

# BROWNSBURG

# SENTINEL



A News / Commentary Publication

Informative / Insightful

January 31, 2018

## Brownsburg Schools Announces 2018 Redistricting Plans



With Lincoln Elementary School ready for students in the fall of 2018, the BCSC just finished a redistricting process to move children to the new school. The redistricting process began with a call for volunteers in the Spring of 2017 with all parents that volunteered being placed on the committee. The stated purpose of the committee was to recommend a plan to the school board on how to adjust the neighborhood school placements in order to populate Lincoln Elementary.

This process was different then the redistricting that happened in 2013. This time it was needed to fill an additional school instead of being completed to even out school enrollment. This time the students would only move one way instead of moving students back and forth between schools. The committee was made up of approximately 100 parent volunteers and all the BCSC schools are now rated as A schools and 4 star schools.

The new committee used lessons learned from the 2013 process. The neighborhoods would be anonymous and poverty and diversity balancing would be kept in the forefront as well as apartment placement. Other items were things they would do differently this time which included walking neighborhoods, large neighborhoods, homes not part of neighborhoods and keeping space available to maintain desired diversity levels.

Coming into the process two things were already determined. First, students that attend Lincoln Elementary would attend East Middle School. Secondly, the goal would be to have even enrollment of 640 students per elementary school. Other considerations in the redistricting would be the following:

- 1) impact as few of the families as possible
- 2) equalize poverty rates in each school
- 3) maintain a representation of the community diversity in ea. school
- 4) create new classrooms with these parameters
  - a. K-2: 18-22 students per classroom
  - b. 3-5: 22-26 students per classroom
  - c. 6-8: 26-28 students per classroom

When all else fails, the priority is parameter #1. The poverty rate should be between 22.94% and 28.94% at each elementary school and any movements should bring the diversity rates in each school closer to the district average which is 26.18%.

The student population is spread between neighborhoods and non-neighborhood areas. Homes not in neighborhoods send us approximately 280 students K-5.

*cont. to pg. 6*

### December / January Town Council

#### December 21st , 2017 Town Council

The meeting was brought to order by Vice President Dennis Dawes who indicated that four members were present with Ms. Bascu being absent that evening.

Citizens Comments relating to the agenda brought up Bill Sibbing with two questions. First was about bid openings and awards. He noticed that all the bids for Enderly Avenue extension and Mill Street were higher than the estimate expected by the town. A staff report was not included and several lines were deleted from the original bid documents. He also asked why no demolition cost was included and

wondered were that money will from. His second question was about the need to dedicate the public right of way to McNees Road and he wondered if the town was going to give a frontage road back to those businesses.

Next to the podium was David Weyant, he questioned a consent item on pg. 16 which showed a \$10,000 dollar invoice from Frost, Brown and Todd for the filing of an Amicus brief. Mr. Weyant asked for which court case the brief was filed? Mr. Kleinhenz stated that the Amicus brief was filed for the North Annexation case and the town council had approved the action.

With no other comments, Mr. Dawes moved on to Bid openings and awards. The town received three bids for the Enderly Avenue and Mill Street project connecting Grant to Green Street (Enderly) and Franklin to Enderly (Mill). The lowest bid was received from Calumet for 1.6 million which was \$50,000 over the engineers estimate. The overage was probably due to volatility of the amount of work being completed. At the moment the site is not cleared and ready for them to complete the

roads so they added money for work that the town plans on doing like demolition of homes or work Scannel will be doing like preparing the land. Mr. Kleinhenz stated that the contract will be for time, labor and material so the \$50,000 overage is an unknown at this time. AS far as the deleted items, they were caused by changes in design after the bid documents were prepared. The funding for this project will come from the General Obligation bond from 2015 and the grant award from the community crossing from the state. Both roads were put together to make it more efficient for the contractor. The bid was approved 3-1 with Mr. Jessen opposed.

Next to the podium was Chief Grimes with the Police Department report. He stated that he worked with Mr. Kleinhenz to located funding for repairs of the training center. He noted that he has been Chief of Police for one year and appreciated the Council and the Police Commission support.

*cont. to pg. 4*

*You may not receive the governance you vote for, you always receive the governance you tolerate. -- The Editor*

# LETTER TO / FROM THE EDITOR

The last Town Council of 2017 held December 21st set into motion a series of events few could envision. At the agenda item titled "CITIZENS COMMENTS RELATING TO THE AGENDA", I approached the lectern seeking details and a rational explanation into an expenditure of \$9866.00 on an Amicus Curiae legal brief. I explained there had been significant email traffic for greater than two weeks on the subject without a response from the town. As a result of the town's lack of response, I asked someone look up the invoice during the meeting and provide the public with the town's explanation by the end of this evening's meeting. As soon as I left the lectern town manager Grant Kleinhenz quickly and confidently answered, the brief was related to the North Annexation Lawsuit.

Near the conclusion of the meeting at agenda item "CITIZEN'S COMMENTS", I asked how the legal brief in question could be related to the North Annexation Lawsuit? An Amicus Brief is a brief that literally means "friend of the court" -- submitted by someone who is not a party to the litigation, but who believes that the court's decision may affect its interest.

Since the Town of Brownsburg is a named litigant in the North Annexation case the town cannot file an Amicus Curiae brief in the North Annexation case. I asked "Which appellate case did the town file a brief?" Grant Kleinhenz now acting as if struck by temporary amnesia, failed to provide any further explanation. I continued with more questions -- Grant, you seemed so confident in your answer earlier, why are you unable to provide any details? I reminded them, I asked that someone look up the invoice via a simple system query, I asked why during the meeting apparently no one did that either.

I continued that it seems odd given the multiple emails on the matter and across greater than two weeks received by all present public servants, no one... not the town manager, nor anyone else in attendance looked into this matter. By all appearances, all members failed in their duty to promptly address the residents query. Vice President Dennis Dawes asked if "we provide you an explanation by our next meeting would that be satisfactory?" I responded with yes. Shortly after, the 2017 Brownsburg Town Council season "Theatre for the Ignored" drew to a close.

Prior to the start of the first town council meeting of 2018, I held light hearted conversations with many of those in attendance. Chatting with Sean Benham, I noted the name plates and seat assignments had changed. If the assignments were correct, this meant Sean would be the president of the town council for 2018. Jokingly I asked, if as a young kid, knowing he was in for a spanking, if he went into the bathroom and "padded" his rear end. He jokingly replied, he never thought that far ahead. I noted that sitting in the center chair was much different than any of the other seats, from time to time it would get hot. I asked Sean are you sure you know what you've signed up for? Neither of us realized how prophetic our light hearted exchange would become.

For details regarding the meeting's actions please see page 4 of this publication. I had not received any communication from the town since December 21st, but was not surprised when agenda item "Town Council Items" passed without comment. I again walked to the lectern and asked, do you have the explanation you promised to the community at the December 21st meeting regarding the

\$9866.00 legal expenses incurred on an Amicus Curiae brief filed by the town? Sean Benham answered we do not comment on pending litigation. I reminded Sean, by the definition of the brief being a "friend of the court" meant it must be submitted by someone who is not a party to the litigation. Hence it is not pending litigation, his answer was inaccurate. I said would you like a second chance to accurately answer the question or was this the town's final answer.

Sean responded "It's the only answer you are going to get." Next I asked why I was forced to get up from my seat, walk to the lectern and ask for the answer promised by this body only the meeting before. Naturally this rhetorical question went unanswered by Sean. While annoyed but not surprised by the lack of accuracy of Sean's answer, I returned to my seat.

As I slumped onto my chair, what was intended to be expressed to those in the immediate vicinity I said "Shithead!" This comment was overheard by someone three rows back and two rows over who replied "Excuse me that's my husband I don't appreciate that". I turned and responded "I will say it louder if you wish." Now with the speed of mercury, this individual is standing in my personal space as she continues "Do you want to mess with me man?", "Don't degrade my husband in front of everybody". Sean begins to gavel the meeting to order ( He's gaveling to order own wife. ). From the opposite side of the

room Chief Grimes is moving with a sense of urgency over to this woman. Noting the awkwardness of the moment, the woman picks up her purse and quickly exits the room, with Chief Grimes in pursuit to discuss her outburst. As a result of her outburst I asked for and received a police escort to my car at meeting's end.

For those with short memories -- The February 25, 2016 meeting, Brownsburg Town Council Sean Benham authored, sponsored, and aggressively advocated for adoption of Resolution #2016-08, A Resolution Updating and Amending Certain Procedures and Processes for the Town Council Agenda and Council Meetings. These changes removed "Citizen's Comments" from the Town Council Agenda for 246 days. So, yes, I and many others have thought your husband is a "Shithead" for some time. Confirmed at that moment by Sean's twisting

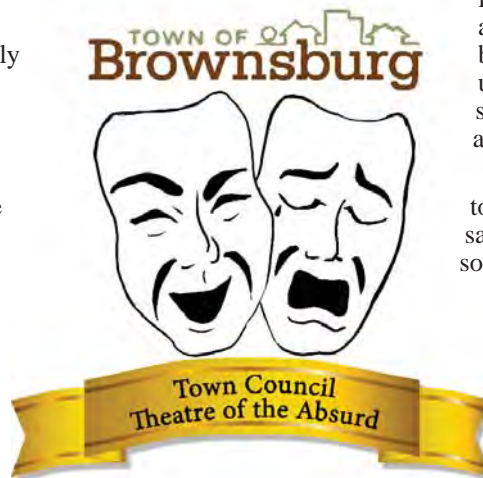
and contorting the truth to the point of fracture By definition if you file an Amicus Curiae brief, this is done by someone who is not a party to the litigation. Sean your response "*We do not comment on pending litigation*", on the public record dishonors you, and insults the intelligence of all area residents.

Finally Sean's treatment of the resident who after she exhausted all known avenues to address her water & sewer bill plight asked the town council for direction. This woman also expressed displeasure regarding the lack of response from anyone from the town regarding her communications. She specifically mentioned she had not received a response from her ward's representative. Sean's response "*This is not a question and answer section, this is citizens comments section so if you have any further comments please make those, otherwise we will allow the next person to come up*".

So yes, Karina given the preponderance of the evidence to date, I stand by my assessment.

Sean, and/or Karina -- I will gladly accept your letter to the editor, and print rebuttal either and/or both of you concisely provide.

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"Do you want to mess with me man?"

These words rang out in town council Jan 11th

# Letter From the Editor - *continued from pg. 2*

I nicknamed the 2017 council session the “*Theatre for the Ignored*”. Based on actions taken by The Town Council, various board and commissions warranted ten print editions last year. Three issues centered around the subject of the Town Recreation Center. [ Again, a historical perspective, the desire for a “rec center” has rank high over the last 6 years of the town’s survey of its residents’ ] One, documented comments made by Troy Austin and other public servants regarding the community recreation center, two, the public’s reaction to those comments, and three, the town council’s attempt to address this clearly sensitive subject. [ Again, see the July-August 2017 edition of this publication for details ].

As evidenced by their conduct, 2018 appears to be “*Theatre of the Absurd*”. As if the divisive actions never took place in 2017, Town Council President Bascu re-appointed Troy Austin to the Redevelopment Commission (RDC). Following outgoing Town Council president Ashley Bascu’s miscue. 2018 RDC members Matt Browning, Travis Tschaenn, Matt Simpson, Paul Logsdon voted Troy Austin as president of the commission. This leads many to question who they serve, and their true objectives.

These public servants conduct is “absurd” in many other forums.... The recent vote to retain Frost, Brown, and Todd by the Fire Territory Executive Board while consistent with their past actions, also ignores a clear conflict of interest. Brian Jessen and Donavan Peoples (Lincoln Township Trustee) voted to retain FBT. The conflict is one firm cannot represent the town and the Fire Territory, when both will profit differently based on the outcome of the North Annexation Legal Fight.

The issue is further clouded by Brian Jessen’s admitted acceptance of a \$250.00 campaign donation by citizen Tom Bedsole. Who is Tom Bedsole? An attorney working for Frost, Brown and Todd who is the chief litigator representing the Town of Brownsburg against Brownsburg North Annexation - Indiana Citizens Against Forced Annexation [see the May 31, 2016 edition of this publication for details.]. Before and after the Fire Territory’s vote to retain FBT, the Brown Township Trustee warned all those present of the conflict of interest, AND Brian Jessen’s acceptance of the campaign monies. Many days later, Brian Jessen apparently being a “little slow on the uptake”, Brian publicly announced he returned the campaign donation to citizen Bedsole. However, this is akin to robbing a bank, driving around the block and returning the monies as if nothing happened.

This publication suggests the sophomoric (and absurd) conduct in public spaces by both Town Councilman Brian Jessen and Brown Township Trustee Tom Kmetz immediately cease. As the conduct exhibited to this point dishonors the both of you, your actions do nothing to serve the public, who you took an oath of office to serve.

*continued to right column this page*

A few closing thoughts:

It seems odd the seating and name plates were re-arranged prior to the formal beginning January 11th town council meeting (as if the decisions had been made before hand). Based on this circumstantial evidence, this appears a clear violation of the Indiana open door statutes.

It also seems odd, if the town-- “*We do not comment on pending litigation*”, why Dennis Dawes did not provide that answer on December 21st. Providing this answer to the public two weeks later, gives the appearance the town is making up the rules as they go along.

Anne Hathaway (Elected Town of Brownsburg Clerk Treasurer) has stopped capturing the details of citizens comments, instead only documenting their name. On the surface this sudden change is suspect.

There is *much* more to the fiasco of the “*Amicus Curiae* brief”. Space limitations in this edition prevent this publication from conveying them to you the reader. Stay tuned for more in the next month’s edition. -- *The Editor*



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## Town Council Highlights - *continued from page 1*

The Fire Territory report was given by EMS Division Chief Stephanie Winegar. She wanted to bring to the attention of the council that the Fire Territory was driving through neighborhoods with Santa on the fire truck and the union collected donations and sponsored five families for Christmas.

There were two ordinances under previously considered items this evening. First, was the salary ordinance which was amended to show accurately which Fire Territory and Police positions could receive overtime. The ordinance passed on 3rd reading and final adoption 4-0.

The other previously considered ordinance was the zoning text changes to the Unified Development Ordinance for wireless Communication facility standards. After discussions with Duke Energy and IPL, they accepted the wording so the council passed the ordinance on third and final reading 4-0.

New for consideration was a resolution authorizing the sale of real property which was the next step in selling the entrance to Hunter's Cove to the subdivisions homeowners association. The resolution passed 4-0.

Next was the first reading of an ordinance to clean up the regulations around parking. It has been noted that the regulations do not match the signage that is up around town. This was approved on 1st reading 4-0.

The next ordinance being considered for first reading was amendment to the town code with regards to flood hazard areas. This change will allow residents to participate in the federally backed flood insurance program. If these changes are not made, the residents cannot participate in the program. Mr. Jessen inquired if this would affect property insurance rates. Mr. Barker stated they would research that question and have the answer at second reading. The ordinance was approved 4-0.

The last item under new for consideration was the resolution authorizing the dedication of the public right of way. This was necessary for the sale of the St. Vincent's Medical building. During the title search, it was noted that there was not a legal right of way to the building. A frontage road will not be needed because McNees Road and Little Bridge Road will be the official right of way. The resolution passed 4-0.

Under Town Council items, Mr. Dawes went through the appointments to boards and commission which is listed separately on page 05 of this publication.

Citizen's comments had three people come to the podium. First was Troy Austin, who asked what happens if the parking situation changes in a development or business area. Mr. Kleinhenz answered to start with Development Services.

Next up was David Weyant who asked again why the Amicus brief was filed. The Amicus brief is a friend of the court brief so it cannot be in conjunction with the North Annexation case. Mr. Dawes said he would get the answer at the next meeting.

Last to the podium was Kurt Disser who stated he had sent emails to the town council about the Amicus brief asking why we were spending \$10,000 dollars in support of a lobbyist group in the Cedar Lakes case.

### January 11th Town Council meeting

Ms. Bascu opened the first Town Council meeting of 2018 indicating that all members were present. The first order of business was to elect a new president and vice president of the council. Mr. Dawes nominated Sean Benham as president of the council and the motion was approved 5-0. Then Mr. Dawes nominated Chris Worley for Vice President but there was not a motion. Ms. Bascu then nominated Brian Jessen and the motion was passed 5-0. Mr. Benham then took over and made two other appointments: Brian Jessen on the Fire Territory Board and Sean Benham on the Hendricks County Economic Development Board.

Mr. Benham indicated that consent items and items 10.03 and 10.04 would be tabled since the Clerk Treasurer was not present this evening.

No one came up to the podium for citizen's comments on the agenda so the council moved on to previously considered items. First was the ordinance amending the town code for flood hazard areas. The council asked the "or designee" be added so there was always a back up for these items. The ordinance was passed on second reading 5-0.

The next ordinance was the parking and public right of way regulations. Mr. Jessen asked about snow routes and parking restrictions. Mr. Barker said they would research and have the answer at the next meeting. The ordinance passed on second reading 5-0.

Under new for consideration was a motion to support the Pan Commission's rezoning recommendation for approximately 35 acres located on the west side of Green Street at the roundabout at 300 North. This is a development called Emerald Park by CalAtlantic. There would be 72 new homes with 1 existing. Presumptive zoning would be R-3. This was approved 5-0.

The last resolution of the evening was a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the last property for the Enderly Avenue and Mill Street work. The original offer was disputed and they countered because of the damage to the property value. The resolution was approved 5-0.

During town council items, Mr. Dawes thanked Ashley for her two years of service as council president. Mr. Kleinhenz indicated that there would be a plague at the next meeting.

Citizen's comments brought Mr. Weyant to the podium asking for the answer to his question from December 21st. Mr. Benham stated it was pending legislation and that it could not be discussed. When Mr. Weyant went back to his seat there was a commotion that he will discuss in the editorial.

Last to the podium was Maria Andrews from Windridge Landing. She stated she had sent an email to all town council members on October 17th 2017 regarding the sewer charges for her home. She moved into the home in February 2017 and landscaped the property in May 2017 with three semi trucks full of sod. She had to water per HOA restrictions. She received no response to her email. She resent the email on January 9th after receiving her January bill. She received a call the same day, the person was surprised that no one had responded to her first email. She had several issues.

(1) - Lack of response by town council. She did receive a credit 120 dollars but the sewer bill was 800 dollars by itself. There is still 599 dollars to pay out of pocket. She indicated that before and after this period her bill averaged 20 dollars a month.

(2) - She was concerned for the timeframe of bill payment was less than two weeks to pay the bill without penalization. It was noted that the town was looking into the short notice.

(3) - She asked for reimbursement for the increased bills. Mr. Benham told her it was not a question and answer period at citizen's comments. Mr. Benham said they would not answer her questions and said her councilman would be in touch.

With no one else coming to the podium, the meeting was adjourned.

### Jan 25, 2018 Town Council meeting

Mr. Benham called the meeting to order and indicated that all members of the council were present. At citizen's comments, Mr. Disser came to the podium regards to article 10.4 section g of the ethics ordinance. He found it odd that town council members were not to engage with the public. He also noted that through a public records request, he was notified that the Amicus brief was filed in the Cedar Lakes case in support of a lobbyist group for the town of Cedar Lakes.

It was announced that the State of the Town Address is scheduled for Feb 21st at the Brownsburg Chamber February luncheon.

Under previously considered items was the flood hazard amendment to the town code which passed on 3rd

## Town Council - *continued from page 4*

reading and final adoption 5-0. The ordinance was the parking and public right of way regulations. Mr. Barker indicated that the snow emergency code is not up to date. All the snow emergency route signs were removed about 10 years ago so the snow emergency route is not being enforced at this time. With that question answered, the ordinance passed 5-0.

First under new business was the first reading of an ordinance to annex the Emerald Park project at 300N and Green Street. This is the land for the CalAtlantic development. The existing lot will be R-, the remaining development will be a PUD. The minimum dwelling size for a two story home will be 2200 square feet and a single story home will be 1700 square feet. They are prohibiting vinyl and aluminum siding in exchange for the use of cement board siding. The ordinance passed 5-0 on first reading.

Next was two resolution from the Clerk Treasurer as part of the annual closing of the books. The Clerk Treasurer needs to transfer funds as needed so that no funds have negative balances and encumber funds for any outstanding PO's. They were both approved 5-0

Next was the Ethics ordinance proposed first reading which was being brought forward by Mr. Jessen. Mr. Dawes stated that he would rather this to be a policy and not an ordinance. It refers to the INDoT manual and he would like time to look at the manual for reference. Mr. Worley stated he would rather have a policy than an ordinance. He did look for the INDoT manual and it was not available in the Town Manager's office until the day before this meeting. He noted that there seems to be more duties for the Clerk Treasurer and he asked if she had been consulted. Ms. Hathaway said she already receives the conflict of interest forms so it seemed to make sense she would administer the additional ethics documentation. Mr. Worley also question section 10 under the respect and civility heading. He asked legal counsel if section 10 complaints would need to be heard as part of the commission? He thinks the language is too broad and needs to be narrowed. He would also like to see language before section 10 around model of behavior so they would not be eligible for charges. Ms. Bascu commented that she agrees that section 10 is vague. She questioned that the ordinance would be legally binding? Mr. Jessen said he picked an ordinance because a policy is easily changed but an ordinance needs to come before the council to be changed. Mr. Dawes asked Mr. Kleinhenz if the town handbook had a grievance procedure and Mr. Kleinhenz answered that it did. Mr. Kleinhenz then noted that the INDoT manual was included because INDoT has asked that all town and cities that interact with INDoT have an ethics policy and that their manual be included in the policy or ordinance. Mr. Worley then asked if the ethics officer appointed by the town council would need to be an existing employee and the answer was no. After all of this discussion Mr. Dawes motioned to table the ordinance again until the February 8th meeting. The motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Benham and Mr. Jessen being the no votes.

Under town council items, Mr. Dawes stated that he had discussions with two businessmen who were pleased with the development they were seeing downtown. Mr. Jessen then brought up job based economic development strategy using STEM for the economic strategy that Brownsburg needed to be concerned with having workforce housing. Brownsburg needs more starter homes.

Last for the evening was citizen's comments. First to the podium was Jeff Gracy who stated he found it disturbing that the council continues to table the ethics ordinance. He stated to him it seemed to be lazy. Kurt Disser stated that in the Cedar Lake case the remonstrators won at trial court and the appellate court said the town had no material reason to appeal. The case is headed to the State Supreme Court.

Last to the podium was Mr. Weyant who asked why there was not a social media section in the ethics policy. - *The Editor*

## 2018 Boards & Commissions Appointments

### Town Council Appoints Boards & Commissions Members

Brownsburg Town Council elected 2018 officers and announced several appointments to the municipality's boards and commissions. The council named Ward 5 representative Sean Benham as president and Ward 3 representative Brian Jessen will serve as vice-president this year.


Robert McLaughlin was reappointed to the Economic Development Commission. Ben Lacey and Town Council member Chris Worley were reappointed to the Advisory Plan Commission with new appointment Barry Francis.

Nick Mayes was appointed, and Cari Palma reappointed, to the Park Board. Terry Smith was reappointed to the Police Commission.

Paul Logsdon will join reappointments Troy Austin, Matt Browning, Barry Gardner, Matt Simpson and Travis Tschaenn on the Redevelopment Commission.

The Brownsburg Improvement Committee will be composed of EDC member Robert McLaughlin, RDC member Matt Simpson, Plan Commission member Ben Lacey, engineer Scott Lattimer, and resident Jennifer Mulligan. Lattimer also joins the Park Impact Fee Board with reappointments Randall Hackworth and Ken McGee. -- *Town of Brownsburg Press Release*

## Park Board Recognizes Volunteers

 At the January 18th Park Board meeting, the Park Board took the time to recognize volunteer effort by Diana and Hall Virgil. The Virgil's have worked over 20 years to convert the abandoned CSX railroad line into the B&O Trail in Brownsburg.

The Virgil's have more than two decades to see their dream of converting the old CSX railroad from 136 to Ronald Reagan parkway into a multi use trail. They spent countless hours meeting with state and local officials, writing grants and working with residents even literally clearing the land for the trail and a major part of the upkeep of the trail.

In the early '90s, when rail-trails were a novel concept in Indiana, Diana had the foresight to recognize the potential of this abandoned rail corridor for both recreational use and improving the health and quality of life of Brownsburg and Hendricks County residents. Her passion for the idea was contagious and inspired a group of people to join her to make this a reality. Today this group is known as the B&O Trail Association. Diana is serving as president of the organization.

Hall saw the potential too and brought his analytical engineering mind to the project. He spent hours poring over mountains of documents such as purchase agreements and survey descriptions to ensure that the trails best interests were served. Numerous times over the years, there were setbacks that would have discouraged most people from continuing the effort, but the Virgil's passion and persistence never waned.

The beneficiaries of the Virgil's hard work are the citizens of Brownsburg and Hendricks county and particularly Brownsburg parks. In 2010, the B&O Trail Association (BOTA), Brownsburg Parks and the Town of Brownsburg entered into an agreement to create a two-mile section of the B&O Trail from Green Street east to county road 300 North. The town provided a portion of funding for the project while Brownsburg parks was charged with maintaining the trail. The bulk of the money received was because of the Virgil's grant writing skills which garnered the project more than 4 million dollars in federal funds.

## Park Board - *continued from page 5*

The groups entered into a second agreement in 2015 that brought the one-mile portion of the trail from C.R. 300 N. east to Ronald Reagan Parkway into Brownsburg Parks' inventory. That acquisition helped Brownsburg Parks purchase property just east of the intersection of C.R. 900 E. and C.R. 300 N., which will provide much-needed parking and restroom facilities to trail users. A small playground and bicycle repair station will also be on the more than six-and-a-half-acre site.

In 2016, to celebrate the 200th "birthday" of Indiana, the state provided "bicentennial grants" to fund projects throughout the state. The towns of Brownsburg and Avon applied for and received a grant, resulting in the Bicentennial Trail that connects Brownsburg to Avon at C.R. 300 N. about a quarter mile west of Hornaday Road. This link to the two towns would not have been possible were it not for the Virgil's tenacity in bringing the B&O Trail to life, as the Bicentennial Trail ends at the trail-head that connects to the B&O Trail. Today, the B&O trail corridor is a Visionary trail of the State of Indiana.



Picture courtesy Brownsburg Parks

park will include parking for the B&O Trail and park users, restrooms and the town's first dog park.

Brownsburg Parks celebrated the completion of the portion of B&O Trail it manages last year, resulting in a three-mile stretch of paved trail used daily by walkers, cyclists and runners. Community members have expressed their enthusiasm for the trail at park board meetings, and Brownsburg Parks has seen a increase in trail usage over the past year.

Currently, Brownsburg Parks is teaming with the Virgil's to create an equestrian trail adjacent to the B&O Trail. The Virgil's and other volunteers from the B&O Trail Association have assisted in marking trees that must be removed and replaced, generating funding for the trail, and communicating with homeowners whose property lines are adjacent to the proposed trail.

The Virgil's are not content to let the trail end at Green Street, and they have been hard at work ensuring the trail continues westward. In December 2016, the B&O Trail Association broke ground on a two mile stretch from Green Street to county road 500 East. This section boasts a bridge that spans the scenic White Lick Creek. The western leg of the trail will be just over 6 miles long when completed.

The town of Brownsburg and Brownsburg parks are on a mission to increase connectivity throughout the town via a trail system linking north to south and east to west. There is no question that this mission would fail without the focus and persistence of the Virgil's. It is impossible to envision the B&O trail to be brought to fruition without the tireless efforts of Hall and Diana Virgil.

We thank them for the contribution to the community health and well being by providing them a plaque presented by Director Tranbarger. The plaque states " Diana and Hall Virgil in recognition of your tireless efforts to create the B&O Trail enhancing the quality of life in Brownsburg - Brownsburg Parks". - *The Editor*

This year, Park's will begin work on the Cardinal property. Phase 1 of this project will include using a federal grant to develop a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Trail that will extend north from the B&O Trail about one mile to Airport Road. The RTP Trail will continue east to link to Bulldog Way, providing connectivity between State Road 136 to the B&O Trail. Additionally, the new

## School Redistricting - *continued from page 1*

Homes near a neighborhood have been included in the neighborhood they are located near. Neighborhoods within 1 mile of a school are within walking distance and for financial reasons the plan is not to move those placements. The three neighborhoods that are within walking distance of Reagan elementary will be within walking distance of Lincoln so they will be considered for redistricting. There are 14 neighborhoods that are considered large which have more than 70 children in K-5 with the committee deciding to split neighborhoods that have more than 70 children and need more than one bus.

In September, each table of committee members gave at least 2 scenarios for movement of students. From this meeting, 35 scenarios were submitted. These scenarios were run through the database to look at poverty rates, diversity and SES. In October, the list was narrowed from 35 to 15. At this meeting some modified scenarios were created and 29 scenarios were run against the November enrollment database. In November, the committee evaluated these scenarios and came down to 7 viable redistricting scenarios.

At this point, those scenarios were scrutinized based on three other factors. First, that if at all possible not to redistrict a neighborhood which was redistricted in 2013. There was one neighborhood that was in 2/3rds of the scenarios that was in the last redistricting but a check of enrollment showed only 1 student would be impacted a second time. The second factor was a desire to keep apartment complexes to 1-2 per elementary school. Last, the perfect scenario would have the lowest number of split neighborhoods.

In December the committee narrowed the scenarios down to 5. Then they weighed the pros and cons of each scenario and In January the committee voted on the scenarios. The scenarios were voted on at 2 at a time. Only Brownsburg residents with children in the school system voted. After discussion on each scenario, the group voted and the one with the most votes remained and the one with the lesser votes was eliminated.

The scenario selection went as follows:

- Round one: D2MB 74 votes vs. 01M 0 votes
- Round two: N3MB 15 votes vs. N3MC 59 votes
- Round three: D2MB 74 votes vs. D1m 0 votes
- Round four: D2MB 71 votes vs. N3MC 3 votes

The plan chosen would place 550 students in Lincoln and put the SES and diversity in the right ranges. The areas moved to Lincoln would be Austin Winds N, Bradford Park Apartments, Branches cluster B (Branches section 1, 5, 6), Cambridge Place, Clermont Heights New, Clermont Lakes Cluster A ( Section 5 and 6), Fox Chase, LaCabreah Apartments, Lake Ridge Cluster A ( Sec 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 sec9-Brown, sec 9 Lincoln) Lake Ridge Cluster B (Sec 3, 4, 6, 8), Rosemont, Starkey, Sunshine Meadows, West Chase, Whittington Estates, and Beacon Pointe.

The final enrollment counts would be: Brown 612, Cardinal 577, Delaware Trail 570, Eagle 608, Lincoln 550, Reagan 558, White Lick 554 Recommendation was made to the school board on January 8th and it was accepted. Letters were mailed to all families with children in K-7 notifying of their placement with all forms due back for 5th and 8th grade that want to stay in current school by February 7th. Please direct any questions to the BCSC Administration Main number 317.852.5726 and ask for the Registrar's office - *The Editor*

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## Retirement - Leaving a Legacy Behind “Pete” Owner of Flapjacks Remembrance



### Kim Armstrong retirement December 11th, 2017

Mr. Brower announced that after 21 years of service, this would be the final School Board meeting for Mrs. Armstrong. He invited those in attendance to offer words of congratulations to Mrs. Armstrong.

Dr. Snapp shared the following data – There are 1685 School Board members in the State of Indiana. Of those, less than 1% have served more than 16 years which equates to Mrs. Armstrong being in the top 1% of School

Board members in the State. When she began her tenure on the Board, there were 4120 students – this year there are 8730 students and 1027 employees. Dr. Snapp thanked Mrs. Armstrong for being part of the Board that hired him and thanked her for her dedication and service to the school corporation and community.

Mr. Utterback recalled attending Board meetings in the audience as he served as an administrator in the corporation. He shared it has been an honor sitting next to Mrs. Armstrong at the Board table. He stated “...we can’t thank you enough – you’ve done a tremendous amount for this corporation.”

Ms. Heffernan thanked Mrs. Armstrong for everything she has done for the kids, the teachers and the community.

Mr. Hylton thanked Mrs. Armstrong for all she has done, that she is a treasure to the community and has been a wonderful asset to the school corporation.

Mr. Brower shared that during their six years together on the Board, he never had to doubt Mrs. Armstrong. She always put kids first and has always been fiscally responsible. She is a model of what we should be and what we should do as a Board member. She is a great business owner and a great mother. He thanked Mrs. Armstrong personally for being great to him and that her predecessor will have big shoes to fill.

Mr. Brower then opened the floor to guests in the audience to offer their thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Armstrong.

Mr. Mike Runyon, former member of the School Board, thanked Mrs. Armstrong for offering advice to him when he first became a Board member – don’t come in with an agenda and it’s about the kids. He congratulated her on her many years of service.

Tracy Schenkel, Mrs. Armstrong’s daughter and a kindergarten teacher at Delaware Trail Elementary, provided a moving presentation honoring Mrs. Armstrong for her 21 years of service to the students, teachers and staff members of Brownsburg Schools. Mrs. Schenkel shared that Mrs. Armstrong had several goals she wished to complete during her time on the board and that those goals had been obtained including seeing the implementation of full-day kindergarten, staffing the school clinics with Registered Nurses as well as having all teachers certified in CPR. She shared that Mrs. Armstrong was instrumental in many additional projects that benefited students, teachers and support staff members across the district. Many students, former and current, presented Mrs. Armstrong with a flower and warm wishes.

Mr. Kyle Waggoner, Mrs. Armstrong’s nephew, presented her with a Distinguished Hoosier Award for the State of Indiana as decreed by Governor Eric Holcomb.

Mr. Bret Daghe, principal of Brownsburg High School congratulated Mrs. Armstrong on her dedicated years of service to the school corporation. Mrs. Armstrong had shared many times that attending graduation and handing out diplomas has been one of her favorite activities as a Board member. Mr. Daghe shared that in her 21 years she has graduated nearly 8,500 students. - *Courtesy BCSC Press Release.*



It’s with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of an amazing person and mentor. Panagiotis Avgerinos “Pete” passed away on Jan. 12, 2018. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten. We can’t express with words how much he meant for us and Flap-Jacks. Our thoughts and prayers are with those close to him. Thank you Pete and may you rest in peace. -- *His Flapjacks Family.*

I had the privilege to know Pete for most his time in the Brownsburg area. I will miss his warm smile, his outstretched right hand and strong firm hand shake followed by a sincere “How are you doing?!” delivered in a smooth Greek/American accent. His memory will live on fondly in the hearts and minds of the countless number of people whom he came in contact with over the years, from the delivery drivers, cooks, bussers, hosts, waiters and waitresses, customers, business partners, family and friends. Pete is a shining example the Lord takes the good ones first. -- *The Editor*

## Reds Caravan & B’Burg Little League



The Cincinnati Reds caravan stopped by Brownsburg for the second consecutive year, and this time they brought great news on the future of Brownsburg Little League. Last year, Kirk LeBlanc contacted Tucker Barnhart, to see if the Reds could provide any help in getting a new facility for the Brownsburg Little League. Tucker was delighted to help, and soon put him in contact with Charley Frank, the fundraising coordinator for the Reds organization. Tucker and Drew Storen, another professional ball player out of Brownsburg, donated \$50,000 to the little league to help them build their new facilities.

Charley and the Reds are always looking for opportunities to give back to the communities that support them. Tucker was instrumental in getting the ideas rolling for Brownsburg specifically, and has kept true to his roots by giving back to the town he grew up in. “(We) decided that if this was important to Tucker, that it was a great thing for us to be involved with”.

This wasn’t all that they brought with them. Along for the ride were members of the Reds team, including former members and officials in the organization. Among them was Nick Krall, assistant general manager and former player, Scott Schebler, an outfielder for the Reds, and Austin Brice, a pitcher on the Reds staff. They answered questions and interacted with the kids in the audience, handing out advice and fun stories while trying to recruit some new fans to their team. During the event, the players unveiled the name of one of the new fields that Brownsburg will have: Tucker Barnhart Field. -- *Article John Fuson Picture by The Editor.*

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