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A Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Publication

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“We are trying to de-stress the process. It is nice to help people get to their new place and see them settled. I think we help a lot of people get through that process.”

**— John Craft,
 Soft Touch Moving
 & Storage**

David Jacobs, center, crew leader, and Kody Cunningham, left, and Hunter Varner. Photo by Chris Howell.

Spotlight: Soft Touch Moving & Storage

By Kasey Husk

For most people, seeing a grand piano suspended four stories above the sidewalk is a novelty. For Bloomington’s John Craft, it’s another part of the job.

Craft is the owner of Soft Touch Moving & Storage, Bloomington’s longstanding moving company. Craft, who has been at the helm of the business since 2006, said he takes pride in helping clients through an experience that is usually ranked among the top three most stressful life events, after dying and divorce: moving.

“We are trying to de-stress the process,” Craft said. “It is nice to help people get to their new place and see them settled. I think we help a lot of people get through that process.”



John Craft. Photo by Chris Howell.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 17 Business After Hours, HFI
- 26 hYPe Bring Your Boss Lunch, Monroe County History Center

NOVEMBER

- 1 Business Outlook, Woolery Mill



**Coming in November:
 Nonprofits and Giving**

Election Coverage:

**Q&A With
 Candidates**

See page 7

SPOTLIGHT

continued on page 12

ADVOCACY Update

The Chamber represents business interests to local, state and federal representatives, serving as an advocate on behalf of all businesses for the issues critical to the future of our community. If you need assistance with a business advocacy issue, please contact your Advocacy Team at The Chamber.

Module 2 of the UDO Update Released

The City of Bloomington released module 2 of the Unified Development Ordinance last month. The UDO contains all of the land use and development regulations that apply to construction within the city. Module 2 focuses on dimensional and development standards including height, density and incentives. A draft can be found on the city's website, at bloomington.in.gov. The Chamber will be submitting comments on the draft. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to The Chamber.

Chamber Calls for City and County Officials to be Collaborative on Convention Center

The Chamber released a statement calling on officials to reinstate the original MOU and find common ground to move the Convention Center project forward. The Chamber also called for the selection process for a hotelier to be reopened at the appropriate time. The Chamber has included the expansion of the Monroe Convention Center as a priority in its Local Public Policy Agenda the past several years, and



The I-69 signs on Section 5 of the interstate have been uncovered. Photo by Jeremy Hogan.

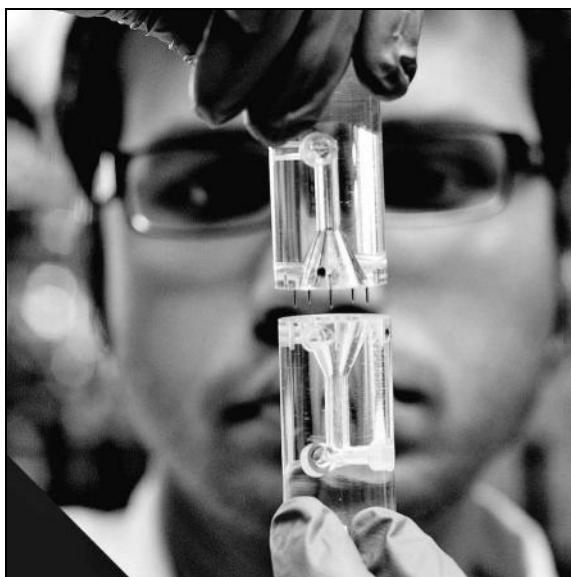
publicly supported the food and beverage tax. The Chamber is dedicated to do all it can to help facilitate conversations between the city and county and move this important project forward in a timely, responsible and transparent manner.

Annual Legislative Survey

Be on the lookout for The Chamber's annual Legislative Survey, which will be sent out this month. The survey will help us identify the top priority issues of our members as we develop our Legislative and Local Public Policy Agendas for 2019. Thank you in advance for your participation!

I-69 Section 5 Update

Motorists traveling between Indianapolis and Bloomington and wishing to avoid potential delays on Ind. 37 are encouraged use the alternate routes of Ind. 135, I-65 and Ind. 67. The speed limit throughout the entire work zone remains 45 miles per hour. Motorists are urged to drive with no distractions, leave ample space between vehicles and to be aware of changing traffic conditions. Motorists are urged to exercise caution when driving through these portions of the construction zone and are reminded that the speed limit remains 45 miles per hour for the entire I-69 Section 5 corridor. 



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Have questions about Chamber advocacy?

Contact Anne Bono
812-336-6381
abono@ChamberBloomington.org



Erin Predmore.
Courtesy photo.

Your Reasons for Not Voting: Solved!

Dear Active and Engaged Voter,
Welcome to the 2018 Election Edition.

I've always loved civics. As a kid, I would take opportunities to do mock governments, participating in entire weeks at the State Capitol, "running" for office, "passing" legislation, and debating issues that were important to us as high schoolers. I remember one year coming home after a week of Youth In Government and asking my parents about their voting habits. I was 16 — too young to vote, but very informed about the process and passionate about its importance to our society. I was horrified to learn that my parents had each missed chances to vote in previous elections for different reasons that seemed ridiculous to me at the time (illness, travel, sick child). How dare they not vote? Did they not realize the sacrifices others had made for them? Did they not care?? I'm sure that my strident educational moments did absolutely nothing to persuade them to be more active. I was unforgiving in my judgement — how dare they only vote 90 percent of the time!

Fast forward to today, and my judgement of their mere 90 percent voting record seems laughable, especially in light of the voter turnout in the last non-presidential election nationwide. In the 2014 midterm election, only 36 percent of voters cast a ballot nationwide, which was the lowest turnout in 72 years. 36 percent looks pretty good when you compare it to the 26 percent Monroe County had. Only 1

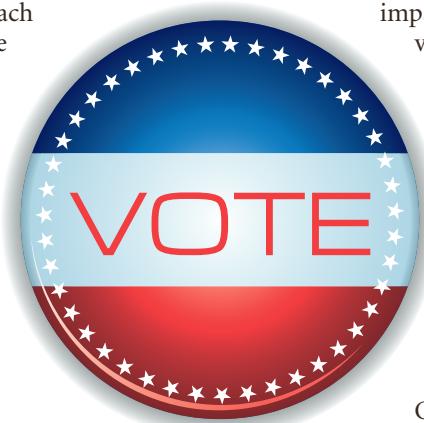
out of 4 registered voters went to the polls that year.

So this leads me to an important question — why don't more people vote? Current research indicates there are two main reasons people do not vote in elections. First, people report they do not vote because they don't feel like they know enough about the candidates and worry about making a mistake. I understand this feeling. Voting is an awesome responsibility, and if you are uninformed or unsure about the issues, it's difficult to feel confident in making a choice. Second, people report they are too busy to vote. Work and family obligations are most cited as

impacting a registered voter's likeliness to show up at the polls, and as someone familiar with those time issues, I also understand this predicament.

I believe that, while both of these reasons are complicated, they are solvable. The Chamber's October BizNet is dedicated to the upcoming election, and I'm hopeful that the information provided in this edition will educate you on the candidates' positions around issues that are important to you. More information can be found on the candidates' websites, by visiting candidate forums, or by talking with the candidates directly about issues important to you. You CAN feel informed about the issues.

What can the Chamber do to help you have more time to vote? I don't



CHAMBER VOICES
continued on page 19

Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
400 W. 7th St., Suite 102 • P.O. Box 1302 • Bloomington, IN 47402
Phone 812-336-6381 • ChamberBloomington.org

STAFF, PARTNERS & BOARD MEMBERS

The Chamber invites its members to contact these individuals with comments or questions regarding Chamber activities.

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Erin Predmore, *President and CEO*
Anne Bono, *Vice President, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy*
Hanna Borntrager, *Advocacy Associate*
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Jim Whitlatch, *Bunger & Robertson*
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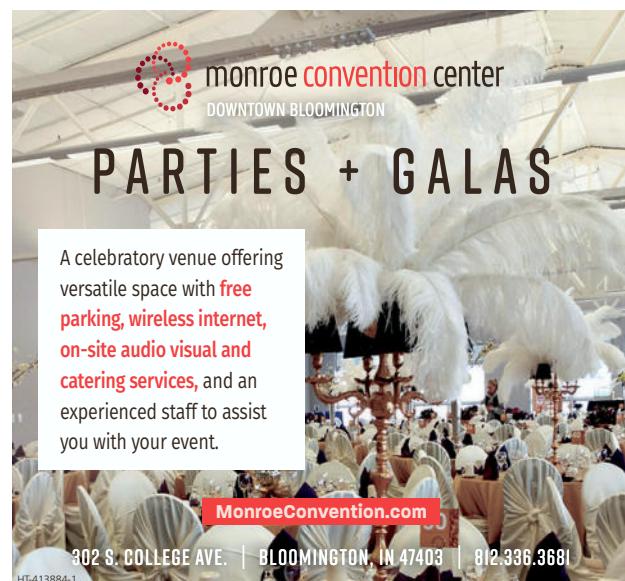
CONTACT BIZNET

If you are a Chamber member who would like to announce promotions, expansions, community events, or other news in the "Chamber Briefs" section, please contact Carol Kelly at the Chamber: 812-336-6381 or ckelly@ChamberBloomington.org.

To advertise in *BizNet*, please contact Chad Giddens at 812-331-4292 or cgiddens@heraldt.com. Be sure to ask about discount rate packages for Chamber members!

For subscription information or customer service, please contact Jim Inman at 812-336-6381 or info@ChamberBloomington.org.

Please send press releases to info@ChamberBloomington.org. Thank you for your interest in *BizNet*!



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Here's the hYPe!

By Christopher Emge, manager of talent and education



Courtesy photo.

A big thank you to our successful local panelists and young professionals who joined us after work on Wednesday, Sept. 12, for the “Building Your Personal Brand” workshop. The event was hosted by Bedrāk Café, and attendees enjoyed a variety of food and drink during the networking portion of the event. The panel for the night consisted of Emily Hines from Ems on the Road; Lynsey Randall, founder of Bloomington Moms Blog; Shelly Weasterhausen of Vegetarian Ventures; and Adam Schaeuble, founder of TranformationCoach.me. The panel chatted about the best methods for finding your online niche. Their take-home message was to discover what makes you unique, areas of personal passion, and always be true to yourself.

Up next up we have another edition of the YPs and their bosses coming together for lunch. Bring Your Boss Lunch will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, at the Monroe County History Center located in downtown Bloomington. The topic for this this lunch will be “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace.” Three panelists will discuss why inclusion is the only real means to build diversity within an organization. Simply interviewing a diverse array of candidates is not enough to achieve success. The talk will include ways in which to facilitate discussions, input and feedback at your workplace. What does inclusion really look like and how can you build it? How can the policies and daily actions at my workplace cultivate the right everyday environment? This is a free event to attend, and registration is available on The Chamber’s website, ChamberBloomington.org.

Does your place of work have young professionals you are hoping to retain? hYPe regularly does presentations at workplaces to inform your YPs and entire office on what we are about, how you can join, and how to get involved in our vibrant community. Contact Christopher Emge at 812-336-6381 or cemge@chamberbloomington.org for more information. To learn more about hYPe and sign up for our email list, please visit ChamberBloomington.org/hype.

hYPe
news



MEMBER RENEWALS

- Area 10 Agency On Aging
- Arthur Murray Dance Center
- Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington
- Axis Architecture + Interiors
- Baked! of Bloomington
- Bell Trace Senior Living Community
- Bender Lumber
- Big Woods Bloomington
- Bill C. Brown Associates
- Chickering Rentals
- Comfort Inn Bloomington
- Farm Bureau Insurance
- First American Trust, LLC
- First Insurance Group, Inc.
- Gentry Park Bloomington
- Great West Casualty Co.
- Holiday Inn
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Inc.
- Indiana Limestone Company
- IU-Career Development Center and Arts & Sciences Career Services
- IU-Indiana Memorial Union Biddle Hotel & Conference Center
- IU-Office of the Vice President for Engagement
- Jeffery Schauss Wine Consultant
- JJ's Concrete Construction LLC
- LuckyGuy Bakery, LLC
- MedExpress Urgent Care
- Meineke Car Care Center
- Moore Restoration, Inc.
- Mr. Delivery
- OEI, Inc.
- Organized Living
- Owen County State Bank
- Ray Wealth Management
- Soft Touch Moving and Storage Co.
- T.A. Fuller Homes, Inc.
- The Tailored Fit
- Union Savings Bank



NEW MEMBERS

Alchemy
206 N. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47404
Contact: Logan Hunter
812-822-0131

EllieMae's Boutique
100 W. Kirkwood Ave., #116
Bloomington, IN 47402
Contact: Shelly Nelson
812-339-8084

H.O.M.E. Home Organization Made Easy
4570 S. Stansifer Lane
Bloomington, IN 47403
Contact: Andrea Connolly
812-727-8157

Premier Hospice and Palliative Care
2856 E. Buick Cadillac Blvd.
Bloomington, IN 47401
Contact: Tracy Wagoner
812-680-4384

Printpack
2121 N. Angelina Lane
Bloomington, IN 47404
Contact: Charlene Perez
812-334-5500

The Project School
349 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
Contact: Amy Jackson
812-558-0041

Skin Aesthetics Medical Spa
2801 N. Walnut St., Suite 8
Bloomington, IN 47404
Contact: Kathy Pafford
812-327-1167

Trico Surveying & Mapping, Inc.
441 W. Gourley Pike
Bloomington, IN 47404
Contact: Joseph Palacios
812-330-7030

White Rabbit Copy Service & Digital Printing
601 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
Contact: Ryan Rud-Cloud
812-339-5020



New Hires & Promotions

Austin Hays has joined Sandi Taylor Hometown Insurance. Austin is a Bloomington native and he looks forward to helping the community with their insurance needs. Austin will offer personal, commercial, life and Medicare Supplement insurance. For more information contact Austin at 812-822-2277.

Awards & Designations

Angela Chambers, longtime staff member at Comprehensive Financial Consultants, recently completed her Series 7 and 66 licensing exams to become a licensed assistant. In addition to this, Angela will be celebrating her 15-year anniversary with Comprehensive Financial Consultants in October of this year! Angela has always been known as “the right hand” around the office, and the completion of her licensing makes this even more true!

Securities offered through J.W. Cole Financial, Inc. (JWC), Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through J.W. Cole Advisors, Inc. (JWCA) and/or Comprehensive Financial Consultants Institutional, Inc (CFCI). Comprehensive Financial Consultants and CFCI/JWC/JWCA are unaffiliated entities.

Kim & Randy Stegemoller of Class 101/Central Indiana has been awarded the “2017 Franchise of the Year” Award. Of the 35 franchises across the country, Kim & Randy Stegemoller received this distinction for the fifth year in a row. Class 101 is a college planning company that focuses on preparing high school students for college success through SAT/ACT Prep, College selection, Essay Workshops and Scholarship Preparation.

Opportunities & Events

Class 101, a national leader in college planning, is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for high school students. This fall, Class 101 will award up to five scholarships, ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000, to students who excel at leadership, academics and making a difference in their communities. Students are encouraged to submit an application by visiting Class101.com/CentralIndiana. Applications are due by Dec. 1, 2018, with selected students to be announced Jan. 2019. This scholarship competition is open to all high school students.

CHAMBER BRIEFS

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Skin Aesthetics Medical Spa is owned and operated by Kathy Pafford, LME, a licensed aesthetician with more than 20 years of experience in providing expert medical and wellness care in a sophisticated, nurturing environment. Skin Aesthetics Medical Spa holds a highly acclaimed reputation among discerning clients who value professionalism, exquisite care, and optimal results. Kathy prides herself in providing customized treatment plans with proven results, making her one of the most sought after aestheticians in Bloomington and beyond. You're invited to book a complimentary consultation to see why Skin Aesthetics Medical Spa is revered in our community. Call 812-327-1167 today!



The three amigos came to town and created The 3 Amigos Mexican Restaurant. Not only are they amigos they are brothers! It's been a great, family-friendly restaurant for three years now, filled with many good times and memories. We put our hearts and souls into making our food just so we can see a smile on your face. We refuse to have a bad manner and we try our best to complete your day. Have a big group of people that want to have a good time with good food? Reserve a spot for all of your guests at 601 N. College Ave. or call (812) 822-1754.



Lola & Company is the coolest little lifestyle boutique that provides curated goods for life, body and soul in downtown Bloomington, Indiana; stockist of Annie Sloan chalk paint. Visit us at 118 S. College Ave. or call (812) 323-7010 for more information.



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The Project School — founded in 2009 by local public school educators — is a chartered public school (free, nonprofit) serving children in grades K-8. Our whole-child approach provides educational excellence for the growth of children's hearts, minds and voices. Our school works collaboratively with families and the community to solve real world problems. Our students graduate with the will, skill and capacity to see themselves as contributors to the greater good throughout their lives. Visit us at www.theprojectschool.org.



The Hemp Health Co. is committed to providing professional hemp-derived health products and services. Excelling in customer care and product knowledge, we strive to provide the most accurate information available as well as helping to guide you in the right direction while advocating the many benefits of hemp and hemp-derived products like CBD within a professional environment. We offer many products from oils, proteins, dietary supplements, and edibles to bath products and more. Stop by 1025 S. Walnut St., Suite A or visit www.thehemphealthco.com!

Your Chamber Ambassadors

For anyone who attends an event with The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce ... for any organization who joins The Chamber ... or anyone simply wanting to become better acquainted with Chamber programs and opportunities ... there are the Chamber Ambassadors.

These individuals are committed to helping local businesses grow and be successful in multiple ways. The Ambassadors are part of the welcome process as new members join The Chamber, delivering new member packets and explaining the benefits of membership.

Ambassadors also step in to help at events as well. They help connect individuals and organizations, they serve as facilitators at The Chamber's Morning Buzz speed-networking events and even direct guests to their seats at The Chamber's Annual Meeting and Community Awards.



The 2018-2019 Chamber Ambassadors gathered outside the Johnson Creamery Building for a team photo. Courtesy photo.



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jimregester@remax.net

HT-410053-1

Our 2018-2019 Ambassadors are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Karen Boehnlein, WTTS/WGCL</p> <p>Pamela Boswell-Dike, The Herald-Times</p> <p>Terri Brown, Indiana Small Business Development Ctr.</p> <p>Stacy Bruce, Monroe County Apartment Association</p> <p>Allan Buhr, Union Savings Bank</p> <p>Penny Buhr, Essential Bodywear</p> <p>Alex Cartwright, Independent Financial Consultant</p> <p>Lisa Colvin, MutualBank</p> <p>Steve Coopersmith, Cruise Planners</p> <p>Matt Doering, Edward Jones</p> <p>Kyle Ellison, Aflac</p> <p>Adam Gross, Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington,</p> <p>Kelsey Haislip, Bell Trace Senior Living Community</p> <p>Jessica Healey, Pronounce Skincare & Herbal Boutique</p> <p>Glen Inman, Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina</p> <p>Joya Kelly, RE/MAX Acclaimed Properties</p> <p>Kristen King, LifeDesigns, Inc</p> | <p>Jeanne Marie May, Gentry Park Senior Living Community</p> <p>Tammy May, SERVPRO</p> <p>Carl Matacale, Office Easel Promotions</p> <p>Ryan McLeland, Bill C. Brown Associates</p> <p>Mande Miskewycz, Welcomemat Services</p> <p>Matt Murphy, AMI Roofing Contractors</p> <p>Molly Otto, Scholar's KEEP</p> <p>Cheyenne Riker, Clendening, Johnson & Bohrer, P.C.</p> <p>Rachel Robertson, TownePlace Suites,
Fairfield Inn & Suites</p> <p>Martie Vandeventer, Building Associates</p> <p>Don Weiler, Bailey & Weiler Design & Build</p> <p>Danell Witmer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central
Indiana</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We are grateful for the Ambassadors' time and efforts
— thank you!</p> |
|--|---|





Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates.



Trey Hollingsworth
Republican



Liz Watson
Democrat

If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities and how would you accomplish them?

We need to fix Washington. For decades, career politicians have built a system to benefit themselves, not the people. This must stop. I'm an advocate for term limits, and I authored THE STRICTEST lobbying ban in Congress. Until we fix the inputs, we'll keep getting undesirable outputs because career politicians would rather get reelected than solve big problems.

I will continue to vote against reckless spending bills and advocate for an overhaul of duplicative, and wasteful programs to save Hoosier tax dollars and empower local businesses.

Additionally, I will continue to support efforts to secure the border, defund sanctuary cities, and fix our legal immigration system so that people who want to legally come and share in the American dream can do so.

All over southern Indiana, I hear terrible stories about the impossible cost of health care. If elected, my first priority will be to broaden access to affordable health care by voting to stabilize the Affordable Care Act, and working to gradually expand Medicare coverage – so employers can prioritize growth and innovation. Another priority for me is to ensure that every Hoosier worker earns a living wage. A lot of work is needed to achieve that, but we can start by making childcare affordable and available so parents can stay in the workforce while raising families. Finally, I think our representatives should work for the public, not special interests. I'll fight for real campaign finance reform, and commit to holding regular town halls districtwide.

What ideas do you have to further strengthen and protect Indiana's defense industry?

First and foremost, we need to do right by the people who serve and sacrifice for our country. In addition to working towards improvements at the VA, I am proud to have supported the largest military pay raise in over a decade. Additionally, Congress has focused on properly funding our military, including improvements to training and updating military equipment to avoid preventable deaths.

Finally, I have been able to visit Crane on multiple occasions and learn from the many people, military and civilian, who do research, build weapons systems, and work to maintain and modernize our warfighter. Indiana is fortunate to have this installment and it will continue to be my great honor to work with and for Crane while in Congress.

I see three imperatives for Indiana's defense industry. First, when we send our men and women in uniform into harm's way, we must ensure that they have the best possible equipment and protection. Second, to insure the security of our country, that equipment should be domestically produced to the greatest extent possible. And finally, defense production should provide sustainable, good-paying jobs for Americans who work in this industry. For all of these reasons, when voting on defense appropriations that meet a demonstrated military need, I would always be inclined to choose products manufactured in Indiana. That's the right choice for our troops, our national security, and our community.

What are your recommendations for improving bi-partisan cooperation in DC? How can you help to promote compromise?

In Congress, just like in my businesses, I focus on getting real results. To cut through the noise and the vitriol that has become too common in politics, I make over 500 personal calls to constituents each week to discuss the issues impacting their families. These calls, in addition to countless meetings across the district, help me maintain focus on the issues that matter and the people that matter.

By working to stay above the fray, I have also been able to pass more bills out of the Financial Services Committee than any other member. Most of these bills were passed with bipartisan support, many working hand in hand with Democrat members of the committee.

I think it's important to remember that the American people agree on far more than our national politics would suggest. Polls show that 59 percent of us support expanding Medicare to cover everyone, and 81 percent of us support a clean DREAM Act to help DACA-eligible people build lives here. These conversations, like so many others, have been hijacked by special interests and their extremist cronies in Congress to stop progress on the issues that really matter to Hoosiers. I believe that distinguishing a hardline fringe from the vast majority of Americans has to be the first step in forming real, bipartisan compromises that are based on public consensus, rather than the distortions of a few extremists.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following candidates did not respond to the Chamber's request for answers:

Bob Heaton — Republican candidate for State House Rep. District 46

Peggy Mayfield — Republican candidate for State House Rep. District 60

Jeff Ellington — Republican candidate for State House Rep. District 62

Chris D. May — Republican candidate for State House Rep. District 65

Nicole Browne — Democratic candidate for County Clerk

Ashley Pirani — Democratic candidate for County Council District 3

Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates.



E. Thomasina Marsili
Democrat

What do you see as priority items to be addressed in 2019's budget session?

The employer-centric Employer Training Grant, which provides training dollars for the specific skills that employers need now, should be funded at a higher level for the biennium. Ensuring that all Hoosier children have access to fully-funded preschool should be a priority; all public school districts should offer high-quality preschool and should receive the funding to do so. Continuing to treat and prevent substance abuse must continue to be a priority, and additional funds for the development of comprehensive treatment facilities should be allocated, with a focus on ensuring access in rural areas of the state. Increasing state grants to counties that may be used for increased access to broadband, infrastructure improvement, and local school districts should also be a budget priority.

Indiana ranks 38th in the nation in overall health, and this is largely due to the state's high smoking rate. Do you support increasing the tax on cigarettes and/or increasing the legal smoking age from 18 to 21?

I do not support increasing the tax on cigarettes and increasing the legal smoking age from 18 to 21. It is important to note that smoking is only one of the factors causing Indiana's low ranking in overall health of our citizens. In fact, according to the United Health Foundation, other factors influencing our rank include obesity, infant mortality, diabetes, and air pollution. I support increasing the tax on advertising so as to grow proven programs such as Nurse Family Partnership, cessation programs and addressing air quality issues.

What should the state's priorities be in terms of job growth, business growth, and business expansion?

Indiana colleges and universities produce more STEM graduates than almost any other state, but the graduates are not staying in Indiana. We must invest in making Indiana an attractive place to live in order to keep our graduates and to attract outside talent as well. We must begin in elementary and middle school to provide career exploration for students and their families and provide greater access to work based learning and dual credit opportunities for high school students.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce?

The legislature needs to provide additional funding to colleges, internships, and career centers so that they have the faculty and most up to date equipment needed to provide the training needed for our 21st century workforce. In the last biennium, additional dollars were allocated to individuals and businesses for workforce training; however, colleges often cannot offer the training due to a lack of faculty in high-demand fields. The legislature should offer loan forgiveness to those seeking to teach. The legislature should expand efforts to attract veterans who are separating from service to Indiana in order to build our workforce. Beyond the relocation dollars already provided, additional funding should be provided for outreach efforts.

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Penny Githens
Democrat

What do you see as priority items to be addressed in 2019's budget session?

Increased funding for public education (including funding for state-wide pre-K programming), treatment of substance use disorders, and mental health. If we were to stop addressing substance use disorders as criminal issues and treat them as medical/clinical conditions, we could reduce what we are paying for prisons and what county governments are paying for jails. Treatments which allow those with substance use disorders to remain in the workforce also keeps families together, reducing the current strains on the Department of Child Services, while simultaneously increasing the number of Hoosiers paying income taxes. And if individuals who remain employed also have employer-provided health insurance, it decreases the demand for Medicaid and HIP 2.0.

Indiana ranks 38th in the nation in overall health, and this is largely due to the state's high smoking rate. Do you support increasing the tax on cigarettes and/or increasing the legal smoking age from 18 to 21?

Whatever happened to the tobacco settlement money, the initial \$217M and the payments tobacco companies are to make to Indiana "in perpetuity"? This money was supposed to be used for the health costs of smoking-related diseases, but it appears to have gone into the general fund. If this money went to tobacco education and cessation efforts, it could go a long way to improving the health of Hoosiers. I support raising the tax on cigarettes by \$0.50/pack. When asked about increasing the cigarette tax, my opponent indicated that it would cost Hoosiers \$10M in additional taxes, ignoring the health-cost savings of such an action. We should also be concerned about vaping, which may pose other health risks to Hoosiers.

What should the state's priorities be in terms of job growth, business growth, and business expansion?

Businesses require a trained work-force and good infrastructure. Indiana should emulate Ohio: Survey employers to ask what vacancies they envision needing to fill in the next decade. Ohio provides vocational education beginning at the high school level to meet some of those needs.

Many segments of our infrastructure need to be repaired, replaced, or upgraded. This is critical for attracting both new businesses and highly qualified employees. This must be a priority.

We should do a better job transitioning military personnel to civilian jobs. We should match the interests and skills of veterans with potential employers and trade unions and provide the adequate job-skill training.

Regionally we have a strong bio-medical manufacturing sector along with the basis for expansion. Clean energy is also growing.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce?

As already stated, we should do a better job of helping Veterans transition to civilian jobs.

Our high school graduates should possess critical thinking skills and need to view themselves as life-long learners. It is estimated that self-driving vehicles will be a reality within 15 years. That means 3 million truck drivers might be looking for a new line of work. No one knows what work those 3 million men and women might switch to, but we need to start to plan for how that changeover will occur and how it will be funded.

Separately, it is time for Indiana to enact Paid Family Leave (PFL) through some type of insurance program. We cannot afford to lose skilled workers to states which offer PFL.

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Amy Swain
Democrat

What do you see as priority items to be addressed in 2019's budget session?

Priorities should include funding for public education, for workforce development and training, and for increasing access to health care for ALL Hoosiers. Our citizens must be provided with a foundation for success; without that, we will not attract good companies and jobs to our state, and we fail Hoosiers in our efforts. Everyone talks about “jobs” – let’s actually help provide the conditions that will make those jobs happen. I will work in a bipartisan way to investigate and create ways to help Hoosiers succeed.

Indiana ranks 38th in the nation in overall health, and this is largely due to the state's high smoking rate. Do you support increasing the tax on cigarettes and/or increasing the legal smoking age from 18 to 21?

Many factors determine health...our ability to find healthy choices, to manage stress, and to access affordable, quality health care.

As a former EMT and CPR Instructor, I know statistics show smoking can lead to many chronic health disorders that decrease productivity and increase health care costs.

Raising the minimum age for cigarettes will reduce youth smoking and help prevent addiction and second-hand smoke exposure with peers. Several states have already passed higher-age legislation.

State taxes on cigarettes range from \$0.17 to \$4.50. Indiana's tax is \$0.995. If an increase is passed, it must be used towards smoking cessation programs, media campaigns to draw attention to health effects, and support for enforcement of existing laws.

What should the state's priorities be in terms of job growth, business growth, and business expansion?

Investing in Hoosiers should be our number one priority...developing a skilled workforce; encouraging vocational/technical training. This will help encourage not only growth, but also expansion of existing businesses.

Productivity is a major indicator of long-term economic prospects. Technology is a game changer in improving productivity in businesses... farming, large-scale building and infrastructure projects, manufacturing, etc. Increasing broadband or high-speed internet in the areas where it doesn't exist should be a priority.

Passing a hates crime bill...finally.

Maximizing our regional resources and collaboration to improve the business climate in Indiana to support existing business and attract new business. Many such collaborations exist, and we should do what we can to help support them and encourage others to do the same.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce?

Providing opportunities for education, whether it's academic at state-supported schools like IU or vocational, such as Ivy Tech, should be the first priority of the legislature, which sets the conditions to help our citizens succeed. Every Hoosier wants a decent job that pays a living wage, and the legislature can ensure this through providing appropriate encouragement for businesses to locate here and helping its citizens get an education that does not bankrupt them.

We need to encourage vocational/technical training. Why couldn't a student graduate high school with an associate degree, a journeyman's license or certification as a CNA or LPN? Then they could get a decent-paying job which might provide a pathway to higher education as well as hope for their future.

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Jared Stancombe
Democrat

What do you see as priority items to be addressed in 2019's budget session?

The Statehouse needs to prioritize and focus on three critical issues. First, the crisis at the Department of Child Services (DCS), which they have refused to address even after the former director of DCS, Mary Beth Bonaventura, resigned after stating that DCS policies will lead to the deaths of children. Last year, DCS went \$284 million over budget. Next, Indiana ranks 49th in public health spending during a worsening opioid epidemic. At one point, over a dozen counties had a public health emergency due to Hepatitis C in the past 3 years and now, hepatitis A is a major problem. Also, almost 2,000 Hoosiers died from overdoses last year. Finally, we need as a legislative body, understand that vouchers are killing our public school systems.

Indiana ranks 38th in the nation in overall health, and this is largely due to the state's high smoking rate. Do you support increasing the tax on cigarettes and/or increasing the legal smoking age from 18 to 21?

Indiana also ranks 49th in public health spending. Indiana simply does not have the political will to put money behind evidence-based strategies towards combatting tobacco use. Current grants from the Indiana State Department of Health are simply insufficient. Evidence suggests that increasing the taxes on tobacco decreases its use. Given this lack of will to invest in proven strategies and initiatives, I believe that we do need to increase the tax on cigarettes and chewing tobacco products, specifically. I would also like to see further taxes on electronic cigarettes too. I also support increasing the legal smoking age to 21, but I believe we need better youth education initiatives on the use of tobacco and electronic cigarettes.

What should the state's priorities be in terms of job growth, business growth, and business expansion?

The state should be focused on modernizing its economy and investing in high growth industries such as information technology, cybersecurity, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing and focus this growth in areas outside of Indianapolis and into our smaller towns. The middle class in our small towns has been devastated. Towns that once had vibrant factories and jobs ready for people graduating high school are now seeing companies such as Walmart being their largest employer. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Area grows while most of Indiana is left behind. We need to stop hoping and wishing that large factories will save our small towns. Instead, we need to invest in our entrepreneurs, reduce brain drain, expand workforce skills training, and focus growth in high growth industries.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce?

Indiana currently ranks 35th in education. We need to support our public schools and we need to severely reduce the scope of the voucher program to ensure that every student in Indiana receives a world-class education. Unfortunately, our legislature seems to view teacher unions as an enemy. Also, right to work has devastated wages in Indiana along with the repeal of the common construction wage. We must end the war in Indiana against organized labor. Next, Indiana ranks 50th in small business. Our small towns desperately need higher paying jobs, and we need to create startup ecosystems to create them. However, Indiana ranks 48th in quality of life, with directly contributes to brain drain. We must improve the quality of life in our small towns.

ELECTION COVERAGE
continued on page 14



David Jacobs, center, crew leader, wraps a piano with cellophane as Kody Cunningham, left, and Hunter Varner help move it from a local resident's home. Photo by Chris Howell.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Soft Touch Moving was founded in 1992. Not long after that Craft, then a college student at Indiana University with ambitious plans to own his own business one day, started working part-time as a mover. Craft left the business after college to pursue full-time work in logistics in Indianapolis, but that thirst to work for himself — and a love of Bloomington — never left him. When the opportunity to purchase Soft Touch arose in 2006, he and his family made the leap.

“I was always committed to owning my own business,” he said, noting that his desire increased even more after the 2003 birth of his daughter, when within 24 hours he was already receiving endless work-related phone calls. “I set that goal for myself, but didn’t know what it would be in.”

Today, Soft Touch Moving does steady business with residential and corporate clients, as well as offering summer storage for college students in its 40,000-square-foot warehouse. It is a point of pride for Craft that the company keeps its claims

“I was always committed to owning my own business. I set that goal for myself, but didn’t know what it would be in.”

— John Craft,
Soft Touch
Moving & Storage

SPOTLIGHT

continued on page 19



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Renewable energy helps protect against volatile utility rates, adds value to your property, supports the local economy, and reduces your impact on the environment. It’s also a lot of fun to see how much energy you are producing! Installing this year locks in favorable net metering rates with Duke until 2032 and a 30% federal tax credit in the spring, but spots are limited.

HT-546976-1

Do You Know Your Voting Location?

If your voting location has changed, or if you want to double check it, visit this site:

indianavoters.in.gov

You can also see who’s on your ballot, and view a provisional ballot before you vote.



The Franklin Initiative Update

A Double Dose of the Reality Stores®

By Christopher Emge,
manager of talent
& education

On Friday, Oct. 12, The Franklin Initiative (FI) will be hosting the first Reality Store® of the 2018-2019 academic year at Tri-North Middle School. Reality Stores® provide Monroe County's seventh- and eighth-grade students hands-on experience with the basic skills of financial literacy, such as budgeting, planning for retirement, and the necessity of insurance, among other things.

Placed in the shoes of a 28-year-old young professional at the beginning of their career, students choose careers based on their GPA. Then they proceed to roll dice to discover how many children

they have. Reality Stores also offer students with the opportunity to interact with engaged members of the community. Each station visited by students is staffed by volunteers with backgrounds in industries like banking, healthcare, and career services.

Our volunteers consistently rate the Reality Stores as one of the best events they volunteer for. Why?

Because they get to interact with students and help them understand some of what they need to know to make it in the "real world." The Franklin Initiative also hosts Reality Stores at Batchelor Middle School (Nov. 30), Edgewood Junior High School (Feb. 8), and Jackson Creek Middle School (April 10, 2019). If you are interested in volunteering for any Reality Store event, please email

Trevor Owens at towens@chamberbloomington.org.

In mid-October The Chamber will host the Job Skills Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the Ivy Tech Life Science Center. The Fair's goal is to create awareness of opportunities beyond high school and connect students with a variety of organizations to learn about options for university and vocational school, future job prospects and the skills required to obtain such jobs. It also provides a rare opportunity for students to talk directly with skilled professionals, hearing about their roles and experiences firsthand. These are all organizations and employers from our community, highlighting the opportunities in their backyard. Businesses are able to showcase what they offer, while other booths will look to enhance the students' skill sets in resume writing, professionalism, teamwork, adaptability and time

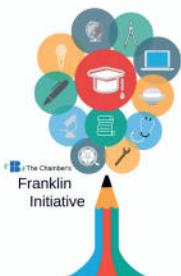


Community volunteers participate in 2017-2018 Reality Stores®. Courtesy photos.



management.

If you would like to be know more about the Franklin Initiative programs, we would love to connect with you. Please reach out to cemge@chamberbloomington.org or call 812-336-6381 for more information.



Special Discount For IU Football

Thanks to the Indiana University Office of Athletics, members of The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce have access to discounted tickets to two IU Football games:

- Maryland — Saturday, Nov. 10, Time TBA
- Purdue — Saturday, Nov. 24, Time TBA

Tickets may be purchased on The Chamber's website — www.chamberbloomington.org/member-discounts.html — using the promo code Chamber18. The discounted prices will appear when selecting individual seats.



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Jacob Franklin
Republican

What is your stance on the use of voting centers for elections? State your reasoning and why you think your recommendation is fair for voters and will reduce election costs?

I fully support and advocate for an accessible and efficient election process, which I believe vote centers can be. Convenience of vote centers may outweigh that of precinct voting in areas of dense population such as a municipal election but may not be as beneficial to those in rural areas. I will study like counties that have transitioned to vote centers before committing to changing how and where you cast your ballot. Vote centers have high upfront costs but should be more reasonable.

I still believe our current election security, process and vote count is not administered properly and is way too expensive. Four years ago, candidates received emails regarding thousands of over votes. It is my belief that cross ticket votes were thrown out.

The clerk is responsible for case-related information and court documents. What is your stance on making this information easily accessible and available to the public and media? Please explain your stance.

I believe all information permissible by law should be made available to the public and media. Basic information is already easily accessible through, <http://mycase.in.gov> as well as www.in.gov, which are free websites. If the person(s), business or media would like to have more detailed copies of the court records then a request for public documents may be filled out and submitted. Many times, these records need to be certified, which would not be accommodated on online copies. I will not only ensure you receive quality public service, but that records are archived for easy retrieval.

Currently we have court and other county records stored in a facility in Northern Indiana. Our records should never leave this county for storage. I will bring them back.

How can departments work together to create synergy and efficient operations?

Having worked as deputy clerk for nine plus years, I have built rapport with the court(s), sheriff, prosecutor and probation offices necessary to facilitate synergy and efficient operations between these offices. Also, being in the office during business hours shall allow for prompt communication regarding operations. Communication and proper understanding of what other offices need is key and shall allow for proper synergy and efficient operations among different offices.

By understanding that I work for the public and court(s) with a specific job to do shall be the driving force in creating synergy and efficient operations. We are a pilot county for paperless offices and E-filings through the Board of Judges decision not Clerk's.

Follow the campaign on: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and www.JacobFranklin.us (coming soon)



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Larry D. Barker
Republican



Elizabeth "Lee" Jones
Democrat

A. The Voice of the Tax Payer is not currently being heard. The short three minute Public Comments are often ignored; the decision on MC Code and funding of special interest projects are usually made before the meeting's start. I'll propose changing the Commissioners' meeting times to the evenings when citizens can attend without missing work and allowing public dialog where questions asked, will be answered.

B. Fully funding critical services. I'll advocate for fully funding the First Responders, our Criminal Justice System and our roads/highways.

C. The lack of good paying jobs. I'll work to promote Monroe County as a location for companies to invest in, bringing in high-paying jobs.

The County needs to work to try to solve the problem of the overcrowded jail. A significant part of this will be finding more and better solutions to the addiction crisis.

Passing the new urbanizing plan will help to simplify the zoning ordinances, protect vulnerable lands, and offer growth opportunities while protecting current residents from incompatible development.

Lake Monroe is the only reliable source of drinking water for Monroe County. Protecting it is vital for the health and vibrancy of the community, but much of the watershed lies in other counties surrounding the lake. It will be necessary to work in tandem with these counties to save this vital resource.

The County needs to open channels of communication with the City of Bloomington and IU. Without affordable housing, you limit the labor force that is needed for businesses who want to invest in Monroe County. It is going to take a Leader, with collation building skills, to bring the stakeholders to the table and develop a short and long term action plan. Government and the private sector must work together to grow our economy. We can have economic growth and still be environmental friendly, if only government would compromise on the barriers that are constraining new growth.

I think the Plan Commissions are an area where both the County and the City would benefit from closer cooperation. Currently each Commission has appointed a member to be an ex-officio member of the other Commission. This is helpful, but I would also like to see biennial joint meetings so we can each have a better understanding of the others plans and goals. This would be especially useful for the urbanizing area of the County surrounding Bloomington where the two jurisdictions lie next to each other.

I also think it would help if both County and City government had a better understanding of the others responsibilities. This could lead to more coordinated efforts to serve our community.

We will start with revising the MC Code to reduce the burden placed upon economic growth. We will work with State and Federal agencies seeking grant monies for affordable housing. We will work with County Council to place monies in the CEDIT, these funds would focus on bringing in high technology, bioscience, and advanced manufacturing jobs. We already have the labor force graduating from our post-secondary institutes, now we need to develop affordable housing to keep this workforce.

The Council is working to bring the wages of county employees to parity with similar counties. As a Commissioner I would continue to support this effort. Establishing a County Living Wage ordinance similar to the City's would also be important. Commissioners aren't able to do much beyond that to affect the wages private companies pay. As long as most people in surrounding counties come here to find a job there will be downward pressure on wages because there are enough extra workers to keep companies from having to compete for them.

Supporting and strengthening unions could make a big difference. Since unions were weakened worker's salaries have been pretty stagnant.

The Urbanizing Plan being finalized identifies employment areas that should encourage job growth.

A significant issue is the growing our economy. The current Monroe County Code's restricts the growth of our economy and discourages businesses from coming to Monroe County. It's a domino effect; no new businesses, no new jobs, and more tax burden for existing taxpayers. I-69 is here, so let's grow our economy and bring in high paying jobs. Grow the economy, more jobs, and reduce the tax burden. It is going to take a Leader, with collation building skills, to bring the stakeholders to the table and develop a short and long term action plan. Government and the private sector must work together to grow our economy. I'll work with Federal and State agencies to promote Monroe County as a place to locate a business.

The overcrowded jail is a critical issue the County has been struggling with for years. One of the best solutions is to get non-violent offenders out of jail and keep them out. Restorative as opposed to punitive justice is one of the most effective ways to prevent recidivism. The Probation department and Community Corrections oversee many evidence based restorative justice programs. Unfortunately these programs are spread throughout County buildings which makes them less accessible to both the people being overseen and the staff. Gathering them all in one space would make the programing outcomes both more successful and more cost effective. The Commissioners are in charge of County space needs, if elected I will make this a priority.

What are three goals for county government?

How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?

What specific actions would you take to address wage and job growth?

What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue?

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T. Ann Boehm
Republican



Shelli Yoder
Democrat

What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue, both in terms of budget and policy proposals?

The rising cost of living due to constant tax increases and lack of viable job growth.

My solution is to re-evaluate the budgets and current tax policies including the amount of tax exempt real estate. The residents living and working in Monroe County are shouldering the burden for all. Other colleges and universities that own large amounts of prime property and hospitals make voluntary payments to the cities and counties they reside in rather than be taxed at the normal rate. These payments range from 20-50 million per year. The time has come for IU to start paying its fair share towards our infrastructure and safety needs. With a 3 billion dollar trust and a 41% out of state student rate, they can afford it!

I will continue addressing the impacts of substance use disorders in our community. The financial strain upon county resources is not sustainable. I will address this issue using evidence-based practices, coordinating support, and building capacity among government units, businesses, and social service agencies. As co-founder of the South Central Opioid Summit, founding member of the Opioid Commission, 6-year board member of South Central Community Action Program, and 4-year member of the Head Start Policy Council, I believe it is the county's responsibility to be part of our community's solutions and conversations on poverty, addiction, early childhood education, and the housing crisis. I will work to establish the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program to redirect low-level drug offenders to community-based services, instead of jail and prosecution.

What areas of county government could be more efficient? How would you address those areas?

I see a lot of unnecessary spending but to really detail how I would cut costs would take a greater amount of study with access to numbers that get buried in government reports. As I stated previously, IU is capable of contributing much more to the community. We lose over 1 billion dollars in tax exempt property and we have a mayor trying to annex land to solve his budgetary issues. Starting at this source would solve a lot of problems.

As the daughter of a small business owner, our family was devastated to discover one of our four employees was stealing money over the course of the ten years she worked for my dad. She was like family. Those are painful discoveries. We as a county have too felt that pain. I support an extra layer of checks and balances in the creation of an Internal Auditor position for the county. This person will offer an added layer of oversight to protect county resources made possible by hardworking taxpayers, as well as protections for our hardworking and outstanding county employees. Our county manages millions of dollars in the form of revenue and equipment. Such a position would improve efficiencies and be a money saver.

How do you view the County Council role in supporting economic vitality through tools such as tax abatements and tax increment financing?

The county council makes vital decisions to our economy which makes it imperative that people who understand economics and business management are elected to these types of positions. It's vital to attract more businesses that will offer better jobs with our growing population. Monroe county has untapped potential yet waiter is our fastest growing job and Bloomington is the most expensive city to live in in Indiana. I would potentially support tax abatements to attract these businesses.

Tax abatements and tax increment financing are potentially useful economic development or revitalization tools. Such tools can encourage investments in existing structures, equipment, machinery, and technologies. Abatements also give taxing units an opportunity to incentivize living wage jobs for which I am supportive. Elected officials need to remain vigilant that any use of economic development incentives make clear economic sense for Monroe County. Incentives should be reserved for companies committing to Monroe County for the long term, those that are investing in the development of its people by offering high paying jobs and when incentives are offered, we must hold companies accountable for the promises they make to our community.

How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?

Bloomington is the county seat which means their majority vote ultimately makes decisions for the entire county. This may need to be re-evaluated since it gives Bloomington all the power yet doesn't allow citizens outside city limits to vote in city elections. That's not working together, that's wielding too much power. Also, the theft and corruption in the both the county and city has gotten out of hand. It's time we work together to end the mismanagement of our tax dollars.

We also need to re-evaluate the jail and parking facilities and policies. Money is wasted in both areas and not providing space for treatment or parking for our local businesses.

I believe we are stronger together. All too often state legislation pits the county against cities and towns that make up the county. Throw in a hefty dose of ego and human nature and such a belief seems impossible. There are multiple examples of how we are currently working together to better serve businesses and residents. From saving resources just as we are with our animal control MOU, to improving services like we are with our public safety efforts, to tackling the opioid crisis, such work is not easy or pretty or seamless, but it is possible. Having committed public servants focused on serving and being collaborative, fiscally responsible, transparent, and committed to listening, we will all be better served and stronger as a community.



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Ann Collins
Republican

We have the highest poverty rates in Indiana. Students contribute to that; however, we can't just ignore solutions that could raise wages and bring in businesses to Monroe. Poverty and homelessness are not, one size fits all. Homeless are people, who are struggling with poverty, addiction, mental health or any combination. Poverty can be address by a positive business environment, promoting jobs with higher wages. The rest can be addressed by following the Utah and NY Housing First initiative model. Studies show that the cost to provide a stable home is less than treating the issue in hospitals and on the streets. The county council can help by funding projects such as this that will increase the available workforce, while being cost effective.



Kate Wiltz
Democrat

I continue to see the broader impacts of the opioid crisis on our community as the most significant issue we face. County Council should support the newly established Opioid Commission and its work to influence legislative policy locally and at the state level. The Council also needs to make sure the local government departments with responsibilities around housing, youth services, justice and community corrections have the resources they need to offer harm reducing services and wrap-around care to those suffering from substance use disorder. New approaches, such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, are being put in place. I will hold our county departments accountable to fulfilling these community needs in an interdepartmental coordinated effort and in partnership with nongovernment agencies.

What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue, both in terms of budget and policy proposals?

What areas of county government could be more efficient? How would you address those areas?

My top priority is to return the County Council to a place where we can discuss and solve problems with ALL the community. Having discussions with the public at the same level and detail as we have them with consultants paid by the county. We shouldn't have a few minutes of public comment, just to be told "thank you" with no one addressing the points we've brought up. That is disrespectful to those that have valuable input, to feel ignored, because they don't have the "consultant" title in their name. I will encourage the County Council to solicit our local community and invite them to come share their expertise. We have a diverse community with so much talent and experience right here locally.

I've attended County Council meetings regularly since February and have been impressed by the departments' ability to operate efficiently within statutory constraints. Some areas for improvement that I have noted and will explore on Council are: long-term planning, inter-departmental coordination, program evaluation, and facility management practices. I hope to address these areas as a participant on our government Commissions and in working with our department heads to implement ongoing data collection and evidence-based practices that allow Council and Commissioners to link activities and outcomes. These areas may seem ambiguous, but they rely on systems thinking and strategic approaches to programming – practices I have been using in my professional work with governments and universities for years.

How do you view the County Council role in supporting economic vitality through tools such as tax abatements and tax increment financing?

Tax abatements are crucial for attracting businesses. We are in worldwide competition for attracting top notch businesses. We already have the educational foundation. We soon will have infrastructure to connect us from Mexico to Canada so NOW is the time to grow. With tax abatements, we need to put triggers for them. One such trigger would be the creation of jobs where the median wage is higher than the median wages we currently have. If we are going to give you a break on property taxes, the increase in income tax you bring in should equal what the county lost for the abatement. TIFs need to be selective and have a sunset on them since they remove revenue from other areas.

County Council should be a partner in promoting economic health and smart growth. Monroe County has unique resources, including Lake Monroe and other recreational areas, a highly educated workforce, a population very supportive of alternative energy and creative arts. We must look to those things that set it apart from the 90+ other Indiana counties and build on those strengths. In addition to focusing on development that emphasizes our unique assets, we should be monitoring the commercial and industrial investments in and around our current TIF Districts, analyzing outcomes related to those investments, and exploring opportunities to further build on that capital investment.

How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?

I think we first need to recognize that the city, generally does NOT operate in good faith. This is evident in the way the public safety tax has been used, forcible annexation, and now the Convention Center fiasco. The council has been irresponsible in handing the city more and more control of the county tax dollars.

Why we even keep believing that "this time they won't screw us over" is beyond my understanding.

The county needs to bypass the City of Bloomington in as many things as possible because it seems that what is good for Bloomington, like the Convention Center, isn't necessarily good for the county. Our County Council needs to be reminded they represent the whole county—not just Mayor Hamilton's interests.

The County and City need to coordinate their work on infrastructure improvements and be proactive in communicating with local economic development commissions, planning and redevelopment commissions, and local businesses. In addition to roads and utilities projects, city and county departments should be coordinating their approach to zoning, building permits, and broader transportation planning.

Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates.



Martha "Marty" Hawk
Republican

What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue, both in terms of budget and policy proposals?

The annexation plans of the city will dramatically change the way Monroe County Government can meet our required duties. The county needs to be proactive in projecting the budgetary changes as well as the ability to address planning/zoning.

What areas of county government could be more efficient? How would you address those areas?

Communication between departments and the public is essential, our technology department is helping to address this issue. The minutes of our meetings for the public to review have been neglected, many months delay The council must insist this be done timely as it is a big part of being transparent as well as our ability to research items of importance.

How do you view the County Council role in supporting economic vitality through tools such as tax abatements and tax increment financing?

The appropriate use of these tools sends a clear message to job creators, both new and existing, that we are open and welcoming to new jobs.

How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?

The City and the County share a lot of responsibilities and the loss of transparency and negotiation for the benefit of all is essential. Many years ago we had gatherings for the City/County, Indiana University to bring people together for interaction. Would like to see this opportunity return.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 12

ratio low and its customers satisfied with great attention to detail while preparing items for a move. Customers can expect to see their items, particularly their furniture, well-padded and shrink-wrapped to minimize the chances for damage, he said.

Craft's crew includes a "core group" of 15 longstanding employees, supplemented with part-time employees who work during busy periods. Staffing can be a challenge in the moving business, he said, simply because of the up-and-down nature of it. Some weeks could bring 10 moves in a day, he said, while others might have just a handful.

Summer is far and away the most popular time to move, he said, as people with children like to avoid moving mid-year if they can.

"We also handle some of the dorm move-ins for the freshmen," he said. "We put 30 people on campus to help incoming parents, they meet them at buildings with lots of stairs where people have trouble getting in and out. My people help them into their new room and get mom and dad parked so they can clear the area for the next new student to unload.

Craft's crews also take on moves to and from locations across the country, especially Florida and the East Coast, he said.

The biggest challenges, Craft said, tend to come from miscommunications — especially when it comes to out-of-town moves. People can underestimate how much they have to move, and when they do it can mean a scramble to deal with the excess. And once one thing has gone wrong during a move, he jokes, something else is sure to as well.

CHAMBER VOICES

Continued from page 3

have a magic wand to give you more time, but I do have information about early voting ...

The Monroe County Election Board will be happy to see any voters early, starting on Oct. 10. They are located at 214 W. Seventh St., #150, which happens to be right across the street from the Chamber. Early voting starts Oct. 10 and goes until noon on Nov.

5. The early voting hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The election office will also be open on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With a little math, I can report that's 198 hours of early voting time. You can schedule your time to vote right now, and you can also help others vote — bring it up in a staff meeting, schedule time for your colleagues to get away from work to vote, set a goal as an organization to try to beat

"This business throws a lot at you that you can't see coming," he said. "You are going to walk into a surprise on a weekly basis. I think how you deal with that is what sets a company apart. Do you send in the cavalry and take care of it?"

"We've picked up a lot of jobs where companies walk into a job and just say, 'We can't do it,'" he adds. "And we get the 911 calls."

It should come as no surprise, then, that Craft's most important piece of advice for movers is to take advantage of the free estimates that most moving companies, including his own, offer.

Above all, however, Craft said his first concern is always the safety of the people who are working for him. Work in this industry is a highly physical job and he always needs to be aware of the risks. Moving a half-ton hot tub down a multi-story deck using ropes and sliders, or carrying a 1,200-pound gun safe down four flights of stairs, leaves little room for error.

"Keeping everybody healthy and safe is always in my mind, and that can add a fair amount of anxiety," he said. "Especially if you have a piano hanging out a window."

For his part, Craft — who has his CDL license and can drive the moving trucks — makes a habit of working alongside his movers during those difficult summer months especially. After all, he said, he wouldn't want to "ask them to do what I'm not willing to do."

"My guys are working hard for us, so it is important to me that they know we support them and stand behind them, which I think makes them more responsive to our customers," he said.

Craft's philosophy, he said, is simple: "Take care of your customers, take care of your people, and the business will take care of itself."



"Take care of your customers, take care of your people, and the business will take care of itself."

— John Craft, Soft Touch Moving & Storage

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Business Outlook — Save the Date!

The Business Outlook panel and luncheon has been scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1, at Woolery Mill. This event is presented by Indiana University, and The Chamber partners with the Bloomington Rotary Club to bring local professionals and community members together to hear from economic experts. Business Outlook luncheon is a perfect opportunity to hear from authorities in economics.

Business Outlook features four panelists from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

The panelists scheduled to appear are:

- Charles Trzcinka
- Timothy Slaper
- Bill Witte
- Jerry Conover



The discussion will be moderated by Phil Powell, associate dean of academic programs.

Tickets for the event are available on The Chamber's website, ChamberBloomington.org.

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The Chamber's Annual Meeting Recognizes Success and Commitment

On Thursday, Sept. 27, The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce held its 103rd Annual Meeting and Community awards at the Monroe Convention Center.

The luncheon offers attendees an overview of The Chamber's year and highlights expectations for the coming year. Erin Predmore, the new president and CEO of The Chamber, recapped events and news from 2018 and celebrated the vibrancy and outside-the-box thinking Chamber members will see in the coming months.

Outgoing board chair Tony Stonger called the meeting to order, and later officially passed the gavel to Ron Walker, the incoming board chair for The Chamber.

The Chamber recognized a number of honorees during the awards portion of the event. The 2018 Community Award honorees included:

- **Ambassador of the Year** — Mande Miskewycz, Welcomemat Services
- **Nancy Howard Diversity Award** — McAlister's Deli
- **Workforce Development Award** — Hanapin Marketing
- **Franklin Initiative's Golden Key Award** — Catalent
- **Morgan Hutton Visionary Award** — Amanda Barge & Shelli Yoder
- **Diane Breeden-Lee Catalyst Award** — Lynn Coyne
- **Lloyd Olcott Community Service Award** — Teacher's Warehouse
- **Small Business of the Year** — FASTSIGNS
- **Medium Business of the Year** — Express Employment Professionals
- **Large Business of the Year** — German American
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** — Steve Howard

The Chamber would like to extend a special thank you to Smithville for their continued support of the Annual Meeting and Community Awards. Smithville's video team films, edits and presents videos of the honorees shown during the Annual Meeting. Thanks also goes to the Monroe Convention Center for hosting the event, and all of the sponsors and supporters of The Chamber and this year's Annual Meeting.

The Chamber would also like to recognize members at the Elite and Chairman Levels — Cook Group, Indiana University Credit Union, IU Health Bloomington, Catalent Biologics, First Financial Bank, Indiana University and Old National Bank — for their membership.

Additional photos and videos from the Annual Meeting and Community Awards may be found on The Chamber's website — ChamberBloomington.org.



The winners of The Chamber's 2018 Community Awards gathered after the celebration for a group photo. Courtesy photo.



Tony Stonger (l) of Edward Jones officially passes the gavel to Ron Walker of CFC Properties at The Chamber's Annual Meeting and Community Awards. Stonger had served as the board chair, and Walker will be the 2018-2019 board chair for The Chamber. Courtesy photo.



Angela Parker (l), of Carmin Parker, poses with Cassie Howard and Mark Howard at The Chamber's Annual Meeting and Community Awards. Steve Howard, former president and CEO of The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, was posthumously awarded the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. Courtesy photo.



Volunteers with Teachers Warehouse accept the Lloyd Olcott Community Service Award. Courtesy photo.



Shelli Yoder (l) and Amanda Barge receive the Morgan Hutton Visionary Award. Courtesy photo.



Catalent was awarded the Franklin Initiative Golden Key Award for 2018. Courtesy photo.



Tammy Walker, Director of Member Services for The Chamber, presents the 2018 Ambassador of the Year Award to Mande Miskewycz of Welcomemat Services. Courtesy photo.



Maranda and Mike Richardson of FASTSIGNS accept the 2018 Small Business of the Year Award. Courtesy photo.



Express Employment Professionals received the 2018 Medium Business of the Year Award. Accepting were Dean Roller (center) and Timber Tucker. Courtesy photo.



Members of the McAlister's Deli team accept the Nancy Howard Diversity Award. Courtesy photo.



Mark Franklin (center) and Nick Shafer of German American accept the 2018 Large Business of the Year honor. Courtesy photo.



Lynn Coyne of BEDC was presented the Diane Breeden-Lee Catalyst Award for 2018. Courtesy photo.



Lauren Rosner (center) and Kamlyn Spivey of Hanapin Marketing accept the 2018 Workforce Development Award. Courtesy photo.

Give the gift of Bloomington.

From the food to the arts to the sports to the people to Indiana University, Bloomington is place like no other. In fact, we believe Bloomington is the best place on the planet.

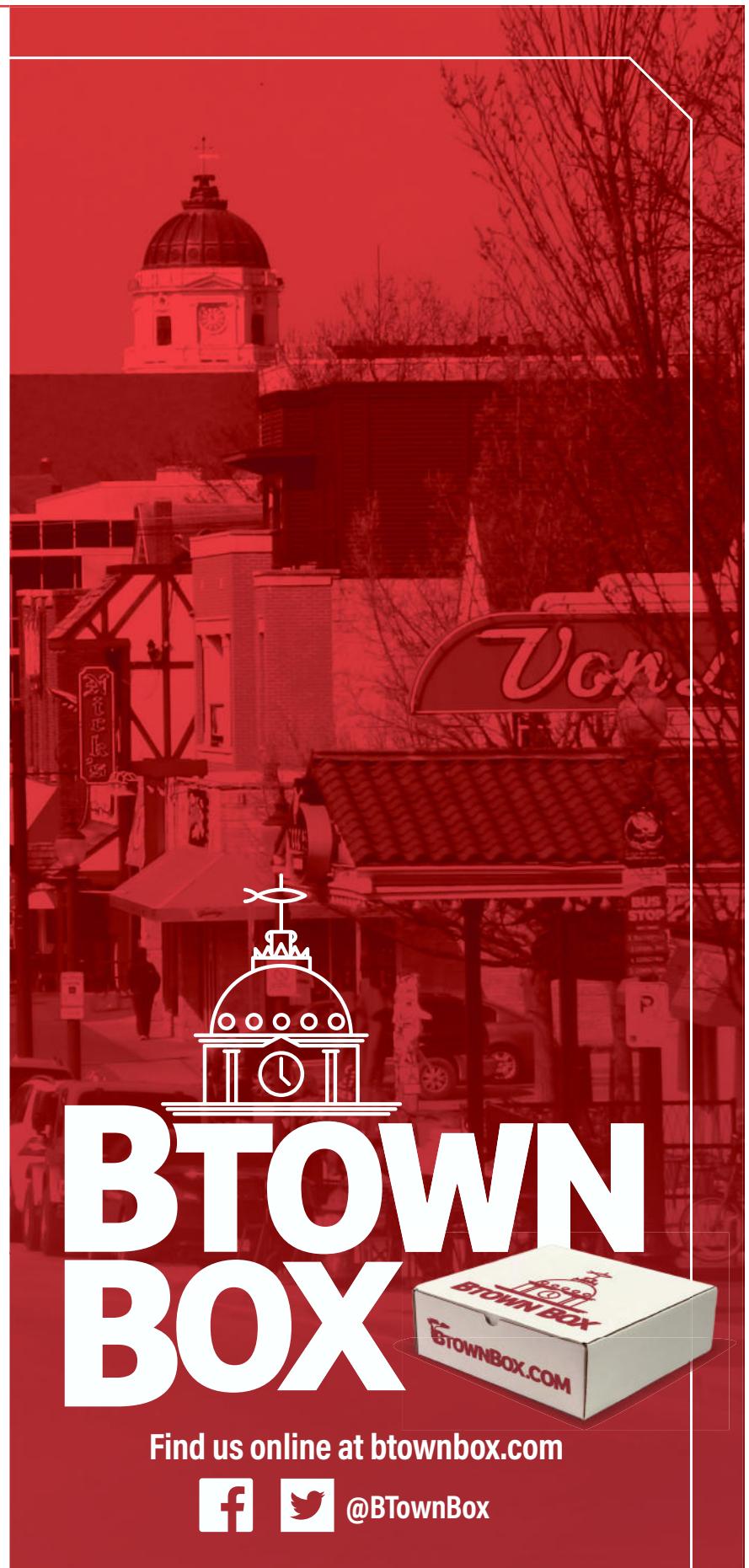
The BTown Box is a thoughtfully curated collection of what we, and so many others, love about Bloomington—all hand-wrapped and packaged locally by folks who can't wait to share all this town has to offer. It's some Hoosier hospitality to showcase all the epic things that are true Bloomington.



In each box, you'll find goodies from a range of iconic businesses and a few up-and-comers. Additionally, we've included unique and exclusive items that were custom designed by our team and are not available anywhere else.

BTown Box helps you share how special this place is with a unique gift that you'll be proud to give to anyone, from recruits to VIPs to the employee of the month. We can customize your BTown Box to suit your needs and even include your company swag for that extra personal touch.

Shoot us a note at team@btownbox.com or give us a call at 812-331-4276 so we can help you share Bloomington with a BTown Box.



Find us online at btownbox.com



CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 5

Premier Hospice & Palliative Care will host a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 2856 E. Buick Cadillac Blvd. The event will run 3-6 p.m., with the ribbon cutting taking place at 4 p.m. The community is invited to attend.

Alchemy, located at 206 N. Walnut St., will host a six-month celebration and ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 4-6 p.m. The ribbon cutting will take place at 5 p.m. Guests should be 21 and older to attend.

Nonprofit Board Certificate Seminar Thursday, Oct. 11

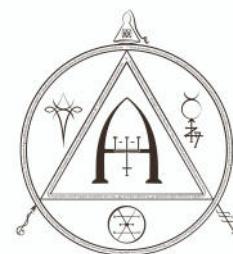
Serving on a nonprofit organization's volunteer board of directors can be one of the great pleasures of your life or a study in frustration. The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network is hosting a Nonprofit Board Certificate Seminar on Thursday, Oct. 11. To register for this event visit <http://bit.ly/Fall2018BoardSeminar>.

Area 10 Agency on Aging will join Bell Trace and Loren Wood Builders to make senior's homes safer and more accessible during the annual "Safe at Home" event. The one-day event will kick off with breakfast at Bell Trace, 800 N. Bell Trace Circle, beginning at 8 a.m. There is a need for skilled (grab bar installation, downspout install) and non-skilled (gutter/leaf cleaning and debris removal) volunteers for the half-day event. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, please contact Chris Myers at 812-935-2503 or cmyers@area10agency.org.

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Alchemy is a full service restaurant and bar serving southern Italian/Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails! The focus is on great food, great drinks, a skilled and knowledgeable staff, and providing it all in an atmosphere that is unique to Bloomington. Rustic wood and warm-toned lights complement the 40-year-old 16-foot-tall stained glass window in this historic theatre building. A wonderful blend of New York City style mixed with midwest charm! Visit us at 206 N. Walnut St.

Other

Employees of **Blue & Co., LLC** volunteered at Hoosier Hills Foodbank and Hoosier Hills Foodbank Garden & Gleaning in early August. The team packed 10,800 food items for low-income seniors. The Blue & Co. team also helped in a variety of gardening activities.

Franklin College was the recipient of a \$500,000 endowed fund by Indianapolis businessman John D. Peterson and his wife, Nancy. The fund will "create an exciting new engaged learning opportunity and space for students, alumni and the community," according to a press release. It is the second notable gift the college has received in recent weeks.



Are you looking for that perfect, unique gift to give your spouse, significant other, friend, or graduate? EllieMae's Boutique on Kirkwood Avenue in Bloomington offers a wide range of affordable luxury gifts and décor from brands like PANDORA, Vera Bradley, Tyler Candle Co., Voluspa, Simply Southern, Finch Berry, and many more! Come visit our new store located at 101 W. Kirkwood Ave. #116 in Bloomington, Indiana and receive complimentary gift wrapping with every purchase. For more information, call Shelly Nelson at 812-339-8084 or visit www.elliemaes.boutique.

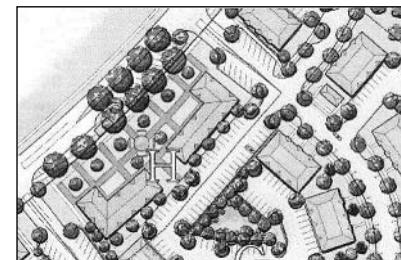


Congratulations to Bloomington Salt Cave on their ribbon cutting. They celebrated with some light snacks for their one-year anniversary. Visit them at 115 N. Madison, Suite B1 or BloomingtonSaltCave.com.



Congratulations to Gaza Japanese Cuisine on their ribbon cutting. They celebrated their new restaurant that just opened. Attendees got to enjoy complimentary Omakase, which showcases the fresh, wild caught seafood from abroad that is available daily at Gaza. Visit them at 895 S. College Mall Road (located in The Shoppes).

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