

# The Hometown Treasure

January 2022 • Vol. 23 Num. 1



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# Teacher of the Month

## Mrs. VonGunten

The teacher we chose for teacher of the month is Mrs. VonGunten, also known as Mrs. V. She is the 8th and 9th grade English Language Arts teacher for Westview Jr-Sr High School. Mrs. V's hobbies include spending time with her family by going to the beach as much as they can and helping with the Westview theatre program when she can. She says her favorite part of being a teacher is helping kids discover their skills and interests and that "everyone is uniquely talented, and there is so much value in recognizing and celebrating those gifts!" Some advice she gives to students is not to be afraid to ask questions, make connections,

explore your interests, and find your type of people. Put in the effort, and it will be worth it!

Ever wonder what may have made Mrs. V want to be a teacher? We found out that she had a few good teachers to show her the difference it can make when you have a real passion for what you do and when you invest in the students.

We asked students what their favorite thing about Mrs. V is, and the most popular answer was that people love how she actually cares about you, and she teaches at everyone's level. Students like that

she is patient with each person and takes the time to explain everything well. Some students also mentioned that they like how she lets them listen to music during work time and how she does not make students talk if they are not comfortable or do not want to. Here are some direct quotes from Mrs. VonGunten's students: "I love that she cares about us;" "She is very understanding of mess-ups;" "I like that she will take time to talk to you if you are struggling with things at home or school." In conclusion, it is clear how much students love Mrs. V, how much she cares, and the level of impact she has while teaching students at Westview.



Twitter: @wvcorp



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wvcorp](http://www.facebook.com/wvcorp)

Westview School Corporation Administrative Offices  
1545 S 600 W, Topeka, IN 46571  
260.768.4404 | [eashy@westview.k12.in.us](mailto:eashy@westview.k12.in.us)

“The greatest thing we can do is to let people know they are loved.”  
—Fred Rogers



Mrs. VonGunten in high school

Mrs. VonGunten with her husband and daughter



*The information in this article and design of this layout was collected and created by Melanie Flores and Lilly Bontrager, both freshmen enrolled in Westview's Principles of Digital Design class.*





## The Hometown Treasure

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e-mail: [news@lagwana.com](mailto:news@lagwana.com)

You may call or stop by during office hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Discounts available for print-ready artwork and/or for running in multiple issues.

Call or email for a complete media kit.

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

### — ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for February 2022 Issue:

**12 noon, Tuesday, January 18**

Thursday, January 13 if you need a proof.

**February Issue Date is Tuesday, January 25**

Discounts for ads running more than once.

Call for details! **260-463-4901**

Or email [htads@lagwana.com](mailto:htads@lagwana.com)

### — SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

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The Hometown Treasure reserves the right to not print any submitted advertisement or press release. Refunds for errors on advertising shall be limited to the amount paid for the first insertion for such advertising.



## Principal's Dozen

WJHS - November 2021

*Back Row (left to right):* Janae Lehman, Nora Schlabach, Kara Beechy, Janell Lambricht, and Dayna Wanamaker. *Front:* Shawn Raber, Jenna Miller, Jane Bontrager, and Gloria Miller. *Not Pictured:* Boe Helmuth, and Duaa Saleh.

*Photo Submitted*

Westview Junior High School recognized the above students during the month of November 2021 for their efforts in academics, hard work in class, caring, leadership, citizenship, athletics, or random acts of kindness to others. **i**

We've been searching high and low for a Customer Service Representative

# MAYBE IT'S YOU!

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*This is a full-time position. Candidates should be able to type and have knowledge of computer use.*




# Student Ambassadors

WHS - November 2021

*Left to right:* Bohdy Bontrager, Andrew Byler, and Jennifer Osorio-Luna.

*Photo Submitted*

Westview High School has selected three students to receive Student Ambassador of the Month honors for November 2021. These outstanding students were selected by their teachers for doing a noteworthy accomplishment, a generous act, displaying great improvements or having an outstanding individual achievement. Students like these make Westview a great place to attend! 



*Cover Photo by Abby Wenger*

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# Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

## Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_!

I think I need a stronger kitchen mixer. I pretty much only use it when I am incapable of kneading something by hand, but I frequently overestimate

how much dough I can knead by hand. More than once, my husband has come downstairs in the morning to find me already elbow-deep in bread dough. By that point, though, my stubbornness has kicked in, and I am unwilling to admit defeat to a lump of flour, water, and yeast, no matter how hefty it may be. The one dough I use it for is not a quiet experience. The poor mixer sounds like it is gasping out its last breath every time I set it up with that deliciously fluffy combination of Brioche and Hokkaido milk bread. **!**



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Solution on page 18

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# Healthy Healthy

by Brenda Yoder, LMHC, Advocate for Elijah Haven, Speaker, Writer & Life Coach

## Best, Not Busy

The holiday season is over. You are either breathing because it has been too busy, or you are gearing up for another busy season before spring comes, trying to get a few things done before summer.

Living for next. Living in busy. When does it ever end?

A phrase has been on my mind lately—best, not busy.

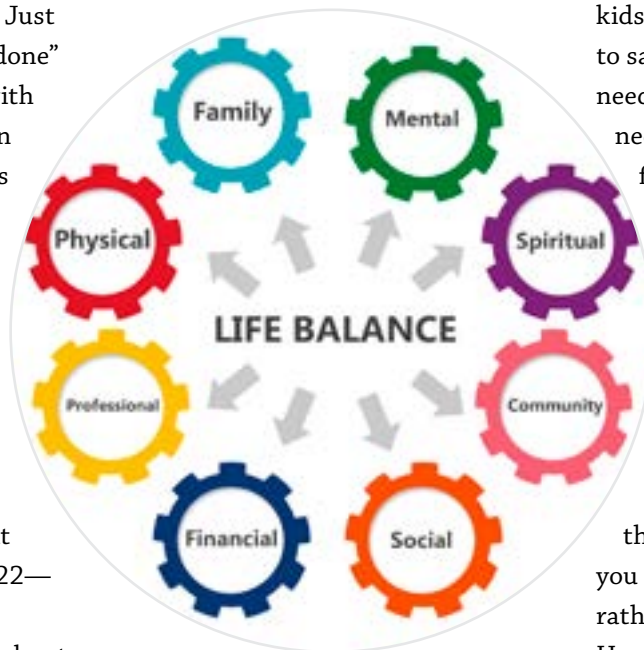
Busyness does not go away. Just when you think one season is “done” being busy, your time is filled with other things. Kids grow up, then work takes over, then grandkids come, and then there are doctor appointments.

Busy, busy, busy.

Instead of trying to rectify busyness, focus on perspective and priorities. Concentrate on what is best, rather than busyness. With a new year starting, what would it look like if you lived this for 2022—best rather than busy.

- Make conscious decisions about what is the best use of your time.
- Putting certain things off because now is not the best time to do it, purchase it, or commit to it.
- Focusing your best effort on the things you are involved in, paring down your commitments, so you are doing a few things well, rather than many things half-heartedly.
- Giving your best in relationships with those most important to you.

- Seeking God’s best for your situation rather than what is less-than-His-best.
- Refusing mediocre relationships and receiving the best treatment you deserve.
- Reject unnecessary busyness so that your days are filled with the best, most meaningful things.




What is “best” is different for all of us. However, healthy, life-giving, and meaningful moments are what most of us long for. How can you build meaningful priorities into your life for 2022?

One way is to assess the area of your life that seems out of control. What about the situation is draining to you? What would you like to see

changed? Though you may not control everything about the situation, look at what you can change. It may just be an attitude or a commitment to make something a different priority. Find what you can alter to make the situation better, then do it.

Another way to change priorities is to cut out unnecessary busyness for your life stage. If you have young kids, there may be things you have to say “no” to now because your kids need a less-busy schedule, or they need one of their parents home more for consistency and stability. If your kids are older, what can you delegate to them, so your load is lightened? Basic household chores or responsibilities can be shared among the family to diminish busyness and stress.

Finally, consider the role social media and technology add to the busyness trap in your home. Do you spend spare time on social media rather than face-to-face relationships? Has busyness with the least important clouded your perspective of “best?”

There will never be a perfect balance between best and busyness, but planning can make all the difference. How can you find more “best” moments in 2022? 

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- Kids Club Birthdays**
- 1 Amy Hershberger, Colten Simmons, Ethan Yoder
  - 2 Adrian Bontrager, Seth Slabach, Nicole Troyer, Aislynn Wanamaker
  - 3 Betty Halferty, Addison Hershberger, Lucas Hershberger, Kara Miller, Ivory Sprunger, Merrill Warrener
  - 4 Olivia Everage, Kari Miller, Kirsten Miller
  - 5 Farrah Blankenship, Aaron Riehl, Adrian Riehl
  - 7 Lucy Alwine, Lucas Yoder
  - 8 Isaiah Bontrager, Elijah Flores, Brandon Miller, Izaak Musser
  - 9 Adam Frey, Gage Miller, Hannah Troyer, Joel Yoder
  - 10 Rahaf Aldawshan, Elliott Chupp, Damon Lambright, Vada Miller
  - 11 Azriel Lehman, Katy Miller, Lacey Ramey, Easton Workman, Kameron Yoder
  - 12 Kenlyn Lambright, William Yoder
  - 13 Roarke Brohm, Kaleb Cupp, David Hilty, Bayli Smith
  - 14 Victoria Halderman
  - 15 Tyson Bontrager, Larion Mullet, Braelynn Neff, Karter Spillers, Reagan Wilson
  - 16 Brian Bontrager, Braylin Leonard

*Birthdays for children in the area up through sixth grade may be submitted free of charge. Suggestion: Send in your complete list a year at a time. Hometown Treasure, Kids' Birthday List, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565*



# January

- 17 Janice Miller, Mariah Miller
- 18 Grant Bontrager, Janae Frey, Alexis Lambright, Jacob McAninch, John Neal
- 19 Abrar Saleh
- 20 Josiah Lambright, Heidi Lehman, Eric Yoder
- 21 Lachelle Bontrager, Kyla Miller, Elijah Watts, Caleb Wingard, Jeneva Yoder
- 22 Mallory Antal, Kimber Helmuth, Justin Miller
- 23 Justin Bontrager, Ellisyann Hamm, Steven Miller, Natalie Stutzman, Dominique Troyer
- 24 Kailen Myers, Shawn Schmucker, Estelle Zabona
- 25 Alayna Miller, Micah Miller
- 26 Deric Fry, Luke Tormanen
- 27 Lilly Miller, Ava Mishler, Hannah Riehl
- 28 Kari Kurtz, Ryan Miller, Alexandria Sweet, Amber Yoder
- 29 Drew Bontrager, Aydon Eudy, Madalyn Everage, Silaimaan Fadil, Alayah Hankins, Kyleigh Schwartz, Averie Stutzman
- 30 Julian Flores, Kristen Chupp, Elijah Wingard, Emily Yoder
- 31 Breanna Garrett




## Memorable Moments in Topeka History

By Harold Gingerich

Photos Submitted

The theme for the Topeka Area Historical Society's January meeting will be Memorable Moments in Topeka History. The program will include a PowerPoint presentation with over seventy slides and dozens of vintage photographs. The meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, January 18, 2022, in the Topeka Branch Library Community Room, beginning at 6:30 pm. There is no charge to attend the meeting, and the public is invited to attend.

"Topeka has such an amazing history," says Harold Gingerich, Topeka Area Historical Society president. "We have so many pictures from the past, including ones of the 1910 state championship football team and the railroad

viaduct being constructed in 1913. I have also discovered old newsreel footage of Bryan Price (THS Class of 1908) being sworn in as the director of the World War II Office of Censorship, plus we have home movies of the 1958 fatal train crash on State Road 5. I think people are going to enjoy taking a walk back in time." 



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# LaGrange County Library

## Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444  
T - F • 11:00 am—5:00 pm  
Saturday • 9:00 am—12 pm

## LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841  
M - Th • 10:00 am—6:00 pm  
Friday • 10:00 am—5:00 pm  
Saturday • 9 am—12 pm

## Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030  
T - F • 11:00 am—5:00 pm  
Saturday • 9:00 am—12:00 pm

### Below are the events planned for January 2022.

All activities are **In-Person** unless noted. If you have any questions, please call the LaGrange library at 260-463-2841 for further information.

All Branches of the Library will be closed on Friday, December 31, and January 1 in the observance of New Years Day.

## Youth Department

### Winter Reading Challenge (Ages 5-18, Grades K-12)

All Locations • Challenge continues through Saturday, February 26, 2022  
Pick up a reading log from any LaGrange Co. library to participate.

Keep track of minutes read, earn charms, and receive entries for a drawing for several grand prizes!

### Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5)

LaGrange • Tuesdays, January 4, 11, 18, and 25 • 10:30 am

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, January 4, 11, 18, and 25 • 1 pm

Topeka • Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 11 am

Theme: Learning the Alphabet

Registration is appreciated but is not required.

### New Activity Bags out for Pick-up (While supplies last)

All Locations • Monday, January 10

### Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, January 10 • 4 pm

Theme: Board Games

Limited Registration.

**MUST** register by January 7 so we can set up the correct number of game boards.

### Home School Group (All ages welcome)

Shipshewana • Wednesday, January 12 • 1 pm

LaGrange • Friday, January 14 • 10 am

Topeka • Friday, January 14 • 1 pm

Blending nutrition and exercise—learn about healthy eating and exercise and make a smoothie with a smoothie bike! Special guest Miss Brittany will be back for this session!

**MUST** call the LaGrange library (260-463-2841) by January 7 to register.

### Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-5)

LaGrange • Tuesday, January 18 • 4 pm

Reading: *The Boxcar Children*

Discuss the book and do a fun activity.

### Teen Book Chat and Craft (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Tuesday, January 24 • 4 pm

Discuss Cinder and make something fun!

Limited Registration.

**MUST** register by Monday, January 17.

### STEAM at the Library (Ages 5-11 Grades K-5)

Topeka • Wednesday, January 26 • 4 pm

Theme: Snowflakes

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math

Come make different kinds of snowflakes.

**MUST** call the LaGrange library (260-463-2841) by January 17 to register.

### Movie and Popcorn (All ages)

LaGrange • Friday, January 28 • 6 pm

Movie: *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, Rated PG-13.

Free popcorn provided. Bring your own covered drink if desired.

## Adult Interest

### Adult Winter Reading Challenge

All Locations • Challenge continues through Saturday, February 26, 2022

Theme: Bucket List Books

Read three books from our list of classics to earn:

An 18-in-1 Stainless Steel Snowflake Multi-Tool.

Plus, a chance to win an Instant Pot Duo Crisp 11-in-1 Electric Pressure Cooker with Air Fryer Lid.

Winner will be announced on March 5, 2022.

### Yoga with Farra

LaGrange • Gentle Flow Yoga

Mondays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 10 - 11 am

LaGrange • Deeper Flow Yoga

Mondays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 11:15 am

Please bring a yoga mat, a rug, or a blanket. The first class is free! For each further class, a \$5 donation is suggested.

### Walking Well-Read

LaGrange • Mondays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 12 - 12:30 pm

Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27 • 12 - 12:30 pm

We will walk up and down stairs, around book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas. It is a great exercise!

### Hillsdale College Free Online Course: Introduction to Aristotle's

#### Ethics: How to Lead a Good Life

LaGrange • Tuesdays, January 4 through March 8 • 2 pm

Join us as we watch the 30-minute lectures in the series and discuss.

Call 260-463-2841 x1030 by December 30 to register.

### Financial Workshops (Presented by Lake City Bank)

LaGrange • Thursday, January 6 • 2 pm • Savings and Retirement

Saving money for expenses, emergencies, goals, and retirement.

Topeka • Thursday, January 13 • 2 pm • Budgeting

Tracking income and expenses and prioritize spending when money is tight.

Shipshewana • Thursday, January 20 • 2 pm • Lending and Mortgage

Types of loans, the approval process, and specifics about getting a mortgage.

### Second Saturday Book Club

LaGrange • Saturday, January 8 • 11 am

This month's book is *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

One of which Hemingway's most enduring works, told in language of great simplicity and power. It is the story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal—a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange library's Adult Information Desk.

### Make-N-Take (No Class this Month)

### Due Date Stitch Club

Shipshewana • Thursday, January 20 • 4 - 5 pm

Learn a new stitch at every meeting or bring a project you are working on. Library books are checked out for three weeks at a time, so just remember Stitch Club meets the same day your books are due. Participants must know basics of how to knit (knit and purl) or crochet (single and double). Bring your own yarn/materials.

### Painting with Carl Mosher

LaGrange • Friday, January 21 • 1 - 4 pm

Even if you have never painted before, you will be amazed at what you are capable of! Carl will supply all the materials, and he loves to teach. Cost is \$25 per person, payable at the class. Classes fill up fast, so sign up today!

Space is limited. **Must** call the LaGrange library (260-463-2841 x1030) to register.

Find more information at [www.lagrangelib.in.us](http://www.lagrangelib.in.us) or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page- [m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana](https://m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana)

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# MYSTERY FARM CONTEST

## OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

**1st Prize:** The Connection, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, lighted pen, notepad set, and a copy of The Honeyville Journal from LaGwana Printing.

**2nd Prize(s):** Lighted pen, notepad set, and The Honeyville Journal from LaGwana Printing.

**3rd Prize(s):** The Honeyville Journal.

\*Additional 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded for every 50 entries over 100 received.

### RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **January 18, 2022.** Allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!



January Contest sponsored by The Connection and LaGwana

### Last Month's Mystery Farm



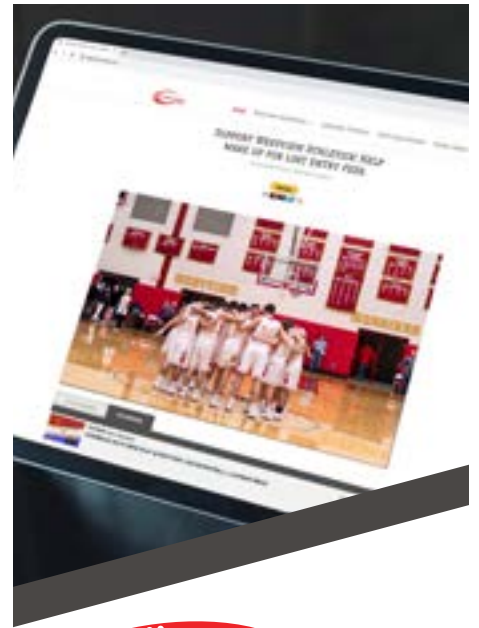
There were 21 correct entries this month.

**Others that guessed correctly were:** Harry Wayne & Marlene Miller, Lamar & Kristina Yoder, Kevin & Elaine Mullet, Wilbur & Ida Eash, Jr & Christina Raber, Dave & Loretta Yoder, Perry & Carolyn Miller, Ezra & Mary

Ellen Yoder, Vernon & Kathryn Yoder, Wilbur & Orpha Yoder, Willie & Klate Miller, Freeman & Rosanna Bontrager, Paul Schrocks, Richard & Ruth Miller, LaVerne & Dorothy Whetstone, Rose Helmuth, Tim & Marietta Miller, Harley & Marsha Miller.

**Mary Ellen & LeAnna Miller of 300W, Topeka**, correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Marion A. & Waneta Miller, 3570W 700S, Topeka**. Congratulations! They won \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a lighted pen, a notepad set, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana Printing. Second prize went to **Vernon & Katie Nisley, 400W, Ligonier**. Third prize went to **Lester & Clara, 075W, Wolcottville**.

*Thank you to Tiffany's & The Connection for Sponsoring!*



Partnering with Westview School Corporation to bring you great student content!

2021 – 2022 Boys Varsity games and select Boys JV and Girls Varsity games.

Visit [LaGwanamedia.com](http://LaGwanamedia.com) for a complete list.

### January Games

1/4/22 - East Noble

1/8/22 - Angola

1/12 - 1/15 - B&G NECC

1/21/22 - B&G Fairfield

1/28/22 - Eastside

1/29/22 - Northridge

**Proud to support Westview's staff and students.**

# Tiffany's

414 E. Lake Street | Topeka, IN 46571  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger.** Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a **FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE** at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. **ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE** at Tiffany's in February. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is January 18, 2022.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Smart Choices

By Mark Botros—Pharmacy student at Topeka Pharmacy

## Using Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers? Read this!

At an early stage in the coronavirus pandemic, the world found itself demanding hand sanitizers, much greater than the supply. Hand sanitizer use was not limited to hospitals and clinics anymore. To provide a continuous supply of hand sanitizers, the FDA released new guidelines to help increase the number of manufacturers. In response, many factories around the country started shifting resources to produce alcohol-based hand sanitizers to meet the demand.

As the FDA continued monitoring hand sanitizers, they noticed a spike in quality and safety problems. During random testing, they found several products that contained methanol, a chemical substance derived from ethanol. While ethanol is the safe common ingredient of hand sanitizers, methanol is highly toxic when applied to the skin and poisonous if ingested. Another issue was the effectiveness of some products. Several hand sanitizers did not have enough of the active ingredient to be as effective as advertised.

The FDA urgently released a statement on the dangerous substances found and the poor quality of some brands. Following this statement, many manufacturers pulled their products from the market.

### Before you buy


While hand sanitizers reduce the spread of germs and diseases, it is important to remember that not all sanitizers are made equal. Here are a few things to check before buying alcohol hand sanitizer products.

1. Ingredients must include **ethanol** or **ethyl alcohol** (other names: Isopropanol, 2-propanol.)
2. Quantity should be at least 60% of ethanol or ethyl alcohol.
3. Does **not** contain methanol, wood alcohol, or 1-propanol as ingredients on the label.
4. It is not on the national FDA Do-Not-Use List (found at [fda.gov/handsanitizerlist](http://fda.gov/handsanitizerlist).)


As the FDA tests more products and releases updates, finding safe hand sanitizers can become a complicated task. Therefore, buying hand sanitizers from safe and trusted sources such as pharmacies and health facilities is recommended. At Topeka pharmacy, we ensure no products on our shelves are FDA recalled in order to provide safe hand sanitizers of the highest quality.

### Already bought a recalled product?

If you find a recalled product in your household, stop using it immediately. Do not flush or pour the product down the drain or mix it with other liquids. The FDA recommends throwing the sanitizer away in a hazardous waste container or contacting your local trash company to find a safe way of disposing of it.

Topeka Pharmacy can answer any questions you have about COVID-related products. Call 260-593-2252 for more information. 

## College Signing

Abby Weaver, daughter of Bob and Melany Weaver of Shipshewana, signed her intent to play college volleyball at an NCAA Division One school, Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. She ended her high school volleyball career playing nine years for the Goshen Blue Blazers homeschool team. They finished seventh place at the homeschool nationals in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and won first place last year. Abby was voted with eight other girls to be on the national all-tourney team. She was also on various watch lists the last two years.  Photo Submitted

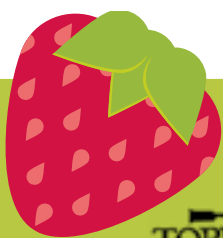


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# Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Julie Rose Wagler of 200S, Topoka was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. She won a special surprise at Kids Kreations in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Kids Kreations for a free surprise through January.

Runners-up were Kaitlyn Mullet, age 6; Loren Eugene Lambright, age 5; Kristopher Jace Raber, age 4; Andrea Miller, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Alyssa Fern Bontrager, age 6; Renae Deann Miller, age 6; Jayna Miller, age 6; Seth Slabach, age 6; Kylie Wingard, age 6; Deloris Ann Miller, age 5. Check out page 12 for this month's coloring page.

Be SURE to include all your information on the coloring page, even your age! ... we don't want you to miss out! Remember, the contest is only for children up to six years old. 



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Submitted by Brittney Schori, *Extension Educator, Purdue Extension Office*

## Getting SMART Financial Goals for the New Year

If you are like many people, you probably have some resolutions for the New Year: pay down debt, save for retirement or increase your retirement savings, create or increase an emergency fund, save for college, reduce spending, etc. In a *Money* magazine poll, only twenty-four percent of those polled had kept New Year's resolutions on their financial goals. The likely reasons are because the goals may not be realistic, or people tried to do too much at once. Most likely, however, it is because they did not create a plan for how to achieve their goals. As the adage goes, if you fail to plan, plan to fail. To help you achieve your resolutions, write them down and set **SMART** goals.


**S – Specific.** What are you going to do and why? How much does it cost? Create a written plan of how to achieve the goal. Do not just say, "I want to save more." Decide what you are saving for and why (i.e. emergency fund, trip, retirement).

**M – Measurable.** How much are you going to save per week, per month and, if it is a long-term goal, per year? Use direct deposit or automatic transfers to make saving easy and to move money out of your checking account into a separate savings account. Pay yourself first!

**A – Attainable.** Dare to dream, but have a plan. Although goals should push your limits and abilities, goals still need to be within reach and "doable." Make sure you include smaller, actionable steps along the way in your plan. Having small, but regular, successes will help you stay motivated. For example, kick or reduce one spending habit this month, then next month start contributing that amount to your 401k.

**R – Realistic.** Make sure you have the skills and resources available to achieve your goal. Finding balance is often an important component to being realistic. For example, you may want to increase your savings, but make sure you still have spending money so you have some current enjoy-

ment from your money. No plan should be a straightjacket. You may also need to take baby steps to try to reach your goals. Do not try to do it all at once, or you will set yourself up for failure. For example, if you are trying to cut back on spending, do not try to quit or reduce all your spending cold turkey. Try to cut back on one spending habit at a time. Once you master the first habit, go on to the next!

**T – Timely.** Set a time frame to achieve your goal. Make sure long-term goals have short-term and intermediate steps so you can measure your successes along the way. Review your goals periodically to make sure they are still timely and on track, or whether they should be revised or eliminated. 



Source: Suzanne Gellman, *Financial Extension Education Specialist at the University of Missouri*



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## Fitness Friday

Students at Meadowview Elementary participated in an all-school fitness activity on the first Friday of October. Fitness Friday included every student walking or jogging a given path on the playground. Teachers and students enjoyed the beautiful weather and received fifteen minutes of heart-healthy exercise. Way to go, Mustangs! 📷

*Photos Submitted*



# Meadowview Elementary

## Field Trip

Meadowview Elementary fourth graders visited Sauder Village in Archbold, OH. 📷

*Photos Submitted*



## Dig Into Science

Meadowview Elementary fourth graders DIG into science by constructing landform models! 📷

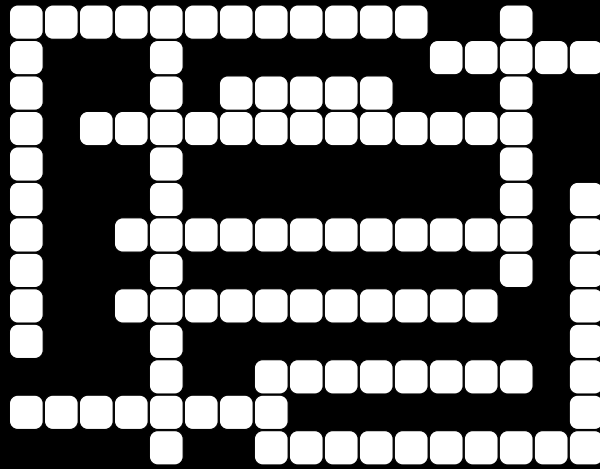
*Photos Submitted*



*This page made possible by the*

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 Snowsquall



# Clueless Crossword

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

Solution to Clueless  
 Crossword is on pg 20.  
 by Emily Vandevander

Solution to puzzle on page 6



## Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.


**H O M E M A D E**  
**B R E A D I S**  
**W O R T H T H E**  
**W O R K !**

Want a different way to advertise?

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. Emily would be happy to use words to do with your business as the words that get put in the puzzle. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.

# Westview High School

## FFA Parlay Team

The Westview Future Farmers of America (FFA) placed fifth in the sixteen school District III FFA Parliamentary Contest held at Eastside High School on Tuesday, December 7. Members had to demonstrate the skills needed to properly conduct business at a meeting. 

*Left to right:* Chadwick Hershberger, Benton Hershberger, Gavin Miller, Abigail Ponce, Andrew Baughman, Hannah Klein, and Ronnie Raley. Photo Submitted




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## Bread Warmers

Fourth graders at Shipshe-Scott made bread warmers in Ms. Cripe's art class.  *Photos Submitted*




## Christmas Around the World

First graders in Mr. Hart's class packed their suitcases and took an airplane ride around the world to learn how other countries celebrate Christmas.  *Photo Submitted*



## Christmas Decorating

Students in Mrs. Bergstedt's fourth-grade class took some time out

of their busy schedules to decorate their tree for the holiday season. 



*Photos Submitted*

*This page made possible by the*

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**E** **L** **D** **O**  
**R** **C**ONVERGENCE **W**  
**E** **G** **I** **F**  
**A**DVISORY **B**LIZZARD **F**  
**T** **S**NOWSQUALL **L**

*Clueless  
Crossword  
Solution*  
By Emily Vandevander  
to the puzzle on page 18

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## Topeka Life Skills Awards

Each week students at Topeka Elementary are nominated, by their teachers, to receive a life skills award. 



Lyric Miller, Kyleigh Schwartz, Angie Slabach, and Dale Siples, from Miss Helmkamp's class, receive their awards. *Photo Submitted*

## Chili Supper

On Saturday, November 13, Topeka Elementary hosted its PTO chili supper. The supper is a semi-annual event that supports the PTO's many projects for the school and students throughout the school year. 



Topeka staff works on the chili. *Photos Submitted*




The top three students in ticket sales were Jerel Bontrager (4C), second place, Kylee Hostetler (1C), first place, Darin Fry (4C), third place.

# Topeka Elementary

## Math Challenge


These first graders from Topeka Elementary completed all eight

addition tests of the Fast Facts challenge in a minute or less. 



Back Row (Left to right): Derek Bontrager, Landry Miller, Jared Mast, Aaron Riehl, Keaton Zimmerman, Xavier Miller, Olivia Miller, and Melissa Miller. Front: Lucas Hershberger, Eric Riehl, Seth Miller, Seth Slabach, Grace Yoder, Jenise Eash, Jada Nissley, and Aleasha Miller. Not Pictured: Adrian Riehl and Alyse Bontrager. *Photo Submitted*

## Christmas Program

Topeka Elementary's Christmas program was held recently. Third- and fourth-grade students were the performers for the *Christmas Express* program. Directing the program was Lori Leatherman, and assisting her was Jennifer Kramer. 

*Photos Submitted*



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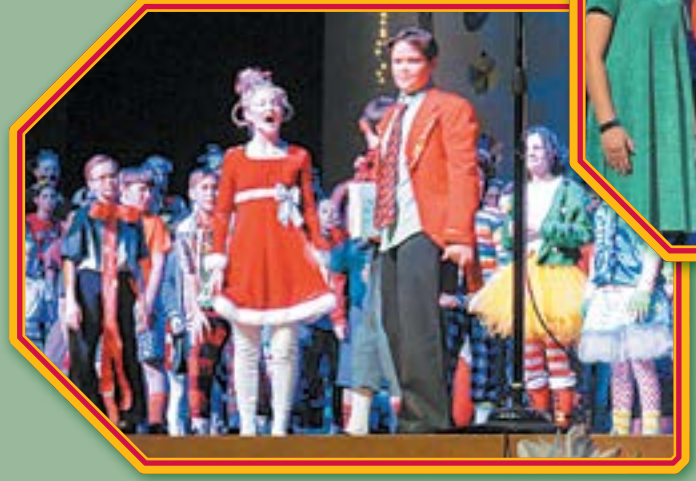
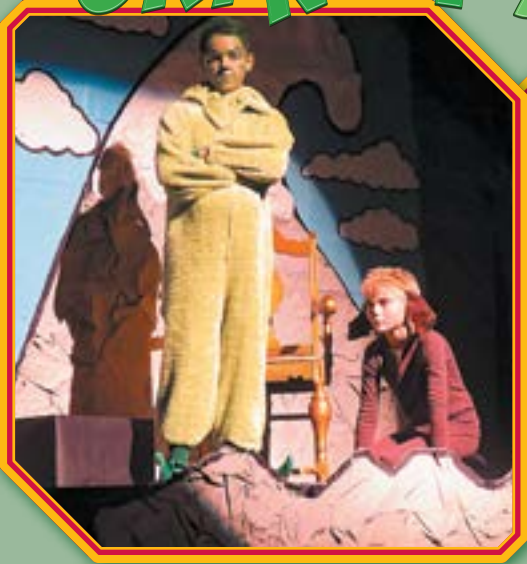
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# HOW THE Westview Elementary GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS



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- 1) Braden Eash looks for an open teammate.
- 2) Brady Yoder brings the ball past half court.
- 3) Mason Yoder signals his teammates.
- 4) Brandon Lehman gets ready to pass the ball to a teammate.
- 5) Wiley Minix catches the ball on a pass from the other side of the court.

*Photos by Abby Wenger*

*These photos and more are available for purchase at [lagwanaphotos.com](http://lagwanaphotos.com).*



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# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Shipshewana ICE FESTIVAL

January 21-22, 2022  
Carving Begins at 10am

This is the 14th year for the Shipshewana Ice Festival! Ice Carvers will be drilling and shaving blocks of ice all over Shipshewana. The creations they design are submitted by the sponsor or are the carver's choice. These professional carvers enjoy the challenge of creating! Please stop in all over Shipshewana to see them at work... or play!

Come watch as the Ice Carvers compete for the best ice sculpture. The Ice Carvers love to showcase their creativity in this special event with larger pieces of ice. Cash awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded upon completion. Bring your cameras and video these master carvers at work! Watch for more details as the event gets finalized.



#### Ice Festival Pin Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Caleb Lambright

Runners up: Noor Omar and Quinton Yoder

## Shipshewana Chili Cookoff

January 22, 2022  
11am - until Sold Out

Bring your tastebuds and your appetite to the Shipshewana Chili Cook-Off that is set to take place during the Ice Festival. Experience a variety of chilis, talk to our cooks, confer with your fellow judges, and cast your vote for the best Chili! The cook-off will take place downtown at the Smokehouse Grill & Supply store located on Morton Street.\*







# Auction & Flea Market

## 2022 Event Calendar

### JANUARY

22 .....Standardbred Horse Sale

### MARCH

26 .....Standardbred Horse Sale

### APRIL

12 .....Easter Lamb & Goat Sale

15 .....Good Friday Horse Sale

20 .....Antique Toy Auction

23 .....Swap Meet

### MAY

3-4 .....Flea Market Opens

21 .....Swap Meet

25 .....Signs & Advertising Auction

30-Jun 1 .....Memorial Day Flea Market

### JUNE

9-11 .....LMA Livestock Auctioneer Championship

17-18 .....Weekend Flea Market

18 .....Swap Meet

### JULY

4-6 .....Independence Day Flea Market

### AUGUST

5-6 .....Weekend Flea Market

6 .....Shipshewana Antique Market

6 .....Swap Meet

### SEPTEMBER

5-7 .....Labor Day Flea Market

15-17 .....Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series World Finals

17 .....Swap Meet

24 .....Standardbred Horse Sale

### OCTOBER

15 .....Swap Meet

19 .....Antique Toy Auction

22 .....Ship-Chic Fall Craft & Vintage Show

### NOVEMBER

25 .....Day After Thanksgiving Horse Sale

Nov-Dec .....Shipshewana's Lights of Joy

### DECEMBER

3 .....Ship-Chic Holiday Craft & Vintage Show

14 .....Signs & Advertising Auction

**\*Events subject to change. Call to verify before traveling.**



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# January Park News

**Please note that LaGrange County Offices will be closed on January 17.**

## First Day Hike! Off the Beaten Path!

Saturday, January 1, 4:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

This hike will be intentionally off-trail through the woods—a bit more rugged than usual, but it will be slow. Enjoy winter's quiet calm and meander through the woods. Water-resistant boots are strongly recommended. Be a part of the national movement of January 1 hikes and start 2022 with a step in a good direction. The Friends of LaGrange County Parks will have a campfire going with cocoa for the walk (while supplies last). The walk will last approximately one hour. In the event of bad weather, the walk will be postponed until January 2. If there is still bad weather, then it will be canceled.

RSVP to the Naturalist at (260) 854-2225.

## Homeschool Glacier Program

Wednesday, January 19,

10:00 – 11:00 am

Maple Wood Nature Center

This program is ideal for homeschool students in fourth grade or older, but all ages are welcome. Learn about geological forces around the Earth and the story of how glaciers shaped northeastern Indiana. Discover glacial remnants in LaGrange County! This program

will discuss the Ice Age and periods thousands of years old. This program meets some of the Indiana state science standards. Family units will be spaced six feet apart.

**Space is limited!** RSVP to the Naturalist at (260) 854-2225.

## MONTHLY Make-n-Take Crafts

### Pinecone Birdfeeders

\*May contain peanuts

Saturday, January 8,

10:00 am or 2:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Easy nature crafts for the entire family!

### Maple Wood Fiber Guild

Wednesday, January 12,

10:00 – 3:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, dyeing, tatting, embroidery, and more! Bring a project to work on. Bring your own sack lunch and snacks. Donations for the Parks are appreciated.

RSVP to the Naturalist at (260) 854-2225.

### Quilt Class

Saturday, January 15,

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

### “Disappearing Nine Patch”

Much easier than it looks! Easy for almost any size and any themed quilt. Registration is required. Instructions will be provided upon registration. Please bring a sack lunch.

To register, call the Park Office at (260) 854-2225. **The fee is \$25. \$5 is**

**given back to the Parks.**

For more information, contact Julia Wolhuter, (260) 367-1449, or Ira Johnson, (260) 367-1438.

## Folk Jam

Sunday, January 23,

1:30 – 5:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music, with other styles occasionally added.

For more information, contact Erv Troyer at (260) 463-2247 or reo43@aol.com.

## Sewing Group

This group is not meeting in the months of November, December, or January.

Please contact Linda Grobis at (260) 351-3609 for spring news. 📧

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Our office will be closed from noon on Dec. 24 until Jan. 3.



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## Further Down the Pumpkin Vine

by Harold D. Gingerich



When the final excursion train rolled down the Pumpkin Vine on October 17, 1982, with the late Ezra Miller as conductor, no one would have imagined that the abandoned railbed would become one of the most popular bicycle trails in northern Indiana. There are several counterpoints along the Pumpkin Vine. The counter one-half mile east of Shipshewana produced data from June 14, 2020, to June 14, 2021, showing that the trail just during that interval had been used by 16,984 pedestrians and 79,389 bicyclists. In early 2021 Shipshewana was awarded \$953,484 by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Next Level Trails Program to extend The Pumpkin Vine Nature Trail to

extend the line as far as Battle Creek, Michigan. The first passenger train rolled into Middlebury on November 1, 1888. Since the tracks made numerous turns between Goshen and Middlebury, people quickly began to refer to it as "the pumpkin vine." The nickname stuck.

The first building to be constructed in Shipshewana was the depot in the fall of 1888. The first train on the Pumpkin Vine that passed through Shipshewana was bound for Battle Creek on December 25, 1888. In 1889, the first house was constructed for the railroad agent, whose name was Stowe. That same year J.J. Farver, who was in the lumber business, built a three-story building for Hezekiah Davis. Numerous other buildings were also constructed, including a grain elevator. With four passenger trains and two freight trains a day, Shipshewana began to attract residents from the small town of Shore, located south and east on what is now Old US 20.

Shipshewana's version of the "Hatfield's and the McCoy's" was between Abraham Summey and Hezekiah Davis. Fortunately, their feud never ended in violence. Summey and his wife, Rachel, had settled in the area in the late 1800s. They owned all the land on the west side of what is now State Road 5, for a mile north and a mile south of the Middlebury-Shipshewana Road. Davis had been raised in the area and owned the land on the east side of the road. His father Amos served as the judge. Given

the growing demand for property, both men wanted to sell lots. The dispute came over where to have the town's main street. Summey laid out his town on the west side while Davis laid out forty acres on the east side. And so, on the east side of "State Road 5" was Davis Town, and on the west side was Summey Town.

Shipshewana would have remained divided had it not been for the railroad and the commerce it generated. In those early days of Shipshewana, lumber was a large part of the economy. The Farver brothers operated several sawmills. The railroad switched back to the mill when they moved into the eastside town with a large planing mill and lumber yard. In addition to the men working in the mill, it took a large number of log haulers to keep the mill running. As a result of the railroad, Shipshewana became somewhat of a boomtown complete with a bank, two elevators, a weekly newspaper, three blacksmith shops, and four saloons. Old-timers also tell of the "house of ill repute" among the saloons.

On March 28, 1903, the St. Joseph Valley Traction Company was chartered. It was one of the numerous electric railways that were projected between Chicago and Toledo. The Lake Shore Line is one of the few that survived. The new railroad was financed entirely as a hobby of Elkhart millionaire H.E. Bucklen. The Valley Line, as it came to be known, was to be an 80-mile link between South Bend and Pioneer, Ohio. From Pioneer, it would connect with the Toledo & West-



a trailhead behind the Wolf Building and North Park.

Following the Civil War, the railroad industry experienced unprecedented expansion and growth. Eager for profits, the competition was cut-throat. The Lake Shore-Michigan Southern (LS&MS) railroad, which had constructed a spur to Goshen before the war, extended the tracks to Middlebury with plans to

ern railroad.

The tracks ran just south of Shippshewana Lake, then on to the Ohio state line. It was near the lake that Bucklen, in 1905, laid out plans for a resort (Lakeside Park) complete with a baseball diamond and stands.

As the mural in downtown Shippshewana says, the Shippshewana Indians baseball team played their games on Sunday afternoons. Fans came from across northern Indiana and southern Michigan, the Valley Line added special rail cars to accommodate the crowds on game days. During the game, the cars waited on a sidetrack near a sawmill in town. They went back to the field to pick up fans for the return trip following the games.

The first surveys of the new railroad were made by Valley Line's headquarters in LaGrange. Most of the right-of-way was purchased during 1903 and 1904. By the end of 1904, most of the ten-mile stretch between Shippshewana and LaGrange had been graded. However, even though the rail and other materials were already in LaGrange, the severe winter weather halted construction until March. The final spike in the track was driven on the afternoon of March 10, 1905, on the Eugene Davis farm. There were two trains a day between LaGrange and Shippshewana. The fare was twenty-five cents each way, or about two one-half cents a mile.

Writing for the Electric Railway Historical Society bulletin in April of 1955, Joseph A. Galloway and James J. Buckley described the scene in Shippshewana:

*Everybody in Shippshewana went down to Main Street to look at the first train. This train consisted of engine Number 1, an O\_4\_4T Forney, a boxcar, and a caboose. The train arrived in Shippshewana at 5:15 p.m. and was greeted by a brass band. The first passenger train consisted of two cars. Number 101 was a gas-electric motor built by the Hicks Locomotive Works of Chicago*

*Heights, Illinois, and the trailer coach, Number 102 from the St. Louis Car Company.*

Extending the line six miles from Shippshewana to Middlebury presented a challenge. Just west of Shippshewana, the crew got bogged down in quicksand. The railbed had been graded in 1904, but the fill sank ten feet over the winter. A new grade was built, but it disappeared within two weeks. After working all summer, the track was finally ready for service. Regular service to Middlebury began on Wednesday morning, September 20, 1905.




The advent of the automobile along with state and local highway projects spelled trouble for many small railroads and brought the end to the passenger service era. Small lines had to focus more on freight service because passenger service was no longer profitable unless it was cross country. Gone were the days of boarding a train in Shippshewana in the morning, spending the day in Goshen and returning home the same evening.

The Valley Line was one of those casualties, only operating from 1905 to about 1917. The Pumpkin Vine survived longer because five railroads, including The Lake Shore-Michigan Southern railroad, had merged in December of 1914 to form the New York Central Railroad Company. By 1928, mail service to Shippshewana by rail was terminated, but freight service was enough to sustain the line. The New York Central began to decline after World War II and in 1968 merged with their chief competitor,

Pennsylvania Railroad Co., to form Penn Central.

The section of track between Shippshewana and Sturgis was abandoned in August of 1960, before the merger. Operations on the Pumpkin Vine came to a halt in 1975 due to deteriorating facilities and low profitability. However, Governor Otis Bowen's "Rail Task Force" determined that the line would still be profitable if the Pumpkin Vine hauled 459 freight carloads a year. The Indiana Railway Commission allocated \$434,000 in federal railway funds to upgrade the track. The Indiana Interstate Railway Co. acquired a thirty ton locomotive to pull trains on the Pumpkin Vine. In July of 1980, the Lakeshore Historical Railroad Foundation began offering Sunday excursions between Middlebury and Shippshewana. Hoosier Lt. Governor Robert Orr was a special guest on one of those excursions that summer. In November of that same year, the Indiana Interstate Railway, which had a lease with Penn Central, stopped operations on the Pumpkin Vine for financial reasons. In fact, the group was never able to pay the \$8,000 a month lease to Penn Central. The final excursion train ran on October 17, 1982, with local historian Ezra Miller as conductor. Penn Central abandoned the line, and the rails were removed.

The LaGrange County Trails group is aggressively working to develop the Hawpatch Trail (running from Wolcottville, to Topeka, to Millersburg) along the abandoned Wabash Railroad. The goal is to eventually link up with the Pumpkin Vine. Noble County is currently working on bringing their bicycle trail to join the Hawpatch Trail in Wolcottville. 

*This article sponsored by*





# Parkview LaGrange Seeks Volunteers and Council Members

Parkview LaGrange is currently looking for volunteers to serve on its Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) and other general support roles.

Volunteers are often the people whose smile and friendly offer of assistance can put anxious visitors and sick patients at ease. They also support hospital operations by guiding patients and visitors to their destination, assisting with clerical work, providing messenger or transport service, helping customers in the gift shop, and serving in other roles, such as on the PFAC.

## PFAC volunteers provide a patient perspective

PFAC members work with hospital leadership, volunteering their time to offer feedback and suggestions that


could help improve quality, patient safety, and overall experience of the care delivered.

Volunteers receive benefits, such as a 10 percent discount on regular-price items in the hospital gift shop (a 20 percent discount during the volunteer's birthday month), a meal coupon on the day of volunteering, a free annual flu shot, and convenient use of Parkview's outpatient pharmacy.

New member applications are now being accepted, according to Christina Blaskie, who coordinates the PFAC as manager of service excellence, volunteers, gift shop, and community health at PLH.

To be considered for a volunteer position, applicants must fill out an application, provide proof of age,

supply two personal references, complete an interview and required screening, attend orientation, and have sufficient time to devote to preparing for and attending PFAC meetings every other month. In addition, volunteers must prove having been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (two shots for the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, one shot for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). They must be willing to wear a facemask during volunteer duties.

To apply to be a volunteer or a member of the PFAC, or for more information, contact Christina Blaskie at christina.blaskie@parkview.com or 260-463-9389. Applications are also available at the information desk in the main lobby at PLH. 

# Topeka Honors 2020 and 2021 Firefighters

The Topeka Volunteer Fire Department took time to honor several of its members at the department's annual Christmas Banquet held Monday evening, December 6, at The Carriage House banquet hall. Since COVID-19 restrictions prevented the department from honoring firefighters last year, awards were handed out for 2020 and 2021.


Length of service awards went out to Barry McDonald (5 years), Corey Hoopingartner (10 years), Pat Martin (15 years), Adam Lambright (20 years), and Adam's father Gary Lambright, with (30 years) in the department.

The First Responder of the Year for 2020 was Devon Bontrager. Adam Lambright and Brian Miller were co-recipients of the 2020 Red Haggard

Fireman of the Year. The department's top annual award is given in memory of the late Red Haggard, who served with the Topeka Volunteer Fire Department for more than 40 years.

Michael Wenger was the 2021 First Responder of the Year. Harley Miller was named the 2021 Red Haggard Fireman of the Year.

Officers for 2022 are Stewart Bender (Chief), Adam Lambright (Assistant Chief), Brian Miller (Captain), Devon Bontrager (Rescue Captain), Bar-

ry McDonald (Lieutenant), Harley Miller (Lieutenant), and Pat Martin (Safety Officer). 

*Photos Submitted*



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## Did You Know?

The Northern Cardinal's song sounds as if they are saying "birdie, birdie, birdie" or "cheer, cheer, cheer." This distinctive vocalization pattern allows many birders to easily identify the cardinal when it's singing.



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## Fall Grants

The LaGrange County Community Foundation awarded \$78,439 to seven nonprofit organizations during its 2021 Fall Community Impact Grants cycle. Each year, the Community Foundation seeks proposals for charitable projects and programs that help local nonprofit organizations provide services in LaGrange County. The grants are made possible by the generosity of donors who give to the unrestricted and field of interest funds at the foundation. To learn more, visit [lccf.net/grants](http://lccf.net/grants).

### The 2021 Fall Community Impact Grant recipients include:

- LaGrange County Trails Inc, The Hawpach Trail, development of

the trail, \$40,000.

- Stroh Volunteer Fire Department, Audio-Video Technology Advancement, updated technology including conferencing equipment and computers for ease of filing reports and access to virtual training and conferences, \$13,000.
- LaGrange Baseball League Inc, Spreuer Park Development, construction of baseball and softball fields at Spreuer Park, \$10,000.
- LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation, Delt Church Park Playground equipment, replacing two current playground pieces, \$7,439.
- Junior Achievement of LaGrange County, Junior

Achievement Capstone Experiences, sending Lakeland and Westview students to participate in JA Biztown and Finance Park, education on financial literacy, community, economy, and business management, \$5,000.

- Kate's Kart, Book distribution at Parkview LaGrange Hospital, provides new books to patients in all hospital areas, \$1,500.
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, LaGrange County Farm Wagon Mobile Pantry Program, serving families with fresh produce, dairy products, and other healthy foods at no cost, \$1,500. 📍

*Photos Submitted*



**Left to right:** Blaine Williams, Stroh Fire Department, Mandy Williams, Volunteer Stroh Fire Department, Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LCCF, and Tyler Terry, Chief of Stroh Fire Department.



**Back Row (left to right):** Jeff Wingstrom, President of LaGrange County Trails, Bradd Giggy, Board Member of LaGrange County Trails. **Front:** Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LCCF, Sherryl Rhinesmith, Vice President of LaGrange County Trails, Beth Thornburg, Secretary of LaGrange County Trails, and Fritz Helmuth, Board Member of LaGrange County Trails.

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