



YEAR IN 2021 REVIEW

DECEMBER 30, 2021



JANUARY

Jan. 1

Indiana Attorney General-elect Todd Rokita named Inspector General Lori Torres as chief deputy attorney general and chief of staff. Torres, a Whiteland resident, was appointed to serve as inspector general in 2017 by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

Jan. 2-3

A portion of State Road 37 closed in Martinsville, opening the door to make progress this year on Interstate 69. The Indiana Department of Transportation closed the heavily traveled highway from the State Road 39/Morton Avenue junction to Morgan Street for much of the year to tear out and reconstruct State Road 37 to an interstate-grade highway.

Jan. 4

Whiteland Town Council selected Kevin McGinnis, a former Bargersville town manager, as Whiteland's new town manager. McGinnis, a 40-year White River Township resident, was tapped to lead the town due to his past experiences.

Jan. 5

Franklin school officials hopes to ease crowding at Creekside Elementary School by moving at least 9% of students five miles west to Union Elementary

School through redistricting.

Jan. 6

An Edinburg police officer was accused of molesting a minor over the course of six years, from 2014 to 2020. Michael David Nunez was charged with two counts of child molestation, according to a probable cause affidavit filed in Johnson County Superior Court 3.

Jan. 7

Violent protesters loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol and forced lawmakers into hiding in an attempt to overturn

America's presidential election.

Jan. 8

Franklin schools likely won't move any students to different schools until next year. The extra time in the redrawing of boundaries means the process won't be rushed, and will hopefully allow for in-person community meetings once COVID-19 vaccines are more readily available to the general population, said David Clendening, superintendent.

Jan. 9-10

One of the most powerful tools to combat homelessness is permanent supportive housing, and Johnson County leaders are working to establish it in the county. But those with Kids in Crisis-Intervention Team, or KIC-IT, said they're fighting against public perception and lack of options.

Jan. 11

At Homeview, one of first long-term care facilities in the county to get the vaccine, nearly all of the 73 residents and about 20% of the staff were vaccinated, with appointments for their second shot in February, said Marc Gavorski, administrator.

Jan. 12

On the first day of public vaccinations, eligible Johnson County residents were met with longer-than-expected wait times. COVID-19 vaccine appointments at Johnson Memorial Hospital were double-booked due to the

switch to a new scheduling platform, county health officials said.

Jan. 13

Library revote talks resurfaced for the second time in six months, as county council members and area residents called for a revote on an already approved tax increase to pay for a new library branch.

Jan. 14

President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House for a historic second time, charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office.

Jan. 15

During a unique period of time for everybody, Franklin College organizers wanted to take a new approach to celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. By replacing in-person marches, worship and convocations with virtual events.

Jan. 16-17

The new federal stimulus package brought relief to Johnson County residents and businesses hit hard by the pandemic, but some said it wasn't enough.

Jan. 18

More warehouses are in Whiteland's future. The Whiteland Town Council agreed to rezone about 130 acres of farmland for industrial use.

Jan. 19

The Indiana Department of



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

From left: CVS Pharmacist Kailen Kelly prepares to administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to 71-year-old Laverne Manning and 90-year-old Norma Johnson at Homeview Health and Rehabilitation Center. // INDOT plans to construct a roundabout at this intersection, State Road 144 and Centerline Road, to reduce accidents and relieve congestion.

Transportation agreed to construct a roundabout at Centerline Road and State Road 144 after years of pleas from local officials.

Jan. 20

An \$11 million mixed-use development could bring high-end condos, townhomes, restaurants and retail to downtown Franklin by the end of 2023.

Jan. 21

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, declaring that "democracy has prevailed" and summoning American resilience and unity to confront the deeply divided nation's historic confluence of crises.

Jan. 22

IBC Advanced Alloys plans to invest more than \$5 million to build and outfit a 32,000-square-foot copper casting facility on its Franklin property.

Jan. 23-24

Another roundabout is coming to Franklin's truck bypass, part of a long-term effort to improve traffic flow. A \$1.2 million roundabout is planned at the intersection of Commerce Parkway, Arvin Drive and Hurricane Street, the fourth in a series of five along the bypass.

Jan. 25

A month after two people were shot and killed at a rural gas station on Johnson County's far western border, no one has been arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

Jan. 26

A long-time Whiteland

Community High School principal, James "Jim" Sleighter, 91, who left a lasting legacy died. Sleighter led the school from 1959 to 1990, about a third of his life.

Jan. 27

The housing market defied the pandemic recession in 2020, and that trend was expected to continue this year. The only problem is, there weren't enough houses to sell. Steve Burkhardt, a realtor with F.C. Tucker has lived and worked in the Johnson County area for nearly 50 years, and he's never seen a more difficult market for home buyers than in the past two years.

Jan. 28

Organizations urge blood donations as supplies dwindle, again. Blood supplies levels are critically low throughout Indiana, as a typical winter lull in donations has been exasperated by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Jan. 29

National Trade Supply, a national supplier of air and water filter products, plans to invest \$4.9 million to expand its Greenwood operations and create 43 new jobs in the next three years.

Jan. 30-31

The coronavirus pandemic has gripped the overwhelming attention of the medical community and public for the past 11 months. The opioid epidemic swelled in 2020, as people struggling with addiction had been stuck inside, cut off from support systems and dealing with constantly changing routines.

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FEBRUARY

Feb. 1

At the current rate, it would take about 44 weeks for 70% of Johnson County residents to receive their first doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says is needed to reach herd immunity.

Feb. 2

State officials expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to Hoosiers 65 and older. Before this week, vaccine eligibility opened in 10-year increments. The five-year expansion this time represents a more cautious approach due to a limited national supply of vaccines.

Feb. 3

The Franklin City Council is considering annexing another 12 acres to further expand Sunbeam Development Corporation's massive project, near the State Road 44 interchange of Interstate 65.

Feb. 4

The Indiana Supreme Court decided former Johnson County prosecutor Brad Cooper will not be allowed to practice law for at least another four years. Cooper, whose law license has been suspended for nearly two years due to his multiple felony convictions, will remain suspended until at least Feb. 2, 2025. At that time, he will have to petition the court to reinstate his law license, if he can prove his fitness to practice law again, according to the ruling filed in the Indiana Supreme Court.

Feb. 5

For years, Interstate 69 being built through Johnson County was a distant idea. The state awarded more than \$1 billion in construction contracts for the last leg of I-69 construction, marking the start of the final two phases of the project

between Martinsville and Indianapolis.

Feb. 6-7

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office threw out a criminal case regarding former Edinburg Town Manager JT Doane, who was fired after the Edinburg Town Council learned he was giving a town employee money. While Doane may have acted unethically, he didn't do anything illegal, the sheriff's office determined.

Feb. 8

The newest Franklin firefighter is the second female firefighter in the city's history, and the first in a while. Casey Whitaker is not new to Franklin or public safety. She worked for Seals Ambulance Service since 2016, and was an EMT for nine years. In her new position, she takes a different ride and a different role at the same scenes she has responded to for years.

Feb. 9

The county will spend nearly \$443,000 dollars to repair aging exterior and interior infrastructure at the Dickinson Juvenile Justice Center, which houses minors from 10 counties who are arrested, jailed and rehabilitated for low-level crimes.

Feb. 10

The Edinburg Town Council hired a new town manager, more than three months after it fired its previous one. Dan Cartwright, who is chairman of the Johnson County Plan Commission, will take over the job.

Feb. 11

Former Center Grove softball coach, Russ Milligan, died at 56 due to COVID-19 complications. He was a five-time state champion during his 27 seasons (1992-2018).

ON THE COVER

Clockwise from top left: The abandoned Farm Bureau Co-op building in downtown Greenwood burned down April 27. // Center Grove's Ethan Martin smiles on the podium after winning the 100-yard freestyle during the state swimming finals at the IU Natatorium. // Heavy snow falls on downtown Franklin. // Afghan refugees are shown arriving at Camp Atterbury, where they will stay before resettling elsewhere in the United States. // CVS Pharmacist Kailen Kelly prepares to administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to 71-year-old Laverne Manning and 90-year-old Norma Johnson at Homeview Health and Rehabilitation Center. // Cicades cover a plant in Franklin resident Martha Vawter's front yard. **DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS**

Feb. 12

Two tax breaks totaling nearly \$600,000 and \$100,000 in public funds are on the table to keep a local company with a long history in Franklin. G&H Orthodontics, also known as G&H Wire, is headquartered in Franklin, and has been since 1975. Once the lease was up on its building at 2165 Earlywood Drive, it considered moving its entire operation elsewhere, Mayor Steve Barnett said.

Feb. 13-14

After months of negotiations, a joint road impact fee in Bargersville and Johnson County is a go, and developers will start paying it in six months. The Johnson County Council voted 4-3 to pass the interlocal agreement between the county and Bargersville which details the obligations of both entities, including financials and other terms of the road impact fee.

Feb. 15

The Central Nine school board approved



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Heavy snow falls on downtown Franklin.

a partnership with architectural firm Lancer + Beebe, after hearing proposals from three competing firms for the \$4 million renovation project.

Feb. 16

City leaders, public safety officials and street workers are preparing for the biggest storm to hit the area in nearly three years. Johnson County is expected to get a total of seven to 11 inches of snow, said Crystal Pettet, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

Feb. 17

The winter storm made travel treacherous, and caused delays for COVID-19 testing and vaccines. About 400 to 600 people may have lost their shot at a vaccine after a winter storm dumped six to 10 inches of snow on Johnson County.

Feb. 18

Funeral home directors had to rethink their business strategies as COVID-19 and unrelated deaths piled up, putting a strain on the industry, but also

leading to some permanent positive changes for customers.

Feb. 19

A decades-old flying club, Indianapolis RC (Radio Control) South Flying Club, in Greenwood is on the hunt for a new home after the farmland it rented for years was sold and rezoned.

Feb. 20-21

More and more students are heading back to the classroom full time. Middle and high school students at Greenwood and Indian Creek schools will begin going to school five days a week, a response to declining COVID-19 cases and positivity rates in Johnson County.

Feb. 22

The Greenwood Police Department hired Lexipol, a national company made up of attorneys and experts focused on risk management solutions for local governments, particularly public safety agencies, to help revise, update and upkeep its policy manual.

Feb. 23

Students at Center Grove High School, Middle School Central and Middle School North will continue to learn at school buildings two days a week on a hybrid schedule until March 8, when they will make a full in-person return. All other public schools in the county have returned to mostly full-time classroom instruction.

Feb. 24

Johnson County superintendents sent a letter to Gov. Eric Holcomb asking him to join Indiana's neighbors — Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky — in prioritizing teachers for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Feb. 25

Franklin schools made changes to its rules for reporting sexual assaults, harassment and gender inequality after changes were made federally last year. The changes concern Title IX, which prohibits gender-based discrimination at

institutions that receive federal funding, including schools.

Feb. 26

Whiteland FFA surprised residents at Christina House Senior Living community and the beaming smiles and joyous laughter grew throughout the morning. Residents of the facility ventured out to the parking lot to stroke the fur of a 3-month-old Holstein calf named Tinsel. They patted the head of Willow, a docile mini-horse. When they came to Sulli, a 4-month-old golden retriever puppy, they let him lick their hands while they scratched behind his ears.

Feb. 27-28

The county commissioners are asking state senators who represent the county to oppose a bill that would set statewide regulations for commercial renewable energy projects. House Bill 1381 would take a matter that had been handled on a county-by-county basis and put it into the hands of the state legislature.

MARCH

March 1

Center Grove senior Ethan Martin capped his high school career by winning a state championship in the 100-yard freestyle, becoming the school's first individual boys champion since Chris Oleksiak won the 500 freestyle in 2005.

March 2

About \$2.8 million in road, sidewalk, parking lot and trail projects are expected to be completed across Franklin this year.

March 3

Despite an unfavorable recommendation by the city's plan commission, 125 homes will be built on a 57-acre property off of Westview Drive on Franklin's northwest side.

March 4

Franklin College's former president will stand trial in Wisconsin on alleged child sex crimes. Thomas J. Minar, is charged with child sex crimes and fired from his job as president of the college, appeared in Door County Circuit Court for another status conference, when he pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against him. Minar refused a plea deal from prosecutors and will face a jury trial.

March 5

The \$83 million development, on the former Greenwood middle school property will take about 2 1/2 years to complete. A public-private partnership between the city and developers that includes millions in taxpayer-funded incentives and investments by the city.

March 6-7

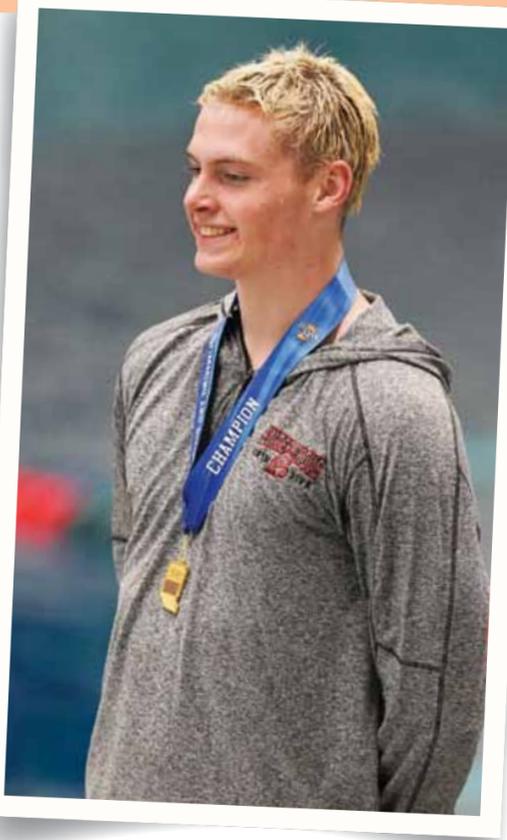
Groups Recover Together in Franklin location opened its doors on April 19. The organization is an outpatient provider which delivers a combination of comprehensive medicated-assisted treatment as well as counseling to combat the opioid epidemic.

March 8

Franklin police's new body-worn and in-car cameras are now rolling. In-car cameras were installed in cars and the full camera system went online, after the city approved a policy for their use, said Scott Carter, captain at the Franklin Police Department.

March 9

Local teachers, regardless of age, are now eligible



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Center Grove's Ethan Martin smiles on the podium after winning the 100-yard freestyle during the state swimming finals at the IU Natatorium.

for a COVID-19 vaccine, but many are struggling to get an appointment through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.

March 10

Barring a sudden surge in COVID-19 cases or tighter restrictions on gatherings at the local or state level, the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair will resemble ones of years past.

March 11

A year ago today, COVID-19 arrived in Johnson County. The county's first COVID-19 cases were diagnosed on this day a year ago. For area hospitals, it marked the change from preparing for an unknown disease.

March 12

Franklin continued to grow in 2020 despite the coronavirus pandemic, and leaders say the city is on track for more progress this year.

March 13-14

A Johnson County address is in high demand, data shows. About 27% more homes were built last year than the year before.

March 15

Students at all Johnson County schools returned to a full-time schedule this month, but some remote learning remains.

March 16

Nearly 500 new homes will be built in Greenwood after the city gave developers the green light to start construction on two separate subdivisions.

March 17

Local teachers, including Indian Creek Intermediate School teacher Alison Randolph, joined her colleagues in all surrounding states in getting a COVID-19 vaccine after President Joe Biden ordered all states to prioritize educators for the vaccine.

March 18

Residents reunited with loved ones as Compass Park began to allow limited in-person visits again, after a year of separation due to the pandemic.

March 19

A plan to bring almost 450 homes to Bargersville faced opposition from community members and the plan commission. The Bargersville Plan Commission voted to forward the proposed development to the Bargersville Town Council with an unfavorable recommendation.

March 20-21

Clark-Pleasant schools plans to add 20 positions during the 2021-22 school year with money

it will get from the federal government.

March 22

Indiana authorities are adding residents between the ages of 40 and 44 to those eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine starting now.

March 23

The Franklin Plan Commission sent a proposal from Oakleaf Farms to annex and rezone 88 acres, currently farmland located on two parcels north and south of State Road 44, on the east side of County Road 600 East, to the Franklin City Council with no recommendation after two failed votes.

March 24

On the one-year anniversary of the state's public health emergency, Gov. Eric Holcomb announced a plan to expand vaccine eligibility to all Hoosiers age 16 and older, lift the mask mandate and essentially reopen the state.

March 25

As vaccine eligibility widens, wait times are increasing. Some reported waiting a month to get their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine while others were vaccinated within days.

March 26

A new dealership and several new commercial buildings are in the works at Hubler Ford Franklin, with construction set to start this year.

March 27-28

An Indianapolis developer wants to bring a multi-use development dubbed Kingsbridge to Franklin's northside that would include up to 230 new homes, a market-rate apartment complex, two commercial spaces and a 28-acre public park.

March 29

Franklin Sylvan, an after-school tutoring center, saw increased demand from students who struggled with hybrid and remote learning during the pandemic.

March 30

Hoosiers 30 and older are now eligible to sign up for a free COVID-19 vaccine, two days earlier than planned. The eligibility expansion makes the vaccine available to more than 840,000 additional Hoosiers, according to the Indiana State Department of Health.

March 31

Millions of dollars worth of road projects are planned this year throughout the county, including the next

phases of the Worthsville Road and Madison Avenue reconstruction projects in Greenwood, four new roundabouts and local access road work to prepare

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APRIL



Clockwise from top left: The abandoned Farm Bureau Co-op building in downtown Greenwood burned down April 27. // Johnson County Health Department employee Lisa Brown administers a COVID-19 vaccine into a man's arm at Compass Park in Franklin. // An aerial view of the damage at Meridian Oaks Apartments.

DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

April 1

The man who shot and killed a teenager last year in downtown Franklin will serve 18 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. Emilio Luis Garcia, 21, of Indianapolis, pleaded guilty to the crime in Johnson County Superior Court 2. He was set to go to trial this month.

April 2

Indiana's mask mandate will end April 6, and though the governor's executive orders will no longer be in effect, the state will be under a mask advisory, and local governments and businesses can decide to

keep, lessen or strengthen restrictions in their own communities.

April 3-4

Millions of federal dollars will be coming Johnson County's way as soon as next month from the latest pandemic relief package, and local officials are still ironing out the details on how to spend that money.

April 5

Cancer claimed the life of Indian Creek swimmer Chase Smith, 19, after a six-year battle.

April 6

It is up to local businesses to decide if they wanted to

enforce a mask policy for customers, staff or both, and whether they want to keep capacity restrictions in place. Decisions at downtown Franklin businesses run the gamut.

April 7

A Franklin man was accused of molesting a young girl for a year. Tiburcio Serrano-Rodriguez was charged with three counts of child molesting and statutory rape. The charges included two Level 1 felonies, the highest level crime a person can be charged with besides murder, and a Level 4 felony. He could face up to 92 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

April 8

COVID-19 variants could be to blame for an increase in hospitalizations among those under 40, a local health official said. Johnson Memorial Hospital admitted four people under 40 with severe respiratory symptoms of COVID-19 that had been much more commonly seen among the elderly, said Dr. David Dunkle, president and CEO of Johnson Memorial Health.

April 9

The Franklin and Greenwood parks and recreation departments collectively lost about \$1.4 million over the course of 2020 and in the first few months of 2021 due to drastically reduced user fee incomes.

April 10-11

An extra allotment of the Moderna vaccine is on its way to Johnson County, and the county health department has additional appointments available at its new vaccine clinic at Compass Park.

April 12

A 16-year-old Center Grove High School student was among the youngest to get a COVID-19 vaccine. When

vaccine eligibility opened March 31 to Hoosiers 16 and older, Griffin Hennessy signed up right away. He got an appointment April 3 at a Kroger Pharmacy in Greenwood, he said.

April 13

A widespread vaccination effort has begun at the Johnson County jail, days after eight inmates tested positive for COVID-19.

April 14

Indiana health officials halted the use of the single-dose Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine around the state after federal officials recommended a pause in its use to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots.

April 15

An early morning fire swept through a Greenwood apartment building, leaving more than 59 residents displaced. One building at Meridian Oaks Apartments, a five-building apartment complex in the 100 block of Love Avenue, caught fire at 1:04 a.m.

April 16

A Greenwood man will serve up to 30 years in state prison for shooting at a Bargersville police officer. A jury convicted Andrew Phillip McQuinn, 29, of attempted murder, a Level 1 felony; possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, a Level 4 felony; domestic battery committed in the presence of a child less than 16 and theft of a firearm, both Level 6 felonies; as well as misdemeanor possession of a handgun without a license.

April 17-18

The former employee who shot and killed eight people at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis was interviewed by FBI agents last year, after his mother called police to say her son might

commit "suicide by cop," the bureau said, as investigators searched for a motive in the latest mass shooting to rock the U.S.

April 19

Franklin Community High School's athletic complex was renamed this summer for the man who helped shape it. Noel Heminger served as athletic director from 1996 to 2010, and helped shape the athletic complex during the design process for the high school's building and grounds.

April 20

This year's seniors had a chance to celebrate the end of their K-12 experience with prom and graduation, but some pandemic-related precautions lingered.

April 21

Family and friends of 15-year-old Kashius Davis, who was shot and killed Oct. 30, 2020 in a Greenwood neighborhood, spoke out about a plea agreement that would allow the Greenwood teen charged with his murder to serve time on a lesser charge.

April 22

With vaccines in arms and pandemic precautions loosened, this year's festival season looks brighter than last year's, organizers said. Franklin and Greenwood plans to bring back traditional events, with some changes due to the lingering pandemic.

April 23

Three local townships will join forces in 2022, the first to do so in the state despite years of encouragement. Franklin, Needham and Union townships will be the first in Indiana to merge.

April 24-25

A former Franklin schools employee was arrested, charged with sex crimes

and fired from his post as a track coach after a former student reported he fondled her and forced her to have sex with him nearly seven years ago. James Eli Betts, 42, of Franklin, was charged with four counts of child seduction by a child care worker, all felonies.

April 26

Johnson Memorial Hospital's old emergency room was turned into a new wound care center which doubled the hospital's capacity and made those services more accessible.

April 27

Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine at the Johnson County Health Department's clinic at Franklin's Compass Park has steadily decreased in recent weeks, said Betsy Swearingen, health department director.

April 28

The iconic abandoned Farm Bureau Co-op grain elevator in the middle of downtown Greenwood burned down, causing a major disruption during the afternoon rush hour.

April 29

Two Franklin police officers were honored for their quick action to save a woman's life. Officers Steve Statelets and Jesse Brown were awarded the Life Saving Award for their display of initiative, capability and attention to duty that helped save a life on April 10.

April 30

Building on success from the Franklin Farmers Market, Norma Jean's Pastries now has a storefront in downtown Franklin. Whitney Atkerson started Norma Jean's two years ago after spending four-and-a-half years honing her baking skills at a Broad Ripple bakery.

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MAY

May 1-2

Just four months after police arrested 10 people in a widely publicized child solicitation sting, eight more men traveled to an undisclosed Johnson County location to meet who they thought was a child under the age of 14 for sex.

May 3

Girls Inc. of Johnson County partnered with Edinburg officials to offer a free summer camp experience for girls ages 6 to 15.

May 4

Family and friends of a teenager, Kashius Davis,

who died last year to gun violence gathered outside the county courthouse to protest a plea deal that, if accepted, could result in the teen who shot him serving a year to 2.5 years in jail.

May 5

Greenwood city council members gave the green light for long-discussed development of the former middle school property to move forward. Luxury apartments, condos, townhomes, retail and a large parking garage will soon occupy the site of the former Greenwood Middle School, between Madison

Avenue and Meridian Street in the heart of downtown

May 6

A Greenwood woman was charged with attempted murder after two juveniles told police she tried to shoot one of them with a rifle. Linda Bermann, 35, was arrested after the incident and the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office filed the charge in Johnson County Circuit Court.

May 7

The county prosecutor has filed charges against all eight men arrested in last week's child solicitation operation, and court

documents revealed seven of them knew the decoy — an undercover detective — was just 14 years old, but followed through with plans to meet the teenager for sex.

May 8-9

The Greenwood teen who shot and killed a 15-year-old high school sophomore last year will continue to be treated as an adult in the eyes of the law. Johnson County Superior Court 2 Judge Peter Nugent examined new evidence and facts from the defense and the prosecution, and decided the case against 16-year-old Marcus Salatin should remain in adult court.

May 10

Tension is rising between Indiana's governor and his own party after he vetoed a bill from the state legislature that would have restricted local health departments' powers. Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed Senate Bill 5, his third veto of the session.

May 11

Central Nine Career Center, Johnson County's vocational school, took a significant financial hit this year, but the decreased funding likely won't cause any significant changes to programming.

May 12

Franklin officials broke ground on the city's first splash pad and shared an update on the progress at Youngs Creek Park. When it is finished, Youngs Creek Park will be home to the city's first splash pad, an amphitheater, pickleball courts, walking trails, vendor space and the largest playground in the city.

May 13

Hoosiers 12 to 15 years old have access to a COVID-19 vaccine. Federal officials gave final approval for the emergency use authorization and state officials gave the go-ahead for the group to receive the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

May 14

Edinburgh schools has named a rookie to its top leadership position. Superintendent Doug Arnold will retire after three years leading the district. The Edinburgh Community School Board unanimously approved a contract for Ronald Ross Jr. to succeed him.

May 15-16

New evidence revealed at the sentencing of the Greenwood teen who shot and killed 15-year old Kashius Davis puts the shooter in a new light. Judge Peter Nugent sentenced Marcus Salatin to 825 days at a juvenile detention facility on a criminal recklessness charge, and 180 days to be served concurrently for carrying a handgun without a license charge. Because Salatin had been incarcerated since the shooting he will serve about 200 more days.

May 17

A new solar array is planned at Clark-Pleasant schools to offset millions in future energy costs.

May 18

Several months after Congress passed CARES Act 2, Franklin schools now have a plan for the money it received as part of the federal relief package.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Cicadas cover a plant in Franklin resident Martha Vawter's front yard.

May 19

Greenwood city officials shot down a proposed annexation that would have brought more than 200 rental homes to Greenwood, due to lack of details and impact it could have on schools.

May 20

Greenwood's police force continues to grapple with being short staffed, but it is making do by investing in technology advancements to improve data-based policing and lead to more intentional, preventative work.

May 21

A mixed-use development proposed on Franklin's northside cleared its first

hurdle with a favorable recommendation from the city's plan commission.

May 22-23

The newest Safe Haven Baby Box opened at Franklin Fire Station No. 22, 1800 Thornburg Lane, marking the 60th baby box in Indiana.

May 24

Franklin College graduates are ready to make their marks after their final year and a half at Franklin College was colored by the coronavirus pandemic — 194 undergraduates and 25 graduate students are entering the next chapter of their lives with unique experiences.

May 25

With growing proof that COVID-19 vaccines are effective, local health officials are urging skeptical residents to get off the fence.

May 26

For 17 years, cicadas have tunneled and fed off tree roots underground, and now they've emerged, singing and scaling trees in southern Indiana, including right here in Johnson County. As many as 1.5 million cicadas are emerging this month in Indiana, according to Indiana Environmental Reporter.

May 27

The Johnson County Plan

Commission discussed a zoning ordinance update that would add solar energy development standards for the first time, and add and change standards for wind energy developments.

May 28

Hundreds of teachers, staff members and administrators gathered to celebrate the completion of Ray Crowe Elementary School, Clark-Pleasant schools' sixth and newest primary school. Ray Crowe, a 1934 graduate of Whiteland High School, coached the Crispus Attucks High School boys basketball team, the country's first all-Black team to win a state title.

May 29-30

Freedom Springs in Greenwood, the Edinburgh Aquatic Center and Franklin Family Aquatic Center opened for the season. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the three local pools implemented many restrictions last summer, such as capacity limits, temperature checks and bring-your-own lounge chairs. Now, pools in Johnson County are taking steps toward normalcy.

May 31

After a senior year filled with challenges, 305 Franklin Community High School graduates are preparing to take on life after high school.

JUNE

June 1

Local business owners survived a tough year due to the coronavirus pandemic, from having to close dining rooms to implementing capacity restrictions. Now, they face a new challenge — finding people to work. Federal unemployment benefits, the availability of higher-paying jobs and a recovering local economy are all playing a part in the widespread worker shortage.

June 2

The Vietnam Wall replica arrived in Franklin. The Wall That Heals was escorted from the southside of Indianapolis to Franklin. Inside a large semi trailer, 140 synthetic granite panels etched with the more than 58,000 names of those who died in the Vietnam War were destined for the county fairgrounds.

June 3

Indiana's largest hospital system, Indiana University Health, will require all its doctors, nurses and other employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. IU Health announced the policy in a statement that said vaccines are a safe, effective way to protect patients and help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

June 4

Two kids were taken to Johnson Memorial Hospital after lightning struck a building at the FFA Indiana Leadership Center in Trafalgar during a severe thunderstorm.

June 5-6

A rural Franklin church opened a food pantry. Second Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church's I Care Food Pantry offers non-perishable food and supplies on the second and fourth Friday and Saturday of each month.

June 7

Crowds of people who donned rainbow-colored outfits and Pride flags filled a small Greenwood parking lot at Craig Park, where the city's first-ever Pride block party took place.

June 8

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners approved the hiring of Dr. Jefferson Qualls as the new



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Mike Deffendoll keeps an eye on left and right clearance as MCF House Moving relocate a historic Franklin home from Wayne Street to a new location on Madison Street.

health officer after Dr. Craig Moorman announced his retirement. Moorman was the county's health officer for 32 years.

June 9

South Korean manufacturer plans to bring 100 jobs to a new Franklin stamping plant. Daechang Seat Company is requesting two tax abatements for its \$30 million investment in the Franklin manufacturing facility.

June 10

Property tax bills increased as sales prices boosted assessments. Nearly 450 single-family homes in six of the county's nine townships saw an annual assessed value increase between 30% and 80%, according to data from the Johnson County Assessor's Office.

June 11

Fired Franklin College President Thomas Minar will face a jury trial set for March 2022 in his ongoing legal battle against charges of child sex crimes.

June 12-13

Needham Township was the first in county to reach what some experts say is a herd immunity. Herd immunity occurs when enough of the overall population is immune to a virus either through vaccines or from surviving an infection. 70% of the 290 eligible people who live in that zip code are vaccinated against COVID-19.

June 14

Lotus Garden building has been sold and a Kopetsky car wash will replace it.

June 15

A 126-bed senior community dubbed Astral at Franklin

is coming to the city. The facility will have 118 units for seniors at three stages in life, including 51 independent living units, 39 assisted living units and 28 memory care units.

June 16

Franklin's 1823 Bakehouse branched out to a Seymour franchise. The new location, located at 123 W. 2nd St. in Seymour, is named "1852 Cafe." The shop is named after the founding year of Seymour, just as 1823 Bakehouse is named after the year Franklin was founded.

June 17

Construction on Worthville Road is active again after a three-month delay, and sections of the road will be closed for the remainder of the year.

June 18

Sunbeam Development Corporation seeks to add 56 more acres to its already massive 491-acre planned Interstate 65 Commerce Park in Franklin.

June 19-20

After operating for more than a year, the COVID-19 testing site at Johnson County's National Guard Armory closed. The test site closed following the Indiana Department of Health's decision to cease its partnership with OptumServe Health Services to provide a state-wide network of testing sites.

June 21

The Johnson County Public Library hosted COVID-19 vaccine clinics for anyone ages 12 and older. The library hosted the clinics in

partnership with WindRose Health Network at three library branches: Trafalgar, White River and Franklin.

June 22

Mickey Deputy, a 24-year-old cancer survivor with Down syndrome, is on a mission to promote the equal treatment of people with disabilities, a mission that has been near and dear to her heart since 2013. The Franklin woman represented Indiana in the national Miss Amazing pageant.

June 23

The team of specialists from MCF Home Movers, workers from local utilities and the City of Franklin, methodically transported a historic home through downtown Franklin from East Wayne Street to an empty lot on Madison Street.

June 24

High school students were failing at a higher rate last fall, presumably due to the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. But with students back in classrooms, grades rebounded. At all six county high schools, fewer students failed a class during the spring semester compared to the fall semester.

June 25

Otterbein SeniorLife of Franklin remembered 26 residents lost to COVID-19, and publicly thanked the health care workers who were there for them in their final moments and fought to contain the virus.

June 26-27

Ivy Tech Community College-Columbus planned to sell about 16 acres of land at its Franklin site to a commercial real estate management company and use the funds for Franklin campus improvements.

June 28

A Bargersville restaurant outgrew the shack where it got its start. Within the next two years, Johnson's BBQ Shack leaders hope to expand its capacity and add rooftop seating.

June 29

Four Johnson County artists are featured on

banners that hang from light poles in downtown Franklin.

June 30

It is up to schools to decide whether to make masks optional or required this

coming school year, but most local districts have not finalized their plans yet. Franklin schools shared with families its plan to not require masks during the 2021-22 academic year.

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JULY



Clockwise from top left: People ride the Freak Out ride at Johnson County fairgrounds. // Center Grove grad Jason Mueller had been a fixture behind the microphone at Trojan sporting events for more than a decade before his death. // Emily Pierce works at Wild Geese Bookshop in Franklin. The popular book store moved to a new location. // Students wave to parents as they enter Ray Crowe Elementary School on the first day of classes at Clark-Pleasant schools. **DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS**

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July 1
Local vaccine clinics shift their distribution models as fewer people sought COVID-19 vaccinations. Both Johnson Memorial Health and Franciscan Health Indianapolis closed their hospital vaccine clinics and made vaccines available at doctor's offices.

July 2
Four Johnson County firefighters were part of a team in south Florida that assisted in search and rescue efforts at the site of the Champlain Towers South building collapse.

July 3-4
Clark-Pleasant schools used \$4.7 million in federal money to add 19 teachers and support staff at its elementary, middle and high schools.

July 5
Johnson County Community Foundation celebrated 30 years of helping the county. The organization has awarded nearly \$25 million in grants and scholarships since it was founded, and manages millions of dollars in assets.

July 6
The new Johnson County Public Library branch opens next year in Whiteland.

July 7
A southside grandmother, Barb Jankowski, stocked up on supplies for students and teachers at a Franklin elementary school. She was hoping to spark others to give back in the same way and spread the movement to other schools.

July 8
With about half of eligible Johnson County residents vaccinated, the Delta variant of the virus poses a problem locally. At 53%, a slim majority of eligible Johnson County residents are fully vaccinated, more than the 48% of eligible Indiana residents who are, according to the Indiana Department of Health.

July 9
A group of Greenwood residents voiced concerns about the construction of a car wash on the former Lotus Garden property during a meeting between residents, a city council member and a car wash representative.

July 10-11
Students and staff at two more local schools have been given the choice whether to wear masks this school year. Masks were optional at Clark-Pleasant schools, Central Nine and every Johnson County school district except Edinburgh.

July 12
New Whiteland disposed of 5.4 tons of garbage during the town's first-ever clean-up day.

July 13
A drug enforcement operation, dubbed "Operation Blue Knight," netted 24 arrests after 101 cars were stopped by Franklin police for various traffic infractions over the course of 12 hours.

July 14
Franklin schools got \$4.8 million in federal money from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act III, passed by Congress and signed into law. The district waived student Chromebook fees and paid 20 teachers and 30 assistants with its third round of federal relief funds.

July 15
COVID-19 vaccines were available for two days at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. Vaccination rates remained low, so the Johnson County Health Department brought the vaccine straight to families at the fair.

July 16
The Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair was gearing up for a full-throttle return after last year's fair featured only live-streamed 4-H activities.

July 17-18
After more than two weeks assisting in search and rescue efforts in Surfside, Fla., first responders from Task Force No. 1 are back home again in Indiana, and some brought COVID-19 cases with them.

July 19
Center Grove schools said it will not be teaching critical race theory in its schools, nor will it delve into transformative social emotional learning, both topics that concerned some parents across the county.

July 20
Kyra Baker dreamed of becoming the county's fair queen ever since she started 4-H. That dream became a reality when the senior 4-H'er was crowned this year's Johnson County Fair Queen.

July 21
Construction has begun on the access road that will eventually connect Stones Crossing and Travis roads to the future State Road 144 interchange of Interstate 69.

July 22
The county fair's vaccine clinic was in a prime spot for foot traffic, highly visible and easily accessible, but in five hours, just two people got shots. Vaccinations have slowed to a level that concerns local health officials as the county returned to "yellow" on the state's color-coded map showing COVID-19 spread.

July 23
A proposed 347-home development near The Legends Golf Club was forwarded to the Franklin City Council with a favorable recommendation. Forestar Group Inc. wants to annex and rezone 130 acres north of the Heritage subdivision on Hurricane Road to two different classifications of residential zoning with commitments.

July 24-25
Jason Mueller was an integral part of sports at Center Grove schools

for 13 years. He was the public address announcer, introducing athletes with fervor at boys and girls basketball and football games. Mueller died at the age of 45 after a battle with colon cancer.

July 26
Wild Geese is on the move. After five years in business, the Franklin bookshop relocated to a new home at 48 E. Madison Street.

July 27
Attendance at this year's county fair may have broken a record. The 2021 Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair came to a close, after a year without a traditional fair, and officials called this year's return to normal a big success.

July 28
Indiana's new cases and hospitalizations for COVID-19 have rebounded to levels last seen in May as an especially contagious coronavirus variant continues spreading, state data showed.

July 29
Students arrive at the newly built Ray Crowe Elementary School as Clark-Pleasant and Edinburgh Community Schools are the first in the county to head back to school for the fall semester.

July 30
Face masks are again recommended, regardless of a person's vaccination status, under new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The guidance was updated due to the highly transmissible Delta variant, which is 100 times more contagious than the original strain of COVID-19, the CDC says.

July 31-Aug 1
Indiana's top health officials make pleas for people to get vaccinated and continue wearing masks as an especially contagious coronavirus variant spreads throughout the state, but they said they have no plans to reinstate statewide health mandates.

AUGUST



Clockwise from top: White River Township firefighters and EMS personnel stand to honor Kyle Martincic following his funeral. The American flag waves from two White River Township engines in the background. // WWII veteran Jack Coombs looks out the window during a flight in a B-25 Mitchell airplane at Indy South Greenwood Airport. // Friends and family gathered at the Johnson County fairgrounds to pray for 17-year-olds Kya Lasley and Megan Murray and 10-year-old Keilyn Stauffer, who remain hospitalized with serious injuries from a crash on Interstate 65.

DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Aug. 2

The annual Harvest Moon Fall Festival in Bargersville has been cancelled for the second time. The festival was canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the effects of the pandemic are still felt through the current heavy demand and shortages, said Laura Kennedy, the town's spokesperson.

Aug. 3

Despite pleas from state health officials for folks, especially students, to mask up, local schools are not changing course. Center Grove, Franklin, Greenwood and Indian Creek schools will begin the 2021-22 school year and at least for the time being, masks will remain optional.

Aug. 4

A permanent fix is underway to prevent another whirlpool from opening up at the low-head dam in Franklin's Province Park. The dam is at the fork of Youngs Creek in the downtown park, next to a popular playground and shelter house.

Aug. 5

Staffing shortages at area hospitals are causing diversions and forcing recruiters to get creative. Johnson Memorial Hospital has been on diversion off and on, meaning incoming patients are directed to other area hospitals when there is not enough coverage to provide quality care, said Dr. David Dunkle, Johnson Memorial Health's president and CEO.

Aug. 6

University of Indianapolis will require students to get the COVID-19 vaccine, according to an email sent to students from the college president.

Aug. 7-8

About 100 people gathered at the cattle barn on the Johnson County fairgrounds in Franklin to sing, pray and share stories about two teenagers and a child who were hospitalized after a serious crash earlier this week on Interstate 65.

Aug. 9

The Greenwood Fire Department welcomed six

new probationary firefighters/EMTs during a city council meeting. The new positions were added last month, following the Greenwood City Council's passage of salary amendments for the fire department.

Aug. 10

Some local governments around the state are bringing back mask mandates, but Johnson County is not likely to follow suit.

Aug. 11

A Greenwood horse farm owner who was indicted last year on more than a dozen federal charges was arrested on a warrant, a local law enforcement official said. Federal officers and Johnson County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Daniel R. Fruits, 46, at his house. He was initially arrested in December but released on conditions, which he violated, Sheriff Burgess said.

Aug. 12

Indian Creek school officials joined students, contractors and architects to mark the start of construction of a \$33.5 million fieldhouse and auditorium that is more than half a decade in the making.

Aug. 13

The former owner of a Greenwood ice cream shop was arrested again this week after he failed to register as a sex offender in another county where he owns property. John Cassin, 75, is charged with failure to register as a sex offender, a Level 6 felony.

Aug. 14-15

Franklin College will require all students and staff to wear masks indoors, and Clark-Pleasant will require all staff to wear masks. Both policies take effect as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations surge again.

Aug. 16

Schools across the county are navigating a deepening debate among parent groups about whether schools should mandate masks. Locally, the Johnson County Health Department could recommend schools mandate masks based on what they're seeing, which they have not done.

Aug. 17

A pair of Clark-Pleasant schools will become the first in Johnson County to require students to wear masks. All staff members, students and visitors at Clark-Pleasant Middle School and Break-O-Day Elementary School will be required to wear masks in the school buildings.

Aug. 18

"Help wanted" signs and banners promising sign-on bonuses are in the windows along U.S. 31 in Johnson County. Many people associate the labor shortage with increased federal unemployment benefits, but it is much more complicated than that, local employment experts said.

Aug. 19

The mask debate heated up as parents at a school board meeting demanded the board vote in front of them to remove a mask mandate that was set to start the next day. Parents at another school board meeting the same night alleged masks cause health problems, and threatened to vote out board members if they didn't do something about a mandate at two schools.

Aug. 20

Seven local residents are dancing for a cause as they get ready to strut their stuff in the Dancing with the Johnson County Stars event. The fundraising event allows dancers to help their favorite nonprofit agency earn tens of thousands of dollars by doing the tango, foxtrot or waltz.

Aug. 21-22

Parents decrying the possibility of a mask mandate at Center Grove schools spoke up during the district's regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Aug. 23

Third doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are going into the arms of the immunocompromised across the country, and all Americans may be eligible for another shot in about a month, said federal officials.

Aug. 24

For the third time in three years, homeowners in

a White River Township subdivision are asking county officials to do something about severely crumbling concrete streets in their neighborhood.

Aug. 25

Police arrested a Greenwood man, Nathan H. Shaffer, 33, on three charges after he fired a gun into the ground at a house where children were present, and attempted to disarm a police officer.

Aug. 26

Camp Atterbury officials released a statement, but could not say whether refugees from Afghanistan may be coming to the Johnson County military facility later this week. Military locations around the United States will provide temporary housing and support for Afghan special immigrant visa applicants, their families and other at-risk individuals.

Aug. 27

Inside the B-25 plane, the roar of the engine was only made bearable by earplugs. Jack Coombs, a 96-year-old World War II veteran, knew the sound well. He spent about 100 hours in B-25s during World War II, where he narrowly escaped a plane that was in flames, shot down by Japanese soldiers.

Aug. 28-29

Indiana's top health officials said that despite having done everything in their power to educate and make vaccines available to Hoosiers, the state has reached "the darkest time in the pandemic" amid a surge in infections and hospitalizations.

Aug. 30

Center Grove schools plans to spend more than \$30 million on additions and upgrades to both of its middle schools.

Aug. 31

Kyle Martincic, a career paramedic at the White River Township Fire Department, suffered a medical emergency while on duty during a routine training session. Martincic, 34, died later that day at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. His passing is the first line-of-duty death in the department's history.

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SEPTEMBER



Clockwise from top left: Afghan refugees are shown arriving at Camp Atterbury, where they will stay before resettling elsewhere in the United States. // The front page of the special edition of the Daily Journal that was printed and distributed on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001. // A team of registered nurses from Franciscan Health Indianapolis pose at the makeshift medical tent set up at Camp Atterbury to provide examinations and vaccines to Afghan refugees. The medical staff included, from left, front, Angela Bratina, Christine Hunkele and Jennifer Naessens; back, Ashley Hensley, Stephanie Lee and Lori Kraeszig. // Parents hold signs protesting both mask mandates at local schools and critical race theory in downtown Franklin.

DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS; DAILY JOURNAL ARCHIVES



Sept. 1
Federal and state officials said Camp Atterbury will temporarily house Afghan

refugees. Camp Atterbury officials did not provide a number of refugees or a timeline. But Rep. Greg Pence, R-Columbus, said

on Twitter the Department of Defense and U.S. Northern Command told him thousands of refugees would be arriving this week.

Sept. 9
The way America's longest war ended is upsetting for many soldiers who put their lives on the line to root out terrorism in Afghanistan and help rebuild the country. Local veterans recount their service during the War in Afghanistan, and share their thoughts about the way it ended, as the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks approaches.

Sept. 16
Federal officials at Camp Atterbury cleared up several rumors about the situation at the Indiana National Guard base in southern Johnson County. A total of 6,603 Afghan refugees are being housed at Atterbury, more than the population of Edinburgh, which has nearly 4,800 people.

Sept. 23
Clark-Pleasant school board members adjourned a regularly scheduled meeting after just two minutes. The school board voted to end the meeting after about half of the estimated 40 attendees refused to wear masks, despite a district-wide mask mandate.

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Sept. 2
There will be no risk to or strain on local communities as thousands of Afghan refugees arrive at Camp Atterbury in the coming weeks, state officials said. Brig. Gen. Dale Lyles, Indiana's Adjutant General, expects Camp Atterbury to welcome the first 1,000 refugees later this week.

Sept. 3
The Johnson County Health Department and Indiana Department of Health issued new mask and quarantine guidance that has implications for local schools. The Johnson County Health Department encourages schools to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Indiana Department of Health, advising a mask requirement for all students and staff members.

Sept. 4-5
The first Afghan refugees arrived in southern Johnson County as part of Operation Allies Welcome. The refugees arrived in Indiana via aircraft and were bussed to the National Guard base near Edinburgh.

Sept. 6
Private schools in Greenwood, on the south side and in Franklin have different approaches when it comes to wearing masks.

Sept. 7
In response to the constant backlash teachers at Clark-Pleasant schools have received during the fall semester, a group of parents decided to show their appreciation for the educators.

Sept. 8
A group of concerned parents in front of the Johnson County Courthouse held signs demanding that schools remove mask mandates and let parents make the decision for their children.

Sept. 10
Johnson Memorial Hospital was called to help care for a few refugees being housed temporarily at Camp Atterbury. Atterbury contacted the hospital for help with pregnant refugees who needed C-sections or other surgeries related to childbirth. Atterbury does not have surgical capabilities on base, said Dr. David Dunkle, president and CEO.

Sept. 11-12
Former Daily Journal staff members recount 9/11 coverage after 20 years.

Sept. 13
The first Afghan refugees arrived more than a week ago at Camp Atterbury, and since then, Johnson County residents have been scrambling to find ways to help both the hundreds of refugees and hundreds of service members brought to the base as part of the mission.

Sept. 14
A trio of students at Whiteland Community High School, Josie Kelsay, Jenna Kelsay and Grace Ison, headed to Madison, Wis. to compete in the dairy cattle judging section of the World Dairy Expo, which has teams from each state present.

Sept. 15
Local employers shared concerns about President Joe Biden's plan to require employers with more than 100 employees to mandate COVID-19 vaccines or require weekly testing.

Sept. 17
On this day the Franklin area Lord's Cupboard, clothing pantry, has been serving the Franklin area and people for 50 years.

Sept. 18-19
Franklin schools will begin requiring masks for all students and staff members. The mandate follows recommendations from the Johnson County Health Department, Indiana Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sept. 20
A team of registered nurses from Franciscan Health share about their mission to provide examinations and vaccines to refugees at Camp Atterbury.

Sept. 21
Franklin schools is redrawing its boundaries to counter growth in the district that stems from hundreds of new houses being built. The process could move hundreds of Franklin students to new elementary schools.

Sept. 22
Rain has again slowed progress on a downtown park that is under construction south of the farmers market parking lot in Franklin. Youngs Creek Park was hoped to be ready to host the Franklin Fall Festival, but setbacks early in the process to shore up the ground underneath the amphitheater and weather delays set the project back a few months, said Chip Orner, the city's parks and recreation director.

Sept. 24
COVID-19 cases are trending down in the county, with less than 100 a day reported since last week.

Sept. 25-26
Sheriff's deputies were called to a Center Grove school board meeting after parents refused to follow the district's mask mandate. Though two Center Grove police officers were at the meeting, they called the Johnson County Sheriff's Office after the group of parents refused to exit the meeting room.

Sept. 27
After Greenwood froze its budget this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the city is looking to increase next year's budget by about 14%.

Sept. 28
The Center Grove School Board made some big changes for its staff and the public. The school board unanimously approved raises that would make the minimum teacher salary \$44,169, up 8%.

Sept. 29
Johnson County's proposed I-65 tax increment financing district stalled again after a disagreement over the map's boundaries in the Greenwood area.

Sept. 30
Two high-end restaurants could be coming to Greenwood's far-southwest side. The Greenwood Advisory Plan Commission laid the foundation for a commercial project near the Barn at Bay Horse Inn, during a debate-filled meeting that ended in a split vote.

OCTOBER



Clockwise from top left: Johnson Memorial Health's computer network was hacked. // This view of the \$11 million mixed-use building shows the elevation at the intersection of Wayne Street and Main Street. // Workers from Hicks Construction and Excavating demolished two homes on S. Water Street to make room for the Newkirk Square development in Franklin. // This property on Hurricane Road, which is the former Amphenol facility, has been monitored by the state for more than 30 years for any contamination left by previous operations. **DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS**

Oct. 1

Harvest Walk honored three food advocates. Rev. Roger Gifford and Eddy Teets helped establish the Interchurch Food Pantry in the early 1980s and worked to see its success for years after. Karol Dougherty was a co-manager of the pantry for six years, building it up to where it could support serving more than 80,000 meals per month to food insecure households.

Oct. 2-3

A jury found a Franklin man guilty of child molesting after a two-day trial. James Franklin Fletcher, 50, was convicted of child molesting and admitted to being a repeat offender in Johnson County Superior Court 3.

Oct. 4

A Johnson Memorial Health spokesperson said the hospital's computer network was hacked. Hospital officials learned it was the victim of a cyberattack. As a result, the hospital's system was disabled.

Oct. 5

Johnson Memorial Health's information technology team and the FBI tried to get to the bottom of a weekend cyber attack that crippled the hospital's computer network. The hackers gained access to the hospital's network and installed ransomware. The hospital's IT team discovered the attack within about 15 minutes and immediately shut down the system, said Dr. David Dunkle, the hospital's president and CEO.

Oct. 6

City of Greenwood employees were given two options: show proof of vaccination or mask up. The three member Board of Public Works and Safety unanimously approved the temporary policy.

Oct. 7

Johnson Memorial Health received a ransom request after an individual or group of hackers broke into the hospital system's computer network. No details about the ransom request were being shared,

said Dr. David Dunkle, the hospital's president and CEO. Until there is a clear path forward, the hospital is looking at all contingencies and trying to maintain normal operations without the aid of computers, Dunkle said.

Oct. 8

Police determined that rumored threats made against two Franklin schools were not credible, but increased police presence around the schools just in case.

Oct. 9-10

Franklin police made more than 100 traffic stops, arrested 13 people and gave 10 traffic tickets in just 12 hours as part of a blitz. Operation Scarecrow was the second in a series of organized patrols by the police department, which have a goal of getting drugs off the streets and curbing other crimes, Chief Kirby Cochran said.

Oct. 11

The county was set to adopt a more than \$38.3 million spending plan that included hefty raises for the county commissioners and more correction officers at the now-expanded county jail. The county expects to spend about \$38.3 million next year, a 2.4% increase over this year's budget.

Oct. 12

More than a year-and-half into the coronavirus pandemic, county courts are still playing catch-up after a nearly three-month-long suspension of jury trials earlier this year.

Oct. 13

Greenwood, the county's largest city reached a 70% COVID-19 vaccination rate, which some experts say is herd immunity. More than 70% of eligible Greenwood residents are fully vaccinated.

Oct. 14

A demolition crew started working in downtown Franklin, making way for an \$11 million mixed-use development to include high-end condos, townhomes, restaurants and retail. Several homes and the former Newkirk's

Auto Service are being torn down to make way for the development from the Bemis Group.

Oct. 15

Union Christian Church and sister church Trafalgar Christian both took up missions to help the more than 6,600 Afghan refugees being temporarily housed at Camp Atterbury, and have been collecting supplies at their churches.

Oct. 16-17

The Franklin school board voted on a policy that made masks optional again, and made it so that asymptomatic close contacts of COVID-19 cases could avoid quarantine if they wear masks and monitor for symptoms. Under a new Franklin schools proposal, masks would be recommended, not required.

Oct. 18

A local township employee was named Trustee Employee of the Year by the Indiana Township Association. Franklin Township staff member Nicole Boston is the social security payee program coordinator and has worked for the Franklin Township Trustee Office since 2019.

Oct. 19

A pair of Clark-Pleasant school board members resigned from their posts, effective immediately. School board president Beth Poe and vice president Laura Cope's resignations created a vacancy that school leaders hope to fill during the Nov. 16 board meeting.

Oct. 20

Masks are once again optional for students and staff at Franklin schools after the school board voted unanimously to scrap a mask mandate that had been in place for about a month.

Oct. 21

Most teachers at Franklin schools will get 6% raises this year, and the minimum salary for a full-time teacher will increase to \$42,000 from \$40,000. The school board unanimously

approved the new salaries for teachers, along with next year's \$65.9 million budget.

Oct. 22

Some teachers at Greenwood schools will see their salaries increase by almost 14% a year after they went without a raise due to budget constraints from the coronavirus pandemic. The school board unanimously approved the new salaries for teachers, along with next year's \$48.9 million budget.

Oct. 23-24

Students and staff at three more local districts will have the option to not wear masks in school. Center Grove, Clark-Pleasant and Greenwood schools updated parents on their new guidance, also moving to mask optional policies.

Oct. 25

Johnson County residents could see weekend service on Access Johnson County, shuttles to and from warehouse jobs and an extension of the IndyGo Red Line to Franklin, but it would require them to vote to raise their income taxes.

Oct. 26

Millions of Americans and thousands of Johnson County residents became eligible for COVID-19 booster shots.

Oct. 27

Two new subdivisions in Greenwood took a step toward construction. The Greenwood Advisory Plan Commission approved the rezoning for one subdivision, and the primary plat of another, adding nearly 250 homes to the city.

Oct. 28

Despite the city's investments in quality of life and business growth, Franklin only grew by 1,601 residents in the past 10 years. Data from the 2020 census says Franklin grew to 25,313 residents from the 23,712 population reported in the 2010 Census.

Oct. 29

The Environmental Protection Agency has

worked to improve the way it communicates with communities near contaminated clean-up sites, such as those in Franklin, to help heal mistrust stemming from past erroneous reports.

Oct. 30-31

Federal officials said a rumor regarding monthly cash benefits for Afghan refugees at Camp Atterbury was untrue and shared a new way to give back.

ESTABLISHED 1997
WOOD AUTO REPAIR
 Mike and Pam Wood - Owners
 750 Tracy Road
 New Whiteland, IN 46184
317-535-3022

ESTABLISHED 2004
Carl's HEATING & COOLING
 Phone 317-887-3999
 www.carlhc.com
 Carl J. Magna, Jr., owner
 Over 40 Yrs Experience
 24 Hrs Same Price

ESTABLISHED 2007
QUALITY WATER SOLUTIONS
 Sales, Service & Rentals, Water Conditioners
 Chlorination Systems, Reverse Osmosis, Iron Filters
 Salt Delivery, Insured
Scott Sheppard
 Over 35 yrs. Experience
 Whiteland • 317-412-1118

ESTABLISHED 2013
SCHAFSTALL • ADMIRE
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 Providing Legal Services for:
 Wills & Probate • Business • Real Estate Domestic Relations & Mediation
 98 N. Jackson St., Franklin, IN
 317-736-7146

ESTABLISHED 2014
MODERN REALTY GROUP
 The Right Home Changes Everything
Mitzi Christian
 317-439-4343
 Mitzi@TheModernRealtyGroup.com
 www.modernrealtygroup.com

NOVEMBER



From left: Center Grove head coach Eric Moore hugs Caden Curry as he clutches the state championship trophy Saturday at Lucas Oil Stadium. // Several residents have complained about conditions at the Franklin Place Apartments. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Nov. 1

Kerry Prather has been inaugurated as the 17th Franklin College president. Prather took on the role of interim Franklin College president in January 2020, after Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, police arrested former president Thomas Minar on charges related to alleged sex crimes, including child pornography possession.

Nov. 2

A winning \$5 million Hoosier Lotto ticket was sold at Casey's General Store in Franklin.

Nov. 3

Nearly 150 new homes are coming to Greenwood's far southside. The Greenwood City Council voted 7-1, with one member absent, to approve two rezoning requests by Lennar Homes for a 44-acre property located on the southwest side of the Pushville Road and Emerson Avenue intersection.

Nov. 4

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to some Hoosier children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention authorized the shots in children ages 5 to 11, opening the door to thousands more Johnson County residents.

Nov. 5

The marching bands from Indian Creek and Franklin

schools achieved their best marching band results in school history, placing in fourth and eighth place respectively in the Indiana State School Music Association, or ISSMA, Marching Band Scholastic Class Finals.

Nov. 6-7

Carl Leck, a lauded muralist with works all over central Indiana, installed his most recent work in Johnson County. His gummy bear-themed piece was being painted on the newly built Jiffy Lube store in Whiteland, as part of the company's ongoing mural program.

Nov. 8

Two local schools earned top marks at a statewide marching band competition at Lucas Oil Stadium. Greenwood Community Schools placed third in the Open Class B category at the 2021 Indiana State School Music Association Marching Band, Open Class State Finals. Center Grove Community Schools also left its mark on the state finals, placing eighth in the Open Class A competition.

Nov. 9

Greenwood Community High School students continued a tradition almost three decades old as they set out to help senior citizens prepare their homes for winter by cleaning gutters, raking

leaves, washing windows and trimming bushes.

Nov. 10

Hundreds of Franklin students will be moved to new schools this summer. The Franklin school board approved a plan that would redraw residential boundaries for its elementary schools.

Nov. 11

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office posted a rare "Johnson County: Most Wanted" poster on social media, looking for five suspects wanted on drug charges, and another wanted on a burglary charge.

Nov. 12

Working conditions are mostly back to normal at Johnson Memorial Health five weeks after the hospital's computer network was hacked. The hackers gained access to the Franklin hospital's network and installed ransomware. The hospital's IT team discovered the attack within about 15 minutes and immediately shut down the system.

Nov. 13-14

A westside Franklin apartment complex looks neglected, with broken balconies and window screens, partially detached support beams, chipping paint, potholes and an overflowing dumpster. But

residents say the worst health and safety concerns are inside their apartments. Franklin Place residents have repeatedly asked property managers to take action, wanting nothing more than healthy and safe living quarters.

Nov. 15

As temperatures and snow begin to fall, a veteran-led nonprofit Team Rubicon has been tapped to help Afghan refugees at Camp Atterbury and has asked the community for shoe donations.

Nov. 16

Edinburgh schools is considering a property tax hike in the form of a referendum that would fund additional programming, raises for teachers and school buses.

Nov. 17

A Colorado-based orthodontics manufacturer, OrthoAmerica and Rocky Mountain Orthodontics, is moving its headquarters to Franklin and bringing with it 100 jobs. The company plans to move into the building at 2165 Earlywood Drive.

Nov. 18

The construction of the \$3.6 million Bargersville police station is underway and after years of planning, the Bargersville Police Department will have a new building to call home by the end of next year.

Nov. 19

The Johnson County Thanksgiving Banquet, which has been providing free meals for the community since 2008, is back as a drive-through event this year. Participants were able to come to the county fairgrounds and pick up a Thanksgiving meal, assembled by an army of volunteers and brought car-side.

Nov. 20-21

Three Johnson County residents became millionaires in the past few weeks. A pair of Franklin women cashed in with a \$5 million lottery ticket by matching all six numbers of the Hoosier Lottery drawing. An Edinburgh resident was one number away from hitting the Powerball jackpot, but still came away with \$1 million.

Nov. 22

An Ohio-based multifamily housing company will receive about \$1.7 million in incentives to rehabilitate Franklin Cove Apartments.

Nov. 23

The Franklin Lions Club's eyeglasses tree is decorated in gold and purple ornaments and donated glasses, and is a local tradition.

Nov. 24

COVID-19 cases are up again as Thanksgiving draws near, and that calls for caution regardless of

the holiday, local public health experts say.

Nov. 25

Black Friday shoppers will encounter a more traditional shopping experience this year, but for the second year in a row, many businesses were closed today for the holiday.

Nov. 26

The Center Grove High School Trojans could become the first Class 6A team to win back-to-back football titles in Indiana history, as they prepare for the big game this weekend.

Nov. 27-28

For generations of families, waking up early on Good Cheer Fund delivery day is a beloved chance to do some good. They get breakfast together, drive to JCREMC to pick up baskets and spend hours dropping off food to families in need throughout the county.

Nov. 29

Center Grove football team holds on for the second consecutive state championship at Lucas Oil Stadium with a 27-21 victory over Westfield.

Nov. 30

An Indiana redistricting expert says the Johnson County Board of Commissioners has the most imbalanced districts she has ever seen.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1

Health care workers across the county and country could be faced with a choice: get vaccinated or get fired.

Dec. 2

Johnson Memorial Health leaders breathed a sigh of relief after a federal judge issued a stay on a federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers.

Dec. 3

Local growers have fewer Christmas trees this year. The nationwide tree shortage, stemming from weather conditions and supply chain issues, hits close to home for local Christmas tree growers. One of the three Christmas tree farms in Johnson County has already sold out.

Dec. 4-5

A former jail employee was accused of having a relationship with an inmate. Zachariah B. Johnson, 28, of North Vernon, was arrested on three counts of sexual misconduct, three counts



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

An unnamed kitten walks around their cage at the Johnson County Animal Shelter on Monday in Franklin.

of official misconduct and trafficking with an inmate. Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess received information that Johnson was possibly engaged in a relationship with a female inmate, according to a sheriff's office news release.

Dec. 6

At Interchurch Food Pantry in Franklin, volunteers saw

the effects of inflation and the increased demand of the holiday season. Just before Thanksgiving, the pantry set a single-day record of 174 households served.

Dec. 7

Local schools grapple with food shortages as nationwide supply chain issues have delayed shipments of everything

from food to cars to technology.

Dec. 8

Prosecutors charged a former jail employee accused of having a sexual relationship with an inmate. Zachariah B. Johnson, 28, of North Vernon, was charged with three counts of sexual misconduct, a Level 5 felony, official misconduct, a Level 6

felony, and trafficking with an inmate, a misdemeanor. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office also fired Johnson, who had been with the agency for two years.

Dec. 9

A central figure in the Greenwood community for more than a decade-and-a-half died from cancer. Bruce Armstrong, 64, died on Dec. 1 — a day before his 65th birthday — after a years-long battle with cancer. Armstrong served for 16 years on the Greenwood City Council, from 2004 to 2019, and ran for state representative last year.

Dec. 10

Police arrested a Franklin Community Middle School student accused of threatening another student. Though Franklin police and school officials agreed the threats were credible, there was no danger to students, said Robin Betts, a spokesperson for the district.

Dec. 11-12

A manhunt led to a

police involved shooting in Bargersville. Efrain Perez-Ramirez, 44, was in serious condition at an area hospital after police shot him during an incident in the Three Notch Village neighborhood in Bargersville.

Dec. 13

Good Cheer is off to a slow start this year, and more donations are needed as volunteers get ready for a record delivery. The Good Cheer fund passes out holiday food baskets to the needy throughout Johnson County.

Dec. 14

A crisis is unfolding at the Johnson County Animal Shelter due to a lack of space that threatens a decades-long pause on euthanizations.

Dec. 15

Prosecutors charged a Greenwood teacher they say had an inappropriate relationship with a student. Matthew M. Hockersmith, 40, is charged with three counts of child seduction, a Level 5 felony.