

# 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) • August 2021

### Community comes together for needs of children

The community came together Saturday, July 31 with a Back to School Bash. Downtown Huntington was the site for children headed back to school to be supplied with new shoes, socks, backpacks, school supplies, balloons, haircuts, a good meal, ice cream and more!

Each block of the downtown area featured groups meeting the needs of Huntington's children at no cost to them. Cars and a motorcycle were part of an Afterhours Indiana car show that donated the \$10 registration fee per entry to the Indiana Dream Center for school supplies, and vouchers for those in attendance for new jeans. DJ Patrick Teusch provided musical entertainment. The event was organized by the Indiana Dream Center and The Awakening Church with many other organizations participating.

What began in 2009 by Teresa Kaylor, Century 21 Bradley Realtor, in her parking lot, as a small back to school event, is now a major service to the community through the growth of the project. The Awakening Church and Indiana Dream Center also have assisted over the years.

The Awakening Church provided new shoes with pre-registration for those in attendance while Central Christian Church offered a variety of different sizes and colors of socks, three pairs per child. The funds for the socks were raised through the Central Christian Church congregation. A drive-through Fish and Tenderloin supper will be held Tuesday, August 10, 4 to 7 p.m., to help fund the socks.

Backpacks of Hope in memory of John Zachary Septer distributed over 400 backpacks. The mission of this group is to help provide backpacks wherever they are needed. They are in their 10th year and organized by Shelley Septer of Huntington.

The Indiana Dream Center with offices and thrift store in downtown Huntington provided notebooks, pencils, folders, glue sticks, free popcorn, chips and bottled water. Free haircuts by 90 Degree Cuts also took place inside the Indiana Dream Center offices.

Faith Chapel United Methodist Church gave away headphones and ear buds funded by their youth group. Huntington University supplied children with Evang-A-Bears for "cuddling up" with.

Donations from the congregation of the Bethel United Methodist Church provided children in attendance with bags, folders, pens, pencils, crayons, hand sanitizer donated by Walgreens, bracelets to be created and rubber bracelets. The Youth Services Bureau handed out coloring pages, bookmarks, pencils, car seat safety information and internet safety tips. A sign-up was available for additional school supplies.

The Huntington City-Township Public Library brought the Bookworm to the Back to School Bash. Library personnel provided each child with a new book, and games and crafts were offered. The Joy Pleaser Clowns spent the day crafting shaped balloons in many colors.

Schwan's ice cream bars were supplied by Lee's KFC while the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce and Lake City Bank



Shown in top photo left, The Awakening Church gives away shoes and Central Christian Church offering children three pairs of socks. Second row, left, is Backpacks of Hope giving children free backpacks, and Faith Chapel United Methodist Church offering free headphones and earbuds. Bottom row, left, is HCTPL providing a new book, games and a craft while Lake City Bank and the Chamber of Commerce hand out free ice cream sponsored by Lee's KFC. personnel distributed the free treats throughout the event. Downtown businesses were open throughout the festivities.

The New Life Meal Ministry offered free hot dogs, brats, baked beans, granola bars, milk and water for lunch. The ministry also opened the doors for those eating lunch to sit and rest after celebrating at the Back to School Bash.

# Founding Fathers together again, September 17

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce is organizing an event in honor of Constitution Day. Known as the Founding Fathers, the program for 2021 will include Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

On September 16 and 17, three of those names will be portrayed in Huntington, helping to bring the American Revolution to life. Barry Stevens as Benjamin Franklin, Michael Lepage as John Adams and Tom Pitz as Thomas Jefferson, will engage students in assemblies both days at Huntington County Community Schools. On Friday evening, September 17 – which is Constitution Day across America as well as the 173rd anniversary of the establishment of the City of Huntington – they will take the stage, in 18th-century costume, for a free public performance at Huntington University's Zurcher Auditorium. Sponsorship for Friday's event is provided by the City of Huntington, Huntington University, Huntington County Community School Corporation and Our Sunday Visitor. Thanks to the sponsors, the event is free to the public.



Benjamin Franklin

Barry Stevens, left, has been presenting Benjamin Franklin since 2005. He was tending a campfire while participating as a member of the First Virginia Regiment (a company of Revolutionary War re-enactors). Visitors to the campfire would address him as "Ben" with such frequency and certainty that he outfitted himself as this special 18th century gentleman and actually began answering their questions.

Stevens' education about Dr. Franklin has led him to read and study extensively on the life and times of this American personality. That study is ongoing and without end. It has taken him to locations throughout the Colonies known to Dr. Franklin, and even to Le Procope Restaurant in Paris, France. On a recent trip he visited the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to gain insight into the electrical experiments conducted by Dr. Franklin. This experience is constantly being referenced as he presents

Benjamin Franklin to eager and responsive audiences. Engage Dr. Franklin in a conversation and experience for yourself the fun of interacting with living history.



John Adams

Michael Lepage, center, has been a Historical Interpreter since 1992. Lepage has played historical characters since 1998 including: John Adams, Paul Revere, Dr. Joseph Warren, Peter Oliver, a British Soldier, a Civil War Soldier and Baseball Player/Manager John McGraw. Lepage has performed at a variety of venues including the Adams National Historical Park, the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Minuteman National Park, The Paul Revere House, the Boston Tea Party Museum, the Old South Meeting House, the Old State House, Marriott's Custom House and corporate events. Lepage is married to the love of his life, Anne Marie Lepage, and they live in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Lepage is employed at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Dedham, Massachusetts.

Thomas Pitz, right, a.k.a. Mr. Jefferson, is a resident of beautiful Orange County, in the heart of the Virginia piedmont, homeplace of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. Pitz has been portraying Jefferson since



Thomas Jefferson

1987. He has amassed a list of clients that ranges from corporate executives and medical faculty to elementary school students. Pitz considers it an honor and a privilege to bring one of America's

greatest historical figures back to life.

"After performing as Mr. Jefferson for many years," says Pitz, "I have come to believe that none of the 'Founding Fathers' evokes a stronger feeling in people than Thomas Jefferson. They may love him or hate him, but few people can ignore him if they wish to understand America."

Huntington resident Gib Young, who is a nationally renowned interpreter of Theodore Roosevelt, will introduce the Founders at the Friday night public event. Young was part of Huntington's 2018 Constitution Day program, "Rushmore Live!" in the company of reenactors as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson – the other faces with Roosevelt on Mount Rushmore.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for the 7 p.m. "Founding Fathers" program. The program will be held in the Zurcher Auditorium in the Merillat Centre for the Arts on the Huntington University campus, 2303 College Avenue.

## Heartland REMC and TWN to sponsor 2021 A B.I.G. Day



Heartland REMC and TWN Communications will be the sponsors of the 2021 Huntington County Chamber of Commerce's A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing. The golf outing will be

held on Wednesday, September 15 at Maple Grove Golf Course. The golf course is located at 5961 W. Maple Grove Road.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch being served at 11 a.m. The event will begin with a shotgun start at 12 noon. Each team consists of six golfers with an entry fee of \$85 per golfer. Golfers will be treated to lunch, dinner and six beverage tickets that may be used for beverages on the golf course throughout the day.

The first place team will win \$360; second, \$180 and third place, \$90. Deadline to register at a discounted price is Monday, September 6. The driving range will also be free to all golfers. Awards will be given out immediately following dinner.

For more information on the event, call the Chamber office at (260) 356-5300.





Shown in the photo, left to right, are Lyle Juillerat, Assistant Vice President /Huntington Banking Center Manager for 1st Source Bank; Larry Mayers, 1st Source Bank Fort Wayne Region President; Danielle Tips, Pathfinder Services President and CEO and Katy Strass, Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center Director.

## HAEC receives \$5,000 from 1st Source Bank

The Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center (HAEC), a collaborative community impact project of Pathfinder Services, the LaFontaine Arts Council and Huntington University, received a \$5,000 grant from the 1st Source Foundation at the HAEC, located at 32 E. Franklin Street.

The grant will provide the HAEC with some of the equipment needed to offer in-person classes virtually and as recordings.

"This is an exciting opportunity," says Katy Strass, Director of the HAEC. "Once fully equipped, our classes and arts and cultural presentations will become accessible to people who do not live in the area, aren't yet comfortable with in-person classes, or need an alternate format."

This \$5,000 grant will fund the majority of the technology and equipment needed to digitize HAEC classes.

"Arts education is an important part of every community, and we applaud the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center's commitment to make that education more accessible," says Larry Mayers, 1st Source Bank Fort Wayne Region President. "This enhancement and expanded programming are sure to have a lasting impact on the community and those the HAEC serves."

Digitizing classroom offerings at the HAEC will allow the center to reach new audiences, grow the student base and bring more awareness to classes being offered in downtown Huntington.

"1st Source Bank is happy to support education in business and the arts here in Huntington County," says Lyle Juillerat, AVP, Huntington Banking Center Manager for 1st Source Bank. "The Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center plays a vital role in this, and with new equipment, they will be able to reach more students in Huntington County and beyond."

The Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center is a multi-purpose community arts center that serves all people as they pursue their interests in the arts and in business opportunities. It is located in the commercial space of the UB Block historic buildings in downtown Huntington.



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## HU hosts ARIDE course to detect impairment

Huntington University was pleased to host the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course, which equipped officers to better detect impaired driving, specifically drug impairment that may be difficult to detect using traditional investigative techniques.

"Impaired driving kills an American every 50 minutes, and that rate is increasing. Therefore, it is vital that we train our officers to detect these dangerous drivers before they harm themselves or innocent victims on the roadways. I am very proud that Huntington University Police Department (HUPD) was able to host 22 officers from eight different agencies this week. HUPD is committed to providing state-of-the-art training for agencies across to the state so they can better serve and protect our communities," said Chief Keirsh Cochran of the Huntington University Police Department.

ARIDE is a 16-hour training course taught by DRE instructors. According to In.gov, ARIDE is intended to provide officers with general knowledge related to drug impairment by promoting the use of DREs (Drug Recognition Experts) in states that have the DECP (Drug Evaluation and Classification Program). The ARIDE program stresses the importance of the signs and symptoms of the seven drug categories. This course trains law enforcement officers to observe, identify and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol or a combination of both to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents as well as crashes that result in serious injuries and fatalities.

The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

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## State records surplus, taxpayers to get refund

Source: Inside INdiana

State Auditor Tera Klutz says Indiana closed the 2021 fiscal year with \$3.9 billion in reserves. As a result, the record number will trigger the state's automatic taxpayer refund process, which will provide a total of more than \$545 million in refunds to Hoosiers.

A law signed in 2012 by then-Governor Mitch Daniels sends a portion of the state's surplus back to taxpayers if the reserves are more than one-eighth of spending, according to WIBC/Network Indiana Statehouse Bureau Chief Eric Berman. Indiana's excess reserves for the fiscal year total was just under \$1.1 billion.

Under the law, half of the excess reserves are refunded to taxpayers, while the other half goes into the state's Pension Stabilization Fund. The exact amount individual Hoosiers will receive will not be known until November, when the state has an idea of how many taxpayers there are.

State Budget Director Zac Jackson says the official revenue forecast on April 15 added \$463 million to the state's revenue projections for the fiscal year. Since that time, the state exceeded projections by an additional \$1.2 billion, which Jackson calls "unprecedented."

Governor Eric Holcomb released a statement following the release of the close-out report:

"Because of the strong position Indiana occupied going into last year's unprecedented global pandemic and partnerships at all levels of government, we now find ourselves at a place of full employment and growing economy. State fiscal leaders deserve high praise for closely monitoring financial forecasts and then quickly adapting to the facts on Main Street, Indiana.

We quickly pivoted from managing through a once anticipated recession due to the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic to closing the state fiscal year with \$3.9 billion in combined reserves. Now, with our 19th straight balanced budget, we are working on everything from mental health programs and health care supports to record increases in K-12 tuition support. We're investing in state public facilities and infrastructure projects statewide on a level never seen before all the while doing everything we can to create a highly skilled workforce to fill the open jobs of today and tomorrow.

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**Cheryl McCoy**  
Branch Manager

## Indiana touts \$500M READI program initiative

Indiana Economic Development Corporation says 91 of Indiana's 92 counties are participating in the \$500 million Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative. A total of 18 regional groups have been formed to pursue up to \$50 million in READI funding designed to spur investment in quality of place efforts.

The Northeast Indiana group led by the Northeast Indiana RDA will participate. Participating counties include: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Kosciusko, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

The READI program was launched in May, with the goal of creating projects and programs to attract and retain top talent. The IEDC said at the time READI is expected to attract at least \$2 billion of local, public, private and philanthropic match funding.

Now that each region has declared its intention to pursue funding, the next step in the READI program is for the regions to develop and submit their regional development plans. The plans, which are due August 31, will outline the regions' strategies to invest the funding, which could include physical projects and multi-year programs "to advance quality of place, quality of life and quality of opportunity."

"READI will help harness a natural synergy of regional economic development leaders and private industry professionals to implement strategic investments in quality of place and innovation," Governor Holcomb said in a news release. "We encourage stakeholders to collaborate and think big. Focus not only on shovel-ready, but multi-year programs to develop talent, drive innovation, quality of life which will transform our great Hoosier state for future generations to come."



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## Mark Your Calendars

### **Huntington Farmer's Market**

Central Christian Church, 500 MacGahan Street  
Each Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m.

### **Music in the City**

Saturday, August 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Roustabout, Downtown Huntington

### **Touch-A-Truck**

Saturday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Huntington Municipal Airport, 1365 Warren Road

### **Roanoke Fall Festival**

Thursday, September 9 to Saturday, September 11  
Downtown Roanoke and Roanoke Park

### **Constitution Day**

Friday, September 17, 7 p.m.  
Zurcher Auditorium at Huntington University

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