The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • April 2023

Chamber Celebrates Huntington at 175 Years

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner on Tuesday evening with the theme Celebrate Huntington. The dinner was held at the PAL Club in Huntington.

Celebrate Huntington was put together by a group of Huntington County leaders to help showcase all the wonderful things about Huntington and Huntington County. The event was emceed by Mike Perkins with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Brooks Fetters, owner of The Huntington Bicycle Shop and the invocation was given by Steve Kimmel, executive director of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Richard Strick then gave a brief talk about the history of Huntington, and named a few individuals that were relevant to the founding and growth of our fair city. Dinner followed provided by HolmStyle Catering with the Brick House Grill handling the bar for the evening. Music was provided by Pat Teusch of Elated Entertainment, and Adam Skiles of Huntington University managed the technology.

After dinner several speakers shared with the audience and gave updates on their places of employment. Topics of conversation for the evening included Small Business, Industry, Education, Sports, Enjoying Life in Huntington County, the new Entrepreneurial Council startup led by the Chamber of Commerce, the Fortitude Fund and finally Chamber of Commerce programs. The evening concluded with the Chamber giving awards to the Volunteers of the Year, Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year.

The group attending the dinner first heard from Ian Stallings, owner and investor of the Silver Moon 3 Pub. Stallings shared some history of the building, showed a video of the renovations and shared photos of the building from start to finish. Stallings has invested much of his talent, time and money into restoring one of Huntington's oldest structures, built in 1883.

Mark Wickersham, executive director, Huntington County Economic Develop-



The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors selected Teijin Automotive Technologies as its Business of the Year at the annual dinner on Tuesday, March 14. Shown in the photo above, from left is John Garrott, 2022 Chair of the Chamber board, Rick Doering, plant manager, Teijin Automotive Technologies and Brock Zehr, 2023 Chair of the Chamber board.

ment, talked about local industry. He shared information about several different businesses in the county, and touched upon the more recent victories at Ecolab where the company has expanded and built their own laboratory. Wickersham talked about the \$4.67 million expansion at Shuttleworth, the \$35 million expansion at Novae Corporation and the good news of Teijin Automotive Technologies, where the company has invested \$110 million in a new building in the new Riverfork West Industrial Park. Wickersham stated that 2022 was a record year with \$234 million dollars of industry investment in the county.

Chuck Brimbury, assistant superintendent of schools for HCCSC, shared information on the school corporation's Strategic Plan along with the five pillars of the plan, leadership beliefs, Moving Forward – Good to Great and all the great things taking place with skilled trades classes at the Huntington County Community Learning Center. Brimbury stated that the cafeteria is about to be renovated at the high school, and went on

to mention there will be new science labs, classes, technology upgrades and safety and security upgrades for students throughout the school system. The safety of students is very important to the HCCSC administration and school board.

Dr. Sherilyn Emberton, president of Huntington University, spoke of the good things happening at Huntington University. She talked about the 125th year of HU which took place in 2022, the UB Launch and the co-working space available in the UB Block on E. Franklin Street. Emberton also discussed the National Voices that came to Huntington during the 125th year, record enrollment, the University's Step Forward Comprehensive Campaign, the Digital Media Arts program and Esports.

Emberton shared information about the agriculture majors at the University, and the programs offered at Huntington University's campus in Peoria, Arizona. Emberton said that Huntington University has a very bright future.

(Story Continued on Page 2)

Chamber Celebrates Huntington continued

(Story Continued From Page 1)

Huntington North High School sports successes were shared with those attending by Jeremy Markham, athletic director at Huntington North High School. Markham shared that HNHS athletes are expected to focus on academics along with being respectful and supportive of each other. He said they are expected to be competitive and show pride. Markham went on to talk about the new all-purpose stadium, HNHS sports fans, The Pit, HNHS Bob Straight Arena, the fieldhouse, weight room, TCU softball field, HNHS baseball field and the success of Addy Wiley. She set a state record running the 1600 in the state finals in 2022, and continues to set records at the collegiate level.

Huntington University sports were discussed by Russ Degitz, chief operations officer at Huntington University. He spoke about the renovations that took place at the fieldhouse, softball diamond and the new renovations currently happening at the Huntington University PLEX scheduled to open for the HU basketball season next fall. Degitz also touched upon the record number of athletes at the university participating in sports. He said HU has a record 300 students participating in sports where 15 of those athletes were named All-Americans.

Mike Perkins followed showing a video of bowling champion, EJ Tackett. Tackett won the Triple Crown earlier this year and continues to win championships since his Triple Crown win in Indianapolis. Tackett is a Huntington North graduate that turned pro after graduation and is poised to have a long rewarding career in his sport.

Also shared during the event were many ways to enjoy life in Huntington County. Included were a video of the Purviance House Bed & Breakfast, downtown retail establishments, Heritage Days, Music in the City, Christmas in the City, churches, trails, the successes at Parkview Huntington Hospital, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, Two EE's Winery, Rustic River Outfitters, Historic Forks of the Wabash, Huntington County Historical Museum and the GQT Huntington 7 theater under new ownership. The theater reopened after COVID where many theaters across the country did not.

John Niederman, director of the Fortitude Fund, shared the partnership the Chamber of Commerce and the Fortitude Fund have developed to support entrepreneurs and create entrepreneurial wealth in the county. A group was organized late last year to work with entrepreneurs interested in starting a business or helping with the business. This group will act as a support group, and also look to establish new businesses in the county to complement the existing businesses already established.

Brock Zehr, chairman of the Chamber board of directors, shared several of the programs the Chamber offers to individuals to help educate and grow their businesses. Zehr said the Chamber is responsible for Heritage Days, Farmer's Market, Student Leadership Luncheons, new member breakfasts, networking events including its very popular Huntington County Coffee Connections and much more.

Huntington County Coffee Connections

are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Habecker Dining Commons on the campus of Huntington University at 8 a.m. This gathering has connected many individuals with other individuals and their businesses.

Zehr also spoke of the Chamber's collaborations with local non-profits, HCED, city and county government, SCORE, Small Business Development Center, NIIC and others. Also mentioned were the redesign of the Chamber's website where members can publish their help wanted ads, hot deals. The evening concluded with Steve Kimmel, executive director, recognizing the winners of this year's Entrepreneur of the Year award, Ian Stallings, Volunteers of the Year, the Huntington County Disaster Team and the Business of the Year, Teijin Automotive Technologies.





Shown in the top photo are members of the Huntington County Disaster Team that were named Volunteers of the Year by the Chamber for 2023. Pictured from left are John Garrott, 2022 Chairman of the Chamber board; Lenard Zeller, Max Kaylor, director, and Fred Crago, all volunteers of the Huntington County Disaster Team and Brock Zehr, 2023 Chairman of the Chamber board. The bottom shows Ian Stallings, second from left, investor and owner of the Silver Moon 3 Pub and this year's Entrepreneur of the Year. Also shown are John Garrott, left, Ian Hasselbacher, Silver Moon 3 Pub, second from right, and Brock Zehr.



Good Friday breakfast, service at 'Y' April 7

The Parkview Huntington Family YMCA is offering a free Good Friday breakfast and service for the community on Friday, April 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The YMCA School of Music will be providing music during the event with Parkview Huntington Hospital president, Doug Selig, sharing reflections during the service. Breakfast will be catered by Nadean's of Markle.

The community is invited to attend and you can register at the front desk. There is no cost to attend. Those interested must register by April 3.

If you have questions, you may contact Vanessa at vanessa.hannie@huntingtony.org or call (260) 359-9622. The YMCA is located at 1160 W 500 N. Huntington.

Designer Purse Bingo scheduled for May 9

The Quayle Vice Presidential Learning Center idential Learning Center will hold its popular Annual Designer Purse Bingo Night fundraiser

Designer Purse Bingo Night

on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Huntington PAL Club, 2099 Riverside Ave. The doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Advance corporate sponsorship tickets are now available for \$25 each when bought in blocks of eight or more. Individual tickets for the general public will go on sale starting April 10. General public tickets will be \$30. Remaining tickets will be \$35 at the door on the day of the event as space is available. Seating will be limited.

Food will be offered for sale from 5:30 p.m. up to start time at 6:30 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be offered throughout the evening.

Each ticket is good for 20 games throughout the evening. Prizes are various designer purses and bags. Proceeds benefit the educational programs, exhibits and operations of the Center, a charitable not-for-profit organization. Must be 18 to participate. Contact the Center at (260) 356-6356 or info@historyeducates.org for more information..











Hot Deals, new program for Chamber members

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce is offering Hot Deals to members of our organization. You can place a Hot Deals promotion by emailing your deal to info@huntington-chamber.com or members by placing the Hot Deals promotion yourself by logging into our database. If



you need help just give us a call at (260) 356-5300.

Your Hot Deals promotion will be displayed on the Chamber website and will be published in the Chamber Notes weekly.

This is a great way to keep your business' name in front of shoppers. Utilize the Chamber's Hot Deals program and bring people into your store and watch your business grow. Make sure the deal is worthwhile to the shopper.

To be able to place your Hot Deals promotion all you need to do is be a member of our organization and your Hot Deals promotion will be published for free. We ask that you limit your Hot Deals promotion to no more than one at a time.

Vendors needed for Hot Air Balloon Festival

Vendors are invited to sell homemade crafts, baked goods or homegrown produce on the lawn of Huntington North High School, in a designated area, on Saturday, June 17. Set up will begin at 12 noon and Huntington County residents will have the first opportunity for booth space. A few food trucks are also welcome.



Forms and a vendor fee of \$25 will need to be arranged by June 1. Contact Pat Johnson, (260) 224-3557, for more information. Vendors will be exhibiting their items during the Huntington County Disaster Team Car and Truck Show, 3 to 7 p.m.; The Heritage Days Kids Zone, 5 to 8 p.m.; Beacon Credit Union Pulling for Riley - Kiddie Tractor Pull, 5 p.m. and the Heritage Days Hot Air Balloon Festival, 5 to 10 p.m.; all taking place at the high school during these times.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group is the official sponsor of Heritage Days 2023.

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Director Community Engagement

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The Erie Tavern LLC officially opened their doors on Monday, March 27 with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. The new restaurant/bar is located at 770 E. Franklin Street, Huntington. Shown in the photo front row, from left, are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley and Chamber Ambassador; Braiden Shoemaker; Deanna and Jeremy Shoemaker, owners, Erie Tavern LLC; Emily Shoffner; Gwen Burns, TCU and Charles Chapman, City Council 1st District and both Chamber Ambassadors. Back row, from left, include Marti Evans, First Federal Wealth, Janet Branham, Community Foundation of Huntington County and both Chamber Ambassadors; Cory Goff and Brittany Brown, MidWest America Federal Credit Union and Chamber Ambassador.

Erie Tavern opens with Chamber ribbon cutting

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the newly opened Erie Tavern LLC on Monday, March 27. The restaurant is located at 770 E. Franklin Street and has been completely remodeled on the inside and outside.

Jeremy Shoemaker is the new owner, and he would like to invite the community to come and see what he has done to the building and enjoy a meal. The restaurant comes with a very diverse menu, and the business is designed in a railroad motif.

If you are looking for a new place to eat, give the Erie Tavern a try. We think you will be pleasantly surprised. You must be 21 years old to enter, but if you are 18 and above and with your parents or guardians, you can enter for a meal.

The Erie Tavern's hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday.

You can reach the restaurant by calling (260) 358-5551 or visit them on Facebook.





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The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new Edward Jones office of Joshua Thacker on Wednesday, March 29. Shown in the photo from left, are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley; Nick Thompson, Thacker's brother-in-law; Abby Dwyer, branch office administrator; Hanna Thacker, Joshua's wife, Joshua Thacker, Edward Jones, Joshua Thacker office; Mike Thompson, Thacker's brother-in-law; Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance and Eric Horvath, Humana, and both Chamber Ambassadors.

Joshua Thacker holds ribbon cutting in Roanoke

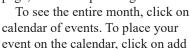
The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the Chamber's newest member, the Edward Jones office of Joshua Thacker. The office is located at 215 Second Street, Roanoke.

Thacker is a Huntington County native who graduated from Huntington North High School and then IPFW in Fort Wayne. He moved into his new office on February 22 of this year, and has been a financial advisor for the past three years.

You can reach Thacker by calling (260) 676-4177. The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce wishes him the best in his new business.

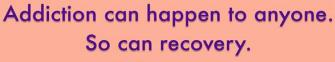
Promote upcoming events on Chamber website

This is a reminder to our members that the Chamber events calendar is available to publicize your events. The calendar can be found by clicking on Events at the top of our web page, and then upcoming events.



your event and fill in your information on the form provided. If you see an event you would like to attend and would like to receive a reminder, click on the event and Set a Reminder.

The Chamber events calendar is a great way to make the public aware of your activity. Visit the website at www.huntington-chamber.com and check out our calendar! For questions call the Chamber office at (260) 356-5300.





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Dolby Pool & Spa Service welcomed a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at their new location at 2819 Walmart Drive, Suite D behind Zesto. Shown on the front row, from left, are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley; Gwen Burns, TCU and Chamber Ambassador; Carol Warkentien, Riley Dolby, Keith Dolby, wife, Kim Dolby, owners, Dolby Pool & Spa Service; Jordan Dillon, store manager, Dolby Pool & Spa Service; Janet Branham, Community Foundation of Huntington County and Chamber Ambassador and Brock Zehr, Huntington University and Chair of the Chamber board of directors. Back row, from left, include Bob Caley, RE/MAX Results and Chamber board of directors; Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance, Marti Evans, First Federal Wealth, Eric Horvath, Humana and all Chamber Ambassadors; Keith O'Dell (Sasquatch) and Adrian Halverstadt, Hartburg Roth Garrott Halverstadt & Garrett LLP and Chamber board of directors.

Dolby Pool & Spa Services opens with ribbon cutting

The new retail store of Dolby Pool & Spa Service had a ribbon cutting at the businesss on Thursday, March 30 at their location, 2819 Walmart Drive behind Zesto. The grand opening of the new business will be held on Saturday, April 1.

Dolby Pool & Spa Service sells chemicals, accessories, equipment, pool toys and more. They service all types of pools to include in-ground and above-ground, liner installation, safety covers, repairs and also offer free water testing.

The new store is owned by Keith Dolby and his daughter, Jordan Dillon, will be the store manager. Dolby Pool & Spa Services can be reached by calling (260) 901-6982 or by email at dolbypool@yahoo.com. Store hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Sunday. You can also connect with them on Facebook.

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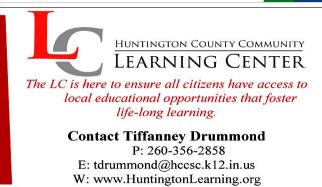
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Mark Your Calendars

Good Friday Breakfast & Service

Friday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.
Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, 1160 W 500 N

Spring Fling

Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. Downtown Huntington

Designer Purse Bingo

Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. Police Athletic League (PAL), 2099 Riverside Drive

Huntington Trails, Beer & Wine

Friday, June 9, 6 to 10 p.m. First Merchants Heritage Hall, Hier's Park

Heritage Days

Wednesday, June 14 to Sunday, June 18, 2023

For A Complete Calendar of Events

Visit our website at www.huntington-chamber.com

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