

# 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 2022

## Downtowns thriving through revitalization, events

Huntington County downtowns are becoming desirable locations for shopping, dining and entertainment. Through the efforts of many dedicated individuals, areas that once had many “shut doors” are now thriving through revitalization.

Downtown Huntington offers many new shopping and dining venues opened by individual owners over the past several years. New storefronts, and interiors filled with goods enjoyed by consumers make for a downtown destination that is desired by locals and visitors alike.

Creating a thriving downtown has also involved inviting the public to special shopping events, musical groups providing free musical entertainment and other activities such as car shows and festivals. Active, safe downtowns not only attract investment within local communities but also have a positive impact on the county as a whole.

Huntington’s downtown has provided

sponsored musical entertainment throughout the summer months in the form of “Music in the City.” On the second Saturday of each month downtown stores offer in-store discounts and specials throughout the day. This is followed by a musical group performing on the Courthouse landing on Franklin Street, food trucks and beer and wine for sale. The Second Saturday events to come include The Bulldogs on August 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and The Rock of Elders on September 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the evening with the Huntington community.

Special events coming to downtown Huntington include the Back to School Bash July 30, Corvettes on Jefferson from 3 to 7 p.m. on August 27 and the Harvest Festival on October 1. Information about Christmas in the City will follow in the near future. The Huntington County Historical Society, 315 Court Street, is also conducting



The Downtown Roanoke Farmer's Market has been a great way to bring people to downtown Roanoke. The Farmer's Market opens on Friday evenings and brings in vendors from around the area.

a Historical Walk on August 20 from 9 to 10 a.m. throughout the downtown. To keep informed about local events visit [huntington-chamber.com](http://huntington-chamber.com).

Warren’s Riverside Park is the site for musical entertainment on Final Fridays of each month. Local restaurants are open and a food truck is on site. Entertainment yet to come in Warren includes Sweetwater All Stars on August 26 and The Bulldogs on September 30. The concerts are organized by the Warren Area Chamber of Commerce and are from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by local businesses and are free to attend. Those attending need to bring a lawn chair. See the Warren Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for information at [WarrenIndianaChamber](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenIndianaChamber).

Downtown Roanoke features a Farmer’s Market every Friday evening. Musical entertainment is a part of the experience and local restaurants are open. Roanoke’s Fall Festival is centered in the downtown area September 8 through 10, and a Renaissance in Roanoke Juried Art Fair takes place October 8. Visit [discoverroanoke.org](http://discoverroanoke.org) to see the additional activities offered in Roanoke.

(Story Continued on Page 2)



The Downtown Business Association and the Music in the City committee continue to hold concerts downtown on the Second Saturdays of June, July, August and September. Prior to the concerts, local merchants are offering sales at their stores for people desiring to shop. The concerts feature local food trucks and other local establishments participating in the events. The Bulldogs will be featured on Saturday, August 13 for the next concert.

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# Downtowns thriving continued

(Story Continued From Page 1)

Local events help to support the quality-of-life in our community. They bring people together and attract visitors that may eventually want to call Huntington home. People are looking for things to do locally while keeping their budgets in line. The more people that move into or visit our community help to keep the motels, retail stores, restaurants, gas and convenience stores and more in business.

Investing in the downtown areas and participating in the activities offered in them builds a strong sense of place that residents want to be a part of and tourists want to visit. Huntington County's downtown areas have been beautified and are inviting places to visit. Benches, hanging flower baskets, flower-filled pots, educational flags, sufficient lighting, handicap accessibility and more have created atmospheres for gathering and enjoyment.



The top photo shows a scene of one of the larger events in Roanoke - the Rolling into Roanoke car show. Typically the car show brings in more than 400 cars. Rolling into Roanoke has continued to grow over the years. The bottom photo is a scene of ice carvers at last year's Festival of Trees in Warren. Communities are organizing more events in their areas to draw more people to town.

## John Trout selected as HCCSC superintendent

The Board of School Trustees formally approved John Trout as HCCSC's new superintendent during Monday night's special session board meeting. Trout replaces former superintendent Chad Daugherty, who left HCCSC for a position in South Carolina after 25 years of service to the HCCSC community.



Trout had been serving in the role on an interim basis since the beginning of July. Monday's decision to promote Trout to the full-time role makes him the ninth superintendent in HCCSC's history. Prior to Trout's interim superintendent stint, he served as the assistant superintendent for business and classified staff since February 28 after serving in the position on an interim basis beginning in January.

"The HCCSC Board of School Trustees is pleased to approve the hiring of Mr. John Trout as our new superintendent," said HCCSC Board of School Trustees President Matt Roth. "We truly believe that John's extensive experience in education, along with his deep roots in our community, will be a tremendous benefit to our school corporation. John has a long history of success in education, and we look forward to working with him to continue to enhance and improve learning opportunities at HCCSC."

A 1980 graduate of Huntington North High School, Trout completed his undergraduate studies in secondary education at Taylor University in 1984 before earning a master's degree in school administration from IPFW in 1989 and an educational specialist degree from Ball State University in 2007.

Trout began his career in education as a teacher at Etna-Troy Township School in Columbia City for seven years before spending 16 years as a building principal within Whitley County Consolidated Schools. Trout then went on to serve as the superintendent of the Madison-Grant United School Corporation for eight years and Concord Community Schools for four years. Outside of education, Trout also served as the executive pastor at the First Church of the Nazarene for two years.

Trout and his wife, Cathy, have two daughters, Audrey and Allyson, and a son-in-law, Drew Schnitz, all HNHS graduates.

"I want to thank the HCCSC Board of School Trustees for giving me this opportunity to serve as superintendent in my home district," Trout said. "The education that I received while as a student at Warren Elementary, Salamonie Junior High School and then Huntington North High School served as a foundation for me to build a professional career that I could have never imagined. As a lifelong resident of Huntington County, my wife and I could not think of a better school community to raise and educate our own daughters and we cannot begin to thank all of the teachers, administrators and staff who impacted their lives! We are truly grateful parents!"

"I look forward to working with our school board, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and community as we strategically and collaboratively work together to ensure each one of our students receives the education they so richly deserve."

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A grand opening and ribbon cutting were held at Huntington's Planet Fitness on Wednesday, July 20. Shown in the photo, front row, left to right, are Terry Miller, Chamber Ambassador; Darla Kestle, COO; Michelle Penny, OPS; Adam Willaeyts, CEO, all from Planet Fitness; Al Williams, junior project manager; Adalyn Markle, local manager and Chris Witt, regional manager, both from Planet Fitness; Ryan Fox, construction director; Missy Carlisle, district manager and Megan Buller, local assistant manager, both from Planet Fitness and Annette Carroll, City of Huntington. Back row, from left, are Rachel Farmer and Paula Whiting, Lake City Bank and both Chamber Ambassadors; Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District; Bob Caley, Chamber board of directors; Sarah Hawkins, marketing manager, Planet Fitness, and Brittany Brown, Chamber Ambassador.

## Planet Fitness has grand opening, ribbon cutting

Planet Fitness, 230 S. Jefferson Street, located in the former Marsh Supermarket, held an open house and their official Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Wednesday, July 20. Planet Fitness gave tours of the facility to the community and had several give-aways. The construction on the local Planet Fitness was completed by Michael Kinder and Sons, Inc. (MKS), Fort Wayne.

The 18,000 square foot Plant Fitness is completely new with weight rooms, exercise rooms, men and women's locker rooms, massage chairs and suntan beds. The use of the new facility is by membership.

It's a Planet Fitness goal to provide a clean, safe, welcoming environment for anyone who walks through the door, and all the equipment, amenities and support needed once their members are in the facility.



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

Heartland REMC and TWN Communications will be the sponsors of the 2022 Huntington County Chamber of Commerce's A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing. The golf outing will be held on Wednesday, September 14 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.

Those interested in joining the Chamber on the golf course can download the registration form at [www.huntington-chamber.com](http://www.huntington-chamber.com)

## Does your business need a marketing plan?

If your business or non-profit organization needs an updated marketing plan, please consider allowing Huntington University marketing students to develop one as a course project. During their fall Principles of Marketing course, students will work in groups to prepare marketing plans for area businesses, non-profit organizations, products and causes.



During the semester, students will analyze the client's external operating environment, including competitors, regulatory, economic, social and technological elements. Students will also prepare a marketing mix strategy with pricing, product, promotion and placement (distribution) recommendations.

If you have questions or would like Huntington University to work with your organization, please get in touch with Dr. Brock Zehr at email [bzehr@huntington.edu](mailto:bzehr@huntington.edu).

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## Bartrom to discuss new wage laws August 19

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce will hold a seminar on Friday, August 19 to discuss the updates and changes to the Indiana state wage laws. Adam Bartrom, attorney for Barnes & Thornburg, Fort Wayne, will present at the seminar.



The seminar will be held at Faith Community Church, 3615 N. Norwood Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a \$10 fee for lunch.

Topics for the seminar include: overtime calculations, compensable working time, COVID-19 wage and hourly matters, pay equity, equal pay and child labor laws. The seminar will also cover new laws for 2022 to include the changes to Indiana's state wage laws, wage garnishment, child support and government contractors.

If you would like to attend this seminar, email [skimmel@huntington-chamber.com](mailto:skimmel@huntington-chamber.com). The seminar is \$10 per person and this will include lunch.



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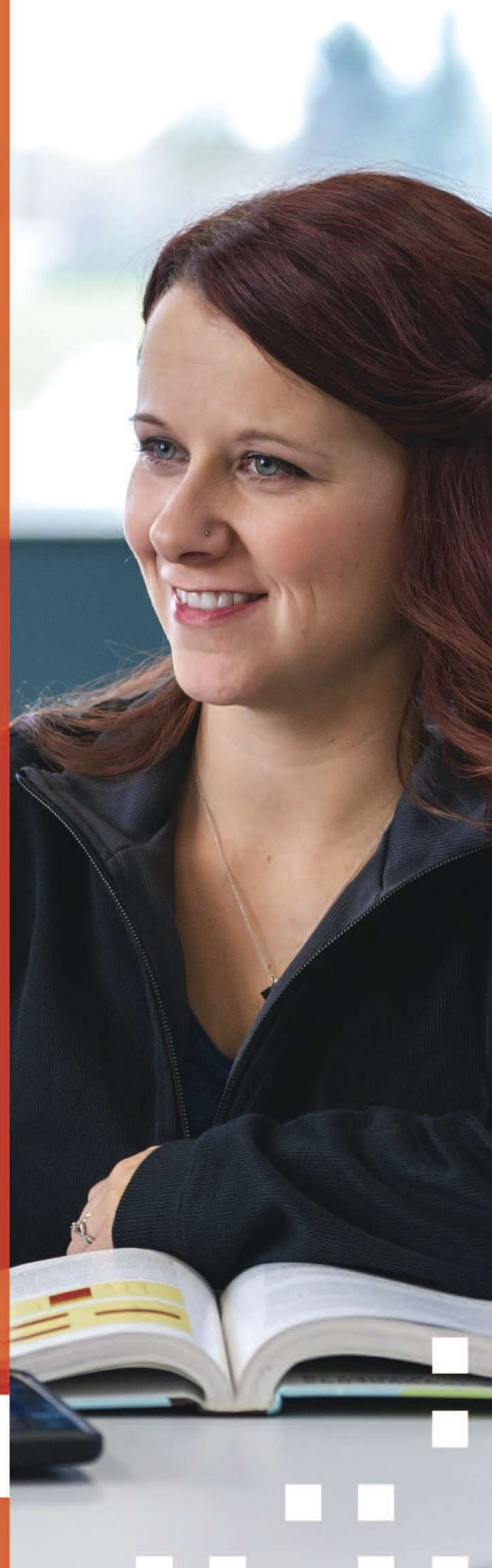
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## Mark Your Calendars

### **Huntington Tails & Trails**

Saturday, August 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Evergreen Park, 1390 Evergreen Road

### **Music in the City - The Bulldogs**

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

### **Toast to the Arts**

Thursday, August 18, 5 to 9 p.m.  
Chapel Road Retreat, 9201 W. Chapel Road, Andrews

### **Lunch 'n Learn Seminar**

Friday, August 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Faith Community Church, 3615 North Norwood Road

### **New Life Ministries Golf Outing**

Saturday, August 20, Registration: 8:30 a.m.; Tee off: 9 a.m.  
Clear Creek Golf Course, 10930 N 300 W

### **Corvettes on Jefferson**

Saturday, August 27, 3 to 7 p.m.  
Downtown Huntington

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