



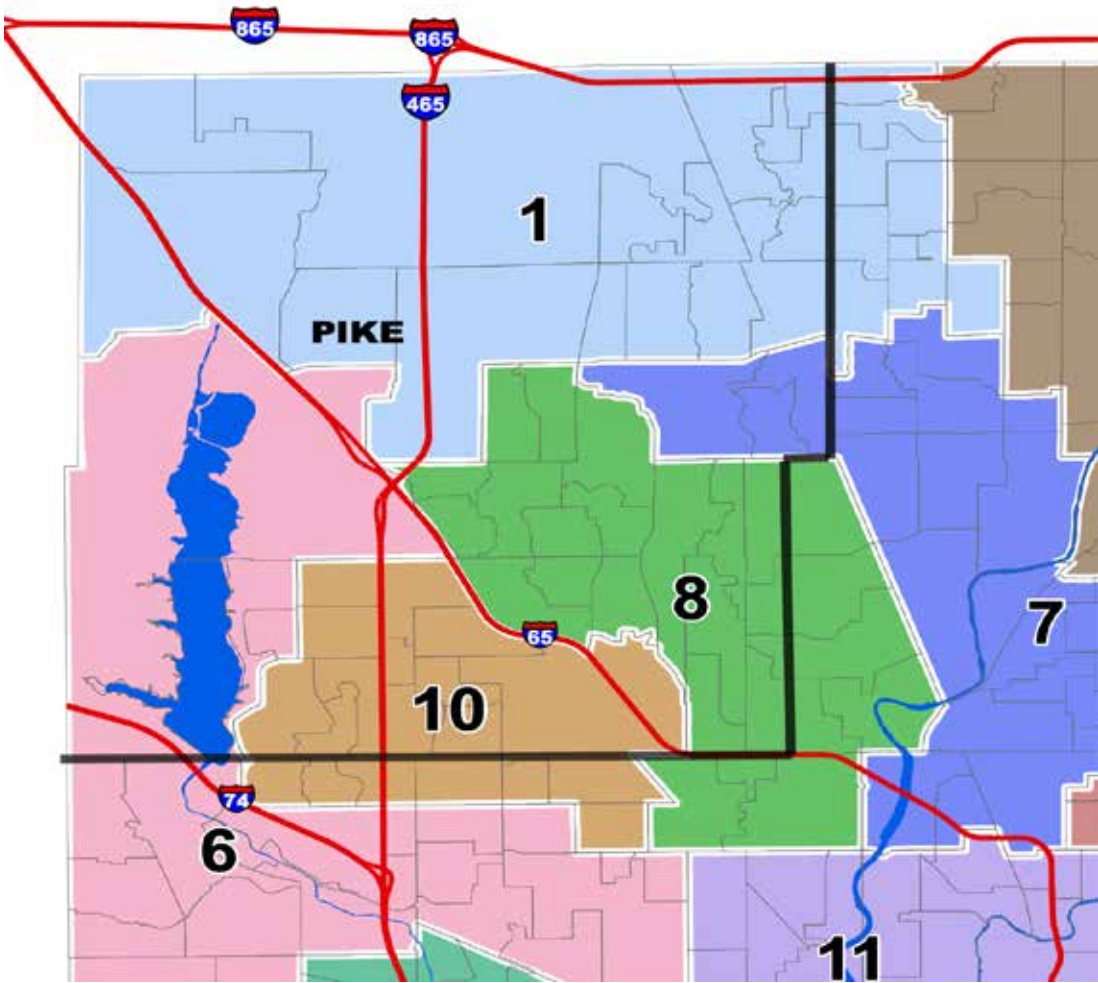
One Voice for Input and Ideas

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION, REMARKING REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS IS UNDERWAY

By Carol Mullins

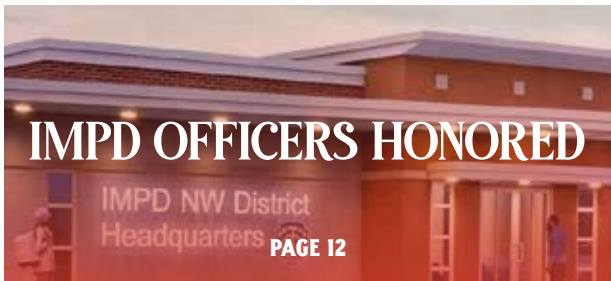
The term redistricting brings mixed feelings and the process calls for transparency and common sense. Marion County redistricting of the City Council will occur this spring as part of mandated law. District boundaries determine representation at the local level. City Council members work in each district on development, zoning, budgeting, parks, public safety, education and more. Having representation with values in line with the community can be important. This is the legislative body for Indianapolis that pass ordinances, levies, enacts, repeals, amends laws, and makes appointments to boards and commissions. There are 25 City County Councilors in Marion County, five who currently serve in Pike Township: Leroy Robinson (1), John Barth (7), Monroe Gray (8), Maggie Lewis (10), and Christa Carlino (6). These districts may change every 10 years, when the census occurs. The goal of the redistricting maps is to take into consideration population, natural features, voting precincts, neighborhoods and try to keep a unified voice.

The City Council budgeted \$300,000 to manage the redistricting process and has contracted a third party consultant, Engaging Solutions, to manage community input sessions and reports. Engaging Solutions has created a web portal called Your Voice 2022, yourvoice2022.com and hosted meetings in each township of Marion County to gather input from the community. These input meetings' goal



TURF WARS OVER TREES

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IMPD OFFICERS HONORED

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NEIGHBORHOOD POWER
IS BACK!

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

was for a bipartisan, and transparent process, and will culminate with Council reviews and the Mayor making the final vote.

Townships had many of the same concerns at the these meetings and Common Cause Indiana representatives spoke at several of the sessions requesting a “citizens commission” to reduce the conflict of interest for politicians drawing districts they run in, and before making available public mapping software for residents to make comments in the privacy of their own home. Community members also asked about forums after the maps were drawn with the ability to comment on districts before they are voted on. Some expressed concern that hosting just one meeting per township made

it difficult to attend. However, the process allows online comments from all of Marion County that will be utilized in creating a report.

Pike Township forum was well attended by residents and business owners. The public service representatives who attended included: Trustee Annette Johnson, Councilors Dan Boots, Monroe Gray, Leroy Robinson and

Mayor’s Neighborhood Advocate, Nassif Kouton. The comments focused on the assets in the community which included a great labor market, business and industrial parks, Eagle Creek Park, density of affordable housing and rentals to accommodate a workforce, but a lack of good public transit

“The Councilors actually play no role in this process, as this responsibility is conducted outside of our authority. I am not aware of any changes, as we are still too early in the process. The great news is, the contractors have scheduled an open forum that invites public members to provide their input and make suggestions about the process.”

and walkable to connect amenities. Others commented on the need to protect natural resources, adhere to well vetted planning standards, senior housing, for multi-modal options, support education, for keeping districts inside township lines, and to keep shared neighborhood service areas.

Emails were sent to all

councilors in Pike asking for input and thoughts on the redistricting process and of any foreseeable changes that may occur in district boundaries. Councilor Barth deferred to public affairs and encouraged community input and questions specific to his district. Councilor Robinson responded that, “The Councilors actually play no role in this process, as this responsibility is conducted outside of our authority. I am not aware of any changes, as we are still too early in the process. The great news is, the contractors have scheduled an open forum that invites public members to provide their input and make suggestions about the process.” Councilors Boots, Robinson and Monroe attended the Pike meeting to listen and address community concerns.

Engaging Solutions representatives said they will compile all information gathered at the forums and online, and prepare a comprehensive report. This report then gets sent to a mapping company before the package is presented to the City County Council for



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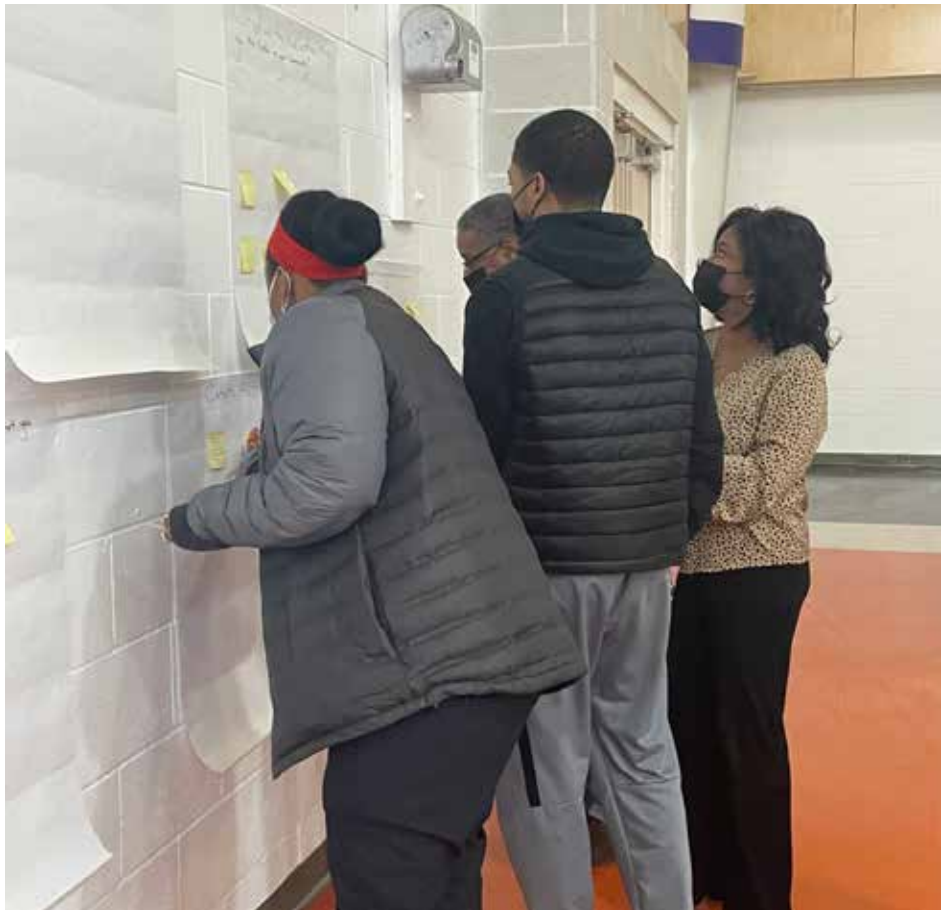
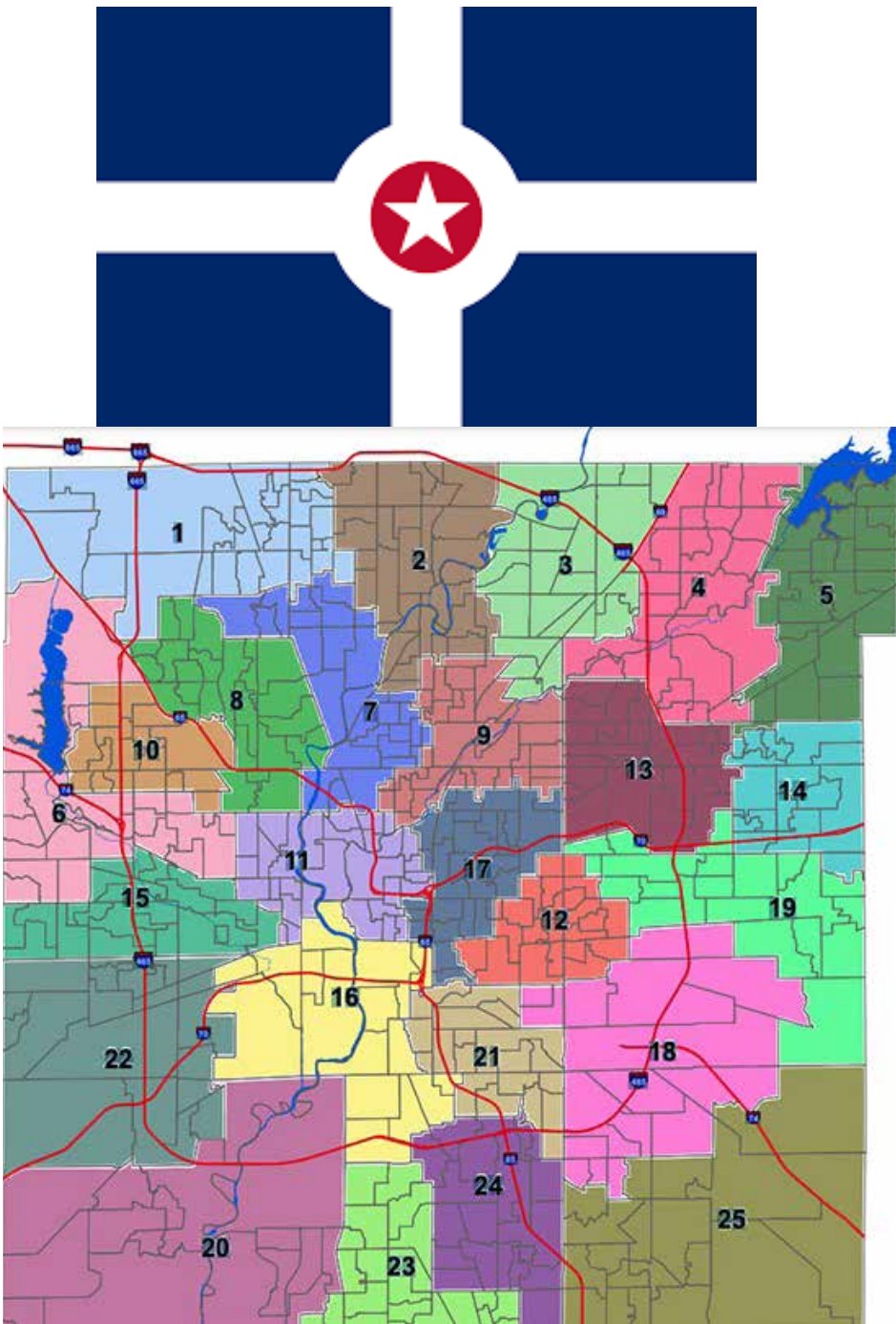
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review and vote. After final changes and agreement are made, it will be sent to the Mayor for the stamp of approval.

Other election updates: A primary is scheduled for May 3, 2022. The new precinct maps for Marion County were filed and can be viewed online. Be sure to check your precinct prior to the May 3rd Election when the city of Indianapolis will hold general elections (choosing candidates),for the Marion County Prosecutor, Marion County Assessor, Marion County Auditor, Marion County Recorder, Marion County Sheriff, and the Marion County Clerk on November 8, 2022. The filing deadline for these positions was February 4, 2022.

Like many public input sessions, casting a wide net and getting inclusive voice from the community is difficult. The Pike Pulse News seeks to share information on issues related to Public Safety, Policy, Neighborhood Interest, Schools and more. We have reached out to your councilors and mayors advocates and offered them a space to address issues relevant to Pike community questions and concerns. We encourage your input and any editorial comments on other items for upcoming issues. Send input to larry@pikepulse.com



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When Two Sides Collide - Turf Wars Over Trees, Streams, Wild- life and New Development

**THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE HOPEFUL, WHY COLLABORATION
AND CONSERVATION COULD HELP IN SAVING OUR GREEN SPACE**

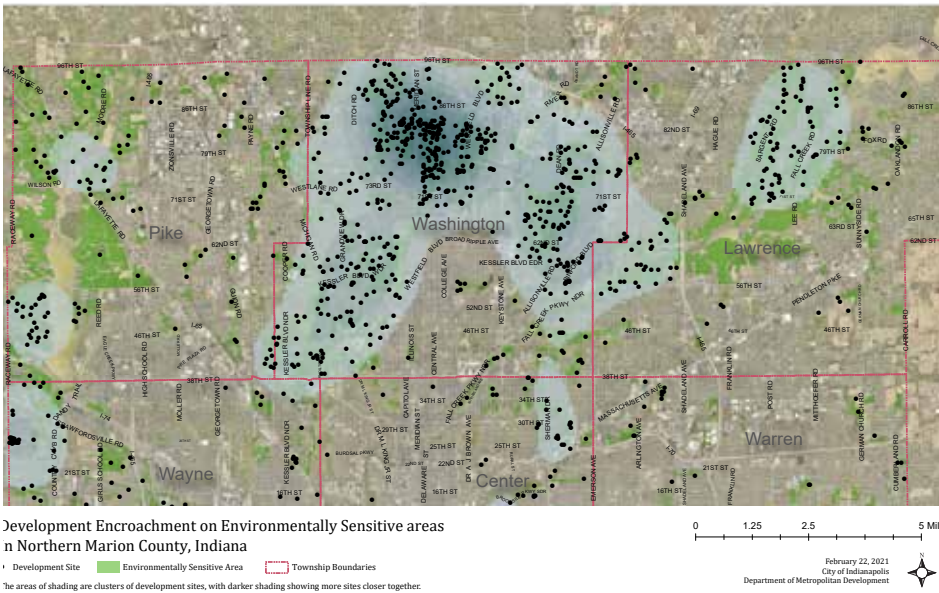
By Carol Mullins

2021 was a bad year for trees, streams and natural resources in Pike Township. New development projects resulted in 50+ acres of forest canopy loss, dozens of stream modifications, and wildlife displacement and death that can't be undone. The impact was significant from an economic standpoint as preserving green space, and removing trees, vegetation, and soil compaction directly impacts the infrastructure system as a whole. Mature trees and established ecosystems are not an easily replaceable commodity. How can we protect our natural resources, support economic development and create a more livable community when it seems we are on opposing sides. This series will discuss ways businesses and the community should continue to collaborate, the importance of conservation strategies in neighborhoods, review of a couple development projects that took different approaches toward sustainability and discuss what worked. In addition, information on ways to get involved, and organizations who are ready to step in when advocating for trees, like the Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) Forest for Indy initiative.

The focus tends to be on trees as they have the biggest visual footprint from afar but equally concerning is the Pike Waterways, Eagle Creek, Crooked Creek and Little Eagle Creek with their tributaries that make up a good portion of our Townships

above ground water. These include township creeks and sub streams that flow from rain and snow melt and can appear and subside. They draw excess water downstream and reduce flooding while eventually flowing to the White River. These water sources are often unnamed but their health plays an important role in the entire watershed network. Pike Township's waterways above and the substreams are: Payne Branch, Guion, Falcon, Liberty, Glen, Oil, Sheets Creek, Cotton Creek and Hope Creek with hundreds of ephemeral streams, not named, that drain excess water from homeowners land. When construction occurs, compaction and vegetation removed it affects all the benefits these features provide. This includes wildlife habitats, stormwater, recharge of ground water, pollution reduction, erosion and flood control. With the amount of stormwater capture, filtration of pollutants, and mitigation of flooding. Some of the organizations that work to ensure water quality and protect water assets during construction are Citizens Energy Group, DPW, Marion County Soil and Conservation, IDEM, Marion County Health Dept. and the City's Business and Neighborhood Services. One of the items that also was enacted, but hasn't been mentioned, was the consolidated zoning ordinance enacted in 2016 and updated in November of last year. The Green Factor section in Article V section 9 clearly





states criteria that should be implemented. The document contains excellent advice and standards, but enforcement of these procedures seems to have no oversight after initial plans are presented. Most items are not enforced unless community groups act as watchdogs when development begins, and native plantings, water conservation and other low impact development standards listed in these documents are not included in the final product. When criteria for removal of greenspace and trees needs to occur for construction, forgiveness is usually begged after the fact when it's too late to undo the damage. What systems can we implement to assist the community and developers so quality projects that create livable communities for all are completed.

When a community development project is proposed, but the natural buffers, streams, and trees need to be removed to make it viable, typically, from the conservation standpoint, development wins. It's important to note, property owners have the right to remove trees on private property and install components, if it doesn't infringe on the well being of the surrounding properties. This is where collaboration could result in improved solutions by creating development that utilizes green industry standards and supports vibrant communities. The savvy investor is proactive, a visionary and a long-term planner. Being environmentally conscious in implementing projects makes good sense financially. Still, the push and pull between environmentalists, neighborhoods and developers seems to mostly favor new construction to the detriment of trees and green space even when zoning regulations or policy are in place. In Indianapolis, city policy and environmental plans don't always follow their own recommendations. We want to be a top notch city. It's not always about the

bottom dollar, where incentives go to corporations and investors while residents pay the cost and are forced to become experts on how to maneuver the system. Sometimes a narrow focus on dollars produces narrow results that don't always promote quality of life in the long run.

Remember, sustainability pillars include economic stability that goes hand in hand with protecting the environment, and addressing social capital. They aren't independent of each other. Developers could look at protecting green space as a way to save money and promote quality of life initiatives that serve to incentivize residents to stay. Public utilities and public works could address some of the cost of failing infrastructure by saving trees and vegetative cover, which reduces the strain on storm drains and water purification systems. Yet, we remove acres of trees and green space, alter natural aquifers, plant non-native grasses, and spend millions to install concrete storm drains and water catchment areas. Why not take a holistic approach and thoughtfully incorporate sustainable practices for good stewardship of money and resources.

One organization has decided to take the proactive approach in collaboration with private investors and land owners. The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) advocates for trees and released a report last fall called Forests for Indy. Over the years, they have done work across the state, telling the story of forest benefits and advocating and lobbying with policy makers to keep trees from being cut. I became aware of the Alliance work during the Crown Hill outreach events. Hundreds showed up for walks down nearby streets into the forest property. Eventually the woods were saved. IFA leadership decided to take a proactive instead of reactive approach. Instead of a reactive approach, they set out

collecting data and devising a plan to get those same environmentalists behind the effort. At the 2018 Neighbor Power event, arborist Jerome Dellbridge reached out to neighborhood groups to collect input on where these conservation patches were. He was working with others, creating maps of Marion County's trees. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) supplied GIS data and manpower to assist with the process. It was during this time, IFA leadership discussed areas in Pike Township and the NW side of Indy. Unfortunately, several of the areas discussed were removed in 2021 with the reduction of benefits outlined in the graphic below from IFA's Forest for Indy report. We fortunately have an advocate in Councilor John Barth, who has been a strong supporter for parks, greenspace and tree preservation, spearheading a temporary sustainability committee with hopes some of these challenges will be discussed and a plan devised. He also has been in discussion with IFA, neighborhood groups, and sustainability organizations to determine the need and feasibility of adoption of conservation corridors. The challenge will always be long-term maintenance cost in a city that is already strapped for dollars for parks. We have another advocate in Keep Indianapolis

Beautiful that, over the last 4 years, has planted thousands of trees in Pike Township with dozens of community groups and neighborhood organizations. More on their work in the next issue.

At the same time IFA was collecting data, the City was finalizing its Plan 2020, that worked for over three years and utilized input from residents, planners, community



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➤ The Value of Urban Forests

The 182,801 street trees (in street right-of-ways) in Indianapolis provide an estimated \$9 million in ecosystem services each year, almost a 4:1 return on dollars invested.³ Using these calculations, the 4.7 million trees in unprotected urban forests provide at least \$258 million in ecosystem services annually.⁴

Dollar Value of Benefits Provided by Trees

Benefits Provided by Trees	Street Trees Only ⁴ (182,801 trees)	Trees in Unprotected Forests (~ 4,729,580 trees)
Aesthetics and Other	\$4,832,549	\$125,031,740
Stormwater	\$3,325,193	\$86,032,168
Energy Saving	\$1,311,515	\$33,932,610
Air Quality	\$351,332	\$9,089,955
Carbon Captured	\$149,446	\$3,866,592
Total Annual Benefits	\$9,970,035	\$257,953,064

partners, Greenways, Parks, IndyGo, IndyMoves, IndyRezone, Sustainability, Planning, and Quality of Life Plans. The Department of Metropolitan Development presented this Plan 2020 in late 2018 for approval and acceptance. In that document. In that document many of the areas discussed and included on the IFA maps as forest canopy in Pike Township, were designated with overlays classifying them as environmentally sensitive areas. These documents serve as recommendations when approvals are needed. It was not only the forests that were classified but conservation areas with green space, buffers along a creek, stream or river with consideration of habitats for wildlife, and mitigating stormwater runoff. With years of work done by city personnel and with the community to create Plan 2020 and the Thrive Plan, community groups ask they be used and referenced when deciding petitions for land use, zoning and platting cases as the first consideration, not an afterthought.

It is the hope of the IFA that the Forests for Indy project could be the catalyst for conservation, improved communication, collaboration and thoughtfulness when deciding land use cases. The report offers a comprehensive tool that could incentivize

private property owners to maintain forests as a means of carbon offsets, and in advocacy for green space enhancements. With IFA taking the lead in a proactive approach to preserve private forest cover, community groups have an ally when trees are threatened, especially for marginalized areas that don't have funds to pay for advocacy measures. Councilor Barth is not the only one who stands behind conservation. When asked about the importance of conservation and thoughts on IFA Forest for Indy initiative, Councilor Robinson stated: "The role of the Indiana Forest Alliance is absolutely crucial to the vibrancy and success of our forest, animals, and plants that call our local forest home. Pike Township is home to many of these areas and my support and commitment to the IFA's efforts is unwavering. Their work and commitment has made a difference in our area and we need to do more to elevate their voices and collaborate with our organizations that share in this important work."

The Indiana Forest Alliance is presenting the Forest for Indy report at this year's Neighbor Power. Neighbor Power events are great opportunities to learn more about your community and the issues impacting them. inrc.org/neighbor-power-indy.



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Neighborhoods of Pike – Augusta

THEN AND NOW

Carol Mullins

Augusta was one of the first communities to be settled in the area. Founded in 1834, by Joseph Boardman, along Michigan Rd. between 71st & 79th streets, the Boardman home still stands. Underneath the current brick facade lies a log cabin built by father and son from materials gathered from nearby Crooked Creek and woods. Old deeds and family records say the cabin was built on a bluff above Crooked Creek. It’s hard to see today because of the road construction, but the eastern portion of the bluff still exists, hidden behind the refractory along the northern point of Parallel Street off 76th. The area near the bluff is littered with garbage, an abandoned homeless camp, and a surprise to those who take the time to venture off the beaten path. This portion of the bluff was deeded to the city in 1923 for a neighborhood park and street called Crooked Creek Parkway North and South. Imagine how the area would have looked when the Boardman’s picked the location, with a view to the horse-drawn carriages traversing down the newly built Michigan Rd. and a clear view to Downtown. During that time, the Augusta area was a hub of activity and home to many small shops, a general store, mill, tannery and local school. In 1852 a railroad was built just over a mile west and parallel to Michigan Rd. Settlers and shop owners recognized the benefit of this modern transportation, productivity, and moved to form the new community of Hosbook, now New Augusta. The “New” Augusta still maintains its historic

character, train depot and architecture and was listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places in 1989. During the late 1800s, those remaining in Augusta continued to utilize the power of Crooked Creek to operate the mill and tannery by damming portions of the creek and arguing over water rights and land ownership. Many of the “old” Augusta structures, excluding Boardman’s log cabin, are harder to find outside of written deeds, stories and family diaries. Another historic site is the Augusta Cemetery established in 1845 along 76th Street. It overlooks an old arched bridge and the Crooked Creek stream. Grave sites that are legible display the names of early settlers and soldiers from a long ago era.

From 1845 to 1919, much of the land in Augusta was sectioned off, sold, built on, re-sold, farmed, used to settle debt, and turned over to the state for taxes. Reading through property deeds and wills is like reading through a novel. Forgotten relatives fought over land, developers moved in to claim deeds from deceased tenants, misplaced wills showed up years later with forgotten “kin.” Then, several investors emerged in 1921 with an interest in the area, and joined together to form the Alliance Co-Operative Realty Co. They began securing lots and funding for a new neighborhood by selling stock at varying rates. The group purchased over 400 parcels of land and would call the neighborhood Augusta Heights. The land was surveyed, plats were created and acres dedicated and deeded to the city for streets and two public parks. The plats were reviewed and ac-

cepted by City of Indianapolis and covenants drawn. The early covenants revealed a different time, when Prohibition was in effect, early automobiles were driving up and down Michigan Rd., and electricity was a luxury. The deed for this new development stated, “No portion of land shall be used for distilling of spirits, bone boiling, soap making, tanning, slaughterhouse, glue factory, candle making or gunpowder manufacturing.” Unfortunately, the project never took off due to difficulties building in the mucky lots and only a few homes were completed. This is also the time that the Great Depression was looming just around the corner. After many years the project dissolved.

Fast forward another 50 years and Augusta Heights area shows sporadic growth, with the addition of a new subdivision and buildings along 79th, however, no cohesive neighborhood as platted was built. This was fine for those discovering the affordable wooded lots tucked away behind gravel

roads. Then, in the spirit of the Boardman family’s log home, a resident who still lives in the area purchased a lot and decided to build their own piece of Augusta history. Michelle Mattingly, former IPS teacher, business owner and mother of four tells her story of settling in Augusta. “Mike and I built this home in 1986. Mike had to go to North Carolina to take a class on how to construct a log home kit, because that is where the log manufacturing company was located. It was truly a labor of love. I had dreamed of having a log home one day and finally we made it happen. We purchased four 50 x 100 foot lots for pretty much a song. We had to have much of the land cleared, as it was just like the woods around us. Mike was working full time at his regular job and I was pregnant with Stephanie and teaching at an IPS school. Mike laid the foundation and flooring, then the logs went up, then framed out any interior walls. We had professionals do the drywall, plumbing, roofing and electrical. Windows were





installed by professionals. We did A LOT but we did have help where needed. Just staining the logs was a huge undertaking. The kids and I lived in a small trailer that we borrowed from a friend. My mom, my pregnant self and my other three kiddos lived in that trailer for months until this house was livable. It was just a lot! I look back on it now and say, I love my log home. As I said it was a labor of love, but it was a lot to take on for a young family with both parents working and a pregnant mommy! Would I do it again? Probably, but with some adjustments, knowing what I know now. Like other residents who lived in the area, Michelle discovered woods and streams that were filled with falcons, hawks, foxes, deer, bats and pollinators. All just steps from the busy Michigan Rd. Corridor. The Augusta Heights history afforded a large area along the Crooked Creek Stream, with a nature lovers back yard. Neighbors brought diversity with some owners settling in the wooded lots over 60 years ago and younger couples making this their first home. Children frequently rode their bikes in the quiet streets, explored the woods, and creek that was originally set aside for a city park but never developed.

Today, phase three is emerging in the Augusta neighborhood story. New homes on cleared land and fresh appeal are the plan. Apex Realty Group LLC and the newly formed Apex Augusta Heights will utilize the 1923 plat to complete Alliance Cooperatives planned neighborhood. The company purchased the parcels and three homes during a tax sale and was granted deeds for additional lots which stood vacant for years. Len Grabovsky, the principal for this project, said Arbor Homes will be the builder and Phase I will include approximately 60 new units. Phase II and III could bring over 300 addi-

tional units to include parcels built east of Walnut. This new cohesive neighborhood, with small lots, built around and enveloping older homes will give those seeking housing a good product. Apex spokesman said the newer units will benefit from new roads, city services and underground utilities. In 2020, the approval of the century old plat, signaled an end to the wooded retreat some residents loved. Many of these residents have moved out, sold property or are preparing to move. Apex has the challenge of building around these existing homes, while addressing the nuances of merging old and new construction plans with current zoning including narrow lots, narrow streets, shorter setbacks, reduced utility easements and current environmental standards. Apex did seek exception for setbacks, street widths, utility easements and a few lot adjustments to allow for a creek easement on the south side of the development, with the clearing of lots occurring in 2021. Apex representatives told community members the new neighborhood would fill a need for housing, and be a good product. "House prices will start around \$220K," said Bruce Sklare, who is managing the properties, "with lot sizes at a tenth of an acre, most two-story and marketed to younger families, with some ranch houses for older individuals." This new section of Augusta will have a development density similar to other editions within walking distance of 79th. The required sidewalks along Michigan Road's east side near the development will serve a much needed addition for area residents who use this route for work and shopping. The community is looking forward to upgrading green space, parks (approved and listed on the 1923 plat) and sidewalks along Michigan Rd. Upgraded to get safely to local amenities.



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Job Ready Indy to Move Curriculum Online, Expand Access

Nassif Kouton, Mayors Neighborhood Advocate in Pike Township

To increase access for all Marion County residents regardless of age or experience level, Job Ready Indy (JRI) launched its curriculum online on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. The online Job Ready Indy curriculum, an employability skills badging system, expands the scope beyond the original in-person programming.

Job Ready Indy was developed in collaboration with Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett's office, EmployIndy, the Indy Chamber, and various employers and community organizations from across Marion County. Since its launch in 2018, JRI has served over 3,100 participants through employability skills curriculum, intensive in-person discussions, and comprehensive enrichment activities.

"The expansion of the Job Ready Indy curriculum to an online format will allow all Marion County residents, not just young people, the opportunity to utilize this critical resource," said Mayor Hogsett. "By increasing the number of residents equipped with fundamental skills to enter the workforce, we're boosting the talent pool for employers and growing our local economy."

Participants can earn each of the 6 JRI badges, learn new skills, and enhance their overall career competency through online interactive courses on EmployIndy's Learning Hub. Participants can engage with the JRI courses on their own or through a trained JRI Provider. The badge courses are accessed through a personalized login and can be completed on a computer or mobile device at the individual's desired pace. Badges are digitally awarded and automatically displayed on participants' Learning Hub profile or Project Indy profile (if applicable). They can also be downloaded as a transcript and added to participants'

professional portfolio, listed on their resume, or shared directly with employers.

This expanded version also includes updated skills within each of the six badges, aligning with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) own shift in employability skills definitions.

"No matter how much workplace experience a person may have, the expanded online curriculum helps build and enhance durable competencies needed to take their career to the next level," said EmployIndy President & CEO, Angela Carr Klitzsch, "Employers can continue to hire Job Ready Indy participants with confidence, knowing that they have the foundational employability skills needed for today's workplace."

Additionally, EmployIndy has developed optional, in-person one-on-one or small group activities for JRI providers to lead participants in. These supplemental activities dive deeper into the online content of each badge, promoting relationship-building and allowing providers to give hands-on support to each participant.

About EmployIndy: EmployIndy guides the local workforce ecosystem and makes strategic investments to remove barriers to quality employment for underserved and underrepresented residents. Our vision is for all Marion County residents to have access to services and training necessary to secure a livable wage and grow in a career that meets employer demand for talent. As the workforce development board for Marion County, guided by 24 business, civic, education and nonprofit community leaders, EmployIndy invests \$25 million in public, private and philanthropic funds for both youth and adults annually. Learn more at employindy.org.



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Tina Moe, CPA, CGMA

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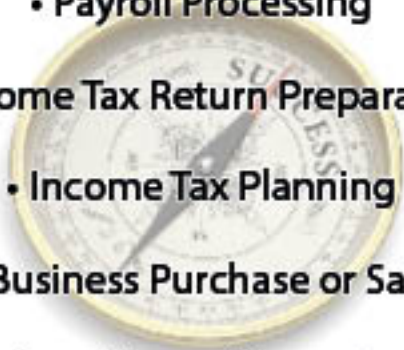
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The next meeting is:

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Pike Township Government Center, 5665 Lafayette Rd.

The following meeting is:

www.ptra.net

May 11th, 2022, 7:00 PM

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IMPD Officers Honored

RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES

By IMPD

On Saturday, October 2, 2021 IMPD Officers Teusch, Pierce, and Smith were dispatched to a person stabbed investigation. The officers arrived on scene within seconds of receiving the call. This fast response set the officers up for the spectacular events that followed.

When officers arrived at the scene they located a male who had been stabbed several times in his chest, side, and back. Officer Teusch and Officer Pierce secured the scene and immediately started rendering aid to the victim while also locating witnesses. Officer Teusch gathered suspect information and provided that information over the radio to assisting officers. Officer Smith quickly located the suspect approximately a block away from the crime scene. Officers Smith and Pierce were able to take the suspect into custody without further incident. The victim was transported to Methodist Hospital in critical condition. It should be noted that once the victim arrived at the hospital his condition was upgraded to stable which was credited to the rapid response and aid rendered by the above officers.

The teamwork and professionalism displayed by Officers Teusch, Pierce, and Smith was exemplary and proven to be lifesaving. Their efforts also resulted in the apprehension of an aggravated assault suspect. For this reason, these officers were awarded the IMPD Northwest District October Officer of the Month Award.

In November of 2021 IMPD Northwest District late shift Officer Joshua Trefl was approached by a



church member asking if he could use a dozen turkeys for Thanksgiving. Officer Trefl gladly accepted the turkeys and contacted IMPD Northwest District's Community Resource Unit for assistance with handing them out.

Officer Ryan Deakin volunteered to spearhead the task of getting the turkeys distributed in the community. Officer Deakin visited four local schools and advised the staff about the turkeys the Community Resource Unit had available for families in need. All four schools instantly knew about families that could use some holiday cheer and assistance. During Officer Deakin's visit at the schools he heard about several

hardships these families were experiencing. These families were living in temporary housing due to their homes catching on fire, one of the families was greatly affected by mental illness, and multiple families were experiencing the loss of a job.

Officer Deakin took the initiative and additional measures to help these families. He acquired \$50 Walmart gift cards that were given to each family along with a turkey. The schools were extremely excited with the assistance and opportunity to participate. Officer Trefl worked with Officer Deakin during his time off and helped deliver the items to the schools. The schools involved were George Washington Carver school 87, Lew Wallace school 107, Jonathan Jennings school 109, and Indianapolis Elementary school 96. While delivering the turkeys and gift cards to the schools, each principal and school staff member had a heartfelt story about the families that would be receiving these items. Officer Deakin handed out twelve turkeys and fourteen \$50 Walmart gift cards valued at \$700.00.

The combined effort of these two officers displayed their commitment to go above and beyond to provide assistance to the community in which they serve and protect. Therefore, Officer Ryan Deakin and Officer Joshua Trefl were awarded with the Northwest District's Community Service Award for the 4th Quarter of 2021.



Notes from your Councilor/s

MONTHLY INPUT FROM PIKE TOWNSHIP CITY COUNTY COUNCILORS ON ISSUES IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY. THIS MONTH, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILOR LEROY ROBINSON

By Leroy Robinson, City County Councilor, District 1

I am honored to be a part of the Pike Pulse publication, as a means to connect and communicate with the wonderful residents of Pike Township. As a life-long Pike Township resident, who has successfully graduated three children from Pike High School, I am honored to call Pike Township my forever home. From working as a Government and US History teacher at Pike High School, to being a School Administrator at Lincoln Middle School, the health, wealth, and vibrancy of our Pike Township schools is of the upmost importance to me and my family.



With this first introduction of "Notes From Your Councilor," I am soliciting ideas and areas of interest from YOU, the residents of Pike Township. Please email or call me directly with any topic ideas or areas within city government that you would like to learn more about. I will also respond to a "Question of the Month" in the column, along with elaborating on the areas that are important to you. City government is a very complex enterprise and I will use this space to help you better understand how the enterprise works and how we best can serve you. I look forward to this journey and hope to hear from you all in the coming weeks.

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An Update from the PTFD

NEW YEAR! SAME GREAT DEPARTMENT! COME GET TO KNOW US!

By PTFD

Pike Township Fire Department is a fully career department covering 44 square miles of the northwest side of the City of Indianapolis. Pike Township Fire Department consists of five stations. Station 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, and their Headquarters. The Headquarters and Station 61 are a shared location.

PTFD employs 175 Professional Firefighters and Medics supporting a Township of 80,000+. PTFD is an "all hazards" department, utilizing five ALS

Engines, two Ladders, Support Staff, and two boats, in addition to operating four transporting ALS ambulances. In 2021, Pike Fire responded to over 14,000 incidents.

As of 2017, Pike Fire achieved ISO Class one rating. Pike is the first department in the state of Indiana to achieve this status. The rating took effect on November 1st, 2017.

Pike Fire's vision is to foster an environment of pride, tradition, and service through belief in and application of our core values by every member of the department. Those core values are Professionalism, Integrity, Kinetic Leadership, and Enthusiasm.

Station locations:

- Station 61 and Headquarters: 4881 W 71st st
- Station 62: 7002 Lafayette Road
- Station 63: 4009 W 86th Street
- Station 64: 4750 W 52nd Street
- Station 65: 7221 W 46th Street

For non-emergencies call 317-347-5860 to guide you to any division within the fire department such as:

-Fire Prevention, Support Services ,
Emergency Operations, HR, Community
Risk Reduction (Public Education), EMS,
Training and Incident Safety

Fire Prevention hotline: 317-821-7453(PIKE)

**For emergencies please
remember to call 911**



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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Neighbor Power Returns for 11th Year to Celebrate Indy's Resilient Neighborhoods and Neighbors

SERIES OF NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS WILL FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD IN THE NEW NORMAL; SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR

By Lara Beck

The Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) announced today that registration is now open for Neighbor Power Indy, which is free and open to the public.

In its 11th year, Neighbor Power

features interactive resident-led workshops, neighborhood storytelling and recognition. The 2022 theme is Celebrating our Resilient Neighborhoods – Moving Forward to the New Normal. Citizens Energy Group is the presenting sponsor.

Neighbor Power will feature a hybrid format of in-person and virtual events this year, beginning on March 1 and culminating in a virtual session on March 12. Approximately 400 neighborhood and community leaders and activists are expected to participate.

INRC is also seeking nominations for several awards that will be presented during Neighbor Power. The first group of awards are Connecting Community, Building Local Economy and Inspiring Places. These awards honor those who have accomplished high-quality neighborhood work that represents diverse geography and quality of life concerns. Applicants must demonstrate how

the projects and those involved exemplify leadership, collaboration and vision. Award recipients will receive a monetary donation to their organization. To apply, visit the awards page or inrc.org.

The second group of awards are the Greatrarch and the Rising Leader. The Greatrarch is defined as a neighbor who has helped write the story of the neighborhood, while a Rising Leader is an actively engaged neighbor who is relied on for their advocacy, organization and neighborhood impact. To apply, visit inrc.org.

"Neighbor Power Indy has become a leading event for neighborhood activists, community leaders, elected officials, businesses and non-profits, in that we collaborate on real issues and develop real solutions at the grassroots level," said Anne-Marie Taylor, executive director of INRC. "We are grateful to our sponsors and partners for their support, and look forward to celebrating our resiliency, while learning how we can collectively move forward as a community."

Neighbor Power Indy is presented by INRC, with support from its sponsors. In addition to Citizens Energy Group, sponsors include the City of Indianapolis, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Indianapolis Resource Center (INRC), through facilitation, training and coaching, strengthens the capacity of neighborhood-based organization and neighbors to mobilize existing assets, support grassroots leadership and foster collaboration. INRC was established in 1993 as a private, non-profit organization.



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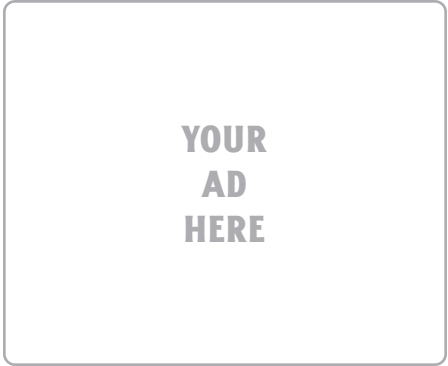
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By Global Gifts

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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

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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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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.

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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.

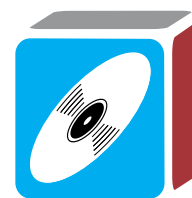
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