Pumpkinvine Trail Talk™
Volume 26 No.2
August 2017

Friends of the Pumpkinvine purchase land between CR 33 and CR 20

On June 26, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine purchased land from four families between County Road 33 and County Road 20, paving the way for a one-mile extension of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The sale was the result of four years of discussion with the land owners to determine a route that respected their privacy, while avoiding several wetlands in the area.

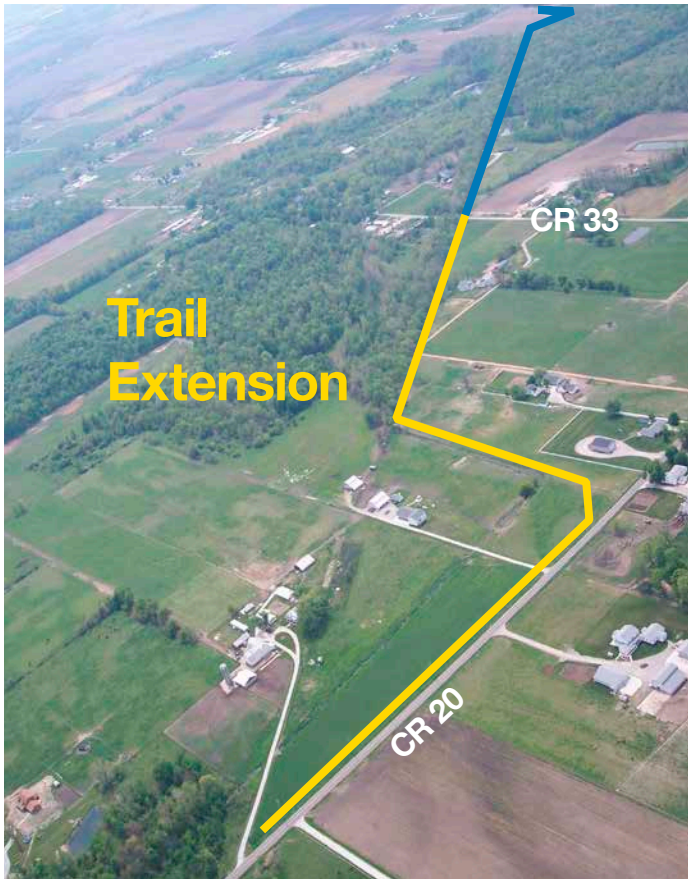
"When I mentioned this trail extension at the annual dinner in April, I thought the sale would happen in the next few days," said John Yoder, Friends president. "But the complexity of the sale, involving 11 different parcels, took much longer than we expected."

The purchase and the necessary construction funds were made possible through the cooperation of local supporters, a local foundation, willing sellers and state agencies.

- The Community Foundation of Elkhart County gave the Friends a $300,000 matching grant for construction.
- Individuals and corporate sponsors matched that $300,000 in 18 months.
- The Bicentennial Nature Trust provided a $35,000 grant to help with the purchase of the land.
- Elkhart County Parks pledged $75,000 to the project and received a $200,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for construction.
- And four landowners were willing to accommodate the trail through a portion of their land.

"I can't say enough about the community spirit the landowners showed in this process." Yoder said. "Because the Friends did not own much land in this section, this sale could never have happened without their blessing. But they are trail users, too, and they see the transportation and recreation benefits it bring to them and their neighbors."

Construction of the extension is likely in 2018. Currently, the Friends are waiting on environmental permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, a process that could take six months. Ultimately, the Friends will donate the land to Elkhart County Parks to own and manage this extension of the Pumpkinvine.



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See back issues of this newsletter at:
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Email contact: Friends@pumpkinvine.org

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Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers and naturalists who are working with area park departments to create a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine corridor between Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana, Ind.

From the president

Remarks at the dedication of a memorial to James R. Brotherson

I'm honored to speak about the legacy of Jim Brotherson, a person who "paid it forward" many times over.

Today we're standing on land that Jim helped change from an overgrown, unsightly tangle of weeds, scrub trees and prickly multiflora-rose bushes into a beautiful linear park that is used by thousands of families, bird watchers, wildflower enthusiasts, bikers, joggers and people out walking their dogs. What a transformation of the landscape and of our opportunities for healthy recreation and active transportation that he helped put in motion!

How did he do it? At a time when opponents of the proposed Pumpkinvine Nature Trail were saying that our title was worthless, he recruited other lawyers—Jim Byron, Chuck Grodnik and later Doug Mulvaney—to prove that they were wrong. He recognized immediately that proving the Friends of the Pumpkinvine owned the old Pumpkinvine corridor would mean tracing the chain of title of 120 deeds from the 1890s to the present, and that task was too big a job for his firm to do, working pro bono. Through eight lawsuits and mediations, this team of lawyers wrote the briefs and devised the strategies that successfully defended our title 100 percent of the time. That's right: they never lost a case about a disputed parcel, mainly because they studied the deeds and were smart enough to defend only parcels with strong titles.

The second quality that made Jim so valuable to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine was that he was a great teacher. Most of us on the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board found the legal system very intimidating. We were unfamiliar with motions for summary judgements, discovery, case consolidation, temporary restraining orders and rulings with prejudice and without prejudice. Jim patiently explained these legal terms in a way that we could understand and that gave us confidence that we were on the right track.

Finally, I remember Jim as a wise counselor. At many points, our Friends of the Pumpkinvine board had to decide what to do next, and we found Jim's advice to be invaluable. He always had time to listen to our concerns and help us devise a plan of action. Personally, he calmed me down when I thought the sky was falling, and in the process, I learned that a lawyer's role as counselor can be just as important as his ability to write a brief.

I think it is very fitting that the Michiana Pay It Forward Foundation decided to plant a tree here in Jim memory. A tree provides shade on sunny days, gives shelter for small animals and birds and displays a blast of color in the fall. These qualities are obvious. It is not as obvious that they put oxygen into the air, giving us life.

Jim's contributions to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail were like that less-obvious oxygen—an inventive, steady force behind the scenes that gave life to the process of creating a controversial public park.

As lawyer, friend, teacher and counselor, he made Elkhart County healthier and more livable. This tree and plaque are a reminder that we are all in his debt for the beautiful park we see around us today.

Brotherson family dedicates memorial plaque and tree.

On June 3, members of the James R. Brotherson family and friends gathered at the grassy area along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail north of SR 4 in Goshen to dedicate a plaque and tree in his memory. The plaque reads:

In memory of James R. Brotherson, an attorney for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine and a dedicated cyclist, who used his time and talents for over two decades to help transform an abandoned railroad corridor into the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. —Donated by Michiana Pay It Forward Foundation

Pictured are members of Brotherson's family: daughter in law, Linda Brotherson holding grandson William James; son, Drew Brotherson; wife, Patty Brotherson; father, Richard Brotherson; brother-in-law, John Banks; sister, Nancy Banks; daughter-in-law, Sarah Holstine Brotherson; and son, Spencer Brotherson.

Study seeks data on trail use

John Kolb (right) distributes a trail survey to John Miller along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail during the April survey period, part of the Eppley Institute study of Indiana Trails.

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is one of nine trails in Indiana that are part of a trail study conducted by the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University. The goal of the study is to collect data on trail use, health factors related to trail use and the economic impact of trails throughout the State of Indiana. Data from the study will inform future trail development, operations, and maintenance efforts for Indiana trails.

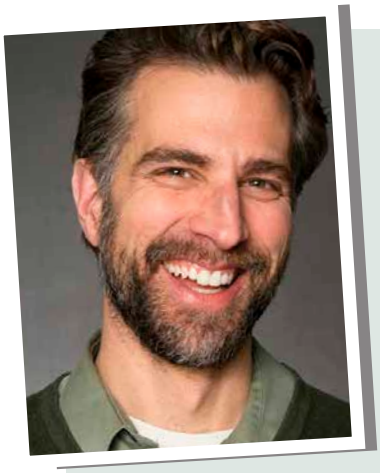
A 2001 study collected data from trail users and adjacent property owners along six trails in Indiana, while the 2017 study expands to nine trails—a mix of urban, suburban, and rural trails—throughout the state. The nine trails in the study are: Rivergreenway Trail in Fort Wayne, Erie-Lackawanna Trail in NW Indiana, Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Elkhart and LaGrange counties, Monon Trail in Indianapolis and Carmel, The Cardinal Greenway from Marion to Muncie to Richmond, Nickel Plate Trail in Kokomo, Rochester and Peru, Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage in Evansville, The People Trail in Columbus and The B-line Trail in Bloomington.

Data will be collected via surveys of trail users, a control group of non-trail users and nearby property owners. The study is being conducted over four, seven-day data collection periods in April, June, August and October. Trail counters will also be used to capture head counts. Data from the trail counters will be used to compare user patterns statewide.

Jim Bare is coordinating the recruitment and placement of volunteers for the local study. Funding for the study is provided by Indiana University, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, the Greenways Foundation of Indiana and the George and Frances Ball Foundation. Study results will be released by the spring of 2018.

Special recognition for major donations

Organizations or households that contribute a total of $1,000 to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine in 2015, 2016 and 2017, will have their names recognized on a plaque in the County Road 33-to-County Road 20 gap when that project is completed. Contributions of $10,000 will be recognized on a memorial stone.



Reflections on the 2017 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

By Tim Drescher, Bike Ride Director

At our annual Pumpkinvine dinner in April, I reflected on how I must remind myself daily of the opportunities to practice community, compassion and mindfulness. It was with this in mind that I set out to plan this year's ride, hoping that the product should result in a pleasant experience for those riding as well as those volunteering for the event.

The main purposes for the ride are to spread the word about the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and to raise funds to help with trail construction and maintenance. It is our goal to create a ride that is enjoyable, features the trail and surrounding countryside and is supportive for most riders, while keeping expenses at a minimum.

Unlike planning a picnic for a small group of friends, it can be overwhelming to manage the logistics for 1000-plus riders. We must deliver the correct amount of food and supplies, organize more than 100 volunteers, reserve and set up event locations, paint marks on 100's of miles of roads and paths, as well as manage registrations and communications. Were it not for the capable volunteers and patient participants, I would have seriously questioned my choice to direct this event.

Of the 912 riders who registered the ride, 110 did so on the day of the ride. It was clear that the concern about weather played a big role in how many registered and attended. The 807 who showed up on Saturday discovered a beautiful day unfolding before them.

This year we planned enough food for 1200 riders. With on-site registration, we cannot know how many are going to show up. One year we had over 400 register on ride day! All extra food goes to our local food pantry, which they greatly appreciate, but it is a serious logistical issue getting the right amount of food to the SAG stops. It is a common practice for larger events to close registration days or weeks before the event to provide a better organized experience for attendees. We're considering that options for the 2018 ride.

Big thanks go to the planning committee, all the volunteers, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail board, the Goshen, Elkhart, Middlebury, Shipshewana park departments, the city and county law enforcement, the Elkhart County Highway for repairing potholes on our route, the Elkhart County Fairgrounds, the local merchants and communities and especially to all of the riders who helped make the 18th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride a wonderful experience.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

these local businesses and organizations that supported the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

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2017 PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE

We appreciate your enthusiastic participation!

I enjoyed the cool, wooded, uncongested trail, the wildflowers, the farm land and the Amish kids selling lemonade.

—Jeff Morsches, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1st year, 38 miles)

We counted 72 horse and buggies and five lemonade stands on the ride. The trail was gorgeous, and we enjoyed its shade–a corridor of cool air.

—Tisha and Rhi Vrooman, Indianapolis, Ind., (1st year, 50 miles)

I liked the different routes, and it was well marked. The SAGS were good and the volunteers were great.

—Mo Miller, South Bend, Ind. (2nd year, 50 miles)

I liked the Shipshewana and Middlebury SAGs and the pie and ice cream at the end of the ride.

—Pam Antonia, Edwardsburg, Mich. (3rd year, 28 miles)

BIKE RIDE PHOTOS AVAILABLE

YOU CAN VIEW AND ORDER PHOTOS OF THE 2017 PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

https://2017PVbikeride.shutterfly.com or
www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_HTML/POST_PBR.HTML

The trail is in good shape–well maintained. I appreciate the volunteers at the road crossings.
—David Cripe, White Pigeon, Mich. (4th year, 50 miles)

We heard woodpeckers and saw a group of Purple Martin houses on the trail.
—Brenton, Cooper, Boedy and Eliza Fish, Goshen (38 miles)

The trail is beautiful. I saw horses, buffalo and wildflowers. This ride motivates me to ride.
—Sue Catherman, South Haven, Mich. (28 miles)

Mark your calendars now!

June 16, 2018

19th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

2017 PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE

Bike Ride Volunteers

Note to Volunteers: If you will not be able to volunteer for the 2018 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride, please drop you volunteer T-shirt off at Family Bicycle Center, 3410 S. Main St., Elkhart; Lincoln Ave. Cycling and Fitness, 430 Lincoln Ave., Goshen; Pumpkinvine Cyclery, 420 N. Main St., Middlebury; or in the box on the front porch at 1404 Pembroke Circle Apt 4, Goshen.

Bike Ride Committee
Tim Drescher, Director
Bob Carrico
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Phil Mason
Debi Riegsecker
Renee Springer
Matt Thomas

Food Coordinators and Sorting Detail
Renee Springer

Thursday Grape & Orange Cleaning
Tim Croyle
Tim Drescher
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Claire Gisel
Dave Shenk
Renee Springer

Friday Food & Supply Deliveries
Janice Carrico
Jen Drescher
Tim Drescher
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Claire Gisel
Phil Mason
Dave Shenk
Renee Springer

Goshen Location Supervisor
Bob Carrico

Goshen Registration
Jenea Born
Paul Drescher
Megan Eichorn
Zoe Eichorn
Evan Kraybill
Grant Miller
Merv Miller
Anna Paetkau
Mark Perry
Keri Risse
Ashley Sanchez
Oscar Peterson Veach
Michelle Waldrop

Parking
Jay Steiner, Lead
Dwight Grieser
Loren Stauffer

Goshen Direction Assistants
Bill Kercher
June Yoder

Goshen Mechanic
Danny Jones

Shipshewana Location Supervisor
Chuck Thompson

Shipshewana SAG
Brenda Hess, lead
Bob Hess, lead
Lois Bare
Lynn Diener
Phyllis Hostetler
Lynn Kauffman
Bill Miller
Phyllis Miller
Janice Nelson
Carl Rutt
Lovina Rutt
Linda Thompson
Cosette Torrance
Anne Wilson

Shipshewana Direction Assistants
Tim Ashley
Gordon Hostetler

Middlebury SAG
Jane Short, lead
Mary Cripe
Steve Cripe
Lois Hartzler
Ann Kauffman
Ned Kauffman
Les Keener
Judy Keener
Judy Kolb
Linda Rouch
Barb Shembab
Marlene Springer
Miriam Stauffer
Byron Yoder
Becky Yoder

Middlebury Direction Assistants
Miranda Cripe
John Kolb

Westview SAG
Jane Bontrager, lead
Beth Bontrager
Elma Chapman
Sally Fuller
Jack Fuller
Lou Anne Hostetler

Westview Direction Assistant
Gary Chapman

Bonneville SAG
Ruby Bontrager, lead
Ellis Bontrager
Dennis Kelly
Pat Kelly

Truck Driver (food & equipment)
Michael Dickens
Phil Mason
David Gerber–assistant

Merchandise Sales
Chet Peachey
Ruthann Peachey
Andy Butsakone

Friday Dinner Ride
John Yoder, Lead
Marie Clements
Roy Hartzler
Terry MacGregor
Patti MacGregor
Chet Peachey
Ruthann Peachey
June Yoder

Roving SAGs
Kerm Garber
Stan Gingerich
Wilmer Hollinger
Paul Reimer

Civilian Patrol
Jim Bare
Wes Culver
Georgia Gingerich
Dwight Gipson
Roy Hartzler
Darwin Hoogenboom
Lauren Hoogenboom
Jerry Kindy
John King
Tom Kreiser
Kevin Miller
Steve Pletcher
David Rouch
Francis Shembab
Shannon Smoot
Curt Wenger

Volunteer Coordinator
Debi Riegsecker

Maps
Tim Drescher
Matt Thomas

Road Markings
Tim Drescher
Don Graves
Matt Thomas

Treasurer
Cory Wilson

Online Registration
Tim Drescher

Ride Website/Social Media Ads
Tim Drescher

Photographers
Brandon Beachy
Danny Graber
Jim Loomis
Bruce Nethercutt
Ryan Smith
John Yoder

Paper Supplies
Renee Springer

Tents
Bob Carrico

Signs
Bob Carrico
Tim Drescher
Chuck Thompson

Ice Cream and Pie
Janice Carrico
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Marie Clemens
Jen Drescher
Lois Longenecker
Sally Schreck
Miriam Schrock
Orie Schrock
Clare Schumm
Katie Schumm
Barbara Smucker
George Smucker
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Karen Sommers
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Maddie Angle
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Stacy Brown
Pancho Campos
Bryan Contreras
Micheal Haley
Jerica Hofsommer
Angela Hoover
Aryanna Martin
Jordan Rudicel
Pam Schafer
Fernando Xique

Middlebury celebrates the new Ridge Run Trail

By Gloria Salavarria

Within a few hours after asphalt was laid on a trail between the Essenhaus Covered Bridge and the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, people took to Middlebury's newest trail, the Ridge Run Trail.

First it was a man from Greencroft-Middlebury who started walking the 1.5-mile trail, and then he was followed by two Amish men on bicycles who were eager to head home on the safety on the trail.

The pleasure of riding and walking in peace and quiet, without fear of traffic, was just too good to resist.

What began as a dream three-and-a-half years ago became a reality in mid-June, but the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place as part of Middlebury's 5th annual Trails Fest celebration. Dick Cook, president of the Friends of Middlebury Parks, said, "We broke ground on April 13 of this year, and (the trail) was actually finished about a month ago, but we wanted to wait to officially unveil it so that we could do it during Trails Fest. It just seemed like the perfect time."

Trails Fest not only celebrates Middlebury's trail system but also helps raise funds to maintain the system.

John McKee, president of the Middlebury Park Board added, "It's hard to believe that it's only been about three-and-a-half years since a group got together and decided that we can build this trail and make it happen! Our basic objective when we started this project was to build a connecting trail," said McKee. "The Ridge Run Trail connects with the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and with the Wayne Street Trail to make a 5 K route (for school athletes in training)."

The Ridge Run trail links up with the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail just north of the US 20 tunnel, and then it runs along the north side of US 20 and That Pretty Place bed & breakfast property and then along a horse pasture to the Essenhaus property.

Gary and Elma Chapman try out the new Ridge Run Trail.

Just north of the Essenhaus covered bridge the trail splits off into three connector trails—one leading east to the Greencroft community, one north to the Wayne Street Trail and Middlebury Schools, and the other west to the Essenhaus campus with its famous Essenhaus Restaurant, a strong draw for hungry trail cyclists and hikers with its "all you can eat" offerings.

"The trail also connects businesses, schools, churches and the communities in a safe roundabout route—and it is a community funded project rather than a federal funded project," McKee added.

Matt Crouch, deputy director of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), added, "Not every community is as fortunate as Middlebury—having the volunteerism that you have, working together. It's easy to say that we want to get a trail. The hard part is overcoming the issues (to make the trail a reality.)"

Those who came together to make this trail a reality includes the Friends of Middlebury Parks in partnership with the Middlebury Parks Department, town managers Mark Salee and Mary Cripe, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Middlebury Greencroft, Middlebury Schools, That Pretty Place Bed and Breakfast and over 100 individuals, families, businesses and organizations within the Middlebury community.

The Elkhart County Community Foundation and OCRA each gave $50,000 and the efforts made by the Friends of Middlebury Parks to gather community financial support brought $140,000 in donations—all of which were needed to build the $240,000 trail.

Naturalists' Corner

By John J. Smith

Elderberry

Milkweed

Black-eyed Susan

Spiderwort

Summer Flora Along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

In springtime, many species of wildflowers bloom in the more heavily wooded areas along the Pumpkinvine. In summer, after the trees are in full leaf, most of the blooms are in the more open sections of the trail. All along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail something is in bloom in full sun or light-shade from June through October.

Some of the native wildflowers that you will see in the full-sun areas are Spiderwort (blue), black-eyed Susan (yellow-orange), common milkweed (pink), butterfly weed (orange), daisy fleabane (white), and elderberry (white). In light shade, Solomon's seal (greenish-white), pokeweed (white with pinkish tinge), Michigan lily (orange with black spots), jewelweed, aka touch-me-not (orange or yellow), tall bellflower (blue), bottlebrush grass (green), wood mint (white), fringed loosestrife (yellow), and tall lettuce (blue) are some of the flowering native plants.

From the time of European settlement (1830's), non-native plants were introduced by the settlers for food or landscaping, and then spread to natural or disturbed areas. Many other non-native species were inadvertently introduced as seeds mixed in with other seeds, on shoes or clothing, or by birds and other animals. Dandelion (yellow), lesser celandine (yellow), motherwort (light pink), campion (white), bouncing Bet, aka soapwort (light pink), day lilies (orange), mullein (yellow) are non-natives that don't tend to be invasive, i.e., they don't compete too much with native plants. Some of the most invasive, and most undesirable, introduced plants that flower in summer along the trail are poison hemlock (up to 8 ft. high, red-spotted green stems, huge heads of white flowers), bush honeysuckle (white or pink flowers), spotted knapweed (pink), and purple loosestrife (in wet areas).

Several years ago, Friends of the Pumpkinvine volunteers planted native prairie plants in a sunny area between mile markers 4.0 and 4.5. Throughout the summer, we can enjoy the results of those planting of grasses and showy flowers such as, purple coneflower, yellow coneflower, prairie clover (magenta), pale sunflower (yellow), and wild bergamot (lavender). Volunteers also planted wildflowers at the trail intersections at County Road 43 in Elkhart County and 1150W in LaGrange County. The seed mixes used there contain some plants from western states, such as blanket flower (red with yellow), and Mexican hat (maroon), into addition to local natives such as yarrow (white), daisy fleabane (white), and lance-leaved coreopsis (yellow).

In Middlebury, the trail runs through the Krider World's Fair Garden, which includes a beautiful quilt garden, many other ornamental flowers, and a rain garden with native plants. What a gem!

Bob Shanahan appointed Shipshewana's new Town Manager

By Andrea Thompson

When Mike Sutter retired as Shipshewana town manager at the end of June, the town council named LaGrange County Planning and Zoning Administrator, Bob Shanahan as his replacement.

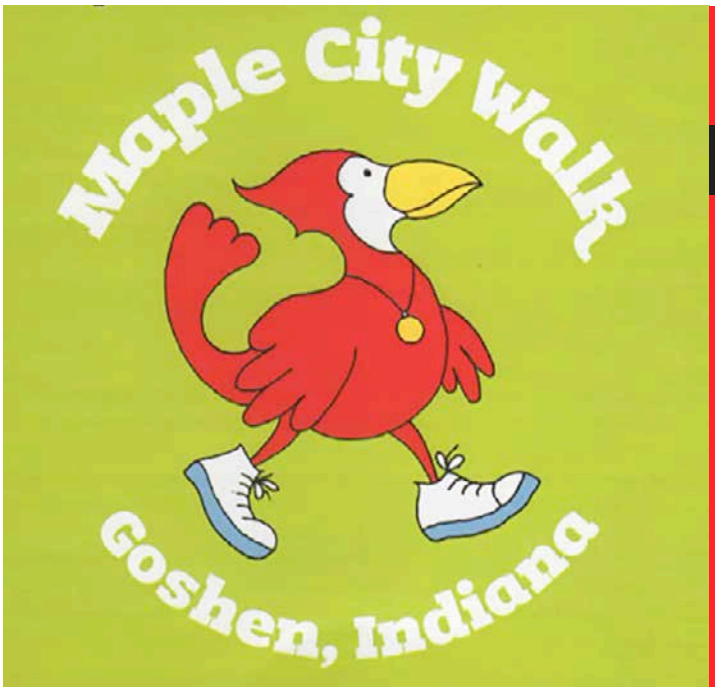
Already familiar with Shipshewana due to his six years with LaGrange County, Shanahan comes in with a combined 25 years of surveying and planning experience under his belt. When asked what attracted him to his new post, he said, "This is an opportunity for me to combine everything I've learned and really apply that knowledge into managing a town. It was progressional for me."

Prior to his work in surveying and planning, Shanahan, who is an Australian National and United States citizen, was a soldier in Australia for 20 years. He met his wife Kathy in Chicago in December 1983 when the Australian Army posted him to the Canadian Armed Forces for 18 months to attend a long staff gunnery course. The Shanahans were married in December 1984 in LaGrange, where Kathy's parents lived. After his posting with the Canadian Armed Forces, Shanahan and his wife returned to Australia until his discharge from the Australian Regular Army in 1992. He immigrated to the United States that year, returning to LaGrange. Shanahan is truly passionate about this area and currently, and proudly, calls LaGrange home.

Shanahan is equally passionate about making sure that people in Shipshewana and the surrounding areas have safe places to exercise and enjoy themselves. He sees the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as one of those places. Having been involved in surveying and planning, Shanahan has been aware of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, especially the section in LaGrange County, since it's construction phase, and he adds, "I've personally ridden along it with my grandchildren."

When it comes to future plans regarding the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Shanahan says that in addition to ongoing repair work, there is a plan in the works to extend the trail east from 850 W. "Through a series of donations, we will move it east to connect to State Road 5 (North Street) and link it to the town park, to the east of the Wolfe Building-Town Hall," he says. This will make the trail more accessible to the town, and more convenient to visit places like the baseball diamonds, basketball court, soccer fields and the children's playground. Once the new trailhead is established, there is also a plan to add more restrooms at that point on the trail.

Aside from the Pumpkinvine extension, Shanahan has many other projects to tackle in his new role. He is very enthusiastic about being a part of this ever-changing, growing community.



September 16, 2017

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Has your membership expired?

You are receiving this newsletter because you have contributed to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine in the past five years. If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, we hope you'll consider renewing your membership in the **Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Membership levels are::

☐ Individual $30 ☐ Family $40 ☐ Sustaining $60 ☐ Contributing $100 ☐ Patron $250

☐ Benefactor $500 ☐ Benefactor Silver $1,000 ☐ Benefactor Gold $2,500 ☐ Benefactor Platinum > $5,000

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