## **The Chamber Scene**

#### **HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • February 2025

#### **Huntington University elects its 14th president**

their During annual winter meetings, the Huntington University (HU) Board of Trustees voted to elect Dr. Robert Pepper as the 14th president of HU. Pepcurrently serves in the role of executive di-



Dr. Robert Pepper

rector and assistant to the president for innovation and university partnerships at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Pepper was selected following an extensive national search assisted by executive search firm CarterBaldwin.

Chairman of the Huntington University board, Monte Lightner, stated, "The Huntington University Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Dr. Rob Pepper as the next president of Huntington University. Dr. Pepper's scholarship, experience, creativity, and above all, his love of Jesus will continue and enhance the legacy left by past

"I am humbled to join
Huntington University as its
14th president," said Pepper.
"As my wife, Kristin, and I
learned about the University's
rich history and heard from
board members and
community members about
the vibrant, Christ-centered
communities in both Indiana
and Arizona, it became clear
to us that Huntington is
deeply committed to developing the whole person."

HU presidents. We are excited to participate with Dr. Pepper in the next chapter of Huntington University."

Pepper graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Messiah College in 1992, followed by a Master of Science degree in counseling: college student development from Shippensburg University in 1994,

and he earned a PhD in organizational leadership from Regent University in 2009.

"I am humbled to join Huntington University as its 14th president," said Pepper. "As my wife, Kristin, and I learned about the University's rich history and heard from board members and community members about the vibrant, Christ-centered communities in both Indiana and Arizona, it became clear to us that Huntington is deeply committed to developing the whole person. The institution's focus on helping students view all things through a Christian worldview and preparing them to impact the world for Christ is inspiring."

Pepper has served at Messiah University in roles of increasing responsibility since 1993, beginning as a residence hall director overseeing student life initiatives. His early work in student affairs laid the groundwork for his career in higher education, focusing on mentorship and personal development of students. Pepper's roles grew to encompass broader responsibilities, such as director of graduate enrollment and student services. where he and his team worked to double enrollment from 247 to 593 students. His success in this role led to his appointment as the interim assistant provost, and later as associate provost/dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Under his leadership, enrollment swelled to 877 students in 2021-2022.

Messiah University President Dr. Kim



Phipps shared this statement, "Dr. Pepper had a significant impact on programmatic innovation and the development of community partnerships at Messiah. Huntington University will continue to thrive under his Christ-centered visionary leadership."

Pepper has been married to his wife, Kristin, since 1993. Kristin has served for the past 18 years as a member of the children's ministry staff at West Shore Free Church. Their shared involvement in church life helped them create a strong foundation rooted in faith, and together they have raised three children with these same values

Their eldest, Colby, is a graduate of Covenant College in Georgia, where he was a competitive soccer player. He later earned an MBA and graduate degree in sports management from Ohio University and now works in Major League Soccer with Sporting Kansas City. Their middle child, Micah, graduated from Wheaton College (IL), where he studied history and international relations and excelled in speech and debate.

He currently serves with International Justice Mission, a faith-based global non-profit dedicated to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Their youngest, Aubrey, will graduate in May 2025 from Belhaven University in Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance with minors in entrepreneurship and Biblical studies.

## **Board of Directors** 2025

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Angie Garcia

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#### **Chamber Board of Directors for 2025**

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce you to the 2025 Board of Directors. Shown on the front row, from left, are Danielle Shaw, Treasurer, Bippus State Bank; Jill Jamison, Chair-Elect, Culp CPA Group; Bob Caley, Chair, Bob Caley Realtor – RE/MAX Results and Carrie Miller, Assistant Treasurer, Innovative Packaging. Back row, from left, include Todd Latta, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA; Angie Garcia, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce; Paula Whiting, Lake City Bank; Steve Kimmel, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce; Eric Meehan, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems; Mike Richard; Heather Eash, Pro Resources Staffing Services; Adrian Halverstadt, Hartburg Roth Garrott & Halverstadt LLP; Shelly Snyder, Bowen Health and Russ Degitz, Huntington County Community Schools. Not shown in the photo are Doug Selig, Parkview Huntington Hospital; Trisha Abbott, Mazie's Flowers and Rick Doering, Teijin Automotive Technologies.

## Heartland REMC, Heritage Days sponsor for 2025

"A Heritage of Caring," is the theme of Huntington's 61st Heritage Days, Wednesday, June 11 through Sunday, June 15. Heartland REMC will be the corporate sponsor of the festivities surrounding Heritage Days 2025.

Heritage Days 2025 will celebrate the people of Huntington, and the ways the community is united in looking out for each other. When you walk down a Huntington street, you can count on a smile from the people you meet, and over the years many individuals, businesses and organizations have united the community in caring for one another. The events of Heritage Days will celebrate Huntington's way of caring with the activities that take place in various locations.

Making electric energy available to Heartland Rural Electric REMC's membership, at the lowest cost possible, is the way Heartland REMC cares for the nine counties the corporation serves. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, their consumers are members – they are owned by those they serve. Heartland REMC, as a cooperative, is responsible first to its members.

Huntington, Wabash, Wells, part of southwest Allen and fringe areas of Miami, Kosciusko, Whitley, Grant and Adams are the nine counties where Heartland REMC's presence is known. The cooperative had its beginnings in 1936. The Chamber thanks Heartland REMC for their sponsorship.

Heritage Days are coordinated by a Steering Committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Chamber at (260) 356-5300 or email skimmel@huntington-chamber.com.





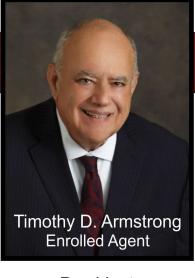
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## Chamber extends 'thank you' to its members

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce sends a big "thank you" to our members. With members like you, we are able to provide a sustainable business community in Huntington County along with helping to foster growth and positive change.



Only through your support can we continue to fund important community initiatives and lead the way for business.

Your Chamber now features many new ways for you to get involved with the Chamber or community activities. We offer networking and volunteering opportunities, many ways to promote your business through our website and Facebook pages, events calendar, help wanted, discounts on purchases, seminars, hot deals, Chamber Bucks, After Hours, access to the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) and more, all free with your membership. Maybe you just want to know more about other businesses and Chamber activities or share in ribbon cuttings and open houses. If so, you might inquire about becoming a Chamber Ambassador.

The Chamber also asks that you place your Chamber decal in the front window of the business. Your Chamber decal will tell your customers and potential customers that you are a Chamber member, and that you have made an investment in our community. We want you to thrive as a successful local business providing needed services and jobs to the area. Did you know that 63% of consumers are more likely to purchase goods and services from a business if they know they are a member of the Chamber? That is two out of three customers and that shows true membership value.

Our mission at the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce is simple – to support, promote and improve the quality of life of those in our community. The Chamber works to provide real benefits for you and your employees, and we hope you will continue to join us in making Huntington County a great place to live, work and play. Your Chamber membership is not only an investment in your business, but it's an investment in the community and Huntington County's future.

#### **Healthcare for Everyone.**



BowenHealth.org







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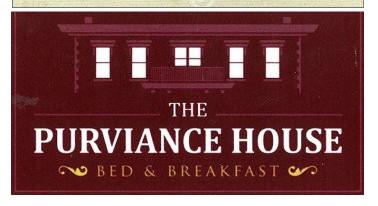


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## 'Meet & Greet to be held in Warren on February 5

The Entrepreneurial Leadership Council, a committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce, will hold its next Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' on Wednesday, February 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at East of Chicago Pizza, 111 E. 1st Street, Warren.

The gathering will feature guest speakers Terry L. Miller, Mike and Tajsha Ralston and Bruce and Zane Herr.

Miller owns and operates the East of Chicago Pizza in Warren. Miller will speak to the group on some of the ups



and downs of owning and managing a restaurant. The awards that come with owning your own business and more.

Mike and Tajsha Ralston, Aerial Ag in Warren, will discuss ways in which they operate their business. Ralston is a drone pilot, operator, maintenance supervisor, CEO, customer service representative, troubleshooter and truly so much more at Aerial Ag. Ralston has a private applicator license, but he also



holds commercial and aerial applicator licenses. He has eleven years of experience in the precision ag industry. Together the Ralstons manage the business.

Bruce Herr and son, Zane, owners of Dash 90 Wines, will share with those attending how the winery began, and how to start your own business from the "ground up." They will talk about some of the challenges and rewards that come with building and managing your own business along with raising four children. The Herrs will



share how Dash 90 Wines started and where they are today.

If you are an entrepreneur, aspiring entrepreneur, own your own business, thinking about starting a business or simply interested in learning more about growing entrepreneurial wealth in Huntington County, this gathering is for you. If you would like to attend this get-together reply to skimmel@huntington-chamber.com. There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP as the Chamber needs to know how many will be attending. Food will be provided by East of Chicago Pizza for this event.



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## Taste of Warren to be held Saturday, March 1

The 2025 Taste of Warren is going to be another amazing event filled with great food, drinks, entertaining music, a memorable raffle and more. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Dash 90 Wines, 6750 W 900 S-90, Warren

The event will showcase the local food and drink establishments, including East of Chicago Pizza, El Guerro, Son-Rise Bakery and Wagon Wheel Café. In addition, Dash 90 Wines will offer wine and slushy tastings.

Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this. Tickets are on sale through our Eventbrite event link and are now on sale at Bippus State Bank in Warren.

Ticket purchase includes food and wine or slushy tastings. You may purchase wine. There will be water and pop available. Visit them on Facebook for more information.

#### Mark Thompson named new Administrator at The Waters

The Waters of Huntington welcomed Mark Thompson as their new Administrator on November 25. Thompson brings a wealth of experience having served as a Health Care Administrator for over 28 years.

Beyond his professional life, Thompson cherishes moments with his three children and two new grandchildren. In his free time, he indulges in his love for WWI



Mark Thompson

Trench Art, and ventures all over to different antique stores and flea markets to find this art.

Aside from that, he also enjoys restoring basic furniture. He makes amazing chocolate chip cookies according to his staff. Thompson is passionate about helping residents and the senior community. The Waters of Huntington is thrilled to have him and begin this new journey.

The Waters of Huntington can be reached by calling (260) 356-5713, or by visiting them online at watersofhuntington.com/.



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## Applications are being accepted for scholarship

Parkview Health Foundation is now accepting applications for the Parkview Huntington Spirit of Service Scholarship. This educational funding opportunity is made possible by the generosity of foundation donors and their desire to support students wishing to begin a career in healthcare or advance their current skill level.

Applications are now available and will be accepted through Sunday, February 23.

#### Parkview Huntington Spirit of Service Scholarship

The Parkview Huntington Spirit of Service Scholarship provides a \$1,500 scholarship (payable directly to the school) to be used exclusively for tuition assistance. Up to three scholarships may be awarded.

Huntington County students pursuing post-secondary education in a healthcare-related field of study at any accredited institution of higher learning or technical training – as well as students residing outside Huntington County who are enrolled at Huntington University – are eligible to apply.

#### Candidates must:

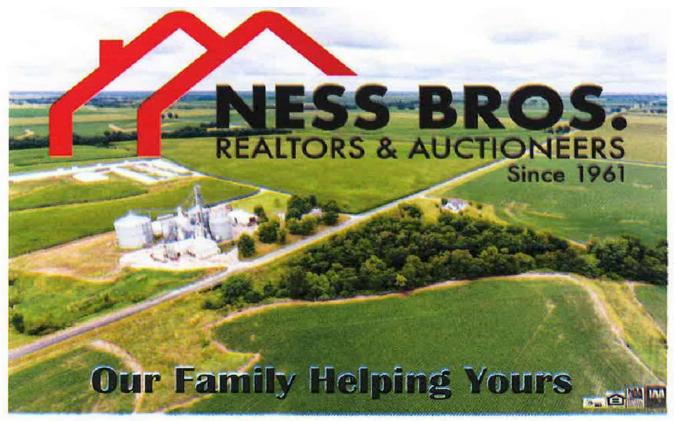
- \* Submit a completed online application.
- \* Be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in an accredited post-secondary educational institution to pursue a healthcare-related major/course of study. The recipient must enroll for the academic year for which the scholarship is awarded, or the scholarship award will be revoked.

#### More about the scholarship

The Parkview Huntington Spirit of Service Scholarship continues a long tradition of support for local residents pursuing post-secondary studies in the healthcare field. This scholarship was initially funded by a portion of a legacy gift from the Parkview Huntington Hospital Guild, which ceased operations in 2018. Scholarships have been awarded annually since 2019. The scholarship is sustained by proceeds from the operation of the Parkview Huntington Hospital gift shop.

The application is available at the Huntington North High School Guidance Office, or it can be accessed via online portal in the Parkview Health Foundation section of parkview.com.

For more information, email scholarships@parkview.com.



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## Huntington County HELP to open scholarships

Huntington County HELP, Inc. scholarship applications will open for availability by Monday, January 27. There are three categories of scholarships. Applications for all scholarships must be residents of Huntington County. The applications for each of these scholarships will be available at huntingtoncountyhelp.com.

#### **HELP**, Inc Scholarship

A minimum of five (5) scholarships, up to \$1,500 will be awarded to students pursuing careers in helping fields and majoring in special health care fields including, but not limited to, special education, physical and occupational therapy, nursing, social work, speech and hearing, medical and/or mental health. Applicants must be full-time students and set to begin at least their sophomore year of higher education during the 2025-2026 academic year to be considered. Graduate students are also eligible.

#### Jane Nes Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship, in memory of a board member and caseworker, is awarded to a Huntington County student enrolled full-time in an accredited nursing program with a plan to become a registered, bachelor, or master level nurse or a nurse practitioner.

#### John Decker Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship, in memory of a board member, is awarded to a high school senior, or student enrolled as a full-time student in post-high school studies, and has a qualifying disability as identified by the following criteria: 1.) Applicant has had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) during high school; or 2.) Applicant has been a client of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; or 3.) Student has documentation from a physician verifying the presence of a disability.

Additional scholarships in all categories may be awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee and the board of directors.

The mission of Huntington County HELP is to serve residents of Huntington County by providing services, assistance, equipment and financial aid to individuals with disabilities, students pursuing careers in helping fields, and programs that provide assistance and promote the well-being of adults and children with disabilities. Please contact huntingtoncounty-help.com for additional information.



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# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HUNTINGTON COUNTY

#### **MATT DITZLER**

**Executive Director** 

356 W Park Dr, PO Box 5037 Huntington, IN 46750

> Phone: 260.356.8878 Fax: 260.356.0921

matt@huntingtonccf.org www.huntingtonccf.org

# Dwight Myers Dwight@fireandicehvac.us FIRE&ICE 260-570-8885 www.fireandicehvac.us



## **Lafontaine Arts Council Bingo is February 18**

Join the Lafontaine Arts Council at the Beacon Credit Union Heritage Hall at the Huntington County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, February 18, and help support arts in the community. All proceeds go towards the Arts Center and its programming, located in downtown Huntington.

Dinner is available for \$10 a plate, start-



ing at 5:30 p.m. Pulled pork sandwich, potato salad and baked beans. Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m., with 15 chances to win cash prizes up to \$500.

Tickets are \$25 online, \$35 including dinner. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Dinner can also be purchased at the event for \$10.

Table sponsorships are available for \$250 and include games, prime seating for eight, a shout-out during the event and a special treat. You can also sponsor for \$330 which comes with all the above and includes dinner for eight.

Game daubers, snacks and beverages will be available for sale at the event, along with a raffle and 50/50 draws. Purchase your tickets below before they sell out. You must be 18 to participate.



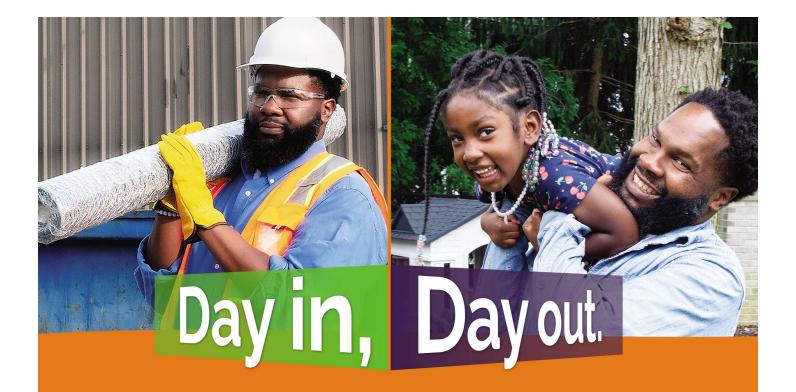
Jennifer Jordan

Government & Community Relations Manager Duke Energy 1619 W Defenbaugh St. Kokomo, IN 46902

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## Mark Your Calendars

#### **Free Lunch**

Saturday, February 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 530 Guilford Street

#### **Chamber Coffee Connections**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

#### **Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet'**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 East of Chicago Pizza, Warren

#### **Daddy Daughter Dance**

February 7, 6-8 p.m.; February 8, 5-7 p.m.; February 9, 3-5 p.m. Heritage Hall at Hier's Park, 537 S. Briant Street

#### **Taste of Warren**

Saturday, March 1, 2025 Dash 90 Wines, 6750 W 900 S-90, Warren

#### For A Complete Calendar of Events

Visit our website at www.huntington-chamber.com



#### **Lime City Title Services, LLC**

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The LC is here to ensure all citizens have access to local educational opportunities that foster life-long learning.

#### **Contact Tiffanney Drummond**

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