

The Long and Winding Road

MANEUVERING THROUGH FUNDING CHALLENGES AT PIKE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

By Carol Mullins

How many times, while traveling down the road, have you heard, “are we there yet?” or “how close are we?” Well, it feels the same for those following contract negotiations for our teachers in Pike Township. Thursday night, (12/09), I drove the intersection of 79th and Zionsville Road, to a familiar sight I’ve seen on this road before. The crowd’s location had shifted north to this busy SE corner, but the message remained the same as cars blared horns in support. *Page 2*



PikePulse

OUR MISSION

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 to every residential and business address.

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

STAFF

PUBLISHER	Clint Fultz clint@pikepulse.com
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	Larry Oliver larry@pikepulse.com
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT	Brandon Fishburn brandon@pikepulse.com
SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER	Jared Price
IT	Ross Wimmersberger
STAFF REPORTER	Arnita M. Williams
STAFF REPORTER	Carol Mullins
NATURE REPORTER	Christy Krieg

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4710 CENTURY PLAZA ROAD
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The parking lot at Central Elementary was full while just down the road, hundreds attended the last performing arts concert of the year. An example of the time and commitment given to the schools, by those passionate about our most precious commodity, the students. Tonight’s public meeting and board meeting would review budget appropriation. Note: The tentative contract was up for review, questions and vote, at two special board meetings held on Monday (12/13) & Thursday (12/16). Currently, our schools are going through a transition that started years ago. Below is a quick look back, to the change that contributed to funding shortfalls at Pike and statewide, and perhaps how this is a positive time of growth for our community.

Over the last two years, due to Covid, and recent staffing shortages, Pike Township students, teachers, and parents have traveled down new roads of educational experiences. Virtual classrooms, restrictive sports gatherings, events, masks in classrooms, lunch in homerooms, and finally a semblance of normality this spring. The path has begun to swerve and erode again, as calls for closures and at home learning due to transportation challenges, classroom staffing, and fair pay now loom.

Whether you have children in the school system or not, it’s important to remember, funding for public education is a major part of how your tax dollars are distributed. These appropriations vary and are allocated to each district as necessary. A healthy school system is critical to the health of a community. This public meeting was part of the mandated process for budget appropriations. This is also a good time to include the need for citizens to get out and vote. Local and state updates, supported by elected representatives can be influenced with voter input. Take notice and find answers to how our representatives are responding to issues important to you.

How did these changes in MSD Pike School funding emerge?

One of the major impacts happened in 2010 with legislation on local spending. During that time, I had one of those moments you remember, either because someone’s words resonate with you on a current event or it predicts a future truth. While attending a class at IUPUI, the professor said, “Be forewarned, there is potential for long-term, unintended impacts from this bill.” That was 2008. In 2010, this legislation was added to Indiana’s constitution. It gave power of local funding to the state. I realize I’m opening the proverbial “can of worms,” as it had dire consequences beyond schools, some of which included exorbitant property tax increases in Marion County and statewide. Pike subsequently received a waiver for transportation debt to delay some of the results of revenue loss seen in other areas, maintaining money for transportation, and facilities. However, the operational (salary) was directly impacted. It is understood that the cause of caps can only be inferred strongly. An Indiana Department of Local Government Finance report shows public schools are losing over \$238 million in revenue each year because of these tax-caps. (www.in.gov/

dlgf/)

State funding for schools is based on data counting the students in each district with funding awarded based on these counts. When Indiana legislators passed the controversial tax cap law it reduced funding and tagged on a provision that would give control over amounts of dollars spent based on student counts. Some counties and systems filed for more local money to go to education through referendums to offset shortages. The avenue toward repairing the cracks in the system is more than just money, and we should take time to repair damaged relationships and build support from our township systems for the long haul.

The current challenge also caused me to look deeper into underlying shifts in expectations of school staff, administrators, and support personnel. Concerns were shared with the Pike Pulse editor of changes in job descriptions for facilities staff. Staff were informed by a meeting of senior administrators, of a required CDL training and licensing and the possibility they would drive school buses as needed during driver shortages. Two facilities members left Pike, in part due to the new policy. Administrative staff has also had to pivot over the years to accomplish goals. This administration also is tasked with new roles over the years. A Gentry and Hirth statement: “The role of the superintendent as communicator has changed from an internal capacity builder who develops vision, leadership, and direction for their school district, to a role focused on external politics, procedures, and laws surrounding school funding referenda. It’s a new role as superintendent as a political official. The new reality in the foreseeable long and short term is that superintendents will need to have these political communication skills or find and acquire the talent in their staff.”

Now back to the board meeting on 12/09. Krista Kelly did a good job explaining the budget and appropriations needed for 2022 and beyond. The budget and its revisions can be found on the MSD Pike website. Kelly went on to explain that after November, there was “a more accurate prediction related to expenditures.” New appropriations, in addition to those requested during budget drafts will have been added. This includes the education fund, for salaries and benefits, and other previously planned items. Kelly said this budget breakdown of expenses will be presented to the public in January of 2022. This shows a level of transparency and oversight MSD Pike Finance Department puts into recording and releasing information. Most of the questions regarding how dollars are allocated, percentages, salaries, etc. can be evaluated by using the “budget book.” accessible on the website under departments/business (www.pike.k12.in.us/Content2/budget-initiatives). This is the first school budget book of its kind published in the state of Indiana, and Pike is proud to set the bar for this type of transparency.

At the board meeting, Nate Dunlevy said, “Any time you get public opinion flowing one way, it presents an opportunity to listen. The lack of IA and subs, is not a new problem, The district is already understaffed and school principals know there is not enough money in the districts, and it causes a lack of trust. Bus drivers



Audience Picture supplied by Tara Evans, parent of Pike students.

and teacher contracts are not enough, We need to be transparent and open on what the needs are in Pike Township. This isn't about one contract dispute but a long history, not the Yellow Brick Road, where this is the end of the problem. It's only the beginning of conversations that should be addressed." Several students I spoke with struggled or had classmates that were weary, because of unexpected days out of school and no preparation for testing. Although teachers offer online review sessions, some didn't have access to a computer and felt unprepared. Several students said they just wanted it to be over and didn't understand why their teachers weren't paid a fair wage. One teacher told me some students are a year or two behind, due to online learning during Covid, current absences, and lack of resources. "It's almost impossible to teach some things remotely, especially when they require hands-on group assignments and reviews."

We continue to have top notch facilities in Pike partially due to a local tax base supported by one of the nation's largest industrial clusters at Park 100, College Park Business Park, Technology Park, Fortune Park, and smaller office parks. After the tax cap law, legislators in Indiana did not follow through on promises to increase public school funding, with portions instead diverted to private school vouchers and charter schools. So public schools are asked to do more with less, seek referendums, and make it work. All while parents and students are leaving public education because of cuts in programs and services. Hopefully the 2022 legislative budget will look different. Gov. Holcomb did state last week that increases are being worked out locally, district by district, with most of the additional funds

going to teachers and front line workers in the form of increased pay. Another reminder, when elections role around, you have



the power to make change for school funding and local issues important to you. Visit "Ballotpedia," ask questions, become familiar with representatives, superintendents policies, and know your school board members, and their views on policy.

There is a lot of interest and support right now around a cause. We can take this momentum forward and continue to show support for our schools and keep this sense of community. My girls attended Pike and my granddaughter is currently at the highschool and directly impacted by all of these nuances. I care deeply, and hope working together through these challenges, with the community's support, will strengthen and improve the future of Pike Township. Continue focusing on the positives as a starting point, not ignoring the areas needing work, but incorporating solutions with the positives. Our schools and staff are a huge asset that the Pike community is rallying around, and passionate about. Let's take this energy and continue to gather and discuss ways to build on the momentum when current negotiations are complete. Hopefully, the outcome will be the right one for our teachers.

The night after the 12/09 board meeting, a winter storm brought wind and hard rain that seemed to clear the air and wash the

grime and dirt off the roads. Let's hope this is a sign that new beginnings will carry over to meetings and discussions of the tentative teacher's collective bargaining agreement. Or, are the storms that knocked out power and downed trees, indicative of how we feel worn down. Moving toward a resolution is hopefully right around the corner. The road toward quality education and expected outcomes is winding, with new turns, new avenues, new directions, to follow and explore. All of these, leading us back to what holds us together, the sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves and our community with experiences shared, and standing together for what we believe is right.

Note: On December 14th, I received word from Chris Ludy, PCTA President that, "The agreement was ratified with a vote of 90% Yes and 10% No. Great news for students, teachers, and staff.

Update: The January school board meeting announced Superintendent Flora Riechendantar would be replaced by Dr. Larry Young, for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Larry Young formerly served as Pike's Assistant Superintendent, is a Pike school parent, and a PHS alumni. Our hope is that students and staff will have a non-eventful remainder of the school year.

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BENCH DEDICATION FOR JOHN GIBSON AT EASTBROOK ELEMENTARY

Remembering John

By Carol Mullins



November 7 was an unusually warm, clear and sunny day. Almost perfect for spending time outdoors and in nature remembering long-time Pike resident, community activist and environmental leader (Russel) John Gibson. John passed away during Covid and many of his friends were not able to gather to recognize his legacy. John wore many hats from pastor, mayoral candidate, civic leader and more, but this dedication was to recognize his work as the founder of Earth Charter Indiana, and Resilient Pike. This warm clear day was a sign that perhaps John was smiling down on his family and friends who gathered to share stories of his life. The dedication of the bench and white oak would stand to remind those using the nature trail, to rest in and revel in nature's beauty. The location near Eastbrook Elementary along the path was important because John had worked with Pike Schools over the years and with youth, mentoring them toward principles of care for our planet and each other. The bench looks onto a pond which is home to beaver, muskrat, and where people walk on many days. The hope is they will come and sit in the shade of the tree and reflect on their responsibility to care for one another and the earth. His life of service reflects perfectly the Earth Charter principles of peace, justice and respect for all life and he inspired hundreds in building a more resilient and loving world. During the dedication we were reminded that we can carry on his legacy by embracing and living the message of the Earth Charter: "We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, uni-

versal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations." Jim Poyser, the current Director of Earth Charter, said, "Without him, I don't think I would have found my true purpose in life. I know he had that impact on so many people."

Richard Clough, who leads Resilient Pike initiatives and was good friends with John, continues the work of its founder. Richard (Dick) Clough is pictured here, sitting on the bench contemplating his friend and said he thinks of John every day; "either something he said, something he did, something he told me when I was frustrated. Everyday I'm grateful for John the way he lived, the way he died. The bench is made from 100% recycled materials, I think John would like that. The tree is a white oak, *Quercus alba*, with a life span of 200+ years and will reach 50 to 80 ft tall with a spread just as wide. I think John would like that. The tree will be host to a wide variety of insects, and because of this, birds are attracted to it, and the acorns provide food to a wide range of wildlife. At maturity, it will absorb 50-60 pounds of carbon dioxide and produce 240 pounds of oxygen a year. It's an incredibly impossible task to come up with words that express what John meant to us and so we leave you with the bench to remind us that he led us to declare our responsibility to one another, the greater community of life, and to future generations."

John wrote a poem called "Legacy" that was read at the end of the dedication ceremony and I hope it inspires you to live a life of service.

"They'll be no flags at half-mast, no buildings bear my name. My ashes buried 'neath a tree, no headstone with a name. So what then makes my years worthwhile, what legacy remains. Absolutely nothing except perhaps, a place in your heart's hall of fame. With or without a page in history books, living these days is quite enough. The places I've been, the people I've met, my family's love in good times and the rough. So let me say to all who care: my life's been joyfully complete. I ask or need no other prize than the gifts of life and love on this terrestrial feet." J. Gibson



New Year's Greetings

By Brandon Fishburn

No matter what holiday(s) you celebrated this season, the common thread in the December and early January holidays is they encourage us to come together. They call us to be near to our loved ones and to celebrate things like unity, family, forgiveness, giving, and new beginnings. I'm grateful for this season. It's also a great time for reflection, planning, and goal setting.

It was 2 years ago, almost exactly, the publisher of Pike Pulse reached out to me and asked if I'd be interested in taking on the role of the Director of Development for the paper. This absolutely marked a new beginning for me. I knew zero about the newspaper business, but it was an exciting prospect to bring something new to a township I love. I had a chance to reflect on the amount of time I've spent in Pike Township and the many relationships I've built in Pike. So, we got together in a hotel lobby and recorded our conversation about Pike Township and the value a community newspaper could add to the township. We laid out our launch plan, acknowledged the barriers to entry, and established a date to commence this project.

Little did we know that, the world was about to change, and a huge part of our launch plan was going to need to be scrapped. One of our primary goals was to help people come together in person to help celebrate things like unity, family, giving, forgiveness, and new beginnings. Though the in-person part of this plan has been tabled, we've made


a conscious effort to focus on the things in the community that are connective not divisive and you've been instrumental in this development. I'm thankful to all of you who have contributed, reached out, made financial pledges, and have shared your feelings with us.

We feel like this is just the beginning, and we don't want to shy away from the issues that are paramount to the township, and there are many perspectives, and cultural differences among us. All that being said, I see our diversity as part of our identity, and it is something that makes Pike one of the best places to live. My wish is to continue to hear from you about the things you want to see. For those of you who want to write, let us know. Also, if you want to contribute financially, please go to pikepulse.com/support, and pledge any amount you're comfortable with.


We created this paper to be a reflection of the community and to shine light on the things that can strengthen it. If you believe in this mission, we want to hear from you. The amount of phone calls we got last month is a testament to how this paper is resonating, and I'm so appreciative to hear from you.

This holiday season, I'm wishing you warmth, health, peace, love, and joy. Thank you for being you, thank you for calling Pike Township home. Thank you for reading!

Happy New Year!



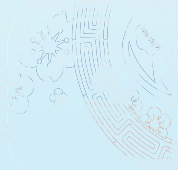

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SUPPLYING NEEDED SOCIAL SERVICES IN PIKE

IMPD NW Christmas – Giving and Receiving

By Carol Mullins



The Northwest District once again teamed up with Walmart for the Third Annual Feed-a-Family Event. Three years ago Walmart approached IMPD Northwest Dis-

trict’s Community Resource Unit on ways to address the neighborhood needs. The idea was to alleviate some of the financial stress at Christmas for families in need by taking

care of their grocery expenses. Beginning in 2019, the Feed-a-Family Event helped 31 families, which includes 104 children. District leaders spent the last month shopping for others, working to make sure the community needs were met. Most recently a mother of five and grandmother of two, was recommended by an officer as someone who would greatly benefit from this event. She was able to get two grocery carts of food for her family! “It feels good and helps a whole lot. This is wonderful, this is a blessing”, she said. Monty Nieves, at the Walmart Neighborhood Market on Michigan Road, stated, “We love giving, helping out the community, and partnering with law enforcement.” IMPD Northwest District feels beyond blessed to be able to help so many deserving families. A NW officer also donated 11 turkeys, which were given away to families in need for Thanksgiving.

Santa also visited the IMPD Northwest District early! If you are looking for a stocking stuffer or a toy to cheer up a little one

stop by our lobby to pick one out. Perhaps get one for yourself to help sooth the pain of rush hour traffic. We are located at 3821 Industrial Blvd. The doors are open from 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday.

Receiving - The NW District itself is getting a huge Christmas gift in the form of new facilities, opening early next year, in the Window to the World location. Just under 200 officers, detectives, and admin staff will utilize this space which will house the Behavioral (BHU) and Mobile Crisis Team (MCAT) units assigned to the Northwest District area. IMPD Sgt. Lorenzo Lewis, “Support services housed at the BHU and MCAT units will have resources and trained mental health crisis counselors teamed with specialty trained police officers, in CIT, who will respond to mental health incidents. We also have a Community Resource Unit composed of three officers and one supervisor who work daily with various community groups and organizations to build strong community relationships.” Commander Lewis has been



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with IMPD for 36 years and commander of the District for the past 3 1/2. As a Pike resident, Lewis said he understands and relates to the residents, and businesses. He said a benefit of locating the NW headquarters closer to the International Marketplace and Window to the World area would be a more central location and continued support from local business, residents, and community members. Commander Lewis said, “We are excited that we are able to work very closely with Mary Clark and the International Market Coalition (IMC) which is dedicated to bringing the community together and making it stronger. Our community room will be located in front of the IMPD main entrance, and is designed to be easily accessible for the community.”

Sam Kennedy, the store manager for Georgetown Market said, “I see it as one of the first major steps the community is taking to turn the area around. The International Marketplace District has the potential to be an exciting destination for Hoosiers, and making sure the area is safe will be a top priority. It will benefit both the businesses in the area as well as local residents.” Colleen Murphy, also with Georgetown Market, has been working to engage and support community partners through outreach and public events in Pike Township and is looking forward to this addition to the community that is more accessible to the community they serve. Colleen said, “We welcome IMPD to our neighborhood and look forward to working with them on community outreach programs such as “Coffee with a Cop” which we have hosted in the past.”

The headquarters are scheduled to have a grand opening in the Spring of 2022 and will continue the revitalization of the area that is emerging with the new Ivy Tech Automotive Technology School, the Window to the World Development, and planning with the Little Eagle Creek Committee and Reconnecting to our Waterways.

A note from the community: Many food pantries and service partners could use your assistance as the weather turns cold. Sisters of the Poor is a pantry that is running low on supplies and hasn't been able to keep up with the need. As you shop for the holidays, consider purchasing a few more items to drop off at a local pantry at 86th and Township Line Rd. Other pantries: Pike Township food pantry at the Government Center 5665 Lafayette Rd, Crooked Creek Food Pantry located inside Eskenazi Health Center on Michigan Rd, Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center, and most places of worship. For a comprehensive list county-wide visit foodpantries.org







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WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2022

PTFD inspired by support from the Pike community

By Pike Township Fire Department

Now that 2021 has come to an end, we at Pike Township Fire Department want to take a moment to thank all of Pike Township for your support during this year. 2021 was another challenging year full of uncertainty and adapting to many changes, however; the support we received from both residents and community members was awe-inspiring and meant so much to us. As we close out the year, we want to give you some insight on all that Pike Township Fire Department was able to accomplish in 2021.

COVID remained a huge concern in 2021 and still will be in 2022. Our stations have remained closed to the public for the safety of our employees and the community we serve. In the spring, we started attending community events again but with caution and following all health protocols at that time.

In 2021 we went on a total of 14,683 emergency runs. Out of those runs, 66% were EMS based and 33% were fire related incidents. In 2021 alone, we had over 9,000 calls for EMS/non-fire related services. August and September were our busiest months with a total of 2,779 runs.

Even during the ongoing pandemic, we still worked to be present in our community. Pike fire assisted Trustee Johnson's office with community blood drives, the annual MLK day of giving food pantry and donated toys for the holiday season toy drive. We educated as many students as possible in all Pike elementary schools. It was another year of ZOOM lessons for elementary students but we are so happy we still got to see their faces!

Our firefighters were also able to complete multiple trainings this year, one highlight was Bens Blue Bag Autism training. We are pleased to announce that all PTFD firefighters and EMS personnel received a new tool and training to learn how to help patients on the Autism Spectrum or with special needs. We have also partnered with LUNA Language Services to provide complete interpreter services during emergency incidents.

In 2022, we will continue to serve our community at the highest level possible. We are expanding our social media outlets so remember to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Nextdoor for up to date information going on in the township and fire department. For Fire Prevention Week, we even ran some social media giveaways! We hope you stay safe in 2022 and thank you for your support in 2021.

We have some very exciting new things coming in 2022, stay tuned.

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Nextdoor: Pike Township Fire Department



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INTRODUCING FRESH BUCKS!

By Marion County Health Department

Winter Farmers' Markets Offer Incentives for Snap Participants

In Indianapolis, around 200,000 of our neighbors live in areas with low food access and many are impacted by food insecurity issues (SAVI). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants experience many barriers to accessing healthy foods, the most common of which being cost. One way the Marion County Public Health Department, Chronic Disease Department is tackling this issue is through their Fresh Bucks program.

Fresh Bucks is a nutrition incentive program that helps families eat more healthy foods while supporting local farmers. Fresh Bucks is available to individuals and families who receive SNAP, known as Hoosier Works in Indiana. They can use their Hoosier Works card at the market information table of farmers' markets to buy SNAP tokens and receive a matching number of Fresh Bucks checks (up to \$20 per day). That means \$20 is turned into \$40 to spend at the market! SNAP tokens are used at the market to buy any SNAP eligible food items such as produce, bread, dairy, meat/poultry, eggs, honey, and syrups. Fresh Bucks checks can be used for any fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Three farmers markets in Indianapolis are part of the Fresh Bucks program this winter. The markets include Broad Ripple Winter Market, Garfield Park Winter Market, and Indy Winter Farmers Market. Markets operate every Saturday from now until the end of April. Fresh Bucks will also be available at the summer markets and farm stands starting in May 2022.

Over the next few years, Fresh Bucks plans to expand into retail stores, focusing

on small and mid-size locally owned food stores. The goal of this expansion is to provide equitable and affordable access to fresh produce for more households on SNAP by being available at more places where people are food shopping.

Fresh Bucks is one partner in the recently created Indiana Nutrition Incentive Network (ININ), where representatives around the state who organize SNAP matching programs in their regions and communities come together. Future goals for this network are to build its capacity to create uniformity and collaboration for these programs across county lines, including funding and evaluation.

Currently, the Fresh Bucks program is possible through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health project and is supported by IU Health and the City of Indianapolis. We are always leveraging funding opportunities to help cover the cost of incentives (food) which is key to sustainability for Fresh Bucks. Fruit and vegetables are core to following a healthy eating pattern and vital to the prevention and management of chronic disease. In addition to the health benefits, Fresh Bucks is a program that comes full circle and funding that is used to allow SNAP participants to get fresh healthy produce ultimately ends up in the hands of our local growers and retailers, boosting the local food economy.

For more details and/or to support the Fresh Bucks program, reach out to Elise Gahan at EGahan@marionhealth.org.

More information is also available online at freshbucksindy.org.



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HOW IT WORKS

- 1) **GO** to the Farmers Market information table
- 2) **SWIPE** your EBT (Hoosier Works card) for any amount of choice
- 3) **RECEIVE** SNAP tokens for that amount to shop for SNAP eligible foods (produce, eggs, bread, dairy, honey, syrup)
- 4) **DOUBLE** that with Fresh Bucks checks, **RECEIVE** up to \$20 per market visit/day for fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs (including edible starter plants)
- 5) **SHOP** at the market

Indy Winter Farmers Market

The Amp Marketplace at 16 Tech
1220 Waterway Blvd.

Saturdays

Nov. 6 – April 30

9 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Closed: 11/27; 12/25; 01/01 (holidays)

Broad Ripple Farmers Market

Glendale Town Center (prior Macy's)
2615 E. 62nd St.

Saturdays

Nov. 6 – April 30

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Closed: 11/27; 12/25; 01/01 (holidays)

Garfield Park

Winter Farmers Market

Friedens United Church of Christ
8300 S. Meridian St.

Saturdays

Nov. 20 – April 30

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Closed: 12/25; 01/01 (holidays)

 [Instagram](#) 
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Pike Township Government Center, 5665 Lafayette Rd.

The following meeting is:

www.ptira.net

March 9, 2021, 7:00 PM

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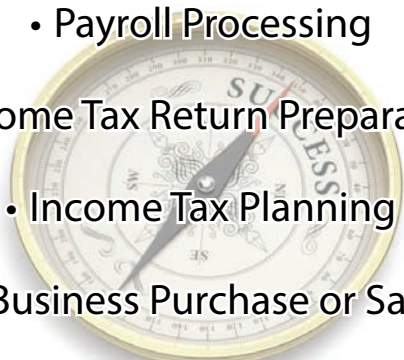
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Pike Township Educational Foundation

By PTEF

The Pike Township Educational Foundation exists to raise money that helps to enhance the educational experiences of all Pike students through classroom grants and scholarships. One way we are able to accomplish this mission is with the support of donors like you! We have our annual gala event called Treasures coming up on March 12, 2022 at The Willows in Broad Ripple. We'd love to have you join us! In the past, we've been able to raise money for scholarships that help students like Ashton Roman who received the "Nathaniel Jones Early Education Scholarship" last year. With the help of this scholarship, he will be able to focus on his studies in Music at Butler University and be less concerned about money. Your donations also help students like Lyn Tan who says she didn't realize how much money college textbooks were! Receiving the "Serving the World Scholarship" in 2020 helped her to cover those additional costs. To see more of the types of scholarships we offer for Pike High School students and our past scholarship recipients and their stories, please visit our website (pike-ef.org). We are thankful for our individual donors, as well as our corporate donors such as Fanning Howey, Diverse Staffing, First Financial Bank, and Gatsby's Pub and Grill. We'd love to have you at our Treasures event, so save the date and stay tuned for more information in the Pike Pulse.

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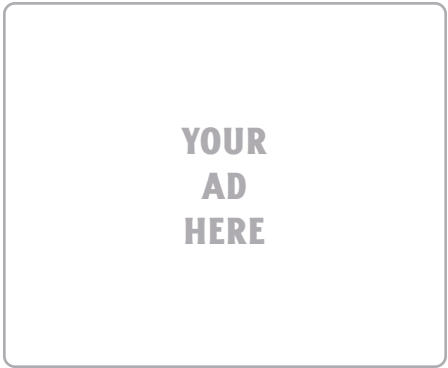
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By Global Gifts

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Volunteering at Global Gifts is a fun and rewarding experience that helps spread the mission of fair trade in our community, and beyond! As a nonprofit organization, we rely on the dedication and talent of volunteers for assisting customers, stocking shelves, creating displays, attending offsite events, helping with social media, and more.

Most volunteers serve twice a month, but you're welcome to volunteer as often as you can. We're open 7 days a week so we can work with your schedule. We have volunteers of nearly all

ages, from middle and high school students through volunteers who are retired and have served with us since our opening in 1988. Five of our volunteers have been with us for 32 years! (Don't worry, we only ask our volunteers for a minimum commitment of 3 months.)

Our non-profit organization is committed to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in principle and in action. This includes both the way we operate our business and the way we further our mission and vision in line with the principles of fair trade.

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Apply in store at Nora Plaza or online at globalgiftsft.com/service/volunteer/.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

Write to:

1. By email: larry@pikepulse.com or
2. By letter: Larry Oliver, Editor-In-Chief; *Pike Pulse Newspaper*; 4710 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, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

How are letters selected for publication?

We 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.

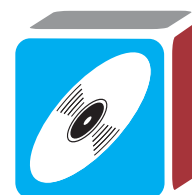
Are letters edited?

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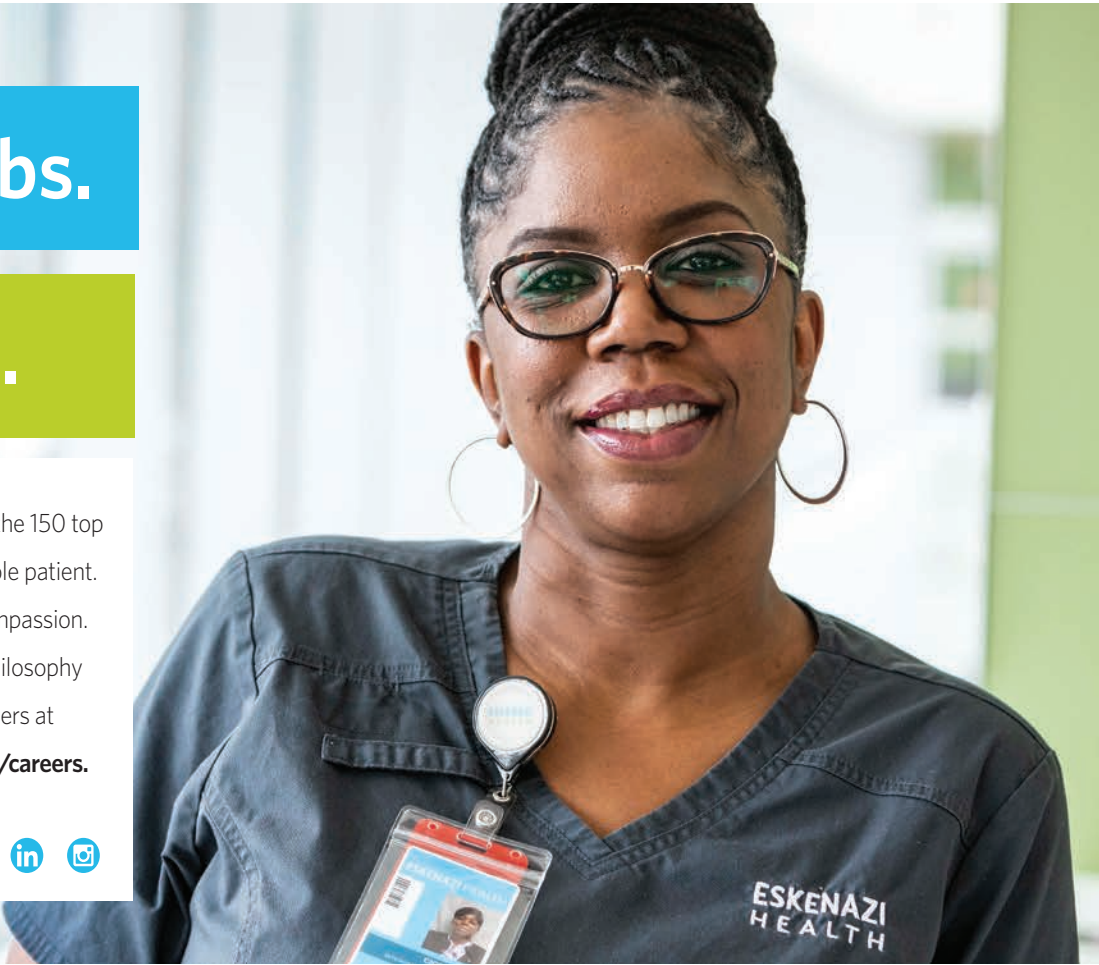
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