

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • November 2021

Christmas in the City to be celebrated November 27

Downtown Huntington will be filled with the delights of the season for Christmas in the City, Saturday, November 27. From 3 to 5:30 p.m. children along with their families are invited to celebrate Christmas with games, pony rides, a petting zoo, Christmas tree lighting at Rotary Centennial Park, a visit to Santa at the Courthouse and more.

The Downtown Business Association (DBA) Heart of Huntington along with the City of Huntington and the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce organize Christmas in the City each year, and the activities are free to those who attend. The opportunities for fun will be located in various places throughout the downtown area. Downtown stores and restaurants will also be open.

Adults also have a special part in Christmas in the City, and may pick up a “passport” at The Party Shop for shopping Friday and Saturday. The passport will be stamped at locations downtown where a purchase is made. The completed passport with at least



Children will be able to visit with Santa again this year during Christmas in the City. Santa's hours will be held at the Huntington County Courthouse from 3 to 5 p.m. We encourage anyone wanting to visit with Santa to show up early. Social distancing will still be a part of the event.

five stamps can be turned into HomeCraft – The Art of Home, 400 N. Jefferson Street (second block), and prizes will be awarded to three lucky winners. Chamber Bucks will be awarded to first place, \$125; second, \$75; third place, \$50.

Saturday, November 27 will begin with Donuts with Santa at the Huntington County Historical Museum, 315 Court Street, from 10 to 11 a.m. Milk and donuts will be provided, and an opportunity will be offered to write a “Letter to Santa.” Call the museum at (260) 356-7264 and leave a message to place your reservation for the event. Reservations are required and space is limited.

Visits with Santa will take place in the beautifully decorated Courthouse rotunda from 3 to 5 p.m. Children can tell their Christmas wishes to Santa seated nearby, and family pictures will be taken at no charge by Frederick's Photography. Those visiting Santa are encouraged to come early to ensure that there is time to get their picture taken.

Children's games, sponsored by Smith Furniture, will be offered in the first block of downtown on Jefferson Street. Games include Tic Tac Toe; Snowman Bowling, Bean Bag Toss, Can Toss and a Sven Ring Toss. Children can pluck a treat from a lollipop Christmas tree, and The Indiana Dream Center will help with games. Jasmine and Thor will be on hand to greet children at the Downtown Salon and provide photo opportunities. Bend the Trend Boutique & Décor will host visits with Cindy Lou Who and her dog Max. Goody gift bags for children will be given by Not too Shabby.

Visits and photos with Christmas Belle from Beauty and the Beast will be located inside of Huntington's newest shop, The Fiber Alchemist, 442 N. Jefferson Street, in the second block of downtown. HomeCraft – The Art of Home, at the tip of the second block, will offer a gift wrapping demonstration every half an hour and cookie decorating. HomeCraft will also host a six foot

(Story Continued to Page 2)



Children will have the opportunity to visit with a live reindeer at this year's Christmas in the City.

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Christmas in the City continued

(Story Continued From Page 1)
animatronic Santa Claus.

Vendors will showcase their wares also in the second block. Currently, Eleanor Violet & Co. will sell candles, wax melts and diffusers; Color Street will sell nail polish strips; salts, balms and more will be offered by Soul Journey; Tehyas Trinkets, jewelry and the Huntington Parks & Recreation Department will sell Wolf & Dessaur Christmas tree ornaments for \$5. Additional vendors are still welcome to become a part of Christmas in the City and sign up by November 17. Contact the Chamber for a space.

The third block of downtown will feature a Nativity Scene in the windows of the Meal Ministry where hot chocolate, by the Meal Ministry, and cookies, by the Brick House Grill, will be served inside. Buddy the Elf and Jovie will greet children at Little Sweets Spot candy store, 315 N. Jefferson Street. Live reindeer and an alpaca, sponsored by Duke Energy and Bendix, will be a favorite area for children to visit. Pony rides and a petting zoo will enchant children, also in the third block, sponsored by ProFed Credit Union, Fort Wayne. Face painting will take place at the Fifth Parlor hair salon, Market Street.

The Grinch and Snoopy will be on hand while stories are read in the Huntington Arts and Entrepreneurial Center, Franklin Street (across from the Courthouse). Free books will be given to each family who visit while supplies last. Coloring books and crayons will be gifted to children, courtesy of Lake City Bank. The Huntington City-Township Public Library will operate Santa's Workshop, also in the Arts and Entrepreneurial Center. A Grinch-themed coloring packet and crafts will be offered along with photo opportunities. Ornament decorating will also be available as part of Santa's Workshop.

A mail box will be available at the Arts and Entrepreneurial Center for "Letters to Santa." The letters can be pre-written and brought along from home, written at the Historical Museum Donuts with Santa or written in the center and placed in the mail box. Letters can also be mailed to City Services, 734 Webster Street, Huntington, IN 46750 or to megan.thompson@huntington.in.us by December 17. All letters will receive an answer from "Santa" and parents



Buddy the Elf will be back for Christmas in the City. Joining Buddy this year will be his girlfriend, Jovie. Buddy and Jovie will be staged at the Little Sweets Spot, 315 N. Jefferson Street.

are asked to make sure a name and address accompanies the child's letter.

Cutouts of Olaf from Frozen, a Gingerbread person, the Polar Express and a Create Your Own Snowman area will be on the sidewalks throughout the downtown for photo opportunities. Evangelical United Methodist Church congregation will be part of a live Nativity scene. The Theatre Guild will conduct a coloring contest with the grand prize being tickets to their 2022 production of Willy Wonka.

Free popcorn will be provided downtown and will be served by the Bethel Assembly of God Rooted Student Ministries. The Lime City Brass will provide musical selections throughout the afternoon.

The grand finale will feature a HARTA bicyclists light parade and Santa on a fire truck arriving at Rotary Centennial Park at 5:50 p.m. for a 6 p.m. Christmas tree lighting. The Christmas tree lighting promises to be a spectacular light display accented by musical entertainment. Glow sticks will be distributed.

Come to Christmas in downtown Huntington and enjoy a holiday afternoon together as a family with your community for a memory-making, special time of celebration.



Shown above is the front page of the Chamber's new website. Visitors will find a much more robust events calendar, job postings, welcome to the community section and help for those looking to move to our county.

Chamber launches new website expanded events calendar and job posting sections

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce launched its new website recently. The new website is still located at www.huntington-chamber.com.

The website is now more mobile friendly and much faster than the previous site. With all new software updates included, the site is much more robust and includes an SSL certificate to keep the site more secure.

New to the website are Welcome to Huntington County, Living in Huntington County, Become a Member, Job Postings, Chamber Bucks and a Relocating to Huntington County sections for those looking for information when planning to move to Huntington County.

Also featured is a new Events Calendar. The calendar is updated daily, and features activities and events from all of Huntington County to include Andrews, Markle, Roanoke, Warren and Huntington. Simply toggle through the events, and keep up on all the activities of the county. If you are interested in attending one of our events and would like a reminder, click on the event you are interested in attending, click 'set a reminder' and fill in the email you want the message sent to and how many days in advance.

The new site has an enhanced Business Directory section categorized by the type of business. The directory includes the Chamber member's business name, address, phone number and a link to the business's website and Facebook page. The site also includes information on the member's business, hours of operation, if provided, and a Google map showing the location of the business.

The Blog Posts will still include all the news of local businesses that want to promote their important information.

Those wanting to place a help wanted ad, promote an event at their business or one in which they are helping, can submit the information as a Chamber member, or send it to the Chamber and we can submit it for you.

Please take some time and check out the Chamber's new website, we believe you will like what you see. The Chamber has more information on the site that is too extensive to mention here.



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Chamber calendar continues to be available on website



Here 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 the page, and then upcoming events.

To see the entire month, click on calendar of events. To place your event on the calendar, click on add your event and fill in your information on the form provided.

If you see an event you would like to attend and would like a reminder, click on the event and Set a Reminder. Place your email address and select the number of days in advance of the event you would like to receive the reminder, and our database will send you a reminder directly to your email inbox.

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.

Chamber offers job postings free to its members



Is your business looking for help? Are you looking for a job? The Chamber has the answers with its Job Postings section on the website. We offer our website for job postings to all Chamber members for free. All you need to do is login with your user name and password.

You are welcome to place your job posting ad yourself, or you can send your job posting needs to the Chamber staff and we would be happy to post your job posting ad for you.

To view our Job Postings, go to our website at www.huntington-chamber.com and under community, at the top of the page, you will find the Job Postings. The job postings include a description of the job, phone number, map and website of the business.

If you are looking for employees, be sure to remember your Chamber of Commerce. We are here for you and want to help you be more successful.

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COVID-19 spotlights urgency for manufacturing 4.0

Source: Deloitte, The Manufacturing Institute and the Manufacturing Leadership Council

Manufacturing is amidst another revolution, thanks to the capabilities data and machine learning have expanded from the previous revolution's adoption of computers and automation. Manufacturing 4.0 represents the next wave of manufacturing, using automation, IoT, AI and other technology to optimize factory efficiency.

Throughout U.S. history, manufacturers have been instrumental in emergence from the destruction and disarray of wars and the despair and distress of economic recessions. Now, with COVID-19, manufacturers have mobilized to meet the greatest health and economic threat of our time – further solidifying its status as an essential industry.

However, even before the pandemic, the industry has been facing a skills gap, with as many as 2.1 million positions expected to go unfilled in manufacturing over the next decade. While 63% of manufacturing jobs lost during the pandemic have been recouped, manufacturers are still reporting that finding the right talent is 36% harder than it was in 2018, despite an unemployment rate that has nearly doubled the supply of available workers.

This labor gap has accelerated the urgency for manufacturing 4.0 throughout the industry and the need for 4.0 transformation has captured the attention of many manufacturing leadership teams at a completely new level following the impact of COVID-19, including:

- Increased focus on real-time data and analytics
- Accelerated digital transformation initiatives
- Increased drive towards collaborative enterprises, and remote or virtual working/operations/monitoring
- Established safer working practices and environments
- Focused leadership on digital opportunities, transformation
- Improved preparedness, more resilient supply chains

Manufacturing 4.0 is changing the landscape for the industry; and not only is it changing the processes within the factory, it's also changing the skills needed to perform these jobs. In addition to hiring for these skills, many manufacturers are also investing in upskilling and reskilling their current employees on these new technologies. Today's manufacturing is an exciting industry, fueled by technology and individuals who are conceiving life-changing ideas, making a difference and improving the lives of others.

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Cheryl McCoy
 Branch Manager

Chamber holds After Hours at the Learning Center



A Chamber After Hours was held at an open house for the Huntington County Community Learning Center. A large crowd came out to celebrate the opening of the Learning Center's expansion on October 21.

A ribbon cutting was held on September 21 opening the new area, and tours were held at the Chamber After Hours for all in attendance. The expansion adds 20,478 square feet to the Learning Center for a total of 49,784 square feet at a total cost of \$4,156,620. Those in attendance toured the new 2,907 square-foot welding bay and classroom, the advanced manufacturing lab and classroom, the criminal justice area and simulation room, remote learning lab and industrial maintenance classroom and lab.

The original Learning Center opened in September 15, 2016 with an area of 29,603 square feet, and a total construction cost of \$1.45 million. As a hub for career readiness, job search, workplace certifications and college learning opportunities, the programs at the Learning Center are designed to improve the skills of high school students and adult learners in Huntington County to meet the workforce needs of local industries.

Courses in automotive, certified nurse aide, criminal justice, emergency medical technician, precision machining and welding, industrial maintenance, CNC machining and various other academic courses are offered at the Learning Center. The courses are offered for industry certification and/or college dual credit.

For more information about the Learning Center call (260) 356-2858 or visit www.LC.hccsc.k12.in.us.



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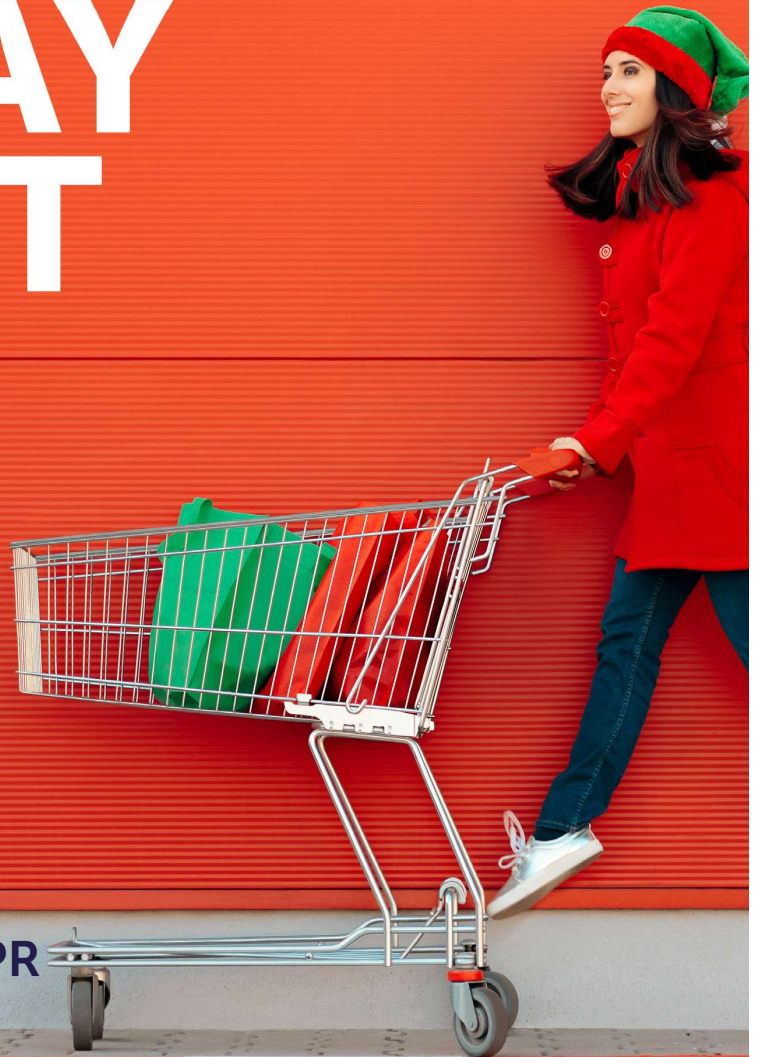
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Mark Your Calendars

Veterans Day Parade & Celebration

Saturday, November 6, HNHS, 10 a.m.

Celebration at Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park

Veterans Day 5K/Bike Ride/Fun Walk

Saturday, November 13, 9 a.m.

Indiana National Guard Armory, 800 Zahn Street

Community Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 6 p.m.

“Taking Back Our Community”

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Huntington North High School Auditorium

Kids Kampus Turkey Trot 5K/1 Mile

Thursday, November 25, 8 a.m.

Huntington University Fieldhouse

Christmas in the City

Saturday, November 27, 3 to 6 p.m.

Downtown Huntington

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