

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







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!**



# 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.





# 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	Housing Authority Tree Board	22	23	24	25
	27 Park Board	28 Board of Works Common Council	29	30	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.









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

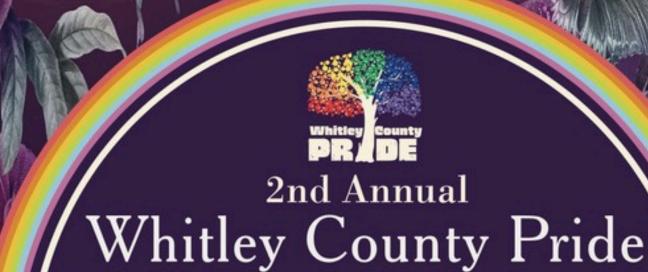
#### SHOW US YOUR PUMPKIN CARVING!

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!



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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



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









KELLY'S WHITLEY COUNTY

# SKELETON

FESTIVAL

18

### **OCTOBER**

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
COLUMBIA CITY
2PM-7PM

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 (ITY
2:00PM - 7:00PM

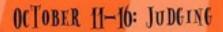


REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

## SKELETON DECORATING AND JUDGING:

BUSINESS: \$20 RESIDENTIAL: \$20
DEAdline for Entries: Oct.1

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



OCTOBER 18: WINNERS ANNOUNCED

### costume contest:

JUDGING AT 5:00 PM

\* BEST ADULT FEMALE

\* BEST ADULT MALE

\* BEST GIRL

\* REST 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

### **UENDORS:**

- \$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





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