

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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VA Clinic opens on Northpark Avenue, Huntington

“There is help for veterans, and it’s right here in Huntington.”

The Huntington County Veterans Service Office is proud to announce a new, local option for veterans’ health care services in partnership with Fort Wayne-based VA Northern Indiana Health Care Systems. The establishment of a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic at 2859 Northpark Avenue, Suite 110, in Huntington was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 20.

The Huntington VA Clinic will begin seeing patients on July 31. Two primary care teams consisting of a doctor, nurse practitioner and support staff will provide veterans with health care services. Regular hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The clinic’s key services include: primary care for veterans, laboratory capabilities for blood draws in preparation for an appointment, pharmacy assistance with mail-order prescriptions and group PTSD counseling to be offered in the near future.

Any veteran who meets the registration requirements is eligible for services at the new Huntington clinic. Generally, this includes: former POWs, Purple Heart recipients, those who served in southwest Asia, those exposed to water contamination at Camp Lejeune, those who have a service-connected disability with a ten percent rat-



A ribbon cutting was held at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System celebrating their new facility in Huntington on Thursday, July 20. The new VA Clinic is located at 2859 Northpark Avenue, Suite 110. Shown in the photo from left, are Landon Porter, Office of U.S. Representative Jim Banks; Helen Rhodes, Associate Director, Patient Care Services; Rob Miller, president, Huntington County Commissioners; Anthony Colon, Interim Director; Mayor Richard Strick; Mary Martin, Office of U.S. Senator Mike Braun; Steve Sheets, Associate Director and Dr. Grace Stringfellow, Chief of Staff. The photo at the bottom of the page shows the outside of the new VA Clinic.

ing or higher and low-income veterans below the poverty rate.

If you are a veteran who is unsure of your eligibility for services, please contact the Huntington County Veterans Service Office

at (260) 358-4863 to find out if you qualify.

Additionally, veterans not yet enrolled in VA care or currently receiving services at another facility can initiate health services at the new Huntington clinic during an Enrollment Fair from Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28. Daily hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Please bring your DD214 certificate of release or discharge papers with you to the clinic to help with registration. If you have questions, contact the clinic and request to speak with Dale McPherson.

“Veterans can get help right here Monday through Friday during normal business hours,” said Tim Eckert, director of the Huntington County Veterans Services Office. “The VA is trying to reach them by being in the community versus them needing to travel to hospitals in Fort Wayne or Marion.”



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The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at Renovate Counseling Services on Thursday, July 27 to celebrate their one-year anniversary of serving clients in Huntington County. The business is located in the Hope Rising Church, 1131 Etna Avenue. Shown in the photo, from left, are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor - Century 21 Bradley, Gwen Burns, Everwise Credit Union, and both Chamber Ambassadors; Abby Haskett, Renovate Counseling Services; Lane Sander, owner, Renovate Counseling Services; Tim Gilleand, site supervisor Renovate Counseling Services, Huntington; Michelle Korporal, Kaitlyn Lawrence, both from Renovate Counseling Services and Mayor Richard Strick. Middle row, from left, include Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance, Janet Branham, Community Foundation of Huntington County, Steve Godfroy, Official Insurance Solutions, Brittany Brown, MidWest America Federal Credit Union, all Chamber Ambassadors and Angela Spangler, pastor, Hope Rising Church. Back row, from left, are Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District; Drew Parrett, Arrow Insurance Group and Chamber Ambassador; Bob Caley, RE/MAX Results and Chamber board of directors and Christian Behling, Hope Rising Church.

Renovate celebrates one year

Renovate Counseling Services, 1131 Etna Avenue, celebrated their one-year anniversary serving clients in Huntington County with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 27. Renovate Counseling Services is owned by Lane Sander and Tim Gilleand is the site supervisor.

Renovate started in Bluffton, Indiana almost seven years ago by Lane Sander. Renovate expanded into Huntington in July of 2022. Since then the Huntington location has expanded to helping over 40 clients per week and having six therapists working out of the location. In its first year, Renovate Huntington has helped over 100 clients.

Sander mentions that in Bluffton it took much longer to reach that milestone. Tim Gilleand steps in at this time to help with a growing need. Gilleand is a licensed therapist and will in addition to having a caseload of his own, help with supervision of other therapists as they work towards full licensure.

Gilleand and his family moved to Huntington seven years ago to pursue a career in mental health, and is excited to now be working close to home helping clients in his own community. Gilleand brings a passion to help clients see full restoration and healing. Gilleand says that he loves taking clients on a journey through forgiveness therapy and is trained in EMDR for deeper trauma.

Renovate Huntington operates out of Hope Rising Church on Etna Avenue. Although a Christian organization, Renovate Counseling accepts all people regardless of faith affiliation, and also serves many people who seek them out for faith-based services. They accept all forms of commercial insurance and are excited to be another local option for clients with Medicaid/HIP/Medicare. For those without insurance, they offer low-cost options including working with interns.

Renovate Counseling can be reached by calling (260) 355-5100. You can also visit them on the web at renovatecounseling.org or Facebook.



Several members of the community including elected officials from city and county government gathered on Wednesday, July 12 to cut the ribbon at the new Riverfork Industrial Park on Progress Drive in Huntington. Shown in the photo above cutting the ribbon are Mark Wickersham, left, executive director, Huntington County Economic Development Corporation; Mayor Richard Strick, center, and Charles Chapman, City Council.

\$3.4 million infrastructure project completed

Submitted by HCEDC

Officials from the City of Huntington and economic development community celebrated the completion of a \$3.4 million infrastructure project to serve the new Riverfork Industrial Park on Progress Drive in Huntington. The project represents the first of a multi-phase effort to serve the park and surrounding neighborhood.

"Economic Development is a team sport," said Mark Wickersham, executive director of the Huntington County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC). "Local officials have dreamed about an industrial park at this location for over forty years. Completion of the primary infrastructure allows the park to come alive," he added. "Ground was broken 14 months ago. It's remarkable to have completed the infrastructure so quickly, ahead of schedule and on budget," he said.

Construction for Lot #1, a thirty acre site, is nearing completion as well. "These are once-in-a generation opportunities and the City team is using it to make infrastructure improvements that benefit existing residents and businesses in addition to new industries," said Huntington Mayor Richard Strick. "It's been a tremendous experience working with our public and private sector partners to translate this into a reality," Strick added.

HCEDC is a non-profit organization as recognized by the IRS under Code Section 501(c)3 and the owner of the industrial park. Local lending institutions Bippus State Bank, First Farmers Bank & Trust and First Federal Savings Bank, are the mortgage holders with the City of Huntington contractually backing the HCEDC in the process.

"Former Mayor Brooks Feters, former Bippus Bank CEO Ryan Warner, and at the time, HCEDC president Kyle Hamilton, designed a process for development which demands collaboration," Wickersham said. "No one individual has unilateral authority to make decisions about the future use of the industrial park. We have to work together and do and today, we've shown what can be done in 14 months when the team is all working together to get the job done," Wickersham concluded.

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Courtney Bonbrake hired as Coalition Coordinator

The Early Childhood Coalition is pleased to announce the hiring of Courtney Bonbrake as its Coalition Coordinator. Formed in 2023, the Early Childhood Coalition has a mission of creating positive early childhood experiences through community collaboration.

Specifically, Bonbrake will be tasked with coordinating systems and providing real solutions that create a community where quality early learning and child-care is accessible for all families in Huntington County.

"I look forward to collaborating with local businesses, child-care facilities, the Huntington County Community School Corporation, government officials and most importantly the families we are hoping to impact," says Bonbrake. A Huntington resident for the last 32 years, Bonbrake considers herself a lifelong resident of Huntington, although she was born in Fort Wayne.

Bonbrake and her husband, Ryan, are currently raising their three children in the Drovertown district of Huntington. "My family has personally faced many challenges that come with raising littles in a world where both parents may need to work," says Bonbrake. "I am excited to become part of the solution for families here in Huntington County that face the ongoing struggles around early childhood."

Bonbrake will have office hours Monday through Friday at the Community Foundation of Huntington County at 356 W. Park Drive. She can be reached by phone at (260) 289-2123 or by email at courtney@huntingtonccf.org.



Courtney Bonbrake

City announces Halloween Decorating Contest

As part of its demisemiseptcentennial festivities, the City of Huntington has announced details for a 2023 Halloween Decorating Contest. If you are a Huntington resident or local business owner, start making your plans now for your home or shop.

Winners will be chosen in five categories: Best in Show, Best Scary/Horror, Best Macabre, Best Business and Mayor's Choice.

Register your home or business any time from September 15 through October 7. Judging will take place October 23 to 25, and winners will receive prizes and signage to proudly display in their yard and/or business. The "Best in Show" winner will receive a \$200 gift card to spend at Spirit Halloween. A map of decorated homes and businesses that have been entered into the contest will be made available so that residents can tour them at their own pace from October 27 to 31.

Registration details for the Halloween Decorating Contest will be shared at www.huntington.in.us/city and www.Haunted-Huntington.com.

You should work here!



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Corvettes, The Bulldogs downtown, August 12

Saturday, August 12 will feature a big afternoon in downtown Huntington. The Downtown Business Association will hold its second annual Corvettes on Jefferson from 3 to 7 p.m., and The Bulldogs will perform on the Courthouse Square from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This will be a special year for this event as the Corvette is celebrating its 70th birthday. The first Corvette came off the assembly line on June 30, 1953. You will not want to miss this show.

Be sure to come in the afternoon and check out the cars, visit all of the stores downtown, pickup a treat and enjoy dinner in one of Huntington's restaurants or from one of the food trucks that will be located in the city parking lot across from the Courthouse.

Be sure to stay around in the evening as The Bulldogs will perform on the Courthouse Square on E. Franklin Street as part of Music in the City 2023. The concert is free to the public and is sponsored by Bob Burnsworth and Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group. Don't forget to bring a chair and blanket!







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Join Pathfinder for Toast to the Arts, August 19

Join Pathfinder Services as they present Toast to the Arts, their annual fundraising event dedicated to celebrating and supporting the Pathfinder Services Art Studios. These studios in Huntington, Plymouth and Wabash provide invaluable creative opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities who are part of our Connections programs.



At the art studios, our talented artists express themselves through various mediums such as painting, sculpting, sewing, drawing, and jewelry design. They not only find joy and fulfillment in their creative endeavors but also earn income by selling their unique works of art at our studios and community events.

Toast to the Arts is an enchanting evening filled with delectable food, refreshing drinks, entertainment, and a showcase of all our communities' artistic spirit. The event will feature the unveiling of a remarkable community art project and an engaging art auction where attendees can bid on exceptional artwork. Moreover, a marketplace will be available for those interested in purchasing the artists' creations, providing an opportunity to support these talented individuals directly.

Please save the date for August 19, 2023, from 5 to 9 p.m., as we come together to raise funds and toast to the remarkable talents of our artists. Stay tuned for more details and updates regarding the event. The event will take place at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3011 W. Park Drive.

For more information on the event, to sponsor, donate or register click Toast to the Arts.

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Big E Promos open for business in Huntington

Big E Promos has joined the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce as a new member and a new business to Huntington. Big E Promos is owned and operated by Eric Meyer, at right.



If you are looking for logo wear, business merchandise, promotional products, cups, swags, pens, cups, knife sets, sunscreen and much more too numerous to mention, give Big E Promos a call.

According to Big E Promos website, "They firmly believe that promotional products have the power to unlock new opportunities and create memorable connections. Whether you are launching a new product, attending a trade show or simply looking to reinforce brand loyalty, our products are designed to make a statement and leave a lasting impression."

Big E Promos is located at 1314 Flaxmill Road, Suite 500. You can also reach them by calling (260) 200-1051, email at eric@bigepromos.com, Facebook or their website at www.bigepromos.com.

Armor Coat Asphalt opens new business in Huntington

Armor Coat Asphalt Sealcoating has opened their new asphalt restoration business in Huntington. The company is owned and operated by life-long Huntington resident, Dustin Smith.



Smith said, "With over ten years of experience, I have four years of commercial sealcoating and five years commercial paving, along with the last two years paving and sealing for myself and with other local asphalt contractors. I am looking forward to working with the residents of Huntington County."

Smith went on to say, "We offer free estimates, competitive pricing and are fully insured. We feel offering free estimates are not only a courtesy, but a way for us to educate our customers and build trust. We want our customers to feel confident and comfortable with their decision and we will never pressure anyone." Armor Coat Asphalt Sealcoating can be reached by calling (260) 210-1307, or by email at estimates@armorcoat.pro. You can also visit them online at armorcoat.pro or visit them on Facebook.

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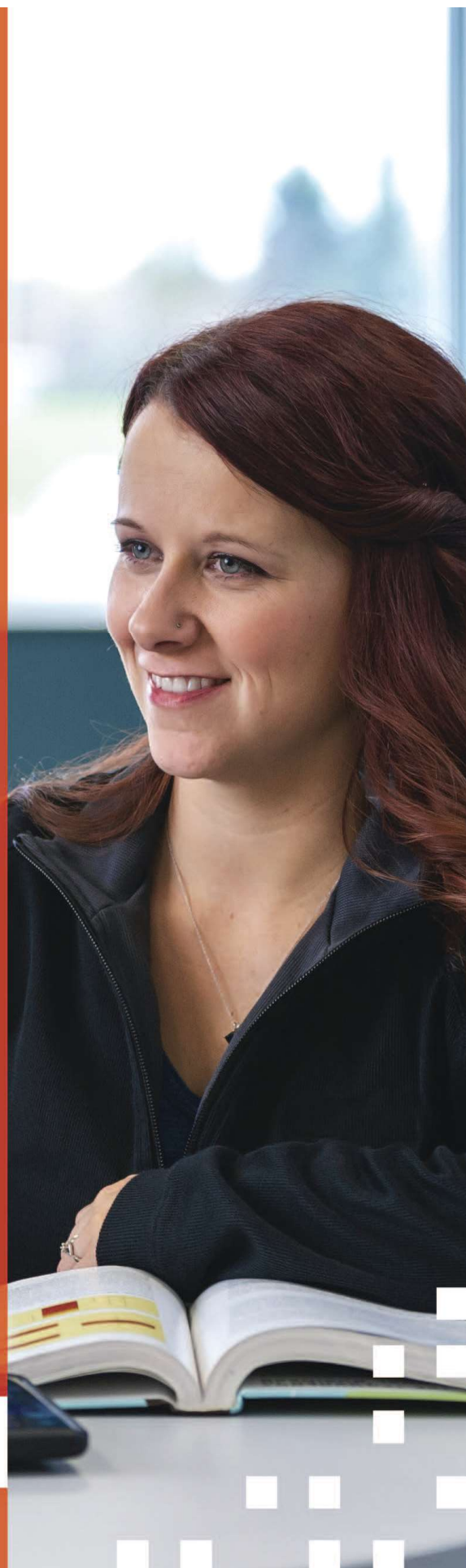
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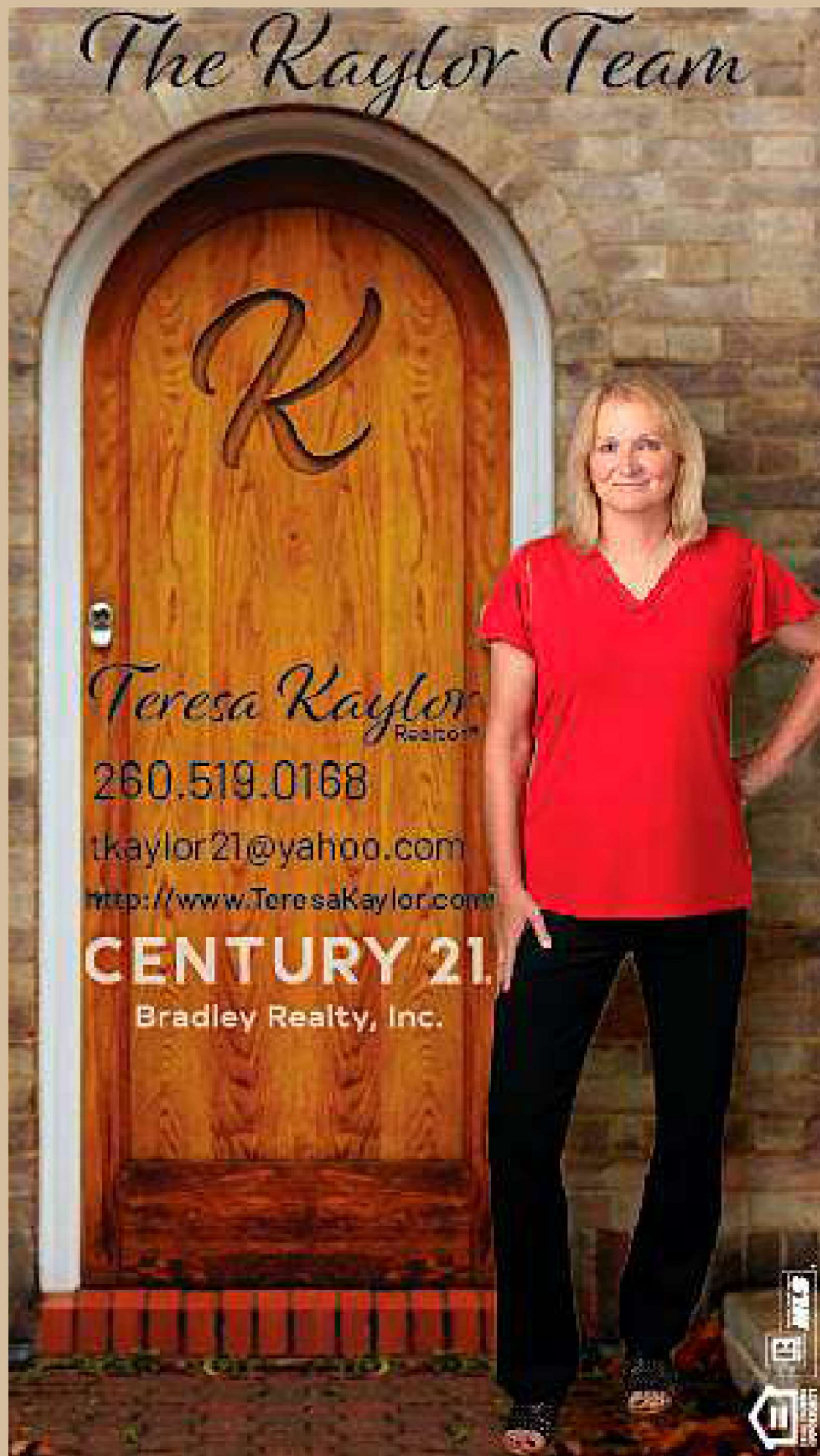
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Mark Your Calendars

Farmer's Market

Each Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m.
Evangelical United Methodist Church, 1000 Flaxmill Road

Corvettes on Jefferson, The Bulldogs

Saturday, August 12, 2 to 8:30 p.m.
Downtown Huntington and Courthouse Square

New Life Ministries Golf Outing

Saturday, August 19, Registration: 8:30 a.m.; Start Time: 9 a.m.
Clear Creek Golf Course

A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing

Wednesday, September 13, Shotgun Start at 12 noon
Maple Grove Golf Course

Pioneer Festival

Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24
Hier's Park

For A Complete Calendar of Events

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