



## 2024 Party Like a Pirate Pub Crawl!

by Jenn Gunter Peddycord

Ahoy there, matey! Your favorite local pubs and restaurants are swabbing the decks and lifting anchor to set sail **Saturday, April 20th**, for the annual **Party Like a Pirate Pub Crawl!**



Arghh you ready?! Calling all pirates 21 and older! Don your best seafaring garb, and get your sea legs ready as you follow the map through Whiting-Robertsdale's best watering holes from **7pm to 11pm** to enjoy your favorite refreshments along this year's walking pub crawl. Warning, if ye be not dressed in pirate garb, ye may have to walk the plank!

Pub Crawl maps will be available at the **Chamber of Commerce, 1417 - 119th Street**, as well as at each "port" along the way. Follow the Party Like a Pirate Facebook page for additional information about this swashbuckling good time!

## Garage Mahal: Spring Cleaning and Spring Shopping!

by Jenn Gunter Peddycord



Save the dates! **Garage Mahal 2024** will be held on two days, for the second year in a row. On **May 18th at 19th** from **9am to 4pm** each day, take a drive through the Whiting/Robertsdale neighborhood to find true treasures, and great deals.

Whether you are on the hunt, or looking to offload some vintage or like-new items post spring cleaning, there are many ways you can take advantage of this community wide garage sale. Holding the event on Saturday and Sunday will allow for even more time to search and more time to sell. We call that a win-win!

To register as a seller and get on the Garage Mahal Map, stop by the **Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce (1417 - 119th St.)** to fill out your participation form by **Friday, May 3rd. Early Bird Registration is \$15 (if you register by Saturday, April 20th)**, after that regular registration is **\$20. See registration form on pg. 15.** Contact the Chamber at **219-659-0292** if you have any questions about this year's Garage Mahal.

## Arts Alive Announces Scholarships

Arts Alive is excited to announce that we will be offering 3 scholarships:

**Performing Arts: \$500**

**Visual Arts: \$500**

**Music: \$500**

The Arts Alive Scholarship will be awarded yearly. Arts Alive raises money to give back and promote the arts in the Whiting/Robertsdale community. These scholarships will be awarded to 3 individuals who are pursuing the arts in their post-secondary education. This money can be used for books/room and board or tuition.

The requirements are:

- Must live in the 46394 zip code area.
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher.
- Must be majoring in one of the fields above.
- 3.1 GPA or higher.

Applicants must write an essay with a minimum of 200 words on "What The Arts Mean To You" and what you plan on doing with your degree, as well as a little bit about yourself. **The deadline for the scholarship is Wednesday, May 1st.** Please turn in to school counselor **Sarah Daniels.** The scholarships will be presented at the Senior Awards Dinner.

## Pop-Up Market Coming to Cruise Night!

Arts Alive is excited to announce that our **Pop-Up Market** will now be a part of **Whiting Cruise Nights.**

We will be next to City Hall on **119th and Oliver Streets** from **5-9pm** on **Wednesdays, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, and October 16th.** We will have a variety of vendors from candles, jewelry, wreaths, crochet items, baked goods, photography, and more!

Please check us out! If you are interested in being a part of the market, contact [artsalivein-whiting@gmail.com](mailto:artsalivein-whiting@gmail.com) or **219-427-4288** for more information.

Also, stay tuned for **Arts Alive's Pop Up Summer Market** on **Saturdays, June 1st through August 31st, 8am-2pm.**



## Open Mic Night is Back!

Arts Alive is excited to announce that **Jim Murzyn and Friends** will be taking over Studio 659 monthly to showcase local talents. If you dance, tell jokes, write poetry or stories, juggle, sing, dance, or play an instrument, come and join us. **Sign up starts at 6pm** and performances are from **7-9pm. Wednesday, April 10th** we will be at **Studio 659, 1413 119th Street** in Whiting.

Weather permitting, we will be outdoors at **Sheridan Plaza** on a monthly basis on **Wednesdays, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 9th** from **7-9pm** with sign ups at 6pm.

If the weather does not cooperate, it will be held rain or shine or cold as we will head indoors to Studio 659. If you have any questions, please contact **Patti** at **219-427-4288** for more information.

## History on Tap: Whiting's Beer Heritage

The **Whiting -Robertsdale Historical Society** invites beer enthusiasts and history buffs alike to explore the rich beer heritage of Whiting, Indiana at **Bulldog Brewing Company** on **Tuesday, April 16th.**

This field trip will provide a rare opportunity to experience firsthand how beer is crafted today while learning about the pivotal role beer played in the city's early development, how and where early settlers enjoyed their pints, and the historical significance of beer brewing in the American story.

The presentation will be led by **Ron Tabaczynski** from the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society. He will be joined by **Kevin Clark**, the owner and Master Brewer of **Bulldog Brewing Company.** They will share their knowledge and expertise about the historical and current practices of brewing, providing a unique perspective on Whiting's beer heritage.

This event begins at **5pm** at the **Bulldog Brewing Company**, located at **1409 119th Street**, Whiting, Indiana. Tickets are just **\$10** per person and can be purchased in advance at **Bulldog Brewing Company** or at the **Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce, 1417 - 119th Street.** Doors will be open at **4:30pm**, so you'll have plenty of time to grab a pint and secure your spot. Everyone is welcome, though you must be 21 or over to purchase alcohol.

This is an opportunity you don't want to miss! So, mark your calendars, gather your friends, prepare to raise a glass to the past, and join us in celebrating Whiting's rich beer heritage. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please contact Ron Tabaczynski at [rtabaczynski@comcast.net](mailto:rtabaczynski@comcast.net).



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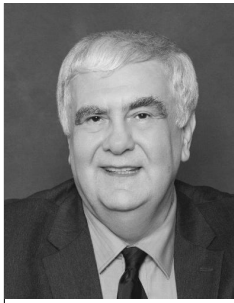
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## A Letter from the Mayor

by Mayor Steve Spebar, Whiting

Hello everyone,

The weather has had some ups and downs. Thankfully we have had more of the upside. Hopefully that continues.

We have made a significant adjustment concerning the homes on Center Street. The original intention was for the development to mirror the existing homes built in the previous development. Included in this was a detached garage. As the developer had conversations with potential buyers, a consistent theme came out – requests for an attached garage. Doing this from the rear of the yard would be cumbersome, involving an attached breezeway, etc. Based on the requests, we are moving forward with attached front garages. The cost of the driveways that will need to be created will be paid for by the developer. The location of the driveways will be such so as no streetlight will have to be relocated and no buffalo box (water line valve access) will have to be relocated either. In conjunction with this change, the need for alley usage is nonexistent on the new homes. Therefore, we will be closing off the alley behind new homes. The alley will remain open behind the existing homes. The City owns fourteen feet of property in that alley. Ten feet will remain as an access easement for NIPSCO when needed (all NIPSCO poles on Center Street will eventually be in the alley). The other four feet is being vacated by the City and given to an individual that purchases the property. The garages in front and the extra footage in back dramatically increase the size of the backyard. In addition, a purchaser will be able to construct an eight foot fence along the back property line to create a greater buffer to the railroad tracks. I believe these changes will make these properties more inviting for families to purchase.

I will take this opportunity to welcome **Marty Wielgos** to the City of Whiting Staff. Mr. Wielgos is assuming the position of Utilities Director (Water & Sewer). Mr. Wielgos has an extensive resume, including thirteen years as CEO of the Hammond Sanitary District. I believe he will be an excellent addition for the City. As this article is being written, he is familiarizing himself with day to day operations. Assisting him in this effort is current Utilities Director **Tim Wajvoda**. Mr. Wajvoda assumed the position last summer with the retirement of **Paul Tumo**. Mr. Wajvoda will transfer this month to the IT Department to assume the position of Assistant IT Director. I wish both gentlemen well in their new assignments.

I am pleased to announce that the Whiting Police Department has joined the Northwest Regional SWAT Team. Fourteen communities participate in this program. The benefits of joining are numerous, and having additional resources available should a situation arise is a practical move. I consider joining this organization an additional layer of protection for our community. My compliments to **Chief John Sotello** for coordinating our efforts to join the program.

We are in the process of purchasing drones for our Police and Fire Departments. **Fire Chief Don Harbin** and Chief Sotello have both researched and witnessed demonstrations of the drones. The drones will be used for emergency situations, large social events, etc. They will provide useful information to our Police and Fire Departments as certain situations are monitored. Department personnel will be trained on operating and maintaining the drones. I thank both Chief Harbin and Chief Sotello for their research. This will be another useful tool to assist the Police and Fire Departments along with our community at large.

Recently the City of Whiting joined the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. This organization was established in the 1990’s by Mayor Daley of Chicago and the Mayor of Toronto at that time. The current president of the organization is the Mayor of Milwaukee. The presidency rotates every year between a Mayor in the United States and a Mayor in Canada. We join over 250 communities in both countries that border the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, including several of our neighboring communities. One of the main efforts of this group is coastal resilience. We still have a section on our shoreline that we would like to reinforce in the future (the old Gun Club area). By joining this organization, we will have access to services (engineering firms, grant applications) that potentially can save the City significant costs as we pursue this project.

The City posted on our website that beginning on March 18th, the removal of “dibs” from parking spaces and parkways would begin. We have been blessed with a mild winter, but that has not prevented the proliferation of items being placed out to reserve private parking on a public street. I understand the situations around Pierogi Fest or severe snow, but putting dibs out on a regular basis is unacceptable. My hope is to be able to create defined parking spots on some northside streets this year. This has worked to regulate parking in other parts of the City.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!

I can be reached at [mayorsteve@whitingindiana.com](mailto: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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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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## Upcoming Events at Whiting Public Library

by Tony Borgo

### Real Reels - Thursdays at 2:30pm

Every Thursday at 2:30pm, the Whiting Public Library shows a new documentary.

**April 4th: *Science Fair*** - Follow 9 high school students who compete at the International Science Fair. **April 11th: *Age of Champions*** - The film documents the pursuit of 5 individuals competing at the National Senior Olympics. **April 18th: *Welcome to Kutshers*** - This film documents the last Catskill resort in the Borscht belt. **April 25th: *Tower*** - In 1966, a sniper in a University of Texas Tower held the campus and the country hostage.



### The Berlin Wall - April 6th at 2pm

Historian **Jim Gibbons** will present the story of **The Berlin Wall** at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, April 6th at 2pm**. On June 24th, 1948, Russia divided Berlin with a blockade. On August 12th-13th, 1961, a wall suddenly appeared in Berlin. Whole families were cut off from communicating with or seeing each other. Gibbons will show how the struggles of that time affected not only the people of Berlin, but the world as well.

### Container Gardening - April 13th at 2pm

Discover the green thumb within you at the Whiting Public Library's **container garden program!** Join **Susan Radovich** on **Saturday, April 13th at 2pm** as she invites participants to delve into the fundamentals of container gardening, from selecting the perfect containers and soil to choosing the right plants for limited spaces.

### My Brother Andy Kaufman - April 20th at 2pm

For a special peek into the life of the late actor and comedian **Andy Kaufman**, who was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2023, come to Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, April 20th at 2pm**. Andy Kaufman's younger sister, **Carol Kaufman Kerman**, will tell stories and anecdotes about her brother, their upbringing in New York, and what he was like in private. Andy Kaufman is best known for his role as Latka Gravas in the hit sitcom "Taxi," which aired from 1978 to 1983.

The Whiting Public Library offers a **Cards and Conversation** program every **Monday at 2pm** and a **DrumFit** exercise program every **Tuesday at 11am**. The Whiting Public Library's monthly **Trivia Night** will be held on **Tuesday, April 23rd at 6pm**.

### Quote of the Month

*"April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain."*

- T.S. Eliot, "The Waste Land"



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## CCSJ Offers Free Soil Sampling

Last year, the Federated Metals site (at the corner of Indianapolis Blvd. & New York Ave.) was included on the Superfund list. At public meetings last fall, representatives from the EPA shared the extensive timeline related to testing and identifying local areas of concern.

**Calumet College of St. Joseph**, in collaboration with the **Northern Lake County Environmental Partnership**, will be able to immediately provide **free soil sampling kits** for residents who are concerned about the potential contamination of their property. This sampling is in no way affiliated with the EPA or any work they will do in the future.

We will hold an **information session** on **Wednesday, April 17th, at 6pm in Room 200**. At this meeting, Whiting-Robertsdale residents will learn about how the testing is completed and how results are shared. Soil sampling kits will be available that evening. There is no charge for the kits or testing. Please join us.

**Calumet College of St. Joseph** is located at **2400 New York Avenue**. Please contact **Brian Lowry** ([blowry@ccsj.edu](mailto:blowry@ccsj.edu)) with any questions.

## Annual WR Boat Club Food Drive Donations for the Whiting City Food Banks

by Mike Hill, Commodore

The **WR Boat Club** held its **Annual Food Drive**. We had a tremendous turnout and collected a truck full of non-perishables, toiletries, and essentials for families and individuals in need within the Whiting community. A large cash donation was also collected. I want to thank everyone in our club who again generously donated to this extremely worthy cause.



## Marian Theatre Guild - St. John Church Presents



## Birthday Candles

Written by Noah Hilde  
Directed By Morgan McCabe

**Saturdays, April 20 and 27 at 7:30 pm**  
**Sundays, April 21 and 28 at 3:00 pm**

**Marian Memorial Auditorium**  
**119th Street & Lincoln Avenue, Whiting, IN**

**Reservations 219-473-0713**

**Box Office Opens Monday, April 8, 2024**  
**Monday - Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Dinner Theatre Available on Saturdays!**



## LOCAL VIEW

by Tom Dabertin

### An Occluded View

As a community, we have always taken pride in having quaint little businesses, especially in Downtown Whiting. And one aspect of that downtown is being able to see into the stores and businesses. Now, window shopping is nothing new, and it's designed to prompt people to see what is for sale, how busy things are, or if it's a restaurant, if there is seating available. It is the subject of much lore and song lyrics about what makes a downtown. When people come to our community, we like to boast that we have a viable downtown with little shops and restaurants. Part of the attraction of our downtown are the windows of stores like Suncatchers, Just Little Things, Junkyard, and Mind Benders. On a Friday or Saturday evening, you can see people driving down 119th Street looking to see if there is seating at Beggars, Standard Taproom, Winey Beach, Bulldog, Burrito Stop, Richie's Deli, Sunrise, Dos Sabores, Center Lounge, Taco Dive, and Grindhouse. It is also part of the experience to sit in those establishments and look out at 119th Street to see who is walking or driving by, enjoying that downtown atmosphere. We value the impact of business windows and the overall atmosphere that they create. We even give an annual award at Christmas for window decorating, as those decorations help to accentuate the overall experience of downtown.

Sometimes, windows are covered temporarily by paper. This is a sign of renovation or a new business, such as the situation with the storefront where Buzzin' Barbeque was (it moved in with Richie's Deli) and I am told that a new business will open there shortly. That also applies to the building next to Hobson and Scott. While covered/papered windows are a rite of passage and commonplace, our downtown is plagued with windows that cannot be seen through and detract from the overall appearance and atmosphere.

Let me give you some glaring (no pun intended) examples. For more than five years and possibly a lot longer, the windows of the former Hoosier Flower Shop at Oliver have been papered over. The paper is now stained and unattractive and there is no sign of improvement. The owners claim that they are planning on renovating the building and opening a business.

While that all sounds great, would it be that hard for the owner to at least change the stained paper to make it more attractive?

Brown paper doesn't garner the thought of an enchanting shopping area, or always indicate a coming business. The old Chase Bank Building is occupied by a rare book seller, but few would know it because after spending a significant amount of money on new windows, the openings are covered by brown craft paper. Oddly, the city required the owner to meet a number of standards for decorum, design, and manufacture of the replacement windows through its historical review process, but there was evidently no standard about how the windows would look once they were installed as they have been covered by brown paper for more than a year.

The windows on the buildings at the corner of LaPorte have been covered for a decade. While some of the coverings were signage promoting events and activities, most people recognize that the buildings are empty and in a condition that no one could locate a business in anyway. With or without signage, its three storefronts that are perennially vacant and add nothing to Downtown Whiting.

Sometimes, its not that the windows are papered over, but instead block or occlude views. Family Dollar is in business, but you can't see into the store since the windows are blocked by everything under the sun, including postings that are faded and unappealing. That might be a good thing, since the little portion of windows that you can see through are quite dirty and are in dire need of cleaning.

The building located in the former CVS Pharmacy building has taken the same approach by loading up the windows, making the store anything but inviting. I can understand adding drapes that are semi-transparent or blinds to block out the direct glare from the sun, but installing opaque drapes so that one cannot see into the building defeats at least part of the reason for windows and being located in a walkable downtown area.

These conditions, or lack thereof, help to define our community. We want our businesses and storefronts to be attractive and appealing, including storefronts that are empty. The problem is that making these stores look more attractive really depends on the owners and not the City.

Oh, and if you think I forgot about businesses in Robertsdale, I did not; that will be part of next month's column.

### Whiting Elks News - April 2024

by Mike Borgetti



On March 20th, our Student of the Month Dinner was held at the Elks. Third and fifth grade students from our local schools were selected by their teachers. Students, teachers, and their families were invited for a spaghetti dinner. Each student received a certificate recognizing his or her accomplishments.

An **Installation Dinner** will be held on **April 7th** for the new Elks Officers for the 2024-2025 Year. Being sworn into office will be Exalted Ruler **Helen Chapman**, Leading Knight **Frank Diaz**, Loyal Knight **Brenda Rayford**, Lecturing Knight **Roxanne Bartoszek**, Esquire **Kat McArdle**, Chaplain **Cindy Malone**, and Inner Guard **Nancy Smith**. Congratulations to them all!

On **Saturday, April 27th**, put on your blue suede shoes and join us for "The Essence of Elvis" Show featuring **Curt Lechner**. Curt Lechner has been performing "The Essence Of Elvis" Show since 2002. The show will run from **7-9:30 pm**. Call **219-484-0229** for tickets or for additional information.

On **Saturday, May 18th**, the Whiting Elks will be hosting the return of **Teresa Rose, The Firehouse Medium**. Doors will open at **6pm** with the event beginning at **7:30pm**. All profits for this event will be donated to the Indiana Elks Cancer Research Fund. Call **219-484-0229** to make reservations or for additional information.



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## Faith Baptist Church Clothing Room's Spring Hours

by Jean Wilkening

As winter ends and spring begins, we will be changing our hours for the clothing room at Faith Baptist Church in Whiting. **Beginning April 1st**, we will be open **Tuesdays, 9am-3pm**. We have been very busy this year, which makes me extremely happy. We have given away over 200 coats this winter and many items of clothing.



That being said, I want to thank all of you who donated coats and clothes. A special thank you to **CAASH Charity, Karen Oakes Holmes, Tommy Wargo, Roger at Ace Hardware and St. Vincent De Paul Society**. These wonderful people donated money which was used to buy new coats and some donated hats, scarves and gloves. It was so nice to give these to the children when they received their new coat. Also a special thank you to **Cathy Hauck**. She helped me in the clothing room this year and was truly a Godsend.

In the spring and summer, we will continue to give away clothing. If you or anyone you know needs clothes, please feel free to contact me on Messenger or I can be reached at **219-659-3189**.

## Celebration of Earth Day with Arts Alive

Arts Alive will be joining the Whiting/Robertsdale environmental groups to celebrate Earth Day on **Saturday, April 20th, 2024**. Arts Alive will be hosting a **kids' craft** at **Sheridan Plaza**, weather permitting (otherwise it will be held at **Studio 659**), from **11am-1pm**.



Kids will be making a bird feeder. It is a great way to celebrate our beautiful earth and bring attention to the environment. Hope to see you for a fun craft.

## Mayor Spebar Speaks at Historical Society

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko

As is the Society's tradition, the Mayor will be our April guest speaker on **Thursday, April 25th at noon** at the **new History Center on 119th Street**. You do not have to be a member to attend. This is your chance to find out what's happening in town and perhaps ask a question or two of Mayor Spebar. Come share refreshments, information, and community with us at the WR Historical Society meeting on April 25th.



## St. John Rosary Society Bake Sale

by Judy LeWan

The **St. John the Baptist Rosary Society** will be hosting the **Annual Spring Bake Sale and Cash Raffle** on **April 21st** from **7:30am to noon** in the **St. John the Baptist Panel Room**, located at 119th Street and Lincoln Avenue in Whiting.



Please come and support our major fundraiser of the year. Homemade pastries and treats by our members, the best bakers in Northwest Indiana, are sure to delight!

There will be raffles, Split the Pot, and tons of fun for all ages!

## Earth Day 2024 Features Community-Wide Clean Ups

by Tom Markovich

The phenomenal success of last year's Earth Day clean ups has sparked renewed community-wide interest in getting involved in this year's Earth Day activities. From our main thoroughfares to Whihala Beach and into the neighborhoods, there's plenty of work to be done.



Robin Wall Kimmerer, Potawatomi botanist, in her writings about our place in nature, says each of us is endowed with a particular gift, a unique ability, and a responsibility to share that gift generously with others to make life better here on Earth. Ask yourself: What is my gift and how shall I use my gift(s) to impact the environment in the spirit in which it was received? From the perspective of the indigenous people, humans are viewed as "younger brothers of creation" with an inherent need to learn from our "elders," which, in this case, would mean studying the lives of plants. They were here first, after all, and have adapted to and mastered earth's ways. They make their own food from sunlight and earth's resources, sustaining the lives of the rest of us by offering their "gift" of food in a most generous way. That's reciprocity. What can they teach us?

Plenty. The earth doesn't need us to survive; on the contrary, we need earth's fruits to survive. We often take and don't give back, diminishing and destroying the giver in the process. Stewardship and caring are necessary to correct the imbalance in the human/earth equation. We have a duty – and the ability—to balance the equation.

The Saturday before Earth Day (**Saturday, April 20th**) is a perfect time to use your gifts for the betterment of our community. We are planning **clean ups** along **Indianapolis Boulevard, Calumet Avenue, 119th Street and 121st Street**. Starting time is **9am** and we will continue until approximately **11am**. A **clean up of Whihala Beach** begins at **10am** and continues until early afternoon depending on the number of participants. Watch social media and the Chamber's announcement screen in its windows along 119th Street for more information.

Volunteers are also needed to assist, guide, and chaperone the young children who will be there with us, learning from us, and contributing to the effort. There's so much we can do to make Whiting-Robertsdale the best it can be. Thank you for getting involved. If you have any questions, please email or call the Chamber: [wrchamber@wrchamber.com](mailto:wrchamber@wrchamber.com) or **219-659-0292**. Until next time.

Precision Decorating

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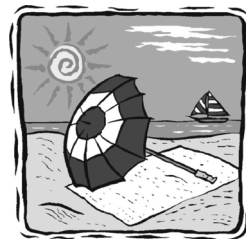
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## A High Tides and Good Vibes BYOB Paint Night-Beach Scene

Arts Alive is excited to partner with **Brushes Paint and Sip Events** for a **Paint and Sip** night on **Friday, April 26th at 6pm**. The event will be held at **Studio 659** located at **1413 119th Street** in Whiting. Tickets can be purchased at [brushespaintandsip.com](http://brushespaintandsip.com) This is a 21 and older event.



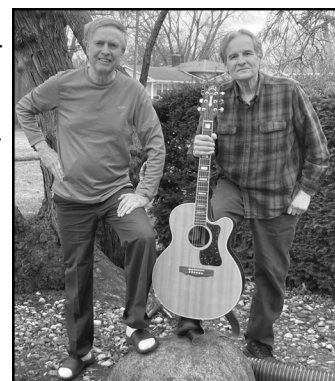
## Paint the Town Pink Fundraiser

Starting on **May 1st** and running through **May 31st**, you can help **The City of Whiting** and **Arts Alive** in an effort to raise funds for cancer. You can adopt a **Flock of Pink Lawn Ribbons** for \$75 for the entire month or you can purchase a **Single Lawn Pink Ribbon** for \$25. You can sign up at [artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com) or call **219-427-4288**. You can also pay using PayPal at [Studio659@aol.com](mailto:Studio659@aol.com).







## Indiana Live Fundraiser Concert

Arts Alive is excited to announce that **Dan DeLuna** and **Bob Sluka**, the original members of the band **Indiana**, will be playing live at **Studio 659** on **Saturday, May 18th**, from **7pm-9pm**. Doors open at **6pm**. This is a cancer fundraiser, so we are asking for a **\$5 donation** at the door. We hope that all will come out to hear the amazing **Indiana** and support a worthy cause.



## Be the Match at Studio 659


Please stop on by during **Cruise Night** on **Wednesday, May 15th** in front of **Studio 659** or **Saturday, May 18th**, during the **Indiana concert** at **Studio 659** from **7-9pm** to find out how you can save a life by submitting to a simple cheek swab and possibly being a **stem cell match**. In order to qualify, you must be **between the ages of 18 and 35**. This is the largest marrow registry and they provide life-saving stem cell and bone marrow transplants to patients in need. Only 29% of African-Americans and 48% of Hispanics are able to find a match. Be the match. Help save a life.

<p><b>AUTO</b></p> 	<p><b>LIFE</b></p> 
<p><b>HOME</b></p> 	<p><b>HEALTH</b></p> 

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**Oiler Spills: School City of Whiting News**  
by Cynthia Scroggins, Superintendent



Students and staff returned to the halls and classrooms after spring break on April 2nd to enter the home stretch of the '23/'24 school year. The 4th quarter of the '23/'24 school year began on March 18th and this quarter always passes quickly as we approach our end of year events such as prom and graduation. This year's prom will take place on Saturday, May 4th. Our WHS graduation ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 2nd in the WHS Memorial Gym.

During the week of May 6th, we will be celebrating Teachers Appreciation Week. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of educators serving our students. Their efforts throughout the school year contribute to the success of our students and the district as a whole. Teacher Appreciation Week provides us with an opportunity to express our appreciation for their hard work and impact. Please consider sending a note of thanks or a small treat to your child's teacher(s) next month during the week of May 6th.

The planning of our summer school programs and summer registration dates is underway. Due to current cost containment measures after the loss of our referendum, summer school will only be offered to 2nd/3rd grade Nathan Hale students needing reading remediation and all WHS students who are behind on course credits due to failing classes and are not on track to graduate on time. Due to current legislation recently passed, all 2nd and 3rd grade students not passing IREAD will need to attend summer school. Students will have (3) opportunities to pass the IREAD assessment prior to the end of 3rd grade. Students not passing will be considered for retention in 3rd grade.

Summer school programs for grades 2nd-3rd reading instruction will begin June 10th and end June 28th. Class hours will be 8:30 -11:30am each day. The WHS summer school program will begin on June 10th and end July 3rd. Classes for high school students will be 7:45-11:55am daily. Summer school is a great opportunity to bring students back on track. Letters to parents of all students required to attend summer school will be

going home this month. Please remember to check your child's grades and progress regularly using our RDS parent access website:

<https://nhgrade.whiting.k12.in.us/rdsparentaccess/>

Even though we have experienced some funding challenges during the school year and will continue to face this moving forward, we are looking forward to finishing the '23/'24 school year strong. Next month, I will be sharing our cost containment plans in light of continued tax cap losses, decreasing enrollment, and loss of our referendum. Since 2019, we have experienced declining resident student enrollment in the School City of Whiting. We have lost 127 resident students during that time. We are not alone in seeing declining enrollment. According to a January 2024 study by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Ball State University, 75 percent of small school districts — those with less than 2,000 students — experienced declining enrollment since 2014 and 60 percent of those districts had declines of 50 or more students.

We are also not replacing the students at the same rate that we graduate them each year. For example, in 2023, Whiting High School graduated 101 students in the spring, but we only enrolled 52 incoming kindergartners in the fall. It is fortunate for us that families outside of Whiting choose to enroll their children in our district as nonresident students so we can keep our enrollment as stable as possible. Unfortunately, costs of running a school district do not decrease when the student population does. As a strong school district always focused on our students and providing academic opportunities for all, we are continuing to work hard to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to achieve and experience success in the School City of Whiting.

We are optimistic as we are nearing the end of the '23/'24 school year and we know that our collective resilience and commitment to education will allow us to continue to work together to provide a bright future for our school community.

# INDOOR PICKLEBALL

@ New Life Christian Church  
1829 Central Ave, Whiting

Beginning April 1st

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays:  
8:00am - 8:00pm

Saturdays:  
8:00am - 4:00pm

- Two courts
- Walk-ins
- Reservations accepted  
(in person only)
- One hour court time
- \$10 per person
- Paddle rental available \$5

For more info: [newlifewhiting.com](http://newlifewhiting.com)

## American Legion Posts

by Harry P. Triplett

More sunlight is here and we all should feel better as we slide into spring. Thanks to all who came to our Chili Cook Off. 1st Place goes to **Marie S.**, 2nd Place goes to **Kim W.**, and 3rd Place was a tie between Steve Z. and Carol M. After a coin flip, it was decided that **Carol M.** was the winner. Congratulations to all.



Coming up next is our classic **Old Time Country Breakfast** on **Sunday, April 21st** from **9am** to **12pm**. Come out and start your day with us. We will host our renowned **Spaghetti Dinner** on **Thursday, May 16th** from **4pm** to **7pm**.

Make the Post your destination for fun and great dinners. We have hall rentals for great parties. Give us a call at **219-659-0215**. Consider getting a brick for a veteran on Memorial Day and also, bring those flags in for our **Flag Day Retirement Ceremony** on **June 14th**. 'Till next month.

*"If summer had one defining scent it'd definitely be the smell of barbecue."* -Katie Lee

## Pulaski Senior Center - April Schedule

by Joyce Wagner

**Thursday, April 4** -- Danyelle from the Hammond Public Library - 11am

**Monday, April 8** -- St. Casimir Senior Group - 12 noon

**Thursday, April 11** -- deadline to pay for the April 16 birthday luncheon

**Monday, April 15** -- St. John Rosary Society meeting -- 12:30pm (Group 6 will host and those members should arrive at 11:30am)

**Tuesday, April 16** -- April 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 the following Thursday. Prize donations from the Dollar Tree and/or Family Dollar are always appreciated.

**Wednesday, April 24** -- Monthly group luncheon at a Hammond restaurant - 12 noon (location TBD)

The Center is open on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** 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. 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 in the past, 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](mailto:mamalaa@gohammond.com).

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

## APRIL / MAY CALENDAR

### On-Going Activities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Whiting Public Library</b><br/><i>Cards and Conversation:</i><br/>Every Monday at 2pm<br/><i>DrumFit Exercise Program:</i><br/>Every Tuesday at 11am<br/><i>Tony's Trivia Night:</i><br/>4th Tuesday of the Month at 6pm</p> <p><b>Sacred Heart Thrift Shop</b><br/>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays - 10am to 1pm<br/>Sacred Heart School</p> <p><b>Yoga at the Library</b><br/>Saturday mornings at 10am</p> <p><b>WR Historical Museum</b><br/>1610 119th Street<br/>Open Sundays from Noon-4pm</p> <p><b>New Life Soup Fellowship</b><br/>Every Tuesday, Noon-2pm<br/>October-April</p> <p><b>Pulaski Park Senior Center</b><br/>Tuesdays and Thursdays<br/>9am-3pm</p> | <p><b>Studio 659</b><br/>Open Thursdays and Fridays 4-7pm<br/>Saturdays 10am-2pm</p> <p><b>Mascot Hall of Fame</b><br/>Free Day FriYAY!<br/>First Friday of the Month, 10am-5pm<br/>Senior Center<br/>every Wednesday - 9am-3pm<br/>Exercise program at 10am</p> <p><b>46394 Food Pantry</b><br/>1717 LaPorte Avenue (Sacred Heart)<br/>1st &amp; 3rd Friday, 8:30am-2pm</p> <p><b>Faith Baptist Church</b><br/><i>Bible Study</i><br/>Tuesdays at 5:30pm<br/><i>Coat Room Donations</i><br/>Tuesdays 9am - 3pm</p> <p><b>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church</b><br/><i>Alpha Tuesdays 6:15-8pm</i><br/>February 6th -April 23rd</p> |
|---|--|

### COMING IN APRIL

- Apr 2** Writers Connect - 6pm-8pm - Whiting Public Library
- Apr 4** Real Reels: *Science Fair* - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library
- Apr 5** Free Day FriYay! - 10am-5pm - Mascot Hall of Fame  
Eucharistic Adoration - 2pm-6pm - St. John the Baptist Church
- Apr 6** The Berlin Wall - 2pm - Whiting Public Library
- Apr 7** Divine Mercy Service - 3pm - St. Adalbert Church
- Apr 8** St. Casimir Senior Group - 12pm - Pulaski Senior Center
- Apr 10** Open Mic Night - 7pm-9pm - Studio 659
- Apr 11** Real Reels: *Age of Champions* - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library  
*Crime Watch* - 6:30pm - Calumet College, Room 200
- Apr 12** Homeschool Hangout - 10am-2pm - Mascot Hall of Fame
- Apr 13** Container Gardening - 2pm - Whiting Public Library  
*Searcher for the Lost Gala* - 6pm-10pm - The Emerald Green
- Apr 15** SJB Rosary Society Meeting - 12:30pm - Pulaski Senior Center
- Apr 16** April Birthday Luncheon - 11am - Pulaski Senior Center  
*History on Tap* - 5pm - Bulldog Brewing Company  
*Writers Connect* - 6pm-8pm - Whiting Public Library
- Apr 17** Soil Sampling Info Session - 6pm - Calumet College  
*Energy Healing Workshop* - 6pm-7:30pm - Studio 659
- Apr 18** Real Reels: *Welcome to Kutshers* - 2:30pm - Whiting Library
- Apr 20** Earth Day Cleanup - 9am-11am - Various Locations (see pg. 11)  
*Arts Alive Earth Day Craft* - 11am-1pm - Sheridan Plaza  
*My Brother Andy Kaufman* - 2pm - Whiting Public Library  
*Party Like a Pirate Pub Crawl* - Starts 7pm  
*"Birthday Candles"* - 7:30pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Apr 21** SJB Rosary Society Bake Sale - 7:30am-12pm - SJB Panel Room  
*Old Time Country Breakfast* - 9am-12pm - American Legion  
*"Birthday Candles"* - 3pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Apr 23** Tony's Trivia Night - 6pm - Whiting Public Library
- Apr 24** Monthly Luncheon (Location TBD) - 12pm - Pulaski Seniors
- Apr 25** Mayor Spebar Guest Speaker - 12pm - New WR History Center  
*Real Reels: Tower* - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library  
*Chamber Members Mtg.* - 5:30pm - Calumet College Rm. 200
- Apr 26** Paint & Sip Night - 6pm - Studio 659
- Apr 27** "The Essence of Elvis" Show - 7pm - Whiting Elks Lodge  
*"Birthday Candles"* - 7:30pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Apr 28** "Birthday Candles" - 3pm - Marian Theatre Guild

### COMING IN MAY

- May 4** May the 4th Be With You Event - 11am-2pm - 119th Street
- May 15** CRUISE NIGHT - 5pm-9pm - Downtown Whiting
- May 16** Spaghetti Dinner - 4pm-7pm - American Legion Post 80
- May 18** GARAGE MAHAL - 9am-4pm  
*Indiana Fundraiser Concert* - 7pm-9pm - Studio 659  
*Teresa Rose, The Firehouse Medium* - 7:30pm - Elks Lodge
- May 19** GARAGE MAHAL - 9am-4pm

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

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

**DEADLINE** for the May edition is **FRIDAY, April 5th, 2024**

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

## 2024 Easter Parade in Whiting

by Jenn Gunter Peddycord

Sunshine, Easter bonnets, and a few extra layers kept spirits high during the **2024 Easter Parade on Saturday, March 23rd**. Despite the chilly temperatures, parade participants and guests alike had a grand time celebrating in their warmest Easter garb.



The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce would like to thank **Mayor Steve Spebar** and the **City of Whiting**, the **Whiting High School Marching Band**, all the parade participants, and parade goers for making this year's parade a joyful celebration of the Easter Holiday. A special thank you to

Parade Chairman **Tom Dabertin**, to **Marty Dybel** for leading the Bonnet Contest and Easter Parade Song, to **Memory Makers** for hosting Photos with the Easter Bunny before the Parade, and to our parade sponsors for their generosity and support:

**Baran & Son Funeral Home**, **Cargill**, **Horizon Bank**, **Rogers Roofing Siding & Windows**, and **Hyman's Ace Hardware**.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Easter Pup Contest, Decorated Golf Cart Contest, the Peeps Projects photographed below, and the Easter Bonnet Contests listed and photographed to the right. (Parade photos used in this article are courtesy of **Tom Morris**.)



## Easter Bonnet Contest Winners 2024



**Age 5 & Under Winner:** Lila



**K- 4th Grade Winner:** Oliver



**5th- 8th Grade Winner:** Ivy



**Adults Winner:** Emily



**Best in Show:** Ginger



**Decorated Golf Cart Winner:** St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church



**Pet Contest Winner:** Sheldon

## Peeps Project Winners 2024!



**Kids Winner:**

"Peep Glass Jar" by Analyse M.



**Teens Winner:**

"Arby's: We Have the Peeps" by Vivian K.



**Adults Winner:**

"Buscia Peep Show" by The Pierogi Fest Buscias

## Honorable Mentions



"Peeps Undercover"



"Peep's New Year"



"The Pied Peeper"



"Cheep Trick"



"Peeps"



"Peep Juice"



"Samantha's Burrito Stop"



"Hare Club for Men"





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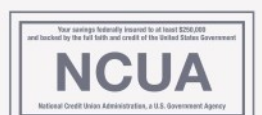
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## Meet Our Members

### Frankie V's Bar & Grill

by Elliot Bibat

Nestled at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and 119th Street is **Frankie V's Bar & Grill**, a small but cozy restaurant and bar that greets those who are entering the confines of Robertsdale from Calumet Avenue, offering a place to sit back, rest, and take in the vibe of the community. It is a venue with a quiet and charming atmosphere and is known to be a popular hangout spot - a neighborhood bar where, owner **Martina Krstic** says, "everyone does know your name."

Inhabiting the building that once housed the now closed Up For Grabs, Frankie V's first opened its doors in 2015, marking its ninth year in business. It wasn't until March of 2023 that Martina took over as Frankie V's new owner, so this past month she marked her one year anniversary of taking on the role. A regular customer before she purchased the bar, Frankie V's was once her local hangout.

"My favorite part of becoming the new owner and also working as a bartender is that I am getting to know the neighborhood and its people," Martina said, "I'm originally from Chicago and have only lived in the Whiting-Robertsdale area for seven years."

Martina, wearing several hats in her new role, also talked about her responsibilities as Frankie V's new owner, which include daily operations from food ordering to payroll. In between, she does marketing, special events, catering orders, and the many other things that an owner is responsible for. It's a job where Martina says she is still learning daily.



"Creating the specials board, greeting guests, and meeting guests are the best parts for sure," Martina said, "You can come meet me during my morning shifts, 11am-4:30pm, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays!"

While the menu at Frankie V's is still in the process of being

finalized, some of their most popular menu items include their pizza, chicken Vesuvio sandwich, fried chicken, Italian beef sandwich, and grilled portabella mushroom appetizer. Martina also mentioned that Frankie V's had recently upgraded their bar stools and that the next projects in store include improvements to the exterior of the building consisting of painting, repair work, and a new awning.

"A lot of menu items are made in-house," Martina added, "like the Italian sausage, Italian beef, pizza dough, and tomato sauce. These items are made weekly. We also post daily specials on our Facebook page, which are not on the menu. Some of the special menu items are pork chops, meatloaf, deep dish pizza, prime rib, and pizza with fried chicken combos. Make sure you follow us!"

Frankie V's will also be hosting their **1st Annual Golf Outing** this summer. The date has been set for **Monday, August 19th**. Although a golf course has not been selected as of yet, the event will remain in Hammond. As soon as they have more information available, it will be posted to their social media. For updates, you can follow Frankie V's on their Facebook page (**Frankie V's Bar & Grill**), Instagram (**@thefrankievs**), TikTok (**@frankievsbarandgrill**), and Snapchat (**@thefrankievs**).

Frankie V's, located at **1923 Calumet Avenue**, is open **Wednesdays and Thursdays 3pm-10pm, Fridays and Saturdays 11am-11pm, and Sundays 11am-10pm**. They regularly post updates on their various social media platforms and can be reached by calling **219-655-5454**.



## Updates from the Whiting Family YMCA

### STEAM Programs at the Y

Although the school day ends around 3pm, learning does not stop. Many youth participate in experiences that enrich and expand classroom learning. This year, at Whiting Family YMCA, youth will have a chance to experience a new offering focused on STEAM programming (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).



Research shows that early interest in science and the arts is a better predictor of future academic and career decisions than math achievement test scores. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that more than half of all careers will require substantial math or science preparation. We also realize that little school time is devoted to science due to accountability requirements for English and Math courses.

Children need time to explore their own ideas about science and technology. Many youth view these topics as something that only happens in a classroom and may not be aware that science can help them understand their natural world. Further, gender and ethnic differences in the science workplace persist, not because of academic performance, but because fewer youth from underrepresented groups are exposed to STEAM as a fun, engaging, and compelling pursuit.

YMCA STEAM programs are a perfect opportunity to let youth explore STEAM. Our group leaders let kids play with science in the same way they play sports or explore the arts, while allowing for discussion and group work. High-quality out-of-school time experiences may ignite interests that translate into classroom success and career options.

If you would like to support the Whiting Family YMCA, stop in for a visit and learn more about our programs. Together, we can nurture the potential of more youth and create a culture of young people excited about STEAM learning and careers.

### Save the Date!

Calling all Star Wars fans! Join us **Saturday, May 4th, 2024** for our first **May the 4th Be with You** family event! Free and open to all. Registration is required. More info coming soon!

### Adventure Awaits at the Y

At Y camp, we create an exciting, hands-on environment for kids to have an unforgettable summer of fun. And while they're taking part in unique experiences and adventures, they're also building self-esteem, developing interpersonal skills, and making lasting friendships and memories.

We offer five different summer camps to meet the needs of the children in our community:

- Preschool Camp** (for children age 3-5)
- Day Camp** (1st-8th grade)
- Adventure Camp** (1st-8th grade)
- Leaders in Training** (7-9th grades)
- Specialty Camps** (4th-9th grade)

For more information, visit [www.crymca.org/camp](http://www.crymca.org/camp).

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## 1ST DISTRICT NEWS

by Mark Kalwinski - Hammond Councilman

Hello readers. Spring is near and Little League signups are underway. Today's article is a summary of Hammond news as described recently in the media, by the Mayor at Council meetings, chamber luncheons, etc. Horseshoe Gaming revenue is declining with casinos now in Chicago and on I-94 in Gary. The city was receiving \$35,000,000 per year; exact numbers for 2023 have not been made available but projections indicate it will be less than \$26,000,000. As more casinos go up in the southern suburbs of Chicago, Hammond gaming revenue is likely to continue to plummet. The mayor reports that water has offset some of the loss; water revenue was 7 to 8 million per year and is now 22 million due in part to contracts with more Illinois communities.

Hammond Sanitary District is under new leadership. Congratulations to **Milan Kruszynski** who did an outstanding job as the Port Authority and Hammond Marina Director. Good luck in your new role at the Sanitary District. A rate increase is likely later this year to fund multimillion dollar projects mandated by the Federal Government.

New contracts have to be negotiated with police, fire, and teamsters this year to go into effect in 2025. Hammond is losing police staff to retirement and to the towns south and east that pay starting officers more than Hammond.

The West Lake rail project is on schedule to operate from Dyer to Hammond in 2025. Phase 1 of double tracking from Gary to Michigan City is almost complete, and double tracking is scheduled to start from Michigan City to South Bend.

The Hammond City Council passed a resolution asking state legislators' approval to pursue a 1% food and beverage tax (on top of the 7% state sales tax) on dine-in and take-out food and drinks sold at Hammond eateries and bars as soon as July 1. The Indiana House voted 67-29 to advance House

Bill 1121 to the Senate. If the Senate and Governor approve it, the bill would return to the Hammond Common Council for a vote. Money collected via this tax may only be used for the West Lake commuter rail project, downtown redevelopment, and expansion or improvement of the Hammond Sportsplex or Wolf Lake Pavilion. (NWI Times 01-31-2024).

Plans are in the works to create an industrial complex at 3-141st Street across from Hermits Little League. Potential environmental cleanup of the property should be addressed before allowing demolition of buildings or construction of new buildings.

Recently on Boy Scout Road, I noticed an official looking car with "surveyor" on it. I was told there was interest in putting multiple pipelines through the 1st District. I was unaware of this possibility and hope to have more information in the future. I recall several years ago Central and South Hammond experienced multiple pipeline leaks and breaks causing evacuations, odors, and closure of parts of Indianapolis Blvd., raising concerns related to health and safety risks and inconvenience to residents for months on end.

Years back I was approached to support warehouse development roughly in the same area bordering Sheffield Avenue and Boy Scout Road. I did not believe that kind of development was in the best interest of local residents given its proximity to Wolf Lake and increased truck traffic through the neighborhood. I am skeptical that pipelines and warehousing facilities adjacent to Wolf Lake will improve the quality of life to local residents or to the Wolf Lake surroundings.

Lastly, Hammond is seeking input from motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists to improve road safety in the city. An online survey is found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJZF6TC](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJZF6TC) and is intended to help identify problem areas to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Hammond roads (NWI-TIMES 03-04-2024). As many of you know, I and a fellow councilman were unsuccessful in getting stop signs at various locations recently, including a warning by the mayor that it would be vetoed if the ordinance passed. I encourage you to fill out the survey.

## Whiting Code Enforcement

by Harry Peterson, Whiting Code Enforcement Officer

With the very mild late winter/early spring weather we have been having, hopefully we will see property owners venturing out and cleaning up around their properties. It does not matter if you own a house or apartment building, the responsibility of being a responsible owner is the same. You must clean up around your property. I will touch on an ordinance that is very important and makes up about 75% of the violations I write. This ordinance has many different pieces to it regarding property maintenance but here is one of the key pieces. I'm not going to bore you with all the legal mumbo jumbo, so simply put:

### **Ordinance 4-193 Property maintenance:**

Do not have junk and garbage around your property and cut your grass. This includes your front, side and rear yards including behind your alley fence or garage.

A rather simple but very important ordinance, don't you think?

Simply put, just take care of your property. This ordinance does not cost anything except your time. By not cleaning up around your property, your property is creating a blight on the neighborhood and giving visitors a negative impression of Whiting. You are also reducing the property value of your own property as well as surrounding properties. If you own property in the City of Whiting, regardless of whether it is residential or commercial, it is your responsibility to keep it clean and presentable. Please help keep Whiting a great place to live, work, and play. Do your part so I don't have to do mine.

## Mayor Signs National Wildlife Federation Monarch Pledge

by Lynn Haynes



Monarch butterflies make one of the world's most epic journeys as they migrate 3,000 miles from their summer homes in the backyards and meadows of the United States to their wintering grounds in Mexico and California's coast. Unfortunately, Monarch butterfly populations have greatly declined. It is estimated that only one percent of the western population remains while the eastern population has declined by ninety percent. Like bees, birds, bats, and other butterfly species, Monarch butterflies are pollinators. The decline in numbers of pollinators threatens our food supply and the continued existence of pollinators for future generations. Pesticides, loss of habitat, and climate change have all contributed to this decline.

The National Wildlife Federation is urging mayors everywhere to sign a pledge to commit to creating habitats for the Monarchs and other pollinators, and to educate the public about how they can make a difference in their community. After consulting with members of WREN (Whiting-Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors), Mayor Steve Spebar has signed the pledge and identified 5 actions that the city will take. First, the Monarch will be incorporated into Whiting's Earth Day celebration on April 20th when the city will sponsor a native plant giveaway. WREN will also be maintaining the native garden that was installed last summer at the Whiting Library. Plant tags will be added to educate the public about various native plants. WREN will also install native plants at two existing beds in Whiting Park this year. Thousands of native plants have already been planted along the existing rain garden and along the back wall of Whiting Park which will provide habitats for Monarchs and other pollinators.

But the city cannot do it alone. Please commit to making your yard a pollinator haven. You can start by planting milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants.

## **Birthday Candles Celebrates the Turning of Years on the Marian Theatre Guild Stage**

by Elliot Bibat

The **Marian Theatre Guild**'s spring production of Noah Haidle's *Birthday Candles* tells the story of Ernestine Ashworth, who at the beginning of the play is seventeen years old. She wonders at that young age if she's wasted her life, lamenting about her insignificance in the universe and vowing to rebel against a life of conformity. The play then takes the audience through a series of Ernestine's birthdays throughout her life up until her 101st birthday. We see her life unfold through five generations, and all the celebrations, heartbreaks, and significant moments in between.



The play consists of a small ensemble cast of six actors. **Susan Bobos** leads the ensemble playing the role of Ernestine. The supporting cast includes **Kevin Sherman, Olivia Rhodehamel, Matthew Seiluns, Kira Lisle,** and **Elliot Bibat**. Also in the cast is **Nina Mendoza**, who will be understudying multiple roles.

Directing *Birthday Candles* is MTG newcomer **Morgan McCabe**, an accomplished Chicago theatre artist who attended The Goodman School of Drama and has also worked with various theatre companies such as City Lit, Prop Theatre, Lookingglass, and Steppenwolf.

McCabe started the rehearsal process with the actors doing what is known as "table work", which involves a heavy analysis of the script, multiple readings of different scenes, and discussions about the choices and discoveries that each of the characters make throughout the play. This practice, common in many professional theatre companies, is a refreshing, new approach for the Marian Theatre Guild.

"We do this so that we know what the story is, and we have no questions about the use of language in it," McCabe said, "We dig down and we find the layers that are available and possible. That way we can tell the story to the best of our ability, and that we're all on the same page."

## **It's Always Easter in Whiting**

by Fr. Andrew Summerson

Easter arrived early this year. Earlier still if we recall the Easter Parade that took place Saturday, March 23rd, with Bishop Robert McClory of the Diocese of Gary and our local churches represented! While Easter seems to be the end of the long path of Lent, the fact is, Easter is just beginning. The Byzantine and Roman Catholic Calendars celebrate Easter for 40 days, which takes us through the feast of the Ascension and then onward to Pentecost.



The timing of Easter coincides with the flourishing of spring. New life is budding all around us at Easter time. It is almost as if the cycle of Resurrection is woven into the heart of the earth itself!

Whiting is a city of resurrection. The strategic development that began over 15 years ago under Mayor Joe Stahura and continues under the leadership of Mayor Steve Spebar is a key element of discernment for the future of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. The improvements made to the streets, homes, lakefront, and businesses in Whiting inspired St. Mary's to complete its interior remodel in 2012-2013. The new paint was paired with new practices—a return to the dynamic expression of Byzantine worship, an enhanced sacred music program, and a renewed commitment to outreach.

St. Mary's helps keep Whiting a city of resurrection. At least four families have made Whiting their home after experiencing St. Mary's and seeing what the city has to offer. Beyond keeping our local real estate agents busy, we've taken our renewal to the streets both during Pierogi Fest and with processions throughout the year. There is one procession this July that I want to alert you to. St. Mary's, the Whiting Knights of Columbus, as well as the local Catholic parishes together with the Diocese of Gary will be hosting the **National Eucharistic Procession** on **July 1st** here in Whiting. This is part of the U.S. Catholic Church's desire to inspire greater devotion to the Lord's true presence in the Eucharist, leading up to a national congress in Indianapolis later that month. On July 1st, Bishop McClory, Catholics from across Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland will gather in

*Birthday Candles*, a play that is performed in one seamless act, is one that McCabe believes that audiences will resonate with in its universal themes of family, loss, and the dreams we carry throughout the passage of time. It is a play that, she says, has a whole lot of love.



"It's about individuals in families and the life that they live, and I can't imagine that there will be people in the audience that won't find something that resonates, that's familiar," McCabe said, "There's happiness and joy, and a lot of dreaming - all those things that make us human. I think that is going to bring people into the story very quickly. I think right away they'll recognize a teenager with aspirations to change the world, and they'll recognize how we get from that point to middle age and old age, and what we carry with us along the way."

Additional production credits include **Dee Jai Halicky** as the production's Stage Manager, **Chuck Kosalko** for Lighting and Set Construction, **Jim Staley** leading Set Construction, **Stephanie Naumoff** and **Kim Duha** for Costume Design, and **Marty Dybel** serving as the show's Production Manager and Set Designer.

*Birthday Candles* will be performed at the **Marian Memorial Auditorium** on **Saturdays, April 20th and 27th at 7:30pm** and **Sundays, April 21st and 28th at 3pm**. The Marian Theatre Guild Box Office will be open starting on **Monday, April 8th** and will be available for taking reservations **Mondays through Fridays from 7pm to 9pm**. Dinner theatre will also be available on the Saturday evening performances. For more information or to make a reservation, call **219-473-0713**. The Marian Memorial Auditorium is located at St. John the Baptist Catholic School at the 119th Street entrance next to Lincoln Avenue.

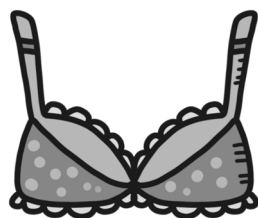
Whiting with pilgrims from across the country. St. Mary's Church will be open for prayer all day and I will be speaking together with Mike Aquilina, a EWTN regular, noted best-selling author, and one of the most dynamic communicators of the Christian faith in the U.S. The day will culminate in a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the city, stopping at the Marian Grotto, concluding at the Lakefront with Benediction. A party will follow in the pavilion to conclude the evening.

This is a great opportunity to bear witness to the resurrection in Whiting. With two great parades in July—our historic Independence Day Parade and our quirky Pierogi Fest Parade—why not join in one more that will put all eyes from across the nation on Whiting?

If I don't see you at **St. Mary's Searcher for the Lost Gala** at the **Emerald Green** at **Lost Marsh** on **April 13th**, I hope to see you at this event in July, so mark your calendars. More details to come!

## **Don't Burn Your Bra - Decorate It Instead!**

Get your hot glue gun, crafting gear (rhinestones, fabric, glitter, paints, feathers, coins, beads, flowers, playing cards, up-cycled items – basically anything you can think of) and get your creative juices flowing. In conjunction with Whiting's Annual "Paint the Town Pink", Arts Alive and Studio 659 will be hosting a **bra decorating contest** this May to help raise awareness and funds for cancer research. Decorated bras (of any size) along with a **\$10 entry fee** will need to be dropped off at **Studio 659** by **April 30, 2024** for entry into this year's contest.



Bras will be on display May 1st through May 31st. During this time stop in the studio during one of our many events in May for your opportunity to show "support" to your favorite entry by making a cash donation (of any size). The bra to raise the most donations throughout the month will win a gift card to one of Whiting's amazing local businesses.

## Garage Mahal 2024 Registration Form

Saturday May 18th and Sunday May 19th -- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Deadline for map listing is May 3rd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Select Participation Dates: Saturday, 5/18 \_\_\_ Sunday, 5/19 \_\_\_

Above, please check the dates you plan to hold your sale.

### Four major Garage Sale Items to list on the map:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Bird Special: \$15.00 (before April 20th) Regular Price: \$20.00 (after April 20th)**

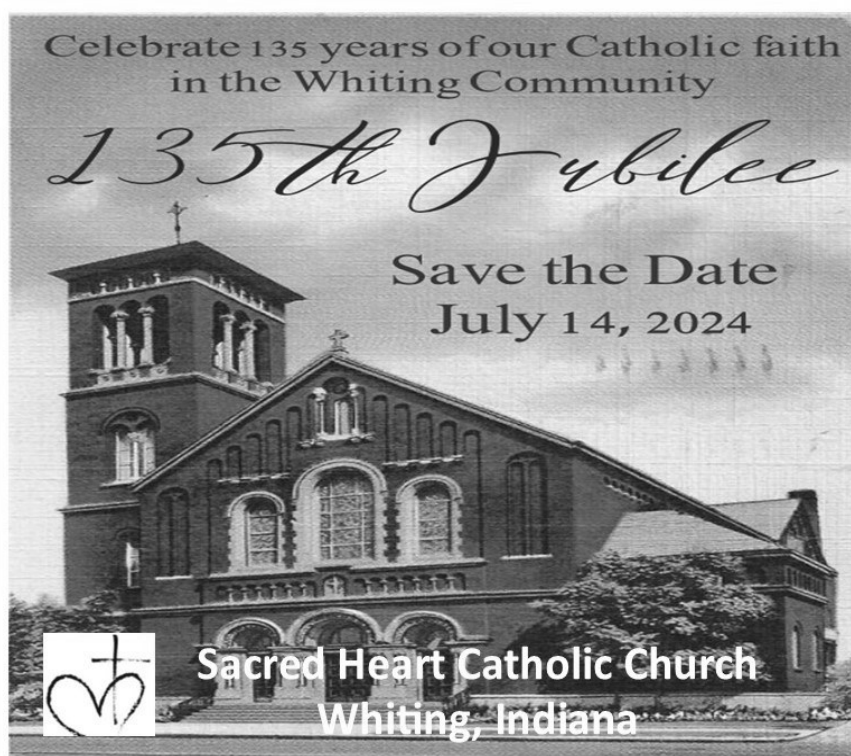
**Chamber Member discount rate: \$15.00**

**Mail or bring form with payment to:**

**W/R Chamber of Commerce**

**1417-119th St. Whiting, IN 46394**

**The WRCOC does NOT allow food sales during Garage Mahal!**



Mark your calendars for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to attend the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Mass at Sacred Heart Parish Whiting at 10 am with Bishop Robert J. McClory as the main celebrant, along with pastor, Father Jay Nuthulapati. The Mass will be followed by an Anniversary Luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Whiting.

Sacred Heart Catholic was founded in 1889 and has been a leading faith community for the city of Whiting and surrounding areas since then. The parish shares its 135<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary with the city of Whiting.

For more information, to become a sponsor, or to make reservations for the luncheon celebration, contact the parish office at 219-659-0733 or Stephanie Duray at 219-670-1786, or find us on Facebook. Tickets will be available for purchase in May. ALL are welcome!

### Energy Healing Workshop

by Adriana Galvan

Feeling stuck or off-balance lately? With the many stressors in our daily lives, it's common to experience these emotions. Join me as we unlock our inner magic in an upcoming workshop where we'll explore the power of energy healing, discover methods to remove negativity, set clear intentions for achieving desired outcomes, and gain clarity in decision-making. Let's embark on a journey to rediscover your radiant energy and bring balance back into your life. Together, let's create a space filled with positivity and transformation.

I'm **Adriana Galvan**, an artist, writer, and energy healer. My expertise and interests include Reiki, Akashic Records, Angel Communication, Dream Analysis, Shamanic Practices, Aromatherapy, Crystal Healing, and Oracle/Tarot Card Readings. I'm thrilled to be part of this community and look forward to teaching future workshops.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 17th from 6pm to 7:30pm

**Cost:** \$11

**Location:** Studio 659, 1413 119th Street, Whiting, IN

To reserve your space please email [artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com) or call/ text **Patti** at 219-427-4288. Payment can be made at **Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce, Studio 659**, or Pay Pal: [Studio659@aol.com](mailto:Studio659@aol.com).



### Pink Houses for Paint the Town Pink

May 1st through May 31st, the City of Whiting goes pink. Residents we are asking for your support to **Paint the Town Pink**. Arts Alive is sponsoring a **city wide contest**. Decorate the outside of your house in pink and we will be selecting the **top 3** for a gift card from one of our local businesses. Please send a picture of your house and address to [artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:artsaliveinwhiting@gmail.com) or text it to 219-427-4288.



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## KOCH'S CHOICE

by Al Koch

### Grapes of Wrath



What follows is a true story—well, sort of. Names and information have been altered in order not to jeopardize my bingo privileges: although this happened many years ago, after becoming a kindergarten dropout, traumatic feelings still return every so often reminding me of my personal encounter with the grapes of wrath.

The events described took place in the autumn of 1946 at Sacred Heart School, Room 1, Whiting, Indiana. As a first-grader, I liked school—at least in the beginning. To get to school, my two older brothers and I would cross the Oliver Street alley, cut through a neighbor's yard, hike down Sheridan Avenue, hang a left at 118th Street to the corner of LaPorte Avenue, and run the short distance north to Sacred Heart. Never having attended kindergarten, (that's a whole different story), everything was new and exciting. I especially liked the stuff that went with first grade: books with book covers advertising funeral homes and banks, letter cards, recess, small bottles of milk, cigar boxes, crayons, clay, oil cloths, pencils, and yellow writing paper with super wide lines. I liked reading and learning new words. My lefthanded cursive was nearly illegible, so I took extra care with printing my letters and drawing pictures. I liked art, too.

Back in those ancient times, first and second grades were combined due to limited space, so students shared a single fifty-desk classroom. In charge of these future saints was Sister Bruiser (a nickname that protected surviving alumni from ecclesiastical liability). She was an overpowering figure in yards of black robe and flowing habit, it served to amplify her stature and authority. Fastened to her waist by a braided sash of black nylon, hung a huge rosary. This heavenly anchor of salvation jingled and jangled with her every step. Even after all these years, just thinking about the sound of those celestial chimes, brings on an attack of the cold sweats.

The monarch of Room 1, Sister Bruiser, was one nun you didn't mess with. She had massive hands

that kids more-or-less knew could put their lights out. Without a whole lot of discomfort, Sister could have worn her wristwatch on her thumb. By the second day of school, guys knew the score: Misbehave in Sister Bruiser's class, and you'd never see third grade!

As I said, I liked art. Every Friday afternoon was art time. Once a month, as a special treat, we worked with clay. As part of the art supplies, each kid purchased two square sticks of gray modeling clay. When not in use, the clay was kept in a cigar box. Students had to procure a cigar box along with a piece of oilcloth large enough to cover the desktop. When clay time came, oilcloths would be spread to protect the top surface of 40-year-old, screwed to the floor, battle-scarred desks.

All work in parochial school is tied to religious lessons: art was no exception. After reading the Wedding Feast at Cana to us, Sister instructed us to make something with our clay that related to the beautiful story of Jesus' First Miracle. Sister intended for us to make replicas of the water-filled earthen jars, described in the Scriptures. I, however, full of innocence and eager to impress my new teacher, decided to expand on her idea by making a model of wine-bearing grapes.

Before anyone was allowed to work with their clay, Sister gave the class two Cardinal Rules, which if broken, would incur her wrath:

**Rule 1:** Do not roll your clay into shapes of marbles or worms.

**Rule 2:** Do not roll your clay into the cylindrical shape of a hot dog.

From my seat near the back of the room, over by the windows, I set up for clay work. Unfortunately, as a timid 5-year-old first-grader, I knew the fundamental shape of grapes, but no clue how they grew. Bushes? Vines? Trees? Arbitrarily, I selected trees. With arduous fervor, I set to work. From one stick of clay, I rolled about a dozen good sized spheres—grapes grew in bunches—that much I knew. With the remaining clay stick, I formed the trunk of my grape tree. Even in the horizontal position on my oil cloth, I could tell it was a fine trunk of a tree. I definitely had an artist's eye. Things were shaping up nicely. The

other first-graders were fashioning clay jars; I was the only one with a grape tree!

Soon it was time for Sister to check our work. Desk after desk was adorned with clay urns fit for a royal wedding. I listened to her words of praise as she made her way toward my desk. I heard her rosary and swishing robe. Somewhere deep inside my brain, an alarm went off, and an inexplicable feeling of foreboding filled every pore of my body.

When Sister caught sight of my desk, she hit the brakes hard! Before her eyes, like an alien protrusion, my grape tree stood proudly righteously surrounded by a cluster of gray marble-sized grapes. Her eyes widened and took the shape of saucers. In a voice that triggered seismographs in three states, she bellowed: "YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A JAR—A CLAY JAR! AND LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!"

Using a doubled-up fist and one powerful steroid-like swing of her sledgehammer arm, Sister Bruiser brought down the wrath of righteousness—with bull's-eye accuracy—upon my work of art. In an instant, she compressed my clay tree to a stump with such force, she smashed the grapes! (Historically, this event is referred to as "Cluster's" last stand.) I, myself, came within an eyelash of being martyred. Miraculously, she came to her senses and realized that my artistic expression was not the work of Satan but blissful angelic ignorance. Even so, as not to give temptation a second chance, she took away my clay, taped my cigar box shut, and locked it in her storage cabinet. All in all, it was a very traumatic experience. For the rest of the year, I remained clay-less.

Of course, I continued to go to school. Even considering an occasional setback, I did quite well. Not only did I successfully complete grade school and earn a high school diploma; I even graduated from college. And that's not too shabby for a kid who had his grapes smashed in first grade.

\*\*\*

**Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the History Center of Whiting-Robertsdale. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated beyond words.**

## Earth Day: What Can I Do? by Lynn Haynes

April is upon us and that means Earth Day is around the corner. Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22nd, 1970. Although the first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States, it has become a global celebration. Each year on this day, millions of people around the world gather to raise awareness of environmental problems and take action to remediate some of those problems.

You might ask, "What can I do in our Whiting-Robertsdale community?" **WREN** (Whiting-Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors) along with the **LARC** (Litter Awareness and Remediation Committee) will have lots of opportunities for you to help. On **April 20th, the Saturday before Earth Day**, LARC will sponsor a **community wide cleanup**. Look for details in Tom Markovich's article on Page 5.

After the clean up, WREN will be sponsoring family friendly **Earth Day activities** at **Sheridan Avenue Plaza** from **11am until 1pm**. The theme will be "Save the Monarchs". **Ms. Adrienne** and **Ms. Lori** from the library will have story time as well as a craft. Arts Alive will also have a craft available for children. WREN will be doing a "Plant a Pollinator Plant" activity and giving away a native plant to each family. There will be a "Plant a Tree in My Parkway" sign up sheet. Please bring all of the plastic bags, plastic film, and plastic caps that you have saved for our NexTrex Challenge.

So come on out and make a difference in your community and teach your kids the importance of the Monarch butterflies, as well as the importance of environmental stewardship!



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**PAWS Here!** by Nancy Sparano

**Pico** and **Moxie** were adopted! This is a tough one. Tears were shed. We loved these guys like they were our own since 2017. We know how wonderful they are, but they would hide and people didn't see their true personalities. They are bonded and we couldn't break that bond. Their new mom understood and adopted them together. So sad to see them go and so happy to see them get a family. We will miss them. Wish them luck on their new journey! **Floyd**, **Hearty**, and **Dinky** also found their forever homes!

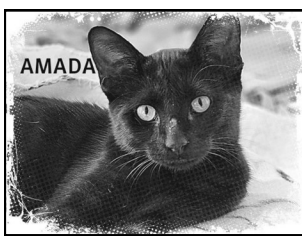
**Luv** – Someone left Luv taped up in a box in front of the shelter. It was a stormy night and she could have been left out there all night. Fortunately, one of the employees found her and brought her in. Luv is about 6 months old and pregnant - just a baby herself. If you're going to do something stupid like this, at least leave a message so we know to look.



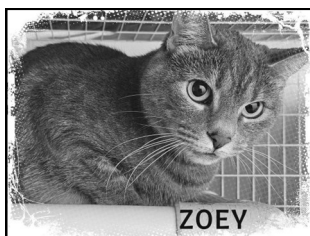
**Genie** – Genie's owner passed away and Genie was alone for a week or so. Fortunately, we knew she was there because she was seen in the window and we were able to catch her and take her to the shelter. If it weren't for the postman reporting that the mail wasn't being picked up and a wellness check was needed, it could have been a bad ending for her.



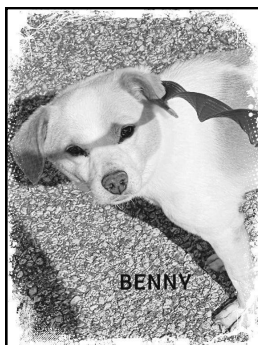
**Amada** – Amada never stops purring and you can hear it from across the room. She is a very friendly cat and would be great for a person who wants a cat that cuddles.



**Zoey** – Zoey was adopted as a kitten in 2020 and her owner just returned her. Several reasons why were given, one being they adopted a dog a year ago and they weren't getting along. This is the second time this week someone called with that same excuse. Zoey is the one who doesn't understand what she did to end up in a cage and she's scared and hiding.



**Benny** – Benny is a senior dog that was found as a stray. We estimate his age to be 11-12 years old. He is well behaved and very sweet. I'll never understand how these senior pets get out or dumped. Some people have no heart.



**Leni** – Since Leni is a bit shy she hides and people don't get to interact with her. Patience is a virtue and with a little bit of love and attention she will come around.



**Izzy** – Izzy is in a crate in the hallway because we are out of room. She's a good girl and needs a home ASAP. She loves going for walks and playing catch in the yard. Izzy is under a year old and the last thing in the world we want is for her to grow up in a shelter.

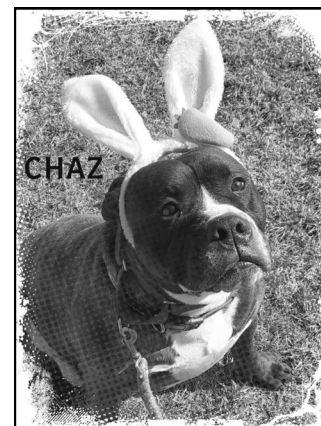
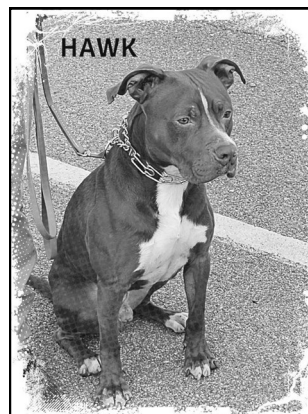
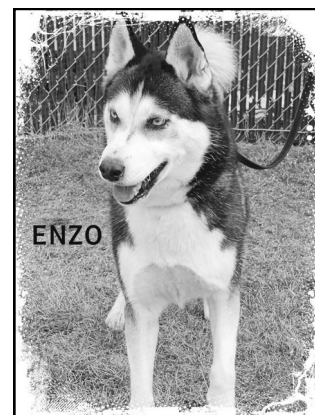
**Enzo** – A handsome husky found as a stray. He's about 5 years old and a typical husky who likes to run and explore in the yard and would do best in a home with a fenced yard to run and burn off energy.

**Hawk** – Hawk does so well in his training sessions. He loves to go for walks and would be an excellent exercise partner. He's been here a long time and it's tough for him.

**Chaz** – Chaz is the most mellow dog. Chaz enjoys going for walks but is a bit lazy and will plop down on the ground when he decides he's done walking. He's a sweet guy and will be a great companion for those who are looking for a dog to watch TV and nap with.

The shelter needs cat food (Fancy Feast and Friskies wet food, and Purina One dry food), clumping litter, unscented non-clumping litter for kittens, dog food (Purina One wet & dry food), cat and 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 Facebook – the Whiting Animal Shelter page, via email: [nsparano@whitingindiana.com](mailto:nsparano@whitingindiana.com), or leave a message on the answering machine – 219-473-4646.



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## Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch: 03-14-2024

by Bonnie Henry

**Terry – Cline Avenue Bridge:** Came to go over the drive and save with the community rewards program in case there may have been any questions or concerns about the program. By enrolling in this free program, you can take the Cline Avenue Bridge for an 60% discounted rate. Only 2 axle vehicles with transponder (either an I-Pass or E-ZPass) will qualify. The website to get started is [clineavenuetolls.com/Web/toll\\_discount](http://clineavenuetolls.com/Web/toll_discount). Once your registration is confirmed, the discount starts with your third trip across the bridge. Every 90 days you are required to make two crossings at regular price to maintain program eligibility.

**Captain Tom Strabavy – HPD:** Two stolen vehicles were recovered in the Robertsdale area. 02-02-24, 1400 Indianapolis Blvd. A car used in a burglary in IL was recovered, the VIN was re-tagged and the case is being investigated between Hammond and Chicago PD's. On 02-06-24, a stolen car was recovered in the 700 block of 119th Street. **Two Burglaries (1)** 03-02-24 at 10am. AT&T Store at 1000 5th was broken into and the case with all iPhone 15 Pro's appeared damaged. At the time of the report it was unknown how many phones were actually missing. **(2)** 03-12-24 at 9:50am in the 900 block of Lincoln. A garage burglary occurred. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the garage, rummaged through the victims Nissan SUV, taking \$80 in loose USC from the vehicle. **Seven General Assignment Cases/Administrative Alerts (1)** 02-19-24 at 9:50am. 2100 block of Stanton. Criminal Recklessness. The original call was for two suspicious persons walking in the area, these subjects were never located. After officers checked the area, the caller stated that three nights prior, her daughter claimed to have heard gunshots. Officers then were advised that three bullet holes were found in the house's siding and paneling. No calls for shots fired were received during the time the victim stated the incident occurred. **(2)** 03-02-24 at 4:05am in the 1900 block of Warwick. Homicide occurred. A fight among family members occurred and two subjects were shot, one fatally in the chest and head. The other sustained a gunshot through the shoulder, and maintained silence while at the hospital. Detectives have questioned the two suspects who were inside the town home, the case remains active and charges are pending. **(3)** 03-04-24 at 6:45pm.

Intimidation occurred. Victim stated named suspect had been calling her and threatening her over the treatment of their common children. Victim stated not only does the suspect have nothing to do with their kids but he is a narcotic abuser who's mentally unstable. **(4)** 03-09-24 at 4:50pm, 10770 Indianapolis Blvd. Robbery/Carjacking occurred. Call originated as a subject spewing obscenities at patrons. Officers responded but could not locate any offending parties. While on the scene, the victim came running to the gas station where the officers were and stated, a subject known to him stole his SUV while at the Citgo Station. Victim stated that the subject continued to be verbally aggressive after stopping at the first station, when the victim tried to calm him down, the suspect placed him in a choke hold and dragged him from the SUV, hopped in on the drivers side and took off. **(5)** 02-11-24 at 8:20pm in the 2100 block of Stanton. Overdose. A male subject ate two "Double Stuffed Stoneo" cookies filled with 500mg's of THC each. Male refused transport and family members monitored his situation. No other cookies or paraphernalia was located inside the house. **(6)** 03-06-24 at 11am. Wolf Lake Pavilion. HPD K-9's were training and one of the officers assisting in the bite suit was bitten in the neck by one of our own dogs. **(7)** 03-13-24 at 12:50pm in the area of Sheffield and Calumet. Gang Narcotics officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle which hit on one of our LPR's. Our STARCHASE technology was deployed successfully and the vehicle began to accelerate and speed off from officers. Officers backed off after speeds reached an exorbitant rate and formed a perimeter around the general area where the vehicle was last seen heading. A call came in of a vehicle crash with fire on Indianapolis Blvd. and Casino Center Drive. Video footage was obtained by officers on the scene

at the crash, which showed 4 young B/M's bailing out of the vehicle and fleeing. More officers responded to that area and three of the 4 juvenile males were located near the beach front area by the bird sanctuary. These juveniles were detained and again through video footage it was learned a bag was thrown by one of the described juveniles into the lake. This bag was subsequently located by officers and retrieved. All in all, a stolen car was recovered, three hand guns were located in the bag and marijuana was recovered off at least one of the detained suspects. Charges were filed as well.

**Whiting PD Stats: Warrant Arrest** 02-13-24 in the 2000 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officer observed vehicle speeding and initiated a traffic stop. During the course of the stop it was determined that the driver had a Felony Warrant out of Elkhart County. Driver was taken into custody pending extradition to Elkhart County. **Home Invasion** 02-19-24 in the 2200 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers responded to a report of subjects trying to break into an occupied house. Upon arrival officers located an intoxicated adult male in the residence who had heard a noise and panicked. **Robbery**, 02-24-24 in the 2000 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers responded to report of subject that had been assaulted and had his phone and chain stolen. After locating and speaking to victim, it was determined that the incident had happened in Hammond and it was not robbery, but a mutual fight that had taken place. **Fraud** at Walgreen's 02-29-24. Officers spoke to a victim who stated that she had received numerous texts and Facebook messages stating that she had won money and a car, but in order to claim the prizes she had to send the people gift card numbers. Victim stated she had already sent a \$50 Apple card and her personal information. She was purchasing more gift cards when she was questioned by an alert Walgreen's staff. **Two Resisting Arrests (1)** 03-03-24 in the 2000 block of Schrage. Officers responded to report of a subject slouched over on a bench and possibly not breathing. Officers arrived on the scene and were able to get a response from the subject. Subject then became angry and tried to assault one of the officers. Subject was taken custody and was later determined to have Felony Warrant from DuPage County IL. **(2)** 03-08-24 in the 1900 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers responded to Walgreen's in reference to a report of a shoplifter getting physical with employees. Upon arrival, suspect immediately entered her vehicle and refused all officers commands to stop. Suspect fled over the sidewalk and then north on Indianapolis Blvd. Officers attempted to locate the vehicle but could not. They were advised that the suspect had left her purse and ID behind at Walgreen's. Also, it was determined that as the suspect fled, she struck the side of Clipper Bar leaving behind several pieces of her vehicle. Several charges were filed with the Lake County Prosecutor. Over this time period WPD officers initiated or responded to over 697 calls or service. Also, during this time, we had at least 4 vehicle thefts throughout the city. There were likely more, but they did not get reported. Please note as the weather gets warmer, these types of crimes will increase. Make sure to lock your car doors, try not leave anything of value inside and if you do, please do not leave items in plain view. Most importantly, please do not leave firearms in your vehicle.

**Harry Peterson Whiting Code Enforcement:** Inspections Conducted: 7, Violations Issued: 16, OAHB: 0, Stop Work Order: 0, Violations Bureau Citation: 2.

**Shawn Turpin – Whiting Councilman-At-Large:** He reminded the group that they could drop off plastic bags and plastic bottle caps at the C/W meetings and will turn them into WREN. The W/R Boat Club and Surf Riders of Chicago chapter will be leading a clean-up on April 20th at Whihala Beach from 10 am – 2 pm. Please stop by if you have time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. Next meeting will be held on **April 11th, 2024 at Calumet College in Room 200 at 6:30pm** Guest speaker will be the Director of Public Safety from Purdue University Northwest, **Brian Miller**.

**Matthew D. CONSTRUCTION**

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