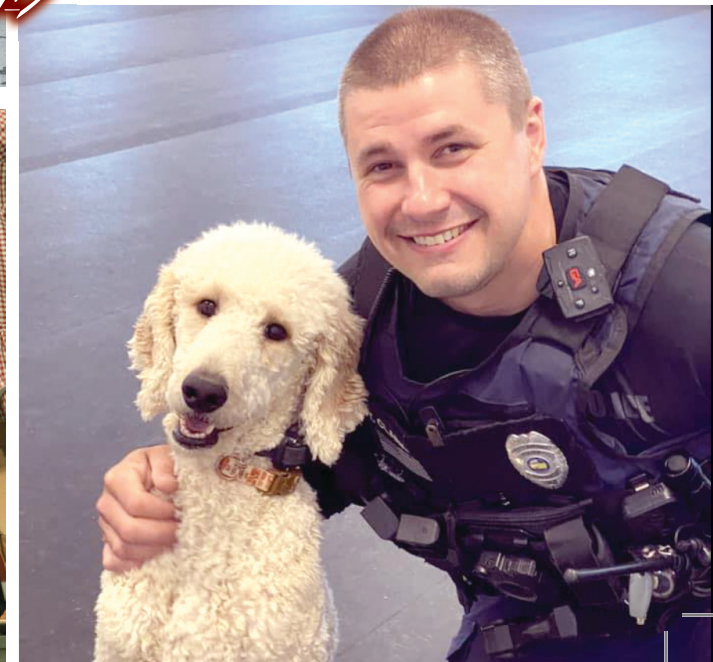




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Lisa Burnett



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Table of Contents

Whitley County History 2-5
 Ghost Towns 6-7
 Government U.S. & Senate 8
 County Government Offices 9-11
 Township Government 12
 Whitley County Government -
 Board of Commissioners 13
 Whitley County Government - Council 14
 South Whitley Government 14
 Columbia City Government 15
 Churubusco Government 16
 Whitley County by the Numbers 17
 Emergency Services 18
 Education 19
 Events, Recreation and Parks 20-21
 Whitley County Lakes 22-23
 Church Directory 24-26
 Community Groups 27-28
 Nonprofit Directory 29-30
 Whitley County Memories 31

Advertising Index

Bowen Center of Whitley County 32
 Community Foundation of Whitley County 1
 Easterseals Passage 13
 Orizon Real Estate Inc. 22
 Peabody Public Library Inside Front Cover
 Purdue Extension 4
 Schrader Auction 3
 Smith & Sons Funeral Back Cover
 Whitley County Chamber of Commerce 25
 Whitley County Family YMCA 19

Whitley County History

A Whitley County History...

It was around 1838 that Europeans began to settle into the area. Whitley County officially became a county on April 1, 1838.

But where did its name come from? It might be surprising to know it was named after a man who never set foot in the area.

For decades, Colonel William Whitley led military groups and efforts. He came from the area that would become Kentucky. Whitley is predominantly remembered for his expeditions against the Native Americans to establish a European presence in the area. He also built the first brick home west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Whitley was a sportsman and a prominent public figure.

Whitley County is also remembered as the home of Miami people, the most notable of whom being Little Turtle. He was a warrior who fought many battles in Whitley County.

In 1780, he massacred a group of U.S. troops led by Col. Augustine de la Balme and, 10 years later, defeated Col. Hardin in a battle at Heller's Corner, located just off today's U.S. 33 at Carroll Road, three miles from Churubusco.

Later in his life, Little Turtle became more of a diplomat and had the distinction of visiting three presidents – George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson,

His son, Black Loon, and many other Miami Indians

were killed in a battle near present day Paige Road, just outside of Columbia City.

A Columbia City History...

On Oct. 16, 1839, Columbia City got its start out of 443 acres of land that belonged to Elihu Chauncey, a man from Philadelphia.

It was first named "Columbia," but its name would go on to be a topic of great debate.

In May of 1842, a post office came to be established as the seat of justice in Whitley County. With the post office came a need to name the city. Upon hearing the name "Columbia" the postal department said there was a post office in Indiana already with that name, and it would have to change.

Kaler & Maring in their "History of Whitley County Indiana," published in 1907, wrote: "A few straggling settlers who came in were invited to assist in naming the new town and it was done before adjournment that day. Asa Shoemaker, whose wife was named Elizabeth, wanted it called 'Elizabethtown.'

"Richard Collins wanted it called 'Beaver' in honor of the Indian who once owned the nearby reserve. 'Little Turtle' was also suggested. Finally at the suggestion of Abraham Cuppy, ably seconded by Jacob Vanhouten (who later became an associate judge in the first organized government in Whitley County), the name of 'Columbia' was adopted.

The new town was given that name of record on Nov. 25, 1839 before any survey had begun and the board adjourned."

Richard Collins would later renew his effort to call it "Beaver" but during the dispute the department named it "Whitley County Court House," and changed the already existing "Whitley" post office to "South Whitley." From 1842 through 1853, people residing in Columbia had a mailing address of "Whitley County Court House."

This change, as well as having a "South Whitley" in Whitley County, caused a great deal of confusion and plenty of mail being misaddressed.

A caucus was held at the Whitley County Courthouse on Dec. 16, 1853, to establish a new name for the Columbia post office. Richard Collins once again renewed his effort to name the post office "Beaver" but Dr. William Swayzee prevailed with "Columbia City." If it could not be "Columbia" because that name had been taken, then he reasoned it could be that name with "city" attached.

Kaler & Maring wrote in their history:

"(The new name) would give the place a big name. Considerable acrimony was manifest before and during the Caucus, but 'Columbia City' won out, was certified to the department at Washington as the choice of the people and on the 16th day of January 1854, the day Lewis Dowell took the office (of postmaster), the

Whitley County History

name changed.”

Despite the mailing designation, the “town” of Columbia City did not officially become the incorporated “city” of Columbia City until 1888.

A Churubusco History...

The area that would become Churubusco was a thriving trading community in frontier times. It officially got its start in 1847 after a small group of local residents met in the town log store. Their purpose was to decide a name to put on the application for a post office, thus formally making the town.

Churubusco is in Smith Township, the northeast corner of Whitley County. The east edge of the town is the Allen-Whitley county line.

History tells us the name “Churubusco” came from a suggestion by Mr. Jackson. He was trying to settle an argument that had arisen between a German, an Englishman and Irishman. They each preferred the names “Brunswick,” “Liverpool” and “Maloney.” The Irishman, insisting that his town should be burdened with a “foreign” name jerked off his coat and it appeared the fight was at hand.

But Mr. Jackson remembered a battle that had recently taken place in Churubusco, Mexico, one of which he had lost a relative in the battle. The Americans were victorious there on Aug. 20, 1847 in the War with Mexico, and Mr. Jackson thought it would be patriotic to name the town “Churubusco.”

The Irishman, although he could not pronounce the name, was for it if it was patriotic.

An application was made for a post office and a permit was granted in November 1847.

It would be just over 100 years later that Churubusco would gain national attention for a huge turtle that was believed to have been seen in a nearby lake. This was in 1949, and the owner of the farm the lake sat on was determined to prove its existence to naysayers. They called this turtle “Oscar,” and the hunt for this turtle brought thousands to area, including reporters and photographers

The turtle, seen by a number of people, was reputed to be as big as a tabletop, but this is now thought to be an exaggeration. In any case, Oscar eluded all efforts to capture him, even to draining the lake nearly dry.

Oscar remains a mystery to this day, but his legend inspired the nickname “Turtle town” and this is remembered each year in June with the celebration of Turtle Days.

South Whitley History...

South Whitley is located along the banks of the Eel River. Before it was formally established at a town, Native Americans called this river Kenapocomoco (“snakelike fish”). White men who came to the area called it the Eel River.

Joseph Parrett Jr. brought his family and settles near where Huntington and



RACHAEL HARTMAN

Goshen Road (Ind. 5) crosses the river. This was in 1835.

Other settlers, including Palmer Cleveland, James Chaplin, Isaac Swyhart, John Collins and Samuel Obenchain, soon followed and the town of South Whitley was born.

South Whitley was the first town in the newly formed county of Whitley. It is located in Cleveland Township in the southwest corner of Whitley County.

Cleveland Township and unorganized areas of Whitley County were originally attached to Huntington County for legal purposes. Jesse Cleveland would meet with Huntington County officials in May of 1837 with the purpose of getting permission to do business with Whitley County. His request was granted, and the township was named after him as he was elected the first board president.

Soon after, it was

approved to locate a post office in the area and name it the “Whitley Post Office.” The original name for the town was “Springfield,” but this was rejected because Indiana already had a town of that name. This was further complicated based on the post office being established in the county seat, then named “Whitley County Court House.” In the end the confusion was relieved by residents who named their town “South Whitley.”

County Firsts

First School — “Let There Be Light” is the title on the site marker where David Parrett, one of the first settlers, started his subscription school in a log cabin in 1837. The site is located to the right of Ind. 5 as one travels south, just before the State Street bridge in South Whitley.

First Jail — The first public building in Whitley County was the jail, a 16 by 18 foot structure located on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn built in 1841. The marker is located at the corner of Washington and Market streets in Columbia City.

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Whitley County History

First Settler — Andrew Mack was the first white settler in Whitley County. He built a log cabin on what is now U.S. 33, near CR 650 East, about three miles northwest of Churubusco prior to 1827.

First County Seat — A marker is placed at the original of the county seat, chosen June 18, 1838. The original site is on the county road directly east of the present-day Oak Grove Church of God, located at 2426 S. Raber Rd.

First Town — South Whitley was the first town in the county, platted and named “Springfield” by Joseph Parrett on May 1, 1837. A marker is at the entrance to the town park.

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Health & Human Sciences (HHS)
Extension Educator

JOHN WOODMANSEE
Agriculture & Natural Resources
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For programming, publications, or more information about our services, visit our website.

<https://extension.purdue.edu/whitley>

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First House — David E. Long built the first house in Columbia City in 1840. It was located at the northwest corner of Van Buren and Main streets, near Star Financial Bank. It was a one-story structure used as a hotel and tavern with a sign that read “Entertainment for man and beast.” A bronze plaque was above the bank’s front inside entrance door prior to its remodeling.

First Courthouse — The county’s first courthouse was located where today’s City Hall stands in Columbia City. It was a two-story frame house that was later moved to 108 S. Whitley St.

First Church — The Concord Methodist Church was first built in 1839 of logs on land donated by Jacob VanHouten. The marker is located on CR 150 North in Section 34 of Smith Township, near the Concord Cemetery.

First County court and First Mill — The first court and the first mill were located on 240 acres obtained by Richard Baughan, first sheriff of Whitley County. The first circuit court was held in his home on April 9, 1839, and he built the mill in 1841. The commemorative marker is at the intersection of Cider Mill and Widman roads (north and east of Columbia City off Ind. 9).

Notable Natives

Whitley County has many native sons and daughters who have accomplished significant social and historical feats. These include:



Rob McNagny

Government

Thomas R. Marshall, vice president of the United States and first governor of Indiana elected from Whitley County.

Ralph F. Gates, Indiana’s governor from 1945 through 1949.

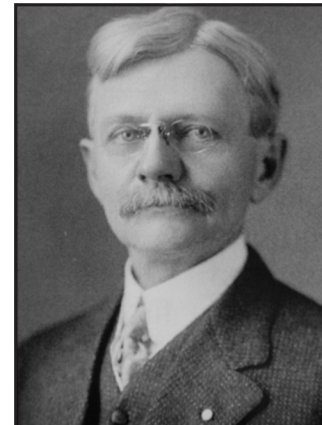
Meritte W. Ireland, once surgeon-general of the U.S. and friend of Gen. John Pershing.

Jill Long Thompson, a Larwill native, served more than six years as a U.S. Congresswoman representing the 4th District. She was the chair of the congressional rural caucus and was vice-chair of the Democrat leadership council. Long was also a candidate for governor.

F. Dale Barnett, was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1958 and was instrumental in bringing a post office and an American Legion Post to Churubusco.

James S. Collins, was elected to the senate in 1860. He was a stalwart Republican.

Marilyn V. Cook, a Union Township resident, was the first woman in the



Thomas R. Marshall

State of Indiana to be elected trustee, serving as Union Township Trustee and on the Whitley County School Board for 12 years. She was also the first woman to join the Optimist Club.

Law

Leigh Smith Hunt, a lawyer and philanthropist.

B.J. Bloom Sr., attorney, was a leading pillar of Columbia City. His sons and grandsons practice law today in Columbia City.

Isaiah McDonald, was the prosecuting attorney on the 1900s in Whitley and Noble counties. He was joint senator for Allen and Whitley counties in the late 1800s.

Leta Herran Stickler, is believed to have been the first and only female deputy sheriff in Indiana, in the 1930s.

Judge Lowell Pefley, elected to four consecutive terms in the history of the court. He died in 1963.

Judge Phil McNagny, was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and in 1976 was sworn in as judge, United States



Ralph Gates

District Court, Northern District of Indiana.

Judge Rob R. McNagny, was a judge, attorney and designer of Old Settlers postcards for 60 years. He also was an author.

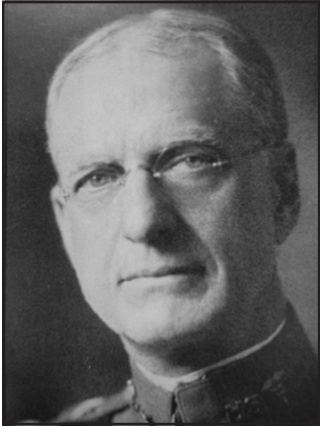
Judge Joseph Adair, was elected to the 33rd judicial court in 1890. He was a Noble County native and a staunch Democrat.

Robert E. Gates, began practicing law in Whitley County in 1949. He was 4th District Republican Chairman and was a member of the Indiana University Foundation and was a trustee of the university. He also served as state commander of the American Legion.

Alex and Ruby Campbell, developed the Civil War mansion of John Mossman in Coesse. Mr. Campbell was a Fort Wayne attorney, former assistant U.S. Attorney General and hosted former President Harry S. Truman, a friend, at his Coesse ranch. Mr. Campbell died in 1968 while enroute home from riding one of his beloved Palomino horses in the Rose Bowl Parade.

D.V. Whiteleather, 1800s

Whitley County History



Merritte W. Ireland

attorney and courtroom lawyer with strong Democratic ties and court manner.

Edward J. Meyers, served five consecutive terms spanning nearly four decades as judge of Whitley Circuit Court. His career as a circuit court jurist began in 1963.

Charles White, a 1935 CCHS graduate, is remembered as clerk of the circuit court and license branch manager. His will established nursing scholarships for Whitley County students.

Land/Community

Lois Gross, was a spokeswoman for agriculture for 46 years, and served as chairman of the Farm Bureau Women's Department and second vice president of Indiana Farm Bureau.

Jay Crawford, a Columbia Township resident, gave much time to civic endeavors and was an advocate of Whitley County farmers.

Ferdinand F. Morsches, founder of Morsches Builders' Mart and donator of the land now known as Morsches Park.



Jill Long Thompson

B.V. Widney, was an extension agent in Whitley County for 34 years; under his leadership 4-H was organized, as was the Neighborhood Extension Organization.

Elihu Chauncey, owned the land that later became Columbia City while living in Philadelphia. He bought the land sign-unseen and then sold it to developers.

Margaret Rosentrader, retired in 1976 after years as a home extension agent in Whitley County.

Logan Staples, developer-owner of Tri-Lakes Resort.

Keller Beeson, a Columbia City native, was considered one of the chief developers of the soybean growing industry in Indiana. He died in 1965.

Grace M. Karst, originated Renaissance Village, overseeing everything from construction to staffing, policies and procedures, etc. until her retirement in 1990.

Newspaper

John W. Baker, publisher of the Whitley County Commercial Mail, and postmaster in the late



Edward J. Meyers

1800s.

Wallace M. Williamson, owner of The Mail newspaper which was merged into the Columbia Times and printed as the official voice of the Republican party.

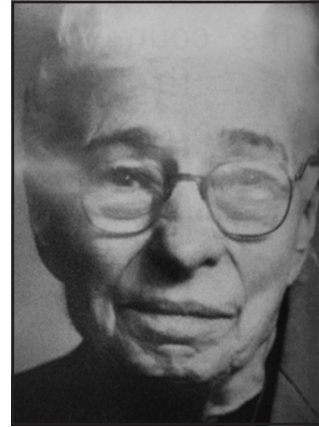
James Kirtley, was Indiana's youngest newspaper owner when he purchased the Churubusco Truth in 1940. He sold the paper in 1981.

John Q. and Hester Little Adams, publishers of Whitley County newspapers for 30 years and generous benefactors to the community.

James D. Adams, a Columbia City native, was associated with the Columbia City Post for 40 years. He was one of the first men from Whitley County to enlist in WWI. He was a promoter of Columbia Woolen Mills, helped develop Columbia Theatre, was instrumental in the chartering of Citizens State Bank and served as president of Whitley Products until 1951. Adams died in 1966.

Education

Hazel Pittman Munns, long-time music supervisor



Hester Adams

and teacher in Columbia City schools.

A.R. Fleck, Whitley County superintendent of schools and South Whitley schools superintendent.

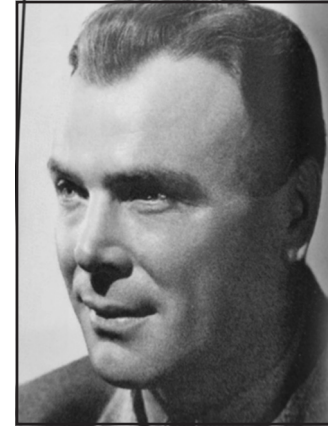
Marguerite Stultz, retired in 1963 after 50 years of teaching in Whitley County.

Max Gandy, a Noble County native, was principal of Columbia City High School for 24 years.

Eudolph "Doc" Holycross, taught 42 years. His former pupils regard him as an expert in civic affairs and he carried that to his retirement years.

Mary Raber, taught primary grades for 56 years before retiring in 1939. Mary Raber school is dedicated to her.

Bernice Carver, was an instructor of high school students in Columbia City for 41 years. She founded the GJL and the Sunshine Society and headed the CCJHS math department for 12 years. Bernice served as Whitley County historian for many years. She named Indian Springs Middle School and was honored to have



Dean Jagger

the cafeteria at the school named after her in 1997.

Mary Hollowell, is credited with being the first woman superintendent of schools in Indiana.

Newell Rice, for Whitley County teacher, implemented the first textbook rental at CCHS.

Alexander Knisely, county superintendent of schools in 1885.

Entertainment

Lloyd C. Douglas, author, was born in Columbia City. Some of his works were reproduced on the silver screen.

Janie Fricke, a South Whitley native, is a well-known country singer.

Dean Jagger, a Larwill High School graduate, was an Academy Award-winning actor who starred in a movie based on a book by Lloyd Douglas, "The Robe" and many others.

Have any notable natives you would like to see added to the list? New suggestions can be made to The Post & Mail news staff at rhartman@kpcmedia.com.

Ghost Towns

The following are names of former places in Whitley County, some of which have been lost to time. These were first published in The Post & Mail in 1982. They represent pioneer settlements, Native American villages, post offices, schools, etc., each of which came to be identified under the following names:

Beaver Run

Beaver Run was located southwest of Wartburg College and was the site of the famed "School-house on the Hill."

Buzzard's Glory

Loran, later changed to Lorane, was sometimes referred to as Buzzard's Glory. Legend has it, in its heyday, Lorane had two competing saloons on either side of the street.

Bedbug Row

Bedbug Row was a name given to a row of plank houses constructed for

workmen at the Bull Town handle factory. It was situated on what is now the vacated east end of County Road 1000 South in Jefferson Township.

Blee Catholic Church

A brick home, the residence of the Blee brothers, served as an early worship place for Catholics in Jefferson Township. Chapel exercises were held monthly at the Blee residence by Father Fowler, of Fort Wayne.

Bloomfield

Bloomfield was located in northeast Thorncreek Township. It consisted of a small grocery and dry goods store run by Abraham Friend.

Brimstone

Brimstone was located at what is now the intersection of County Road 800 South and County Road 700 East. The church was on the northwest corner of

the intersection, while the Brimstone School was on the southeast corner.

Buckpatch

The northern quarter in Jefferson Township was referred to as Buckpatch at one time. History doesn't tell us where the name comes from – whether Native American or for a deer.

Bull Town Farm

Bull Town Farm was located along the mile running from County Road 700 East to the Whitley-Allen county line on County Road 1000 South, or the Fenian Road as it was called. At its height, Bull Town had a grocery store, a sawmill, a handle factory and a blacksmith shop.

Carpenter Tract

In 1842, Carpenter Tract was named. It was located one quarter mile west of the Charles Hess homestead on the Yellow

River in Union Township.

Cresco

The Cresco Post Office was established June 10, 1888 in Thorncreek Township. It also had a general store.

Forest

Forest was established in 1854 one mile north of Maring Corners at the site that is now Laud. The village began with a sawmill built by the Miller brothers.

Fuller's Corner

The Fuller's Corner post Office was located in Smith Township. This is near the present section of County Road 450 East and Burd Road.

Franklin and Union

Franklin and Union were two adjacent tracts, neither of which was acceptable to the Postal Service. On Sept. 12, 1848 the name Churubusco was chosen.

Hecla

The Hecla Post Office was located in Etna from its naming until it was discontinued.

Hell's Half Acre

The swamps and woods of southeast Columbia Township and extending into Richland Township was known as Hell's Half Acre. The area, named Hell's Half Acre around 1840, had a reputation as a perilous area to venture into. Township committees were established to clear up the criminal element there.

Huntsville

Huntsville became Larwill, primarily because the Postal Service already had a Huntsville in another part of the state. The name Larwill was selected on April 8, 1866, honoring the railroad surveyor instrumental in bringing the railroad to the town.

RACHAEL HARTMAN
Connor Busick, with Chapman's restaurant in Columbia City, was seen making smoked chicken. The Columbia City Board of Works and Safety approved allowing the restaurant to use its smoker on the sidewalk of Van Buren Street at its meeting.



DAVID VANTRESS

Recent Churubusco graduate Katelyn Green poses with one of her cows after the 4-H auction.

Ghost Towns

Maring Corners

Maring Corners was located at the southeast corner of the Maring settlement at the present junction of County Road 900 South and County Road 200 East. In the fall of 1847, an 18 by 20 foot log school house was built at Maring Corners.

Maring Settlement

In the southeast section of Washington Township was the Maring Settlement. In 1845, Maring Settlement consisted of six families. By 1847, there were 11 families.

Millersburg

Millersburg became Collamer. In 1882, it had a population of 150, while its businesses consisted of a grist mill, two general stores, a boot and shoe factory, a drug store, a doctor's office, a Christian church and a post office.

Saturn

The Saturn Post Office

had two locations. The original post office was located at the southeast corner of section 22 and was operated by William T. Jeffries. Later, it was renamed Broxon Post Office and relocated on Liberty Mills Road in northwest section 25 of Jefferson Township.

Sawdust Hill

Sawdust Hill became Luther with the advent of a post office. The Luther Post Office, in southern Washington Township, was established Feb. 2, 1894, and was discontinued Feb. 29, 1904.

Sells

The Sells Post Office was located half mile west of the present Eberhard Church. It was established June 25, 1898, and discontinued with free delivery Oct. 23, 1899.

Sodom or Licksillet

Sodom or Licksillet were the names used by local

residents when referring to the town that later became Forest. In 1870, a convention was held for the purpose of naming the place. An oyster supper was one feature of the gathering.

Springfield

Springfield became South Whitley. As of 1882, the official town name had not yet been changed from Springfield to South Whitley.

Summit

Summit was located half mile west of Larwill, or Huntsville as it was named until 1866, at the crossing of the Huntington-Goshen and Warsaw-Fort Wayne roads.

Taylor's Station

Taylor's Station Post Office, later shortened to Taylor was located on Section 19 in Columbia Township, along the Vandalia Railroad. The Taylor Post Office was

established April 14, 1876 and discontinued April 28, 1881.

Tousley Crossing

Tousley Crossing was located one mile east of Coesse.

Raccoon Road

Raccoon Road started in 1840 and was completed in 1843. It ran almost directly from Columbia City to the southeast corner of the county, to the site of Raccoon Village. Later, when miles sections were established, Raccoon Road was either absorbed into section roads or abandoned.

Raccoon Village

Raccoon Village was a major town in Whitley County at one time. It was located directly astride the Whitley-Allen county line, on what later became the north bank of the Wabash Canal, and still later Ind. 24.

Popano

The Popano Post Office was established April 11, 1848 and later moved to Etna on Oct. 7, 1851. Since the Postal Service already had a post office with a name close to "Etna," it would not accept Etna as a name, so the name changed to Hecla May 22, 1852.

Wartburg College

Wartburg College was established by Rev. Jacob Wolf in 1854, near present-day Coesse. The college only operated for two years due to the lack of interest on the part of young men in the community.

Wynkoop

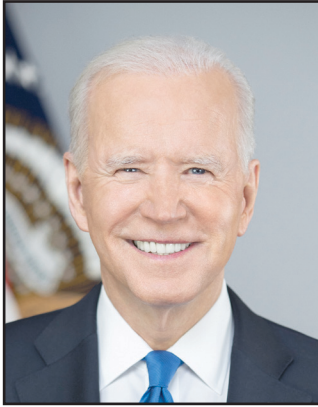
The Wynkoop Post Office was established at Taylor 17 years after the Taylor Post Office had been discontinued. Wynkoop was established June 25, 1899, and discontinued at the beginning of free rural delivery Nov. 15, 1901.



CONTRIBUTED

Columbia City High School Fire Academy students bought a retired fire truck from the Columbia Township Fire Department.

Government U.S. and State



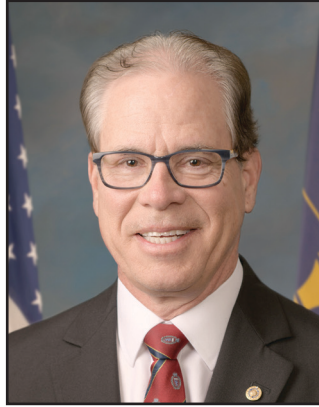
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Justin Busch

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Jim Banks



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State Representative Chris Judy District



Eric Holcomb



Judy

83 Republican 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 800-382-9841 or 317-232-9863

CONTRIBUTED
A Wreaths Across America ceremony was held last year at Greenhill Cemetery in Columbia City.



RACHAEL HARTMAN
To celebrate the Whitley County 4-H program, its participants and families, a parade took place during the Whitley County 4-H Fair. Many of the 4-H clubs had their own float, passed out candy and waved to friends and family along the route, which went around the fairgrounds. Waving to the crowd atop a family tractor was Jayden McNutt, this year's First Runner-Up in the Miss Whitley County program.

County Government Offices



Dale Buuck



Nathan Bilger



Doug Fahl



Matthew Rentschler



D.J. Sigler

Whitley County EDC

The Whitley County Economic Development Corporation was organized in 1992. This non-profit serves Whitley County. Its purpose is to assist all existing manufacturers while also attracting new businesses to the area. The goal is to maintain a strong and growing economy, creating high-quality jobs, increasing the tax base and decreasing citizen property tax rates.

The EDC's website provides a lot of information about industry in Whitley County, as well as the role of the EDC.

Dale Buuck is the president of the Whitley County EDC. The office is located at 220 W. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN 46725. Website: www.whitleyedc.com. Phone: 260-244-5506.

County Auditor

The county auditor and staff wear many hats. The biggest of those is to be the financial manager of the county. The office sees that bills are paid and does payroll for all county employees. They are also responsible

for preparing the tax statements that reflect the value of property and the taxes assessed to each taxpayer.

The auditor's office all oversees the county general fund, and 86 other county department funds and grants.

They serve as secretary for the County Commissioners, Council and Redevelopment Commission.

The Whitley County Auditor is Tiffany Deakins. The office is located in the Whitley County Government Center, 220 W. Van Buren St. in Columbia City. Phone: 260-248-3100.

County Engineer/Surveyor

The job of the engineer/surveyor is the address matters related to drains, bridges, small structures, section corners, verifying addresses, public way vacations and more.

They serve on various boards, both as voting and non-voting members. These include the Whitley County Drainage Board, Plan Commission, Joint Advisory Board, GIS Task

Force and others.

The County Surveyor is Dane Drew. The office is located in Suite 203 in the Whitley County Government Center. Phone: 260-248-3107.

County Recorder

The office and County Recorder record mortgage releases, contracts, mortgage assignments, power of attorney and mechanic's liens. They also store plat books, detailing Whitley County's subdivisions and additions. They scan all documents on computers for permanent safekeeping.

The recorder's office has books, detailing every property transfer, dating to when Whitley County was declared in 1838.

Not everything the recorder records has to do with property. The office also makes certified copies of discharge papers for veterans or their widows when the papers have been lost.

Whitley County's Recorder is Rosemary Brown. The office is located in Suite 206 of the Whitley County Government Center.



Jason Spencer

Phone: 260-248-3106.

County Treasurer

The treasurer's office collects county money and invests it. They are the bookkeeper for the county checkbook, and are responsible for balancing that register.

The county takes in money through a variety of taxes. It collects personal property, real estate, drainage assessments, mobile home taxes, inheritance tax and all the excise taxes.

The treasurer's office is also charged with distributing those monies collected in to the budgets of the various county departments. This occurs in June and December



John Woodmansee

after the taxes are received.

The Whitley County Treasurer is Kay Gatton. The office is located in Suite 208 of the government center. Phone: 260-248-3105.

Building and Planning

The Columbia City/Whitley County Joint Planning and Building Dept. plans land and building use. It plans zoning and makes sure the county residents follow the plans.

The department also issues construction-related permits and is responsible for building inspections.

Many requests the department handles – like special exemptions to the

County Government Offices

zoning ordinance – are decided during monthly meetings of the city and county plan commissions and boards of zoning appeals.

The department is unique to Whitley County in that it is partially funded by Columbia City, Churubusco and South Whitley.

The Planning and Building Director is Nathan Bilger. The office is located in Suite 204 of the government center. Phone: 260-248-3112.

Clerk of Courts

The clerk's office does the paperwork for Whitley County Superior and Circuit courts. Circuit Court jurisdiction includes probate cases and juvenile and criminal cases. Superior Court includes civil and criminal cases. All judgement ordered by the courts go through the clerk's office.

The other major responsibility of the clerk's office is elections. Those duties include taking care of voter registration, preparing voter lists, preparing the ballots, overseeing absentee-voting and making sure election officials are trained.

The clerk's office is also the place where people go to apply for marriage licenses and pay traffic fines. It's where they make payments on civil judgements and make child support payments.

The county clerk is Cindy Doolittle. The office is located in the Whitley County Courthouse. Phone: 260-248-3102.



RACHAEL HARTMAN

Nikki Keister, executive director of Columbia City Connect, stands with Pam Koch, curatorial technician at the Whitley County Historical Museum. Koch's book "Around the Square" was used to provide the details at each stop on the new Downtown Historic Walking Tour.

Superior Court

Whitley Superior Court is one of two courts in the county. Judge Douglas Fahl hears criminal misdemeanor and felony cases. A large part of those are due to alcohol or drug-related incidents.

Superior Court also decides marriage dissolutions and holds bench trials resulting from traffic infractions.

Superior Court also decides civil cases. Small claims cases are those when the dollar amount is \$6,000 or less; the docket consists of cases with dollar amounts exceeding \$6,000.

The Superior Court office is located in the courthouse. Phone: 260-248-3119.

Circuit Court

Circuit Court is a court

of general jurisdiction. It handles any and all kinds of cases. Common practice, however, is to file more serious criminal cases in Circuit Court.

Whitley County Circuit Court Judge Matthew Rentschler also hears juvenile cases. He also deals with such civil matters as probates, guardianship, adoption and dissolution of marriages.

The Circuit Court office is located in the courthouse. Phone: 260-248-3115.

County Prosecutor

In Indiana, the county prosecutor is considered the top law enforcement official in the county.

D.J. Sigler, Whitley County's prosecutor, decides what charges are filed against Whitley County's accused. He or

a deputy prosecutor then takes the case into court.

Nearly as much time is spent supporting or assisting the victims of crimes in the county. The prosecutor's office oversees three victim assistance programs. In the program, a staff member answers victims' questions, explains their legal rights and how the court system works. The victims do not decide what punishment is sought against their perpetrators, but their opinions are considered.

The prosecutor's office is located in the courthouse. Phone: 260-244-3000.

Probation Department

Persons arrested for drunk driving, minor in possession of alcohol, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and others are the types of crimes that often land a person in the probation department.

Chief Probation Officer Edward Beber and the rest of the department work closely with the courts, prosecutor's office and sheriff's department.

For the judges, probation department officers do pre-sentence investigation reports and gives the judges their recommendations. That entails checking into the defendant's family history, schooling, health and criminal record.

When probation is the condition of a sentence, the officers monitor the individual's progress on the job, or drug/alcohol programs the probationer is completing.

Probation can be given in

lieu of jail time, in addition to a jail sentence or after the person has already served time.

Phone: 260-248-3117.

County Sheriff

Sheriff for Whitley County is Jason Spencer.

A county law enforcement officer is an officer of the court. Everything that comes to the court system is handled by the sheriff and his deputies. One of those functions is serving warrants, and another is serving civil papers.

The sheriff also conducts auctions to satisfy civil judgements and enforces court-ordered protective orders.

The county sheriff is responsible for running the county jail, where not only police officers, but dispatchers, jail officers, cooks, secretaries and maintenance people work. Transporting prisoners is also a large part of the sheriff's job.

Then there's the job of enforcing the law. Sheriff's deputies respond to any call within the county limits.

The Whitley County Jail is located at 101 W. Market St. in Columbia City. Phone: 260-244-6410.

Emergency Management

The emergency management agency takes on the responsibility of planning for emergencies. More specifically, the job of the Emergency Management office involves coordinating resources in the event of an emergency, such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm.

County Government Offices

The department is led by Amy Biggs. They keep a county emergency plan, which includes phone numbers of doctors, chemists, excavators – anyone whose services might be needed in the event of an emergency.

All information is made available to fire service personnel and other government agencies.

The office also keeps on hand a supply of emergency equipment such as generators, floodlights, pumps and hazardous material protection suits. Another function of the office is keeping an inventory of all the hazardous chemicals in the county.

The office is located at 101 W. Market St. in Columbia City. Phone: 260-248-3167.

County Coroner

The primary role of the coroner is to 1. identify the body; 2. determine the cause of death; and 3. determine the manner of death.

If autopsies are needed, the coroner orders autopsies be performed in Fort Wayne. An autopsy is a detailed examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death. In Indiana, only a certified pathologist is allowed to perform autopsies.

The Whitley County Coroner is Scott Smith. Phone: 260-248-1116.

Enhanced 911

Whitley County's 911 system is handled by dispatchers. Janelle Schmitt is the director of the communications department/dispatch

center.

Dispatchers are able to direct the call to the appropriate agency within seconds so emergency aid can quickly be provided.

The enhanced part of the system amounts to a computer that automatically tells the dispatcher information about the household where the call was placed.

Highway Department

The Whitley County Highway Department is in charge of the upkeep for 640 miles of roads.

Workers plow snow and drop sand and salt in the winter. They'll find potholes in the spring and chip-and-seal roads in the summer.

Whenever the highway department employees have time, they'll clean up brush alongside roads and do berm work.

A common misconception the public has about the highway department is it is funded by county property tax receipts, when in reality, gas and fuel tax disbursements from the state pay for the department.

The highway department is led by Ryan Getts. The office is located at 801 S. Line St. Phone: 260-248-3123.

Veterans Service Officer

The job of the veterans service officer is to serve as a liaison between veterans and the state and federal agencies.

They advise and help veterans or their dependents in presenting disability, insurance

or pension claims for benefits; evaluates and determines validity of claims by reviewing legislation, regulations and precedents and studies the veteran's medical report and service history; obtains the claimant's power of attorney and prepares claim forms and briefs and assembles pertinent evidence; requests a hearing before government boards and presents a brief and he reviews the board's decision for grounds for appeal; advises veterans on insurance, vocational and other matters, working in cooperation with the Veterans Administration and other government agencies; and participates in civil functions, such as panel discussions to inform the public of services rendered and rights and benefits of veterans and dependents.

The Whitley County Veterans Service Officer is Joshua Smith. The office is located in Suite 201 of the government center. Phone: 260-248-3189.

Cooperative Extension Service

The Whitley County Cooperative Extension Service is one of 92 offices in Indiana, one in each county.

Todd Geiger is the County Extension Director. John Woodmansee is the Purdue Extension Educator in Whitley County.

The offices are a partnership of federal, state and county funds and are the extension of Purdue University, the state's land grant.

Whitley County pays for office space and general operating expenses and signs a contractual agreement with Purdue University for Extension Educators. Purdue University provides a computer line, access to specialists nationwide and research based educational materials.

The purpose of Purdue Extension — Whitley County is to provide educational programs and resources in the areas of community and leadership development, health and human sciences, agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development and family nutrition program.

Purdue Extension and their engagement programs help the people of Indiana, the nation and the world improve their lives and livelihoods.

The office is located at 524 Branch Ct. in Columbia City. Phone: 260-244-7615.

Health Department

The department keeps accurate records of all births occurring in Whitley County and records adoptions.

Death certificates are also filed with the health department.

The county's sanitarians are responsible for restaurant and food service inspections and the county's environmental health.

The Health Department issues permits for new wells and septic systems, or for repairs of existing systems.

Sanitarians also work with

other agencies on matters of environmental concern.

The county immunization clinic is open to all residents of the county, regardless of income. Whitley County children can receive free immunizations for a number of diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles and mumps. The department also conducts adult travel immunizations.

Health Officer is Dr. Mark Burkett, M.D. Environment Health Specialist is Scott Wagner. The office is located in the government center. Phone: 260-248-3121.

Soil and Water Conservation

The function of the district is to provide information about what water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns and connect land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

The mission statement is "to promote soil conservation and water quality in Whitley County both rural and urban land. To educate people of the county about water quality issues and motivate them to adopt the use of soil and water conservation practices."

Staff members include Jon Gotz and Nadean Lamle. The office is located at 788 W. Connexion Way — Suite C in Columbia City. Phone: 260-244-6266 Ext. 3

Township Government

Trustees in Whitley County have three main duties. They maintain cemeteries, administer township relief funds and is the fiscal body of the township.

Each township advisory board approves the annual report and budget, and is the fiscal body of the township. There can be no fire stations built, property purchased or large equipment purchased without the board's approval.

Township levy property taxes to fund the township programs. Many township provide recreation opportunities and help pay for such things as 4-H leaders, park programs and community buildings.

CLEVELAND

James Yeager 303 W. Walnut St.
South Whitley, IN 46787 clewtwp@embarqmail.com 260-723-5564

COLUMBIA

Mike Myers 4640 S 275 W Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-0045

ETNA TROY

Elaine Western 5570 N. 550 W Columbia City, IN 46725 260-327-3508

JEFFERSON

Stephanie Nix 9885 S 500 E-92 Roanoke, IN 46783 260-609-5677

RICHLAND

Cory Patrick 8307 W 250 N Larwill, IN 46764 260-327-1477

SMITH

Patty Amber 3977 N W Carlin Ct. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-3266

THORNCREEK

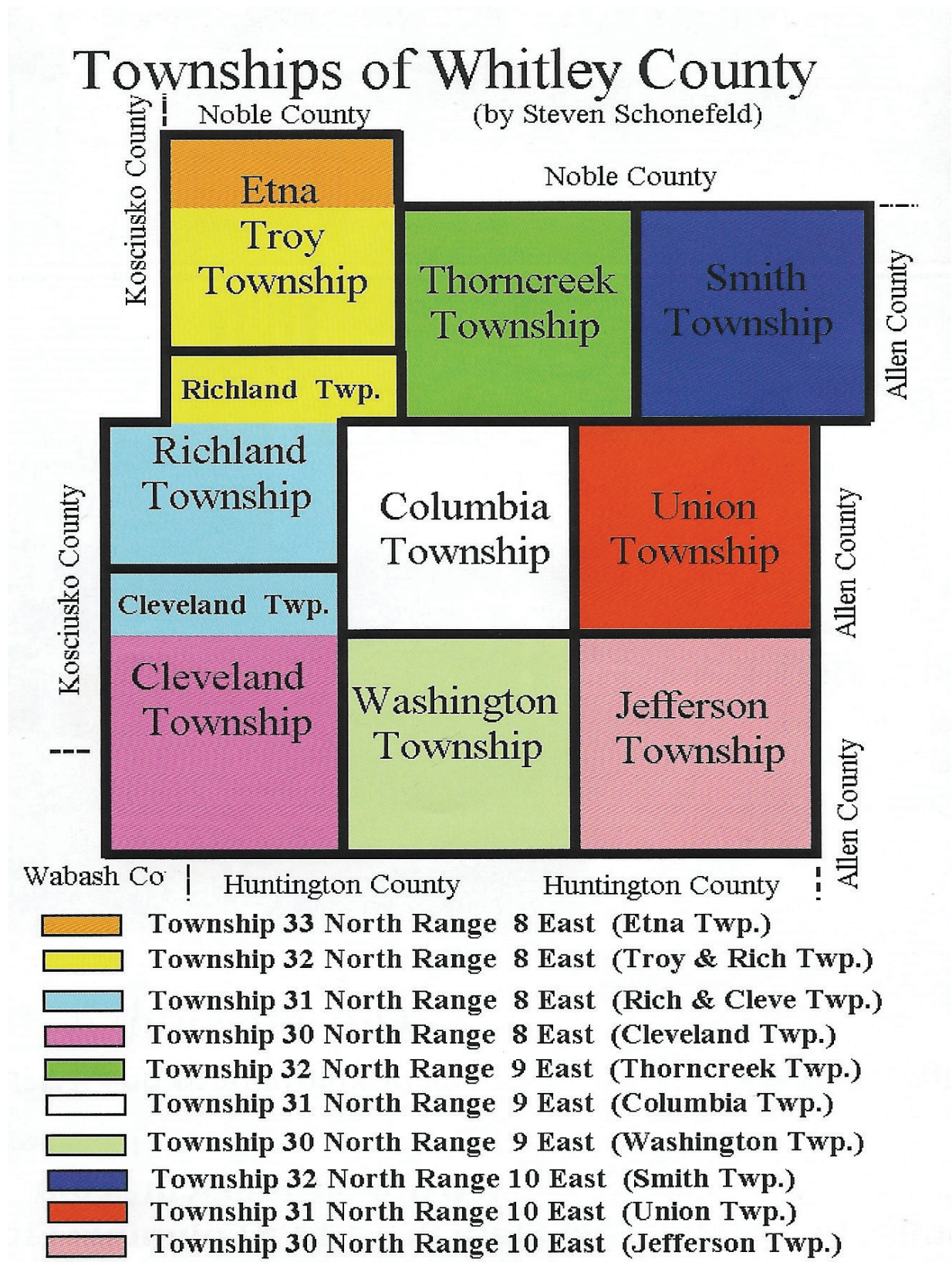
William Brice 1600 E Poplar Rd. Columbia City, IN 260-691-2085

UNION

Mark Roach 2210 S 600 E Columbia City, IN 46725 260-503-4862

WASHINGTON

Kevin Bollinger 7389 S 275 W Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-6880



Whitley County Government Board of Commissioners

The Whitley County Board of Commissioners votes on many of the same fiscal matters and other concerns as County Council and its recommendations go to council. They are the day-to-day managers of the county. They deal with everything from personnel problems to potholes and public safety.

The Commissioners authorize any money claims against the county. They are responsible for controlling, maintaining and supervising county property, including the

Courthouse and county jail, as well as roads and bridges. The Commissioners set holidays for county employees and make appointments to numerous county boards and commissions, including the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, the Board of Health, Council on Aging and others.

The Commissioners meet the first and third Monday of each month at 1 p.m.

Board of Commissioners

Chad Banks Republican District 1 (Richard,



Chad Banks

Etna, Troy, Cleveland)
cbanks@whitleygov.com

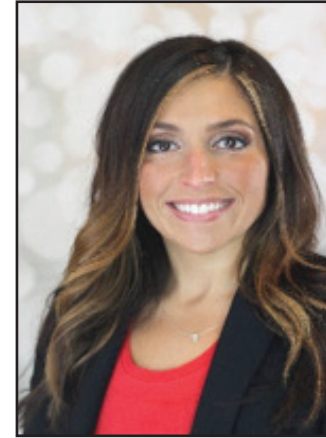
Rob Schuman
Republican District 2



Rob Schuman

(Thorncreek, Columbia, Washington) rschuman@whitleygov.com

Theresa Baysinger



Theresa Baysinger

Republican District 3 (Jefferson, Smith, Union) tbaysinger@whitleygov.com



Embracing differences. Empowering people.

Easterseals is committed to supporting people with disabilities in Whitley County and leading the way to full equity, access and inclusion.

By offering a wide range of programs and services to meet individual needs, Easterseals is:

- Enriching education
- Enhancing health
- Expanding employment
- Elevating community

Learn more about Easterseals at www.eastersealsnei.org. Want to join our team? Visit our website to view current openings and apply!



Whitley County Government – Council

The Whitley County Council is the fiscal body for the council. Other agencies have input into fiscal matters, but the council has the final say. They set the overall county budget and approve operating budgets for the various

county departments. they have the last word on any purchase of county-owned land or property that has a value of more than \$1,000.

The County Council conducts its meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m.

Members:

John Barrett District 1
Smith, Union, Columbia
NE jmbarrett9@frontier.com

Kim Wheeler District
2 Etna Troy, Richland,
Thorncreek, Columbia NW
kwwaterwell_72@hotmail.com

com

Nicholas Brewer District
3 Columbia 1-8 nbrewer@whitleygov.com

Thomas Warner District
4 Cleveland, Jefferson,
Washington, Columbia
South twarner@whitleygov.com

James Argerbright
District at Large jargerbright@whitleygov.com

Thor Hodges District
at Large thodges@whitleygov.com

Joan Western District
at Large jwestern@whitleygov.com

South Whitley Government

South Whitley Town Hall
118 E. Front St. South
Whitley, IN 46787

South Whitley Clerk-Treasurer

Alyssa Knepple South
Whitley Town Hall 118 E.
Front Street P.O. Box 372
South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-5312

South Whitley Police Department

Marshal Mike VanDevender 118 E.
Front St. South Whitley,
IN 46787 swpolice@
southwhitley.org 260-723-
4814

South Whitley Utilities Street Department:

Jason Keim jkeim@
southwhitley.org

Water Department:
Randy Gawthrop randy.
gawthrop@southwhitley.org

Waste Water Department:
Kent Slater
kslater@southwhitley.org

South Whitley Council

John Dunn jdunn@
southwhitley.org

Brock Waterson
bwaterson@southwhitley.org

Randy Cokl rcokl@
southwhitley.org

Town of Larwill

Correspondence to Larwill elected officials may be addressed to Larwill Town Hall. They may be contracted by calling the Richland Township Town Hall at 260-327-3824.

Larwill Clerk-Treasurer
108 N. Center St. Larwill,
IN 46764 260-327-3182



CONTRIBUTED
Samantha Fulk stands in front of a mural she completed for Vintage Blessed. It features a rural scene with the cityscape in the background.

Columbia City Government



Jennifer Romano (R)
Southwest
260-610-1873
jromano@columbiacity.net



Ryan Daniel (R)
Mayor
260-248-5111
rdaniel@columbiacity.net



Jennifer Middleton (R)
Southeast
jreffitt@columbiacity.net



Rosie Coyle (R)
Clerk-Treasurer
260-248-5100
rmcoyle@columbiacity.net



Dan Weigold (R)
At-Large
260-248-8605
dweigold@columbiacity.net

Columbia City Common Council

The Columbia City Common Council is the governing body of Columbia City. It has the power to enact ordinances, set tax rates, run the city utilities and make appointments to city boards.

Most importantly it is the city's fiscal body. The council sets the city budget each year, determines the tax rate and spends the tax money once the state approves the rate.

It votes on such matters as new programs, street name changes, asks for grants, asks for utility rate changes or forms new advisory boards.

The Common Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m in City Hall.

Board of Works and Public Safety

A much smaller governing body than the Common Council, the

Board of Works is the manager of the city's affairs and projects.

A three-member board, one of whom is the mayor, meets to consider such things as personnel matters, work on city facilities, study for city programs and claims for outstanding city bills.

The board consists of Mayor Ryan Daniel, Councilman Walt Crowder and Nicole Penrod. It meets the second fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5 p.m. in City Hall.

Other City Boards

Columbia City has a Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Housing Authority, Tree Board, Park Board, Utility Board and Redevelopment Commission.

To reach the mayor's office call 260-248-5111

To reach the clerk-treasurer's office call 260-248-5112

Columbia City Utilities Police Chief: Gary

Parrett ccpd@columbiacity.net 260-248-5121

Fire Chief: Tom LaRue
tlarue@columbiacity.net
260-248-5161

Parks and Recreation:
260-248-5180

Electric Department:
Shawn Lickey slickey@columbiacity.net 260-248-5117

Water Department:
Mike Shoda mshoda@columbiacity.net 260-248-5118

Wastewater Department:
Mike Cook
mcook@columbiacity.net
260-248-5119

Community Development:
Chip Hill chill@columbiacity.net 260-248-5114

Street Department:
Kelly Cearbaugh
kcearbaugh@columbiacity.net 260-248-5131

Human Resources:
Beth Igney bigney@columbiacity.net 260-248-5109



Tad Varga (R)
Northwest
260-804-2076
tvarga@columbiacity.net



Leslee Robinson (R)
Northeast
260-229-7413
jrobinson@columbiacity.net

Churubusco Government

Churubusco Utilities

204 N. Line St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-9350

Churubusco Utility Departments

Chief of Staff: Madalyn Sade-Bartl Street and Water Department: Jeremy Hart Wastewater Department: Bob Gray Town Marshal: Dustin Papenbrock Town Attorney: Andrew Boxberger Parks Department: Rick Krider

Churubusco Clerk-Treasurer

Madalyn Sade-Bartl (D) 204 N. Line St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-9350

Churubusco Town Council

Devin Keener (R) Nathan Van Horn (R) Mark Peple (R)



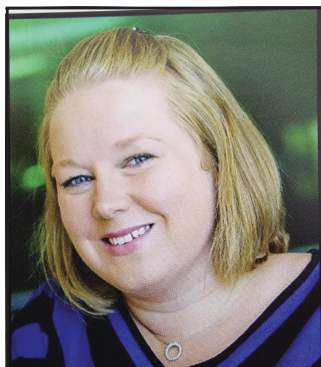
Mark Peple
mark@townofchurubusco.com



Nathan Van Horn
nathan@townofchurubusco.com



Devin Keener
dkeener@townofchurubusco.com



Madalyn Sade-Bartl
madalyn@townofchurubusco.com



Richard Hess of Columbia City works with Eva McDonald of Albion on a project during a woodworking display.

DAVID VANTRESS

Whitley County By The Numbers

According to the United States Census Bureau

Population Estimates, July 1, 2023 (V2022)- 34,742

Populations estimates base, April 1, 2020 (V2021) – 34,190

Population, percent change, April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2023 (V2022) – 1.6%

Population, census, April 1, 2020 – 34,191

Population, census, April 1, 2010 – 33,292

Persons under 5 years, percent – 5.6%

Persons under 18 years – 22.7%

Persons 65 years and over – 19.4%

Female persons – 49.6%

White alone, percent – 96.7%

Black or African American, alone, percent – 0.7%

American Indian and Alaska native, percent – 0.4%

Asian, percent – 0.5%

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander – Z

Two or more races, percent – 1.6%

Hispanic or Latino – 2.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino – 94.5%

Veterans, 2018-2022 – 2,045

Foreign born persons, 2018-2022 – 1.2%

Housing Units

Housing units, July 1, 2022 (V2022) – 15,039

Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2018-2022 – 81.2%

Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2018-2022 — \$189,800

Median selected monthly owner costs – with a mortgage, 2018-2022 — \$1,220

Median selected monthly owner costs – without a mortgage, 2018-2022 — \$503

Median gross rent, 2018-2022 — \$902

Building permits, 2022 – 92

Households, 2018-2022 – 13,826

Persons per household, 2018-2022 – 2.45

Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year-plus, 2018-2022 – 89.3%

Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years – plus, 2018-2022 – 3.4%

Households with a computer, 2018-2022 – 94.4%

Households with a broadband Internet subscription, 2018-2022 – 88.0%

High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years-plus, 2018-2022 – 91.8%

Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years-plus, 2018-2022 – 22.8%

With a disability, under age 65 years, 2018-2022 – 8.8%

Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years – 9.1%

In civilian labor force, total, percent of population 16 years-plus, 2018-2022 – 65.4%

In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years-plus, 2018-2022 – 61.3%

Total accommodation and food service sales, 2017 (\$1,000) – 37,806

Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) – 120,933

Total retail sales, 2017 (\$1,000) – 396,973

Total retail sales per capita, 2017 — \$11,768

Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years-plus, 2018-2022 – 24.0

Median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022 — \$73,636

Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2017-2021 — \$33,515

Persons in poverty, percent – 9.0%

Total employer establishments, 2021 – 684

Total employment, 2021 – 12,294

Total annual payroll, 2021 (\$1,000) – 593,231

Total employment, percent change, 2020-2021 – .3%

Total nonemployer establishments, 2021 – 2,248

All firms, 2017 – 705

Men-owned firms, 2017 – 414

Women-owned firms, 2017 – 91

Minority-owned firms, 2017 – Z

Nonminority-owned firms, 2017 – 574

Veteran-owned firms, 2017 – Z

Nonveteran-owned firms, 2017 – 548

Population per square mile, 2020 – 101.9

Land area in square miles, 2020 – 335.57



CONTRIBUTED
A patriotic eagle soars in the mural by Samantha Fulk.

Emergency Services

Hospitals/EMS

Parkview Whitley Hospital 1260 IN 205
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-9000

Lutheran Hospital
(Kosciusko Community Hospital) 2101 E. Dubois
Dr. Warsaw, IN 574-267-3200

Whitley County Sheriff's Department

101 W. Market St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-6410 **Sheriff:**

Jason Spencer

Columbia City Police Department

112 S. Chauncey St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-5121 **Police Chief: Gary Parrett**

Churubusco Police Department

530 S. Main St.
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-2609 **Marshal: Dustin Papenbrock**

South Whitley Police Department

118 E. Front St. South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-4814 **Marshal: Mike VanDevender**

Whitley County Fire Departments

CLEVELAND 117 N. State St. South Whitley, IN 46787 260-723-4990
Chief: Joe Jackson

COLUMBIA CITY 112 S. Chauncey St. Columbia

City, IN 46725 260-248-5161 **Chief: Tom LaRue**

COLUMBIA 22 E. Radio Rd. Columbia City, IN 4725 260-244-7659 **Chief: Shane Caudill**

JEFFERSON 5090 E. 800 S Columbia City, IN 46725 260-396-2112 **Chief: Zach Rumsyre**

RICHLAND 6538 W 100 S Larwill, IN 46787 260-327-3824 **Chief: Joe Hill**

SMITH 204 N. Line St. Churubusco, IN 46723

260-693-3875 **Chief: Kris Bair**

THORNCREEK 821 E 500 N Columbia City, IN 46725 260-691-9117
Chief: Doug DeWitt

UNION 5050 E. McJunkin St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-8006
Chief: Aaron Oliver

WASHINGTON 7893 S. Washington Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-2818 **Chief: Nathaniel Worrick**



Jon Shew of Columbia City guides his Iron Patriot during the truck pull event at the Whitley County Fair last year.

Education

Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation

Administrative Offices
107 N. Walnut St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5771 www.wccsonline.com

Coesse Elementary School

2250 S. CR 500 E
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-3351

Little Turtle Elementary

1710 S. Ind. 9 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-3343

Mary Raber Elementary School

700 E Jackson St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5857

Northern Heights Elementary School

5209 N. Ind. 109
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-2371

Indian Springs Middle School

1692 S Ind. 9 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5148

Columbia City High School

1600 Ind. 9 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-6136

Eagle Tech Academy

1600 Ind. 9 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5707

Whitko Community School Corporation

Central Office

710 N. State Rd. 5 Larwill, IN 46764 260-327-3677
www.whitko.org

Piercetown Elementary

School

434 S. First St. Piercetown, IN 46562 574-594-2210

South Whitley Elementary School

406 W. Wayne St.
South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-6342

Whitko Jr./Sr. High School

1 Big Blue Ave. South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-5146

Whitko Career Academy

710 North State Rd. 5
Larwill, IN 46764 260-327-3603

Little Cats Early Learning Center

710 N. State Rd. 5 Larwill, IN 46764 260-267-4355

Smith-Green Community School Corporation

Administrative Office
222 W. Tully St.
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-2007

Churubusco Elementary School

3 Eagle Drive
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-2188

Churubusco Jr./Sr. High School

1 Eagle Drive
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-2131

Other Schools

T.R.O.Y Center

1911 E. Business 30
Columbia City, IN 46725

260-248-8787

Faith Christian Academy

1550 E Ind. 205 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-4872

Adult Education Services

Whitley County Literacy Council

Free one-on-one tutoring for HSE/GED, basic literacy and ESL 115 S. Line St. Columbia City, IN 46725 wcliteracy87@gmail.com 260-244-2375

Impact Institute

HSE/GED classes held at Peabody Public Library 1607 Dowling St. Kendallville, IN 46755 888-349-0250




RACHAEL HARTMAN

Brelle Shearer accepts her diploma as a graduate from Churubusco High School.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing the potential of every child.

HEALTHY LIVING

Improving the nation's health and well-being.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back and providing support to our neighbors.

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

260-244-YMCA • www.FWYMCA.org
950 E. Van Buren St. • Columbia City, IN

Event, Recreation and Parks

Calendar of Events

Events to look for throughout the year:

April

• **Egg hunts** — Are coordinated by local organizations throughout the county

• South Whitley Town Garage Sales

May

• **First Fridays begins** — Occurs the First Friday of each month from May to October; features music, food trucks, vendor booths and more

• Memorial Day parade

— Parade honoring veterans and those lost in war are remembered in a parade through Columbia City that ends in a remembrance ceremony in Green Hill Cemetery

• Memorial Day Mile Marathon and 5K

• **Farmer's Market** — Occurs each Saturday in downtown Columbia City from May to October; features local vendors selling produce and hand-made goods

June

• **Turtle Days** — A week-long event in Churubusco with rides, fair food and several local events

• **Old Settler's Day** — A week-long series that brings fair rides and foods to downtown Columbia City, along with a parade and other local events

July

• **Fourth of July** — Firework displays take place in different parts of the county to celebrate Independence Day

• **100th Anniversary 4-H Fair** — A week-long event hosted at the Whitley County Fairgrounds; features animal shows, project presentations, an auction, demolition derby and more

August

• **JA Car Show** — Occurs in downtown Columbia City, with food vendors, music and many vintage cars. Raises money for the Junior Achievement program.

• Churubusco Art Festival/Chalk Walk

— Occurs in downtown Churubusco, features vendor booths, food and music

• Whitley County students return to school

September

• Churubusco Town Garage Sales

• **Lord's Acre Festival** — Occurs at the Etna United Methodist Church; features food, a silent auction, music, a parade, fellowship and more

• **South Whitley Fall Festival** — A weekend-long event on State Street in South Whitley; features a parade, car show, bed races and many local events

October

• **Autumn Harvest Festival** — Celebrating the Autumn season at the Whitley County Fairgrounds. Features vendors, performers, food, a car show and more.

• **Halloweenfest** — Occurs in Churubusco; starts with trick or treating hosted by the downtown businesses, then a

costume contest, followed by trick or treating

• **Lil Pumpkins on Parade** — Hosted by the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center; features trick or treating at the downtown Columbia City businesses

• **Trick or Treating** — Occurs at various spots throughout the county

November

• **Lighted Christmas Parade** — Occurs in downtown Columbia City the Friday after Thanksgiving; rings in the holiday season with local organizations decorated vehicles, passing out candy and ends with the arrival of Santa Claus

• **Walk of Trees** — Local businesses and organizations decorate trees for the public to enjoy over the holiday season. Attendees can purchase raffle tickets to vote on their favorite tree for a chance to win one.

• **Small Business Saturday** — Local businesses throughout the county offer deals encouraging the public to shop local

December

• **Community Christmas** — Local churches partner together for a Christmas celebration around the Whitley County Courthouse. Live actors tell the story of the Nativity outside, while carols and confections are offered inside.

• **Christmas Candy Giveaway** — A long-standing tradition of the Columbia City Fire Department, firefighters pass out candy and

an orange to children Christmas Eve who also get a visit from St. Nick

Golf Courses

Eagle Glen Golf Club, 129 S. Eagle Glen Trail, Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-248-4653; eagleglen-golfonline.com; Championship Length: 6,724 yards; Par 72; Course Rating: 72.6; Slope: 130; Men's Length: 6,010 Par 72; Women's Length: 5,202 yards Par 72; Course Rating: 69.9; Slope 121

Eel River Golf

Course, 1265 N 950 E Churubusco, IN 46723; 260-693-3463; www.eelrivergolfcourse.com; Men's length: 5,851 yards Par 71; Course rating: 66.9; Slope: 109; Women's Length: 5,028 yards Par 71; Course rating: 72; Slope: 111

Sycamore Golf Club

6002 E. Ind. 114 North Manchester, IN 46962; 260-982-2279; www.sycamoregc.com; Championship Length: 6,311 yards Par 72; Course rating: 70.2; Slope: 124; Women's Length: 5,121 yards Par 72; Course rating: 70; Slope: 110

Parks

Morsches Park, 1035 E. Ind 205 Columbia City, IN 46725; Four tennis courts, one basketball court, 10 ball diamonds, three shuffleboard courts, nature trail, Blue River Trail, playground, skateboard park, splash pad, three open-air pavilions, one enclosed pavilion, picnic tables, grills, drinking fountains, two restrooms, two concession stands, pond, off-road wooded trail and asphalt trail around the pond; the

park is approximately 130 acres in size; Parks Office: 260-248-5180; Website: columbiacity.net

Blue River Trail, paved trail runs from Country-side Drive to Main Street; gazebo; picnic tables; benches; and trail

Eel River Trail, the newest addition to trails in Whitley County; the first mile of the trail begins in South Whitley

DeVol Field, Old Trail Road Columbia City; tennis courts, sledding hill, one baseball diamond, two sand volleyball courts, restrooms, tunnel leading to Baker Park, asphalt walking trail around the park, drinking fountain, basketball court

Churubusco Park, 215 Home Ave. Churubusco; basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, skate park, shelters and one enclosed pavilion, paved walkway; Phone: 260-693-1551

Patriotic Park, Reddick Ave. Columbia City; half basketball court, picnic table, grill and playground

Southside Park, Swihart Street Columbia City; half basketball court, picnic table, grill, drinking fountain and playground

Baker Park, Old Business 30 Columbia City; tables, grills, bathrooms, drinking fountains, half basketball court and Kids Dreamland playground

Mayors Park, North Columbia Parkway Columbia City; swing set and woodchip path

Kenneth Wright Park, South Whitley Street Columbia City; playground

Event, Recreation and Parks

equipment, basketball court, extension of Blue River Trail

Tri-Lakes Park, 5699 N. Fish Hatchery Rd. Columbia City; playground, pavilion, basketball court, two-acre pond with observation area, benches, fire pit and grills

Gale Hagan Memorial Park, Buckeye Street South Whitley; open-air pavilion, playground equipment, skate park and nature trail

South Whitley Town Park, 118 E. Front St. South Whitley; basketball courts, tennis courts, playground equipment and gazebo

Jeff Sammons Memorial Park, Center Street Larwill; park benches, gazebo and picnic tables

Thomas Marshall Plaza, a pocket park located in downtown Columbia City off of Van Buren Street; plenty of greenery and places to sit

Franklin Promenade, a pocket park in downtown Churubusco with tables and benches

Don & Vi LeBrun Memorial Park, located off of State Street in South Whitley; plenty of outdoor seating and entertainment space

Ohki Alley, located in downtown Columbia City off of Van Buren Street; lots of street art, benches, seating, lighting

Peabody Public Library Wetlands, 1160 E. Ind. 205 Columbia City; covered patio with picnic tables and benches; native trees have been labeled

for identification purposes, and there is a short trail as well as a handicap accessible boardwalk to the observation deck; a variety of wildlife can be spotted in the wetland area throughout the year

Activities
Whitley County Family YMCA, 950 E. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-244-9622; swimming pool, basketball courts, indoor track, weight-lifting and treadmills

Paige's Crossing Family Entertainment and Golf Center, 2821 E. Business 30, Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-244-5757; driving range, putt-putt, go-kart, batting cages, arcade, kiddie rides

Camp Whitley, 4305 W. Camp Whitley Rd.,

Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-799-5587; a summer-long outdoor camp for ages 7-14; some various activities include swimming, fishing, boating, arts, crafts, hiking, sports, campfires, movies

Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatics Center, 452 N. Whitley St., Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-248-5182; swimming pool, water slides, water playground, kiddie area and more; also offers pickle ball courts in the summer and an ice skating rink in the winter

Health Clubs
Whitley County Family YMCA, 950 E. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-244-9622; swimming pool, basketball courts, indoor track, weight-lifting and

treadmills

Anytime Fitness, 462 W. Plaza Dr., Columbia City, IN 46725 and 8475 Lincoln Hwy U.S. 33, Churubusco, IN 46723; 260-248-4444 (Columbia City) and 260-286-1200 (Churubusco); www.anytimefitness.com; weight-lifting and treadmills; group workout and one-on-one training options; 24-hour access for members

Journey Fitness 333, 496 W. Plaza Dr., Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-723-5333; journeyfitness333.com; group fitness and training programs

Strive Fit Club, 215 E. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN 46725; 260-209-1119; strivefitclub.com; bootcamp and cycle training programs



CONTRIBUTED

The Whitley County Country Quilters have several charity projects this year under the leadership of president, Tammy Banks. A new project started in last May is touch quilts for people living with dementia. The squares in the quilts vary in texture and color, and offer comfort and tactile stimulation. Seven touch quilts were brought to the June guild meeting and passed along to The Waters of Columbia City for the benefit of their residents. Pictured left to right with their donated quilts are Lureen Vaught, Candice Yeakle, Jill Winebrenner, and Tammy Banks. Not pictured is Sue Hinkle.

Whitley County Lakes

Blue Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2395648 **Longitude:** -85.3626685 **GNIS ID:** 431230

Catfish Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2511128 **Longitude:** -85.4641553 **GNIS ID:** 432238

Cedar Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and

historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2531776 **Longitude:** -85.4513855 **GNIS ID:** 432276

Compton Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1504683 **Longitude:** -85.6646756 **GNIS ID:** 432843

Crooked Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:**

41.2621075 **Longitude:** -85.4790486 **GNIS ID:** 433169

Devils Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2438736 **Longitude:** -85.3744087 **GNIS ID:** 433511

Goose Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2387579 **Longitude:** -85.5521199 **GNIS ID:** 435201

Ice House Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1812309 **Longitude:** -85.5665646 **GNIS ID:** 436702

Indian Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.212152 **Longitude:** -85.590282 **GNIS ID:** 436771

Karen Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2389087 **Longitude:** -85.4323701 **GNIS ID:** 437167

Larwill Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1728085 **Longitude:** -85.6230672 **GNIS ID:** 437636

Leininger Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1591852 **Longitude:** -85.561195 **GNIS ID:** 437761

Little Cedar Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historical features

Feature Type: Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2484326 **Longitude:** -85.4396501 **GNIS ID:** 438008

Little Crooked Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2581866 **Longitude:** -85.467097 **GNIS ID:** 438036

Little Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.248694 **Longitude:** -85.404273 **GNIS ID:** 438086

Little Troy Cedar Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2277925 **Longitude:** -85.5705116 **GNIS ID:** 438159

Little Wilson Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1839272 **Longitude:** -85.5647104 **GNIS ID:** 438178

Loon Lake
Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2721886 **Longitude:**

STILL #1 IN WHITLEY COUNTY

*Data from MLS Units and Volume

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Columbia City, IN



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Whitley County Lakes

-85.5392519 GNIS ID: 450560

Menzie Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1760271 **Longitude:** -85.6126061 **GNIS ID:** 439014

Metzger Pond

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historical features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.20613 **Longitude:** -85.5238078 **GNIS ID:** 439055

Mud Lake

Category: Indian physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2484464 **Longitude:** -85.5678748 **GNIS ID:** 439828

New Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2621738 **Longitude:** -85.5536711 **GNIS ID:** 452468

Old Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2708414 **Longitude:** -85.5540111 **GNIS ID:** 452473

Rine Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2201583 **Longitude:** -85.6410217 **GNIS ID:** 442046

Robinson Lake

Category: Indiana

physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2254808 **Longitude:** -85.650071 **GNIS ID:** 442182

Round Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2462267 **Longitude:** -85.4292792 **GNIS ID:** 442351

Scott Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2608607 **Longitude:** -85.5916333 **GNIS ID:** 452489

Shriner Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:**

Lake County: Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2461943 **Longitude:** -85.4506847 **GNIS ID:** 443459

Souder Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1567375 **Longitude:** -85.5919622 **GNIS ID:** 443773

T Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.0747485 **Longitude:** -85.66323 **GNIS ID:** 444532

Tadpole Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2199902 **Longitude:**

-85.6339696 **GNIS ID:** 444542

Troy Cedar Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.238962 **Longitude:** -85.5774867 **GNIS ID:** 444925

Wilson Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.1844315 **Longitude:** -85.5677514 **GNIS ID:** 446150

Winters Lake

Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features **Feature Type:** Physical **Class:** Lake **County:** Whitley County **Latitude:** 41.2454553 **Longitude:** -85.5539068 **GNIS ID:** 446199

RACHAEL HARTMAN
Judges and emcee for the Miss Turtle Days program last year (from left) were Jordan Hoffman (2022 Queen of Lakes), Bridget Bane (2022 Miss Allen County), Melanie Gebhart (2022 Miss Whitley County) and Kali Wolf (2022 Miss Kosciusko County).



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

The Whitley County Pork Queen waves to the crowd.

Church Directory

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Victory Christian Fellowship 1330 W. Business 30 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-3978 www.ccvictory.org
Service Times: Sunday — Worship 10 a.m.

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church 111 S Main St. South Whitley, IN 46787 260-723-4788

www.firstbaptistsouthwhitley.com **Service Times:** Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:45 a.m. Sunday Youth — 5 p.m. Wednesday Youth — 5 p.m. (September-April); 6 p.m. (May-August) Wednesday Club Knight — 6:30 p.m. (September-April)

First Eel River Baptist

Church 11022 Carroll Rd. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-6513 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 10:30 a.m. Sunday Eve. — 7 p.m. Wednesday Eve. — 7 p.m.

Good News Baptist Church 812 Anderson Rd. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-2108 buscogoodnews.com **Service Times:** Sunday School — 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship — 10 a.m. Sunday Night AWANA (September — April) & Youth Group — 6 p.m. Wednesday Eve Prayer and Adult Bible Study — 6 p.m.

Ormas Baptist Church 8962 N. 300 W. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-799-5789 www.ormasbaptistchurch.com **Service Times:** Sunday Fellowship

Hour — 9 a.m. Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:30 a.m.

Tri-Lakes Baptist Church 5679 N. Center St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-691-2553 **Office Hours:** 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday **Service Times:** Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:45 a.m. Wednesday



Samantha "Sam" Fulk walks away from her Lady Eagles softball mural in Churubusco Community Park, which she completed in last October.

Church Directory

Eve. Prayer — 6:30 p.m.

BRETHREN

Columbia City Church of the Brethren 112 N. Washington St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-6278 www.cccob.net **Service Times:** Sunday school — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Wednesday Evening Fellowship & Bible Study (September-May) — 6 p.m.

Blue River Covenant Brethren Church 3040 E 700 N Columbia City, IN 46725 260-691-2605 www.blueriverchurch.org **Service Times:** Sunday School — 9 a.m. Sunday — Worship 10 a.m. Sunday Eve. — Worship 7 p.m. Wednesday — 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC

St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church 9989 State Rd. 9 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-672-2838 **Service Times:** Sunday Mass — 9:15 a.m. Thursday Mass — 7 p.m. (every other Thursday)

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church 315 S. Line St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5723 www.stpaulcc.org **Service Times:** Saturday Mass — 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday Mass — 8 & 10:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mass — 8 a.m. Wednesday Mass — 5 p.m.

St. Patrick Church of Arcola 12305 Arcola Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818 260-625-4151 www.stpatrickarcola.org **Service Times:** Saturday Mass — 5 p.m. Sunday Mass — 7:30 & 10 a.m. Wed., Thursday & Friday

Mass — 8 a.m. Tues. Mass — 7 p.m.

St. John Bosco Catholic Church 220 N. Main St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-9578 www.stjohnboscochurubusco.org **Service Times:** Saturday Mass — 8 a.m. & 4 p.m. Sunday Mass — 7 & 9 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mass — 8 a.m.; Wednesday Mass — 5:30 p.m. Confessions — Saturday 8:30 a.m.; 3-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday 4:30- 5 p.m.

CHRISTIAN

Collamer Christian Church 5850 S. 900 W. South Whitley, IN 46787 260-723-5811 **Service Times:** Sunday school — 9 a.m. Worship — 10 a.m.

Columbia City Christian Fellowship Church 310 S. Main St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-4242 www.cccfc.net **Service Times:** Sunday — Prayer 9:30 a.m. Sunday — Worship 10 a.m. Thursday Bible Study 6 p.m.

Laud Christian Church 2085 Taylor St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-609-9378 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9:30 a.m. Sunday School — 10:45 a.m.

Saturn Christian Church 6731 E. 800 S. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-609-9378 www.saturnchristianchurch.org **Service Times:** Sunday School — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10 a.m. Wednesdays — Youth Thursday Prayer Meeting — 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Columbia City Christian

Church 270 Frontage Road Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-6709 www.christianchurchcc.org **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.

Lincoln Way Church of Christ 600 W. Lincolnway Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5753 **Service Times:** Sunday Bible Study — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study — 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF GOD

Big Lake Church of God 6955 Co. Rd. 700 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-691-3503 www.blcog.org **Service Times:** Sunday — Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School — 10:15 a.m. **Preschool/Daycare Ministry:** 260-691-2487

Church of the Second Chance 204 S. Oak St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5545 **Service Times:** Sunday — 10 a.m. — 11 a.m. Tuesday — 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

First Church of God 1200 West Depoy Dr. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5959 www.firstchurchconnect.com **Service Times:** Sunday — Worship 9 & 10:30 a.m. Weekly Small Groups — Various **Stepping Stones Preschool:** 260-244-5619

Oak Grove Church of God 2426 S. Raber Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-3052 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 & 10:30 a.m. Weekly Small Groups — Various Times

Sugar Grove Church of God 5019 E. 500 S. 57 Churubusco, IN www.sugargrovecog.com

Service Times: Sunday Worship — 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Eve. Kids & Youth — 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday Eve. Youth, Mens & Women's Bible Studies Thursday — Celebrate Recovery & Grief Share

GRACE BRETHREN

Community of Hope 208 W. Jackson St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-2725 www.cofh.com **Service Times:** Sunday — Worship 8:30 and 10:15 a.m.

LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 3085 E. Lincoln Way Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-4844 www.churchofjesuschrist.org

LUTHERAN

Eberhard Lutheran Church 2360 W. Keiser Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5059

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church 9251 E. State Road 205 Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-6254 www.flcbusco.org **Service Times:** Sunday Divine Service — 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Wednesday Divine Service — 7 p.m. Thursday Vespers — 6:30 p.m. Bible Class Sun, 9 a.m. and Thurs. 7 p.m. Private Confession/Holy Communion available by appointment

Hope Lutheran Church of Coesse (ELCA) 2001 S. 500 E. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7118 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 8:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study — following Worship

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) 204 N. Main St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7118 www.gracecolumbiacity.org **YOUTUBE:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church **Service Times:** Hope Lutheran Sunday Worship — 8:15 a.m. Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church 2465 W. Keiser Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-3712 www.stjohnlutheranchurch.webs.com **Service Times:** Sunday Divine Service — 9 a.m. (with Communion on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays) Sunday school 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church 77914 W. Cook



Church Directory

Rd., Fort Wayne 260-489-5031 **Service Times** traditional 7:45 and 9:15 a.m., Contemporary — New Song 10:30 a.m. with Children's Chapel, Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church
101 E. North St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5513 www.zionlutherancc.com
Service Times: Sunday School & Adult Bible Study — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:15 a.m.

MISSIONARY

Living Hope Missionary Church of Dunfee 818 N. West County Line Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818 260-625-4621 www.dunfeemc.org **Service Times:** Sunday school — 9 a.m. Fellowship Time: 10 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:30 a.m.

NAZARENE

Columbia City Church of the Nazarene 506 N. Main St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-8252 ccnazarene.org **Service Times:** Sunday Classes — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.

Churubusco Church of the Nazarene 1050 W. Whitley St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-9401 www.busconaz.org **Service Times:** Sunday school — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10 a.m. Wednesday Youth Group — 6 p.m.; Life Group at various times

Sugar Creek Fellowship Church of the Nazarene 3531 W. 800 S. South Whitley, IN 46787 260-248-2030 www.scfnaz.com **Service Times:** Sunday Lifelines — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.



CONTRIBUTED

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christ Community Church 316 N. Main St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-7272 www.c3busco.org **Service Times:** Sunday — Worship 9:30 a.m.

Community Bible Church 325 N. Elm St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-206-5564 www.communitybiblecc.com **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 10 a.m. Wednesday Community Groups — 5:30 p.m.

Green Center Community Church 2861 S. 300 E., Albion 260-609-9378. **Sunday Bible Study** 9:30 a.m., **Worship** 10 a.m.

The Chapel 2505 W. Hamilton Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46814 260-625-6200 www.thechapel.net **Service Times:** Saturday Eve. Worship — 5 p.m. Sunday Worship — 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

The Remnant 1120 N. State Rd 109 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-209-4248 www.theremnant.life **Service Times:**

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Free Community Meal — Sunday 12:45 p.m. Rise Youth — Thursday 6 p.m.

The Warehouse 655 Opportunity Dr., Columbia City 260-609-3180 www.thewarehouse.blog **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Celebrate Recovery 6 — 8 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church 709 W. Business 30 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5494 www.tepccc.com **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9:15 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday school — 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Lights — 6:30-8 p.m.

Troy Presbyterian Church 6465 W. Lincolnway Columbia City, IN 46725 260-327-3286 www.troypresbyterian-church.com **Service Times:** Sunday school — 9 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST
Arcola United Methodist

Church 11311 Arcola Rd Arcola, IN 46704 260-625-4103 www.arcolamethodist.org **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 and 11 a.m.

Churubusco United Methodist Church 750 North Main St. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-2154 www.churubuscoumc.org **Service Times:** Sunday school — All Ages — 9:30 a.m.; Sunday — Worship 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday Food Give Away Drive Thru — 2:30 p.m.

Collins New Life Church 5524 E Darland St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-212-8716 **Service Times:** Sunday — Worship 10 a.m.

Columbia City United Methodist Church 605 Forest Parkway Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7671 www.columbiacityumc.org **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.

Lake Chapel United Methodist Church 8205 Butt Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818 260-625-5330

Service Times: Sunday Worship — 9 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist Church 4490 W. 200 S. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5367 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Washington Center United Methodist Church 8010 S Washington Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-8593 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 a.m. Children's Sunday school — 9:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday school — 10 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer — 7 p.m.; Thursday Bible Study — 6 p.m.

St. Matthews Community Church 1460 E. 500 N. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-691-2800 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 a.m. Sunday School — 10:15 a.m. Sunday Evening Youth — 6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study — 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church of South Whitley 6685 W. State Road 14 South Whitley, IN 36787 260-723-5107 www.swccin.org **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 a.m. Sunday Adult, Children & Teens Small Groups — 10:15 a.m.

West Point Trinity United Methodist Church 4980 N. Etna Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-3036 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 a.m.

WESLEYAN

New Hope Wesleyan Church 971 N. 400 W. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-327-3707 www.newhopealive.org **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Community Groups

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Meets Mondays & Thursdays at 7:30 PM
Grace Lutheran Church
204 N. Main St. Columbia
City, IN 46725 260-244-7118

AL-ANON (Support Group for Family Members of Alcoholics)

Meets Mondays & Thursdays — 7:30 PM
Grace Lutheran Church
204 N. Main St. Columbia
City, IN 46725 260-244-7118

Alzheimer's Support Group

Open to caregivers of people with Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementia. Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month

from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM
Columbia City United
Methodist Church 605
N. Forest Parkway Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-7671

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana (CSNI)

Serving people with cancer in Whitley County and surrounding counties. They have been providing practical resources and emotional support to local people since 1944. Call 260-484-9560 with questions or to make an appointment with a client advocate. www.cancer-services.org

Right to Life of North Central Indiana

Promotes the sanctity of human life through education. www.nci4life.org 574-306-7406 Email:

info@nci4life.org 630
S. Buffalo St., Suite 3
Warsaw, IN 46580

Whitley County Domestic Violence Task Force

Is set up to empower Whitley County residents to stop domestic violence through education, public awareness, and coordinated community involvement. A victim's support group is also offered (Participants will need to go through a screening process before attending the group). For more information, call 800-799-7233, email advocacy@ywca.org, or visit www.ywca.org.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Churubusco Public Library

116 N. Mulberry St.
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-6466 www.buscolibrary.org Director:
Rachel Eyer mann

Peabody Public Library

1160 E. State Road 205
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5541 www.ppl.lib.in.us Director: Michael
Ashby

South Whitley Community Public Library

201 E. Front Street
South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-5321 www.swcplib.com Director: Vicki
Builta

ORGANIZATIONS

Rotary Clubs

The Rotary Clubs in Whitley County make their homes in Churubusco

and Columbia City. All of the actions of Rotarians can be applied to "The Four-Way Test" of the things they think, say, or do: First—Is it the truth? Second—Is it fair to all concerned? Third— Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Fourth— Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Churubusco Rotary Club

Meetings are held Tuesdays at 12 p.m. at St. John Bosco Catholic Church 220 N. Main St., Churubusco, IN 46723
Phone: 260-248-2851

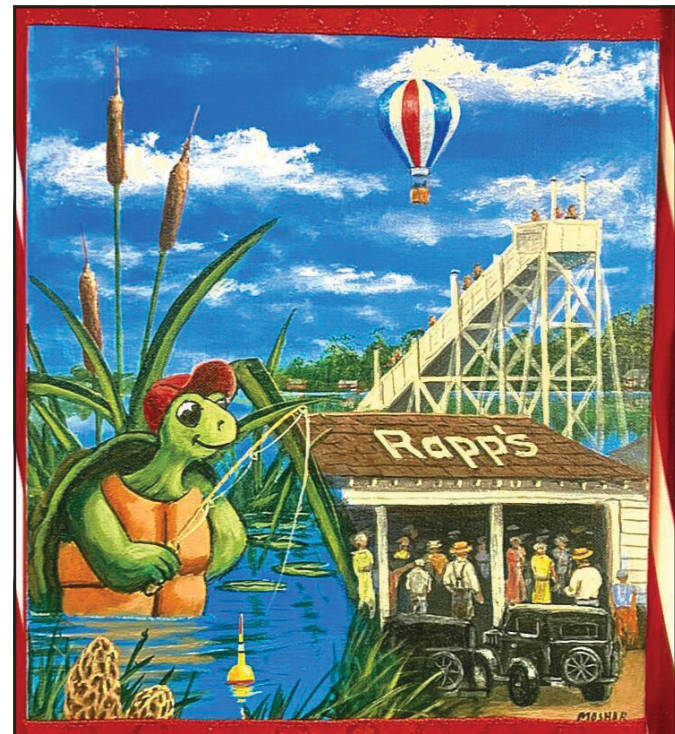
Columbia City Rotary Club

Meetings are held Tuesdays at 12 p.m. at Woodlands Senior Center, 710 Opportunity Dr., Columbia City, IN 46725
www.columbiacityrotary.org.



CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Fensler won Citizen of the Year from Churubusco Chamber of Commerce. She stands with Madalyn Sade-Bartl and Nikki King.



CONTRIBUTED

Community Groups

club

American Legion Post 98

American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion each meet monthly at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the American Legion Post home, located at 430 W. Business 30 in Columbia City. For more information about joining these groups, contact The American Legion at 260-244-5821. Wartime Veterans and their descendants are also welcome to join.

VFW Post #5582

Meets at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the VFW, located at 415 E. Chicago St. in Columbia City. For more information, contact the VFW at 260-244-4813. The VFW welcomes new members from all branches of service.

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club

Meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the lower level Room A of Peabody Public Library, 1160 State Road 205 in Columbia City. The public is invited. For more information on meetings and other WCARC activities and services, check out the club's website at www.wcarc.org, or contact WCARC Public Information Officer Roger McEntarfer at 260-691-3009.

USMC Leatherneck Coffee Club

Is an elite organization of honorably discharged United States Marines who remain in service to their country and corps. Men and women who have worn the eagle, globe, and anchor are encouraged to attend the club's monthly meetings and enjoy the camaraderie

of their fellow Marines. For current meeting times and location, please contact Jeff at 260-466-9403 or by email at jeffschenher@yahoo.com.

The Genealogical Society of Whitley County

The society collects and preserves the ancestry of Whitley County families. County records and documents are made easily available to county residents and those doing research on Whitley County. In addition, the First Family and Pioneer Family Recognition programs, which are able to trace families directly back to persons who resided in what is now Whitley County, is open and welcomes your application. For more information, visit the Genealogical Society's website at www.whitleycountyin.org, or

stop by the Education and Research Center, located in the Whitley County Historical Museum at 108 W. Jefferson St. in Columbia City, or, call 260-244-6372.

Columbia City Elks Lodge #1417

The Elks Fraternal Order was founded to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship. Anyone wanting to become an Elk should ask another Elks Lodge member or call 260-244-7351. Monthly member meetings are held at 109 S. Main St. in Columbia City on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month (except for July & August, which only occur on the

1st Tuesday) at 7:00 PM. For more information visit the Elks website at www.elks.org, or email cceelks1417@gmail.com.

Leadership Whitley County

Is a 7-month experiential learning program designed to empower individuals to serve and become better leaders, engage individuals in the workplace and community, and connect them with resources to continue growing as a leader at home, in the workplace, and in the community. Sessions begin in September and meet once a month through April. For more information and to apply, visit the Whitley County Economic Development Corp.'s website at www.whitleyedc.com/content/leadershipwhitley-county, or call 260-244-5506.



DAVID VANTRESS

Garry Jones entertains the crowd on the event stage at Turtle Days in Churubusco.



MATT GETTS

Central Noble seniors Robert Thompson and Rylee Paris were crowned 2023 homecoming king and queen during Friday's football game vs. Churubusco in Albion.

Nonprofit Directory

A HOPE CENTER

344 N. Main St. Columbia City, IN 46725 Call: 260-244-7779 Text: 224-585-3544 www. ahopecenter.org

ANTHONY WAYNE AREA COUNCIL OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

8315 W. Jefferson Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46804 260-432-9593 www. awac.org

BABE OF WHITLEY COUNTY (BEDS AND BRITCHES, ETC.)

605 Forest Pkwy., Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-2820 www. babewc.org

BLUE RIVER SENIOR APARTMENTS

413 Columbia Dr., Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-2254

BRIGHTPOINT

1340 S. Governors Rd.

Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-2737 www. mybrightpoint.org

CAMP WHITLEY

4305 W. Camp Whitley Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-503-4329 campwhitley1928@gmail. com www. campwhitley.org

CANCER SERVICES OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

6316 Mutual Dr. Fort Wayne, IN 46825 260-484-9560 www. cancer-services.org

CHURUBUSCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

204 N. Line St. Churubusco, IN 46723 secretary@churubuscochamber.org www. churubuscochamber.org

COLUMBIA CITY CONNECT

108 S. Chauncey St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5301 info.

ccconnect@gmail.com columbiacityconnect.com

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WHITLEY COUNTY

1711 E. Woods Way, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5224 www. cfwhitley.org

COMMUNITY HARVEST FOOD BANK

999 E. Tillman Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46816 260-447-3696 www. communityharvest.org

DIFFERENCE MAKERS – THE IMPACT CENTER FOOD PANTRY

500 West Van Buren St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7300

EASTERSEALS PASSAGES

333 N. Oak St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-9331 www. eastersealsnei. org/services_locations/ eastersealspassages/

FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Purdue University Fort Wayne 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46805 260-481-0481 fwcchoir@ fwcchoir.org www. fwcchoir. org

GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN INDIANA/ MICHIANA

10008 Dupont Circle Dr. E. Fort Wayne, IN 46725 1-800-283-4812 www. girlscoutsnorthernindiana- michiana.org

GIVING GARDENS OF INDIANA

479 Towerview Dr. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-609-6784 giving- gardensin@gmail.com www. givinggardensofindiana.com

HELPLINE OF WHITLEY COUNTY

605 N. Forest Parkway Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-2601 www. columbiacityumc.org/ helpline

HUMANE SOCIETY OF WHITLEY COUNTY

951 S. Line St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-6664 www. hswc.org

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WHITLEY COUNTY

550 E. Wallen Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46825 260-484-2543 www. junior- achievement.org

MISSION25

500 W. Business 30 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5266 www. mission25.cc.org

ONE COMMUNITY

PO Box 314 South Whitley, IN 46787 260-609-0281 ocwhitko@ gmail.com www. ocwhitko. org



COURTESY OF NIKKI KING

Nikki King shows off the newly installed mailbox to get letters to Santa at King Realty in Churubusco.



RACHAEL HARTMAN
This restored 1924 Model S was presented by Allan Felger, of Churubusco.

Nonprofit Directory

OTIS R BOWEN CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES
119 W. Market St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8176 www.bowencenter.org

PARKVIEW WHITLEY FOUNDATION
1260 E. State Rd. 205
Columbia City, IN 46725
844-241-0033 foundation@parkview.com www.parkview.com/foundations/who-we-are/our-communities/whitley-county-surrounding-areas

PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY
1160 E. State Road 205
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5541 www.ppl.lib.in.us

PURDUE EXTENSION – WHITLEY COUNTY
524 Branch Ct. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7615 www.extension.purdue.edu

RIGHT TO LIFE OF NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA

PO Box 1162 630 S. Buffalo St. Ste. 3, Warsaw, IN 46581 574-267-3481 info@nci4life.org www.nci4life.org

SALVATION ARMY OF WHITLEY COUNTY
1200 W. Depoy Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-1711 www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/whitley

SOUTH WHITLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 E Front St. South Whitley, IN 46787
260-723-5321 www.swcplib.com

THE CENTER FOR WHITLEY COUNTY YOUTH
201 W. Market St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-4977 www.thecentercc.com

THE UNITED WAY OF WHITLEY & KOSCIUSKO COUNTIES
119 E. Center St., Suite

A5 Warsaw, IN 46580
574-269-2592 www.uwwk.org

THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION
301 N. Main St. North Webster, IN 46555
574-834-3242 www.watershedfoundation.org

TOYS FOR TOTS
260-437-4835 whitley-countyt4t@gmail.com www.toysfortots.org

TROY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL
1911 E. Business 30
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8787 www.troyalternativeschool.com

WHITLEY COUNTY 4-H CLUB, INC.
524 Branch Ct. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7615 or 260-625-3313 www.whitleycounty4-h.com

WHITLEY COUNTY AG MUSEUM & 4-H LEARNING CENTER

680 Squawbuck Rd.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-609-5497 www.whitleycountyagmuseum.com

WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & Visitor's Center
128 W. Van Buren St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8131 www.whitleychamber.com

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING
710 Opportunity Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8944 www.whitleycountycouncilonaging.com

WHITLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
220 W. Van Buren St., Suite 102
Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5506 www.whitleyedc.com

WHITLEY COUNTY FAMILY YMCA

950 E. Van Buren St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-9622 https://www.fwymca.org/locations/whitley-county-family-ymca

WHITLEY COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET
201 W. Market St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
wcfarmersmarket92@gmail.com www.localharvest.org/whitley-county-farmers-market-M21128

WHITLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
108 W. Jefferson St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-6372 www.whitleymuseum.com

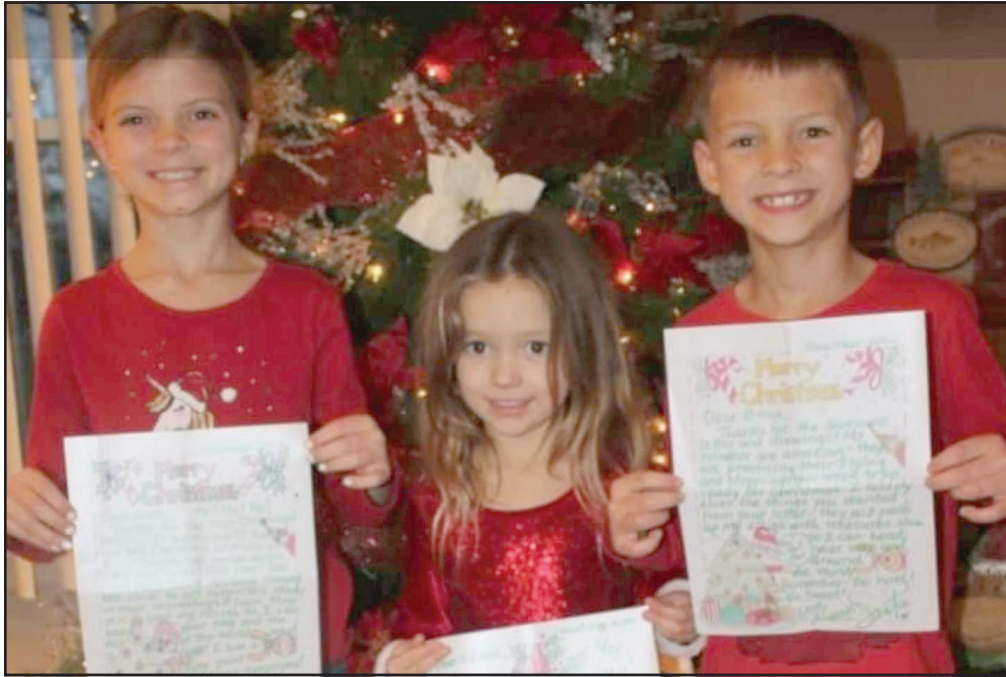
WHITLEY COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL
115 S. Line St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-2375

WHITLEY CROSSINGS NEIGHBORHOOD CORP.
108 Chauncey St.,
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-9317

DAVID VANTRESS
The Churubusco girls basketball team, wearing special uniforms to raise breast cancer awareness, gathers for a team photo after its game against Lakewood Park Christian on last year.



Whitley County Memories



COURTESY OF NIKKI KING

This trio shows their responses from Santa to letters they put into the special mailbox set up at King Realty in Churubusco.



CONTRIBUTED

Cayla Smith is seen figure skating at the 2023 National Qualifying Championship Series in Fort Wayne. Smith, of Churubusco, won silver in pairs skating at the 2024 Winter Youth Olympics.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Private Slow Poke, a turtle sculpture that was part of a Churubusco art project, stands at attention at Heroes Family Bistro & Pub, 8475 US 33. The restaurant has a variety of pizza, sub and pasta offerings.



RACHAEL HARTMAN

The new statue of Chief Little Turtle in Churubusco is dedicated to the Miami war chief.

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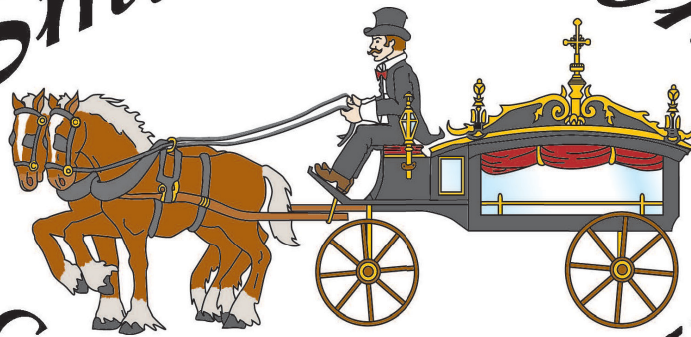


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Smith & Sons Funeral Home

207 N. Main Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 244-7601

Smith & Sons Miller Chapel

208 N. Maple Street
South Whitley, IN 46787
(260) 723-5221



In May 1851 **Henry S. Smith** moved his family and business to South Whitley, Indiana from Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Following the Civil War, **H.S. Smith** and his son, **Winfield Scott Smith** conducted his first funeral service beginning the next continuous generation of Smith Funeral Directors. In 1924 **Charles S. Smith** located the business centrally in Columbia City, purchasing the Simon J. Peabody estate in 1935, **C.S. Smith** was then joined by his sons, **Stuart D. Smith** and **Boyce B. Smith** in 1961, **C. Taron "Terry" Smith** joined his father and uncle to continue the family business. **Taron W. Smith**, sixth generation funeral director, worked for the family business from 1984 until 1991. In 1994 **Scott A. Smith** completed his licensing and is a sixth generation Funeral Director for Smith & Sons. In 1999 **Gene S. Smith** joined the family business, completing his licensing in 2006.

The Current Staff of Smith & Sons also includes

Gloria A. Smith, Corporate Secretary and wife of C. Taron "Terry" Smith; **Peter M. Yorg**, Funeral Director with Smith & Sons since 1971; **Patricia Gunter**, Administrative Assistant; **Tom R. Dome**, Maintenance; **Kevin G. Nicodemus**, Funeral Assistant; **Bruce Wrightsman**, Funeral Assistant; **Tom Eberly**, Funeral Assistant; **June Keiser**, Greeter; **Jacie Worrick**, Preneed Counselor

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