

Pike High School Graduate Brings Home Olympic Medals

CLASS OF 2017'S LYNNA IRBY LEFT TOKYO WITH GOLD, BRONZE, AND VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

By Maria Smietana

When sprinter Lynna Irby ran in her inaugural Olympics last month it was also a first for Pike High School. Several notable graduates from Hoosier high schools have represented the U.S. at past Olympics, but Irby is the only one to have worn the Red Devils jersey so far.

Competing in the Olympics was one of many firsts for Irby, who started breaking records almost as soon as she started running.

The 22-year-old Gary native spent her early years in Merrillville and started running with the Indiana Storm Track Club when she was 9 years old. It didn't take long to *Page 2*

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POWER WASHING**
Keeping Communities Clean

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PikePulse

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help build a stronger sense of community by keeping our fingers on the pulse of Pike Township and publishing positive, upbeat, and relevant news.

Pike Pulse is the only free newspaper in Pike Township that is delivered by the US Postal Service twice a month to every residential and business address.

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- Information about our religious diversity
- Neighborhood Associations news
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“It didn’t take long to see that she had a special talent. By age 12, she had set an all-time world record of 54.57 in the 400m dash.”

As a sophomore at Pike, Irby anchored the 4 x 400m team that won the state championship. She won silver medals in the 400m at both the 2015 World Youth Championships and the 2016 World Junior Championships, while also running on 4 x 400m relay teams that won gold. That was in addition to earning 16 national titles in Jr. Olympic and Youth National competitions.

By the time she graduated in 2017, she had truly set herself apart with her 12-12 state record, winning all three sprints (100m, 200m, and 400m) in all 4 years

of high school. It’s a record that still stands. She did it while maintaining a high GPA and taking some AP and honors courses. Perhaps most remarkably, she is remembered by some of her teachers and classmates not for her athletic achievements, but for her humility, unpretentious nature, and strong work ethic. Off the track, she seldom talked about running.

At the University of Georgia, where she studied for nearly two years before turning pro, Irby sprinted her way to a long list of achievements, most notably an NCAA championship in the outdoor 400m in her freshman year and Indoor Women’s Track Athlete of the Year honors from the USTFCCA in both years.

After moving to Florida to train with an elite group of sprinters sponsored by Adidas, Irby suffered a hamstring injury that took a long time to heal. Then she was hit again by the severe anxiety that had plagued her through most of her childhood and adolescence. She sought help from a sports psychologist, who helped her understand what triggers her anxiety, and gave her some valuable coping tools. And though she’s always been a private person, Irby joined other elite





athletes, including Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka, in going public with her mental health struggles. She encourages all young athletes to talk to someone before the pressure becomes overwhelming.

After the coronavirus epidemic stopped the world for most of 2020, it was time to get ready for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics. Irby finished sixth in the 400m at the U.S. Olympic trials, and while she later said she wasn't pleased with her performance, it was enough to earn her a spot on the U.S. team.

Tokyo would prove to be an emotional tornado, not only for Irby but for all the U.S. sprinters. In her first event, the mixed-gender 4 x 400m relay, Irby was laser-focused on making sure the baton hand-off from teammate Elijah Godwin went smoothly. It did, and Irby ran her leg of the race so well that it would move the U.S. team from fifth to first place. But it turned out that, thanks to confusing instructions from officials, Irby had unwittingly been standing in the wrong line on the track when she took her hand-off, an error that caused the U.S. team to be disqualified. They were reinstated on appeal the next day, but during the grueling wait, Irby was blamed for the mistake, and criticism was piled on her from all sides.

The team went on to claim their bronze medal, and Irby had gathered herself enough to tell the Indy Star's David Woods "I've calmed down. I've been taking things as they come. I feel good going forward."

On Aug 5, Irby did indeed go forward. Running in the preliminary round of the women's 4 x 400m relay, she contributing to the winning time, which assured that the U.S. women would run in the finals. Two days later, they bested Poland and Jamaica to bring home the gold.

Back at Pike High School for homecoming on the evening of September 10, Irby finally got the fan love and recognition she had earned. In the gym, she was gifted with a retired jersey while the school orchestra played. Her old high school coach, DeDe Nathan, an Olympic heptathlete and a Pike alum herself, flew in from North Carolina for the festivities.

During halftime in the Pike vs. Carmel game, Irby took to the field to hear congratulatory words and receive a hug from another notable Pike graduate, Governor Eric Holcomb, who was celebrating his 35th class reunion. Governor Holcomb already knew Irby, as he had presented her with Indiana's highest honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash, shortly after her high school graduation.

In a recent interview with Fox 59 News Bearshelle Edmé, Irby reassured her fans that her sprinting career is just getting started. The lessons she learned in Tokyo are pushing her to run even faster to make it to the Paris Olympics in 2024. "I want to be a multiple-time Olympian and Olympic medalist, not just for relays, but for my individual event," she said.



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Tina Moe, CPA, CGMA

A BIG CHANGE IS HAPPENING IN PIKE TOWNSHIP AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DRAWS NEW DISTRICT LINES.

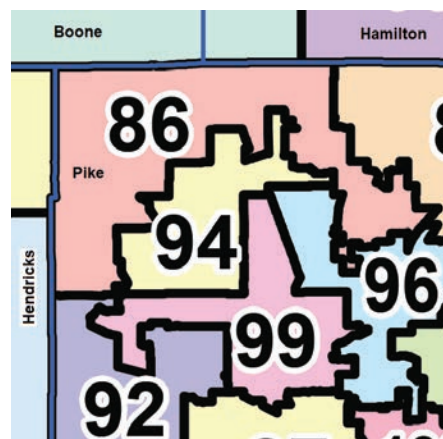
Where Do You Draw the Line?

By Carol Mullins

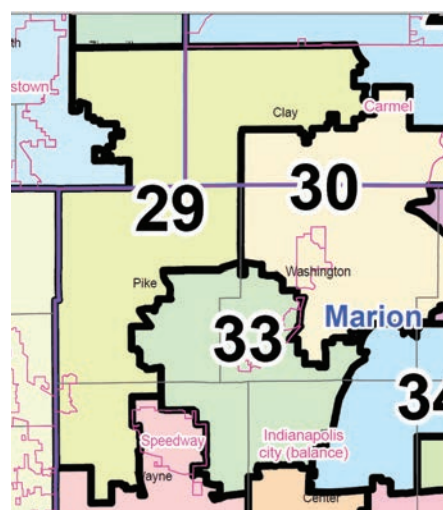
"The Census Bureau's primary mission is conducting the U.S. census every ten years, which allocates the seats of the U.S. House of Representatives to each state based on population." Just like the anticipated trick or treaters coming to our door each October, we can count on census workers collecting data and the General Assembly pulling out pens to redraw District representation maps. Whether they are a trick, or a treat, is yet to be decided. What are District maps, and why are they important? In Indiana, Districts comprise nine United States representatives and 150 state legislators who decide policy that impacts the Township, County and State. The Census and district reviews are done by our General Assembly as a Federally mandated process. Today, we find ourselves in the 10 year cycle of map redistricting. The

Indiana GOP, who have the super majority, are leading this process for the proposed district map changes.

What does this look like in Pike Township? For Pike, there are several state district lines that shifted, these are noted on the map: State Senate Districts 29 & 33; State House Districts 86, 94, and 99. The most significant change in Pike Township is the U.S. District 5, currently comprising northern Pike Township and Marion County. During the 2020 elections, this area submitted a majority of votes to Democrat Christina Hale. Hale was running against Republican Victoria Spartz. Democrat Hale captured the majority of Marion County/Pike Township votes. Spartz carried the win with a 50 - 46 percent margin, and with the support in Hamilton and Boone County won the election. The new



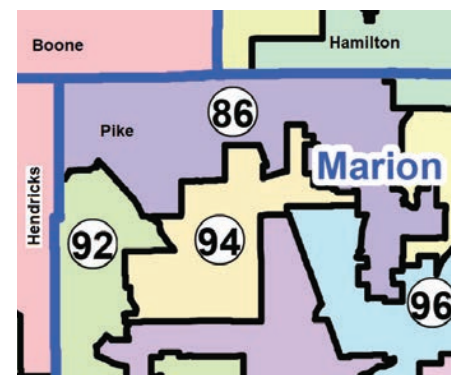
Indiana State House of Representatives Districts 2011-2021



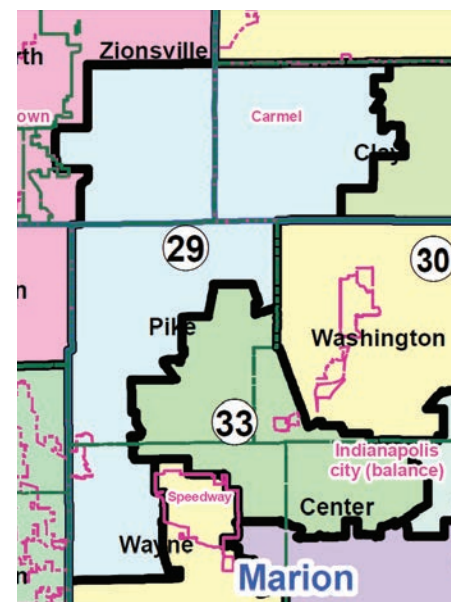
Indiana State Senate Districts 2011-2021

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maps will push District 5 lines north out of Marion County and grow the voter base in fast growing Hamilton County, potentially affecting future elections. U.S. Democrat Representative Andre Carson of District 7, would gain this area and district lines would run with the county lines for Marion County. U.S. Republican Congressman Greg Pence in



Proposed Indiana State House of Representatives Districts 2021



Proposed Indiana State Senate Districts 2021

District 6, will gain voters from the southern Marion County as the 7th District's shifts north. Upcoming elections will reveal the true impact of these moves.

Your Pike representatives:

Indiana Congressional District seven (7) - Democratic U.S. House Representative Andre Carson

Indiana Congressional District five (5) - shift out of Pike Proposed

Indiana twenty-ninth (29) State Senate District - Democratic Senator J.D. Ford

Indiana's thirty-third (33) State Senate District - Democratic Senator John Taylor.

Indiana State House District eighty-six (86) - Democratic Representative Ed Delaney
Indiana State House District ninety-four (94) - Democratic Representative Cherrish Pryor
Indiana State House District ninety-nine (99) - Democratic Representative Vanessa Summers

The maps have already passed the House. As of this writing, the Senate Committee will consider amendments before passing it out

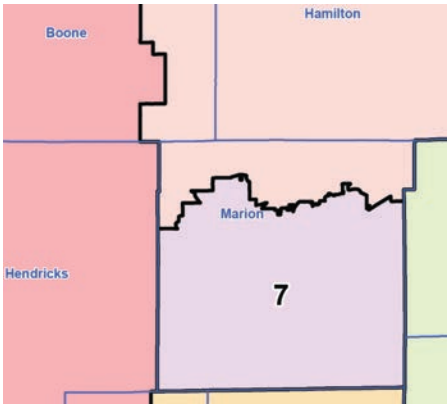
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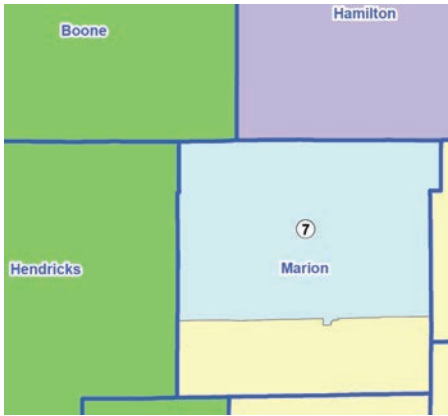
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Indiana Congressional Districts
2011-2021

of committee. The initial drafts of maps are visible here. The Senate Committee on Elections” gathered public feedback since Monday and submitted redistricting suggestions. The Senate Committee amended and voted on the completed maps on September 28, final readings and votes took place on September 30 and October 1, 2021.

For detailed information on this process, analytics, comprehensive redistricting of Marion County and the State of Indiana, visit the Indiana General Assembly online <https://iga.in.gov> or Ballotpedia nonpartisan



Proposed Indiana Congressional Districts
2011-2021

legislative news, updates on representatives and voting records. Visit the Women4Change website, a nonpartisan group who educate and advocate for legislative issues affecting women. <https://www.women4changeindiana.org/redistricting>

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GLOBAL VILLAGE WELCOME CENTER INVITES YOU TO TAKE A TRIP TO ASIA

International Marketplace

By Arnita M. Williams

This is the second of a five-part series, which includes countries on the continent of Asia which include China, India, and the Philippines on exhibit at the Global Village Welcome Center.

The Global Village Welcome Center (4233 Lafayette Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46254) invites you to take a trip around the world in a matter of minutes to share the gifts and treasures it has to offer, by entering its gallery.

When you take a tour of each country, you're greeted by the nation's flag. You'll discover facts about its history, cultural wares, native dress, and holidays it celebrates.

The curators rotate exhibits every three months to ensure each of the 130 countries it represents, proudly gets to share its culture.

China

As you travel through the continent of Asia, you can see treasures from China. Upon entering the exhibit, you will see red, literally. According to chinahighlights.com, "red



nually, either in June or July.

A major holiday in India is Independence Day, which is celebrated on August 15th. "Parades, pageants, and plenty of flag-waving create a sense of pride at cultural events throughout the country; however, Delhi is



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represents fire and is the most popular color in China. It is also the national color representing happiness, beauty, vitality, good luck, success, and good fortune."

A holiday that is important in Chinese culture is the Chinese New Year. One of the main festivities of this holiday, according to China Highlights, is "eating a reunion dinner with family on New Year's Eve."

Speaking of Chinese fare, which is an all-time American favorite, you can dine-in at the Imperial Palace, one of many fine Chinese restaurants in Pike Township. You also have the option of carry-out from the Panda, a family-owned restaurant, which is not part of the national franchise chain. It's nestled on the far-west end of Pike Township, about a mile east of the Marion County/Hendricks County border in Eagle Highlands.

If you desire to visit the country, the air travel distance from the United States to China is 7,252 miles, according to distancefromto.net.

India

The next stop is India. This exhibit showcases beautiful, beaded cultural wear in addition to displays of paintings created by Indian artists, as you learn about India's history and culture.

There's also much to celebrate during Rath Yatra, a major Hindu festival, celebrated an-



the epicenter," according to tripsavvy.com.

When you wrap up your tour of India at the Global Village Welcome Center, why not visit the India Sizzling II and sit down for a tasty Indian meal? The restaurant "specializes in cuisine of northern and southern India," as noted in the International Marketplace Passport guide.

IT'S MONARCH SEASON!

By Christy Krieg

Milkweed & Monarchs



Monarch butterflies have been in the news a lot recently, so much so that I was starting to wonder if folks think they are “old news.” But as I chatted with a neighbor this month about the swamp milkweed in his front yard, I realized there is still a knowledge gap!

So, let's talk about monarchs, their lives as we understand it, and their obligate larval food, milkweed (*Asclepias*). (If this topic is already familiar to you and you want a deeper dive, check out the websites of Monarch Watch, Monarch Joint Venture, and the Xerces Society for advanced reading.)

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about monarchs is that they migrate to the Southern US and Mexico in autumn.

Say what? That's right, Eastern Monarch butterflies, those flitting, seemingly aimless fliers incredibly head to Central Mexico in the autumn. They congregate in particular forests where they rest and overwinter, mate and reproduce in the Spring, and are viewed and studied.

There are four generations of monarchs each year. The offspring of the overwintering monarchs is Generation 1 for the year, and in spring, they begin heading North as far as Canada (no passport necessary).

By the time monarch butterflies reach Indiana from late April to June, most of them are Generation 2, or the grandchildren of the overwintering monarchs. They will have laid eggs along the way and some in Indiana are passing through while others remain here for their lifetime.

The generations continue into late summer, with a notable change in life cycle triggered by shorter daylight and lower temperatures. This change is called diapause, where reproduction ceases for the season. Some Generation 3 (from eggs laid late May through July) and most Generation 4 (from eggs laid from Late June to August) monarchs will go into

diapause and head south to overwinter.

While the reproducing generations are in Indiana, the monarch butterflies are busier than you might think, drinking nectar, pollinating, mating and laying eggs. Females will mate and begin laying eggs within days of emergence!

The females lay each tiny egg on a milkweed leaf (get out your magnifying glass, people) where it matures and hatches in three to seven days. The egg turns black as the caterpillar gets ready to hatch, then a tiny larva emerges and goes to town on that leaf. They typically eat a “c” shaped form into the leaf, so watch for that pattern! As it consumes milkweed, its only host plant, the larva will grow over 2000 percent until it's ready for the next stage.

When it reaches maturity, the caterpillar will find a safe place to transform into a chrysalis. Locations include plants, furniture, brick overhangs, or if you've let them escape inside your house (oops), any place they please. The mature caterpillar creates a strong, tacky web anchor, hangs from its tail, then forms a “J” before completing its metamorphosis into a chrysalis within hours. The monarch chrysalis has a unique shape and appearance, with stunning gold jewels – incredible site!

In eight to fifteen days, the chrysalis darkens as the butterfly wings develop, signaling pending emergence. The new butterfly hangs from its anchor and split casing while its wings dry, before flitting off as the next generation.

Back yard milkweed plants, as well as those on farms and roadsides, are critical to survival of the monarch butterfly, whose numbers have declined by 80 percent or more in recent decades.

So, what can you do to help slow the decline of Eastern Monarchs?

First of all, avoid use of pesticides in your yard and garden.

Second, plant milkweed to feed the larvae. Growing milkweed from seed can be tricky, so check out local sources such as the Indiana



Wildlife Federation and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. Both are selling plants throughout the season. While there are many varieties of milkweed, the Xerces Society recommends planting only common, swamp, and butterfly milkweeds in Indiana.

Third, plant nectar rich plants to support adult monarchs in a sunny part of your yard. The Xerces society publishes a wonderful reference specific to the Midwest (see plant

list including color, size and blooming season). With this native plant list, you'll see you can provide a variety of blossoms to support monarchs throughout the season.

Finally, before mowing or weed-whipping, inspect carefully for tall plants or small milkweed sprouts with eggs and caterpillars in areas that might be damaged by your maintenance tasks. Avoiding mowing those plants or move caterpillars to safety (aka another milkweed plant) before you mow. Do not touch the caterpillars or nudge them to a new leaf – they are fragile! Always let them move themselves to new leaves.

You can cut small milkweed sprouts from your yard at the base, put in a vase of water to bring the eggs to maturity. You can also raise caterpillars from egg with great care and attention (learn from a friend like I did – the worst thing is realizing some have died due to neglect or injury in captivity).

I'll admit we've let our common milkweed patch near the patio get a little out of hand. But I can't resist the constant show of monarchs and other pollinators this plant provides. Up to 450 insects use common milkweed in some form! A few minutes at the milkweed patch is a wonderful panacea for computer fatigue. Once you get your patch going, you'll understand what I mean!

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FRIDAY WATERWAY HIKE - RECONNECTING TO OUR WATERWAYS

Waterways of Pike Township

Exploring Nature Around You

By Carol Mullins

Waterways play an important role in connecting communities, highlighting the health of our natural ecosystems and telling a story about the culture and history of our neighborhoods.

Pike has three major waterways comprising dozens of smaller sub streams and creeks. Each with its own unique characteristics and history. Big Eagle Creek is the largest and best known, because of the reservoir and park, Crooked Creek stream is less visible but has dozens of neighborhoods, businesses, shopping centers and streets named af-

December, the Reconnecting to our Waterways (ROW) Little Eagle Creek Committee has planned hikes along the LEC stream. The committee "invites neighbors to join us for our fall walks along the LEC water-

The committee "invites our neighbors to join us for our fall walks along the LEC waterway."

Pike has three major waterways comprising dozens of smaller sub streams and creeks. Each with its own unique characteristics and history.

way." These Friday hikes will occur at the following times and locations. Join the ROW members for one or all, with a fourth hike planned this winter in a unique location you won't want to miss. (Note the submission of this article was August 6 and hikes occurred the last Friday of August and September. A special hike location may occur in the winter months so watch here for more information).

Next hike:

When: Friday October 29 (Rain date Nov 5th) - 3:30-5:00pm

Where: Floral Park Cemetery -3659 Cos-sell Road

Meet at the cemetery entrance and veer to the left

*For more information about this walk or ROW contact Andrea Drygas andrea@ourwaterways.org

*For Information about the Waterways of Pike and to share stories contact carol@blueskypartnerships

ter it. Little Eagle Creek forms north of 71st and Augusta Rd, runs through Pike Township, Warren Township and Center Township, emptying into Big Eagle Creek and the White River near the Lilly Technology Center. This June we shared a bit of history, locations, tributaries and neighborhoods of each of them.

This month we highlight Little Eagle Creek and activities along its banks. Through



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ANOTHER NEED THAT'S BEING FILLED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry

By Arnita M. Williams

For the third consecutive month, Sandy and Todd Frauhiger have seen the lines getting longer at the entrance of Bethel United Methodist Church (BUMC) at 5252 W. 52nd Street. As the word has spread during each event, more parents show up to get free diapers.

Sandy and Todd are organizers and stewards of the non-profit "Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry," a ministry they operate from the basement of the church they attend. "We are excited to share info about our diaper pantry and show the way God is at work in this ministry," said Sandy.

Sandy and Todd connected with the Indiana Diaper Bank, founded by Rachael Suskovich. "They are the organization we are partnering with that supply our diapers and are a great asset to

Indianapolis.

We started this as a church project, where we collected diapers and then we bagged them. Then we got hooked up with the diaper bank. Tiffany, our pastor got some information about the diaper bank, and Sandy and I contacted them, and it's been a fabulous partnership," said Todd.

The partnership between Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry and the Indiana Diaper Bank is a "win-win" for both programs. The diaper pantry pays an annual fee to join the diaper bank. "We get diapers from the Indiana Diaper Bank for 12 months to serve 50 families per month.

Then every Wednesday, before we open our diaper pantry, we go pick up the diapers, and bring them down to our diaper storage area within our food pantry.

"We are excited to share info about our diaper pantry and show the way God is at work in this ministry." – Sandy Frauhiger

"When families arrive, there are forms that we need to fill out from the Indiana Diaper Bank. We take each family's information, and they tell us what size diapers they need. Then, the diaper runners, which we usually have two or three, run the diaper orders downstairs and give them to the pantry inventory managers, which they fill from the diaper storage area. Then a runner, runs the diaper order back upstairs to the family," added Todd.

However, the diaper pantry would not be able to serve the community without its volunteers. There are volunteers who serve on the front end doing intake of the families. Vernice, who has volunteered for the first time, has been helping the families register to receive diapers.

The diaper pantry has also been able to fine-tune their distribution process by maintaining a continuous flow, with the service of their volunteer runners. They are the "customer service reps" who submit the orders to the diaper pantry inventory managers to fill. Volunteer diaper runners, Abigail, Annika, and Kaden also deliver diapers to the families once their orders have been filled. They are youth members of the church, who are dedicated to serving the ministry and their community.

The youth runners are inspired to volunteer. Kaden said, "this makes me happy because I give stuff to people who really need it." Annika is another youth helper who has volunteered since the diaper pantry started. She said, "I love it, and it's lots of fun."

Sandy said, "they all love giving back and helping people," and as an appreciation and incentive for the kids who volunteer, "we have a sleepover the night before."

Barbara Schmid, Ms. Lee, and Anna are adult volunteers who oversee the diaper inventory. They sort, stock, manage the pantry, keep it organized, verify, and fill diaper orders. Barbara Schmid has been volunteering since the diaper pantry began. She's also an avid reader of the Pike Pulse. "I enjoy the paper. Then, keep it and I pass it on to somebody outside of Pike Township," she said.

The diaper pantry is also a 'family affair.' Ms. Lee (Todd's mom) said, "It's a wonderful thing they're doing. I helped pack the first diapers and I've been here every time." Todd and Sandy's niece and great niece Katie and Abigail came down from Lafayette to volunteer for the first time.

Todd is excited about the rapid growth

of the pantry, as he anticipates the number of families that the diaper pantry will serve at the event. "Oh, it's amazing. It's just so neat. We've done about 25 to 30 families per month for the first two months, and I think it's going to be a little bit heavier today. It's just been a great thing. Families have been very appreciative. The kids have really enjoyed helping. They give some great testimonies at church about working at the diaper pantry and helping out."

During the most recent diaper giveaway Todd was amazed. "This is the first week, we've been this busy, this quick. I think we're up to 55 families. About eight families were here in the first few minutes."

Diapers are not the only items BUMC gives away. The church also has a food pantry. "Last month we advertised that we had food boxes available, and we gave out 27. This month we have giveaways of diaper rash cream, diaper pads, and stuff like that.

The food pantry is also open on call. Families that need food can call myself or my wife Sandy and we can leave a box of food for them, which they can stop and pick up. Throughout the pandemic, we consistently served 35 – 40 families every month," Todd said.

Todd and Sandy are devoted advocates for community service. "Sandy and I are also board of director members at a local community center. It's just been a great blessing for the kids to be involved in it. It's been a great blessing for the community. We're looking forward to continuing with the diaper bank, which we are currently at the entry level of serving 50 families per month. We can easily see an increase next year. So, we're getting the word out to a lot of people. WIC, the Women's Center, and school fairs know about us.

It's great because we're getting the word out, and love being able to serve the community and make a difference in the lives of children who are our future. We just love the little kids. You can see them engaged, and they learn to become servant leaders.

Also, as we start building relationships with the families, we begin to understand how we can better serve them. In addition to free diapers, the families also receive baby wipes, and the women's groups provide baby blankets, bibs, burp cloths, and things like that.

Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry is open the third Saturday of each month, from 10 am – 12 pm. Contact: Sandy Frauhiger at 317.694.2618, or Todd Frauhiger at 317.496.5631



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AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 1993

Pike Township Educational Foundation

By PTEF

Pike Township Educational Foundation (PTEF) has been awarding scholarships to Pike students since 1993. We have grown from awarding one scholarship to awarding more than 19 scholarships a year. We are dedicated to creating opportunities for

more than \$42,000 in scholarships. More than 1,700 students were impacted by our

In 2021, we were able to award \$20,000 in classroom grants and more than \$42,000 in scholarships

We have grown from awarding one scholarship to awarding more than 19 scholarships a year.

Pike students with scholarships and classroom grants.. In 2021, we were able to award \$20,000 in classroom grants and

DonorsChoose matching grants and 66 new teachers received a membership to Teacher’s Treasures and much more! We are thankful for all of our amazing donors, like Gatsby’s, that make this possible!

We also host two big events each year,

a formal dinner and silent auction called Treasures (March 2022) and a FORE! Education Golf Outing (June 16, 2022), as well as other smaller fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

If you are looking for a way to give

back to the Pike community, we are taking board member applications and donations! Visit us at www.pike-ef.org or on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

You can also email Alison or Christie at executivedirector@pike-ef.org

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A PASSION FOR KEEPING COMMUNITIES CLEAN By Armita M. Williams

Firefly Power Washing

Jeff Hughes is a guy who knows his business. Over the years, he has owned several companies: a janitorial service, a carpet-cleaning business, and even a factory that made corrugated board. “I’ve never really liked working for anybody else. It just never sat well with me.”

Although, after working for a few big companies for a while, he moved to the Bahamas, working at a Navy testing center as a civilian, working on their ships.

Upon returning home from working on the island for six years, in 2019, “I had been thinking about starting another business. I started looking into pressure washing and did a lot of research on it,” says Jeff.

When he decided to start the business at the beginning of 2020, Jeff began ordering parts needed for his trailer, which he couldn’t get. During that time, the nation had gone into lockdown due to COVID. Once Jeff finally received his trailer parts, while overcoming additional hurdles, he was “able to

start working, and finish out the year.”

Now that house and roof cleaning have garnered the most demand, several of Jeff’s customers are on the northside of Indianapolis. He said, “I don’t go real far South from 465. But I do go north if you go up to Noblesville and Cicero. I’ve even had a job up in Tipton. I don’t like to go that far, but you got to help people out once in a while.”

This business is not about throwing a pow-

This business is not about throwing a power washer in the back of a pick-up truck and advertising your services on social media. There’s a bit of skill that accompanies it.

er washer in the back of a pick up truck and

advertising your services on social media. There’s a bit of skill that accompanies it. Jeff uses a method called the soft wash system, which is a 12-Volt sprayer that sprays with less force, “that way you don’t beat up the siding,” or break windows.

Jeff also pressure washes driveways and dumpster areas. “I can do hot or cold so I can get grease and oil up.” Since there is a need

“I can do hot or cold so I can get grease and oil up.”

for soft and pressure washing, he’s chosen to do both. It just made more sense than doing one or the other.

Sometimes you need a pressure washer, specifically “on brick, and it’s kind of hard.” Offering both services allow Jeff to offer unlimited power washing services to both homeowners and businesses.

“It’s a very satisfying job. Honestly, it’s one of the most satisfying jobs I’ve had. I get instant gratification.” He and his customers can see the results of his work when he’s finished.

Jeff says he’s “very serious about anything that I do. Customer satisfaction is what

“Customer satisfaction is what means the most, which I’ve always felt that’s how you build a business.”

means the most, which I’ve always felt that’s how you build a business.”

Website: www.Fireflypw.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Firefly-Power-Washing-101394671546692>

Phone: 317.947.4520



LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY

Fire Safety Week

By PTFD

As weather starts changing and things get a little cooler, we at Pike Township Fire Department like to stress the importance of Fire Prevention Week. The first full week of October is NFPA’s National Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme is “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.”

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 fire that killed more than 250

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire

people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres. Each year the NFPA decides on a theme and fire departments from around the world compile resources to educate their communities.

From beeps to chirps, this year’s campaign works to better educate the public about the sounds smoke alarms make, what those sounds mean, and how to respond to them. According to the NFPA working smoke alarms in the home, reduce the risk of dying in a reported fire by more than half. However, almost three out of five home fire deaths

occur in homes with no smoke alarms (41 percent) or smoke alarms that failed to operate (16 percent); missing or disconnected batteries, dead batteries, and disconnected hardwired alarms or other AC power issues, are the most common factors when smoke alarms fail to operate.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety,” helps people better understand the reasons smoke alarms may sound and provides the knowledge to address them.

Smoke Alarm Tips:

- When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, respond immediately by exiting the home as quickly as possible.
- If your alarm begins to chirp, it may mean that the batteries are running low and need to be replaced. If the alarm continues to chirp after the batteries are replaced, or the alarm is more than 10 years old, it is time to replace the alarm.
- Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.
- If there is someone in your household who is deaf or hard of hearing, install bed shaker and strobe light alarms that will alert that person to fire.
- Know the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide

alarm – three beeps for smoke alarms; four beeps for carbon monoxide alarms.

Be sure to follow us on social media for any Fire Prevention Week updates:

Facebook: @piketownshipfire
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Twitter: @PikeTwpFire
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Page 14

Continued from Page Six

If that isn't enough, how about taking a flight across the globe to India, and discover first hand the country's rich customs, cuisine, and culture? The flight is 7,484.47 miles from



the U.S., according to distancefromto.net. **Philippines**

The final stop on the tour of Asia is the Philippines. You can look forward to an "up-close and personal" tour of the exhibit by Maria R. Manalang, program manager at the International Marketplace Global Village and Welcome Center.

As Maria escorts you on the tour, there is a colorful and decorated cross, which stands about six feet tall, in honor of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Filipino culture also has "one of the most celebrated festivals, which is the Flores de Mayo or Flores de Maria; a Christian tradition celebrated every summer of the month of May and is widely popular in most provinces in the country.

Flores de Mayo, which translates "Flowers of May" in Spanish (primer.com.ph)," is celebrated with special snacks for the children and homemade meals are prepared. During your tour at the welcome center, floral arrangements are displayed throughout the exhibit in honor of the celebration.

If the tour piques your interest and you want to get an actual account of the country, to take a flight to the Philippines is 8,563.49 miles (distancefromto.net).

Business owners and residents of Asian ancestry makeup 3.1 percent of Pike Township's community. (statisticalatlas.com).

BETHEL EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY (BECA)

Church Offering Nurturing Child Care To Families In Our Community

By Bill Dorner

BECA School Board Member at Large

Bethel Early Childhood Academy (BECA) is a registered child care ministry of Bethel United Methodist Church offering nurturing child care to families in our community.

Formerly Bethel Nursery School, BECA has been a pillar of the Pike Township community since 1954, when it opened as the first kindergarten in the area. In 2013, BECA grew to a full-day child care ministry, continuing its rich history of outreach to area families.

BECA's loving, well-qualified staff provide a safe setting and program to enable children (infants thru age 5) to learn through play while developing emotionally, intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually.

BECA is not the biggest day care facility, nor do they aspire to be. Instead, they promote a family atmosphere where all teachers know all children and vice-versa, whether

or not they are in their class. Lynn Morris was a teacher at Bethel Nursery School for years before feeling called to serve as BECA's founding Director. Lynn has had the pleasure of seeing her past students grow up and enroll their own children at BECA! Some past



students have even become staff members at BECA. The legacy of love runs deep and is abundantly evident at Bethel Early Childhood Academy!

The annual Academy program starts each July. BECA's program includes learning cen-



ters, free play, storytelling, art, music, fine/gross motor activities, outside play, games, rest time, and morning & afternoon snacks. Students must bring their own sack lunch. Although BECA's program is Christian-themed, families of all faiths are welcome. BECA's hours of operation are weekdays, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Paths to QUALITY™ is Indiana's statewide rating system for early care and education programs. The system validates ongoing efforts to achieve higher standards of quality and provides incentives and awards for success. As of May 1, 2016, BECA has achieved Paths to QUALITY™ Level 3. See brighter-futuresindiana.org for more details.

Despite BECA's boutique atmosphere, offering higher quality care to a smaller number of families, BECA boasts many desirable





modern amenities. For example, the school has an electronic access control system for the security of students and staff alike. Parents are given access cards to ensure that only authorized persons can enter the facility during school hours.

Another amenity that parents love is the use of LifeCubby™. This all-in-one childcare management software solution provides families with meal and nap tracking, event notifications, and even photos from class. Parents enjoy using LifeCubby™ as a prompt for

talking with their children about their school day.

BECA also has “big school” recreational amenities, including a newly upgraded fenced outdoor playground and an indoor gymnasium that enables year-round exercise and play time regardless of weather.

Last month, BECA celebrated with a “Birthday Bash”, at which BECA staff, students, families, and School Board celebrated with treat bags, Kona Ice snowcones, bubbles, music, and a booth where kids could



throw a cream pie in their teacher’s face. The party was a “smashing” success!

Although the COVID pandemic challenged all daycares, BECA’s Board and Staff responded proactively with strict adherence to CDC guidelines. Health, safety, and hygiene protocols successfully prevented any instances of contagion within the Academy. This month, new HEPA air filters are being

installed in all classrooms to provide further protection against airborne pathogens and allergens.

Recent graduations have opened up several slots at BECA, and Mrs. Morris is currently enrolling new students, including in the infant class. BECA considers itself not only the best area daycare, but also the best value. Interested families should call 317-293-1555.



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INDYGO TRANSIT UPDATES & PARATRANSIT SERVICES

Paratransit Services Taking Front Seat

By Carol Mullins

IndyGo is working to address accessibility options for all its riders. Please take a moment to learn more about the paratransit program, how it impacts your neighborhood, and how to get more involved in helping those around you gain needed services.

There are also many bus stops in and around Pike Township and Crooked Creek that need to be adopted. If you would like more information please contact me at carol@pikepulse.net.

Here's the latest information for September.

Also, welcome the newest IndyGo Drivers pictured here. While IndyGo welcomes the latest round of new drivers, they are still seeking additional help. Great benefits, good pay, and a job you'll love. Go to <https://www.indygo.net/employment/> for more information and to apply.

Beyond ADA Draft Policy

▪ The ADA draft policy addresses a new premium paratransit service in the zone out-

side of what is mandated by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

▪ IndyGo currently operates ADA-level service countywide, beyond what is federally mandated, which presents a financial and operational challenge to the agency.

▪ The draft policy continues to provide service to individuals with disabilities in the area outside the federally mandated ADA service area.

▪ By recognizing two service areas, the policy will permit the agency to focus on improving its performance in the required ADA area, while offering a new service to the area beyond the ADA.

▪ The policy also introduces same-day service as a premium option for trips that start or end in the area beyond the ADA.

▪ Comments can be submitted online through a comment form at www.indygo.net/beyondADA by visiting the Carson Transit Center or by calling IndyGo Customer Service at 317-635-3344."



Federal Mask Mandate Extended

▪ While Indiana no longer has a mask mandate, masks are still required on all IndyGo vehicles and at all facilities.

▪ The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended its mask requirements, which applies to those traveling in airports, on trains and public transportation.

▪ To learn how we are keeping safety on top of mind for our riders, visit www.indygo.net/health.

7-Day Paper Bus Pass Discontinued

▪ As of Aug. 31, IndyGo no longer sells the 7-day paper bus pass.

▪ Passes purchased before that date will still be valid until the expiration date.

▪ MyKey offers a "pay as you go" fare structure (you only pay for rides you use).

▪ To learn more about Mykey and register your account visit www.indygo.net/mykey.



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NEW HOPE OF INDIANA OP ED

Caring for the Disabled in the Pandemic and Beyond

By Gay Murry, Direct Support Professional (DSP), New Hope of Indiana

The pandemic did so much to shine a light on the tough jobs of frontline workers. Yes, my work caring for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a New Hope of Indiana home was difficult. It was even scary at times. We had to mask up, social distance and take many other precautions. We couldn't go on our usual outings with clients to help them feel part of the community and their social isolation was devastating to watch. But there were some amazing things, too. Life-changing things. I hope others around the state will learn from my story and consider joining me as a Direct Support Professional (DSP).

The pandemic definitely changed my life – in a wonderful manner. I found creative ways to build meaningful connections with

The pandemic definitely changed my life – in a wonderful manner

my clients and learned to get even closer to my coworkers. Pulling together, working together, praying, being a mother and a friend brought us through - stronger than ever.

I've been at New Hope for more than eight years and I truly enjoy taking care of my clients – cooking breakfast, keeping them strong and healthy, helping them with everyday tasks. The best part is joking and watching my clients smile, nod or laugh. That kept me going through the months of isolation during the pandemic.

The past year has really strengthened my faith. I felt incredibly supported by my employer, New Hope of Indiana, and colleagues. New Hope is an awesome place to work and to make a career if you love taking care of people. If you're compassionate and caring like me, well then you've come to the right place to work. From our CEO to our management team to our caregivers like me, our

organization values inclusivity and service and it shows in all that we do. I'm especially proud to be part of #TeamNewHope this year because we received an IndyStar Top Workplaces Award for the third straight year and New Hope was even awarded special Top Workplaces Cultural Excellence Awards for Formal Training and Woman-Led Culture.

I'm glad the pandemic shone a light on the work we do and the need for more people to do it. I'm thankful the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation last session to increase the average wages of DSPs like me. I'm hoping that encourages others to choose this as a career and stay in the field. The vulnerable people we serve deserve it. Having this pay raise has changed my life for the better. I am truly grateful and thankful.

As in many other fields, New Hope and other disability services agencies are facing a significant staffing shortage, particularly for DSPs. I hope that Hoosiers looking for meaning and purpose in a career will consider serving others as a DSP. It is the hardest and most rewarding work I've ever done, and it means more to me than any other job. The individuals I serve bring me so much happiness and they teach me more than I could ever hope to teach them.

New Hope is implementing pay increases thanks to additional funding from the State and Federal governments, as well as providing numerous other benefits in hopes of hiring 50 new DSPs this year. While that is really great news, the best benefit of my job is getting to know our incredible clients and making a difference in their lives. There's nothing else like it.

Gay Murry is a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at New Hope of Indiana, which has supported individuals with disabilities and their families for more than 40 years. For more information, visit www.newhopeofindiana.org.



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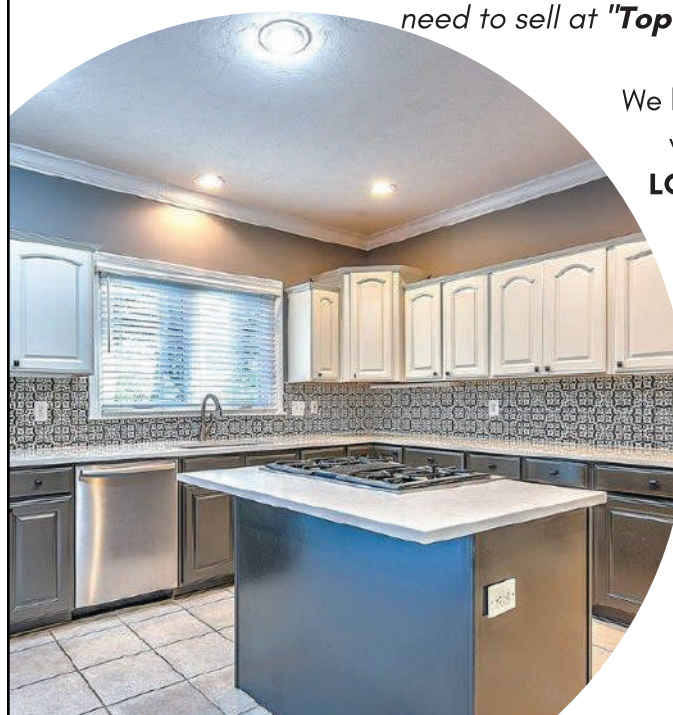
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What is a CMA?

By Darwin May

A Comparable Market Analysis is an estimate of a home's market value based on recently sold properties in the general area of the subject home. The reports are generated by real estate brokers and agents to assist owners in determining a price range for their homes. The CMA will determine the Average Sales Price per square foot of several homes in determining the sales price of the subject property.

A real estate appraisal is a detailed evaluation of both residential and commercial properties based not only on recent sales, but also condition, location, age, construction cost to replace and

income potential. Appraisers typically have one of several professional designations, based upon levels of meaningful experience and must adhere to specific ethics and standards.

While a CMA is typically used as guidance for homeowners in establishing potential sales price, appraisals are used by mortgage lenders, commercial and residential property owners, insurance companies and others.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

Write to:

1. By email: larry@pikepulse.com or
2. By letter: Larry Oliver, Editor-In-Chief; *Pike Pulse Newspaper*; 4732 Century Plaza Rd; Indianapolis, IN 46254

What are the guidelines?

- To be published you must include your name, address, daytime phone number, and/or email address. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Your letter should be fewer than 300 words. I may, however, allow for longer letters, but may have to split your message between publications.
- I am most open to publishing your thoughts about Pike Township issues – positive or negative. I also encourage responses to Pike Pulse articles.
- Please write in a thoughtful and cordial tone. I will probably not respond to or publish letters that attack, ridicule, denounce, or impugn a person's character, or impute immoral or dishonorable attributes to others based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

How are letters selected for publication?

We welcome letters that offer a new perspective or add depth to a discussion of an issue covered in Pike Pulse. The publisher and I will be the final decision makers about what is published.

Are letters edited?

Our editing team will check spelling, punctuation, and grammar. We may check the facts of your statements. An editor's note may be added.

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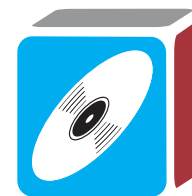


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News From Nassif Kouton Our Pike Township Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

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