



Spring 2025

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Journal Review



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The recent opening of the Purple Heart Parkway extension on the city's south side will open up retail and housing development opportunities.

CONTINUED TRANSFORMATION

Leaders Highlight Community Investments

Mayor Todd Barton believes Crawfordsville is undergoing continued transformation.

During the annual State of the Community address, Barton touted economic development, housing expansion and child-care accessibility as contributing factors in the city's recent growth.

In 2024, Crawfordsville experienced \$75.3 million in new investments.

Major developments included Penguin Random House's

\$45 million expansion, which added substantial warehousing and distribution capabilities, and Fairfield Inn & Suites' \$16.4 million investment to construct a 91-room hotel. Additionally, Weaver Popcorn committed \$15 million to expanding its operations, further strengthening the city's manufacturing sector.

"This level of investment is a testament to the confidence businesses have in Crawfordsville and the foundation we have built for sustainable growth," Barton said. "These investments are not just about numbers; they are about build-

ing a stronger future for Crawfordsville residents."

"With new businesses and job opportunities on the rise, addressing housing availability remains a top priority in making Crawfordsville a place where people not only work, but also choose to call home," he added.

The Arbor Homes Hawkview neighborhood, located along U.S. 231 South, featuring 174 single-family homes, is set to provide much-needed residential space. Elsewhere, a 404-unit apartment complex by Global Development along

SEE TRANSFORMATION/7



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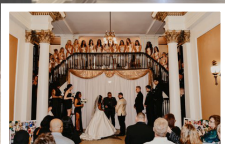
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TRANSFORMATION

FROM PAGE 5

the Purple Heart Parkway extension aims to address the demand for market-rate rentals. Additionally, the long-awaited redevelopment of the historic Ben Hur building at the intersection of Water and Main streets will introduce 49 market-rate apartments in the downtown area, with completion expected by mid-2025.

Recognizing the impact of childcare availability on workforce participation, Crawfordsville has made significant progress in early learning initiatives.

“Recognizing that access to quality child care is a key factor in workforce development, we took a proactive approach to addressing this challenge,” Barton said. “Rather than waiting for outside solutions, we collaborated locally to create a plan that meets the needs of working families in our community.”

The Montgomery County Early Learning Center, operated by KinderCare, broke ground in 2024 and will add 124 childcare seats for children up



Fairfield Inn & Suites announced a \$16.4 million addition and Weaver Popcorn broke ground on the company's \$15 million expansion.



to five years old this spring. This project, a collaboration between the city, Montgomery County Community Foundation, and local businesses, received national recognition for its innovative approach to early childhood education.

Beyond economic growth and housing, Barton emphasized investments in infrastructure and public spaces. The city completed the Purple Heart Parkway extension, opening 1,000 acres for development, and launched major drainage improvement projects on the east side to facilitate future expansion. Park en-

hancements, including the opening of Brickyard Nature Park and upgrades to Milligan and Lincoln parks, further contributed to Crawfordsville's transformation.

The mayor expressed optimism for the future of Crawfordsville, highlighting preparations to host the renowned Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations in October 2025.

“We are building a community that people want to live, work, and visit,” he said, emphasizing the city's commitment to sustainable growth and quality of life improvements.

Montgomery Coun-

ty Board of Commissioners President Dan Guard also reflected on the county's progress in 2024, highlighting major infrastructure projects, including securing state funding for an overpass on Nucor Road over U.S. 136.

“This overpass will not only improve safety for all travelers but will also facilitate even more economic growth in this critical area,” Guard stated.

The overall theme of Guard's message was collaboration and infrastructure-driven growth in Montgomery County. He emphasized the county's efforts to improve infrastructure, support economic development, and enhance public services while working closely with the city.

He highlighted collaborative projects like the Purple Heart Parkway extension and the Montgomery County Early Learning Center. In 2024, the county also moved forward with courthouse renovations to preserve its historical significance while ensuring it meets the needs of today's residents.

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GETTING OUTSIDE

City Opens New Brickyard Nature Park

The city of Crawfordsville held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in November for Brickyard Nature Park.

The park is one of the many projects the city and Mayor Todd Barton have been working on for several years to improve the quality of life for area residents.

The property, located on the city's north side, was originally purchased in 2005 as part of the Commerce Park development. The plan was to clear the land and create a southern extension of the Commerce Park by bulldozing the trees and filling in the pond to develop the area.

"However, to me, that not only seemed cost prohibitive, but it just seemed like a real travesty to bulldoze what we have here and get rid of it," Mayor

Todd Barton said. "And the only logical solution in my mind was to develop a park and let the community enjoy what nature has created."

The project was approved for READI funds in 2022, and about half of the development



costs were covered by these funds. Designing the space began in January 2023.

The completion date was originally set for July but was postponed due to construction delays. The park was completed in October.

The park is named Brickyard as homage to the history of the land which used to be home to brick making factories that manufactured

bricks for several different buildings all over the Midwest.

There are informational signs around the park that detail the history of the site as the Brickyard, and even the brick making process.

"There were several people in

the community who provided insight into the best ways to use the property, including local bicyclists and parks and recreation staff," Director of Operations and Community Development Brandy Allen said.

The mayor contributed the projects success to many factors including Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and the legislature for passing the READI funding. He also emphasized the efforts of Allen and Director of Parks and Recreation Fawn Johnson.

"I know they [Allen and Johnson] were out here many different times walking the trails, checking the signs, making sure everything was done right. I would like to give them a round of applause because they really turned this into a reality."



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TRIBUTE TO HISTORY

City Upgrades Lincoln Park; Adds Pickleball

The city of Crawfordsville conducted a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in late November for Lincoln Park.

The park has new pickleball courts, extended basketball courts, cornhole, a new shaded shelter with seating and a drinking fountain.

The park also was updated to pay tribute to the history of the land and the building that once stood there.

The park grounds were once home to Lincoln School, an all-black school during the years of segregation.

The city presented a mock-up of a future sign dedicated to the school detailing some of the history and students' achievements. Plans for a permanent sign is set for early this year.

Two local historians, Vickie Hudson-Swisher and Shannon Hudson, came to speak at the ceremony. The two co-wrote a book on the history of Lincoln School.

Hudson gave some backstory to the creation of the Lincoln School for Colored Children during her speech and emphasized the importance of preserving its history.

The Lincoln School that was built on the park's land was



actually the second of two, opened in 1922 and closing in 1947. The first Lincoln School was built in 1882 serving 42 students. It was built on the north side of Crawfordsville near Spring and Walnut streets.

"In the early 1950s, separate but equal legislation became illegal, rendering Lincoln School for Colored Children unnecessary," Hudson said.

The property became part of the Parks and Recreation department thereafter.

"It became what a lot of you probably remember as the Lincoln Center, which was part of the Parks and Rec, but it was also a recreation gathering area for black population," Hudson said.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Fawn Johnson, also

spoke during the ceremony.

"First, I want to thank Mayor Todd Barton and our Director of Operations and Community Development, Brandy Allen, for their dedication to the City of Crawfordsville, Parks and Recreation, and specifically to this project," Johnson said.

Johnson went on to thank the City Council, Parks and Recreation, All-American Construction and Hauling and HWC Engineering.

She personally thanked Catherine Puckett and Eric Walker from HWC, who designed the new park.

There will be another ceremony next year once the permanent sign paying tribute to Lincoln School is placed.

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County To Host International Motocross Race

Crawfordsville's elite motocross racing facility, Ironman Raceway, will host the Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations international race on Oct. 2-5. The race attracts fans from across the globe as nearly 40 international race teams will take part in the event.

Known as the "Olympics of Motocross Racing," MXoN is expected to draw more than 35,000 fans to Crawfordsville. The result will make the race the largest event ever to come to the area.

The race will be the 78th running of the MxON and will be only the sixth time the race is held in the United States.

Last year the race was held in the United Kingdom and several local officials attended

the race to witness the event. The team from New Zealand won the 2024 MxON championship title.

When the announcement was made that Crawfordsville would host the next championship, a local organizing committee was formed and immediately started making plans.

Co-chairs for the organizing committee include Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton and Montgomery County Administrator Tom Klein.

Barton said the committee is tasked to make the local race "the best the MxON has ever had."

While a lot of attention will focus on events at Ironman Raceway, the committee also is focusing on the impact to the city and planning activities the city can provide to make the

SEE PASSION/15

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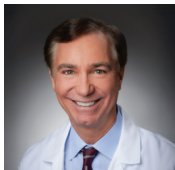
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PASSION

FROM PAGE 13

experience enjoyable for fans. The committee has also focused on making sure local residents will be able to enjoy festivities while not losing government provided services such as ambulance and fire-fighting services.

The committee is working closely with MXoN and is comprised of many state and local entities and individuals. Helping with planning the event is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indiana Sports Corporation. State agencies involved are the Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation and state emergency management officials and Indiana Homeland Security.

Several subcommittees have been formed and tasked with several areas to ensure a good event for the fans and for the city.

Hotels are already booked in Crawfordsville, Brownsburg and other cities. Several area homeowners are listing their homes and apartments on airbnb internet sites to rent their homes for the weekend. Local people are also renting out their personal motorhomes and campers.

There will be shuttles running fans from the Indianapolis and Crawfordsville airports. Shuttles will be used to transport fans around Crawfordsville.

The USA holds the record for the most team victories in the history of the Monster Ener-



gy Motocross of Nations, with 23 in total, despite only truly joining the competition in the 1970s.

MxoN fans are known for passion, pride and patriotism of the nations.

The local entourage that traveled to the 2024 race was impressed with the fans they saw.

"The fans are very passionate and loud," Montgomery County Visitors Bureau Director Heather Shirk said. "They are waving their country's flag and cheering. It is exciting."

"We are proud to bring the 78th edition of the Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations to the USA in 2025," Infront Moto Racing CEO, David Luongo said. "We will head to the fantastic Ironman Raceway, renowned for its challenging layout and rich history."

"The MXoN is always a special event where riders don't just compete for themselves

but for their nations," Luongo said. "The pride, emotion and intensity that comes with this race is something you can feel in the air. We are expecting an unforgettable atmosphere, with American fans and fans from all over the world coming together to celebrate this amazing sport."

"We are beyond thrilled to host the 2025 Motocross of Nations at Ironman Raceway in Crawfordsville," Barton said. "We look forward to welcoming teams and fans from around the world to our community and are already hard at work creating a fun-filled experience for our visitors that will be like none other."

Each nation will announce their three-man teams in the summer. The Friday parade will be a great opportunity for fans to see all the riders up close. The parade committee is looking for a well-known personality to be the grand marshal.

For more detailed information visit the city's website at www.crawfordsville.in.gov/389/Motocross-of-Nations-MXoN-2025.



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Partners and investors of the Montgomery County Early Learning Center, including Mayor Todd Barton, joined 3-year-old pre-K student Matilda Pence in cutting the ribbon during the ceremony on March 6.

YEARS IN THE MAKING

Montgomery County Early Center Opens Doors

A crowd of nearly 100 people, including representatives from the Montgomery County Early Learning Center's 16 partners, gathered earlier this month to mark the completion of the new center — a project that was years in the making.

Discussions for the creation of the center began in 2019, and construction kicked off following a groundbreaking ceremony in April 2024. The

facility, located at 110 W. South Blvd., is set to officially open its doors March 17.

KinderCare, known for its research-based curriculum and nationally accredited programs, will operate the center and provide 124 childcare spots for infants through pre-school-aged children. Their focus on early childhood development ensures that children not only receive quality care but also a strong foundation for lifelong learning. The facility includes dedicated rooms for

infants as young as six weeks, toddlers, two-year-olds and pre-K students. An indoor recess room offers space for physical activity when using the outdoor playground isn't an option, and infants will engage in sensory stimulation exercises.

"We wanted a partner that would value educators and create relationships for our families and children who would enter this facility. KinderCare Learning

SEE MAKING/19



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MAKING

FROM PAGE 17

Company is that partner,” said Montgomery County Community Foundation CEO Kelly Taylor.

At the ribbon-cutting, Taylor emphasized the significance of the new center.

“Today marks an exciting milestone in our community, a place where our youngest learners will grow, explore, and develop in a safe and nurturing environment,” she said.

The project, a \$5 million investment, was made possible through a partnership between businesses, government entities, and philanthropic organizations. Partners in this endeavor included Acuity Lighting, City of Crawfordsville, DES Engineering, Early Learning Indiana, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Lake-

side Book Company, Montgomery County government, Montgomery County Community Foundation, North Central Health Services, Nucor, Penguin Random House, State of Indiana, Tempur Sealy, Tipmont, Tri-County Bank & Trust and Wabash College. Halstead Architects served as the project architect, and Patterson Horth, Inc. acted as the construction manager.

The collaboration aims to address the

shortage of high-quality childcare in Montgomery County, where fewer than 40% of children under five currently have access to such care.

KinderCare, which operates nationally accredited early learning centers across the country, will run the facility with a research-based curriculum.

“When this center opens in a few short days, 124 children will have access to high-quality early

childhood education, which will prepare them for a lifetime of learning while also offering their families much-needed support,” said Dan Figurski, president of KinderCare for Employers and Champions.

The center is now accepting enrollments for infants through preschool-aged children. Families interested in learning more can contact the center at 765-323-2223.





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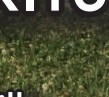
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Radio TV is one of the few unique classes that are offered through CTE. The vocational course is offered to juniors and seniors and is a two-year program.

The program is based at Western Boone with a full studio for news and audio production. The first-year class does a student-led newscast for Western Boone every other week with jobs for each student like director, anchor, cameramen and even

drone operators. On the other weeks, they have projects to learn skills in the industry.

Matt Foxworthy is the instructor for the class and was the 2022 Teacher of the Year at Western Boone High School.

"He actually prepares us for the real world and not just classroom work," said Chloee Bean, a second-year senior from Crawfordsville High School.

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Foxworthy studied news broadcasting at Vincennes University, where he worked part-time as a news videographer for WTHI in Terre Haute. After college he spent nine years in the industry working as a news videographer for stations such as WXIX, WXIN and WTVQ. Foxworthy came into West Central CTE in 2001 and revived the Radio and TV program.

"When I first started, I told them I wanted to run this class like a TV station," Foxworthy said. Students in the program learn many different skills, such as writing, editing, filmmaking and teamwork.



"Skills I've learned in the class have helped me outside of school," said Aden Connor, a second-year senior from Western Boone High School.

The second-year Radio and TV students are only in class twice a week. While in class,

students will work on projects, such as news packages, music videos or commercials. Some days are spent learning more about the news industry or the history behind it. The other three days are spent working on the Fusion 54

local news cast every Thursday or working as an intern for professionals in the industry.

Each student in the advanced class was given an internship around the Montgomery County area, such as the Journal Review, the Animal Welfare League and some local fire stations. Students clock in and out as if they were at a real job and are given deadlines just like the real world.

Many students in the class believe that these internships benefit them by teaching networking skills and hands-on skills.





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It's ABOUT COMMUNITY

Wabash Breaks Ground On New Center

Wabash College celebrated the start of the year with the start of a new chapter in its history when officials conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new community center.

The 56,000-square-foot building will replace the 70-year-old Sparks Center and be located in the heart of campus and will serve as a community gathering space, featuring main-floor dining for more than 200 people and flexible upper-level event space for gatherings of 12-250. The community center will include a restaurant and pub, game room, living room and swag shop.

"Many of you know I became a champion of this project very early in my presidency," Wabash College President Dr. Scott Feller said

during the ceremony. "We were at the height of the COVID pandemic, and it became obvious to me that the replacement for this charming old building needed to be much, much more than a new dining hall."

The center was originally planned to be a dining hall, but during the pandemic it became evident there was a need for a communal space. Feller shared how students' stories of isolation during the early days of COVID-19 pandemic shaped the vision for the center.

"What we learned when the students left for that brief period in March of 2020 was that the college is a lot more than classes. It's a lot more than practices," Feller said. "It's about community."

SEE COMMUNITY/27

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COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE 25

The project is part of the College Community Collaboration Initiative, which aims to enhance cooperation between the college and Montgomery County.

Feller credited the Wabash board of trustees for embracing the vision during a time of uncertainty and praised their unwavering support. He also expressed gratitude to the Lilly Endowment for their role in funding the project.

"I want to express my gratitude to everyone at the Lilly Endowment, in particular CEO Clay Robbins, President Jeanette Hill and Vice President for Education Ted Maple, for providing the opportunity for Wabash to apply and receive the largest grant in our history," Feller said. "It will quite literally transform in remarkable ways our

very special town hall collaboration."

Feller also acknowledged Corey Olson, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, for his leadership throughout the planning process.

Wabash is finalizing financing for the new facility. It is hoped that the Sparks Center will be razed this spring with construction to follow.

Wabash College President Scott Feller and Jack Engledow '53. Engledow was president of the student body when ground was broken on the Sparks Center 72 years ago — the building the community center will replace and the building that hosted the ceremony in January.



Participating in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new community center at Wabash College are, from left, Kelly Taylor, CEO of the Montgomery County Community Foundation; Matt Salzman, Wabash College Director of Foundations, Corporations, and Government Relations; Dr. Scott Feller, Wabash College President; Todd Barton, Crawfordsville mayor and Class of '00; Tom Klein, Montgomery County Administrator; and Leann Parrish, Wabash College Community Partnerships Coordinator.



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REAL-LIFE TRANSFORMER

Sue Lucas Praised For Revitalization Efforts

As director of the Crawfordsville Main Street organization, Sue Lucas has been instrumental in revitalizing efforts in downtown Crawfordsville. Her focus has always been fixed on historic preservation, beautification and community engagement.

Lucas, who retired at the end of 2024, earned praise from many during the organization's annual membership meeting in January.

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton also praised Lucas' work in the community and declared June 6 as Sue Lucas Day.

"Sue's dedication and passion for the mission of Crawfordsville Main Street is truly hard to describe," he said. "It goes beyond mere words. Her tireless work has helped transform our downtown over the last several years."

Lucas spearheaded numerous projects that transformed the downtown area. She played a key role in maintaining and enhancing the Marie Canine Plaza, including the restoration of its fountain and landscaping. Her efforts also extended to sustainability initiatives, such as removing invasive species and planting native trees, and ensuring that



Sue Lucas, retired long-time director of Crawfordsville Main Street, was honored in January at the organization's annual meeting. Mayor Todd Barton also declared June 6 as Sue Lucas Day in Crawfordsville.

downtown Crawfordsville was consistently decorated and maintained throughout the seasons.

Through her leadership, Lucas fostered strong partnerships with city, county and state officials, and collaborated with organizations like the Historic Preservation Commission, Durham Inc. and the Montgomery County Heritage Alliance. She also championed local businesses, advocating

for business promotion and sustainability while creating a vibrant downtown environment that has become a cornerstone of economic vitality.

As Lucas steps away from her role, CMS welcomed Jamie Harrington as its new director. Harrington, who previously worked with the local Chamber of Commerce, expressed gratitude for the opportunity and acknowledged the strong foundation built by Lucas.



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Upcoming Events

April 5

American Battlefield Trust - Park Day 2025 at the General Lew Wallace Study, 9 a.m. to noon

April 12

PAC Mid-West Rodeo at the PAC Arena, 6 p.m.

May 3

PAC Mid-West Rodeo at the PAC Arena, 6 p.m.

May 9-11

2025 Ironman ATVMX-Round 5 at the Ironman Raceway, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 17

2025 Summer Concert Series - Henry Lee Summer at PAC Mid-West Rodeo Co. & Arena, 7-11 p.m.

May 17

Waynetown Street Craft Festival, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

May 17-18

Hoosier GNCC

May 23-25

2025 Loretta Lynn's Mid-East Amateur Regional Championship at Ironman Raceway, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 31

Girls Day at the Raceway at Ironman Raceway, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dancing with the Montgomery County Stars 2025, 6 p.m. at Knowing Fieldhouse, Wabash College

June 6

First Friday Concert Series, Pike Place

June 7

Friends of Sugar Creek Canoe Race, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

June 7

PAC Mid-West Rodeo at the PAC Arena, 6 p.m.

June 13-15

Strawberry Festival, Lane Place grounds. National entertainment acts Friday and Saturday nights. Car and tractor shows, children's

activities, arts and crafts, food, tennis, cornhole, softball tournaments and 4k run.

June 20

Lunch on the Plaza, Canine Plaza, corner of East Main and Green streets.

June 24

Waynetown Freedom Festival and Fireworks, 11 a.m. to dusk

June 28

Back2Mac (Fleetwood Mac tribute show) at PAC Mid-West Rodeo Co. & Arena (7-11 p.m.)

July 4

New Richmond Fireworks, New Richmond Park, at dusk

July 4

Crawfordsville Fireworks, Milligan Park, at dusk

July 11-16

Montgomery County 4-H Fair, fairgrounds on Parke Avenue

July 18

Lunch on the Plaza, Canine Plaza, corner of East Main and Green streets.

Aug. 1

First Friday Concert Series, Pike Place

Aug. 9

Ironman National Championship, Ironman Raceway

Aug 9

Midwest Railroad Fair, Linden Depot. Many exhibitors and vendors, operating 1837 steam engine replica, historic railroad depot, model RR, unique exhibits.

Aug. 15

Lunch on the Plaza, Canine Plaza, corner of East Main and Green streets.

Aug. 23

18th annual Taste of Montgomery County, Gen. Lew Wallace Study & Museum. Live musical acts, local food vendors and caterers, local wines, and craft brews.

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