The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • November 2024

Christmas in the City to be celebrated November 30

Downtown Huntington will begin to look a lot like Christmas on Saturday, November 30 when Christmas in the City is celebrated. From 3 to 5:30 p.m., children along with their families are invited to enjoy horsedrawn wagon rides by Sentimental Journey, games, photos around the community, live reindeer and alpaca, a visit with Santa at the Courthouse, a Christmas tree lighting at Rotary Centennial Park and much more.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's Christmas in the City event. All activities are free to those who attend. The opportunities for fun will be located in various places throughout the downtown area. Downtown stores and restaurants will also be open.

The Huntington County Historical Museum, 315 Court Street, will feature a Peanuts Characters and Christmas cookie decorating from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring the kids and have their photos taken with Snoopy. Those in attendance can then follow the fun by attending all the Christmas in the City activities beginning in the downtown area at 3 p.m.

Visits with Santa will take place in the beautifully decorated Courthouse rotunda from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Children can tell their Christmas wishes to Santa and photos will be taken at no charge by Frederick's Photography. Those visiting Santa are encouraged to come early to ensure that there is time to get their picture taken.

The Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center, (HAEC) Franklin Street (across from the Courthouse), will help children create Christmas ornaments while stories are read from Olaf's Night Before Christmas book, sponsored by Beacon Credit Union. The small Christmas ornaments painted for free can be taken home that day.

"Letters to Santa" can be written and dropped off in a mail box located at the Meal Ministry. After the event, letters can be dropped off at the Huntington City-Township Public Library. The letters can be pre-written and brought along from home or written in the Meal Ministry. Letters can



also be mailed to City Services, 634 Webster Street, Huntington, IN 46750 or emailed to Megan Thompson at the City of Huntington at megan.thompson@huntington.in.us by December 13. All letters will receive an answer from "Santa" and parents are asked to make sure a name and address accompanies the child's letter for it to be answered.

The Indiana Family Care Center will offer children's games in the first block of downtown on Jefferson Street. Games include Football Toss, Snowman Bowling, Bean Bag Toss, Jenga and Connect Four. The lollipop Christmas tree will be a favorite delight for children to 'pluck' a treat from, and a pony will visit with those who come by.

Tim Hadaway will once again have his pony in attendance to give children rides on his small wagon that is pulled behind the pony. Across the street at Bend the Trend Boutique & Décor, visits with Cindy Lou Who will delight visitors to the store. Bend the Trend will have specials throughout the store during the day.

Face painting will be provided by the 5th Parlour, 442 N. Jefferson Street, and at the Brick House Grill's building located at the corner of N. Jefferson and Washington Streets

The Brick House Grill, 19 W. Washing-



ton Street, will be the place to board the horse-drawn wagon sponsored by Public Service Credit Union for a ride around downtown. Boy Scout Troop #130 will have a fire pit located downtown where children can roast marshmallows.

Kids can participate in "Nightmare Before Christmas" at the Bear & Beak Bakery, 37 E. Washington Street.

Families will be able to visit with Mrs. Claus and some elves at the Party Shop, 413 N. Jefferson Street, while visiting with Santa and participating in all the activities downtown during the day.

The Meal Ministry, in the third block of downtown, will serve hot chocolate, by the

(Story Continued on Page 2)

Christmas in the City to be celebrated November 30

(Story Continued From Page 1) Meal Ministry, and cookies by the Brick House Grill, inside. Buddy the Elf and Jovie will greet children at Little Sweets Spot candy store, 315 N. Jefferson Street.

The third block of downtown will feature live reindeer and an alpaca. Train rides sponsored by Lake City Bank will also be available in the third block of downtown again this year. Those interested in riding the train will board in front of Smith Furniture.

Cutouts of various characters familiar to children and Santa's Sleigh will be located throughout downtown for photo opportunities. Santa's Sleigh will be located in front of the Courthouse for photo opportunities.

Free popcorn will be provided at the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center and will be served by the Faith Community Church Youth Group. Huntington Theatre Act II will provide carolers and will sing Christmas carols around the community during the event.

New to this year's event will include the Twelve Days of Christmas Contest, sponsored by the Huntington Lions Club. Artists will paint Christmas themes on the twelve different windows at the former City Annex downtown (corner of Jefferson and Market



Streets). Chamber Bucks supplied by the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce will be presented to the Mayor's Choice, People's Choice and the Best Theme Window.

There will be many "princess things" also happening around downtown Huntington to include Belle and Prince Charming along with Elsa and Anna outside the HAEC.

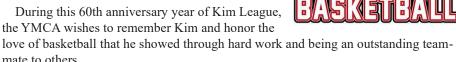
The grand finale will feature a HARTA bicyclists' light parade and Santa and Mrs.

Claus arriving on a fire truck at Rotary Centennial Park at 5:50 p.m. for a 6 p.m. Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The Christmas tree lighting promises to be a spectacular light display accented by musical entertainment. Glow sticks will be distributed by the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

Make special Christmas memories and celebrate together as a family in downtown Huntington for Christmas in the City. It promises to be a wonderful time of joy and celebration for all!

Parkview YMCA to celebrate Kim League November 2

The 2024-25 basketball season is particularly special for Parkview Huntington Family YMCA as the 60th year of the Kim League Basketball program is being celebrated. After Ez Williams partnered with the Y in 1958 to start a competitive basketball league for boys to learn the basics of the game, the 1964-65 Y midget (youth) basketball season was renamed to "Kim League" in remembrance of Kim Howenstine who died of brain cancer during the 1963-64 youth basketball season.



This fall season of Kim League tips off on Saturday, November 2, and to commemorate the day, a brief ceremony will begin in the YMCA gymnasium at 8:30 a.m., prior to the tip off of the first game of the season. Any past players, parents, coaches and the general public are invited to join them during this celebration. A small reception and morning refreshments will also be held following this ceremony. For questions, feel free to contact Joy Koch, director of development and marketing at (260) 359-9622 or email at joy.koch@huntingtony.org.

The fall season of Kim League basketball includes co-ed teams of grades three through five as well as co-ed middle school teams. The winter session of Kim League will open for registration in mid-November and includes boys and girls ages preschool through grade two.

The YMCA is thankful for the sponsors of the 2024-25 Kim League sessions including gold sponsors of First Federal Savings Bank, Hoosier Real Estate Group, Incipio Devices, Optimist Club, Parrish Orthodontics, TrophyCenter Plus and Zay Leasing. Silver sponsors for this season include: Angela Becker Orthodontics, Beacon Credit Union and Bippus State Bank.

As summarized on the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA's website, the YMCA is so proud to continue the tradition of Kim League basketball as Ez William's vision of kids learning, growing and improving together has become an iconic sports program for the community and still continues 60 years later, bearing the Kim League name, the name of a young student-athlete who embodied the qualities of YMCA sports during his short lifetime.

Please come and help the YMCA celebrate on November 2. The Parkview Huntington Family YMCA is located at 1160 W 500 N.



The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria, 1 E. Market Street, on Thursday, October 24. The new Mexican supermarket and restaurant officially opened their doors for business during that time. Shown in the front row above from left, are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley, Gwen Burns, Everwise Credit Union and both Chamber Ambassadors; Janette Azamar, El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria; Joel Mil, owner, El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria and Chava's Mexican Grill, 102 Frontage Road, Huntington; Cynthia Villanueva, Partners 1st Federal Credit Union and Mayor Richard Strick. Second row from left, include Elda Vidrios, Pedro Jimenez, both from El Rancho Supermarket & Tagueria; Sandra Zapata, owner, ZZ Beauty Salon and Bernardo Cobo, El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria. Back row from left, are Denilson Cruz, El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria; Danielle Shaw, Bippus State Bank and Chamber board of directors; Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District and Christy Knecht, Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Huntington.

El Rancho & Taqueria holds ribbon cutting

A completely remodeled El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria, 1 E. Market Street, opened in downtown Huntington on Thursday, October 24. The new business is owned by Joel Mil and Patricia Gil. They also own Chava's Mexican Grill, 102 Frontage Road, Huntington, and El Rancho Mex Grill, 5108 W. County Line Road N, Columbia City, Indiana.

El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria opened for business after their official Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting Thursday. Several members from the Chamber board, Ambassadors and elected officials attended the event.

El Rancho Supermarket & Taqueria is a full-service grocery store that serves a wide variety of Mexican foods along with a large selection of fresh vegetables. They have a large selection of canned food, tortillas, beans, chips, sauces, soft drinks and more. The Taqueria will serve a variety of Mexican dishes for those interested in lunch or dinner. The restaurant's hours are Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 midnight; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. The grocery store hours are seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Chamber wishes owners Joel and Patricia our very best and we encourage everyone to stop in and see the beautiful remodeling that was done in the building. While there be sure to purchase your lunch or dinner, and pick up some groceries to take home.













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Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' is November 11

The Entrepreneurial Leadership Council, a committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce, will hold its next Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' on Monday, November 11, from



5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at The Copper Still, 165 S. Main Street,

The gathering will feature guest speakers Angie Carel and Stacy Callahan.

Carel serves as an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consultant, Advisor, Educator and Community Builder, leading AI initiatives and developing roadmaps for long-term success. Callahan is the owner of Ella Chic Boutique. Ella Chic Boutique is an online and storefront women's boutique located at 247 N. Main Street in Roanoke.

Carel will share her framework designed to simplify the process of identifying task-based AI use cases. With its clear, precise guidelines, those attending will see how to pinpoint areas where AI can enhance or automate essential tasks. Her approach ensures a deliberate, strategic start, avoiding random experimentation, while providing a solid foundation for identifying larger AI use cases in the future.

Callahan will share her story of starting and operating a small women's boutique business. Callahan will talk about some of the challenges and rewards of owning your own business. She will also share more about her business, items offered in her store and how to be successful.

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 The Copper Still for this event.



David Ball

Director of Marketing and Admissions

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Council adopts plan for downtown DORA district

City of Huntington's Website

Huntington's City Council approved a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, or DORA that will be in effect during some special events starting in 2025. The final vote was 5-2.



Huntington's approach to DORA differs from other communities that have enacted the districts by activating it only during approved special events. Each instance will be subject to approval by the Board of Public Works & Safety. Event organizers can opt not to request DORA activation if it is not needed or desired during their event.

Indiana Code 7.1-3-31 authorizes municipalities to create a DORA district in which adults who are at least 21 years old may purchase alcoholic beverages from approved vendors and carry them outside to be consumed within set boundaries.

The Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission preliminarily reviewed Huntington's draft proposal and provided invaluable direction and guidance. The agency's website lists 23 Indiana communities, besides Huntington, that have enacted a DORA.

In back-and-forth discussions about the ordinance during the September 10 Council meeting, Police Chief Cory Boxell told council members that he had spoken with law enforcement in many of these communities to learn about their experiences with DORA.

"To be honest with you, what I gathered from them is very, very little negative feedback," Chief Boxell said. "A lot of them went into the DORA with legitimate concerns much like we've heard expressed here this evening so far, but the truth of the matter is what they have seen has been very minimal."

Signage will be posted throughout the DORA to remind residents and visitors about the applicable rules and regulations. At their discretion, businesses and other establishments within the DORA district may choose to prohibit alcoholic beverages from being carried onto their premises.

Other important rules include:

No person may consume an alcoholic beverage within the DORA area that was purchased outside of it.

Only non-breakable plastic cups or bottles affixed with a logo or label identifying it for use in the DORA may be carried.

Glass containers may not be removed from indoor or out-door dining areas.

Along with developing plans to activate the riverfront area, DORA is a part of broader efforts that have been successful in other communities to revitalize downtown Huntington.

"It is worth reminding Council and the public that the Downtown Master Plan that was completed last fall with a great deal of public input, as well as outside consultants, did include this as a recommendation for consideration," Mayor Richard Strick said during the September 10 Council meeting.

Next, the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission will review Huntington's DORA proposal for formal approval.









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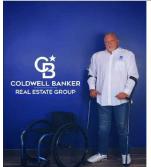
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Chamber moves to new location in Huntington

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce moved to a new home at 40 East Franklin Street April 1, 2020. The offices are part of the restored UB Block known as the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center at the corner of East Franklin and Warren Streets.



The Chamber had many homes over the years including 12 West Market Street, 15 West Market Street, the former Hotel LaFontaine, above the former Community State Bank building on Jefferson Street and 305 Warren Street. The current office is in the Mount Hope building, part of a group of three buildings that face the Huntington County Courthouse.

Jon Anderson, president and chief executive officer of AP Development LLC, an Indianapolis-based real estate development company oversaw the rehabilitation of the buildings. Indianapolis-based Community Construction served as the general contractor. The \$9 million rehabilitation project got underway in March of 2018.

The UB Block houses the Chamber, LaFontaine Arts Council, the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center, 37 restored to like-new market-rate apartments called the UB Lofts, Huntington University and a common use conference room.

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If you can't see out, who wants in?



Veterans Day parade scheduled November 2

The 12th annual Veterans Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 2 starting at Huntington North High School at 10 a.m.

Registration and staging of the parade will be at Huntington North High School, 450 MacGahan Street, beginning at 9 a.m. All parade entries should enter the high school off of MacGahan Street and be in place no later than 9:30 a.m.

Vehicles that are not in the parade should not enter the high school parking lot off of MacGahan Street, but enter at the N. Jefferson Street entrance and park in the east parking lot closest to the shopping center.

The parade will leave Huntington North High School at 10 a.m.

The parade route will travel east on MacGahan Street, south on N. Jefferson Street and then west at E. Park Drive to Memorial Park.

There will be a short ceremony at Memorial Park.



Iwo Jima monument to be unveiled November 11

Huntington Veteran's Day 5K Inc., plans to unveil a replica of the National Iwo Jima Memorial on Monday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at Memorial Park.

The event will take place on the park's northern end near the Waltonian Gardens.

The community is invited to attend and take place at the unveiling of the monument.



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Holocaust survivor to speak on November 13

Irene Miller, a Holocaust survivor, will be speaking in Zurcher Auditorium on Wednesday, November 13 at 6 p.m. As an author, speaker and educator, Irene will take you on a survival journey little written and known about.

Those attending will sleep in the winter under an open sky on the no man's land; attendees will freeze in a Siberian labor camp where bears come to your door front. In Uzbekistan, you



Irene Miller

will live on boiled grass or broiled onions, and shiver with malaria. You will spend years in orphanages. When this is over you will wonder how a child with this background grows up to become a positive, creative, accomplished woman with a joy of living and love to share.

It is a story of courage, determination, perseverance and the power of the human spirit. Tickets are free, but must be secured online at: Huntington University (purplepass.com).



Denver & the Mile High Orchestra is December 6

Tickets are available for a "Merry & Bright" performance by Denver & The Mile High Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. December 6. Sponsored by Huntington University, the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Huntington, the holiday-themed performance will be held in the Huntington University Zurcher Auditorium. Purchase tickets online or call the box office at (260) 359-4261.



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Mark Your Calendars

Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, November 2 HNHS, to Jefferson Street, to Park Drive to Memorial Park

Iwo Jima Unveiling

Monday, November 11, 11 a.m. Memorial Park, Waltonian Gardens

13th Annual Holiday Festival of Trees

Friday, November 22, 5 to 8 p.m. Downtown Warren

Christmas in the City

Saturday, November 30, 3 to 6 p.m. Downtown Huntington

Denver & the Mile High Orchestra

Friday, December 6, 7 p.m. Zurcher Auditorium, Merillat Centre for the Arts

For A Complete Calendar of Events

Visit our website at www.huntington-chamber.com







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