

# SOUTHSIDE

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## Bargersville plans town convention

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Bargersville residents won't be among voters making a quick stop at polls in May to cast ballots in the municipal primary election. Instead, voters will have to go to a convention that could last hours to pick who will make it to the general election.

The town will conduct a convention to set the slate for November's elections to save money, town council members said. Conventions are the established way for small towns to pick candidates for the general election, unless the town decides it would rather conduct a primary, county clerk Jill Jackson said.

Bargersville is the only town in the county that will have a town convention. The most recent one in Johnson County took place eight years ago.

The Bargersville Town Council decided in December to use town conventions instead of primaries, town manager Mike McCarthy said. The town hasn't needed a primary or a town convention because until recently candidates filed as independents. The town did have primaries in recent elections, but the county clerk says that should not have happened.

Towns with fewer than 3,500 people can conduct primaries or town conventions in a contested election if candidates file as Republicans or Democrats, Jackson said. Bargersville has a population of 2,120 people, according to the 2000 census.

If a town decides to use a town convention, candidates can declare candidacy from Jan. 2 to Aug. 1, Jackson said. The convention then must be conducted by Aug. 20, she said.

A date for the convention has not been set.

Although officials cannot recall a convention taking place in Bargersville, the town could find no evidence of an ordinance required to conduct primary elections.

While Bargersville conducted primaries in 2003 and 2006, no ordinance was ever passed to allow the primaries. Because of the low population, an ordinance would have to be passed to have a primary.

The old-fashioned alternative to primaries is rarely used. The most recent town convention in Johnson County took place in 1999 in Prince's Lakes.

Using the town convention saves the town money by keeping the town hall from shutting down for the primary election, council member Karl Kevin Combs said. Primary elections would be at town hall, and employees would have to take the day off, he said.

By using the town convention, the town will not have to close down offices and lose work time, he said.

The convention can be in the evening or on a weekend and somewhere other than the town hall, council member David Eger said. Keeping the town office open that day was the driving force for the decision, he said.

During a town convention, candidates usually have the opportunity to give a short speech, and then registered voters in the town cast paper ballots, Jackson said.

Town conventions can be inconvenient for voters, she said. "You've really narrowed the

### AT A GLANCE

**1999:** The most recent town convention in Johnson County took place in Prince's Lakes.

**2002:** Prince's Lakes voted to use primary elections.

**2003 and 2006:** Since Bargersville candidates began filing with a party, the town conducted primary elections.

**2007:** Bargersville will conduct a town convention instead of primaries. To use primary elections in the future, the town will need to pass an ordinance.

opportunity for voters to vote," Jackson said.

Voters must be present throughout the convention to vote and cannot participate if they arrive late, Jackson said. The convention could last a couple of hours, compared to the couple minutes it takes to vote in a primary, she said.

With the limited voting time and the commitment, it's more difficult to get voters to participate, Jackson said.

Prince's Lakes formerly conducted conventions but voted in 2002 to use primary elections.

Once a town decides to change its voting system from a town convention to primary elections, state law does not allow the town to switch back for 12 years, Jackson said.

Whether to conduct a town convention or a primary hadn't been an issue in Bargersville until 2003.

Jackson said she was not aware of any town conventions taking place in Bargersville.

Combs, who has served on the town council for 11 years, is not aware of any former conventions either.

Since candidates started filing with a party, a convention or primary became necessary to determine who makes it to the general election Nov. 6.

The town was unable to find an ordinance or paperwork to show they decided to conduct primary elections, Jackson said. If Bargersville wanted to have primary elections, the town had to decide and take a copy of the ordinance to the clerk's office by Jan. 1, Jackson said.

Since the town never officially changed to a primary, it must use conventions until an ordinance is voted on, she said.

The Republican and Democratic parties would be responsible for hosting the conventions, Jackson said.

Johnson County Republican Party chairman Doug Lechner said he has never organized a town convention and is waiting for official notice from the clerk's office to know which towns would require a convention. The process for a convention seems fairly simple, and a chairman would be appointed to organize the event in August, he said.

If candidates in either party are running for a position unopposed, then a convention would not be necessary. Five candidates filed for three open council seats, and two people filed for the clerk-treasurer position.

Candidates who run as independents do not participate in conventions. Their names are automatically put on the ballot in November after they turn in a petition with signatures from registered voters, Jackson said.

### SUPER SCIENCE



Children gather to get a better look at an experiment at the Franklin public library's Super Science program on Monday. Students in Grades 1 through 5 from Franklin schools participated in the program Monday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

### ON THE RECORD

#### Police/fire

##### Johnson County

**Thefts**  
• 600 block of Shady Brook Heights: A man reported that someone stole his vehicle, which he had left running in front of his home.

• 6400 block of West County Road 425S: A man reported that someone stole about 25 gallons of gasoline from his storage tanks Tuesday.

• 80 block of West State Road 44, Franklin: A woman reported that someone stole \$1,500 from her china cabinet between Tuesday and Thursday.

• 4900 block of Silver Springs Court: A woman reported that someone broke her car window and stole her purse between 8 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday.

• 4800 block of Myrtle Lane: A man reported that someone stole items from his vehicle between 9:30 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday.

**Criminal mischief**  
• 3900 block of Honeycreek Boulevard: A man reported that someone toilet papered his trees and spray painted obscenities on his driveway between 8:30 and 10 p.m. Feb. 18.

**Personal-injury accidents**  
• 2:50 p.m. Tuesday — County roads 500N and 225E: Helen Thornton, 59, Indianapolis; Linda Boyce, 42, Greenwood; Joseph Dillman, 52, Terre Haute. Boyce complained of neck pain.

• 7:30 a.m. Wednesday — Hospital Road and Cyclone Street

**Property-damage accidents**  
• 7:47 a.m. Feb. 19 — Forrest Park South Drive and Maple Drive

**Greenwood**

**Shoplifting**  
• Goodwill, 709 U.S. 31 North: A store employee reported that two women left the store with two shopping carts full of merchandise about 8:30 p.m. Friday. The woman loaded the items in a car and left.  
• New York and Company, 1251 U.S. 31 North: A store manager reported about 5:45 p.m. Saturday that a man and woman stole about 40 shirts worth \$1,180.  
• J.C. Penney, 1251 U.S. 31 North: A loss-prevention officer reported at 6 p.m. Saturday that two girls stole underwear from the store. The items were returned, and the girls were released to their parents.

**Thefts**  
• 10 block of Paz Drive: A woman reported at 11:40 a.m. Friday that someone entered her apartment overnight, stole the keys to her 1999 Dodge Durango and took the vehicle. The woman found the door to her apartment open.

• 1100 block of Scarborough Lane: A

man reported that he was robbed at gunpoint about 4:20 a.m. Saturday. The victim said he was walking toward his apartment when a man got out of a vehicle and demanded he give him all of his money. He gave the man his wallet and the man left.

**Property-damage accidents**  
• 7:42 a.m. Friday — Woodman Boulevard and Smith Valley Road  
• 4:40 p.m. Thursday — U.S. 31 and Stop 18 Road  
• 2:06 p.m. Saturday — 1133 N. Emerson Avenue  
• 8:20 p.m. Friday — U.S. 31 and Worthville Road  
• 5:53 p.m. Friday — Smith Valley Road and Polk Street  
• 9:06 p.m. Feb. 18 — U.S. 31 and Declaration

**Jail bookings**  
The following people recently were arrested and booked into the Johnson County jail:

Brian M. Kelly, 31, 5421 Mendenhall Road, Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; released on \$300 bond.

Derick S. Scruggs, 23, 3350 Carpenter Court, Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; released on \$500 bond.

Raphaele Garcia, 35, 2311 E. 11th St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Robert David Lawson, 26, 436 W. Main St., Greenwood; arrested on a charge of contempt; held on \$211.20 bond.

Shirley Ann Pruitt, 69, 1416 Round Lake Road, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of forgery; released on \$8,000 bond.

Allen J. Parks, 43, 345 Granada Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$300 bond.

Mark Dewayne Napier, 23, 1128 Bexley Drive, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$300 bond.

Michael J. Denien, 30, 1204 N. Graham Road, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of violation of community corrections and two charges of bond forfeiture; held without bond.

Jeffrey Wayne Beers, 51, 292 Bittersweet Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on a charge of driving while

suspended; released on \$1,000 bond.

Robert D. Machlan, 34, 8499 Whiteland Road, Martinsville; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$300 bond.

Jerry W. Slevin, 56, 825 Middle Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on a charge of child seduction; released on \$3,000 bond.

Margaret Elizabeth Smith, 39, Kimberly Trail Court Berry Circle Lot 8, Seymour; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Mark E. Webster, 38, 4226 Sycamore Court, Franklin; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Alvin R. Carter, 52, 512 E. McCalin Ave., Scottsburg; arrested on a charge of public intoxication and a Floyd County warrant; held without bond.

Caleb Kirk Vanarsdale, 29, 12686 S. County Road 800W, Columbus; arrested on two warrants for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

The following people recently were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Mark A. Hogue, 35, 710 Waterway Drive, Franklin; released on \$1,000 bond.

Michael Ryan Bright, 25, 150 W. Pearl St., Greenwood; held on \$1,000 bond.

Naresh Kumar, 19, 7309 Bruin Drive, Indianapolis; released on a \$1,000 bond.

Andrew David Norwood, 18, 1612 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood; also arrested on charges of fleeing with a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia and driving without ever receiving a license; held on \$10,000 bond.

### BRIEFS LOCAL

NEW WHITELAND

#### Man charged with seducing 16-year-old

A 56-year-old New Whiteland man persuaded a 16-year-old girl to perform a sexual act with him, police said.

Jerry W. Slevin, 56, 825 Middle Drive, has been charged with child seduction. He was arrested Sunday.

The girl told police the two had committed a sex act at his home in August.

At first, Slevin denied it, according to a police report. But Slevin later told police that he had been talking with the girl about sex and then persuaded her to take part in the act, the report said.

JOHNSON COUNTY

#### Donations, participants needed for relay events

Teams are forming for this year's American Cancer Society Relay For Life events in Franklin and Greenwood.

This year's event will take place May 5 and 6 for Franklin and May 19 and 20 for Greenwood.

The public is invited to attend the events.

To make donations or participate by joining a team, contact Enos Dotson at edotson@mitsubishihicc.net for Franklin or Megan Yturriaga at myturriaga@lutheranfamily.org for Greenwood.

FRANKLIN

#### Cancer society flower orders due Wednesday

Flower orders for The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fund-raiser are due Wednesday.

Flowers are \$10 for a bunch (10 flowers), \$125 for a bunch and a vase, \$25 for the Gift of Hope (daffodils will be delivered to a cancer patient anonymously) and \$500 for a case of 50 bunches.

For an order of \$50 or more, flowers will be delivered to your address. Delivery dates are March 13-16.

Daffodils can be picked up after noon March 14-16 at Coffman Florist and Gifts in Northwood Plaza in Franklin.

Make orders and payments to American Cancer Society, Central Indiana Area Service Center, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Orders can be picked up Monday and Tuesday and delivered to the American Cancer Society office by calling Sue Armor at 738-2355, or e-mailing s.armor428@insightbb.com.

Information: 738-2355

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