



Meet your 2024 Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce Officers and Board of Directors!

Members of the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce elected new officers at their annual meeting, on Thursday, December 14, 2023. The meeting was held at the Mascot Hall of Fame.

Executive Board

President
John Sopo

Vice-Presidents
Tom Dabertin
Diana Del Rio
Linda Gajewski
Jean Wilkening

Past President
Nancy Stolman

Secretary/Treasurer
Allison Ferconio

Board of Directors

Tami Aldrin
Donna Cafferata
Kevin Clark
Donna Dabertin
Norb Dudzik
Don Erminger
Jesse Hunt
Montserrat Inglada
Lisa Kmak
Ron Lubas
Tom Markovich
Jason Miller
Amyra Muhammad
Fr. Jayababu Nuthulapati
Carolyn Sarvanidis
Fr. Andrew Summerson
Mandy Vargo
Jim Wiseman

Upcoming Classes at Studio 659 by Patti Herbst

Studio 659 is excited to announce our second round of **kids' painting classes** beginning in January. The class holds a maximum of **10 students ages 8-12**.

The cost for the 6 week session is **\$60**. Classes will be from **4-5pm on Wednesdays**. Class dates are: **January 17th, 24th, and 31st** and **February 7th, 21st and 28th**. You can register at Studio 659 or the Chamber or email artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com. Payment is due before the first class. For more information, call **219-427-4288**.

Studio 659 will also be offering **adult dance classes** taught by certified dance instructor **Stephanie Paz**. These classes will take place on **January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th** and on **February 4th and 11th**. The cost is **\$120**. The **Latin Dance Classes** (Bachata, Salsa, and Merengue) will be held from **3-4pm** and the **Ballroom Classes** (Waltz, Tango, and Hustle) will be held from **4:15-5:15pm** on the aforementioned dates.

Payment must be made before the first class. You can register at Studio 659 or the Chamber or artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com. For more information, please call **219-427-4288**.

Marian Theatre Guild Holds Auditions for Spring Production: 'Birthday Candles'

The **Marian Theatre Guild** will be holding auditions for their spring production of **"Birthday Candles"** on **Monday, February 19th, and Tuesday, February 20th** from **7-9 pm**. "Birthday Candles" was written by Noah Hidle and tells the story of Ernestine Ashworth, a teenage girl who spends her 17th birthday agonizing over her insignificance in the universe. The play then takes the audience through her 18th, 40th, 70th, and 101st birthdays, through the high, low, and even extraordinary moments of one woman's ordinary life.

"Birthday Candles" will be directed by **Morgan McCabe**. The show runs through the last two weekends of April: **Saturday, April 20th and 27th at 7:30pm**, and **Sunday, April 21st and 28th at 3pm**. Those auditioning will be asked to read from cuttings of the script. For additional info, contact **Marty Dybel** at **(219) 659-2782**.



'We Don't Hide Crazy, We Parade It Down 119th Street!'

by Jenn Gunter Peddycord

You heard that right! The **Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce** will hold its **Annual Installation Dinner on Friday, February 9th at 6pm**, and the evening's theme is Mardi Gras with some special Whiting/Robertsdale twists! Held at **Dynasty Banquets** in Hammond, IN, this is a party you won't want to miss.

Come out and celebrate the businesses, community leaders, and volunteers that make our community a little wacky and so much fun to be a part of!

The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a public catalyst, partner, and investor in the community, and serve the citizens, merchants by encouraging, promoting, expanding, and enhancing the business area of Whiting-Robertsdale, Indiana. At its core, the Chamber exists to inspire valued experiences for families and friends across the community.

The Annual Installation Dinner serves as a significant fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce which, as an independent not-for-profit organization, can only exist through the support it receives.

Individual tickets are **\$50** or **\$500** for a table, making this event a great opportunity for a company outing. Along with a cocktail hour, delicious dinner, awards, and entertainment, there will be a live auction with fantastic items and experience packages for guests to bid on and take home.

We hope you will be able to attend, and find out just how crazy fun the Chamber's Installation Dinner can be!

Call **(219) 659-0292** or stop by the Chamber of Commerce—**1417 119th Street**—during business hours for additional information or to purchase tickets. Please **RSVP by January 26th**. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Thank you in advance for your support.



Nominations Open for Citizen of the Year, Educator, and Public Servant Awards

by Tom Dabertin

The Whiting Robertsdale community will again acknowledge the service and commitment provided by local teachers and municipal employees by presenting awards to those who distinguish themselves in those fields. The awards will be presented at the **Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce's Annual Installation Dinner on February 9th**.

The **Public Servant of the Year** will be awarded to an employee who works for either the City of Whiting or the City of Hammond and presented by the Chamber.

The **Educator of the Year** will be awarded to a faculty member chosen from nominees from Nathan Hale Elementary, Whiting Middle and Whiting High Schools, Franklin Elementary, St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Bishop Noll Institute and St. Casimir Elementary School. This award is also presented by the Chamber.

In addition to the Public Servant and Educator Awards, each year, a local citizen is chosen as the recipient of the **Carl A. Binhammer Award**, recognizing that individual for tireless community service and volunteerism, and making Whiting-Robertsdale a better place in which to live. The award is presented to the winner at the annual Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce Dinner, but the recipient is chosen by a committee of previous Binhammer Award winners.

Nominations for any of these awards should be sent to the **Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Tom Dabertin, 1417 119th Street, Whiting IN 46394** by no later than **January 31st, 2024**. Nominations should include the following information: The name of the nominee; the award that the person is being nominated for, and a letter explaining in why the nominee deserves the award. It is requested, although not required that the person making the nomination sign the nomination letter.

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Quote of the Month

*"Kindness, kindness, kindness.
I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution.
I'm praying for courage."*

- Susan Sontag

2024 Board of Directors

Directors

Tami Aldrin
Donna Cafferata
Kevin Clark
Donna Dabertin
Norb Dudzik
Don Erminger
Jesse Hunt
Montserrat Inglada
Lisa Kmak
Ron Lubas
Tom Markovich
Jason Miller
Amyra Muhammad
Fr. Jayababu Nuthulapati
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Executive Committee

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The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce publishes the WRite Stuff Newspaper. As such, it may choose to reject any article, advertisement, photo or submission for any reason. Concerns about the policy may be directed to the WRite Stuff Oversight Committee.

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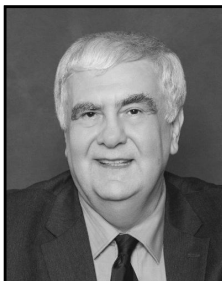
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A Letter from the Mayor

by Mayor Steve Spebar, Whiting

Hello Everyone,

I want to start off by wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year! May 2024 be a good year for all of us.

My thanks to our Community for the year round generosity exhibited to the Whiting Food Pantry and Animal Shelter. The generosity shown is overwhelming and heartwarming. This is a sign of a strong Community and a caring Community. Thank you for your kindness to individuals in need and to our four legged friends trying to find a home.

This past month we had our annual Christmas Toy Drive. Again, I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and in this instance, I would like to make special mention of some individuals/organizations. My special thanks to: Karen Holmes of Center Lounge, Tom Wargo, the Roosevelt Club and the Whiting-Robertsdale Boat Club. Thank you for making a child's Christmas a happier one. My compliments to Events Director Sarah Creel for her outstanding work in organizing the toy drive and to my Administrative Assistant Paula Cunningham for assisting Sarah in her efforts.

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the Kris Kringle Market. The market expanded from the previous year and was well attended. The horse drawn wagon rides added a nice touch. I received many compliments about the Market. My hats off to the Chamber and especially Executive Director Jenn Gunter Peddycord, President John Sopo, Vice President Tom Dabertin and all the volunteers that made it possible. Great job! Looking forward to next year!

Whiting Scholarship applications are available. Please go to the following links:

<http://www.whitingindiana.com/intranet/Applications and Forms/Scholarship Application 2024.pdf>

<http://www.whitingindiana.com/intranet/Applications and Forms/Scholarship Technical Education 2024.pdf>

I am honored to serve another four years as your Mayor. I believe the City of Whiting's future is bright and will get brighter. My thanks to all of you for your confidence and support. Details on plans/projects will be described in the coming issues.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!

I can be reached at mayorsteve@whitingindiana.com

Till next month,

Mayor
Steve Spebar

The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the City of Whiting, the City of Hammond, and Notre Dame Federal Credit Union for their generous support of *The WRite Stuff* newspaper.



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Upcoming Winter Events at Whiting Public Library

by Tony Borgo

Yoga Inside the Library

This winter the Whiting Public Library will be offering yoga classes in the meeting room **Saturday mornings at 10am** starting on **January 6th, 2024**. Join instructor **Heather Hobson** for this free program. Please bring your own yoga mat or towel. There will be no class on February 3rd.

The Kennedys in Chicago - January 13th at 2pm

The flash of light that was the Kennedy political dynasty is associated with Boston, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Surprising the city of Chicago's DNA can be found throughout this fascinating family's history. Join **Clarence Goodman** at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, January 13th at 2pm** to learn more.

Chocolate Bingo - January 20th at 2pm

Attention all bingo lovers! On **Saturday, January 20th at 2pm** the Whiting Public Library will be holding a **Chocolate Bingo**. Instead of cash prizes, winners will receive a chocolate bar. This is an all ages event. However, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Winter Sowing - January 27th at 11am

Would you like to learn about an easy way to start seeds this winter? Many native plants need to be cold stratified which means that they need to go through a process of freezing and thawing in order to germinate. Winter sowing is an easy, fun, and inexpensive way to get all types of seeds started: flowers, vegetables, perennials, and annuals. Come learn how to reuse milk jugs and other plastic containers for starting your seeds. This free program will be held at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, January 27th at 11am**. Registration is necessary to ensure adequate supplies call **219-659-0269 x110**. Please bring clean milk jugs if you have any.

Barbie: An American Icon - January 27th at 2pm

The Barbie movie was a blockbuster hit in 2023 and now she will be coming to the Whiting Public Library. No other doll has been played with, analyzed, collected, criticized and loved. In this illustrated lecture, historian **Leslie Goddard** delves into the history of Barbie and her inventor Ruth Handler. Join Leslie Goddard at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, January 27th at 2pm** to learn more about this beloved doll.

Starting in **January**, the Whiting Public Library will transform into a realm of knowledge and discovery as it hosts a series of enlightening documentaries. Join us every **Thursday at 2:30pm** for a cinematic journey that will entertain and inform.

Whiting Elks News

by Mike Borgetti

On November 29th a **Student of the Month Dinner** was held for those 3rd and 5th Grade students selected by their teachers. Students, teachers, and parents were invited and the students received certificates recognizing their accomplishments. Students attending were **Walter Kujawa** (3rd) and **Anias Garcia** (5th) from **St. John the Baptist** and **Gianna Perez** (3rd), **Brea Abraham** (3rd), **Aislinn Escheverria** (5th), and **Niemi Diaz** (5th) from **Franklin Elementary**.

A Memorial Service was held on December 3rd to remember our deceased members. The first Sunday in December is designated as the date for all Elks Lodges for this event. A dinner was provided for all in attendance and widows of deceased members were given a commemorative ornament.

A Children's Christmas Party was held on December 10th for the children and grandchildren of Elk members. Along with treats and activities, Santa stopped by to visit the children and give each child a gift.

On Christmas Day we had our annual visit and dinner with the naval recruits from Great Lakes Naval Base. This is a true community effort and the Whiting Elks would like to thank all the volunteers and businesses for their commitments of time, donations, and fellowship that brought Christmas Joy to the servicemen and servicewomen of our country. Thanks again to our Whiting-Robertsdale Community for making this event a continued success.



Celebrating a Year of Achievements: The Mascot Hall of Fame Shines in 2023

by Valarie Reyes



Hold on to your hats, folks, because the Mascot Hall of Fame has had a year for the books, and the spotlight is shining bright on this fuzzy wonderland! In 2023, the institution turned into a facility of fun, attracting visitors, field trips, and even catching the attention of national media and leaving an indelible mark on the community and beyond. Let's take a look at some of the fantastic things that happened in 2023!

First things first, let's talk numbers. In the past year, the Mascot Hall of Fame has welcomed an astounding 8,894 general admission visitors through its doors. Meaning they purchased tickets through our website or tickets counter. That's right, all these people have flocked here to witness the hilarity and heart behind some of the country's most beloved mascots. The Hall of Fame has become a hub for fans of all ages.

However, it's not only the usual visitors immersing themselves in the mascot madness. The MHOF has welcomed an impressive 86 field trips, providing 4,151 kids and eager learners of all ages with the opportunity to discover that learning can indeed be enjoyable and engaging. Picture the joy on their faces as they don costumes, showcase performances, and even record audition videos, mirroring the skills of mascots who excel in energizing a crowd.

Now, let's dive into the realm of celebrations. With 170 rentals secured and an impressive attendance of 7,292 guests, the Mascot Hall of Fame has solidified its status as the ultimate destination for all types of festivities. Birthdays, corporate events, and significant milestones have all been elevated, transforming ordinary occasions into extraordinary and unforgettable memories.

And if you thought that was all, buckle up, because the Mascot Hall of Fame took the nation by storm! The MHOF was featured in the official promotional Visit Indiana commercial. The commercial became an instant hit, putting the Mascot Hall of Fame on the map in a big, bold way.

Also partnering through the Association of Children's Museums with Nickelodeon to host the community's first Worldwide Day of Play! Hosting a fun filled day of special events, interactive activities, and SLIME!

But the fame didn't stop there. Good Morning America, that national morning show that graces televisions across the country, couldn't resist the charm of the Mascot Hall of Fame. In a heartwarming segment, the nation got a glimpse of the behind the scenes look at how a mascot is made as they unveiled their new mascot, Ray. Along with showcasing the laughter, joy, and all-around fun that makes the Mascot Hall of Fame a must-visit destination.

As we bid adieu to a year filled with mascot madness, it's clear that the Mascot Hall of Fame isn't just a local gem – it's a national sensation. Here's to another year of fuzzy fun, contagious laughter, and the continued celebration of these unsung heroes who bring smiles to faces young and old!



Featured Photo: Members of the Whiting-Robertsdale Boat Club deliver toys to City Hall for the City of Whiting's Annual Toy Drive. Bob Mehok, Treasurer (left), Barb Maul - Event Planner (center), and Mayor Steve Spebar (right).



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Vargo Wins State Historical Award

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko

Frank Vargo, board member and treasurer of the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, was awarded the Hubert



Hawkins History Award by the Indiana Historical Society at the society's November meeting by Tamara Hemmerlein, the Director of Local Services Indiana Historical Society of Indianapolis who came up to award Frank this prestigious honor. Mayor Steve Spebar, a former student of "Mr. Vargo," congratulated him on behalf of the city and spoke on Frank's work that he has done to be considered for this award.

The Hubert Hawkins History Award is presented annually to local historians for distinguished service and work in local history.

Frank has been a critical part of the WR Historical Society for many years. He maintains all their paper files, obituaries, writes articles for the Historical Society website, and manages their financial documents.

Frank has had a long history of community service, serving as a history teacher at St. John the Baptist Catholic School for many years and educating countless residents in Whiting-Robertsdale. He also coached girls' basketball for 30 years but his love and knowledge of history which he passed down to so many students, has made him the perfect research person and volunteer for the new History Center.

Upon receiving the award, Frank said "I was happy to receive the Hubert Hawkins History Award but I'm only one of the volunteers at the WRHS who would also be deserving of receiving it." Frank added that his wife Carol, who also does a lot for the museum, is sharing this award with him.

Fish Fries Coming to SJB—Part 2

by Tom Markovich

In last month's WRite Stuff, St. John the Baptist Parish Catholic Parish announced the start of Lenten fish fries on Fridays during the 2024 Lenten season. They begin on Friday, February 16, and continue for six consecutive Fridays afterwards.



SJB is looking for volunteers to cook and serve. Can you help?

The dinners will be served from 4pm to 8pm each of the Fridays. Set up and clean up will take place before and afterwards.

Raffle tickets, a 50/50, and tip boards will be sold. Entertainment will be provided as well. Come join the fun.

Advanced ticket sale prices will be discounted; reservations are not necessary. Bring the family. Children are welcome. Dine in or takeout options will be available. Questions? Please call the Rectory at 219-659-0023 during regular business hours. Watch next month's WRite Stuff for more information.

Historical Society Meeting January 25th

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko



The Whiting Robertsdale Historical Society resumes its meetings for the new year with our January meeting taking place at the new museum (1606 119th Street) at noon on Thursday, January 25th.

At the time of this printing, our speaker is still to be announced but whoever is our guest, we're sure their information will interest you.

All are invited. Remember, you may become a member for \$15 a year. There will be talk, treats and will be a great way to start your year learning cool things and meeting new and old friends.

New Year's Blessings

by Margaret Saliga

As we leave the past year and anticipate 2024's 365 days, we do well to stop and rest in the present moment; savor the blessings of today. Our fast-paced culture doesn't give space for stopping all activity to enjoy the moment, the pregnant pause. To do so may seem foreign to many and a bit difficult to turn off the phone, stop the texting, and just be in the moment. However, making the deliberate decision to stop, to cease all activity, and just be, has its rewards. We become conscious of the air we breathe, the reality of our amazing bodies, the sounds, sights, and smells to which we are usually oblivious.

When we deliberately stop from busyness and rest in the present moment, we benefit our entire self. When taking the time to breathe and notice our present environs we begin to appreciate the tiny blessings surrounding us. To stop our overly active minds and enter our inner-self we begin to breathe in God's blessings. Our inner-self begins to resonate with the word of the Lord, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

There are many places where you can practice this self-benefiting discipline: in the quiet of your home, in the beauty of nature, in the solitude of your car, in your place of worship. Whenever and whenever you decide mentally to turn off the noise and go within is to begin reaping the rewards of new awareness, appreciation and the God-given gifts of being in the present moment.

The New Year is here. May we each make time to BE....in doing so we are blessed.

Eucharistic Adoration

by Margaret Saliga

Come away from outside noise and hubbub to the quiet, candle lit space of St. John Church, a place to be still and know God's ever-present love and mercy. Allow Jesus to speak to your heart, assuring you of his love and forgiveness. Rest in Jesus' embrace and know his abiding presence. He is on the altar, longing for you to be with him.

Come as you are, stay as long as you are able on Friday, January 5th, 2-6pm

Be refreshed in this time of solitude with the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Savior of the world. All are welcome.

Whiting Code Enforcement

by Harry Peterson, Code Enforcement Officer

Now that we are going into the new year, if you have not done so, please remember to get your 2024 parking sticker for Whiting Park and Whihala Beach. Stickers are on sale now for \$10 to residents of 46394. Indiana residents that live outside of 46394 and out of state stickers are also available. These stickers are valid for the 2024 season. Stickers can be purchased at the park office located at Whihala Beach. Bring your current vehicle registration. Park office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Also, please do not forget to renew your pet tags for 2024. Tags are \$5 until March 31st. After March 31st, the tags increase to \$15 per tag. Bring your pets current proof of rabies vaccination. Tags are available at the clerk's office in Whiting City Hall. The clerk's office is open Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm. Not having up to date pet tags and rabies vaccinations could lead to a citation or possible fine for noncompliance.

Here are a couple of reminders about being a good neighbor.

Cleanup after your pet. If you walk your dog and it relieves itself anywhere but in your own yard clean it up. Many times, I get complaints of irresponsible dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. This includes the sidewalks and parks within our city along with private property. Your own property needs to be kept clean of animal waste as well. If I can see or smell it from the street or alley your neighbors can too. Please pick up the animal waste in your yard on a regular basis. If ignored, the above items can result in a citation and or fine if not addressed.

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The Grand Groundhog's Day Gala

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko



The **Grand Groundhog's Day Gala**, which will be held on **February 2nd**, is a fun fundraiser dinner dance for the new History Center of Whiting and Robertsdale that will open in spring. Donation is **\$100** each and there will be **Marilyn Gaza's Jazz Combo** and the **E-Z Tones** plus other entertainment throughout the evening from **6pm to 11pm**. The great buffet is accompanied by an open bar. There are baskets and, of course, a Groundhog so there will be photo opportunities.

Those who run the History Center are all volunteers and this new Museum will need larger exhibits as well as storage items, and heat expenses. Down the line, we are hoping to have a "library" for the public to use our reference materials too.

Please come and enjoy this "historical" evening that helps us continue to preserve yesterday for tomorrow. Call **Gayle** for tickets at **219-659-8129** or email her at puccini99@aol.com. You can mail your check to Box 592, Whiting, IN. The deadline is **January 20th**.

Pulaski Senior Center - January Schedule

by Joyce Wagner

Tuesday, January 2 - Senior Center reopens. Welcome back!

Thursday, January 4 - Danyelle from the Hammond Public Library - craft project

Monday, January 8 - St. Casimir Senior Group - 12 noon

Thursday, January 11 - deadline to sign up and pay for the January 16 birthday luncheon; cost will be \$10.

Tuesday, January 16 - Monthly birthday luncheon (11am) and bingo (12 noon) The price and menu will be \$10 - the menu has not been confirmed. No cancellations/no refunds; no carry-outs or walk-ins allowed. There has been a change concerning the monthly Birthday Party and Bingo. If you are going to attend just the Bingo, with dessert and coffee, it will be a \$5 donation. The Pulaski Park Senior Center operates through donations to the Center by active participants. Desserts will not be taken home. Desserts if left over, will be offered on Thursday, when the Senior Center is open. No carry out of food is permitted. Left-over food will be offered that following Thursday. Prize donations from the Dollar Tree and/or Family Dollar are always appreciated.

Wednesday, January 24 - Lunch at a Hammond restaurant - 12 noon; location to be determined.

The Center is open on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **9am to 3pm**. The Senior Center offers exercises at 10:15am; bunco, Uno, pinochle, puzzles, or just chatting with other seniors. We sometimes watch a movie. Plastic bags are always accepted and appreciated - they are used to make mats for the homeless. Please let other seniors know about the Center and invite them to come for a visit. If you haven't been to the Center in a while...stop by for coffee and conversation.

If people wish to donate snacks, cases of water, paper products, etc. that are used at the Senior Center, please check with Anna Mamala or Rosemary Wojdyla. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Please note that plastic bags will no longer be accepted at the Senior Center. If you know others who may not be on this email distribution list and who have donated bags, please tell them that bags are not accepted any longer. Thank you. If you are on Facebook, check out the Senior Center at Hammond's Pulaski Park Facebook page. Questions? Contact **Anna Mamala** at mamalaa@gohammond.com. Please do not contact Joyce with questions.

Lisa A. Kmak

Attorney at Law

- Wills
- Probate
- Estates
- Trusts
- Power of Attorney

1022 - 119th Street
Whiting, IN 46394
219-659-1355
Fax: 219-655-4001
KmakLAK2@aol.com

JANUARY / FEBRUARY CALENDAR

On-Going Activities

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Tony's Trivia Night
6pm - Fourth Tuesday of month
Whiting Library</p> <p>Sacred Heart Thrift Shop
Tuesdays & Thursdays - 10am to 1pm
Sacred Heart School</p> <p>Yoga at the Library
Saturday mornings at 10am
Begins Jan. 6th</p> <p>WR Historical Museum
1610 119th Street
Open Sundays from Noon-4pm</p> <p>New Life Soup Fellowship
Every Tuesday, Noon-2pm
October-April</p> <p>Pulaski Park Senior Center
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9am-3pm</p> <p>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Friday Fish Fries 4-8pm
February 16th - March 29th
Alpha Tuesdays 6:15-8pm
February 6th -April 23rd</p> | <p>Studio 659
Open Thursdays and Fridays 4-7pm
Saturdays 10am-2pm
Kid's Painting Classes Wednesdays 4-5pm
Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 21, 28
Adult Dance Classes Saturdays*
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11
*Latin dance Classes 3-4pm, Ballroom
Classes 4:15-5:15pm</p> <p>Mascot Hall of Fame
Free Day FriYAY!
First Friday of the Month, 10am-5pm
Senior Center
every Wednesday - 9am-3pm
Exercise program at 10am</p> <p>46394 Food Pantry
1717 LaPorte Avenue (Sacred Heart)
1st & 3rd Friday, 8:30am-2pm</p> <p>Faith Baptist Church
Bible Study
Tuesdays at 5:30pm
Coat Room Donations
Tuesdays 9am - 1pm
Wednesdays 9am-3pm</p> |
|---|---|

COMING IN JANUARY

- Jan 1** HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Solemnity of Mary Mass - 10am - St. John the Baptist Church
New Year & Solemnity of Mary Mass - 10am - Sacred Heart
- Jan 5** Free Day FriYAY! - 10am-5pm - Mascot Hall of Fame
Eucharistic Adoration - 2-6pm - St. John the Baptist Church
- Jan 6** Yoga at the Library Begins - 10am - Whiting Public Library
- Jan 7** Blessing of Lake Michigan - 1pm - Hammond Marina
Polish Dinner - 2-5pm - American Legion
Adult Latin Dance Classes Begin - 3-4pm - Studio 659
Adult Ballroom Dance Classes Begin - 4:15-5:15pm - Studio 659
"Alpha" Registration Begins (see Page 14) - St. John the Baptist
- Jan 13** The Kennedys in Chicago - 2pm - Whiting Public Library
- Jan 17** Kids Painting Classes Begin - 4-5pm - Studio 659
- Jan 20** Pokey Puppy Craft & Reading - 1pm - Mascot Hall of Fame
Chocolate Bingo - 2pm - Whiting Public Library
- Jan 21** Gourmet Breakfast - 9am-12:30pm - American Legion
Respect Life Prayer Service - 2pm - St. Adalbert Church
- Jan 25** W/R Historical Society Meeting - Noon - 1606 119th St.
- Jan 26** Tony's Trivia Night - 6pm - Whiting Public Library
SJB Winterfest (Adults Only) 5pm-12am - St. John School
- Jan 27** SJB Winterfest - 11am-12am - St. John the Baptist School
Winter Sowing - 11am - Whiting Public Library
Barbie: An American Icon - 2pm - Whiting Public Library
- Jan 28** SJB Winterfest - 11am-10pm - St. John the Baptist School

COMING IN FEBRUARY

- Feb 2** Grand Groundhog's Day Ball - 6-11pm - Whiting K of C Hall
- Feb 9** W/R Chamber Installation Dinner - 6pm - Dynasty Banquets
- Feb 19** "Birthday Candles" Auditions - 7-9pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Feb 20** "Birthday Candles" Auditions - 7-9pm - Marian Theatre Guild

If you have an event or activity to list, please contact writestuff@wrchamber.com or call the Chamber at 219-659-0292.

The February edition of *The WRite Stuff* will be delivered at the beginning of February 2024.

DEADLINE for the February edition is FRIDAY, January 12th, 2024

Note, we **DO NOT** accept PDF's or flyers



LOCAL VIEW

by Tom Dabertin

Rudy Wunder- A Wonderful Life

When you say the name “Rudy”, two thoughts come to mind as they relate to Whiting. Some might think of the 1993 movie about Notre Dame football walk-on Rudy Ruettiger, a movie filmed in part in Whiting. But more likely, Rudy Wunder who passed away on December 4th comes to mind. In fact, when I think of Rudy Wunder, I am reminded of another movie: It’s a Wonderful Life, as Rudy had every bit as much love and pride in Whiting as Jimmy Stewart’s character George Bailey had in Bedford Falls. Rudy had that kind of approachable personality that probably added a couple of hours to the things he did on any given day, stopping to talk and listen to so many, but that was just one facet of the person he was.

Rudy was born on September 1, 1940, to Rudolph and Marian (Rought) Wunder. A graduate of Whiting High School, Class of 1958, he went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Purdue University. He married his beloved wife of 61 years, Lorraine, and together they had four children: Ed, Michael, Bob, and Katie, which led to fifteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Rudy was a councilman for the City of Whiting for 27 years, including as Council president for several terms. He served as a former Whiting Building Inspector, served on the Redevelopment Commission, and was involved with the city in many other roles and ways. Rudy was an optimist

when it came to our community; he saw the potential and wanted to be a part of Whiting-Robertsdale’s future and that commitment to the community guided Rudy throughout his life, hence my comparison of him to George Bailey. Whiting Mayor Steve Spebar recalled that when he first got elected to the City Council in 2000, Rudy was a senior member and council leader. “Rudy instilled in me his love of the community and the need to make Whiting a better place by looking to the future. He was always kind, considerate, willing to show me and others the duties and responsibilities of being on the council and elected office, and most of all he was dedicated to the community.”

Of course, his civic duties were largely part-time, and Rudy’s work career began at his father’s business: Rudolf’s House of Beauty, as a licensed beautician. While he stepped in to help his father (another comparison to the movie), his real passion was wanting to build and fix things, and after 17 years, he made a career change, becoming a licensed contractor who worked on many homes and businesses throughout the Whiting-Robertsdale community. He was a guy that was a jack of all trades and did everything from electrical and carpentry jobs, to tiling, flooring, windows, and bathroom remodeling projects. He also took on many more mundane tasks like moving a refrigerator so the owner could clean behind it, changing washers in leaking faucets, cleaning out gutters, fixing a broken door, oiling squeaky hinges, and changing light bulbs in hard-to-reach fixtures. If there was an odd job, Rudy was the guy to call, all the time enjoying what he did. More importantly, many of those odd jobs were performed without any pay as Rudy found compensation in knowing that he had helped someone (especially senior citizens) in need, just like George Bailey did in the movie.

As I have said many times before, Whiting-Robertsdale is a special place because of its people, and I feel lucky to have known Rudy and have many fond memories of conversations with him. We talked about everything from how to improve the community, to how to replicate old wood moldings. I also have an appreciation for the projects he did for me at my home, including the finishing of my basement, sans the trim, because he said that I was better at miter joints than he was. But there is one story, the first time I met Rudy, that is noteworthy. I was about 6 years old, and for some reason, I had dug a hole in my mother’s backyard and wanted to turn it into a waterfall and pond. This was not any hole- it was more like a crater, and deep enough to uncover the sewer line and gas lines running through the back yard. While my mother made me fill in that portion of the hole, she also recognized how much I wanted to build that pond and waterfall. The next day I remember my mother got Rudy to stop by and he proceeded to explain to me that to make a pond we needed to line the hole, install a pump which would require electricity, and a host of other requirements, including developing a written plan and drawing. Instead of destroying my youthful dreams, Rudy told me that I had dug a great hole, but then suggested that if I held up my plans for a few weeks until I saved up for the rest of the things I would need, he would come back to help me build the pond. He then suggested that we better fill in the hole, so no one fell in it until we were ready. Like most kids, I quickly moved on to some other fanciful idea, but every time I saw Rudy, he would talk to me about what I needed to do to make that waterfall and pond a reality.

As I said, our community is special and unique because of its people, and in the case of Rudy Wunder, Whiting-Robertsdale is what it is and will be because of his dedication and service.



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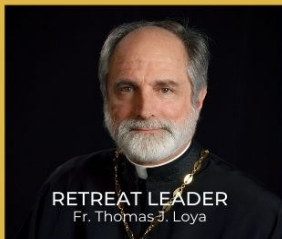
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Fr. Andrew and Laura have been serving at St. Mary Church in Whiting since 2018 and have led three other pilgrimages. Fr. Tom is a renowned speaker and host of Light of the East.

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Meet our Members

80/20 Fitness by Crystal

by Elliot Bibat

If you've walked past 1308 119th Street lately, through the window you'd have likely seen students of **Crystal Chocholek's** fitness classes hard at work. **80/20 Fitness by Crystal** opened their doors in early 2023, and since then business has been booming. Crystal says that moving her business to 119th Street has brought in more clients than she ever would've imagined.

"It's really nice to be on 119th Street because you have so much traffic out here," Crystal said, "I've had random people every day walking in and asking about programs. For me, coming from Hammond to here, I've had more personal training clients than I've ever had in my life. So it's cool, it's crazy! My days are crazy, nonstop. Classes are good. Usually November and December kind of get slow because of the holidays, but I'm sure come January it's going to be busy again."

Now that the holidays are over and the new year has just begun, are you looking to jump-start your health kick for 2024? If so, check out Crystal's website at 8020fitnessbycrystal.com to find a class that best suits your goals. On the site's home page, you'll find a tab on the top right hand corner that says "Book a Class/Training." Crystal recommends that newcomers sign up for either a Saturday circuit class or a muscle building course.

"Usually, first-time people will ask me what class is best to take first, so I tell them probably a circuit class on Saturday. You work at your own pace because everyone's at their own station. Whenever somebody needs a break, they can take a second and get some water. And that's for every class, I'll give them modifications for everything. Circuits is a great starter and then also my muscle up class, because that one's a bar bell strength training class. So, you know I'm not giving you an hour of cardio and kicking your butt. So those are the two classes I'd recommend newcomers to start out with."



The 80/20 in "80/20 Fitness" represents the ratio of a successful fitness plan, 80% of it being diet and 20% being exercise. The age range of Crystal's clients spans from 14 to 75, a testament to how 80/20's classes and trainings are suitable for just about everyone. For newcomers, the first class is free to observe. Crystal stated that her classes foster a supportive

and encouraging environment, and that her priority is to make sure that her students are comfortable with the exercises they're being given, paying close attention to using correct form and giving individualized modifications to meet her clients' specific needs.

"Everybody here in my classes is so awesome," Crystal said, "They're motivated, and they motivate each other. They're really not worried about what other people are doing, they're focused on what they're doing. My big focus in class is to make sure everybody's doing the exercises correctly."

Starting this year, 80/20 Fitness by Crystal will also be offering bungee fitness courses. Students of these classes will be suspended by a bungee cord strapped to a harness and complete exercises that are easier on joints but can burn up to 700 calories. While there is no date set for the start of these classes just yet, Crystal anticipates for them to begin around February.

"My word of wisdom is that walking through those doors is the hardest part," Crystal said of starting a workout routine for the new year, "Come in and see me. Come take a class. Once they see those results after a month, it's crazy to see how much they light up. There's a fire that lights in them and they're ready to roll."

80/20 Fitness by Crystal is located at **1308 119th Street** in Whiting. All information about the classes and training offered can be found at 8020fitnessbycrystal.com. Crystal can be reached by phone at **219-433-6797** and by email at Crystal@8020fitnessbycrystal.com



St. Mary Byzantine's Blessing of Lake Michigan

by Fr. Andrew Summerson

The oldest Eastern Catholic Church in all of Chicagoland and Indiana will mark its 125th anniversary with the **blessing of Lake Michigan on January 7th, 2024, at 1pm**. The blessing, to be held at the **Hammond Marina, 701 Casino Center Drive**, in Hammond, will commemorate the Eastern Catholic feast of the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. Catholics believe that by his being baptized in a river, Jesus Christ sanctified all of creation. Therefore, according to Eastern Catholic tradition, a natural body of water is to be blessed on the feast day as well.

Father Andrew Summerson, who serves St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, will bless the lake during a sung prayer service. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will follow.

"Water is the source of all life on earth," said Father Summerson. "We recognize the value of life and of all creation and, in blessing water, we bless our own life and life itself. We praise God for his magnificent creation and we bless it for his glory."

"The blessing of Lake Michigan is significant," he continued. "Our prayer is that, with this blessing of this large and important body of water, the blessings of God will flow through this great land and throughout the world," he said.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, located at **2011 Clark St.** in Whiting, was founded 125 years ago by Eastern European immigrants, including Slovaks, Hungarians and Ukrainians, most of whom worked in the steel mills and oil refineries that generated the wealth and industry the region enjoys today. A large number of these immigrants were Eastern Catholic, and they founded their first church, St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, in Whiting in 1898 and incorporated the church in 1899.

For information, call **(219)-659-0277** or email stmarywhiting@parma.org

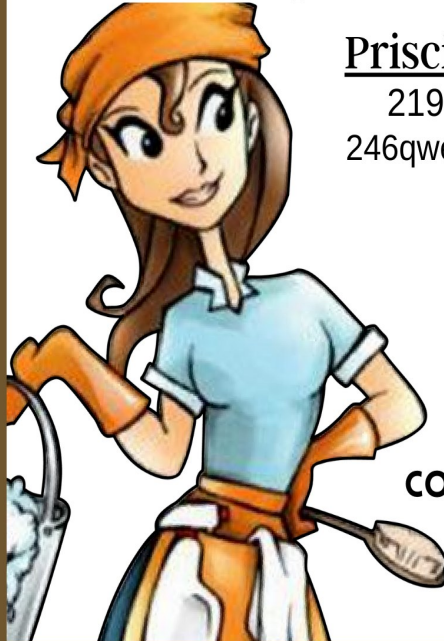
Annual Respect Life Prayer Service

by Margaret Saliga

The Whiting/Robertsdale Faith Community invites you and your family and friends to participate in the **2024 Respect Life Prayer Service** to be held on **Sunday, January 21st at 2pm** at St. Adalbert Catholic Church, 121st St. & Indianapolis Blvd. Together we will reflect upon God's tremendous gift of LIFE, which the unborn, the aged, our youth, our families, those who struggle with various addictions, and those who are incarcerated all share.

While challenging circumstances often cause people to stumble on their life's journey, our merciful God understands and reaches out to us in a variety of ways, helping us to survive and thrive. Our prayer time together is intended to benefit the many whose lives are hurting. This sixty-minute service is comprised of Sacred Scripture passages, prayerful music and time for reflection. It is hoped that you will note the date and make plans to attend

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A Thank You Message to Bakers, Volunteers, and Holiday Cookie Aficionados

by Jeanni Wilkening

I would personally like to thank each and everyone who baked for the **Arts Alive Cookie Sale**. It was a huge success thanks to all of you. Also a special shout out to **Patti Herbst, Rachel DeLuna, and Brenda Henson** for all your help. And of course, thank you to those of you who bought cookies. Hope you enjoyed them.



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Left to Right: Leonardo Martinez, Faustino Martinez, Coach Mrs. Sotello, Bret Monroe, James Holmes V.

NOT pictured: Olin Perez, Emiliano Lara, and Romeo Ramirez

There's No Place Like Home - Wizard of Oz Winter Fest 2024 at St. John the Baptist, January 26, 27, & 28

by Candi Gard

The **St. John Winter Festival** started in 1976 and has grown in making St. John the Baptist parish into a community that comes together to enjoy the camaraderie of friends, family, and neighbors. The festival is a time for the Whiting/Robertsdale community to gather and reconnect with each other.



The lower level of the school will be transformed into the Emerald City. You may want to visit the beer garden, head through the Panel Room to enjoy pizza, nachos, beef sandwiches, and sweet treats.

Throughout all three days, the gymnasium will transform into the Children's giant game room which will have games for all ages to enjoy and win prizes. Let's not forget about the teens! Our Teen Room will have a coffee shop & dance room vibe.

Friday, January 26, is adult's only night. A Bocce Ball tournament will be held with teams of 4. Each team cost is \$80 and will be limited to 16 teams. Cash prizes awards! Live entertainment by St. John alumnus **Jessica Lopez Schmidt** and her band **Jessi & the Fizz**. A steak dinner will be hosted, by advance ticket purchase only.

On **Saturday & Sunday** afternoon, you will have the enjoyment of playing **Bingo** and participating in **trivia!** Games of Chance will be offered throughout the weekend. The **Student Talent Show** will take place on **Saturday** followed by a Magic Show on Sunday, opened to all! Food, drink & fun for all ages! **Saturday night entertainment** is the Region's very own & popular **Dick Diamond & the Dusters!**

We conclude our festival on Sunday, January 28th with live entertainment by **Good VibeZ**, a traditional **Slovak Dinner**, and the **Grand Prize \$5,000 Raffle drawing**.

As always, donations are accepted anytime! Please reach out to the School Office with questions, **219-659-3042**.

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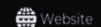
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KOCH'S CHOICE

by Al Koch



Sunday, the day of the sun, the first day of the week and the Christian Sabbath. It has a pulse and pace unlike any other day of the week. It is a day of rest, prayer, play, or toil. Sunday is for family or a time for personal solitude. Sunday is for all seasons, readily adapting its song to enrich the melody of the human soul.

Sunday is church bells and hearing the "Good News!" Sunday is shined shoes, combed hair, and neatly pressed clothes. Sunday is joyous noise, singing songs of salvation. Sunday is Gospel, Biblicial homilies, spiritual lessons, and quiet hymns. Sunday is the collection plate and fidgety little boys in dress shirts and neckties. Sunday is sleeping in, and unheeded alarm clocks. Sunday is freshly brewed coffee, the sport section, wheat toast with jam, and orange juice. Sunday is an unhurried hot shower that only ends when the water heater sends its chilly reminder. Sunday is playfully wrestling with kids on the bed.

Sunday is staggering barefoot over cold floors to let out the dog. Sunday is prime time snuggle-together-fest. Sunday is trying to discover the delivery person's newest landing site, hoping you can reach the newspaper without using equipment from the garage. Sunday is 8 o'clock tee time and being golf-ready at 5:30 in the morning. Sunday is quiet streets and shuttered stores, all-night diners, and donut shops. Sunday is jogging while keeping rhythm to ear-fed headphone tunes. Sunday is ice cream cones and sundaes covered with chocolate that call your name.

Sunday is sharing togetherness, holding hands with a special someone—speaking by touch through love-lighted eyes. Sunday is family dinner and prayerful words of thanks before meals, home-cooked delights, conversation, and laughter. Sunday is when children giggle at favorite television programs and video cartoons. Sunday is helping mom with the dishes.

Sunday is spring bonnets and print dresses with ribbons for the hair. Sunday is flower buds teasing the senses with seasonal promise. Sunday is car wash time for the family limousine by machine or manual labor: scrubbing wheels, polishing bumpers, and cleaning windows, knowing your actions will encourage rain. Sunday is shopping—on-line or invading neighborhood malls, challenging one's willpower and the bankcard's limit. Sunday is answering rote questions: paper or plastic? Credit or debit? Sunday is watching TV, dressed like "who cares?" snacking through programs and diet promises. Sunday is giving the Lay-Z-Boy recliner a serious road test—curled up under cover with a cozy comforter, and a favorite book.

Sunday's casual attire is bathrobe, sweats, slippers, and bare feet. Sunday is a hot cup of soothing tea savored while reading the papers. Sunday is nap time—delicious snoozes coaxed by soft music from CDs or FM stations. Sunday is taking a drive, checking out flea markets, garage sales and other bargain sites. Sunday is kids playing sandlot baseball, schoolyard basketball, touch football, and hockey on frozen lagoons and lakes.

Sunday is hangin' with the guys, cruisin' with the top down, hittin' the beach or a 16-inch softball. Sunday is being young or old, or any age in between. Sunday is the weekly free day. Sunday is take-your-college-kid-back-to-campus day, trunk loaded with enough food to feed a small European country. Sunday is apartment cleaning, grocery shopping, laundromat visiting, and catching up on everything that couldn't be done during the week. Sunday is working in the yard, tending the garden, mowing the lawn, raking leaves and sweeping snowflakes and frozen crystals from icy steps.

Sunday is feeding the gulls by the lake. Sunday is a visit to the cemetery—remembering. Sunday is strolling through leafy autumn carpets of sun-painted cornflakes, celebrating the bounty of a summer past. Sunday is football, baseball, and the wide world of sports. Sunday is an alphabet of choice: NFL, NHL, MLB, NBA, CBS, NBC,

ABC, FOX, CNN, ESPN or NCAA, countless channels to surf and savor via satellite and cable.

Sunday is Saturday night's best friend, providing starry-eyed romantics extra hours past midnight with moments to remember. Sunday is setting the clock back in November and springing ahead early in March. Sunday is a synonym for "take a break!" Sunday offers time to reflect on moments gone by, and deceased family and friends who now reside divine, far beyond the stars.

Sunday offers invitation to all-night retro radio. Throughout America, unseen thousands, shun television and dial AM stations to hear voices, programs, and melodies of yesteryear. Geriatric insomniacs tune in to dispel sleepless hours—and privately savor the remembrance and afterglow of long-ago special evenings and east of midnight togetherness.

At the beginning of each week, a brand-new Sunday quietly arrives and is warmly ushered into this writer's aging memory. Melancholy thoughts of youthful days mischievously tease and tempt the well-seasoned gray matter to fantasize about what could have been if missed opportunities and youthful dreams had been fulfilled. For brief idyllic moments, it is yesterday once more. Sunday's fringe benefits.

Sunday is church, a spiritual banquet prepared for the congregation to prayerfully acknowledge forgiveness, salvation, mercy, charity, and love, regardless of where one worships. For those with health issues, televised services. For others, in person attendance, second collections, and afterwords, a pancake breakfast or bake sale. Sunday is visiting friends. Sunday is family albums and stories about loved ones and relatives. Sunday is the laughter of children. Sunday is tranquility—alone with one's thoughts. Sunday is a fresh start for a new supply of weekdays. Sunday is hope, renewal, opportunity, kindness, and peace.

As a year-ending gift, the last Sunday of December 2023 served as New Year's Eve and the official welcoming committee for New Year's Day, January 1, 2024. I like Sunday.



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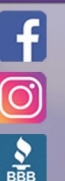
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Paws Here! by Nancy Sparano

Happy New Year! Everyone say a little prayer that 2024 will be a better year than 2023. Let's concentrate on helping the animals and each other out in 2024. Everyone can use kindness and support in their lives, both animals and people. Let's make 2024 the year all our cats and dogs find their forever homes.

Izzy – Izzy is about 8 months old. She is a very happy girl who would enjoy having an owner to run and get exercise with. She loves going on walks.

Goblin – Goblin is in the lobby and loves to greet everyone. He sticks his paw out and can't wait for someone to pay attention to him.

Alaska & Glacier – Two gorgeous pure white kittens. They were born outside and were living on the streets for 3 months. Glacier seems to be deaf and has limited vision. She relies on her sister and we cannot separate them.

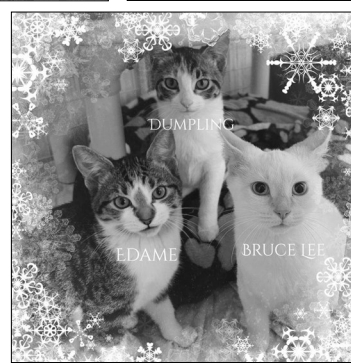
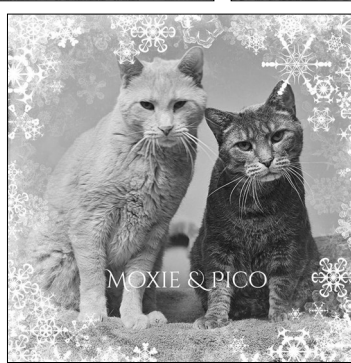
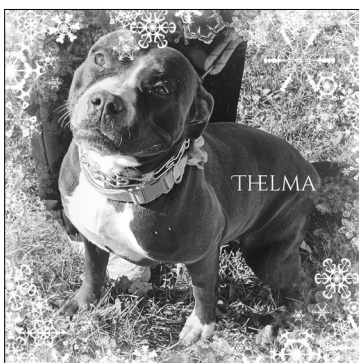
Bruce Lee, Dumpling and Edame are so friendly! They were in a foster home and their foster mom spent the time to socialize them and they are little purr machines.

Bones, Chucky, Hazel, Trick, Treat and October – These six kittens are raring to go! They've been having a blast at their foster home and now they're ready to be the center of your world.

I've included pictures of other animals available at the shelter. They are all very special and patiently waiting for their new family.

We need cat food (Fancy Feast and Friskies wet food, and Purina One dry food), unscented non clumping litter for kittens, dog food (Purina One wet & dry food), cat & dog treats, indestructible dog toys, cat toys, laundry detergent, bleach, Odoban, and paper towels.

We are scheduling appointments with an approved application. You can request an adoption application via email: nsparano@whitingindiana.com, via Facebook – the Whiting Animal Shelter page or leave a message on the answering machine – 219-473-4646.



Whiting Fire Dept. Announces Participation with the Home Fire Campaign by Don Harbin, Fire Cheif

The Whiting Fire Department is proud to announce its participation in the **Home Fire Campaign** launched by the **American Red Cross**, which aims to prevent fire related-deaths and injuries while making the homes in our community safer.

The Home Fire Campaign consists of the installation of 10-year life lithium battery smoke alarms and providing residents with home fire safety information, including how to create an escape plan. The goal of the Whiting Fire Department and the American Red Cross is to provide these items free of charge to all Whiting residents who request this service.

The American Red Cross phone number to begin the process is **1-888-684-1441**. Once the initial call is made the resident will then receive a call back with a scheduled installation date and time to be completed by the Whiting Fire Department. Due to limited installation dates, the Home Fire Campaign will be rolled out to the city on a block-by-block basis, with eventually the entire City of Whiting having an opportunity to participate in the program. Businesses or large-scale property managed buildings are not eligible to participate in the program.

This program is currently open for enrollment are any residents on **Fischrupp Avenue, John Street, Fred Street, 121st Street, and Steiber Street**. Residents will be notified when their street is available to schedule the service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Whiting Fire Department at 219-659-1069.



What is Alpha?

By Margaret Saliga

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, informal environment. Gathering once a week over an eleven-week period, each Alpha brings together people from all walks of life.

Alpha Tuesdays begin **February 6th** through **April 23rd, 6:15-8pm** at the **St. John Mural Room (lower level of St. John School)** Registration begins **January 7th**.

Good Food: Like most good things, every Alpha starts with time shared at dinner. **Good Films:** A 30-minute Alpha film sparks good conversation while exploring the big issues of faith and unpacking the fundamentals of Christianity. **Good Discussions:** A valuable part of the Alpha experience is sharing your thoughts in friendly and supportive small group discussion.

Alpha is free, but registration is necessary! Call **219-659-0023** to register or email churchparishoffice@stjohnbap.org



SCAN ME

Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch Stats: 11/10-12/4

by Bonnie Henry

Lieutenant Jeff Allard – WPD: Warrant – 11-10-23 in the 1500 block of Atchison. Officers received LPR hit of vehicle entering the city with the registered owner being wanted. After a brief search of the city, officers located the suspect vehicle and took the owner into custody without incident. **Recovered Vehicle**– 11-11-23 in the 1400 block of John. Officer observed vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed and driving on rim with sparks coming off the wheel. After a brief pursuit, vehicle stopped due to disabling damage and suspect was detained. Owners of vehicle arrived and stated the suspect had just stolen the vehicle from them in Chicago. Subject was transported to LCJ on several charges. **Theft** – 11-14-23 In the 1900 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers took report from subject who stated they had been putting items in their car at Walgreen's when they were approached by 2 suspects asking for directions. Complainant reentered Walgreen's to make another purchase and found her wallet was now missing. **Intoxication** – in the 2400 block of Schrage. Officers responded to a report of disturbance. On scene officers came in contact with subject they had recently encountered and told to leave. Subject was taken custody for trespassing and public intoxication. **Domestic w/Weapon** – in the 1800 block of Cleveland. Officers responded a report of a domestic involving a firearm. Upon arrival, officers entered the residence and did a secure firearm search. Father and son had gotten into an argument and son had allegedly pointed a firearm at the father's head.

Captain Tom Strabavy – HPD: General Assignment Cases/ Administrative Alerts: (1) 11-28-23 3:25pm. 1400 Indianapolis Blvd. Pursuit occurred. HPD Special Deployment Unit initiated a vehicle pursuit on a vehicle weaving in and out of traffic. Vehicle fled toward state line when pursuit was terminated just over the line into Illinois. (2) 11-23-23 at 9:55pm. Railroad St/Calumet Ave. Train vs vehicle accident. A Norfolk/Southern train struck a vehicle that apparently was attempting to pass the tracks with the gates down. The female driver was physically okay, but was intoxicated. Her BAC was over the legal state limit, and she was detained pending OWI charges. (3) 11-24-23 at 7:25pm. Horseshoe Casino. Apparent suicide. A male subject jumped from the 6th floor parking garage and landed on the 3rd floor. The fall killed the male. Video surveillance confirmed no foul play was involved. (4) 12-02-23 at 7:25am. Horseshoe Casino, a stolen vehicle entered into the parking garage. A subject was identified through video surveillance, and detained pending questioning. The subject while being placed in handcuffs, began to struggle and fight with officers. The subject was arrested for auto theft and resisting law enforcement. While at the booking facility the arrested male punched one of the transport officers in the mouth. The arrested subject was then charged with battery to

a police officer. The next day when officers were readying to transport the offender to L.C., he spit on one of the officers and subsequently was charged with battery by bodily waste, a felony. (5) 11-29-23 at 2:00pm. Indianapolis/Benedict, fatal traffic accident. Amazon truck driver struck a pedestrian, causing injuries that were not survivable. (6) 11-21-23 at 2:00pm in the 1700 block of Lake, FBI SWAT (Chicago Office,) along with FBI Task Force agents conducted a search warrant/raid on a residence where a subject was wanted for civil rights violations. The subject was located and taken into custody. Upon further searching of the residence, a live grenade was found. Porter County Bomb Squad was summoned to the scene, took possession of the device and rendered it safe. (7) 12-01-23 at 1:00am. Area pf 2100 block of Lake, Criminal Recklessness/Shots Fired. While on routine patrol, a patrolman heard what he thought were shots fired in the area of 2000-2100 Lake. He then observed a vehicle at a high rate of speed southbound on Lake disregarding the stop sign, and finally stop after the patrolman attempted to curb the vehicle. All occupants (4 of them total, 2 adults 2 juveniles) were detained and identified. At this point, with WPD's assistance, a search of the vehicle produced spent shell casings on the driver's and passenger's side floor boards. All subjects were arrested pending investigation. One adult was charged, and two the juvenile's had paperwork sent to L.C Juvenile Court for reviewing. (8)12-03-23 at 4:00p.m. HPD assisted WPD with a vehicle pursuit. HPD patrol units deployed their chaser technology during the course of the pursuit. The chase ended in a crash in the area of 103rd/Indianapolis Blvd. in Illinois. WPD and Chicago PD handled all relevant paperwork from the incident. (9) 12-04-23 at 11.55am. Area of Indianapolis Blvd./5th. Stolen car pursuit with a K-9 apprehension. A LPR hit of a stolen vehicle entering our city occurred. The vehicle was located at Luke's Gas Station. As the K-9 unit approached the vehicle and got closer, the suspect vehicle was placed into reverse by the suspect and struck the K-9 car. The K-9 officer, observing the vehicle attempt to flee, then gave chase. When the car sped into Illinois, it ended in a traffic crash near Ewing/Indianapolis Blvd. The suspect driver exited the stolen car and began to flee, when he was tracked down by the K-9 officer and his partner, K-9 Rocky. The suspect was engaged by the K-9 and taken into custody. The driver of the vehicle was charged with auto theft. It also was learned the driver was wanted out of Wisconsin for a parole violation/felony warrants. These felony charges out of Wisconsin were robbery, felony domestic battery and possession of narcotic drugs.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 8th, 2024 at Calumet College, Room 200.** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Bonnie, Morgan, and Shawn.



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