



2025 Whitley County Fact Book & Information Directory



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Amy Oberlin





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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 name changed."

Despite the mailing designation, the "town" of Columbia City did not officially become the incorporated "city" of

Whitley County History

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 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.



FILE PHOTO

The turtle statue, front, at The Pointe was moved to make way for one of Chief Little Turtle in Churubusco.

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 log structure located on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn built in 1841. The marker is located at the corner of Washington

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Whitley County History

and Market streets in Columbia City.

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 Road.

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.

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.

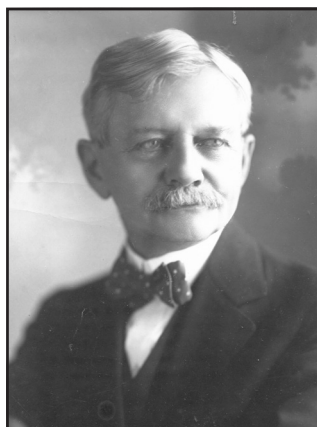
First Courthouse — The county's first courthouse was located where today's City Hall stands in Columbia City. It was a two-story frame house that was later moved to 108 S. Whitley St.

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:



Thomas R. Marshall

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 State of



Jill Long Thompson

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 District Court, Northern District of Indiana.



Marilyn V. Cook

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

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Whitley County History

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.

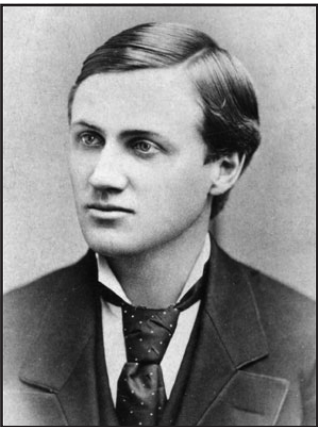
Ferdinand F. Morsches, founder of Morsches Builders' Mart and donator of the land now known as Morsches Park.

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, develop-



Leigh Smith Hunt

er-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 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



Lloyd C. Douglas

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 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



Janie Fricke

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 the cafeteria at the school named after her in 1997.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

A celebration of Dean Jagger is painted in Columbia City.



Dean Jagger

Mary Hallowell, 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 aoberlin@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 "Schoolhouse 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.

Maring Corners

Maring Corners was located



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bison graze at Eel River Bison Ranch, South Whitley, which has a store with meat and other products.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Whitley County set a new record for early voting, with over a third of registered voters casting their ballots before Election Day in November.

Ghost Towns

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

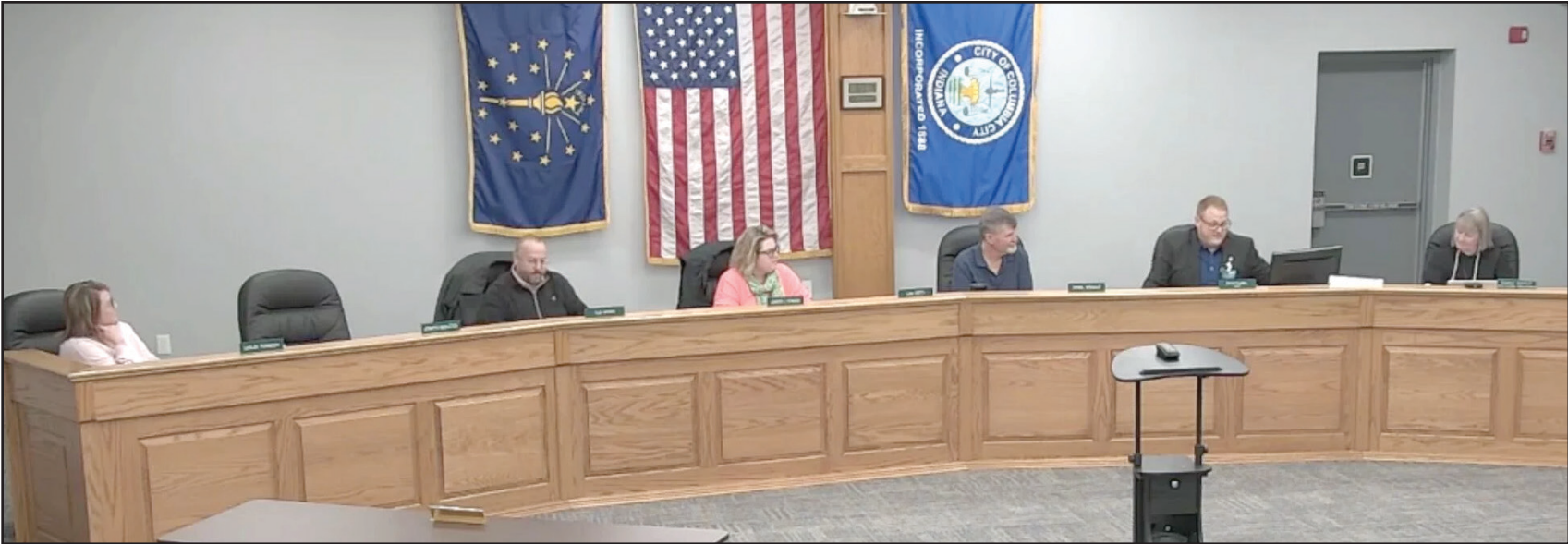
to Etna on Oct. 7, 1851. Since the Postal Service already had a post office with a name close to "Etna," it would not accept Etna as a name, so the name changed to Hecla May 22, 1852.

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.



SCREEN CAPTURE

Columbia City's Common Council hears reports from several department heads in February and saw new police officers sworn in.

Government U.S. and State



Donald Trump

National Elected Officials

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Republican 404 Russell Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 www.banks.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Todd Young
Republican 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-5623 www.young.senate.gov



Todd Young

U.S. Representative Marlin Stutzman
Republican 3rd District 2418 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-4436 www.stutzman.house.gov

State Elected Officials Governor Mike Braun
Republican Office of the Governor Statehouse Indianapolis, IN 46204 317-232-4567 www.in.gov

State Senator Justin Busch District 16
Republican 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 800-382-9467 or 317-232-9400



Jim Banks



Justin Busch

Senator.busch@iga.in.gov

State Representative David Abbott District 18
Republican 200 W.



Marlin Stutzman



David Abbott

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State Representative



Mike Braun



Chris Judy

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

South Whitley Elementary School students and local veterans parade from the elementary school and sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" as part of the Veterans Day program on Nov. 11.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Whitko FFA members welcome guests to the Winter Wonderland Christmas Auction.

County Government Offices

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 in 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., Suite 102, 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 also 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., 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



Dale Buuck

Rosemary Brown. The office is located in Suite 206 of the Whitley County Government Center. 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 assess-



Rosemary Brown

ments, 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 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.



Tiffany Deakins

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 zoning ordinance – are decided during monthly meetings



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Columbia City girls track and field team celebrates with the trophy after winning the Northeast 8 Conference team indoor championship in March at Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne. The Eagle boys were third at the NE8 indoor meet.

County Government Offices



Jason Spencer

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



John Woodmansee

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.

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



Scott Smith

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 consid-

ered.

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 711 Opportunity Drive in Columbia City. Phone: 260-244-7119.

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.

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

County Government Offices

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.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

A ribbon cutting was held in October for the new sheriff's office and detention center at 711 Opportunity Drive, Columbia City.

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 Court 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. Director and 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, administers 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 clevtpw@embarqmail.com 260-723-5564

COLUMBIA
Matthew R. Minier (R), 22 E. Radio Road, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-0045 trustee@columbiatownship.net

ETNA TROY
Elaine Western 6950 W. 600N, Columbia City, IN 46764 260-327-3508

JEFFERSON
Chad A. Nix (R), 9885 S 500 E-92 260-229-2347 jeffersontwpwc@yahoo.com

RICHLAND
Cory Patrick 8307 W 250 N Larwill, IN 46764 260-248-7989

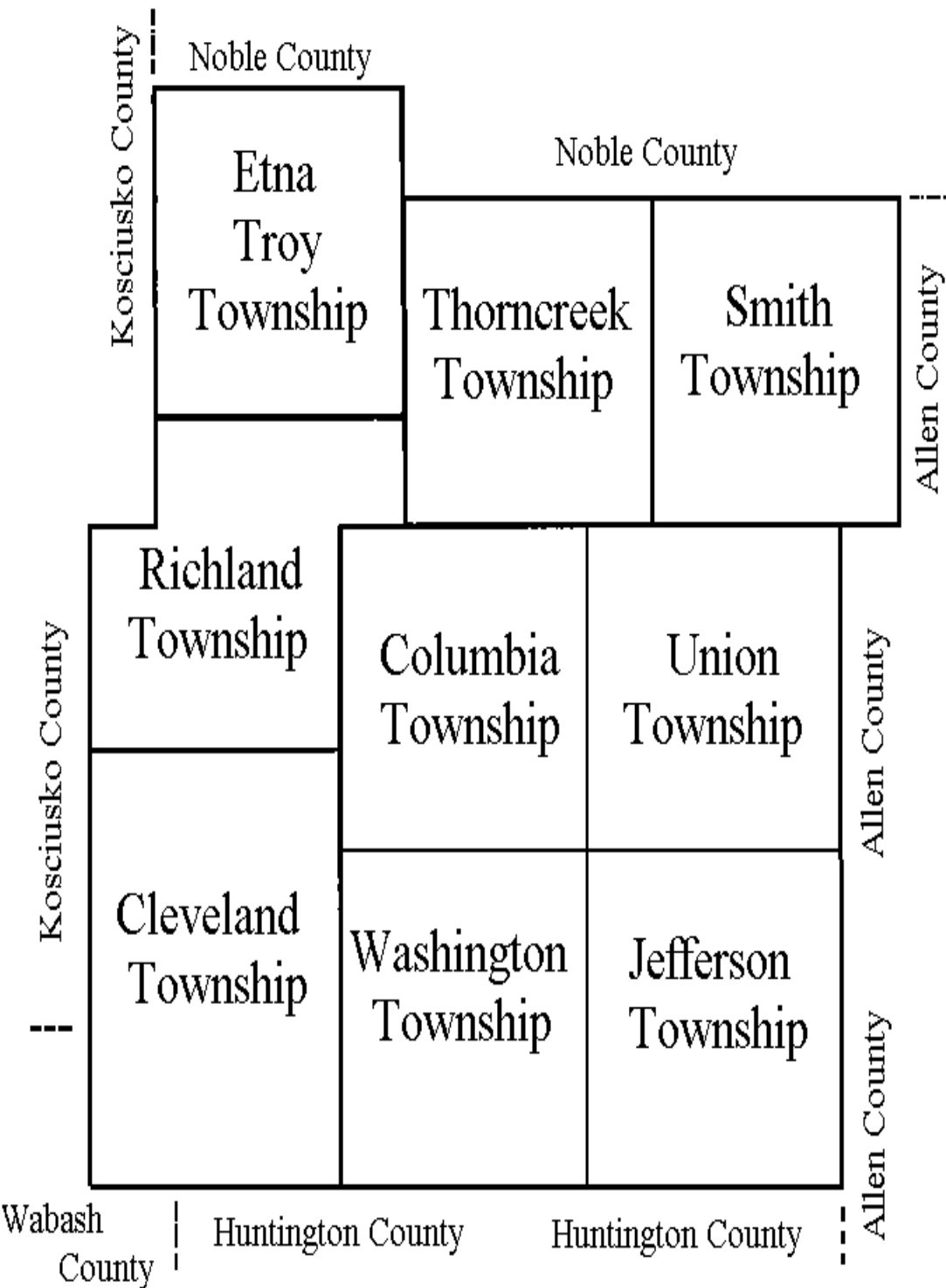
SMITH
Marcus Gatton 2440 N. Indiana St., Columbia City, IN 46723 260-609-3266

THORNCREEK
William Brice 1600 E Poplar Rd. Columbia City, IN 260-691-2085 thorncreektrustee@gmail.com

UNION
Brandon Forrester, 6405 E. Poplar Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725 260-503-4802

WASHINGTON
Kevin Bollinger (R), 7389 S 275 W, Columbia City 260-723-6985 bollingerfarms@embarqmail.com

Townships of Whitley County



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, Etna, Troy, Cleveland) cbanks@



Chad Banks
whitleygov.com
Rob Schuman Republican District 2 (Thorncreek,



Rob Schuman
Columbia, Washington) rschuman@whitleygov.com
Theresa Baysinger



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

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Events on our Whitley County Farm
Reservations/Tickets Required

JUNE 14 - SUMMER KICKOFF
BBQ, live music, family fun

JUNE 28-GARDEN WALK
Whitley Co. Master Gardeners 

JULY 17 & SEPT. 19
FARM TO FORK DINNERS
Elegant farm dinners matched wines

AUGUST 30-5K/10K TRAIL RUN
with **FLEET FEET** of Fort Wayne

OCT. 4 - BOURBON & CIGARS
Live Jazz; bourbon tastings, dinner

OCT. 11 – OKTOBERFEST
Band; beer; German fare; fun

More info at: josephdecuis.com



Joseph Decuis Farmstead Inn
bed & breakfast



INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
260-672-1715

Our farm is where we raise the food we serve at our restaurants -Wagyu beef, vegetables, herbs, eggs. Come to an event or book your own. Our meticulously decorated Farmstead Inn is a perfect blend of old-fashioned charm and modern convenience with a good night's sleep. Celebrating 25 years of deliciousness - **COME JOIN US ON THE FARM!**



Whitley County Government – Council

<p>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 depart-</p>	<p>ments. they have the last word on any purchase of county-owned land or property that has a value of more than \$1,000.</p> <p>The County Council conducts its meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m.</p>	<p>Members:</p> <p>John Barrett District 1 Smith, Union, Columbia NE jmbarrett1@frontier.com</p> <p>Kim Wheeler District 2 Etna Troy, Richland, Thorncreek, Columbia NW kwwater- well_72@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Nicholas Brewer District 3 Columbia 1-8 nbrewer@ whitleygov.com</p> <p>Thomas Warner District 4 Cleveland, Jefferson, Washington, Columbia South twarner@whitleygov.com</p> <p>Timothy Longenbaugh</p>	<p>District at Large tlongen- baugh@whitleygov.com</p> <p>Thor Hodges District at Large thodges@whitleygov. com</p> <p>Joan Western District at Large jwestern@whitleygov. com</p>
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South Whitley Government

<p>South Whitley Town Hall 118 E. Front St. South Whitley, IN 46787</p> <p>South Whitley Clerk- Treasurer Alyssa Knepple South Whitley Town Hall 118 E. Front Street PO Box 372 South Whitley, IN 46787 260-723-5312</p>	<p>South Whitley Police Department Marshal Mike VanDevender 118 E. Front St. South Whitley, IN 46787 swpolice@ southwhitley.org 260-723- 4814</p>	<p>South Whitley Utilities Street Department: Jason Keim jkeim@southwhitley.org</p> <p>Water Department: Randy Gawthrop randy. gawthrop@southwhitley.org</p> <p>Waste Water Department: Kent Slater kslater@ southwhitley.org</p>	<p>South Whitley Council John Dunn jdunn@ southwhitley.org</p> <p>Brock Waterson bwaterson@southwhitley.org</p> <p>Randy Cokl rcokl@ southwhitley.org</p> <p>Town of Larwill</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Larwill Clerk-Treasurer Renee Sills 108 N. Center St. Larwill, IN 46764 260-327-3182</p>
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LIVE


Generously

The Community Foundation of Whitley County is proud to help local donors live generously!



Thanks to a gift from the Matt and Hallie Grant Family, Whitley County residents exploring both domestic and international adoption may receive financial assistance from Sierra's Fund to offset costs including but not limited to home study costs, placement fees, post-placement supervision fees, and travel related expenses. Applications are available at www.cfwhitley.org.

To request an application for assistance from Sierra's Fund, contact the Community Foundation of Whitley County at 260-244-5224 or visit www.cfwc.org



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



Leslee Robinson (R)
Clerk-Treasurer
260-248-5100
jrobinson@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 Public Works and Safety

A much smaller governing body than the Common Council, the Board of Public 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 Dan Weigold and resident Lisa Smith. It meets the second and 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 Redevelopment Commission and Arts Commission.

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

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

Northeast representative to be determined at April 11 caucus.

Columbia City Depts.

Police Chief:
Gary Parrett
ccpd@columbiacity.net
260-248-5121

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

Parks and Recreation:
Matt Heiden
mheiden@columbiacity.net
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



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

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

Information Technology:
Terry Wherry
twherry@columbiacity.net
260-248-5124



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, left, presents Columbia City Mayor Ryan Daniel, rear, with the Sagamore of the Wabash on Jan. 8 in Indianapolis. With Daniel are his wife, Amanda, and their daughter, Aria.

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 Pepple (R)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Mark Pepple, Devin Keener and Nathan Van Horn



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG
The Blue River Trail follows the Blue River on the northeast side of Columbia City to south of downtown.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Whitko High School students hold their winning artworks in the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art Contest. Back row from left: Catherine Deckena, Chloe Thompson, Emma Morse, Cassidy Skinner. Front row: Alena Hindbaugh, Yareli Mayo. (Not pictured: Madison Cripe, Hope Bradley and Aleeya Cramer.)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Churubusco Elementary students show their Kindness Weekly messages.

Whitley County By The Numbers

According to the United States Census Bureau	Asian – 0.5%	Building permits, 2023 – 91	years – 6.6%	ments, 2022 – 701
Population Estimates, July 1, 2024 (V2024)- 34,885	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander – Z	Households, 2019-23 – 13,929	In civilian labor force, total, percent of population 16 years-plus, 2019-23 – 65.8%	Total employment, 2022 – 12,276
Populations estimates base, April 1, 2020 (V2024) – 34,188	Two or more races – 1.7%	Persons per household, 2019-23 – 2.44	In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years-plus, 2019-23 – 61.8%	Total annual payroll, 2022 (\$1,000) – 621,982
Population, percent change, April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2024 (V2024) – 2.0%	Hispanic or Latino – 3.0%	Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year-plus, 2019-232 – 88.1%	Total accommodation and food service sales, 2022 (\$1,000) – 54,146	Total employment, percent change, 2021-22 – 0.1%
Population, census, April 1, 2020 – 34,191	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino – 94.1%	Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years – plus, 2019-23 – 2.9%	Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2022 (\$1,000) – 138,745	Total nonemployer establishments, 2022 – 2,325
Population, census, April 1, 2010 – 33,292	Veterans, 2019-23 – 1,972	Households with a computer, 2019-23 – 94.4%	Total retail sales, 2022 (\$1,000) – 481,890	All firms, 2022 – 639
Persons under 5 years – 5.6%	Foreign born persons, 2019-23 – 1.2%	Households with a broadband Internet subscription, 2019-23 – 88.5%	Total retail sales per capita, 2022 — \$13,937	Men-owned firms, 2022 – 303
Persons under 18 years – 22.7%	Housing Units	High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years-plus, 2019-23 – 92.1%	Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years-plus, 2019-23 – 22.6	Women-owned firms, 2022 – 177
Persons 65 years and over – 19.9%	Housing units, July 1, 2023 (V2023) – 15,116	Bachelor’s degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years-plus, 2019-23 – 22.8%	Median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2019-23 – \$75,790	Minority-owned firms, 2022 – 5
Female persons – 49.6%	Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2019-22 – 80.2%	With a disability, under age 65 years, 2019-23 – 9.5%	Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2019-23 — \$37,540	Nonminority-owned firms, 2022 – 504
White alone – 96.6%	Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2019-23 — \$205,200	Persons without health insurance, under age 65	Persons in poverty, percent – 8.5%	Veteran-owned firms, 2022 – 5
Black or African American, alone – 0.7%	Median selected monthly owner costs – with a mortgage, 2019-23 — \$1,287		Total employer establish-	Nonveteran-owned firms, 2022 – 502
American Indian and Alaska native – 0.5%	Median selected monthly owner costs – without a mortgage, 2019-23 — \$509			Population per square mile, 2020 – 101.9
	Median gross rent, 2019-23 — \$867			Land area in square miles, 2020 – 335.57



Eagle Park has a family swing.

LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Emergency Services

Hospitals/EMS

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

**Lutheran Kosciusko
Hospital** 2101 E. Dubois
Drive, Warsaw, IN 574-267-
3200

**Whitley County Sheriff's
Department**

711 N. Opportunity Drive,
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



The Columbia City Police Department had four new officers sworn in in February.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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 260-248-8787

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

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

One-year welding students at Columbia City High School and WCCS Career and Technical Education.

STILL #1
IN WHITLEY COUNTY

*Data from MLS Units and Volume

(260) 248-8961

518 Garland Ave., Suite C,
Columbia City, IN

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REAL ESTATE, INC.



www.orizonrealestate.com

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

• **75th Annual 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

• **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

Eagle Park, 600 N. Whitley St., Columbia City. Family swing with pickleball courts and in-ground skate park panel.

Blue River Trail, paved trail runs from Countryside 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, soccer field, 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, and half basketball court

Mayors Park, North Columbia Parkway

Event, Recreation and Parks

Columbia City; swing set and woodchip path

Every Kids Dreamland, 606 W. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN 46725

Kenneth Wright Park, South Whitley Street Columbia City; playground equipment, basketball court, extension of Blue River Trail

Tri-Lakes County 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, 202 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 State Street in South Whitley; plenty of outdoor seating and entertainment space

Ohki Alley, located in downtown Columbia City off 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 are 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, weightlifting 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 Road, 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 pickleball 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, weightlifting and treadmills

Anytime Fitness, 462 W. Plaza Drive, 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; weightlifting 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




The Whitley County 4-H Fair celebrated 100 years in July.

LISA ESQUIVEL LONG


Whitley County Lakes

Blue Lake Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features Feature Type: Physical Class: Lake Description: 239 acres in size County: Whitley County Latitude: 41.2395648 Longitude: -85.3626685 GNIS ID: 431230	Class: Lake County: Whitley County Latitude: 41.2531776 Longitude: -85.4513855 GNIS ID: 432276	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	Latitude: 41.1812309 Longitude: -85.5665646 GNIS ID: 436702	Feature Type: Physical Class: Lake County: Whitley County Latitude: 41.2581866 Longitude: -85.467097 GNIS ID: 438036
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	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	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	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	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
Cedar Lake Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features Feature Type: Physical	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	Ice House Lake Category: Indiana physical, cultural, and historic features Feature Type: Physical Class: Lake County: Whitley County	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	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
			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	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
			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	Loon Lake Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features Feature Type: Physical Class: Lake County: Whitley County Latitude: 41.2721886 Longitude: -85.5392519 GNIS ID: 450560
			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	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
			Little Crooked Lake Category: Indiana physical, cultural and historic features	



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Whitley County Lakes

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	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	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	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	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
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	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	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	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	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
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	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	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	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	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



Crooked Lake planned to use a \$100,000 Lake & River Enhancement Program grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for soil-erosion prevention projects.



Sheep get a little nosy at the Whitley County 4-H Fair, which celebrated 100 years in July.

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.	www.firstbaptistsouth-whitley.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)	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.	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.	Hour — 9 a.m. Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship — 10:30 a.m.
BAPTIST First Baptist Church 111 S Main St. South Whitley, IN 46787 260-723-4788	First Eel River Baptist	Good News Baptist Church 812 Anderson Rd. Churubusco, IN 46723 260-693-2108 buscogood-news.com Service Times: Sunday School — 9 a.m.	Ormas Baptist Church 8962 N. 300 W. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-799- 5789 www.ormasbaptistchurch.com Service Times: Sunday Fellowship	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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is at 204 N. Main St., Columbia City.

LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

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.stjohn-boscochurubusco.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.saturnchristian-church.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

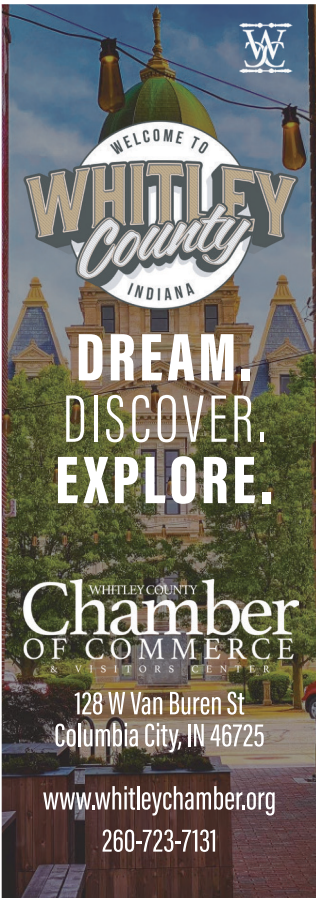
Hope Lutheran Church of Coesse (ELCA) 2001 S. 500 E. Columbia City, IN 46725 260- 244-7118 **Service Times:** Sunday Worship — 8:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study — following Worship

Grace Evangelical

Lutheran Church (ELCA) 204 N. Main St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-7118 www.gracecolumbia-city.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 Rd., Fort Wayne 260-489-5031 **Service Times**



Church Directory

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.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christ Community Church 316 N. Main St.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children at vacation Bible school at West Point Trinity Church in Columbia City competed to present donated canned goods to The Impact Center.

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.troypresbyterianchurch.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.churubuscounc.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

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 Eyermann

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 noon 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 noon at



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Columbia City Connect hosts several events to draw people to businesses downtown.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Kim Wheeler, Old Settlers Day 2025 president, is seen with Gerald Grable, 101, Oldest Settler; and Linda Hyndman, 2024 OSD president.

Community Groups

Woodlands Senior Center,
710 Opportunity Dr.,
Columbia City, IN 46725
www.columbiacityrotary.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 encour-

aged 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.whitley-countyin.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 ccelks1417@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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Itoro & Don's Kwik Wash Laundromat opens in Churubusco.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VFW Post No. 5582 is at 415 E. Chicago St. in Columbia City.

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

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

BOWEN HEALTH

1259 IN 205, Columbia City, IN 46725 574-385-3137

www.bowenhealth.org

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 Drive, 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 Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46816 260-447-3696 www.communityharvest.org

DIFFERENCE MAKERS – THE IMPACT CENTER FOOD PANTRY

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

EASTERSEALS

NORTHEAST INDIANA

333 N. Oak St. Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-9331 www.eastersealsnei.org/services_locations/easterseals-northeast-indiana-columbia-city/

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 Drive E. Fort Wayne, IN 46725 1-800-283-4812 www.girlscoutsnorthernindianamichiana.org

GIVING GARDENS OF INDIANA

479 Towerview Drive 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.juniorachievement.org

MISSION25

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



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

The Golden Eagles Marching Band gets ready for a parade.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Columbia City Mayor Ryan Daniel, second from right, joins in the groundbreaking of the first phase of Eagle Park in April 2024.

Nonprofit Directory

ONE COMMUNITY

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

PARKVIEW WHITLEY FOUNDATION

1260 E. State Rd. 205
Columbia City, IN 46725
844-241-0033 founda-
tion@parkiew.com www.
parkview.com/foundations/
who-we-are/our-commu-
nities/ whitley-county-sur-
rounding areas

PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY

1160 E. IN 205 Columbia
City, IN 46725 260-244-
5541 www.ppl.lib.in.us

PURDUE EXTENSION – WHITLEY COUNTY

524 Branch Court 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 Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-1711 www.centra-
lusa.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 whitleycoun-
tyt4t@gmail.com www.
toysfortots.org

TROY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

1911 E. Business 30
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8787 www.troyal-
ternativeschool.com

WHITLEY COUNTY 4-H CLUB, INC.

524 Branch Court 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.whitley-
countymuseum.com

WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & Visitor's Center

128 W. Van Buren St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8131 www.whitley-
chamber.com

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

710 Opportunity Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-8944 www.whitley-
countycouncilonaging.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 wcfarm-
ersmarket92@gmail.com
www.localharvest.org/
whitley-county-farmers-mar-
ket-M21128

WHITLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

108 W. Jefferson St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-6372 www.whitley-
museum.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



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Mission25 in Columbia City held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its Recovery Engagement Center in conjunction with the groundbreaking of its recovery center.



DANIEL CHURCH WITH PORCH MOON

Jackson Laux, 9, of South Whitley has gained notoriety for his John Deere TikToks. The machinery company even gave him a "training" role.

Whitley County Memories



Columbia City's Addison Baxter was named to the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association's All-State Supreme 15.

KEN FILLMORE



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Things got spooky during the Whitley County Skeleton Festival.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Boomerang Backpacks are prepared at Whitko Career Academy by the Functional Skills class members for distribution to Pierceton Elementary School students.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

The Nook in downtown Columbia City closed in July after 53 years of serving the community.

Whitley County Memories



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

Columbia City Junior-Senior High School cheerleaders march in Sept. 21's 75th annual Great Lakes Shriners Association Fall Session parade.



AIMEE CRETSINGER

Seniors Mallory Taylor and Angelo Ianucilli were crowned Churubusco's homecoming queen and king during halftime of the Eagles' homecoming football game with Prairie Heights in September.



LISA ESQUIVEL LONG

MidWest America Federal Credit Union (MWAFCU) held a groundbreaking ceremony in August to start construction of its new branch in Columbia City.



DAVID FENKER

Columbia City's 2024 Homecoming Queen Addi Baxter and King Grayson Bradberry are seen in September.

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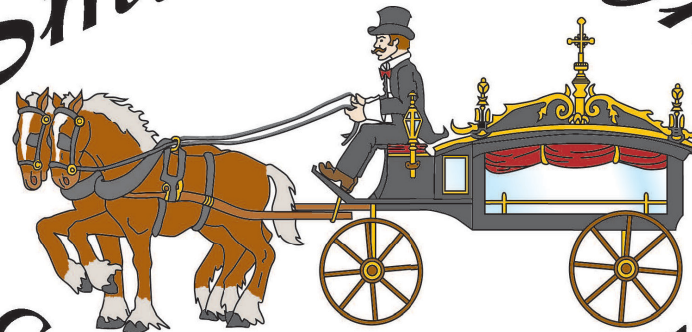
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Smith & Sons Funeral Home

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**, 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; **Alice Nicodemus** as greeter; **Linda Hyndman**, office assistant.

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