

Free Community Newspaper

# PikePulse

Helping  
Build Our  
Community

December 2020

#12

Our Pillars of Engagement  
with Pike Township



# A Time To Celebrate

## Joe Biden's Statement December 14, 2020



My fellow Americans, the people of this nation have spoken. They have delivered us a clear victory. A convincing victory. A victory for "We-the-People." We have won with the

most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of this nation. I am humbled by the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide, but to unify — who doesn't see Red and Blue states, but a United States — and who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people. For that is what America is about: The people. And that is what our Administration will be about.

I sought this office to restore the soul of America. To rebuild the backbone of the nation — the middle class. To make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home. It is the honor of my lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for this vision. And now the work of making this vision real is the task of our time. . . .

I am proud of the coalition we put together, the broadest and most diverse in history. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Progressives, moderates, and conservatives.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Cards

Everyone will receive a COVID-19 vaccination card when getting your first shot, but you still must wear your mask.



Millions of COVID-19 vaccines will be administered in the USA by the end of 2020. Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will require two shots, several weeks apart. If you're wondering how you'll keep track of when it's time to get your next shot, it's simple — you'll get a COVID-19 vaccination card when your first shot is administered.

A coronavirus vaccination card is a wallet-sized card that details your personal coronavirus vaccine information. It's designed to be a helpful reminder for each person who receives the first shot to be aware of when they need to return to get the booster shot. One vaccine may require you return three weeks later, while the other may require that you return in a month.

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## December/January Holidays

Dec. 6	Saint Nicholas Day - Christian
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception of Mary - Catholic Christian; Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - Buddhism
Dec. 11-18	Hanukkah - Jewish
Dec. 12	Feast day - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Catholic Christian
Dec. 16-25	Posadas Navidenas - Hispanic Christian
Dec. 21	Solstice; Yule - Christian; Yule - Litha - Wicca/Pagan
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve - Christian
Dec. 25	Christmas - Christian; Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox
Dec. 26	St. Stephen's Day - Christian; Zarathosht Diso - Zoroastrian
Dec. 27	Saint John - Apostle and Evangelist - Christian; Holy Family - Catholic Christian
Dec. 28	Holy Innocents - Christian
Dec. 31	Watch Night - Christian
Jan. 24	Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) - Buddhist

Free Community Newspaper

# PikePulse

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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## Diversity and the Pike Pulse

by Brandon Fishburn,  
Director of Development



Brandon Fishburn

Not long ago a group of *Pike Pulse* Sponsors gathered to discuss diversity and business. This is a big topic, and those who participated brought a broad diversity of perspectives to the conversation. I'm grateful for that experience, and it is propelling this newspaper down new avenues.

Pike Township spans a broad array of cultures, social connectors, and economic sectors which presents both our greatest challenges and our greatest opportunities.

How do you properly support a community composed of people from nations around the world, of businesses representing hundreds of market sectors, and of social causes impacting us locally, nationally, and globally?

As long as I can remember, at the core of my being, one of my biggest passions has been bringing people together. I was in a meeting recently, and the man sitting across from me said, "A rising tide lifts all boats." That's how the *Pike Pulse* is seeking to serve Pike Township, but it starts with you, the reader. Thankfully, we're hearing from you.

Companies are stepping up because they want Pike to be a better place to live, work, and connect. They believe in the power of coming together, and how coming together

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COVID-19 Cards: Continued from page 1

Many clinics are planning to ask you to provide a cell phone number, so they can send a text message when and where your next dose is scheduled.

Every dose administered will be reported to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The following information will be on the coronavirus vaccination card.

- First and last name
- Date of birth
- Your patient number
- The vaccine you received
- The date you received the first and second vaccines
- Where you were vaccinated

The COVID-19 vaccine cards will help you and medical providers keep track of which vaccine was administered to you, so that you receive the correct second dose from the same vaccine manufacturer. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine in the first shot, you'll need to receive the Pfizer vaccine in the second shot. The same goes with the Moderna vaccine, since the two aren't interchangeable, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Unfortunately, getting the COVID-19 vaccination does not exempt you from wearing a mask or from social distancing. It's still recommended that you continue to wear a mask while in public and still social distance until we get control of this coronavirus. ▲

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## Joe Biden's Statement, December 14, 2020, Continued

Young and old. Urban, suburban and rural. Gay, straight, transgender. White. Latino. Asian. Native American. And especially for those moments when this campaign was at its lowest — the African American community stood up again for me. They always have my back, and I'll have yours. I said from the outset I wanted a campaign that represented America, and I think we did that. Now that's what I want the administration to look like.

And to those who voted for President Trump, I understand your disappointment tonight. I've lost a couple of elections myself. But now, let's give each other a chance. **It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, to lower the temperature, to see each other again, to listen to each other again. To make progress, we must stop treating our opponents as our enemy. We are not enemies. We are Americans.** The Bible tells us that to everything there is a season — a time to build, a time to reap, a time to sow. And a time to heal. This is the time to heal in America.

For anyone who didn't know before, they know now. What beats deep in the hearts of the American people is this: **Democracy**, the right to be heard, to have your vote counted, to choose leaders of this nation to govern ourselves. In America, politicians don't take power, people grant power to them. The flame of democracy was lit in this nation a long time ago. We now know nothing, not even a pandemic or an abuse of power, can extinguish that flame. And as the people kept to the flame of democracy, so too did courageous state and local officials and election workers.

**American democracy works because America makes it work at a local level.** One of the extraordinary things we saw this year was everyday Americans, our friends, and our neighbors, often volunteers, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, demonstrating absolute courage. They showed a deep and unwavering faith in, and a commitment to the law. They did their duty in the face of the pandemic, and then they could not, and would not give credence to

what they knew was not true. . . . It was honest, it was free, and it was fair. They saw it with their own eyes. . . . But we all wish our fellow Americans in these positions will always show such courage and commitment to free and fair elections.

. . . It's everyday Americans infused with honor, character and decency that is the heart of this nation. In this election, their integrity was matched by their strength, independence, and the integrity of our judicial system.

Respecting the will of the people is at the heart of our democracy. Even when we find those results hard to accept, that's the obligation of those who've taken on a sworn duty to uphold the Constitution. . . . In this battle for the soul of America, democracy prevailed. **We-the-people voted, faith in our institutions held, the integrity of our elections remain intact. And now it's time to turn the page as we've done throughout our history.**

To unite, to heal. As I said in this campaign, I will be President for all Americans. I'll work just as hard for those of you who didn't vote for me

as I will for those who did. There's urgent work in front of us, getting this pandemic under control and getting the nation vaccinated against this virus, delivering immediate economic health so badly needed by so many Americans who are hurting today, and then building our economy back better than it ever was.

. . . Most of all, we need to stand in solidarity as fellow Americans, to see each other, our pain, our struggles, our hopes and our dreams. We're a great nation, we're good people. We may come from different places, hold different beliefs but we share in common a love for this country. A belief in its limitless possibilities, for we the United States of America has always set the example for the world for a peaceful transition of power, and we will do so again.

I know the task before us won't be easy. It's tempered by the pain so many of us are feeling.

Today our nation passed a grim milestone, 300,000 deaths due to this COVID virus. My heart goes out to each of you in this dark winter of the pandemic, about to spend the

holidays and the new year with a black hole in your hearts, without the ones you love at your side. My heart goes out to all of you who have fallen on hard times through no fault of your own. Unable to sleep at night, staring at the ceiling and weighed down by the worry of what tomorrow will bring for you and equally important for your family.

But we've faced difficult times before in our history. I know we'll get through this one together — that's how to get through it — together. So, as we start the hard work to be done, may this moment give us the strength to rebuild this house of ours upon a rock that can never be washed away. As in the prayer of Saint Francis:

**Where there is discord, union. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is darkness, light.**

This is who we are as a nation. This is the America we love, and that is the America we're going to be. Thank you all, and may God bless you, and may God protect our troops and all those who stand watch over our democracy. Thank you. ▲



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# A Talk with Annette Johnson, Township Trustee



Aerial view of the Pike Township Offices Building

## Pike Township is very diverse.

Very diverse. To me, it's exciting we're able to have such diversity and work together, live together, socialize, and learn together as well. We are diverse in terms of race, economic levels, and educational opportunity, and we are diverse spiritually.

I formed the **Faith-Based Coalition Group** that holds meetings every other month. The beauty of it is the meetings are held at different locations. It's where we all can get together, meet, get to know one another personally, and learn about each others' faiths.

Faith-based leaders share the resources they have to better partner with the Township. We're also able to share resources we have with them. It's been a good way to communicate and an effective way to connect. For instance, we've learned about food pantries that are open on different days of the week.

**Describe your day:** Most of my time is invested building connections in the community: seeing who needs help, seeing what we can do with partnerships, seeing what we can do working with churches and other organizations. I mean, that's huge.

I want to connect more thoroughly with businesses. I've been able to connect with Conagra, Clif Bar, racing teams, and the Colts headquarters. I've branched out to make connections with businesses and churches, and I work to make sure we keep the lines of communication open. We need to understand what resources they have, and what they want to do to partner with the Trustee's Office.

**Our Website:** Creating an effective website is helping us connect with businesses and the community. We never had a website, and so that was one of my visions coming to this office. We needed a way for people to go to our website and see what the office does. It is [visitpiketownship.com](http://visitpiketownship.com).

**The Fire Department** is our biggest focus. As the Trustee, I'm the overseer for the Fire Department. It's important to have a Chief who knows what he's doing, and a department that is well equipped. I'm not a firefighter, and I don't want to overstep my boundaries and act like I'm running it; that's the job of the Chief. I oversee the budget to make sure the Department has what's needed, and, along with the Chief, we work together to make that happen.

**We have a Small Claims Court.** We make sure people are safe and secure with the Judge. It works out really nice.

**But you know, the Trustee's Office is really here to take care of the needs of Pike Township residents, and that's what we do.** We have three case worker positions, an Office Manager, and a Deputy Trustee.

Our office hours are now Monday thru Friday, 9AM to 1PM. Of course, we adjusted it a little because of COVID. We have been able to have the case workers work with everyone, and we haven't missed a beat at all because we were able to get all the needed forms online from the website ([visitpiketownship.com](http://visitpiketownship.com)).

**Because of COVID people are struggling more** than what we're used to. I do have a budget that's able to take care of most everyone who comes in here.

When this first started happening, I wanted us to help as many people who came across our door as possible — and maybe do a little bit



Annette Johnson

more. We do have the money and the budget for it.

When some might not qualify for rental assistance, I ask the caseworkers to see if they could be approved for help with their light bill, and then ask if they need a food voucher. We also do uniform

vouchers. I say let's go as far as we can and do as much as we can.

Government can be a little complicated, but it's not about holding onto the money — it's about how to give it out. I know we have to make sure we do it in the right manner.

For example, we require everyone to wear masks when they come in here. People told us they didn't have one. Now we have free masks in our entry area, and we say, "Take two or three. We want to provide whatever we can to help you; that's what we're all about."

One service we offer that has been challenging is burial services. We've had so many COVID deaths. The requests have been more than what we are used to.

**Food Pantry:** The Pike Firefighters do a big food drive from January to March. They help stock food pantries in the community. We never had a food pantry here at the Trustee's office, but now we do, and this is a huge help. The food pantry is for Pike resident clients who come to this office.

**People know they can get some help with their rental utilities,** but by the time they pay that, they're usually really short on cash for food. I wanted to help fill that void, so we now can say, "When you leave here today, you can also shop for food in our pantry. We can help you get where you don't have worry about food for a while." The Trustee's Office is for individuals and families who are in an emergency situation. It's not a long-term situation. We can provide help for one month.

A lady came in and told us her mom was very sick and was going to pass soon, but she needed to take a month to two off to care for her. Of course, her job's not going to pay for that. So, that's where I can step in and say, "Don't worry about it. I've got your utilities. I've got your rent paid while you take your mom in and take care of her for the least 30 days." That's what happens.

We also get a lot of people who just need help with their prescriptions, and others who are laid off a month or can't go to work because they're baby-sitting a niece with COVID-19.

Parents have to stay home, and can't go to work, so I'm able to pay the rent for the time being. It's not a long-term fix. It's a fix to help people get through the month or two when they're really needing help.

**It works like this:** People come in for help, and a case worker gets assigned to them. The case worker gathers the information. Once they qualify to become a client, all of these resources are available to them. If they need food, we can provide food for at least 30 days. And Kroger's been a good sponsor. They offer \$25 gift cards, and I also give out \$25 gift cards, because we know people have to buy personal items that food pantries don't provide. ▲



Trustee Johnson working in the Pike Food Pantry



# Annette Johnson's Fascinating Family Story

**My family was originally from Louisville, Kentucky** where my Mother grew up. My dad served in the army there but contracted an illness and passed away at 36. I was about eight. My mom became a 35-year-old widow with six kids.

**It was really rough, but we had a strong family.** We had family members in Indianapolis. We'd come here for the summer when I was young, and then we'd be in Kentucky during the school years. I had two aunts in Indianapolis who suggested mom needed to move here, and they would help take care of us. Three of us came to Indy, and three stayed in Kentucky. We would go home to Kentucky in the summer.

It was rough, because as a little kid I didn't understand why we had to be separated. It was just rough not seeing your other siblings. And I was by myself for a little while with one aunt, because she didn't have any kids. She thought she could do one, but she didn't think she could do three or four, so she just took me for a little while.

They split us up so my mom could go to school full time. It gave her enough time to go to school, graduate, and get a job. The goal was for my mom to become a nurse. She was accepted at Marian University here in Indianapolis. There were only a few African-Americans in her class at Marion, and it was really a challenge for her, but she made it.

Once our mom got her education, she was hired at Wishard Hospital, and we all were able to come back together, all six of us. We lived together with one aunt. My mom and my aunt and all six of us, we all stayed together in one house. It was fun. Three boys, three girls. Then we just ended up living here all year long, and so my formal education and everything continued here in Indianapolis. And we're all still alive and well.

My Mom is really amazing. And my mom's mom was amazing, too. She lived in Louisville, Kentucky the whole time. She was always very in-

volved in politics, and that's where I get that from. When I would go down in the summer to be with my grandmother, I would work at a community center with her.

I remember fixing and cutting sandwiches in half, putting them in little baggies, and then putting them in brown bags. We would put in two Oreo cookies and chips, and give them to the homeless and people who would come up to the center during lunchtime. That was my job.

## I was a different kind of kid.

I wasn't like my brothers, because they'd be out playing, but I got up every day and was in the community center with my grandmother. That's what I did. I loved serving even from a young age.

Then my grandmother got very involved in politics doing voter registration. My mom picked up on that, too. After my mom moved to Indianapolis and started her career as a nurse at Wishard, she got very involved with community groups. She became a Union Steward and formed the first union at Wishard Hospital.

As a Union Steward, she was the spokesperson for things that the Union wanted: benefits, extra things that needed to be done.

We're in school — all six of us. At times our mom had to leave work to go to the school to deal with some school issue for us, but my mom would get docked on her pay. She was not paid for the time she had to visit the school on our behalf. She didn't think that was fair. After she tried unsuccessfully to work it out with the hospital administration, **she organized a strike.**

That was my first participation in community action. We formed an effective picket line, because my mom had the most sign carriers — her six kids. We'd each hold a sign. Other



(L to R) Daylin Brooks (11), Arnya Johnson (18), Brenda Waldon (Annette's Mom), Trustee Annette Johnson, Arlean Johnson (daughter), Dean Johnson Jr. (son), Raya Johnson (3), Melanie Johnson (daughter-in-law)

people were there, but she had the most representation because she said, "Strength is in our numbers." With all of us picketing, she won. The union negotiated benefits covering when nurses could check on their kids without losing pay. My mom was a fighter. She was all about protection and rights for the workers and the healthcare workers. I still remember that. She worked there many, many years.

My mom still lives in Pike Township but does quieter things, now. She cares for Alzheimer's patients one on one.

## Talk about your immediate family:

My son is now a firefighter in Pike. And I'm very proud of him.

I had always been urging him to be a firefighter, but you know how most parents are. That's what we want, but he became an engineer and worked down at the Honda plant in Greenfield.

But he said one day, "You know what, Mom? I'm going to become a firefighter."

I said, "Okay. That's great." I was on the Township Board then. I said, "You're really going to do it?"

He said, "Yeah. I'm starting the process."

I said, "Oh, my goodness. I'm thinking of running for Trustee. This may be a complication."

But, he went through the process and was on the hiring list in

Wayne. Then as soon as I become Pike Trustee and was sworn in, my son says, "Mom, Pike called me, not Wayne. I'm going to be a Pike firefighter." It was an independent selection process. I had nothing to do with my son being hired in Pike. We have a Fire Department and a Merit Board as well, and they make the selections — not the Trustee.



Trustee Annette Johnson, Dean Johnson Jr. (son), Arlean Johnson (daughter)

My son went through the class, and he realized, "This is going to be rough." But he did well. And now he's a firefighter, and he loves it. Absolutely loves it.

That's my only son, and I have a daughter. She lives in Pike Township too. She's wonderful.

And I have a significant other, Mr. Robert King. He's my guy. He was an IFD Firefighter for 36 years. I met him at a political event. He has helped me a lot with really getting an understanding of being a firefighter. ▲



Annette Johnson and Robert King



From the Editor: This article appeared in the December issue of the Pike High School newsletter, Pike Hi-Life. Hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

# 'Keep in touch with your younger self'

## Students explain why they still love the cartoons they watched as kids

by Alayna Demery

Junior Mariah Taylor grew up watching and enjoying cartoons. She loves to go back and rewatch all the shows that once brought her joy. Her favorite shows include Spongebob, Octonauts, Mickey Mouse, Bubble Guppies and Dora.

Taylor isn't alone; most teens watched cartoons as children and were captivated by the animations. Years later, teens still enjoy watching cartoons, whether they are the shows they grew up with or a more adult cartoon.

"I like to watch cartoons like Spongebob, Curious George, Fairly Odd Parents, Jimmy Neutron, stuff like that," said junior Robert Clark. "My favorite cartoon is Teen Titans because I feel like it's more like action packed."

Students shared their opinions on why they believe teens still watch cartoons and the fascination they still have for these shows.



"It keeps them up with their childhood, and it's good to keep in touch with those things that remind you of your younger self, back to where it was more free," said sophomore Aniya Cox.

Taylor said cartoons bring back memories of easier and happier times in teens' lives. They can always sit down and watch a cartoon and forget the stress from the day.

Most students agreed that their childhood was affected positively by the cartoons they grew up watching.

"They definitely helped me grow up, ironically, and it definitely brought my family together, with me and my sisters. We had a common interest in the shows, so it helped," said junior Ariadna Casarin.

Cartoons could also provide common interest when it came to making friends.

"I was always kinda outcasted as a kid. So I felt like cartoons helped me get more out there, because a whole lot of people love

cartoons," Clark said. "I deal with a lot of social anxiety, so it helped me talk more to people."

Teens still receive satisfaction from watching children's shows, and they try to make sense of this.

"It's satisfying because when you think about it, it's like as a kid you kinda really didn't understand what they were talking about until you got older. Then you are like, 'Oh my gosh, now I understand it.' Some things as a kid you don't understand until you grow up a little," Taylor said.

Going back and watching cartoons allows you to understand what you once enjoyed, but it also allows you to reminisce about your childhood.

"It triggers you back to your past, it gives you the memories. It reminds you of what you used to do. Those moments are gone, but the show is not," said Casarin.

Some people find it interesting to watch a show that they were interested in as a kid but haven't watched in years.

"I watched the first season of the Backyardigans last year. I was just like, why did I stop watching this? I would just go home and watch that show and stay in my room the entire time watching that show," said Taylor. ▲



## What's your favorite cartoon?



**Sophomore James Arnold**  
"SpongeBob because I grew up watching it a lot."



**Senior Patrick Twyman**  
"Tom and Jerry because it was funny and entertaining. I grew up watching it."



**Junior JJ Loudon**  
"Fairly Odd Parents because every time I watched it the episodes were catchy."

Diversity and the Pike Pulse - Continue from page 2

can build a better sense of place, and impact positive developments. Companies like LCD Transportation and organizations like the Haitian Christian Mission also believe in the power of people coming together. They are asking people to act locally so that we as a community can improve and make an impact globally. And residents are calling, and asking how they can help fulfill our mission to connect people, businesses, and organizations.

This year has been one of the most interesting years I've lived through, and it's led to a deeper sense of understanding for me about people. We're all "from" somewhere, we all believe something, and we all do something for a living. These parts of our life shape us, give us the resources we have access to, and teach us the way we see the world and each other. The Pike Pulse is giving Pike Township a means to connect, and I'm looking forward to continue to hear from you, the businesses you represent, and the organizations you belong to. We'd love to come alongside you to help strengthen our community! ▲





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# 10 Minute Winter Wonders in Pike Township

**Note from the Editor:** I am pleased to introduce a Pike Township writer who noted a gap in our community coverage.

She wrote, "You are not sharing enough about the natural environment in Pike."

"Well," I countered, "Pike does have Eagle Creek, Trader's Point, Kayleo Farm, and many natural places we enjoy visiting, and we have had a *Pike Pulse* story or two about some of them."

"Yes," she said kindly, "but that's not enough. Let me share why."

Christy and her husband work full time as medical/insurance professionals, and they still have made Nature a part of their everyday life. They both believe that helps them connect with life more fully, and Christy wants to share their experiences with Pike Township residents by writing about it. She suggests we begin by exploring our own plot of natural environment -- our own backyards.

Christy is a busy nurse practitioner by day and an unashamed tree-hugger at all other times. She, her husband, and their pets live on a small farm in Pike Township. She is a Master Naturalist and recently attended the Purdue Watershed Leadership Academy.



As we celebrate snow flurries and the winter holidays in Pike Township, let's find time to be in Nature and appreciate winter wonders. Couldn't we all use some free, positive outdoor experiences in 2020?

We hear time and again that engaging with Nature has healing and stress-relieving powers. But did you know you can fully enjoy and receive these benefits in only 10 minutes? You can do more but start with 10 minutes at first.

While we may be accustomed to appreciating and enjoying summer's blooms, after the winter takes those blooms away it exposes natural features that were hidden by those beautiful blooming plants. We have unique chances to improve our outdoor observational skills. Nature is not gone; it just looks different because it's resting.

## Try this:

Bundle up warmly in layers and step outside into your backyard (or a nearby park) with the sole purpose of observation and exploration of Nature. You may want to leave your cell phone inside and leave your dog at home, too.

Walk to a spot that feels comfortable. Pause and look around. Just take it in. If you have kids, help them name the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell) and encourage them to identify the information their senses are gathering.

Guide the activity by asking: What does the ground feel like under your feet? Is it hard and frozen, or spongy? Does the air feel dry or moist on your face? Can you feel a breeze? Are there clouds in the sky? What direction are they



moving? Where is the light coming from? And where is the sun this time of day and this season of the year? What sounds do you hear? Can you tell me what you smell?

If you're near a forest, notice how the trees have varied bark and branch shapes. How many kinds of different trees can you see?

Do you see any birds, rabbits or squirrels? What are they doing?

Next, see what you can find on the ground. Draw a big circle and pick up and examine what you find inside of it -- maybe rocks, pinecones, branches, nuts and leaves of various sizes. Compare and contrast them -- what are their shapes? Can you tell from which tree the leaves fell? If you're in your own yard, can you recall where plants were

that have now "died back"? Envision what their roots look like under the ground as they await spring's emergence.

To expand upon your new-found winter wonder observation skills, try visiting the same spot at different times of day, or set a time to visit the same spot weekly. You'll probably notice subtle changes you might have missed before. After dark, in your chosen spot, notice the stars and planets. How does the moon change week to week? Can you see clouds in the dark? Are there night sounds different from those you heard during the day?

As we approach 2021 and continue to

cope with the stresses of the pandemic and modern life, remember that Nature receives us with open arms in every season, and in all weather. Make enjoying Nature a New Year's resolution! ▲



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Tina Moe, President of her accounting firm, is an experienced entrepreneur with a demonstrated history of working in the accounting industry. She earned a BS in Accounting from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis in 1998.



Tina Moe, CPA, CGMA

As we wrap up 2020, year-end tax planning has never been more crucial. Disruptions significantly impacted our personal and financial situations – COVID-19, economic relief measures, new tax laws and political shifts.

#### COVID considerations:

Tax provisions were implemented under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help individuals and businesses deal with the pandemic.

#### Economic impact payment (EIP)

Your \$1,200 (\$2,400 for joint filers) plus \$500 for each qualifying child, are treated as advance refunds of a

2020 tax credit. If you received an EIP payment, you should have received IRS Notice 1444. Keep this for record-keeping purposes.

#### Charitable deductions

Unique to 2020, individuals who do not itemize their deductions can take an above-the-line charitable deduction of up to \$300. Such contributions must be made in cash and made to qualified organizations.

#### Retirement accounts

You can take up to \$100,000 in coronavirus-related distributions from retirement plans through the end of the year without being subject to the 10% additional tax for early distributions. Additionally, required minimum distributions (RMDs) are temporarily suspended for 2020. If your retirement assets have taken a hit, not having to take an RMD

may allow those assets to recover some value before you liquidate them.

#### Frauds are a significant threat

Fraudsters continue to refine their techniques and tax identity theft remains a significant concern. Beware if you:

- Receive a notice or letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding a tax return, tax bill or income that doesn't apply to you
- Get an unsolicited email or another form of communication asking for your bank account number or personal information
- Receive a robocall insisting you settle your tax bill

#### The Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The penalty that the ACA imposes on individuals who do not have health insurance was repealed.

#### Year-end planning

There are many other opportunities to discuss as year-end approaches. And, many times, there may be strategies such as deferral of income, prepayment of expenses, etc., that can help you save taxes. **Take some time to plan ahead so you can minimize your tax bill and position you for greater success. ▲**



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Shawnda Sparks, CRPC®  
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.

## Contact me today.

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Provided by Shawnda Sparks

## Should I invest in a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA?



There is no easy answer. Traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs share certain general characteristics. Both feature tax-deferred growth of earnings and allow you to contribute up to \$6,000 in 2020 (unchanged from 2019) of earned income, plus an additional \$1,000 “catch-up” contribution if you’re 50 or older. (This is the maximum you may contribute to all IRAs.) Both allow certain low- and middle-in-

come taxpayers to claim a partial tax credit for amounts contributed. But important differences exist between these two types of IRAs. In fact, the Roth IRA is in some ways the opposite of the traditional IRA.

A traditional IRA allows anyone with earned income to contribute the maximum \$6,000 in 2020, plus catch-up if eligible. However, your ability to deduct traditional IRA contributions will depend on your annual income, your filing status, and whether you or your spouse is covered by an employer-sponsored plan. You may be able to deduct all, a portion, or none of your contribu-

tion for a given year. Any distribution from a traditional IRA will be subject to income taxes to the extent that the distribution represents earnings and deductible contributions. You may also be hit with a 10% early withdrawal penalty if you draw money out before age 59½ (there are exceptions to this rule). Beginning at age 72, you must begin to take annual distributions from a traditional IRA.<sup>1</sup>


You can also contribute to a Roth IRA, as long as you have taxable compensation. However, your ability to contribute and the amount you’ll be able to contribute (up to the annual limit) will depend on your income and tax filing status. Although Roth IRA contributions are not tax deductible, Roth IRAs have other advantages. You’re not required to take distributions from a Roth IRA at any age, which gives you more estate-planning options. Another key strength: Qualified withdrawals will avoid both income tax and the early withdrawal penalty if certain conditions are met. Nonqualified withdrawals will be taxed and penalized only

on the earnings portion of the withdrawal, since the principal is your own after-tax money.

Your personal goals and circumstances will determine which type of IRA is right for you. If you wish to potentially reduce taxes during retirement or help preserve assets for your heirs, a Roth IRA may be the way to go. A traditional IRA may make more sense if you can make deductible contributions and want to lower your taxes while you’re still working. ▲

<sup>1</sup> Due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, required minimum distributions (RMDs) are waived in 2020. The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which investment(s) may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results. All indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. The information provided is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax planning or legal advice. We suggest that you consult with a qualified tax or legal advisor. LPL Financial Representatives offer access to Trust Services through The Private Trust Company N.A., an affiliate of LPL Financial. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC






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## A Special Note from Lea Riley



Lea Riley

The Riley Center is a youth community center. In response to the realities associated with Covid-19 we are providing e-learning stations to pike township

students. This allows parents the ability to still go to work. Children not being able to go into class with a teacher has been hard on them, especially the kindergarteners. We all know that children love electronics, but this is a different type of electronic in their eyes. The children that usually would get good grades are not at this time.

We normally operate as a before and after-school program where children can come and get help with their homework or to have a safe place to go after school. It has been an adjustment for the

children to understand that they must remain in class and be respectful to their fellow classmates. E-learning has made it challenging for the children to remain focused and fight the temptation of playing around.

As staff and parents, we have done our best to accommodate the children at their level. The challenges are real as we navigate the different learning lesson plans and helping them to learn the different systems. And we are here to help parents and children in this difficult time.

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# Regarding the Relocation of NW IMPD Headquarters

We, Crooked Creek Alert (CCA) — Crooked Creek Community's neighborhood umbrella organization) — requests the support of Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (McANA) in requiring transparency and responsiveness in the relocation of the IMPD Northwest District Headquarters (NW HQ), which has been totally mis-handled by IMPD and the City of Indianapolis.

CCA believes that the relocation selection of 4100 Lafayette Road was essentially "arranged" through political chicanery keeping IMPD from relocating the NW HQ to our desired location at Michigan Road & 62nd Street. This is about the lack of transparency and responsiveness of our City Government in the selection process of a new site for the IMPD Northwest District Headquarters. We firmly believe that we had a location that deserved a fair hearing. This is a critical issue for Pike Township and Crooked Creek neighborhoods.

The Michigan Road area has been identified by IMPD as one of the five or six areas that need more IMPD focus. Our location is across from our new Library Branch on Michigan Road. Our community envisions this intersection to be the future focal point of the Crooked Creek Community. A Michigan Road IMPD Northwest District Headquarters would transform our Community. Our location for an IMPD District Headquarters not only serves the long-term interests of Pike and Crooked Creek neighborhoods, it would also serve the interests of IMPD and those of the taxpayers of Marion County.

Regardless of our offer — the lack of transparency and responsiveness by our City Government is unacceptable and must be called out. IMPD has never been transparent concerning the relocation of the IMPD NW HQ. First, they did not outreach out to the community about their proposed move to Lafayette Road and 17th Street. Once the community found out through Public Notices, we made our concerns known — and that location was

abandoned.

We called a meeting on August 29th with Deputy Chief Bailey and several City-County Councillors, including Council President Osilli, John Barth and others. Deputy Chief Bailey first gave a "mea culpa" for how IMPD handled the proposed location at Lafayette Road & 17th Street. Deputy Chief Bailey promised that they had learned their lesson and that this would not happen again. He then spoke of the requirements of a new NW HQ and that IMPD prefers to own, but does not have the funding to do so — that funding was the biggest obstacle. At the meeting a number of us with a desire to relocate the IMPD NW HQ to an "L" shaped property at 62nd and Michigan Road. This property which is owned by a neighborhood developer, Aaron Wilson. Aaron, a member of CCA's Land-Use Committee, purchased the property to prevent the development of a gas station or a strip mall with a tattoo parlor that were competing at the auction for this site — which is across the street from our Community's focal point — our new Public Library Branch.

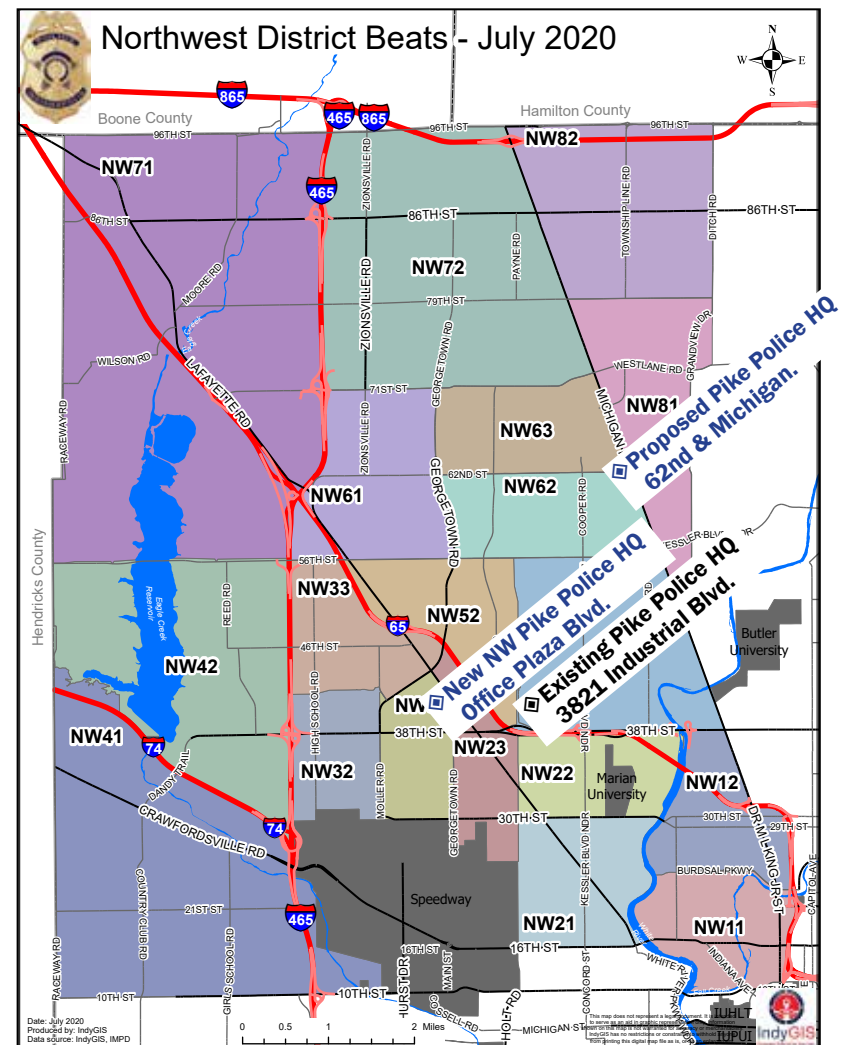
Aaron provided a presentation offering to "build to suit," as well as offering a "lease to buy" over 20 years. Aaron also offered to provide Deputy Chief Bailey with a FREE initial site plan if IMPD would inform him of the number of parking spaces and number of rooms, preferred sizes and other specifics to provide a realistic site plan. Kerry Michael Manders, CCA Land-Use Chair, offered to personally raise the \$170,000 to purchase the land. Deputy Chief Bailey stated that he would get back with us. He mentioned that another site was being considered at 4100 Lafayette Road.

We scheduled a follow-up meeting for September 26th. After a follow-up e-mail, Deputy Chief Bailey responded stating he appreciated our advocacy and that his only concern was the shooting of Mr. Reed across the street — and the cost. We never again heard back from Deputy Chief Bailey, nor anyone from IMPD. We followed-up with another e-mail

on September 8th, but never heard back. On the same day former IMPD Chief Bryan Roach expressed his support for our location to Deputy Chief Val Cunningham, who forwarded it to IMPD's Realtor. The September 26th follow-up meeting was moved to a new site and time by the Pike Township Trustee (where we were to meet). We were notified the day before the meeting and had other commitments at the new time — so we could not attend. After the meeting we were informed by attending Community leaders that IMPD decided on the 4100 Lafayette Road location without regard to our request.

We repeatedly asked to meet with Mayor Hogsett, who told Kerry to his face that he would "absolutely" meet with us. The Mayor has completely ignored our repeated re-

quests to address the issue of the lack of transparency in IMPD's selection process. Regardless of our offer — transparency and responsiveness are expected and required of our Elected and Public Safety Officials. We demand that IMPD conduct an open and transparent process to determine the relocation of the IMPD NW HQ. That IMPD give due consideration to the best interests of the greater community and greater good when determining its new location. We insist that the value to taxpayers is considered when evaluating a long-term lease vs. a lease to buy that provides true added-value to IMPD and its future. We expect and demand an open and transparent process from IMPD and Mayor Hogsett — as well as Mayor Hogsett be responsive to the citizen's he represents. ▲





# Chief Trag's Corner Winter Safety



With the temperatures changing and the holiday season coming

it's important for us at Pike Township Fire Department to remind you of a few ways to stay safe. During winter months, especially around the holidays, we often see an increase in house fires. Here are a few things you need to know about keeping your family and home safe from fire this winter season.

**Heating is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries. December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires. Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.**

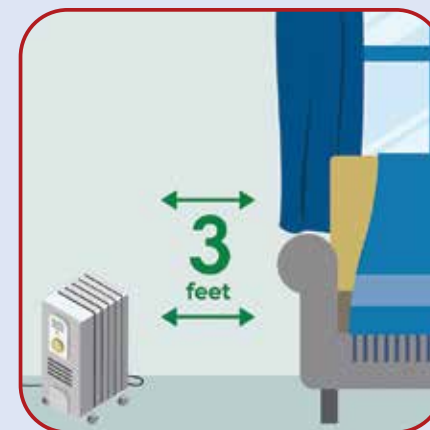
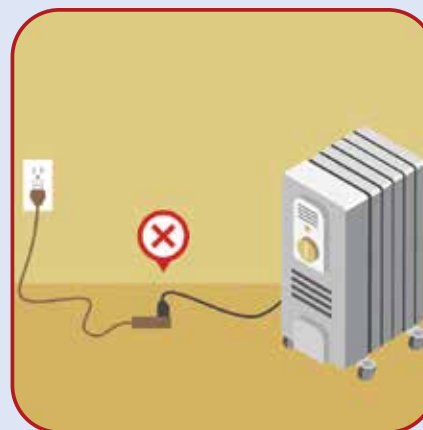
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Always use the right kind of fuel for fuel burning space heaters.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Make sure the fireplace has been cleaned recently and has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.

**From holiday candles, to Christmas trees, dangling garlands and fireplaces, seasonal decor can often be hazardous if not properly put up with care or if it's placed next to a potentially dangerous item. Keep these tips in mind when decorating for the holiday season.**

- Before plugging in a strand of lights, examine the cord for damage. Throw away any frayed, kinked or worn light strands.
- Turn off all lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other things that can burn and consider using battery operated candles.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and never connect more than three strands of lights at a time.
- If you have a live tree, remember to check water daily.
- If you are hosting guests, make sure to keep an eye on food cooking in the kitchen.

Following these safety tips this winter will help keep you and your home safe during the holidays! ▲



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## The Squeaky Wheel Gets the Grease

When LCP Transportation accepted a meeting request from us, I approached the meeting the same way I do all my meetings. I try to maintain an open mind about what may or may not be important to the businesses and organizations I meet. I try to leave my preconceived notions at the door, and as I sat across the table, I heard a very clear message:



1. We need to make Pike better.
2. We need to shine a light on things that aren't what we want or expect them to be.
3. We need to hold property owners accountable to the laws in place.
4. We need to engage our citizens to act.
5. We need citizens to pick up the phone and call on our elected officials, appropriate city departments, and become the squeaky wheel."

As we continue to cultivate the Good for Pike and Bad for Pike section of *Pike Pulse*, we are asking residents to make some noise. We need their friction to help call for the grease in this community.

We are grateful for organizations like Crooked Creek Alert, Resilient Pike, PTR, and others who are passionate about Pike Township. We will continue to maintain an open ear to the issues that are important to you. As we come together about creating a better Pike Township, we look forward to sharing the positive impact we see regarding economic and community developments. ▲




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~ Josh Billings

AZ QUOTES



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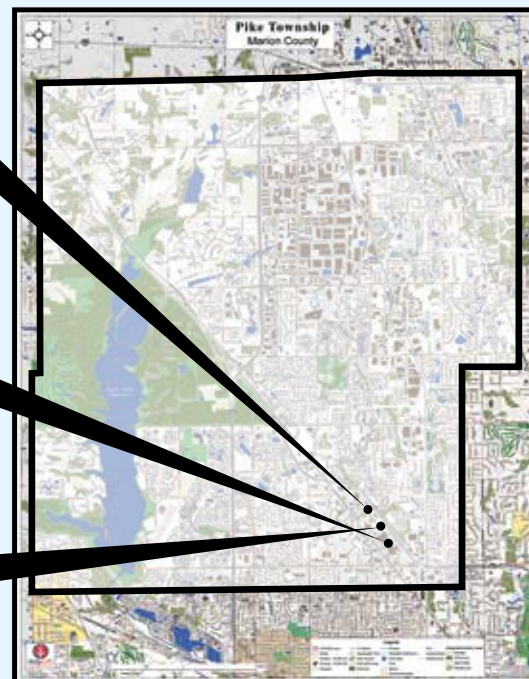
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Thank you to the alert Pike residents who have sent pictures, comments, and suggestions about Pike Township. We will be sharing each of your concerns with the Township and with the most appropriate agencies in the Spring of 2021.

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## IndyPL Displaying and Archiving Replicas of Racial Justice Murals

*Murals will also be available for checkout to patrons*



Indianapolis, IN - Large vinyl replicas of 28 Murals for Racial Justice are on display at Central Library through

January 20, and additionally are available for checkout from IndyPL. Local artists of color were commissioned to create the murals in June, originally creating the artwork on the wood that was used to cover downtown windows amid protests of the police-involved killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Drearon Reed.

The Indianapolis Public Library's Center for Black Literature & Culture (CBLC) at Central Library partnered with artist, equity practitioner, and design researcher Danicia Monét and the Arts Council of Indianapolis to ensure that the murals are archived as a

part of Indianapolis history. The murals were replicated on 3-by-5-foot vinyl banners and as high resolution images in the online collection Digital Indy: Murals for Justice, which includes information about the contributing artists. The murals will be available in the IndyPL online catalog indefinitely. This community-engagement initiative was funded through the generosity of Glick Philanthropies.

"Local artists poured their hearts into these murals. As the buildings start to open again, we want to preserve these paintings that

capture what we, as a community, were experiencing during these challenging and transformative times," said Nichelle M. Hayes, special collections librarian and founding leader of the CBLC. "By displaying the artwork at the library and offering these murals to the local community for public and private events, we hope to archive a moment in history while highlighting this call to end systemic racism."

Patrons can request and pick up the murals from any library branch for display at homes, businesses, and events. A maximum of eight murals per patron may be checked out at once. The murals have a 42-day checkout duration and cannot be renewed. They are "late fine free" items, which means they are exempt from "per day" late fees that accrue when

materials are overdue.

Digital images of the murals can be found on [digitalindy.org](http://digitalindy.org) in the category "Murals for Justice." To place a hold on a mural for checkout,

patrons can search "racial justice murals" in the [indypl.org](http://indypl.org) catalog and request them for pickup at any of IndyPL's 23 locations.

The Murals for Racial Justice project was initially organized by the Arts Council, Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc., PATTERN, St'ArtUp 317, and cultural entrepreneur Malina Simone Jeffers. The Arts Council is hosting a free workshop series in partnership with the artists involved in the Murals for Racial Justice project. Learn more at [indyarts.org/artists](http://indyarts.org/artists). ▲







## SERVICE CHANGES BEGINNING DECEMBER 21

**Starting December 21, the Library will limit in-person services to:**

- Curbside pick-up of reading materials, audiobooks, and DVDs
- Limited walk-in use of computers, printers, and scanners on a first-come, first-served basis with one-hour time limits

### **Why this change?**

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases throughout Indiana, The Indianapolis Public Library has decided to adjust services for the safety of staff and patrons. As we look for ways to serve during these unprecedented times, we want to provide access to our most essential offerings - materials and computers - as safely as possible. Book drops will remain open at all Library locations for returning materials.

### **When can I enter a Library location?**

Patrons may enter a Library location only to use a Library computer on a walk-in, first-come, first-serve basis. There will be a one-hour time limit for computer activity, and a limited number of computers available. Printing (including mobile printing), faxing, copying, and scanner use can be done during this time. All patrons must wear a face covering. No food or drinks allowed. Note that computer access does NOT include use of personal devices inside libraries.

### **What about browsing? Or getting help from a librarian?**

We will not be allowing patrons in buildings for browsing or reference help at this time. Patrons may browse our catalog at [indypl.org](http://indypl.org) and may call any branch for reference help. We also offer a web form, text-a-librarian, blog, and social media as other ways to connect.

### **Scheduling curbside pickup online:**

First, place a hold online at [indypl.org](http://indypl.org) in our online catalog. (If you don't have an online account, you can create one using your library card number). Inside "My Account," you can select your home branch for hold pickups. You will be notified when your hold is in (via phone, email, or text). Use our online scheduling tool (available December 17 at [indypl.org](http://indypl.org)) to schedule your time.

### **Scheduling curbside pickup by phone:**

Call your nearest branch for assistance with placing a hold on an item. You will be notified when your hold is in (via phone, email, or text). You can then call your branch to schedule a pickup time.

### **Why can't I make appointments for computer use?**

Computers, printers, and scanners are available on a first-come, first-served basis because we want all of our patrons, including those without personal internet access or phones to schedule an appointment, to have an equal chance at utilizing this important service.

**For more information, please visit [www.indypl.org](http://www.indypl.org)**





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