

Hendricks County Museum News

February 2026

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

We closed out 2025 strong, and although we aren't open for tours we are still working at the Hendricks County Museum. Most of the Christmas decorations are packed away for another year, and last year's displays are being reviewed and in the annex rooms are being prepared. With nearly a foot of snow, and then temperatures at times below zero, and ongoing heating problems for several days work inside the building was delayed. The County is fixing the heating so we are back inside preparing for our reopening. We already have several groups waiting to schedule tours. Our break is not really a break, just like winter it is a season of sometimes weather forced rest, renewal and preparation. Spring will come!

—Pat Baldwin

America 250 – Happy Birthday U.S.A.



This year, 2026, marks 250 years since we declared our independence from Great Britain.

The Revolutionary War officially began in April of 1775 and did not end until September of 1783 when England officially acknowledged our independence. It would be forty years before Hendricks would be named as one of Indiana's counties, but there were veterans of that war who came to call Hendricks County home. Thanks to the Wa-Pe-Ke-Way Chapter of the DAR, the museum will feature some of their stories.

Elections seem constantly in the news now, whether an election year or not. Another exhibit will tell an interesting, somewhat surprising, story of elections history in the county.

We are also featuring the one and only U.S. president elected from Indiana. Do you know his connection to Hendricks County?



Secrets on the Shelf with Cascade Middle School is March 18. The students will present their videos at the Royal Theater in Danville, and the Museum will be open to allow the students to show their families what "Secrets" they found at the Museum.



We are looking for a volunteer who can organize our newspaper clippings. This project could be done at the Museum or at home. It does not need to be a scrapbook, just put into a notebook and we will provide the 'sleeves".

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 14	Museum Reopens
March ??	Annual Board Meeting
March 18	Secrets on the Shelf
May 2	Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Tickets on sale now for DWHCS 2026

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars is once again gearing up for the annual fundraiser for the Hendricks County Museum. The event, often called "Hendricks County's most FUN fundraiser", will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 6:30pm at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. Dancers will be competing for 3 separate trophies: Best Dancer, Most Money Raised, and People's Choice.

This year's dancers are: Jon Bailey (Cumberland Trace), Karsen Cran (American Senior Communities), Anita Mazdai (Hendricks Regional Health), Sherry Sichting (North Salem State Bank), Amy Watson (Hendricks Power Cooperative), Kapri Ames (IU Health West Hospital), Beth Ford (Abstract and Title Companies), Jessica Wilson (Brooke Knoll Village), John Goings (Easter Seals Crossroads), Evan Love (Hendricks County Sheriff's Department), Phillip Tran (Sally's Nails), and Mo Childs (WM).

Over 500 guests will attend the event which includes a meal catered by The Coachman Restaurant of Plainfield, a Dessert Dash, and a Silent Auction. The highlight of the evening is the dance competition. Each of the 12 dancers has been paired with dance instructors from Avon's Arthur Murray Dance Studio. This year's theme is "Casino Royale" and guests are encouraged to embrace the theme and dress accordingly or in cocktail attire.

This event, which began in 2015, has grown over the years and is the main fundraiser for the Hendricks County Museum.

Tickets are now on sale. For sponsorship information contact Robin Pickett, Event Chair, (317) 362-7978 or pickettrealtors@gmail.com.



Dancers and Arthur Murray instructors gathered at the DWHCS kickoff. Shown left to right, are: (bottom row) Instructors Andy Wahyudhi, Inez Reyes (standing), Jenna Cook, and Jamis Wadsworth-Carr, and dancers Beth Ford and Amy Watson. (Top row) Instructors Barry Snyder and Katie Chadbourne, and dancers Jon Bailey, Sherry Sichting, Phillip Tran, Karsen Cram, Mo Childs, Evan Love, Jessica Wilson, and John Goings. (Not pictured: Anita Mazdai and Kapri Ames).

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

Thank you

Mark Belloni has decided not to return to the Board for another term. We will miss him and are very grateful for his passion to help promote, educate, and preserve Hendricks County history over the years. Best of luck Mark!



Indiana is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776 Hendricks County was a fishing and hunting ground for Native tribes. In the Military Room are two powder horns which were used to store gunpowder for use in flintlock weapons. The horn was inexpensive, waterproof and lightweight. A stopper, often of wood, was at the wide end, and a nozzle fitted into the tip to enable the powder to be poured out. Ours is simple, without carvings.



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Inform Educate Preserve

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Our heartfelt condolences go to Deanna Hindsley and her family on the passing of her husband, Mark Hindsley, this past January. Deanna was a past Museum Board member, President, and Event Chair of Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars,

Thank You to Our DWHCS Title Sponsors

American Senior Communities. ASCCare.com

Hendricks Regional Health

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY MUSEUM RESENTS

dancing with the hendricks county stars

May 2, 2026

Tickets available online at
www.hendrickscountymuseum.org

Doors Open at 5:45 pm

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds
& Complex Center



CASINO ROYALE THEME

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