

GUIDE

on
Montgomery
County



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FOCUS

on
Montgomery
County

*A citizen's guide to
local government and
public resources.*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Acknowledgments

In 1969 the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County compiled the first FOCUS, and in September 2016 we are publishing the eleventh edition. We would not have been able to complete this project without assistance from hundreds of community members who provided the most up-to-date information about their government offices, agencies or non-profit organizations. The editorial committee would like to thank all of those who sent updated texts, proof read copy and reminded us of events and institutions that should be included in this book.

We would like to express special thanks to **Dr. Kathy Steele** for the photographs she provided. There is nothing better than having clear photographs from our community while reading about the topics covered in this book.

The entire community lost a strong leader when **Nancy Doemel** died in June 2016. To quote Sheridan Hadley's memorial statement: *"Nancy will be greatly missed as a League member and a community activist. She provided us with an amazing role mode—one of hard work, dedication, organization, perseverance, and a positive spirit, which will guide us as we try to fill this void and pursue our common passion to make Crawfordsville/Montgomery County the best place it can be."* For many years Nancy convened the League's Committee on Economic Health and she contributed the chapter on philanthropy to this book. We would like to dedicate this edition of FOCUS to her.

The League also expresses gratitude to the **Montgomery County Community Foundation** for a grant to make printed copies of this booklet available.

Nancy Bennett, *Editor*

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Chapter 1

Montgomery County History

Archeologists have traced the human habitation of the land we now know as **Montgomery County** back at least 11,000 years. Arrowheads and other stone items frequently found in fields and along riverbeds are the remnants of prehistoric Indians. The period of Historic Indians dates from the explorations of La Salle in 1678. Many tribes used this area for their summer villages and winter hunting grounds. The tribes most frequently associated with this area were Wea, Piankeshaw, Shawnee, Potawatomi, Miami and Eel River Miami.

Crinoids, fossils of tiny, lily-shaped marine animals dating from the Mississippian geological period (310 to 340 million years ago), may be found throughout Montgomery County. Professor Edmund O. Hovey of Wabash College was the first collector of crinoids in the county. One very rare species of crinoid is named *Crinodea crawfordsvillensi*. A large crinoid locality is located just north of Crawfordsville along Sugar Creek. Professional collectors opened quarries there in the 1870s and 1880s, and large collections were sold to museums and universities in this country and abroad.

During the War of 1812, American Ranger units patrolled the frontier to keep the Indians under observation and control, because many of the tribes sided with the British. In 1813, when Montgomery County was still Indian territory, Major Ambrose Whitlock, Captain Williamson Dunn and Lieutenant Henry Ristine came with a company of Rangers to what is now Montgomery County. They found an area that was densely wooded in the south, becoming rough in the southwest. The abundant oak, poplar, walnut, sugar maple and

The **General Lew Wallace Study and Museum** building was completed in 1898 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

sycamore trees thinned out to the north, giving way to fertile, gently rolling prairie. On the northernmost edges they found swampy grassland. Shale and clay were visible on the bluffs and banks of many streams, and fish and game were plentiful. The explorers agreed that the land bordering Sugar Creek would be a good site for a settlement. Later, the three officers and 13 privates from the Rangers came back to settle in Montgomery County.

In October of 1818, the United States signed the **Treaty of St. Mary's** (also called the New Purchase) and bought this area of central Indiana from the Miami, Potawatomi and Delaware Indians for 6 ½ cents per acre. In 1820, when the first white settlers began coming here, the Indians were forced to move. Some went willingly to new lands in Kansas. Others moved to the Miami/Eel River reservation near Thorntown. Others just disappeared or were forcibly removed to the West by the military. There is little mention in written history of Indian tribes in Montgomery County after 1827.

On December 21, 1822, the Indiana General Assembly voted to organize Montgomery County, effective March 1, 1823. The county was named in honor of Revolutionary War hero, **General Richard Montgomery**, who died on New Year's Eve, 1775, as the head of a small army attacking Quebec. Settlers in the new county were aware of him because his body had been moved from Quebec for a well-publicized 1818 re-interment ceremony at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City. Montgomery County's political boundaries changed many times. The county was part of Knox (1790), Sullivan (1817), Vigo (1818), Parke (1821) and Putnam (1822) counties. Montgomery County's original jurisdiction extended north of Lafayette and to the Wabash River in the west. In 1826, the Indiana General Assembly cut off a strip of the county and divided it between Fountain and Tippecanoe Counties. As finally established, the county was divided into 11 townships.

In 1823, the **Federal Land Office** was moved to Crawfordsville from Terre Haute. Williamson Dunn was the Registrar and Ambrose Whitlock the Receiver and head of the office. On December 24, 1824, the Land Office began selling United States lands for all of what are now Wabash, Tippecanoe, Fountain, Montgomery, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Hendricks, Morgan, Vigo and Clay counties, and parts of Owen, Delaware and Monroe counties. Land was sold in 80-acre tracts for \$1.25 an acre in gold or silver. In 1826 and 1828-1830, the

Crawfordsville Land Office ranked first in the nation in land office sales. The land office was in operation here until March 1853.

In 1823, 61 male citizens voted in the first county election, choosing three county commissioners. A post office was opened that same year. A jail was built and opened in 1824. The following years saw rapid growth, with many churches and schools established. The first subscription library was organized in 1827, and the first newspaper published in 1831.

Many of the early settlers came from Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio. In addition to farming, they worked in the water-powered gristmills and sawmills along Sugar Creek, named for its bordering sugar maples, or in coopering, facilitated by the good timber. According to the first population census of Montgomery County in 1830, there were 7,313 inhabitants. The county grew steadily until it reached a total of 29,318 in 1900. The population then started to decline gradually until after the census of 1940, when growth resumed. Population growth was directly related to the agricultural economy of the county. As farm mechanization and specialization increased, farm population decreased. In 2009, Montgomery County had a population of 37,862 according to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Montgomery County has had three **courthouses**. The first, a log house, was built in 1824. The second, a two-story brick building, was constructed in 1831. The present courthouse, completed in 1876 at a cost of \$150,000, was remodeled and restored in 1987.

Citizens in Montgomery County were active in the anti-slavery movement before the Civil War. There were two **Underground Railroad** routes through the county. In Indiana these routes began at either New Albany or Evansville, went through Greencastle to Crawfordsville or Darlington, and then on to Thorntown and points north. Two groups maintained the routes: the New School Abolitionists and the Conscience Whigs. Members of the Society of Friends supported the station near Darlington at Dr. Joseph Emmon's farm. The Crawfordsville hiding place was at the home of John Allen Speed at the southwest corner of Grant Ave. and North St.

Citizens from Montgomery County were active participants in **19th-century wars**. Although military engagement did not take place, 100 infantrymen and fifty cavalrymen enrolled at Crawfordsville for the Black Hawk Indian War in 1832. Five Montgomery County



citizens became generals during the Civil War. Three of them, West Point graduate John P. Hawkins, Edward R. S. Canby and Naval Academy graduate W. H. Morgan, continued their military careers after the Civil War. Lew Wallace and Mahlon D. Manson returned to Crawfordsville after the war. There were 98 volunteers for the Mexican War, and 2,971 Montgomery County residents participated in the Spanish-American War.

The great days for Montgomery County in the political arena were between the years **1850 and 1890**. Henry S. Lane served in the U.S. House of Representatives, helped found the Republican Party, served briefly as Governor of Indiana and was a U.S. Senator from 1861 to 1867. Other Crawfordsville political leaders were Lew Wallace, Mahlon D. Manson and James Wilson. Lew Wallace, in addition to serving in both the Mexican and Civil Wars, was the Governor of the New Mexico Territory from 1878 to 1881 and Minister to Turkey from 1881 to 1885. Mahlon Manson, who also served in the Mexican and Civil Wars, ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1864 and for Secretary of State in 1866. He was defeated both times. Manson became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1870 and was elected Auditor of the State of Indiana in 1876. James Wilson served two terms in the U.S. Congress and was appointed Minister to Venezuela in 1866. James A. Mount from the Shannondale area became a senator in the Indiana General Assembly and was elected Governor of Indiana in 1896.

Railroads became a major factor in the growth and development of Montgomery County. The first railroad was proposed in 1836. The first one built was the Monon Railroad, completed through this county in 1853. A railroad between Crawfordsville and Indianapolis was completed in 1869, and others followed. In 1910, there were between 18 and 20 steam trains a day heading in all directions, 38 inter-urban railways and 144 miles of track. The interurban lines, built in 1904 and 1907, were abandoned in 1930 as increased automobile use caused a decline in passenger traffic.

Horse breeding was big business in the county. The area was infested with horse thieves, however, causing serious losses to farmers. The situation became so severe that farmers decided to act. In 1844, the first Horse Thief Detective Society was formed in Coal Creek Township. During the Civil War, Montgomery County was a center for

Lane Place is the Greek revival home of Senator Henry S. and Joanna Lane. Lane was a U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator and helped found the Republican Party.

horse breeding; after the War, thefts became increasingly frequent. In 1892, the National Horse Thief Detective Association was organized in Crawfordsville. These groups began to decline about 1900, and in the 20th century they were little more than social clubs.

The **Montgomery County Agricultural Society** was organized in 1858, and fairgrounds were built near what is now the intersection of East Main St. and Englewood Drive. Fairs were held there until 1873. In 1879, the Union Agriculture Association of Montgomery County was organized. It sponsored a fair that was ranked as one of the best in the state. The fairgrounds eventually covered 92 acres between Whitlock Ave. and the Vandalia Railroad tracks on the west and east, Binford St. and Darlington Ave. on the south and Indiana St. on the north. There were grandstands, a racetrack, animal buildings and a floral hall. In 1936, most of the buildings were demolished, and the land was sold. A show arena/exhibit building was built in 1946, and other facilities were added later. The City of Crawfordsville owns the fairgrounds and leases the property to the 4-H Clubs.

In 1913, a special county agent was hired through the **Purdue University Extension Service**. Montgomery County was the fourth county in the state to have such an agent. The County Extension Service, funded by local, state and federal taxes, is an important agency in the county today.

In 1908, the **Women's Auxiliary** of the Montgomery County Farmers' Institute was organized. Farmers' Institutes, sponsored by Purdue University, were annual events that offered information to farming families. The Auxiliary met monthly, and in 1915 it became the Crawfordsville Home Economics Club, which sponsored a 4-H club for girls. By 1922, there were twelve clubs. Other home economics clubs were formed and in 1930, the Montgomery County Home Economics Association was formed. In 1939, when Montgomery County joined the Cooperative Extension Service, local home economics clubs were organized in each township. In 1945, the first Home Demonstration Agent was assigned to the county. The Home Economics Clubs became the Home Demonstration Clubs and later were renamed Extension Homemaker Clubs.

Fraternal organizations were very popular in the county. Among the groups were the Masonic Lodges, Knights Templar, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Emerald Benevolent

Association and the Patriotic Order of Red Men. Worthy of special mention, because it originated in Crawfordsville, was the Supreme Tribe of Ben-Hur, a mutual insurance and fraternal organization founded by David W. Gerard in 1894. By 1911, it had a national membership of almost 120,000 in 32 states.

In the spring of 1822, William Miller built the first cabin on the present-day site of **Crawfordsville**. Major Ambrose Whitlock laid out the town of Crawfordsville in March of 1823 and named the town for Secretary of the Treasury, William H. Crawford, to honor the man who issued him his commission as Receiver of Public lands. Crawfordsville was designated as the seat of justice in 1823; incorporated as a town on October 14, 1834; and became a fourth class city in 1865. The first town council meeting was held in 1834. Crawfordsville's growth in the 19th century came from its position as the county seat. It was the financial and trading center of the surrounding rich agricultural region. With improved transportation came woolen mills, tanneries, carriage and wagon making, tile and brick factories, marble cutting, machine shops, furniture making, and meatpacking. In 1830, the year of the first census of Crawfordsville, there were 1,327 people. By 1870, the population grew to 3,701. Until the 1970 census, Crawfordsville's population showed steady growth. Then it began a slow decline, with most growth being outside the city limits in Union Township.

Wabash College, one of the earliest all-male schools of higher education in the Midwest, was founded in 1832. The first bank opened in the 1850s. Crawfordsville had gas lights in 1875, telephones in 1882, and a municipally-owned electric plant in 1892. At a Fourth of July celebration in 1836, William Compton made a toast to "Crawfordsville, the Athens of Indiana." By the end of the 19th century, Crawfordsville had indeed become a cultural center. Local authors such as Lew Wallace, his wife Susan Elston Wallace, Maurice and Will Thompson, Mary Hannah, and Caroline Virginia Krout were nationally known literary figures.

State women's suffrage associations held two conventions in the city. Mary Hannah Krout, Elizabeth Boynton Harbert, Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite and Dr. Martha Griffith were among the woman's suffrage supporters.

The Wabash Merry Bowmen, an **archery** club, was founded by Maurice Thompson in 1874. In 1887, his book, *The Witchery of*

Archery, was published. That book and an article written for Scribner's Magazine triggered a national archery craze, and clubs were organized all over the country. The National Archery Association was formed in 1879 and was headquartered in Crawfordsville, with Maurice Thompson as its first president.

HISTORY OF TOWNSHIPS

Some township boundaries in Montgomery County depart from the usual square shape because creeks or natural boundaries were more practical. In 1823, Montgomery County had one township, also named Montgomery. In 1824, the commissioners divided the county into three townships: Scott, Union and Wayne. From these three, the other townships were formed between 1826 and 1831. There are 36 sections in a modern township with each section equaling one square mile.

Brown Township was divided from Scott Township in 1826. The source of Brown Township's name is unknown. The James Long family is considered to be its first settlers. In 1858, parts of Sections 30, 31 and 32, south of Sugar Creek, were taken from Union Township and attached to Brown Township. In prehistoric times a lake, now called Lake Harney, covered approximately one-third of Brown Township's area. In 1835, John Milligan laid out the original town of Waveland. By 1850, Waveland had become the township's center, with several stores, attorney and physician offices, and inns. Waveland Academy was founded in 1855. Browns Valley was platted in 1836, under the name of Brownsville, by Matthias M. Van Cleave. New Market, parts of which are located in Scott and Union townships as well as Brown Township, was platted in 1872 by Joseph White, Sr., William K. White, Carson Wray, Sr. and Joseph Kelsey, creating a market town adjacent to the new Logansport, Crawfordsville & Southwestern Railway.

Clark Township, surveyed in 1820 and settled in 1824, was named after Dan Clark, an early settler. The township was established in 1830. Lucas Baldwin was probably the first person to enter or sign up for land where Ladoga, the township center, now stands. Ladoga was named after a Russian lake. John Myers, Sr., platted and officially registered the town of Ladoga in 1836.

Coal Creek Township was named for the creek running through it. The creek derives its name from the deposits of coal that occasionally crop out along its banks. The first entry of land was made

by James Morrow in 1823. The first permanent resident was Charles Reid and the township became official in 1829. Elmdale, first called Boston Store, was settled in 1832. New Richmond, named after other towns called Richmond, was laid out by Samuel Kincaid, settled in 1828 by the Kincaids and the Kirkpatricks, and platted in 1836. Pleasant Hill was laid out in 1831 by Christian Bever, then resurveyed and recorded in 1836. The name was changed from Pleasant Hill to Wingate in 1882 to honor a prominent citizen, John C. Wingate. It was also called Whitlock for two years in the 1880s.

Franklin Township was named after Benjamin Franklin. The first land was entered in 1822 by Louis Cooper and settled in 1823. The county commissioners established the township in 1831. In 1845, three sections from Sugar Creek Township were added to Franklin Township. Darlington (located in Franklin Township) was probably named after the town of Darlington in England, a center for the Society of Friends. The Henry Wisehart family first settled this part of the township. Darlington was platted by Enoch Cox in 1836 and by 1840, Darlington was the trading center for the eastern part of the county. Daniel Shannon surveyed Shannondale, and it was platted in 1851 by Isaac Lane and George A. Woods.

Madison Township was the last township to be settled in Montgomery County, and was the last organized in 1831. The first land grant was to Alex Henderson in 1826, and William Smith was the earliest settler in 1829. Because this area was swampy and fever-ridden, and residents used a lot of quinine for the chills and fever, the land was nicknamed Quinine Township. Cherry Grove was probably named after a stand of native black cherry trees in this locality. John Ferr entered the first land title in 1829. The village of Kirkpatrick was named for James Wesley Kirkpatrick, who platted it after the railroad came through his farm in 1881. A major fire in June of 1917 was the turning point leading to Kirkpatrick's decline as a town. Linden was platted in 1850 by Hiram Hughes, Joel Lee, and William Hartman. It became the trading center for Madison and eastern Coal Creek townships. Linden was probably so named because of the linden trees in its vicinity.

Ripley Township was formed in 1831 by the county commissioners from land that had been part of Wayne Township. It's believed that the township is named for Eleazor Wheelock Ripley, the grandson of the founder of Dartmouth College, who was a highly

decorated soldier in the War of 1812. Wilson Claypool built the first cabin in Ripley Township in 1820. Alamo, laid out in 1837 on Samuel Truax's land, was named to commemorate the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Yountsville dates from 1840 when Allen and Dan Yount began the manufacture of woolen goods in 1849.

Scott Township records indicate that Jacob Shuck first took out land in 1823. The township was established in 1824. Shuck's reminiscences declare that he came to Parkersburg in 1820, which would make him the first settler in Montgomery County. Parkersburg, also known as Somerset, Faithville and Shucktown, was platted in 1835 by Thomas Arnett and Thomas Faith.

Sugar Creek Township was first settled in 1828 by miller John Clauser and his wife Christina. By 1829, it was an official township. In 1845, three sections of land were transferred to Franklin Township. There were no early villages in Sugar Creek Township. Bowers, formerly called Bowers Station, was named for Abner Bowers who donated land for a railroad station when the railroad came through. The area was platted by Christina and L. M. Dunbar in 1901.

Union Township has the largest land area of any township in Indiana. William and Jennie Offield first settled it in 1821. Balhinch (alternatively spelled Balhynch), which means "pretty vale" in Celtic, was named after an area in Ireland. Elijah Cox first settled Garfield in 1829. Peter Binford bought land there in 1820, but he did not live on it. Smartsburg was named after Dr. James Smart, a pioneer physician.

Walnut Township, first settled by Jesse Welch in 1825, was established in 1831. It was named after the many walnut trees in the area. Beckville was named for Solomon Beck, the first settler in 1830. The name was briefly changed to Orth in 1865. Mace was originally named Fredericksburg after Frederick Long, who platted it in 1838. The name was changed to Mace in 1913. Linnsburg was platted in 1870, by Susan Linn Mullen and was originally called Mace Station. New Ross was Valley City when it was first settled in 1829. When the postmaster of a nearby town called New Ross moved to Valley City, the name was changed to New Ross. It was platted in 1853, by John A. Browning, when there were plans for the railroad to come through.

Wayne Township was first settled in 1822 by Elias Moore, Mr. McMakin and William Bratton, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The township was named after General Anthony Wayne,

Revolutionary War hero and Indian fighter. Waynetown, originally called Middletown, was platted in 1830 by Samuel Mann. Wesley, a flag stop on the Illinois, Bloomington & Western Railroad, was settled prior to 1830, when the residents formed the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Society. Wesley Academy, founded in 1862, was one of the leading academies of the county.

HISTORIC SITES IN CRAWFORDSVILLE

Major Isaac C. Elston built the **Elston Homestead** on East Pike Street in 1837. It is currently the residence of the Wabash College president.

Lane Place (212 South Water Street) began as a three-room cottage purchased by Senator Henry Lane in 1844. Over the next sixty years additions were made to accommodate the needs of the family. The building was given to the city of Crawfordsville on the death of the Helen Elston Smith, the Lane's niece in 1931 when it became a museum. **Speed Cabin** was part of a home owned by John Allen Speed (1801-1873.) It was originally located at the corner of North and Grant Streets in Crawfordsville. During the 19th century the cabin was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The building was reconstructed first in Milligan Park and then in 1990 moved to its current location on the grounds of Lane Place.

The **General Lew Wallace Study and Museum** building was completed in 1898 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. During 2015, extensive restorations of the interior were completed. Further information about the museum can be found in the museums section below.

The **Rotary Jail** opened in 1882. Attached to the jail is a two-story home that was occupied by the county sheriff and his family.

HISTORIC SITES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Ashby House (County Rd 350 E, Ladoga; 765-942-2088) is a two-story brick Victorian Italianate residence located southwest of Ladoga. The private home was built in 1882-83 and was listed in the National Registry of Historic Places in 1980. Ashby has been completely renovated. Tours are available by appointment only.

An important county landmark is the **Darlington Covered Bridge** (E 500 N, Darlington) was built in 1868 to span Sugar Creek. Local



craftsmen used native lumber in its construction. There is no vehicular traffic on this bridge and it may be difficult to find.

Another covered bridge in the county is **Deer's Mill** that borders Shades Park on State Road 234. It was built in 1878.

Yount's Mill (3941 West Old Mill Road, off SR 32 W; 765-307-7565) was converted in 1849 from a carding to a woolen mill by Daniel Yount. Located on ten acres bordering Sugar Creek, the building has been restored and is run as a B&B.

HISTORIC SITES AT WABASH COLLEGE

Caleb Mills, the first professor at Wabash College and father of the Indiana public school system, built the Caleb Mills House in 1834. The building is located near the Wabash Avenue entrance to the college.

Forrest Hall, the original building of Wabash College, was built in 1832 on a site 300 yards from Sugar Creek. In 1871 it was moved to its current location on the Wabash College campus.

Hovey Cottage was built in 1836 by Wabash College founder E. O. Hovey. It was home to his family and student lodgers for many years. It is located next to the Caleb Mills house at the northwest corner of the campus.

HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

The **Genealogy Club** of Montgomery County offers monthly programs, publishes a monthly newsletter and maintains a database of family bible records. The club has restored O'Neall Cemetery and is in the process of restoring all county cemeteries. Meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Crawfordsville Public Library.

Historic Ladoga, Inc. (765-942-2009) is governed by a nine-member board of directors. Its primary focus is the renovation and ongoing operation of the Old Normal Hall in Ladoga. Originally built as the Central Normal College, it also served as the Ladoga High School until 1917. Old Normal houses a small museum and provides a venue for community events, fundraisers, weddings, parties and meetings.

The **Montgomery County Heritage Alliance** began in 1983 when representatives of five county historical organizations met to discuss common interests. The groups were the Montgomery County Historical

At the 1904 dedication of the Crawfordsville Masonic Temple, Civil War Major General Lew Wallace, author of *Ben-Hur*, gave his last public speech.

Society, the Montgomery County Cultural Foundation, the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum Board, the Crawfordsville District Public Library and the Wabash College Library. Four other groups have since joined: the Visitors Bureau, Sugar Creek Trail, the Linden Railroad Museum and the Genealogy Club. Membership is open to those groups in the county who have a historical and/or cultural focus.

The **Montgomery County Historical Society** (765-362-3416) is a large, active organization. It has published books on local history and sponsors many community activities. The Society owns and manages the Lane Place and its grounds.

Chapter 2

Montgomery County Today

Located in west central Indiana, Montgomery County has all the benefits and charm of the rural Midwest. It is 40th in size among Indiana's 92 counties. Half of the county's 38,000 citizens live in Crawfordsville, a city that consistently appears in rankings of the 100 Best Small Towns in America. The predominately white population is stable with a small and growing percentage of Hispanic persons.

Montgomery County keeps alive its heritage as a cultural center and the birthplace of writers and artists. Two of our most treasured cultural amenities are the Lew Wallace Study, where the famed Civil War General wrote the novel *Ben-Hur*; and Wabash College, an all-male private liberal arts college founded in 1832.

Visitors and local citizens are attracted to eight museums and historic buildings including Younts Mill, a major producer of textiles in the 1800s, which is operated today as a bed and breakfast. The Athens Art Gallery supports local artists and sells their works while the amateur actors of Vanity Theatre feature remarkable quality productions.

Thousands of visitors join local citizens each year to enjoy or participate in a wide range of sporting opportunities. Crawfordsville High School's aquatic center attracts regional swimming competitions. Tom's Marine is the venue for the Lucas Oil MotoCross championship and also hosts the Iron Man competition and an annual Warrior Dash. The community's dance program regularly produces state and national champions. The three school corporations and a local private group support very active youth softball programs.

Sugar Creek is the county's crown jewel. The Creek flows 26 miles (37 river-miles) from the northeast of the county to the Indiana/Illinois border in the southwest. It connects Pine Hills Nature Preserve and

Shades State Park and continues through Parke County and Turkey Run State Park. Visitors hike, camp, canoe, and fish among the breathtaking views carved from millions of years of flowing water. Crinoids, fossils dating from the Mississippian geological period (310 to 340 million years ago), are found in only two locations in the world--one is on Sugar Creek in Crawfordsville.

The City of Crawfordsville operates the Sugar Creek Trail, on a reclaimed railroad bed, and the Sugar Creek Nature Trail located at Sugar Creek and US 231.

The many transportation routes support the economy by easily taking people and products in and out of the County. Interstate 74, State Roads 32, 47 and 136, and US Highway 231 pass through Montgomery County. The Amtrak railroad stops for passengers in Crawfordsville between Indianapolis and Chicago. Crawfordsville Municipal Airport's 5500 foot runway accommodates jet aircraft and brings thousands of travelers each year to the community for business and pleasure.

Much of county's economic strength comes from its diversified industry. Montgomery County's percentage of employment in manufacturing—33 percent—is double the percentage in the state as a whole. Products made in Montgomery County include steel and steel products, commercial printing and binding, metal and plastic fabricating, cheese processing, optical lenses, automotive components, corrugated containers, valves, and industrial lighting.

The county also has state high rankings for agricultural production; ranking fourth in the State for corn and soybeans. The county is also a provider of agricultural equipment and seeds. The nearby agricultural science program at Purdue University produces not only educated agricultural producers but also cutting-edge agricultural technology.

Chapter 3

Government

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(www.montgomeryco.net)

The three-person **Board of County Commissioners** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) is the county executive and legislative body. While each commissioner must reside in one of three districts, commissioners are elected by all county voters. Commissioners have a four-year term with no term limits. Two commissioners are elected in the presidential election year and one is elected two years later. The Commissioners annually elect a president. Commissioners are responsible for the administration of all county business and may enact ordinances. They control county property: buildings, equipment, bridges, and roads. They regulate county subdivisions, make appointments to boards, commissions and certain offices, and establish precincts and polling places.

The seven-person **County Council** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6400) is the county's fiscal body. Three members are elected at large in the presidential election year. They represent the entire county and are elected by all citizens. Four members are elected two years later for four-year terms with no term limits. Members must reside in one of four districts and are elected by the voters from that district. The Council annually elects a president. The Council prepares and approves a budget, and manages all funds within that budget. The Council sets tax rates, and determines the number of and salaries for county employees. Sale of property over a specific amount must also be approved by the

Council. The Council exercises binding review of the budgets of most of the 31 units of local government.

The Indiana Constitution specifies the election of the Auditor, Clerk of the Courts, Coroner, Recorder, Sheriff, Surveyor, and Treasurer.

- The office of the **County Assessor** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6420) is established by statute. No educational standards are required for these office holders. The Assessor is elected for a four-year term with no term limits. The incumbent assesses all real and personal property under the direction of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLFG may remove the Assessor from office.
- The **Auditor** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6400) is elected for a four-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms. As the fiscal officer for the county, the auditor distributes money and is the secretary for the County Council and the Board of Review.
- The **Clerk of the Courts** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6430) is elected for a four-year term and may not serve more than eight years in any twelve-year period.
- The **Coroner** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6368) is elected for a four-year term and may not serve more than eight years in any twelve-year period. The coroner is not required to be a physician but must select one when an autopsy is needed. For further information, see Chapter 6: Public Safety
- The **Recorder** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6415) is elected for a four-year term and may not serve more than eight years in any twelve-year period. The recorder preserves public records including deeds, mortgages, liens, plat books, military discharges and bankruptcy notices.
- The **Sheriff** (600 Memorial Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3740) is elected for a four-year term and may serve no more than eight years in a twelve-year period.
- The **Surveyor** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-3234) is elected for a four-year term with no term limits. The surveyor keeps records and maps of all section corners and all legal surveys and supervises civil engineering work, as well as the construction and

The County Seat of Montgomery County is Crawfordsville, Indiana. The County Courthouse was built in 1875 and remodeled in 1941. It is located in the heart of historic downtown Crawfordsville.



maintenance of publicly regulated drains. The surveyor is a non-voting member of the Drainage Board.

- The **Treasurer** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6410) is elected for a four-year term and may not serve more than eight years in any twelve-year period. The treasurer collects, accounts for and disburses county tax and fee funds and prepares tax bills.
- See the separate section below for complete information about the county judicial system.

Appointed Officials

The Commissioners, the Council, the Drainage Board, the City and the County Redevelopment Commissions, the Sewer District Board, and the Convention and Visitors Commission each annually appoint an attorney.

The Commissioners annually appoints:

- The **Building Commissioner** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6493) to enforce minimum building codes for unincorporated areas and to issue building permits.
- The **Emergency Management Director** (300 E Pike St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-5154) to coordinate the development of disaster management plans and to implement a disaster preparedness program. For additional information see Chapter *Public Safety*
- The **Highway Director** (818 Whitlock Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6446) to supervise construction and maintenance of all county roads, bridges and culverts.
- The **Weights and Measures** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) to inspect commercially used weights and measures in service stations and food stores. The Division of Weights and Measures of the State Board of Health must also approve the appointment of the inspector.
- The **Veterans Service Officer** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-4133) to assist veterans entitled to benefits provided by state and federal governments.
- The **Health Board** annually appoints a Health Officer (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6440) for a four-year term and the Health Administrator. For further information see *Chapter 11: Health*.

Appointed Boards and Commissions

- The **Alcoholic Beverage Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) is composed of four members. One member is appointed by the county commissioners, one by the county council, and one by the Mayor of Crawfordsville. The fourth member is appointed by the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission. This Board issues retail liquor licenses.
- The **Community Corrections Advisory Board** (101 N Main St, Veedersburg; 765-294-3100) serves five counties. Judges in the counties appoint three members to the governing board. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.
- **Convention and Visitors Commission** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) oversees the Innkeepers Tax and distributes grants to organizations for promoting tourism. The Commission is a seven-member body. Four members are appointed by the county commissioners and three by the Mayor of Crawfordsville. One member must be a county council member. No more than five members may be from the same political party. A majority of members must be in the business of renting rooms. For further information, see *Chapter 5: The Economy*.
- The **Drainage Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-3234) is responsible for the construction and maintenance of publicly regulated drains. The Board is composed of four landowners and one county commissioner, all appointed by the county commissioners. The Surveyor is a non-voting member. Members receive compensation for their services. For further information, see *Chapter 5: The Economy*.
- **E911 Central Communications Governing Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) is composed of five elected officials: two county commissioners, the mayor of Crawfordsville, a county councilman and a city councilman. They set policy and approve the budget of the Central Communications Center. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.
- **E911 Central Communications Operations Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) The operations board is composed of eight members: one county commissioner, the police chief, the fire chief, the sheriff, and one representative of each of the

first responders: the volunteer fire department, the town marshals, and the ambulance services. The eighth member is chosen by the governing board. They represent the front-line emergency providers and oversee the operations of the Central Communications Center. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.

- **City Economic Development Commission** (765-364-5160, 300 E. Pike St. The three members are all appointed by the Mayor of Crawfordsville. For further information, see *Chapter 5: The Economy*.
- **County Economic Development Commission** (765-361-2623) (Indiana Code 36-7-12; County Code 33.02) Three members include an appointment by the county council, one by the city council and one by the county commissioners. As of 2016, the County Economic Development Commission is not staffed. For further information, see *Chapter 5: The Economy*.
- The **Election Board** (765-364-6430, 100 E Main) prepares and distributes ballots. The Board's three members are the Clerk of the Court and one member from each political party appointed by the Clerk but nominated by the county party chairpersons. For further information, see *Chapter 4: Elections and Voting*.
- **Emergency Management Advisory Council** (300 E Pike St, Crawfordsville; 765-376-9318) The Council is composed of six individuals including a county commissioner, a county council person, the Mayor of Crawfordsville and three individuals appointed by the council who are knowledgeable in emergency services. The appointed members serve one-year terms. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.
- **Flood Plain Commission** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6490) is made up of three members are appointed by the County Commissioners.
- **Health Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6440) The seven members of the Health Board are appointed to four-year staggered terms by the County Commissioners. For further information see *Chapter 11: Health*.
- **Homeland Security Region 4.** (765-376-9318, 300 E Pike) Three Montgomery County officials serve on the regional body: a commissioner, the Mayor of Crawfordsville, and the Sheriff. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.

- **Jail Bond Commission** (600 Memorial Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3740) was established in 2004 to oversee the payments of the jail bond, which has a 20-year term. Commissioners refinanced the Jail bond in 2012 to gain a lower interest rate. Three members, appointed by the county commissioners, serve one-year terms with no term limits.
- The **Planning Commission** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6490) rules on new residential subdivisions. The county commissioners appoint all seven members of this commission, but no more than four members may be from the same political party.
- **Property Tax Appeals Board** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6420) Three members, who serve one year terms, are appointed by the county commissioners. No more than two members may be from the same political party. They rule on taxpayer appeals.
- **Public Defender Board** (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6450) is made up of three members, who serve three-years terms. Judges appoint two members, who may not be from the same political party. The county commissioners appoint the third board member.
- **Public Records Commission** (765-364-6430, 100 E Main) is composed of seven officials including the Circuit Court judge, one county commissioner, the auditor, the clerk, the recorder, the superintendent of one school corporation, and the Crawfordsville Clerk Treasurer.
- **Redevelopment Commission** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) was established to levy and collect special benefit taxes for redevelopment purposes. The commission consists of five voting members and one non-voting member (from one of the county school boards), who serve one-year terms. The county commissioners appoint three of the voting members and the non-voting member; the county council appoints the remaining two.
- **Sewer District Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) consists of five members: two commissioners, two county councilmen, and one school board member. They manage the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) involved with the sewer in the Nucor corridor. For further information, see *Chapter 5: The Economy*.
- **Sheriff's Merit Board** (600 Memorial Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3740) consists of four members appointed by the Sheriff for four-year terms. For further information, see *Chapter 6: Public Safety*.

- **West Central Solid Waste District Board**, West Central (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-361-2623) includes three members from Montgomery County: one county commissioner, one county councilman, and the Mayor of Crawfordsville or his appointee. For further information, see *Chapter 9: Utilities*.
- **Sugar Creek Advisory Board** (110 W South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6490) is made up of twelve members: six appointed by the county commissioners for three- year terms, and six additional members representing the Department of Natural Resources, the building administrator, the conservation officer, the sheriff, the sanitarian (health administrator), and one commissioner.
- **Sugar Creek and Wabash Trail Authority**. All positions are vacant as of January 2016.

CRAWFORDSVILLE CITY GOVERNMENT

(<http://www.crawfordsville.net/>)

In 1981, the Indiana General Assembly made sweeping changes in “home rule” law and created three classes of cities. After many years as a fourth class city, Crawfordsville became a third class city. Its framework of government requires the election of a mayor, a seven-member Common (City) Council and a city clerk-treasurer. Administration of city business is accomplished by the Mayor, the Clerk-Treasurer, the City Council and various city boards and departments. The Board of Public Works and Safety directs the police, fire, street departments, planning department and the wastewater treatment plant. In 2016, combined tax-levied budgets for the City of Crawfordsville (general fund, park and recreation, street department, aviation, cum capital fire, and cum capital development) exceeded \$15 million on an assessed property valuation of \$565,244,436 million.

Elected City Officials

Elected by all city voters, the **Mayor** (765-364-5160) serves a four-year term with no term limits. In case of a vacancy, the office of mayor is filled by a vote of precinct chairpersons of the mayor’s party. The mayor may appoint a deputy mayor. Traditionally, the appointed deputy mayor has been a City Council member. The mayor has chief authority for administering city government. He or she presides over the City Council,

City Hall in Crawfordsville is located on East Pike Street.



without voting rights except in case of a tie, and over the Board of Public Works and Safety. The mayor appoints various board and commission members; executes and supervises enforcement of city ordinances and state laws and has veto power over all ordinances, including appropriations. A veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the Council. All department heads serve at the pleasure of the mayor. The mayor may issue proclamations and sign bonds, deeds and contracts.

The Common Council, usually called the **City Council**, is the city's legislative body. Voters residing in that ward elect one member from each of the city's five wards, and all voters in the city elect two members at-large. Council members representing a ward must be residents of that ward. All Council members are elected at the same time for four-year terms.

Council standing committees meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The regular meeting of the Council is on the second Monday of each month or upon special call of the mayor. All meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the second floor Council Chambers at the City Building on E. Pike St. The main functions of the Council are budgeting, appropriation of money and adoption of ordinances and resolutions. The Council appropriates all tax money spent by the city. The Council also fixes the city tax levy, subject to approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Through ordinances and resolutions, it exercises responsibility in local matters that are not covered by state law, such as traffic, parking, public peace, health matters, building, zoning and annexation. Council members also serve on various boards. The City Council annually sets salaries for the city's elected officials and employees.

The term of the elected **Clerk-Treasurer** (765-364-5150) is four years. There is no term limit for this office. The clerk-treasurer is subject to the authority of the Indiana State Board of Accounts. The clerk-treasurer is the city's financial officer, keeps records and ordinance books, is secretary to the City Council and the Board of Works, compiles ordinances and resolutions and is in charge of city documents.

Appointed City Officials

- **City Attorney** (part time), whose salary is established by contract. Extra compensation comes from the various departments, if they require legal services.

- **City Engineer** but this position has not been filled for several years. Engineering services have been provided on a retainer basis during such vacancies.
- The **Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Street Commissioner** and **Superintendent of Storm and Wastewater Treatment** report to the Board of Public Works and Safety.
- **Director of the Parks and Recreation Department** who attends the Board of Works meetings but reports directly to the Park Board.
- The **Director of Planning, Zoning and Economic Development** (765-364-5152) is appointed by the mayor and serves as staff for the Crawfordsville Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and the Historic Preservation Commission. This office also administers older closed grant programs for the city and serves as staff to various city economic development boards.

Appointed Boards

- The mayor appoints the four-member **Board of Aviation Commissioners**, which is responsible for the supervision of the municipal airport. The Board appoints the airport manager who oversees the day-to-day operations of the airport.
- The **Board of Parks and Recreation** consists of six voting members: four appointed by the mayor and one member each from the Crawfordsville Public Library Board and the Crawfordsville Community School Board. In addition, there is a non-voting liaison member from the City Council. The board is bipartisan and members serve four-year, staggered terms. The board is responsible for the department's programs, for maintenance of its properties and equipment and has bonding powers.
- Appointed by the mayor, the three-member **Board of Police Commissioners** has the power to hire, promote and dismiss all police personnel, with the exception of the police chief. In addition, the board establishes a budget for operating the Police Department, which is subject to the approval and appropriation of funds by the City Council.
- The **Board of Public Works and Safety** is made up of the mayor and two persons appointed by the mayor, who must be registered voters of the city. The board provides for police and fire protection through supervision of those departments and has responsibility for

streets, sidewalks, parking lots, sewers and sanitation through the appropriate departments.

- The **Board of Zoning Appeals** consists of five members, each for a four-year, staggered term. The mayor appoints three members: one of whom must not be a member of the Plan Commission; City Council appoints one member, who must not be a Planning Commission member; and the Plan Commission appoints one who is not a member of that commission. The board hears and determines appeals for special exceptions and rules on variances from the zoning ordinances.
- The **Crawfordsville Housing Authority** consists of six members appointed by the mayor. They serve four-year, staggered terms. One member must be a resident in the program. The Board appoints a Director, who is paid by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The federal government provides all monies for this tenant-based, rent assistance program.
- The **Crawfordsville Plan Commission** consists of eleven members according to Indiana State Law, each for a four-year, staggered term: one member appointed by City Council from its membership; one member appointed by the Park Board from its membership; one member or designate appointed by the Board of Works; the City Civil Engineer or qualified assistant appointed by the engineer; five citizen members of whom no more than three may be of the same party, appointed by the Mayor. If the city exercises jurisdiction outside the corporate boundaries, the county commissioners appoint two additional members from the county. The commission coordinates planning and zoning in the city and the extra territorial two-mile area. The commission's decisions are subject to approval by the City Council. The commission considers primary approval of subdivision proposals, and delegates secondary or final approval to a plat committee.
- The **Economic Development Commission** consists of three members: one appointed by the mayor, one appointed by the City Council, and one appointed by the county commissioners and one non-voting member appointed by a local school corporation. The members serve staggered four-year terms. The commission recommends action to improve or promote economic growth and has power to enter into leases and acquire land and buildings. The commission can offer,

with City Council confirmation, tax-free municipal bonds in the city's name, on behalf of an established company, without affecting the city's constitutionally limited borrowing power. The commission is required to report annually to the Indiana Department of Commerce.

- The **Crawfordsville Economic Redevelopment Commission** has five members serving one-year terms, three appointed by the mayor and two by the city council, plus one, non-voting member representing Crawfordsville Community Schools. The commission meets monthly in the City Building. Created in 1994 to provide a TIF district for Crawfordsville Square Shopping Center, it has broad powers to acquire, redevelop and sell property.
- The **Historic Preservation Commission** was created by the city council in 2002 to preserve and protect structures and areas of historic and cultural interest within the city of Crawfordsville, and to award loans and grants to downtown property owners who renovate building facades in a historically approved manner. The mayor may appoint three to nine members to the commission with the approval of the city council. Members serve three-year, staggered terms. Meetings are held once a month in Council chambers. The Director of Planning and Zoning serves as staff to the commission.
- The **Utility Service Board** consists of five members: three appointed by the mayor and two by the City Council. Members serve four-year, staggered terms. The board is bipartisan and supervises the operation of the city's electric utility. Each member receives a stipend from CEL&P revenues.

TOWN AND TOWNSHIPS

Towns in Indiana are created when petitions are filed with the county commissioners of the county in which the major part of the area to be incorporated is located. The petition must include signatures of at least fifty owners of real property within the area, a list of the residents and land owners, a statement of the assessed valuation of all real property within the area, a statement of proposed services to the residents, an estimate of the costs of such services and the name to be given to the proposed town. After the commissioners have determined that all requirements have been met, a public hearing is conducted, and, if no remonstrance is presented, an ordinance may incorporate the town. In Montgomery County, there are ten incorporated towns:

Alamo, Darlington, Ladoga, Linden, New Market (spanning three townships), New Richmond, New Ross, Waveland, Waynetown, and Wingate. Unlike cities, towns in Indiana have no population requirements. When a town grows to more than 2,000 residents, it may take steps to become a third class city. Crawfordsville is the only third class city in Montgomery County.

Town elections are conducted in those odd-numbered years when there are no county, state or national elections. Registration is a prerequisite to voting in all town elections. The Montgomery County Election Board is responsible for conducting elections. Indiana law gives towns options about the number of town council members. In 2016, Darlington, Waveland and Waynetown had five members and the others have three. All towns elect a clerk-treasurer. Town council members and the clerk-treasurer are elected to four-year terms. Candidates for town offices are selected through town political conventions. If there is only one candidate for an office, elections are not held.

Town Officials

The duties of the **Town Board** are administrative, appointive, regulatory and legislative. Those powers include levying taxes within statutory limitations and appropriating funds. The town board is empowered to preserve peace and good order; to secure and promote general public health and welfare; to establish, construct and maintain public ways (streets, roads, bridges, sidewalks, etc.); to exercise control in relation to improvements, maintenance and use of real property; to establish, construct, maintain, control and operate public and municipal facilities such as parks, sewers and libraries.

The **Clerk-Treasurer** maintains records of the town board, records the proceedings of the board, issues licenses and is authorized to administer oaths and take depositions. Under the direction of the board, the clerk-treasurer handles the town's funds.

The town board appoints the **Town Marshal** who may appoint deputy marshals with approval from the board. Upon authorization of the board, the marshal also may serve as fire chief or street commissioner.

Township Government

Townships in Indiana are responsible for the administration of township assistance (often called poor relief), care of abandoned

cemeteries, recreation, fire protection and emergency medical service, fence disputes, and noxious weed control. Townships may own property. In recent years, some original township functions have been transferred to other entities. For example, trustees no longer serve as superintendents of schools, assess real estate and personal property, or collect dog tax.

Citizens in townships elect a trustee and a three-member board for four-year terms in the even years between presidential elections. The trustee serves as the township executive while the board is the legislative and fiscal body. The board approves a budget and levies property taxes to support its responsibilities.

Indiana has 1008 townships and 4032 elected township officials while Montgomery County has eleven townships and 44 elected officials. Montgomery County's townships range in population from 23,837 in Union Township to 426 in Sugar Creek Township. While most townships conform to the 36 square mile size specified in the Public Land Survey System of 1785, the squares were often amended to conform to the natural boundaries of rivers and streams. Also, Union Township in Montgomery County, at 103 square miles, is the largest township east of the Mississippi River.

Townships must hold a minimum of four public meetings each year. In addition, the trustee must submit an annual financial report to the newspaper, the county auditor and the State Board of Accounts. An every-other-year audit of each township, conducted by the State Board of Accounts, is available at www.sboa.in.gov.

The **Township Trustee** is elected for a term of four years by vote of the entire township. The trustee prepares the annual township budget, submits it to the township advisory board and has general control over all property belonging to the township. In Indiana, it is the duty of the township trustee to investigate the circumstances of persons claiming to be poor and in distress, and, if need is verified, to provide relief with tax funds designated and budgeted for this purpose. General assistance may include food, shelter, clothing, utilities and school lunches. Township poor relief is usually in kind, such as vouchers or orders for groceries, medicines and services. The trustee must provide for and superintend the burial of deceased indigent persons.

The **Township Board** is made up of three registered voters of the township who have been elected to four-year terms. The board keeps

a record of its proceedings, and the board chairperson has custody of these files. The functions of the board are: adopt the annual budget; fix the tax rate for various funds; impose tax levies, subject to review by the Montgomery County Board of Tax Adjustment and the Indiana State Board of Tax Commissioners; authorize the incurring of indebtedness; approve township contracts; serve as Township Board of Finance for the purpose of selecting depositories for township funds; set the salaries of the elected and appointed officials of the township.

Union Township is the largest township geographically and has more than 60 percent of the population of Montgomery County. Crawfordsville, the county seat, is in its jurisdiction. The population of Union Township as of 2016 was 23,721. Services provided by the township include fire protection and rescue services for unincorporated areas, poor relief (temporary assistance for basic necessities), cemetery maintenance, and some recreational services.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Montgomery County's three courts are in Indiana's 22nd Judicial Circuit. The Circuit Court (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-365-6450) was established by the Indiana Constitution. State statute established **Superior Court 1** (765-364-6447, 100 E Main) in 1994 and **Superior Court 2** (765-364-6455, 100 E Main) in 2005. The courts have jurisdiction over actions and proceedings in civil, probate, domestic, and juvenile cases. By local rules, the judges may determine assignment of cases to a particular court. The judges of all three courts must be licensed attorneys and are elected for six-year terms with no term limits. The Circuit Court judge is elected in the presidential election year while the Superior Court judges are elected two years later. Each judge appoints staff.

Montgomery County has two "problem-solving" courts: In 2011, the County Commissioners established the **Drug Court** for high-risk individuals. The voluntary program, administered by Superior Court 1, involves intensive supervision by the Probation Department usually for two to three years. The number of individuals under supervision at any one time is limited. In 2014, Commissioners established the **Veterans Court**. Administered by Superior Court 2, the certified Veterans Treatment Court is also voluntary. Participants are typically in supervision by the Probation Department for one to

two years. The number of individuals under supervision at any one time is limited.

A **Clerk of the Courts** is elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in any twelve-year period. The Clerk maintains all court records, collects fines, forfeitures, judgments, court costs, and child support. The Clerk also compiles the jury pool, and issues passports and marriage licenses.

The **Prosecuting Attorney** is elected for a four-year term with no term limits to represent the State of Indiana in traffic infractions, and felony and misdemeanor criminal prosecutions arising from crimes committed in Montgomery County. The office also represents the State in the prosecution of juvenile offenders who commit status offenses or acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult. The incumbent is paid a salary from state funds, but a county may appropriate additional funds to supplement the state salary. The prosecutor may appoint **Deputy Prosecutors**. These individuals must be licensed attorneys. In 2016, Montgomery County has three full-time deputy prosecutors. The salary is set by the State and is based on county population.

All Montgomery County courts can impose probation in lieu of or in addition to incarceration. The judges appoint a **Chief Probation Officer** (307 Binford St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6460), who recommends appointment of additional probation officers to the judges. In 2016 there were eleven probation officers. The Indiana Judicial Conference sets standards for eligibility and conducts a written examination for the officers. They receive salaries from county funds at levels set by the Indiana Judicial Conference. On December 31, 2015, the Probation Department had 764 individuals under its supervision.

In addition to the probation services provided by the Montgomery County Probation Department, the five-county **West Central Regional Community Corrections Program** (WCRCC; 101 N Main St, Veedersburg; 765-294-3100) provides additional services. Funded primarily by a state grant and user fees, WCRCC is the largest regional corrections program in the state. It has twelve full-time and three part-time employees. Its largest program is electronically monitored home detention. Most of Montgomery County's electronic home detention is provided by WCRCC. The agency also offers early prison release, intensive outpatient services, substance recovery and relapse prevention services, and job readiness programs. In 2015, WCRCC



had a caseload of 430, with 121 cases from Montgomery County. Four Montgomery County judges or their designees serve on the WCRCC governing board.

Individuals who are determined by the court to be indigent and unable to afford legal representation are provided a **Public Defender**. Those eligible are attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Indiana. The current contract, January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, is for seven full-time public defenders. Public defenders are hired and contracted by the county **Public Defender Board**. The board recommends an annual operating budget for the public defender's office, appoints the public defender, and submits an annual report to the county executive, the county fiscal body, and the judges regarding the operation of the county public defender's office including information relating to caseloads and expenditures. The Public Defender Administrator assigns the cases.

Several programs serve individuals who have been convicted of misdemeanors or felonies. **Teen Court** is a voluntary alternative program for first-time juvenile offenders administered by the Youth Service Bureau (YSB). The Probation Department or the school corporations refer offenders to Teen Court. Middle and high school students serve as volunteers in juror or attorney roles. Juvenile offenders completing the program have their offense removed from their records. The YSB provides service opportunities in community agencies to enable the young people to complete required community service hours.

The **Youth Service Bureau** also operates the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. Indiana law requires that judges appoint either a guardian ad litem or a trained, court-appointed special advocate in abuse and neglect cases. Children in these cases are matched with a CASA volunteer to represent their best interests. YSB recruits, screens and trains the volunteers. In 2015, there were 49 CASA volunteers.

First-time offenders who have been charged with a misdemeanor may enter into a **Pretrial Diversion** agreement with the prosecutor's office to keep the charge off their record. The program functions like informal probation.

The **Court Referral Program** is administered by the Probation Department. Judges may require those convicted of a drug or alcohol related

The Montgomery County Jail is part of the complex that includes the Sheriff's office.

misdemeanor or felony to have a substance abuse treatment assessment and follow the recommendations as a condition their probation.

Juries

- The prosecutor may call a **Grand Jury** to hear evidence to determine if an indictment should be issued charging a person with a crime or crimes. The Grand Jury consists of six persons.
- The **Petit Jury** consists of six or twelve persons depending on the severity of the crime.
- The Clerk of the Courts annually compiles a **Jury Pool** by randomly selecting names from property tax records and from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles listing of licensed drivers residing in Montgomery County. The jury pool serves all three courts. The Clerk sends a notice of selection and a juror qualification form to each member of the jury pool. Prospective jurors are subject to call at any time during the ensuing year. When a court needs a jury, the jury administrator randomly selects names from the pool to establish a jury panel from which to select jurors. A juror may be asked to serve one day or more. A person who has completed a term of jury service in the preceding twenty-four months may claim exemption from jury duty. In order to serve as a juror, a person must be: a citizen of the United States; at least eighteen (18) years of age; a resident of Montgomery County; able to read, speak, and understand the English language; not suffering from a physical or mental disability that prevents her/him from rendering satisfactory jury service; not under the guardianship appointment because of mental incapacity; not a person who has had rights to vote revoked by reason of a felony conviction and whose rights to vote have not been restored; and not a law enforcement officer if the trial is for a criminal case.

Chapter 4

Elections and Voting

The National Voter Registration Act, commonly called “Motor Voter,” was passed in 1993 by the U.S. Congress and implemented by the Indiana General Assembly in 1995. The **Clerk of the Circuit Court** Montgomery County (100 E Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6430; www.montgomeryco.net) and the **County Election Board** are the local officials responsible for overseeing elections. This office, the resource for all questions about elections and voting, is open 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. during regular business days.

To be qualified to vote in Indiana, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election, a resident of his or her precinct for at least 30 days before the election, currently not serving time in prison for a felony, and be registered. Persons who move or are in the process of moving during the 30-day period before the election may also be qualified to vote under certain circumstances and should contact the Clerk’s office for more information.

A citizen **may register to vote** on line at www.indianavoters.com; by mail; or in person at the Montgomery County Clerk’s office, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (license branch) or at public assistance offices. Mail-in forms are available at most governmental offices and at www.indianavoters.com.

The information on the **voter registration** form includes name, current address, date of birth and a valid identification number. Numbers that qualify include a driver’s license number, a state

identification number, or the last four digits of one's Social Security number. There are no questions on the form regarding political party affiliation. The applicant should contact the Clerk's office if the card has not been received within thirty days of application.

Changes in residence or legal name must be reported to the Clerk's office in person or by completing a mail-in form.

Before elections, political party workers sometimes contact voters to assess party strength. This activity is called "polling" and should not be confused with voter registration.

When and where to vote: Montgomery County voters have many options for voting. Since 2016, voters may vote on Election Day at any of five vote centers located across the county. Voters may vote as early as 28 days before Election Day at the Court House and at other locations across the county. The locations and hours of operation of the Vote Centers and other early voting locations will change for each election and are well advertised. Voters may request a mail-in ballot or receive a ballot from an election board member by contacting the Clerk's office. Contact the Clerk's office for additional information.

On **Election Day**, votes are tallied by the Clerk's office. Since the adoption of Vote Centers and purchase of new voting equipment, the election results are usually reported within an hour of the close of the centers. Election results are reported in real time at www.montgomeryco.net.

Voters who require **assistance** due to a disability or inability to read or write English are eligible for assistance while casting their vote. Minor children are permitted into the voting booth. Should there be a question about the voter's residence or registration, he or she may be offered a **provisional ballot**, which will be counted when the qualifications have been checked.

The **Election Board** is composed of the clerk and a representative from each of the major political parties. The party chairs are responsible for selecting personnel for each voting site. Personnel must include one inspector, who is of the same political party as the secretary of state, and two judges, who must not be of the same political party. Additional personnel are provided at heavily used polling places.

All registered voters are eligible to file for **public office**. The county clerk's office provides the requirements for candidates and the forms for filing.

Montgomery County, with a population of approximately 38,000, has 24,000 registered voters. Its **voter participation rate**, the rate of actual voters to registered voters, is consistently higher than the average state rate. According to the Indiana Elections Commission, 61% of all Montgomery County registered voters voted in the 2012 general presidential election. That is a higher percentage than the Indiana average 58%. Mid-year elections always have a lower participation rate. In the 2014 mid-year election, Montgomery County's participation rate was 39% while the Indiana rate was 30%.

Indiana has **three kinds of elections:** primary, general and special. **Primary elections** are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each year in which there is a general election. Primaries are held for the purpose of deciding who shall be the political parties' nominees for the offices to be filled in the November general election. In Indiana, this type of election is called a "closed primary" because voters vote only for candidates of the party of their choice. School Board Elections are nonpartisan with final elections at the same time as the primary election. Registered voters who do not wish to declare a party affiliation in the primary may request a ballot for the school board races only.

General elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. At these elections, only one candidate from each qualifying political party is on the ballot. Voters at general elections do not publicly express a party preference before voting and are free to vote for any candidate on the ballot. Special Elections are infrequent and are usually for a special purpose such as a bond issue or referendum.

The **election calendar** is on a four-year cycle. Most offices are elected in even-numbered years. There is no election in the odd year after a presidential election. City, town and township offices are the only offices elected in the odd year before a presidential election. Most elected officials hold four-year terms. The exceptions are U. S. senators, and circuit and superior court judges who are elected for six-year terms. [See the Election Calendar Chart.](#)

A **voter's address** determines the choices offered on his or her ballot. Federal and state offices will be the same. However, at the local level, some officials represent sub-county districts. For example, there are four county council districts, three school districts, ten city/towns, eleven townships and 27 precincts. Voters are eligible to vote for the

officials who represent their geographic area and the ballot will offer only the relevant choices.

Voting Precincts are subdivisions of the county, determined by the Election Board with approval of the County Commissioners. Montgomery County has 27 precincts. Since Montgomery County adopted **Vote Centers** for elections beginning in 2016, the precincts no longer determine voting location but remain as the structure for county political committees. Precinct committee members are elected every four years in even years, with Republican committee members elected in the presidential election year and Democratic committee members elected two years later.

Redistricting of local, state and federal districts to equalize the shift in population takes place every ten years following the United States Census. The next drawing of the Indiana maps is scheduled for 2020. In Indiana, the maps for Congress and the state legislature are drawn by the General Assembly. A state redistricting study committee, composed of legislators and citizens, was convened in October 2015. Local districts are determined by County Commissioners. Districts must be approximately equal in population, comply with the Voting Rights Act and be entirely contiguous. A redistricting study committee, composed of legislators and citizens was convened in October 2015, and continues deliberations as of September 2016.

2018-2024 ELECTION CALENDAR

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
State Offices							
State Senator							
District 23	■				■		
State Rep.							
Districts 28, 41	■		■		■		■
County Offices							
Commissioners							
District 1 and 3			■				■
District 2	■				■		
Council							
District 1, 2, 3, 4	■				■		
At Large (3)			■				■
Clerk of Courts			■				■
Circuit Court Judge					■		
Sup. Court 1 Judge			■				
Sup. Court 2 Judge			■				
Prosecuting Attorney	■				■		
Assessor	■				■		
Auditor	■				■		
Recorder			■				■
Treasurer	■				■		
Sheriff	■				■		
Coroner			■				■
Surveyor			■				■
Township Offices							
Trustees	■				■		
Township Board (3)	■				■		
Crawfordsville							
Mayor	■				■		
Clerk-Treasurer	■				■		
Common Council (7)	■				■		
Party Offices							
Precinct Committees	■		■		■		■
Convention Delegates	■		■		■		■

Chapter 5

The Economy



The highest employment in Montgomery County is concentrated in the manufacturing/logistics, and education sectors. The most income for the county is generated by the manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism sectors.

Thirty-three percent of Montgomery County's working population is employed in **manufacturing**, nearly twice the percentage employed statewide. Steel and steel-related industries are concentrated on the Nucor Road Industrial Corridor in the southeastern part of the County. Most of the other diversified manufacturing is located within the city limits of Crawfordsville. Montgomery County's industries are: steel production and steel products, commercial printing and binding; metal and plastic fabricating; specialty inks; corrugated containers; liquid handling products; plastic closures; wire and wire products; optical lenses, automobile components; industrial lighting; and cheese processing.

Montgomery County is a state leader in **agriculture**. In 2012, Montgomery ranked third in the state in the number of farms. According to 2014 data, the county ranks first in the State in the production of soybeans and fourth in the production of corn. Its cash receipts in 2013 for woodland harvest ranked sixth in the State. The County is home to agri-business enterprises including agricultural equipment, seed production, and aqua-culture. While the numbers of

In 1921 the printing giant RR Donnelley & Sons (today known as LSC Communications) opened its first printing plant outside of Chicago in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The original plant was built by local workers, who then helped install the equipment, and were offered jobs and training in how to use it.

workers employed in the agricultural sector is small, agriculture pays a high percentage of local property taxes because of State tax structure.

A high percentage of the workforce is employed in **education**: Montgomery County's three public school systems, Wabash College, and Ivy Tech.

The natural beauty of Montgomery County makes it a **tourist** destination. Sugar Creek runs 37 river-miles from the north east to the southwest of the county and offers not only scenic beauty, but also camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and crinoids collecting.

The **City Economic Development Commission** is composed of three members appointed by the Mayor. The **County Economic Development Commission** is composed of three members appointed by the county council, the city council and the county commissioners. It is unstaffed as of 2016. These bodies meet as required.

The **City Redevelopment Authority** is composed of three members, appointed by the Mayor of Crawfordsville for three year terms to consider opportunities for rehabilitation, redevelopment, or economic development of certain areas within the city. The Authority meets as needed.

The **Sewer District Board** was established by County Ordinance to manage the construction and maintenance of the Nucor Corridor Sewer District. Members include two commissioners, two county council members, and a school board member.

Indiana West Advantage, Inc. is the not-for profit local economic development organization. Funded by city and county governments, and local business and industry, IWA's board is composed of eighteen representatives from business, industry, agriculture, education, and government. It promotes economic growth, supports job retention and workforce development, and raises awareness of local economic issues.

The **Crawfordsville-Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.** is a not-for-profit organization that was first organized in 1859 and incorporated in 1918. The Chamber's twelve-member board and 280 individual and business members promote business-friendly state and local policy, provide information about local business and industry, and offer opportunities for networking.

Crawfordsville Main Street, Inc. managed by a twelve-member board, is the local affiliate of the national and Indiana Main Street

organizations. Its mission is to preserve the beauty and history of the downtown and to promote the economic development. It is funded by the City of Crawfordsville, local foundations, and member dues.

The **Drainage Board** is responsible for 200 regulated drains. County regulated drains increase agricultural production. A drain becomes publicly regulated when landowners apply to the Board to have drains constructed or controlled for the purpose of improving agricultural productivity. Most of the county's nearly 200 regulated drains were constructed in the 1800s. Landowner assessments, not taxes, fund the construction and maintenance of drains while the county funds the Surveyor's office and the Drainage Board. The Board determines assessments and arranges for loans.

The **Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District** is the legal subdivision of state government responsible for the conservation of soil and water within the county. The district has a governing board of five members, three elected by landowners and two appointed by the State. The district's major function is to analyze needs and develop long-range programs in support of soil and water conservation. It provides conservation education as well as conservation programs.

The **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD)** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance to the soil and water conservation district. A comprehensive survey of Montgomery County soil types by location was conducted in 1983. Landowners are eligible for certain government reimbursements for conservation measures upon district approval. State and County taxes fund the district.

The **Convention and Visitor's Commission (CVC)** is responsible for managing the innkeeper's tax, a three-percent tax on lodging that produces about \$170,000 per year for promoting tourism. Four of the seven members are appointed by the County Commissioners, while three are appointed by the Mayor of Crawfordsville. A majority of members must be in the lodging business and no more than four may be from the same political party.

The **Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Inc.**, is a not-for-profit corporation responsible for promoting tourism. It is funded by the CVC from innkeeper tax revenues. Its board, whose membership ranges from 9-12, is self-appointed.

Indiana Code 36-7-14 provides taxing units with two major **tax incentives** for industries. They include Tax Abatement, which allows companies to phase in their tax payments gradually, usually over a ten-year period. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allows the taxing unit to capture new tax dollars—those associated with new property—for infrastructure expenditures such as sewer, roads, and water. The City Council grants tax incentives to companies within the City limits while the County Council performs the same function for companies outside the City limits.

The **City Redevelopment Commission** and the **County Redevelopment Commission** have been established for the purpose of levying and collecting special benefit taxes for redevelopment purposes.

Indiana Code 36-7-4-400 allows local units of government to create a **plan for future growth** that considers safety, efficiency, and optimal placement of facilities for recreation, schools, commerce, and industry. It also allows the affected governmental unit to designate specific areas for specific purposes, typically commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural. Planning and Zoning provides property owners with safeguards that adjacent land use will not create conflicts over noise, odor, road wear and tear, etc. The statute allows for several versions of an ordinance. An Area Plan Commission governs a county and any municipality within that county that wishes to participate. An Advisory Plan Commission serves just a county, city, or town. The City of Crawfordsville has an **Area Planning and Zoning ordinance**. Although Montgomery County does not have a planning and zoning ordinance, the City Crawfordsville has extra-territorial area zoning, which allows a city to impose its ordinance two-miles beyond its borders, a provision in the Indiana Code for counties that do not have Planning and Zoning. The “extra-territorial area” or two-mile zone is greater on the southernmost city boundary in order to encompass the City-owned airport.

A comprehensive **planning and zoning plan** was first discussed in 1947 and approved by the Common Council in 1969. In 1972, the Council included the two-mile zone surrounding the City. The Plan was modified in 1992, 2003, and 2007. The City will update the comprehensive plan in 2016. Those involved in Crawfordsville Planning and Zoning include the **Crawfordsville Common Council**, the **Crawfordsville Plan Commission**, the **Board of Zoning Appeals**, and the **Crawfordsville Planning Department**.

The **Plan Commission** is composed of eleven members: one member of the Common Council, one member of the Parks Board, an appointment by the Board of Public Works and Safety, and the City Engineer. The Crawfordsville mayor appoints five citizens who reside in the city, and the County Commissioners appoint two citizens who reside in the two-mile unincorporated area. The legislation requires political balance for the Mayoral (no more than three from the same party) and County Commissioner (may not be from the same party) appointments. Members serve four-year terms. The Plan Commission hears petitions for amendments to the zoning ordinance and requests for subdivision approval. On zoning issues, the Commission prepares recommendations to the Common Council. For subdivision issues, the Commission makes primary plat decisions while the Plat Committee, composed of the Plan Director, the city engineer or a representative, the storm water manager, and two members of the Plan Commission, grants secondary or final approval.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals, (BZA)** is a quasi-judicial board whose decisions are final unless appealed to the courts. The BZA is composed of five members: the Mayor appoints three citizen members, one of whom must be a member of the plan commission, and two who are not members of the plan commission; the Common Council appoints one; and plan commission appoints one member from its membership. The Mayoral appointments must be politically balanced and members serve four-year terms. The Board hears requests for special exceptions to the zoning ordinance. Requests may be made by citizens, the Plan Commission, the Plan Director and other local officials or by the BZA itself.

The **Director of the Crawfordsville Planning Department** coordinates the work of the boards.

Although **Montgomery County** does not have a **planning and zoning** ordinance, it has explored the adoption of one since 1965 when the County Commissioners established the Montgomery County Plan Commission to draft a comprehensive ordinance for their approval.

In 1969 and again in 1971, the Plan Commission proposed a county planning and zoning ordinance to the County Commissioners. In 1972, the Commissioners rejected the proposal. The Plan Commission was disbanded and the County Council eliminated funding. The Council approved funding in the 1994 budget for

planning. Commissioners appointed a County Plan Commission and charged them with holding public meetings to gather information about the need for a countywide comprehensive plan. In 1996, the Commission recommended to the Commissioners that the county develop a comprehensive plan. No vote was taken for lack of a second. In 2002, the Commissioners directed the Plan Commission to hire a consulting firm to help the county develop a comprehensive plan. The Commission hired HNTB, created a steering committee and held public meetings. The process ended when the County Council eliminated the budget for planning in 2003. The Plan Commission continues to meet to approve subdivision requests per IC 36-7-3-2. The Commission updated the local subdivision control ordinance in 2003.

The 1978 Commissioners adopted the **Sugar Creek Zoning Ordinance**, a land use ordinance specifically for land in and adjacent to the Sugar Creek corridor in the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County. The Sugar Creek Advisory Board advises the county commissioners about protecting and preserving Sugar Creek in a scenic and natural state. The commissioners appoint six members, and the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appoints one member. A majority of the members must be owners of land abutting Sugar Creek. Non-voting members include the county sheriff, the county building administrator, a DNR conservation officer and the county sanitarian.

In 2001, the Commissioners passed a supplemental ordinance to the Montgomery County Flood Ordinance to “protect, preserve and maintain Sugar Creek in a state as close to its natural state as is reasonably possible, and ...to exercise the necessary control of the stream, stream bank, and stream corridor.” Three members serve on the **Flood Plain Commission**, all appointed by the Commissioners. As of 2016, the Commission is unstaffed. The area controlled by to the ordinance is designated as a **Natural Scenic District**: “Sugar Creek from creek mile 56.2 to creek mile 22.3 including all of Sugar Creek in Montgomery County and the strip of land along each side of the creek which is defined by the ordinary high water mark and a line paralleling the ordinary high water mark...”

Chapter 6

The Public Safety

Emergency Dispatch

“911, where is your emergency?” is the response received by citizens needing emergency help in Montgomery County. The **Montgomery County Central Communications Center** (www.montgomeryco.net) is the county’s single public safety answering point. It provides emergency dispatch to approximately thirty agencies, including the Crawfordsville police and fire departments, the county sheriff, the county probation department, nine town marshals, nine township fire departments, one private ambulance service, the animal welfare league, the county coroner, the Indiana state police and the Indiana department of natural resources. The Crawfordsville police department operates the center by interagency agreement with the county commissioners and the city of Crawfordsville. County and city tax dollars along with telephone user fees fund the center. The Montgomery County **Mass Notification System** alerts citizens about emergencies and other important community news. This system provides critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Law Enforcement

The Montgomery **County Sheriff** (765-362-0885; www.montgomerycosheriff.net) is the elected chief executive law enforcement officer for the county. The sheriff manages the sheriff’s department, the county jail and the prisoners; serves process papers; executes court orders; transports persons committed to charitable



or correctional institutions; and serves and collects tax warrants. The sheriff is also responsible for handgun applications, fee bill collections and sheriff's sales. Deputies and reserve deputies provide twenty-four-hour patrol of Montgomery County for traffic safety and crime prevention and control. The sheriff works cooperatively with the Indiana state police for crime investigation. The department consists of 73 employees including the sheriff, two administrators, 43 jail staff, fifteen road deputies, seven part-time reserve deputies, two court security officers, and one work release officer. The department operates 24 patrol cars, three reserve cars, the process server's car, two transport vehicles, one work release vehicle, and a tactical vehicle. Vehicles are appropriately equipped with radios, computer equipment, moving radar, video recorders and other necessary equipment.

The Montgomery County sheriff's **tactical narcotics team** consists of nine members from the sheriff's department with assistance from town marshals and federal customs agents. The team's commander and assistant commander train the team no less than twelve hours per month. The team assists in high-risk activities such as narcotics investigations, raids, hostage situations, and jail riots.

The five-member, bipartisan sheriff's **merit board** is responsible, by state law, for some merit system personnel functions, including pension and insurance plans.

The Montgomery County **Coroner** (765-364-6368) is responsible for determining causes of death. Elected for a four-year term, the coroner does not have to be a physician in the state of Indiana.

The **Crawfordsville Police Department** (765-362-3762; www.crawfordsvilleepolice.com) enforces the law within the city of Crawfordsville. The mayor appoints the police chief while the three-member board of police commissioners sets policy, and hires, promotes and disciplines other police personnel. The department is funded through Crawfordsville city taxes. The department is currently staffed by 36 sworn officers, two parking enforcement monitors, a record department manager, and one administrative assistant. Officers go through approximately 700 hours of initial training including 480 hours at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. All Officers are required to complete 24 hours of yearly, state-mandated training in the areas of domestic violence, emergency vehicle operations and firearms,

All Officers are required to complete 24 hours of yearly, state-mandated training in the areas of domestic violence, emergency vehicle operations and firearms, among others.

among others. Officers also receive specific training in active shooter, SWAT, K-9, Polygraph and various other important skills.

At this point the **Reserve Officer** program is on hold pending an updated training program.

Town marshals, appointed by town boards and funded through town taxes, provide law enforcement duties in nine of Montgomery County's ten incorporated towns: Darlington, Ladoga, Linden, New Market, New Richmond, New Ross, Waveland, Waynetown, and Wingate.

The **Montgomery County Animal Welfare League** (1104 Big Four Arch Rd, Crawfordsville; 765-362-8846) is funded by city and county tax dollars and private donations. Employees enforce state and local laws concerning animals. A paid director, three full-time employees and many volunteers provide care, adoption and euthanasia for over 2,000 animals per year.

The **Indiana State Police** post in Lafayette serves Montgomery and eight other counties. The state police provide local enforcement agencies with information in the areas of drug, alcohol and gambling violations, and provide assistance in connection with traffic control and traffic accidents.

The **Indiana Department of Natural Resources** (30 Professional Ct, Lafayette; 765-567-7859; www.in.gov/dnr/) has one full-time conservation officer assigned to Montgomery County. The officer registers all powerboats and off-road vehicles, and patrols reservoirs and public waters in the county. The officer also enforces state laws and DNR rules in Shades State Park, state forests and the two state nature preserves, Pine Hills and Pedestal Rock. The officer enforces hunting, fishing and boating laws and regulations, and enforces traffic laws outside the limits of state-owned areas.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Montgomery County has twelve fire stations, operated by ten fire departments. Crawfordsville has two fire stations, one downtown and one east of the CSX tracks on US 136. Coal Creek Fire and Rescue has stations in Wingate and New Richmond. With a few exceptions, the fire departments are aligned with township boundaries. The Darlington Fire Department serves Sugar Creek and Franklin Townships. The Ladoga Fire Department serves most of Clark Township and some of

Scott Township. The New Market Community Fire Department serves parts of Brown and Scott Townships.

All fire departments are staffed with volunteers except Crawfordsville. Most of the 241 firefighters are trained as first responders, emergency medical technicians (EMT) or paramedics. The fire departments have 66 pieces of motorized equipment including engines, tankers, ambulances as well as rescue, brush and ladder trucks. Fire runs are usually free to citizens but some fire departments collect from insurance companies. The fire chiefs meet regularly and fire departments help each other through mutual aid agreements.

The Crawfordsville Fire Department provides **ambulance service** for Crawfordsville, all of Union Township, Brown, and all of Ripley Township. The Crawfordsville Fire Department has Advanced Life Support (ALS) that is available to others when needed. The Ladoga and Walnut Township Fire Departments have their own ambulance services.

STAR Ambulance is privately owned with 75 paid staff serving not only Montgomery's northern fire departments but also Marion, Hendricks, and Tippecanoe Counties. Citizens using ambulance services are billed. Fees vary depending on the level of service and the distance involved.

All fire departments receive funding from township levies. Some also receive funds from town levies. Most funding for the Crawfordsville Fire Department is from the City of Crawfordsville general fund. Grants and fund raising events provide additional support for the fire departments. Emergency medical services are roughly aligned with the fire suppression service areas.

Crawfordsville Fire Department provides ambulance service, by contract, to Union, Brown and Ripley townships. Emergency medical services are usually delivered by firefighters who have the necessary training as "first responders," EMTs (emergency medical technicians) or paramedics. These designations carry responsibility and training requirements that increase in the order listed.

Three fire departments have ambulances: Crawfordsville, Ladoga, and Walnut Township. Star ambulance covers the City of New Market and Clark Township and Crawfordsville Fire Department covers Waveland fire districts through a contractual arrangement. The townships in the northern part of Montgomery County receive ambulance service from STAR Ambulance, a private firm.

All fire departments and ambulance services, except the Walnut Township volunteer fire department, charge a user fee for each run. The charge varies according to the level of care. Private donations support ambulance runs in Walnut Township.

When requested, the Crawfordsville fire department provides “intercept” service for the other fire departments if a higher level of medical care is required for patients being transported to a medical facility.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Since the 2001 World Trade Center attack, disaster preparedness is a prominent concern in the United States. Directed by the United States department of homeland security, it is coordinated through the Indiana department of homeland security. Overall management of preparedness in Montgomery County is the responsibility of the director of the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, who is appointed annually by the county commissioners. Federal and local taxes fund the agency. The **Emergency Operations Center** located in the basement of the Crawfordsville city building, is a designated gathering place for governmental department heads and elected officials during emergencies.

Preparedness activities include assessment of risk factors, planning, coordination and communication, supervision and training of disaster teams, and evaluation. In the event of a disaster, many organizations in the county will play roles that are planned and have been practiced. These **emergency organizations** include schools, government, industries, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. In addition, the **Medical Reserve Corps** is a voluntary group of professional medical personnel who are on call for emergency service. The most likely risks to our community are natural disasters such as flooding, severe storms, tornados, communicable disease outbreaks, and hazardous waste spills. Community teams are trained in medical care, water rescue, bomb disposal, mass inoculation, shelter and mass feeding, and terrorism response. In addition, volunteers are trained to observe the skies for tornados.

The **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** provides information about locally generated hazardous wastes and trains local

personnel to handle hazardous spills at local industries and on major transportation arteries. Because a major railroad and an interstate highway intersect Montgomery County, our community is especially vulnerable to a hazardous spill disaster.

Montgomery County’s **alert system** consists of siren amplifiers placed in strategic positions around the city and in each of the incorporated towns in the county. The sirens are activated by radio from the Crawfordsville police department. After a siren alert, the local radio stations provide information and instructions. County officials test the alert system every first and third Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Specially trained members of the Crawfordsville fire department conduct **public education** and perform annual fire prevention inspections for all businesses, industrial sites and places of public assembly located within their fire protection area.

Chapter 7

Finances and Taxes

A governmental **budget** is a statement of projected income and projected expenditures. Budgets in Indiana's local governments and other taxing units cover one calendar year, starting January 1. However, local budgets are proposed and approved months before they are applicable.

Towns, townships, cities, conservancy districts, school districts and libraries adopt budgets each year. Most are published in the newspaper, as are financial reports from the previous year, in shortened form. In this way, citizens may keep informed on the budgeting process and on the actual dollar figures. In addition, government budget meetings are open to the public. For many small local government units, the annual budget document is the only comprehensive, publicly available plan of action for the upcoming year. In the process of deciding how much money to allocate to various departments and projects, elected and appointed officials set out the priorities and objectives of their administrations.

Budgets are complex documents. The budget wording and arrangement follow a format established by the state. Proposed budgets are reviewed in October by representatives of the **Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF)**. At this review, the state approves budgets or cuts them. By law, budgets cannot be increased during review.

It is difficult for local taxing units to project income in advance of the beginning of their fiscal years because they have little or no

up-to-date information on the property tax income they can expect. Final figures on total assessed valuation of the government unit involved are not available when the unit draws up its budget. Final tax rates are not known until the DLGF sets the figures. Another budget complication is the need for an adequate operating balance. It must be large enough to cover current expenses but should not be out of proportion to actual need.

Once reviewed by the state and adopted, an annual budget cannot be changed. Transfers may be made, however, from one budget line or section to another; and additional appropriations may be made within the budget. Transfers within budgets are a common practice as officials face actual income and expenses during the year, but funds generally cannot be moved from one department to another (e.g., unexpended police department funds cannot be transferred to the sanitation budget and school transportation or capital project funds cannot be transferred into its general fund).

There are many different **sources of revenue** for governments in Indiana, taxes being the single greatest source. Taxes in Indiana include the income tax, sales tax, excise tax (especially on automobiles), alcoholic beverage and cigarette taxes, gasoline tax and others.

The **taxing powers** of local governments are limited by the state constitution, although there are some opportunities for local taxes like the County Option Income Tax (COIT)*, a form of local income tax approved by the state legislature and adopted in Montgomery County.

Local Option Income Tax (LOIT)*, is an income tax that can be used in three ways: property tax replacement, property tax relief and public safety. In 2008, the Montgomery County Council adopted a 1% LOIT, all of which was to be used for property tax relief.

Some taxes, such as the gasoline tax, are collected by the state and returned to the county of origin. Welfare is now funded by the state. Salaries of judges, prosecuting attorney and chief deputy are funded by the state.

Road and street repairs are paid by **state and federal gas taxes**. Other revenues include wheel tax money and allocations from COIT revenue. Local governments receive funds for specific purposes such as roads, streets and schools. Federal funds are available for specific

* The terminology of LOIT and COIT is going away; it is being replaced with "LIT" — Local Income Tax. Montgomery County currently imposes a 2.1% LIT -- 1% used for budget funding as property tax replacement and 1.1% used as property tax relief.

projects, usually on a matching basis, for which local governments must make direct application. Still other federal funds are channeled to the local government through the state government.

In Indiana, county, city, town and township governments are financed primarily through local property taxes. However, local taxing units have other sources of income, such as interest on investments, grants, user fees for recreation facilities, business permit fees, fines and the innkeeper's tax. Federal and state taxes are returned to the county toward costs for local services like childhood immunizations.

Bond income is a special resource for the public sector. In Indiana, governments may issue bonds on a limited scale for up to two percent of the total budget. Separate entities, however, may create bonding authorities. Typically, school districts establish such authorities to issue bonds for new schools. Income from the sale of such bonds is used for the planned construction. General obligation bonds are paid through local taxes, but revenue bonds are paid through a designated source of income, such as rental payments, taxes or special funds.

Property taxes account for approximately forty percent of Montgomery County's budget and approximately forty-five percent of Crawfordsville's budget. Township, towns and libraries in Montgomery County depend even more on local property taxes. Local governmental units that have taxing powers in Indiana (taxing units) include the county, city, town, township, conservancy district, school district and library. Property taxes are collected by the county, through the office of the county treasurer, and are distributed to the taxing units as budgeted, twice a year. The distributions, called draws, may be given before their scheduled time if requested by the taxing unit. Property owners are billed twice yearly, with payments due May 10 and November 10. Property tax is based on the following formula: Assessed Value (AV) x Tax Rate = Levy. In Indiana, assessed value for real and personal property is 100 percent of the market value. The tax rate is a compilation of all the rates for overlapping taxing districts. In Montgomery County, the tax rate for property taxpayers includes a county rate, township rate and school rate. The rate also may include rates for municipalities, libraries, fire service and others. The levy is the governmental unit's budget for the year less any non-property tax revenue.

Tax rates are usually expressed as dollars per \$100 of assessed value. To arrive at the appropriate residential tax for a property, the assessor is required to establish a relationship between the assessment and the market value of other properties in a home's immediate area. This information is obtained through sales data. Two categories are used to arrive at an assessed value: land and structures. The land value includes the cost of utility hook-ups (well and septic), landscaping, driveways and private walkways. Structures include anything that has been constructed on the land including houses, barns, garages, sheds, pools, decks and patios. The total value of the land and structures should represent the market value of the property.

"Circuit Breaker" Legislation, first enacted in 2006 and then modified in 2007 and 2008, provides taxpayers with a tax credit for all property taxes in excess of certain percentages of gross assessed value of eligible property. **Property tax caps** were phased in beginning with property taxes due and payable in 2010. The percentages were set at 1% of gross assessed value for homesteads, 2% for agricultural, residential rental and long-term care facilities, and 3% for all other real and personal property (essentially businesses). The legislation also eliminates certain funds from local levies and these funds will be provided by the state. These include: school corporation General Fund levy, special education pre-school tax levy, medical assistance towards fund, family and children's services fund, children's psychiatric residential treatment services fund, children with special health care needs court fund, hospital care for indigent fund, state forestry fund, State Fair fund, DLGF database management funds, child welfare services fund, and fund for incarcerating delinquent children in a department of correction facility. Property tax replacement credits were eliminated beginning in 2009.

In 2003, the Indiana legislature updated the **Homestead Credit Act** to provide for property tax relief. 2008 legislation now caps maximum standard deduction at the lesser of \$45,000 or 60% of assessed value for 2009 and thereafter. An additional supplemental standard deduction for homesteads was created, so that after the standard deduction, the next \$600,000 of assessed value will receive 35% deduction and additional 25% for remaining assessed value over \$600,000. The legislation also increased the deduction amount and income threshold for senior citizens, the blind, and the disabled.

After the exemptions are deducted, the tax, using the current tax rate, is figured.

There is much property in Montgomery County that is **exempt** from paying property taxes. Churches and church-related properties, schools, government property, nonprofit facilities, cemeteries, colleges and libraries are exempt. In some cases, tax-exempt entities have to reapply each year for that status.

The state exercises control over much of local government's **expenditures** through budget reviews and audits by the State Board of Accounts. Some special situations should be noted. The county pays for county highway building and repair; the city pays for its streets. However, for state and federal highways, including those passing through incorporated areas, funding comes from the state. There are often state and federal resources for bridges in addition to the specific county taxes. Sewage systems in small towns are often funded outside of property tax revenues. Excluding capital projects, transportation, or debt service, all general operating costs of school budgets now come from the state. State funds in Indiana also largely pay for salaries in local justice systems.

Chapter 8

Transportation

Interstate 74 crosses Montgomery County east/west, passing just north of Crawfordsville. Two interstate exits provide access to Crawfordsville: Exit 34 onto SR 32 from the east and Exit 39 onto US 231 from the north. Crawfordsville serves as the county seat, and the intersection of Washington and Market streets is the central point from which all county roads are marked. Four federal and state roads intersect at that point: US 231, US 136, SR 47 and SR 32. U.S. Highway 231 runs north/south and U.S. Highway 136 runs east/west across the county. Montgomery County is serviced by three additional major state roads: SR 25, SR 59, and SR 234. These highways provide easy access to all parts of the county, encouraging business and industry as well as tourism.

The **Indiana Department of Transportation** (INDOT) is divided into six districts, each of which is divided into sub-districts and units. The Crawfordsville District (41 W 300 N, Crawfordsville; 888-924-6368 or 765-362-3700; www.in.gov/indot/2701.htm) is divided into five sub-districts encompassing thirteen counties. The Crawfordsville Sub-district office is situated at 153 W 300 N, just west of the district office. INDOT handles highway maintenance for all federal and state highways. For additional information, contact the Communications Director of the Crawfordsville District (765-361-5236). For social media updates, you may “follow” them on Twitter (www.twitter.com/INDOT) or “like” them on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/INDOTWestCentral)

The **Montgomery County Highway Department** (818 N Whitlock Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-362-2304) is responsible for roads in the unincorporated areas of the county. The County Highway Director, appointed annually by the county commissioners, oversees the maintenance and repair of county roads, bridges, and culverts as directed by the commissioners. Funds for roadwork come from a share of the state fuel tax, the county wheel tax, and motor vehicle registration fees returned to the county by the state. There are approximately 845 miles of county roads (hard surface and gravel), 173 bridges, and about three culverts per mile that must be maintained. The highway department works from a Highway Improvement Plan approved annually by the county commissioners. The Plan determines which roads will be improved from gravel to hard surface and which require maintenance and reconstruction. It also specifies which bridges will be replaced and which require maintenance.

The **Crawfordsville Street Department** (107 N. Vermont St, Crawfordsville; 765-364-5166) is headed by the Crawfordsville Street Commissioner and is responsible for the maintenance and repair of streets and alleys in the city. The Commissioner is appointed annually by the mayor. The department sweeps and cleans city streets, removes snow, ice and other weather related annoyances, erects and maintains street signs, and resurfaces and repairs streets and alleys. It contracts with the state to sweep several curb miles of state highways that run through Crawfordsville and is reimbursed by the state for this work. The placement of street signs is determined by the City Council upon recommendations from the Crawfordsville Police Department. The department's other responsibilities include maintaining and repairing storm sewers and drains; painting curbs and various street and parking lot lines; and repairing and maintaining parking lot pavements.

Crawfordsville has several city-owned **parking lots** with a combination of two-, four- and twelve-hour metered parking. There is also one free lot located east of the Post Office. Downtown parking spaces are limited to two-hour parking, with fines assessed for overtime parking. Revenue from the meters and parking fines goes into the city's general operating fund, which is used to pay the wages of parking attendants who patrol the downtown, and to maintain the lots and meters.

In 2014, work began on a **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**.

Eight priority routes were identified by the Plan, several of which are located within the downtown. Crawfordsville's Stellar Community designation is accelerating implementation of the plan resulting in a "complete streets" concept that promotes the use of the downtown. That plan is currently in the INDOT funding plan to complete in 2019. As part of Indiana's 2016 Bicentennial Celebration, downtown bike racks will welcome bicyclists. Pedestrians and bicyclists currently enjoy more than four miles of Sugar Creek Trail, featuring trailheads at Crawfordsville High School, Christ Lutheran Church, RR Donnelley Trail Head Park, and Rock River Landing Trailhead Park, as well as three sheltered rest areas. Crawfordsville will connect two currently disconnected pieces of this trail along a one-mile section of rail from the RR Donnelley Trailhead to the intersection of the trail with Schenk Road, with the goal of bringing the trail system into the heart of the city when connected to the planned Big Four Trail. The Big Four Trail is designed to begin at Crawfordsville Middle School, pass by the Wabash College campus, and join the existing Sugar Creek Trail. It will also be the southern link of the planned Downtown Loop Trail, which travels along Franklin, Water, Main, Walnut, Wabash, and Grant streets, that connects the Big Four Trail and Wabash College to downtown businesses, the Pocket Park, and Marie Canine Plaza. Part of the **Downtown Loop Trail** plan includes a new streetscape for Main Street from Water to Walnut. A future goal is to expand the loop to include Green and Spring Streets, connecting the train station to the heart of downtown.

Daily train service east and west is available from Crawfordsville. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday The **Hoosier State** (www.hoosierstatetrain.com) travels between Indianapolis and Chicago, with stops in Crawfordsville, Lafayette, Rensselaer and Dyer. Riders enjoy free WiFi and an on-board chef who makes all meals to order. Business Class features the convenience of conference tables and the pleasure of riding in an upper car with wraparound view windows. Three days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Saturday) the Amtrak Cardinal Line (www.Amtrak.com) stops in Crawfordsville. The evening Cardinal goes east from Crawfordsville to Indianapolis and then on to Washington, D.C. and New York City. The westbound Cardinal stops in Crawfordsville at approximately 7:00 a.m. on those days. The point of departure is the **Amtrak** shelter across from the police station at 400 North Green Street. Crawfordsville High School students, in partner-

ship with community organizations and the City of Crawfordsville, put in a pocket park and improved the appearance of the train station.

There is no regularly scheduled public bus service, but Ben-Hur Cab (5602 S 310 E; 765-361-9823) services the area, including transportation to and from Indianapolis International Airport. The Sunshine Express Vans (765-364-5173), sponsored by the Area IV Council on Aging, works through the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Department to provide transportation for those 60 and over and for the disabled. These vans operate Monday through Friday.

The **Crawfordsville Municipal Airport** (759 W 400 S, Crawfordsville; 765-362-0070; www.crawfordsville.net/departments/index.php?structureid=11) is a public use facility owned by the city. It is included in the FAA National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems for 2015–2019, which categorizes it as a local general aviation facility. A five member Board of Aviation Commissioners appointed by the mayor administers the airport, and a full-time airport manager is in charge. Current facilities and equipment include a recently extended 75 x 5500 foot hard-surface runway and full-length taxiway with landing lights and instrument approach, hangars, and tie-down areas. The airport serves aviation customers with flight instruction, aircraft rental, and aircraft maintenance. The Crawfordsville Airport is accessible for single-engine, multi-engine, and jet aircraft; and approximately 75 percent of all flights arriving and departing from the airport are related to local industry. In 2016, there were 31 aircraft based at this airport: 28 single-engine plane, two multi-engine planes, and one jet.

A new terminal was completed and dedicated in 2009. The terminal building welcomes arrivals with a large, comfortable lounge area with internet access, complimentary coffee, hot chocolate, bottled water and ice. One portion of the terminal is always open, with restroom, telephone, seating and snacks for purchase. There are also rooms dedicated for conferences, meetings, flight planning and comfortable layovers. For members of the local community, there is a rustic outdoor shelter for picnics. Funding for the airport comes from a combination of user fees and federal, state, and local taxes. A 2012 survey reported that the airport generates \$80 million in economic value to the community each year. It also supports 255 jobs with a total payroll of \$13 million. For additional information, visit the website.

The Railway Museum in Linden recalls the days when the Monon Railroad ran through the heart of Montgomery County. The museum is a treasure trove of railroad lore and includes a large HO train layout.



Chapter 9

Utilities

ELECTRICITY

Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power (808 Lafayette Rd, Crawfordsville; 765 -362-1900; www.celp.com) was established in 1890. It continues to serve the city as well as some surrounding areas (27 square miles). CEL&P owns and operates a 138 KVA transmission system and five 138 KVA/13.8 KVA substations serving its territory. In 2015 it served 10,000 customers and had 42 employees. CEL&P owns Electric Generation plants in 3 states and is an owner of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) along with 59 other Indiana communities. The utility has three megawatts of solar energy in Crawfordsville and has plans for more in the future. In 1961, the Crawfordsville City Council set up a three-member Utility Service Board to govern the operations of the utility. In 1976 the Council increased the board to five members. This is a bi-partisan board, whose members serve four-year, staggered terms. The Mayor appoints the CEL&P manager with the approval of the Utility Service Board.

Tipmont REMC (403 S Main St, Linden; 765-339-3243; www.tipmont.org) provides power to Coal Creek, Madison, Sugar Creek, Wayne, Ripley, Union, Franklin, and Walnut townships. Tipmont REMC is a member-owned electric cooperative serving over 20,000 members in parts of eight counties, including Montgomery. Tipmont REMC has provided electric service to its members since 1939. They also offer home and business security services and generator sales. As a Touchstone Energy Partner, Tipmont REMC serves the community with Operation Round Up and EnviroWatts programs.

Parke County REMC (119 W High St, Rockville; 765-569-3133; www.pcremc.com) provides service to parts of Brown, Scott, South Union and Ripley Townships, including Lake Holiday. Parts of Ripley, Brown, Scott, Clark and Walnut townships receive power from Duke Energy (www.duke-energy.com/indiana.asp). Hendricks Power Cooperative provides electricity to areas of Clark Township. The towns of Darlington, Ladoga, New Ross and Waynetown have municipal power companies.

WATER

A water company began operations in Crawfordsville in 1895. Deep wells supply most of the water for the city of Crawfordsville. The water comes from two well fields, one located east of the city limits near Banjo Drive, and the Todd wells, west of the city. There are two water storage facilities.

Indiana American Water Company (809 Banjo Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3940; www.amwater.com/inaw/) provides water service in the Crawfordsville area. Nearly all of the incorporated area of the city is served by the 92-mile water system, with some water mains located outside of the incorporation limits. The entire system is metered. The Indiana American Water Company sells approximately 2.6 million gallons per day to 5500 customers (meters). In 2009, Indiana American purchased the water system in Waveland and now provides water to that community as well. In 1986, Darlington was the second incorporated county town to install a water distribution system. Aqua Indiana now owns the Darlington Water Works. In addition, Ladoga, Linden, New Market, New Richmond, Waynetown and Wingate have town water supplies, some privately owned and some publicly owned. Many county residents have privately owned wells.

NATURAL GAS

Vectren Corporation (812-491-4000; www.vectren.com) is an energy holding company headquartered in Evansville, Indiana. Vectren's wholly owned subsidiary, Vectren Utility Holdings, Inc. (VUHI), serves as the intermediate holding company for three operating utilities: Indiana Gas Company, Inc. (Vectren North), Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company (Vectren South), and Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio (VEDO). Vectren provides natural

gas to the city of Crawfordsville, portions of Union township, and the towns of Ladoga, Linden and Waynetown, which includes 11,000 to 13,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Wastewater is handled in Crawfordsville by the Crawfordsville Waste Water Treatment Plant (515 Bluff St. Crawfordsville; 765-364-5169). The plant was built as a WPA project before WWII and is operated under the supervision of the Board of Public Works and Safety. The mayor appoints the plant superintendent. In 2016, there were twelve employees and the budget was \$2.9 million. Water users pay a monthly charge that finances the operation of the plant and maintenance of the sewage lines. The most recent expansion was in 1998 when the plant was enlarged to handle a 4.7 million gallon daily flow with a maximum of six million gallons per day for short periods. This expansion included a new settling tank, chlorine contact and sludge storage. A private contractor hauls sludge from the plant. Plans are underway for a renovation of the treatment plant that will result in new clarifiers and allow for increased surge flow.

Darlington, Ladoga, Linden, New Market, Waveland, Waynetown and Wingate also have full-scale wastewater treatment facilities. Other county residents use septic systems.

Public Law 10-1990 requires all Indiana counties, except Marion County, to form a **solid waste management district** and develop a plan. Districts may be single or multi-county districts. Montgomery County is part of the West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management District whose office is in Greencastle, Indiana. Parke and Putnam Counties also are members. Among other powers and responsibilities granted by state law, a solid waste district implements a solid waste management plan, develops recycling programs and educates the public about solid waste management.

A private contractor operates the Crawfordsville transfer station on Bluff Street. Solid waste is hauled to the Clinton, Indiana landfill for a tonnage fee. County residents outside of Crawfordsville either pay private haulers to carry their waste to the city transfer station or take it themselves and pay a fee. Industries, apartment buildings and commercial concerns in Montgomery County pay private haulers to dispose of their waste. The Crawfordsville Street Commissioner

manages the Crawfordsville Street and Sanitation Department. Residential garbage is picked up curbside weekly. **Hazardous waste** disposal is separately contracted to licensed haulers who transport hazardous wastes in the state. No officially recognized hazardous waste disposal site exists in Montgomery County. A county ordinance bars such a site. Annually, usually in the spring, the West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management District sponsors "Tox Away Days" to provide an opportunity for county residents to dispose of toxic items.

RECYCLING

Crawfordsville has **curbside recycling** that is combined with garbage pickup. Each resident is issued a bin for newspapers, glass jars and bottles, tin cans, and #1-7 plastic containers. There is no limit to the amount of recyclable items that may be put at the curb. In addition, a recycling drop-off site provided by **Walden Transport and Recycle** is located on East Wabash Avenue and is open to residents of the city. The drop-off site is open at all times, and all of the items listed above plus brown cardboard, paper and magazines are accepted.

The West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management District provides recycling containers at both North Montgomery and South Montgomery High Schools that are available at all times.

The city maintains a **yard waste** drop-off area on Whitlock Avenue that is available to all county residents. Grass clippings, leaves, and branches are accepted from early spring until late December. The Crawfordsville Street Department collects leaves curbside in residential areas of the city in the fall.

Chapter 10

Communications

While residents of Montgomery County have some dial-up providers available, Crawfordsville area residents can access several kinds of high-speed **internet connections**. AT&T (1-800-742-8771) provides DSL (digital subscriber lines). Comcast Corporation (888-266-2278) offers phone, internet and video services to homes and businesses. Comcast is principally involved in the development, management, and operation of cable networks and in the delivery of programming content. METRONET (765-307-2000) provides high-speed, fiber optic internet communication services residents and businesses in the Crawfordsville area. Tipmont REMC also offers high speed internet.

Two daily **newspapers** serve Crawfordsville and the surrounding region. The *Journal-Review* (119 N Green St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-1200; www.journalreview.com) can trace its beginnings in Montgomery County to 1841. It is published six days a week and focuses on local and area news. The *Paper of Montgomery County* (101 W Main St, Crawfordsville; 765-361-0100; www.thepaper24-7.com) was first published in 2004. It is published six days a week and focuses on local and area news. The Wabash College student newspaper, *The Bachelor*, is published each Friday during the academic year. This newspaper is edited by students and primarily covers college issues and events.

Forcht Broadcasting Corporation (765-362-8200; 1757 County Road 175 West or P.O. Box 603, Crawfordsville) owns four **radio** frequencies that reach the Montgomery County area: WIMC, 103.9 FM,

classic rock; WCVL, 92.1 FM and 1550 AM, '70s and '80s hits; WCDQ, 106.3 FM, country. WCVL features Cincinnati Reds baseball during the season. News about community events, live coverage from remote locations, and local sports events are broadcast on all Forcht stations. All four stations have streaming capabilities: www.wcvlam.com; www.wimcfm.com and www.wcdqfm.com. Wabash College owns the 91.3 FM frequency, WNDY. In partnership with the Indianapolis public radio station, the programming of WFYI, including NPR and BBC, can be heard at this frequency. During the academic year, Wabash students operate the station in the evenings (6:00 p.m. to midnight) or when Wabash sports events are scheduled.

Telephone service is divided into local service and long-distance service. Companies owning local facilities are sometimes known as “incumbent local exchange carriers” or ILECs. There are two ILECs providing service in Montgomery County. **AT&T** (800-742-8771) provides service for Crawfordsville, Union Township, Darlington, Ladoga, New Market and the Waynetown areas. **TDS Telecom** (888-225-5837) provides service to the northern part of the county, including Darlington, Linden, Wingate and New Richmond, as well as Waynetown, Ladoga and New Ross in southern Montgomery County. **Metronet** (2400 Lafayette Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-307-2000; www.metronetinc.com) is a customer-focused company that provides fiber optic telephone service in Crawfordsville. The company is based in Evansville, Indiana, and currently serves many communities in the southwest quadrant of Indiana.

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) are companies that are permitted to compete with ILECs. As a result of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, they are allowed to use any facility or equipment used in the provision of a telecommunications service by ILECs including local loops and switches. CLECs may also receive any retail services offered by ILECs at a whole price so they do not have to invest in switches, fiber optic transmission facilities, or collocation arrangements. The following companies are registered to provide services in Montgomery County: Buy-Tel Communications, Inc.; CAMARATO Distributing, Inc.; CAT Communications, Inc.; Cinergy Communications Company; Ernest Communications, Inc.; McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services; Talk America, Inc.; and US Xchange of Indiana, LLC.

All of the major cellular telephone companies provide services throughout Montgomery County.

There are no **television** stations operated in Montgomery County. Reception is primarily via cable or satellite disc. AT&T (800-742-8771) provides cable, video on demand and high-definition television. Comcast (888-266-2278) provides digital cable, video on demand, high-definition television as well as internet services. Metronet has a local office at 2400 Lafayette Avenue. Services include fiber optic television cable service, video on demand in addition to internet and telephone service for homes and businesses.

Chapter 11

Health

Medical and other health services in Montgomery County are provided by governmental, non-profit and private agencies. The governmental agencies and medical services organizations are listed below.

Information about non-profit and private agencies can be found at **MontCares** (www.montcares.org), a website shared by all of the health and social service providers in Montgomery County. Service types are mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, reproductive health, elder care, assisted living, hospice and in-home care.

The **Montgomery County Health Department** (110 West South Boulevard; 765-364-6440; www.montgomeryco.net) is responsible for enforcing state and local health laws and ordinances; investigating contagious diseases; administering immunizations; conducting sanitary inspections of food establishments; inspecting public and semi-public swimming pools, and septic system installations; developing plans for community preparedness for public health emergencies; maintaining local birth and death records; and initiating and implementing local health programs. A seven-member **Health Board** governs the county health department. At least two members of the board must be physicians holding unlimited licenses to practice medicine in Indiana. Board members are appointed by the county commissioners and serve four-year terms. The board appoints a **Health Officer**, who must hold an unlimited license to practice medicine, and who serves as a non-voting member of the board. State law requires the board publish an annual report. The administration

of the health department is supported with county funds while most programs are supported with state and federal funds.

Subject to the confirmation of the health board, the health officer appoints public health nurses, environmental health specialists, clerks and other personnel. The Officer serves on the County Health Board as a non-voting member. The **Health Department Administrator** oversees the daily operations of the department. The **Health Nurse**, a registered nurse with training and experience in public health, investigates communicable diseases, administers immunizations, provides health care instruction, and supervises the health needs of tuberculosis and other special needs patients. The **Vital Records Clerk** maintains birth and death records, which are available for purchase.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Franciscan Health Crawfordsville (1710 Lafayette Road; 765-362-2800; www.franciscanhealth.org) is a non-profit hospital operated by Franciscan Alliance. The hospital changed its name in 2011 from St. Clare Hospital. The 53-bed facility serves the county and surrounding areas with dedicated outpatient women's services, a fully staffed emergency department, radiology, physical therapy, orthopedics, cancer care, wound care and geriatric behavioral health. Physicians who practice through the Franciscan Physician Network in Montgomery County are listed on the website. Some radiology services, including women's health and mammography, are offered at the **Diagnostic and Surgical Center** at 1660 Lafayette Road (765-359-1660). The **Marie Canine Cancer Center**, located on the hospital campus, is a full-service cancer treatment facility.

The **Crawfordsville Community Paramedic Program**, a joint venture of Franciscan Alliance and the Crawfordsville Fire Department, provides in-home monitoring of heart patients recently released from the hospital. Established in 2016, this pioneering program seeks to save health care costs by keeping patients healthy and preventing repeat hospitalizations.

St. Elizabeth Home Health and Hospice (1415 Salem St, Lafayette; 765-362-5114; www.franciscanhealth.org/hospitals/crawfordsville/services/hospice) provides supportive services for the elderly and

Franciscan Health Crawfordsville offers patients and their families a full continuum of high-quality, compassionate care.



homebound. Hospice services include visitation and other assistance for terminally ill patients and their families.

First Steps (620 Morland Dr, Lafayette; 877-811-1644; www.infirststeps.com) is a state- and federally-funded program that provides assessments and services for infants and young children with developmental delays. Clients are usually referred by their pediatricians; services are provided without cost to eligible children.

Wabash Valley Alliance (1480 Darlington Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-362-2852; www.wvhmhc.org) is Montgomery County's community mental health center. It receives county funding as well as other public funding. The Alliance provides personal, marital and substance-abuse counseling and rehabilitation services for adults and children.

The **Dr. Mary Ludwig Free Clinic** (816 Mill Street, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3244, www.mcfreeclinic.org) is a non-profit organization that is funded entirely by donations and grants. It provides free medical and dental care for Montgomery County residents who have no health insurance and whose income is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic seeks to care for people who do not qualify for insurance through their employer or through publicly funded insurance. Free immunizations are administered every Tuesday to Montgomery County residents who are uninsured or who have Medicaid/HIP 2.0 coverage. Medical patients are seen on Wednesdays and Thursdays; dental services are scheduled individually. In addition, the clinic administers the **Meals on Wheels** program in Crawfordsville and oversees the **Faith Alliance Fund**, which pays for needs related to cancer treatment (e.g., wigs and prosthetics) that are not covered by insurance or other sources.

Montgomery County Medical Care Trust, Inc. (MCT) is a non-profit organization that pays for medical services and wellness programs for indigent patients who have lived in Montgomery County for at least six months. The trust was originally funded with the proceeds from the sale of the county hospital; it now receives donations from other sources as well. Only income from the trust's endowment can be used. The trust is governed by a five-member board of directors, all of whom must reside in Montgomery County. Each member serves a three-year term, three are appointed by the county commissioners, and two are chosen by the board itself. Local health care providers screen applicants for financial support. The board meets monthly to consider assistance requests. More information about submitting claims can be found by sending an email message to rogersji@wabash.edu.

Chapter 12

Social Services

Family and social services in Montgomery County are provided by governmental, non-profit and private agencies. The governmental agencies providing social services in Montgomery County are the Indiana Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA) and the Indiana Department of Child Services.

Information about non-profit and private agencies can be found at **MontCares** (www.montcares.org), a website shared by all of the health and social service providers in Montgomery County. Its purpose is to provide a central location where community members can find all contact information for all health and social service providers in the county including churches, governmental agencies, schools, not-for-profits, civic groups and others. Local agencies are listed on the website by services provided: financial assistance, youth services, family services, clothing, education, employment assistance, mental health services, substance abuse, transportation, and senior services.

FSSA (1633 Eastway Drive; 800-403-0864; www.in.gov/fssa) was established by the General Assembly in 1991 to consolidate and better integrate the delivery of human services by state government. FSSA is led by the Secretary, who is appointed by the Governor. FSSA is a health care and social service funding agency. 94% of the agency's total budget is paid to thousands of service providers. The five care divisions in FSSA administer services to one million Hoosiers. These divisions are:

- **Division of Family Resources** — Receives applications and approves eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), TANF (cash assistance) and childcare.

- **Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning** — Administers Medicaid programs including the managed care system for Hoosier Healthwise participants.
- **Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services** — Manages the delivery of services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Oversees the First Steps rehabilitation program for children from birth to age three.
- **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** — Supports a network of mental health care providers, operates six psychiatric hospitals and funds addiction prevention and treatment programs.
- **Division of Aging** — Funds long-term care through Medicaid programs. Supports the development and utilization of alternatives to nursing home care. Coordinates and finds services through network of Area Agencies on Aging.

The primary services provided by FSSA are:

Aging Services	Medicaid (HIP/HHW/CHIP)
Blind Services	Mental Health and Addiction Services
Bureau of Child Care	SNAP
Deaf Services	State Hospitals
Disability Services	TANF
Head Start	Vocational Rehabilitation

The **Department of Child Services** (1635 Eastway Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-362-5600) was established in January 2005 by an executive order of the Governor to better care for children by providing more direct attention and oversight in two critical areas: protection of children and child support enforcement. DCS protects children who are victims of abuse or neglect and strengthens families through services that focus on family support and preservation. The Department also administers child support, child protection, adoption and foster care throughout the state of Indiana. The services DCS provides are as follows

- Assistance to dependent children in their homes;
- Assistance and services to elderly persons;
- Care and treatment of children in need of services (CHINS) and children with disabilities;
- Licensing of foster family homes for the placement of delinquent children and children in need of services;

- Supervision of the care and treatment of delinquent children and children in need of services in foster family homes;
- Provision of family preservation services;
- Other activities that are delegated to the county office by the State Division.

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WITHIN DCS

Montgomery County Child Protection Services (CPS) is the lead agency regarding cases of child abuse and neglect. CPS operates a statewide **toll-free hotline (1-800-800-5556)** for people to call and report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. Although reports can be made in person or by correspondence, the vast majority of child abuse and neglect reports are made via telephone. ***CPS receives and initiates investigations of child maltreatment on a 24-hour basis.*** Investigations of abuse or neglect may be substantiated or unsubstantiated. **The child's safety is the paramount concern for child protective staff conducting investigations.** Families receive services based on the severity of the abuse or neglect, an assessment of the child's and the family's needs, and an assessment of the relative safety and risk to the child in the home.

The **Child Support Program** is required to do a number of functions to assist in getting child support dollars to families. These functions include:

- Locating non-custodial parents
- Establishing paternity
- Establishing child support and medical support orders
- Enforcing payment of child support

The Child Support Program also reviews child support orders to insure they conform to the Indiana Child Support Rules and Guidelines, disburses child support payments to custodial parties, and assists other states, territories, and tribes in all of these activities. Most of these activities take place through the local county prosecutor's Title IV-D child support office.

Chapter 13

Philanthropy

The county has a long history of independence and self-sufficiency, one that has led to a philosophy of “taking care of our own.” This philosophy is consistent with our early Midwestern pioneer roots and has led to a network of support ranging from community-wide organizations and church efforts to individual work to assist neighbors in trouble.

The two largest philanthropic organizations in the county are MUFFY (Montgomery United Fund For You) and the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

MUFFY conducts an annual fundraising campaign to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations. Since 1969, MUFFY has helped the community raise nearly \$16,000,000 through payroll campaigns in local businesses and industries and from individual donors across Montgomery County. Partner agencies go through a thorough review process where a group of community volunteers and MUFFY board members determine how best to invest the community’s gifts. In 2015, MUFFY raised a total of \$426,550. Nineteen partner organizations, along with more than a dozen other donor designated charities, received a total of \$378,259 to support their work, a 15% increase over the prior year. 2016 MUFFY partner agencies are Abilities Services, Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America, C.A.R.A., Community Chest, Family Crisis Shelter, Fuzzy Bear Preschool, Girl Scouts, Half Way Home, New Beginnings Child Care, Pam’s Promise, The PEERS Project, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Sunshine Vans, Volunteers for Mental Health, Willson Family Literacy, Youth Camps,

and Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau. MUFFY acts as a community checking account, providing operating resources to most of the county’s largest and most critical nonprofit human service organizations. Funds raised in one year are dispensed to support agencies the next.

The **Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF)** www.mccf-in.org, celebrated its 25th year in 2016, acts more like the community savings account. Individuals have created more than 170 endowed funds to achieve a wide variety of purposes, some very general and some very specific. MCCF invests those gifts (“the endowment,” now worth more than \$38 million) and then uses the annual income produced to finance grants made in the area of community development, human services, health, education, arts & culture, youth, and scholarships. Since 1991 MCCF has made more than \$17 million in grants in Montgomery County. More than 4,000 student awards totaling more than \$5.7 million have been made from 37 scholarship funds. Local non-profit organizations can apply three times a year for grants from MCCF ranging from \$50 to \$35,000. MCCF also convenes meetings to discuss community issues and devise strategies to improve the community.

Local churches use their resources to accomplish community improvement as well.

- FISH
- Partnership with NOURISH
- Pre-schools
- Getting Ahead Program
- Table of Grace
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Drug Programs

Many groups use festivals to raise funds to support their favorite philanthropy

- Strawberry Festival
- Taste of Montgomery County
- Wingate Corn Festival
- St. Bernard’s Fall Hog Roast

Others combine their fitness goals with fundraising goals by running, walking, biking, golfing, and dancing.

- Youth Service Bureau Funky 5K

- Dollars for Scholars Golf
- American Legion Post 72 100 mile motorcycle ride to raise funds for the Brian Bowmen Scholarship Fund
- Relay for Life
- Nucor Golf Scramble for American Cancer Society
- Sterling Energy Golf Outing (benefits Boys and Girls Club)
- WalMart Optical Auction & Golf Outing for Riley Hospital
- Duane Swisher Memorial Sugar Creek Triathlon (benefits Park & Recreation)

Some groups capitalize upon their hobbies to raise funds

- Annual Car, Truck & Cycle Show for the Elks
- Athens Arts Spring Gala (Athens Arts)

Many groups hold “signature” events, those that happen annually, to support the organization but have fun at the same time

- Taste of Montgomery County (Lew Wallace Study & Museum)
- Soup’s on at Ladoga (Friends of the Ladoga Library)
- Christmas Tea & Fashion Show (Lew Wallace Study & Museum)
- Bras for a Cause (Breast Cancer)
- Faith Alliance Pink Tie Gala (Montgomery County Free Clinic Breast Cancer support)
- Dining with the Chef (Montgomery County Free Clinic)
- Dancing with the Stars (Youth Service Bureau)
- Stroll with the Strays (Montgomery County Animal Welfare League)

The Christmas season brings a new emphasis on philanthropy.

- Sunshine Society Cheer Certificates (CHS & Tri-Kappa)
- ReinDear (Youth Service Bureau coordinating gifts for kids in need)
- Toys for Tots
- Police & Fire Shopping Excursions, food baskets

Every group is looking for volunteers. There are several volunteer fairs throughout the year where organizations gather to publicize their causes and their needs. MCCF is a good place to begin to find an organization where you can volunteer time, talent, or funds.

Chapter 14

Education

In the November 1965 election, the voters of Montgomery County agreed to implement the **Indiana School Reorganization Act** of 1959. Since that time the county has had three school systems: South Montgomery School Corporation (765-866-0203) North Montgomery School Corporation (765-359-2112) and Crawfordsville Community School Corporation (765-362-2342). The Crawfordsville system includes most of incorporated Crawfordsville and a small portion of the surrounding area. The North and South districts cover the remaining areas of Montgomery County, with Sugar Creek as the north-south dividing line. Each system has one high school, one middle or junior high school, and several elementary schools housed in individual buildings.

Each school system operates under the authority of a non-partisan, elected **school board**. The North and South school boards each have one at-large member and six members elected from the townships in the system. The Crawfordsville board has five at-large members. Any person who is a registered voter and who has resided in the school district for at least one year may run for a school board position. School board members are elected for four-year terms in even years in the November election. About half of each board is elected every two years to provide for continuity in membership. Each school board employs a superintendent, who serves as a non-voting executive officer of the board, and who is responsible to the board for the administration of all educational and business affairs of the school system.

Schools **budgets** in Indiana are funded in part from local property taxes, as well as state and federal monies. Recent changes in property taxes (tax caps) have reduced revenues for all three local school systems. For the 2013-2014 the average expenditure per student was: North Montgomery \$10,437, South Montgomery \$12,053, and Crawfordsville \$12,114.

Preschool education is available to a limited number of students in the three school systems. Private preschool education is also available at Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, New Hope Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, as well as other churches throughout the county.

The three school systems in Montgomery County are **accredited** by the Indiana State Board of Education. To be accredited, each school must meet the same set of requirements: compliance with legal standards; completion of a school improvement plan; and review of student achievement indicators. After the end of the 2014-2015 school year all three county schools had achieved the status of full accreditation or provisional accreditation.

Each of the three county high schools offers a comprehensive educational **curriculum** and a varied vocational curriculum. Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are available through the West Central Career and Technical Education Cooperative which offers courses in advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, construction technology (HVAC-heating and air conditioning), cosmetology, criminal justice, early childhood education, fire and rescue, health science education, (careers in health care and pharmacy), radio and television, and work-based learning. North Montgomery and South Montgomery offer agriculture and horticulture courses. All three school systems offer opportunities for advanced academics through advanced placement and dual credit classes. Each school system offers classes for students who require accelerated classes at the elementary and middle school levels.

All three systems cooperate to provide classes for students of different levels of disability. The West Central Indiana **Special Services Cooperative** (305 E Chestnut St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-4022) serves students with disabilities and provides administrative, psychological, consulting, and related services to all three county school systems.

Pioneer Chapel at Wabash College was built in 1928. Located on the south end of the main mall, it serves as a focal point for student life.



The three county systems offer a hot lunch program, with free and reduced lunches for students who qualify. The schools offer a limited summer lunch program.

Adult diploma-completion programs are available help adults receive a high school equivalency diploma. The Crawfordsville Adult Reading Association, also known as CARA, provides one-on-one tutoring for classroom training in reading, spelling, math and basic living skills. All services and materials are free. Students must be at least 16 years old and not enrolled in any school program. CARA is located in the Crawfordsville School System Transportation Building at 1501 Elm Street, Crawfordsville.

The **Boys and Girls Club** is located at 1001 N. Whitlock Street in Crawfordsville. It operates an after-school program for school age children. Students can get homework assistance and participate in sports, arts and crafts, and use a computer lab. Call 765-362-8912 for more information.

Ivy Tech Community College (2325 Phil Ward Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-359-0570; www.ivytech.edu) opened an instructional center in Montgomery County in 2001. This campus is a branch of Ivy Tech Lafayette and offers traditional degrees, continuing education, and personal enrichment classes.

The **Purdue Cooperative Extension Service** links the University and the citizens of Montgomery County by providing researched-based information and education in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, health and human sciences, economic and community development, and 4-H youth development. The county's 4-H Program offers K-12 youth opportunities to develop and enhance life skills.

Wabash College was founded in 1832 and is a private, four-year, liberal arts college for men. The students come from most of the states as well as many foreign countries. More than 95 percent of the approximately ninety faculty members hold a Ph.D. The college boasts a student to faculty ratio of 10 to 1. Wabash offers at least twenty different majors leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. In sports, Wabash competes at the NCAA Division III level with ten varsity teams as a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference. The college offers the community many opportunities to attend sports and cultural events.

Chapter 15

Parks and Recreation

In 1965, the Indiana Park and Recreation Law was passed to provide greater opportunity for the establishment of park and recreation programs and to consolidate existing services. The law (Indiana Code IC 36-10-3) defines park and recreation boards; specifies their powers, duties, and obligations; recommends financing methods; and suggests goals for recreation. Crawfordsville established a Parks and Recreation Department using these guidelines. The boundaries are the same as the city's boundaries. Montgomery County does not have a park and recreation department or district for citizens outside the Crawfordsville city limits.

The **Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Department** (922 E South Blvd, Crawfordsville; 765-364-5175, www.crawfordsville.net/departments/division.php?structureid=38) was established by city ordinance and is governed by the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Board. This board is composed of six members. Four are specified by state law and are appointed by the mayor on the basis of their interest in parks and recreation and their political party (no more than two of the four may be of the same party). The other two members are one representative from the Crawfordsville Public Library Board and one from the Crawfordsville Community School Board. Members serve staggered terms of four years. In addition, there is a non-voting liaison member from the City Council. The board has general powers to acquire and develop sites and facilities, to conduct recreational functions and programs, to maintain current facilities and to develop

new ones. The director of the department is appointed by the board. This was formerly a mayoral appointment, with the approval of the Parks and Recreation Board. The department is funded through city property taxes (appropriated by City Council); additional revenue is generated by program fees, grants, and donations. The Parks and Recreation Department works closely with community organizations and schools, sharing programs and facilities.

The **Crawfordsville Community Center**, built in 2000, has a total area of 26,000 square feet. It includes a gymnasium, weight room, walking track, lockers, meeting rooms, game room, and playroom for short-term childcare. Patrons may purchase annual or monthly passes or use the facilities on a drop-in basis. Activities offered at the Center include fitness programs, arts and crafts classes, youth programs, and sports leagues for adults and youth. A department brochure, listing times and locations of programs, is printed seasonally and listed on the website.

The **Senior Citizens Club**, a program for all county residents 55 and older, meets weekly for various recreational activities. The Montgomery County Council on Aging works with the Department to serve older people. It is an affiliate of the Area IV Council on Aging. The Sunshine Vans (765-364-5173) are operated by the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Department and are supported, in part, by MUFFY. Sunshine Vans provide transportation for those 60 and over and for the disabled on a donation basis. Another service, the Nutrition Program, serves lunch supplied by Midland Meals on a daily basis in the community room. Delivered meals are available to elderly housebound persons meeting established guidelines. Donations are also accepted by these programs. Another useful service is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that is run by the Council every spring. It is available to low-income families as well as the elderly.

The department has several outdoor facilities. The main City park is **Milligan Park**, a 40-acre site with playground areas, several picnic sites and shelters, an eighteen cage disc golf course, horseshoe pits, Welliever Softball Field and Baldwin Baseball Field. The American Legion baseball teams plays at Baldwin Field. Both the ball diamonds and the pool are available for private rental. A **skateboard park** was completed in 2010 and is located in the park northeast of the pool. The 50-meter swimming pool includes a Splash Pad which is open beyond

the pool hours, generally May – September. The pool is open daily, generally Memorial Day to Labor Day. An 18-hole golf course is located next to Milligan Park, complete with a clubhouse, snack bar and pro shop. Carts are available for rental. There are also a practice putting green and driving range. Call 765-362-5171 for information on leagues, lessons, and rates.

Elston Park South (also known as the “Old Coke Plant”), is a partially wooded 13.5-acre site along the south bank of Sugar Creek and includes a canoe launch. There is also a field which is used for both soccer and football. **Elston Park North** is the 23-acre area located along the north bank of Sugar Creek. The Department, in cooperation with the Crawfordsville Adult Softball Association (CASA), has extensively developed the north area. It includes three lighted softball diamonds and a building with restrooms, concession stand and storage areas. Playground equipment and a picnic shelter are nearby. In addition to local league play, State softball tournaments are held at the diamonds each summer.

Sugar Creek Nature Park consists of 63-acres along the north bank of the Creek. The park includes shelters, picnic tables, and educational stations that may be used by all three of the Montgomery County school corporations, as well as Wabash College. This park has been funded totally by grants and donations.

In addition to these major parks, there are **neighborhood parks**. Frances Wooden Northside Park on N. Grant Ave. features ADA-accessible playground equipment and a picnic area. Nibble Park, at the end of E. Tuttle Ave., is a small park with playground equipment and a picnic shelter. Lincoln Park, located on E. Wabash Ave., has basketball courts, a small shelter, and picnic tables. Recently developed is the Kathleen J. Steele Park, located at the former Mills School Playground on West Main Street which features playground equipment.

The **Sugar Creek Trail** is a 4.5-mile paved trail that follows the former Monon Railroad track, which crosses spectacular trestle over Sugar Creek and continues another half mile. In 2017 a half mile stretch will be built to connect the portion between the Animal Welfare League and Schenck Road. The project is funded 80% through an INDOT grant, matched with 20% local funds. The trail is open dawn to dusk to walkers, joggers, bicyclers and roller bladers. Benches are available at frequent intervals. The Rock River Landing Trailhead is

closest to Sugar Creek, located at 2722 Rock River Ridge Rd. There are also parking and picnic facilities for the trail near the South Donnelley Plant at 1100 Big Four Arch Rd., and there is a parking area on SR 47S, across from Pizza Hut.

Camp Rotary (765-362-0179; www.camprotarycrawfordsville.org) is located just five miles west of Crawfordsville on 80 acres of wooded hills, adjacent to Sugar Creek. Consisting of a bunkhouse, shower house, mess hall with a full kitchen, and three shelters, it is most often used for scouting but also hosts other groups such as church groups, day camps, and family reunions. The Crawfordsville Rotary Club maintains the property.

Lake Waveland (435-2073) is located on State Road 47 approximately 2 miles west of Waveland. It is a 360-acre lake created for canoeing, boating, swimming and fishing. Constructed by the Little Raccoon Conservancy District, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, the Lake is operated by the Waveland town council. The town council hires the Park Superintendent. A modest gate fee gives access to a 248-acre park that includes a swimming beach and picnic areas. Campsites, both primitive and modern, and small cabins are available for rent.

Shades State Park (7751 S 890 W, Waveland; 765-435-2810; www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm) is a favorite place for hikers and canoeists because of the beautiful sandstone cliffs overlooking Sugar Creek and the trails winding through numerous shady ravines. Picnic areas provide tables, grills, restrooms, playground equipment, playing fields and shelters. Deer's Mill Covered Bridge, located on St. Rd. 234, is maintained as a public access to the creek for canoeists. Clements Canoe Rentals is located there. The Roscoe Turner Flight Strip, within the boundaries of Shades, is a turf strip used by light aircraft. Pine Hills Nature Preserve is now included with the Shades and no longer has a separate entrance. Shades and nearby Turkey Run have merged their property management, with the manager's office located at **Turkey Run State Park** www.turkeyrunstatepark.com).

Sugar Creek travels through the county from the northeast to southwest corner and is a popular course for canoeists. The annual Sugar Creek Canoe Race is held in early spring. Access for canoeists is available at Elston Park South and at the Rock River Landing Trailhead

of the Sugar Creek Trail. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at Clements Canoes, located on State Road 32 West, on the banks of Sugar Creek, fifteen miles from Crawfordsville.

Friends of Sugar Creek (www.friendsofsugarcreek.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting Sugar Creek and its tributaries throughout West Central Indiana. Started by Dean Ford in the summer of 1987, FSC has worked persistently to accomplish this task. Past and current FSC projects include educational outreach, annual creek clean-ups, and family float trips. They are dedicated to protecting, restoring, and promoting appreciation of Sugar Creek and its watershed.

Town parks and recreational facilities are found throughout the county. The parks all provide ball fields, basketball goals, playground equipment and picnic tables and shelters. These facilities may be found in Darlington, Ladoga, New Richmond, Wingate, New Market and Waveland. The park in Waynetown has a swimming pool, which includes a splash pad. Linden has two parks: one with ball fields and one with picnic and playground facilities. In addition to its town park, Ladoga has a small, family picnic park on the grounds of the Old Normal School.

The **Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County** (1001 N Whitlock Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-362-8912, www.bgcmontgomery.org) provides for a wide variety of programs including afterschool programs, recreation, and sports.

In addition to the **golf course** in Crawfordsville's Milligan Park, there are two other public courses in Montgomery County. Turkey Run Golf Course, located on State Road 47 near Lake Waveland, is an 18-hole course with rolling hills and interesting natural terrain. It has a clubhouse with a restaurant. Rocky Ridge Golf Course, an 18-hole course located ten miles north of Crawfordsville on State Road 47, offers cart rentals and a snack bar.

The **Crawfordsville Aquatics Center** (1 Athenian Dr, Crawfordsville; 765-364-3247; www.cville.k12.in.us/domain/359) houses a 50-meter pool. The Aquatics Center is open seven days a week and offers aquatic activities for all ages and interest levels. Programs include recreational swimming, lap swimming, water aerobics and swim lessons. Fees are charged, and they vary depending on whether or not participants are residents of the Crawfordsville school district.

Sugar Creek Swim Club (765-364-3247; www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=inscsc) offers competitive opportunities for boys and girls ages 6 and older. In addition, Sugar Creek Masters is a fitness swim team for adults age 19 and older. Both groups train at the Aquatics Center.

Athena Sport & Fitness, located in part of the old Crawfordsville High School building, offering daily fitness classes, workout machines, and a pool.

Cross Fit 54 (213 N. Washington St, Crawfordsville; 317-502-1307; www.crossfit-54.com) is the principal strength and conditioning program for many police academies, military special operations units, etc. The program delivers a fitness that is, by design, broad, general, and inclusive.

Planet Fitness (1632 Bush Ln, Crawfordsville; 765-362-5900; www.planetfitness.com/gyms/crawfordsville-312) offers cardio and weight equipment as well as other amenities such as tanning.

Other recreational opportunities exist in the county through private clubs, which require membership or fees. The Sportsman Club offers an outdoor swimming area, fishing on a small lake, and access to the Sugar Creek Trail. The Crawfordsville Country Club has an 18-hole golf course and swimming pool in addition to the Club House, restaurant and bar. Lake Holiday is a private lake south of Crawfordsville and is available to its property owners for boating and swimming.

Chapter 16

Libraries

Under Indiana law, public libraries are operated by boards consisting of seven members who are appointed for four-year, staggered terms. Members may not serve for more than four consecutive terms. In Crawfordsville, three members are appointed by the local school board, one by the county council, one by the county commissioners, one by the township advisory board and one by the City Council. The board governs and sets policy for all of the affairs of the library. It appoints a certified librarian as director, proposes the library's budget and levies a tax rate. The public libraries in Montgomery County participate in a reciprocal borrowing program which enables their patrons with library cards to borrow from participating libraries throughout Indiana. All the libraries are members of the Wabash Valley Area Library Services Authority, entitling patrons to interlibrary loan and reference assistance.

The **Crawfordsville District Public Library** (225 S Washington St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-2242; www.cdpl.lib.in.us) serves Crawfordsville and Union Township. Patrons not residing in Union Township are charged an annual fee for a library card. Anyone may use materials in the library, however. The library is a strong reference center with a collection of more than 138,000 books, magazines, newspapers, books on CD, downloadable audio books, e-books, and DVDs. The library collection has extensive Local History holdings, including a large assortment of photographs, manuscripts, family histories, and other research resources. Local History databases on the Web provide many searchable indexes as well as images, documents, and other materials.

Children participate in summer and winter reading programs and activities. A community room is available without charge to educational, civic, cultural and service-oriented organizations. In addition to tax monies, support for the library comes from **Friends of the Library**. This active organization sponsors a monthly used book sale whose proceeds are used to meet various special needs of the library.

The **Darlington-Franklin Township Public Library** (203 W Main St, Darlington; 765-794-4813; www.darlingtonlibrary.com) serves Sugar Creek Township by contract. The Carnegie library was built in 1915. In addition, it provides DVDs, videocassettes and computers for its patrons. A Darlington-Franklin Township history museum is located in the library's basement. There is a summer reading program for school-age children. The library has a reciprocal borrowing agreement with the Crawfordsville Public Library.

The **Ladoga-Clark Township Public Library** (128 E Main St, Ladoga; 765-942-2456; www.ladoga.lib.in.us) was built in 1967 and contains approximately 14,000 volumes including books, magazines, books on tape, CDs and microfilms. The library conducts a children's summer reading program. In addition to tax monies, support for the library comes from the Friends of the Library

The **Linden-Madison Township Public Library** (102 S Main St, Linden; 765-339-4239; www.lindenlibrary.com) was built as a Carnegie Library in 1922, and houses many books, videocassettes, music CDs, local history materials and cemetery records. Story hours for children are presented in late winter and during the summer.

The **Waveland-Brown Township Public Library** (115 Green St, Waveland; 765-435-2700; www.waveland.lib.in.us) opened in 1916 as a Carnegie Library, and has over 12,000 volumes including books, DVDs, and books-on-tape. Public Internet access is available. There is a summer reading program for children.

Lilly Library (765-361-6161; www.library.wabash.edu) is located on the west side of the Wabash College quadrangle. County residents may check out books; others may use materials only in the building. The library has about 286,000 books in addition to microforms, a media center, and student/faculty computer centers. The **archive** contains much information about the college, the community and the state.

The new Crawfordsville District Public Library building opened in 2005 across the street from the original Carnegie Library. Its mission is to provide collections, services, and programs that encourage the love of reading and learning in our community.



Chapter 17

Arts and Culture

MUSEUMS

The **Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County** (222 S Washington St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-4618; www.cdpl.lib.in.us/services/carnegie) is an interdisciplinary and interactive museum of history, science, and art, which is open to the public year round, Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission is free. The building opened in 1902 as the first Carnegie Library in Indiana, and served as the city's public library until 2005, when it relocated to a new building across the street. The Carnegie Museum opened in 2007 and is owned and operated by the Crawfordsville District Public Library. It has six galleries with various themes and rotating exhibits. Visit the Montgomery County WOW! Gallery, to learn about local people who have had an impact on the state of Indiana, the nation and the world. Other galleries feature local authors, military items, as well as early history of the county and local businesses. The museum also hosts a variety of family-friendly, educational programs throughout the year.

The **General Lew Wallace Study and Museum** (200 Wallace Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-362-5769; www.ben-hur.com) Lew Wallace designed the study and supervised its construction. The building, completed in 1898, reflects Romanesque, Greek and Byzantine influences. The 3.5 acres of grounds include a bronze statue of Wallace, a copy of one in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC, that marks the spot where Wallace sat and wrote his masterwork, Ben-Hur. Visitor parking is off Elston Avenue next to the Carriage House Interpretive Center, which

houses a gift shop, changing exhibits, and administrative offices. The Museum is part of the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Department. The Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society was established in 1997 to govern the Museum and promote an appreciation of Wallace history. The Museum is open to the public from February to mid-December, and an admission fee is charged.

Old Normal Hall (100 N Harrison St, Ladoga; 765-942-2009; http://historicladoga.org/Home_Page.html) was originally built as the Central Normal College and served as Ladoga High School until 1917. Old Normal houses a small museum and hosts community events, fundraisers, weddings, parties and meetings. The hall is governed by Historic Ladoga, a nine-member board of directors, whose primary focus is the renovation and ongoing operation of the building.

The **Senator Henry S. Lane Antebellum Mansion** (212 S Water St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-3416; www.lane-mchs.org) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the home of the Strawberry Festival. Henry S. Lane purchased this site in 1844. Lane served as chairman of the first Republican National Convention in 1856 and also served as U.S. Congressman, Governor of Indiana and United States Senator. The Montgomery County Historical Society owns and operates Lane Place and the surrounding five acres, which serve as a village common in the center of Crawfordsville. The Speed Cabin, a stop on the Underground Railroad, is also located on the grounds. The museum is open to the public from March through mid-December; an admission fee is charged.

The **Linden Railroad Museum** (520 N Main St (US HWY 231), Linden; 765-339-7245; www.lindendepotmuseum.org) is located approximately eight miles north of the Crawfordsville I-74 interchange. The museum is housed in a 1908 depot building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the collection consists of items from the Monon and Nickel Plate railroads. The museum includes a gift shop, a Nickel Plate Railroad caboose and other railroad cars. It is open to the public May through September, and by appointment.

The **Rotary Jail Museum** (765-362-5222; www.rotaryjailmuseum.org) is located at 225 N. Washington St. in Crawfordsville. Built in the Eastlake style, the limestone-trimmed, red brick sheriff's residence and jail were completed in 1882 and remained in active use until June of 1973. The jail was the first ever built of its kind and today stands as



only one of three intact rotary jails in the United States. The rotary jail consists of a circular cell structure, which rotates on a vertical axis. The structure is divided into wedge-shaped cells, each with only one opening. The Montgomery County Cultural Foundation seeks to preserve the jail as an example of unique American design. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in the Historic American Engineering Record. The Cultural Foundation also oversees the operations of the **Tannenbaum Cultural Center** (107 W Spring Street), a renovated 1887 steam plant that once heated the jail and courthouse. The Tannenbaum Cultural Center sponsors art classes and workshops for adults and children throughout the year, and is available to the public for rental. Hours of Operation: March-May and September-mid-December: Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-3p.m.; Memorial Day-Labor Day: Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed or by appointment only: Mid-December – February
Performing Arts in Montgomery County

The **Crawfordsville Community Chorus** (765-362-7264) has been offering singers the opportunity to study, rehearse and then perform major choral works since 1951. Concerts are usually given in spring, summer and holiday seasons, including an annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. One-hour rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings; all who enjoy part singing, including, students, are encouraged to join.

The **Montgomery County Civic Band** offers concerts each summer since it was founded in 1964. Currently the band rehearses at the Tannenbaum Center (107 W Spring St, Crawfordsville). The band presents a series of Sunday concerts at 3:00 p.m., June through mid-August, in the Pattison Pavilion on the grounds of Lane Place (212 S Water St, Crawfordsville.) Since 2005 Gary Ketchum has been the director of the band. Interested performers can get further information about the band by emailing Mr. Ketchum at ketchmusic100@gmail.com.

Sugar Creek Players (122 S Washington St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-7077; www.sugarcreekplayers.org) was formed in 1971 by a group of community members who wanted to revive live, local theater. The first play, *You Can't Take It with You*, was performed at Wabash College, and for many years the group presented plays at local schools and other venues. In 1983 the Players found a permanent home when the historic Vanity Theater was deeded to the troupe. Since then the Players have expanded the number of productions and sponsored performances by

The Rotary Jail building has been converted to a museum under the care of the Montgomery County Cultural Foundation.

guest artists. Information about current shows, upcoming auditions, workshops can be found at the Player's website.

Wabash College presents a number of performing arts events and lectures that are free and open to the public. Specific information about individual events can be found by referring to the college's website (www.wabash.edu) or sending a message to boxoffice@wabash.edu.

The **Wabash College Brass Ensemble** performs at several events each year, offering a wide variety of works from the Renaissance to the avant-garde. Joining the Wabash men are members of the faculty, staff and Crawfordsville community. The ensemble welcomes the participation of players from a variety of backgrounds who are willing to dedicate themselves to disciplined rehearsal and high standards of performance. Please email Peter Hulen for information about auditioning for the brass ensemble: hulenp@wabash.edu.

The **Wabash College Jazz Band** is a performance ensemble that includes saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass and drums. The group plays music of the Big Bands in the style of Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington and others. The Jazz Band performs in concert at least twice each semester. Please email Scott Pazara for information about auditioning for the jazz ensemble: scottpazera@gmail.com.

The **Wabash College Chamber Orchestra** performs major concerts each semester. Under the direction of Alfred Abel, the orchestra performs works by the great masters. WCCO draws its members from the Wabash student body and from musicians on the faculty and staff, from local professional and amateur musicians, and from a few advanced secondary school students. This diversity provides a wide spectrum of musical expertise and training, and results in a friendly group of musicians who support one another in a common love of and commitment to great music. Please email Alfred Abel for information about auditioning for the orchestra: alfredsabel@gmail.com.

Wabash College Theater Department offers an opportunity for area residents to see and participate in a variety of plays. Performances are held in the Ball Theater and the Experimental Theater in the Fine Arts Center when the College is in session. Auditions are open to the public and no prepared material is required. Those interested in auditioning are invited to sign out a play script from the box office (765-361-6411; boxoffice@wabash.edu) in advance of auditions so they can familiarize themselves with the play.

VISUAL ARTS

Athens of Indiana Arts Studios & Gallery (113 N Washington St, Crawfordsville; 765-362-7455; www.athensartsgallery.com) is a unique, not-for-profit artist gallery operated by local member artists. The gallery provides a creative environment for artists to interact as well as display and sell their works. Classes, workshops and other instructional events are held at the gallery and field trips are occasionally organized. Athens of Indiana is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and during special events.

The **Art League of Montgomery County** (PO Box 2, Crawfordsville) has worn several different names since its inception in 1896. However, throughout the 120 years of its existence, the primary focus of the organization has remained constant: to encourage arts in the local community and to provide free art educational opportunities to the community. Financial awards are given annually to a graduating high school student from each of the county schools to encourage further education in the arts. Free lectures are offered to members and the public three times each year. The Art League participates in the annual Fall Art Walk and also presents an exhibit of members' artwork each year at the public library. For several years the Art League sponsored an annual exhibit in the downtown store windows that attracted high quality art created by regional artists. Currently the Art League is a sponsor of Athens of Indiana Gallery. Any adult who shares an interest in art, whether as artist or appreciator, is encouraged to become a member of the Art League.

Many of the public libraries in Montgomery County have gallery space for exhibitions, including work of local artists and crafts people.

The **Wabash College art gallery program** promotes understanding and enthusiasm for contemporary art by engaging community members with professional exhibitions and visiting artists. The Eric Dean Gallery displays temporary exhibits by visiting artists and traveling exhibitions; the Student Gallery shows Wabash student work; the Permanent Collection Gallery and the Atrium Gallery show works from the Wabash College Permanent Collection of Contemporary Art. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible. Information on the individual exhibits can be found at www.wabash.edu/academics/art/gallery.

Chapter 18

Events and Festivals

There are two sources for up-to-date information about public events taking place in Montgomery County. The website of the **Montgomery County Visitors Bureau** (www.visitmoco.com/events/) includes current list of events. In addition, the *Journal-Review* newspaper underwrites a free mobile device application called **Go C-Ville**, downloadable from both iTunes and Google Play.

LIST OF EVENTS

The **Crawfordsville Farmers' Market** is held every Saturday from April through October, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., on Pike Street between Washington and Walnut streets. Vendors from the surrounding region sell an assortment of locally grown produce as well as hand crafted items.

First Fridays is held during the months of June, July and August, and brings live music to Marie Canine Plaza in downtown Crawfordsville.

Lunch on the Plaza is held at noon during June, July and August around the fountain at the Marie Canine Plaza. On each occasion a different local restaurant offers lunch and drinks for purchase. Enjoy live music in a peaceful outdoor setting.

The **Strawberry Festival** is held on the grounds of Lane Place the second full weekend in June (Thursday through Sunday.) Besides live entertainment, the festival features approximately eighty arts and crafts booths, a children's area with games and rides, and numerous food vendors.

Crawfordsville and many of the small towns in Montgomery County hold Fourth of July Celebrations. The Crawfordsville celebration includes activities throughout the day in Milligan Park and includes musical entertainment and food vendors.

Usually in July, the **Family Friendly Float** trip is a 7.5-mile course along Sugar Creek. Sponsored by the Friends of Sugar Creek (PO Box 291, Crawfordsville; www.friendsofsugarcreek.org), the purpose of the trip is to encourage families to become more familiar with the wonders of the creek. Members of the organization provide useful information during the float and lunch is provided. The trip is dependent on good weather.

The annual **Montgomery County 4-H Fair** (400 Parke Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-364-6363; www.extension.purdue.edu/montgomery) is held at the fairgrounds for one week in mid-July. Activities include a horse and pony show, daily livestock shows and a final livestock auction, 4-H exhibits and food vendors.

The **Finish Line Festival** takes place the day before the Ironman National (see below.) The hope is that local residents will come together with visiting race fans and celebrate racing in the county. Activities are organized for all ages in the 100 and 200 blocks of East Main Street: a climbing wall, music and dance performances, an antique car display, food stalls and a dance floor. Admission to the festival is free.

The **Ironman National**, the season finale for the Lucas Oil Pro Motocross circuit, takes place in late August each year at Ironman Raceway (1389 W 200 S, Crawfordsville; 304-284-0084; www.mxsportsproracing.com/event/ironman-national) About 250 professional motocross riders participate. The 2016 race marked the fiftieth season of professional motocross racing in the United States.

The **Taste of Montgomery County** is held on a Saturday in late August (noon until 9:00 p.m.) on the grounds of the General Lew Wallace Study (200 Wallace Ave, Crawfordsville; 765-362-5769; www.ben-hur.com/programs/taste/) and is a fundraiser for the museum. This event brings together food vendors, restaurants and caterers to highlight all the different culinary delights available in Montgomery County. The Taste also hosts three live musical acts, from jazz to country, oldies to rock n roll.

AmSoil Ironman Grand National Cross Country racing series is held the last full weekend in October and features ATV and motorcycle

racers from across the globe. Approximately 15,000 spectators attend the races held at Ironman Raceway (1389 W 200 S, Crawfordsville; 765-894-1962; www.gnccracing.com).

Downtown Party Night is held the *Saturday following Thanksgiving*. Those attending are invited to embrace the Crawfordsville holiday experience. Exceptional retailers, great dining, cheerful music, and fun activities are all available within a three-block area.

The **Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce** (765-362-6800; www.crawfordsvillechamber.com) sponsors an **Annual Christmas Parade** held the *first Sunday in December*. The parade features Santa Claus and community members from local organizations and businesses.

Chapter 19

Environmental Organizations

There are several organizations active in Montgomery County whose mission is to protect our environment.

Bachner Reserve is a NICHES Land Trust property of 28 acres of woodland, including one-fourth mile of creek frontage at the confluence of the Rattlesnake and Sugar creeks. The reserve is named in memory of Michael Bachner, long-time Wabash College bookstore manager and impassioned environmentalist. Please consult the NICHES website www.celp.com for directions to the site.

Friends of Sugar Creek (Box 291, Crawfordsville; www.friendsofsugarcreek.org) is dedicated to restoring and protecting Sugar Creek and its tributaries throughout west central Indiana. In order to achieve these ends as well as to promote the appreciation of the creek, the group organizes several events during the year: creek clean up days, an annual family float trip, and occasional public lectures on the creek and its natural history. It also sponsors a column, *Currents*, in the *Journal Review* newspaper.

NICHES Land Trust (1782 N 400 E, Lafayette 47905; 765-423-1605; nicheslandtrust.org) strives to protect, restore and sustain northern Indiana ecosystems by providing habitat for native species and offering natural places for education, appreciation and enjoyment. Several of NICHES properties are located in Montgomery County, including the Bachner Reserve and the Walnut Fork Wildlife Refuge.

Sustainable Initiatives of Montgomery County (www.sustainmc.org) OR www.facebook.com/sustainMC.org) encourages and supports sustainability projects and practices in Montgomery County. Among

its projects are organizing and overseeing the Crawfordsville community garden, publishing the Montgomery County Local Food Guide, and encouraging citizens to buy fresh produce at the Crawfordsville Farmer's Market.

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League of Women Voters of Montgomery County History

Crawfordsville and Montgomery County as a whole had a remarkable tradition of active, vital work on behalf of women's suffrage in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. General Lew Wallace's step-mother Zerelda Wallace was notable among these as was Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite, one of Indiana's earliest female doctors and the president of Montgomery County's women's suffrage organizing committee. Everything that the LWVMC has achieved rests on the shoulders of such pioneers and decades of subsequent work to remind Americans that educating oneself about civic issues and then acting upon issues when action is called for lies at the heart of a democratic society.

The birth of the League as an official organization in Montgomery County happened in 1947 when Georgia Manson, a local business woman who owned with her husband a coal yard. He was invalided and Ms. Manson ran the business. This experience, according to oral testimony on the 40th anniversary of the local League's formation, made her "very hot on women's rights." Manson organized a town meeting and invited presidents of all the women's organizations in town. Pat Hall, another business woman, stepped up to help lead.

At June 3, 1947, a second meeting was held and officers of the fledgling organization were elected. Estelle Kummings was the first president. Annie Leavenworth was the first vice president. Leavenworth was notable as one of only two women who taught at Wabash College (then as now an all-male institution). Annie had begun teaching during World War I when male professors were scarce. She

was very active in town as well as at the college in promoting League's civic engagement efforts.

The first activity of the new League was to create an Observer Corps. (The Observer Corps remains at the heart of League work and has brought a good deal of leadership to the fore over the years.) The first Observer Corps observed the city council and the Crawfordsville school board. Though Annie Leavenworth reported "quite a bit of hostility" when they observing began, they also reported that within a year the councilmen were fans and "couldn't remember what they did without them." In the late 1940s, only three people served on the Crawfordsville school board, all men. The new League began agitating for getting a woman on the school board. (Thanks to League activity, the school board was increased to five members—where it remains to this day—and a woman was soon elected. Today 20+ organizations' meetings in the county are attended and reported on by the Observer Corps. Also in its first year of existence, the LWV made a house-to-house canvas in Crawfordsville to register voters.

The first national issue the Crawfordsville League studied was the United Nations. After studying the charter step-by-step, four Leaguers decided they wanted to see that fledgling organization for themselves. They were able to see the organization in action at Lake Success, New York, even before the construction of the UN building in New York City where they witnessed both Eleanor Roosevelt and Andrei Gromyko in action and in conversation, powerful witness of cooperation between these soon-to-be Cold War enemies merely two years after World War II. The local League later—and for several years—sent youth from the county to visit and be informed by the United Nations. These young peoples' lives were changed by this experience, reports Emmy Peebles who served as the youth group's leader.

Throughout this first year, LWV (which was first called the League of Montgomery County, then, for a few years, as LWV of Crawfordsville, then back to League of Women Voters of Montgomery County in 1967, a name it retains today in 2016) was a provisional League. To become a full-fledged League, the organization had to be monitored by a state board member and had to make a study of local government and publish a booklet about this. They interviewed and collected data and published *Know Your Town*. (This vital work continues unbroken today and is now known as this very book, *Focus*

on *Montgomery County*.) In 1947, the dues were \$2.00. The LWV of Montgomery County became a full-fledged League in 1948

In 1951, the League had its first Candidates' Forum. In 1953 they began their first city and county planning efforts. Here today, 68 years later, these traditions continue unbroken and have given invaluable education to city and county residents.

Early Leaguers were instrumental in helping the county organize and carry out the state-mandated school reorganization plans of the early 1960s.

In the late 1960s this growing and highly regarded League, after study, recommended that a Park and Recreation board be formed. The Park and Recreation board is now a key component in our city's operation. The League worked also for a new jail and helped set up a housing authority to petition for low-income housing. LWV has worked for consolidation and cooperation of city and county governments. In 1971, Crawfordsville's Youth Service Bureau opened, something League, once it had studied and determined the need for, had worked hard to promote. In 2016, the Youth Service Bureau, another current bastion of community strength, celebrated its 45th anniversary. LWV also was very active and successful at the state level to get judges off of party ballots.

Although LWV has also worked successfully to reform the city's dump and trash hauling system here at home, and worked hard to obtain voting rights for residents of the District of Columbia at the national level, not every study and associated action has been successful. Deep in League memory in Crawfordsville' a decade and more after the fact it was working on the failed ERA Constitutional amendment at the time the Indiana legislature was considering it. As recalled by Gail Pebworth, this was an amazing effort. The Hoosiers for Equal Rights Amendment, or HERA, was a coalition led by LWV leader Judy Head along with Republican Women, Democratic Women, Women's Political Caucus, and Church Women United. Under their leadership, Indiana became the 35th state in the nation to ratify the ERA in 1977. (ERA needed 38 states to successfully amend the US Constitution.) Describing this as "a learning experience," Nancy Doemel said, "Who else went with me to the Convention Center one week when the ministers were cursing us from the escalators as they were standing on the up one backwards and calling us harlots?"

In summing up 40 years of League history in 1988, Wilma Shortz said, "So you might say that we have gone from getting Grade A milk in Crawfordsville to [helping] Crawfordsville redistrict!" She added, "I think that I have shown you that the League makes a difference. The difference has come from us. The League cannot be more than we are able and willing to do."

In closing, it is worth noting that many women and men who have begun working with League at the grassroots level as observers of a board or as a committee member for a project, have gone on to serve in official capacities and become community leaders. Because of LWV's method of being non-partisan and of studying all sides of an issue before action is recommended, city leaders, and leaders in other community organizations, have long looked toward League members for leadership, knowing that the League recognizes fairness of approach and deep education provided by study. Citizens today count on the LWVMC, the largest League in the state of Indiana, to provide them with necessary non-partisan information about candidates running for office, for voter information, and for dozens of other expertizes that come from watching and promoting democracy in action.

— Helen Hudson, *LWVMC Finance Drive Chair*

NOTE: The historical data recorded here was largely drawn from the document *In the Beginning* (CDPL document RL 322.4 Lea). This is a transcript of a conversation held on December 15, 1988, in order to record the Oral History of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, 1947-1987. The transcript was prepared by Edith C. Dallinger.