## The Chamber Scene

#### **HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • September 2023

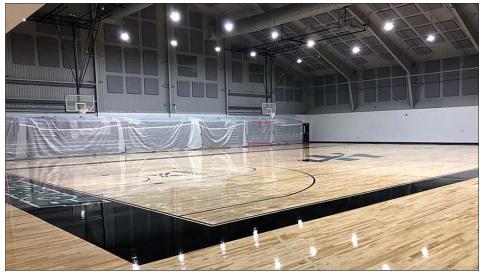
## **Huntington University PLEX taking shape quickly**

This summer has been very busy at Huntington University with all the construction taking place on campus. There is still plenty of work to be completed but the new gymnasiums, stadium, and other projects are beginning to take shape. FCI Construction is the contractor for the project.

According to Huntington University's COO, Russ Degitz, "The renovation and expansion of the PLEX continues to be an exciting project for Huntington University. We are currently putting the finishing touches on a major step in the project, namely the completion of the Platt Arena renovation. We look forward to hosting events in the arena this fall and winter."

"We also recently finished the installation of exterior lighting in King Stadium and eagerly anticipate hosting soccer games under those lights this fall. Over the course of the upcoming year, work will be focused on the new construction to the east of the existing building, which will include a new gym, weight/cardio area, new main lobby, significantly expanded restroom facilities, athletic and faculty office suite, robust concessions area, and a team shop for Forester Athletics apparel. The university is excited about this transformative project that will have a major impact on our campus and the greater Huntington community," said Degitz.

Nick Alwine, president of FCI Construction said, "On February 27, 2023, the transformation of Platt Arena officially commenced, marking a significant milestone. It has been full court pressure since that point as we have been actively working to reorient the gymnasium by 90 degrees. The project encompassed a range of upgrades, including a new floor, steel support structures, sound panels for improved acoustics, updated finishes and a modern video board. The collaborative efforts of the project team enabled us to overcome supply chain challenges, ensuring readiness for the first Athletic event in the redesigned space on September 2. We are thrilled for the University to showcase the transformation that has unfolded within the walls of the PLEX."



Shown in the photo above is the new gym in progress that will host the Huntington University Foresters in the upcoming season. The gym is taking shape, but several more additions will take place prior to its being ready for use around Labor Day. Below is a photo of the new weight room, left, and the athletic and faculty office suite, robust concessions area and a team shop for Forester Athletics apparel shown at right.



Alwine went on to say, "Amidst this ambitious interior transformation, substantial progress has also been made on the new addition. All interior concrete slabs have been successfully installed, and the placement of exterior metal panels and masonry is underway. We are currently ahead of our enclosure milestone to be ready for Winter. Beginning in late February 2024, we will start the process of integrating the last of the



scheduled interior renovations to the new additions, with a targeted completion date of summer 2024."

The Chamber encourages the community to come and see the new facility once it is complete. Anyone that has never attended a Forester athletic event in the past, should do so this year. Once you start following Forester athletics, you will be hooked. It is some of the best sports in the area.

## Jim Wilson to retire after long career in Huntington

A long-time local realtor and developer, Jim Wilson, has decided to hang up his cleats and retire from his business, Wilson Realty and Development, Inc. The building the business is located in, two properties and all of the interior furnishings will be sold at auction on Saturday, September 30. The business is located at 261 W. Market Street.

Wilson wrote a paper for the Cosmopolitan Club, Huntington, where he said, "I know that I'm in the twilight of my life. I've been so richly blessed in so many ways throughout my life. I'm not worthy, but then nobody is worthy in the presence of Christ."

He went on to say, "Lately, I've been reflecting on my life. I've worked hard all my life, doing my best and I've achieved far more than I thought possible, but there's so much more I could have done!"

Wilson, originally from Richmond, Indiana, graduated from Richmond High School. He then went on to study mechanical engineering at Purdue University, where he graduated in 1964. Wilson still considers the most enjoyable activity was as player-coach of their fast-pitch softball team, which won the campus championship his last two years against all the fraternities and residence halls.

After graduating from Purdue in 1964, Wilson accepted a position at Chevrolet-Muncie, a transmission plant with 2,000 workers, and was one of a very few engineers with an MBA selected to be groomed for top management. After working in the

manufacturing plant with hundreds of hourly workers, learning everything there was to know, and being sent to Detroit and Flint, Michigan for continuous training, he decided factory work was not for him.

Wilson then learned that Huntington College (now University) was looking for an economics professor. He was hired and came to HU to teach economics and business for half the salary at Chevrolet. Along with teaching, he has written many papers and three books on various subjects and continued this endeavor after leaving the College. At the College he soon met baseball coach, Ray Zimmerman, and volunteered to help with the team. When Zimmerman made the decision to move back home to Canada, he recommended Wilson for the coaching position.

Over the 13 years Wilson coached, the HU team won the conference championship 12 times and were undefeated six years including the last four years, with a conference winning percentage of 90 percent. While he coached, HU also won the NAIA District 21 state championship three times, runner-up four times and second runner-up three times. Wilson was named conference Coach of the Year 11 times, Indiana Coach of the Year twice and Midwest Coach of the Year in 1974. Forest Glen baseball facility was also transformed from a pasture to a ballfield under his leadership.

Wilson's real estate sales, building, developing, appraising and investment career began in 1978 after leaving Huntington Col-

lege. He invested in real estate houses, designed and built Avon Place apartments and his own home. He has also developed several subdivisions. His office, which is being sold at auction, was originally a Texaco Service Station which he remodeled from his own design. His home church, Trinity United Methodist, owns a retreat center at Lake Webster which Wilson was the general contractor for.

"I've personally sold over a hundred million dollars in real estate, but



Jim Wilson shown looking over some development plans at his office recently.

it's in developing and building that I've had the most impact," said Wilson. He continued, "I directly and indirectly have added over \$40 million to the tax base of Huntington City and County."

Wilson also credits coming through many of life's challenges with support from his wife Gloria, good friends and the good Lord's help. He is thankful that his two sons, Todd and Eric, live close to home at present. For nine years Todd and his family were missionaries in Ukraine, and Eric was in Army Intelligence in Iraq for eight years. Both are graduates of Huntington North High School and Huntington University.

Amongst the many community service projects he was involved with, many will remember Wilson for his provision of 2,500 American flags each year that decorated the streets of Huntington on the Fourth of July for 20 years. Wilson also served as president of Habitat for Humanity for several years and provided an office and secretarial help. He chaired the community free Thanksgiving dinner, hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church, for 32 years.

Wilson said, "So, no matter which fork I could have taken, the good Lord has abundantly blessed me and my family, just as he would have if I'd chosen another road, because he can use us wherever we go and whatever we do." He has had many health struggles in recent years and concluded, "I hope people don't remember me the way I am now, but the way I was in my prime and how I'm going to be in Heaven – young, vibrant, high energy, physically strong, healthy and mentally alert and the eternal optimist."



Shown in the photo are several awards Wilson has received over the years to include the HC Centennial Medallion. Also shown are teams he has coached at Huntington University and photos of him with Hank Aaron, Oscar Robertson and more.

## TRUITT | LAW OFFICES



Truitt Law Office celebrated the move into their new offices on Tuesday, August 22, with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. Shown in the photo on the front row, from left, include Terry Miller, Century 21 Bradley, Gwen Burns, Everwise Credit Union and both Chamber Ambassadors; Alex Brown, attorney for Truitt Law Offices; Ashley Truitt, wife, and Maverick, son, of Phil Truitt, attorney, shown holding the scissors; Richard Truitt, founder, Truitt Law Offices, Richard's wife, Carolyn; Abigail Mettler, Truitt Law Offices, Rachel Farmer, State Farm Insurance - Damon Kuhlenbeck and Chamber Ambassador and Mayor Richard Strick. Back row, from left, are Adrian Halverstadt, Hartburg Roth Garrott Halverstadt & Garrett LLP and Chamber board of directors; Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District; Drew Parrett, Arrow Insurance Group LLC and Brittany Brown, MidWest America Federal Credit Union and both Chamber Ambassadors.

## Truitt Law Offices holds Chamber ribbon cutting

Truitt Law Offices, 1601 N. Jefferson Street, held a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 22. The ribbon cutting was to celebrate the recent move of the law offices to their new location. Truitt Law Offices has been in business for 47 years.

According to the Truitt Law Offices Facebook page, "At Truitt Law Offices, our clients and their families are our only priority. We listen. We care. We make sure clients have everything they need to move forward after an injury."

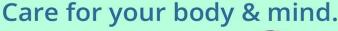
The page went on to say, "Our personal injury lawyers work hard to build strong client relationships and provide a positive experience for each person we help."

The website said, "Our law firm has offices in Huntington, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. We put over four decades of legal skills to work helping families in our hometowns throughout Indiana."

If you are looking for a Personal Injury Lawyer, you can contact Truitt Law Offices at (260) 356-5066. You can visit them on Facebook or on their website.

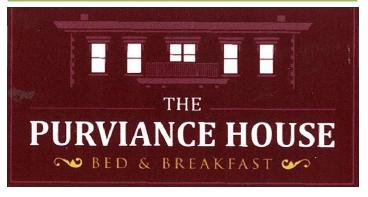














Tractor Supply Company, 135 E. Northpoint Drive, held a ribbon cutting to celebrate their purchase of Orscheln Farm & Home in Huntington. Shown in the photo, front row, from left, celebrating with Tractor Supply are Terry Miller, Century 21 Bradley, Gwen Burns, Everwise Credit Union and both Chamber Ambassadors; Jane Shaw, Stacey Law, Yolanda McHenry, manager, Cathy Creech, Matt Caley, all from Tractor Supply and Mayor Richard Strick. Back from, from left, include Shanelle Tharp, Envive, Drew Parrett, Arrow Insurance Group, Brittany Brown, MidWest American Federal Credit Union. Rebecca Morin and Kyle Kuehnert, Beacon Credit Union and Steve Godfroy, Official Insurance Solutions and all Chamber Ambassadors.

## Tractor Supply Company opens in Huntington

Tractor Supply Company held a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Friday, April 18 to commemorate the recent purchase of the Orscheln Farm & Home store located at 135 E. Northpoint Drive, Huntington. Yolanda McHenry is the local store manager.



According to Tractor Supply's Facebook page, "We are the largest operator of rural lifestyle retail stores in America."

Founded in 1938 as a mail order tractor parts business, Tractor Supply Company (also referred to as TSC) owns and operates over 2,000 stores in 49 states supplying basic maintenance products to home, land, pet and animal owners.

Their Facebook page went on to say, "Customers find everything they need to maintain their farms, ranches, homes and animals. As the inventors of the 'do it yourself' trend, our customers handle practically every chore themselves, from repairing wells to building fences, welding gates together, constructing feed bins, taking care of livestock and pets, repairing tractors and trucks and building trailers for hauling."

Tractor Supply's products include: clothing, equine and pet supplies, tractor/trailer parts and accessories, lawn and garden supplies, sprinkler/irrigation parts, power tools, fencing, welding and pump supplies, riding mowers and more.

You can reach Tractor Supply in Huntington by calling (260) 358-4239 or visit them at 135 E. Northpoint Drive.

## You should work here!



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## Constitution Day 2023 to be celebrated on September 16, 17

Constitution Day 2023 will be celebrated at two locations on two separate days, September 16 and 17

The Zurcher Auditorium, on the campus of Huntington University, will be the location on Saturday, September 16. The Sunday, September 17 spot will be the Courthouse Rotunda.

The committee of Constitution
Day is bringing presenters that represent Paul Revere, left, George
Washington, center, and Samuel
Huntington for this year's events.
You will not want to miss the presentations.

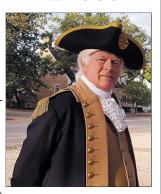
Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for the presentation at Huntington University with a start time of 7 p.m. The Erie Band will perform for the audience between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. with the American Heritage Girls presenting the colors prior to the event. Presenters will represent individuals vital to the history of the United States.

The presenters will also be at the event on Sunday in the Courthouse Rotunda beginning at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

Events are free to attend, and the community is encouraged to help celebrate 175 years of Huntington with these presentations. There will be time for those attending to meet the presenters and have photos taken with them.



**Paul Revere** 



**George Washington** 



**Samuel Huntington** 



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## **Nathan Hawkins**

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## United Way Kickoff to be held September 20

The United Way of Huntington County will hold their Huntington County Campaign Kickoff on Wednesday, September 20. The event will be held at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3011 W. Park Drive, at 8 a.m.

According to executive director, Sarah Kemp, "The United Way of Huntington County has been mobilizing the caring power of its community for over 65 years. This is done when the United Way stays in crucial conversations to understand the biggest issues our community faces. Hosting a workplace campaign allows your employees the opportunity to partner financially and support local initiatives tailored to the needs of our community based on those conversations."

Kemp went on to say, "These partnerships are not funding a handout, but rather a hand up to men and women, children and families, from various backgrounds and all walks of life. Together, we can see all community members thrive!"

Please join the United Way in kicking off the 2023 United Way workplace campaign. RSVPs are needed by Sunday, September 10. Reserve spots for your business by emailing Kemp at skemp@huntingtonunitedway.com or by calling the office at (260) 356-6160. The United Way staff looks forward to seeing all of you!



Chrissy Machielson, PT, DPT, COMT, OCS Senior Physical Therapist

Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist Orthopedic Certified Specialist

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## PSCU to hold ribbon cutting September 8

On Friday, September 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Public Service Credit Union is hosting a public grand opening to celebrate their expansion into Huntington County, and the remodel of their new branch located at 1885 Old U.S.-Hwy 24. There will be a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. with the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce. Treats and swag will be available for the first 100 attendees.

After merging with Huntington County Federal Credit Union, PSCU started work to update the building they acquired across from the drive-in theater on Old U.S.-Hwy 24. The remodel is almost finished, complete with new signs, fresh paint and new furniture coming soon.

"The building now has a welcoming atmosphere that promotes a positive experience for members and visitors," said CEO Carolyn Mikesell. "My team and I are eager to interact with the community and we look forward to getting to know you all."

Aside from the building's new amenities, credit union members are enjoying an updated variety of financial products and services.

Kristie Snyder, branch manager of the Huntington office, said "Members are loving all of the extras that Public Service Credit Union offers, like interest on checking, CD specials and the major upgrade to our online banking and mobile app."

The Huntington office lobby is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extend PSCU to hold ribbon cutting September 8ed hours available in the drive-thru. The new branch welcomes anyone who lives or works in Huntington County to join the credit union. Savings, checking, auto and RV loans, mortgage and home equity loans, as well as a full array of electronic services are available.

Founded in 1932, Public Service Credit Union is Fort Wayne's oldest credit union. Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in Allen or Huntington counties. Public Service Credit Union is a full-service financial institution serving over 5,100 members through three branch locations and a full suite of electronic tools.















## GRAND OPENING CFI FBRATION

1885 OLD US HWY 24 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - 11:00AM-2:00PM

You're invited to an open house to celebrate Public Service Credit Union's expansion into Huntington County!

11:00AM Ribbon Cutting with the Huntington Chamber of Commerce Treats and Swag for the 1st 100 attendees. Plus special offers to be announced!



## Get \$100\* when you join PSCU!

Open a checking & debit card with a Loan, Visa, or Recurring Direct Deposit.

\*Scan the QR code for grand opening specials & more details!

\*Deposits federally insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and an additional \$250,000 by Excess Share Insurance (ESI). See credit union for details.





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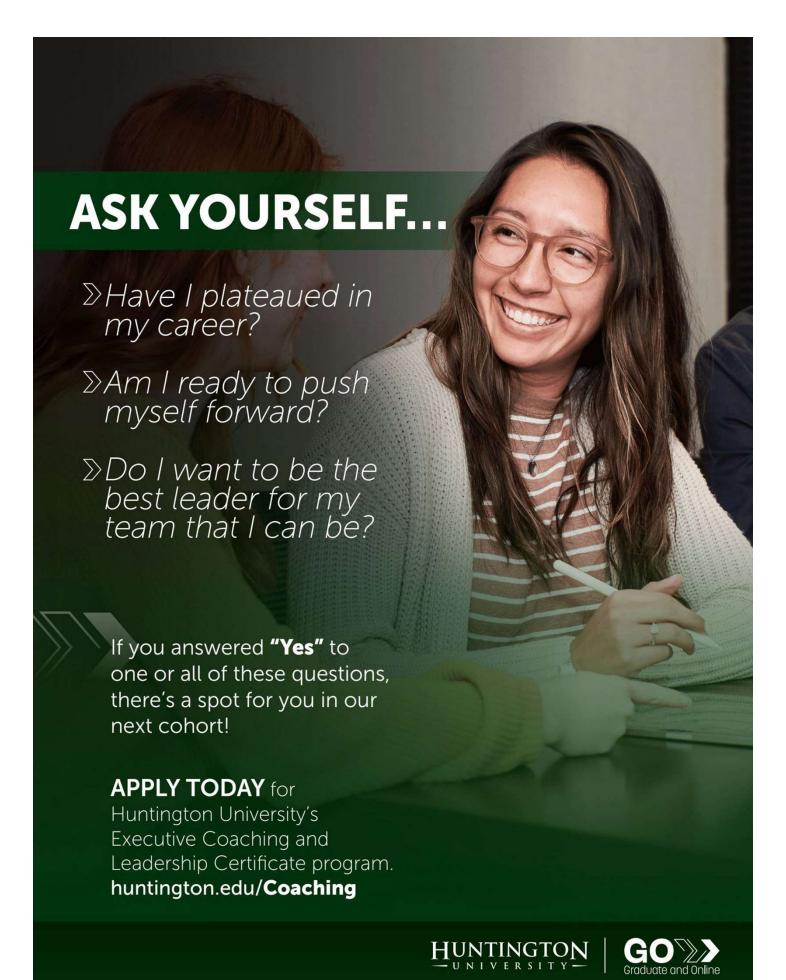
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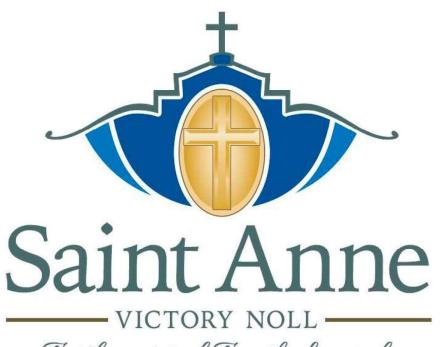


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#### **OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY**

40 E. Franklin St., Suite 121 Huntington, IN 46750



## Mark Your Calendars

## Farmer's Market

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

## **A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing**

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

## **Constitution Day**

Saturday, September 16, Zurcher Auditorium, HU, 7 p.m. Sunday, September 17, Courthouse Rotunda, 2 p.m.

## **United Way Kickoff**

Wednesday, September 20, 8 a.m. Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3011 W. Park Drive

## **Pioneer Festival**

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

## For A Complete Calendar of Events

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SCORE is available to provide free and confidential business advice.

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