

SOUTHSIDE

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ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Franklin

Criminal mischief

• 300 block of First Street: A man reported that someone drove through and damaged his front yard between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday.

• Auntie M's Tea Room, 152 E. Jefferson St.: An owner reported Monday that surveillance video showed several children painting graffiti on the side of his building Friday night. Police planned to review the video.

Personal-injury accidents

• 1:26 p.m. Monday — U.S. 31 and Westview Drive: Richard A. Ledford, 43, Indianapolis; Mignon A. Workman, 63, Franklin. Workman complained of neck pain.

• 11:56 a.m. Monday — U.S. 31 and Commerce Drive: Erma J. Allison, 60, Franklin; Diane A. Cantwell, 37, Franklin. A passenger in Cantwell's vehicle, James F. Cantwell, 5, Franklin, complained of abdominal or pelvic pain.

Property-damage accidents

• 3:27 p.m. Monday — Main Street and Westview Drive

• 11:39 a.m. Monday — 51 E. Monroe St.

Greenwood

Thefts

• Central Nine Career Center, 1999 U.S. 31 South: A student reported that someone stole a CD player and about 400 CDs from his unlocked vehicle between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday.

• Uncle Bill's Pet Center, 870 U.S. 31 North: An employee reported about 1 p.m. Monday that someone broke the lock off a cage and stole a Boston terrier.

• 1000 block of Westminster Row: A woman reported that someone attempted to steal her vehicle Sunday night. A door and the steering column were damaged, and the vehicle no longer started.

Criminal mischief

• 1400 block of Blue Grass Parkway: A man reported that someone threw eggs at his garage door Sunday night.

Property-damage accident

• 8:49 a.m. Monday — U.S. 31 and Village Lane

Jail bookings

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

Victor Alfons Munguia-Suarez, 22, 3438 Ashway Drive, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving without ever receiving a license; held on \$1,000 bond.

Anthony Christopher Hernandez, 27, 914 E. Berwyn St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Lisa L. Eldridge, 39, 700 Johnson Ave., Franklin; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$250 bond.

Dennis J. Fecker, 24, 5114 Shelby St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of possession of paraphernalia; released on \$2,000 bond.

David Lee Wilson, 49, 2545 U.S. 31 South, Franklin; arrested on a charge of driving with a forfeited license; released on \$8,000 bond.

Ronald Lee Robson, 47, 2594 S. St. Paul St., Franklin; arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish and possession of paraphernalia; held on \$4,000 bond.

Steven Alan Sabin, 43, 119 Schoolhouse Road, Franklin; arrested on a charge of contempt; held on \$1,000 bond.

Jacob I. Catt, 24, 1120 N. Paz Drive, Apt. C, Greenwood; arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish, maintaining a common nuisance, possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia; held on \$26,000 bond.

Jedidiah Scott Rockel, 24, 115 S. Post Road, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of visiting a common nuisance; released on \$1,000 bond.

Nicole R. Douglas, 22, 1120 N. Paz Drive, Apt. C, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of maintaining a common nuisance; held on \$6,000 bond.

Roderick B. Case, 33, 1199 Hospital Road, Lot 194, Franklin; arrested on a charge of invasion of privacy; released on \$1,000 bond.

The following person recently was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Richard William Fleener, 26, 1199 Hospital Road, Lot 23, Franklin; released on \$8,000 bond.

Births

Johnson Memorial Hospital

Joshua Powers and Kimberly Phelps, boy born Jan. 9.

Howard and Stephanie Fuller, girl born Jan. 8.

Minutes

Franklin

City council

Monday, the council:

- Voted 7-0 to reappoint Joan Pifer to the police merit commission.
- Unanimously elected William "Ted" Murphy as council president.
- Conducted a public hearing on a proposed \$5,112 tax abatement for Wertz Timber and Veneer.
- Declined to act on a resident's request for an ordinance to remove junk cars parked in front of his home. Council members advised the man to secure a copy of his subdivision's covenant and hire an attorney.

Greenwood

Advisory plan commission

Monday, the commission:

- Approved 9-0 the site development plan for MedTech College near Interstate 65 and Main Street.
- Unanimously approved the secondary plat for CVS at State Road 135 and Smith Valley Road.
- Approved 6-3 the site development plan for CVS, eliminating a right-turn lane onto State Road 135.
- Unanimously approved the primary plat for four lots of commercial space at 3021 Stella Drive.
- Voted 9-0 to allow Village at Honey Creek to reduce the number of planned duplexes from 91 to 83. The duplexes will be replaced with single-family homes.

Johnson County

County council

Monday, the council:

- Approved 6-0 the following appointments: council attorney Phil Wilson; alcoholic beverage commission board member David Pollard; park board member Albert Barr; solid waste board of directors member John Price; Greenwood Public Library board member Michael Crumbo; and planning commission member Steve Hollenbeck.
- Voted 6-0 to raise the salary of the county planning department engineer \$2,500 to be in line with the highway department engineer at \$67,000 per year and to give the department secretary a 3 percent raise, equaling \$675 per year.
- Approved 6-0 spending \$5,000 on maintenance for the county's voting machines; \$5,200 for field technicians; \$5,600 for trainers; \$7,000 on overtime for clerk's office workers and \$1,500 to pay for rental of voting sites.
- Voted 6-0 to spend \$3,500 for overtime in the sheriff's office and to put \$9,900 into the sheriff's salary.
- Approved 6-0 \$81,000 in salaries for three courthouse security officers. The positions were approved last year.

School board

Franklin Community School Corp.

Monday, the board:

- Elected Darren Thompson president, William Maschmeyer vice president, and John Wales secretary.
- Appointed Maschmeyer as the school's representative for Central Nine Career Center with Danny Vaught as an alternative.
- Appointed Steve Millikan as treasurer.
- Appointed Roger Young as the school's legal counsel.
- Voted 5-0 to keep board member salaries at \$2,000 per year.

\$12M hotel to be built in Greenwood

Site to include conference center

By Candace Beatty

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An extended-stay hotel and conference center is expected to open on the north side of Greenwood late this year.

The \$12 million project includes an 83-room Candlewood Suites and a conference center that can hold more than 1,400 people, ASMA Hospitality partner Syed Ali said.

ASMA Hospitality in Greenwood will own the hotel.

Located at County Line and Graham roads, the conference center and three-story hotel with interior entrances to the rooms is slated to open in December, Ali said.

The project's conference center with two ballrooms will hold up to 1,200 people, Ali said. The ballrooms can be configured for smaller groups.

A meeting room on the second floor will include wireless Internet, video conferencing equipment and a screen to project PowerPoint presentations, he said. The room will have a capacity of 250 people, he said.

The hotel and conference center will be next to each other but not connected, he said.

The group chose to build in Greenwood because it is a growing area, he said.

ASMA Hospitality moved forward with the project after they were told the area needed conference facilities.

In 2005, a Greenwood Chamber of Commerce committee determined a hotel with multipurpose facilities would be an ideal business to bring to the city.

A feasibility study for the hotel and conference center also showed the center would be needed, Ali said.

Ali, who lived in Greenwood for 12 years, said he plans to move back to the city from Martinsville. The other partners already live in Greenwood, and they

wanted to keep the business close to home, he said.

Ali also owns a Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites in Martinsville.

Candlewood Suites and Holiday Inn Express are franchises of InterContinental Hotel Group.

Construction can start after the group receives two more approvals from the city and building permits, Greenwood city planning director Ed Ferguson said.

ASMA Hospitality purchased eight acres of land for the project in 2006.

The land was part of a 100-acre property that is zoned for commercial use. No other businesses are planned for the land yet.

Franklin officials to seek beautification grant

By Joseph S. Pete

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Franklin officials want to see new sidewalks stretching through a tree-shaded downtown. The city council wants to have new curbs, benches, antique-style lights and faux wrought-iron trash receptacles on corners, as a step in an ongoing revitalization campaign.

The council members also want the state to pay for most of it.

The planning department will soon apply for a grant that would finance a downtown makeover. On Monday, the city council unanimously approved a commitment of \$75,000 in matching funds toward a downtown revitalization grant application.

No funds were appropriated or

set aside. Planners are reapplying for the money after the city was turned down last year.

Franklin won't spend a dime unless the state awards it a \$675,000 grant toward downtown improvements in May. The \$75,000 the city pledged amounts to 90 percent of what it must spend toward improvements if the grant is approved.

The city adopted a downtown revitalization initiative in 2005. Making the downtown more attractive ranks as one of the initiative's highest priorities.

Credit can be claimed toward the toward the promised amount of \$75,000, including a city planner's salary and some private investment toward downtown beautification.

The Johnson County Council has scheduled a hearing to consider a city request to contribute

money toward the grant.

City planner Krista Linke also will solicit donations from business owners and community groups.

The county council may also pledge matching funds toward the grant to improve the area around the courthouse.

The city must pay for 10 percent of the total cost of any improvements to the downtown.

The grant's criteria restrict the money to use along a short stretch of Jefferson Street near the courthouse square. State officials monitor progress for the consideration of future grants.

But the new tree seedlings may sprout along Jefferson Street anytime soon. The grant is far from a given, Linke warned the council.

Many cities and towns across

Indiana compete for the money, awarded in four phases every year by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The state agency hands out federal dollars that can be used for a wide array of projects, downtown revitalization among them.

The council will consider the matter during its Feb. 15 meeting.

If awarded a grant, the city would have 18 months to spend the money. Anything unspent then would be withdrawn.

Any construction projects funded with the grant money would have to be completed quickly, several council members noted.

City officials continue to seek ways to lure commerce and people back downtown, rather than along U.S. 31 and near Interstate 65.

BRIEFS LOCAL

GREENWOOD

Indiana author to visit Greenwood library Jan. 20

The Greenwood Public Library will celebrate its 90th anniversary with special events throughout this year.

January kicks off our "Celebrating Greenwood" year with a special visit by Philip Gulley, a nationally recognized Indiana author, at 10 a.m. Jan. 20.

Tickets are \$15 for members of the Friends of the Greenwood Public Library and \$20 for non-members. They can be purchased at the adult reference desk. For more information go to www.greenwood.lib.in.us or call 881-1953.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Book buffet registration sign ups end Feb. 1

The Johnson County Public Library will provide a "Book Buffet for All You Can Read" during February.

The free event is for all ages. Registration is at one of four library locations: Franklin, White River, Clark Pleasant and Trafalgar branches.

Read for 15 minutes a day, or visit the library four times during the month of February. Readers will receive prizes and be treated to a Winter Reading Party at their nearest Johnson County Public Library branch.

Registration begins Feb. 1. Parties will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at Trafalgar; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at White River; 4 to 5 p.m. at Franklin, all on March 1, and 3:30 to 6 p.m. March 2 at Clark Pleasant branch.



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