

Dr. Anthony Fauci

The Pfizer announcement that its vaccine is more than 90% effective soars past the standard expectations and is extraordinary news! [Now, Moderna has announced their vaccine is 94% effective!] It is really a big deal! We need to go over the details of the data, but [both companies] are highly reputable companies and have extensive experience in the development of counter measures, including vaccines.

The Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) is the independent board that verifies the data and tells us we have a vaccine

Dr. Anthony Fauci has been an extraordinary public servant and also a scientific leader in the field for more than four decades. Most recently, he has been the reliable source of facts as this pandemic unfolds. He served in leadership roles in the past during the HIV, H1N1, and Ebola pandemics.

Wonderful News About Vaccines!

that is more than 90% effective. They know what they are talking about. There're still some questions about the durability of the effectiveness, about how effective it is for the elderly versus younger people. But the bottom line is, the vaccines are more than 90% effective. They will play a major role in the outcome of this pandemic.

The other good news is that it is an mRNA vaccine [Messenger RNA (mRNA) is a single-stranded RNA molecule that is complementary to one of the DNA strands of a gene. The mRNA is an RNA version of the gene that leaves the cell nucleus and moves to the cytoplasm where proteins are made.]. . . The particular protein, the "spike protein" of this virus, is the target that creates the immune response. Since it worked with both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, it harbors very well for future vac-

cines against COVID. So, the news is really good all the way around.

I want to make sure people understand there's light at the end of the tunnel, **but that doesn't mean we're going to give up the important public health measures — masks and social distancing — that we continually still have to do every single day.**

There are still logistic supply chain challenges. The vaccine needs to be stored at an extremely low temperature. And people need to take two doses — an initial shot and a second booster shot.

We have a very important part of the effort that's assigned specifically to Operation Warp Speed and led by Monsef Slaoui. Another logistical aspect is led by General Gus Perna. He has been working full time to make sure that the lo-

gistics of getting this to distribution will go smoothly.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have applied for an emergency use authorization and for ultimate approval of the vaccine. **If that goes smoothly, we may have doses to distribute by December.** We have to go through the hoops and make sure all the I's are dotted and the T's crossed about the safety of the regulatory aspects of it. **But we should be giving vaccines to people before the end of this year.**



Monsef Slaoui



General Gus Perna

Info from CNN and news releases and has been updated with the most current news

From our Pike Township Leaders:



Annette M. Johnson

Pike Township Trustee Annette M. Johnson

Wearing a mask and social distancing protects everyone. Masks offer

protection to you and are meant to protect those around you in case you are unknowingly infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

A mask is NOT a substitute for social distancing. Masks should still be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart. As the Trustee in Pike Township, I also encourage everyone to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol after touching or removing your mask.

Many localities such as the Trustee's Office have a mask mandate as we work daily with the public. Remember staying healthy is the key.



Fire Chief Chris Tragesser

Fire Chief Tragesser

Although there is a lot of optimism and excitement with the possibility of a vaccine being close, it's important to remember that it's not here yet. Therefore, **we**

need to remain diligent in mask wearing and social distancing.

With COVID continuing to challenge us, we at Pike Fire have adjusted to provide you the highest level of service to our community.

With the holidays approaching, we understand gatherings can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. Many families will want to continue that tradition, but please be mindful. **This disease is not over, and it is non-selective and often harshest on our older populations.**

Remember: If we focus on staying safe ourselves, it helps keeps everyone else safe.



Dr. Flora Reichanadter

MSD Pike Superintendent Dr. Flora

I am so proud of the way our MSD of Pike Township students, educators, and families have worked to face the

COVID-19 related challenges, disruptions, and disappointments we have encountered since March. As difficult as the past several months have been for so many of us, there are hundreds of thousands of people who are suffering so much more. On behalf of my MSD of Pike Township Family, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to anyone who is mourning the tragic loss of life, health, or livelihood as a result of this horrible virus.

As we prepare for what some experts have predicted will be the darkest days of the pandemic, we desperately need your help to keep our community safe. Please continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands,

Continue on page 2



Senator J.D. Ford

State Senator J.D. Ford

As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that each and every one of us continue to be vigilant as we seek to

curb the spread of COVID-19.

Cases are surging in Indiana and all over the country. The most important thing we can do to protect our communities is wash our hands frequently, always wear a mask when out in public or in close contact with anyone outside of our household and avoid crowds and large gatherings. It has been a difficult year for all of us, but we cannot give up now. If we continue to exercise caution, we will get through this."



NEW COVID-19 Guidelines:

Continue masking & distancing!

Indianapolis/Marion County:

For hospitality, cultural, and music venues, including live entertainment, bars, clubs, tourism sites, weddings, concerts, sporting events, and other non-essential businesses:

- 25% indoor capacity allowed. 100% outside capacity allowed.
- Maximum party size = 6. All patrons to leave by midnight.
- No karaoke allowed.

Social gatherings: 25 people allowed (max).

Restaurants: 50% indoor, 100% outdoor capacity.
No self-service buffets or salad bars.

Gyms and fitness centers: 25% capacity.

Religious services: 75% indoor capacity.

Libraries, funeral homes, mall food courts:
50% indoor capacity allowed.

Long-term care facility visit requirement:
Negative COVID test within 72 hours.

Free Community Newspaper

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

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

Pike Pulse Pillars of Engagement



I. Cultural Pillar — where we are from

- Stories about Pike residents
- Stories celebrating our diverse cultures
- Stories highlighting opportunities

II. Social Pillar — how we connect

- Spotlight groups and organizations
- Communicate celebrations for Veterans
- Information about our religious diversity
- Neighborhood Associations news
- Health updates
- Art exhibits and performances
- Youth and adult athletic updates
- Academic celebrations

III. Economic Pillar — how we make a living

- Commercial development
- Business-to-Business communications
- Business-to-Consumer communications
- Pike job openings
- Legislative and township development
- Community development
- Pike Business Park news

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Continue from Front Cover

From our Pike Township Leaders:

Continue from Dr. Flora

monitor your health, and stay home if you are sick. In addition, the virus spreads between people. The dramatic increase in positivity rates is attributed to people gathering. Most recently, many people gathered for Halloween and Fall Break. When we are around family and friends, it is easy to let our guard down and not wear a mask or social distance. If we do not modify our behavior, the upcoming holiday season will be dangerous.

All MSD of Pike Township Schools will shift to remote/virtual instruction on Monday, November 23rd. Throughout the duration of the order, which is currently set to expire on January 15th, we will continue to provide opportunities to pick up free meals for any child 18 or under and re-open our Pike Learning Pods to provide families who need it with an affordable childcare option. **Most importantly, we are committed to meeting the educational, social-emotional, and nutritional needs of those we serve.**

Although we received promising news about a potential vaccine this week, the reality is that the best protection we have is still wearing a mask, social distancing, and good hand hygiene. This is especially important as the weather turns colder and we head into the holiday and cold and flu season.

Please do everything you can to keep yourself and our Pike community well.

Have Questions or Need Assistance?

Please contact your child's school directly or consider utilizing the resources below:

Tech Support Hotline: (317) 387-2525

Navigation Specialists (online learning support): stutechhelp@pike.k12.in.us

Pike Township Hotline: (317) 387-2222 or pthotline@pike.k12.in.us



Greg Mazanek

Gregory Mazanek MD FACC

Former Chairman of the Board of Ascension St. Vincent Medical Group

It's always a challenge in medicine when we do something for the first time, and the COVID pandemic is no exception. There are many things we know now that we would have done differently, and we as a medical community will look at this with humility and learn from our experience.

The earliest days of COVID were surreal for many of us. We knew we were at the onset of a global health crisis, yet Emergency Rooms and hospitals were empty. People were terrified of coming to us because of possible virus contact. The ER was underutilized, and doctor's office visits plummeted. Did heart disease go away? Unfortunately, it did not. COVID made people afraid of hospitals and many avoided visiting their doctor when they should have. Many had bad medical outcomes from treatable diseases. This was an uncharted cost of COVID-19.

Now, during this second surge we must be careful and smart. It doesn't appear that people are putting off their necessary care this time.

As a Cardiology community we are working to get this message out: **If you have chest pressure, increased shortness of breath, or excessive fatigue, do not hesitate to call your doctor. Hospitals and provider offices are working hard to ensure your safety.**

There is reason for optimism with COVID vaccines and future COVID treatments, but we just need to get through this time safely to realize that future.

Better times are ahead!



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The COVID-19 virus is killing more of us than most wars!

U.S. deaths from war or attacks compared to U.S. deaths from the 1918 Spanish Flu and 2020 COVID-19

Rank	War or Pandemic	Years	USA Deaths	Per Day	US Population	% of Population
1	Spanish Flu*	1918 - 1920 (27 months)	675,000	833	103,285,000	0.65% (1920)
2	American Civil War*	1861–65	655,000	449	31,443,000	2.083% (1860)
3	World War II	1941–45	405,399	297	133,402,000	0.307% (1940)
4	COVID-19	2020 (11 months, to date . . .)	240,521	728	328,200,000	0.073% (2020)
5	World War I	1917–18	116,516	200	103,268,000	0.110% (1920)
6	Vietnam War	1961–75	58,209	11	179,323,175	0.032% (1970)
7	Korean War	1950–53	36,574	30	151,325,000	0.024% (1950)
8	American Revolutionary War	1775–83	25,000	11	2,500,000	1.00% (1780)
9	War of 1812	1812–15	15,000	15	8,000,000	0.207% (1810)
10	Mexican–American War	1846–48	13,283	29	21,406,000	0.057% (1850)
11	Iraq War	2003–11	4,576	2	294,043,000	0.002% (2010)
12	Philippine–American War	1899–1902	4,196	3.8	72,129,001	0.006% (1900)
13	September 11, 2001 attack	9-11-2001	2,977	2,977	282,200,000	0.001% (2000)
14	Pearl Harbor attack	12-7-1941	2403	2,403	134,000,000	0.002% (1940)
15	Spanish–American War	1898	2,246	9.6	62,022,250	0.004% (1890)
16	War in Afghanistan	2001–present	2,216	0.36	294,043,000	0.001% (2010)

* Estimated # of deaths

"Deaths per day" is the total number of Americans killed in military service or who died from a pandemic divided by the number of days between the dates of the commencement and end of hostilities or the virus dates.

"% of population" is the total number of deaths, divided by the U.S. population of the year indicated.

Info from Wikipedia, cdc.gov, NBC News

MSD School Board Results

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PIKE TOWNSHIP AT LARGE

Candidate (elected are in bold)	Votes	Percentage
VERONICA FORD	15,027	18.5
NICHOLE KELLEY	12,179	14.99
TEMEKA LOMAX	9,974	12.28
LARRY J. METZLER	8,244	10.15
DARYL M. HILL	7,902	9.73
VICTOR D. (ACTION) JACKSON	7,790	9.59
PHILIP ABRAMS	7,772	9.57
BRYAN FISHER	7,415	9.13
PATRICK J. TERRY SR.	4,935	6.07

Pike Township Board Results

PIKE TOWNSHIP BOARD DISTRICT 1

Candidate	Party	Votes
DAVID J. WILLIS	DEMOCRATIC	6,915

PIKE TOWNSHIP BOARD DISTRICT 2

Candidate	Party	Votes
A. STEVE ANDERSON	DEMOCRATIC	6,805

PIKE TOWNSHIP BOARD DISTRICT 3

Candidate	Party	Votes
CYNTHIA RENEA ODA	DEMOCRATIC	5,299

PIKE TOWNSHIP BOARD DISTRICT 4

Candidate	Party	Votes
CLAUDETTE PETERSON	DEMOCRATIC	5,285

PIKE TOWNSHIP BOARD DISTRICT 5

Candidate	Party	Votes
BURNICE HEAD	DEMOCRATIC	5,474



“A house divided”



Mark Sappenfield

Mark Sappenfield, Editor of *The Christian Science Monitor* introduced an online issue with the following article. His words help clarify the challenges we have today.

Upon accepting the nomination for the U.S. Senate from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln said,

A house divided against itself cannot stand. . . . I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided.

In 1858, our division had a clear cause: slavery. That division drove us to civil war. Today, the word “division” comes back with particular power.

Joe Biden will govern a deeply divided nation, but our division today has no clear, single cause. Neither “immigration” nor “racial justice” nor “socialism” quite encapsulates our burning divisions.

Indeed, our divisions may be based on our perception of “ourselves” — our fear and misunderstanding of one another: we are divided along borders of red and blue, urban and rural, Black and White, white collar and blue collar, and rich and poor. Lincoln could point at a thing — slavery — to be remedied. Americans today can point only to our own hearts. Elections and legislative bills avail little, because it is truly a battle for the soul of our nation. Can we handle the mounting stresses of diversity — be they racial, ideological, financial or any other form — with the founders’ unshakable assurance of “*e pluribus unum*” — “out of many, one?”

The coming months and years will be a test of our commitment to the very core of this American experiment — to value and respect one another as Americans. Only then, “will we cease to be divided.”

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This *How to Build Community* graphic by Syracuse Cultural Workers is available online as a wall-sized poster at SyracuseCulturalWorkers.com.

Unity After the Election?



Charles Maiers, Attorney
and Indianapolis Resident

With the election finally over, now is as good a time as any for reflections on who we are and where we are as a nation. Partisan rancor has reached a new high point, at least in my

lifetime. Surely America in the 1850s–60s was more divided . . . they fought a Civil War. However, at no point in my lifetime have I seen such a divide between Democrats and Republicans. Given that, and our newly elected, but divided, government, now is a time for choosing.

We can choose to continue the one upmanship that has been going on for years. Republicans can take the position that Democrats never gave Donald Trump a chance and impeached him for no reason; therefore, its payback time. Democrats can encourage president-elect Joe Biden to declare a national emergency to enact gun control and climate policies that he can't get through the legislature; defy any oversight from Congress, and use the pardon power as a personal

negotiating chip. After all, Donald Trump did these things, right? Payback time?

The problem with this is that it is a never-ending cycle.

I remember the 1990s when Democrats widely believed that Bill Clinton was impeached as “payback” for Watergate. I remember back in January when many Republicans believed that Donald Trump was impeached simply because he is a Republican.

Where does it end?

If Republicans have meritorious complaints about the way Robert Bork was treated in the 1980s, does that justify how they in turn treated Merrick Garland in 2016? Does the Republican refusal to give President Obama's nominee to replace Justice Scalia (Merrick Garland) a hearing for more than 300 days (because it was an election year) and subsequently confirming Justice Amy Coney Barret (38 days after Justice Ginsburg's death) justify Democrats expanding the Supreme Court? If Democrats were to expand the Supreme Court (spoiler alert: they won't), would that in turn justify Republicans further expanding the Court?

Where does it end?

Do we eventually wind up with more Supreme Court Justices than Senators?

The United States of America is supposed to be better than this kind of behavior, and we can choose to live up to that. Power is not supposed to be the only coin of this realm. Just because you “can” do something does not mean that you “should” do it, especially if your stated reason for doing the thing is pure pretext. The questions should be deeper than: Can I get away with it? Do I have the power to do it? and Does it benefit me and mine?

Rather, the questions should be: What kind of precedent does this set? Is this good for the Country? and Is this the example I want to set for my children?

I fervently hope that the next four years brings a reinvigoration of patriotism over partisanship and respect over rancor. We, the citizenry, can reward our votes in favor of whichever behavior we want.

Can Senate Republicans refuse to confirm all executive and judicial nominees put forth by Joe Biden? Can they refuse to compromise, whatsoever, with the White House and House of Representatives? As long as they retain the majority, the answer is, “Yes.”

However, my hope is that the next four years sees an increase in questions such as: Should Senate Republicans refuse to confirm any and all nominees put forth by Joe Biden? Should the Senate refuse to compromise whatsoever with the White House and House of Representatives? What kind of a precedent would that set? Is that the way this country is supposed to be run? Our representatives, including Sena-

tors Todd Young and Mike Braun, can make this choice if they want.

Just because Joe Biden can issue a broad executive order refusing to charge or even arrest those illegally crossing the border; just because a precedent has been set that he can defy lawful oversight from Congress; just because he could use the pardon power as a negotiating chip for personal favors, I sincerely hope that his analysis goes further: Should he do so? What kind of precedent does it set if he does? What kind of example does that set for the next generation of leaders? President-elect Biden can likewise make this choice, if he wants.

Similarly, I would like to see such considerations at the state level. Just because one party controls essentially all of Indiana's state government, does that mean they should completely disregard those Hoosiers who did not support them? Is that the kind of precedent they want to set? Is that the behavior they would expect of their opponents if and/or when the worm turns?

Perhaps I'm a fool. I have been told as much enough times to know it's a distinct possibility. However, at this juncture, I'm willing to be called a fool for having faith that our leaders can show us how much better they can be; how much foresight they can demonstrate; and the abundance of good faith with which they operate.

One can certainly hope.

Of course, if our representatives fail to live up to our expectations, we always have the option of voting them out, no matter how long they've been in office.

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If you want to get fit, feed your competitive spirit, build your confidence, learn self-defense and perhaps, participate in a movie, you can do it all right here in Pike Township at Olympic Panthers Academy Taekwondo studio, under the tutelage of Taekwondo Black Belt, Raul Martinez, the founder.

From Raul Martinez' Facebook page: "... first of all be humble, be respectful, be simple, focus your goals, work hard and ... zero gossip, zero contradiction and zero envy."

by Arnita Williams, Pike Pulse Staff Reporter

Arnita: When was the business established?

Sonia (Publicist for Olympic Panthers Academy): Raul Martinez founded Olympic Panthers Academy, a Taekwondo training facility, January 9, 2018 at various sites in Indianapolis. He now has two locations.

He opened the Pike location at 4875 West 56th Street, August 7, 2020, during the pandemic. Thirty students are enrolled there, which offers training to anyone from four years old to adult on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He has 40 students at his southside location and provides training there on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Arnita: How long has Raul been in the Taekwondo profession?

Sonia: Approximately 30 years. At black belt-level in Taekwondo, he and his students have won sev-

Olympic Panthers Academy | Taekwondo

Taekwondo Olympic Panthers Academy, Black-Belt, Raul Martinez
Westside location: 4875 West 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46254 | Phone: (317) 793-9370
5:30pm / Kids 4 to 6 years old | 6:30pm / 6 to 12 years old | 7:30pm / ages 13 and up
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

eral competitions nationally and internationally.

Arnita: How has COVID-19 impacted the Academy?

Sonia: He had to shutdown, as all exercise facilities did. But most of his students have returned after the shutdown. But Martinez did close some locations.

Arnita: What is the process for becoming a Taekwondo student athlete?

Sonia: You are welcome to try Taekwondo free of charge for the first three sessions. If you decide to continue, there is a very small fee for the uniform and then a monthly fee will be charged for training.

Arnita: Are there any collaborations in which the students demonstrate their skills and for which they are rewarded to keep them interested and engaged?



Sonia: Yes! Martinez is currently collaborating on a special movie project in which four of his student athletes will participate. They will take part in scenes of an international movie that will be shown via Amazon Prime.

The Olympic Panthers' names will appear in the credits. The five participants who will be credited in the movie are Raul Martinez (Instructor), along with student athletes: Sonny Palafox, Angel Anaya, Alba Gauttieri and Uziel Ortiz.

Arnita: Tell me about Raul's many accomplishments?

Sonia: He has won several trophies and medals during his career. He has also been instrumental in his student athletes bringing home several gold and silver medals from Pan American competitions, and local events in Portland, Indianapolis



and Chicago. Raul has also been featured in various magazines, interviewed on radio stations, as well as a being a guest speaker on the Telemundo network. Martinez, along with his students, have also been invited to the Mexican Consulate.

Arnita: Instructor Martinez expresses gratitude for his profession: "I like my profession. To be a teacher of Taekwondo is my passion. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ for always giving me blessings and giving me this beautiful profession."

Lady Majesty for Majesty Hair Care

by Arnita Williams,
Pike Pulse Staff Reporter

Pre-COVID-19, Angela aka "Lady Majesty" provided hair-care services in her salon. Years ago she received an inspiration from God that she would add another entity to her business. When the pandemic hit, the other side of her business would become the mainstay of her enterprise, at least through this challenging period.

Arnita: How did you begin your haircare career?

Lady Majesty: At first my mother didn't know how to do hair. She wasn't good at it. So, she would go to the salon, and I would go with her, which was routine every two weeks. I watched the ladies in the salon, and I thought, "Oh, that's pretty." I must have been impressed because my aunt told me when I was a young girl, I would say, "I'm going to be a beautician, and I'm going to own my own hair salon, too."

For my Mom, a single parent, saving money was important. She watched what the beauticians used and got all the ingredients so she could do it herself. I would help her, and that's what got me into doing hair. I always tell people the hair called me. I didn't really choose it; it was something that became a part of me.

Arnita: Pre-COVID-19, what did your business look like?

Lady Majesty: I would schedule three people per hour. One would be under a hair dryer. One might be at the shampoo bowl and another in the chair. They would rotate. Then those three people, would be out within a two to two-and-a-half-hour span, and others would arrive. We were busy. When COVID hit, that was no more. It was all shut down.

I started my product line in 2009 with Majesty Radiance Shine Therapy Spray. Today there are four products which include a moisturizing shampoo, moisturizing conditioner, shine spray, and a spray mist.

Arnita: Many barber and beauty salons had to close, how were you able to face and endure the challenges of COVID-19?

Lady Majesty: To keep everybody safe, I'm not doing clients' hair in my salon. I had to reinvent myself. It was a blessing in disguise. The pandemic allowed me to open the door to introduce my product line. I now give free, 30-minute hair-care consultations, whether they use my Majesty product line or not. I talk about hair-care (I like to teach), so my clients know what they're doing. It's available to anyone, even couples. I also advise clients on what products to buy.

I fill product orders online and offer personal, virtual hair-care consultations. The client pays online for the service, and I go step-by-step with them, virtually, as they do their own hair.

I now talk to people from all over the world. They find me on Instagram or Facebook, see the advertisements, and they fill-out the sign-up form. It has been an effective way to promote that side of my business.

Arnita: How did you choose the name "Majesty" for your product line name?

Lady Majesty: "Majesty" means supreme greatness, authority, and sovereignty. All pay tribute to the Majesty of God. He is the highest place I go for inspiration. My hope for Majesty is to encourage, strengthen, and give insight to aide us in walking together peacefully in the hope that we will help build up one another. If I had to say what embodies who I am and what Majesty represents: Read 1 John 2:27.

The Majesty Slogan "Transforming the Way We View Our Hair," is a testimony to our hair. We have been prevented from enjoying our natural hair. This is also one of the reasons why so many of us used harsh chemicals on our hair. I made sure to change that by designing Majesty Hair Care products in a



way that would accentuate our beautiful natural hair textures.

Arnita: What is the best way for individuals to contact you or find your products?

Lady Majesty: Instagram and Facebook are at @majestyhaircare. My website is: majestyhaircare.com. My product is on Amazon, and can be shipped via Amazon fulfillment, internationally.

Arnita: Do you have any future business endeavors?

Lady Majesty: I would like to grow Majesty to a point where I could get an actual warehouse. I would like to stay in the Pike Township area, because I want to do things for the community, and help people supplement their income. I could get people to work part time to help me package and ship. I would like to hire college students — maybe high school seniors — and of course, single moms, single dads and senior citizens. That's my big end-goal right now.

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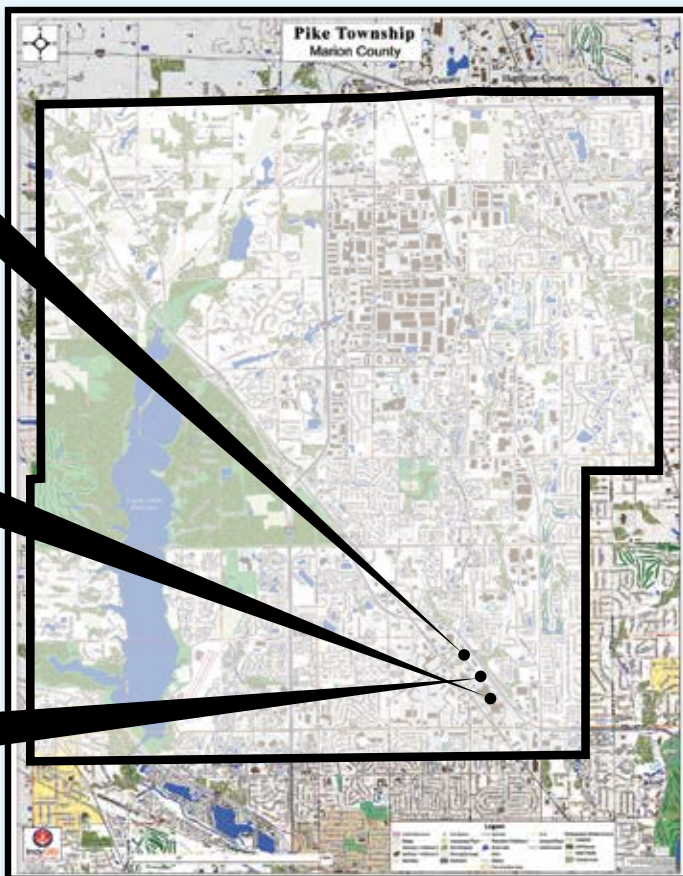
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Online purchase scams spiked following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. A staggering 80.5% of consumers reporting online purchase scams in 2020 lost money. That figure has been creeping up from 71.2% in 2015, when BBB began collecting data.

Online purchase scams ranked among the top three riskiest scams for the last three years, according to the **2019 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report** published in March 2020. Shortly after the report was released, COVID-19 shut down businesses, forcing people to socially distance and increase their online presence.

The BBB organization measures fraud using the **BBB Risk Index**, a multidimensional approach to evaluating scam risk that considers three elements:

1. exposure (prevalence),
2. susceptibility (the likelihood of losing money), and
3. monetary loss (the median dollar loss).

With the coronavirus pandemic expected to continue for the foreseeable future and more people potentially being targeted by online scams, BBB launched a new study to better understand how online purchase scams happen, who is targeted, the overall impact of them and how BBB can help people avoid losing money while shopping online.

The **2020 Online Purchase Scams Report** examines findings from an August 2020 survey of 1,549 U.S. and Canadian consumers reporting online purchase scams to BBB Scam Tracker. **The top reason people lost money to this type of scam was the enticement of a sales price.** Scammers offered high demand products at a significantly reduced dollar amount, which then increased the desire to purchase the item.

Following the coronavirus outbreak, **the second biggest motivating factor to search and purchase items online was availability.** Early in the pandemic, supplies such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, cleaning products, and masks were in short supply. According to the survey,

more than half (53%) of the respondents said they weren't aware they were a target of a scam until they didn't receive the product they ordered.

Consumers who lost money to online purchase scams reported the following platforms as the places where they saw the product: Facebook, Google, a direct merchant website, Instagram, or pop-up ads on social media when they were actively shopping. **According to survey respondents, out of the 57% who did not research the website or business via an independent source before making a purchase, more than four out of five lost money.**

The report highlights those who are most at risk for online purchase scams. Individuals ages 35-44 are more susceptible and more likely to be victimized, while younger consumers are more susceptible than older adults. However, older adults tend to lose more money than younger adults from online purchase scams. This falls in line with findings across all scam types. In addition, service members,

military spouses, and veterans are more likely to fall victim than non-military consumers, and they reported losing significantly more money to online purchase scams.

These critical findings can help guide our scam prevention outreach to those most vulnerable to these scam types. Online purchase scams don't just affect those who lose money. For every victim who loses money, that means less income to buy groceries, pay the utility bill, and for some, the loss of personal information that could lead to identity theft.

Survey results reinforced that consumer education in relation to online shopping is a critical component of fighting back against these scammers. Those who were aware of online purchase scams prior to being targeted were less likely to lose money (77%) than those who were not aware (82%).

For tips on how to avoid online shopping scams, visit [BBB.org/OnlinePurchaseScams](https://www.bbb.org/OnlinePurchaseScams).



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The International Marketplace Coalition

All agree the time has come for Pike Township to have a home where everyone is welcome to gather, share and celebrate their cultures and traditions. **The International Marketplace Coalition** is organized to do just that. It is a nonprofit organization comprised of businesses, engaged citizens, and community leaders who encourage economic growth and development in Pike Township. This area has become a vibrant, diverse community and the world is taking notice. The *New York Times* called it a place "where the world comes to eat." We embrace the diversity of our community through the help of local civilians and businesses with whom we actively work to transform the Lafayette Square area into an international gathering place.

We are recognized as a thriving cultural, commercial, and community-oriented area. And now the International Marketplace Coalition is developing the Global Village Welcome Center to be the ultimate cultural destination in the Midwest.

Features of the future Global Village Welcome Center will include:

- Cultural exhibits
- Classrooms
- Demonstration kitchen
- Dance studios
- Event hall
- Functional space
- Other dedicated spaces

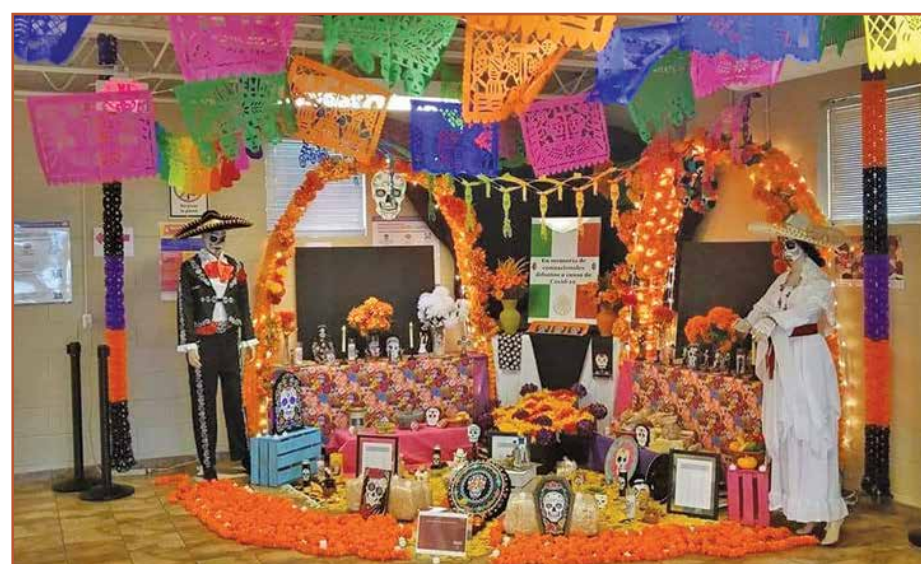
Events such as **Taste the Difference Festival**, **Sister Cities Fest**, **International Women's Gathering**, **our Dine-in series**, and **World Arts Expo** will be held in the Global Village Welcome Center. Community organizations will also be able to participate by renting this space.

A \$15 million capital campaign to make this plan a reality is set up. This funding will help renovate our 56,000 square foot Global Village Welcome Center (4233 Lafayette Road) and provide exhibit design, space build-out and other dedicated projects.

From naming rights to sponsorship and artifact donations, we welcome your help to make the Global Village Welcome Center the ultimate cultural destination where everyone is welcome. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your generous gift is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. You can donate through our website www.imacoalition.org or contact us at 317-331-3909



International Marketplace related events



In celebration of "Dia de Muertos" the altar decorated at the Mexican Consulate honors the memory of those who have passed.

Housing Market in Pike Township

by Tim Lord



Tim Lord

2020 has been a year that we most likely won't forget. I compare it to looking both ways before crossing a street, and then as you cross, you get hit by an airplane. It has been a year of many surprises in real estate. The biggest challenge this year has been the shortage of houses for sale.

10 years ago, there were over 1000 houses for sale at any given time. Today there are only about 60.

Why?

- It's because interest rates are at historic lows, now about 3%
- Refinancing a \$150,000 home you bought 10 years ago with a 30-year mortgage rate of 6% could save you \$250 a month in mortgage payments. It's an incentive to stay where you are.
- Average prices in Pike have gone up about 168% from \$123,000 (in 2010) to \$206,000 (in the past 180 days). Homeowners are now treating their homes as investments.
- People of all generations are staying put because of economic uncertainty from COVID.

- And because of COVID, many now work from their homes. Owners are updating their abodes instead of selling, which is keeping Lowes and Home Depot busy and profitable.
- Buyers will pay a premium for a brand-new home today. Unfortunately, production builders do not like to build the less expensive starter homes. They can't make any money. They prefer to build homes in the \$300 to \$400K range.

My Real Estate experiences this year are not really unusual in today's market:

- Sold an average priced home in Crooked Creek Heights in 8 days with 23 showings and 5 offers.
- Sold a lower priced condo for \$5,000 over list price in 10 days.
- Sold an investor 4 condos in one sale.

A key indicator that tells whether it is a buyer's or seller's market is **absorption rate**: the rate at which homes are sold in a specific market during a given time period. The absorption rate in Pike right now is about 1/2 of 1%. Anything under 6% indicates it's a seller's market. Currently, sellers in Pike are dictating pricing and contingencies.

Recent Notable Sales in Pike Township

Data taken from Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors (MIBOR) and Broker Listing Cooperative (BLC)

— Information provided by Tim Lord who deems it reliable, but not guaranteed —

Community	Days On Market	List Price	Sale Price	\$\$ Over List	Square Footage	Year Built	Bedrooms
Wolffington on Kessler Blvd	3	\$235,000	\$255,000	\$20,000	2438	1957	3
Crooked Creek Villages	2	\$164,900	\$181,000	\$16,100	1468	1996	3
Eagles Watch	2	\$189,900	\$205,500	\$15,600	1785	1993	3
Westchester Estates	3	\$164,900	\$180,000	\$15,100	1378	1974	4
Crooked Creek Heights	6	\$219,900	\$235,000	\$15,100	2385	1981	4
Bayswater at Eagle Creek	4	\$140,000	\$155,000	\$15,000	1461	1997	3
Augusta Meadows	5	\$200,000	\$215,000	\$15,000	1940	2012	3
Baileys Westood	2	\$199,900	\$212,000	\$12,100	1500	1953	3
Crooked Creek Heights	3	\$179,900	\$191,000	\$11,100	1428	1990	3
Crooked Creek Heights	5	\$185,000	\$196,000	\$11,000	1495	1989	3
Gateway West	2	\$110,000	\$120,000	\$10,000	1225	1963	3
Bretton Wood	5	\$213,500	\$223,500	\$10,000	2074	1994	4
Crooked Creek Villages	1	\$215,000	\$225,000	\$10,000	1844	1997	4
Crooked Creek Heights	7	\$169,000	\$178,500	\$ 9,500	1236	1987	3
Eagles Watch	4	\$160,000	\$168,000	\$ 8,000	1246	1995	3
Liberty Creek North	1	\$155,000	\$162,000	\$ 7,000	1246	1990	3
Stratford Glen	5	\$183,000	\$190,000	\$ 7,000	1638	1994	3
Galcon Lakes	20	\$210,000	\$217,000	\$ 7,000	2004	1998	3
Spring Creek	3	\$154,900	\$161,100	\$ 6,200	1416	1998	3



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Wealth Advisor

Shawnda has been working with individual wealth management clients since 2007 and helped establish Perspective Financial Group in 2019.

Born and raised in the Hoosier state, she resides with her husband and son in Fairland, Indiana. Her husband Travis is a career Firefighter for Decatur Township Fire Department.

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**Pike Pulse* publishes 22 editions annually — 2 issues every month except 1 each in November and December

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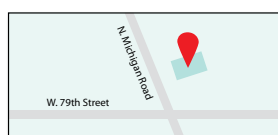
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Chris Tragesser

Chief Trag's Corner Pike Emergency Medical Services



Did you know the majority of runs that Pike Township Fire Department goes on are not fire related? In fact, 78% are EMS (Emergency Medical Services) runs. These emergencies are usually medically related such as a person who is critically sick, has difficulty breathing, experiences cardiac arrest, or other injuries.

The Pike Township EMS Division, led by Division Chief Michael Goodrich, is committed to providing the highest quality 9-1-1 pre-hospital medical care to the citizens and guests of Pike Township and the Indianapolis Metro area. This mission is carried out by a multi-disciplinary team that provides basic and advanced life support services with professionalism, integrity, compassion and respect. Pike Township EMS will continue to provide the most up-to-date and effective training to its personnel to remain at the forefront of pre-hospital emergency medical care.

Our EMS division currently has 4 full-time staffed ambu-

lances and employs 22 full-time Paramedics, 7 full-time EMTs, and 5 part-time EMS staff. All EMS professionals are on the same type of schedule as our firefighters — 24 hours on and 48 hours off. In 2019 PTFD EMS had 8,323 emergency responses all by ambulance and 6,896 patient contacts.

You may see a fire truck responding to an EMS incident along with an ambulance. This is because we want the best for our residents, and we will send whatever vehicle is closest to an emergency. In some areas the closest EMS equipment available might be on a fire engine, so firefighters may arrive first at a scene and begin care while an ambulance will arrive shortly after. All of our engines have ALS (advanced life support) equipment and all PTFD fire fighters are cross-trained to respond to both fire and medical incidents with every firefighter certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT). Many are certified paramedics as well.

During the uncertain time

of COVID you will see all of our personnel wearing special half-face respirators, gloves, glasses, and potentially gowns while treating patients. The respirators

are reusable, and we have replacement filters to give to our personnel when they need to be replaced. These respirators give our crews 99.9% filtration and assist us in extending the life of our other, non-reusable supplies. All

patients will be given surgical masks if they do not have a face covering of their own. After each transport, the crews meticu-

lously clean and decontaminate the patient compartment of the ambulance. Our crews have the ability to use a disinfecting sprayer to clean all areas of our apparatus so they are clean and safe for our crews and our patients.

Recently PTFD put 3 new ambulances into service. They will replace aging, outdated ambulances at stations 63, 64, and 65 as part of our routine vehicle replacement plan. PTFD is dedicated to providing the absolute highest quality service and technology to the community and these new ambulances will allow us to better serve you.



Division Chief Michael Goodrich



New Ambulances



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IMPD Northwest District News



IMPD Northwest District officers were dispatched to a gas station in the 5000 block of Lafayette Road on a report of a suspicious person. Officers were advised that an unknown person was banging on the back door of the business. A witness walked around the building and saw a male wearing a black mask, black jacket, and black and white camouflaged pants. The male fled after being noticed by the witness. Approximately 30 minutes later the suspect was again seen. This time he was running across the parking lot and hid in the bushes in the 5200 block of Lafayette Road.

While patrolling the area Officer Graban saw a bicycle and a tan backpack on the side of the road and continued to patrol the area for the suspicious male. Officer Graban returned to the same area noticing the bicycle had not moved. At that time Officer Graban, being a trained observer, noticed the tan backpack had been replaced by a black backpack. This prompted

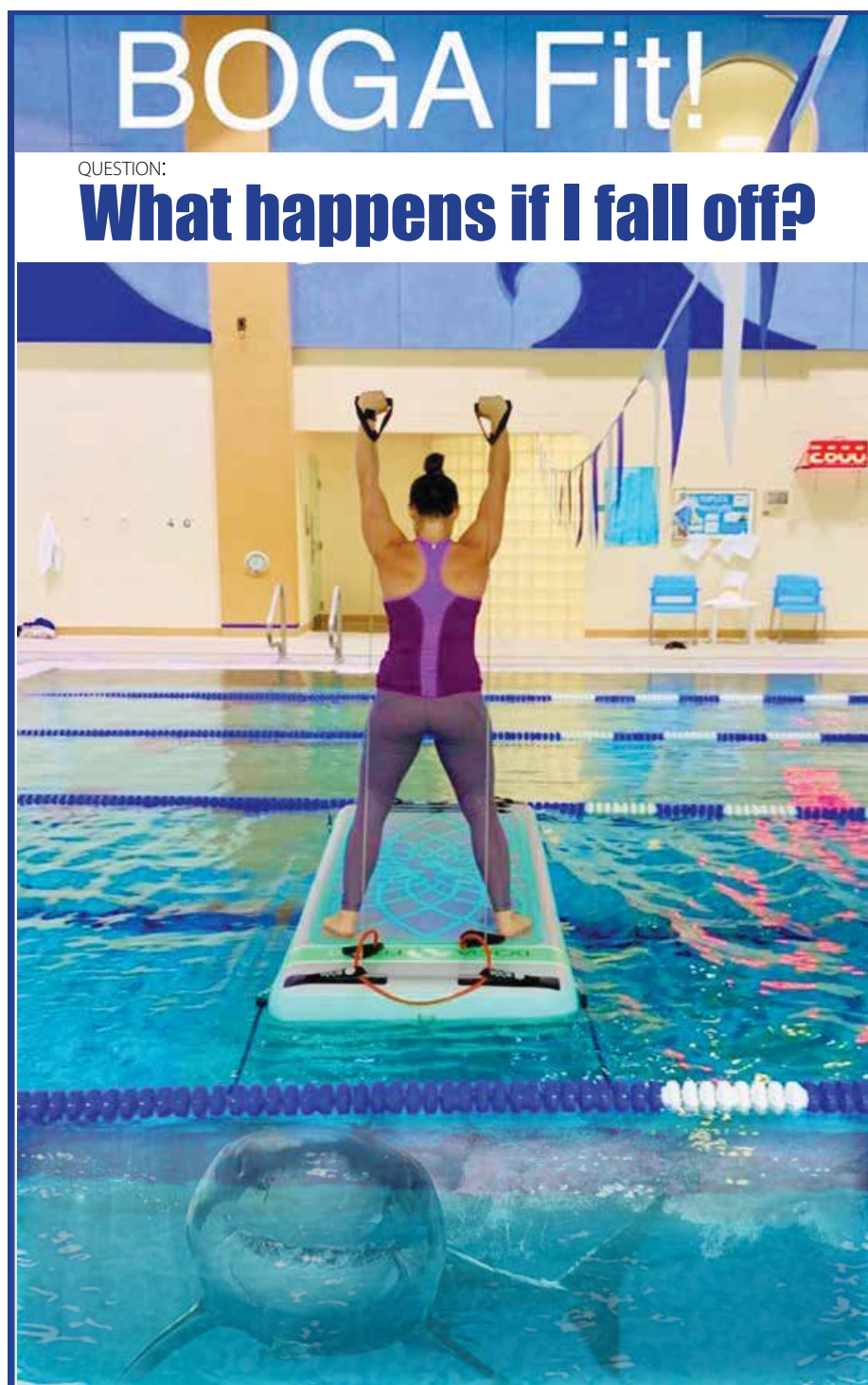
him and fellow Officer Thorn to focus on that area.

The officers located the suspicious male hiding under a semi-trailer. He was wearing the black and white camouflaged pants described by the witness. Further investigation revealed he was in possession of a black face mask and a loaded revolver wrapped in aluminum foil.

A robbery detective was notified, and he reviewed videos of previous robberies which clearly showed the suspect. Officers Graban and Thorn had in custody had committed four previous robberies.

Officers Graban and Thorn did an excellent job in responding promptly and paying attention to detail and crime trends. Thanks to the diligence of these officers, a serial robber was arrested.

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