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TheSouthsiderVoice

The Voice of the Southside

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Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Vol. 9, No. 43

This publication is

"You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his

birth.'

our advertisers.

Luke 1:14



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Holiday Hours

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, Dec. 25, through

Tuesday, Jan. 2, to enjoy time with our families. Ads for the Dec. 27 edition will be accepted via email at

ads@southsidervoice.com until 5 p.m. Friday.

News can be emailed to news@southsidervoice.com

A PAPER WILL BE **PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY,**



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Winter wonderland

By B. Scott Mohr

here are Christmas decorations, and then there are Christmas decorations The latter applies to the winter wonderland that Cathy and Billy Garrigus have created around their home at the northeast corner of Meridian Street and Edgewood Avenue.

Their yard is a showplace of thousands of multicolored lights, illuminated candy canes, a Nativity scene and about 30 inflatables, including a giant teddy bear, Santa in an airplane, snowmen and others too numerous to mention.

Their driveway is covered by a beautiful archway of lights, and a 12-foot working Ferris wheel sits west of the drive. Both are new additions this year.

"Billy made the archway and the eight-seat Ferris wheel, and a stuffed animal sits in each seat. You can't have any empty seats on a Ferris wheel," laughed Cathy, who hails from West Virginia.

'Billy keeps asking me, 'When is enough enough?' And I keep telling him when I get my yard full, and it ain't full yet. I still have to fill up the west side of the house. We have plenty of room to expand!

We are already planning for next year. Billy is going to make me a carousel.' The Garriguses put in six or

seven hours a day for 12 days to set up their decorations. "We do it

See "Wonderland," Page 4



SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY B. SCOTT MOHR AND NATHAN PACE Cathy and Billy Garrigus are seen under the archway that spans their driveway.



Santa uses an airplane when there isn't enough snow for his



Let's hope that Dasher's friends are lousy shots in this reindeer game.







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Perry Perspectives

Perry Township Schools

Santas, menorahs, snowmen, twinkling lights. The signs of the season are everywhere. However, the signs that mean the most are the gestures of generosity from all around the district.

Perry Township Schools believes that its responsibility is not only to empower student success but also to encourage civic leadership. This time of year, especially, brings out the kindhearted nature of our school community, which helps people within our township and elsewhere.

The district is excited that all of its schools will participate in Goodwill's Youth Township drive next month. Students, parents and friends of our schools are encouraged to donate at least two 13-gallon bags or copier boxes filled with clothes, books, toys, electronics and other goods to Goodwill stores.

For every 13 gallons donated, the school district will receive a \$5 voucher that can be given to families in need. This annual drive is a win-win for our families and Goodwill, whose collection and sales of donations employs 2,000 people who have limited job options.

From our small corner of the world, 145 students and staff at Southport Middle packed 32,000 meals made of rice, soy, spices and vitamins. The project supports Pack Away Hunger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and others who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. The school also raised \$8,350 through jeans days, which allowed students and staff to wear denim

At James Whitcomb Riley School, students and staff collected food to benefit Hunger Inc. Students who donated the most items were able to tour the facility and learn how 10,000 pounds of food is distributed to approximately 350 families in Perry Township and Beech Grove every month.

Southport Elementary student Shyla Warman took it upon herself to bring happiness to children this holiday season. After losing her father on Christmas Eve 2016, her holidays were overtaken by sadness.

This year she decided to spread joy throughout the community by collecting toys for children at Especially Kids, a physical rehabilitation center in Shelbyville, where her friend is a patient. Kids Go Round Toys in Plainfield heard about her story and offered to give Shyla 20 percent off her toy purchase. The store also donated \$200 to her mother, who works two jobs to provide for her children

Homecroft Elementary's Project Perfect Gentleman and GIRLS Club helped the less fortunate by going on a shopping spree at Walmart. Nearly 50 students – accompanied by 17 staff members – purchased \$850 in gifts for 15 children whose families are in need.

Similarly, students at Perry Meridian Middle raised money through a friendly competition to provide Christmas gifts for four families.

It is never too early to learn about giving. Preschoolers in Alisha Savage's class at Jeremiah Gray collected 13 pairs of pajamas and

made Christmas cards for hospitalized children. These examples represent a small fraction of the ways in which our community is giving back. No gesture is ever too small. It's important to remember the saying, "Do what you can, with what you

all on our own," said Cathy, 60. "I can do the blowups by myself, but Billy has to put the lights on the roof and in the trees," she said. "We have a small fortune in extension cords.'

And the couple take pride in their work. They just don't set the inflatables out, turn on the blowers and walk away. They examine their display from across the street to ensure that none of their blowups are blocking others and that everything looks good.

'It brings us a lot of joy when children scream out of school bus windows that they love our decorations," Cathy said. "What better gratification is there than knowing that we make people happy.

"We get all kinds of tokens of appreciation, including gift

In what has become a tradition for the couple, they "flip their switch" the Saturday after Thanksgiving. On nice evenings they dress as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and pass out candy canes to visitors, which are plentiful. Albert Drive, which abuts their property to the east, is often bumper to bumper with cars come nightfall.

While the inflatables are on 24/7, the lights are on dusk-todawn timers. Surprisingly, their electric bill only jumps \$150 for the Christmas season.

"We do cut the power to the inflatables when it's going to get windy," she said. "The wind just beats them up, as was the case last week. I didn't realize it was that windy until my husband called me. We had to repair a few of them, and the motor was pulled off one. They can handle a little snow and light rain but no freezing rain."

Cathy estimates that they have invested between \$5,000 and \$6,000 in their display. They spent \$800 on lights last year. "But I always get my stuff after Christmas, when it's half-price."

The couple's winter wonderland will come down a couple of days after Christmas. "It's hard to believe, but the yard will be empty by New Year's Day," she said. The only thing that will hamper their progress is rain or snow. "The inflatables have to be put away when they are dry or else they will mold. And if you think the Garriguses – parents of Heather and grandparents of Curtis – go all out for Christmas, then drive past their house around Halloween. Their "spooktacular" display features more than 50 inflatables, moving monsters and many lights.

"If the kids are too scared to come up to the door to get their

my job," laughed Cathy, who is retired from the Diamond Chain Co. Billy, 54, worked there 24 vears before gaining employment at Techsite in Carmel.

When several Halloween monsters were stolen a few years ago, the couple installed security cameras around their yard.

Believe it or not, the Garriguses are able to store all their decorations in their big garage, two mini-barns and a lean-to.

"It's a lot of work but we love it, and we love Christmas and Halloween," Cathy said. I'm going to keep doing this for as long as the good Lord lets me.'





Billy Garrigus built this Ferris wheel.



A giant teddy bear.



Santa's reindeer will be corralled until Christmas eve MERRY CAROLERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

For the 15th consecutive year, Roncalli students, teachers and administrators brought Christmas cheer to residents of three local retirement homes with their caroling. It was hard to tell who enjoyed the singing the most - the senior

citizens or the Roncalli contingency.





Flex Spending Reminder

Most flex spending dollars expire on Dec. 31. Don't lose your contribution! Make an appointment for your eye exam before the end of the year.

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Dancers presented Christmas classic



Featuring more than 85 dancers, the preschool and ballet departments of The Dance Company presented "The Nutcracker" on Sunday at Franklin Central High School, where the performers kept the audience captivated.

The dancers included (from left) Brittany Rogers, Abby Jones, Mag-





Christmas Dinner at Boys & Girls Club

Keenan-Stahl Boys & Girls Club, 1949 E. Troy Ave., will host its annual Christmas dinner from 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday. The event is free and open to everyone, and all children will get a gift from Santa Claus.

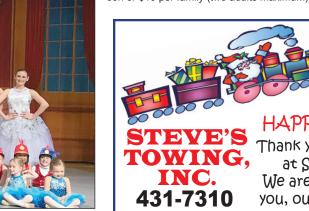
Christmas Service for the Despondent St. John's United Church of Christ, corner of U.S. 31 and Southport Road, will hold its annual "blue" Christmas service at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. The worship is designed for those who find it difficult to be in the Yuletide spirit because of an illness, unemployment, grief or loneliness. The service provides a spiritual vehicle to recognize one's sadness, which Pastor Ross Tyler says is a rare opportunity in a season when joy seems almost socially mandated.

Garfield Conservatory Is a Winter Wonderland All things are toasty and cheery at the Garfield Park Conserva-

tory, 2450 Shelby St., where the tropical paradise houses Conservatory Crossing, a winter wonderland that features hundreds of showy poinsettias, running model trains and villages. As darkness falls, the conservatory is illuminated with thousands of twinkling lights

The exhibit, running through Dec. 31 (closed Dec. 24 and 25), may be viewed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, with extended hours until 8 p.m. Dec. 21-23. Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family (two adults maximum).













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PRESENTS FOR THE NEEDY

SUBMITTED PHOTO St. Roch seventh-grader Sophia Andrews helps sort the 3,000 Christmas gifts that were collected for the needy through the parish's Giving Tree. The program started out with just 250 tags on the tree in the late 1970s and has grown tenfold.

The Rev. James Wilmoth, pastor of the parish, extended a warm thanks to everyone who contributed this year





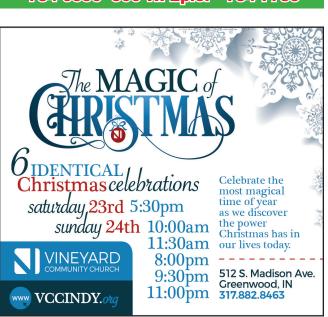




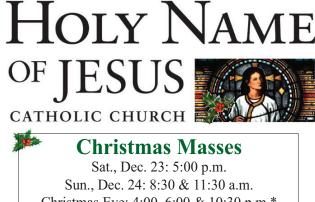












Christmas Eve: 4:00, 6:00 & 10:30 p.m.* (*Formerly Midnight Mass, music begins at 10 p.m.) Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.

89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove

Christmas Eve Mass Times

4:00 pm - Children's Mass in Church 4:00 pm - Youth Mass in Gubbio gym 6:30 pm - Family Mass **10:30 - Mass at Night**

> **Christmas Day Mass Time** 10:00 am Mass

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Roman Catholic Church



The **beauty** of Christmas

A Homecroft Christmas tradition

By **Tabatha Fitzgerald** Southport High School intern

A new tradition was born about seven years ago at the corner of Madison Avenue and Banta Road. That's when Donna Snead-Shelton started putting up Christmas decorations at the home of her mother, Helen Snead

Snead-Shelton was inspired to start decorating her mother's yard with not only lights but also figurines because it's big and sits on a main road.

Everything in the yard is illuminated ... from gutters to windows to bushes. The decorations range from candy canes to Christmas trees

and reindeer Since the house sits on a main road, people stop by to tell them

that they enjoy driving by and seeing the lights.

There are too many lights to count, and it takes three to four days to set up everything, and this does not include the time that it takes to



SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY TABATHA FITZGERALD Santa wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.



No Christmas tree is complete without a star.

Steve Cambridge

The family will spend at least one day ensuring that the lights still work. If they don't, the Sneads will take a trip to Menards to buy new ones, along with purchasing lights that they think will look good in the

There are so many lights on Snead's roof that there are plug-ins on

"It's a job," Snead-Shelton said. But if the weather's nice, putting them up is pretty fun.



This reindeer is set up on Helen Snead's back porch so she can see it when doing dishes







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In Memoriams The tradition of Christmas

Have a doughnut with Santa



PHOTOS BY NEW EXPRESSIONS BY BEV A bashful Brantley Lawson said he didn't have to tell Santa his secret Christmas wishes.

"He knows what they are." he told his grandfather. Chris Truran.



Tyler and Jaxon Hunt were eager to have their picture taken with the jolly,



Santa's granddaughter, elf Elizabeth, lends a helping hand whenever

By B. Scott Mohr Editor

If your little ones haven't had the chance to tell Santa what they want for Christmas, there's still time to do so before the jolly, bearded gent departs to the North Pole to load his sleigh and round up his reindeer, including Rudolph.

Santa will be on double duty Saturday at Southern Plaza, 4200 S. East St., where he will attend a doughnut party in his honor from 9-11 a.m. at the festively decorated Oak Street Health before heading to his house around the corner to visit with children until 5 p.m.

Donuts With Santa, which is sponsored by the shopping center's merchants - particularly Oak Street Health and Kroger – will also feature Christmas carols, hot chocolate and coloring contests for children age 5 and under and adults 55 and older. The children will serve as judges for the adults' work and

A photographer won't be on hand at the health center, but everyone is welcome to take selfies with Santa.

Every child who visits Santa at his house, where leashed pets are welcome, will receive a free photograph. Photos by Expressions by Bev in various packages will be available.

tenance supervisor for Tri-Land Properties, which owns the plaza, is the driving force behind Santa's annual visit.

visiting Santa at the center as a child, said he wants that same opportunity to be available to all area children.



Mya (left) and Lexie Frey tell Santa what they want for Christ-

Chris Truran, regional main-

Truran, who fondly recalls



In loving memory of WAYMAN E. DYE 6/5/42 – 5/4/10 MERRY CHRISTMAS **SWEETHEART** I'll remember you forever, each

and every day. Time and space and years will pass, yet your memory will always stay. Deeply bound within my heart ..

Love you

forever, your loving wife, Dessie, children, Ricky, Donna, Nick, Jimmy, Jackie & grandchildren

In loving memory of TAMMY L. HOLSCLAW 7/3/72 - 3/6/04

This is our 14th Christmas without you, missing and loving you every day of all the years. We will see

you in heaven on that glorious day because of what John 3:16 said. We miss you and

Mom, Jim, Bradley, Dakota, Hunter, Margaret and Dad In loving memory of, LaDONNA DANIEL and KEISHA LADONNA



Christmas to my two angels. Love you Dickie

Merry

LaDONNA DANIEL 12/26/67 - 6/11/12



Happy Birthday my beautiful angel. Always on my mind and forever in my heart.

Dickie

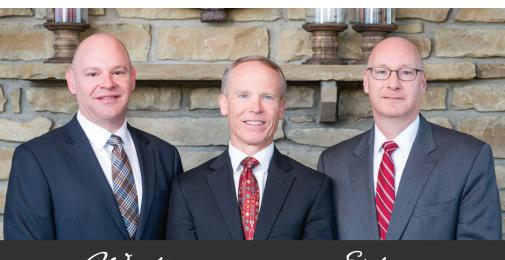
In loving memory of PAULA JANE (ALDRICH) HOLSCLAW 2/13/31 - 6/9/16



Thinking of you on our second Christmas without you. We love and miss you! You will always be

in our hearts! We will see you in Heaven. Love, Husband, Kenny, children, Kenny, Jr., Peggy, Mike, Kathy, Ronnie, David, Suzi, 12 grandchildren

& 25 great-grandchildren.



Wishing you peace & hope this Christmas and always



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