

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • January 2024

Ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings 2023



As the Chamber closes out another year in Huntington County, we are grateful for the many blessings we had during 2023. The Chamber is hopeful for 2024, and looks forward to the new year ahead. We build those hopes on our strong past, and the continued hard work of Huntington's dedicated leaders toward the future.

In this first newsletter of 2024, we look back at some of the accomplishments of the past year. The Chamber is featuring and sharing with you some of the ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings of businesses here in Huntington County. This information also highlights some of the more important functions the Chamber provides every day and every year to promote and support our member investors and the local business community.

As we begin the New Year, we also want to say "thank you" to all of our wonderful members, and pledge to continue our mission of "supporting and promoting a community atmosphere in which business prospers and the quality of life continually improves."

Shown in the photos from top left, down, are the ribbon cuttings for 2023 at West Park Tan, 1320 W. Park Drive; groundbreaking at Novae Corporation, 1 Novae Parkway, Markle; Wise Guys, 435 Cherry Street as they open for business; the new office of Eyecare Associates of Roanoke, 270 N. Main Street, Roanoke; top right, Soulweaveralchemy, 500 N. Jefferson Street, holds their ribbon cutting and the bottom photo on the right is the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Erie Tavern, located at 770 E. Franklin Street.



More accomplishments!

Huntington, Roanoke, Markle and Warren have all welcomed new businesses begun in recent months, and buildings revitalized, repainted, improved and more.

As we move into 2024, the Chamber is hopeful that the momentum continues. People are expressing the desire to visit downtowns for a special experience or that unique gift. Huntington County has begun to see the resurgence of small independently owned businesses start in the county, and the Chamber believes this is a positive beginning to the new year.

The top photo, at left, shows the ribbon cuttings at the new Edward Jones office of Joshua Thacker, 215 Second Street, Roanoke; the new retail store of Dolby Pool & Spa Service, 2819 Walmart Drive, Suite D; the newest Harmony Home, located at 351 E. Franklin Street; Fort Wayne Marketing, cutting the ribbon at their new offices in Electric Works, Fort Wayne; Summers of Huntington, 2982 W. Park Drive; top right, Tulip Tree Title, 305 Warren Street, cuts their grand opening ribbon; the ribbon cutting of the new Riverfork Industrial Park and Progress Drive off 200W and the ribbon cutting at the Huntington VA Clinic. The new clinic is located at 2859 Northpark Avenue, Suite 110, Huntington.



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Additional celebrations!

The top photo shows several people showing up for the ribbon cutting at the new Renovate Counseling Services, 1131 Etna Avenue, Huntington; the Blue Sky House of Pancakes reopens under new ownership and management at 2865 Guilford Street; a summer ribbon cutting was held at Tractor Supply, 135 E. Northpoint Drive, formerly Orscheln Farm and Home; the Chamber also held a ribbon cutting at the new offices of Truitt Law Office. The law firm moved into their new building at 1601 N. Jefferson Street.



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More accomplishments!

The top photo shows the groundbreaking at the new Lutheran Health Physicians Huntington office, located at 235 Hauenstein Road; the ribbon cutting at the new Public Service Credit Union, 1885 Old U.S. Highway 24; the groundbreaking of First Federal Savings Bank's newest location on State Road 14, Fort Wayne and the ribbon cutting at the new location of the 5th Parlour Salon, located at 442 N. Jefferson Street, in downtown Huntington.



Additional celebrations!

Other ribbon cuttings held in 2023 include the new dental offices of Marvel Dental. The new dental office is located at 2880 Walmart Drive, Unit 2920; other ribbon cuttings include the new dental office of Apex Dental Studio, located at 490 Bowen Park Avenue; Dicky's Express Car Wash held at ribbon cutting at their new car wash in December 2023 and the bottom photo shows the new Popeyes restaurant that is in the construction process on Hauenstein Road. The new restaurant will be located across the street from Wings Etc.

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The new Lutheran Health Network's (LHN) medical office has begun to take shape over the past few weeks in Huntington. The new office is located at 235 Hauenstein Road, Huntington.

Lutheran Health medical office taking shape

The new Lutheran Health Network's (LHN) medical office has begun to take shape over the past few weeks in Huntington. The new primary care clinic is located at 235 Hauenstein Road, Huntington.

The new medical office building will provide primary care, imaging services as well as rotating medical specialists. The facility is expected to open for patient care by late summer 2024. Construction on the 8,000 square foot project has begun. It is the first Lutheran Health Network facility in Huntington.

"This new site will increase access to quality healthcare services for Huntington and the surrounding area," said Nicole Rexroth, CEO, Lutheran Health Physicians. "A large number of residents from this area travel to other Lutheran Health Physician locations for care. This new site will allow them to have access to our medical services close to where they live and work."

According to Nick Alwine, president, FCI Construction, "The LHN Huntington Project is on schedule to be completed this summer. We continue to closely track lead times of mechanical and electrical equipment as the world continues to grapple with complex supply chain constraints and whether those will impact this date – which thus far does not appear to be the case. We recently have finished exterior wall construction and sheathing as well as underground plumbing and interior concrete slabs. The exterior masonry, windows and roofing products will be installed over the next few weeks as well the start of the interior walls and fitout."

"FCI Construction has been thrilled with the continued partnership with Lutheran Health Network, Lutheran Health Physicians, and Veritas Realty as we collectively deliver this facility, and service, to the Huntington community. We continue to look to ways we can increase our footprint in Huntington, a decision driven by the great people we have met and the relationships we have built throughout the community," said Alwine.

The general contractor for the project is FCI Construction and Veritas is the developer.

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Dicky's Express Car Wash, 2600 Walmart Drive, held their official ribbon cutting on Thursday, December 14 at their location. Shown in the photo, front row, from left, holding the ribbon are Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley and Chamber Ambassador; Mayor Richard Strick; Lindy Loftis, manager-in-training, Dicky's Express Car Wash; cutting the ribbon is DeAngelo Muldrew, manager, Dicky's Express Car Wash; Janessa Kipp, marketing director, Dicky's Express Car Wash; Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance, Paula Whiting, Lake City Bank and Bob Burnsworth, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group and all Chamber Ambassadors. Back row, from left, are Brittany Brown, MidWest America Federal Credit Union and Chamber Ambassador and Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District.

Dicky's Express Car Wash holds ribbon cutting

Dicky's Express Car Wash, 2600 Walmart Drive, held their official Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Thursday, December 14. There were representatives from the Chamber, city and county present to welcome the new car wash to Huntington.



According to Dicky's website, they provide the best car wash with exceptional customer service in the communities they serve. Dicky's supports their communities by sponsoring local events and donating proceeds to areas of need. Dicky's is committed to helping communities become better places to live, work and play. They promise to do their part in the communities where they are located, and to work hard to help prosper the local areas and agencies with special promotions and events.

Dicky's offers single or unlimited monthly washes and more. They also provide vacuums to clean the inside of vehicles, small blowers to clean out cup holders and dashboards and more, free with a car wash. Click here to see all the different packages Dicky's has to offer. Dicky's hours are Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Ivy Tech plans \$60M in capital projects

The Ivy Tech Community College board of trustees on Thursday approved a \$60 million capital improvement project on its Fort Wayne campus. The project includes a new nursing and health sciences facility, as well as renovations to college's Coliseum Campus.

The board voted to issue bonds up to \$60 million to finance the project, which Ivy Tech president Sue Ellspermann said has been a capital priority for board chair Andrew Wilson said is being made possible because of Ivy Tech's strong financial position.

Plans call for the construction of a 50,000-square-foot nursing and health sciences facility that Ivy Tech said will help address a nursing shortage in the region.

The college said the facility will allow the campus to increase enrollment in the Schools of Health Sciences and Nursing by at least 7% and boost completion of high-quality health care certificates, credentials and degrees by 20%.

The project will include the renovation and modernization of the Coliseum Campus, which is the main hub for Ivy Tech Fort Wayne. The effort will focus on increasing instructional lab space and reducing overall square footage, which the college said will provide operational savings of more than \$600,000.

"We must provide exceptional facilities with state-of-the art equipment where students can train for high-demand, high-wage jobs," Chancellor Kim Barnett-Johnson

said in a news release. "This project will allow our campus to provide a learning experience that mirrors what students will encounter in a modern industry setting while enhancing our support services."

Additional plans for the project include demolishing Harshman and Carroll halls, which were built in 1965; unifying student enrollment and support services into a single facility; and streamlining administrative office space to reflect a hybrid work environment.

The project must be reviewed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and State Budget Committee before construction can begin.

Ivy Tech aims to break ground in 2025.

Ivy Tech Fort Wayne is the college's second-largest campus and serves more than 19,000 students from Adams, Allen, Dekalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley counties.



Kim Barnett-Johnson

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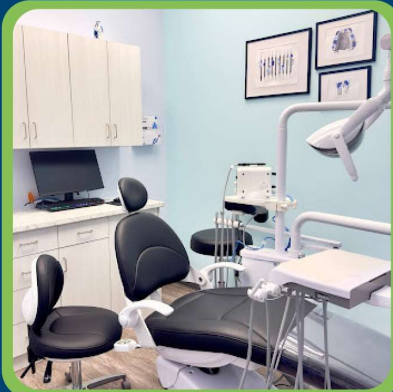


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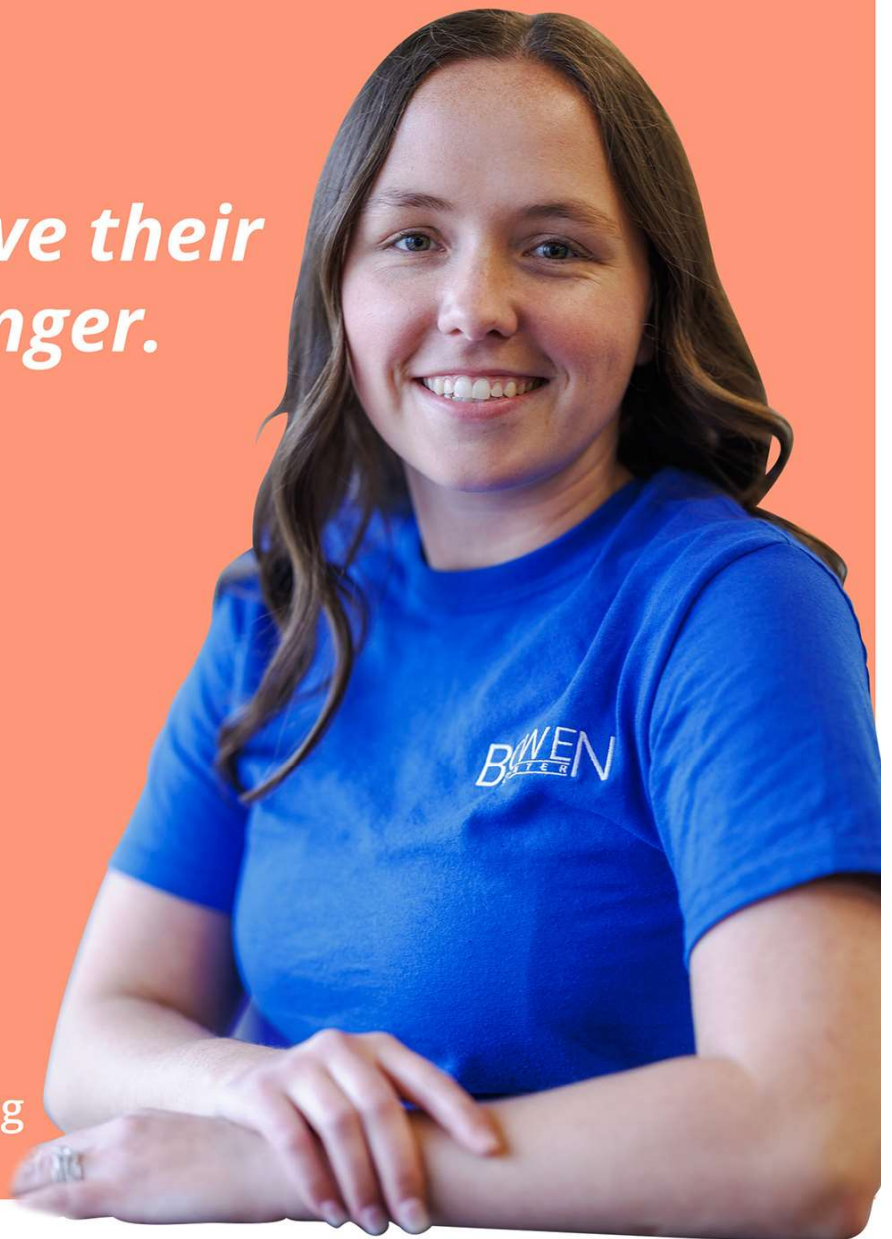
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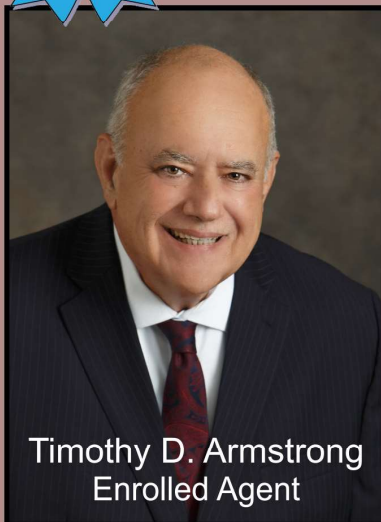
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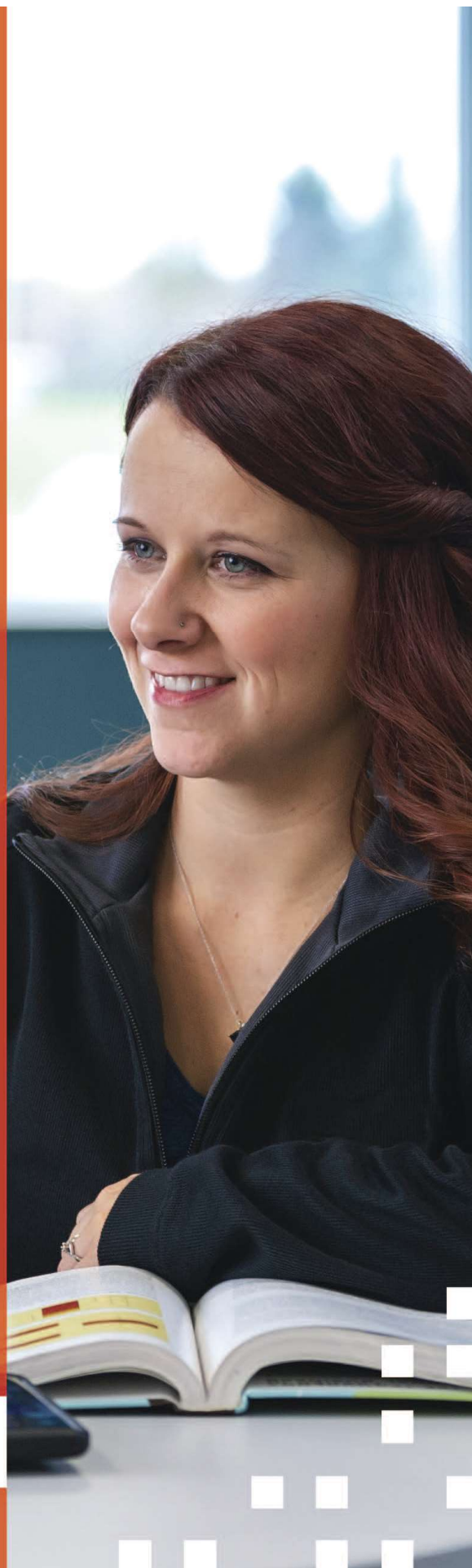
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Free Lunch

Saturday, January 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church, 530 Guilford Street

Free Lunch

Saturday, February 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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