



April Chamber Member of the Month

Congratulations to **Shoes & Moore** for being awarded our Member of the Month for April 2026!

A lasting legacy in our community, Shoes & Moore has continued to grow and evolve under new ownership by truly listening to their customers and focusing on carrying high-quality, trusted brands. Their intentional shift toward better selection, comfort, and style has strengthened their reputation as a go-to destination for footwear in the area. We're proud to recognize their continued investment in both their customers and our local community.

You can find them conveniently located in Columbia City, making it easy to stop in, browse their latest styles, and experience the personalized service they're known for.



Member Spotlight

Led by young entrepreneur Hannah (Tower) Baron, **Dahlia Joy Floristry** brings a fresh, creative touch to the local floral scene. Specializing in weddings and custom arrangements, Hannah pours so much care and personality into every piece she creates.

You can even catch her charming floral trailer out in the community this summer, including at the Columbia City Farmers Market. We love seeing her passion bloom and are proud to support this growing local business!



Upcoming Chamber Events

From networking opportunities and ribbon cuttings to educational sessions and special gatherings, these events offer a great way to stay engaged and get the most out of your Chamber membership. We encourage all members to attend, participate, and take advantage of the connections and resources these events provide. We hope to see you at the following events:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH
@ NOON**

Monthly Chamber Ambassador Meeting

Join us for the next Chamber Ambassador Meeting at the **Chamber office at noon**. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to get more involved, build connections, and learn about ways to volunteer and support upcoming Chamber events. All members are welcome!

**FRIDAY, MAY 1ST
@ 8:00 AM**

Coffee & Conversations Networking

Held the **first Friday** of every month at **8 a.m.**, this is a casual networking event where members connect, share ideas, and chat about just about anything. We rotate between local cafés and businesses throughout Whitley County. May's location is to be determined, so be sure you're following our Facebook page for updates.



ATTENTION ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS!

**YOUR 2026 MEMBERSHIP IS DUE.
VISIT THE LINK BELOW TO ENROLL IN
OUR NEW AUTO-RENEWAL SYSTEM.**



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/whitley-county-chamber-annual-membership>

Columbia City Connect Nationally Recognized

Congratulations to Columbia City Connect on being named a Nationally Accredited Main Street! This prestigious designation recognizes communities that meet high national standards for downtown revitalization, economic development, and community engagement. It's a testament to the hard work of their team, volunteers, local businesses, and community partners who continue to invest in the future of downtown Columbia City. We're proud to celebrate this exciting milestone for our community!





Outstanding Career and Technical Students recognized as new inductees in the National Technical Honor Society

Columbia City, IN, March 27 – Outstanding Career and Technical Students at Columbia City High School were honored on March 24, 2026, as the newest inductees into the National Technical Honor Society, *the* honor society for Career & Technical Education (CTE). Thirty-six students were inducted for membership based on their skill development and academic achievement in their Career & Technical courses. Students must participate in a CTE pathway having a minimum overall GPA of 3.0, earned a certification or credential aligned to the CTE pathway, have 3 letters of recommendation, participate in work-based learning, job shadowing or internship and have 15 hours of community service to be inducted.

Since 1984, NTHS has been *the* honor society for CTE, serving high schools, career centers, community & technical colleges, and universities. Recognizing over 50,000 new members annually, NTHS exists to advocate for and empower all students to pursue the technical and academic skills needed to build their careers and a skilled global workforce.

Congratulations to the new inductees of the National Technical Honor Society at Columbia City High School.

New Inductees: Alexander Reed, Calieanne Amburgey, Tila Baker, Madison Beyhan, Elizabeth Blackburn, Hailey Boggs, Hunter Brown, Mackenzie Burns, Samuel Cruz Dominguez, Emma Flanagan, Madison Geiger, Kyle Hoag, Riley Jones, Delanyee King, Ryleigh Krill, Tyler Ledgerwood, Carly Linnemeier, Owen Love, Brienna Montel, Olivia More, Cecelia Noonan, Jade North, Holly Oelschlager, Jonathon Pratt, Emery Pursley, Yi Qing Ni, Breana Rumschlag, Evelyn Schaekel, Amira Smith, Shelby Smith, Brynn Stahl, Maylan Wagner, Mylie Ward, Gracie Wilkinson, Kiersten Williams, Landon Ziko.

For more information about the Columbia City High School NTHS chapter, please contact:
Brady Mullett
CCHS Principal
mulletbm@wccsonline.com
260.244.6136

To learn more about the National Technical Honor Society, visit nthsonline.org.



VENDORS WANTED

Your Whitley County Chamber is excited to take the lead on the 2026 Farmers Market and strengthen our community connection! Join us for a Callout Meeting at Peabody Public Library. New and returning vendors are invited to ask questions, reserve dates, meet fellow vendors, and connect with the Market board.

Looking for but not limited to:

- Fresh Produce
- Artisan Meats
- Baked Goods
- Florals + Plants
- Services
- Handcrafted & Artisanal Goods
- Food Trucks
- Pet Products
- Boutiques/Clothing



Scan the QR code or click the link below to view our **Vendor Agreement & Application**



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-whitley-county-farmers-market-vendor-application>

Upcoming Member Events

Our Chamber members are always hosting exciting events throughout the community, and we love helping spread the word. From grand openings and open houses to workshops, sales, and special celebrations, member events are a great way to support one another and stay connected.

If you'd like your upcoming event featured in a future newsletter, please message or email the Chamber with your event details.



CAREGIVER CONNECT

Connect. Share. Grow.

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, but also comes with challenges. Join our peer-led group to share insights and find encouragement from others who truly understand.

3rd Wednesday of each month
Beginning May 20th
1:00pm

Autumn Trace Senior Communities
616 Opportunity Drive
Columbia City, Indiana 46725
Theater Room

For any questions, please contact
765-661-3062



SOUTH WHITLEY EASTER EGG HUNT



NEW DATE: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Location: South Whitley Elementary School

Starts at the Noon Whistle!

Bring your own baskets or buckets to collect eggs

Register for the
Bicycle & Prize Raffle!




Fun for the whole community!

Thank You to Our Amazing Sponsors

and to everyone for your understanding as we
rescheduled due to the weather




 Supporting Our Veterans 

Root  They will be a vendor at the

BATTLE BUDDY 5K

Walk / Run


 April 11, 2026 • 8:00 AM

 Eagle Park Track • Columbia City

Come walk, run, or stop by our booth!


We'll have:

- Handmade goods
- Encouraging gifts
- Farm-inspired items

All while supporting
a great cause 

Proceeds help pair veterans
with service animals through
The Buddy System Inc.



Stop by the Root  Their booth and say hello!

APRIL 2026



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



			<p>1 Take & Make: Spring Blossoms ▲ Awaken Yoga 9:30 am ♥ Spring Break Crafts 12 pm - 3 pm</p>	<p>2 ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Spring Break Crafts 12 pm - 3 pm ♥ Art Lab 4:30 pm ▲ Paperback Writers 6 pm</p>	<p>3 ♥ Baby Storytime 9:30 am ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Spring Break Crafts 12 pm - 3 pm ♥ Lego Club 4:30 pm</p>	<p>4 ■ Derby Race Build Day 9 am - 5 pm</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday</p>	<p>6 ♥ Baby Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Homeschool 1 pm ▲ Create & Connect 5:30 pm ▲ Yoga Flow 6 pm</p>	<p>7 ♥ Puzzle Palooza 10:30 am ▲ Edgy Art 1 pm ♦ Bookflix 4:30 pm</p>	<p>8 ♥ Before 5 10 am ▲ Brush with Madness 5:30 pm</p>	<p>9 ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Stem Challenge 4:30 pm ▲ Amateur Crafts w/Angie 5:30 pm</p>	<p>10 ♥ Baby Storytime 9:30 am ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ■ Trash Can Potatoes 11 am ♥ Bored Let's Board 4:30 pm</p>	<p>11 ■ Pine Wood Derby Race 10 am ▲ Master Gardener Series 2 pm - 4 pm</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 ♥ Baby Storytime 10:30 am ▲ Crafting Connections 11 am ♥ Homeschool 1 pm</p>	<p>14 ♥ Exploration Station 10:30 am ▲ A Novel Idea 11 am ♦ Quirky Crafts 4:30 pm</p>	<p>15 ■ Family Game Night 6 pm</p>	<p>16 ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Junior Detectives 4:30 pm ▲ Medicare 101 6 pm</p>	<p>17 ♥ Baby Storytime 9:30 am ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Inventor's Workshop 4:30 pm</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 ♥ Baby Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Homeschool 1 pm ▲ Otherworldly Book Club 5:30 pm</p>	<p>21 ♥ Block Party 10:30 am ♦ Saved by the Binge 4:30 pm ▲ The Evidence Room 6 pm</p>	<p>22 ▲ Crafty Mornings 11 am</p>	<p>23 ▲ Woodlands Book Club 10 am ▲ Coffee & Cadavers 10 am ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Career Spotlight 4:30 pm ▲ Make & Design Jewelry 5:30 pm</p>	<p>24 ♥ Baby Storytime 9:30 am ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ♥ I'm Booked 4:30 pm</p>	<p>25 ■ Clothing Swap 11 am</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 ♥ Baby Storytime 10:30 am ♥ Homeschool 1 pm ▲ Read 'Em & Weep 5:30 pm</p>	<p>28 ♥ Yoga Sprouts 10:30 am ♦ Game Night 4:30 pm ▲ Dungeons & Dragons 5 pm</p>	<p>29 ▲ Homespun Workings 5:30 pm</p>	<p>30 ♥ Storytime 10:30 am ▲ Open Mic Poetry Night 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Program Color Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All Ages ▲ Adults ♥ Children ♦ Teens 	



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Scan for all April Events.



planting **TRASH CAN POTATOES**

Friday April 10th
11 am - 12:30 pm

Together, we're planting potato seeds in trash cans for our community garden.

PINE WOOD DERBY RACE

RACE DAY!

Saturday April 11th
10 am

Pick up a kit in the Children's Department any time after March 28th.

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

A special story time featuring a community helper!

Thursday, April 23rd
4:30 pm

WITH JESSIE FROM SUGAR CREEK DONUTS

Let's Design and Make Jewelry

Thursday, April 23rd
5:30 pm - 7 pm

Scan for more information

Bring clothes you're ready to part with, shop the swap for new-to-you finds, and take back any of your items that are left at the end.

Children's CLOTHING SWAP

Saturday, April 25th 11 am - 12 pm

Thursday April 30th
5:30 - 7 pm

OPEN MIC Poetry NIGHT

Ages 16+

A close-up photograph of a welder wearing a blue protective suit and a clear face shield. Bright orange and yellow sparks are flying from the welding point, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene. The background is a dark green with a subtle grid pattern.

Welding Class at Fort Wayne Ivy Tech

- Mondays and Tuesdays
- 4:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
- April 6 – June 15, 2026
- \$3000 per person

For more information contact
Heather Vance
hvance6@ivytech.edu

Woodlands Center's Upcoming Events



March and April

2026

Cash Bingo and Pull Tabs are every Thursday night 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Doors open at 5 pm

March
26

DeBrand Fine Chocolates Trip

w/ Golden Corral \$50 and you must sign up by 3/6/26

March
28

Craft Bazaar @ the Woodlands Center

We will be open from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch will be provided as well.

March
30

Tenderloin Lunch @ 11:30 am

Sam Hicks will be our entertainment and starts at 12:15 pm

April
2

Easter Lunch @ 11:30 am

\$7 for lunch. You must sign up 48 hours ahead.

April
10

Birthday Lunch @ 11:30 am

Garry Jones will be our entertainment and starts at 12:15 pm

April
13

Networking Breakfast

8 am to 10 am. Our special guest will be Curtis Smith

April
17

Lunch and Learn with Music to My Ears

California Dreaming will perform at this Lunch and Learn

April
27

Tenderloin Lunch @ 11:30 am

Dave Scribner will be our entertainment and starts at 12:15 pm

Woodlands Center 710 N. Opportunity Dr. Columbia City, IN 46725

activities@wccoa.biz or trips@wccoa.biz

260-248-8944 ext. 9

Daddy Daughter Dance

Taylor Swift Theme

At

THE PRESS ROOM
EVENT CENTER

113 South State Street • South Whitley, IN 46787

Music • Games • Dancing • More!

• **\$30 a couple** • **\$10 for each additional daughter**

• *Each couple receives a take-home photo*

Photo provided by Eberly Photography & Videography LLC



Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 6-8PM

• TICKETS ARE LIMITED •

Advanced Tickets Required

To Purchase Tickets Email:

jenkrider@outlook.com

Dress up, sing along, and make memories that will last forever!

Woodlands Center

BREAKFAST

Networking Meeting

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CREATE

"GREAT IDEAS START AT THE TABLE"



MONDAY 2/2/26
THURSDAY 4/16/26
MONDAY 7/13/26
THURSDAY 10/15/26

710 N. OPPORTUNITY DRIVE COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725

RSVP at activities@wccoa.biz or 260-248-8944 ext. 9

WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and DIRTY ADDICTION OFF-ROAD PRESENT:

'GO TOPLESS DAY DAY 2026

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
10 AM – 5 PM EST

LOCATION: PAIGE'S CROSSING, Columbia City, Indiana



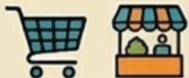
REGISTER HERE →



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Show & Shine Competition: Enter your vehicle to win one of our multiple awards.



Vendor Alley: Explore the latest gear and local services.



Countywide Cruise: Join the convoy for a scenic drive through Whitley County.



ADMISSION IS FREE!

Join the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce and Dirty Addiction Off-Road for our annual celebration of the off-road lifestyle!



Event
Sponsors



The Woodlands Center's

SUMMER FEST

VENDOR & FLEA MARKET

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS MONTHLY EVENT!

Crafts, Produce, Clothing, Gifts, Food Trucks, and So Much More

MAY 30TH, JUNE 13TH, AND JULY 11TH
AT 9 AM-3 PM

There will be two vendor options and one food truck option. All options are first-come, first-serve. Vendor spots will only be reserved upon receiving payment. If the vendor pays for all three dates at one time, they will receive a \$10 discount.

Option 1 - 10x10 inside space \$30 each
Option 2 - 20x20 outside space \$50 each
Food Trucks - \$50 setup fee

This is a rain or shine event. All payments are final. Proceeds from these events will go towards the Free Fall Festival that will be open to the public on 10/4/26. We are also accepting "booster groups" for our event. If you are involved in school/sports fundraisers, please reach out to us.



710 N. OPPORTUNITY DRIVE COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725

Woodlands Center Presents

CASH BINGO

Nights

Every Thursday Night starting 3/5/2026

710 N. OPPORTUNITY DRIVE COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725

5:30 PM TO 8 PM

Play hard • Win big • Have fun



WHITLEY RESOURCE FAIR

HELPING OUR FAMILIES, ADULTS, AND SENIORS CONTINUE TO GROW BY BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INCREASING AWARENESS OF LOCAL SERVICES IN WHITLEY COUNTY.

Join us at the WRF for a free lunch, vendors, back to school supplies, back to school haircuts, a marketplace, safety section, and on-the-spot interviews.

Location :

Indian Springs Middle School
1692 IN-9
Columbia City, IN 46725

8/1/2026

10 am to 2 pm

For Questions 260-248-8944 ext 900

