



## Installation Dinner Celebrates Mardi Gras... With a Local Twist!

by Elliot Bibat

On Friday, February 9th, the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Installation Dinner at Dynasty Banquets. The theme of this year's dinner is **Mardi Gras**, with a local twist! The tagline: *"We don't hide crazy, we parade it down 119th Street!"*



Doors will open at 6pm with cocktail hour to follow. Then at 7pm, the dinner and awards will begin. Awards will be given out to the **Educator of the Year**, the **Public Servant of the Year**, and the recipient of the **Carl A. Binhammer Award**, which honors a citizen of Whiting-Robertsdale who goes above and beyond to serve their community. There will also be **Longevity Awards** for businesses and establishments who are celebrating milestone years of service to the community. And of course, the 2024 Board of Directors and Officers will ceremoniously be installed into their roles for 2024.

We are looking forward to a great party with wonderful items and getaways available for auction and raffle. Live entertainment will be provided by **Alex Akers**, with some fun surprises for our guests! Not sure what to wear? Think big and bold! Mardi Gras colors and sequins are good places to start!

Thank you to all of our guests and sponsors for their support of this wacky event! For questions about the Installation Dinner or other Chamber events, please call 219-659-0292 or send an email to [wrchamber@wrchamber.com](mailto:wrchamber@wrchamber.com).

## Parade, Photos, and Peeps... Oh My!

by Elliot Bibat

The annual **Whiting Easter Parade** will be held on **Saturday, March 23rd at 2pm**. Photos with the **Easter Bunny** will be available in the morning before the parade, details will be announced in next month's issue. Following the Easter Parade will be our annual **Bonnet Contest!** The age categories include Kindergarten and Younger, Elementary, Middle School, High School, and Adults! (There is also a Dog Category for our furry friends to enter!)



Don't forget, now is a good time to start brainstorming on ideas for our yearly **Peeps Project Contest!** You know the drill! Create a clever diorama using the beloved Easter marshmallows as feature characters. The deadline to submit for the contest is **March 15th!** If you have a group that wishes to participate in the Easter Parade, or if you wish to participate in either contest, contact the Chamber at 219-659-0292.

## Pierogi Drop Rings in 2024

by Andy Dybel

On New Year's Eve, **Whiting Knights of Columbus** welcomed in 2024 by presenting the eighth annual **Pierogi Drop**. The Whiting-Hammond Pierogi Drop was recently named the **4th Best New Year's Eve Drop in America** by **USA Today**. This year's drop featured the lowering of a brand new, 10-foot illuminated Pierogi from a new, permanent 50-foot flagpole. **ABC-7** broadcast the event live with hosts **Kenzie** and **Roman** while **ESPN 1000** host **John Jurkovic** was the Eastern European Celebrity Countdown Emcee. An estimate of **1,500** revelers celebrated the New Year by enjoying a party inside Knights of Columbus Hall and then lining Atchison Avenue and 119th Street for a midnight viewing of the Pierogi Drop and fireworks display that followed. Special thanks go out to **Dyer Construction** for making the new flagpole and Pierogi a reality.



## Fish Fries at St. John the Baptist

Bring your family to our fabulous **Fish Fries on Fridays during Lent** beginning on **February 16th** and continuing through **March 22nd** in the **St. John Panel Room**. Dine in or carry out. Stay for the entertainment and cash bar. Doors open at **4pm** and close at **8pm**.



Options include **lake perch, shrimp, cod, walleye, pike, baked potato, pierogi, salad (with relish bar), bread and butter, and dessert**. The salad bar features the Panel Room's famous salad dressing as well as a variety of cold relishes. **Cheese pizza** and **mac and cheese** will be available as non-meat options. Do you want to help? **SJB** is looking for volunteers to cook, serve, set up and clean up.

Cost of a ticket ranges from **\$13 - \$16** depending on options selected. Cash or check only. Proceeds will help fund the replacement of the school's heating system.

Raffle tickets will be sold through Lent. Drawing will be held on **March 22nd**. Come join the fun! Questions? Please call the **Rectory** at 219-659-0023, ext. 106 during regular business hours.

## Whiting Elks 2023 Hoop Shoot Contest Winners

by Jim Muratori



On Saturday, December 23, 2023, **Whiting Elks Lodge #1273** had its annual **Hoop Shoot Free Throw shooting contest** at **Whiting Varsity Gym**. The winners pictured above will advance to the District shoot on **January 13, 2024**, in **Plymouth, Indiana**. The winners, shown from left to right, are:

**Alexia Furto**: 12-13 girls division  
**Iker Munoz**: 8-9 boys division  
**Jaden Walker**: 12-13 boys division  
**Tavery Morris**: 10-11 girls division  
**Mila Casillas**: 8-9 girls division

Not pictured: **Anthony Albores**: 10-11 boys division.

## Marian Theatre Guild Auditions for 'Birthday Candles' Feb. 19th & 20th

The **Marian Theatre Guild** will be holding auditions for their spring production of **"Birthday Candles"** on **Monday, February 19th**, and **Tuesday, February 20th** from **7-9 pm**. "Birthday Candles" was written by Noah Hidle and tells the story of Ernestine Ashworth, a teenage girl who spends her 17th birthday agonizing over her insignificance in the universe. The play then takes the audience through her 18th, 40th, 70th, and 101st birthdays, through the high, low, and even extraordinary moments of one woman's ordinary life.



"Birthday Candles" will be directed by **Morgan McCabe**. The show runs the last two weekends of April: **Saturday, April 20th** and **27th at 7:30pm**, and **Sunday, April 21st** and **28th at 3pm**. Those auditioning will be asked to read from cuttings of the script, sides will be provided. Actors are also encouraged to bring a headshot and resume. Presenting a 90 second monologue is also optional. Be prepared to list any conflicts with rehearsal and show dates. For additional info, contact **Marty Dybel** at (219) 659-2782.



**Now Also Available Online!** [wrchamber.com/newspaper](http://wrchamber.com/newspaper)



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## Quote of the Month

*"For small creatures as we the vastness is bearable only through love."*  
- Carl Sagan

The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the **City of Whiting**, the **City of Hammond**, and **Notre Dame Federal Credit Union** for their generous support of *The WRite Stuff* newspaper.

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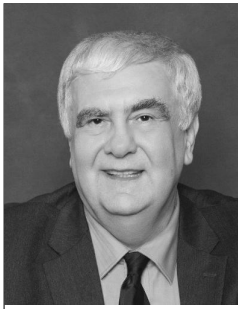
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WR Chamber of Commerce  
wrchamber@wrchamber.com  
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### WRite Stuff Editor

Elliot Bibat  
writestuff@wrchamber.com  
219-659-0292

Credits & Editorial Info



## A Letter from the Mayor

by Mayor Steve Spebar, Whiting

As I write this article, we are experiencing our first significant snow system of the season. Hopefully the remaining weeks of winter will be kind to us and we can experience an early spring.

I was honored to spend part of Christmas Day with the cadets from Great Lakes Naval Station. The **Elks Club** graciously invites the cadets annually for Christmas meals and socializing. Members of the Elks donate their cell phones for the day so the cadets can interact with their families. Our thanks and prayers go out to the cadets for their service to our country. The City of Whiting thanks the Elks Club for their being able to host the cadets and their generosity in doing so. As Mayor, I am proud to say such an event occurs in the City of Whiting.

The City of Whiting was recently able to obtain an MS4 waiver from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. I cannot overstate the importance of this waiver. Let me explain – the State of Indiana has changed their guidelines for communities concerning storm water separation from wastewater. Currently and since the City's inception, Whiting has had a combined sewer system. Under the new state guidelines the City would be forced over a period of years to separate the system. This would entail tearing up every street in the city and separating the catch basin sewer lines from the mains that handle the sewage from homes and businesses. Then an additional main would have to be installed just for storm water. Finally all of those new mains would have to connect throughout the city and eventually flow to our Detention Basin. Millions upon millions of dollars would have to be spent to make this possible. The City, with the help of a consultant, petitioned the state for a waiver of this requirement based on our population, the history of our sanitary system and the fact that we do not treat (process) any stormwater/wastewater. That is done by the City of Hammond for the City of Whiting. The State came out to view our Detention Basin and we provided detailed drawings of our current system of sewer mains and catch basin locations throughout the City. This process and decision has taken many months, but it was worth the wait. I hope this explanation helps you understand why this waiver is so important. My thanks to Operations Manager **Mike Hrinyo**, who was the City's point person in this process.

My congratulations to the **Knights of Columbus** and **Andy Dybel** for another successful Pierogi Drop on New Year's Eve. The Pierogi Drop was voted in the top ten (I believe fourth) in New Year's Eve events throughout the country. Quite an accomplishment! A permanent flagpole was installed in St. John's parking lot for the drop and daily displays our country's colors. What an excellent idea!

About the time you are reading this (February 1st) the City's Events Director **Sarah Creel** will be representing Whiting in Columbus, Ohio. Why, you might ask? Recently **White Castle** reached out to inform us they had made a unique decision. In their Hall of Fame (yes, they have one) White Castle previously had only inducted locations. White Castle has now decided to induct their first community in their Hall of Fame – The City of Whiting, Indiana! What an honor! White Castle relayed to us their decision was based on the rich history their business has had in Whiting and the amount of community involvement and pride we have in White Castle. This is another unique honor we can be proud of. The ceremony is in Columbus, Ohio (corporate headquarters in addition to their Hall of Fame). The City of Whiting will be well represented by Ms. Creel. Just to give you an idea of how important this event is to White Castle, Ms. Creel's airfare and lodging are being paid for by the company. My thanks to Sarah for representing the City, to White Castle for this distinction, and most of all to our residents for impressing upon the company how much White Castle means to our community.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!

I can be reached at [mayorsteve@whitingindiana.com](mailto:mayorsteve@whitingindiana.com)

Till next month,

Mayor  
*Steve Spebar*



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The Whiting Robertsdale Catholic Community Invites You to  
**SHOW UP FOR JESUS!**

This Lent, consider how you can make the upcoming forty days a time of true conversion that lasts well beyond Easter!

**Alpha registration**

SJB Church office 219-659-0023  
[www.stjohnbap.org/alpha](http://www.stjohnbap.org/alpha)

**Lenten Fish Fries**

St. John Panel Room  
 Fridays, Feb. 16, 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 4-8 pm

**Ash Wednesday Masses February 14**

SJB 7:00 & 8:30 am, 7:00 pm

**Daily Morning Masses**

SJB –M-F, Rosary 6:25 am, Mass 7:00 am  
 Divine Mercy Chaplet SJB 7:30am  
 Tuesdays - 8:30 am School Mass

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm – St. Adalbert  
 Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 am - St. John

**Confessions**

Daily after 7:00 am mass,  
 Saturdays, 3:00 pm SJB Centennial Room, Back of church  
**Communal Penance Service SJB** Tues. Mar. 26, 7:00 pm

**Stations of the Cross ~ weekly**

SA, Sun. 1:00 pm; SJB, Tues. 1:00 pm; SJB Fri. 7:00 pm



**Easter Triduum, March 28, 29, 30**

Morning Prayer ~ SJB 7:00 am

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ SJB 7:00 pm

Good Friday, Interdenominational Prayer Service

Pentecostal Church of God, 12 noon

Good Friday ~ Solemn Liturgy ~ SA, 3:00 pm

Student led Living Stations of the Cross, SJB, 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, Easter Basket Blessing, SJB, 2:00 pm

Easter Vigil ~ SJB, 8:00p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ SJB, Masses at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, 3:00 pm SA

# Worship

## & Music

### Lenten Reflections Concert Series

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
 119thSt. & Lincoln Avenue, Whiting  
 Sundays 2/18-3/17, 4:00 pm  
*All concerts are free,  
 a free-will offering will be taken up.  
 Parking aplenty!*

Sponsored by the



1235-119<sup>th</sup> St., Whiting, IN 46394 (219) 659-4400

[churchpsrishopoffice@stjohnbap.org](mailto:churchpsrishopoffice@stjohnbap.org)

[www.stjohnbap.org](http://www.stjohnbap.org) 219 659-0023

St. Adalbert's (SA)  
 1340 121stSt., Whiting, Indiana



February 18<sup>th</sup>

Tres Belles



February 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Adam G &  
 Friends**



March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Michigan City  
 Festival Orchestra  
 Chamber Ensemble



March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Whiting Park  
 Festival Orchestra  
 Chamber Ensemble



W/ Soprano  
 Sharon  
 Quattrin



March 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Tajci

## Upcoming Events at Whiting Public Library

by Tony Borgo

### Yoga Inside the Library

This winter the Whiting Public Library will be offering yoga classes in the meeting room **Saturday mornings at 10am**. Join instructor **Rita Paloma** for this free program. Please bring your own yoga mat or towel.



### Real Reels

The Whiting Public Library continues to show critically acclaimed documentaries throughout the year. This month's titles are: ***Won't You Be My Neighbor* - February 1st, *Bloody Nose Empty Pockets* - February 15th, *The Saint of Second Chances* - February 22nd, and *Kedi* - February 29th**. Showings are at **2:30pm**.

### Create Your Own Vision Board - February 17th at 2pm

Join **Michele Johnson** on **Saturday, February 17th at 2pm** at the Whiting Public Library as she explains the fundamental design concepts in creating your own vision board. A vision board is a collage of images, pictures, and affirmations of one's dreams and desires, designed to serve as a source of inspiration and motivation. You must register for this free program by calling **219-659-0269 x125** or emailing [tony@whiting.lib.in.us](mailto:tony@whiting.lib.in.us).

### Spoon River Anthology - February 24th at 2pm

**Paddy and Jon Lynn** will be at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, February 24th at 2pm** to present a one-hour performance of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River*. This anthology is a classic portrait of life and death in early Illinois. This fresh interpretation reveals the joys, sorrows, and secrets of *Spoon River's* unforgettable characters in story and song.

### Crayon Jewelry - March 2nd at 2pm

Learn how to turn crayons into beautiful artistic jewelry. This melted crayon project will be held at the Whiting Public Library on **Saturday, March 2nd at 2pm**. Space is limited for this free adult program. Please call the Whiting Public Library at **219-659-0269 x125** or email Tony at [tony@whiting.lib.in.us](mailto:tony@whiting.lib.in.us) to reserve your spot.

## Whiting Fire Dept. Announces Participation with the Home Fire Campaign

by Don Harbin, Fire Chief

The **Whiting Fire Department** is proud to announce its participation in the **Home Fire Campaign** launched by the **American Red Cross**, which aims to prevent fire-related deaths and injuries while making the homes in our community safer. The Home Fire Campaign consists of the installation of 10-year life lithium battery smoke alarms and providing residents with home fire safety information, including how to create an escape plan. The goal of the Whiting Fire Department and the American Red Cross is to provide these items free of charge to all Whiting residents who request this service.

The American Red Cross phone number to begin the process is **1-888-684-1441**. Once the initial call is made the resident will then receive a call back with a scheduled installation date and time to be completed by the Whiting Fire Department. Due to limited installation dates, the Home Fire Campaign will be rolled out to the city on a block-by-block basis, with eventually the entire City of Whiting having an opportunity to participate in the program. Businesses or large-scale property managed buildings are not eligible to participate in the program.

This program is currently open for enrollment to any residents on **Fischrupp Avenue, John Street, Fred Street, 121st Street, Steiber Street, and Schrage Avenue**. Residents will be notified when their street is available to schedule the service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Whiting Fire Department at **219-659-1069**.

## Whiting Elks News

by Mike Borgetti



During the season of Lent, the Elks will be having **Fish Fries** beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 14th** and continuing **every Friday from February 16th through March 29th**. The menu will include your choice of lake perch, walleye, or shrimp along with the sides. You may also choose to select combos with two or all three of the main entrees.

The **Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest** is currently in progress. Our local Elks Hoop Shoot Contest was held on December 23rd, 2023 at the Whiting Gym. Winners in the Boys and Girls categories were invited to compete in the District Hoop Shoot held January 13th in South Bend. The winners from the District Contest progress to the State Contest, Regional Contest, and finally the **National Contest** held in **Chicago at Wintrust Arena on April 18th-21st, 2024**. Good luck to all our participants!

Our Student of the Month Dinner for third and fifth graders, their teachers, and families will be announced later in the month.

## Fur-tastic February Fun at the Mascot Hall of Fame

by Valarie Reyes, MHOF Special Event Coordinator

Get ready to kick off February with a burst of laughter, whimsy, and free-spirited fun at the Mascot Hall of Fame! This month's lineup promises something for everyone, from Free Day Fridays to Storytime Adventures and a special treat for our 21-and-over crowd.



The **first Friday of every month** just got a whole lot brighter, thanks to our friends at **Notre Dame Federal Credit Union**. Enjoy **Free Day Fridays**, where families and friends can explore the wonders of mascot history and enjoy interactive exhibits – absolutely free!

Thanks to the generosity of **Deb and Al Spajer**, the Mascot Hall of Fame is proud to bring back **Homeschool Hangout** on the **second Friday of every month**. For \$5 per person, participants gain access to the museum for the entire day, including the various activities, scheduled in morning (10am - 12pm) and afternoon (12pm - 2pm) sessions. During each session, children are treated to a small snack ensuring that energy levels remain high resulting in a perfect blend of fun and learning, along with fostering socialization among children and parents.

"Deb and Al Spajer's support allows us to enhance a space where home-schoolers can continue to come together, share experiences, and enjoy the unique blend of education and entertainment that the Mascot Hall of Fame has to offer. Along with our free Wi-Fi and parking and equipped with a concession stand it's a great place for children to be able to get out of the house and learn in another environment," says **Valarie Reyes**, the ambassador for the program.

Looking forward to an afternoon of reading and giggles, our Storytime Adventures, brought to you by **United Way Northwest Indiana**, has been captivating the imaginations of children and parents alike. On **February 10th**, dive into the heartwarming world of "**Happy Valentine's Day, Little Critter**." This includes a special meet and greet, craft, and activity to pique your child's interest in reading all included with general admission.


For the 21-and-over crowd seeking a night out, don't miss **Laughs by the Lake** on **Saturday, February 17th**. It's the perfect blend of comedy and camaraderie, making for a great date night or a belated Valentine's celebration. Let the comedians tickle your funny bone and create memories that will have you smiling long after the laughter subsides.

But wait, there's more! The Mascot Hall of Fame will be open on Monday, February 19th, for President's Day. Dive into the world of mascots while celebrating the leaders who have shaped our nation – a quirky twist on a traditional holiday outing.

### Follow Us for More Fun!

Stay in the loop with all our exciting events and updates by following us on social media. Whether you're planning a family outing, a date night, or just want to stay informed about mascot shenanigans, we have you covered!

February at the Mascot Hall of Fame is set to be a month of laughter, love, and learning – because when Team Reggy is involved, every day is a celebration!

<b>Lisa A. Kmak</b>		
Attorney at Law		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wills</li><li>• Probate</li><li>• Estates</li><li>• Trusts</li><li>• Power of Attorney</li></ul>		1022 - 119th Street Whiting, IN 46394 219-659-1355 Fax: 219-655-4001 KmakLAK2@aol.com



## LOCAL VIEW

by Tom Dabertin

### Communications?

With some hullabaloo and verbose claims of success and some fanfare, the US Postal Service in December proclaimed its ability to deliver mail and packages to 98 percent of the nation's population in less than three days. In fact, approximately 59 percent of mail and packages are delivered a day in advance of the specified service standard, and approximately 96 percent of all mail and packages are delivered within a day of its specified service standard. Well, Whiting-Robertsdale must be in the other 2 percent because mail delivery has never been worse.

Let me be clear, I am not faulting the men and women who deliver our mail. On the contrary, they are overworked, and if someone calls off, they have to cover for each other. So, after walking miles a day, they have to work overtime to cover other routes if another carrier calls off. On top of that, some are not permanent employees but instead temporary workers who largely are being taken advantage of by being told to work hard to demonstrate their ability to get a permanent job which doesn't materialize.

No, my problem with the Postal Service is the time it takes to get a letter delivered to me and to someone else. Here are some examples of late. In October, I sent out about three dozen invitations for a November gathering, all to people living in 46394. Mailed from inside the post office, 2

invitations were delivered in 14 days' time; 1 of those recipients lives only a block from the post office. But it gets worse: 2 never got the invitations at all. In November, I mailed a letter to Downtown Chicago, and it took 9 days to get there. My Visa card bill showed up 3 weeks late to Carol Stream IL, even though I put it in the outgoing slot inside the post office. I truly believe that had I opened the door and let the wind blow the mail down the street, it would have gotten there about the same time. And, I am not alone, as I hear lots and lots of complaints and frustrations over mail delivery, and if the numbers promoted by the Postal Service are correct, then all the problems must occur in 46394, except that there are plenty of complaints about mail service all over Northwest Indiana and the Chicago area. I wonder if its time to consider reimplementing the Pony Express?

Of course, the postal service is no longer the most common way of communicating. We primarily use electronic means, with a heavy reliance on using social media to reach larger groups, and there lies the problem. Social media allows anyone to post anything, even though those comments are permanent. So, while social media makes it easier to say what you want since you don't have to face the person(s) you are saying it to, or wait for the message to be delivered. The failsafe was supposed to be that since your opinion/comments were permanent, it would cause people to refrain from posting false information. Unfortunately, the fear that others would find out that your posts were false and therefore you become embarrassed, hasn't caused folks from worrying about letting facts stand in the way of what they say even when they know it is false.

If you followed the two referendums this past fall in regard to school funding in both Whiting and Hammond, there were some strong opinions voiced, but there were also some falsehoods, especially when posters on Facebook blamed the two mayors for the referendums. To be clear, referendums for schools are not orchestrated, led by, or planned by the mayors of Whiting or Hammond. Yet, there were plenty of postings blaming the mayors for the need for the referendums, or for not doing enough to get them passed. Even though the mayors have no say about the schools by law, the mayors were blamed by both sides of the issue.

It isn't just the school referendums where a lot of falsehoods were posted. When many of us lost power in December, many took to social media and concocted all sorts of false claims, such as accidents that didn't take place, downed poles, or even once again blaming local government for the outage. While I was as mad as anyone else, the real story for the outage was some nitwit releasing a mylar balloon that caused a couple of wires to arc at a substation. Yet, when the NWI Times posted the real cause and location of the outage, some folks continued to take to social media and concoct stories that just weren't true, and continued to claim all sorts of inaccuracies.

Author Fran Lebowitz is credited with the quote to: "think before you speak," but her advice has fallen on the deaf ears of many, especially as it relates to social media. I guess it should be no surprise that a few years ago, many on social media were promoting a claim that Ernest Hemmingway came up with the quote even though he did not. So much for facts.

### American Legion Posts

by Harry P. Triplett

Well, the New Year rolled in on a warm train. Hope it will be a good one to all. The Post lost a couple of members, one being **Jerome Progar**, a good legionnaire, and **Leonard Wegrzyn**, one of our S.A.L.'s. Both will be missed. We also had our flag etiquette and education, three schools participated and the winners were **Zuri Clayton** and **True Higgs** from Nathan Hale. Thanks to the teachers and schools. Congratulations!

Our Polish Dinner was great, thanks to all who enjoyed it. Our next big event will be our **Super Bowl Party** on **February 11th** from **4pm to 11pm** and the **drawing at halftime for the TV Raffle**. Then our savory **Chili Cook Off** will be on **February 25th** from **2pm to 5pm**. Bring yours in for the contest. On **March 7th** from **4pm to 7pm** we will have our tantalizing, steaming **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**. Come in and enjoy a night out. Our **Fish Fry** will take place on **March 29th** from **4pm to 7pm**. We catch them and fry them for a golden, flaky dinner.

Let's keep our veterans and first responders in our prayers.

*"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."* - Milton Berle

### Landmark Preservation Tops at Historical Society Meeting

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko

Ever wonder why some buildings or areas are marked as historic and some are not? Now is your chance to learn all about requirements and historic places. If you have questions about our own community, **Blake Swihart** from Indiana Landmarks will be on hand to answer them.

Blake will join us as our guest speaker at the **Thursday, February 22nd** Historical Society Meeting at **noon**. The meeting is open to everyone and is held at the new Whiting-Robertsdale History Museum, located at **1606 - 119th Street**.



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## Meet our Members

### Whiting Family YMCA

by Elliot Bibat

For this month's Meet Our Members, we'll be taking a look at the exciting new changes happening at the Whiting Family YMCA. On December 23, 2023, The Whiting Family YMCA held a ribbon cutting and grand re-opening ceremony after closing their doors for two weeks. The closure was due to renovations that were designed to expand the space of the YMCA's frequently used gym.

Two different sets of walls were torn down to create new spaces for the gym: one being the Wellness Floor, and the other being the space that houses the Y's new computerized EGYM equipment. The Wellness Floor, carpeted with artificial grass, occupies the far side of the gym where the Group Exercise Room used to be and further extends the weight area. The new EGYM equipment was placed near the front of the gym where there used to be the Kids' Room, which is now located upstairs.



**Vanessa Hernandez-Orange**, the Whiting YMCA's executive director, said that the renovations to the gym were made to meet the needs of a large portion of their members who needed more space to perform their workout routines.

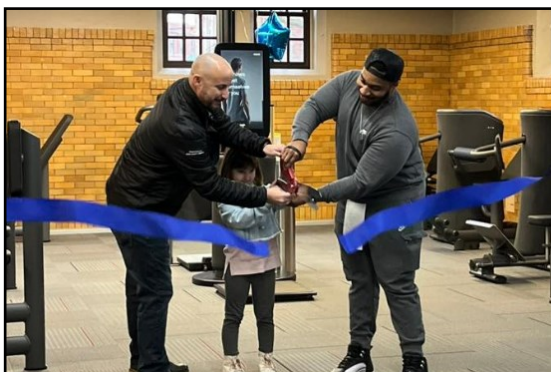
"We have a big group of members who come in who needed more space for their exercise, so

we really pushed for the Wellness Floor. That was the main reason for the closure," Vanessa said, "We ended up knocking down some walls in the back which used to be our Group Exercise Room where we held activities like yoga and Zumba. That was all knocked down and we made a bigger space."

In addition to the Wellness Floor, Vanessa was also excited to talk about the Y's new EGYM equipment, a variety of exercise machines that can personalize your training using state of the art computer technology to focus on workouts that will best help members reach their fitness goals.

"The EGYM equipment coaches you using a computer," Vanessa said, "So you have your own personalized wristband and the equipment personalizes your workouts. To begin with, you'll do a fitness test to see what your strengths are and what is needed to meet your fitness goals. Whether you want to lose weight or just get toned, the equipment can show you how to do that. We have 11 rotation spots and one big hub to test your abilities and your strength."

Vanessa also explained that the area which once housed the pool is still being worked on and will eventually become a new functional training space with new equipment. The renovation of that space is anticipated to end in early February. The Kids' Room is now located upstairs, where staff keep the young ones engaged with activities while their parents work out downstairs.



Moving forward, one of the main focuses of the Whiting Family YMCA is finding ways to encourage more involvement from the youth in the community. The Y's STEAM room is also getting some upgrades and will provide programming with a different focus each week with science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Also part of the Y's winter and spring youth programming are Arts Studio 101, a series of art and design projects to enhance skills, and Purposeful Play, a sensory-safe, nurturing, and fun environment for younger children with a variety of activities that allow independent or organized group play.

The Whiting Family YMCA is open 4:45am-10pm Mondays through Fridays, 6:30am-7pm on Saturdays, and 12pm-7pm on Sundays, and is located at 1938 Clark Street in Whiting. For more information on their youth and adult programming, visit <https://crymca.org/locations/whiting-family-ymca>.



## 125 Years of Global Catholicism at the Service of the Local Community by Fr. Andrew Summerson

Fresh off the dock of the Hammond Marina where we blessed Lake Michigan, I come bearing good news: St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary of praising God and serving neighbors in the Whiting-Robertsdale Community. We have two sets of dates for our foundation. Our cornerstone reports

1898 and our incorporation documents say 1899, so we celebrate both years. We began with our feast day, the Dormition (Assumption) of Mary, August 15, 2023, and will continue with programming and festivities leading up to our jubilee celebration, August 25, 2024. I will be keeping you informed with the gracious help of the *WRite Stuff* through this monthly column.



St. Mary's newly installed Marian prayer garden featuring an icon painted on stone by Fr. Thomas Loya.

We began the year by placing ourselves under the protection of the Mother of God. The tradition of Byzantine iconography has many depictions of Mary, but one that has taken root in the life of the parish is the icon of the Mother of God, Searcher for the Lost. Last October, we dedicated one corner of our property to a new Marian prayer garden, featuring the Mother of God, Searcher for the Lost painted on stone. Surrounding her are flowers all connected to Mary in some way. Come by and take a look what helps to beautify the southern entrance to the City from Indianapolis Boulevard.

On **April 13th**, we will celebrate our past and plan for our future with our inaugural **Searcher for the Lost Gala** at the **Lost Marsh**. You won't want to miss an evening to gather and hear about how we are making sure our strong past paves the way for a vibrant future in Whiting-Robertsdale.

One way we are celebrating is with our **Lenten Mission, March 2nd-3rd**. **Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchik** is a Basilian sister, the same order that taught at our school. She is going to be talking about the Mother of God, Searcher for the Lost, according to the Byzantine Catholic tradition, an event open to all.

Byzantine Catholics are one of the 24 Eastern Catholic churches united with the Pope of Rome. We are rare and constitute less than one percent of the 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide. But we are a consequential one percent. Look at where the world is unstable right now: Gaza, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Lebanon— Eastern Catholics constitute the majority of the Catholics who suffer and persevere in that region, and who offer crucial health, education, and social services in those areas.

Catholic means "universal." Ever since we have opened our doors 125 years ago, we have given that universal experience of Catholicism to the local community. Our origins are Slovak, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Romanian, but today we embrace along with those ethnicities, Mexicans, Italians, Germans, and Arabs. There will be plenty of opportunities to learn about the story of St. Mary's, which is a part of Whiting's story, yesterday and today, and will be long into the future.

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## CCSJ Community Open House and *Easter Bunny Bingo* by Brian Lowry

Calumet College of St. Joseph will hold a **Community Open House** on **Wednesday, February 21st at 6pm** in the **Bernard Art Gallery**. The event will showcase exciting changes around the College, share plans for the campus, solicit feedback and offer small group tours of the facilities. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

CCSJ will also host a production of *Easter Bunny Bingo: Jesus, Resurrection & Peeps!*, featuring the cast of *Late Nite Catechism*, on **Saturday, February 24th at 8pm**. The production is an Easter-themed interactive comedy play. The premise is that Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, is here tonight to raise money while playing bingo and talking about Easter traditions, why Easter is never on the same day, the history of no-meat Fridays, why we either love or hate Peeps, Easter movies, and much more! Please join us for this wacky night of Easter trivia, audience participation and bingo!

Tickets are **\$25 (\$30 at the door)** and are available at **(219)-595-YES2** or **tomfooleryfunclub.com**.

Calumet College of St. Joseph is located at **2400 New York Avenue**.

## SJB Lenten Concert Series by Margaret Saliga

Everyone is invited to the free **Lenten concerts** at 4pm on **Sundays, February 18th and 25th through Sundays, March 3rd, 10th, and 17th** at **St. John Church, 119th St. and Lincoln Ave**. It has been said that music can heal the wounds which medicine cannot touch, that music brings us pleasure and releases our suffering, and that music is the universal language of mankind.

These concerts offer both classical and contemporary music for your inspiration and refreshment. Why not give yourself the gift of one hour each Lenten Sunday, surrounded by the interior beauty of St. John Church and the melodious sounds of well-trained musicians. As in the past your free will offering is appreciated

## Pulaski Park Senior Center - February Schedule

by Joyce Wagner

**Thursday, February 8** - Danyelle from the Hammond Public Library - craft project

**Monday, February 12** - St. Casimir Senior Group - 12 noon

**Thursday, February 15** - deadline to sign up and pay for the February 20 birthday luncheon; cost will be \$10.00.

**Tuesday, February 20** - Monthly birthday luncheon (11:00 am) and bingo (12 noon) - The price and menu will be \$10.00 - the menu has not been confirmed. No cancellations/no refunds; no carry-outs or walk-ins allowed. There has been a change concerning the monthly Birthday Party and Bingo. If you are going to attend just the Bingo, with dessert and coffee, it will be a \$5.00 donation. The Pulaski Park Senior Center operates through donations to the Center by active participants. Desserts will not be taken home. Desserts if left over, will be offered on Thursday, when the Senior Center is open. No carry out of food is permitted. Left-over food will be offered that following Thursday. Prize donations from the Dollar Tree and/or Family Dollar are always appreciated.

**Wednesday, February 28** - Lunch at a Hammond restaurant - 12 noon; location to be determined.

**Thursday, February 29** - HAPPY LEAP YEAR!

The Center is open on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** from **9am** to **3pm**. The Senior Center offers **exercises at 10:15am**, bunco, Uno, pinochle, puzzles, or just chatting with other seniors. We sometimes watch a movie. Please let other seniors know about the Center and invite them to come for a visit. If you haven't been to the Center in a while...stop by for coffee and conversation. The St. John Rosary Society will not meet in February; the next meeting is Monday, March 18.

If people wish to donate snacks, cases of water, paper products, etc. that are used at the Senior Center, please check with **Anna Mamala** or **Rosemary Wojdyla**. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Please note that **plastic bags will no longer be accepted at the Senior Center. Thank you.** If you are on Facebook, check out the Senior Center at Hammond's Pulaski Park Facebook page. Questions? Contact Anna Mamala at **mamalaa@gohammond.com**. Please do not contact Joyce with questions.

## FEBRUARY / MARCH CALENDAR

### On-Going Activities

**Tony's Trivia Night**  
6pm - Fourth Tuesday of month  
Whiting Library

**Sacred Heart Thrift Shop**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays - 10am to 1pm  
Sacred Heart School

**Yoga at the Library**  
Saturday mornings at 10am  
Begins Jan. 6th

**WR Historical Museum**  
1610 119th Street  
Open Sundays from Noon-4pm

**New Life Soup Fellowship**  
Every Tuesday, Noon-2pm  
October-April

**Pulaski Park Senior Center**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9am-3pm

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
*Friday Fish Fries 4-8pm*  
February 16th - March 29th  
*Alpha Tuesdays 6:15-8pm*  
February 6th -April 23rd

**Studio 659**  
Open Thursdays and Fridays 4-7pm  
Saturdays 10am-2pm  
*Kid's Painting Classes Wednesdays 4-5pm*  
Feb. 7, 21, 28  
*Adult Dance Classes Saturdays\**  
Feb 4, 11  
\*Latin dance Classes 3-4pm, Ballroom  
Classes 4:15-5:15pm

**Mascot Hall of Fame**  
Free Day FriYAY!  
First Friday of the Month, 10am-5pm  
Senior Center  
every Wednesday - 9am-3pm  
Exercise program at 10am

**46394 Food Pantry**  
1717 LaPorte Avenue (Sacred Heart)  
1st & 3rd Friday, 8:30am-2pm

**Faith Baptist Church**  
*Bible Study*  
Tuesdays at 5:30pm  
*Coat Room Donations*  
Tuesdays 9am - 1pm  
Wednesdays 9am-3pm

### COMING IN FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 Real Reels - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library
- Feb 2 Free Day FriYay! - 10am-5pm - Mascot Hall of Fame  
Eucharistic Adoration - 2pm-6pm - St. John the Baptist Church  
Grand Groundhog's Day Ball - 6-11pm - Whiting K of C Hall
- Feb 6 Writers Connect - 6:30pm-8pm - Whiting Public Library
- Feb 9 W/R Chamber Installation Dinner - 6pm - Dynasty Banquets
- Feb 10 Storytime Adventures ft. Lil Critter - 1pm - Mascot Hall of Fame
- Feb 12 St. Casimir Senior Group - 12pm - Pulaski Senior Center
- Feb 13 Mardi Gras - 5:30pm - Sacred Heart Church
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday - 7am & 8:30am / 7pm - St. John the Baptist  
Ash Wednesday - 8:30am (ENG)/6:30pm (SPAN) - Sacred Heart
- Feb 15 Real Reels - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library
- Feb 16 Stations of the Cross - 9am (ENG)/6:30pm (SPAN) - Sacred Heart  
Stations of the Cross - 7pm - St. John the Baptist Church
- Feb 17 Create Your Own Vision Board - 2pm - Whiting Public Library  
Laughs by the Lake - 6pm - Mascot Hall of Fame
- Feb 18 Stations of the Cross - 1pm - St. Adalbert Church
- Feb 19 Mascot Hall of Fame Open for Presidents' Day  
"Birthday Candles" Auditions - 7-9pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Feb 20 Monthly Birthday Luncheon - 11am - Pulaski Senior Center  
Writers Connect - 6:30pm-8pm - Whiting Public Library  
"Birthday Candles" Auditions - 7-9pm - Marian Theatre Guild
- Feb 21 Community Open House - 6pm - Calumet College of St. Joseph
- Feb 22 WR Historical Society Meeting - Noon - 1606 119th Street  
Real Reels - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library
- Feb 23 Stations of the Cross - 9am (ENG)/6:30pm (SPAN) - Sacred Heart  
Stations of the Cross - 7pm - St. John the Baptist Church
- Feb 24 *Spoon River Anthology* - 2pm - Whiting Public Library  
Easter Bunny Bingo - 8pm - Calumet College of St. Joseph
- Feb 25 Stations of the Cross - 1pm - St. Adalbert Church
- Feb 28 Lunch at Hammond Restaurant (TBD) - 12pm - Pulaski Seniors
- Feb 29 Real Reels - 2:30pm - Whiting Public Library

### COMING IN MARCH

- Mar 1 Stations of the Cross - 7pm - St. John the Baptist Church
- Mar 2 Crayon Jewelry - 2pm - Whiting Public Library
- Mar 3 Stations of the Cross - 1pm - St. Adalbert Church
- Mar 7 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner - 4pm-7pm - American Legion
- Mar 15 Deadline to Enter the Peeps Project Contest!
- Mar 23 Whiting Easter Parade - 2pm - Downtown Whiting

If you have an event or activity to list, please contact **writestuff@wrchamber.com** or call the Chamber at **219-659-0292**.

The MARCH edition of *The Write Stuff* will be delivered at the beginning of MARCH 2024.

**DEADLINE for the March edition is FRIDAY, February 9th, 2024**

Note, we **DO NOT** accept PDF's or flyers



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## KOCH'S CHOICE

by Al Koch

### Time to Ask



From 1955 to 1960, a favorite “must-watch” television program was *The Millionaire*. The 30-minute program told stories about the ways unexpected wealth changed one’s life for better or worse. An anonymous, fictional benefactor, John Beresford Tipton, would give one million tax free dollars to people he had never met.

As a 14-year-old high school sophomore, I was captivated by the program’s concept and made it a point to watch this show on our 17-inch black & white television console every Wednesday night at 8:00 pm on Channel 2.

In my most comfortable TV viewing position, I sprawled on the carpet an arm’s length in front of the console., (I didn’t like to move if I had to select another channel.) At that time there were four VHF choices: CBS 2, NBC 5, ABC 7, plus WGN 9, and I was a teenaged channel surfer.

I was mesmerized by *The Millionaire*. I could not imagine the sum of a million dollars. Occasionally I had a few coins in a pocket of my Levi’s, but rarely did I have “folding” money in my wallet. In our family, money was scarce. My Uncle Ray always told me, “Money talks!” That, I found out was true, because all my money ever said to me was “Goodbye!” I had to be resourceful and find ways to earn spending money.

When I was 10 years old, my main source of “income” was scrounging alley trash cans and vacant lots for soft drink bottles and wire coat hangers. Each glass deposit pop bottle was redeemable for 2 cents. Mr. Kinnane, a local dry-cleaner, paid a penny for two wire coat hangers. On rare occasions, I would find a large Canfield soda bottle redeemable for a nickel. I collected scrap newspapers and magazines, mowed lawns, shoveled snow, and did odd jobs that paid nickels, dimes, and an occasional quarter.

My first paying job, as a seventh grader, was working as a paper boy for the Whiting News Company, delivering afternoon editions to Cleveland Avenue residents, and collecting bills every other Friday. For my 6B Route, I earned \$5.90 per week. As a high school student, until I was 16, I collected scrap metal and old newspapers and magazines. Lake Iron & Metal Company in Hammond paid a penny-a-pound. For one ton of paper and scrap metal, I earned \$20.00.

When I turned 16 in January of 1957, I began work as a pin boy at the Whiting Community Center bowling alley. But in 1955, as a coming-of-age high school teenager, watching a TV show where strangers received a million dollars, was a magnet for my senses.

One evening, during the commercial break, my dad interrupted my adolescent monetary fantasy by

asking me a question. Watching so close to the TV, I was startled, unaware he was also watching *The Millionaire*. “What?” I asked only turning my head. My dad asked, “What would you rather have, a million dollars or a million friends?” Recalling parochial school strategies when responding to Sister’s question when I was unsure of the correct answer, I asked him, “Which would you choose?”

My Dad answered: “A million friends. Because if I was in need, I know each one would give me a dollar, and I would wind up having both a million friends and a million dollars.” All these years later, I still remember my dad’s counsel and insightful response. Why is the above-mentioned story of 1955 relevant to 2024? Because it is time to ask.

In September of 2023 the **Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society** moved into its new home at **1610 119th Street, Whiting, Indiana**. That location is also home to the History Center of Whiting-Robertsdale.

Working in concert with local volunteers and dedicated residents of the Whiting-Robertsdale communities, a facility has been provided to celebrate the present, past, and once-upon-a-time via displays, collections, exhibits, events, field trips, and monthly Historical Society meetings.

The officers and executive board members of the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society are working to meet the financial needs and monthly expenses of the History Center. Transitioning from our previous location at 1606 119th Street to the new facility is being made ready by officers, board members, City of Whiting Municipal employees, and community volunteers.

Although the History Center applied, qualified, and received a few small monetary grants from state and community organizations, it is in urgent need of monetary donations to adequately equip the facility with needed computers, office furniture, and meet monthly operating expenses such as utilities, insurance, maintenance, and ancillary costs. Through judicious budgeting, banking, and monetary policies, officers, and board members have nurtured early investments of the Historical Society and structured a solid foundation upon which to build, and financially strengthen the History Center.

The Historical Society and History Center of Whiting-Robertsdale needs donations to meet current needs and achieve the long-term goal of financial autonomy. Because everyone is a volunteer—Historical Society and History Center officers and executive board members—there are NO administrative costs. 100% of every monetary donation goes directly to benefit the History Center.

My gratitude to patrons of the *WRite Stuff* and readers of Koch’s Choice is beyond words, for their individual and collective acceptance and support. Please accept my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for providing the opportunity for me to share stories, memories, and moments, each month via the

*WRite Stuff*, for the past 24 years. I am humbled you read my words.

As mentioned, The Historical Society and History Center have moved into newly remodeled facilities at 1610 119th Street. This building offers additional room for Historical Society membership meetings, exhibits, displays, work areas, storage, office space, and visitor convenience.

This is where you, patrons and readers of the *WRite Stuff* and Koch’s Choice, come in:

To properly upgrade technical equipment, operate, and meet monthly expenses, there is a critical need for additional revenue. Tempered by life lessons learned growing up, I have always found it difficult to ask for donations for other causes. But setting aside that reluctance, as President of the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society and History Center, and because so many have been kind and supportive, I know this is the time for me to ask patrons and readers of the *WRite Stuff* and Koch’s Choice to help fund the History Center of Whiting-Robertsdale.

I’m asking each *WRite Stuff* patron, and Koch’s Choice reader to donate ten dollars, (\$10.00), to the History Center of Whiting-Robertsdale.

Please make your check payable to:

**W-R HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**1610 119th Street**  
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On the check’s memo line, add: WS/KC (Write Stuff /Koch’s Choice).

Or

Use the on-line PayPal. Here are the steps:

1. Go to Website: [www.w-rhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.w-rhistoricalsociety.com)
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6. Your Contribution
7. Continue
8. Payment
9. Pay with PayPal
10. Review

If a donation of \$10 is not possible, give what you can. After all these years, this writer remembers the young kid scrounging alleys and empty lots searching for pop bottles and wire hangers so he could go to the Saturday matinee at Whiting’s Capitol Theater. He remembers, too, collecting old newspapers and magazines, delivering afternoon dailies, setting pins, mowing lawns, shoveling snow, and the myriad of odd jobs that lessened youthful cashflow deficiencies.

Most of all, he cherishes the goodness, kindness, and generosity of neighbors and friends who helped him grow, learn, and live. And he treasures the parental wisdom his dad bestowed in answer to the question—“A million dollars or a million friends? Friends will always be there for you. They’ll help and do what they can.” Dad was right; I know this to be true. This is why it is time to ask.



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**Oiler Spills - School City of Whiting News**  
**February 2024** by Cynthia Scroggins, Superintendent

January 8th began the first day of the 2024 Indiana General Assembly in Indianapolis. Two key areas of focus for this legislative session that are relevant to schools are: third grade literacy and retention, as well as chronic absenteeism in schools. In Indiana, all 3rd grade students are required to take the IREAD-3 test each spring which measures a student's reading skills. As required by legislation, students who do not pass IREAD-3 are often retained in 3rd grade unless the student qualifies for a waiver. Based on current data collected by the state, Indiana has seen a decrease across the state in student literacy since 2015. Because of this decline in literacy scores, the legislators are looking at passing a bill to toughen the current policy making retention of students who do not pass IREAD-3 mandatory. Educators are watching this bill closely as it could affect thousands of students across the state. Public school leaders are advocating for the state to put more funding into preschool programs, and reading support and intervention programs in grade K-2nd to help increase students' achievement in reading rather than make retention of students who do not pass IREAD-3 in 3rd grade mandatory.

State legislators are also concerned with the increased amount of student absences being reported by schools across the state. Indiana requires a 180 day school year and by legislation, students are not allowed to miss more than 10% or 18 days of school in a school year. Since the pandemic, student attendance has declined and schools have few ways to try to address the issue with students and parents. Indiana's chronic absenteeism rate for the 22/23 school year was 19.3% meaning 1 out of 5 students missed at least 10% or more school days. This is 8% higher than before the pandemic. Rates are also highest among high school students in Indiana. Regular attendance is important for a student's success in school and helps students stay engaged in their learning, builds consistency, and helps them develop essential skills such as responsibility and accountability. When students are not in school, this results in lost instruction and gaps in their learning. It can be challenging for a student to keep up with their curriculum and earn credits towards graduation. Legislators are looking at toughening current laws on student attendance in order to address this issue with possible legal consequences for parents who do not send their children to school. Educators will be offering input to the legislators during the session on ways they can help schools address student attendance.

The School City of Whiting is proud to serve not only the students and families of the Whiting community, but also students and families from several surrounding communities. It is always our goal to keep our student enrollment stable to ensure adequate state funding for our educational programs. In light of the recent loss of our Operating Referendum on the November 2023 ballot in addition to increasing tax cap loss, the SCW will be looking to increase student enrollment for next school year with the addition of our nonresident students. The open enrollment for new nonresident students to the School City of Whiting for the 2024-2025 school year has begun. We currently have available spots in grades Kindergarten through 9th grade. Interested parents may pick up application packets for nonresident enrollment from February 1st-March 22nd at Central Office during regular business hours. All prospective new nonresident students must complete an enrollment packet and provide proof of Indiana residency. March 22nd will be the last day applications will be accepted. If the number of applications exceeds the number of available spots at each grade level a lottery will be conducted at the regular April school board meeting. Questions pertaining to nonresident enrollment can be answered by calling the central office at 219-659-0656. Parents can find additional information regarding the process by visiting the district website at <https://www.whiting.k12.in.us>.



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**WHITING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 1696**

## From the Litter Awareness and Reduction Committee

by Tom Markovich

The **Litter Awareness and Reduction Committee** (LARC) was formed last year to foster communications and be a catalyst for action on the community beautification front. Our first large scale effort involved teaming up with the **United Citizens Association**, the **Hammond Port Authority**, **Calumet College**, **Whiting High School**, **Franklin Elementary School**, and **St. John the Baptist Grade School** to bring collective efforts to bear on a community-wide Earth Day clean up. We made a difference, for sure, and learned a great deal in the process. We plan to do that again this year with even more participation from the community. The City of Whiting, under the leadership of **Father Jay Nuthulapati** from Sacred Heart Church, organized and hosted two community clean ups while the **Whiting Robertsdale Boat Club** hosted a Whihala Beach clean up. All of these activities brought awareness to the need for ongoing clean up of the community; they also brought out the best in all of us and left us with a sense of community pride. Teaming up with like-minded people to accomplish a worthy goal generates enthusiasm which, by itself, is a motivating force.

Now a new year has begun with a clean slate and fresh ideas. Beside the larger, inter-organization cooperative efforts, small scale, neighborhood-level activities should be explored. One idea brought up last year was an alley garden incentive and contest to bring awareness to an often overlooked area of neighborhood properties. Clean alleys can help stem the spread of litter from careless disposal practices by businesses and residents alike. Alley gardens are also inspirational and, dare I say, trendy. I saw an article in a magazine recently about an effort like this in Portland, Oregon. "We can and should be doing that here," I said. Some neighbors are already on board. A well-tended flower garden in the alley behind my mom's home drew positive comments from visitors who walked the alley during a recent Pierogi Fest. We watched and listened as they remarked about the beauty of the hibiscus, hollyhocks, and garlic growing in an area along the fence that otherwise would be weedy and unkempt. Inspiring others to view alleys not as ugly places in which to toss out trash, but as places where flowers, hardy native plants, and herbs can flourish is the goal. Beautifying otherwise ugly areas of most cities reflects well on the city and its residents and is a delight for bicyclists who often take the "road less traveled" to get a real sense of city neighborhoods. It makes Whiting and Robertsdale look good. Neatness counts and image is everything after all.

Do you have an idea you'd like to share? Please send them to [wrcamber@wrcamber.com](mailto:wrcamber@wrcamber.com) and put the word Litter in the subject line. Wishing all of you a joyful and healthy new year in a community with so much to offer.

## Blessed Candles

by Margaret Saliga

It has been a centuries old tradition of the Catholic Church to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Infant Jesus, 40 days after his birth (Lk 2:22). The **February 2nd** Feast has been referred to as Candlemas, and candles to be used in the homes of the faithful are blessed on that day.

Like the tradition of Blessing Homes, the tradition of burning blessed candles provides an opportunity for all the faithful to enter more fully into the universal prayer of the Church, as we rededicate our homes and our families to living in the "light of Christ."

Candles blessed on February 2nd will be available at St. John and St. Adalbert churches. Every family is encouraged to take a blessed candle home and use it in times of storm, strife, and calamity. With the Church's blessing the votive candle is meant to remind us of Christ's ever-present light, a beacon of hope whenever trouble lurks. An appropriate prayer, which may be prayed when the candle is lit is included with the candle.

## Throat Blessing

by Margaret Saliga

**Saturday, February 3rd** is the **Feast of St. Blaise**, a 4th century martyred bishop, who while in prison is credited with miraculously healing a young boy who was choking from a fish bone, lodged in his throat. Some say St. Blaise was a physician before becoming a bishop. During the Middle Ages devotion to St. Blaise grew in popularity as individuals asked his intercession for ailments of the throat. Thus, the tradition of blessing throats has endured through the ages.

Those attending the weekend Masses on Feb. 4th/5th at St. John and St. Adalbert churches will have the opportunity to have their throats blessed.

*"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may the Lord free you from evils of the throat and from any other evil."*

## Hammond Hermits Announces Open Registration for Baseball, Softball, & Tee-Ball

by Dennis Hensley



The **Hammond Hermits Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth** is taking registrations for **tee-ball**, **softball**, and **baseball** for all ages from **3 years old to high school**. Sign-ups are on **Saturdays from 11am to 2pm at Olympia Lanes**, located at **4150 Calumet Avenue**. Open residency for all players. The deadline to sign up is on **March 2nd**.

For more information, please call or text **219-588-8506** or **219-290-0708**. Direct message us on Facebook: Hammond Hermits.

## Celebrate February - Celebrate Love

by Margaret Saliga

As I write this article on Jan. 11th, we are being warned of an impending snow storm the likes of which we have not seen since the "heart attack snow storm" of 1987 during which 26 people died of heart attacks from shoveling snow. However, by the time you are reading the February issue of *The WRite Stuff*, I hope that the worst of snowfalls has passed and hearts are geared up for the "heart-warming" valentine month of love.

Spoiler alert: February 14th, Valentine's Day, falls on Ash Wednesday this year and our hearts may be pulled in opposing directions. Not to worry, though, because Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season are all about God's great love for mankind, whose fallen nature has been in need of God's merciful loving help forever.

The truth is that mankind already has been given and continues to be given all the help needed through Jesus our loving Savior's humble life, death, and resurrection and the loving concern of His followers.

On Ash Wednesday, the cross of ashes, imposed on willing foreheads, invites us to turn from sin and negative habits and recommit our lives to serving God and one another with love through our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We are encouraged to heartily enter into 40 Days of increased prayer, penance, and almsgiving as we stand in solidarity with our loving Lord and the entire Christian Community who seek to be renewed by God's love.

Within our Whiting/Robertsdale Community people in need are blest with a biweekly food outreach, thanks to the many individuals and organizations who contribute to the Whiting Food Pantry. Others enjoy a free weekly Tuesday lunch at New Life Christian Church. Similarly, our local St. Vincent De-Paul Society, through the generosity of many, assists hundreds who struggle to pay rent and utility bills. Daily almsgiving enables everyone to share their love.

During Lent many Whiting churches offer additional opportunities for prayer: see the February Community Calendar and various ads in *The WRite Stuff*. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church offers its annual five-week series of free Sunday "Lenten Concerts" meant to foster a deeper spirituality. Additional educational opportunities, like the Alpha Series, help participants grow in the knowledge and understanding of a relationship with Jesus.

Whether you participate in one or all of our Whiting/Robertsdale Community offerings, you have the opportunity to hear Jesus' call to look within and then reach out to others with a generous heart.

Prayer, Penance, Almsgiving — may our Whiting/Robertsdale Community be blest by an active and reflective Lent 2024 filled with God's love!



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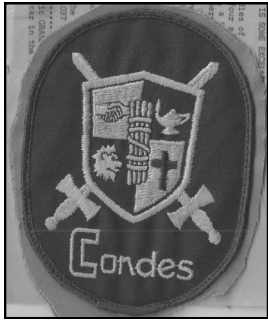
Your Path. Your Connection. Our Journey.

## The Condes Dynasty

by Gayle Faulkner Kosalko

### The Brothers Begin

Did you realize that besides Condes Restaurant and Condes Deli, that the Condes family also ran the Condes Drive-In, the Black Steer (which was a popular steak house) Condes Grocery Store, the Cozy Restaurant, a fruit market and Wow Wee over the years? And it all began when Demetrios Condes arrived from the little Grecian village of Yuta to Minneapolis where he made his living with a pushcart.



*The Condes Family Crest*

Another pushcart owner gave the young man some “friendly” advice and told Demetrios to use a particular word with his customers. Little did Demetrios know that it was a really disgusting swear word and using it resulted in his going to jail for a while.

In 1917 Demetrios’ uncle had a girl for him if he’d just pay her freight, which he did.

### Beginning of Family



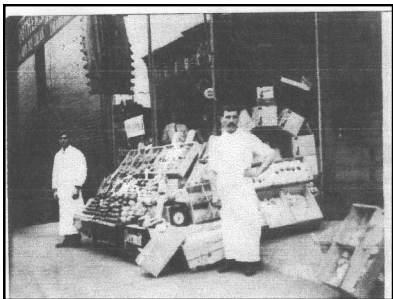
*The family: Marie, Chris, Chrisanthy, Georgia, Sam, Ethel Aphrodite, George, Pete, and Demetrios Condes.*

Demetrios brought over Marie Catasavas, sight unseen, to be his wife. She was only 17 and he was already 34.

The family story goes that when she arrived, Demetrios chased her around and around the dining room. He evidently caught her because nine months later their first son George was born. He would be followed by Ethel Aphrodite, Pete, Sam, Chrisanthy, Georgia, and Chris.

### First Business Founded

The family’s move to Whiting was the start of a restaurant and catering dynasty. In 1924 they opened a restaurant on 119th called the Cozy Restaurant. It was their first business, and it was a success... until it burned down. Next they opened a fresh fruit store where Whiting’s Junk Yard store now stands.



*Demetrios at one of his first stores.*

As a young boy, Pete would go to the Chicago fruit markets with his dad and learn from watching Demetrios deal with sellers. Demetrios taught his sons how to treat customers, an art that made all the brothers so successful.

### The Condes Grocery Store

Next, Demetrios opened a grocery store at 1116-119th run by Marie. Their four sons George, Pete, Sam and Chris grew up working in the store every day, for long hours. But that’s what families were expected to do.

Now one rule Demetrios insisted on was that his children not speak Greek to the customers. “They’ll think you’re talking about them,” he advised.

### The War

With the arrival of WWII, their three eldest, George, Pete and Sam, left to fight overseas. Youngest brother Chris was not old enough to join the service.

While her sons were in the service, the boys would send their service money back home. Marie would take the envelopes and push them down between the wooden steps in the basement. After the war they tore down the bottom steps and there was the money she had saved as “seed money.”

### The Drive-In

In 1950 Demetrios summoned his sons back to Whiting. He decided they would open a drive-in and work it together.

The drive-in was built at 1440 Indianapolis Blvd. in 1950, next door to Art’s Drive-in. The four boys would work on the Condes building and then take a break and get something to eat at Art’s!

### Condes Catering

Their first catering job was in 1953 at the Hammond Mason Lodge. Little did they realize that their catering would make them well known all over the Region.

Later they were the sole caterers for a number of places including Wicker Park, the White Sox, and the Region’s industries.

### The Black Steer

The Condes brothers bought the Black Steer Restaurant Cocktail Lounge in the 1950s. (1516 Indianapolis Blvd.) Their goal was sophisticated dining, and it was advertised as the “best steak house in town.” The key was that it had a liquor license.

### Condes Restaurant

With the success of the catering business, in 1960 Demetrios decided that Condes Drive-in should become a full restaurant with its own banquet hall.

Pete’s hobby was working with tools, and he worked very hard to build and remodel this new restaurant. They built everything right over the existing building and never closed the drive-in but for one day when they removed the old roof.

Sam was in charge of catering, Chris the Kitchen Manger, and Pete worked electricity and refrigeration. George became the lounge’s bartender with James Crist as its entertainment.

The new Condes Restaurant was an immediate hit, adding special “International Nights” such as German, or Italian and even a Circus Night.

One story that shows how close they were with their customers is that every Thanksgiving, when the restaurant itself was closed, people

brought their turkeys over to be put in the Condes’ Restaurant’s giant cooker. Sometimes there’d be as many as 60 turkeys being baked at the same time. All of this was without charge.

“Who else but the brothers would do something like that these days,” said Chris, Sam’s son.

### Memories

Their beloved father Demetrios (Papou) passed away in 1967. And in a tragic kitchen accident in 1977, Pete suffered burns on over 50% of his body. He soon retired and passed away also.



*The Condes Brothers*

The Condes Restaurant

closed in 1986. The brothers had an agreement that when a brother died, his wife would be given their share of the business’s worth. The first to die was Pete. Later George had a stroke. Chris and his wife ran the restaurant until it closed. The lot was later sold to the Mobile Station.

As father and head of the family, Demetrios designed a Condes family crest. On it are the lamp, the handshake, a cross and a lion. The meaning behind its symbols is the perfect example of what the family believed in and more importantly lived: friendship, unity, knowledge and Christianity.

(For the complete version of the Condes history, go to [wrhistoricalsociety.com](http://wrhistoricalsociety.com))

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# WINTER EMERGENCY WEATHER KIT

## Important Items to Carry in Your Vehicle Throughout the Winter

As we begin dealing with below freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall this winter, it is important to be prepared in case of a vehicle breakdown. Below is a list of items motorists are encouraged to carry in the event of an emergency situation:

### “THE NECESSARY NINE”

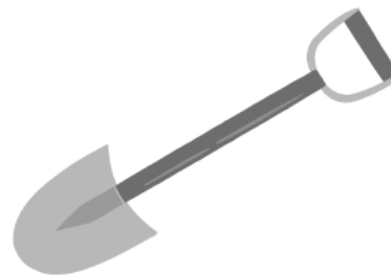
Source: Indiana Sheriff's Association

1. **First-Aid Kit:** sterile strips, antiseptic, gloves, gauze, tape, elastic bandages, cotton swabs/balls, tweezers, butterfly closure, splint, first-aid guide and any necessary medications
2. **Cell Phone:** charged, backup charger/battery, protective/water resistant case
3. **Windshield Scraper:** with a sturdy, good grip and brush at the non-blade end
4. **Thermal Blanket/Wrap:** waterproof, windproof, lightweight, and full-length. Blankets, sleeping bags, and throws help, but aren't substitutes for a waterproof wrap.
5. **At Least a Quarter Tank:** more fuel keeps you warmer longer (clear tailpipe and ventilate adequately)
6. **Flashlight and Fresh Batteries:** glow sticks, hand-crank flashlight, and a head-lamp help during first-aid and other rescue efforts
7. **Matches/Lighter:** paper or other fire-starting materials (use caution near a compromised vehicle and never start a fire in the vehicle)
8. **Snow Extraction Tools:** tire chains, grit (sand, salt, cat litter), expandable shovel, and cold-weather windshield fluid (helps melt ice under tires)
9. **Food and Drink:** high-energy bars or other stable food, edible in low temperatures. Energy drinks with electrolytes (lower freezing point), and water

Source: The Seattle Times



Jacket, Hat, Gloves, Boots with good tread



A small shovel to dig away snow from wheels



Bag of sand or non-clumping cat litter (can be spread under tires for traction on slippery surfaces)



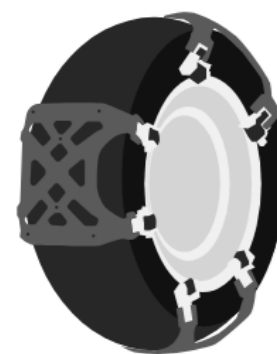
A cellular phone



A flashlight, batteries



First-aid kit



Tire chains of proper size



Ice scraper



Nonperishable food



Blanket or space blanket



# Interested becoming a member?

Your membership in the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce is an investment in the future of your business and community. From our many various networking opportunities, to helping you affordably market your business through social media and *The WRite Stuff* newspaper, the Chamber works hard to help your business flourish and prosper!

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For more information:

- Call us at 219-659-0292
- Email us at [wrchamber@wrchamber.com](mailto:wrchamber@wrchamber.com)
- Visit [wrchamber.com/become-a-member](http://wrchamber.com/become-a-member)



### St. John Panel Room

119th Street & Lincoln Avenue, Whiting

## Lenten Fish Fry



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A homeschool hangout day involves organizing various activities to encourage a blend of fun, learning, and socialization among both parents and children.



**PAWS Here!** by Nancy Sparano

We are ecstatic that two of our dogs went to a rescue and one was adopted! Sadly, not one of our long-term residents, but we're very happy anyway. Our cats Bruce Lee, Bubbles, Spooky, Goblin and Connor were adopted. Alaska and Glacier went to a rescue. Of course, we had more cats, kittens and dogs brought in and still have no room and we have cats and dogs waiting to come in. Every single day someone is trying to surrender an animal. It has never been this bad before. I've said this before, animals are NOT disposable.

We had a mastiff who was left behind when his owner moved. We transported this gentle giant to a Mastiff Rescue in Martinsville, IN. We try to use rescues whenever possible. Rescues take ownership and provide the medical care needed. They are placed in foster homes and the fosters work with them. Our vet bills are high and we need all the help we can get. Lola is a poodle mix who was matted to the skin. A foster failure took her to a groomer who wouldn't groom her due to how badly matted she was. Lynn's Doggie Spa stepped up as always and Lola looks so good now. Lynn is the best!

**Betty** – Betty, a tiny kitten was found on the street. Her eyes were so badly infected it looked like she didn't have eyes. She wouldn't have lasted much longer being outside in her condition. We cleaned her up, gave her fluids and in a matter of a few hours she was feeling better. She was adopted by a veterinarian who is spoiling her rotten.

**Nora and her babies** – Nora and her kittens were found by Grindhouse Coffee Shop. They were brought to the shelter in a box. I was told it was kittens and when I removed the cover to my surprise mom was in the box too. They are all underweight and we're working on fattening them up. Ma-ma is SO sweet. She climbed in my lap as soon as she jumped out of the box.

**Aaron & Priscilla** – they are in a foster home and are very sociable. That's the benefit of going into foster. They have someone giving them attention all the time. Their foster has done a wonderful job with these two siblings.

**Marco** – the new guy on the block. He wants attention so badly it makes us feel bad walking by his cage and not being able to pick him up every time. He was a hit at the clinic and one vet technician wanted to take him home, but her cat wouldn't allow it.

**Uno & Scrabble** – a bonded pair that got the short end of the stick when their family moved and couldn't take them with them. Another super social duo that doesn't understand why they're locked up in a cage after being in a home.

**Hawk** – Hawk has been here a long time and keeps getting overlooked. He's very smart and does great with the dog trainer. He loves playing in the yard with his toys. He would be an excellent exercise partner.

**Chaz** – Chaz is the opposite of Hawk. Chaz is a mellow dog who would be great for someone looking for a companion to watch tv with. Chaz is great walking on a leash. Big guy can't be a couch potato all the time.

**Kane** – He likes to push his bone under the gate so we can toss it back to him. He amuses himself and makes us laugh at his antics. A young happy-go-lucky dog who also walks well on a leash and loves to go for long walks. The shelter needs cat food (Fancy Feast and Friskies wet food, and Purina One dry food), clumping litter, unscented non clumping litter for kittens, dog food (Purina One wet & dry food), cat & dog treats, indestructible dog toys, cat toys, laundry detergent, bleach, Odoban, and paper towels.

We are scheduling appointments with an approved application. You can request an adoption application via Facebook – the Whiting Animal Shelter page, via email: [nsparano@whitingindiana.com](mailto:nsparano@whitingindiana.com), or leave a message on the answering machine – 219-473-4646.



**What is Alpha?**

By Margaret Saliga

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, informal environment. Gathering once a week over an eleven-week period, each Alpha brings together people from all walks of life.

Alpha Tuesdays begin February 6th through April 23rd, 6:15-8pm at the St. John Mural Room (lower level of St. John School) Registration begins January 7th.

**Good Food:** Like most good things, every Alpha starts with time shared at dinner. **Good Films:** A 30-minute Alpha film sparks good conversation while exploring the big issues of faith and unpacking the fundamentals of Christianity. **Good Discussions:** A valuable part of the Alpha experience is sharing your thoughts in friendly and supportive small group discussion.

Alpha is free, but registration is necessary! Call 219-659-0023 to register or email [churchparishhoffice@stjohnbap.org](mailto:churchparishhoffice@stjohnbap.org)



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## Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch, 11-3-22 to 1-11-24 by Bonnie Henry

**Lieutenant Jeff Allard - WPD: Recovered Vehicle**, 12-03-23, in the 1600 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers received an LPR hit of a stolen vehicle entering the city north on Indianapolis Blvd. from 129th. Officer located the vehicle near the entrance to the Horseshoe Casino and attempted to initiate a stop. Vehicle fled north into IL where it crashed and the driver was taken into custody for several charges. Passenger also had active arrest warrants. **Resisting Law Enforcement**, 12-05-23 in the 1100 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers observed vehicle commit several traffic violations and attempted to stop the vehicle. Vehicle refused to stop and led officers on a short pursuit into Walmart parking lot where it finally stopped. Officers attempted to take driver into custody but he resisted and had to be subdued with chemical spray. While en route to WPD, the arrestee had maneuvered out of his seatbelt and began to kick the transporting officer several times. Subject was ultimately transported to Lake County Jail on multiple charges. **Recovered Firearm**, 12-18-23 in the 200 block of Kelly Place, subject reported finding firearm under his vehicle. Officers responded and retrieved the firearm which came back stolen out of Iowa. **Battery w/Weapon**, 12-20-23 in the 1500 block of John. Officers responded to a report of a disturbance. On scene, officers spoke to victim who stated that a known subject had come to his residence and initiated a fight. At some point, the offender struck the victim in the head with a pair of brass knuckles causing a small laceration. Offender fled the area. Report was filed for charges. **Drug Offense**, 01-03-24 in the 1900 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Officers observed vehicle commit a traffic offense and initiated a traffic stop. Upon contacting the driver, officers detected a strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle. Upon searching the vehicle, a large amount of suspected marijuana was located along with a digital scale and packaging material. Driver was taken into custody for dealing in marijuana and transported to the Lake County Jail.

**Captain Tom Strabavy - HPD: Two Auto Thefts**, (1) 12-11-23 at 4:15pm. Horseshoe Casino, 777 Casino Center Dr. A white 2020 Honda CRV was taken. Victim stated a male only identified as "Adam" said he could help get her car fixed, the victim gave the male her keys. He then left

with the vehicle and never returned. (2) 01-09-24 at 1:30am, 121st Street \*Attempt Only\* Theft from vehicle. Victim stated someone tried to steal his 2017 Jeep SUV. During the course of the investigation, WPD located a possible suspect vehicle and gave chase. The chase was subsequently terminated. Once Hammond officers arrived and made contact with the vehicle owner it was learned that a wallet, keys to a local store, a social security and debit card and \$140 were taken from inside the vehicle. **One Burglary**, 01-09-24 at 4:15pm. 1300 Indianapolis Blvd. (Fireworks store). Approximately \$17,000 worth of fireworks stolen from shipping containers in the rear of the business, sometime between October 15 and date of report. **Three General Assignment Cases/Administrative Alerts**: (1) 12-27-23 at 11:50am at 1101 5th Ave. (Ross Dress For Less). Theft of purses. Complainant stated two B/M's entered the store, took a display rack of purses towards the store entrance, removed as many as they could hold, then fled the store in a 2017 Volvo with Illinois plates. Amount of purses was valued at over \$1,200. (2) 12-22-23. 5th Ave. (Walmart). Robbery occurred. One male and one female, unknown description, loaded a shopping cart full of items and proceeded to leave the store. When confronted by a store employee the female brandished a firearm and pointed it towards the employee. Off-duty PD officers were alerted and gave chase, but the suspects fled in a gray 2021 Kia with only a partial license plate observed. Stolen was approximately \$310 worth of items. (3) At 7:30am. 1100 55th Ave. At 3:35am. HPD officers assisted WPD with car pursuit that started in the 1400 block of Indianapolis Blvd. Pursuit was related to a disturbance call in Whiting. Both Hammond and Whiting officers terminated when chase crossed State Line Avenue.

**Harry Peterson - Whiting Code Enforcement**: Inspections Conducted 4, Violations Issued 5, OHAB Summons 1, Stop Work Orders 1.

Next Crime Watch meeting: **February 8th, 2024. Calumet College Room 200 at 6:30p.m.**

## Whiting Code Enforcement

by Harry Peterson, Code Enforcement Officer

Every year, generally in the fall/winter months we get multiple calls from residents around the city complaining about their neighbors feeding wild animals. There is an ordinance for this issue. **Ordinance 3-20 states that:**

**No person shall feed or put out food stuff of any kind for any non-domesticated animal within the Whiting city limits.**

**Non-domesticated animal includes, but is not limited to, any animal which meets the definition of wild animal in W.M.C. § 3-1, seagulls, pigeons, squirrels, geese, ducks, and other waterfowl.**

**This prohibition does not apply to the feeding of family pets or to bird feeders placed on private property.**

**This section shall be enforced by any duly authorized police officer of the city and/or animal control officer.**

Key words from above are bird feeder and private property. Feeding the birds is acceptable if the feeder is located on your property and in a feeder, not along the parkway in front of your house. The parkway is the land between the main sidewalk and the street. If you feed the birds, please use hanging feeders, do not place the seed directly on the ground as this attracts mice. Feeding wild animals is not allowed, even if the feeding takes place on private property. You cannot feed the squirrels, possums, raccoons, and all the other animals that come out to feed. Even when you feed stray cats and dogs you are attracting wild animals including coyotes that would normally not come into our neighborhoods to feed. Whiting is in a diverse area surrounded by industry along with lakes, prairies, and green space. We share this space with these animals so please let them forage for themselves. The kindness of our residents can sometimes have unintended consequences that put people and pets in harm's way by wild, predatory animals that are just doing what comes naturally to them, surviving. Thank you for your understanding.

## Eucharistic Adoration by Margret Saliga

Leave outside noise and hubbub and come to the quiet, candle lit space of St. John Church, a place to be still and know God's ever-present love. Rest in Jesus' embrace and know his abiding presence. Invite him to speak to your heart. Listen to Jesus' blessed assurance of his love and forgiveness. He is on the altar, longing for you to visit with Him.

Come as you are, stay as long as you are able on **Friday, February 2nd, 2pm-6pm.**

Be refreshed by this time of solitude with the Savior of the world. All are welcome.

### AJZ CARPET AND FURNITURE CLEANING

(219)-838-0418

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UPHOLSTERY CLEANING</li><li>• GUTTER CLEANING - \$85 MIN.</li><li>• AIR DUCTS</li><li>• SCOTCH GUARD</li><li>• STAIRS - \$2.00 EACH</li><li>• 5% SENIOR DISCOUNT</li><li>• TRUCK MOUNTED STEAM</li><li>• INSURED &amp; BONDED</li><li>• MOST FURNITURE MOVED</li><li>• \$60 MIN. FOR ALL SERVICES</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Each Room</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;"><b>\$29</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Includes pre/spot spraying and deodorizing up to 150 Sq Ft. per room \$60 minimum</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="text-align: center;">Sofa</td><td style="text-align: center;">Love Seat</td><td style="text-align: center;">Chair</td><td style="text-align: center;">Air Duct Cleaning</td></tr><tr><td style="text-align: center;"><b>\$55</b></td><td style="text-align: center;"><b>\$50</b></td><td style="text-align: center;"><b>\$25-\$30</b></td><td style="text-align: center;"><b>\$149</b></td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: center;">Includes pre/spot &amp; deodorizing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OVER 25 YRS EXPERIENCE</b></p>	Sofa	Love Seat	Chair	Air Duct Cleaning	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$25-\$30</b>	<b>\$149</b>
Sofa	Love Seat	Chair	Air Duct Cleaning						
<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$25-\$30</b>	<b>\$149</b>						

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