

Hendricks County Museum News

February 2025

The mission of the Hendricks County Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret items relating to the people, places and events of Hendricks County and to stimulate public interest in the heritage of the county through education, exhibits and special programs.

President's Message

Although the Museum is not open for regular tours until March, we are busy with many activities including preparing new exhibits and refreshing displays. Of course all of our Christmas decorations had to be put away, too. Planning the new year takes a lot of thought, and we invite all of you to pass along any ideas or suggestions you may have. The annual meeting is the third Thursday of March. All Museum members are invited! It is also time to renew your memberships. Levels start at $25.00 and can be sent by mail or donations can be made through our website.

—Pat Baldwin

This yearly event was started in December 2017 by Mr. Ben Neilson in the Cascade 8th Grade PACE History class. Students came to the Museum in September to gather information about certain items in the Museum. During the school year they work on learning more about these items and present a video showing off all their hard work at the Royal Theater in March. We are really proud of these kids and thank Ben for undertaking this project each year.

We have Secrets on the Shelf videos available from years past on our website. Take a look!

Secrets on the Shelf – Hendricks County Historical Museum (hendrickscountymuseum.org)

History Buffs and Teachers: If you or your school would like to start an exciting project like this, please let us know!



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

DATES TO KNOW FOR 2025

March 14 Museum Opening Day	**March 19** Secrets On the Shelf	**May 3** Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars
June 7 Children's Day "Little Golden Books"	**Oct. 4** Road Rally	**Oct. 25** Scares On The Square
Nov. 1 Afternoon Tea "Dolls"	**Nov. 28** Christmas On the Square	**Dec. 13** Museum Closing Day

Annual Friends of the Hendricks County Museum Meeting Thursday, March 20th

BECOME A MEMBER

It's time to renew your membership at the Museum!

All levels of membership are eligible to receive a $5 discount on a DWHCS ticket. If you are not a member, now's the time to join!

$25	Homesteader
$100	Settler
$250	Pioneer
$500	Trailblazer
$1000	Founder



Celebrating 10 Years of Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Kentucky Derby Theme!

"Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars" is May 3!

On Saturday, May 3 the Hendricks County Historical Museum, along with its partner Arthur Murray Dance Center in Avon will have its tenth anniversary event of the museum's major fundraiser, "Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars"!

On January 9th, the ten dancers from across the county gathered with Arthur Murray instructors for the Kick-off of the event.

2025 Dancers are: Dalton Smith, North Salem State Bank; Dr. Sumit Chawla, Hendricks Regional Health; Kelly Knoll, IU Health West; Logan Wallace, Hendricks Power; Angela Upchurch, State Bank; Doris Maples, The Breakfast Company; Hardy Hill, American Senior Communities; Stephanie Commins, Hendricks County Bank & Trust; Margeurite Raymo, Shaped Strong; and Chris Postell of WM.

At the Kick-off, dancers were paired with an instructor who will prepare them for the performance through lessons at Arthur Murray. In a random draw, they learned which dance style they will perform.

Dancers are also mentored by former dancers who guide them through the process.

The Hendricks County Museum is grateful for these volunteers who will devote much time in the next months to give their best to support the preservation of the history of our county.

Tickets are available at hendrickscountymuseum.org or you can scan this QR code. Even if you cannot attend the event, you can still support the Museum by donating to your favorite dancer to help their cause, donating a Silent Auction item, or becoming a sponsor.

https://hchm.home.qtego.us/



The DWHCS kickoff meeting was held in January. This is when the fun began! Dancers first met each other, their instructors, and picked their dance style for the event.



Seven of the 10 dancers were able to meet altogether for a tour of the Museum on Feb. 6th. Shown are, left to right: First row, Kelly Knoll, Hardy Hill. Second row: Stephanie Commins and Angela Upchurch. Top row: Dalton Smith, Doris Maples and Logan Wallace. Not present were Sumit Chawla, Marguerite Ramos and Chris Postell. Sumit was able to tour the museum on an earlier date.



The instructors at Arthur Murray's of Avon have enthusiastically trained the dancers for the past 10 years. We thank them for their tireless efforts! Shown, l-r, are Alex Skudrovskis, Katie Toth, Jamis Wadsworth-Carr, Jack Bow (owner), and Ana Fernandez.

Thank You to Our DWHCS Title Sponsors

American Senior Communities ASCCare.com

Hendricks Regional Health

Know Your Towns: Amo, IN (Clay Township)



Located along the old Indianapolis and Terre Haute railroad (later called the Vandalia Railroad) Amo, Indiana, was platted in 1853. Originally known as Morrisville, how the town got the name Amo is a mystery, with several tales, lore and stories. But it is noted that the citizens of the community changed the name to Amo and incorporated the town in 1913. Before consolidation, Amo High School served the area's secondary educational needs and the sports teams were known as the "Amo Aces". Amo Cemetery is located south of the downtown, on Pearl Street.



Amo School, circa 1926, https://hendrickscountymuseum.org/digital-collections/

One of the more prominent historical buildings in Amo is the Interurban Depot, which served as a generating substation for the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction Company. Its electric rail cars transported passengers across the state from Richmond to Terre Haute, with many stops along the way, including at Amo. The depot, built in 1907, was renovated in 2007, 100 years after the first interurban car arrived in town. The Amo Interurban Depot is located at the NE corner of Pearl Street and W CR 500 S.

The former Vandalia Railroad tracks have been converted into a popular rail-trail that extends west from Amo to the Hendricks-Putnam County line. Used by walkers, runners, bicyclists and horseback riders, the trailhead is at the corner of Pearl and South Streets, just across the street from the interurban depot.

Congratulations Shawn!

Shawn Burcham recently completed the Archives Management Certification program through IU Indy. She started volunteering with the Museum in 2020. The Museum elected to keep Shawn on staff in 2023, as an Archives Collection Specialist.



Shawn (r) and Jim Canary, Conservator at IU Lilly Library

"The archives management program has given me a new perspective on how to organize, process, and showcase archives and I'm eager to apply these new processes at the museum to present complete stories of the past. Hendricks County history has a wealth of fascinating historical figures. I love learning about the people who have helped shape the County. Each time I process a collection, I learn something new and intriguing."

Someday she'd like to work in the Indiana University archives. "I had the opportunity in 2022 to tour the archival stacks at the IU Bloomington Lilly Library and see some of the behind-the-scenes activities. That's really when my career path began to pivot toward archives. For now, I'm excited and fortunate to continue working at the museum, processing and organizing collections and bringing Hendricks County history to life."

Thank you, Shawn, for all you do!



Indiana Memory

We now have over 2,200 pictures scanned and on Indiana Memory from the Museum photo collection!

Please bear in mind that when you bring in your photos to be scanned, we may or may not be able to use them. The photos must be labeled as to who is in the picture or where the picture has been taken. The photos must be from or about Hendricks County.

Of course, if you have a photograph that you need help identifying, we would be glad to assist you however we can.

Children's Day June 7th

Gather up your Little Golden Books!



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Inform Educate Preserve

Board of Directors

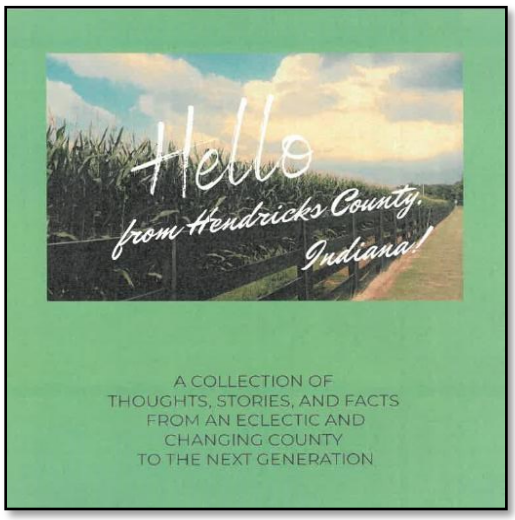
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Closing ceremony held for County Bicentennial

On Friday January 24 the closing ceremony for the Hendricks County Bicentennial was held at Hendricks Live! Over the year close to 100 projects and events were held to recognize the history of and celebrate the community that is Hendricks County. The Museum had several endorsed projects and events, including Dancing With the Hendricks County Stars 2024, Pioneer Day in June, Lend to Scan, "Hats Off to 200 Years' our afternoon tea, and our Road Rally "On the Trail of the Pioneers".

Our major project was our book "Hello from Hendricks County" with chapters from each township, focusing on the years from WWII to the present. Copies of the book are available at the Museum and at Forget Me Nots and are $20.00, with an extra $5.00 if you want it mailed.





Members of the Hendricks County Bicentennial Steering Committee: Front row l-r, Tracy Whetstone, Pat Baldwin, Rhonda Beck, EveMarie Bessenbach. Back row l-r: Larry Scott, Brett Clark, Eric Hessel, and Josh Duke.



Research shows that volunteering **reduced feelings of isolation, loneliness and risk of depression.** Doing good can make you feel good. Experts say volunteering improves mental health by reducing stress, lowering anxiety, increasing feelings of purpose, accomplishment, and happiness.

1. Volunteering connects you to others.
2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body.
3. Volunteering can advance your career.
4. Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life.
5. For more information, go to: Volunteering and its Surprising Benefits - HelpGuide.org

Follow us on Social Media! We post once or twice a week, including our very popular 'Then and Now' pictures. We have videos posted on Instagram, too.





It is a challenge to staff the Museum during our open hours on Fridays and Saturdays, 11-3. We are looking for some additional volunteers. We do not have a minimum amount of time volunteers need to work. We provide training and never leave a volunteer alone. We have some pretty great volunteers, this is a great way to spend time with nice people, enjoy meeting our always interesting visitors, and do something for your community.

We are also looking at the possibility of having a part time paid summer intern for Friday and/or Saturdays. This position was last held by a college student and we worked around her schedule. If you know a responsible person who loves history, you can have them email the museum.

We're getting geared up for the start of our 2025 season. We will be having a meeting for docents on Feb. 20th at 4:00 pm at the museum. It is optional, but if you have questions or things to discuss please come. We also have some new people joining us this year and you could welcome them to our museum family. Thank you for volunteering!!

Calling all High School and College History Buffs!

We need you! Come spend a few hours a month with us as a docent! You'll learn more about our Hendricks History while you are sharing it with the visitors! We provide any information you may need for a tour. ***Added bonus to you: It will look good on your resume!***

If interested, email hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us for this and other opportunities.