

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • December 2022

Horses, pony entertain at Christmas in the City 2022

Christmas in the City was celebrated by a large crowd Saturday, November 26 in downtown Huntington. A horse-drawn wagon decked out for Christmas provided rides to those in attendance throughout the downtown area. A special little pony pulling a cart gave rides to children, and other rides included ponies and a barrel train.

Visits with Santa took place in the beautifully decorated rotunda at the Courthouse, and children also visited a petting zoo, a reindeer, an alpaca and more. The fun also included ornament making and story time at the Huntington Arts & Entrepreneurial Center (HAEC) where children received free Berenstain Bear books. Coloring books, crayons, hot chocolate, cookies and pumpkin pie were found at the Meal Ministry.

Buddy the Elf and Jovie greeted candy lovers at Little Sweets Spot, and Mrs. Claus and some “elves” welcomed visitors to The Party Shop. HomeCraft – The Art of Home organized the passport shopping for adults which took place on Friday and Saturday. Bear & Beak Bakery offered guests delicious treats and photos with Elsa and Anna. The Grinch, Snoopy, Jasmine, Snow White, a Gingerbread person and a Berenstain Bear could be seen in various locations.

The Lime City Brass provided musical



New to this year's Christmas in the City event was this horse-drawn wagon provided by Sentimental Journey. The rides were sponsored by Teijin Automotive, and were a big hit with those attending this year's celebration.

selections, face painting took place, ice cream was served and popcorn was enjoyed throughout the afternoon. A live nativity was presented by the congregation of the Evangelical United Methodist Church, and a nativity scene could also be viewed in the windows of the Meal Ministry. Bend the Trend served up “Grinch” punch and cookies while shoppers visited with Cindy Lou Who.

The Indiana Dream Center gave children an opportunity to participate in some Christmas-themed games while waiting on Santa Claus to arrive by firetruck. The Rotary Centennial Park spectacular tree lighting followed and delighted all in attendance.

It was a blue-skied afternoon where all agreed they enjoyed the festivities, and their “Christmas Spirits” were lifted and ready for the holidays.



Santa and the Gingerbread person hanging out around the Christmas tree at Rotary Centennial Park.



The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department held its annual Sunken Gardens lighting ceremony on Sunday, November 27. The Community Choir performed from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and the lights were turned on at 6 p.m. This was a free event and the community was invited.

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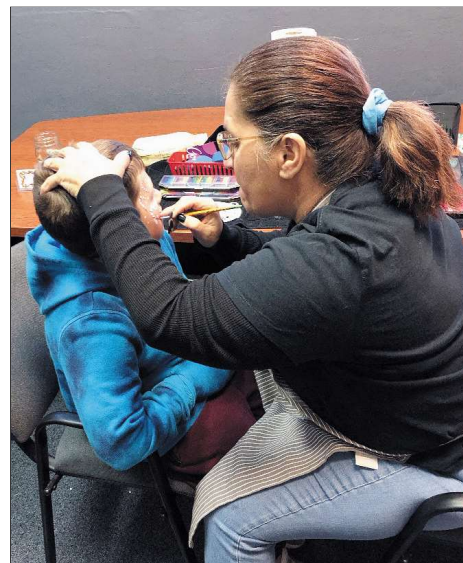
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More photos from Christmas in the City



The popular draw for Christmas in the City 2022 were horses and ponies. In addition to the horse-drawn wagon rides (see front page), were the pony-drawn wagon in the top photo and pony rides in the second photo. There were many characters for children to visit with including Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, Jovie, Snoopy, Jasmine, Snow White, a Berenstain Bear, Elsa and Anna. Shown above at left is a Gingerbread person, Cindy Lou Who and The Grinch. The photo at right on the bottom shows a young person having his face painted.



Huntington University students and community leaders attending the Student Leadership Luncheon on Tuesday, November 29 include, front row, from left, Victoria Hilderbrand, Valentin Mussi, Hope Eberly, Mateo Ameller del Castillo, Demarus Tawney and Dr. Brock Zehr. Back row, from left, are Phil Truitt, Truitt Law Office; Mark Wolf, First Farmers Bank & Trust; Eric Andrews, HCCSC; Nate Reusser, Reusser Design; Adam Skiles, Huntington University and Trent Wolfe, Kline's CPA Group.

Chamber holds lunch with HU students, county leaders

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon to introduce Huntington University students to community leaders. The luncheon was held on Tuesday, November 29 in the community conference room inside the Huntington Arts & Entrepreneurial Center, 32 E. Franklin Street.

The meeting encouraged the students in attendance to network with community leaders. It also helped leaders of the community get to know the students a bit better.

Students attending the event were interested in economics/finance, management, computer science, communications and public relations, accounting, entrepreneurship and pre-law.

Students attending the luncheon included Mateo Ameller del Castillo, Valentin Mussi, Hope Eberly, Demarus Tawney and Victoria Hilderbrand. The community leaders that attended and 'mentored' the students were Mark Wolf, senior vice president, First Farmers Bank & Trust; Adam Skiles, chief information officer, Huntington University; Nate Reusser, president, Reusser Design; Trent Wolfe, CPA, partner, Kline CPA Group; Eric Andrews, public relations coordinator, HCCSC and Phil Truitt, attorney, Truitt Law Office. Also attending were Dr. Brock Zehr, Huntington University associate professor of business & economics and MBA program director and Steve Kimmel, director, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce.

The luncheon started off by having each person attending introduce themselves and share a little about themselves. Students shared their after-graduation passion and goals. The community leaders shared where they work, education, advice and their path to their current destination.

After lunch the group broke up into smaller and more focused groups where the students asked questions of the leaders. Leaders answered the questions and then asked questions of their own. Everyone felt the time together was well spent, and all would like to be a part of the conversation in the future.



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Christmas in Our Town, Markle, December 2, 3

Christmas in Our Town will take place in Markle Friday evening, December 2 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Carriage rides, visits with Santa, story time at the Markle Library and treats will all be part of the evening. On Saturday, December 3 the fun continues at 8 a.m. throughout the day. Markle Exit 286 Antique Mall will host a Christmas Open House on both Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Christmas at the Forks is December 10, 11

Christmas at the Historic Forks of the Wabash will begin with a free Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning, December 10 from 8 to 11 a.m. Children and their parents are welcome to attend.

The annual Christmas Tree Walk will begin at 11 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. on December 10. Admittance is free and tickets can be purchased by those in attendance to vote for their favorite tree.

A Breakfast Brunch will be served at the Forks on Sunday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. The Christmas Tree Walk will continue on December 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. and voting for trees will continue. Drawings will be held and winners will be selected.

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The Salvation Army searching for volunteers

The Salvation Army of Huntington County is looking for volunteers ready to make a difference this holiday season. Volunteer groups and organizations are needed to help with seasonal bell-ringing, which began on November 18. The Salvation Army is also in need of a Coin Counter for the Christmas Season.



The Salvation Army is still searching for Volunteers for December 9 and 10 to sort canned food and nonperishable items. Volunteers just need to call the office at (260) 356-3485 and speak with Loretta Saunders.

The Salvation Army of Huntington County is located at 1424 E. Market Street. Call (260) 356-3485 with questions.

Huntington County EMA looking for volunteers

All volunteers will be trained in first aid including CPR and the use of a defibrillator and more.

Huntington County Emergency Management meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Emergency Management Office, located at Victory Noll, at 6 p.m.



If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about Huntington County Emergency Management, call (260) 358-4870 and leave a short message, or email robert.jeffers@huntington.in.us for an application.

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Ness to be honored with award on December 14

The Huntington University Foundation is pleased to announce Steve Ness, owner of Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers, will receive the 2022 Distinguished Service Award on Wednesday, December 14 at the Foundation Breakfast.

Ness, a Huntington County native who has successfully run a real estate and auction business for more than 40 years, has long been a supporter of Huntington University — particularly the men's basketball program. He spearheaded efforts to start the Meet the Team event during the Steve Platt coaching years, and that event has continued for decades. Additionally, Ness sponsors the Hall of Fame Classic tournament each November.

"Steve is certainly recognized as a leader in our community," said Peggy Platt, wife of Steve Platt and friend of the Ness family. "When he is asked to help with something, Steve never says 'I'll try.' He responds with, 'I'd be glad to!'"

According to nominators, Ness has been active with the Huntington County 4-H Horse & Pony project, the annual 4-H auction of livestock during the Fair and the biennial 4-H fundraising auction all at no charge or fee to the 4-H program.

The Huntington University Foundation established the Distinguished Service Award in 2002 to recognize individuals or organizations that embody the principles associated with the mission of the University. Recipients are chosen because they give substance and credence to the University's beliefs, make significant contributions to Huntington County and serve as effective role models for students.

The Foundation Breakfast will take place in Habecker Dining Commons. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m. The cost is \$12 per person but is free to first-time attendees. RSVPs are appreciated.



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Mark Your Calendars

Christmas in the Village, Roanoke

Friday, December 2, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Christmas in Our Town, Markle

Friday, December 2, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 3, 8 a.m. throughout the day
Markle Exit 286 Antique Mall Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HU's "Tis the Season"

Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.
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Christmas at the Forks

Free Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 10, 8 to 11 a.m.
Annual Christmas Tree Walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Breakfast Brunch
Sunday, December 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; \$10 per person

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