The Chamber Scene HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Area leaders call for improvements to U.S. 30

Sources: INside Indiana and Regional Chamber of NE Indiana

Several state representatives, mayors, city officials and business leaders gathered recently in Warsaw to discuss the safety and economic implications of not modernizing the 155-mile stretch of U.S. 30 between Fort Wayne and Valparaiso.

The U.S. 30 Summit was organized by members of the U.S. 30 Coalition, an advocacy group working to upgrade U.S. 30 to a freeway from Valparaiso to the Ohio line. Members have been meeting regularly since 2013 to discuss the necessary changes.

Industry leaders along the axis categorically stated that they could not commit to remaining in Warsaw, known as the Orthopedics Capital of the World, if changes were not made to the infrastructure, they depend upon to ship their goods out to their customers.

In one panel, representatives from Warsaw-based Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Fort Wayne-based Steel Dynamics Inc. and the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana discussed the ways in which the current state of U.S. 30 is impeding business activities and economic growth for the region and Indiana as a whole.

"First of all, I want to point out that it is a little bit of our effort to influence the executive branch and on how to deal with our region," Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana president Bill Konyha said. "Our businesses have a supply chain extending throughout Indiana into Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and U.S. 30 is critical to the success of our supply chain. It is critical even for agriculture. It's critical for our workforce, and it's essential to the delivery system."

Stemming largely from U.S. 30 Coalition advocacy, INDOT launched its Planning and Environment Linkages studies, known as ProPEL U.S. 30 and ProPEL U.S. 31, in 2022 to evaluate the transportation needs of the corridors.

The next phase of the studies will include evaluating segments of the U.S. 30 corridor and designing possible alternatives. The ini-



tial phases addressed major infrastructure changes and issues to address and considered alternatives in the first two stages of the study.

Konyha said Northeast Indiana employs almost 400,000 people in the manufacturing industry, receiving over \$8.5 billion in wages and over \$260 million paid yearly in state income taxes. With numbers like these, Konyha said improvements on the U.S. 30 corridor should be a priority for the government.

"I ran an agency for the state of Indiana and we hop to the orders of the executive branch," Konyha said. "Unless the executive branch identifies something as a priority, it will linger forever as a non-priority or a priority only in the minds of those who think it's a priority."

Zimmer Biomet president Ivan Tornos also voiced his concerns regarding longterm plans for his company to remain in Warsaw. With over 20,000 direct employees and an additional 40,000 indirectly, Tornos remarked that the state of U.S. 30 was a constant consideration for the company that does business in 125 countries worldwide.

(Story Continued on Page 2).

Statistics for U.S. 30 improvement

The Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana participated as a member of the Economic Development Panel with Chris Graham, Sr. Vice President of Steel Dynamics, and Ivan Tornos, CEO of Zimmer Orthopedics. Dan Brown moderated this panel and presented data generated by the Blue-Ribbon Panel, appointed by former Governor Mike Pence. The Blue-Ribbon Panel included local government officials, business leaders and INDOT representatives. This Blue-Ribbon Panel found that transitioning U.S. 30 to a freeway will lead to the creation of:

- * 10,000 new jobs
- * \$900 million in real personal income
- * A reduction of 18,382 vehicle hours per day
- * Fewer vehicles reduce costs, carbon emissions and delays

* Estimated there would be 323 fewer accidents per year with four fewer fatalities and a four-to-one return on investment.

Bill Konyha, president of the Regional Chamber, presented current information regarding highway usage and specific employment and economic impacts. Information provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Statistics indicates:

	* Workforce by Place of Work	
	* Workforce In Region	
	* Workforce Commuting	102,643 (many via U.S. 30)
	* Manufacturing Wage	\$8,539,002,002
	* Manufacturing Wage per Job	
	* Per Capita Personal Income	\$58,323
	* State Income Tax from Manufacturing	\$260,439,561
	* Income Tax per manufacturing job	\$2,681
	Other economic impacts of U.S. 30, which is not the only sector relying upon U.S.	
30 to deliver goods and services. This includes the employment and supply chain		

value regarding real personal income to the rest of the state, state income taxes, local income taxes and state sales taxes. The impact on the state's economy is enormous.

Huntington County Chamber of Commerce

U.S. 30 study

(Story Continued From Page 1) "I'll be meeting with the governor again. We won't be talking about taxes. We won't be talking about regulatory changes. We're not going to be talking about anything other than U.S. 30," Tornos said. "We want to be in Warsaw, Indiana, for the next 100 years, but we cannot make the commitment to be here long term, if we don't resolve this."

Chris Graham, Steel Dynamics, revealed that his company recently passed Indiana over for additional investment and expansion because of the road infrastructure.

"Steel Dynamics recently committed almost \$3 billion to a facility in Columbus, Mississippi, for an aluminum plant," Graham said. "We did not consider this area. We look at infrastructure. We look at transportation. We look at power. Safety is hugely important. We have at least two employees who have been in life altering accidents, where they were in a wheelchair for a couple of years at CR 800 & U.S. 30."

Graham added that Steel Dynamics supports turning U.S. 30 into a freeway because the benefits outweigh the cost tremendously.

"People made smart decisions 50 years ago; we need to do the same," Graham said. "Steel Dynamics isn't going to be able to invest much more here until we get some things right."

Restating how critical the manufacturing industry is, Konyha noted that northeast Indiana is the most manufacturing-intensive region in the state, and congressional districts two and three are the most manufacturing-heavy districts in the United States.

Elected officials and business leaders recounted personal experiences of knowing someone whose life had been tragically affected by accidents on U.S. 30. Industry leaders also noted that traffic on the U.S. 30 corridor had been responsible for a few penalties they had to pay.

Studies have shown that improving U.S. 30 would reduce accidents by 323 and save 18,000 hours of delay per day.

"U.S. 30 is the main conduit our employees travel daily," Tornos said. "We put their lives at risk, we've got to get this resolved."

Two other panels at the summit included comments from members of the coalition on some of their advocacy efforts and commitments from state representatives to continue working to see improvements.



Lutheran Health Network held a ribbon cutting at their new medical facility at 235 Hauenstein Road on Thursday, July 11. The facility opened its doors to the public on Tuesday, July 16. Shown above cutting the ribbon are front row, from left, Rob Miller, Huntington County Commissioner; Terry Miller, vice president, County Council; Mayor Richard Strick; Nicole Rexroth, CEO, Lutheran Medical Group; Karen Stephan, NP, Lutheran Health Physicians; Eric Goddard, PA, Lutheran Health Physicians and Jessica Ross, FNP, Lutheran Health Physicians. Back row, from left, are Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District; Andy Zay, State Senator, 17th District; Dr. Patrick Holly, MD, Lutheran Health Network; Steve Kimmel, executive director, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce; Dave Funk, City Council, 4th District; Dr. Domenic Martinello, CMO, Lutheran Health Network and Dr. Colin Linke, DO, Lutheran Health Network.

Lutheran Health Network opens new medical facility

Lutheran Health Network's medical group Lutheran Health Physicians celebrated the opening of a brand new 8,000 square foot healthcare facility with a ribbon cutting and open house on Thursday, July 11. The new facility is located at 235 Hauenstein Road in Huntington and will offer family healthcare and specialty care. The new location features state-of-the-art amenities and is designed to offer a superior experience for all visitors.

The providers serving at the facility will offer same-day and next-day appointments, online scheduling and telehealth visits. The facility opened on Tuesday, July 16 to serve patients. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. To schedule an appointment, call (260) 504-4110 or go to LHP Huntington.

"We appreciate the warm welcome to the vibrant community of Huntington as we expand medical care to Huntington County residents," said Nicole Rexroth, chief executive officer for Lutheran Health Physicians. "We want to be this community's partner in health making access to Lutheran Health Network services convenient for local residents."

Government leaders including Mayor Richard Strick, State Senator Andy Zay, Huntington County Commissioner Rob Miller, City Council member Charles Chapman, City Council member Dave Funk, County Council member Terry Miller and Chamber executive director Steve Kimmel joined staff and medical providers to cut the ribbon on the new healthcare facility.

The project's architect was MKM Architecture + Design, the developer was Veritas and the contractor was FCI Construction.

For further information, go to LHP Huntington website.

August 2024



Bippus State Bank held a groundbreaking for their new Operations Center on Monday, July 29 at 2871 Northpark Avenue. Shown in the photo turning the dirt from left are Nick Alwine, president, FCI Construction, the general contractor for the new building; Jared Monce, Design Collaborative; Eric Fawcett, president and CEO, Bippus State Bank; Joe Wiley, Juli Johnson, Chris Stephan, Jeffrey Mize, James Khan and Ryan Johnson all Bippus State Bank board members. The estimated completion date is August 2025.

Bippus State Bank breaks ground on new center

Bippus State Bank is excited to announce the groundbreaking of its new Operations Center located at 2871 Northpark Avenue, Huntington. The state-of-theart facility groundbreaking took place on Monday, July



29, attended by the bank's board members, upper management and key contributors who have supported the bank's vision for the Operation Center.

The new 15,000 square foot facility, which will span two stories, enhances the bank's operational efficiency to better serve customers. The building will also include a spacious community hub, multiple conference and meeting rooms, dedicated workspaces and outdoor seating space.

"This new Operations Center represents our commitment to investing in Huntington and ensures our employees have the resources they need to excel," said Eric Fawcett, president and CEO of Bippus State Bank.

Fawcett went on to say, "We are proud to create a workspace, designed by Design Collaborative, which reflects the bank's innovative spirit and supports our goal of continued growth in Huntington and our surrounding communities."

Bippus State Bank has chosen FCI as the general contractor for this project with an estimated completion set for August 2025.

About Bippus State Bank: Bippus State Bank is a leading financial institution dedicated to providing personalized banking solutions to individuals, businesses and communities. With a strong commitment to customer service and community development, Bippus State bank strives to be a trusted partner in achieving financial goals. Banking with Bippus is Banking with Confidence.

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Shown in the photo above are several employees of the new Love Help Care office that recently opened in Huntington. The office is located at 1230 S. Jefferson Street behind B-K Root Beer. Shown cutting the ribbon is Latonya Boyd, owner and CEO, third from left with scissors. To Boyd's right is Kendra Andrews, coordinating manager. Shown at left on the front row is Terry Miller, County Council representative, and far right, Charles Chapman, City Council representative.

Love Help Care opens with ribbon cutting

Love Help Care officially opened their doors with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Wednesday, July 17. The new health care office is located at 1230 S. Jefferson Street, behind B-K Root Beer.

According to Latonya Boyd, director, Love Help Care, "We opened this office in Huntington because we saw a need in Huntington County and want to help those that are struggling in their everyday life."

Love Help Care provides personalized, compassionate care that allows their clients to live comfortably and independently in their own homes. Love Help Care's dedicated team offers a range of services tailored to meet the clients' unique needs, including in-home personalized care, companionship and transportation assistance.

Love Help Care stated, "We pride ourselves on delivering high-quality care through our trained staff, who are committed to creating a nurturing environment for everyone we care for. Let us be your trusted partner in maintaining your independence and happiness."

You can reach Love Help Care by calling (317) 755-2528, email at lovehelpcare@lovehelpcare.org, or by visiting their website at lovehelpcare.org.



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Huntington's economy grows, Chamber responds

New jobs, housing and commercial development became the focus of the Chamber in the 1990s. Huntington's growing economy led the Chamber to form the Business/Education Collaborative providing new training and opportunities for the workforce.



The Chamber led an ongoing effort to assist Life Long Learning and WorkOne's efforts to educate and train workers, essential to the future growth of Huntington County. This spearheaded the formation of the Huntington County Community Learning Center opening on September 15, 2016 with an expansion completed in September 2021. The Chamber led the Learning Center development team, and coordinated the financial and strategic planning support.

The Learning Center is a partnership of government, education and private business to provide educational opportunities for high school students and adults to benefit the community. The Huntington County Community School Corporation owns the Learning Center at 2201 North Jefferson Street. The Chamber continues to be a part of the Advisory Council and the Learning Center's growth.



Farmer's Market open at EUM Church

The Huntington Farmer's Market remains open for the 2024 season on Wednesdays. The Farmer's Market will operate at the Evangelical United Methodist Church (EUM), 1000 Flaxmill Road. The market will take place, as in past years, on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m.

Those having questions about the market can call the Chamber at (260) 356-5300.



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History Making Contest at Historical Society

Area photographers are invited to enter the History in the Making Photo Contest, sponsored by the Huntington County Historical Society and Frederick's Photography.

Photos of people and sites in Huntington County can be entered in the contest. All photos submitted will become part of the permanent archives of the Huntington County Historical Society, where they will give future residents a glimpse of life in the Huntington County of today.

The winners will be displayed at the Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival, at the Huntington County Historical Society booth.

Photos must have been taken in Huntington County within the past five years. Each photo must be accompanied by the following information: photographer's name, address and phone number, date and place where the photo was taken, the names of any people in the photo and the category in which the photo is being entered. Each photographer may enter a maximum of one photograph in each category.

Social environment entries can be photos of people at home, school, work or leisure. Physical environment entries can be interior or exterior photos of man-made structures or sites or photos of natural phenomena such as floods, storms or fires.

Winners will be notified by mail and will be recognized on Saturday at the Pioneer Festival. First place winners will receive a certificate, \$50, and a prize from Frederick's Photography. Second place winners will receive a certificate, \$25 and one-year family membership to the Huntington County Historical Society.

Photos must be submitted no later than September 18 at 4 p.m. Photos must be submitted in print (8×10) not framed to the Huntington County History and Education Center at 315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750. Center hours are Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Shown in the photo above is the new Platt arena inside the Huntington University PLEX.

HU to hold open house at PLEX on August 10

Huntington University will hold a community open house to showcase their new PLEX on Saturday, August 10 from 8 to 11 a.m. The PLEX is located at 500 Merillat Blvd., on the campus of the university. This is a free event and the community is invited to attend and take a look at the new facility.

"The \$18.7 million renovation and expansion of the PLEX is a transformative project for HU on many levels," said Dr. Russ Degitz, chief operating officer at Huntington University. "This 100,000+ square foot facility will now afford more opportunities for our students and the community to engage and enjoy events and activities in a first-class venue."

New and improved features include: three large arena and gym spaces, substantially expanded weight and cardio areas, new large entry lobby, hospitality suites, pro shop, Hall of Fame and larger classrooms. With a third of HU's student population involved in athletics, this investment in the PLEX will make a major impact.

"When it was built, the PLEX was state-of-the-art, but time has taken its toll, and this is our chance to, once again, make this space a showstopper," said Dr. Sherilyn Emberton, president of Huntington University. "With so much of our student population accessing the PLEX for athletics and physical exercise and with the draw that Forester athletics have within the community, it was time to make the most trafficked building on campus shine again."

The university will provide tours, prize giveaways, snacks and more. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.







Fire Hydrant Project begins next month

After a brief hiatus, the La-Fontaine Arts Council (LAC) is once again inviting members of the community of Huntington County to participate in the Hydrant Project.

The Hydrant Project is a year-long public art exhibit utilizing fire hydrants located throughout the City of Huntington to paint a variety of designs that follow a common theme. The theme for 2024 is mythical creatures. Previous themes have included Disney, Comic Characters and Children's books.



Anyone is welcome to participate, and artists are welcome to choose the hydrant location from an available list of hydrants. Hydrants will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants can sign up from the LAC web site at https://la-fontaineartscouncil.org/hydrant-project. Designs must be submitted by August 20, 2024. Painting will commence on August 15 and to be completed by September 1, 2024.

A reception will be held on September 7, at the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center (HAEC), 32 E. Franklin Street. Maps to the hydrants with a scavenger hunt will be provided at the HAEC. More information to come, and will be available on the LAC web site.

The LaFontaine Arts Council is a volunteer board of directors that has been providing Arts in Education programming to the Huntington County Schools for over 30 years. Currently the council is funding programs including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic as well as providing all programming at the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center in the hopes of keeping Huntington's only community art center open for many years to come.

The LAC board of directors meets every fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. and board meetings are open to the public. For more information, reach out to lafontaineartscouncil@gmail.com or visit their web site at www.lafontaineartscouncil.org.





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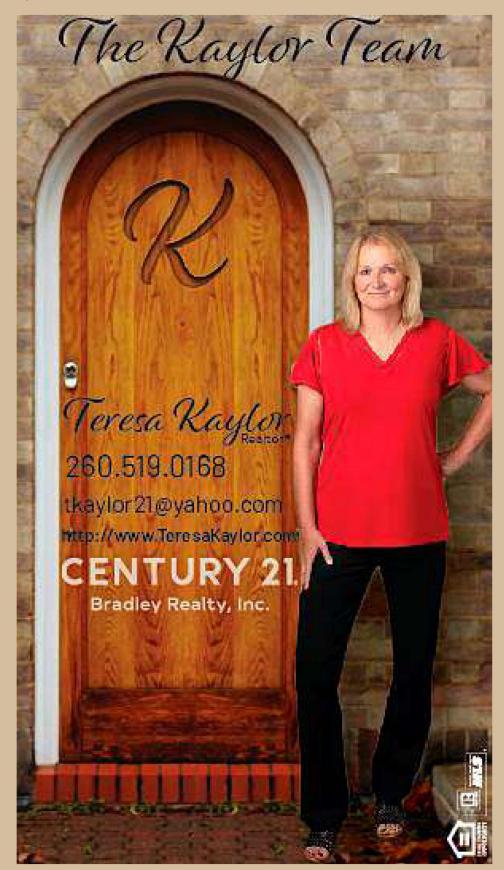
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Saturday, August 3, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Huntington North High School

Coffee Connections

Wednesday, August 7, 8 a.m. Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University

Corvettes on Jefferson

Saturday, August 10, 3 to 6 p.m. Downtown Huntington on E. Franklin Street

The Bulldogs

Saturday, August 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Downtown Huntington on E. Franklin Street

Sweetwater All Stars

Saturday, September 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Downtown Huntington on E. Franklin Street

For A Complete Calendar of Events

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