

Crawfordsville Magazine

Spring 2026



A supplement of the
Journal Review

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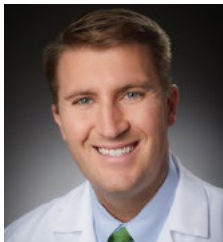
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Welcome to the Crawfordsville Magazine.



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SPRING 2026

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WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Swick earns recognition from BPW

Some people build success with ease and a clear path in front of them.

Others build it the hard way — with grit, determination, late nights, early mornings, and a whole lot of heart.

This year, the Business and Professional Women organization is proud to honor Candace Swick as the 2026 Woman of Achievement, recognizing not only her professional accomplishments, but the remarkable personal journey that brought her there.

Swick's story is one that resonates with so many women — especially those who have faced seasons of life where simply keeping everything going felt like an achievement in itself.

For years, Swick navigated the demanding roles of working professional and single mother, balancing career responsibilities while raising her children with love, strength, and steady devotion.

Anyone who has walked that road knows it isn't easy.

Single motherhood often means being the planner, the provider, the comforter, the cheerleader, and the problem-solver — all at once. It means juggling school schedules and work deadlines, stretching budgets, managing



exhaustion, and still showing up day after day with grace.

Swick did exactly that.

And she didn't just survive those years — she succeeded.

Those who know her describe a woman who is hard-working, humble, and quietly resilient. Candace never

Candace Swick inside Swick's Kitchen and Emporium in Crawfordsville.

sought attention or recognition. Instead, she focused on doing what needed to be

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Pictured, from left, are Kym Bushong, past president INFBPW, Candace Swick, 2026 Business and Professional Women's Woman of Achievement, and RaeAnne Gochenour 2025-26 President INFBPW.

SWICK

FROM PAGE 5

done for her family, building a life rooted in responsibility and purpose.

Over time, her perseverance opened doors. Her career grew, her confidence deepened, and her example became one of strength to those around her.

Today, Swick's life has entered an exciting new chapter.

Now married, she and her husband have taken on a new adventure together — opening Swick's Kitchen and Emporium, located at 115 W. Market St.

The new barbecue restaurant is more than a business venture. It's a reflection of the same spirit Swick has always carried: warmth, dedication, and a willingness to work hard for something meaningful.

It is another milestone in a journey built not on ease, but on perseverance.

The BPW Woman of Achievement award is given to someone who has overcome obstacles that might have stopped someone else — and Swick is a beautiful example of that kind of woman.

Her story is not only one of professional success, but of motherhood, perseverance,

and the kind of strength that is built in everyday moments — the moments that don't make headlines, but make all the difference.

In honoring Swick, BPW honors every woman who has ever had to carry more than her share and kept going anyway.

Swick is deeply deserving of this recognition, and our community is better because of the example she sets — as a professional, as a mother, and now as a local business owner helping bring new life and flavor to downtown Crawfordsville.



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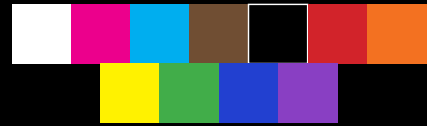


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MEETING THE Need

Crawfordsville launches public transportation

Crawfordsville and all of Montgomery County now have access to expanded public transportation through the Crawfordsville Area Transportation program. The service evolved from the longtime Sunshine Van program following extensive planning and consultation with RLS and Associates Inc., a public transportation consulting company.

RLS worked with the city on a feasibility study to determine the county's public transportation needs. The most common needs identified were transportation for work, grocery shopping, medical appointments and other errands.

Belinda Young, senior programs and trans-

portation coordinator for Crawfordsville Parks and Recreation, said the Sunshine Van program has come a long way. It began in 1968 with one man and a station wagon driving people to get groceries and run other errands. Over time, the program grew into a community service designed to be accessible to anyone in need at an affordable rate.

The Crawfordsville Area Transportation program expands that mission into a broader public transportation system serving the community. Young said the transition provides a much needed service and supports the continued growth of Crawfordsville and Montgomery County.

SEE **NEED**/11



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NEED

FROM PAGE 9

“Our staff is excited about the launch and the continued success of this initiative,” Young said. “I am proud to have been entrusted with leading this expansion.”

The program was made possible through a matching grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

The fleet includes 11 vehicles, including sedans, SUVs and small buses. Drivers have been trained and are ready to provide service throughout the county. With the potential for continued expansion, additional driver and staff positions may also be added.



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 - Regular grocery store routes in Crawfordsville are planned as the program continues to expand

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- Children under age 13: \$1 for a one way trip and must travel with an adult
- Insurance may cover the cost of medical trips
- Punch passes available for purchase at the Transportation Office, 922 E. South Blvd.

SUPPORT

Young said the transition would not be possible without the support of Mayor Todd Barton, the City of Crawfordsville, Christy Campoll of RLS and Associates, Parks and Recreation Executive Director Fawn Johnson, the Montgomery County Council, Todd Jennings of IN-DOT, Vicky Warner of Indiana RTAP, the Montgomery County League of Women Voters, the Montgomery County Community Foundation and the United Way of Montgomery County.

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NEW MARKETPLACE

Kroger breaks ground on \$38M project

City, county and Kroger officials broke ground earlier this year on a new Kroger Marketplace slated to be built on the Purple Heart Parkway extension directly behind Stevenson's Ace Hardware. Mayor Todd Barton says the \$38 million development will address a major grocery gap in the community.

Kroger Marketplace will be nearly two-and-a-half times the size of the existing store and is expected to open in January 2027. The store will include 17 designated spaces for online pickup orders and 570 regular parking spaces. A fuel center with nine gas

pumps is also planned. The new facility is projected to create approximately 100 new part-time and full-time jobs.

Barton said the development is a critical step in meeting the needs of a growing population that has long been underserved by available grocery options.

"This project is so exciting because it's about far more than erecting a new structure," Barton said during the groundbreaking ceremony. "It's about meeting the demands, the needs and the consumer preferences of a growing community like ours."

Barton said a 2022 retail gaps analysis confirmed what city leaders and residents had

suspected for years, that local grocery demand far exceeded supply. The study revealed a grocery gap of more than \$100 million, meaning residents were leaving the community to spend an estimated \$100 million annually on groceries elsewhere.

Barton credited Kroger for making the significant investment by building a marketplace store, calling it "a quantum leap forward in terms of grocery experience."

Barton added that the project will help retain consumer spending, improve access to groceries and support continued economic growth in the area.

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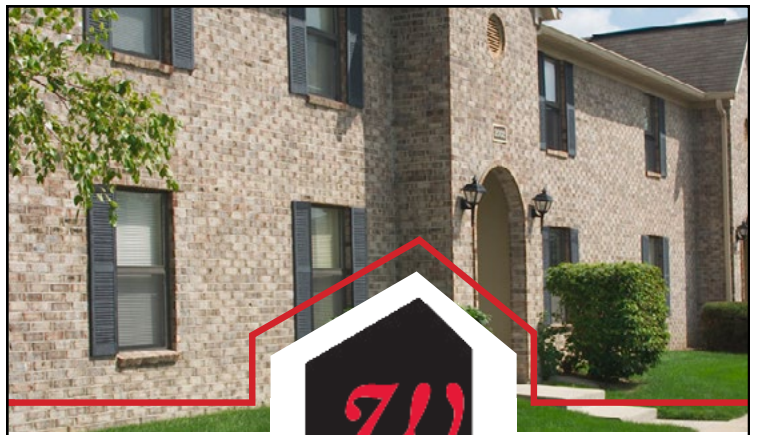
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First Friday lineup:
Michael Kelsey - 6/5/26
Panama Road - 7/3/26
Tony Bryant Project - 8/7/26
Klarc & Levi - 9/4/26



Lunch on the Plaza dates

Crawfordsville Magazine 2026

and performances, caterers to be announced at a later date
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Friday, July 17 with
Gray Beard Duo
Friday, Aug. 21 with
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ALWAYS FRESH

Farmers Market highlights the growing season



The Crawfordsville Farmers Market will return this spring on May 2 and run every Saturday through Sept. 26 at Pike Place.



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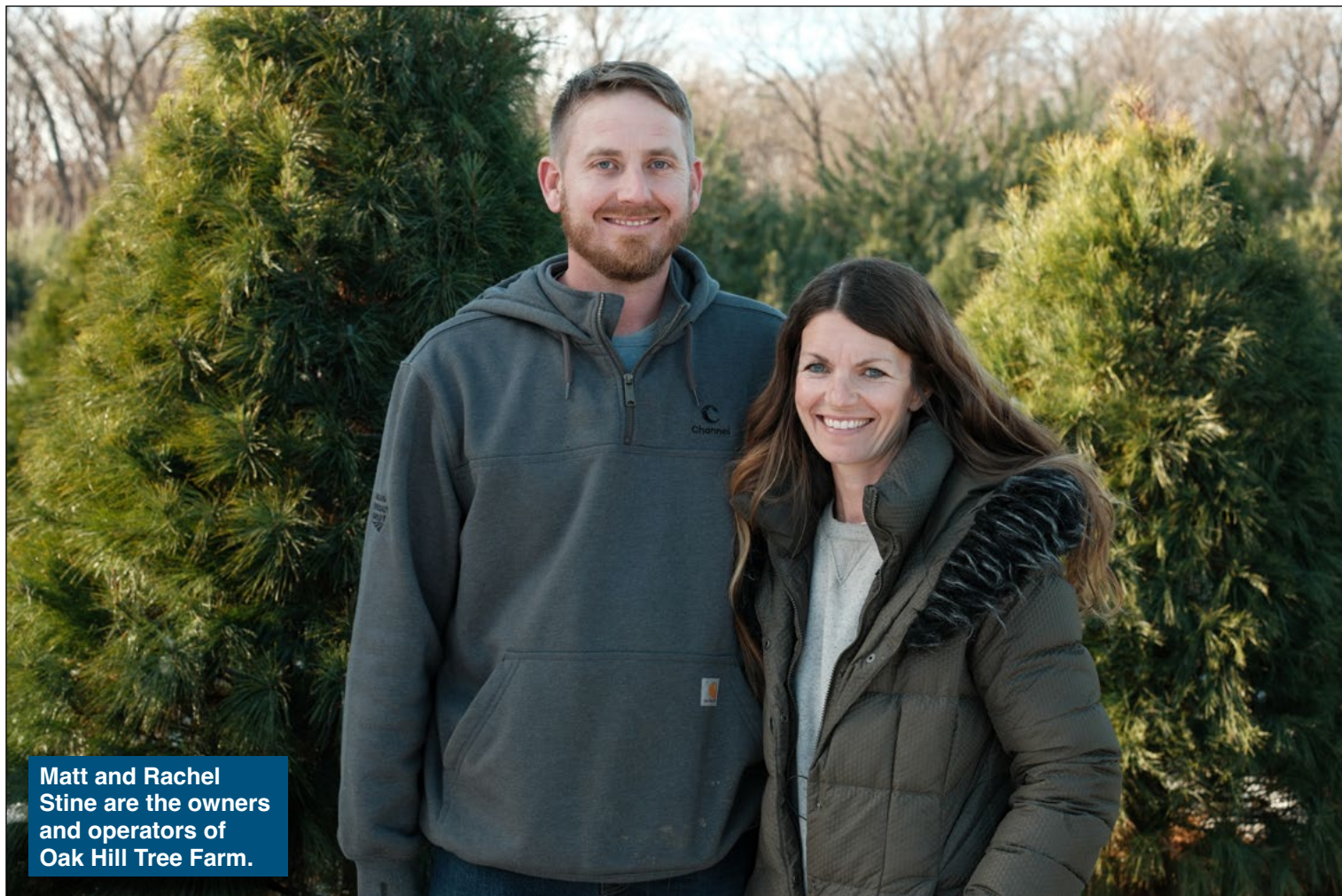
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FORWARD THINKERS

Stines recognized for innovative agritourism

Farm Credit Mid-America has named Matt and Rachel Stine of Montgomery County as recipients of its most recent Forward Thinker Award.

The award recognizes young agricultural producers who demonstrate innovation, sound financial management and a forward-looking vision for the future of agriculture.

The Stines are Purdue University agriculture graduates who have transformed their family farm into a diversified, multi-enterprise business anchored in agritourism and education. At the heart of their operation is Oak Hill Tree Farm, a u-cut Christmas tree farm with more than 20,000 trees that serves as a gathering

place for families and a bridge between agriculture and the local community.

“Our farm is more than a business. It is a connector,” Rachel Stine said. “We want people to understand where their food comes from, experience agriculture firsthand and build memories here.”

To manage the long production cycles and capital demands associated with Christmas tree farming, the Stines balanced their operation by adding seasonal pumpkin sales while significantly expanding their grain enterprise. With support from Farm Credit Mid-America, they grew their row-crop acreage from 30 acres to more than 1,400 acres, helping

SEE THINKERS/23



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THINKERS

FROM PAGE 21

solidify year-round cash flow and long-term financial sustainability.

A key driver of their success has been participation in Growing Forward, Farm Credit Mid-America's multi-year education and support program for young, beginning and small farmers. Through the program, which hosts annual conferences called Know to Grow, the Stines strengthened their financial management skills, improved working capital strategies and enhanced long-term planning.

"The education was transformational," Rachel Stine said. "I went from basic personal budgeting to managing complex business bookkeeping and truly understanding working capital. That knowledge changed how we make decisions."

The Stines credit their relationship with Farm Credit Mid-America and its team members as a true partnership built on open communication and shared goals.

"Having a lender who understands agriculture and treats you like a partner makes all the difference," said Matt Stine, who also participates in Farm Credit Mid-America's Advocate Council. "It gave us the confidence to plan, grow and take the long view."

The Forward Thinker Award is made possi-



ble through Growing Forward, which provides continuing education focused on financial management, strategic planning and long-term success. Award recipients are recognized at a Know to Grow conference and receive \$5,000 and a personalized plaque.

Applications for the next Forward Thinker Award will open in late 2026. Applicants must be customers of Farm Credit Mid-America and either be enrolled in or graduates of the Growing Forward program.

Growing Forward is one of many cooperative benefits available to Farm Credit Mid-America customers and reflects the cooperative principles that guide the organization and provide value beyond traditional lending.





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#1 2 CHICKEN TENDERS & SAUCE	6.59	11.99
#2 3 CHICKEN TENDERS & SAUCE	9.89	14.99
#3 JUMBO PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH	9.89	14.99
#4 CHICKEN TENDER WRAP	8.99	13.99
#5 POLLOCK FISH SANDWICH	8.99	13.99
#6 1 POLLOCK FISH FILLET NO BUN	7.49	12.99
#7 JUNIOR PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH	7.99	12.99
#8 2 CHICKEN TENDERS	9.99	
WITH 2 POTATO WEDGES, 1 SAUCE, & A 32oz DRINK NO SUBSTITUTIONS		

FAVORITE SIDES

	SMALL	MED	LARGE
FRENCH FRIES --ORDER/4.99			
POTATO WEDGES	4.99	8.99	12.99
ONION RINGS	5.49	8.99	12.99
MUSHROOMS	15.49	30.89	45.12.99
FRIED DILL PICKLE SLICES	15.49	30.89	45.12.99
SEASONAL SIDES:			
FRIED GREEN TOMATOES	5.19	9.99	13.99
COLD SALADS	4.99	8.99	12.99
MAC N CHEESE	4.99	8.99	12.99
CHEDDAR BITES	4.99	8.99	12.99



MARKING A MILESTONE

Countywide events planned for America's 250th celebration

Montgomery County organizations are planning a series of events in 2026 to mark the nation's 250th birthday, culminating in a community celebration this summer.

On July 4, 2026, the United States will commemorate 250 years since the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence, a milestone known as the semiquincentennial. Locally, the Montgomery County Semiquincentennial Committee is organizing exhibits, performances and community gatherings throughout 2026 to highlight Montgomery County's and Indiana's role in the nation's history.

The committee will host an "America 250

Birthday Bash" at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 5, at Pike Place. The public is invited to attend a concert by the Montgomery County Civic Band and gather with friends and family. Dessert will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring snacks or a picnic.

Several local organizations have announced programs and exhibits throughout 2026:

- Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County will present "America @250: Expressions of Freedom," an art and history exhibit on display April 4 through July 18.
- Sugar Creek Quilters will host a Patriotic Quilt Show at the Crawfordsville District Public Library from June 1 through July 15.

SEE MILESTONE/27



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MILESTONE

FROM PAGE 25

- Montgomery County Historical Society will feature “A Journey Through Conflict: The Lanes & The Civil War,” on display from April through November.

- General Lew Wallace Study & Museum will host “Wallace Family: A Legacy of Service” through Dec. 11.

In addition, the Montgomery County Genealogy Club will present a Spring Cemetery Walk. The Historical Society also will host a public reading of the Declaration of Independence at 6 p.m. July 8 in coordination with a nationwide initiative led by the Hawai‘i America 250

Commission.

Beyond scheduled events, the committee is encouraging local groups and residents to incorporate America 250 themes into their own activities. Suggested ideas include a “Memories Road Show,” inviting residents to share photographs, documents and artifacts; “Light Up United,” decorating homes and businesses in red, white and blue throughout 2026; and an “America’s Potluck” community meal July 5 at churches, parks or municipal buildings.

More information about statewide plans is available through the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission at in.gov/usa250. Organizers can be contacted at MoCoAmerica250@gmail.com for additional details about local events.

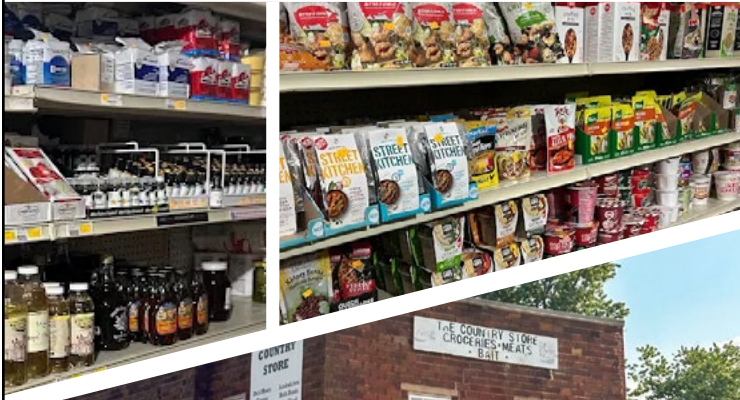
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GET OUT AND ABOUT

Fill your calendar with
festivals, food and fun



MARCH

- March 28, 1 p.m. — Community Egg Hunt at the General Lew Wallace Study

APRIL

- April 2, 5:30-7 p.m. — Treasures of the Earth at Waveland Fire Station
- April 4, 10 a.m. — Nature Hikes with FOSC at Bachner Nature Reserve
- April 4, 6 p.m. — PAC Mid-West Rodeo at PAC Mid-West Rodeo & Co. Arena (May 9, June 13)
- April 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m. — Montgomery County Family Fun Day at Crawfordsville High School
- April 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Chrome & Caffeine at Pike Place (May 31 and June 28)

MAY

- May 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. — Annual Spring Plant Sale and Show at Montgomery County 4-H Grounds
- May 7, 5 p.m. — Inaugural Mayor's Ball at IRA Whiskey
- May 9, 9 a.m. — Girls Day at the Raceway at Ironman Raceway
- May 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. — Spring Craft Fair at North Montgomery High School
- May 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Waynetown Street Fair in downtown Waynetown
- May 16, 3-8 p.m. — 2nd Annual Spring Festival at Pike Place
- May-September, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon — Crawfordsville Farmers Market on West Pike Street

JUNE

- June 12-14 — Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival
- June-September, 6-9 p.m. — Crawfordsville First Fridays (June 5, July 3, Aug. 7 and Sept. 4)
- Third Friday, June-September, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. — Lunch on the Plaza (June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18)

Pictured from top: Community Easter Egg Hunt; Strawberry Festival; Garden Tour; First Friday and Lunch on the Plaza.



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