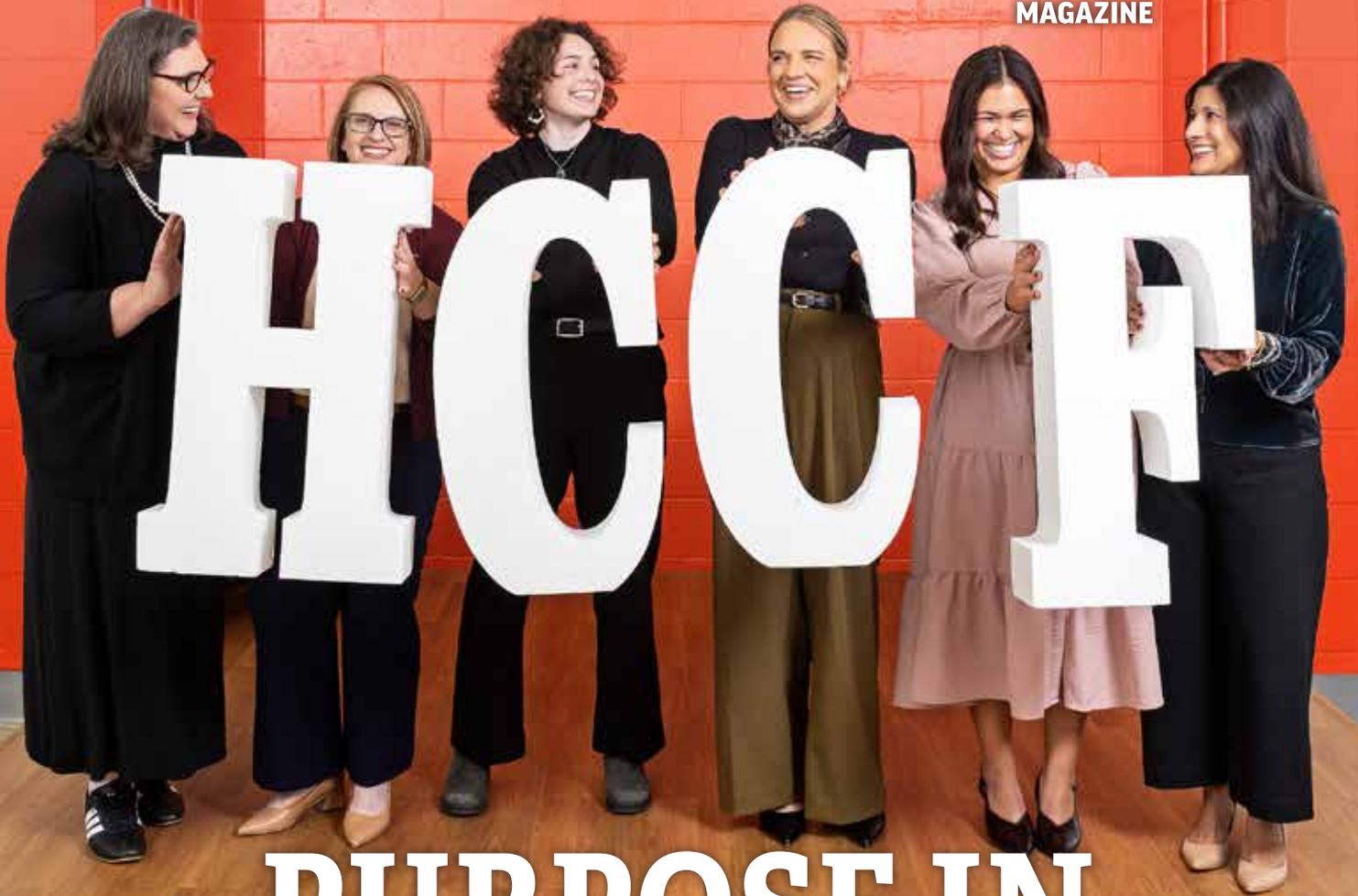


A TOWNE POST NETWORK PUBLICATION

FISHERS

MAGAZINE



PURPOSE IN PARTNERSHIP

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
COLLABORATES WITH NONPROFITS & LEADERS
TO DRIVE LASTING LOCAL CHANGE



GIVING Issue
Special Edition

NOVEMBER 2025



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IN THIS ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2025



6
THE LATEST HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS AROUND FISHERS

14
GIVE LOCAL



8
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
Rooted Within Wellness

18
THE PHILANTHROPY CRISIS NOBODY'S TALKING ABOUT
What Hamilton County Nonprofits Can Do About It

10
PURPOSE IN PARTNERSHIP
Hamilton County Community Foundation Collaborates With Nonprofits & Leaders to Drive Lasting Local Change



13
WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY ALL ABOUT?

22
FLIPPING THE SCRIPT
Broadway Actress & Indiana Native Chasten Harmon Opens Pure Green Fishers





30
THIS IS FISHERS

33
**HAMILTON
SOUTHEASTERN
SCHOOLS UPDATE**

36
**HOLIDAY GIFT
GUIDE**

40
**NOVEMBER EVENTS
CALENDAR**

28
SIP & SAVOR

Tilly's Tea Room Evolves Into a Modern Wine Bar & Gathering Spot in Downtown Fishers



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FISHERS



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THE LATEST HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS AROUND FISHERS

Writer / Larry Lannan

VOTING CENTERS REJECTED FOR 2026

Hamilton County voters will not see election day voting centers in 2026 following a decision by the county's Election Board. A unanimous vote was required, but the three-member panel split 2-1. Republican County Clerk Kathy Williams and Democratic appointee Greg Purvis supported the proposal, while Republican representative Raymond Adler opposed it. County commissioners and council members have generally favored the concept, which would have allowed voters to cast ballots at any polling place rather than their assigned precinct. Early voting already offers that flexibility.

FISHERS BUDGET OUTLOOK STRONG

While many Indiana communities are struggling to balance 2026 budgets under new legislative restrictions, Mayor Scott Fadness presented a far more optimistic plan for Fishers. His proposed \$203.6M budget, unveiled at the September City Council meeting, includes operating, capital, and debt service funds, with nearly \$67M projected in cash reserves. By comparison, the 2025 budget totaled \$182.5M. Fadness emphasized that year-to-year swings in spending are normal, reflecting projects such as road construction.

COMMUNITY CENTER PREVIEWED

The new Fishers Community Center makes an immediate impression with its sheer

size and open interior spaces. Mayor Scott Fadness, City Councilor Todd Zimmerman, and Recreation and Wellness Director Jake Reardon-McSoley welcomed media on September 30 for a preview. The facility officially opens November 1. Fadness called the center "extraordinary, a vibrant place," crediting Zimmerman and Reardon-McSoley with helping guide the project.

HSE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT EXTENDED

The Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Schools Board of Trustees voted 5-2 to extend Superintendent Patrick Mapes' contract for three years, with an "evergreen" clause allowing automatic renewals. Trustees Latrica Schooley and Sarah Parks-Reese opposed the extension, citing concerns about the renewal provision.

PRELIMINARY 2026 BUDGET FILED

HSE Schools submitted its proposed 2026 budget of \$340.9M to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Officials stressed the numbers are preliminary and set on the high side, since the state can only reduce requests, not increase them. The figure is up from \$326.3M in 2025.

REFERENDUM PLANNED FOR 2026

Superintendent Mapes also recommended placing another operating referendum on the ballot in the November 2026 general election, citing state law changes that now

restrict referendums to even-year general elections. "The loss that we have, we cannot continue having enough money to actually operate the school district," Mapes told the board.

NEW LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

HSE Board President Juanita Albright appointed Michael Zahm to the Hamilton East Public Library Board of Trustees. Zahm succeeds Andre Miksha, whose term ends in 2025. The seven-member board oversees the Noblesville and Fishers branches. The district thanked Miksha for his service.

LABOR DISPUTE SETTLED

HSE Schools and the Hamilton Southeastern Education Association announced a settlement in a dispute stemming from an Unfair Labor Practice complaint. The teachers union had accused district officials of fostering a hostile environment for union leaders. Intersection Plans Shift at 116th and Allisonville

Fishers officials announced they will move forward with a traditional intersection at 116th Street and Allisonville Road instead of a roundabout. The change is expected to reduce disruptions, as construction will allow traffic to continue with lane restrictions rather than a full closure. Extended left-turn lanes will be added to ease congestion. The Board of Works has accepted \$2.6M in federal funds for the project, which is set to begin in 2026.

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Writer / Renée Larr
Photographer / Wade Carignan

Vicky Lynn Andritsch describes the moment Rooted Within Wellness was born as a dream that landed on her heart.

“I kept feeling this pull that something was missing for parents walking through medical challenges with their children,” she says. “It is often difficult to not only make room for, but find the right kind of support, resources and community while in crisis.”

Rooted Within Wellness emerged from that spark, creating a new organization that provides wellness retreats for parents and caregivers impacted by a child’s diagnosis. The first retreat, themed around rest, regeneration, mindfulness and connection, will take place from Feb. 20 to 22 at the historic Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park.

For Andritsch, the idea is deeply personal. As a mother who has walked through multiple health crises with her own children, including cancer, brain injuries, seizures and mental illness, she knows the exhaustion and isolation that often come with caregiving.

“Each time I was in the middle of a health battle with one of my kids, I was clinging for help and support,” she says. “Even when the hospital social workers gave me tools and books, once I went home, I was back to just trying to hold on until the next appointment.”

Through every trial, Andritsch noticed the same gap: resources focused, rightly so, on the sick child, but little holistic care for the parents

ROOTED WITHIN WELLNESS

trying to stay strong for everyone else.

“As a mom, you’re worrying about your child who’s sick, as well as the healthy ones at home,” she says. “You’re trying to give to everyone, and in the process, you run on empty.”

That realization became the foundation for Rooted Within Wellness.

“This is an opportunity to walk alongside mothers, fathers and caregivers, and to give them tools for mindfulness, restoration and rejuvenation while they’re walking through a diagnosis with their child, or perhaps years later as they try to find their new normal after a diagnosis,” she says. “It’s about helping them find strength, breath and community.”

The February retreat in Brown County will set the tone for future gatherings. Designed as a two-day, nature-immersed experience, it will include mindfulness sessions, movement, sound healing, breath work and guided hikes led by a team of facilitators carefully chosen by Andritsch.

“I’ll have a pool of facilitators I draw from for different retreats,” she says. “Each will include mindfulness coaching, breath work, moving our body, and opportunities to reconnect with joy in the chaos.”

But unlike a busy conference weekend, these retreats are intentionally unhurried.

“I don’t want it to feel like running from one session to the next,” Andritsch says. “It’s about reflection, connection and tapping into tools that will support parents long after they go home.”

From the beginning, Andritsch has been intentional about removing obstacles to participation, especially financial ones. Thanks to a private donor who believes in her mission, transportation and a sliding scale for attendance will be available for those who need it.

“We never want cost to be a barrier,” she says. “If a woman needs help getting to the retreat, we’ll support her. Everyone deserves the chance to rest and heal, no matter their circumstances.”

The retreats initially focus on women, but Andritsch plans to expand the program to include men as well.

“This first one is just for mothers, but my hope is to offer evening events for fathers eventually,” she says.

While Rooted Within Wellness begins in Indiana, Andritsch envisions a nationwide network of retreats, each connected to major children’s hospitals and communities in need of caregiver support.

“It makes sense to start here at home,” she says. “This is where I spent so much of my time at Riley and Peyton Manning Children’s hospitals. But the need exists everywhere. My hope is to offer these retreats quarterly across the country, anywhere parents need that lifeline.”

Rooted Within Wellness is rooted in something more profound. Andritsch says it’s a transformation through empathy.

“When we can support the parents or caregivers, that healing ripples outward,” she says. “It strengthens families, and stronger families create stronger communities.”

She hopes that each participant leaves with one more nugget in their bucket, as she says — a small but lasting piece of strength or peace they didn’t have before.

“If a mother can step back into her life feeling more grounded, supported and connected, then that’s success,” she says. “That’s what Rooted Within Wellness is all about.”

For more information, visit rootedwithinwellnessllc.org

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PURPOSE IN PARTNERSHIP

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COLLABORATES WITH NONPROFITS & LEADERS TO DRIVE LASTING LOCAL CHANGE

*Writer / Renée Larr
Photographer / Wade Carignan*

When Danielle Stiles-Polk stepped into her role as president of the Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF), she knew the work ahead was both urgent and deeply rooted in community. For decades, the foundation, formerly known as Legacy Fund, has invested in Hamilton County by managing philanthropic dollars, supporting nonprofits, and addressing systemic challenges.

With a refreshed strategic plan and updated

branding, HCCF is sharpening its focus on the most pressing issues facing residents today.

“Our role is to ensure that opportunity belongs to everyone who calls Hamilton County home,” Stiles-Polk says. “That means listening to the community, identifying the greatest needs, and partnering with organizations that can make the biggest impact.”

HCCF is not a direct service provider. Instead, it serves as a convener, collaborator

and funder — connecting donors, nonprofits and civic leaders around shared priorities and objectives. Through donor-advised funds, community endowments, and grantmaking, the foundation reinvests millions of dollars annually in Hamilton County.

Data guides that reinvestment. In 2023, the foundation received support from Lilly Endowment to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment. Working with Schunk Moreland Strategies, HCCF

collected both quantitative and qualitative data through interviews, focus groups, and surveys. The findings, published in the 2024 Hamilton County Needs Assessment, now serve as the foundation for the organization's new strategic plan.

The assessment revealed five primary areas of need: affordable housing, education and training, child care, social services, and transportation. While all five are priorities, HCCF's immediate focus is on the first four, with transportation slated for future efforts due to its complexity.

Stiles-Polk says affordable housing rose to the top in every community conversation. In Hamilton County, an area often considered affluent, the challenge presents itself differently from that in neighboring counties. Here, the concern is ensuring that teachers, firefighters, police officers, and service providers can afford to live in the same areas where they work.

The new strategic plan is both ambitious and realistic. It reflects a return to what Stiles-Polk calls the roots of a true community foundation — one that is grassroots, community-led, and adaptable.

HCCF's planning grew from dozens of conversations with residents, nonprofits, and community leaders.

"We never sat at a table and said, 'Here's what we're going to do for the county,'"



Stiles-Polk says. "It was the county telling us what it needed. That's what makes this plan so powerful."

This vision is already taking shape through collaborative networks such as the housing and child care collaboratives, quarterly nonprofit "coffee connections," and partnerships that span county lines. By working with the Central Indiana Community Foundation for back-office support, such as HR and IT, HCCF ensures its staff can remain 100% focused on Hamilton County.

HCCF is partnering with HAND (Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development) and other organizations to establish a community land trust. This collaborative effort brings together municipalities, banks, and nonprofit partners to preserve affordable housing stock in perpetuity. The foundation is also supporting targeted solutions, such as housing for survivors of domestic violence, through partnerships with organizations like Prevail.

According to HAND, it would take an estimated 286 years to meet Hamilton County's current affordable housing need at the present rate of construction and funding, based on a 2022 CDBG-funded assessment. The county currently has fewer than 200 housing vouchers, although the goal is not necessarily to add more vouchers, but to think creatively about solutions that fit the county best.

"People don't always realize it, but there are individuals in Hamilton County who are one paycheck away from crisis," Stiles-Polk says.

United Way's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data shows that about 26–27% of county residents fall into this category. They are families earning too much to qualify for aid





but not enough to meet basic needs.

As the county grows, so does the demand for a skilled workforce. HCCF’s education and training initiatives center on partnerships with Ivy Tech Community College and Invest Hamilton County, focusing on aligning training programs with the needs of local employers.

The foundation also works with education foundations across Hamilton County school districts, managing endowments and scholarships that provide direct support to students. By addressing workforce readiness, HCCF tackles multiple issues at once: stable employment reduces pressure on housing, child care, and social services.

Child care was a surprising but necessary area of focus that emerged from the needs assessment. In northern Hamilton County, many families rely on in-home or neighbor-based care because traditional child care centers are few and far between. To address this, HCCF has partnered with Invest Hamilton County, Ivy Tech, Child Care Answers, and faith-based organizations to identify and expand quality child care options.

According to the needs assessment, only 29% of children in the county have access to high-quality care.

Hamilton County’s prosperity often

overshadows its hidden struggles. Yet the needs are significant: nearly 21,000 residents are food insecure, according to the needs assessment. More than 40 food pantries operate in the county, and Stiles-Polk says many report struggling to keep their shelves stocked.

HCCF partners with a wide range of nonprofit service providers, including Trinity Free Clinic, Shepherd’s Center of Hamilton County, and Prevail, to support residents who are uninsured, aging, or escaping violence. The foundation doesn’t just fund these organizations — it invests in strengthening their efforts.

Executive director training, fundraising support, and collaborative meetings are all integral to HCCF’s strategy for enhancing the nonprofit sector.

One recent win is the launch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library across the county in July 2025. Through collaboration with libraries and county leaders, HCCF is funding this program to provide free books to children from birth to age 5.

“We were one of the last counties in Indiana to offer this resource, and now every child from ages 1 to 5 in Hamilton County has the opportunity to build a home library,” Stiles-Polk says.

While Hamilton County is known for its vibrant cities such as Carmel, Fishers, and Noblesville, the reality is more complex. The county’s ALICE population represents more than a quarter of residents, and many families struggle silently with food insecurity, inadequate child care, or the inability to find affordable housing.

“Just because the county is prosperous overall doesn’t mean there aren’t people here who are struggling,” Stiles-Polk says. “Our job is to make sure those needs aren’t overlooked simply because they’re not always visible.”

For residents who want to support the foundation’s mission, there are two primary ways to engage with us:

DONATE

Contributions to the Community Investment Fund, HCCF’s unrestricted endowment, are reinvested in perpetuity to meet the county’s most pressing needs — today and in the future.

ENGAGE

Businesses and civic leaders can participate in collaboratives and invite HCCF to the table for policy discussions.

For more information, visit hamiltoncountycf.org.

WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY ALL ABOUT?



Writer / Alison Gatz

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Giving Tuesday takes place every year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving in the United States. Giving Tuesday this year will be on Dec. 2.

The primary goal of Giving Tuesday is to encourage

people to engage in acts of generosity and to support charitable organizations and causes. It serves as a reminder of the importance of giving back to the community, both locally and globally. Participants are encouraged to donate their time, money, skills, or other resources to help those in need or to support causes they are passionate about.

HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS ABOUT GIVING TUESDAY

1. GLOBAL MOVEMENT

While it originated in the United States, Giving Tuesday has grown into a global movement, with participation from individuals, nonprofits, businesses and communities around the world.

2. DIVERSE FORMS OF GIVING

Giving on this day can take many forms, including monetary donations to nonprofits, volunteering time, fundraising for charitable causes and acts of kindness.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Giving Tuesday has leveraged the power of social media to spread awareness and encourage participation. The hashtag #GivingTuesday is commonly used on platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to share stories of giving and inspire others to get involved.

4. IMPACT

Since its inception, Giving Tuesday has generated significant support for charitable organizations and has raised millions of dollars for various causes. It has also helped shine a spotlight on important social and environmental issues.

5. PARTNERSHIPS

Many nonprofit organizations, businesses and corporations actively participate in Giving Tuesday by launching fundraising campaigns, matching donations or contributing a portion of their sales to charitable causes.

6. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Giving Tuesday fosters a sense of community engagement and philanthropy, bringing people together to make a positive difference in the world.

7. YEARLY TRADITION

Giving Tuesday has become an annual tradition, and it continues to grow in popularity as more people and organizations join the movement.

Overall, Giving Tuesday serves as a reminder that the holiday season is not just about consumerism but also about giving, compassion and making a positive impact on society. It encourages individuals and communities to come together and support the causes and organizations that matter most to them. For more information about Giving Tuesday and ideas on how you can get involved, visit givingtuesday.org.

GIVING TUESDAY

Give Local

Writer / Alison Gatz

A great way to GIVE back to the community is by sharing your time, talent and/or treasure with local nonprofits. Don't know where to go or who to support? Here is a list of just some of the local nonprofits to get you started. These are local nonprofits that serve our community, and we wholeheartedly believe in the work they do. You can also find more local nonprofits and the work they do by visiting the City of Fishers website at fishers.in.us/residents/communityresources.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE EITHER BASED IN FISHERS, FOCUS MOST OF THEIR WORK IN FISHERS OR HAVE A PROJECT SPECIFIC TO FISHERS

Fishers Youth Initiative
fishersyouthinitiative.org

HAND Inc.
handincorporated.org

HSE Schools Foundation
hsefoundation.org

Hamco Love
hamcolove.com

Outside the Box
otbonline.org/otb-fishers

Hamilton County Community Foundation
hamiltoncountycf.org

Humane Society for Hamilton County
hamiltonhumane.com

Mustard Seed of Central Indiana
mustardseedindy.org

Good Samaritan Network
gsnlive.org

Fishers Arts Council
fishersartscouncil.org

Mudsock Youth Athletics
myathletics.com

Recovery Cafe of Hamilton County
recoverycafehcc.com

Grit Into Grace
gritintograces.org

Fishers Music Works
fishersmusicworks.org

THESE ORGANIZATIONS SERVE IN FISHERS AS WELL AS HAMILTON COUNTY

Shepherds Center of Hamilton County
shepherdscenterofhamiltoncounty.org

Ind Center Prevention Youth Abuse & Suicide
indianaprevention.org

Heart and Soul Free Clinic
heartandsoulclinic.org

Prevail
prevailinc.org

Healthier Hamilton County Systems of Care
hamiltoncountypshc.org

Paws & Think
pawsandthink.org

Trinity Free Clinic
trinityfreeclinic.org

Food 4 Souls
food4souls.org

Janus Developmental Services
janus-inc.org

Kids Coats Hamilton County
kidscoats.org

Cherish
cherishcac.org

A Kid Again
akidagain.org/chapter/indiana-chapter

Same As U
sameasu.org

Agape Therapeutic Riding
agape riding.org

Meals on Wheels Hamilton County
mealsonwheelshc.org

The Milk Bank
themilkbank.org

Changing Footprints
changingfootprints.org

Indiana Parkinson Foundation
indianaparkinson.org

Best Buddies Indiana
bestbuddies.org/indiana

Ovar'Coming Together
ovariancancerin.org

Gold Ribbon Collective
goldribboncollective.org

Indiana Women in Need/ IWIN
iwinfoundation.org

Bee Free Bakes
beefreebakes.org

Shift Up Now Foundation
shiftupnow.org

Hoosier Burn Camp
hoosierburncamp.org

Ignite Transform
ignitetransform.org

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME, VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS!

Did you know the City of Fishers has a complete website dedicated to volunteering in Fishers? See all the great ways you can give back by visiting volunteerfishers.com.

Volunteer with our local schools! Connect with a specific school to determine what needs they have that align with your ability/availability. There are so many ways to get involved with our schools but here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Share your career with students on Career Day
- Help in the office by organizing, errands, making copies
- Organize a supply drive for teachers and classrooms
- Donate household goods and miscellaneous items for STEM projects, art projects or theatre
- Sign up to be a substitute teacher (this is a huge need for our schools)

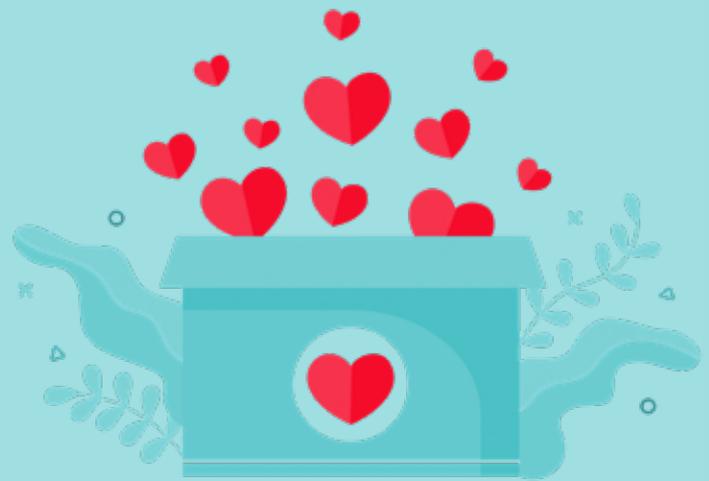
COORDINATE A COLLECTION DRIVE!

Food pantries love donations! Check in with these local pantries to see their latest needs:

- Township Trustee offices
- Church Pantries
- Hamilton County Food Pantry Master Directory by Good Samaritan Network
- Fishers Youth Assistance Snack Attack and Summer Meal Program
- Hamco Love collects feminine hygiene products to donate to schools

Clothing, Shoes and Accessory Drives are a great way to encourage friends and neighbors to clean out closets!

- Winter coats, hats and gloves for Good Samaritan Network or Kids Coats
- Women's professional attire for Dress for Success
- Eyeglasses for Lions Club or Fishers Optimist Club
- Shoe drive for Changing Footprints
- Rehab equipment such as crutches, walkers, etc for Good Samaritan Network's REHAB Equipment Link
- Donate broken and unused holiday lights to local schools



LOVE TO SERVE ALONGSIDE PEOPLE? LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE TO START

- Fishers Rotary Club
- Fishers Police Corp
- Fishers Fire Corp
- Fishers MultiFaith Community for Compassion
- Fishers Tri Kappa
- 100 Women Who Care Hamilton County
- Fishers Century Club
- Knights of Columbus
- Fifty Club of Fishers
- Kiwanis Club of Fishers

There are many ways to give back whether through an organization or random daily acts of kindness. One of the pillars of our city is "Vibrant." A vibrant community is one that is connected, resilient, healthy and inspiring. We can't think of a better way than giving back to others as a way to ensure Fishers is a vibrant community for us to call home.



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To support ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers through resources, education, networking and understanding.



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Big Things Ahead



Our Youth Action Board is Making Moves in Sports + Leadership



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BOTTOM ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT

Jerry Jamison, Janus Developmental Services; Lisa Gupton, Paws & Think; Kristen Ludeker-Siebert, HHCSOC; Lisa Albano, Shepherd's Center; Tami Wanninger, Prevail; Les Reinhart, Fishers Arts Council; Sara Ferguson, Fishers Youth Initiative; Bethanne Gruner, Ovar'Coming Together; Scott Spillman, Mudsock Youth Athletics

TOP ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT

Todd Lutzinger, The Mustard Seed; Darcie Swike, The Mustard Seed; Amanda Wanlass, Changing Footprints; Kendra Smith, Same As U; Michelle Miller, Outside the Box; Lindsay McGuire, The Milk Bank; Kerri Hubble, HAND Inc; Rob Hruskoci, Gold Ribbon Collective; Jeremy Johnson, Gold Ribbon Collective; Jen Wiese, Bee Free Bakes

THE PHILANTHROPY CRISIS NOBODY'S TALKING ABOUT

WHAT HAMILTON COUNTY NONPROFITS CAN DO ABOUT IT

*Writer / T.J. McGovern, MPA, is Founder and President
of McGovern Consulting Group*



Last Tuesday, I sat across from a development director at a well-respected Fishers nonprofit. She'd just come from a board meeting where she presented what looked like good news: revenue was up 4% from last year.

Her board celebrated. She didn't.

"We lost 47 donors this year," she told me. "We replaced them with three families who gave more. The board sees the bottom line. I see the bottom falling out."

She's right to worry. And she's not alone.

THE EXODUS YOU CAN'T SEE IN YOUR ANNUAL REPORT

Here's what's happening while we're busy perfecting our donor recognition walls: American households are walking away from charitable giving at a pace that should terrify every nonprofit leader and every philanthropic family who cares about the causes they love.

In 2000, 66.2% of American households gave to charity. By 2020, that number had collapsed to 45.8%. We've lost one in five giving households in two decades. And it's accelerating: donor numbers dropped 3.4% in 2023, then 4.5% in 2024. The micro-donors — people giving under \$100 who represent over half of all donors — are disappearing fastest, down 8.8% to 12.4% annually.

Meanwhile, total dollars raised look fine because a handful of larger donors are propping up the whole system. We're replacing democratic philanthropy — many voices, many hands — with philanthropic

oligarchy. Fewer people giving more money means fewer voices shaping the causes we claim to serve.

The landscape changed while we were busy optimizing our donation pages. What worked eight years ago doesn't just fail to serve donors today — it actively drives them away.

WHY THE OLD MODEL IS KILLING US

I know what you're thinking: "But our fundraising is working. We hit our goal last year."

That's what concerns me most.

The very mindset of fundraising — the transactional machinery we've perfected — is running off the people who used to be our community. We've treated fundraising as a handoff function: organizations identify needs, package them, and hand them to development staff with clear instructions. Then we wonder why people feel like ATMs.

We can't lead with fundraising anymore.

We have to put the fundraising cart behind the four horses of cause, constituency, congregation, and community.

Last month, a successful Carmel business owner told me why she stopped giving to an organization she'd supported for a decade.

"Every interaction was about my capacity," she said. "Nobody ever asked what I thought. What I'd learned building my business. I wasn't a partner. I was a wallet with a name."

This is the revolution that's already occurred. Philanthropic people don't want to be fundraised. They want to matter. They want to contribute their talent, networks, lived experience, and strategic thinking.

Who wants to be fundraised for the sake of fundraising results for an organization that consigns them to the single dimension of "donor"?

FROM TRANSACTIONAL TO TRANSFORMATIONAL

What I'm about to share isn't theory. Through my consulting firm, I've guided dozens of organizations through this transition — Fortune 500 corporate foundations, family philanthropies, community-serving nonprofits. The transformation starts with one decision: to stop fundraising and start facilitating community of shared purpose.

GET RID OF THE CONCEPT OF FUNDRAISING

Not the function — we still need revenue. But the mindset that reduces human beings to their transactional value. Replace the vocabulary of "fundraising" and "donor cultivation" with "cause-centered community building" and "philanthropic partnership."

FOCUS RELENTLESSLY ON CAUSE

Not your programs or needs. On the animating cause that transcends your organization. The community challenge that should keep all of us up at night.

BUILD COMMUNITY AROUND CONTRIBUTION TO CAUSE — WITH EMPHASIS ON TALENT AND PASSION

Money follows meaning. But we keep leading with money and wondering why meaning doesn't follow.

A Fishers educational nonprofit I work with restructured their engagement model last year. Instead of asking donors to fund predetermined programs, they convened quarterly "impact labs" where philanthropic partners collaborate with teachers and staff to co-design solutions. Giving went up 23%. But retention went from 61% to 89%. People stay where they matter.

ENGAGE POTENTIAL PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS IN SHAPING INITIATIVES BEFORE THEY GIVE A DOLLAR

This feels dangerous. What if they disagree with our approach? Good. That's called partnership. That's called building something together instead of asking someone to fund something you've already decided.

PHILANTHROPIC FACILITATORS MUST WORK IN TEAMS, NOT AS LONE INDIVIDUALS CARRYING PORTFOLIOS

Instead of development directors scheduling one-on-ones to present funding needs, convene standing advisory teams. Deploy facilitation teams that include program staff, board members, and beneficiaries.

TREAT FIRST-TIME GIVERS OF ANY AMOUNT AS TENTATIVE BELIEVERS

A family foundation I consult with now requires every grantee to engage first-time donors in a meaningful program experience within 60 days. Not a facility tour. A real experience of differences made. Their renewal rate on first-time donors doubled in eighteen months.

THE FISHERS ADVANTAGE

Here's what gives me hope: We're small enough to transform our philanthropic ecosystem, but substantial enough to matter nationally when we do.

I've watched this community rally before. We can pioneer a new model here — one where cause-centered community building replaces transactional fundraising. Where giving participation rises because people experience belonging, not just solicitation.

But we have to start now. Before we lose another 4.5% of our donors next year while celebrating that our dollars held steady.

AN INVITATION

I'm building a community of practice in Hamilton County for nonprofit leaders and philanthropic families who sense the old models are failing us — even when they appear to be "working."

If you're tired of being thanked and hungry to be engaged, we should talk. Not about your fundraising results. About your cause, your community and what becomes possible when we stop fundraising and start facilitating transformation together.

The giving revolution has already occurred. The only question is whether we'll adapt or watch our organizations depend on fewer and fewer people.



T.J. McGovern, MPA, is Founder and President of McGovern Consulting Group, where he transforms transactional fundraising into cause-centered community building. With 26 years of experience spanning health care, education and social services — including serving as Development Director for Ivy Tech Community College, the nation's largest community college system — T.J. has guided organizations through funding efforts from \$100K to \$20M while training leaders from more than 200 organizations on engagement practices that build lasting philanthropic communities. He also advises individuals, corporations and foundations on navigating the how, what and why of giving to improve charitable outcomes and deepen philanthropic impact. He holds a Master's in Nonprofit Management from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and is pioneering new models of philanthropic facilitation from his base in Fishers, Indiana. To learn more about T.J., visit www.mcgimpact.com.



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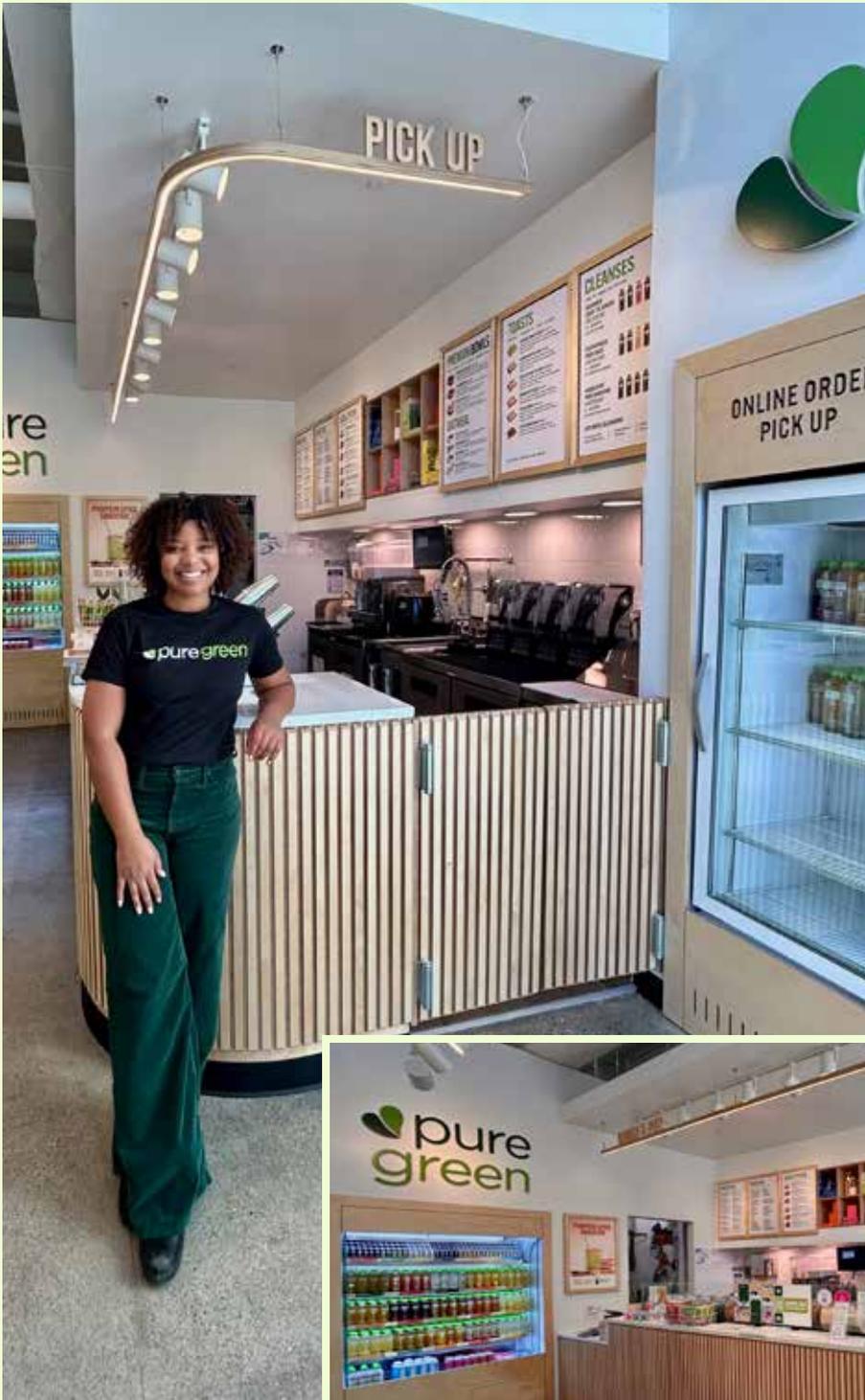


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Flipping the Script

BROADWAY ACTRESS & INDIANA NATIVE CHASTEN HARMON
OPENS PURE GREEN FISHERS



For Broadway actress and Indiana native Chasten Harmon, opening a juice and smoothie bar in downtown Fishers isn't just a business move — it's a homecoming.

The Columbus-born performer, known for her work on stage and screen alongside stars like Adam Driver and Billy Crystal, has opened Pure Green Fishers, a superfood smoothie and juice bar franchise located in the newly developed Nickel Plate District. The shop had an official ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16 — a date Harmon intentionally chose to celebrate her 40th birthday.

A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and the Yale School of Drama, Harmon's career has taken her from Broadway stages to film and television sets. She's also no stranger to Indiana audiences — she portrayed Éponine in the 25th Anniversary National Tour of *Les Misérables*, which performed at Butler University, a moment she says deepened her connection to the state's creative community.

But the path to opening Pure Green wasn't driven by performance — it was fueled by personal transformation.

After being diagnosed with Behçet's Disease, a rare autoimmune condition,



Harmon shifted her lifestyle to focus on clean eating and holistic wellness. That journey led her to Pure Green, a national franchise known for its nutrient-rich smoothies, juices, and bowls made with organic, whole ingredients.

“I’m deeply passionate about clean eating,” Harmon says. “It’s super easy to find healthy food in New York or LA, but whenever I’d come home to Indiana, it’s always hard to find healthy, unprocessed food. I want to be part of the solution.”

Harmon says Pure Green stood out because of its transparency and mission.

“Pure Green is all about whole foods, superfoods, and clean ingredients that actually fuel the body,” she says. “I can eat everything in the store without worrying about triggering my condition. That peace of mind is life-changing.”

Choosing to open in the Nickel Plate District was equally intentional. The downtown area — now home to the Fishers Arts & Municipal Complex and a growing number of wellness-focused initiatives — reflects the balance of creativity, health, and community that Harmon values.

“When I visited the area, it just felt like home,” she says. “Fishers has farmers markets, IU Health partnerships, youth programs — it’s a community that shares my values. After years in New York and LA, I was craving community and intentionality, and I’ve found that here.”

With Pure Green Fishers, Harmon hopes to offer more than just smoothies. Her goal is to create a space that educates, inspires, and nourishes — both physically and emotionally.

“This store is more than a business. It’s a mission,” she says. “And what better way to start a new decade than by investing in my home state and building something that feeds people in every sense of the word.”

For more information, visit Pure Green Fishers online at puregreenfranchise.com/indiana/fishers.



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When Julie visits Joann at Hamilton Trace, she sees a joyful difference.

“She’s engaged and smiling,”

Julie said. “

Most of the time she’s right in the middle of an activity.”

For JoAnn Anderson and her family, the road to CarDon & Associates’ Hamilton Trace community was long but worth the distance. Two and a half years ago, JoAnn was admitted to a skilled nursing community in New York state, where she and her husband lived for most of their lives. But several factors drew them toward moving to Indiana, especially the fact that their daughters live in the Midwest.



JoAnn’s daughter, Julie, started searching for senior living options near her home in Fishers, Indiana, and Hamilton Trace stood out as soon as she walked through its doors.

“It was always neat and tidy, and people seemed to be so happy there,” Julie said. “I knew that’s where I wanted to bring her.”

From its cleanliness and family-friendly atmosphere to its options for dining, activities and memory care, Hamilton Trace felt like the right choice. While waiting for a room to become available, Julie received helpful information regarding insurance and a rave review of CarDon as a place to work from the admissions staff at Harbour Manor in Noblesville.

Today, JoAnn calls Hamilton Trace home, where she receives long term care and is surrounded by a community that includes rehabilitation, assisted living and memory support.

Julie often finds Joann in the activities area, playing bingo or listening to local music groups perform classic songs.

“It doesn’t matter what the activity is,” Julie said. “My mom will go down there just because she loves to be around people. If she can be with people and talk to them, that’s all she needs.”

JoAnn’s husband (Julie’s father) visits daily, and the grandkids and great grandkids visit frequently as well.

Their family’s story is a shining example of CarDon’s ability to help families near and far find the right place for their loved ones. Six months ago, JoAnn and her family were struggling with her surroundings across the country. Now, they’re happy to be closer to each other. Family has always been a big part of their lives, and CarDon’s “family-first” philosophy fits them perfectly.



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SIP & SAVOR

TILLY'S TEA ROOM EVOLVES INTO A MODERN WINE BAR & GATHERING SPOT IN DOWNTOWN FISHERS

Writer / Renée Larr



Carlos Martinez, GM and Sharon Moore, Owner

When Sharon Moore first opened Tilly's Tea Room in 2015, it was inside what she calls a small, rickety house in Fishers. In the decade since, the beloved local spot has undergone several moves and transformations, from its location at Saks Fifth Avenue to its current home in downtown Fishers.

Today, Moore has reimagined the concept, adding a wine bar to complement the traditional afternoon tea service, making Tilly's Tea Room & Wine Bar one of the area's most versatile dining destinations.

For years, Tilly's was a fixture inside Saks Fifth Avenue, known for its elegant teas, bridal showers, and baby showers. However,

when Saks announced it would be closing in 2024, Moore had to pivot quickly. She was already in the middle of opening Max & Tilly's chip shop when opportunity struck.

"The bank suggested I move the tea room right next to the chip shop," Moore says. "So we packed Tilly's into three storage units while construction was underway and then rebuilt from the ground up."

That gamble paid off. Tilly's reopened in February with a fresh lunch menu and afternoon tea, and within weeks, expanded into evening service as a wine bar.

By day, Tilly's offers its signature afternoon tea experience, along with a menu featuring soups, salads, and sandwiches. By night, the lights dim and the space transforms into an intimate wine bar with a small-plates menu featuring charcuterie, ceviche, empanadas, crostini, and more. The wine bar experience is enhanced by a carefully curated wine list, cozy ambiance, and live music on select nights.

"It's important to me that Tilly's be accessible," Moore says. "Some tea rooms can feel overly formal. At ours, you can

come in wearing jeans and a T-shirt or go all out in a dress and fascinator. It should be comfortable and special at the same time."

The shift in atmosphere from day to night has given Tilly's a new identity in the Fishers dining scene. Guests often stop in for a glass of wine before dinner reservations elsewhere or linger after a meal for dessert and conversation. The wine bar has also become a gathering place for book clubs, mahjong groups, and casual get-togethers.

While the tea room itself seats 50, Moore has the flexibility to expand events into the adjoining chip shop for up to 100 guests. Even larger gatherings can take advantage of the 400-person rooftop terrace atop the building. With fire pits, a canopy, a barbecue area, and full AV capabilities, it has quickly become a sought-after event venue.

"We've already hosted charity events, a Kentucky Derby watch party, and have weddings booked for next year," Moore says. "It's a unique space right in the heart of downtown Fishers."

Although Moore is originally from Newcastle, England, she has steered away from what she calls the "caricature" of the





English tea room. Instead of lace doilies and floral wallpaper, she has modeled Tilly's after the modern, elevated experiences found in London's top hotels.

"We've always wanted to be a modern-style tea room that still honors the tradition but stays relevant," she says. "It's about creating an elegant but approachable atmosphere."

Downtown Fishers continues to evolve into a hub of independent restaurants and boutiques, making it an ideal environment for Tilly's Tea Room & Wine Bar to thrive. Moore is planning holiday parties, gift exchanges, and interactive classes, such as wreath-making and floral arranging, paired with wine and charcuterie.

For Moore, the journey of Tilly's has always been about more than just food and drink — it's about creating memorable experiences.

"We want people to feel like they've found a place to relax, celebrate, or simply enjoy time with friends," she says. "That's the heart of Tilly's."

Tilly's Tea Room & Wine Bar is located at 8701 East 116th St., Suite 140B in Fishers. For more information, visit tillystearoom.com or give them a call at 317-537-2185.



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THIS IS FISHERS

HAPPENINGS FROM THE CITY OF FISHERS

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Fishers Community Center Opens on Nov. 1

Starting Nov. 1, residents can enjoy free access to the indoor track and playground at the new Fishers Community Center, Strengthened by IU Health, with a Community Pass (playground reservations required). Memberships offer even more amenities, including the aquatics center, fitness center and classes, and sports courts. Learn more and sign up at FishersCommunityCenter.com.

The Fishers Health Department Has a New Home!

The Fishers Health Department (FHD) has moved to the new Fishers Community Center at 11400 Johnson Farm Way. The new clinic is open to patients for vaccinations, testing, and other preventive care, and offers expanded opportunities for health education and community events. Learn more at Health.FishersIN.gov.

Please note: While the Fishers Community Center officially opens to the public on Nov. 1, the FHD clinic is now open. Vital Records and Permitting will remain at 3 Municipal Drive.



2026 City of Fishers Budget

The 2026 City of Fishers budget was approved this month, maintaining a consistent low tax rate and strong fiscal position. Key investments include new firefighters and school safety officers, youth athletics, parks and trails, and neighborhood vibrancy and educator innovation grants. Learn more at FishersIN.gov/Budget.

Now Hiring: Fishers Snow Fight Team

Fishers DPW is seeking snow-plow drivers and backhoe operators for the winter. Earn extra cash this holiday season by applying for this temporary, on-call position at FishersIN.gov/Jobs.

Republic Leaf Pickup

Throughout November, Republic will pick up 20 extra bags of yard waste or leaves each pickup. Find details at FishersIN.gov/Trash.

Trick-or-Treat Hours

City of Fishers' official Trick-or-Treat hours are Friday, Oct. 31 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Police cars will be patrolling the neighborhoods to ensure everyone's safety, but remember to walk in groups and stay on the sidewalk when possible.

THIS IS FISHERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fishers Community Center Grand Opening

Saturday, Nov. 1 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.

11400 Johnson Farm Way | Free

Celebrate the grand opening of the Fishers Community Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community open house! Residents and members can enjoy tours of the facility, activities, membership sign-ups, and a flu vaccine clinic with the Fishers Health Department. Learn more at FishersCommunityCenter.com.

Please note: The event is for exploration only. Facility amenities, including the playground, fitness center, and aquatics area, will open at noon.

Fishers Veterans Day Ceremony

Tuesday, Nov. 11 | 11 a.m. | Theater at Fishers Municipal Center (1 Municipal Drive) | Free

The City of Fishers and Fishers Armed Services Commission invite residents to a Veterans Day Ceremony honoring our local heroes and their families. Learn more and watch a livestream of the event at FishersIN.gov/FishersHonors.

Fishers Arts Council's Second Friday Gallery Hop

Friday, Nov. 14 | 5 - 9 p.m. | Various Locations

View art from local artists with your Fishers neighbors! Fill out your Gallery Hop punch card by visiting all six gallery locations and bring your completed punch card to Four Day Ray for a free dessert with dinner purchase of \$25+ on Nov. 14 - 16. Learn more at FishersArtsCouncil.org.



This Season at the Fishers Event Center

From Indy Fuel hockey to unforgettable concerts and events, there's something for everyone at Fishers' newest destination for live entertainment. Get tickets at FishersEventCenter.com.

Upcoming shows:

- John Legend: Get Lifted 20th Anniversary Tour: Nov. 16
- AEW Presents Dynamite: Dec. 3
- Indy Fuel Teddy Bear Toss: Dec. 13
- Mudsock Rivalry Game: Dec. 19
- Professional Championship Bull Riders: Jan. 10
- Heart with special guest Lucinda Williams: Mar. 15

Get Creative This Fall at Fishers Art Center!

Make slime with your little one or learn to knit a winter headband at the Fishers Art Center in the Fishers Municipal Complex (1 Municipal Drive).

Whether you're new to art or looking to expand your skills, you'll find options designed to fit your interests and schedule. New three-day workshops, multi-week classes, and Make It Take It workshops are open for registration at FishersArtCenter.org.

Fishers Winter Break Camp

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 | 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Holland Park (1 Park Drive) | Ages 5 - 12

\$52.50/day for residents, \$75/day for nonresidents

Registration is open for Operation: Cold Front, a frosty adventure filled with icy experiments, chilly challenges, and cool crafts. Designed with busy families in mind, this drop-in-only camp lets parents choose the days that work best for their schedules. Register at FishersCommunityCenter.com.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Give back to your community this fall with these volunteer opportunities:

- Fishers Parks & Rain Garden Stewards
- 3rd Grade Study Trips
- Fishers Maker Playground

Sign up to volunteer at VolunteerFishers.com.



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BUILDING THE FUTURE



At Hamilton Southeastern Schools, seventh- and eighth-grade students are discovering the power of innovation, one brick at a time. Launched this school year, the new robotics elective, now offered at every HSE junior high school in partnership with LEGO® Education, gives students a hands-on way to explore engineering, coding, and design thinking.

Using LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime kits, students gain problem-solving and technical skills that connect directly to future career pathways in advanced manufacturing, engineering, and computer science. The course also aligns with *Journey of a Student*, HSE's long-term vision to provide learning experiences that are engaging, relevant, and connected to real-world opportunities.



Eric Brown, who teaches the new robotics elective at Hamilton Southeastern Intermediate-Junior High (HIJ), says learning looks a little different in his classroom. On this day, his students work in teams to design and program robotic models that perform real-world tasks – from testing mechanical grippers to racing through timed challenges. “We’re taking hands-on

learning and bringing it to the top level,” Brown said.

“As an HSE parent and a representative of LEGO® Education, I’m proud to see our community champion this type of learning,” said Tracey Dingle, Key Account Manager with LEGO® Education. “These experiences don’t just teach robotics – they teach resilience, creativity, and teamwork. That’s what prepares our students not only for future careers but for life.”

All HSE robotics teachers received specialized training through LEGO® Education to ensure every student benefits from a high-quality, standards-aligned experience. Superintendent Pat Mapes says the program reflects the district’s commitment to preparing students for what comes next. “Robotics brings together curiosity, collaboration, and critical thinking – all essential parts of our *Journey of a Student*,” Mapes said.

By semester’s end, the goal is for students to walk away with more than technical knowledge – carrying with them the mindset and motivation to shape the future.



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Alexandra's Story



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"Before LearningRx, our daughter Alexandra, then age 7, was really struggling. No matter how much extra help she got from school and tutors, she still couldn't read and her grades were still low. The parent teacher conferences were becoming a chore and we found ourselves concerned for Alex's future. Worst of all, Alexandra was losing her confidence and even began saying she felt 'stupid.' As parents, it broke our hearts to watch her feel defeated so young.

Then we found LearningRx—and everything changed. Alexandra went from a struggling student to a confident, capable reader who

now performs at grade level. Her report cards were filled with good grades, and the spark of confidence in her eyes has returned. Alexandra is now 19 and a college student at Purdue, a dream that was made possible by the life long change in her brain made through brain training at LearningRx. She's proud of herself, and we're so proud of her too. LearningRx didn't just improve her reading and learning—it gave her back her confidence and changed her future. It truly changed her life."

—Alexandra's Parents

FROM HEATHER, DIRECTOR OF LEARNINGRX:

"What makes LearningRx so powerful is that we don't just tutor—we train the brain. Our customized one-on-one brain training strengthens the core cognitive skills that make learning possible. This means better reading ability, stronger retention of information, and greater overall learning capacity. We also see amazing improvements in attention and focus skills—without the need for medication. When the brain is stronger, everything in school and life gets easier. Everything in life just gets better!"



Still dreading report cards and parent-teacher conferences—even after tutoring and extra help from school?



You're not alone. Many bright students struggle, not because they aren't trying, but because traditional teaching and tutoring don't strengthen the brain skills needed to learn.

That's where LearningRx comes in.

- One-on-one brain training targets the root cause of learning struggles.
- We strengthen memory, attention, processing speed, logic & reasoning, and reading skills.
- Students don't just "get by"—they gain the confidence and skills to thrive.
- The result? Report cards that finally reflect their true potential—better grades, stronger reading, and a confident learner who enjoys school again.
- If teaching and tutoring haven't worked, it's time to try something different. LearningRx doesn't just teach—it changes the brain.



Call or Scan
the QR Code

Schedule a cognitive skills assessment and see how we can change your child's future.

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Holiday

GIFT GUIDE



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

EACH YEAR WE DEDICATE OUR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ISSUES TO FEATURE A HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE NOW!

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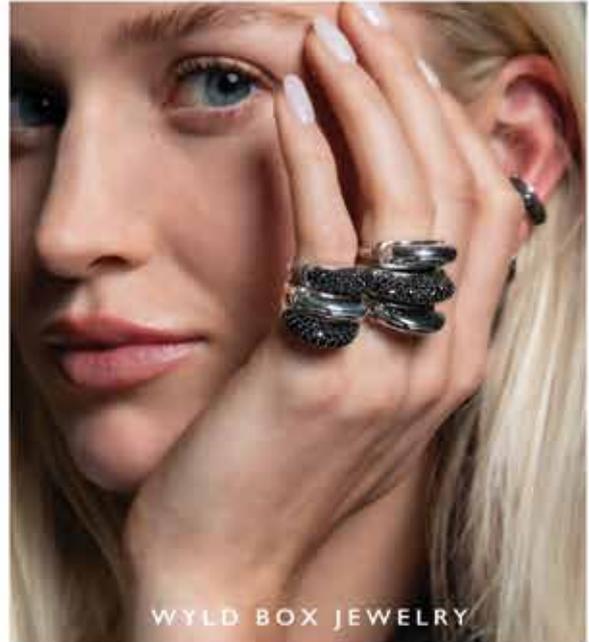
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AROUND THE
COMMUNITY, 2025

NOVEMBER



Scan the QR code
to check out the
full community
calendar

5

BLOOMINGTON BISON AT INDY FUEL

Fishers Event Center,
11000 Stockdale St.
7 p.m.

6

GROOVE & GLOW

Orangily,
5790 East Main Street #Suite 150
6:30-9 p.m.
Where girlfriends, mocktails, and dance floors
collide. Good friends, great music, glow vibes.

TORCH MAGAZINE - NETWORKING + HAPPY HOUR

Four Day Ray Brewing,
11671 Lantern Rd.
4-6 p.m.
Stop by for a beer and networking with the
BBB celebrating our inaugural issue of the
"Torch Magazine." Open to all BBB Accredited
businesses in Central Indiana!

7-9

MCMAMARA FLORIST ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

McNamara Florist,
11840 Allisonville Rd.
Nov. 7-8: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.;
Nov. 9: 12-5 p.m.
Come see us in November for our Annual
Holiday Open House!

7

WHITE RIVER WRESTLING: LIVE IN FISHERS

Pro Net Sports,
14001 Britton Park Rd.
7-11 p.m.
White River Wrestling: Live in Fishers
Doors open at 7 p.m.
Bell time at 8 p.m.

8

HOLIDAY HERITAGE MARKET

Conner Prairie,
13400 Allisonville Rd.
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Our market offers historic and handmade
goods, including custom pottery, textiles, meat
products from our heritage breeds animals
and the latest Prairie Provision products.

MUDSOCK QUILTERS GUILD SHOW

Cornerstone Lutheran Church,
13450 E 116th St.
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

9

HOLISTIC HUB WELLBEING FEST, SPONSORED BY HOLISTIC DENTAL WELLNESS

Hub & Spoke, 8100 E 106th St.
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Holistic Hub Wellbeing Fest was created for
you to experience supportive community, learn
& grow, as well as discover local resources to
support you and your family's well-being.

16

JOHN LEGEND: GET LIFTED 20th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Fishers Event Center, 11000 Stockdale St.
7 p.m.
John Legend is coming to Fishers Event
Center for his Get Lifted 20th Anniversary Tour
on November 16! Don't miss out!

20-22, 28-30

4 X'MAS

The Mud Creek Barn Theater, 9740 E 86th St.
Nov. 20: 7:30-9 p.m.; Nov. 21-22, 28-29: 8-9:30
p.m.; Nov. 30: 2:30-4 p.m.
Four heart warming Holiday plays and one
monologue. Included in this collection are:
The Office Party, Santa's Clara, The First Noel,
Balls, and Santa Comes to The King David.