in four-hour shifts from either 8a-12p, 12p-4p or 10a-2p (based on the location), at least one day per week. Volunteers

will also participate in a one-day orientation, department-specific training, and annual mandatory education.

Volunteer perks include a \$7 complimentary meal for every 4-hour shift, participation at the annual meeting and awards ceremony luncheon, celebration of National Healthcare Volunteer Week, participation at the annual holiday luncheon, and various other events throughout the year! Other

volunteer benefits include a discount at the Waterfall's Edge Gift Shop and Pavilion Boutique. The Volunteer Organization also hosts many fun events throughout the year! Come see what the Witham Volunteer Organization is all about, ask questions and receive materials about the program. You may also sign up the same day! We thank you in advance for your interest to volunteer at Witham!

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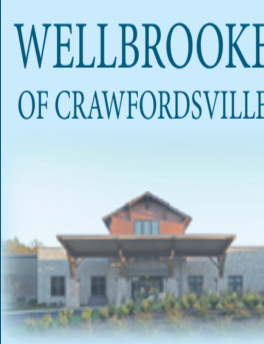
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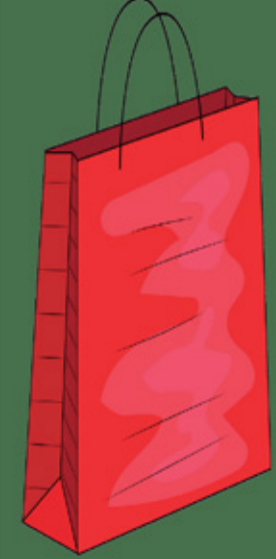


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A Little-Known Nonprofit Boosts Indiana's Economic Development Agency

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Outside organizations donated nearly \$3 million to a state economic development agency's nonprofit arm over the last three years — but who the donors are, and how the agency spends their contributions are largely unknown under state rules that either don't require or outright prohibit disclosure of that information.

The groups behind all but two of 16 transactions in records from 2020 through 2022, obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle, were permitted anonymity. And the Indiana Economic Development Foundation (IEDF) says that, because the funds are private donations, how they're spent isn't subject to public records rules.

The foundation and the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC) share the same staff and 12-member board of directors, as well as "the same mission," spokeswoman Erin Sweitzer wrote in a statement to the Capital Chronicle.

That, she said, is "to advance Indiana's economy and create more quality opportunities for Hoosiers and their families."

Stodgy commerce department no more

Indiana had a traditional department of commerce until 2005, when then-Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican, signed into law legislation creating the Indiana Economic Development Corp.

Shortly after, leaders created the corresponding Indiana Economic De-

velopment Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, according to Indiana Secretary of State records.

The corporation, considered a quasi-public agency, and its foundation operate as a public-private partnership.

State lawmakers allocated over a billion dollars to the corporation over the next two years in the most recent \$44.5 billion budget; the largest appropriations were \$500 million toward a deal closing fund and \$500 million for a second round of the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, better known as READI.

"The Foundation, however, is able to accept private donations, supplementing the IEDC's funding appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly and enabling the IEDC to pursue its goals more aggressively," Sweitzer said.

But that two-pronged structure has led to criticism.

"This is an area where a lot of money is involved. The state is offering big incentives involving our tax dollars to corporations, and Hoosiers deserve to know the backstory," said Julia Vaughn, who leads government watchdog Common Cause Indiana. "But I think the IEDC and its foundation: their structure often stops that from happening."

Vaughn said her organization expressed transparency-related concerns when the state swapped its commerce department for the corporation-foundation combination.

"I'm afraid our worst fears have come true," she concluded. "... It's simply another way for these corporate interests to flex their muscle, and in a way that happens completely in the dark."

Separately, nonprofit organizations typically file Form 990s — with information on their missions, structures, revenue, expenditures, assets, liabilities and more — with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

But IEDC/IEDF Deputy General Counsel Andrew Lang said the foundation had gotten an exemption "as a nonprofit associated with a governmental unit" and that it was "not in possession" of any such filings.

Unknown donors

Ten donors gave the foundation about \$2.7 million from 2020 through 2022, according to its records.

"Private donations to the Foundation allow more flexibility in how we use the funds and how quickly we're able to access them, meaning we're able to move quickly," Sweitzer wrote. And she offered an example: "book[ing] a flight to the West Coast at a CEO's request to close an economic development deal."

Six organizations asked for anonymity, expressly allowed under state law — requiring the foundation to redact their names in public records. They each donated hundreds of thousands over the three years, records show.

Two didn't request anonymity: Washington, D.C.-based think tank The

Urban Institute donated \$5,000 in 2021, and Indiana's Battery Innovation Center, in Newberry, gave \$12,000 in 2022.

Still, there are indications of which entities are likely behind some donations.

The corporation's site, which includes a page for the foundation, features a thank-you note to foundation "sponsors." They include the state's "big five" investor-owned utilities: AES Indiana, CenterPoint Energy, Duke Energy, Indiana Michigan Power and the Northern Indiana Public Service Company.

"Utilities are, you know, a major component behind the funding and operations of the IEDC," said Kerwin Olson, leader of the utility customer advocate group Citizens Action Coalition. "... It's in the utilities' interest to locate new heavy-energy users to the state. So they want to play that role, under the guise of economic development, in getting new factories, manufacturing facilities and other high-end users to the state."

The foundation offers four tiers of donor titles: patron, supporter, partner and trustee. Sweitzer called the utilities "partners" that "give annually" but declined to give the eligibility requirements for each level.

That's because organizations can donate money, but also sponsor events or provide in-kind services, she said — and because "listing the amounts publicly would interfere with a donor's ability to remain anonymous."

"The Foundation is

cultivating a group of like-minded entities focused on advancing Indiana's economy and quality of place through future-focused initiatives," Sweitzer said.

Donation invoices, obtained in discovery during unrelated utility rate cases, frequently include donor disclaimers. They specify that donations are voluntary, don't affect "ongoing" corporation matters and don't affect future tax credits, grants or other programming administered by the corporation.

Vaughn, of Common Cause Indiana, was skeptical Hoosiers could know that for sure.

"These types of, you know, disclaimers, promises, legalese — you can't enforce that if you don't know the full picture," she said.

Supplemental spending

The donations are a small amount compared to the corporation's appropriated budget, but Sweitzer emphasized their supplemental nature.

Lang cited a 2015 informal opinion from Indiana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt. In that case, Britt said Purdue University's Research Foundation doesn't hold funds for the state or perform state functions, and that its funds were privately donated.

For those reasons, Britt opined, the foundation didn't need to disclose financial information to a graduate student seeking it through an Access to Public Records Act request.

"We're able to 'do more' and pursue more

opportunities for Hoosiers, such as leading international economic development trips and market[ing] the state even more aggressively to new prospects," Sweitzer wrote.

She said the money allowed the corporation to work "more quickly," "more boldly" and "more strategically" in pursuing opportunities, marketing the state and engaging abroad.

The foundation's expenditures aren't public records, according to Lang, the counsel. He said that's because the funds are private, not taxpayer dollars.

But Sweitzer highlighted spending on economic development-focused international trips as a "key strategy" to "mitigate the use of taxpayer dollars."

"The results are telling," she wrote: Indiana hosts more than 1,050 foreign-owned businesses, and the corporation got commitments in 2022 from 32 others to locate or expand within the state.

She said those foreign deals would create more than 6,400 jobs — more than a quarter of Indiana's total new job commitments last year — and added up to \$7.25 billion in planned investment.

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American Bison No Longer Endangered After Near Annihilation

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Our forebears decimated the great wild bison herds of the 1800s. Are those remaining today endangered? If so, what are we doing about it?

Just 150 years ago, 30 million American bison inhabited the Great Plains. However, the species almost went extinct after white frontiersmen moved westward in the 1800s, bringing cattle that spread diseases to bison and altering terrain to build towns, farms and pastures. In 1871 and 1872, hunters killed some 5,000 bison every single day. By 1884, there were little over 300 bison left in the United States.

Bison were vital to Native American societies, which used them for food, clothing, shelter, tools and ceremonies. They maintained a thriving relationship with bison because they hunted in moderation and utilized every part of the bison. And bison were critical to the local ecology. They fertilized the vegetation and ate tall plants, allowing the growth of shorter nutritious grass, which the black-tailed prairie dog relied on as a main source of nutrition. The decline of the bison hurt the prairie dog and other living beings.

Thanks to preservation organizations and private citizens, bison were spared from extinction. In the late 1800s, ranchers captured bison and began breeding their own herds. National parks also helped protect and repopulate bison. The Lacey Act of 1894 was enacted "to protect the birds and animals in Yellowstone National Park, and to punish crimes in said park, and for other purposes." In 1905, the American Bison Society (ABS) was formed, with U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt as honorary president. He used his authority to help the ABS obtain land and promote bison reintroduction projects, and the bison population rose to roughly 12,000 by the 1920s. More recently, the American bison has made a huge comeback. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service puts their numbers at "approximately 20,500 Plains bison in conservation herds and an additional 420,000 in

commercial herds." Because their numbers are stable, they are no longer classified as endangered!

Scientists and preservation groups continue working to ensure the bison's survival. Some public interest organizations, such as Earthjustice, have been defending bison on the legal front. In 2012, Earthjustice defended the transfer of wild bison from Yellowstone to indigenous Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations, in spite of cattle interest groups' attempts to block such efforts. In 2022, the Bureau of Land Management approved a proposal to allow bison to graze on 63,000 acres of public lands in Montana. This decision is being defended by Earthjustice's litigation. Hundreds of bison are being transferred to Native American reservations every year in an effort to make reparations to the indigenous tribes that were unjustly stripped of a species so indispensable to their traditions and lifestyles. Today, approximately 82 American and Canadian indigenous tribes have close to 20,000 bison in 65 herds.

Bison still have challenges, such as the spread of brucellosis, which causes abortions, infertility and lowered milk production. Scientists are still trying to find a cure. Tourists have also created problems. Bison calves that make contact with humans can be rejected by their herd, and are often euthanized after such abandonment. But despite this turbulent history, bison numbers are expected to continue to grow, thanks to the work of preservation organizations, government and legal agencies, and individuals!

-CONTACTS: How We Helped Bison Make a Huge Comeback, earthjustice.org/feature/bison-recovery-prairie; USFW Plains Bison, fws.gov/species/plains-bison-bison-bison-bison; Brucellosis and Yellowstone Bison, aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/cattle/downloads/cattle-bison.pdf.

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BUTCH From Page A1

what was important in life, and in his mind, sports were just a pleasant activity in which kids could participate during their school years. School studies and helping out on our farm came first...not sports.

Sadly, there are a few parents who believe they can mold their child into a professional sports star. These "perfectionist parents" micromanage every moment of the kid's life and put pressure on the boy or girl to perform flawlessly...and practice, practice, practice...not just during the season, but all year round. They treat sporting contests as life-altering events, and if the child doesn't perform in the way the parent expects, they often criticize and blame the child for their "failures," even though the poor kid tried his very best. These parents expect no less than perfection, even though they may have been just an average player or never even played a sport when they were in school. Perhaps these overbearing parents are trying to live their lives through their kids. It is so sad to watch kids go through something like this, when sports should just be a fun activity to enjoy. If my Mom or Dad had acted like these controlling, pushy parents, I would never have played in any sport!

There have been thousands of kids who have

participated in various sports here in Montgomery county since high school sports began in the early 1900s. And yes, there were several who went on to play in college. But there have been just a handful of athletes who became professionals. It can happen, but the odds are certainly against anyone making the "big time." So to you parents who constantly push your child to attain perfection in their sport, subconsciously making your self-worth hinge on your child's achievement, and setting standards that no child can ever hope to attain...I say, "Lighten up. Let your boy or girl enjoy their sport and have fun. Just encourage them to try their best. It's not life or death...It's just a game." You'll be glad you did.

Also, with regards to school studies, my folks just told me to mind my teachers, pay attention, complete my assigned work, ask questions if there was something I did not understand, and do my best. I did just that, and ended up as class valedictorian. And in sports, whether our team won or lost...I had lots and lots of fun...Thanks, Mom and Dad!

- John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

Y'All Ever Hear 'Bout Old Man Jenkins?



Slim Randles Home Country

"Hot? You boys think this here weather is hot? You jest don't know, do you?"

"What do you mean, Windy?" said Doc.

"Wellsir, back in the old days, you know, when we was younger, there came upon us here in the valley a hot-em-up wave that tried to kill us. Your folks ever tell you 'bout the wreck at the river with me and Old Man Jenkins?"

Didn't look like anyone had.

"Pass that syrup over, will ya, Steve? Thanks. Well, the hot-em-up started off slow, you know they do that sometimes. Little stuff like burnin' up your hands jest grabbin' a brandin' arn."

"Well, sure," Doc said, "if you're dumb enough to grab a branding iron, you're going to get burnt."

"This here was the handle of the brandin' arn, Doc, not the part in

the fire." "Oh, I see. You were wearing gloves though, right?"

"Couldn't stand to have them on. Too hot. And sweat? Never saw nothin' like it."

Old Man Jenkins sweated so much his boots filled up with sweat and it cooked his toes to a perfect parboiled brown."

"Did he eat them, Windy?"

"Naw. We had plenty of mountain oysters around, you know how it is, and he said he hadn't had a shower in a while, so they probably wouldn't taste that good anyway. So he kept them."

"They didn't fall off?"

"They thought 'bout fallin' off. Thassa fact. But sometimes ol' Mama Nature knows how to help an ol' cowboy. Yessir, thass what saved Jenkins' toes. Had a terrible freeze that night and jest froze them toes back in place."

Nature, and Windy's stories, sometimes defy history.

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LEAGUE From Page A1

Guests are invited to bring snacks and/or a drink for this lively discussion during which Professor Rosenberg will draw upon his teaching of the book and his own heritage and experiences.

Friday Lunch with the League

At Friday's Lunch with the League, Mayor Todd Barton will update our community about what's happening in our city right now. From the city's membership in the SUN (Solar United Neighbors) co-op to the new Frances Wooden playground, lots is happening on many fronts. The mayor will focus on Crawfordsville's economic development, job growth, infrastructure, and innovation. New

housing, nature parks, and job growth all signal progress in a city of our size, but focus must remain on attracting labor, updating infrastructure, affordable housing, and providing adequate retail. Barton will address these and other opportunities and challenges. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions from the audience.

Lunch with the League is a public information event about our city and county which takes place each month on the 3rd Floor of Fusion 54. Well Read Citizen's Book Club recurs on the first Wednesday of each month. The public is always cordially invited to attend both of these regularly scheduled active citizen events.

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