



Rec Center vs. Town Center

June Park Board Report - *Anne Sering*



The Brownsburg Park Board met on June 15, 2017. Earlier in the month David Weyant and I met with the Park Director to discuss the annual report and other topics. On June

22, 2017, I attended the Town Council meeting. This article contains information from all three events but only Town Council matters pertaining to Brownsburg Parks. It is probably a good time to remind the reader that this article is mainly observation and opinion. It is not intended to be a report of the content of the meetings. If that is what is desired, the website for the Town does record meetings. And if the reader wishes to dispute or disagree, the publisher of the paper does accept letters.

The first topic concerns the 2016 Annual Report which is available in the Town Hall Building or at the Park Department Building. A summary listed the following: manage \$13 million in Town assets; 460 facility rentals; 14 miles of connected trails; 6,313 people participated in 156 recreation activities; 826 children attended the before and after school program (BASE); and \$15,160 was saved due to volunteers. The total revenue was \$2,808,613.25. The expenditures were \$3,222,380.16. The apparent loss was mainly due to the Park Department being evicted from their location in the now razed St. Malachy offices and was a planned and budgeted expense that occurred earlier than expected. Capital outlays which included the purchase of the building. The cost was covered without property taxes and remodeled with Food and Beverage monies with much of the labor volunteered. Brownsburg Parks recovers 62% of operating expenses through revenue generation as compared to 29% nationally. Thirty per cent of the revenue is from property taxes which doesn't cover the salaries and benefits of staff.

Other good news from the private meeting was that we were introduced to the summer interns who are interviewing town's folk to produce a history of Brownsburg Parks before there is no longer anybody alive who has information. On the white board were notes that indicated that Travis Tranbarger's plan for an outdoor nature classroom was in the probable or possible future. His design would make use of rocks and wood available in the woods. This wasn't discussed in much detail but it did make me hopeful that someday it will be a reality. I had a friend once tell me that I was the only person she knew who would read what was on her refrigerator. I just naturally read anything I see without giving it a second thought.

The Park Board meeting took place a couple of weeks later. I was astonished and pleased to see the number of people in attendance. I later learned that a discussion concerning the 'probably not in my life time' community center was discussed on Brownsburg Chatter. After the minutes and claims had been approved, Troy Austin approached the microphone to address the Board. This surprised me because normally Citizen's Requests are listed in the agenda. However, Troy Austin was

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

BLL Diamond 1 Farewell - *John Fuson*

Emotional describes the scene at Arbuckle Park, as players, parents, and the town of Brownsburg gathered to send off diamond one. The event hosted by Brownsburg Little League, sends off a field filled with history, and one that is a pillar of this community. The plans for development by the town caused the event to take place, and while members of the community understand the need for progress and development, they are not happy about losing their beloved field. "To me, this is like losing Wrigley Field for little league" says Ken Maynard, a former board member from 1999 to 2005, serving on the board for four straight state titles, and two trips to the Little League World Series.



cont. to pg. 6 Picture by -- The Editor

June Town Council Highlights



June 8, 2017 The meeting opened with prayer and Ms. Bascu was back and indicated that Councilman Jessen was absent for the evening. With no citizen's comments on the agenda, the council went through the consent items for the evening.

During Administrative items, Todd Barker indicated that the town had issued 92 single family home permits through the end of May this is up from last year same for the planning commission which has had 30 more cases this year than last year over the same period. Todd Wallace then came to the podium to give an update on the wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. So far the construction crew is about two months ahead of schedule for the sanitary sewer update currently forecasted for November 2017. The current schedule for the wastewater treatment plant is completion in May 2018. If a reader would like to look at the presentation, it is attached to the agenda for June 8th Town Council. Last for administrative items was managing fluvial erosion hazards. The county has imposed new technical standards for erosion around White Lick Creek which Brownsburg probably need to implement in some form for the town residents around White Lick Creek.

With no previously considered items on the agenda, the meeting moved on to new business. There was one annexation ordinances for first reading. Two other items were financial resolutions. One which moves money from the general fund to a road and bridge matching fund. Two resolutions to allow the Town Manager to have the ability to execute closing on the Scannell project and F&C project. Another ordinance was approved amending the salary ordinance for the parks department for 2017 so that new positions can be posted and filled

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LETTER TO / FROM THE EDITOR

In regards to the rec center or there lack of, I have had numerous conversations with several elected and appointed members of various boards. Several people make decent arguments about the development, but some have absolutely no idea what they are voting on and they are not in step with how Brownsburg residents would like their tax dollars allocated. In the early stages the residents were told that the plans were three stories on the east and on the town side they would do a small commercial unit to compliment the unit on the east side and to help pave way for the recreation center. It seemed like a solid plan because the property would generate revenue that normally would not even be there and offset of the cost associated with the rec center. Somewhere along the way, the plans changed. After 10 years we will have less than 1/10th of what the town is investing. As long as there are no abatements, we will be at break even in a little over 20 years.

Let's talk about parking garages. Our comprehensive plan, that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to put together, clearly states NO PRIVATELY OWNED PARKING GARAGES, Yet we are paying to have these built with tax dollars, then turning them over to a company, who will then charge us a fee to use the garage. I'm an outsider, with no intimate knowledge of this deal. I hope that the town officials can understand how this looks to the average person. -- Ron Mathews, Brownsburg Indiana

I read the Sentinel, it doesn't reflect well on town board members who regard the townships as not worth paying attention to. Perhaps if the property taxes were not sent to Brownsburg this would be different. If the attitude is that people in Avon and other places where they send students to Brownsburg is no different, why have the townships attached to Brownsburg. Why not incorporate as a separate town North of Brownsburg and annex Fayette to the Town North of Brownsburg, it seems that the name Harrisburg is still available, original name of Brownsburg.

The annexation was an attempt to tax the Township without representations on the Town Board. There is a serious problem with the Town board treating two Townships like this. It is apparent in many older parts of Brownsburg how the Town Board has ignored new curbs, sidewalks, drainage, etc. of older neighborhoods in favor of new neighborhoods. My mother has lived on Tilden near Odell since 1959 and the curbs are almost below the street.

Perhaps the Town Board needs to focus on the town and the Township Board members on the townships and leave the Board entirely. North and South of Brownsburg, there should be Elementary schools, not just built inside the town limits and a Library extension North of Brownsburg at the very least. The central part of Brownsburg High School was built in 1970 and 47 years later, they are finally updating it when it was and is for the most part in the same state as when built.

If the treatment of the two townships continue as not part of Brownsburg and most of the high priced homes are North and South in the townships, perhaps Incorporation should be considered, Harrisburg like Whitestown, which uses Zionsville Schools, Brown and Lincoln Township using Brownsburg schools, yet a separate incorporation. This ongoing dispute with annexation has clearly identified the Town Board is only for the town and townships are ignored. As with any Democracy, the potential of Incorporating as a separate town or towns is an available option, especially with taking the tax base with it. -- Gary -- Brownsburg, IN. Name and address withheld by request.

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Once again this month's Brownsburg Town Council showed a complete disregard for their township neighbors, acting on their own self interest as they worked every angle to "voluntarily annex" the property associated with the Cadence Development. The Cadence Development was first approved by the Town Council with conditional re-zoning based on developer providing workable solutions to decades old drainage problems in partnership with the county boards and surveyor.

The developer was to return with solutions as soon as they were able. Instead, the developer did not speak, rather (Town of Brownsburg planner) Jonathan Blake took to the lectern at a following Town Council meeting to explain "additional capacity" had been identified in a near by retention pond, the town believed they could utilize that excess capacity to solve the aforementioned drainage issues. There was no supporting documentation provided in the town council packet, nor collaborating testimony from Dave Gaston (Hendricks County Surveyor) nor anyone or official memo from the Hendricks County Drainage Board to lend expert credence to that claim. (See the April/May edition of the Sentinel for details).

With this insurmountable problem easily brushed aside, the town has continued to pursue the "voluntary annexation" of the property. During the month of June, the justification shifted from the developers desire to be annexed, to the property owners desire to be annexed. Further lowering the legal threshold for annexation, one council member quoted state statute saying the town MUST accept a voluntary request for annexation or face a potential lawsuit from the applicant.

It's odd members of town council rush to embrace the law when it suits their agenda, while showing total disregard and respect for the law when it is a hindrance. A few of many examples-- A clear conflict of interest in legal council with the town and fire territory board retaining the same litigator and same firm; or ignoring the rights of those successfully fighting the town's predatory involuntary annexation, and numerous unfavorable (to the town) court rulings by simply continuing the litigation effort.

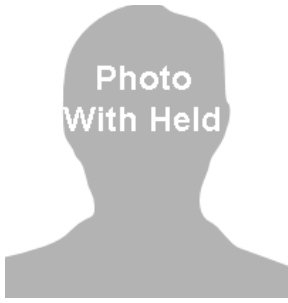
Public servants of the town also publicly shift their stance regarding the Comprehensive Plan it is sometimes considered a guide (when it suits the town), and other times its a hard and fast "rule" which must be followed to the letter. Brownsburg residents who partnered with the town during the Comprehensive Plan's formulation, recall it falling more toward the latter than the former.

In the same manner, a recreation center was always a corner stone in the Comprehensive Plan. Recently a group of citizens learned in their words "a bait and switch was done", by extending the hopes of the center being built as a part of the new town center, only recently to be told the recreation center was many years away. The town said in so many words "We're out of money, we have other more important items to address". It is odd again for those watching, there was no limit to the monies the town provided as incentives to developers in the form of cash, property sold at \$5.00 when the town paid 2.3 million for the entire parcel, infrastructure improvements, road improvements and in some cases funds to pay operational expenses in the event the buildings and leasing arrangements are not profitable (for many years).

Just as in the case of those who opposed the Cadence development, the town turned a deaf ear, but this time to tax paying residents of Brownsburg, public servants (elected, appointed, and hired) offered little more than excuses and platitudes to placate the frustrated masses.

There are those who actively seek reelection, or election to a higher office, all seem to **forget** -- they are elected, appointed or hired to serve the public interests FIRST (they swore an oath of office to uphold these values), and disregard *any* actions which promote their own self serving agendas. -- The Editor

Akram Musleh, Terror Suspect 1 yr update



A former Brownsburg High School student Akram Musleh, now 19, was arrested June 21, 2016 on federal terrorism charges after allegedly attempting to provide support to ISIS and travel overseas to join the terrorism organization.

Law enforcement officials said Akram attempted to board a bus departing Indianapolis to New York, where they said he planned to fly to Morocco on his

way to territory controlled by ISIS. Court documents (available on our website) indicate his plans were to join the ISIS.

This publication has reviewed the Federal Judiciary court filings to date via the Public Access to Court Electronic Records system (PACER). We have found Mr. Musleh will be detained until trial as the court agreed there is reasonable assurance he is a dangerous person to the community at large, and / or a flight risk. No other court records are available to the public at this time. His last known whereabouts he was incarcerated in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Chicago, Illinois awaiting trial.

This publication will not allow the accused to gain any notoriety from his actions if found guilty; nor condemn him in the event he is found innocent of the charges. As a result we are withholding his picture. -- *The Editor*

June Council Highlights - cont. from pg 1

before the beginning of the school year.

The meeting wrapped up with citizen's comments which revolved around the fluvial erosion hazard presentation on erosion around White Lick Creek area.

June 22, 2017

The meeting opened with prayer with Ms. Bascu indicating that all members were present for the evening. As usual the next item on the agenda was citizen's comments as they relate to the evenings agenda. First up was Kurt Disser, who started by pointing out the town council was about to approve a consent item for \$42,000 to Frost, Brown and Todd to appeal annexation. Then he pointed out that the Cadence property was starting the annexation process this evening but the property is part of the litigation. This will probably cause more court fees for the town to annex this land. Next to the podium was Sabrina Graham to voice her opposition to the annexation of the Cadence property. Next was the president of the Reed Estates home owners association in opposition to the annexation of the Cadence property. Next she read statements from elderly residents of Reed Estates who wanted to be heard about the annexation.

Previously considered items, consisted of the voluntary annexation of the Kids Count property for second reading. The ordinance was approved 5-0 on second reading. Next was a tax abatement for Yoder Oil Company in Eagle Point Business Park. The resolutions were approved 5-0.

Under new business was the first reading of the ordinance to voluntarily annex the Cadence property. The owner of the land was not present on this evening. The property just barely makes the 1/8th contiguity to the town. The property has 14% contiguity and needed 12.5%. The developer cannot go forward with the development of the property until the annexation is approved. After much discussion, the council approved the voluntary annexation on first reading.

Last up for the evening was the general citizen's comments. These comments were more directed to the rec center or lack of a rec/ community center in the Town of Brownsburg. First up was Jen Cox who was advocating the need for a community center for the senior citizen population in Brownsburg. She stated that it seemed the Town Council no longer backs the need for a rec center. Next to the podium was Troy Austin, who brought up the fact that there is a Hendricks County Senior Services in Danville and the seniors should use that service. Ron Matthews then spoke on the need for a rec center in the town. Several other town and township residents came up to speak about the lack of a community center. Then Grant Kleinhenz spoke to why the development had to come first before the rec center to bring in the people and the money. Mr. Dawes echoed Grant Kleinhenz since he was the President of Hendricks Regional when the Avon recreation center and the Hendricks Senior Services center in Danville. He expects it will happen in Brownsburg but just not now. -- *The Editor*



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following the rules set up by the Town Council which allows citizens to address the Board on matters in the agenda. Mr. Austin volunteered to be on the Williams Park Enhancement Committee. He was quickly followed by Ron Matthews who did likewise. However, he also took the opportunity to express views on the proposed recreation and aquatic center; fees associated with the aforementioned center, and questioned a 20% increase in vending.

The first item of New Business was to ask permission for the formation of the Williams Park Enhancement Committee. However, the focus of the committee was to discuss the roundabout with the gazebo and the 9/11 relic from the Trade Center. Brownsburg Fire Chief said the fund raising efforts for the proposed memorial didn't meet costs. Now an area located in the future Arbuckle Commons may be selected. This caused Board member Scott Latimer to ask, "Shouldn't the Park Board have been involved?" (Why have boards when they are summarily ignored? Oh, excuse me; it might just be the Park Board that is overlooked constantly.)

The second item of new business was the Zone Improvement Committee. This will study the impact zone and community level of service used. This Impact Fee for new residential properties paid by Builders is ear-marked for Park and Recreation. The present fee expires in 2018 and the list of allowable recipients will be readdressed. Presently the items covered are trails, land, tennis, restrooms, shelters, and play grounds. Note these are all physical property items already existing. An increase in population allows for funds to be used to expand existing items. Meeting rooms could be added because of the possible loss of the meeting room in Eaton Hall. However, we do not have an existing aquatic center so Impact Fees cannot be used to build an aquatic center or recreation center. It was noted that the Park Board has the authority to establish committees for certain topics and time periods. This Committee will consist of town council members, Park Board Members, and individuals who have the specific technical skills needed.

B.A.S.E. Scholarship Policy was reviewed to include children of staff members. The current guidelines are compliant based on income. By providing a means for children of staff members to attend it is hoped that it will be easier to hire additional staff. The last item was a mention of the 2018 proposed budget. Final changes are due July 19, 2017 will be compared with 2018. I did note the expression "harsh realities" in the discussion.

Most of the items mentioned in Tranbarger's Operation Report are old 4th of July. (This publication is not late because of the editor. It is because of this columnist's many obligations causing delays. If I were paid I'd surely be fired.) It should be noted that Grounds employee Chris Meyers is celebrating 20 years with Brownsburg.

Phil reported the Community-Wide Survey had already received enough respondents to be statistically valid but entries would be accepted until the posted deadline. Scott Latimer expressed the opinion that the Board has not been good enough in educating the public in respect to the impact that can be made. Phil Utterback reminded that the vendor does a tabulation analysis. Phil also discussed the Gateway Trail which will allow pedestrians to get from one side of I-74 to the other.

Citizen's Comments brought multiple people to address the Board. First up was the Publisher of the Brownsburg Sentinel. He complemented the change of Parade Route and then discussed the web site and setting deadlines to head off stragglers. (His columnist?). Scott

Latimer responded that the purpose was to encourage participation, educate the public and improve quality of life.

Jody Ensign questioned a discount given if West Wynn Farms subdivision donated land in place of fees and noted that the 9/11 memorial was not a Park Department design. Jim Sering spoke to educate the public further on Impact Fees. Elizabeth Shaul spoke at length about Gateway Trail, mainly questioning the safety of using the walkway under I-74, walking past the entrance to Starbucks, and the cross walk at Northfield. Her final comment was that it was a waste of money. Stephanie Stout discussed the Impact fees questioning how much land was left within the Town of Brownsburg for residential building. Phil responded that people were already requesting another Splash Park but spending depended on population growth. Ron Matthews questioned the popularity of the splash park and was told the shelters adjacent to the splash park were booked solid. He then asked about the success of Brownsburg having an aquatic center since other areas, including

Lebanon, provided swimming pools. Parnin explained the success of out-door pools depended on hot summers vs. cold summers. Indoor pools were not weather dependent. This invoked a long discussion on the pros and cons of a recreation center. Troy Austin spoke up stating Brownsburg should live within its means comparing it to student loans that could not be repaid. This brought Jim Sering back to tell the citizens that if they disagreed with policy they should go to the Town Council meetings and express their opinions because it was the Town Council that was not friendly toward supporting parks. President Carrie Palma said people should go to the Park Board and then to the Town Council. At this point people returned to make additional comments supporting their views. "Parks are an integral part of an area"; "Article after article has promised a community center." "Commercial area will bring in funds to support town amenities".

This comment brought John B. Raybold to the microphone to question the promise of the commercial area, noting the East side project showing no progress compared to the West side project. He pointed out the commercial vacancies in Carmel and elsewhere. He concluded his comments with "The town needs a rec center". Latimer concluded the meeting with enumerating the number of people using the parks. The numbers were in the tens of thousands for the 4th of July and baseball attendees at Arbuckle. Softball, football, rugby also use the parks for practice. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Of course, I had to go to the Town Council meeting. Jen Cox, President of Brownsburg Older Adults (BOA), started speaking about the need for a Community Center when the Citizen's comments were only to relate to items on the agenda. I mention this because seeing her speak on the live web telecast caused Troy Austin to come late to the meeting to dispute her viewpoint. Town Manager Grant Kleinhenz read a Proclamation designating July as Park and Recreation Month. (If you can find this on the web site please let me know.) It enumerated the numerous, wonderful, and economical benefits of parks and recreation. Jen Cox was the first to provide comments prior to adjournment. She had stated earlier that 12% of the residents in the Town of Brownsburg were senior citizens and the Brownsburg area was home to 6,000 seniors. She expressed her concern that a recreation center was now being discussed as a private not town amenity. She went so far to say that "Parks department got screwed by the Town Council" and called their behavior "shady". (I have to give Jen credit. She tells it like she sees it.) The BOA is holding a 5K run in August to

**"Why have boards
when they are
summarily ignored?
Or is it just the park
board?"**

Anne Sering

**July is Parks and
Recreation month in
Brownsburg**

Grant Kleinhenz

June Park Board Report - *continued from 4*

raise funds. So, immediately after Jen spoke, Troy Austin spoke to remind the audience that the HCRH provided a senior citizens center in Danville. This prompted Ron Matthews to ask why the town wanted to send everyone away from Brownsburg: senior center in Danville, pool in Plainfield, etc. Ron is a proponent of providing a recreation center. The treasurer of BOA spoke asking why everything was taken away from citizens and nothing given back. This columnist could not keep her mouth shut and I confronted Mr. Kleinhenz about the irony of what he stated in the proclamation. A lady who lives on Clifford Court echoed my sentiments but she was perhaps less upset than I because she had the foresight to ask if the Proclamation was available. Kleinhenz said he thought so but gave her his copy. She may have the only existing copy because I couldn't find it. My fault for waiting until the last minute to write my column.

We, the citizens who spoke, hit a nerve because Mr. Kleinhenz spoke at length about the purchase of the St. Malachy property with the intent to sell off the frontage for commercial, how much this will benefit Arbuckle Acres, how the drainage is being taken care of for Arbuckle (I have since learned that part of Arbuckle Park land will be turned into a retention pond from rain water overflow from the commercial property. This is also occurring in Stephens Park where the retention pond for overflow from the apartments being built will partially be on park land. The town is now using our park land to support commercial business.), thousands have been spent for parks...etc. Board Member Dawes stated that he was very in favor of a recreation center but it must be planned for and recommended the Danville Senior Center and the Avon HRHY. (Which reminds me: the BOA expressed concern about older adults driving especially in the dark and in heavy traffic.) Chris Worley stated that he had not heard that the rec. center was a dead issue. Ashley Bascu said not to believe all you read on facebook. (Reminds me of President Trump: "Trust me!") . Sean Benham requested that Parks Director Philip Parnin be requested to attend the next Council Meeting. And so it goes. Watch this space! Comments welcomed.

BLL 12yr old Majors Going to State



The 2017 Brownsburg Little League 12-year-old Majors All-Stars have won the Indiana Little League District 8 Championship and will play in the State Tournament in Wabash, Indiana from July 26 - July 31.

Brownsburg Little League has a proud history of success, as a 4-time state champion (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002), and a 2-time participant in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA (1999, 2001). This is the 14th team in league history to reach the state finals.

The 14 boys on this team are continuing the history of baseball success in Brownsburg, and are grateful for the opportunity to represent the community. Please consider making a donation to the team, as the families of the players must pay out-of-pocket for hotel and travel expenses to participate in the 6 day tournament. See :

<https://www.gofundme.com/brownsburg-little-league-allstars>

Welcome Our Intern John Fuson



Right away, we started John off in the deep end of the pool. I met John that evening, and he's hard at work with little direction 1 hour later covering the Brownsburg Little League Diamond One Farewell. At the Sentinel, John will be working community / human interest, sports, and other duties assigned by the editor.

John attended Danville Community High School, where he played baseball for three years. He graduated in 2015, and after that went to the University of Saint Francis for one year before transferring to Ancilla Domini College, where he obtained his associates degree in communications this past May. John plans to attend IUPUI in the fall to work towards his bachelor's in communications. After college, his goals are to be a sports journalist for USA Today, or be a sports reporter for a television news station. He comes from a journalistic background, as his grandfather was the former editor of the West Side Flyer, and his grandmother worked as a reporter for the Flyer as well.

--The Editor

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BLLB Diamond 1 Farewell - cont. from pg 1



Little Leaguer's and friends say their final good bye, watching the movie "The Sandlot" picture by -- John Fuson

Parents, and current players feel sadness about the loss of their field, one that some players will not get the chance to play on. Former players, such as Matthew Hopkins, while happy to see all the support from the town, still felt disappointed that a major part of his childhood was being torn down, stating: "This was home to a lot of people for a long time". The loss of the field also includes the loss of opportunities for special needs players that is provided through the Challenger League. The league is currently exploring options for new facilities for next year. In baseball news, the 12U all-star team and 11U all-star team are expected to be competitive. Vice president Darren Lambert said that both teams expect to win district, and hope to repeat as state finalists, as both teams did in 2016 as 10 and 11 year olds, respectively.-- John Fuson

BCSC Board of Trustees Rpt.- Anne Sering



The Brownsburg Community School Board of Trustees met on June 12, 2017. Although retiring member Kim Armstrong was absent her replacement Matt Freije was present in the audience.

The Bel Canto concert choir was recognized for its state championship win. This brought to three the number of state championships earned by Brownsburg High School. Bel Canto joined the robotics team and wrestling in this achievement.

Mr. Voigt and Mr. Gardner gave updates on operations and finance. Voigt update mainly pertained to the many construction projects occurring. Building is underway at the new Lincoln Elementary and interior work is underway at West Elementary addition. Sections of Brownsburg High School have been gutted and reconstruction work is going quickly. Gardner gave an elaborate report on bus replacement and how the problem of increased enrollment and bus recall was being handled in a financially structured manner. He also discussed debt service loans and taxes. Dr. Snapp reassured the Board that the tax rate will continue to decline in coming years. Dr. Snapp also mentioned that any future enhancements would be based on need and enrollment.

Assistant Superintendent Kat Jessup reported that 85 parents had volunteered to be on the committee which will determine the elementary redistricting which will take place with the completion of the seventh elementary school. The goal is that all elementary schools will be similar in demographic makeup and each school has a similar number of students who qualify for reduced or free lunches.

Dr. Snapp's final remarks were to thank the Town of Brownsburg for waiving the water fees for Lincoln Elementary. (Again the taxpayers in the Town are subsidizing the community as a whole. To be fair a percentage of the fees based on the percentage of Town students compared with the population as a whole should have been waived. Town taxpayers are used to paying for amenities used by all. We just hope the townships recognize our willingness to include them. One way the townships can help is by frequenting Brownsburg businesses instead of Avon, Plainfield, and Whitestown.) Secondly, all nine Brownsburg Schools received 4 Star rating. - Anne Sering

Brownsburg Community Unites for Missing Boy



July 8th, 2017. The Brownsburg community mourns together as search efforts for missing 8-year old Shalom Lawson have drawn to a close. Shalom was visiting Brownsburg from Louisville KY and suffered from autism which impaired his ability to communicate and to perceive his environment. Hundreds of people were present with more arriving to begin the search. This search effort hit home for many, as people from multiple counties,

with no knowledge of the child or his family, came out to support them. At approximately 11:45 AM, Brownsburg police announced that a body had been found, later confirmed to be Shalom. As the news broke, the community immediately began its own memorial for the child, and their family. One man, Mark Snider, felt a personal connection with the family, having grandchildren around the boy's age "My heart goes out to the family".

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June Little League Update

Brownsburg Little League Baseball (BLLB) is continuing its fundraising efforts and hit a home run in recent weeks. Previous players, Tucker Barnhart and Drew Storen, along with the Cincinnati Reds presented a check to the BLLB for \$50,000. These funds will be used for the upcoming relocation of our fields. We sincerely appreciate this partnership and are looking forward to working with Tucker, Drew, and the team on many initiatives in the future.

On a more somber note, we hosted a farewell event to Diamond 1 at the BLLB fields. Countless Brownsburg children have played here and it was with much sadness that we said goodbye to it. A movie night was held on the diamond and community children were able to run the bases a few more times before the lights went out. Signage and concessions have been removed from the field since the final event.

We continue in our quest to determine the best location for our future fields. The fall baseball league will continue this year and we are thankful to other local Little League programs who are allowing us to utilize their facilities. We will have more updates about the move soon.

If you have any questions about the BLLB, please don't hesitate to reach out to info@brownsburgbaseball.com.

B'Burg Fire Territory Welcomes New Engines



3 new engines were purchased Engine 131 will be stationed and the main fire house, the other two engines will be stationed at their corresponding fire houses -- *Picture by John Fuson*

The Brownsburg Fire Department unveiled three new engines for their fleet. The engines come with easier to handle equipment, maximizing the abilities of the firefighters. Firefighter Rob Pickett was one of the leads in replacing the engines, overseeing the design of the engines, and finding the company to use. One upgrade that had him (Rob) excited, was the new primer on the pump side of the truck "because there's areas that don't have fire hydrants"; this new primer gives the crew the ability to perform at their best always.

Fire Chief Larry Alcorn also expressed optimism for the new engines. The old engines, as described by Chief Alcorn, were "unreliable" and the maintenance costs were also too high. The new engines will make it easier to work, "these are designed how we work". The engines were designed for the work flow of the crew, to ensure they are safe and can do their job at the best of their ability. *Story -- John Fuson*



Water pumped from the old engine is used to christen the new replacement engines picture by -- *The Editor*

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Community Unites for Missing Boy *from pg 6*



Hundreds of Volunteers Arrive to Search for Shalom picture by -- *The Editor*

Parents and grandparents alike dominated the search party, feeling it hit home that a child so young would go missing. Parents like Saprina simply looked at their own child, and got the motivation they needed to go out and search. This case also hits home for this reporter, having lost a brother at a young age as well. The way the town came together so fast, exemplifies that despite Brownsburg's growth, the members of the community have kept that small town commitment to each other.



Volunteers struggle to cope after learning the news....

Community Prayer Circle Prayer vigils and a prayer circle followed the announcement, led by different members of the community. Blake Ayres, a member of the Autism Society and on the autism spectrum as well, expressed gratitude that the town had come together for a child that nobody here knew. The story of Shalom missing hit home for him as he was out searching into the dead of night on July 7th.

Rashad Cunningham, and Aquila Crawford both led prayer efforts from their respective churches. Rashad, a Brownsburg resident his entire life, believes that the town has changed over the years, and feels that it "shouldn't take something like this for people to come together". -- *John Fuson*

From all of us at the Brownsburg Sentinel we extend our deepest sympathies to Shalom's parents, Magdalena and Charles, family, extended family and friends during this time of incalculable loss. We would also like to thank all members of public safety, area residents and volunteers as they searched tirelessly in hopes of bringing Shalom home safely. Finally, I would like to reiterate John's thoughts -- The outpouring of love, prayers, and support from Brownsburg and area residents shows the area hasn't outgrown it's small town roots. -- *The Editor*

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40 NIV



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