

# City Reports



VOLUME XXVI No. 3

March 2012

PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR

Dear Employees,

In my second month on the job, good things are happening in the City of South Bend. The mayor's office and city departments are working hard to keep up services and respond to questions and concerns from residents. Here are some early strides we have made to move South Bend forward:

- A new clinic to help our veterans will expand in South Bend at the site of the old Gates building, bringing thousands of people to downtown South Bend and roughly 100 jobs to the heart of our city.
- I addressed the South Bend School Board to outline my 5-step plan for more city engagement with our education system. I've also met with Superintendent Dr. Carole Schmidt and visited schools across the city.
- My office created a Vacant and Abandoned Housing Task Force to combat the blight in our neighborhoods. We need to bring sustainability and safety to our streets and it starts with these unsafe houses.
- The South Bend Fire Department hosted an inspiring change of command ceremony. I would like to congratulate former Fire Chief Howard Buchanon for his exemplary service to South Bend and welcome Fire Chief Stephen Cox to his new leadership role.
- I have met with Mishawaka Mayor Dave Wood and our leaders in county government to discuss possible ways we can all partner to benefit the people of our community.
- My office and department leaders started the Mayor's Night In / Mayor's Night Out initiative, which allows residents to talk to me and department heads about any issue or concern one-on-one. The next Mayor's Night Out will be March 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call 235-9261.
- And last but not least—I responded to multiple emails from a 12-year-old boy on the south side who desperately wanted stop signs at a dangerous intersection outside his home. I'm happy to say that the intersection of Donmoyer Avenue and High Street now has a four-way stop, thanks to our Traffic and Lighting crews and our Engineering Division.

My office is also determined to launch a 3-1-1 non-emergency phone line for city services by the end of this year. Until that time, if my office can be of service, please call 235-9261 at any time.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pete

## Change of Command Ceremony



It was an exciting day. The Fire Station was decked out and packed with many friends and family of Howard, all wanting to wish him the best for the future. The ceremony was rich in symbolism and respect. A nice luncheon followed that accommodated all who wanted to stay. It was a great celebration. The City has been blessed having Howard serve for so many years and glad we will still have him in the community.



The now retired, happy as always, Howard Buchanon with Mayor Pete Buttigieg



Mayor Pete swearing in Chief Stephen Cox

## Understanding PERF

Do you understand your retirement benefits from the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF)? Hopefully the following will help.

PERF was created by the Indiana General Assembly and is maintained by the Indiana Retirement System (INPRS), an agency of State Government. Steve Russo is the Executive Director and was appointed by the Governor. INPRS administers and manages seven retirement plans including the Public Employees' Retirement Fund, the Teachers' Retirement Fund, the Judges' Retirement System, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Retirement Fund, the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund, the Legislators' Retirement System and the State Excise Police, Gaming Agent, Gaming Control Officer and Conservation Enforcement Officers' Retirement Plan. INPRS will also oversee three non-retirement funds including the Pension Relief Fund, the Public Safety Officers' Special Death Benefit Fund and the State Employees' Death Benefit Fund. While the combined 22 + billion dollars of assets in these funds are used to leverage favorable interest rates and service fees, the funds themselves remain separate.

Our retirement fund, PERF, is made up of two parts, the annuity and the defined pension. The annuity portion is money that is contributed by each employee, each pay period. The employee defines how their money is invested. There are a number of options open to the employee on how to recover the balance of their annuity upon retirement from the PERF position.

If the employee works for ten or more years in a PERF position(s), they are deemed "vested" and are now eligible for a defined pension payment. This defined payment can be combined with the annuity at the option of the retiree. Pension payments are defined by law. They may begin for a retired employee with 30 years of work experience in a PERF position at age 55. A retired PERF employee may receive full benefits at age 60 with 15 years of PERF work experience. Retirees with less than 15 years but more than 10 years PERF work experience ARE eligible at age 65 to collect the defined portion of their pension.

Any change to the PERF pension rules (e.g. cost of living increase) must be made by the legislature. RIPEA (Retired Indiana Public Employee Association) is a not-for-profit organization that came into existence 40 years ago. RIPEA exists to protect your pension and other retirement benefits. Some of the ways this is done include:

1. scrutinizing new legislative proposals that might pose a threat to you
2. obtaining legislative sponsors on your behalf
3. testifying at committee hearings
4. submitting proposals to the General Assembly
5. following these proposals throughout the entire legislative process

Over the past 24 years, mostly through the efforts of RIPEA, PERF retirees have received a permanent Cost of Living Increase in their monthly pension and/or a 13th check. The 13th check acts as a one time additional benefit and is usually  
(continued on next column)

## Citywide Anniversaries

### March 2012

#### 35 Years–1977

**John Ralston** ..... Park Dept

#### 30 Years–1982

**Mattie Taylor** ..... Police Dept

**Millard Hill** ..... Police Dept

#### 15 Years–1997

**John Allen** ..... Print Shop

**Jerry Christner** ..... Equipment Services

**Jeff Young** ..... Commun & Econ Dev

**Keith Vergon** ..... Police Dept

**Martha Randall** ..... Environmental Serv

**Chad Ammerman** ..... Fire Dept

**Brian Bartlett** ..... Fire Dept

**Matthew Beebe** ..... Fire Dept

**Timothy Enright** ..... Fire Dept

**Richard Larkin** ..... Fire Dept

**Thomas Mogerman** ..... Fire Dept

#### 5 Years–2007

**Aaron Miller** ..... Police Dept

**Jeff McKee** ..... Police Dept

**John Ryans** ..... Police Dept

**Michael Stuk II** ..... Police Dept

**Nick Gaul** ..... Park Dept

**Fred Malecki** ..... Equipment Services

### (Understanding PERF continued)

based on years of service. For 2012, House Bill 1162 which contained a 3% COLA was defeated. House Bill 1123, contains a provision for a 13th check for PERF retirees, was passed by the House by a vote of 82 -2. If the Senate also passes the bill and Governor Daniels signs it, PERF retirees will receive an additional one time benefit based on the following:

#### Years of Service Amount

5 years but less than 10 – \$150.00

#### Disability Retirees Only

10 years but less than 20 – \$275.00

20 years but less than 30 – \$350.00

30 years or more – \$450.00

It costs \$12.00 per year to be a member of RIPEA. You can learn more by visiting their web site: [www.ripea.org](http://www.ripea.org) or reading their latest newsletter at: [http://www.ripea.org/images/stories/newsletters/Feb12\\_Communicator.pdf](http://www.ripea.org/images/stories/newsletters/Feb12_Communicator.pdf)

Next we'll try to write an article about the benefits of being a member of RIPEA.

submitted by **Jack Dillon** (Environmental Services)

## Dads from Four States and Twenty Five Cities Converged on the Daddy/ Daughter Dance with their Little Princesses



Princesses who found one gallant Prince, **George Rogers**, from the Charles Black Center, to take them all. Give the man a medal and a big hug!

Sold out to capacity, 1,100 in all, Century Center was all decked out for the 12th annual Daddy/Daughter Dance hosted by the South Bend Parks and Recreation Special Events Division. Teal, pink and lavender balloon arches outlined the dance floor; the Princess Ballerina Barbie center pieces on white linen table cloths set the theme. As the dads and their princesses arrived, each girl was crowned with a tiara, draped with a princess sash, and given a free CVS photo. They enjoyed an exciting evening of dancing, and had cookies and punch for refreshments. "The Music Machine" D.J. service's Paul Chamberlin



was the Master of Ceremonies. As the evening ended, each little princess was handed a gift bag of Barbie and ballerina gift items! This evening will be remembered for a long time by all the princesses and their daddies. Much credit and thanks goes to the park staff and city volunteers for making this elegant event run so smoothly! Driving the distance from four states and twenty five cities, dads showed how important these memories are to them and their daughters!

submitted by **Paula Garis** (Park Department)

## Employees' Corner

### Administration & Finance

Our deepest condolences go to **Pam Helwig** and **Cindy Waugaman** (Legal) and family on the death of their mother, Lucille Helwig, who passed away February 19. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Water Works

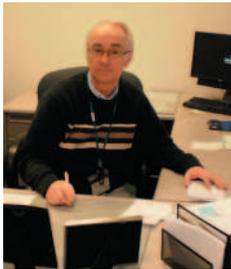
**Bruce Smith** started his almost 48 year career with the South Bend Water Works on April 14, 1964. He made \$1.75 per hour as a laborer. Bruce became the first Teamster's Union Steward for the Water Works when the City of South Bend unionized in 1970.

Bruce spent many long days and nights ensuring our customers had safe drinking water. There are Diet Pepsi cans buried in the excavations created by water main repairs throughout our water distribution system. This meant that Bruce Smith was on the job. He is passionate about many things including his family, the Chicago White Sox, and Notre Dame Women's basketball. He will be welcomed back any time to talk baseball with most of the Cubs fans in the Water Works.

Bruce is retiring as the Meter Department Supervisor, a position he has held for almost 20 years. His hard work and dedication will be missed by all of the current employees of the South Bend Water Works.

At the 2012 Indiana American Water Works Association meeting **John Wiltrout** was honored to receive the first annual Reggie Baker InWARN Award. Reggie Baker was the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's first Security and Counter Terrorism Coordinator. John became involved with InWARN in its earliest stages. It is an organization whose mission statement is *"To support and promote state-wide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual aid between water and wastewater utilities responding to major emergencies."*

John is the Northern Indiana InWARN emergency coordinator and has spent countless hours supporting this organization. All of us at the South Bend Water Works are proud of John!



John Wiltrout & Dave Tungate

## Keith Crain: our Giraffe Award Winner

Nothing is too great or too small for **Keith Crain**, our giraffe award winner. For the past several months the pressure and demands of his job has kept him even from enjoying any after work activities. He basically has been on call 24/7. Because of his devotion, he has totally kept everyone updated and "in the know" concerning a City wide project. I've personally had to call him with small, minute questions. Generously he answers, leaving me to feel as if I was his only call of the day. Calm! Collected! Patient & kind! He seems to stretch himself thin to complete any task. Keith, you are a hero among us and should be recognized! Woo woohoo



submitted by **Martha Randall** (CSI Team)

## Spring is coming, let's break out some new salads!

### Asparagus Salad

1 lb. fresh asparagus, trimmed, cooked until crisp tender, cooled  
4 cups spring mix salad greens  
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar  
2 tablespoons orange juice  
2 tablespoons each apricot and pineapple preserves  
1 tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted  
1 teaspoon minced fresh gingerroot  
1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Place salad greens on a serving platter; top with asparagus. In a small bowl, whisk the vinegar, orange juice, preserves, sesame seeds and ginger. Drizzle over salad. Sprinkle with almonds. Serves 6

### Coleslaw with Peanut Dressing

1 chilled head of green cabbage, outer leaves removed  
A wedge of purple cabbage, for color  
A fistful of fresh cilantro, washed, dried

Cut the cabbage in thirds, chop off the core, shred the wedges into thin strips. Shred some purple cabbage, cut off most of the cilantro stems, dump into a salad bowl, toss.

Dressing:

1/3 cup smooth unsalted organic roasted peanut butter  
1-2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil  
Juice from one big lime  
1 tablespoon coconut milk, as needed  
1-2 teaspoons honey or sugar to taste  
A pinch of ginger, to taste  
Sea salt, to taste

Whisk your main 3 ingredients, taste and add the others if you like. If the dressing needs to be a little thinner, add more coconut milk or lime juice, a tablespoon at a time. Taste test to balance the creamy, salty and tart flavors. Pour the dressing onto the slaw and toss lightly until well coated. Cover and chill until serving. Serves 6

## Hand Hygiene: Stay Healthy

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hand hygiene is the most important factor in preventing the spread of germs. In fact, health experts estimate that 80 percent of common infections are spread through hand contact!

### Make Clean Choices

In today's busy world it is not always possible or convenient for us to wash our hands as often as needed so experts recommend an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Water simply rinses dirt and germs away; soap is what actually prevents them from sticking to your skin. Rub hands together, lathering and scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.

Instant hand sanitizers are more effective than soap in preventing infection, less irritating to the skin, and faster and easier to use. The main ingredient in hand sanitizers is alcohol, which kills 99.99% of bacteria in about 15 seconds.

### Clean Hands Often

Not only will cleansing your hands often help prevent you from getting sick, it will help you from getting others sick! Always wash with soap and water or a hand sanitizer after:

- Blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Going to the bathroom
- Changing diapers
- Handling animals or animal waste
- Handling garbage

Never prepare or eat food, tend to an ill person, or treat a cut or wound without clean hands. Use common sense. Consider all your hands come in contact with; just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's not there!

## A Little Name Dropping...

### Welcome January 2012

**Pete Buttigieg**..... Mayor's Office  
**Ronny Christopher, Jr.** ..... Police Communications  
**Laurie Crawford** ..... Police Communications  
**Fred Ferlic** ..... City Council  
**Debra Johnson**..... Mayor's Office  
**Roland "Randy" Kelly**Community & Economic Development  
**Jacob Klosinski** ..... Wastewater  
**Starla Lisek**..... Police Communications  
**Jordan McGuire**..... Animal Control  
**Mark Neal** ..... Administration & Finance  
**Rosa Perez**..... Mayor's Office  
**Kathryn Roos** ..... Mayor's Office  
**Valerie Schey** ..... City Council  
**Michael Schmuhl**..... Mayor's Office  
**Richard Smigielski** ..... Wastewater  
**Anthony Vogel** ..... Wastewater  
**Ray Wolfenbarger** ..... Police

### Resignations January 2012

**John Broden** ..... Legal (10 yrs 5 mos)  
**Ryan Gatny** ..... Fire (1 yr 1 mo)  
**Charles Lemaire**..... Animal Control (2 yrs 11 mos)  
**Louis Martinez** ..... Equipment Services (14 yrs 5 mos)  
**Collin McGann** ..... Wastewater (4 yrs 7 mos)

### Change of Pace January 2012

**Maureen Cleary** ..... Potawatomi Zoo from Zoo Keeper I to Zoo Keeper II  
**Andrea Beachkofsky Dille** ..... Legal from Deputy City Attorney III to Assistant City Attorney  
**Aladean DeRose** ..... Legal from Chief Assistant City Attorney to City Attorney (Interim)  
**Cindy Drake** ..... Police from Clerk Terminal Operator to Data Entry Specialist II  
**Edward Frederick** ..... Potawatomi Zoo from Zoo Keeper I to Zoo Keeper II  
**Scott Horvath** ..... Water Works from Locator to Special Project Coordinator II  
**John Martinez** ..... Parks from Superintendent II to Superintendent III  
**Heather Moats** ..... Potawatomi Zoo from Zoo Keeper I to Zoo Keeper II  
**James Monroe** ..... Morris/Palais from Facility Operations Manager to Maintenance Manager  
**Salvatore Parisi** ..... Police from Programmer/Analyst II to System Specialist III  
**Gretchen Pitser** ..... Potawatomi Zoo from Zoo Keeper II to Zoo Keeper III  
**Robert Rose** ..... Fire from Lieutenant/Paramedic to Captain-Special Assignments  
**Cheryl Ruskowski** ..... Police Communications from Communications Spec. I to Communications Spec. II  
**Matthew Sikora** ..... CED Specialist VI to Mayor's Executive Assistant and Director of Special Projects  
**Mary Ellen Smith** ..... Morris/Palais from Asst. Dir./Admin. & Marketing to Director of Marketing & Promotions  
**Diane Villa** ..... Police from Programmer/Analyst II to System Specialist III

### Retirements January 2012

**Thomas Bodnar** ..... Legal (33 yrs 6 mos dedicated service)  
**Charles Leone** ..... Legal (10 yrs 11 mos dedicated service)



For more information on the following events contact:

CENTURY CENTER .....	9711
COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME .....	5715
S.B.REGIONAL MUSEUM OF ART .....	9102
MORRIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.....	9190
PARKS/RECREATION DEPARTMENT.....	299-4765
NOTRE DAME .....	631-5031
ST. PATRICK'S COUNTY PARK .....	288-3472
NO. INDIANA CENTER FOR HISTORY.....	235-9664
ST. JOE COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS .....	291-4870

### Century Center

- 3/1-4 The Acting Ensemble presents "In The Next Room"
- 3/2-3 Women's Expo: Friday, March 2nd – "Girls Night Out"; March 3rd - Expo
- 3/9-11 Michiana Home Show
- 3/12 The Acting Ensemble presents "Stage Works"
- 3/17-18 Cavalcade of Wheels
- 3/21 Logan Nose-On Luncheon
- 3/23-25 South Bend Civic Theatre presents Flat Stanley Jr., the Musical
- 4/7 Michiana Fight League – Fight Night
- 4/9 The Acting Ensemble presents "Stage Works"
- 4/13-14 River Bend Film Festival
- 4/14-15 Great Lakes Area Enthusiasts Cat Show
- 4/21 March of Dimes – March for Babies
- 4/26 St. Vincent DePaul – Legacy Dinner
- 4/27-28 Indiana State Taekwondo Tourney

For additional information, please visit [www.centurycenter.org](http://www.centurycenter.org) or call us at 235-9711

### The Morris Performing Arts Center

- 3/3 MasterWorks III – "Inspired by the Bard" South Bend Symphony Orchestra
- 3/9 Disney Live Presents "Three Classic Fairy Tales"
- 3/21 Riverdance Returns
- 3/25 Australian Sensation "Human Nature, the Motown Show" produced by Smokey Robinson
- 3/31 KeyBank Pops III – "The Texas Tenors" South Bend Symphony Orchestra
- 4/14 John Prine, Country Music
- 4/18 Daniel Tosh (Tosh.O) Comedy
- 4/20-22 Blue Man Group Broadway Theater League
- 4/24-25 Sesame Street Live
- 4/26 Red Green "Live" the Wit & Wisdom Tour

## City Reports Reporters

Department	Reporter	Phone#
Administration/Finance.....	Mary Ramsdell.....	9935
Attorney's Office.....	Pam Paluszewski.....	5865
Building Department.....	Nikki Durr.....	9554
Century Center.....	Matt Rose.....	9896
City Clerk.....	Mary Beth Wisniewski.....	9222
Code Enforcement.....	Deborah Mobley.....	9325
Common Council.....		5978
Communications.....	Debra Johnson.....	7590
Comm and Econ Dev.....	Jenny Hullinger.....	5832
Engineering Department.....	Marcia Qualls.....	9251
Environmental Services.....	Mark Rzepnicki.....	277-8515
Central Services.....	Mary Wisniewski.....	9316
Fire Department.....		9255
Football Hall of Fame.....	David Saba.....	5717
Howard Pk Sr Citizens.....	Rose Kaufman.....	9428
Human Rights.....	Nancy O'Brien.....	9425
Morris Perf. Arts Center.....	Karen King.....	5584
Park Department.....	Paula Garis.....	299-4768
Police Department.....	Barb Holleman.....	9311
Potawatomi Zoo.....	Pat Fenters.....	9800
Street Department.....		9244
Studebaker Nat'l Museum.....	Peggy Soderberg.....	9714
Water Works.....	Laura Vance.....	5650
Water Works.....	Jodie Spradlin.....	5663

If you have anything you would like to put into the paper, either contact your reporter (above), or you can fax it (235-9171) or send a typed or neatly printed copy to **Marcia Qualls (Engineering) or Mary Beth Wisniewski (City Clerk)** Please do not send anything without a name and phone number in case we have questions.

This paper is published as a service to the employees of the City of South Bend. It is a non-profit publication and any views presented are not necessarily those of the Mayor or any other City Official. Coordinators: Marcia Qualls and Mary Beth Wisniewski; Layout: Jenny Hullinger.