

# The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • [www.huntington-chamber.com](http://www.huntington-chamber.com) • July 2024

## Celebrating Huntington Heritage Days 2024



The Chamber of Commerce thanks Heartland REMC for being the corporate sponsor of Heritage Days, and the Homier family for all the Disney entries in the parade. We also thank everyone who sponsored, worked or attended Heritage Days 2024. This year's event celebrated the "Chamber at 100 Years." The top photo at left shows the Frozen wagon with Elsa and Ana, the float even snowed on parade watchers. The middle float highlights princesses delighting the crowd. The bottom entry shows one of only three Disney World Monorails ever released by Disney. The top float at right shows a celebratory birthday cake while the bottom photo is the gadget that was used in "Honey I Shrunk the Kids." This gadget sprayed kids with water on the parade route.

# Celebrating more of Heritage Days 2024



Shown in the photo at top left is the winning Theme Float for this year's Heritage Days 2024. The float was assembled and entered into the parade by the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA. The bottom photo at left shows the Brat Tent that was organized by the Wise Guys Downtown restaurant. The top photo at right shows four of the nine balloons that were on display during this year's festival. The bottom photo highlights the Ice Cream Social organized and managed by volunteers from Parkview Huntington Hospital and Huntington Sheet Metal. Both the Brat Tent and the Ice Cream Social were a part of past Heritage Days events. We are hopeful to see these activities back next year.



The Huntington City-Township Public Library's float, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," received first place in the Best Youth Group category in this year's parade.



Shown in the photo are Assistant Chief of Police Chris McCutcheon, front, and Sergeant Ben Spurgeon patrolling the parade route. The Chamber thanks the police department for their assistance.

## Heritage Days 2024 Winners

**Best Adult Group:** Joy Pleaser Clown Ministry, sponsored by: Lehman Floor Covering; **Best Antique Vehicle:** Sam & Judy Young, sponsored by: Myers Funeral Home; **Best Classic Vehicle:** Fort Wayne Corvette Club, sponsored by: Daniels Automotive; **Best Religious Unit:** Huntington Baptist Church, sponsored by: Heritage Pointe Communities; **Best Theme Float:** Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, sponsored by: First Federal Savings Bank; and **Best Youth Group:** Huntington City-Township Public Library, sponsored by: Bippus State Bank.

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Shown in the photo above is Riley Price, at left, named Little Miss Heritage Days while Alexis Wine, right, is named Junior Miss Heritage Days. Pictured in the center is Nicole Johnson, the newly named 2024 Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe.

## Johnson selected Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe

The 55th Annual Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe Breakfast was held Thursday morning, June 13 at the Historic Forks of the Wabash with nearly 100 people in attendance. Nicole Johnson was named the 2024 Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe in recognition of her contributions, and her volunteer work in and around Huntington County.

Heritage Days 2024 celebrated the Chamber at 100 years. Todd Latta, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA and Huntington County Chamber of Commerce board chair, opened the breakfast, and welcomed those in attendance. Latta then introduced John Nelson, Edward Jones and 2023 Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe, as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Nelson recognized Johnson’s many accomplishments and thanked her for all she does for Huntington County. Johnson replied, “Thank you and I am honored.”

The Chamber congratulates Johnson on being named the 2024 Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe.



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# Development continued over the years by the Chamber

Unemployment figures were on the upswing in 1981, and to meet the need for employment, the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in forming Lime City Economic Development Corporation. The cooperative effort between public and private sectors led to the completion of the infrastructure of Riverfork Industrial Park by 1984.



Frontage Road was completed and business development began in this area. Tax Increment Financing Districts were formed to enhance both commercial and industrial development.

The Chamber also became a major vehicle for communication with the media when Dan Quayle became Vice President of the United States during this era.

The Hoosier Heartland Corridor (900N) was supported by the Chamber in 2010. Initial communication, organizational meetings and funding were garnered by the Chamber toward the completion of the Corridor.



# Farmer's Market to open at EUM on July 10

The Huntington Farmer's Market will open for the 2024 season on Wednesday, July 10. 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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**The Moon Cats in concert downtown July 13**

The 2024 Music in the City series continues Saturday, July 13, in the Courthouse Square on E. Franklin Street, across from the Courthouse. The Moon Cats will be rocking in downtown Huntington from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

7th Heaven Creations Bakery, JB's Cuisine Machine and Dog's & More will be serving dinner in the city parking lot. Come and enjoy some shopping, live music and great food. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and possibly a light jacket. This concert is sponsored by the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.



**Splash on the Wabash scheduled for July 20**

Who's up for a 90-minute river tubing adventure in Huntington? You can sign up now for Splash on the Wabash. This is a one-day lazy river event scheduled for Saturday, July 20. There are three launch times to include: 10 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m. Tube rentals are available for \$15 each. Bring your own and float for only \$6. This event is a fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop #130 and the Historic Forks of the Wabash Park. Participants must be at least eight years of age. Online reservations are available at [www.splashonthe-wabash.com](http://www.splashonthe-wabash.com).



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.



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Mentorship	Social Service Advocacy	Christmas Dinner

# Nominations sought for Steven L. Bailey Award

The Youth Services Bureau of Huntington County is currently accepting nominations for the annual Steven L. Bailey Memorial Award. This award has been presented annually since 1999 to an individual or group who demonstrates a strong compassion for the youth and families of Huntington County. The nominee can be an individual or a group who has made a positive impact in the lives of young people through activities that empower, encourage and support our youth.

During his life, Bailey strongly believed everyone had strengths, and he was willing to provide the support needed to reach his or her fullest potential. Steve was truly a youth and family advocate and the recipients of this award hold the same attributes that Bailey demonstrated in his professional and personal life.

Some of the past recipients include: Delores Evans, Kent Yost, Roger Vezeau, Sara Landrum, Kent Hoopingartner, Richard Burns, Shelly & Jon Schenkel, Gary Mast, Gloria Wall, Carrie Boxell, the volunteers of the Champion League, Lisa MacDonald, Mary Jane Klenoski, Blessings in a Backpack, Brad Ludlow, Jamie Groves, Meg Friesen and Jon Kramer.

Nominations forms can be obtained by emailing [adm@ysbofhuntingtonco.org](mailto:adm@ysbofhuntingtonco.org) or at the office located at 1344 Maple Drive. Information is also available on the YSB website at [www.ysbofhuntingtonco.org](http://www.ysbofhuntingtonco.org). Please feel free to share this information with others. If you have made a nomination in the past but they were not selected, please feel free to re-submit their information.

To be considered for the award the nominees must:

- Be an individual or a group
- Be a positive role model through supportive, encouraging and empowering involvement with youth as a volunteer or through their professional responsibilities.
- Have impacted Huntington County children and/or youth.

Please submit the application to the Youth Services Bureau by July 15, 2024. The winner will be announced at our Annual Open House with the date yet to be determined.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the nomination form. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Youth Services Bureau at (260) 356-9681.



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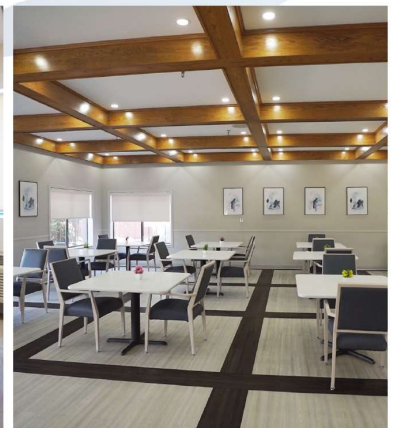
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## **Salamonie Summer Festival**

Friday, July 5 to Sunday, July 7  
Downtown and Around Warren

## **Coffee Connections**

Wednesday, July 10, 8 a.m.  
Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University

## **Farmer's Market Opens**

Wednesday, July 10, 4 to 7 p.m.  
Evangelical United Methodist Church, 1000 Flaxmill Road

## **The Moon Cats**

Saturday, July 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Downtown Huntington on E. Franklin Street

## **Splash on the Wabash**

Saturday, July 20, Beginning at 10 a.m.  
Wabash River

## **For A Complete Calendar of Events**

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