



# Town Council & School Board Summit



## Bailey Park Grand Opening ! October 3rd & 4th Brand New Senior Living Villas – NOW OPEN!

Almost 69 years ago, Karolyn Grimes captured the hearts of America in her role as 6-year-old "Zuzu Bailey" in the critically acclaimed Frank Capra film *It's a Wonderful Life*. As part of a special Grand Opening Event for Bailey Park of Brownsburg's new 55 and better villas, Grimes will participate in several activities during the weekend of October 3. During this two-day celebration, Bailey Park residents, prospective residents and the Brownsburg community will have the opportunity to talk with Grimes at the community clubhouse, while she answers questions about her life on film and her role in the movie. Bailey Park of Brownsburg will also host two public meet and greet events with Grimes from 1 to 4 p.m. on both Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4. In addition, Bailey Park of ... *continued to page 5*

## Sean Benham Elected Ward 5

Congratulations to Sean Benham (pictured left) who was elected at the Sept. 12th caucus to fill the Ward 5 Town Council seat recently vacated by Glenn Nulty. Despite the



votes there were no losers, both Sean and Mike Arnould (pictured right), gave great speeches and offered the precinct committee members a viable choice. Their speeches highlighted issues, and provided unique insights for current town council members, precinct committee members, others in public service, and members of the public there to witness the event.

Again, congratulations Sean and thank you Mike, for the willingness to sacrifice your personal time to represent Ward 5, the Town of Brownsburg, and indirectly the peoples of Brown and Lincoln Township.

## Town Council & School Board Summit

The much touted combined meeting of the Brownsburg Community School Corporation (BCSC) and the Brownsburg Town Council took place on September 2, 2015. The workshop meeting (by definition no comments or questions except from the two entities involved) took place on neither entity's home turf but in Eaton Hall. This provided an excuse for neither to tape the event. The table was set up in horseshoe fashion with the Board on one side and the Council on the other. The audience behind the Council appeared to be primarily those opposed to the School Board's actions while those behind the School Board was heavily seated with Brownsburg Community School personnel. Those of us facing the horseshoe seemed to be a combination of 'for's and 'agin's but I am not certain what exactly we were for or against. Roughly counting there were over 70 people in attendance. If you read the Flyer later in the week you would believe everyone agreed and was pleased and satisfied with the outcome. I find it rather interesting that those who openly oppose BCSC direction for the future appeared to be backing the Town Council who they did not elect.

Town Manager Grant Kleinhenz presented first. He started by giving an update on general town development and how the Town supports the school by storm water fee credit and exemption from fire protection fees – an annual value of \$78,828. To put this in perspective, the claims paid by BCSC for the month of August 2015 was \$10,173,136.04. The town also waives building permit fees, has provided pedestrian access paths for students to walk to school, and shared street department purchasing power for salt and shared equipment. In the first eight months of 2014 and this year has seen more single family home permits than in the previous year. However October 2014 had a huge rise in permits resulting in 151 permits for the year in comparison to the 99 so far in 2015. It was noted that Avon issued almost twice as many single family permits since 2013. I don't know what that had to do with Brownsburg but Grant included that fact. He also listed 13 commercial developments that occurred outside of TIF districts. Four of the thirteen was the new construction at Brownsburg Meadows. (Was this because 13 is more than 10 and looks more impressive?) The Town's first ever Economic Development... *continued to page 3*

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

They who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety - Benjamin Franklin

There are times where the routine grind of governance provides little in the way of “sizzle” or sensational headlines some examples are the second reading of this ordinance, a zoning variance, a proclamation and whatnot. During this time, various boards and commissions are just going about what on the surface appears to be very mundane duties. Yet it is during these times when this publication becomes aware of a wide variety of bits of information; some no more than rumor, others a combination of hearsay and fact, and still others bits which cannot be corroborated.

There is a certain percentage each month while true, quite frankly are unfit to print. Most recently actions of public servants and their followers, require deviating from this policy. This group of individuals whose primary goals are self-centered and self-promoting generate little if any tangible positive outcome for the public as a byproduct. Their message is proclaimed under the guise of being “for the greater good” to anyone within ear shot. “Look what I and/or we have done for the public, monies saved, growth achieved, public improvements made, increases in assessed value”, and so on. These individuals are hoping to achieve immediate gratification of recognition, respect, expecting to be elevated to their perceived rightful place as a result of their actions. While failing to publicize in fact, they are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Their methods are easy to spot by an informed citizen- They craft their message by cherry picking facts, taking quotations out of context, “unintentional” errors of omission, twisting and contorting any little fact accidentally in play to the point of fracture, requiring unfounded leaps of logic to understand their self-promoting agenda. As the outcomes of their acts unfold, they downplay their own lack of vision saying the future is vague and uncertain. Redirecting the public's attention to anyone associated who meddled in their grand plan, or casually minimize the results as unforeseen and unintended consequences.

Others, operating by markedly different principles, are left to spend their futures cleaning up the past by “putting humpty dumpy back together again”, while concurrently working on matters at hand. Anyone who offers a differing perspective is considered an obstacle to these people and by extension to the “greater good”. They cast aspersions and innuendo, to ridicule, ostracize, and demonize, individuals or groups who do not fall into line, to the point of either frustration or obscurity.

*“These are the times which try men's souls” -- Thomas Paine.*

The mission of this publication is to bring you news that matters, seen and unseen by the casual observer in an objective and timely fashion. A delicate balance must be struck. However when members of this loosely organized group exceed even the most liberal tolerances of decorum, other public servants, and this publication are forced to respond by diverting precious and limited, time, monies and other resources which would otherwise be applied to the welfare of the

public at large. By stepping into the fray, this publication becomes a target of their misplaced wrath.

This publication has on many occasions extended a byline to these and other individuals so their voice can be heard. Ultimately, as a community based publication, diversity is a good thing; none of us are as good as all of us. The publication's only caveat is their positions must be loosely aligned on fact, even in its smallest measure, nothing else. Lacking the skills or will to engage in a civil public exchange of ideas, they resort to more nefarious means to achieve their goals; eliminate the opposition by any means necessary.

This publication will not air this group's dirty laundry in the public space. It suffices to say their past petty, juvenile, and sophomoric actions were anticipated and tolerated. More recently, their conduct has bordered on criminal. This publication has contingency plans for these circumstances as well. Their conduct does little harm to this publication, our advertisers, and other supporters. In fact, their actions are ultimately self defeating. Their actions destroy the trust they may have with our readers, advertisers, and other supporters, small and large businesses, and general voting public, the very people they claim to support from the mountain tops.

It's an arrogant position to believe theirs is the only voice to be heard. Left unchecked, intellectual tyranny takes root. History is replete with the disastrous results A circumstance so precarious to our founders, they wrote the first amendment to the constitution. Furthermore, it is insulting to our readers and the community at large to believe, everyone must be spoon fed from a single source of information. Instead this publication promotes seeking knowledge from original sources, become an informed voter, trust but verify. The community is easily capable of drawing its own conclusions, from a variety of sources, including sources which differ from this publication.

This publication did work privately to address the matter. Absent of a tangible result this letter is the next logical step so to address this matter in the court of public opinion. As such we will consider this matter closed. This publication has no desire to pursue the matter further. Consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

We will defend our readers, advertisers, and other supporters in a court of law but only if compelled to do so. We suggest to members of this loosely based group ask around, this publication does not make idle threats, only promises. Given the amount of overwhelming evidence we have on hand, we will prevail.

We suggest an alternate approach, redirect the energies used for divisive and counterproductive purposes; join others who currently work to build relationships, organize disparate peoples with differing objectives, encourage everyone to place their differences aside establish consensus, and work collaboratively to achieve common goals. Successfully doing so, your group will ultimately receive the rewards you so eagerly seek. -- The Editor.



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## Summit meeting -- continued from pg. 1

Incentive Policy was approved in 2013 enabling nine real property abatements to have been approved totaling \$105 million in planned investment with an average of 7.7 years. Grant failed to mention that the abatements are prorated over the time period. We were then presented with data showing the number of students that might be expected from single family and multi-family units and the breakdown of the number of students from twenty-five single family developments and six multi-family developments. Kleinhenz concluded his presentation with an explanation of how Tax Increment Financing works (or doesn't depending on what view you take) and a chart of the North Beltway Economic Development Area TIF Pass-through since 2005 showing Incremental Assessed Value Pass through and Total Estimated Incremental Assessed Value. At this point I wondered "How does this affect me, the town, the school...?" I wondered if I were the only person in the room who didn't completely understand or was I like many others trying to look as if all this made sense.

*According to the Hendricks County Auditor TIF has amounted to between \$2 and \$3.5 million per year being lost with the BCSC being the biggest loser...*

Assistant Director of Finance Barry Gardner gave the presentation for BCSC. He first listed key concepts that the Town and School could agree on: we want it to be a great place to live and raise children, property tax caps have challenged both town services and schools, community growth presents both challenges and opportunities, and quoting a Ball State Study '70% of people move or select their current home due to public services and schools; 30% for jobs'. In my opinion most people like the tax caps but the state legislature neglected to come up with a proper percentage to support local government. Maybe it should have been 1.5% on home owners. Gardner stated the original TIF North Beltway district was established in 1992 and the expiration date has since been extended to 2025 by state law and with additional extensions the original area is a 47 year TIF district lasting until 2039. By lengthening the time period,

full assessed value taxing is a bucket being kicked down the road! The next slide showing TIF areas within the Town of Brownsburg is the same but better than the one shown by the Town. On the Town's slide two TIF areas are not shown. Why? Without TIF all assessed values would automatically pass through to community taxing units: schools, fire, and library resulting in lower tax rates for those within and also those outside of town limits. The down side is possible less development, decreased funds for infrastructure projects and a possible loss of assessed value outside of the TIF area. (Infrastructure improvements are necessary for business. If I live on the south side of Brownsburg by CR 300 is it quicker to get to Wal-Mart in Avon or in Brownsburg?) According to the Hendricks County Auditor TIF has amounted to between \$2 and \$3.5 million per year being lost with the BCSC being the biggest loser. Keep in mind this is without TIF and that is not the reality. Gardner also had the same chart showing single and multi-family housing developments

... continued to page 6

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## BCSC Board of Trustees September 14th meeting- *By Anne Sering*



The September 14, 2015 Board of Trustees for the Brownsburg Community School Corporation (BCSC) convened at 6:30 p.m. with the seating area for patrons sufficiently filled. Five students were present to receive commendations for being National Merit Scholarship Finalist. See photograph right. Thus, some of the attendees were family of the students. Others were with Brownsburg Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility. Still others

were present to support the Board and the Administration. It was good to see that many people interested in the School Corporation. It is, however, sad that the success of Brownsburg Community Schools is not first on everyone's agenda.

After the consent items were passed (approval of minutes, claims, and Superintendent's Report) and the most uplifting event of the evening, the commendation of the students, reports on BCSC Police, Operations, and the Brownsburg Education Foundation (BEF) were given. First of all, it is remarkable that five students from Brownsburg High School could make it to the Finals. And the students had different goals and participated in varied activities indicating the rich educational opportunities BCSC provides. This does not happen by accident but is the result of educators, boards and patrons working together to provide the best educational opportunities for all students regardless of their backgrounds and abilities.

Communications Director Vicki Murphy spoke first, reporting on a lockdown held in conjunction with an event in the spring involving the Brownsburg Police Department. If memory serves me right, the event occurred when some young thugs were fleeing police in Indianapolis and eventually crashed and were caught in Brownsburg. The policy now is to call all the parents in the school corporation not just those at the schools that are locked down. The goal is to have parents called as soon as possible with accurate information with the primary obligation being the safety of the students. Chief Officer Ginnie Wing reported on the department which was established in 2008 as the result of state legislation. It originally had a staff of 3 with an additional officer being added two years later. BSCS Police Department has the same training and arrest authority as BPD and completes required annual training with BPD. Student/police interventions have decreased from a high of 43 to less than 30 because of the interactions between the police and students. More than 10 actions of the police were with adults on campus. Officer Kiritschenko and her dog Zeus visit classrooms and talk to the students; details of which my first grade grandchild enthusiastically told to me. Chief Wing reported that there were 600 student drivers at BHS and that the number is expected to grow to 700 by the end of the school year. Approximately 50 traffic tickets are issued in a school year. Board member Mike Runyon made the comment that the kids know the police and the police are familiar with the kids. This does make for more effective enforcement and problem prevention. Mr. Voigt reported the expansion on the Early Childhood Facility had begun and two additional classrooms should be ready by the end of December. This is taking place near College and Eastern. Adam Brower, reporting for the Brownsburg Education Foundation, thanked those who had taken part in the driving a Ford event. The annual Yankee Candle sale is going on with 40% of the proceeds donated to BEF. And BEF received \$12,000.00 from the BCSC surplus sale.

Two patrons offered comments. Brownsburg Town Councilman Rob Kendall began his remarks by announcing that Sean Benham had received 75% of the votes enabling him to fill in the term of resigning Glenn Nulty. He talked about tax reform and infrastructure



National Merit Scholarship Finalists from left to right: Tyler Margetts, Sophia Topi, Ethan Hicks, Conor Nolan, Charles Gnagy

*Mr. Kendall - Had a pledge he wanted the BCSC Board members to sign agreeing not to hold a referendum or raise taxes... this would attract business and end animosity.*

and handed BCSC board members a pledge he wanted them to sign agreeing to not hold a referendum and not raise taxes. This he stated would attract business and end animosity. What he didn't say was that the votes were not from the public but from the Republican precinct committee men within the town limits of Brownsburg and not the citizens' votes. I also don't understand what the point of announcing this at a school board meeting was other than it may have been some type of veiled threat. Mr. Kendall also does not seem to understand that the administration of BCSC and the elected Board are tasked with providing the best education possible for the students in Lincoln and Brown townships and not the welfare of the businesses of Brownsburg. By signing his 'pledge' the Board would be relinquishing the jobs to which they were elected.

The second patron was parent Cori Moore, the parent of a Special Education student. Her concerns were accountability, murky chain of command, information not entirely reported in the minutes from the IET meetings, and too much turnover in staff at the high school level. Mrs. Moore was concerned that parents were not permitted to discuss their child with the child's aide who was with the child most of the time. It was not satisfactory to talk to the teacher, specifically at the high school level, who was with the child only a portion of the day. She took offense to the comment parents should 'trust the professionals'. Her request was for one way window/mirrors into the classrooms or continually running cameras in the classroom, additional guidelines specifically for the handicapped in the handbooks, and for the administration to listen and acknowledge parents' concerns.

Two recommendations were approved. The first was approval of the 2016 School Board Meeting Schedule. The second was the approval to purchase property on the East and West sides of East Ronald Reagan and Airport Road for future expansion. The two plots were purchased at a cost of \$1,211,500 which represents the average of two appraisals as dictated by state law. This will be paid in two installments for the tax benefit of the seller. Comment on this sale was made by Jim Murphy when he stood to speak in the public hearing for the 2016 budget. He expressed disapproval of the purchase as 'unneeded property' when BCSC owns 110 acres north of town. Personally, I disagree with Mr. Murphy and approve of the Board being pro-active. Land is a limited commodity and most of the present growth in school population is in Lincoln Township on the South side of Brownsburg. Brown

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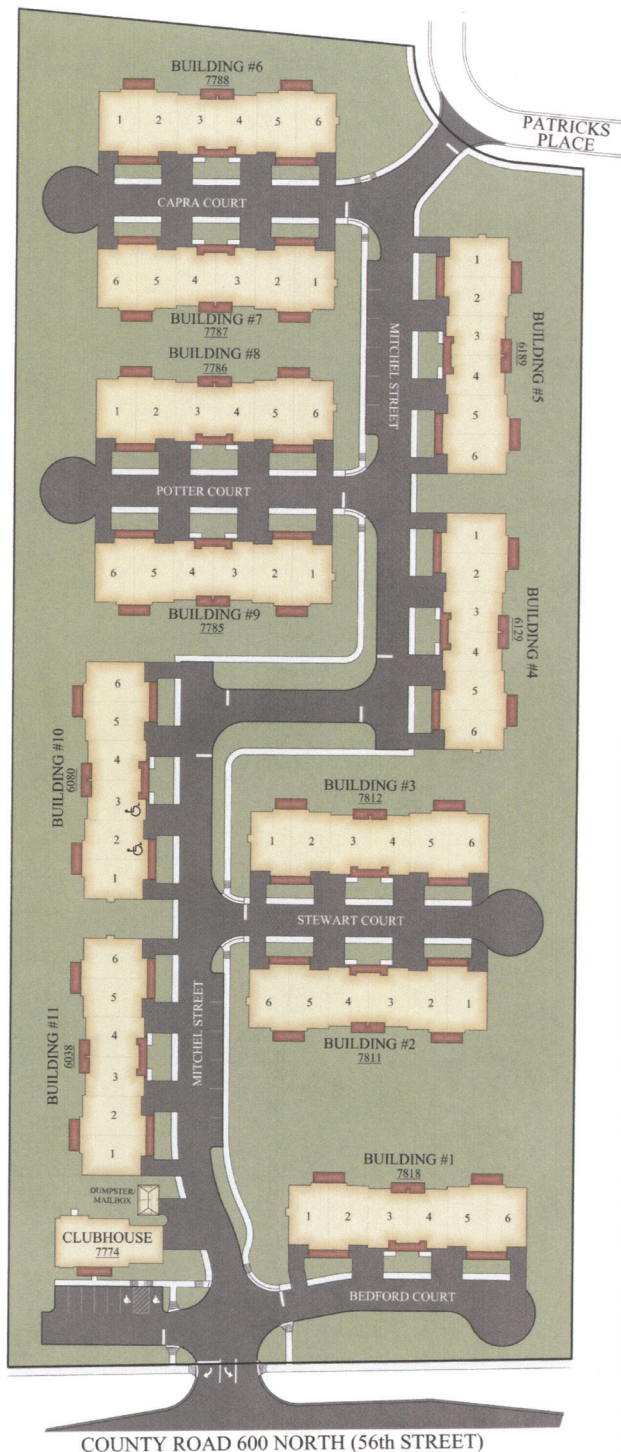


# Bailey Park

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## SITE PLAN

Rental Villas offering "Lifestyle / Ease / Community" for those 55 and better



This rendering is a representative concept and is subject to change.



**Bailey Park**  
BROWNSBURG





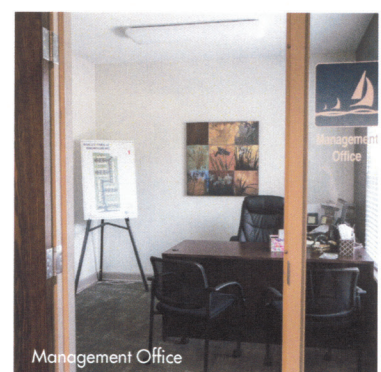
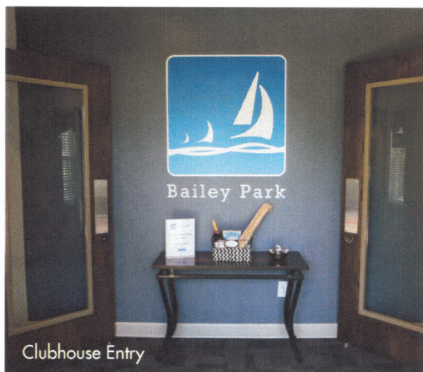
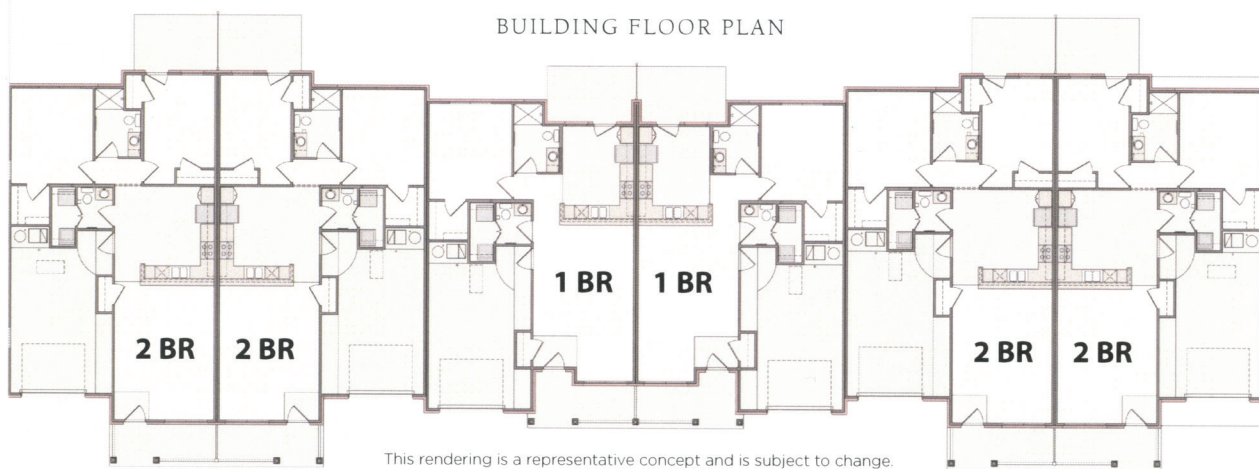
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## AMENITIES

Rental Villas offering "Lifestyle / Ease / Community" for those 55 and better

- Community room
- Library and computer center
- Fitness center
- No maintenance
- "Lock and Leave"
- Universal design plans
- Open floor plans
- Age in place
- Wide Sidewalks
- Walkable community
- Convenient to shopping
- Easy access to airport





## BCSC meeting, *continued from 4*

... *continued from page 4* Township ceded their rights to have a high school in the early 1950s when the township paid tuition to Lincoln Township trustee for their students to attend high school in Brownsburg. Perhaps Brown Township should split from the Town of Brownsburg and again provide for their own students. Maybe, like Trump likes to say, Brownsburg should build a wall to protect its Parks and other amenities from use by non-taxpayers. I say this in complete jest. As a town of Brownsburg taxpayer I simply get tired of the griping from those outside of the town limits. And I am aware they pay school, library and fire protection taxes as do Brownsburg residents.

Five public hearings were held. The first was to adopt the Capital Projects Fund and the second to adopt a Bus Replacement Plan. Neither of these resulted in public comment although Board members Phil Utterback questioned tax rates and Kim Armstrong asked about flexibility within the bus plan. The third public hearing was on the 2016 budget which the county has approved. A notice to taxpayers will be published in the Flyer and Republic. It was at this point Mr. Murphy rose to speak. His major concern was the debt service which he believes has increased to \$2 million since the referendum failed. The next two public hearings were for projects at Brown Elementary and West Middle School. The project at Brown will not exceed \$2 million (the limit at which corporations can spend without taxpayer approval) and will include renovating classrooms and potentially replacing the existing gymnasium with a stage and regulation sized court area as exists in the other 4 elementary schools. Construction is projected to begin in the spring of 2016 and be completed by the end of the year. The West Middle school project will add seven classrooms at a location planned for in the original design. The classrooms are needed to house the expected number of sixth graders who will be promoted to that building. It will also alleviate the need to send incoming sixth graders from White Lick Elementary to both East and West Middle Schools as is now the case. Additional approvals are needed for the West Middle School project but the plan was to have the cost paid off in a 3 year period. Mr. Murphy spoke against the proposal stating that budgets shouldn't be based on past history as history is changing. I don't know anyone who has an infallible crystal ball but indications are that the population is increasing and students need to be housed. Mr. Utterback asked when the assessed value for school taxes would be available with the answer being August 31, 2016. Dr. Snapp reminded everyone that BCSC tax rate is 3rd or 4th depending on which 6 school group is used for comparison. I will remind the reader that one group consists of like-sized schools and areas (Pike, Plainfield, Avon, Zionsville) and the other group is Hendricks County school corporations.

The first new business item was a recommendation to authorize transfers resulting from the Waiver Implementation of Protected Taxes. This allows the transfer of unused funds into capital for furnishings and technology. The second was to approve a Professional Service Agreement with CSO architects for the Brown and West Middle School projects.

Lastly, Dr. Snapp invited those present to attend the next Board workshop meeting at Reagan Elementary in which staff from Reagan, Eagle and White Lick will be in discussion with the Board. Mr. Runyon ended with a comment to keep the communications going within the school district. -- *Anne Sering*

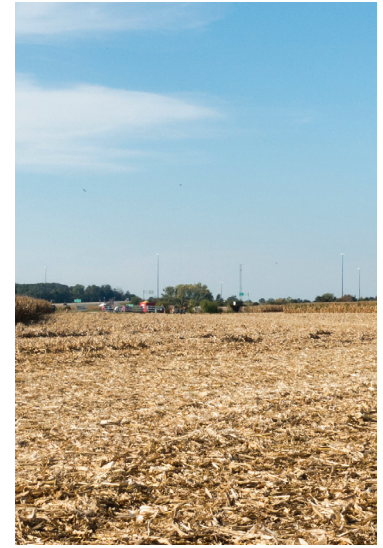
## Bailey Park Grand Opening ! Oct. 3rd & 4th

... *continued from page 1* Brownsburg will feature a private movie screening of *It's a Wonderful Life* at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 3. Grimes instills messages of hope as she travels the world as an ambassador for *It's a Wonderful Life*. A private screening of the movie will take place Saturday evening at the 55 and better villas with space limited for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Contact Bailey Park of Brownsburg to make a reservation: (317) 852-3456. - Sponsored Content

## Reagan Bridge over 136 Site Preparations



Standing just north of 136 looking south



Standing same location looking north, existing interchange off in the distance

Preliminary site preparation began recently at the Reagan Bridge over 136 intersection. Fields were cleared, surveys laid out, iron works brought in, and pilings are being driven.

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## Mr. Kendall - Investigations Continue

**448 days have past** he still refuses to provide the data to back up the "FACTS" he quoted in a 2014 Town Council speech.

**Dual Office Holding - The public awaits Final Ruling from the State Attorney General** The matter is in the hands of the Indiana State Attorney General for a final ruling. *This matter is not closed.*



## 2015 Brownsburg High Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
14-Aug-15	at Plainfield - Scrimmage	06:00 PM
21-Aug-15	<b>Pike</b>	07:00 PM
28-Aug-15	at Lawrence North	07:00 PM
4-Sep-15	<b>Franklin Community</b> BJFL Night	07:00 PM
11-Sep-15	at Avon *	08:00 PM
18-Sep-15	<b>Fishers</b> *	07:00 PM
25-Sep-15	at Westfield *	07:00 PM
2-Oct-15	<b>Zionsville</b> *	07:00 PM
	Crucial Catch Game	
9-Oct-15	at Noblesville *	07:00 PM
16-Oct-15	<b>vs. Hamilton Southeastern</b> *	07:00 PM
	@ Victory Field	
23-Oct-15	at Sectional	07:00 PM
30-Oct-15	at Sectional	07:00 PM
6-Nov-15	at Sectional	07:00 PM
13-Nov-15	at Regional	07:00 PM
20-Nov-15	at Semi-State	07:00 PM
28-Nov-15	at State	07:00 PM

Home games in bold.

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## We're Looking for Coats!



### Bundle'em Up In Hendricks County Coat Drive

The 2nd Annual Bundle'em Up coat drive is looking for new or gently used coats. Please donate now until October the 10th, at any of the collection barrel sites. Together we can bring warmth to a family in need.

Collection barrels are located at all Brownsburg Fire stations, Pittsboro Fire Station and Pittsboro Town Hall. We will be adding new collection sites as needed. If you would like to collect for us please let us know at 858-6046 or 852-1115.

This year we will also be accepting hats, gloves and scarfs

Thank you for  
your help and  
generosity

## Summit meeting, *continued from 3*

and the number of students from each. Since the averages did not match I looked at each sheet carefully and found slight differences mainly in the number of middle school and high school students in apartments. Since apartment dwellers are apt to move more frequently and BCSC saw an increase of 150 students this school year, I would expect BCSC attendance numbers to be more current. The average cost using a five year average is \$3,687. Fifty new homes would bring in possible 40 students costing a total of \$147,480 but bringing in \$66,250 tax dollars to BCSC causing a short fall of \$81,000 to the school. An actual example of the shortfall that occurs is the example of the 46 students living in a 152 unit apartment complex costing \$169,602 to be educated and bringing in only \$56,084.

And this is exactly where the argument begins. BCSC needs more money for expansion that is coming and the Town wants to bring in as much new business as possible by giving tax breaks. The percentage of housing to commercial is 85% to 15% which was mentioned by BCSC Trustee Mike Runyon. Home owners are protected from property taxes by a 1% cap on their property values. BCSC Phil Utterback admitted he had to learn more about TIF, BCSC Adam Brower wanted to know how the School Board could get involved in decisions on TIF districts. Council member Kendall said that municipalities had to be proactive and not go to the state to get projects done. Council member Hobbs stated that it was a good idea to meet. Kleinhenz stated that he and BCSC Superintendent do communicate (Is it "I am going to do A" and "Then I am going to do B"?). Council Member Dawes admitted BCSC was a community asset. And the final quote came from Adam Brower who stated we can disagree without being disagreeable.

SO..... Since the meeting Mr. Kendall has brought his 'pledge' to the Board. Brownsburg Residents for Fiscal Responsibility have not changed or softened their position. I wonder what their definition of a 'Brownsburg Resident' is. A town of Brownsburg taxpayer? In today's world being negative and anti seems the norm. Presidential candidate Mr. Trump says "I can fix that!" when asked about problems people perceive. He doesn't exactly say how he will; we are to trust him. I don't hear even that much from some folks. What I hear is "you can't do that", "you will be replaced", "BCSC is spending too much!" And how about from the last school board meeting: "we don't like it that the special education teachers don't stay here. We want cameras in the classrooms and one way windows so we can see what our child is doing". Or is it what the teacher is or isn't doing? And I am sure other parents also have wishes too. "My kid goes to an elementary school with no stage for musical events." I don't want my son in an algebra class with 36 other students." "My kid accidentally got knocked down changing classes in the crowd hall". Meanwhile, thanks to our taxes the dump trucks run continually up and down my street. Thank you, Brownsburg. I for one am willing to pay more taxes, put up with the traffic, am proud of our schools, and plan to stay. How about you?

--Anne Sering

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## The Month in Pictures - *By The Editor*



Above - Brownsburg High School Homecoming King and Queen

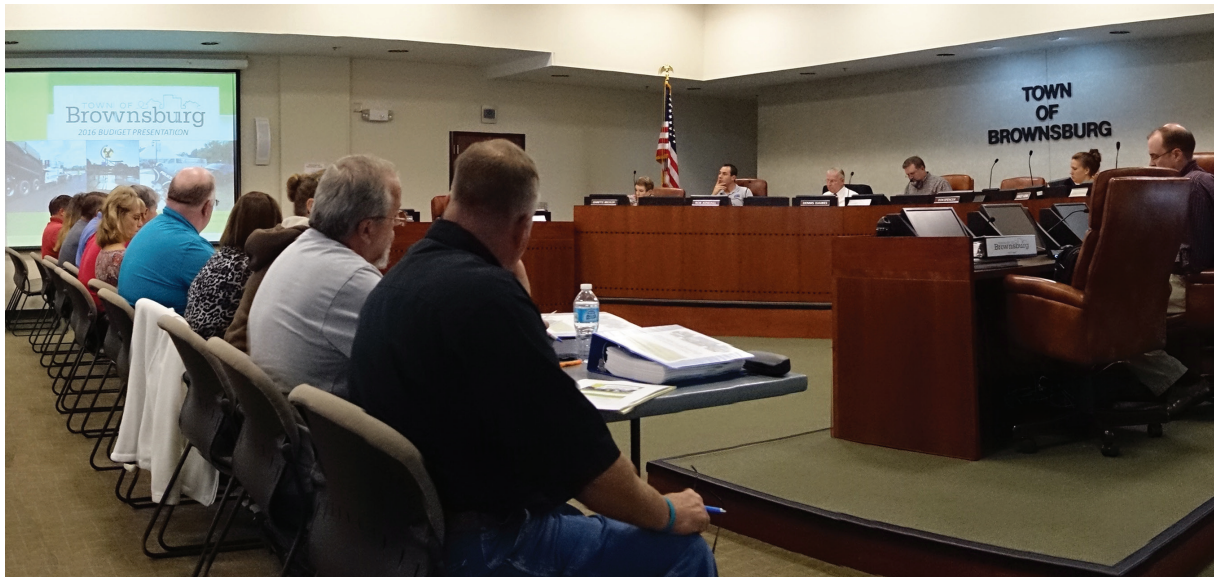
Below - A St. Malachy County Fair Horseman



Congratulations Matt Wing on your promotion to Corporal !  
(2015 09 08 Police Commission Meeting).



BPD CONGRATULATES Retiring DNR Officer Jeff Wells After 36  
year of service. (2015 09 08 Police Commission Meeting).



2016 Town of Brownsburg budget review held August 19, 2015. All Town Councilmen and women, and department heads or their representatives were present during the meeting.

Various residents are reviewing the budget in detail.





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