

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • December 2021

Christmas in the City celebrated downtown

Christmas in the City was celebrated by a large crowd Saturday, November 27 in downtown Huntington. Games, vendors, pony rides, petting zoo, a reindeer, an alpaca and its baby, ornament making, stories, visits with Santa, music, the Rotary Centennial Park Christmas tree lighting and treats were all a part of the day.

Donuts with Santa at the Huntington County Historical Museum began the morning. A grand opening and ribbon cutting followed at Huntington's newest store, The Fiber Alchemist, 442 N. Jefferson Street. Catered food by J.B.'s Cuisine and treats by Bear & Beak Bakery fed shoppers looking for fabric, quilting supplies, yarn, cross-stitch materials and all The Fiber Alchemist has to offer. The Fiber Alchemist opened in November and is operated by Christine Skinner and her daughter, Alysha Storie.

A variety of characters from Jasmine and Thor in the Downtown Salon to Cindy Lou Who in Bend the Trend visited with children as parents shopped. Not to Shabby, a shop new to downtown in 2021, passed out treat bags, and The Fiber Alchemist hosted Christmas Belle. Buddy the Elf and Jovie greeted candy lovers at Little Sweets Spot while Snoopy and the Grinch were on hand at the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center. Mrs. Claus welcomed visitors to The Party Shop, and a large, animatronic Santa Claus made his appearance at Home-Craft – The Art of Home.

Shoppers made their way through the



The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at The Fiber Alchemist, 442 N. Jefferson Street, on Saturday, November 27 just prior to Christmas in the City. The Fiber Alchemist is Huntington's newest store. Shown in the photo, from left, are Mayor Richard Strick; Justin Storie, husband, Alysha Storie, Christine Skinner, both owners of the store; Rick Skinner, husband, and Steve Kimmel, executive director, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

downtown's stores and restaurants with a "passport" for entry into drawings for Chamber Bucks. The winners of the drawings are: first place, \$125, Erin Stalcup; second, \$75, Judy Dyer; third place, \$50, Jennifer and Julie Redner. Chamber Bucks can be spent at participating Chamber member stores throughout Huntington County.

Popcorn was provided and served by the Bethel Assembly of God Rooted Student Ministries while the Lime City Brass provided musical selections throughout the afternoon. A live nativity was presented by the congregation of the Evangelical United Methodist Church, and nativity scene also could be viewed in the windows of the Meal Ministry. Face painting took place at the Fifth Parlor salon.

Stories were read in the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center, Franklin Street, with free books, coloring books and crayons given to each family who visited. "Grinch Kabobs" were enjoyed, and the Huntington City-Township Public Library operated Santa's Workshop where ornament decorating took place.

A little snow fell, hot chocolate and cookies were enjoyed in the Meal Ministry and all in attendance agreed their "Christmas Spirits" were lifted and ready for the holidays.



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Ecolab has started construction to expand its operations in Huntington to increase production of hand soaps and sanitizers. Featured in the top photo are those present for the ribbon cutting while the bottom photo shows those present for the groundbreaking ceremony. Photos by the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

Groundbreaking held at Ecolab

Ecolab Inc., the global leader in water, hygiene and infection prevention solutions and services, has started construction to expand its operations in Huntington to increase production of hand soaps and sanitizers.

Ecolab is installing new equipment at its 150,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at 970 E. Tipton Street, and increasing warehouse space at its 132,000-square-foot distribution center at 68 Commercial Road. The company expects to complete this work in early 2022.

"We seek to fully utilize our operational capacity, and this expansion will help ensure our ability to meet current and future demand," said Tom Atterholt, manager of Ecolab's Huntington plant. "We're excited about growing in Huntington and appreciate the support we've received from the City of Huntington, Huntington County Commissioners, the Huntington County Economic Development Corporation and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, to help make this expansion possible."

Ecolab employs more than 100 associates across its two locations in Huntington, and the expansion will create up to 24 new jobs by the end of 2022. The company is hiring for positions within supply chain, production, distribution and R&D. Applicants may apply online.

Ecolab acquired Huntington Laboratories in 1996, which was founded in 1919 as Huntington Chemical Company. Ecolab's Huntington operations produce soaps and sanitizers for use in healthcare facilities, supermarkets, restaurants and other locations.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Ecolab up to \$160,000 in conditional tax credits based on the company's job creation plans. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired. The City of Huntington and the Huntington County Commissioners jointly offered a grant of \$350,000 in additional incentives at the request of the Huntington County Economic Development Corporation.



The Chamber held a luncheon for several Huntington University students to introduce them to county leaders. The goals to be achieved from the meeting include future internships for the students, jobs or business startups.

Chamber holds luncheon with HU students, county leaders

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon to introduce Huntington University students to county leaders. The luncheon was held Thursday, November 4 in the community conference room inside the Huntington Arts & Entrepreneurial Center, 32 E. Franklin Street.

The meeting encouraged the students in attendance to network with community leaders. It also helped leaders of the community get to know the students a little bit better. Goals to be achieved from the meeting include future internships for the students, and jobs or business startups. Through the luncheon, students were able to get to know some leaders in Huntington County much better.

Students attending the event were interested in business, business entrepreneurship, small business management, banking and financial services, financial advising, insurance, marketing and communications and construction.

Students attending the first luncheon included Isabel Hunter, Alejo Bagnera, Diego Tapia, Illia Turaba, Alesandra Haraguchi, Paul Bickel and Courtney Craig. The community leaders that attended and 'mentored' the students were Eric Fawcett, president and CEO, Bippus State Bank; Adam Harris, financial advisor, Edward Jones; John Paff, owner/entrepreneur, Petra Strategic Communications; Nick Alwine, co-owner, FCI Construction and Eileen McMillan, owner/entrepreneur, State Farm Insurance. Also attending were Dr. Brock Zehr, Huntington University associate professor of business & economics and MBA program director and Steve Kimmel, executive director, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

The luncheon started off by having each person attending introduce themselves and share a little bit about themselves. Students shared their after-graduation passion and goals. The community leaders shared where they work, education, advice and their path to their current destination.

After lunch the group broke up into smaller and more focused groups, and the students asked questions of the leaders. Leaders answered the questions and then asked questions of their own. Everyone felt the time together was well spent, and all would like to be a part of the conversation in the future.



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Shown in the photo, is the creator and the winner of the painting contest held at the VFW. Shown from left, are Alejandro Avilla, owner and artist of the painting, 218 Art Studio Tattoos; Rick Stell, VFW Post 2689; Mary Ann Young, winner of the painting; Cory McClure, post commander, VFW Post 2689; Steve Kimmel and Gloria Holzinger, both from the Purple Heart committee.

Mary Ann Young wins air brushed eagle painting, VFW

Mary Ann Young, a member of the American Legion Post 85, won the air brushed eagle painting shown in the photo. The drawing was held at the VFW Post 2689 on Wednesday, November 17.

The painting was done by Alejandro Avilla, owner of 218 Art Studio Tattoos in Huntington.

The painting was donated to the VFW Post 2689 in Huntington and tickets were sold through a raffle to raise money for the Purple Heart committee. The raffle brought in \$300 by the VFW, and the proceeds have been given to the Purple Heart committee to be earmarked for the Purple Heart monument that will be erected on W. Park Drive.

The VFW would like to thank everyone for purchasing a raffle ticket and Avilla for thinking of the veterans.

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Shown in the photo is the new Nurture Soap & Handmade Studio. The new retail store is located at 2809 Theater Avenue in the former Myers Ice Cream Parlor.

Nurture Soap & Handmade Studio opens in Huntington

The Nurture Soap Store & Handmade Studio is Huntington's newest retail store. The store is located at 2809 Theater Avenue in the former Myers Ice Cream Parlor.

The completely remodeled and beautiful new Nurture Soap Store & Handmade Studio is a retail establishment featuring Nurture Soap products. This is a great place to find those soaps and bath bombs for the hard-to-buy person or for those that just want to relax and enjoy pampering themselves. The store will also have soaps and bath bombs made in-house along with soy wax candles.

Independent Scents candles are 100% soy wax and are produced by the Outsource Manufacturing Division of Pathfinder Services, which provides work and support for adults with developmental disabilities seeking independence and inclusion in the community.

Plan to visit the store and see for yourself what all they have to offer. Store hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call (260) 200-2949.



Shown is the inside of the new Nurture Soap & Handmade Studio. The store sells soaps, bath balms along with soy candles. A great Christmas idea for those hard to buy people on your Christmas list.

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Cheryl McCoy
 Branch Manager



Shown in the photo is the new Express Employment Professionals located at 2916 Walmart Drive, Huntington.

Express Employment Professionals opens new business in Huntington

Express Employment Professionals opened their door to business on Monday, November 29. The new store is located at 2916 Walmart Drive, Huntington.

According to their website, “Express Employment Professionals is a leading staffing provider in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Every day, they claim to help job seekers find work and help businesses find qualified employees.”

“Founded in 1983, Express annually employs over 526,000 people across more than 830 franchise locations worldwide. Their long-term goal is at the heart of our company’s vision, to help as many people as possible find good jobs by helping as many clients as possible find good people.”

Those interested in their services can contact them at (260) 225-3910. Visit their website at www.expresspros.com or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/expressprosmarionhuntington.



Tipton Place Senior Living

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Mark Your Calendars

Christmas Jazz

Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.
Zurcher Auditorium at Huntington University

Christmas at the Forks

Saturday, December 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 12, 1 to 4 p.m.
Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3011 W. Park Drive

Christmas Jazz

Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.
Zurcher Auditorium at Huntington University

Cookie Take & Decorate

Monday, December 13 to Friday, December 17
Miller's Merry Manor, 1500 Grant Street

Annual HARTA Frigid Encounter

New Year's Day, January 1, 2022
Schenkel Station, 11 W. State Street, 1 p.m.

For A Complete Calendar of Events

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