

# The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

## Eleven students honored, two earn scholarships

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce along with the local Optimist Club partnered to hold the annual Student Awards Day on Wednesday, April 17. The event was held in the library at Huntington North High School.

Eleven students from eleven different disciplines were honored during the ceremony along with two Chamber of Commerce scholarship winners. This year the recipients recognized were Kelsie Ludemann, Agriculture, sponsored by Commodity Blenders, LLC; Kaitlyn Neal, Business, sponsored by First Federal Savings Bank; Bradley Bixler, Automotive, sponsored by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems and Delaney Houser, Certified Nurses Aide, sponsored by Huntington University.

Also honored were Nevaeh Tolin, Criminal Justice, sponsored by Bowers Brewer Garrett & Wiley LLP; Gloria Friesen, Education Professions, sponsored by Smekens Education Solutions, Inc. and Gracie Fields, Work Based Learning, sponsored by Intricut Tool Company, LLC.

Other students recognized were Sydney Cotton, Emergency Medical Technician, sponsored by Parkview Huntington Hospital; Christian Veach, Construction, sponsored by Beacon Credit Union; Cameron Oswald, Precision Machining, sponsored by Shuttleworth, Inc. and Landin Plasterer, Welding, sponsored by Novae Corporation.

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce awarded two students scholarships for their work through the Career & Technical Education field at Student Awards Day. The winning students had to submit an application and go through a personal interview process to win the scholarships.

This year's winners of the \$1,000 Skilled Trades/Continuing Education Scholarship were Jazmin Shepherd and Zoey Stanley.

Shepherd plans to work at Incipio Devices this summer and attend Ivy Tech to pursue a degree in welding this fall. Stanley will pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and possibly Forensic Science. She will attend Indiana Tech in the fall.



Two students from Huntington North High School each won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, April 17. Shown in the photo are Jazmin Shepherd, left, and Zoey Stanley. Back row, from left, are Heather Eash, Bob Caley and Shelly Snyder, all three are members of the Chamber board of directors and represent the scholarship committee.

## Chamber helps highlight Huntington products

The Chamber sponsored the first Huntington County Industrial Show in 1953. Held at the former Community Gym at Central School, its goal was to give the public a chance to see products manufactured and sold in Huntington. This show was the forerunner of the 1990s Business EXPO held in the fieldhouse at Huntington University.

Huntington manufacturing also led to the Chamber's aid in the development of industrial parks in the 1960s. The Huntington Industrial Park, on the east side, was zoned for heavy industry, and the Riverfork Development Co., Inc. was created with the Chamber's direction in 1968.

Riverfork Development aided in the purchase of 250 acres at the intersection of Old Andrews Road and Indiana 9 and 37 for the beginning of Riverfork Industrial Park. Hunckler Products became the first resident in 1971.

Funds for the improvement of Huntington Municipal Airport were raised by the Chamber. Huntington's airport helped to bring those with an interest in the developing industrial areas to Huntington County.





Shown in the above photo, front row, from left, are Delaney Houser, Kaitlyn Neal and Sydney Cotton, all student award winners. Back row, from left, include Susie Carr, Huntington University; Andrea Nightenhelser, First Federal Savings Bank and Doug Selig, Parkview Huntington Hospital and a member of the Chamber board of directors.



Shown in the above photo, front row, from left, are Gracie Fields, Gloria Friesen, Nevaeh Tolin and Kelsie Ludemann, all student award winners. Back row, from left, include Danielle Shaw, Bippus State Bank and member of the Chamber board of directors representing sponsor Intri-Cut Tool Company, LLC; Todd Latta, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA and Chairman of the Chamber board of directors representing sponsor Smekens Education Solutions, LLC; Joe Wiley, Bowers Brewer Garrett & Wiley, LLP and Terrie Feemster, Commodity Blenders, LLC, both sponsors.



## By the Book Praise Celebration held

The public was invited to By the Book Praise Celebration on Thursday, May 2 at Central Christian Church, 500 MacGahan Street, at 7 p.m. The event celebrated the Huntington County students, teachers and volunteers who participate each week during the school year in the By the Book program, which took place in Bible trailers off of school grounds.

Students in the fourth and fifth grade who participated in the recent By the Book Essay Contest were honored. The contest helped students in fourth and fifth grades write an essay about their favorite By the Book lesson for the year, and explain how they were impacted by it.

The overall winners and winners from each school of the contest were invited to read their essays to those in attendance at the Praise Celebration. Prizes were awarded to all participants, honorable mentions and winners of the contest, which have been provided through generous community support donations.

By the Book exists to help students in third, fourth and fifth grade learn about God and His Word in what is known as the Bible Trailer. The trailers are transported each week to areas near Huntington County Community Schools, off of school grounds, and students participate with parental permission.

By the Book teachers use the Bible as their textbook with lessons designed to teach students that God created them with a plan and a purpose for their lives. God's Word is used to teach and equip students with the knowledge to make right choices. Storybook Bibles are presented to third graders, Adventure Bibles to fourth graders and devotionals to fifth graders each school year.

For more information about the program, visit [bythebookhuntington.org](http://bythebookhuntington.org).

Shown in the photo at left, front row, from left, are Bradley Bixler, Christian Veach, Cameron Oswald and Landin Plasterer, all student award winners. Back row, from left, include Todd Latta, representing sponsor Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems; Lori Elston, Beacon Credit Union; Danielle Shaw, representing sponsor Shuttleworth, Inc. and Bob Caley, representing Novae Corporation.



Quinn Veterinary Clinic & Behavior Center held a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Monday, April 29. Shown in the photo, front row, from left, Terry Miller, Terry Miller Realtor Century 21 Bradley, Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance and both Chamber Ambassadors; Shelly Snyder, Bowen Center, Chamber board of directors; Jessica Jones, vet technician, Quinn Veterinary Clinic and Kisbee; Dr. Colleen Quinn, owner, Quinn Veterinary Clinic & Behavior Center; Randy Swihart, Dr. Quinn's husband; Kabrina Boyd, vet technician, Quinn Veterinary Clinic; Audrey DeWitt, Antech Diagnostics; Gwen Burns, Everwise Credit Union and Chamber Ambassador and Mayor Richard Strick. Second row, from left, Zach Shearer, Zach's Pet Services, LLC; Paula Whiting, Lake City Bank and Chamber Ambassador; Danielle Shaw, Bippus State Bank and Chamber board of directors; Ashlie Buzzard and Sparkles, Hoosier Real Estate Group; Jeannie Myers, owner, Town & Country Flowers; Steve Godfroy, Official Insurance Solutions, Brittany Brown, MidWest America Federal Credit Union and both Chamber Ambassadors. Back row, from left, are Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District, and Rod Myers, owner, Town & Country Flowers.

## Quinn Veterinary Clinic cuts the ribbon April 29

Quinn Veterinary Clinic & Behavior Center held a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Monday, April 29. The celebration was held at the clinic located at 2809 Theater Avenue, Huntington.

Quinn Veterinary Clinic & Behavior Center is a new-type veterinary clinic where everything performed in a veterinarian's office is also done there. The clinic specializes by addressing both the physical and emotional healthcare needs of dogs and cats. They focus on care for pets with fear, anxiety and trauma.

If you would like more information on Quinn Veterinary Clinic & Behavior Center, mark your calendars for this Saturday, May 4, for their Grand Opening Celebration! The celebration will be held from 2 to 5 p.m.

Those attending will see one of the first practices ever designed exclusively to work with anxious, fearful and traumatized pets, both medically and behaviorally. Find out how they will be working with other veterinarians, trainers and entire families to help pets live better lives.

If interested in learning more, email [info@quinnvet.com](mailto:info@quinnvet.com), or text to (260) 560-2261.

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# Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' in Markle, May 20



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Entrepreneurial Leadership Council, a committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce, will hold its fourth entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' on Monday, May 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Markle Church of Christ, 455 E. Morse Street, Markle.

The gathering will feature guest speakers Michael Siemer, president & CEO, Sortera Alloys, and Amber Miller, owner of BroxonBerry.

Siemer will discuss how Sortera Alloys brings state-of-the-art artificial intelligence, image/data analytics and advanced sensors to the industrial scrap metal recycling and re-use industry.

Siemer says, "This disruptive technology drives new paradigms by generating new high purity recycling products through advanced industrial scale sortation methods. Creating high purity recycled and up-cycled metal feedstocks from existing scrap streams enables the domestic supply of metals and alloys ready for use in high-quality domestic manufacturing, boosting the strength of the circular economy. Sortera's vision is to enable 100% reuse of metals recovered from end-of-life products for manufacturing of similar products."

The second speaker for the evening will be Amber Miller. Amber and her husband, Justin, own a small farm called BroxonBerry. Amber started BroxonBerry in 2016 with the vision of replacing her full-time job that did not allow time for family. Since then, in 2021, the farm had grown too large for Amber to handle by herself, so Justin happily stepped away from his full-time job to join in on the full-time farm life and has not looked back since.

BroxonBerry is a certified naturally grown produce farm with online ordering options for on-farm pickup or delivery. They offer a wide range of fresh produce, but focus mainly on leafy greens, roots and herbs, all while meeting the requirements for their CNG certification. They grow produce for local restaurants, grocery stores and the Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana (YLNI) Farmer's Market, plus a weekly box order on the farm, and they do it all on .4 acre of land. Their mission is to supply locals with delicious and nutritious produce nine months out of the year.

The couple says, "What keeps us going is our customer feedback. The job is not always unicorns and rainbows, but hearing how what they grow has affected someone in one way or another, that is a powerful motivator."

If you are an entrepreneur, aspiring entrepreneur, own your own business, thinking about starting a business or simply interested in learning more about growing entrepreneurial wealth in Huntington County, this gathering is for you. If you would like to attend this get-together reply to [skimmel@huntington-chamber.com](mailto:skimmel@huntington-chamber.com). There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP as the Chamber needs to know how many will be attending. Food will be catered by Nadean's Cakes/Cookies/Catering, Markle.

# Leadership Program set for 2024-2025

The Huntington County Purdue Extension Office is excited to offer the 2024-2025 Huntington County Community Leadership Program. The Extension Office, along with an advisory group, has been working on the implementation of a new program that will help develop the community leadership skills of area business, non-profit and county leaders.

Purdue Extension’s Community Leadership Program is a leadership development course for adults who want to make a difference in their communities. Through this series of interactive modules, participants develop their own leadership capacity and learn about the people, organizations and institutions that make up their communities and how they can engage in serving their communities more deeply.

The Leadership Program is comprised of nine sessions that meet monthly from September 2024 through May of 2025 at locations in Huntington County. Cost is \$400 per person – a limited number of scholarships will be available through the Community Foundation of Huntington County.

Applications will be open for the 2024-2025 program from May 1 through July 12. Payment for approved participants will be due by August 15.

Community Leadership Development Program sessions include: Introduction to CLP/Personality Strengths, September 11, 2024, 9:30 to 4 p.m.; Interpersonal Communication, October 16, 2024, 9 to Noon; Team Building, November 13, 2024, 9 to Noon; Education and Workforce Development, December 11, 2024, 9 to Noon; Economic Development and Quality of Place, January 8, 2025, 9 to Noon; Cultural Awareness/Conflict Management, February 12, 2025, 9 to 3:30 p.m.; Non-profit boards, March 12, 2025, 9 to Noon; Effective Meetings, April 9, 2025, 9 to Noon and Local Government/Community Health, May 14, 2025, 9 to 3:30 p.m.

Program and Lunch Sponsorships are available. Please contact Matt Ditzler, executive director, Community Foundation of Huntington County for details. If you have any other questions about the program, contact Ed Farris, Purdue Extension – Huntington County Director, at (260) 358-4826 or emfarris@purdue.edu.

# Erie Band looking for more musicians to join the band

The Huntington Erie Community Band will celebrate its 109th concert season this year. If you are interested in becoming a part of the band, they are looking for musicians to join them.

The band rehearses on selected Tuesday evenings at the College Park Church Family Life Center, 1925 College Avenue from 7 to 9 p.m. The band is open to any skill level of musician. If interested, they ask that you dust off your horn and join them. The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, May 7.

For more information, contact Thaine Campbell at tc.mc@comcast.net, or call (260) 356-3572 or Bruce Lemar at brucelemar@yahoo.com or by calling (260) 519-1850.



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# Celebrate Spring at LC Nature Park on May 4

Celebrate Spring! Roam the trails and watch Spring emerge on a hillside of millions of Great White Trillium. Enjoy nature games, such as Seed Ball Prairie Sling Shot Toss or Animal Olympics. Make nature crafts such as Clay Tree Faces and Stick Weaving and visit with conservation organizations and other vendors.

Food trucks to include Whip & Chill, B2 BBQ, and The Spicy Bird will be on hand for varied food options. Visit Indiana Wild and meet and greet many different types of wildlife. This is a self-paced, self-guided, open house style event. Sponsored by Lake City Bank, and T-E Incorporated. Come out and experience the splendor of Spring at LC Nature Park!

Always check our website at [www.lcnaturepark.org](http://www.lcnaturepark.org), Facebook, or call (260) 999-3153 for schedule updates and information.

**About LC Nature Park:** LC Nature Park is located on 300 acres southwest of Fort Wayne. It lies within the Little River Valley and shares a natural heritage with other nearby protected sites such as Eagle Marsh. The park's restored tallgrass prairies are home to a herd of both bison and elk. An ancient sand dune can also be found among the forested areas. The park's vision is to inspire a lasting appreciation for Indiana's natural history and native environment.



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# Century, Half Century awards now accepted

Nominations are being accepted for the Governor's Century and Half Century Business Awards, which honor Indiana businesses that have remained in operation for at least 100 or 50 years, respectively.

The businesses must also have demonstrated a commitment to serving the community, a news release from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation said.

The state has several other qualifying criteria for the awards. Businesses must:

- \* Have had continuous operations in Indiana for 100 or 50 years by December 31, 2023.
- \* Participated in the same line of work for the duration of its operations. If different, an explanation of the evolution into the current business must be provided on the nomination form.
- \* Have had its base in Indiana since it was founded.
- \* Recognize, acknowledge and agree that it is in full compliance with the Indiana Secretary of State.
- \* Not have previously received a Century or Half Century award from the state of Indiana. Previous Half Century award recipients may qualify for a Century award.

Eligible companies are encouraged to complete the online application by April 12. Go to this website to apply for either award. <https://www.iedc.in.gov/program/century-and-half-century-awards/apply>.



## Rock Steady Boxing hits back in Huntington

The Waters of Huntington and Parkview Huntington Family YMCA held their Rock Steady Boxing event on Thursday, April 4 at The Waters of Huntington. The event was held to help bring awareness to Parkinson’s Disease and Parkinson’s Awareness Month which is celebrated in April.

Rock Steady Boxing is open to all community members with a diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease. Classes are taught by YMCA instructors with classes held at the Rock Steady Boxing gym on The Waters of Huntington campus. If you or know of someone interested in learning more about Rock Steady Boxing, call Parkview Huntington Family YMCA at (260) 359-9622.

Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) enables people with Parkinson’s disease to fight their disease by providing non-contact boxing-style fitness programs that improve their quality-of-life and sense of efficacy and self-worth. Recent studies suggest that intense exercise programs may be “neuro-protective,” actually working to delay the progression of symptoms. RSB provides encouragement through a “tough love” approach, inspiring maximum effort, speed, strength, balance and flexibility. Boxing works by moving the patient’s body in all planes of motion while continuously changing the routine as you progress through the workout. RSB classes have proven that anyone, at any level of Parkinson’s, can actually lessen their symptoms and lead a healthier and happier life.

Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) is a first-of-its-kind, Indianapolis-based nonprofit gym founded in 2006 to provide an effective form of physical exercise to people who are living with Parkinson’s. Though it may seem surprising, this non-contact boxing inspired fitness routine is dramatically improving the ability of people with Parkinson’s to live independent lives.

For more information on the Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) program, contact Vanessa Hannie at the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA at (260) 359-9622, email [vanessa.hannie@huntingtonny.org](mailto:vanessa.hannie@huntingtonny.org). Classes at The Waters in Huntington are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, or Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. YMCA members and residents of The Waters can attend for \$25 per month, non-members are \$35 per month.

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## Pathfinder transitions out of Art Center

Pathfinder announced on April 11 its decision to transition out of the Pathfinder Arts and Entrepreneurial Center program, signaling a significant correction in its community engagement initiatives.

Founded on principles of autonomy, inclusion and stability for all individuals, Pathfinder has long been committed to fostering a vibrant and supportive community through its various programs and initiatives. The Art Center has served Huntington as a safe space of creativity, learning and cultural enrichment for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

However, after careful consideration and evaluation, Pathfinder has determined that its current capacity is limiting the Art Center's potential. Despite diligent efforts and multiple adjustments over the years, the organization believes that another entity may be better suited to ensure the program's continued success and growth.

"We are immensely grateful for the support and dedication of our community members, donors and partners who have been instrumental in the progress of the Art Center," said Chris Kauffman, Interim CEO of Pathfinder. "While this decision was not made lightly, it reflects our commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our community engagement efforts."

The decision to transition out of the Art Center comes with a desire to support the program's development and ongoing progress. Pathfinder will be actively seeking opportunities to find a suitable organization to take over the program, pending all legal and logistical approvals are met. Pathfinder is hopeful that the Art Center's mission of fostering creativity, learning and cultural enrichment can continue to benefit the community.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission and values, and we are confident that this transition will ultimately lead to new opportunities for growth and collaboration," added Kauffman.

Pathfinder is committed to maintaining open and transparent communication with all stakeholders throughout the transition process. Updates and developments will be shared with the community as they become available.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact Aubrey Eastway at [aeastway@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:aeastway@pathfinderservices.org).



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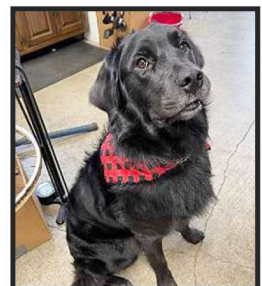
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40 E. Franklin St., Suite 121  
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# Mark Your Calendars

## **TK3K**

Saturday, May 4, 8:30 a.m.  
Huntington University

## **Markle Summer Sounds**

Friday, May 10, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Featuring: Debutants  
Markle Park, Markle

## **Designer Purse Bingo**

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.; Doors Open 5:30 p.m.  
Huntington PAL Club, 2099 Riverside Drive

## **14th Annual Harry Brinkman Regatta**

Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Lake Clare

## **For A Complete Calendar of Events**

Visit our website at [www.huntington-chamber.com](http://www.huntington-chamber.com)

## **Lime City Title Services, LLC**

327 N. Jefferson St.  
Huntington, IN 46750



Phone: 260-356-2988  
Fax: 260-356-5201  
[jbonewitz@limecitytitle.com](mailto:jbonewitz@limecitytitle.com)  
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Manager



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**Contact Tiffaney Drummond**

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