



## The American Rescue Plan: \$1.9 Trillion

Information for this article was gleaned from various sources by the Pike Pulse Editor, Brock Brown. It has not been verified by any official agency.

**The American Rescue Plan was approved by Congress. President Biden is expected to sign the legislation Friday, March 12. It may be the largest economic stimulus package in history.**

### Unemployment benefits:

- \$300 weekly unemployment benefits now through Sept. 6, and a tax break on \$10,000 in unemployment benefits.

### Stimulus checks:

- \$1,400. Individuals earning \$75,000 per year and couples earning \$150,000 will receive the full \$1,400-per-person benefit.

### Child tax credit:

- \$3,000 a year for each child ages 6 to 17, and \$3,600 for each child under 6. (An expansion of the existing child tax credit, which provides \$2,000 a year for children from birth through age 16.)

### Aid to state and local governments:

- \$350 billion for states, cities, tribal governments and U.S. territories.

### Pandemic response

- Tens of billions of dollars will fund coronavirus testing and contact tracing; increasing the size of the public health workforce and funding vaccine distribution and supply chains.

### Housing assistance

- \$20 billion in emergency rental assistance and other relief for the homeless.
- \$10 billion goes to mortgage and home ownership assistance.

### School support

- \$130 billion to help K-12 schools reopen. (For better ventilation systems, reducing class sizes, personal protective equipment and implementing social distancing.)
- \$40 billion for colleges and other higher-education institutions.
- Additional funds for child-care providers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.
- \$1 billion for the Head Start program, which provides early-childhood education, health and nutrition services to low-income children and families.

### Aid for multi-employer pension plans

- \$86 billion bailout for failing pensions.

### Additional provisions

- \$510 million for the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program to support homeless services providers of overnight shelters, meals, one month's rent and mortgage assistance, and one month's utility payments.
- Expands the Employee Retention Tax Credit for start-up companies and other businesses hit by the pandemic.
- Increases the value of the federal COBRA health insurance program from 85 percent to 100 percent.
- \$10 billion infrastructure program to help local governments continue capital projects.
- All coronavirus-related student loan relief will be tax-free.
- \$200 million more for Amtrak
- \$1.25 billion for summer education enrichment.
- \$1.25 billion for after-school programs
- \$3 billion for education technology.
- \$8.5 billion for the Provider Relief Program to assist rural health care providers.

## Impact of the Rescue Plan

The bill's economic-relief provisions are geared toward low-income and middle-class Americans who will benefit from the direct payments, the bill's expansion of low-income tax credits, child-care subsidies, expanded health-insurance access, extension of expanded

unemployment benefits, food stamps, and rental assistance programs. The bill contains little direct aid to high income-earners, who largely retained their jobs



during the COVID-19 economic shock and bolstered their savings. Biden's administration crafted the plan in part because economic aid to lower-income and middle-

income Americans (who are more likely to immediately spent funds on bills, groceries, and housing costs to avoid eviction or foreclosure) is more likely to stimulate the U.S. economy than aid to higher-earners (who are more likely to save the money). The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that the stimulus bill's direct payments, child tax credit expansion, and earned income tax credit expansion would boost the

income of the poorest one-fifth of Americans by nearly \$3,590. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill's increase in health insurance subsidies would lead to 1.3 million previously uninsured Americans gaining health insurance coverage.



# 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.

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- Stories celebrating our diverse cultures
- Stories highlighting opportunities

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- Communicate celebrations for Veterans
- Information about our religious diversity
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- Health updates
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### III. Economic Pillar — how we make a living

- Commercial development
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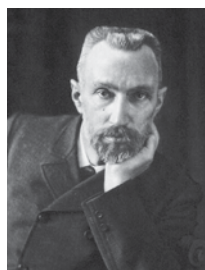
Glenn McDonald

Marie Sklodowska was the ultimate workaholic.

She had to be. As a young, eager student from an impoverished Polish family in the late 1800s, the deck was stacked against her. Women were not expected to study. Or think. Or succeed brilliantly in a science lab.

But Marie did all three. She was the first woman to earn a master's degree in physics from the famed Sorbonne in Paris. She followed that with a degree in mathematics, and ultimately a doctorate. She worked tirelessly in a makeshift "lab" that was squeezed into her cramped student quarters. She lived for years on nothing but bread, butter, and tea.

When it became clear she needed considerably more space to conduct experiments, friends pointed Marie toward a fellow scientist who might be able to help. Pierre Curie wasn't just impressed with her work. He fell hopelessly in love with her. After their 1895 marriage, they became



Pierre Curie

history.

The Curies devoted themselves to the study of a fascinating new source of energy. Powerful, invisible rays seemed to emerge from exotic substances. Marie coined the term "radioactivity."

Within a few years they

**Editor's note:** Glenn McDonald is an ordained Presbyterian minister who has 42 years of congregational and workplace leadership experience. He is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation. He and Mary Sue have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. They enjoy living on a small farm with rescue horses in Pike Township.



Marie Sklodowska

had discovered two new elements – Polonium, which they named after her Polish homeland, and radium. In 1903 they shared the Nobel Prize for physics. She was the first woman to be so honored. Eight

years later she became the first person of either gender to win a second Nobel Prize, this time for chemistry.

Just when it appeared their accomplishments had no ceiling, the sorrows began.

Pierre was tragically struck and killed by a carriage in a Paris street. He had already begun to show signs of a mysterious fatigue. The same chronic weariness slowly overtook Marie. Her hands were red and chafed. She became anemic and lost

At the time, no one knew the dangers. Pierre and Marie routinely walked around with test tubes of radioactive materials in their pockets. They carried radium in their bare hands. Everything they touched became contaminated.

Marie died in 1934 of chronic radiation poisoning. In 1995, the nation of France bestowed the highest honor on the famous couple. Their remains were



Pierre and Marie Curie with their daughter Irène

disinterred and transferred to the Pantheon in Paris, where they now lie alongside French heroes like Voltaire and Rousseau. But this was no ordinary reburial. Pierre and Marie's bodies are still so radioactive that they have to be contained by special inch-thick

lead coffins.

Their papers and lab equipment are stored in lead



Nobel Prize for Physics

weight. What was happening?

The Curies were not only the first scientists to work chiefly with radioactive substances but were among the first to suffer the effects of prolonged exposure to radioactivity.

boxes in a Parisian library. It's estimated that they will be dangerously radioactive for at least the next 1,500 years. Members of the public are permitted to examine their personal effects, such as Marie's cookbooks – but

Glenn McDonald, continued on page 7

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Impact of the Rescue Plan, continued on page 3



The Tax Policy Center wrote that, for households making under \$25,000, the bill would cut their taxes by an average of \$2,800, which would boost their after-tax income by 20%. Additionally, low-income households with children would see an average tax cut of about \$7,700, and this would boost their after-tax income by 35%. Middle-income households will also see an average tax cut

of about \$3,350, and this would increase their after-tax income by 5.5%. Overall, about 70% of the bill's tax benefits will go to households making under \$91,000.

Articles in both English and Spanish are on pages 7 and 21.

Los artículos en inglés y español se encuentran en las páginas 7 y 21.



Glenn McDonald, continued on page 2

only if they're willing to wear protective gear and sign a waiver.

Imagine a substance of such great power that it finds its way into everything, and whose effects linger for years to come.

That's an apt description of one of the Bible's most compelling metaphors: leaven.

Leaven (or yeast) is a biological entity that produces an almost miraculous effect when added to a lump of dough. Yeast causes the dough to ferment. The resulting gas causes the bread to rise. Because it takes a while for this to happen, and because the people of Israel were commanded by God to pack their bags and get out of Egypt as quickly as possible, they baked their bread without yeast. That's why "unleavened bread" has always been a central feature of the celebration of Passover.

In Jewish tradition, leaven became a representation of evil. Just as a pinch of yeast slowly but surely works its way through a huge lump, a bad attitude or corrupt character, if unchecked, will end up infecting a family, a team, or an entire community.

Jesus warns his disciples to watch out for "the leaven of the Pharisees." Their distorted perspectives seep into everything. Likewise, in Galatians 5:9, Paul quotes a familiar saying – "a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough" – as a way of reminding his readers to push back against even the first hint of bad teaching.

Leaven is universally regarded as awful stuff in Scripture. It's spiritually radioactive.

Except in one place. That's why

Jesus' parable of the yeast in Matthew 13:33 is so stunning:

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Sixty pounds of flour? It sounds as if she's opening a bakery. But Jesus' point is that God's reign is so transforming that if it is given the smallest foothold in our lives, the results will be spectacular.

If you think evil is relentless, Jesus says, wait until you see what the love of God can accomplish.

A changed heart is contagious. It rubs off on those nearby. A forgiven spirit – someone who has felt the weight of the world lifted from their shoulders – stands out so dramatically in our glum culture that it impacts everyone in the neighborhood.

Acts of kindness are like pinches of yeast. So are smiles. And expressions of gratitude. A single candle can banish a room full of darkness.

Choices that seem small and humble can trigger ripples that will one day become crashing waves in eternity.

We may not get to be pioneers like Marie Curie, opening the world's eyes to a powerful new form of energy.

But we can model something even more powerfully contagious – the amazing ways that God is able to transform a human life.

If only he's given the smallest start

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# Marsupial Love

by Christy Krieg, *Pike Pulse*  
nature reporter



Christy Krieg

So many things in our lives these days are polarizing. Politics. Religion. Cilantro. Opossums.

I'm not going to try to change your mind on the first three items,

but I do hope to convince you that opossums serve an important function in keeping Pike Township clean. Plus, they are uniquely adorable!

Let's talk about what they do for us. Did you know they eat practically everything? Opossums are omnivores, with a diet varied by season and availability. They munch on vertebrates and invertebrates (including dead ones), seeds, fruits, worms, pet food, plants, grasses and insects, including up to **5,000 ticks per season!**

They have rotund bodies on short legs, pink, pointy snouts, and long, prehensile tails, which along with their paws with opposable thumbs, make them adept climbers. Adult males are larger than females, but generally adults weigh between 4 and 6.5 pounds, more in urban environments.

When threatened, opossum sometimes defend themselves by entering a catatonic state which can last up to 6 hours, also referred to as "playing 'possum". If you find one that appears dead, leave it and check back later; it will likely have vanished! Older adults are more likely to defend themselves by hissing and running, climbing or swimming.

Opossum prefer forested habitat near swamps and streambeds, at elevations of under 3000 meters. While they are ill equipped for extremely cold weather, they do not hibernate, and can become frostbitten. They are generally active from dusk to

dawn, but will forage for food during daylight when food is scarce, such as during harsh winters.

North American opossum, aka Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), is the only marsupial found in the USA. At least 69 marsupial species are endemic to Central and South America, and the range of this species does extend to Central America. Planet Earth supports 200 species of marsupial, including the kangaroo and koala in Australia.

Marsupials are mammals (mammals have live young) which carry their immature young in a pouch. In contrast to mammals with placentas, the offspring of marsupials are born premature and finish their development latched on to mammary glands inside the pouch, or "marsupium".

On emergence from the cloacae, they are the size of a honeybee, weighing only 1/5 of a gram! While Mama O may have birthed as many as 25 young, on average only 8 from her litter survive after birth. They will spend the next 50 to 70 days attached to the mammary gland. They start eating solid food around 85 days of age and are weaned between 93 to 105 days. During adolescence, you might see them clinging to Mama O's back. Around 120 days, all will have left the weaning den.

As they mature, they typically begin polygynous mating around 10 months of age, with breeding season lasting from February to September. Some females have two litters per year. Gestation is only 12 to 13 days.

Opossum lifespan is relatively short. They are preyed upon by wild and domestic canines, owls, raccoon, bobcats and snakes. In the wild, an adult female lives only 1.2 to 2 years.

These gentle creatures do



#### Classification for opossum

Kingdom: Animalia, animals

Phylum: Chordata, chordates

Subphylum: Vertebrata, vertebrates

Class: Mammalia, mammals

Order: Didelphimorphia, American marsupials

Family: Didelphidae, American opossums and opossums

Genus: *Didelphis*, common opossums

Species: *Didelphis virginiana*, Virginia opossum

Photo from missouriconservation.org

carry a wide variety of parasites, so avoid handling them and their waste. Never poison them – poisons cause cruel death and impact the health of humans and other wildlife. If an opossum is living in your walls or attic, or appears unwell, contact a professional wildlife expert.

But, if you find an opossum moseying through your yard at night, rejoice and remember she is helping to keep it clean!

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

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Commander Lorenzo Lewis

# A Conversation with the Commander of NW IMPD

**Editor's Note:** The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) is the law enforcement agency for Indianapolis. IMPD is divided into six districts. Commander Lewis is head of the Northwest IMPD District which includes all of Pike Township. He and I met in his office on Tuesday, January 19. Our newspaper will share our conversation over time.

If you look at the history of the policing activities that happened this past year in other areas of the country, they

were different than what normally happens in Indianapolis.

**Commander Lewis:** And I attribute that to years and years of positive interactions we have in the community. I can't tell you how many community leaders, and I mean people that are block captains, and their community associations call and email me and say, "Hey Commander, that's not what we believe. The negative stuff that's been put out. We want you to know that the only reason we're not saying anything is that we don't want people messing with us."

And I understand that. I get that. But if you look around the building, you'll see nothing but congratulatory cards and supportive letters from people in the community. We don't solicit that. People want their voices to be heard. They know we have had those positive contacts with them, and they want us to know they're with us.

**Brock:** What are you looking forward to adding to your department?

**Commander Lewis:** We have the **Incident Analysis Center (IAC)** here at the Northwest District. I have a Strategic Intelligence Officer who analyzes data and incidents that occur in the district. The IAC helps gather that data. It also has a camera system where we can monitor various situations as we need to. We can push information out to the beat officers to help them do their job. It cuts down the research that the beat officer must do.

We can tell an Officer that there is a violent offender operating in his area. If you see this person you need to get that

person out of the community because of their violent actions. Or there's an area where we've had a lot of shots fired, and we need you, during your beat, to be more visible in this area. And we've made some arrests based off of this work. A lot of good arrests are based off the information that comes out of the IAC.

We also have the **Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)**, a city wide unit our district works closely with. It's a team of officers who go out and build gun cases off of ballistics tests we get from shots fired runs. Their goal is to get the shooters off the street. So many of our shooters are the same people over and over again.

They usually have a history of violent offenses, so we know they're going to repeat their conduct. The CGIC Officers' job is to connect the ballistic tests with the various incidents. There could be one here on the west side of town connected with one of the east side of town. We use that data and information to narrow in on the perpetrator.

It's probably one of the best new pieces of technology that we've had in recent years. It is very effective.

**Brock:** Now what can the public do to help you?

**Commander Lewis:** You've heard: **See something, Say something.** It's really important that they use the non-emergency line 317-327-3811, not 9-1-1, for incidents that are not occurring. But if it's an emergency, like somebody with a gun or drugs or a drug transaction or someone being beaten or attacked or a robbery or something like that, then that's a 9-1-1 call. If somebody needs urgent medical attention, call 9-1-1.

**Crime Stoppers** – 317-262-8477 – is a good way to report something if you don't want anybody to know who you are. You can call or text. They also have an on-line app – **crimetips.org** – that you can use as well. You can upload pictures and various information. So, if you report

something to Crime Stoppers, and say it's in the Northwest District, we will get that report. We assign it to either one of our detectives or to a beat officer.

**Brock:** Does the report go to the Incident Analysis Center?

**Commander Lewis:** Exactly, everything flows through there. We put together a daily crime report and a patrol plan. That patrol plan goes out to all the officers and supervisors. It gives them a daily focus. The officers get all these different runs, all these different reports, and this report gives them a focus area. It makes us a little more efficient in using our time for that day.

**Brock:** What can this newspaper do to help you?

**Commander Lewis:** I'm really impressed with the newspaper. I think it has impact because people read it. That's the reason I support it. My staff thinks it's

important that we put information in there that's valuable to the community, so we put our community efforts in there. It helps for people to see the human side of NWIMPD, the side of us that we want to be a resource in the community. Also, having some of the good arrests we make, some of the good investigations. I think that helps Pike Township and NW Community people feel safer. They have knowledge of what we're doing.

The officer of the month and a community service award are also printed in the *Pike Pulse*. That gives us a balance. The officer of the month focuses on a good investigation, a good arrest. The community service award recognizes an officer. It's something they do all the time that they don't like to get recognized

Commander Lewis, continued on page 8



## Here's how you can help keep Pike Township safe.

### See something - Say something

**Call 911 to report something urgent:**

An accident, a fire, an injury, a crime in progress, erratic (possibly drunk) driving, an illness needing immediate attention.

**Call 317-327-3811 to report something suspicious:**

1. Describe who or what you saw.
2. When you saw it.
3. Where it occurred.
4. Why you believe it's suspicious.

These non-urgent calls are about a crime not in progress, vandalism, theft or larceny, found property, threatening calls, runaways, missing persons, or other crime prevention information.



Commander Lewis, continued from page 5

for it. They just want to do it. But we think it's important for them to see themselves doing something good. I had an officer say that was the best award they've had since they've been on the police department. We put their picture out here in the lobby. They get a certificate. They get the flag that flies out front, and we give them a challenge coin. We also give gift cards to the officer of the month and the community service award officer. The community sponsors the awards and provides the gift cards. This enhances and builds relationships. It's all about communicating with the community. And the *Pike Pulse* embodies that.

**Brock:** To be able to acknowledge your good police work is good for the community. Even though I know your officers don't want special recognition, because each one does their job every day.

**Commander Lewis:** They swore to serve and protect, and that's what they come here to do every day. Some situations are easier than others, but they're determined to serve and protect. I'm really proud of the 190 officers I have here, because they really want to do the job the right way.

**Brock:** The Hogsett administration says the use of force policy has changed. The use of force review board is changed. Does that effect what you do here?

**Commander Lewis:** I'll just be honest with you, it's what we're already doing. We have always de-escalated. We're taught de-escalation. I've been on the force for 35 years and on day one we were taught de-escalation techniques.

**Brock:** The worst thing that could happen is to have to shoot someone.

**Commander Lewis:** Well, exactly. What people don't understand is when you are trying to de-escalate a situation, it is impossible to know what somebody else is going to do. You only have a fraction of a second to decide what you think they're going to do.

That's why it's always good to have civilian involvement in law enforcement. **We welcome the ride alongs, the Citizens' Academy, Coffee with a Cop.** I get emails and phone calls. It's always good to have citizens involved.

We don't make these policies up. Most of them are based on rule of law that comes down from the state level, the federal level, and different court cases. Whenever there's a decision made at a state or federal level involving use of force, we adjust our policies to match that. We also train to those policies. We train to every policy we have. Of course, we have budget limits, and we must work within the constraints of our budgeting and staffing. We keep a certain amount of staffing out in the field while we're doing our training as well. I think people will find IMPD is well respected throughout the country.

One thing I will say about the **Civilian General Orders Board** — It's very important that the Chief has the final say. And it's also important for me to have the final say in my district. Why? Because who are you going to call when something goes wrong? The buck stops with the one in charge. **You've got to have accountability, and you can't hold a civilian accountable for police actions.**

Our Civilian General Orders Board is set up so that civilians set policy. The danger in that is you spread the accountability to civilians. IMPD leaders take these jobs because we want the accountability ourselves. We want it because it's up to us to communicate policy to our officers. We set the example on how to carry out policy and ensure that it's done right. Civilians can't do that.

It's always good to have a civilian advisory. There's nothing wrong with that. But I think you run into dangers when civilians dictate the policy based on emotions.

To be continued. ▲

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## Dr. Ronda Hamm



Dr. Ronda Hamm works at Corteva Agriscience and is an Educator and Entomologist (a scientist that studies insects). She works with students to show them the exciting careers that are available in producing and protecting our food supply. It's interesting that she is an Entomologist because she used to be scared of insects. It wasn't until she was in high school and started working in a laboratory that she overcame her fear and started learning more about these amazing animals. Her first mentors, Dr. Harry Shorey and Mr. Roland Gerber, inspired her to become a scientist. They believed in and trusted her with research when she was just a high school student. They believed in her so she could learn to believe in herself. Pike Township is honored to partner with Dr. Hamm and we are thankful for her contributions to our community!

Dra. Ronda Hamm trabaja para Corteva Agriscience y es Educadora y Entomóloga (una científica que estudia insectos). Ella trabaja con estudiantes mostrándoles las emocionantes carreras que están disponibles en la producción y protección de nuestro suministro de alimentos. Es interesante que ella sea entomóloga porque solía tener miedo a los insectos. No fue hasta que estaba en la preparatoria y empezó a trabajar en el laboratorio que pudo superar su miedo y comenzó a aprender más acerca de estos maravillosos animales. Sus primeros mentores, Dr. Harry Shorey y Mr. Roland Gerber, la inspiraron a convertirse en científica. Ellos creyeron en ella y le confiaron la investigación cuando era solo una estudiante de preparatoria. Creyeron en ella para que pudiera aprender a creer en sí misma. ¡Pike Township se enorgullece de asociarse con la Dra. Hamm y estamos agradecidos por sus contribuciones a nuestra comunidad!

S.T.E.M.



GIRLS  
*Rock*



From coding to building prototypes, and everything in between, Pike girls are making waves in STEM!

Desde la codificación hasta construir prototipos, y todo lo relacionado, ¡las chicas de Pike están haciendo maravillas en STEM!

IT'S THE POWER OF USING YOUR VOICE." ~Michelle Obama

Pike High School students have an opportunity to join the SWE (Society of Women Engineers) Next club. This allows girls to become a part of an engineering community as students, while giving them access to programs and resources to develop leadership skills and succeed in engineering. This club is sponsored by PHS teacher Dr. Deborah Daniels Calhoun.

Las estudiantes de Pike High School tienen la oportunidad de unirse al club SWE Next (Sociedad de Mujeres Ingenieras). Esto permite que las chicas se conviertan en parte de una comunidad de estudiantes ingenieras, al mismo tiempo que les da acceso a programas y recursos para desarrollar habilidades de liderazgo y tener éxito en la ingeniería. Este club está patrocinado por la maestra de PHS Dra. Deborah Daniels Calhoun.

"IF THERE'S

swe NEXT





# Agostino's Pizza

by Armita Williams -  
Staff Reporter

7026 Shore Terrace, Indianapolis, IN 46254 • Phone: (317) 956-5785



Agostino

Agostino's family worked in the pizza business for many years in Italy.

Making and eating "pizza is like a religious ritual, especially in Naples, Italy," Agostino's

birthplace. "Pizza holds a secret ingredient."

He was a sergeant in the military, and on his day off, he worked with his dad. After his family moved from Venezuela, where his mom was born, he and his dad began cooking Venezuelan dishes. He combined the Venezuelan and Italian flavors, which became the secret sauce for good pizza.

At one point, Agostino left the military and moved to the USA. He began working at pizza restaurants and he said, "I need my own because I have my own recipe." Agostino agreed with others who thought his pizza had a different taste. "It's completely different than a pizza from a franchise, because when you order pizza everywhere, it's almost the same flavor."

Agostino opened his restaurant "in the middle of the worst year of my life." He celebrated his pizza restaurant's first anniversary last month. So far, he has not had to advertise, "I have more customers because I'm new in the area and many people don't know me." But, by word-of-mouth, customers and neighbors share the news about the unique flavor



of his pizza to personally experience the taste.

The coronavirus had a temporary effect on business last year, which slowed. He said, "people didn't come in, because they were in a panic." As many businesses permanently closed, and people lost their jobs, Agostino's remained open. He was able to continue carry-out and delivery services, and never closed or fired any employees, which he says, I'm really happy."

Agostino has been steadfast, and every day, new customers come in. Although the business is carry-out and delivery, he sanitizes everything, and masks are required.

Agostino is proud of his 18-year old son, who is his namesake. He is a senior and captain of the Pike High School baseball team and will graduate from Pike with the senior class of 2021. "He's a catcher; a very good player in baseball." When everyone at Pike discovered that Agostino's dad had a pizza restaurant, "they gave me a lot of

business." But, when school is closed, sales go down. However, Agostino is happy and believes things will get better.

Chicken wings, salads, cheesecake homemade from scratch, pasta salad, wings, fried chicken, chicken fettuccine Alfredo, lasagna, spaghetti, and meatballs are also on the menu. Agostino makes pizza salads and dressings with his homemade twist. "You make them fresh. I do the dressing, that's the difference."



He has made a promise to his customers that, "everything is fresh." He doesn't have a freezer in the restaurant, and buys ingredients fresh every day, to provide pizza

lovers with a unique and delicious taste. "That's my goal."

If you want to try Agostino's pizza, his hours are from 4 pm To 10:00 pm, seven days per week. The only time he's closed is Christmas Day.





## Treasures for Education

We would like to thank everyone who watched, bid, and donated to Treasures for Education on March 4. Also, a big thank you to all our sponsors: Clyde and Tracy Harris at Diverse Staffing, Ingram Micro, Fanning Howey, KP Sullivan, Chartwells Food Services, Scott Golden at Make your Mark, Jay Meisner, and Gatsby's Pub and Grill. Your support provides opportunities for Pike students. Special thanks go to Anthony Calhoun for donating your time and talent to make our event fantastic. The tech wizardry of Dan Bordenkecher and Kyle Bredehoeft made our virtual fundraiser possible. Thank you.

### Upcoming PTEF events:

The **scholarship application** deadline is March 19. If you know seniors at Pike High School, have them go to [www.pike-ef.org/scholarships](http://www.pike-ef.org/scholarships) to apply for any of our 19 scholarships. We have more than \$43,000 to distribute to the Class of 2021.

**Play FORE Pike** virtual golf outing. Now that the weather is



The Pike Township Educational Foundation (PTEF) is a not-for-profit organization which raises funds for activities including scholarships and grants for teacher-driven projects to enhance the educational experience of Pike students.

warming up, play golf at Eagle Creek golf club and give back to Pike schools! Go to <https://pike-ef.org/events/golf/> for more information and to register.

**FORE! Education**, our annual (in person) golf outing, will be held at Twin Lakes Golf Club on June 17, 2021. Save the date! More information will be coming soon.

Looking for a way to give back to your community? Find out more about the PTEF Board of Directors and how you can make a difference in Pike schools. Email Christie or Alison at [executivedirector@pike-ef.org](mailto:executivedirector@pike-ef.org).



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3/6 @11a-1p Avon Sports Apparel, 7710 E Hwy 36, Avon  
3/13 @ 10a-1p Mary and John Geisse Soccer Complex,  
7225 W 56th Street, Indianapolis  
4/3 @10a-1p Avon Soccer Complex, 6050 E County Road 91N, Avon  
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You may also apply in person at 6950 Guion Road, 8:00 – 5:00, M-F.







# EAGLE CREEK PARK WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

APRIL 17-18<sup>th</sup> 2021

Eagle Creek Park is hosting its annual Wildflower Weekend! During this event, visitors can improve their wildflower identification skills, participate in citizen science, enjoy themed hikes, and more! Program details and event schedule will be available soon at [indyparks.org](http://indyparks.org) (search for Wildflower Weekend) or at the welcome desk of the Earth Discovery Center. Pre-registration required, but most activities are free with park admission.

## Saturday's activities include:

- Various Wildflower Hikes
- Story Time on the Reservoir
- Spring Pond Nature Preserve Restoration Hike

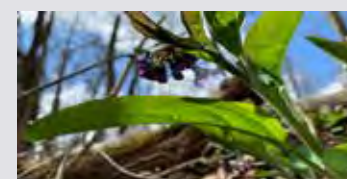


## Sunday's activities include:

- Birds and Blooms Hike
- Wild Edibles Hike
- Wildflower Hike
- Fungus ID Hike

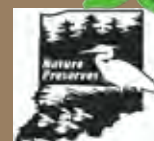
## Weekend-long activities:

- Local youth art exhibit
- Native plant sale (cash only)
- Self-guided wildflower ID trail



## COVID Safety Measures:

- Limited space available. Pre-registration is required at [indyparks.org](http://indyparks.org).
- Face coverings required.
- Social distance whenever possible.



Eagle Creek Park  
Earth Discovery Center  
5901 DeLong Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46254  
317-327-7148



# Max's Lawn Landscape Company, LLC

by Arnita Williams -  
Staff Reporter

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Maxs-Lawn-Landscape-Company-LLC-2316614551754316/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/maxslawnandlandscapingllc/>

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Max began with a fascination for mowing yards “ever since I can remember, between seven and eight years old.” He fell in love with it when he started doing his parent’s lawn as a kid and watched other people.

A next-door neighbor and good friend of his family, shared a story with Max, that he would be out mowing his yard, and he would look over, “and there I (Max) would be glancing over the fence watching him, but I don’t remember it.”

Max worked with his dad when he owned a landscaping company, which he enjoyed since he always had a love for that kind of work.

Then in 2019, “I started my business, and each year, it keeps growing. Now it’s pretty much my full-time job.”

Max does lawn mowing, pressure washing, aerating, bush trimming, spring cleanup, leaf, and removal. He also has a Billy Goat debris loader, which is “another big thing I love doing.” Max has some push blowers, and he does stump grinding, “I like doing tree stuff.” He plants, does landscape design, and always seeks to discover ways “to expand on what I’m doing, even

contract painting.”

One area in which Max plans to expand his business is with power-washing services. He power-washes anything, houses, driveways, sidewalks, fences; you name it, he’s done it all. “That’s one area that I’m wanting to expand because I like doing it. Pressure washing before and after is so satisfying.”

Max also has “a dump trailer that I just got this year. I use it for my leaves, and I use it for hauling too.” His dump trailer allows him to clear out homes and spaces of debris and take it to the dump.

Max is currently a one-man-crew. “It’s just me. And then I’ve had over the years, buddies and friends to help when they can.”

Although, during the off-season, he worked temporarily for a major retailer, and instantly clicked with his team leader.

Max enlisted his help with their first landscaping job together, last year during August

and September. Since the guys worked well as a team, Max plans to include him as a crewmember, and prepare him for his business-expansion plans.

Max says, “I’m staying plenty busy. I’m actually at a point where

dential customers, for now, since, “I don’t have the manpower for commercial.” Also, Max likes the relationships he develops with his residential clients.

Although Max’s Lawn and Landscaping is based in Pike Township, he services Indianapolis, Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Zionsville, Hendricks County, Broad Ripple, Castleton, and anywhere within a 30-mile radius of Indianapolis.

“I have lived in Pike Township my whole life. I’m 32 years old now, and I’ve been doing this for a while.” The business is built on fairness. “I just try and do what’s fair for both of us. I just strive for fairness.”



Max Bewsey, Owner

I’m too big to be small and too small to be big.” So, for his expansion plans, he just needs a bit more equipment to speed things up for now. “We’re trying to get it to that next step so he can join.”

Contracting for commercial accounts is not in Max’s plans right now. He wants to work with resi-





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This is a **Free** Public Service to Employers by the West Side Chamber of Commerce. Our Space is limited to 40 Employers. Each Business is limited to 1 Attendee at a time.

**There are also Sponsorship Levels available:**

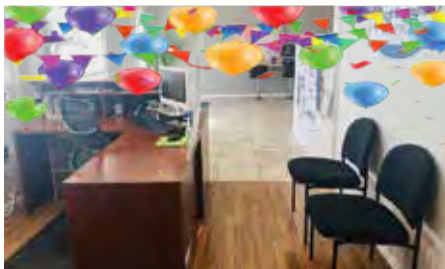
- **Bronze \$300**
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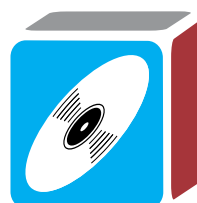
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## HOW PHYSICAL THERAPY CAN HELP YOU by Ursula Booth, PT

Headache? Neck pain? Maybe it's an old back or shoulder injury that flares up every now or then. Or, maybe you've noticed that your parents aren't getting around as well as they used to. These and many other reasons are why someone may look for the help of a physical therapist to get some relief from the aches and pains that can impact your ability to just enjoy everyday living. While most people believe that physical therapy is only needed for someone after having surgery or an injury, below are some additional ways that you could benefit from seeing a physical therapist.

### But Wait...

Did you know that a physical therapist spends **7 years** studying in detail how the muscles, nerves, joints and other structures in your body work and function? All of this information is used to understand the various ways a pain or condition you may be experiencing could be contributing to your issue. All of those years of training, and the ongoing experience of treating various patients, helps guide a plan of treatment that works for you. And in addition, in the state of Indiana, **you can schedule an appointment to see a physical therapist first, before having to see a medical doctor.**

### THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

- **PHYSICAL THERAPY AS PREVENTION** – Here we want to restore or improve motion, strength and use of the body joints, and start looking for changes in posture that may start to cause your head or spine to curve forward. At this point, you may be starting to have some pain and discomfort, or possibly no pain at all. However, the job of the physical therapist is to provide a thorough evaluation of muscles, joints, tendons, ligaments and identify potential risks for injury or further damage. This is a great way to wisely use your health care dollars to prevent possible surgery, injections or other costly medical alternatives.
- **PHYSICAL THERAPY TO REDUCE FALL RISKS** – If you are aging gracefully, and enjoy the independence of living in your own home, physical therapists want to help

you to continue to stay there. Sometimes, as we become older and possibly less active, our legs become weaker and the body systems that help with balance need a tune up. A visit to a physical therapist can help provide a plan of care to improve strength and balance and prevent possible falls that could result in a break to a hip or wrist.

- **PHYSICAL THERAPY TO TREAT CHRONIC PAIN** – While appropriately dosed pain medications can be an important part of medical treatment, there can also be some not so pleasant side effects, and many people would prefer to avoid their use. Both the CDC and the US Surgeon General have advocated that physical therapy be a first line of care for a safe and nonopioid alternative for the treatment of long term pain. A physical therapist has many different “tools” available to provide this option for you.
- **PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR WEIGHT LOSS AND HEART HEALTH** – An injury, pain or discomfort may keep you sedentary and inactive. This in turn can lead to weight gain and decreased heart and lung health. A physical therapist can work with you to design an exercise program to get you moving in a safe way and avoid the risk of injury with exercise. One of the benefits of this increased movement, is getting your blood pumping, which in turn energizes muscles and joints, burn calories for weight loss and helps with your overall health and well-being.
- **PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR YOU** – As we started this article, maybe it's a headache, maybe an old injury has flared up, maybe you're looking to avoid surgery, or maybe you're just not sure if the symptoms you are having can be helped by a physical therapist. Well, the physical therapists at Team Rehabilitation Physical Therapy can offer you a complimentary discussion session to help you determine if physical therapy could benefit you. Just mention this article when you call, and we'll be happy to help!



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# A conversation with Nassif Kouton, the 24-year-old, recently hired Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate (MNA) for Pike Township

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## Growing up on the West Side

My family lived in Speedway when I started school. I went to Wheeler Elementary and Speedway Middle School until 7th grade. My family moved to the Brownsburg area after that, so I went to Brownsburg High School. I majored in human biology at IU Bloomington. My plan was to go to medical school, but after the first year, I realized, "I don't think this is for me." The main reason I wanted to be a doctor was to help people; I have that as a core drive. I was still interested in the subject matter, so I continued with that major throughout. When I graduated, I thought, "Okay, you graduated, so what are you going to do now?"

I've always been interested in politics and government, and I thought, "You know what? I think maybe that's something I can do." So, I interned with the Democratic Party of Indiana during the 2019 elections. I helped out in Kokomo and Muncie. I made phone calls, got volunteers, and helped with door-knocking. I really enjoyed being involved in the community. I transitioned to the State House where I became their house intern. I worked for a public affairs group and began to understand the whole legislative process. I became the campaign manager for Naomi Bechtold when she ran for House District 24, which covered Zionsville, Westfield, and the West Carmel area. I really enjoyed working with so many different people and learning so much about that area. We didn't win the election, but the experience was priceless. I applied for the position of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate and after a couple of interviews, got the position. I started in February.

## "Listening is my 1st job"

**Brock:** What do you see the neigh-

borhoods wanting you to do for them?

**Nassif:** I will begin listening to everything they are concerned about and everything they want to accomplish. I'll present it to the city and make sure as much as possible can be done that I and the city can do for them. The main thing is building relationships and being a good listener. As time goes on, I will find out more of the specifics about what I can focus on.

## A Short Kouton Family History

**Brock:** Tell me about your family. Do you have brothers and sisters?

**Nassif:** I have a little sister. Her name is Aniffa Kouton, and she is currently going to IU right now. Now she's the one going to medical school.

My family's from Benin, a West African country. My mom came here in '94, my dad followed, and I was born here. They speak French and other languages in Benin. My parents learned English after they arrived. I can conversationally speak French—broken French. But I can be understood, and I can understand.

**Brock:** What work did your mom and dad do in Benin?

**Nassif:** They were really involved in their studies in Benin. Mom obtained her bachelor's. My dad obtained his master's degree.

**Brock:** So, pursuing education and a new life brought your parents to the USA. Is there any thought about going back to Benin?

**Nassif:** Not really.

**Brock:** Have you been back to Benin?

**Nassif:** I love that you asked me that. My Dad and I just recently went in November. We went there for three weeks. It was a great opportunity to see all the grandparents, all the uncles, all the aunts, all the cousins, everybody there. It was a great opportunity

Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate, continued on page 20



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Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate, continued from page 19

to see them face-to-face. We had been communicating through "WhatsApp." That's mostly how we communicate now..

**Brock:** Did you find anything surprising when you went back?

**Nassif:** It's a different world. We all live on the same planet, but life is different there. I've become a lot more appreciative of everything we have here. Mainly it's the infrastructure.

I'm used to A/C. And in Benin some people have A/C, some people don't have A/C. And Wi-Fi. Everywhere we go here we have Wi-Fi. When I was there, I think I connected to Wi-Fi one time. It's just these small, little things that make a big difference, and then you add it up, you're like, "Wow, these are things you don't even think about anymore here."

**Brock:** Did it feel like you were going back in time?

**Nassif:** Yes. But, I'm not that old, so I don't know what "back in time"

really is. I think the best comparison terms are a developed world vs a developing world. Benin is a developing world.

**Brock:** Your family lived in Speedway and then moved to Brownsburg. What motivated that move?

**Nassif:** My parents wanted to buy a house where they had great schools. So, it was Brownsburg. At the time I didn't want to move because I had many friends in Speedway. But it was a good decision. I enjoyed Brownsburg.

**Brock:** Did you get into sports at Brownsburg High School?

**Nassif:** Yes. I ran track. I ran the 400, the 4x4, and I ran the 4x1 relays. When we had the indoor season, I'd run the 4x2 as well. We won state for our 4x4 in 2014. I always ran the first leg.

**Brock:** Wow! That's impressive!

**Nassif:** Yeah. Brownsburg's doing really well right now. I think the girls' basketball team is going to state right now.

**Brock:** Any marriage plans in the works?

**Nassif:** No, no, no. I'm patient with that.

**Brock:** Good! There's plenty of time for that! Your name is unusual. Where did your name come from?

**Nassif:** It's an Arabic name.

**Brock:** We have people call the newspaper with suggestions or complaints about the City issues. A resident called about the way a bike trail was constructed. He says it's dangerous to ride bikes across the 56<sup>th</sup> Street bridge

**Nassif:** I know exactly what he's talking about because I agree. I was riding my bike on the 56<sup>th</sup> St bridge with my sister and felt the wind from this huge truck drive by us. I can present that issue to the Mayor.

**Brock:** That's exactly what I was hoping you'd say. We would love to print a positive story about the response you get. And I know we're going to get calls as time

goes about areas like Lafayette Square that could use some cleaning up and landscaping.

**Nassif:** Yeah, that's something for me, too. I remember when I was younger, we would always go there. I remember it in a different way than I see it now. That's why I'm enjoying this job already, and especially the area, because I've been here all my life. I've seen Lafayette Square change from the what it was to the what it is now. That's something else I'm interested in working on, for sure.

**Brock:** Mary Clark, Head of the International Marketplace Coalition, would appreciate that.

Nassif, thank you for your time. I predict you will make a significant positive difference in this world.

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# The Newsletter for Pike Metropolitan School District



Week of March 1, 2021

## #PikeProud

MSD of Pike Township ... a  passion to understand the world and the  power to change it!

### Celebrating Success at Guion Creek Middle School!



"I am humbled and honored each day I am afforded the opportunity to walk inside GCMS because of the educators in the building. Prior to the pandemic, the educators were already problem solvers and solution oriented individuals. What this challenge has done, is simply highlight their value, talent, and passion for students. Their focus remains the same; high quality instruction, the social well being of our students, and providing opportunities for our parents to engage in their children's educational journey. The fact that I get to witness every day how they have navigated this journey is a blessing I will cherish for a lifetime."   
◀ Principal Gregory Nunley

"Me siento humilde y honrado cada día que tengo la oportunidad de caminar en GCMS debido a los maestros en este edificio. Antes de la pandemia, los maestros ya eran solucionadores de problemas e individuos orientados a la solución. Lo que ha hecho este desafío es simplemente resaltar su valor, talento y pasión por los estudiantes. Su enfoque sigue siendo el mismo; instrucción de alta calidad, el bienestar social de nuestros estudiantes y brindar oportunidades para que nuestros padres participen en el viaje educativo de sus hijos. El hecho de que pueda presenciar todos los días cómo han navegado este viaje es una bendición que apreciaré para toda la vida."   
◀ Director Gregory Nunley



"I am proud to be part of the GCMS family and community where working together works. During this time our parents, teachers, students, and community partners have displayed the true meaning of family, as we have rallied together to support one another. We have all grown from this experience in the areas of technology, relationship building, and serving our community. Our Pike family bound has become stronger and this is what makes us Pike Proud!"   
Assistant Principal Dr. Todd Nailon ▶

"Estoy orgulloso de ser parte de la familia y comunidad de GCMS donde trabajar juntos funciona. Durante este tiempo nuestros padres, maestros, estudiantes, y los socios de la comunidad han demostrado el verdadero significado de la familia, ya que nos hemos unido para apoyarnos mutuamente. Todos hemos crecido en las áreas de la tecnología, de crear relaciones, y servir a nuestra comunidad. ¡Nuestro vínculo con la familia Pike se ha vuelto más fuerte y esto es lo que nos hace Pike Proud!?"   
Subdirector Dr. Todd Nailon ▶



"During this time, our families have demonstrated an eagerness and desire to learn more about our virtual learning platforms. They have shown their support by participating in our family Zoom Q & A sessions, shadowing their students in Canvas courses, and working to create positive at home learning environments for virtual students. The participation and collaboration of our families has been positive, beneficial, and truly appreciated."   
◀ Assistant Principal Trachell Taylor

"Durante este tiempo, nuestras familias han demostrado entusiasmo y deseo de aprender más acerca de las plataformas de aprendizaje virtual. Han mostrado su apoyo participando en las sesiones de Preguntas y Respuestas en Zoom, siguiendo a sus estudiantes en Canvas, y trabajando para crear un ambiente educativo positivo para los estudiantes virtuales en casa. La participación y colaboración de nuestras familias ha sido positiva, beneficiosa y verdaderamente apreciada."   
◀ Subdirectora Trachell Taylor

"I am extremely excited to work with the students in my math classes at Guion Creek Middle School. Whether face to face or through virtual instruction, the students are eager to learn new strategies to connect math to everyday life experiences. Sometimes we play challenging games and have scavenger hunts as icebreakers to identify shapes and figures in the classroom and at home... Whenever they need additional help on a particular math concept, the students know that I am always available to help..."   
Teacher Dr. Jacqueline S. Greenwood ▶

"Estoy muy emocionada de trabajar con estudiantes en mi clase de matemáticas en Guion Creek Middle School. Ya sea en persona o por instrucción virtual, los estudiantes están entusiasmados de aprender nuevas estrategias para conectar matemáticas con las experiencias de la vida diaria. A veces jugamos juegos desafiantes y hacemos búsquedas del tesoro como rompecabezas para identificar formas y figuras en el aula y en casa... Siempre que necesitan ayuda adicional sobre un concepto matemático en particular, los estudiantes saben que siempre estoy disponible para ayudar..."   
Maestra Dr. Jacqueline S. Greenwood ▶



Courtesy of @PikeHSAthletics ▲

Pike High School senior Joslynn Spears was selected to perform the National Anthem at the IHSAA 2A State Championship game.

Our School Board had the privilege of awarding Lance Varnado, Kyle Bredehoeft, and Dan Bordenkecher with the ▼ Superintendent's Above & Beyond Award.



Estudiante de 12º grado Joslynn Spears de la escuela Pike High School fue seleccionada para cantar el Himno Nacional en el Juego de Campeonato Estatal IHSAA 2A.

Nuestra Junta Escolar tuvo el privilegio de premiar a Lance Varnado, Kyle Bredehoeft, y Dan Bordenkecher con el premio de ▼ Superintendent's Above & Beyond Award.



Courtesy of @CES\_Pike

Last week all Pike Elementary Schools had the opportunity to celebrate Engineering Week by participating in engaging hands on lessons and hearing messages from professional Engineers.

La semana pasada, todas las escuelas primarias de Pike tuvieron la oportunidad de celebrar la Semana de la Ingeniería participando en lecciones prácticas y escuchando mensajes de ingenieros profesionales



Courtesy of @BethStegemoller



@PikeTownshipSchools on Facebook & @PikeSchools on Twitter & Instagram



# Chief Trag's Corner 2021 Pike Pulse Recruit School



Fire Chief  
Chris Tragesser

Pike Township Fire Department is starting off 2021 with a new recruit class. These candidates were chosen from our hiring process held last

summer from our final 300 applicants the top 6 were chosen as our recruit class of 2021.

These candidates went through a rigorous hiring process that consisted of a written exam covering basic knowledge and skills. Those who pass the written exam then advance to complete the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). PTFD also requires an additional step that very few fire departments have – the Peer Fitness Evaluation (PFE). The PFE for Pike Township consists of muscular and cardiovascular fitness assessments, allowing PTFD to hire candidates that are physically ready to perform from day one. After completion of the PFE, candidates then move forward to the oral interview. Applicants are then ranked and chosen for the job.

Candidates from Wayne Township Fire Department and the City of Lawrence Fire Department also will join this recruit class. By hosting a joint recruit classes, we can help other departments train their new hires if they do not have enough to hold a large class themselves. These departments are involved with instruction and assist with various needs as well. During these next 5 months, the recruits learn and practice various skills such as becoming certified EMTs,

search and rescue, safety and survival, hose advancement drills, ventilation, basic and advanced fire attack, extrication, and flashover training. From the beginning to end, the Training Division, along with many instructors specializing in a variety of disciplines, work consistently to oversee the recruit class. These instructors are committed to be mentors to the recruits and serve to assist in any way needed. The Training Division, our Health Safety Medical Officer,

off). During the first year on service, the recruits are probationary firefighters and complete



additional training throughout their first year. After that first year



and when all additional training is satisfactory completed, the recruits names are recommended before the Pike Township Merit Board to become full time regular Firefighters with Pike Township Fire Department.

Be sure to be on the lookout for more information on your new Pike Township Fire Department recruits.



and Certified Peer Fitness Trainers also provide daily physical fitness training for recruits, which is required during the duration of the recruit training process.

After completing the recruit school, the recruits are assigned to one of three shifts and work the same schedule as our firefighters (24 hours on 48 hours

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The February 15, 2021 edition of the Pike Pulse contained a letter from Ellen Cohen, in which she expressed her disappointment with the paper for not arguing that white supremacy was at least partly to blame for the January 6th Capital riot. She also expressed anger that attributions of white supremacy were edited out of the editorials that the paper published on the subject. Her thinking seems faulty in both cases.

First, her claim that the Capital riot is a manifestation of white supremacy simply doesn't stand up to the facts. Second, although Ms. Cohen didn't say how she knows that discussions of white supremacy were removed, it is reasonable and common for papers to edit editorials for brevity, clarity, and cohesiveness. In addition, the Pike Pulse says that its "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." The identity politics espoused by Ms. Cohen are divisive, negative, of questionable relevance to Pike Townships residents, and in opposition to the stated mission of Pike Pulse. Although I would prefer that such content be excluded, the editorial staff, Ms. Cohen and I are all in agreement that approval should be sought from authors prior to the publication of an edited version of their views.

The outrage that Pike Pulse and Ms. Cohen have voiced regarding the Capitol riot would have a shade more legitimacy if it had arisen over the many months of 2020, when Black Lives Matter and Antifa rioters were pillaging the streets of American cities, causing a good deal more death and damage than anything that happened on January 6th. For example, leftists in Portland, Oregon, spent much of their summer attempting to breach, burn and vandalize the city's federal courthouse. Their punishment was continued police retreats and free reign to go on, night after night,

attacking government property and assaulting people.

Two years ago, left-wing protesters occupied the Hart Senate Office Building trying to block Brett Kavanaugh's U.S. Supreme Court affirmation. When leftist mobs pounded on the Supreme Court's doors, they were praised by the mainstream media. When violent mobs attacked Sen. Rand Paul and others after the Republican National Convention, Pike Pulse and other media were silent. When a mob set fire to a church and threatened to scale the fence surrounding the White House, the media only criticized attempts by law enforcement to repel the perpetrators.

On January 2nd, John Earl Sullivan (known on social media as Jayden X), one of the left-wing extremists identified and arrested so far as a Capitol invader, told his followers: "Time to burn it all down." His post featured the hashtags "blm" and "antifa" and the goal to "abolish capitalism." He clearly planned to instigate a Capitol rebellion, and said so on his various social media accounts.

Mr. Sullivan is a Black Lives Matter and Antifa supporter who attended a civil rights march in Washington in August. His D.C. video shows him urging protesters to attack the White House. He also helped organize a violent demonstration in Provo, Utah, where he faces charges for allegedly blocking and threatening drivers and damaging cars.

Mr. Sullivan and other Antifa members bragged about dressing up as Trump supporters to blend in at rallies and to shift blame when they engage in acts of violence. He filmed much of his own activities on January 6th, wearing pro-Trump clothing and a ballistic vest and shouting for the crowd to break into the Capitol.

While some Capitol rioters, such as Mr. Sullivan, were clearly motivated by Marxist and anarchist ideology, others were there to protest the refusal of Congress to investigate

claims of election fraud. Since most of Congress is white, the rioters were racially diverse, and not a single participant said or did anything that belies animosity toward blacks, it makes little sense to claim that the Capital breach was somehow fueled by white supremacy.

But the left is determined to capitalize on the disturbing optics of the January 6th event by invoking race, suggesting that the police would have reacted differently if the rioters were mostly black. They are ratcheting up the same kind of rhetoric which probably led some of those rioters to feel so disenfranchised and disrespected in the first place, which is not to excuse any of the behavior.

The fact that those allegedly white-coddling security officers killed an unarmed white woman has been swept from public discourse. The claim that the Capital riot response (led by a black Chief of Capital Police) would have been more resolute if the rioters were mostly black is equally ludicrous considering the far worse damage inflicted over the summer on federal, state, and local government facilities. Through-

out the entire period when cities burned and rioters attacked police officers and struggling businesses, not one Black Lives Matter protester or Antifa agitator was killed by the police. In fact, the police typically stood down, giving the offenders, which included large numbers of blacks, free reign.

I have no doubt that many readers of Pike Pulse will try to turn the paper into another mouthpiece for leftist propaganda. I hope that the staff will stand strong in the face of such pressure. If I find myself in the mood for identity politics and leftist activism, I can always turn to the New York Times, Washington Post, or just about any other paper in the United States. I hope that the Pike Pulse will either stay apolitical and fact-based, or at the very least seek out "leaders" who hold a greater diversity of opinions than those published so far.

**Let's foster a sense of community, rather than trying to splinter Pike Township according to race, class or politics.**

Sincerely,  
Steven S. Golemme

## Pike Pulse LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

### Write to:

1. By email: [brock@pikepulse.com](mailto:brock@pikepulse.com) or
2. By letter: Brock Brown, Editor; *Pike Pulse Newspaper*; 4732 Century Plaza Rd; Indianapolis, IN 46254

### What are the guidelines?

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

### How are letters selected for publication?

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

### Are letters edited?

Our editing team will check spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

We may check the facts of your statements. An editor's note may be added.



# Good for Pike / Bad for Pike





See Something!



Say Something!



We're Listening

**Be a good neighbor - Shovel your sidewalks!** by Kerry Michael Manders





**Be a good neighbor-  
Shovel your sidewalks!**

Businesses, homeowners, and those occupying any premise are responsible for clearing sidewalks of snow and ice to allow for safe pedestrian travel.

*Please clear any Michigan Road Trail access points adjacent to your property so our neighbors with disabilities have access in winter months.*  
-- Crooked Creek Alert Board

**KNOW THE CODE!**

Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County Sec. 431-106. Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks.

(a) The occupant of any premises, and the owner of any unoccupied premises, are required to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such premises cleared, so far as is practicable and reasonable, from snow and ice in order to facilitate pedestrian use of such sidewalks. The word "occupant," as used in this section, shall be deemed to mean the person occupying for business, residence or other purposes the first floor of any building situated on the premises so occupied; and if the first floor of any building is not occupied, then such premises shall be deemed and held to be unoccupied and the owner or lessee of the entire premises shall be required to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to the premises reasonably cleared from snow and ice.


(b) In case snow or ice has accumulated or fallen on any sidewalk or is continuing to fall after 7:00 p.m., it shall be removed, if practical to do so, or a sufficient path be cleared by the occupant or owner before 9:00 a.m. of the following day. If any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated on any sidewalk after 9:00 a.m., it shall be removed or a path cleared by the occupant or owner by 7:00 p.m. of such day, if the snow has ceased to fall by that time. In either of the foregoing events, the occupant or owner shall be deemed and held to have complied with the provisions of this section.

NOTE: Any person violating any of the provisions of this section may be subject to a fine.

(Code 1975, § 28-14)



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