



October 2025

NEWSLETTER

Fall in Love with Whitley County

Our award-winning “**Fall in Love with Whitley County**” campaign is back!

Originally launched last year and recognized with the Innovation Award at the Indiana Chamber Executives Association State Conference, this initiative celebrates the charm, color, and community spirit that make Whitley County special. Join us!

Pick up your seasonal window clings and stickers at the Chamber office and help us spread the love for local this fall!



October Member of the Month



Whitley County
Council on Aging

Congratulations to this month's Member of the Month - The Woodlands Senior Activity Center!

The Woodlands Senior Activity Center, overseen by the Whitley County Council on Aging, plays a vital role in supporting Whitley County seniors as they pursue independent, active, and fulfilling lives. Conveniently located in Columbia City, The Woodlands offers a wide range of weekly activities, programs, games, entertainment, and meals—along with valuable resources for adults ages 50 and older. In partnership with Whitley County Transit, the county's rural public transportation system, they continue to make a meaningful impact throughout the community.

The Chamber is proud to recognize The Woodlands for their ongoing involvement and continued support of local initiatives.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Attention

ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS



NEW PAYMENT PROCESSING SOFTWARE
WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU AT THE TIME
OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. WE HAVE
PARTNERED WITH **ZEFFY!**

Recognizing **AMAZING MEMBERS**



We're excited to share some wonderful news from right here in our community! Smith Roofing partnered with Morsches Builders Mart of Columbia City to provide a new roof for a very deserving local veteran. Amvets Post #2919 played a key role in helping find the perfect match for this generous act of service.

The Chamber will be on site this Wednesday to capture the event and celebrate this incredible display of community spirit. We are truly appreciative of these two businesses—and dedicated Chamber members—for their continued commitment to giving back.

A heartfelt **thank you** to Jesse Smith and Franz Morsches for leading by example and showing what it means to serve others right here at home.

YOU'RE INVITED
JOIN US AND HELP RAISE FUNDS
AT OUR EAT 'N EARN EVENT

**WHITLEY COUNTY
VETERANS CEMETERY
CLEANING/RESTORATION**

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND GREAT FOOD!
ENJOY ANY ITEMS ON THE MENU AND
OUR GROUP WILL EARN 15% OF YOUR GUEST CHECK*

Monday
October 20th 2025
4 - 8pm



COLUMBIA CITY PIZZA HUT
101 Frontage Rd • Columbia City



Cafes &
COLLABORATIONS
WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER

JOIN US

Friday, November 7th
8:00am

Location TBD

It's all about sharing what's going on in our area and networking with local businesses.

OCTOBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3 First Friday	4
5	6 Plan Commission	7 Arts Commission Board of Zoning Appeals	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Redevelopment Commission Board of Works Common Council	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Housing Authority Tree Board	22	23	24	25
26 	27 Park Board	28 Board of Works Common Council	29	30	31 Halloween Trick-or-Treat 5-8pm	1



JOIN US

***Monday, October 27th
10am - 11:30am***

Peabody Public Library

***We're joined by Bravery Branding to talk about the
2025 Holiday Playbook.***

A hands-on marketing seminar packed with insights and inspiration to help your business shine this season. Learn about current holiday spending trends, creative campaign ideas, and how to break out of your marketing rut before the busiest time of the year hits.



An annual dinner to remember:

***THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH***

***Casino night themed
BIG value prizes
Great food + beverages***

***Purchase your
tickets here:***





UPCOMING EVENTS



10/10-10/17

SKELETON COLORING CONTEST

Submit to Andy's by 10/18
2 Age Groups

Prize: Child WINS local gift card. Parent wins Ultimate Works

10/18

2-7 pm

WHITLEY COUNTY SKELETON FESTIVAL

Historic Downtown Columbia City

Join Us: Mystery Gifts for ALL!

10/26

SHOW US YOUR PUMPKIN CARVING!

Comment on FB and/or IG showing us your
pumpkin carving!

10/31

3-5 pm

LITTLE PUMPKINS ON PARADE

Find us in front of the Whitley County
Chamber- with goodies for all!





2nd Annual Whitley County Pride

Gayla

21+
ONLY

SAT.

11
OCT

2025

Tickets
\$30

Silent Auction
(All Proceeds Benefiting Whitley County Pride)
Dinner & 1 Drink Ticket Included
Awards, Music,
& After Dinner Dragshow

Cocktail Hour: 5:30pm

Dinner Provided by

Rocky Top Flare: 6:30pm

Awards & Guest Speaker: 7:30pm

Drag Show: End of the Night







The Press Room
EVENT CENTER BAR & GRILL
113 South State St.
South Whitley, IN - 46787

WHITLEY COUNTY PRIDE SILENT AUCTION DONATION CALLOUT

Help us make the 2025 Gayla unforgettable!

We're seeking silent auction donations to raise funds for our mission of celebrating, uplifting, & supporting the LGBTQ+ community right here in Whitley County.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

-  Gift baskets
-  Local products & services
-  Event tickets or experiences
-  Art, handmade goods, & unique items
-  Gift cards to restaurants & shops

WHY DONATE?

- ★ Support visibility, inclusivity, & love in Whitley County
- ★ Promote your business/organization to a wide audience
- ★ Donations are tax-deductible

HOW TO DONATE:

EMAIL: info@whitleycountypride.org
or message us on Facebook!

Please have donations to us by September 19th

2025 WCP GAYLA at The Press Room in South Whitley
October 11, 2025 - Doors Open 5:30PM



COUNTRY ROADS COFFEE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sat. Oct. 18 (10-2)

Live music- Local vendors- Tour the roastery
Hot coffee- snacks & more

GREAT PUMPKIN PARTY

[AT] PAIGE'S CROSSING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18 - 4:00PM-7:00PM





KELLY'S WHITLEY COUNTY
SKELETON
FESTIVAL
18

OCTOBER

**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
COLUMBIA CITY
2PM-7PM**

**SKELETON DECORATING
CHILI COOKOFF
TRICK OR TREATING
COSTUME CONTEST
VENDORS
GOLF CART DECORATIONS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
MICHELLE GRABLE 260.241.0247**



KELLY'S WHITLEY COUNTY SKELETON FESTIVAL 2025



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA CITY
2:00PM - 7:00PM



REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

SKELETON DECORATING AND JUDGING:



BUSINESS: \$20 RESIDENTIAL: \$20

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: OCT. 1

OCTOBER 3: EARLY VOTING FOR FAVORITE
DECORATING (AT FIRST FRIDAYS)

OCTOBER 11-16: JUDGING

OCTOBER 18: WINNERS ANNOUNCED

COSTUME CONTEST:

JUDGING AT 5:00 PM

- * BEST ADULT FEMALE
- * BEST ADULT MALE
- * BEST GIRL
- * BEST BOY

CHILI COOKOFF:

ENTRY FEE: \$20 SETUP: NOON - 2PM

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: OCT 1

BRING YOUR OWN TABLE/TENT/SUPPLIES

BE PREPARED TO HAND OUT SAMPLES

TABLE / TENT DECORATION JUDGING: 2:30PM

GOLF CART DECORATION:

ARRIVE: 2PM / JUDGING: 3:30PM

VENDORS:

- \$20 REGISTRATION FEE, PER SPOT
- ARRIVE & SET UP AT NOON
- MUST PROVIDE OWN TABLE/TENT
- REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT 1
- ENCOURAGED TO DECORATE TABLE/TENT
- ENCOURAGED TO HAND OUT CANDY TO TRICK OR TREATERS

CONTACT: Michelle Grable 260.241.0247
VENMO: MichelleGrableVenmo.com



COFFEE & CANVAS

10.19.25 12:30 - 2:30pm
Busco Beans Coffee Shop



Arful
transformations
HEALING & GROWING THROUGH ART





Historic Downtown trick or treating

**Enjoy all our businesses on
100, 200, 300 Van Buren
Chauncey, Market, Main, Jackson
All around the square
City Hall and County Buildings**