

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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**Brought to you by:**



**TODAY'S VERSE**

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**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** The Paper has an immediate opening for someone who is good with computers and creative to help build our daily pages. The job pays between \$12 and \$15 an hour, depending on experience. If interested, please send resume to [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).

**2** It was love at first sight when a deer made a romantic Christmas pass at an ornamental doe in the front yard of a Camp Nelson, CA home recently. The statuesque female of the species didn't have a chance when the would-be boyfriend sought to get passionate. His embrace resulted in considerable damage to the figurine and it was all caught on tape thanks to a security camera.



Photo courtesy of United Way in Montgomery County

Michele Hunley (2023 campaign chair), Kayla Bretney (UWMC board member), Dr. Kathy Steele (2022 campaign chair)

**2023 United Way In MoCo Campaign**

Every year when the calendar flips to December, United Way in Montgomery County begins to wrap up their annual campaign. This fundraising drive is a way for us to rally together to financially support the daily operations of over 19 non-profit agencies that serve this community.

Because this campaign depends on the generosity of local donors, it is imperative to understand the need right here in Montgomery County. We

face some serious challenges in our community. Food insecurity is becoming one of the largest. In 2022, Grace & Mercy Food Pantry served an average of 890 families per month; this year they are averaging close to 1,300! Substance abuse continues to plague our county. Our Recovery Coalition Rec Center saw a 275% increase in 2023 of those striving to maintain their sobriety. Montgomery County

➔ See UNITED Page A6

**You Talked, We Listened, Are Changes Coming**



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

What's that old saying, don't ask a question if you don't want to know the answer? Truth to tell, I was more than pleasantly surprised at

the volume of responses. A lot of you took the time to share your thoughts and ideas to two questions we asked: How often do you want your edition of Montgomery County's favorite and are you willing to pay a bit more for it.

Heck, some of you even wrote back more than once with ideas.

Thank you so much! Like I've said in this space before, this paper has the smartest, kindest and best readers anywhere!

The results weren't exactly what I was hoping for.

Although the answers ranged from every day to once a week, the majority came in at two or three times a week.

And on the price, almost everyone said a higher price would be OK.

So beginning at the end of this month, we are going to come out three days a week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On the price, we are not going to change the \$42 annual subscription, however, that is a price increase since we'll have fewer editions. We will continue to bill on a pro-rated basis so that all of our subscriptions expire Dec. 31.

And we are not making any changes to our Print Edition schedule. It will still come out on Wednesdays, although we are going to bump up that price from \$79 a year to \$89.

For me, a newspaper guy, not putting out The Paper every day has a lot of mixed emotions. On one hand - the biggest hand - a wonderful boss decades ago taught me to listen to the customer. She said they may not always be right, but they should always be listened to and respected. Gail Hamilton was

➔ See TIM Page A6

**Food Waste VS. Food Need**



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.lwvmontcoin.org](http://www.lwvmontcoin.org) or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

One favorite holiday tradition across the U.S. is Christmas cookie baking and decorating, something we'll do here in another two weeks. A small crowd of kids will gather in the kitchen to cut out 200 sugar cookies in

all shapes and sizes. Once the cookies are cooled, we'll ice and decorate with a mélange of mini M&Ms, Red Hots, sprinkles of all types, colored sugars, tiny confection stars and snowmen or silver sparkles. Mothers, grandmothers and aunts handed down this tradition, the only sanctioned contribution we kids could make, mostly likely to preserve their sanity.

Growing up, mothers and aunts sweated over vats of sugar and butter rendered into toffee topped with milk chocolate and nuts, followed by Rice Krispie treats covered in chocolate and butterscotch chips, thumbprints cookies filled with jam, swirly butter cookies with jaw-cracking silver balls, church windows made with chocolate, coconut and colored marshmallows, haystacks made from chocolate chips, nuts and "chow mein noodles," peanut butter kiss cookies, seven layer bars, divinity, fudges, you name it.

November and December are feasting months for many households in the U.S. One imagines that similar seasons occur during Ramadan, Diwali, Passover and the Chinese New Year, among other cultural celebrations. Countertops disappear under platters and pans of meats, casseroles, salads, bread, nuts, fruits and candies, most of which will be divvied up or packed back into car trunks by overstuffed adults waddling uncomfortably around the dining room and kitchen, unless it's thrown away.

One hates to think how many of those dishes and sweets ended up in thick black bags mingled with wrapping paper and disposable plates. Outside the bags, many foods would be compostable, rich fodder for anyone's flower or vegetable gardens, while the meat might be a nice treat for the dogs and

➔ See LWV Page A6

**The Daily Almanac**

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:59 a.m.  
SET: 5:24 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 42 °F  
Low: 25 °F



Today is...

- National Cocoa Day
- National Day of the Horse
- National Violin Day



What Happened On This Day

- 2003 Saddam Hussein Captured. Saddam Hussein, the fifth president of Iraq, was found hiding in a camouflaged hole in the ground and was captured by American forces near Tikrit, Iraq.
- 1972 Last human landing on the Moon. Apollo 17 was the last mission of the United States' Apollo lunar landing program. It was also the sixth and the last time humans landed on the Moon.
- 1795 Meteorite crashes into Wold Newton in Yorkshire, England.. Major Edward Topham owned the land where the meteorite crashed. He exhibited it later, and today it is in the Natural History Museum in London.



Births On This Day

- 1902 Talcott Parsons American sociologist
- 1818 Mary Todd Lincoln American wife of Abraham Lincoln, 17th First Lady of the United States

Deaths On This Day

- 1944 Wassily Kandinsky Russian/French painter
- 1784 Samuel Johnson English author, lexicographer

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

One or two sugary drinks a day can increase your risk of developing diabetes by 25 percent. 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**

Public Notices .....A4  
Classifieds.....A3

**MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

Community Forum:

Mayor Barton will be hosting his December Community Forum on Thursday, THURSDAY 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**  
John William Brierley, Jr

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."  
-Charles Dickens

**TODAY'S JOKE**

How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas? Fleece Navidad!

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



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**7 DAY FORECAST**

<b>28/46</b> SUNNY, NOT AS COLD	<b>25/42</b> PARTLY SUNNY	<b>22/46</b> SUNNY	<b>26/51</b> MOSTLY SUNNY	<b>28/51</b> ABOVE AVERAGE	<b>30/55</b> BALMY FOR DECEMBER	<b>31/46</b> SUNNY, COOLER
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

## OBITUARIES

### John William Brierley, Jr

September 23, 1950, Saturday, December 9, 2023

John William Brierley Jr, age 73 of Crawfordsville, passed away on December 9, 2023. He was born in Danville, Illinois on September 23, 1950 to the late John William and Georgia Elizabeth (Rison) Brierley.



John graduated from Georgetown High School and received an associates degree in auto diesel mechanics from Danville Junior College. John married the love of his life, Patricia Karen McMahon, on October 7, 1989. He worked at Wabash College as a custodian for 27 years. John had a passion for music and enjoying going to concerts. Although he was a simple man, he enjoyed helping people, especially while working at Wabash.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years; two children, Heather Brierley and John R. Brierley; two stepchildren, Kevin Blue and Crista Blue White; seven grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and two siblings, Wanda Schmidt and James Brierley

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Yvonne Sherman, Paul Brierley, and Mary Anne Brierley

A visitation will be held at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S. Washington Street in Crawfordsville on Thursday, December 14, 2023 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. A visitation will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1086 N 125 W in Crawfordsville on Friday, December 15, 2023 from 12:00 pm until the time of funeral services at 1:00 pm. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).

## Meeting Notes

### Montgomery County Redevelopment Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

1:00 pm  
 Montgomery County Government Center  
 1580 Constitution Row - Suite E  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933

In person & Via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86402381480?pwd=R0lnNDRnUzNk-MGRFVjJGM0pNMGRP-dz09>

Meeting ID: 864 0238  
 1480 Passcode: 103700  
 Call to Order by Chairman Ron Dickerson  
 Consideration of Minutes

November 8, 2023  
 Public Hearing Re: Amending Declaratory

Resolutions and Original Allocation Area, the Nucor Towers Allocation Area, the Nucor Coatings Allocation Area and the Nucor 2023 Allocation Area

Resolution 2023-5 Resolution Confirming the Resolutions of the Montgomery Redevelopment Commission Adopted on November 8, 2023

New Business  
 RQAW/DCCM - Nucor Road & Comfort Drive Intersection Improvement Staff Reports  
 Approve Claims  
 Other Business  
 Adjournment

\*\*Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:00 Regular Meeting\*\*

## Montgomery County Lawmakers Encourage Constituents To Take 2024 Issue Survey

### Indiana's next legislative session to begin Jan. 8 at Statehouse

With Indiana's lawmakers set to return to the Statehouse on Jan. 8 for the start of the 2024 legislative session, Montgomery County legislators released online surveys to gather constituents' feedback on important issues.

To get started on the survey, lawmakers ask Hoosiers to visit their state representative's webpage at one of the following links and click on the red "Take My Survey" button:

- State Rep. Beau Baird, House District 44, [in.gov/h44](http://in.gov/h44);
- State Rep. Mark Genda, House District 41, [in.gov/h41](http://in.gov/h41); or
- State Rep. Sharon

Negele, House District 13, [in.gov/h13](http://in.gov/h13).

"It's always beneficial to hear from Hoosiers in my district on the topics that are most important to them," Baird said. "I hope they find my survey to be a valuable tool to easily share their thoughts ahead of the legislative session."

To complete online surveys, constituents must be a resident of the district and submit it by the Dec. 31 deadline. Constituents can check which House district they reside in by visiting the Indiana General Assembly's website at [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov), clicking on "Find Your Legislator" on the homepage and entering a home address.

Constituents can also expect to receive or may have already received a copy of their state representative's survey mailer in their mailbox.

"As I prepare for the upcoming legislative session, it helps to know what Hoosiers consider to be the most important topics to focus on," Genda said. "Taking my survey, and following session in person or online are great ways to stay engaged."

The 2024 legislative session begins Jan. 8 and must conclude by March 14. Hoosiers can stay informed and engaged by visiting [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov), where they can watch session and committee meetings,

read proposed bills, and view calendars and agendas.

"I'm eager for those I represent at the Statehouse to weigh in with their feedback," Negele said. "Please visit my website today and share your thoughts or be on the lookout for my mailed survey to complete. Your responses matter and I value your input."

To stay updated during the legislative session, Hoosiers can sign up for their legislator's email newsletter by visiting [IndianaHouseRepublicans.com](http://IndianaHouseRepublicans.com) and entering their email address under "Subscribe to eNews" or by calling 317-232-9600.

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Meeting Notes

# Annual Notice of Public Meeting—2024 Historic Preservation Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Crawfordsville will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Meetings are subject to rescheduling and special meetings may be scheduled as necessary. The regular scheduled meetings will be as follows:

- January 24, 2024
- February 28, 2024
- March 27, 2024
- April 24, 2024

- May 22, 2024
- June 26, 2024
- July 24, 2024
- August 28, 2024
- September 25, 2024
- October 23, 2024
- November 27, 2024
- December 25, 2024

Department of Planning & Building Services City of Crawfordsville  
300 E. Pike Street  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765.364.5152 p.  
765.364.5177 f.  
Notice Date: December 5, 2023  
If you have any questions, please call Mayor Barton's office at 765-364-5160. Also,

in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend, hear or speak at the public meeting and needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Building Services so accommodation can be made. The Department may be contacted at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, Fax No. 765-364-5177, Telephone No. 765-364-5152. Brandy Allen, City of Crawfordsville ADA Coordinator; ballen@crawfordsville-in.gov.

# Annual Notice Of Public Meeting — 2024 Redevelopment Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Redevelopment Commission of the City of Crawfordsville will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. All meetings are held in the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Floor Two, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Meetings are subject to rescheduling and special meetings may be scheduled as necessary. The meeting dates are as follows unless notified otherwise:

- January 16, 2024
- February 20, 2024
- March 19, 2024
- April 16, 2024

- May 21, 2024
- June 18, 2024
- July 16, 2024
- August 20, 2024
- September 17, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- December 17, 2024

Department of Planning & Building Services City of Crawfordsville  
300 E. Pike Street  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765.364.5152 p.  
765.364.5177 f.  
Notice Date: December 5, 2023  
If you have any questions, please call Mayor Barton's office at 765-364-5160. Also,

in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend, hear or speak at the public meeting and needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Building Services so accommodation can be made. The Department may be contacted at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, Fax No. 765-364-5177, Telephone No. 765-364-5152. Brandy Allen, City of Crawfordsville ADA Coordinator; ballen@crawfordsville-in.gov.

# Annual Notice Of Public Meeting—2024 Plan Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Plan Commission of the City of Crawfordsville will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Meetings are subject to rescheduling and special meetings may be scheduled as necessary. The regular scheduled meetings will be as follows on the third Tuesday of each month:

- January 16, 2024
- February 20, 2024
- March 19, 2024

- April 16, 2024
- May 21, 2024
- June 18, 2024
- July 16, 2024
- August 20, 2024
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Department of Planning & Building Services City of Crawfordsville  
300 E. Pike Street  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765.364.5152 p.  
765.364.5177 f.  
Notice Date: December 5, 2023  
If you have any questions, please call Mayor Barton's office at 765-364-

5160. Also, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend, hear or speak at the public meeting and needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Building Services so accommodation can be made. The Department may be contacted at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, Fax No. 765-364-5177, Telephone No. 765-364-5152. Brandy Allen, City of Crawfordsville ADA Coordinator; ballen@crawfordsville-in.gov.

# Annual Notice Of Public Meeting — 2024 Board of Zoning Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Crawfordsville will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 o'clock P.M. in the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Meetings are subject to rescheduling and special meetings may be scheduled as necessary. The regular scheduled meetings will be as follows on the third Wednesday of each month:

Notice Date: December 5, 2023  
Department of Planning

& Building Services City of Crawfordsville  
300 E. Pike Street  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765.364.5152 p.  
765.364.5177 f.  
• January 17, 2024  
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WELCOME OUR NEW DOCTOR  
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**765.485.8340**

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<p><b>Crawfordsville</b> 407 E. Market Street</p>	<p><b>Frankfort</b> 2485 E. Wabash Street</p>

Witham.org

— 9<sup>th</sup> Annual —

# SHARED VALUES AWARD

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

## \$5,000 DONATION

1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up \$2,500  
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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# 5 Simple Holiday Hosting Hacks

(Family Features) Entertaining friends and loved ones during the holidays offers an opportunity to slow down from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and make lasting memories. The key is getting ahead of hosting duties so you can be present with family and friends.

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**Make this season's holiday hosting** effortless and enjoyable with these tips:

1. Stick with a simple menu. There's no need to create an elaborate menu with complex dishes that take hours to prepare. Instead, build your menu around easy crowd-pleasers. Save the experimenting with new recipes and ingredients for another time when you're less likely to feel the pressure. Be sure to consider your guests' likes and dislikes and be conscious of potential dietary restrictions.
2. Serve beverages with festive flair. A beverage station is a fun and unexpected way to infuse some extra holiday cheer into your event. Offer cozy options like hot chocolate and coffee, along with an array of seasonal mix-ins and flavors. Convenient and tasty options to have on-hand for the holidays are Starbucks creamers, featuring flavors inspired by café beverages like Caramel Macchiato, White Chocolate Mocha and Cinnamon Dolce Latte, all which are now available in limited-time red holiday packaging online and at your local grocery store.

Give your guests some festive drink inspiration to start with, such as this delicious holiday-themed recipe for Iced Gingerbread Caramel Coffee that is sure to become a favorite. For added fun, provide an array of toppings such as marshmallows, peppermint sticks and chocolate candies wrapped in colorful holiday wrappers.

3. Plan for entertainment. When a well-acquainted group gathers, the party has a way of taking on a life of its own. In case of a slow start, or if you're entertaining different groups of friends who don't know each other well, it's a good idea to prepare some options to get guests mingling and engaged. A playlist of holiday music creates a festive atmosphere and planning a few interactive games ahead of time can help break the ice.

4. Pace your preparations. Make a conscious effort to spread your party prep over the days and weeks leading up to your event. Saving all the cooking and cleaning until the day of the party only leaves hosts exhausted before guests even arrive. Instead, make a list of everything you need to accomplish around the house and tackle a few chores each night. Do your shopping a few days ahead so ingredients are still fresh but you aren't left scrambling. Prepare any dishes that can be refrigerated or frozen ahead of time.

5. Anticipate guests'

needs. The secret to great hosting isn't really a secret at all; it's simply making sure your guests feel welcome and comfortable. Providing a secure spot for coats and handbags, offering a drink when they arrive and making sure they can find essentials like the restroom may seem obvious, but they're easily overlooked basics. If you worry you'll be too busy in the kitchen putting the finishing touches on the meal, recruit a friend or family member to act in your place.

Find more inspiration and other holiday-worthy recipes at [athome.starbucks.com](http://athome.starbucks.com).

\*\*\*

### Iced Gingerbread Caramel Coffee

- Prep time: 3 minutes  
Yield: 16 ounces
- Drink:**  
1 cup ice  
4 tablespoons Starbucks Gingerbread Naturally Flavored Ground Coffee for double strength  
6 ounces water  
1 ounce Starbucks Caramel Macchiato Flavored Creamer
- Toppings:**  
whipped cream  
homemade or store-bought caramel sauce  
1 pinch nutmeg  
Place ice in 16-ounce glass.  
Brew gingerbread coffee with water and pour into glass.  
Add caramel creamer. Stir.  
Top with whipped cream, drizzle of caramel sauce and nutmeg.

# Give The Gift Of Better Mornings This Holiday Season

(StatePoint) The holiday season is the perfect time to show your friends and family you care about their well-being. And what better way to do that than with the gift of better mornings? From stay-at-home parents to nine-to-fivers, here are three gift ideas that will improve the early hours of their day.

1. Rise and shine: A morning is only as good as the night of sleep that preceded it. With a Restore device from Hatch, included wind down routines, soothing music, guided sleep exercises and sleep stories and sounds, can make falling and staying asleep easier at night. In the morning, an alarm light with 22 different colors makes for a gentler, individualized wake-up call, setting the tone for a peaceful and productive day.

2. The perfect cup of coffee: Those who like to linger over their morning cup of joe, or those who

easily get distracted mid-cup by work tasks, meetings or parenting duties, know all too well that a great cup of coffee can lose its steam by the time it's able to be enjoyed. Now, there is a solution for keeping one's favorite hot beverage the perfect temperature -- from first sip to last. Nextmug, a ceramic, temperature-controlled, self-heating mug, maintains an individual's beverage at their ideal temperature for hours. This eliminates trips to the microwave to reheat cold coffee, and means that whether one is stuck in an in-person meeting or a video call, their beverage will stay the right temperature the entire time. With three settings, Warm (130 degrees), Hot (140 degrees) and Piping (150 degrees), there is room to customize one's drink and enjoy it for hours. Ideal for home, the office or the home office, you can brighten

and improve mornings, wherever they take place. To learn more, visit [nextmug.com](http://nextmug.com).

3. Jazz up the shower: Take shower time to new heights by letting your loved one bring their favorite audio entertainment in there with them, be it an intellectually stimulating podcast that broadens their horizons or their favorite pop tunes. For students, this gift could even improve their academic success. With so many textbooks now available as audio recordings, shower time can become an opportunity to creatively squeeze in a study session and brush up on the latest material. Just make sure the speaker is listed as safe for the shower and that it can be hung or mounted easily.

This holiday season, brighten your loved ones' year ahead with gifts that make mornings easier, and more joyful and productive.

# Terre Haute Casino Set For Spring Opening, Regulators Say

Indiana Gaming Commission continues to cooperate with federal subpoenas

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's next casino — borne in an unsavory deal that's already resulted in one guilty plea — is expected to open in spring 2024, according to the Indiana Gaming Commission.

Construction is on track for an early April debut, Deputy Director Jenny Reske said Monday — although an associated hotel will open later.

"We've made sure that we facilitated all of the things they needed to do on the timeline they needed," Reske said. "We never want to be the reason to hold up a casino from opening. Things are moving right along."

The commission, which regulates Indiana's gambling industry, remains under two U.S. Department of Justice subpoenas. Governments use subpoenas to compel recipients to give testimony or produce evidence, with penalties

if the recipients fail to comply.

"We will continue to cooperate," Reske said. "We very much admire the Department of Justice and the things they're doing ... to fight public corruption and will continue to be as supportive as we can."

Indiana's industry has been rocked by recent scandals. One 2016 campaign finance scheme involved casino money and two former lawmakers: Brent Waltz and John Keebler. They were sentenced in 2022, although Waltz has since asked to overturn the sentence.

Another former lawmaker, Sean Eberhart, pleaded guilty last month in a quid pro quo: legislation favoring Spectacle Entertainment's efforts to build casinos in Terre Haute and Gary, in exchange for a lucrative job and equity.

In reaction to Eberhart's plea, legislative leaders have called off gambling expansions for at least the next session. The indus-

try has for several years sought to legalize internet gambling.

Reske said the agency wasn't preparing for imminent passage — in line with lawmakers' public ban — but was familiarizing itself with the topic to avoid being caught off guard.

"We'll continue to develop expertise on this. We're regulatory professionals; we understand that we sometimes need to rise to the challenge of new legislation," Reske said. "... So we'll continue to focus on learning, on being up to the task, if the legislation does pass."

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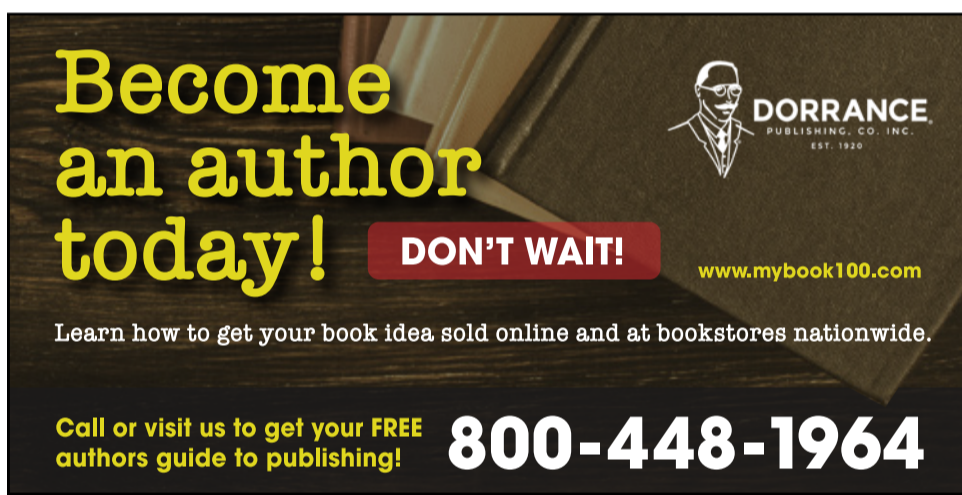


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**LWV** From Page A1

cats. Inside the bags, the food decomposes in a landfill gas, most of which is methane, a powerful greenhouse gas “with a lifetime of about a decade and Global Warming Potential about 80 times greater than carbon dioxide during the first 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere,” according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Methane is the cause of about one-third of the change in the warming of the Earth’s atmosphere. 14 percent of methane comes from landfill gases, 32 percent from natural gas and petroleum, 27 percent from enteric fermentation – by-products of meat production, 9 percent from manure management, and the rest from sources such as other landfills, coal mining and various sources, according to the EPA. In short, putting food into the trash instead of composting or consuming it contributes to climate change.

Not that we want to keep eating beyond what is reasonable. Most of us prefer not to pack on the extra pounds. How, then, should we prepare for holiday feasts, especially considering a healthy body and a healthy planet, and also being conscious of our food-insecure community members?

Lest you’ve not read the recent numbers, Feeding America reported last year that about 10.8 percent of Hoosiers lacked enough access at times in their lives for an active, healthy lifestyle. This means that adults skipped meals or ate highly processed foods where the essential natural nutrients have been cooked off or destroyed by chemical preservatives such as shelf stabilizers and artificial flavorings and colorings. Many convenience foods have been designed in laboratories to compel overconsumption, tricking the body’s innate messaging system to stop eating.

Plenty of ink has been spent documenting the interconnected food crises in the U.S. from food insecurity to obesity. Presently, about 38 percent of Hoosiers, nearly two of five, have high BMI’s (body mass index) – the measurement of obesity – putting them at greater risk of stroke, heart disease, type-2 diabetes and certain cancers, the Centers for Disease Control reports. Much of this isn’t because Americans eat like every day is a holiday. It’s that food-insecure people, usually those with lower education and income levels rely on Dollar Store and food bank grocery sources, which usually have shelf-stabilized food, which in turn has higher amounts of preservatives. Shelf stability comes from processing food so that companies don’t have to throw away as much and lose profits.

Here in the U.S., more food is highly processed, which increases waistlines for more of our population. In a recent piece on MSN, reporter Sumathi Reddi noted that Amer-

icans who spend time in Europe return feeling that they’ve over-indulged on vacation, only to discover they’ve lost weight. While the factors are complex – European cities tend to be more walkable and markets are often smaller – European nations have more stringent regulations about additives in food. The EU approves only 300 to 400 additives whereas the U.S. FDA has a list of more than 3,000 approved additives. As a result, Americans take 57 percent of their calories from highly refined, ultra-processed starchy, sugary, salty foods, compared to 12 percent by Europeans, even with their rich diets.

The good news seems to be that the body can handle some feasting, especially those hand-made treats and dishes we associate with our favorite holiday. Nevertheless, we may want to reduce our food waste and consumption, as well as share more for the holidays. It’s worth making a plan beforehand so we don’t end up like our forbearers, making all the food!

It’s fabulous to make less. Pick one dish and shine! Since everyone else is also bringing a dish, consider making an 8x8 instead of a 9x13, or one dozen, in place of two.

Even better, find a way to share more! If you just love cutting out all those treats and decorating them with the kids, make them for people who won’t get a plate of cookies and candies this season. Check with local shelters, outreach ministries or food banks to find out if they’d like your contributions. That’s where our 200 cookies are destined.

Waste wisely. Bring or set up a composting bucket and a feed bucket. Compost veggie caseroles, breads, fruit salads, even those cookies. If you know someone with chickens or goats, donate your leftovers to feed their farm animals. Share deboned meat with dogs and cats. Create signs asking your guests to sort and dispose of their food in the proper receptacle. Finally, if using disposable serving ware, choose compostable plates, forks, knives, spoons and cups. They’re readily available at Walmart, Kroger and other stores.

Last but not least, consider what you could freeze and reheat for lunch meals at work. Pack up your individual meals and label them. They’ll be good for the next couple of weeks.

Giving is as much fun as getting, and giving yourself and others a wiser food experience will season your holidays with an extra dash of satisfaction

*-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; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.*

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**UNITED** From Page A1

continues to be a childcare desert. United Way funds support five daycares and preschools ensuring families have access to a safe, educational environment. Affordable housing is extremely limited. Pam’s Promise, providing transitional housing for women & children (the hardest affected by this challenge), routinely has all available spots filled with a waiting list. Overall, with 12% of our community living in poverty and 25% more not able to afford all their basic needs despite being employed, many of our friends, family, and neighbors need access and assistance from one or more of these agencies at some point.

The good news is that so many have already stepped forward to give. Our local industries, public services, and businesses hold company campaigns to provide a way for employees to give through payroll deductions. Our very first such campaign was the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation. They have been slowly growing over the past few years but decided to get creative and try to challenge themselves – literally! The goal was to grow participation by 40% over the previous year. The reward was the opportunity to wear jeans to work anytime they desired all year long, not just on Fridays. That prompted much

spirit, and the team increased their participation by 127% and the funds raised increased by 72%! And there are many more examples: Acuity Brands and North Montgomery School Corporation each increased pledge amounts by 25%, Wabash College employees gave 21% more than last year, and Whitesville Mill Services had 100% employee participation. We are extremely grateful for these efforts, and for all our company partnerships. Their shared commitment to this community is vital.

United Way in Montgomery County is also so fortunate to have small businesses, local professionals, and many individuals who give to the campaign. This is so crucial and our biggest need this year. Our goal of \$375,000 is within reach. With additional end of the year donations, we can flip the calendar to January with the assurance that our Montgomery County non-profit agencies are equipped with the resources they need to help our community address our challenges in 2024.

All gifts, regardless of size, make a difference. Donations can be sent to United Way in Montgomery County, PO Box 247, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, with credit card at [uwmontgomery.org](http://uwmontgomery.org) or through Venmo (@uwmontgomery).

**TIM** From Page A1

wise beyond her years.

On the other hand though, I’m a guy who still struggles with not having a printed edition every day. I liked the ones that when you opened them up felt as wide as a ’57 Buick. I miss the Page 1 layouts that had a couple dozen stories with one giant headline across the top of the page.

That said, even I get most of my news now on an electronic screen.

Progress? Yeah, I guess. So what can you expect with the new schedule? Well, some old and some new. On the new side, we are already working on adding more local content. I’ll hold off on what exactly that means right now, but we think (and hope) you’ll like the new stuff and find value in it.

More than anything, we want to make The Paper

an even more important part of your lives. We want to give you “news you can use” so that you don’t ever want to miss a day.

And lastly, we – and I’m at the top of this list – hope that you will continue to share your thoughts, ideas and reactions. Please do tell me if you like what you see with our new schedule – or not. We love the idea that we are a business that does not make decisions in a vacuum and that you were kind enough to help us. You talk and we’ll keep listening.

*-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 [timmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:timmons@thepaper24-7.com).*

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