# The Chamber Scene HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • October 2024 HU enrollment highest in 127-year history

Huntington University has broken its previous enrollment record for the third year in a row. A total of 1,777 students are enrolled for fall 2024, up from 1,504 students in 2023 and 1,428 students in 2022. This is the first time in the University's 127-year history that enrollment has surpassed 1,700 students. In 2023, the University shattered previous enrollment records by surpassing 1,500 students for the first time.

"What an exciting moment in HU's history!" said Dr. Sherilyn Emberton, president of Huntington University. "Students are joining the Forester Family from all over world and almost every state in the U.S. This 18% growth is directly attributed to innovative programs with national reputations. We are also thrilled to see our new dual and concurrent credit initiatives to reach Indiana's high school students nearly triple their enrollment. This targeted growth should promote more Hoosier students to pursue education at the collegiate level."

"This record-breaking enrollment is truly a testament to the incredible work and dedication of our admissions and enrollment teams," said Susie Carr, assistant vice president for enrollment strategy and undergraduate admissions. "Our strategic efforts to connect with students both locally and nationally, particularly through targeted outreach and new initiatives, have paid off in ways we could only dream of. The success we are seeing is a direct result of the collaboration across all departments at the University. I also believe God's faithfulness has been evident throughout this journey, and we remain committed to nurturing the academic and spiritual growth of every student who joins our Forester Family."

With 1,266 undergraduates enrolled on HU's home campus in Huntington, and 242 undergraduate students at the HU Arizona location in Peoria, Arizona, the University continues to be encouraged by the student populations in both locations.

At Huntington University Arizona, undergraduate programs in animation, film and graphic design drew an impressive 21%



enrollment increase compared to last year.

Now in its second year, the Fort Wayne, Indiana-based Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) degree program in partnership with Indiana Tech and Parkview Health has increased to 59 students. The first ABSN cohort will graduate in October 2024. In addition, the animal health and veterinary nursing dual-degree program, which is in its second year of partnership with Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine, grew by 50% this year on the University's home campus in Huntington. Agriculture, animation, business, film and nursing continue to show consistent interest as majors to incoming undergraduate students. HU's efforts in targeted graduate programs are also showing growth, including the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling degree programs.

"It is encouraging to see growth in Huntington's graduate and non-traditional programs," said Jeff Berggren, assistant vice president for graduate and online programs and university marketing. "The University has the opportunity to serve unique populations of adult students with programs such as the ABSN, the occupational therapy assistant to occupational therapy doctorate bridge, and the Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling. The MBA has just launched two new concentrations in non-profit administration and in international agriculture, which will expand the impact of the University.

"The traditional Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy (OTD program) is one of the oldest in the country and is celebrating 10 years of operation in Fort Wayne with hundreds of graduates in professional healthcare positions. Over 25% of those OTD graduates serve in the Fort Wayne region. However, the truly motivating aspect of this growth is that all our graduate and non-traditional programs reflect the Christcentered mission of Huntington in a distinct and meaningful way."

Students across the University hail from 64 of the 92 counties in Indiana, 38 states (including Alaska and Hawaii) and 32 countries. They represent all four corners of the United States, from Washington to Florida and California to Maine.

Minority students make up 24% of the 2024-2025 student body, which is an increase for the University. Indiana continues to be the biggest pool for students, with Arizona, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois also being significant contributors to the record growth.



The City of Huntington held a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, September 25 to officially open the new handicap accessible area at Drover Park. According to Steven Yoder, superintendent of City Parks & Recreation, the project was completed with the help of many organizations and individuals that stepped up to help in the project. Shown above is Yoder, far left, as he and a young girl officially cut the ribbon to open the all inclusive playground. Mayor Richard Strick said the City of Huntington is grateful to everyone that offered their assistance with this project.



The City of Huntington held their second official ribbon cutting on Wednesday, September 25 to commemorate the opening of the .74-mile section of the Erie Rail Trail connecting Huntington University, Parkview Huntington Hospital, Crestview Middle School, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA and the Heritage of Huntington. The project connects to the existing eight miles of trails throughout the city of Huntington. The trail is part of the regional priority zone for the Northeast Indiana United Trails Plan. Shown are several local leaders and representatives of the Next Level Trails that helped lead the charge on the extension. Mike Skeens, center with scissors, president of the Huntington Area Recreational Trails Association (HARTA) board of directors, is shown cutting the ribbon to officially open the extended trail. Next Level Trails provided the city with a grant for \$784,300.

# First Federal opens Fort Wayne bank

First Federal Savings Bank proudly announces the grand opening of its newest branch on Illinois Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on September 13. This marks the bank's eighth facility and the third location in the Fort Wayne area, reinforcing its commitment to providing accessible, high-quality financial services to the region.



"First Federal Savings Bank has a long history of serving Fort Wayne, and this new branch demonstrates our ongoing dedication to the community," said Michael Zahn, president and CEO of First Federal Savings Bank. "We are excited to continue offering personalized service and innovative financial solutions at our newest location."

In addition to the celebration, First Federal Savings Bank also announced a significant donation to the Children's Autism Center, further emphasizing its role as a community partner invested in local causes and positive impact.

The new Illinois Road facility boasts state-of-the-art banking services, including a full range of personal and business banking options, mortgage services and more. The branch is designed to provide a seamless, customer-focused experience that reflects the bank's mission to be a trusted financial partner.

"We are grateful for the warm reception from the Fort Wayne community," said Zahn. "This new branch is a symbol of our ongoing growth and dedication to being more than just a bank – we are a part of this community's future."

The Illinois Road branch is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., offering flexible hours to accommodate customers. For more information, visit https://firstfedindiana.bank/.



Shown in the photo above is the A B.I.G. Day winning team of Wings, Etc. Wings shot a 50 to claim top prize in the golf outing. Second place went to Schroeder's Sales & Service, Inc., and third place to Bippus State Bank, both shooting a 53. Pictured above are the members of the Wings Etc. team, from left, Zaye Kindler, Lee Cutting, Zach Kindler, Jason Parke, Bryan Lagemann and Bryan Burcroff.

## Chamber names 2024 A B.I.G. Day winners

The Chamber of Commerce held its A B.I.G. Day golf outing on Wednesday, September 11 at the Maple Grove Golf Course. The first-place winning team was Wings, Etc., shooting a 50. Second place went to Schroeder's Sales & Service Inc., and third place, Bippus State Bank, both shooting a 53.

Closest to the pin for men was Austin Conrad, Huntington University, and for women, Lori Mason, MetroNet. Longest putt went to Andrew Drummond, Bippus State Bank, while Eldon Reust, won longest drive for men and Brenda Williams, MetroNet, for women. Darwin Stoffel, Everwise Credit Union, won the putting green contest. Skins was shared between Wings, Etc., Clearwater Systems and Everwise Credit Union.

Back by popular demand, the Chamber had a hole allowing golfers to take their turn launching their drive using an AR-15 rifle. The gun instructor was Chad Hammel, Chief Deputy, Huntington County Sheriff's Department.

The Chamber would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, golfers and Maple Grove Golf Course for making this year's event so successful. Thank you!



David Ball Director of Marketing and Admissions

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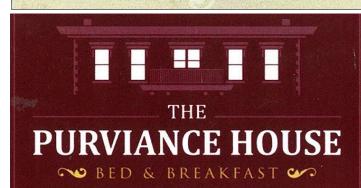


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Constitution Day 2024 was held in Huntington County for all fifth grade students on Monday, September 16 at Huntington North High School. The community was then invited to the Merillate Centre for the Arts, Zurcher Auditorium, Huntington University for the community event. Shown in the photo above are reenactors from left to include Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Harry S. Truman and George Washington.

# **Constitution Day 2024 celebration held at HU**

Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Harry S. Truman and George Washington visited Huntington over the past several days helping the City of Huntington celebrate Constitution Day, and in recognition of Huntington becoming a city on September 17, 1873. The theme of this year's event included presidents that served during war times, and how it impacted their time in office.

During their time in Huntington, the presidents held a convocation at Huntington North High School for all fifth grade students in Huntington County, and followed with a presentation at the Merillat Centre for the Arts at Huntington University for the community. The program was free to everyone that attended.

The sponsors of Constitution Day included the City of Huntington; Huntington University; Huntington County Community School Corporation; Huntington County Chamber of Commerce; The Huntington Bicycle Shop, Brooks Fetters; Purviance House Bed & Breakfast, and James and Regina Ditzler Charitable Fund.

### **Resource Expo, Ice Cream Social to be held October 5**

First Presbyterian Church, 50 E. Tipton Street, will host a Resource Expo and Ice Cream Social from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on October 5. All nonprofit organizations that serve the community are invited to reserve a table or booth where they can explain their services to those in need.

Organizations can sign up online or call (260) 519-5411 with questions.

# Chamber honors veterans with memorials, parade

The Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park was built to honor all five branches of the military. It was dedicated on November 7, 2015 and honors those wounded or killed while serving their country. Memorial Park was dedicated May 30, 1922 also in honor of veterans.



The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce supports Huntington's veterans through fundraising toward and development of the monuments that have been placed in the Veterans Memorial. It has also been involved in renaming West Park Drive near the park, the Purple Heart Corridor. The Chamber honors veterans through the organization and staging of the Veterans Day Parade each year in November.

The Veterans Memorial is a beautiful, solemn space designed for visitors, and offers a place to learn, reflect and offer respect to those who serve and have served our country. The Lockheed T-33A Shooting Star jet was added during park renovations in 2015. The Veterans Memorial also includes a Sherman tank, Purple Heart monument and a Killed in Action (KIA) Memorial honoring fallen soldiers from Huntington County. Eight other markers are within walking distance.



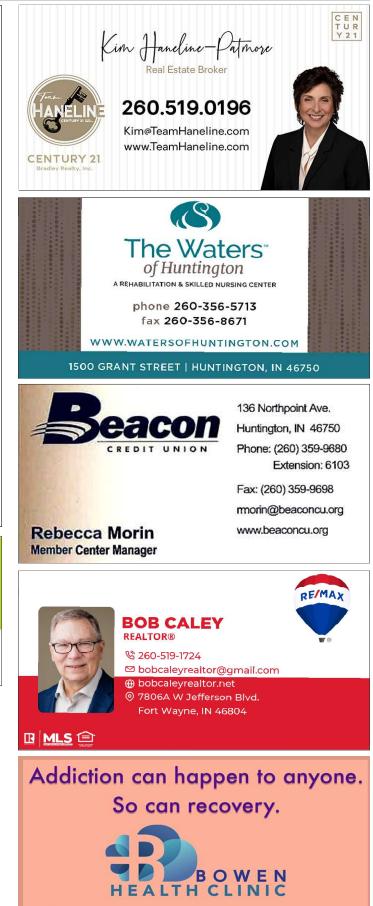
## A Renaissance in Roanoke is October 12

The 17th Annual A Renaissance in Roanoke will be held in downtown Roanoke on Saturday, October 12.

As a reminder for those who registered for last year's show that was cancelled and are planning to attend this year – even though your fees were rolled over to this year, they still need entrants to complete and submit an application.

Additional fees are only required of those who are changing from a single to a double booth or those requiring electricity in 2024.

All applications for this year can be found at renaissancein-roanoke.org/artists/.



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Beacon Credit Union recently gave \$1,000 to Christmas in the City that will be held in downtown Huntington on Saturday, November 30. Shown presenting the check from left, are Lori Elston, Beacon Credit Union; Kelly Stuber, branch manager, Beacon Credit Union; Barb Sprinkle, Brick House Grill and Christmas in the City Chairperson, and Sonya Jackson, Beacon Credit Union.

## Beacon gives \$1,000 to Christmas in the City

Beacon Credit Union recently gave \$1,000 to this year's Christmas in the City event. Christmas in the City will be held on Saturday, November 30 in downtown Huntington from 3 to 6 p.m. with the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m.

The money given by Beacon Credit Union was used to purchase Olaf's Night Before Christmas book. Children are encouraged to come to the Huntington Arts & Entrepreneurial Center (HAEC), 32 E. Franklin Street, where the story will be read to the children for their enjoyment.

The committee managing this year's Christmas in the City is very grateful to Beacon Credit Union for their generous donation.

Please plan to attend this year's event and make some beautiful memories. There will be lots of fun and activities for the entire family.

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#### October 2024

#### **Huntington County Chamber of Commerce**



A groundbreaking was held for the new Iwo Jima Memorial on Monday, August 19 at Memorial Park. Shown on the front row from left are Joseph Bentz, Patriot Excavating; Terry Thornsbury, Viridian Architectural Design, Inc.; Beth and Christopher Shortridge, fundraising organizers; Dan and Barb Drummond, Huntington Sheet Metal; Satin Lemon, volunteer; Seth Marshall, volunteer; Robb Fultz, ACB General Contractors; Diann Parker, volunteer and Tim Eckert, Veterans Service Officer. Back row, Rick Stump, Viridian Architectural Design, Inc.; Mayor Richard Strick, Adam Cuttriss, City of Huntington; Steven Yoder, Huntington Parks & Recreation Department; Brett Hoopingarner, and Mark Parker, both volunteers.

### Iwo Jima groundbreaking held on August 19

A groundbreaking was held on Monday, August 19 at Memorial Park for the newest addition of an Iwo Jima memorial. Plans call for the memorial to be unveiled during Veterans Day on November 11.

Iwo Jima is an island in the Pacific that provided a place for an air campaign to be waged against mainland Japan. Nearly 7,000 Marines died on this island, making it the bloodiest day in Marine Corps history.

According to Christopher Shortridge, the organizer of the Iwo Jima memorial, "Over 16 million American veterans took part in World War II. Of those veterans there are less than 100,000 remaining today."

"We have been raising money since 2016 and finally breaking ground. The ceremony/unveiling will be held on Monday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Memorial Park site, at the top of Bartlett Street across from the pond," said Shortridge.

If anyone would like to get involved via a donation or in the email shortridge\_1@yahoo.com, and he will assist you.







# Tri Kappa Ghost Walk, Ghost Hunt October 25

Chi Chapter of Tri Kappa invites you to a one-of-a-kind Huntington tour. Come listen to previous happenings and maybe have something happen on the tour.

Join Tri Kappa as they take a leisurely stroll and search along the shadowy streets of downtown Huntington to hear stories of the unexplained and strange. Listen to tales about buildings and homes in the downtown area and get a look inside the Masonic Temple and hear stories of its history.

New for this year – immediately following the Friday, October 25 tour at 9:30 p.m., join Teresa Cannizzaro and her TAPS Family Team, TRIPS Paranormal, for a mini ghost hunt in her haunted "Freemason to Mansion" Building and home. Explore the most active paranormal hot spots and see if you can uncover any ghostly secrets. Don't miss this unique opportunity – if you dare. Participants must be 18 years and older. Waiver needed. Stairs required. Only 20 tickets available.

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization only in the State of Indiana with nearly 7,000 women supporting a variety of organizations. They give 100% of the proceeds back to the community. By supporting this event, you are supporting the needs in our community. 100% of the proceeds from this event will go back to Huntington County.

Don't wait, get your tickets before they sell out at hunting-tontrikappa.com/events.



## 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

#### **Renaissance in Roanoke**

Saturday, October 12 Downtown Roanoke

#### **Veterans Day Parade**

Saturday, November 2 Begins at HNHS, down Jefferson and out Park Drive

#### 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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