

“IF WE CANNOT RECONCILE ALL OPINIONS, LET US ENDEAVOR TO UNITE ALL HEARTS.”

## NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) November 2019

### NOVEMBER IS ELECTION TIME IN NEW HARMONY! REVISED

by: *Dan Barton*

Here is a list of who's listed as running for Town Council seats this November:

Roger Wade (R)  
Virginia Alsop (D)  
Gary Watson (R)  
Tom Williams (D)  
Dan Mason (D)  
David Campbell (R)  
David Flanders (D)  
Alvin Blaylock (R)  
Rodney Clark (R)  
Karla Atkins (I) Town Clerk/Treasurer

### ELECTION NEWS AND RUMORS! DAN MASON PULLS OUT OF ELECTION!

Dan Mason has officially requested to withdraw from the November election. This has been confirmed with the local Election Board. However, the Board cannot remove him from the list of those who are running and he is still eligible to be elected. It seems that his request was too late. Dan emailed the New Harmony Gazette and stated, “I’ve been offered, and have accepted the role of Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony. I’m excited and honored to build on and continue this amazing mission. With that said, I’ve decided to withdraw my name from the 2019 ballot for Town Council...I’ve spoken with the Posey County election office to see if I can be removed...I’m awaiting confirmation.”

According to the Election Board, if Dan Mason is elected, he can then resign his office and the Democratic Party will appoint someone to take his place for the four year term.

### JUDGE GOEDDE LETS CAREER METH DEALER OFF LIGHT!

by: *Dan Barton*  
November 2019

Matthew Creek is a lifelong felon! A

habitual criminal. In January of 2019, he was caught up in the 38 person drug sweep that Federal, State and local Mt. Vernon police conducted in the town of Mt. Vernon. On Thursday, October 10, he was sentenced in Posey County Circuit Court by Judge Craig Goedde to a maximum of 12 years in jail. He will never see it!

I could have titled this column, “When does 12 years equal 12 months!” Answer: “When you’re a career meth dealer being sentenced for selling meth in Posey County!” Although, it may have sounded like Goedde was sentencing Creek to 12 years, in reality he was really saying, “Twelve to eighteen months.” Goedde specifically ordered Creek to be sentenced to “Purposeful Confinement.”

Purposeful Confinement is a vague term to most of us, and a search through the Indiana Criminal Code came up empty on its definition. However, in general, this is a much used sentencing method by Posey County Judges which allows criminals, in this case Matthew Creek, the opportunity to be released from prison after completing a drug treatment program that typically requires 12 to 18 months to finish. (Something that Creek already went through and completed with no positive beneficial effect in 2013.)

The problem with this picture is that Creek was not arrested for using meth, or being an unfortunate meth addict, but for distributing it. For selling this poison on the street. There is no treatment program for drug dealers, that I know of, other than hard time, for a long time.

Creek faced from 3 to 16 years in prison after being arrested on a level 3 felony charge. However with an “Advisory Sentence” available to the judge starting at 9 years, which the judge can sentence the felon to more or less time, depending on aggravating or mitigating circumstances, Goedde decided to order “Purposeful Incarceration”, a slap on the wrist, out in a few months.

After reviewing all of Indiana’s list of mitigating circumstances, none were found that would have statutorily reduced the sentence to be handed out to Creek. But, there was one very prominent aggravating

circumstance on the list that fit Creek to a “T” ; a history of criminal behavior. That should have qualified him for the Max! Apparently, that was completely ignored by Judge Goedde.

Matthew Creek has a history of criminal behavior, on record, going back to 2010, when he was 21 years old. Most recently, his arrest on April 26, 2019 for dealing meth, a Level 3 felony. He also admitted participating in another meth deal in Posey County on November 14, 2018. In 2013 he was also arrested for dealing meth, Class B felony. Creek has been convicted of possession of a controlled substance, Class A misdemeanor in 2018; Domestic Battery, Level 6 felony, in 2017; Counterfeiting, Level 6 felony, in 2017; Theft, Class D felony, and Possession of Precursors (Chemical Compounds) with intent to manufacture a Controlled Substance, Class D felony, in 2012; Theft, Class A misdemeanor, in 2012; Conversion (Converting another’s property to his own use.) Class A misdemeanor, in 2010; and Criminal Trespass, Class A misdemeanor, in 2010.

When he was a candidate for Circuit Court Judge, Craig Goedde spoke before the New Harmony Kiwanis Club on April 30, 2018. He openly admitted that he had no prosecutorial experience as a practicing attorney, and very little defense, with no jury trial exposure. “Eighty percent of what I do is, what I call, fits under a family law umbrella,” he said. It shows.

The reason, Goedde said, that he wanted to become a judge was so that he would not have to argue just one side of an issue, prosecution or defense, but to be able to see both sides and, “Then be able to make a decision that is going to effect somebody. And hopefully will effect them in a positive way.” That is a good approach when you are dealing with a low level first or second time offender, or a husband and wife dispute, but not in this case; not in a high level felony with a habitual felon.

Has Judge Goedde lost touch with reality? He is not looking at the public side of this issue; not looking at the police side of the issue, and not looking at victim’s side of the crime; not of the addict, condemned to death, and not of those citizens who have

become subsidiary victims of this criminal, Creek's, drug dealing.

Craig Goedde had much more to say on April 30, 2018 about working things out with convicted criminals, but none of it should apply in this case. He seems to think that he is sitting in Family Court, and maybe he should be. This world that he's in now is over his head. Sometimes, most times, getting these predators off of our streets for a very long time is the best and only approach.

This criminal, Matthew Creek, should be in prison for as long as the law will allow. There's nothing to work out! Maybe these "Go Light Judges" is the reason that Indiana is one of the top meth use States in the nation, and Posey County is the top meth use county in the State of Indiana.

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### NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL HI-LITES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING!

*by: Dan Barton, publisher*

\* FORMER SCHOOL PROPERTY SOLD: Council president Alvin Blaylock announced that the former New Harmony School property is officially sold. The deal was signed and the keys to the building were turned over to the new owner, who has taken full responsibility of the property. It is now in the name of "Indian Mounds East, LLC." It is Erik Arneberg's company that bought the school. The former school property, 56 thousand square feet and 31 acres was sold for a total of \$125 thousand dollars.

\*HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES: An agreement has been made with Posey County Solid Waste for household batteries to be accepted at the New Harmony Town Garage on Tavern Street. A recycling bucket will be outside their building on the south side.

\*APPROPRIATION FOR STREET REPAVING: The New Harmony Town Council approved an appropriation to pay for street improvements through The INDOT Community Crossings Grant program. This Grant totaled \$160,980, with New Harmony's portion being \$40,247. The split on the grant is 75% INDOT and 25% New Harmony Town funds. This will give us a total of 5.6 miles of roads repaved out of a total of 7.5 miles of roadway in New Harmony.

\*POLICE CAMERAS: Alvin Blaylock stated that Town Marshal Straub has done some investigative work on some cameras that can be placed around town at different

locations. They're moveable. Marshal Straub explained that essentially they are security cameras and that they run off of batteries. The name of the camera is Vosker. The pictures and videos can be sent to his cell phone. Blaylock indicated that he thought it would be a good idea. Especially, since you can look at them on a cell phone and see what's going on. The cost is \$599.99 per camera and a \$20 per month fee per unit to the company. Blaylock asked for a motion to initially request two of these cameras the see what they're like.

Councilman Flanders wanted to know if the cameras would be able to detect a car going through a stop sign, not stopping for a stop sign. The Marshal said that he would get a photo and then a video sent to his cell phone. He indicated that if he got enough pictures together on one car they would stop that car once seeing it, and then issue a citation based on the pictures.

Flanders wanted to know if the camera distinguished a single car in the video and a single picture of a car stopped at a stop sign. Marshal Straub was not sure exactly how it would work and would have to look into it.

Councilman Flanders, further, wanted to know what the Town's policy for the retention of all of the photographs would be. He asked Straub if he had a suggestion about what the Town would do with all of the photographs that are collected, saying, "Undoubtedly you will be doing pictures on a daily basis; would you then at some point delete everything? Marshal Straub answered that he was not sure.

Council president Blaylock indicated that the video could be set for 10, 30, 60 or 90 seconds. That it also takes a still picture before recording.

The motion to purchase two of the Vosker cameras passed 4-1, with David Flanders voting "no".

I contacted Councilman Flanders and asked him why he decided to vote "no" on this measure. He said, "I voted against the purchase because the Marshal did not, or apparently considered having or recommending to the Council, a retention policy on how long photos would be kept or how quickly those not showing suspicious or possible criminal behavior would be deleted. He was also vague on how they would be used or where they would be mounted."

\*ELECTION DAY: Voting will be held at the Catholic Community Center on November 5th for candidates running for Town Council offices.

\*RIVER VIEWING BENCHES ALONG THE RIVER FRONT GOLF CART TRAIL REMOVED: The following is an extract of comments made by New Harmony Council President, Alvin Blaylock, regarding the removal of two of the three existing benches along the river cart trail:

Blaylock: I don't remember the exact date. Sometime in August. The lady who used to work for K. Don Schultz came into Town Hall requesting, through his daughters, that the benches up on the west end of the river trail be moved to somewhere more accessible, downtown. I told Betty that if she would get with the family and they would make a written request, and maybe ask them to pinpoint where they would like to put the benches, that we would do everything possible to do that. The location they came up with is right here beside Town Hall. We will remove those two benches from up on the river so people could use them. ( As of this writing, those benches have been moved.) The letter from Tara Markham stated as follows:

August 30, 2019  
From Tara Markham  
To: Karla:

My sister Gretchen and I are in agreement with having our father's bench moved from the river trail to uptown. If you need anything further from me, I can be reached at this email address or on my cell phone. Thank you, Tara

Blaylock: So the request is made and I think they would really like to see them moved down here, where they can be utilized and seen by more people.

Flanders: We're just moving a single bench?

Blaylock: There's two. At one time there were two benches with "K.Don from CNN." Evidently one of them washed away, was demolished by one of the high rivers. There's three benches up there now. One with "K.Don" and one that was put in by Dr. George Rapp. The other one is unmarked. I thought we might move the one that's unmarked up here also. Betty said she would get another plaque and put on it in K.Don's memory. Council passed this motion.

Blaylock: To take this a step further. I did call Dr. George Rapp to ask if he is interested in moving the bench that he put up and he has not gotten back to me. So that bench will not be touched until there is a request

made by Dr. Rapp.

This motion passed.

\*CANDLE BALLOONS OVER NEW HARMONY: Chris Laughbaum expressed her concern about the Red Geranium allowing wedding parties to let off candle lighted balloons. She found one had deflated as far away as her office at Steammill and First Street, into the parking lot where she works. She was concerned because of how dry it's been. They set them off with a flame inside and they float off across town in the air, dropping just anywhere. She has seen several that have dropped into yards. They could also drop onto houses or into trees and start fires. Sue Krozel said that she found one of the burnt out balloons in her backyard. She stated, "It was all charred inside!" She said that there was also one in a tree on her property. Council president Blaylock said that he would discuss this situation with Red Geranium Management right after the Council meeting.

\* PUBLISHER'S NOTE ON RIVER TRAIL FUND: It was related to the New Harmony Gazette that Mr. Blaylock has purportedly stated to citizens that there is not enough money in the River Front Cart Trail Fund to maintain the trail. Also, that there are not enough carts in town to provide enough money, at \$25 per cart, to do the appropriate maintenance. According to the most recent Fund Statement, the Cart Trail has over \$27 thousand dollars in it's balance. With an estimated 325 carts in New Harmony, the Town should be collecting at least \$6,250 per year in cart fees. In the three and a half years that Mr. Blaylock has been in office he has spent less than \$2,000 from the fund on trail upkeep and repair. An estimate of over \$20 thousand dollars in cart fees have been collected in that time period seems about accurate. This might indicate why there is such a large balance in that Fund. Maybe Mr. Blaylock just doesn't like the Cart Trail idea or doesn't see the value that it has toward tourism in New Harmony? Neglecting the Trail maintenance has nothing to do with his prior Alvanisms, too much rain or a shortfall in the Fund balance; that's for sure.

\*CART PROHIBITION SIGNS FOR CHURCH STREET: In August, Councilwoman Virginia Alsop attempted to introduce the idea of placing signs along Church Street, advising Golf Cart operators that they are prohibited by law from using Church Street as a thoroughfare. She was

unable to get the motion passed.

Well, in September she was back to try again. This time successfully. Councilwoman Alsop displayed a golf cart prohibition sign that was eight inches by ten inches in size, that advised cart operators not use Church Street, or be subject to an unspecified fine. There will be 17 signs, three of which will be set in concrete or asphalt. They will be shorter than standard stop signs. The price will be \$116 per sign and \$10 for each post. Motion passed.

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**THE NEW HARMONY BRIDGE  
AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS MADE  
IN ILLINOIS!**  
*by: Dan Barton*

This is an excerpt of an article written by Nicole Behnke-Bullock of the Carmi Navigator on September 11, 2019:

The State of Illinois now has representation regarding the Harmony Way Bridge.

The New Harmony Bridge Authority has finally been established in Illinois following Governor J.B. Pritzker's appointing three individuals to serve on the authority. The body of Illinois appointees, which also includes an appointment by the White County Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of Phillipstown, Ill., will merge with their Indiana counterpart, The New Harmony and Wabash River Commission, to take over ownership of the Harmony Way Bridge.

Michael "Spud" Egbert was the first listed choice of the governor appointees to serve on the authority. For the past 23 years Egbert has served as the treasurer of the White County Bridge Commission, which has assumed ownership of the bridge, and has been heavily involved in all matters pertaining to the New Harmony Bridge, which connects White County To Posey County, Indiana, at New Harmony.

Ellen Schanzle-Haskins has also been selected for the Bridge Authority. Schanzle-Haskins has a background in law, which includes 44 years as an attorney with 19 of those years as a prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney and the Illinois Attorney General. She was involved in the reconstruction and reopening of the McKinley Bridge and the East St. Louis, Martin Luther King Bridge, as well as the Stan Musial Veteran's Memorial Bridge on I-70.

Sara Brown rounds out the appointments from Pritzker. Brown, who resides in Carmi, has served as the manager of the Historic

New Harmony program at the University of Southern Indiana for six years, and owns Sara's Harmony Way coffee shop in New Harmony.

The last two remaining members are Linda Henning and Clint Spencer, who were selected as appointments of the Village of Phillipstown and White County respectively, back in August.

With the five member seats filled, the bridge authority can get underway with their proposals for the bridge, along with meeting the members of the New Harmony and Wabash River Commission in New Harmony, Indiana.

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**AMERICAN LEGION POST OF NEW  
HARMONY ANNOUNCES NEW  
LEADERSHIP!**

*by: Dan Barton, publisher*

The New Harmony American Legion, Post 370, now has a new Commander and a new Business Manager.

The new Commander's name is Tommy Simmons and the new Business Manager is Tammy Lkye. The previous Commander and manager stepped down on August 20, 2019.

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**MUTTERINGS!**  
*by: Ann Rains*

An article in the September/October 2019 issue of Discover magazine set me to muttering. "The Energy Scavengers" starts off with a big headline: "Everyday static electricity may be the world's most plentiful source of renewable, sustainable power." How many of you have been shocked in the winter when touching a doorknob after walking across a carpet? We have all experienced a shock from static electricity, so we know it exists. So why was I muttering?

It sounded like a great idea, but as I read the article my mind conjured up the added space it would take in our oceans. "...a grid of 1,000 spheres, floating freely in the ocean should generate enough power for a standard lightbulb. A grid measuring about a third of a square mile could power a small town."

Could these grids which would take up huge areas of space upon the ocean surface and dropping down far into the depths withstand the new climate challenges of riptides and rough oceans as presented by Dorian? How long would it take for ocean life such as barnacles and algae to attach itself to the spheres and hinder their

performance?

Why can't smart people use their thinking skills to make what works, work better?

It is an unequivocal reality that the future holds great energy challenges. As coal power plants become obsolete other energy forms are being introduced. Wind power comes to mind. It gobbles up large tracts of land—farm land needed for the growth of food. The turbines emit a whoop, whoop, whoop noise. It is a death trap for birds. There are huge repair costs if a tornado warps or breaks turbine blades. How would this effect your energy bill cost from wind power? What will happen to these huge wind farms when they become useless? Will they be another ugly scar on the horizon left by humans? Mutter, mutter.

I believe that our best source of renewable, sustainable power is the sun. In California, "any new home constructed after 2020 will have to be at least partially solar powered." That is a great idea.

Here is what Indiana offers for people going solar taken from the Indiana Solar Incentives webpage:

Indiana laws help you go solar  
Net metering in Indiana

Solar energy systems under 1 megawatt (MW) in size are eligible to participate in net metering, which allows you to send your extra electricity back into the grid and get credits on your electric bill. When your panels aren't producing all the electricity you need, you can use your credits instead of having to pay for electricity from your utility.

Solar easement laws

Like many other states, Indiana has solar easement and rights laws that help you work with your neighbors to make sure your solar installation isn't covered by shade.

THE  
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Dan Barton  
*Publisher*

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New Harmony, IN 47631

**Contributing Writers**

*Dan Barton*  
*Ann Rains*  
*Denise Rapp*

Additionally, these laws prevent planning and zoning authorities from blocking your home solar panel installation.

Indiana tax benefits for solar

Check out the most significant incentives that will sweeten the deal for solar in Indiana:

Renewable energy property tax exemption

For any new solar PV system in Indiana, the assessed value of the system is exempt from your property taxes. That means that, even though your solar installation adds value to your property, the added value can't be counted when property is being assessed for taxes. Thanks to the Indiana renewable energy property tax exemption, you don't have to worry about your solar system adding to your tax load.

Federal solar tax credit (ITC)

One of the best incentives available to solar shoppers in Indiana is the federal solar tax credit, also referred to as the Investment Tax Credit. The ITC deducts 30 percent of the cost of your solar energy system from your taxes, which means big savings for solar shoppers.

Most of us purchase new or, at least, newer used vehicles every few years out of necessity. Alternative forms of energy appear to be close to being a necessity, too. And, like a vehicle, solar energy pays for itself in the long run — less than ten years. I guess I will mutter no more and instead think about how I might go about acquiring solar energy—other than the passive kind.

planetprayers@gmail.com

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**NOVEMBER GAZETTE RECIPE  
BUTTERMILK BISCUITS**

*by: Denise Rapp*

I love when I have discretionary time and I can walk through the grocery store and admire all of its contents. While browsing the other day, I came across a hot chili spiked honey! What...?

I had to purchase this exotic find and now I'm inspired!

From the second I brought the honey home, all I can think about is drizzling it all over hot buttery biscuits.

Do not be intimidated by making your own homemade biscuits. It's so easy and worth the little bit of work. A canned biscuit can't hold a candle to these little biscuits. But,

Don't take my word for it, see for yourself.

**Homemade Buttermilk Biscuits**  
**Servings 6**

2 c. flour  
1 Tbs. baking powder  
1 Tbs. granulated sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
6 Tbs. butter (very cold)  
3/4 c. buttermilk

1. For best results for a lite, flaky biscuit, freeze the butter before use.
2. Preheat oven to 425. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.
3. Combine all of the dry ingredients. Set aside.
4. Remove the butter from the freezer and grate it this a box grater into the flour mixture and cut the butter in until it resembles course crumbs.
5. Add milk, now mix gently with your hands until combined, but do not over work.
6. Transfer the biscuit dough to a well floured surface, and gently work the dough together. If the dough is to sticky, add a little flour until it is manageable.
7. Once dough is cohesive, fold in half over itself, gently flattening the layers together. Repeat 5 to 6 times. But don't over work.
8. Use your hands (not a rolling pin) to flatten out the dough to 1" thick. Dust your round biscuit cutter and make close cuts, pressing straight down and drop the biscuit onto the baking sheet.
9. Repeat and bake at 425 for 12 minutes or until tops are turning a lite brown.
10. Brush with melted butter (smear with honey & jam) and serve immediately.
11. Enjoy



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