

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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**Brought to you by:**



**Judith K. Kleine**  
ARCHITECT

765-376-9832

**TODAY'S VERSE**

*Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Hey Montgomery County, meet Diamond! She is a 2-year-old female who will be fixed by the time you adopt her. She has a sweet temperament, is well-mannered, and interacts very well with other cats. She simply needs a home where she will be treated like the 'gem' she is! Interested? She's currently at the Animal Welfare League and you can apply to be her forever home at [www.mcawl.com](http://www.mcawl.com), or go there in person to 1104 Bif Four Arch Rd. in Crawfordsville.

**THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Monroe Lake will once again kick off the new year with its First Day Trail Run and Walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area in Bloomington, on Monday, Jan. 1 at 3:30 p.m. This is an untimed, noncompetitive run/walk. Participants complete a 3.7-mile, 2.9-mile, or 1.3-mile course before ringing in the new year by tapping the bell as they cross the finish line. Advance registration is \$15 per person and available online only through Dec. 30 at [bit.ly/monroefirstday](http://bit.ly/monroefirstday). Same-day registration, cash or check only, will be available at the Bay View Shelter inside Fairfax SRA from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.



Photo courtesy of the offices of Beau Baird

**State Rep. Beau Baird (left) meets with Justin Dearing (right), director of the Montgomery County Department of Child Services office Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, to learn more about local efforts to resolve child neglect. Baird noted there are volunteer opportunities to advocate for children in the child welfare system.**

**Baird Highlights Local Efforts To Protect Hoosier Children, Support Families**

In meeting with local family case managers from the Indiana Department of Child Services and watching Family Recovery Court proceedings, State Rep. Beau Baird is emphasizing their work to address child neglect, and the need for community volunteers.

Baird recently joined J.

Michelle Chadd, director of DCS' Putnam County office, and Justin Dearing, director of the Montgomery County office, to learn more about their casework. He also toured Montgomery County's Family Recovery Court and witnessed

➔ See BAIRD Page A6

**Wow! Thanks For The Response!**



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

took the opportunity to ask what you wanted this paper to look like in 2024. Do you still want seven editions a week? One? Somewhere in between? Do you want more pages? Less? What do you want to pay (and no, not even one of you took the easy shot and said "Free!" And I thank you kindly for that!)

A few of you also shared your thoughts on the state of the Colts – and like most of us – said you are pleasantly surprised . . . so far. Yeah, me, too. Especially after last Sunday!

Anyways – the overwhelming majority who replied said that you did not need an Online Edition seven days a week – and a few of you said you did not need a Print Edition at all. Suggestions ranged from one day to five. One of you even said that

We asked and you delivered. Boy, did you deliver!

To recap – a week ago in this very space your favorite Montgomery County daily

you would be happy just getting Karen Zach's monthly Montgomery Memories!

Oh, and before I forget – thank you kindly to so many of you who said you would not object very much to a price increase. No one was jumping up and down about it, but several of you said some very kind things about how long we have held the line on our subscription rates while others have not. Thanks much!

So the purpose of this week is several things. First and foremost, many thanks to so many of you who responded. I expected eight or nine maybe and got dozens instead. Also, thanks so much for the thoughtfulness you exhibited. I've long said that the readers of The Paper of Montgomery County are several notches above most. You are not just smart and informed, you are classy, friendly and kind. I hope you also know you are appreciated!

And the last goal of this week is to delve a little deeper into the question of frequency. No, we have not made a decision to reduce the number of days

➔ See TIM Page A6

**Chase Away The Shadows Of Subterfuge And Hearsay**



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: [www.lwvmont.com](http://www.lwvmont.com), or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

Ronald Reagan may be one of the most beloved presidents in modern history, but he spurred distrust in the government with sound-bites like "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the govern-

ment, and I'm here to help." When his administration traded guns for hostages, he created a self-fulfilling prophecy for the American public. Could they trust the most powerful man in American government when he admitted his administration's imprudence?

"I told the American people I did not trade arms for hostages. My heart and my best intentions still tell me that's true. But the facts and the evidence tell me it is not," said Reagan of the Iran Contra Affair. In doing so, Reagan took a cudgel to the functional relationship that citizens should have with a government "by the people, for the people." In a democratic republic, it is our right and responsibility to be informed and have agency as educated voters and / or as civil servants.

"It's hard to rely on my good intentions when I miss so much that requires attention," sang Toad the Wet Sprocket. With a bit of aw-shucks, Reagan confessed that the evidence and facts proved his "heart and best intentions" wrong. He and his advisors provided material support for the cocaine-industry-funded Contras in Nicaragua, as well as sold 1,500 missiles to Iran hoping to exchange those for seven American hostages – only three came home and an Iranian terrorist group took three more hostages to replace those released. In the long arc of history, both "back-room" decisions backfired for the American public, helping the drug trade and Iranian opposition to the U.S.

Thus in both political rhetoric and in actual deed, Reagan fomented anti-government senti-

➔ See LWV Page A6

**The Daily Almanac**

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:53 a.m.  
SET: 5:23 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 55 °F  
Low: 33 °F



**Today is...**

- Miners' Day
- Special Kids Day
- St. Nicholas Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 1967 World's first pediatric heart transplant. 3 days after the first heart transplant in the world occurred in South Africa, Adrian Kantrowitz and his team of surgeons performed United States' first heart transplant and the world's first pediatric heart transplant at the Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn.
- 1922 Establishment of the Irish Free State. The Anglo-Irish Treaty signed between the British and Irish representatives in 1921 paved the way for the establishment of the Dominion of the British Empire. The state lasted until December 1937.
- 1865 Adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.

**Births On This Day**

- 1967 Judd Apatow American director, producer, screenwriter
- 1875 Evelyn Underhill English poet

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1988 Roy Orbison American singer-songwriter
- 1882 Alfred Escher Swiss businessman, politician

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

*Influenza is in town – wash your hands frequently and stay home if you have a cough and high fever. 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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).*



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

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**MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Community Forum:**

Mayor Barton will be hosting his December Community Forum on Thursday, December 14th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mayor's Office. This will be the Mayor's 127th community forum. This event is open to the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, and learn more about anything regarding the city.

**OBITUARIES**

June E. (Keller) Beiswanger

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others."  
-Bob Hope

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Why did the Rudolph cross the road? Because he was tied to the chicken!



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The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank Anthony Fisher for subscribing!



**7 DAY FORECAST**

30/42 MAINLY CLOUDY	33/55 BREEZY, MORE MILD	44/57 BALMY AND BREEZY	51/58 RAINY, PM THUNDER	39/42 RAIN TO SNOW	27/42 PARTLY CLOUDY	32/44 SEASONAL
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

## OBITUARIES

### June E. (Keller) Beiswanger

June 22, 1938, Sunday, December 3, 2023

June Evelyn entered this world at home in New Market, IN on June 22, 1938. She was the eldest of seven children, born to James Harold and Doris T. (Sarjent) Keller. She left her earthly home on December 3, 2023 in Lafayette, IN.



June was a graduate of New Market High School and still looked forward to monthly lunches with her fellow classmates.

Her first marriage was to Charles Cloncs and they were the parents of three children. They divorced and she later married William Beiswanger of Francesville, IN on July 28, 1979. He passed on December 28, 2017.

She was employed with New Market and Southmont food service for several years; she then worked for Coast to Coast Hardware Distribution Warehouse in Crawfordsville. She retired from Kroger East in Crawfordsville. She loved working her various jobs, meeting people and considered them friends.

June was a member of New Market First Baptist Church since childhood. She enjoyed her church family and helped with many church activities in her younger years.

Her hobbies included traveling to all 50 states and 3 cruises, reading, cooking, baking, canning and freezing. She loved to prepare family member's favorite foods for holidays and get together.

She is survived by her son, Brian (Debora) Cloncs of Crawfordsville; daughter, Donna (Joe) Aldridge of Avon; grandsons, Zachary (Beth) Aldridge of Greenwood and Sean Aldridge of Strasburg, CO; great grandsons, Luke, Logan and Liam Aldridge of Greenwood; brothers, James (Marilyn) Keller of Lake Holiday, David Keller of Crawfordsville, and Carl (Mitzi) Keller of New Market; sister, Thelma Foster of Crawfordsville; and 3 nieces, and 6 nephews and their families.

June is also survived by her stepdaughters, Jayne (Peter) Jackson of Westfield and Camilla (Bill) Amsler of Francisville; step grandchildren, Andrew (Joy) Fritz, Adam Fritz, Katie Depoy, Amanda (Alex) Cosgray, Beckham (Kate) Amsler, Brandon (Brooke) Amsler and Zachary Jackson; step great-grandchildren, Sunny Fritz, Kylie, Kegan, Aleah and Amelia Depoy, and Willow, Iris and Samuel Cosgray.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Doris Keller; infant sister, Janet Elaine; brother John Ed Keller; son, Randy J. Cloncs; and grandson, Alexander James Cloncs.

June asked to be cremated with a celebration of life at a later date. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is assisting the family. If you wish to contribute to a memorial, please consider New Market Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 346, New Market, IN 47965 or New Market First Baptist Church, PO Box 87, New Market, IN 47965 or the charity of your choice. Share memories and condolences at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).

June's final message to family and friends: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Laugh when you think of the fun we had and the memories we made. Cherish our heartfelt moments as you proceed on your journey through life. Love you all bunches, June."

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# Witham Health Services Named #2 Healthiest Employer Of Indiana

Witham Health Services has been recognized in the 2023 Healthiest Employers of Indiana, and the Top 100 Healthiest Workplaces in America. This is an awards program created to honor people-first organizations that prioritize the well-being of their employee population. Witham was recognized because of their commitment to workplace wellness and exceptional health and benefits offerings.

The Wellness Center located at our main hospital campus in Lebanon, offers our employees educational programs, exercise classes, cooking classes, health screenings and other health tips. Many of these same programs and classes are also offered to the community. Witham is a great partner in community events and health initiatives throughout Boone County. Our Wellness team promotes healthy lifestyles and activities in our schools and businesses.

Throughout Indiana health factors differ and communities that are



Graphic courtesy of Witham Health Services

**Witham Health Services has been recognized in the 2023 Healthiest Employers of Indiana, and the Top 100 Healthiest Workplaces in America.**

healthier thrive. We're so excited that Witham ranks #2 in Indiana healthiest employers rankings and continues to improve and foster health equity in our community.

Award applicants were evaluated across six key categories: Culture and Leadership, Foundational Components, Strategic Planning, Communication and Marketing, Programing and Interventions, and Reporting and Analytics. Completed assess-

ments were ranked with the proprietary Healthiest Employers® Index, a 1-100 rubric for wellness programming. The survey is scored and powered by Springbuk, a health intelligence platform that simplifies data-driven decision-making with an intuitive user experience, predictive modeling, and curated action steps.

Witham was awarded 2nd in Indiana and 33rd in America! Witham was also inducted into the

Healthiest Employers Hall of Fame in 2022, one of only 20 organizations to earn this level of success. This would not be possible without the buy-in of our Leadership, our Physicians and Medical staff and our valued staff who support and participate in our events, classes and program offerings. Thank you team! Thank you to the Wellness Department for all your great programs and positive encouragement.



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# State Files To Dismiss Media Legal Challenge To Law Enforcement "Buffer Zone"

By Whitney Downard  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The state's highest legal office filed to dismiss a challenge Friday from a group of media entities to the state's "buffer zone" law, which creates a 25-foot zone around law enforcement officers during certain activities.

In a joint filing with Marion County public safety authorities, the Attorney General's office cites a similar case moving through the Northern District of Indiana from South Bend and notes that the law hasn't been used against any of the plaintiffs.

"... (Plaintiffs) do not allege that the Buffer Law has actually been or will likely be enforced against them, they do not allege that they have self-censored as a result of the Buffer Law, and they do not allege that they intend to self-censor," the filing reads. "And in a twist of irony, the only instances of enforcement they do allege show that the Buffer Law is not being enforced in the manner they claim to fear, but is only being enforced evenhandedly and with great deference to those recording law enforcement, in situations where it is plainly needed."

\*\*\*

## Case background

Lawmakers earlier this year passed the law, under which officers engaged in "lawful duties" can order someone to stay 25 feet away or risk a Class C misdemeanor. Supporters at the time said some situations become more volatile when people are too close to the officers.

In November, the plain-

tiffs — which includes the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Indiana Broadcasters Association, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Indy Star and more — pushed for an injunction blocking the law's effects pending a court decision.

Members of the press and the public argue the so-called "buffer zone" limits their ability to hold law enforcement accountable, especially when it comes to public recordings.

"By criminalizing peaceful, nonobstructive newsgathering on matters of public importance, the (Buffer Zone law) violates the First Amendment ... (and) grants law enforcement officers limitless, standardless discretion to prevent journalists from approaching near enough to document the way officers perform their duties in public spaces," the injunction request reads.

Plaintiffs say they were within 25 feet of law enforcement during the 2020 protests following the murder of George Floyd and during various rallies in support of abortion rights.

Being 25 feet away would limit the visual and audio reporting, the filing continued.

The injunction request had a status conference just before the Thanksgiving holiday before Magistrate Judge Mario Garcia.

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## Motion to dismiss

The motion to dismiss filing from the state insists that some sort of constitutional injury must have occurred, rather than a "generalized grievance."

Since plaintiffs said

they would continue to film and photograph within 25 feet, the state says plaintiffs can't argue that the law has led to self-censorship. Additionally, members of the media hadn't been singled out in enforcement of the act, the filing said, but rather all bystanders had been ordered 25 feet away. Additionally, individual law enforcement agencies may decide to adopt certain procedures when it comes to interpreting and implementing the law, which the defendants argue weakens the facial challenge, a legal term that allows a party to sue even without damages due to the risk of harm.

"Such policy and implementation is relevant to the merits of a facial challenge because it goes to the heart of how a statute is likely to be enforced. Because the likelihood of enforcement determines whether an alleged enforcement threat is credible or not, such policies are relevant to standing," the filing said.

Should the court not dismiss the claim, the defendants ask that resolution mirror the South Bend case.

U.S. Judge James Sweeney hasn't yet ruled on either the injunction or dismissal filing.

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## Attorney General Todd Rokita's Litigation Team Wins 100% Of Jury Trials On State's Behalf In 2023

Attorney General Todd Rokita recently congratulated members of his office's litigation team, which won 100 percent of the eight jury trials in which it defended the state's interests in 2023.

"To achieve a 100 percent success rate in these proceedings demonstrates both the integrity of the entities we defend and the skills of the lawyers working at this office," Rokita said. "Not only do these wins save money for Indiana taxpayers, but they also provide peace of mind to citizens who want to see justice prevail."

As the State of Indiana's law firm, the

Office of Attorney General's dedicated litigators represent the state and its agencies, officials, elected leaders, and employees in a wide variety of legal proceedings — including federal and state jury trials. Every day, the office fights to protect the legal interests of the state and its citizens and defend the rule of law.

By securing the state's legal victories in all of its federal and state jury trials, the litigation team saved Hoosier taxpayers well into the six figures, said Chief Counsel of Litigation Patricia Erdmann.

Besides the jury trial wins, the team also has

saved millions through ongoing successful advocacy and motion practice in other cases. Working under Erdmann, Section Chief Adrienne Pope oversees government litigation.

Rokita thanked both Erdmann and Pope for their strong leadership and effective oversight of litigation strategy and jury trial arguments.

"Hoosiers can rest assured they are in good hands when it comes to the professional litigators representing their state government in legal matters," Rokita said. "I am proud every day to work with individuals who serve this state with servants' hearts."

## Veterans December Newsletter

By Joe Ellis  
Joe.Ellis@montgomerycounty.in.gov

Wow, we have had a different type weather for November. I had a total of 52 people call into the office. We had a total of 20 visits into my office.

We took nine Veterans to hospitals.

I will not be going to either of the Posts this month but will start up again in January of 2024. Just a reminder that any veteran who needs a new Will, you could call Mr. Dan Taylor who will do one for veterans for free.

His Phone Number is 765-361-9680.

Now for the latest news, I will be going full time after the first of the Year. My Hours will be Monday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. then 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Veteran Court, then 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the office. Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. lunch and 1 p.m. to 4:30 in the office. Wednesday I take my wife to wound care but will be back at the office from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday will be from 8 p.m. to 12p.m., 12 p.m.

to 1 p.m. lunch and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 in the office. Then, Friday from 8 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the office.

Frito-Lay is Hiring in Frankfort. They are looking for Regional Class A CDL Drivers. Pay is \$27.08/hr. Schedule: 80% local and 20% overnight with most of layovers being one night. Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, 401K and Pension Eligibility, plus more industry leading benefits. Bonuses: \$5,000 sign on Bonus. Contact Tiffany Crump at Tiffany.Crump@Pontoon-solutions.com

## Holiday Hazard Prevention: Steps To A Safe And Accident-Free Season

(StatePoint) As the holidays approach, you might be hosting guests, shopping for gifts and decorating your home. While all these activities can bring a lot of joy into the season, they can also bring an increase in risks. Prepare by following these six tips to prevent damage.

**1. Install a smart doorbell.** Whether you want to see who just arrived or help keep packages secure, a smart doorbell will keep you updated on all activities in front of your home. From package deliveries to carolers, you can easily view (and communicate) with your visitors, even if you aren't home.

**2. Decorate carefully.** As pretty as those lights might be, they can be a tripping hazard. What's more, overheating lights can trigger a fire in seconds, especially in a dry environment, such as near a parched tree. On Erie Insurance's YouTube channel, they show how fast a Christmas tree goes up in flames and have tips on how to avoid fires, including to check string lights for any frayed wires and to always turn

off lights when you aren't home.

**3. Prepare for the unexpected.** As temperatures drop, prepare your home for potential damage. Bad weather can trigger a weak tree to fall, potentially on your house, while cold temperatures can cause frozen pipes, which could cost thousands of dollars in water damage if the pipes burst. Be sure to keep your homeowners insurance up to date so you are prepared should any seasonal damage occur. To prevent that damage and a costly claim, survey your property and even call-in experts to check trees, pipes and other possible hazards.

**4. Stay safe on the road.** The winter season carries driving risks. Not only may roads be slick and icy, but holiday shoppers are often stressed and frazzled. On roads, and particularly in shopping centers and mall parking lots, slow down and stay alert to avoid a fender-bender. As an added precaution, be sure to keep your auto insurance up to date in case of damage. Your insurance company might


offer options to help you tighten your wallet during an expensive season. For example, Erie Insurance offers convenient bundling of car and home insurance to potentially save you money.

**5. Mingle merry--and safely.** Holiday parties can be fun, but make sure you have a plan for getting home safely. And if you're hosting the party, be aware that in most states party hosts can be held liable for their guests' actions behind the wheel. So be sure your guests have a safe ride home.

**6. Be smart online.** If you'd rather keep your comfy pants on and do your holiday shopping online, be aware of where your data might be susceptible and only shop on reputable sites. An ERIE's homeowner policy includes identity recovery coverage that can help you if you are the unfortunate victim of identity fraud.

Whether you are having a party or going on a shopping spree, being safe and prepared for the holidays is key to avoiding any accidents, injuries and incidents.


WELCOME OUR NEW DOCTOR  
Scott Kilberg, D.P.M.



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1650 W. Oak Street, Suite 100  
317.873.8860



**Witham.org**

We're keeping lives healthy with Dr. Scott Kilberg. Dr. Scott Kilberg joins Dr. Vince Pokrifcak at Witham Foot and Ankle. He is now accepting patients in the Lebanon location.

— 9<sup>th</sup> Annual —

# SHARED VALUES AWARD



**Nominate your favorite local non-profit!**

## \$5,000 DONATION

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up \$1,000**



Pick up a form at any HHSB location, or submit your nomination online at [www.myhhsb.com](http://www.myhhsb.com).

The nomination period ends 12/31.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CRAWFORDSVILLE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Crawfordsville will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, in the Common Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 300 E. Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana, to hear the request for a use variance from the schedule of uses of the City Zoning Ordinance to allow a church in an existing building located in a C-1, conservation zoning district.  
 The property location 6111 Garden Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana (Parcel No: 54-07-31-442-036.000-030; 54-07-31-442-035.001-030; 54-07-31-442-037.001-030; and 54-07-31-442-037.002-030)  
 The petition is on file and available for examination (and purchase at cost) in the Department of Planning & Building Services on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765.364.5152); office hours are 8:00-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m., weekdays except holidays.  
 The public is invited to attend the hearing and to comment on the proposed request. Oral comments concerning the request will be heard. Written comments and objections to the requests may also be submitted to the Director of Planning & Building Services, City of Crawfordsville, at the address above prior to the hearing and will be considered.  
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend, hear or present evidence at the public hearing and is in need of reasonable accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Building Services at the address or phone number above so accommodation can be made.  
 Department of Planning & Building Services  
 Megan Huckstep, Director, City of Crawfordsville  
*PL4787 12/6 1t hspaxlp*

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 The property location 1517 S Grant Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana (Parcel No: 54-10-07-100-006.000-030)  
 The petition is on file and available for examination (and purchase at cost) in the Department of Planning & Building Services on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765.364.5152); office hours are 8:00-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m., weekdays except holidays.  
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 Department of Planning & Building Services  
 Megan Huckstep, Director, City of Crawfordsville  
*PL4786 12/6 1t hspaxlp*

**LEPC LEGAL NOTICE**  
 The Montgomery County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting dates will be as follows:  
 Thursday, February 15, 2024 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville  
 Thursday, May 16, 2024 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville  
 Thursday, August 15, 2024 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville  
 Thursday, November 7, 2024 1605 N St Rd 63, Covington  
 All meetings will be held at the Montgomery County Emergency Management & Homeland Security office with the exception of the November meeting. It will be held in conjunction with the other county LEPCs in Covington, Indiana. The meeting times will be 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM or at such other times as shall be duly authorized by the act of the committee or its chair. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.  
 The Montgomery County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours at 1201 Elmore Street, Crawfordsville, IN. All information filed by covered SARA Title III facilities in Montgomery County may be reviewed during regular business hours at 1201 Elmore Street, Crawfordsville, IN. Copies of documents may be obtained at these offices, and the Committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information on these matters, please contact Jessica Burget, Secretary, at (765) 307-2561.  
*PL4784 12/6 1t hspaxlp*

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2306-MF-000486 wherein U.S. Bank National Association was Plaintiff, and Jeffrey R. Radcliff, was Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 10th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.  
 A Part of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, in Madison Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a county referenced bolt spike marking the Southwest corner of said West half and thence North 00 degrees 11 minutes 16 seconds West (astronomic bearing/basis of bearings) along the West line of said West half for a distance of 220.00 feet to a 5/8" x 24" capped rebar stamped D. Deckard P.L.S. SO #273 (hereinafter referred to as Deckard rebar) thence leaving said West line and running South 87 degrees 20 minutes and 07 seconds East for a distance of 223.02 feet to a point witnessed by a Deckard rebar 1.50 feet South 87 degrees 20 minutes 07 seconds East; thence south 00 degrees 48 minutes 27 seconds East for a distance of 208.22 feet to a point on the South line of said West half and in the approximate center line of County Road 900 North; thence south 89 degrees 38 minutes 05 seconds West with said South line and approximate center line for a distance of 225.00 feet to the place of beginning, Subject to a 20 foot wide easement for the purpose of ingress and egress off of and from the entire Westerly and Northerly Boundaries of the above described tract, subject to a right of way for County Road 900 North along the Entire Southerly boundary of the above described tract and together with and subject to all other right of way, covenants, easements and restrictions of record.  
 More commonly known as: 1540 E 900 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Parcel No. : 54-02-16-400-012.001-016  
 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.  
 Nathan A. Dewan Sheriff of Montgomery County  
 35006-82  
 Doyle & Fouty, P.C.  
 41 E Washington Street  
 Suite 400  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 Madison Township  
 1540 E 900 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Street Address  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein  
**SERVICE DIRECTED TO:**  
 Jeffrey R. Radcliff  
 1540 E 900 N  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
**MANNER OF SERVICE:** Sheriff  
**NOTICE**  
**DOYLE & FOUTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR**  
*PL4774 11/29 12/6 12/13 3t hspaxlp*

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2306-MF-000544 wherein U.S. Bank National Association was Plaintiff, and Serena V. Smith and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 10th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.  
 Lot Numbered 12, as the same is known and designated on the recorded Plat of Daseke's South Side Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana, as the same appears of record in Deed Record 161 page 487 in the Recorder's Office of said County.  
 More commonly known as: 1511 Southside Dr, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Parcel No. : 54-10-05-443-109.000-030  
 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein  
 S. Brent Potter Sheriff of Montgomery County  
 10900-49  
 Doyle & Fouty, P.C.  
 41 E Washington Street  
 Suite 400  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 Union Township  
 1511 Southside Dr, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Street Address  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein  
**SERVICE DIRECTED TO:**  
 Serena V. Smith  
 1511 Southside Dr  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
**MANNER OF SERVICE:** Sheriff  
 David Stewart  
 30 S. Meridian Street, Suite 900  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
**MANNER OF SERVICE:** Certified Mail  
**NOTICE**  
**DOYLE & FOUTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR**  
*PL4773 11/29 12/6 12/13 3t hspaxlp*

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2305-MF-000444 wherein MidFirst Bank was Plaintiff, and The Unknown Heirs at Law of Sandra Huddleson, Deceased were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 10th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.  
 Lot Numbered Twenty-four (24) in Block Numbered Twenty-seven (27), except the East 75 feet thereof, as the same is known and designated on the recorded Plat of Israel T. Canby's Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana.  
 More commonly known as: 418 S Washington St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Parcel No. : 54-10-05-222-091.000-030  
 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.  
 Scott A. Hale Sheriff of Montgomery County  
 35534-64  
 Doyle & Fouty, P.C.  
 41 E Washington Street  
 Suite 400  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 Union Township  
 418 S Washington St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Street Address  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein  
**SERVICE DIRECTED TO:**  
 Occupant(s) of 418 S Washington St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 418 S Washington St  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
**MANNER OF SERVICE:** Sheriff  
**NOTICE**  
**DOYLE & FOUTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR**  
*PL4776 11/29 12/6 12/13 3t hspaxlp*

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY**  
**CRAWFORDSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission will receive bids for the purchase and sale of a certain parcel of real estate located in Crawfordsville, Indiana: 6.01 acres within Parcel No. 54-07-20-300-011.006-028 along Concord Road in the Crawfordsville Commerce Park. The Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission shall convey its rights, title, and interest in the subject real estate to the successful bidder by Warranty Deed. The Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission makes no warranties or representations with respect to the subject real estate or title to the same.  
 The Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission may establish a minimum bid for any particular parcel and reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any particular parcel of real estate.  
 An Offering Sheet that more fully discloses and describes the subject parcels of real estate will be available for inspection and copying by prospective purchasers at the Crawfordsville Planning Department office located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana, beginning December 8, 2023.  
 The Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission will open and consider offers to purchase the property at a meeting to be held on December 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the Crawfordsville City Building—Council Chambers located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Offers to purchase may be delivered, in writing, to the Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission at any time before the meeting.  
*PL4785 12/6 1t hspaxlp*

**Thanks for reading The Paper!**

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# Ivy Tech Community College And Marian University Selected As The 2023 Stan Jones Award Recipients

The award winners will be honored during the 2023 Student Advocates Conference

Ivy Tech Community College and Marian University have been named the winners of the 2023 Stan Jones Student Success Award as recognition for the institutions' promising student success practices. Both institutions will be honored at the 2023 Student Advocates Conference, an annual conference hosted by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. This year's event will be held on December 7 in a virtual format.

The theme of the conference, "Now What? A Roadmap to Programmatic Changes for Student Success," will focus on the recent historic changes to Indiana's higher education programs. Led by Commission staff and partners, attendees will hear about initiatives such as 21st Century Scholars automatic enrollment, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Indiana College Core expansion, the My College Core tool, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and programs impacting military and adult learners.

In addition to these sessions, Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery will engage in a fireside chat about student success and Indiana's higher education landscape around the shared items in the Commission's legislative priorities and the

Governor's Next Level Agenda.

"The Student Advocates Conference amplifies the critical work being done in our classrooms and on our campuses to encourage students to enroll in and complete their postsecondary education," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "This year's focus on Indiana's strategic initiatives will contribute to the larger conversation of how our programs can better support Hoosier students. I invite all thought leaders, supporters of higher education and student advocates to join us for an informative and hopeful day."

The Stan Jones Student Success Award is named after the late Stan Jones, founder and former president of Complete College America and former Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education. The award was created in 2017 and recognizes university campuses with promising practices that support student success initiatives on their campus and beyond.

"The initiatives put forth by Ivy Tech Community College and Marian University are exemplary of the student support practices needed to advance college access and readiness," said Lowery. "Ivy Tech and Marian's dedication to Hoosier students aligns

with the Commission's priorities of increasing college enrollment and completion and ensuring we have a quality workforce in Indiana. I applaud both institutions for creating innovative programs that meet the needs of our students, families and state."

2023 Stan Jones Student Success Award Winners:  
**Ivy Tech Community College**

Ivy Tech Community College's Ivy+ Textbooks is a digital-first, equitable access program in which students are charged a flat per-credit-hour fee for any required course materials. The program has saved students more than \$34.2 million in textbook and courseware costs. Ivy+ Textbooks is an exemplary, interdepartmental student success model that provides students with the opportunity to pursue their education with less burden of the cost of textbooks and materials.

"Ivy Tech is dedicated to providing students with an excellent education at an affordable price, and Ivy+ Textbooks is a prime example of how we're innovating to respond to the needs of today's students," said Dr. Sue Ellspermann, president, Ivy Tech Community College. "When students have first-day access to high quality course materials at an affordable and

predictable price, they're able to focus their energy on what matters most: learning."

\*\*\*

**Marian University**  
The Launch Your Future Summer Camp at Marian University is an annual, week-long program to assist local 21st Century Scholar high school students in completing Scholar Success Program (SSP) requirements and learning more about post-secondary and career options. Led by current Marian University 21st Century Scholar college mentors, the program includes opportunities for Scholars to complete any remaining ScholarTrack requirements, understand more about the 21st Century Scholars program and engage with currently enrolled 21st Century Scholars.

"We are delighted to be recognized as a 2023 Stan Jones award winner as our program allows us to empower and encourage high school students to begin their first year as college students," said Kalyn Rudow, executive director of Marian's 21st Century Scholars program. "We believe supporting high school students about college life, connecting them with current students, giving advice, and resources, supports student success and empowers them to be future leaders for service to the world."

# Indianapolis City-County Council Presents Special Resolution To Lt. Gov. Crouch

The special resolution is for her work on mental illness and addiction

For her effort in organizing the inaugural Indiana Mental Health Roundtable Summit, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch was presented with a special resolution by the Indianapolis City-County Council on Monday night, Dec. 4, 2023, during a regular meeting of the Council.

In addition to her work on the May Mental Health Summit, the resolution also acknowledged: "Lt. Governor Crouch, who throughout her many years of public service has been committed to programs and services for people with disabilities, led the charge in instituting the Indiana Mental Health Roundtable (IMHR), committed to partnering with institutions and organizations, both public and private, to: 1) reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, 2) strengthen the mental health delivery system, and 3) improve access and affordability to resources; and..."

"It was an honor to stand in front of the Indianapolis City-County

Council and be presented with this resolution," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "But, I accepted this award on behalf of everyone who serves with me on the Indiana Mental Health Roundtable and for other state leaders, like Senator Mike Crider and Representative Greg Steuerwald, who are strong advocates for Hoosiers battling mental illness or addiction issues."

The Indianapolis City-County Special Resolution, sponsored by council member La Keisha Jackson, also brought attention to the lieutenant governor's historic testimony on behalf of Senate Enrolled Act 1 in front of the Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee in January. SEA 1, passed by both legislative chambers and signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb, is considered the most significant legislation ever advanced in Indiana to address mental illness and addiction issues.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that Montgomery County, by and through its Board of County Commissioners, will receive sealed bids for the construction of:  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2023-2 CCMG PROJECT**  
**CONCORD RD FROM CITY LIMITS TO CR 400 N**  
**CR 150 S FROM LADOGA RD TO NUCOR RD**  
**CR 700 N FROM US 231 TO CR 100 W**  
**CR 600 S FROM US 47 TO NEW MARKET TOWN LIMITS**  
**CR 600 S FROM NEW MARKET TOWN LIMITS TO US 231**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA**

Sealed proposals will be received at the Montgomery County Commissioner's Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville IN. 47933 4:00 P.M. (local time) on January 5th, 2023. All proposals will then be publicly opened and read aloud during the County Commissioner's meeting, which begins on January 8th at 8:00 A.M. (local time). Any proposals received after the above-designated time will be returned unopened.

The proposed construction will include wedge and level of the existing roadway along with a 1.5-inch HMA Surface overlay and all incidental work required, as more fully specified in the Contract Documents and Plans.

All proposals must be submitted on State Board of Accounts Form No. 96 together with the proper forms included in the Contract Documents, the entire set of which shall be filed intact as a bid.

The contract documents are available at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com). This contract is QuestCDN project number 8848849. A contractor may view the contract documents at no cost prior to deciding to be a planholder. To be considered a planholder for bids, a contractor must register with QuestCDN.com and purchase the contract documents in digital form at a cost of \$22.00. Registering for all prime contractors and subcontractors is recommended as planholders will receive automatic notice of addendums and other contract document updates via QuestCDN. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in membership registration or downloading digital project information.

Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets of drawings and Contract Documents and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets of drawings and Contract Documents.

**SECURITY:** Any person, firm or corporation who submits a proposal MUST file with their bid a CERTIFIED CHECK, BANK DRAFT, CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER issued by a financial institution insured by an agency of the United States in the amount of five percent (5%), made payable to the Treasurer of Montgomery County. In lieu of the above, any person, firm or corporation who submits a proposal and has a principal place of business in the State of Indiana MAY file with their proposal a BID BOND in the amount of five percent (5%), made payable to the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County.

Proposals may be held by the Board of Commissioners for a period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the public opening.

The successful Contractor will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, each, within ten (10) days after award of the contract and a two (2) year Maintenance Bond in the amount of thirty percent (30%) of the contract price prior to completion and final payment of the contract.

No Contractor may withdraw his proposal within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to ask for clarification for any bid submitted. In comparing bids, consideration will not be confined to price only. The successful bid will be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, however the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any proposal, to waive technicalities or irregularities therein, to delete any bid item or items and to award a contract on the proposal that in their judgment is most advantageous to Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners  
John E. Frey, President  
Jim Fulwider, Vice President  
Dan Guard, Member  
PL4770 11/29 12/6 21 hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2212-MF-001099, wherein Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC was Plaintiff, and Stacia L. Hiller and PNC Mortgage, a division of PNC Bank, National Association were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 10th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PART OF THE WEST HALF OF LOT NUMBERED SEVEN (7) AS THE SAME IS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE TOWN OF LONGVIEW, NOW A PART OF THE CITY OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 50 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SAID LOT AND RUNNING THENCE EAST 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF SAID LOT; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF WEST HALF OF SAID LOT 50 FEET; THENCE WEST 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT; THENCE NORTH 50 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA.

More commonly known as 204 S Barr St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933-2303  
Parcel No. 54-07-31-334-098.000-030  
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

/s/ Matthew S. Love  
MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney  
Attorney # 18762-29  
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.  
8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400  
Indianapolis, IN 46250  
(317) 237-2727  
Ryan Needham, Sheriff  
Union Township  
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

### NOTICE

**FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.**  
PL4775 11/29 12/6 12/13 3t hspaxlp

### TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2304-MF-000350, wherein MCLP Asset Company, Inc. was Plaintiff, and William Bulan, Shannon Bulan, Midland Funding LLC, Cavalry SPV I LLC and Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 10th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Sheriff's Office at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

Lot 2, as the same is known and designated on the recorded plat of Mt. Zion Courts Subdivision No. 1, as subdivision of Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 19 North, Range 5 West, in Union Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, as the same appears of record in Deed Record 170 page 583 in the Recorder's Office of said County.

More commonly known as: 1030 North Mount Zion Court, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Parcel No. 54-06-26-443-020.000-024  
Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.  
"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 54C01-2304-MF-000350 in the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Indiana."  
Attorney for Plaintiff: J. Dustin Smith  
ATTORNEY NO. 29493-06  
Manley Deas Kochalski LLC  
P.O. Box 165028  
Columbus OH 43216-5028  
Union Township  
Sheriff of Montgomery County  
Union Township  
1030 North Mount Zion Court  
Street Address  
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PL4769 11/29 12/6 12/13 3t hspaxlp

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THE PAPER

Thanks for reading The Paper!

**LWV** From Page A1

ment and contributed to the conspiratorial distrust that is now an all-out furor on social media. While it's convenient and quick to reach for our phones to doomscroll and rage post on TikTok or X about the government's sneaky, overreach and bemoan our lack of agency, we don't have to throw our hands up and blame those in power. We can take action – democracy by nature allows this – by shining the light of transparency starting in our local government, we can chase away the shadows of subterfuge and hearsay.

It's one of the functions of the League of Women Voters. The LWV provides citizens opportunities to inform one another on the workings of the government – the observer corps. The observer corps provides direct access, without the media, which Thomas Jefferson called the de facto fourth branch of the government. The observer corps works when average citizens commit themselves to one to two hours a month attending a board or committee meeting, taking notes, and providing their notes to the League which posts it for anyone to read.

Leading up to the pandemic in Montgomery County, members of our local LWV led the state in a robust, functioning observer corps, but the pandemic re-ordered our lives and time. Almost four years from March 2020, surrounding Leagues are reviving their observer corps and our League would like to join them.

Nearby, in Tippecanoe County, Ken Jones heads up the League of Women Voters Lafayette observers. In November, he presented how they re-engaged their members at to LWV of Montgomery County's quarterly membership meeting. The Lafayette League resumed its observers over a year ago with a powerful why. At the moment, many of the members of LWV Lafayette were active on the Diversity Roundtable and they noticed how often the police had been in the news. Members wanted to understand how that agency was working. To better understand incidents between police and citizens and to understand the goals of newly elected school board officials, passionate LWV members agreed to become observers.

The observer corps works with the legal requirements for local, state and federal government to increase transparency and accountability. In Indiana, the open door law passed in 1977 and amended in 2016 gives the public access to meetings held by public agencies. This means any citizen may attend a meeting to witness the government in action and participate in the process. A citizen at a public meeting may play one of two very different

roles in the meeting – quiet observer or advocate. The former watches, notes, heeds, pays attention to and complies with the board or committee. The latter is present to plead in favor of a stance. While LWV members may either observe or advocate, those roles work when separated. If a member is passionate enough to need to speak up, they should attend as an advocate rather than an observer to avoid confusion, Jones cautions. It's important to avoid opinion creeping into the reports and to separate the mandate of the League from the personal motivations, he notes.

An observer, Jones presented to LWVMC, serves the public in an increasingly urgent manner as communities lose their local media and news reporters. Observers give other citizens a chance to read the voting record of elected officials, allow interested citizens to know what decisions are made, facilitate understanding of publicly funded projects – and give us a chance to respond with input/buy-in – and empower others to advocate so that public leaders are accountable to the will of the people. This is how it's done in a representative democracy. This is how we take back agency.

Whereas Montgomery County's LWV observed more than 20 boards and committees pre-pandemic, Lafayette's corp had been dormant. The Lafayette League revived only four observations – those of the county commissioners, county council, school board and police commission. Why only these? Because these boards mattered most to members. Jones and the Lafayette League took care to honor the interests and values of members.

Observing requires little formal training, Jones says, but he does ask members be committed to separating advocacy from observation, taking uniform notes using the LWV template, showing up to meetings, and being persistent when portions of meetings are in "executive session," which is a private portion of the meeting, until the public portion.

As with all major tasks, many hands make the load light. Here in Montgomery County, we have a robust membership, and if members commit to one to two hours a month, attending a meeting that incites their curiosity or interests, they can empower fellow members to advocate when issues arise.

Despite high levels of trust in our local government, anyone who reads a Montgomery County chat group knows that we have citizens who doubt, challenge, and distrust this or that office. Perhaps they resist a stoplight at a certain intersection, are upset that the city hasn't

recruited a specific grocery or food chain, question who makes the ballot or not, they're frustrated with housing shortages, distrust this or that judge, spread opinions on this or that law enforcement officer, wonder why we don't have more clinics or mental health providers, why some book is in a library or certain changes happen in schools. The most effective way to combat rumors and distrust is to invite those people to see for themselves. Become a member (we have scholarships!) and join the observer corps!

\*\*\*

Coming up this week! Quick teaser: Medical care is not race, gender or ethnically "blind." Ignoring cancers that affect women, differences in how women experience cardiac events and autism, all of these recent "realizations" in medicine are predated by the mind-bending experimentation and damaging "blindness" when gynecologists developed treatments for cesarean sections, ovariectomies, and obstetric fistulas. We'll discuss how understandings of race, socioeconomic, gender and ethnicity.

For those who'd like to learn more and can't access the book, here's a lovely talk: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/video-medical-bondage-race-gender-and-origins-american-gynecology-deirdre-cooper-owens>

Our discussion will be Dec. 6 from 7-8:30pm. We'll have our annual Yankee Bookswap Holiday party and reading list collection on Jan 3 at Backstep Brewing. We'll be setting up the reading list for the year.

Additionally, the upcoming State Legislative Breakfast Series from the Chamber of Commerce on Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. with a number of our elected officials including Diego Morales, Secretary of State, as well as Brian Buchanan, Senate District 7; Sharon Negele, House District 13; Jeff Thompson, House District 28; Mark Genda, House District 41; Beau Baird, House District 44; and Spencer Deery, Senate District 23.

The event will be at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center 1623 S. US HWY 231. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Registration is required. <https://crawfordsvillechamber.weblinkconnect.com/atlas/events/statelegislative%20breakfast%20dec%209-3228/register>

*-The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website [www.lwvmontcoin.org](http://www.lwvmontcoin.org); or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.*

**BAIRD** From Page A1

proceedings. "I wanted to gain a better understanding of what DCS is doing in our community to help kids who are victims of abuse or neglect," Baird said. "As a legislator, it's important to get an idea of what resources they have and what they're lacking, as well as the quality of care these children are receiving."

According to the latest DCS data, there were less than 100 children with pending cases from Putnam County in October. That's down from over 170 children in early 2020.

Baird said the number is also trending down in Montgomery County, where Montgomery County's Family Recovery Court serves parents in child abuse or neglect cases who have substance use disorders to help them keep their families together. Program partners include the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office, local mental health and addiction treatment providers, and the Crawfordsville Fire Department's Project Swaddle, which provides pregnant women and new mothers home visits for additional prenatal and postpartum support services. The program is open to soon-to-be mothers within the first trimester of pregnancy and up to 90 days post-

partum. Referral forms are available under the Useful Links tab on the Crawfordsville Fire Department's webpage at [Crawfordsville.net](http://Crawfordsville.net).

Court Appointed Special Advocates are also program partners. CASA volunteers are community members who are trained to advocate for abused and neglected children in the child welfare system. There are also Guardians ad Litem who do the same work but in court proceedings. More information on volunteering can be found at [in.gov/courts/iocs](http://in.gov/courts/iocs).

Baird noted that 70% of Montgomery County Family Recovery Court cases result in children being reunited with their parents.

"Some of these families have not had positive experiences in courtrooms, so it's encouraging to see all these officials work together to improve their outcomes," Baird said. "I'm thrilled to see how much our community cares about these children."

With the 2024 legislative session starting in January, and to continue improving efforts to protect Hoosier children and serve families, Baird encouraged constituents to reach out to him with input, ideas and concerns by emailing [h44@iga.in.gov](mailto:h44@iga.in.gov) or calling 317-232-9600.

**TIM**

From Page A1

we publish yet – but if we do, what's the magic number?

One seems a bit low. But is five too many? Is every other day better? Two times a week? I know we're all busy, so what sort of schedule fits best with you? What's your routine?

We send out our electronic carrier force – I like to think of it like a fleet of cute little electronic boys and girls on bicycles – bright and early at 4 a.m. Statistics from our partners at Constant Contact show that a fair amount of you read it between that 4 a.m. and 5:30. And that most of you read it after 8 a.m.

Some days are more well-read than others – although that varies.

That said, before we make any decisions, here's one more request for your input – and one more thank you! Sincerely! To respond, just shoot me an e-mail ([ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com)) and let me know what you think. Frequency is the question, but like last time – I enjoy hearing any thoughts you have.

*-Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).*

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