

Indiana University Media School

Feb. 28, 2024

The B Square Bulletin

(Dave Askins)



\$3M from general fund, with industrial dev heritage, OK'd by Bloomington city council for tech center



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In round numbers, the \$3 million approved by the city council adds to a \$3.5 grant from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), and about \$2 million in tax increment finance (TIF) money, which was authorized by

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Soft jobs from Bloomington mayoral candidates at forum on the arts

April 12, 2023

8-story student apartment

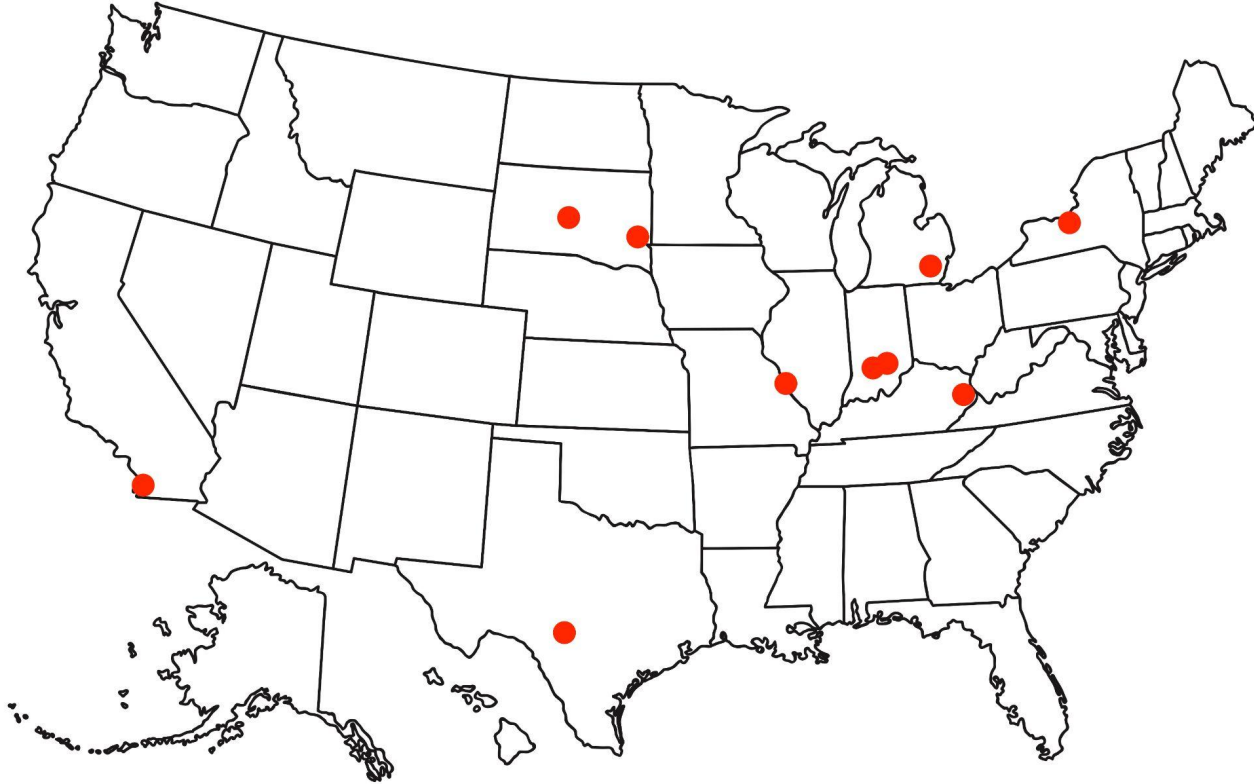
The B Square Bulletin is an online-only, one-person news operation in Bloomington, Indiana, focused on local government, specifically city and county units.

- **About me**
- **Perspective on journalism**
- **Where?**
- **Future of local news**

5 Ws

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- **Where?**
- Why?

Places in the U.S. where I have lived





DAVE
SUCKS

What I am not:

- **an academic;**
- **a scholar; or**
- **a mainstream voice**

Other jobs I have done before Bloomington (2018)

- data analyst
- English teacher
- German teacher
- grocery clerk
- kennel technician
- news reporter

Where?

Question: Where did that happen?

Possible answer: My own backyard! What can you do in your own backyard?

Example: Build a teeter totter. Invite people to be interviewed while riding it. Make a blog out of it, because it's 2005. Call the blog: Teeter Talk



John Hieftje
Mayor of Ann Arbor

Tottered on: 3 November 2006
Temperature: 34 F
Ceiling: overcast
Ground: snow-dusted
Wind: W at 13mph

paid advertisement



TT with HD: John Hieftje

For more information on Mayor Hieftje's re-election bid, consult his [campaign website](#). Information about the question of why Tuesday is election day (discussed below) can be found at [GetOutTheWhy](#).

HD: Ready to mount?

JH: Sure.

HD: Alright. First order of business is to take the standard teeter tottering photo.

JH: What do *you* weigh?

HD: You know, I've been telling people 160, and I hopped on the scale the other day, and I realize I've been underestimating a bit, so it's more like 170, or even 175.

JH: We're going to be very close.

HD: Alright ready to go? [picture taking] Ready to get this thing tottering?

JH: I'm happy to, I don't know!

HD: Is this going to work for you?

JH: Sure. Do you have a clamp underneath here that just runs under the pipe on your fulcrum here?

HD: Umm, no, it's not a clamp. But the I-beam support underneath has a hole through it to allow for the passage of the pipe through.

JH: Okay, gotcha.

HD: After we dismount we can look at it in detail, if you like. And that annoying squeak, which has appeared recently again, may be a function of the cold weather, in combination with the dampness that we've experienced recently here with the flurries. Well, thanks for *coming*, first of all!

JH: I'm happy to be here!

HD: Welcome to the teeter totter. And I noticed when you rode up on your bicycle you did come via Liberty Street, so you fell for the trap of having to turn right in order to make it onto Mulholland Street.

JH: Yeah??

HD: Yeah. Oh, well, okay, maybe it's not as funny a joke as the people I run with.



Bill Clinton
former President
(United States)

Tottered on: 28 April 2007
Temperature: 58F
Ceiling: partly sunny
Ground: fresh green
Wind: WNW at 3 mph

paid advertisement



TT with HD: Bill Clinton

[Ed. note: On 28 April, 2007 President William J. Clinton delivered a commencement address to the group of graduating seniors from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan inside the confines of Michigan Stadium. He arrived late to that ceremony.]

HD: First of all, welcome to the teeter totter!

BC: I appreciate the opportunity!

HD: My usual first order of business is to take the standard tottering photo. Did anyone explain that to you and, in general, how all this works?

BC: Sure, I'm used to cameras [laugh].

HD: But the teeter tottering part?

BC: Now *this* part of it, I haven't done in a while. But it's like riding a bicycle pretty much, right? Am I doing okay so far?

HD: You're doing great! But we have to pause the tottering motion for just a second so that I can take the picture.

BC: Oh, okay.

HD: Now, I hate to even ask you to do this, but do you think you could just grip the sides of the board instead of resting your hands on your knees?

BC: Like this?

HD: Perfect.

BC: Now I see why you wanted me to wear the gloves! No handles on here!

HD: Oh, sorry, I didn't mean to make it seem like you *had* to wear them. You're actually the first person to take me up on the glove offer.

BC: Most people ride bare-handed?

HD: Mmmm, or else they bring their own gloves on account of the cold. If people wear gloves, it's because of the cold, usually. You know what, let me take a couple more of you with your hands on your knees like before. If you're gripping the board, it might look like you're holding on ...



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-  **Inbox** 1
-  Starred
-  Snoozed
-  Sent
-  **Drafts** 253
-  Spam
-  More

- Labels** +



Links to New Articles

[Bloomington city council candidates field questions in runup to next weekend's Democratic Party caucus](#)

[Key Monroe County election positions filled, Indiana Attorney General advice settles residency question](#)

[Bloomington City Council Agenda Feb. 28, 2024](#)

Dave's Digest

- **Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support.** On Monday at 6 p.m. in the Monroe County courthouse, county government officials are hosting a meeting to talk about how to bring an IRACS (Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support) program to Monroe County. IRACS is a combination of rehabilitation programs and community resources to help people who are transitioning from jail back into the community outside the jail. Here's a link: [information about IRACS from Mental Health American of Indiana](#) Here's a

Business model: Voluntary subscriptions

- **No paywall:** Local news and information should be accessible to everyone, even those who don't have the means to contribute financially.
- **No ads:** The job of a journalistic enterprise is to connect readers with the information they need, not to connect advertisers with potential customers.

Where?





Question: Where should you look if you want to see how local government decisions get made?

- 1. Public documents**
2. Public meetings

Facts about hiring of new city council attorney that the council tried to shield from public view

- A decision not to follow the salary advice of the human resources department in setting a salary range, which gave the hire about \$10,000 more than HR advised
- The city council believes its administrator/attorney has more responsibility than an assistant city attorney, and has responsibilities more akin to the city attorney
- The city council counted as relevant job experience for Lucas, two and a half years worth of internship with the city of Bloomington, and three years as chief deputy clerk for the city.
- The city council believes the city clerk's office should be seen as structurally separate from other city departments in a way that the council's office is not.

Question: Where do you look if you want to see how local government decisions get made?

1. Public documents
2. **Public meetings**



Opinion: It's time to rethink closed door caucuses for Indiana city councils

👤 Dave Askins 📁 Bloomington, City Council 🕒 February 4, 2020 ⌵ 7 Minutes



A 1980 article in the [Valparaiso University Law Review](#) states that the political party caucus exemption in the Open Door Law (ODL) here in the state of Indiana is “a major potential weakness in the act, and is virtually impossible to police.”

The same article mentions that there have been few problems with the caucus at the local level, either because it is not abused or else is used discretely enough to avoid criticism.

A lot has happened since 1980. But the law review article also mentions, as a point of curiosity, that up to that point there had been “few complaints by the press.”

Consider this column to be a complaint by the press.

To be in the room, you have to know the room exists.

Crazy Horse backroom:
Jan. 2, 2020.



Eric Spoonmore



Peter Iversen



Trent Deckard



Cheryl Munson



Kate Wiltz



Beth Hamlin



Erika Oliphant



Marty Hawk



Eric Grommon



Geoff McKim



Meghan Miller

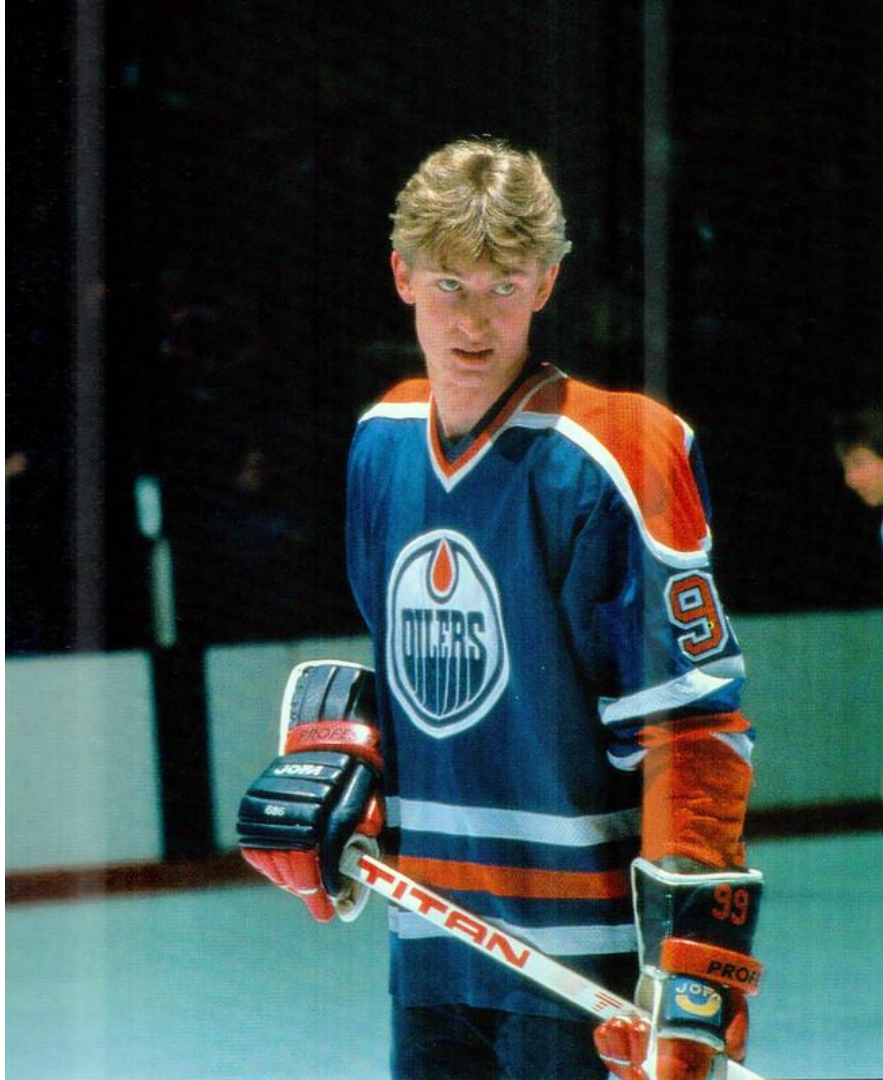
Ways to help answer: Where?

- Text
- Maps built with shape files sourced from government sources
- Aerial images sourced from government sources
- Photographs

Where *did it* happen?

vs.

Where is it *going to* happen?



***I skate to where the puck is going
to be, not where it has been.***

—Wayne Gretzky

What is the future of local news?

Answer: We control the puck. It's something we build together, as a shared set of things that shapes our common understanding of this local place:

- **Events**
- **Documents**
- **Historical Facts**

Three new key elements for vision of local news

Keep 1: Website with no paywall

Keep 2: Emailed updates to anyone who signs up

Add 1: Community calendar—a common set of events

Add 2: Document repository—a common set of authentic original documents

Add 3: Local chronicle—a common set of historical facts

Question: If you want to be the Wayne Gretzky of local journalism: How do you know when and where the news puck is going to be?

Answer: By using a comprehensive community calendar built out of syndicated feeds.

Basic Government Calendar

This week 

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
<p>10:00 am – 11:00 am Storm Water Environmental Education Team Meeting - Hybrid</p> <p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Board of Public Works Session</p> <p>4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Council for Community Accessibility</p> <p>5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Utilities Service Board Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm – 11:59 pm IRACS Community Meeting: Monroe County</p>	<p>12:00 pm – 11:59 pm MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING</p> <p>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Board of Park Commissioners</p> <p>4:30 pm – 11:59 pm Board of Health Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm – 5:00 pm Executive Session of the Monroe County Council and Board of Commissioners</p> <p>5:00 pm – 11:59 pm County Council</p> <p>5:00 pm – 11:59 pm Licensing & Registration Board</p>	<p>9:45 am – 10:00 am Board of Finance</p> <p>10:00 am – 11:30 am Board of Commissioners Meeting - Hybrid</p> <p>10:00 am – 11:30 am Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Hearing Officer</p> <p>4:30 pm – 6:00 pm Cancelled - Traffic Commission</p> <p>5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission</p> <p>5:00 pm – 11:59 pm</p>	<p>5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Balancing Elementary SES Community Meetings at Templeton Elementary School</p>	<p>10:00 am – 12:00 pm Long-Term Finance Planning Committee Meeting</p>		

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community	ALL DAY BWS Art at Cancer Support Community
WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit	WE PAINT...Peter, Paul, and Mary Reception and Exhibit
Karaoke w/ Misfit Toy Karaoke	11:30 am – 1:00 pm Dems' Club Lunch Meeting	Open Stage	Open Stage	Video Dance Party!	Video Dance Party!	Anniversary Party! 11 Years!
Online People's Market ordering	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm HIV/HEP-C Testing	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Volunteer Orientation	10:00 am – 1:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten	[N] Indiana University Track and Field at Big Ten Championships	Anniversary Party! 11 Years!	Karaoke w/ Misfit Toy Karaoke
President's Day - No School	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Board of Housing Quality Appeals	4:30 pm – 5:30 pm Kid's Cook (Classroom)	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Hub Lunch	10:00 am – 1:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten Championships - Prelims	[N] Indiana University Track and Field at Big Ten Championships	[N] Indiana University Wrestling at Patriot Last Chance Open
9:30 am – 10:30 am Tree Commission Regular Meeting	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Economic Development Commission	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten Championships - Finals	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Common Council Interview Committee Team B Meeting - Boards/Commissions	11:00 am – 1:00 pm [W] Indiana University Softball vs Central Michigan	10:00 am – 10:30 am Storytime Saturday	11:00 am – 1:00 pm [W] Indiana University Softball vs Marshall
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm [L] Indiana University Women's Basketball at Illinois	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm [W] Indiana University Baseball vs Miami (Ohio)	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Common Council Collaboration Meeting with Showers West Advisory Team	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Sidewalk Committee Meeting	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten Championships - Finals	10:00 am – 1:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten Championships - Prelims	11:00 am – 2:00 pm [W] Indiana University Women's Tennis vs Cornell
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Redevelopment Commission Executive Session	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Bloomington Transit Board	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Weird Fiction Book Club	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm [L] Indiana University Softball at #17 Arizona	11:00 am – 12:30 pm [L] Indiana University Women's Water Polo vs #13 UC Santa Barbara - Tournament Central	1:15 pm – 2:45 pm [W] Indiana University Women's Water Polo vs Pomona-Pitzer
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Bloomington Redevelopment Commission	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Executive Session	8:30 pm – 10:30 pm [L] Indiana University Men's Basketball vs Nebraska	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Eggs for Dinner	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Friday Nights at Morgenstern's: Murder Mystery Night	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm [L] Indiana University Men's Basketball at Penn State	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm [W] Indiana University Baseball at Baylor
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Board of Public Safety		5:00 pm – 8:00 pm [N] Indiana University Women's Swimming and Diving vs Big Ten Championships - Finals		12:00 pm – 3:00 pm [L] Indiana University Men's Tennis at Louisville	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm The Writers Guild: Last Sunday Poetry Reading and Open Mic

- Dashboard
- Nexcess
- Posts
- Media
- Pages
- Comments
- ICS Calendar**
- Calendar Builder**
 - Add New
 - Customize
 - Utilities
 - Settings
- Appearance
- Plugins 7
- Users
- Tools
- Settings
- File List Pro
- Collapse menu

64	https://events.iu.edu/live/ical/events/c	Select Color	Jacobs School of Mus	Detroit
65	https://www.visitbloomington.com/incl	Select Color	Bloomington Visitors	Detroit
66	https://calendar.google.com/calendar/	Select Color	Bloomington Sympho	Detroit
67	https://calendar.google.com/calendar/	Select Color	MISC EVENTS	Detroit
68	https://events.iu.edu/live/ical/events/g	Select Color	IU Center for Rural En	Detroit
69	https://events.iu.edu/live/ical/v2/event	Select Color	Little 500	Detroit
70	https://www.dimensionmill.org/events-	Select Color	The Mill	Detroit
71	webcal://tockify.com/api/feeds/ics/mo	Select Color	Morgenstern Books	Detroit
72	webcal://tockify.com/api/feeds/ics/yc	Select Color	Bloomington Waterco	Detroit
73	https://artistsforclimateawareness.org	Select Color	Artists for Climate Aw	Detroit
74	https://calendar.google.com/calendar/	Select Color	Monroe County Demc	Detroit
75	https://www.vocesnovae.org/concerts	Select Color	Voces Novae	Detroit
76	https://calendar.google.com/calendar/	Select Color	Mother Hubbard's Cu	Detroit

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**Document repository:
BloomDocs.org**



[Annotated 1970 Indiana Attorney General Opinion Deputy Clerk Residency Requirement Updated 2024.pdf](#)

This is a 1970 Indiana Attorney General Opinion about the residency requirements for a county deputy clerk. It is annotated with correspondence in 2024 from the AG's office that says there is not a residency requirement for deputy clerks.

245.18 KB

February 22, 2024

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[2024-02-21 Version of Capital Improvement Board Interlocal Agreement Approved by Monroe County Commissioners Feb 21 2024 Convention Center.pdf](#)

This is the version of the interlocal agreement on the capital improvement board and the expansion of the convention center that was approved by the Monroe County commissioners on Feb. 21, 2024.

139.27 KB

February 21, 2024

[Open](#) [Download](#) [Copy Link](#)



[Parking Ticket Data Set Bloomington City Clerk 2001-2023 by month From clerk by B Square.csv](#)

This is a set of parking ticket data compiled from a spreadsheet provided by the Bloomington city clerk to The B Square in response to a records request. It includes numbers by month from 2011 through 2023. Number of citations, appeals, successful appeals are included.

40.44 KB

February 17, 2024

[Download](#) [Copy Link](#)



[2024-02-14 Email from Bloomington Mayor Kerry Thomson on topic of Hawthorne Weatherstone Greenway.pdf](#)

This email was sent Feb. 14, 2024 by Bloomington mayor Kerry Thomson on the topic of the Hawthorne-Weatherstone Greenway project. It was sent to councilmembers Dave Rollo, Isak Asare, Andy Ruff, and Matt Flaherty, among others. The message announced that the project would proceed and that a meeting would be held on Feb. 17, 2024 to discuss concerns.

102.34 KB

February 16, 2024

[Open](#) [Download](#) [Copy Link](#)



[Crowe 2023 2024-02-14 City of Bloomington JOB SCORING RUBRIC.pdf](#)

These are among the files provided by the city of Bloomington in connection with the salary and compensation study done by Crowe LLP in 2023.

89.77 KB

February 14, 2024






[Open](#) [Download](#) [Copy Link](#)



[Crowe 2023 2024-02-14 City of Bloomington salary study JEC Scores Translated to Grade Levels.xlsx](#)

February 14, 2024

• 7 Files Found [Back to the List](#)

Thumb	Name	Size	Date
	2024-02-23 Bloomington Arts Commission Statement on Samia Halaby exhibition cancellation.pdf This is a statement issued on Feb. 3, 2024 by the Bloomington Arts Commission about Indiana University's cancellation of the art exhibit by Samia Halaby. Open Download Copy Link	59.44 KB	February 23, 2024
	2024-01-31 News release Feb 9 Dangerous Art Samia Halby Abdulkader Sinno.pdf This news release was issued on Jan. 31, 2024 to announce a teach-in on the topic of Indiana University's decision to cancel an exhibition by Palestinian-born artist Samia Halby. Teach-in: "Warning! Dangerous Art!" February 9th, at 4 p.m Indiana University, Bloomington, Woodburn Hall 100 Open Download Copy Link	122.73 KB	January 31, 2024
	2024-01-16 email Sandy Dijkstra to David Brenneman regarding Samia Halaby exhibit .pdf This is a copy of an email send by Sandra Dijkstra to David Brenneman regarding the cancelation of the Samia Halaby exhibit at Indiana University's Eskenazi Museum. Brenneman is director of the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum. Sandra and Bram Dijkstra were asked by Eskenazi chief curator Jennifer McComas to lend their painting "De Profundis" by the artist William Gropper to her forthcoming exhibition "The Holocaust and American Art." They agreed to lend the painting and say in the letter they are abiding by that, but object to the cancelation of Halaby's exhibit. Open Download Copy Link	1.62 MB	January 17, 2024
	2023-12-27 Letter to Indiana University President Pamela Whitten from Samia Halaby.pdf This is a Dec. 27, 2023 letter to Indiana University President Pamela Whitten from Samia Halaby asking for an explanation for the cancelation of her exhibit that was scheduled for February 2024 at Indiana University's Eskenazi Museum of Art. Open Download Copy Link	83.86 KB	January 11, 2024
	2024-01-08 Letter to Indiana University President Pamela Whitten from Samia Halaby.pdf This follow-up letter was sent on Jan. 8, 2024 to Indiana University President Pamela Whitten by Samia Halaby asking for an explanation for the cancelation of her exhibit at Indiana University's Eskenazi Museum of Art. Open Download Copy Link	94.1 KB	January 11, 2024

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**Does our approach to facts change
when considering the cosmos
compared to the local community?**

Solar Eclipse: Literal astronomical error sparks debate over actual date

Preparations for the total solar eclipse expected on April 8 have been plunged into chaos following the revelation of a critical miscalculation of the date, which has been noticed by a diligent low-level engineer within NASA's ranks.

The oversight, stemming from a failure to factor in 2024 as a Leap Year, has thrown the astronomical community into disarray, igniting a fierce debate over the true date of the celestial event. Experts now are debating whether April 7 or April 9 is the correctly calculated date, harkening back to historical disputes in astronomy between figures like Ptolemy and Copernicus.

NASA Chief, Dr. Sandra Lewis, voiced the agency's response: "We are diligently reviewing all calculations and data to rectify this oversight. Rest assured, our commitment to accuracy remains unwavering as we strive to provide the public with precise astronomical information."

As uncertainty looms, experts from prestigious institutions across the nation have weighed in on the debacle, offering a spectrum of perspectives on the implications of the error and the urgency of resolving the discrepancy.

Dr. Jonathan Park, Astrophysicist at Harvard University, expressed caution: "While the discrepancy may seem minor, it underscores the intricacies of celestial mechanics. We must exercise prudence in revising the eclipse date to avoid misinformation."

Dr. Rebecca Chen, Astronomer at Stanford University, highlighted the urgency: "Every day counts in our preparation for this rare event. We need swift consensus within the scientific community to ensure accurate dissemination of information to the public."

Dr. Michael Ramirez, Planetary Scientist at MIT, offered a pragmatic perspective: "While the date adjustment presents logistical challenges, it also presents an opportunity for scientific collaboration and innovation. Let's seize this moment to enhance our understanding of celestial phenomena."

In response to the uncertainty, President Joe Biden issued a statement: "The American people deserve clarity and accurate information regarding significant astronomical events. I urge NASA and the scientific community to work swiftly to resolve this discrepancy and provide updated guidance."

Mayor Kerry Thomson of Bloomington, Indiana, drew an analogy to local traditions: "Much like the ripening of persimmons signals the changing of seasons, this debate reminds us of the fluidity of scientific discovery. Let us come together, like branches of a tree, to collaborate and shed light on this celestial mystery."

With tensions running high and the eyes of the world fixed on the skies, the scientific community races against the clock to ascertain the true date of this extraordinary celestial spectacle amidst the chaos unleashed by an innocent oversight.



Facts vs. Stories

But let's say you're a decision-maker: the lead character in a personal story about getting a job done. You're the captain of a ship, the mayor of a town, a general on a battlefield, the detective on a case. What do you need most? Somebody's narrative? Or facts?

—Doc Searls



Main Page

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MediaWiki has been installed. Not much else has been done.

[Category: People](#)

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[Category: List](#)

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Pages in category "Topical History"

This category contains only the following page.

M

- [Monroe Convention Center](#)

This page was last edited on 26 February 2024, at 13:24.

Monroe Convention Center

Page [Discussion](#)

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The Monroe Convention center stands at the southwest corner of 3rd Street and College Avenue in downtown Bloomington.

Starting in 2017, the convention center saw renewed focus by local government—Bloomington and Monroe County—in their efforts to expand the building footprint and to renovate the existing facility.

[This timelines is not up to date as of Feb. 25, 2024. The half decade since fall of 2019 needs to be filled in. In addition, the ways the citations are given with a link over the word "link" probably needs to be thought through.]

Timeline

- **2019-09-04** County board of commissioners announces Sept. 16, 2019 meeting of the board, the county council, the city council, and the mayor, to be held on the topic of the convention center expansion. [\[link\]](#)
- **2019-08-20** Food & Beverage tax report made to advisory commission [\[link\]](#) From January to July 2019, a total of \$1,998,203.56 was collected. Of that amount, \$1,778,237.86 went to the city and \$219,965.70 went to the county.
- **2019-07-24** Monroe County board of commissioners call for meeting to discuss convention expansion to be attended by board of commissioners, county council, city council and mayor. [\[link\]](#) Among the key proposals in the memo is the creation of an capital improvement board to handle the convention center expansion.



This is a view of the Monroe Convention Center at the southwest corner of 3rd Street and College Avenue, as it stood on Sept. 9, 2021, as seen from the top of the 4th Street parking garage. 

History of Bloomington City Council Membership

YEAR	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	MAL	MAL	MAL
2024-03-02 to now	Isabel Piedmont-Smith, President	Kate Rosenbarger	Hopi Stosberg, Parliamentarian	Dave Rollo	John Doe	Sydney Zulich	Andy Ruff, Vice President	Matt Flaherty	Isak Asare
2024-01-01 to 2024-03-01	Isabel Piedmont-Smith, President	Kate Rosenbarger	Hopi Stosberg, Parliamentarian	Dave Rollo	Shruti Rana	Sydney Zulich	Andy Ruff, Vice President	Matt Flaherty	Isak Asare
2023	Kate Rosenbarger	Sue Sgambelluri, President	Ron Smith	Dave Rollo, Parliamentarian	Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Vice President	Steve Volan	Susan Sandberg	Matt Flaherty	Jim Sims
2022	Kate Rosenbarger	Sue Sgambelluri, Vice President	Ron Smith	Dave Rollo, Parliamentarian	Isabel Piedmont-Smith	Steve Volan	Susan Sandberg, President	Matt Flaherty	Jim Sims
2021	Kate Rosenbarger	Sue Sgambelluri, Vice President	Ron Smith	Dave Rollo	Isabel Piedmont-Smith	Steve Volan	Susan Sandberg	Matt Flaherty, Parliamentarian	Jim Sims, President
					Isabel				

Prompt: I'm going to give you a table of the history of city council membership. Each row is an "edition" of the city council, with the date given in the first column. Today is March 2, 2024. The top row of the table has the outcome of the Democratic Party's vacancy caucus that was conducted today. Write up a short little news brief, just to let people know what happened. (MAL stands for member at large).

Robots can't write factual reports (yet?)

Democratic Party Vacancy Caucus Results

In today's Democratic Party vacancy caucus, held on March 2, 2024, for the city council membership, several key positions have been decided. Isabel Piedmont-Smith has been elected as President, with Kate Rosenbarger assuming the role of Parliamentarian. Hopi Stosberg joins the council as the new Vice President, while Dave Rollo and John Doe continue their roles in Districts 3 and 4, respectively. Additionally, Sydney Zulich maintains her position, and Andy Ruff becomes the Vice President. The Member At Large (MAL) positions are filled by Matt Flaherty and Isak Asare. These changes mark a significant shift in the composition of the city council, reflecting the dynamic nature of local politics.

Three new key elements for a vision of local news

Keep 1: Website with no paywall

Keep 2: Emailed updates to anyone who signs up

Add 1: Community calendar—a common set of events

Add 2: Document repository—a common set of authentic original documents

Add 3: Local chronicle—a common set of historical facts

THE END