

# LOCAL SCENE

Monday, Feb. 24

- Teen hangout, grades 6-12th, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 4 p.m.
- Bingo, Warrenton Elks Lodge, 6:30 p.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6:30 p.m.
- Al-Anon, College United Methodist Church, Warrenton, 7 p.m.
- Wright City Lions Club, 678 Westwoods Road, Wright City, 7-10 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Group 130 meeting, Fellowship Baptist Church, 8-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 10 a.m.
- Kiwanis Club of Warrenton Area meeting, Oliver's Restaurant, 289 W. Veterans Memorial Parkway, Warrenton, noon.
- Chicks with Sticks, crochet or knitting lessons, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 1 p.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Grace Bible Church, 25445 S. Highway 47, Warrenton, 5:15 p.m.
- Murder at the Mardi Gras masquerade, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6 p.m. RSVP. Space is limited to 70.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

- Vet to Vet breakfast, Oak Pointe, Warrenton, 8-10 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, 104 Hedeman, Wright City, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, Warrenton Elks Lodge, 10 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 10 a.m.
- OATS Transportation Committee meeting, the senior center, 1 p.m.
- A Novel Bunch book club, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 2 p.m. RSVP.
- Mat Pilates, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 5 p.m. RSVP.
- Parents grief group, Martin Funeral Home, Warrenton, 6 p.m.

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Pruitt, if he could have seen the response by the caring people of Backstoppers, he would have rested easy.

Jeff Backhaus, chairman of the Warren County Backstoppers organization, said the people from this county are eager to donate each year. They also are ready to empty their wallets during the oral auction. He said he often gets calls from do-

including Cardinals baseball tickets, handmade quilts, hog processing, handcrafted wooden flags, crossbows or pedal fire trucks.

Backhaus said organizers are once again grateful for the outpouring of generosity from the community.

Other first responders remembered from Warren County are Paul Fricke and Vernon Seals.

Fricke, employed by the Hawk Point Police Department and the Warren County Sheriff's

department, was struck by a vehicle during a call and died in 2002.

Backstoppers was founded in 1959. A 30-member board of directors manages the financial support offered to families. The organization believes it is obligated to care for "the loved ones of those who have protected us."

To learn more about the organization, visit [backstoppers@backstoppers.org](mailto:backstoppers@backstoppers.org).

## DOUBLE

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Truesdale aldermen expressed a cautious optimism toward the proposal, but said there are some challenges that would come with it. Primarily, Truesdale would have to add police staff to adequately patrol the area, and would eventually assume the cost of maintaining streets, lights and utilities.

Mayor Chris Watson expects the city's staff might double in size along with the town's population. He's hopeful that city hall would have time to adjust as the development progresses.

"This is going to be in phases. It's not like they're going to have all these

done within the first year," Watson commented. "They're looking at probably a three- to five-year process to fill this. With additional real estate and property tax income (from the project), it's going to open up opportunities for the city to hire more personnel."

Watson said the city's other concern is how the development will affect homeowners in the Heritage Hills subdivision, which is directly adjacent to the west side of the development area.

For that reason, the city is seeking input from residents before giving final approval to the project. A date hasn't but the board of aldermen plans to hold a town hall meeting for residents to ask questions and express any concerns.

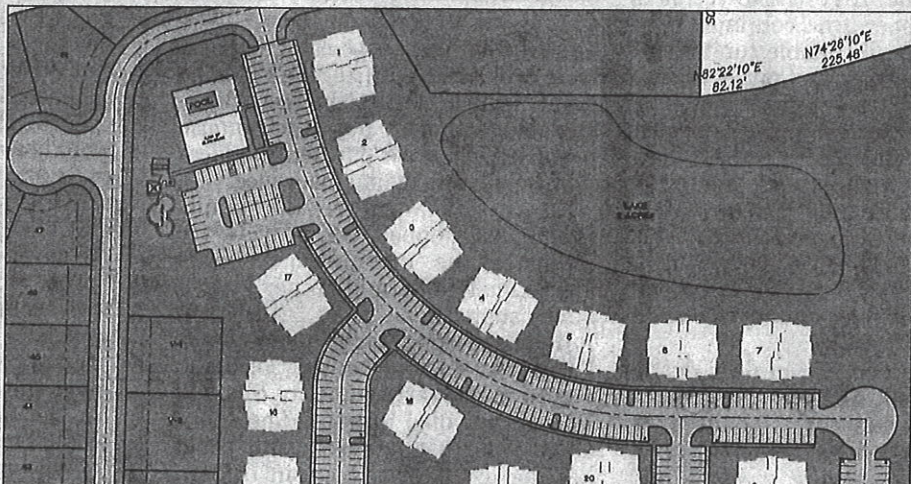
The large population influx will inevitably include

many school-age children, Watson added, so he also hopes to have input from the Warren County R-III School District.

Unless presented with a major concern, Watson predicted the board of aldermen is likely to approve the development.

"We are substantially growing year after year. It's amazing," Watson commented. "The biggest issues that we run into are growing pains. It's things we run into that we've never dealt with before. It's a day-by-day learning experience."

The next step for the developers is to secure sewer service from the city of Warrenton. Once that's done, Watson said Truesdale will schedule a town hall meeting. A final decision from the board of aldermen would come after that.



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