

# SOUTHSIDE Business Exchange

A DAILY JOURNAL PUBLICATION

SUMMER 2022

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helps customers adopt  
healthy lifestyles



ALSO INSIDE

» LOCAL ARTISTS  
CHOSEN TO BE  
FEATURED AT  
STATEHOUSE

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
GREENFIELD, IN  
PERMIT NO. 220

# SOUTHSIDE Business Exchange

SUMMER 2022 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 2



**Franklin  
Development  
Corporation**

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DEADLINES FOR EDITORIAL CONTENT ARE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE MAGAZINE IS MAILED.

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ON THE COVER

**Audra Nicholls, owner  
of Country Nutrition**

PHOTO BY MARK FREELAND

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# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People making news on the southside

■ **Brianna Copenhaver**, of Greenwood, has been named a recipient of the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) “Realizing the Dream” scholarship. The scholarship program annually recognizes first-generation college students from ICI’s 29 private, non-profit colleges and universities. Students are selected for the \$3,000 award for outstanding achievement during their freshman year as they successfully advance toward completing their bachelor’s degrees. Students also choose an influential educator to honor, who then receives a \$1,000 professional development grant. Copenhaver chose Stephen Blackburn of Promise Road Elementary School as an influential educator.

■ Franklin College recognized **Eric DeForest, DMA**, as the recipient of the 2022 Franklin College Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award during a campus luncheon sponsored by the Franklin College Board of Trustees. He serves the college as an assistant professor of music. The recipient of the award receives a \$250 cash award and has their photo displayed in Old Main.

■ Simon Bitzer has announced the newest members of its team:

**Rajdeep Garcha**, staff accountant, is a recent graduate from Purdue University, Fort Wayne and will soon begin the Master’s program at IUPUI. He brings a diverse set of skills and knowledge and has a strong background in taxation and accounting.



**JACOB BAILEY**



**MEGAN BRUNETTE**



**RAJDEEP GARCHA**



**JACOB SPANGLER**

Rajdeep will focus on tax preparation and general accounting services for our clients.

**Jacob Spangler**, staff accountant, recently joined the Simons Bitzer team with a focus on providing a variety of tax and accounting services for the firm’s clients. He has a Master of Science in Accounting from the Kelley School of Business along with a strong background in leadership and customer service.

**Jacob Bailey**, tax and accounting intern, is currently attending the Indiana University Kelley School of Business and is an intern with Simons Bitzer this tax season. He will be working on a variety of projects in both tax and accounting and is looking forward to assisting our tax team with tax preparation.

**Megan Brunette**, administrative assistant, recently joined the firm as part of our administrative team. She is very organized and detail-oriented with strong customer service skills. Megan will work on a variety of projects and will be the first point of contact for our clients and others who call or visit.

■ Franklin College’s Alpha Society, the top academic honorary society on the campus, commemorated its 100th year of existence recently with the induction of 16 students, two faculty and three administrators in a ceremony held on campus. Students who hold a GPA of no less

than 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) are eligible for membership. Alpha Society admits students across the college’s academic disciplines, but membership is limited to the top 10 percent of the college’s junior and senior classes. Full-time faculty and staff members who are members of Phi Beta Kappa or Sigma Xi or who achieved summa or magna cum laude from their undergraduate institutions are eligible.

Students inducted into the society include:

**McKenzie Harold**, an elementary education major, from Greenwood.

**Rachel Krodel**, a music major, from Trafalgar.

**August Proctor**, a biology major, from Greenwood.

**Cameron Shake**, a computer science and software engineering major, from Greenwood.

Faculty and Staff Initiates include:

**Jarrod Brown Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Spanish.

**Kevin Honigford**, vice president and chief financial officer.

**Andrew Jones, Ed.D.**, vice president for student development and dean of students.

**Sarah Summers**, associate dean for academic affairs.

**Ross Venneberg, D.M.A.**, visiting assistant professor of music and director of instrumental activities.



**PHIL SMITH**

■ Franklin College has been designated to receive a \$500,000 estate commitment from **Phil Smith**, a longtime Franklin resident and photography business owner, to establish the Phil Smith Engaged Learning Fund.

The endowed fund will provide financial assistance for travel and engaged learning opportunities for students in pre-medical studies or activities and field biology.

# Be in the know!

[franklincoc.org/calendar](http://franklincoc.org/calendar)



## FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Powered by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce



View Calendar



### UPCOMING EVENTS



Look for event details and updates at [franklincoc.org](http://franklincoc.org).

#### JUNE

##### 44th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Date: June 2, 2022

Time: 10:45-11:30 a.m. registration and box lunch, 11:45 a.m. ball drop, 12:00 p.m. shotgun start

##### CHAMBER LUNCHEON\*

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

#### JULY

##### MEMBER APPRECIATION COOKOUT

Date: July 14, 2022

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

##### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT JCCF

Date: July 28, 2022

Time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

#### AUGUST

##### CHAMBER LUNCHEON\*

Date: August 11, 2022

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

*Events may be impacted by emerging health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19. Visit [franklincoc.org](http://franklincoc.org) for latest event updates.*



120 East Jefferson Street | Franklin, IN 46131

P: 317-736-6334 F: 317-736-9553 | W: [franklincoc.org](http://franklincoc.org) |

# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People making news on the southside

■ The Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association (GLATA) presented the organization's 2022 Dedicated Service Award to Franklin College's **Jeff Williams, Ph.D., LAT, ATC**, assistant professor of athletic training



**JEFF WILLIAMS**

and coordinator of clinical education. The award recognized Williams for demonstrating "a superior level of excellence in managing and completing projects with the goal and

outcome of creating a positive image of GLATA and the athletic training profession."

■ Two Johnson County college students were selected as Indianapolis 500 Festival Princesses for the race's

**Lexi Giddens**, a Franklin College junior and Whiteland Community High School graduate, and **Blanca Osorio Ortega**, a junior at the University of Indianapolis and Greenwood Community High School



**LEXI GIDDENS**



**BLANCA OSORIO ORTEGA**

graduate, made the cut from among hundreds of applicants from around the state to serve on the court.

During the festival leading up to the race, 500 Festival Princesses each receive \$1,000 scholarships, courtesy of the 500 Festival Foundation and Marlyne Sexton, president of The Sexton Companies. The princesses also take part in community service activities and leadership programming opportunities.

# CORPORATE CHATTER

Companies making news on the southside

## Construction of new sewer pipeline to spur development

Greenwood is about to complete the construction of a major sanitary sewer pipeline in White River Township that will alleviate pressure on the current system and accommodate future growth in northwest Johnson County. The approximately \$70 million project is expected to be completed later this year on schedule and \$1 million under budget. Financing for the largest capital project in the city's history came from loans issued through the State Revolving Fund.

The 10-mile pipeline will run throughout the township, serving about 10 square miles. It will accommodate additional subdivisions as well as potential commercial development that is likely to occur on south State Road 135, and along the new portions of Interstate 69. This vital infrastructure will support continued

growth in the fast-growing portion of Johnson County. Moreover, as the final section of the new I-69 is completed, it will ensure service is available for development along the new interstate.

The area will be served by Greenwood's sanitary sewer utility, a separate entity from the City of Greenwood.

The new system will help keep Greenwood competitive in three ways, said Kevin Steinmetz, capital projects manager for the city: "It will make Greenwood a good steward of the environment, allow it to operate the system more efficiently, and accommodate current and new customers on the west side of the township."

## Franciscan Health achieves Center of Excellence Status

The International Cardio-Oncology Society has named Franciscan Health

as a Gold Center of Excellence for its cardio-oncology program. According to the society, 19 programs across the globe have earned its center of excellence status. Of those, 15, including Franciscan Health, have received the gold status, its top recognition.

Since 2016, cardiologists and oncologists at Franciscan Health have worked together to monitor and treat cancer patients whose therapies, including chemotherapy, medications and radiation, may inadvertently impact their heart function.

## Franklin Chamber announces 2022 award recipients

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce announced its 2022 Annual Meeting award recipients.

Nominations for local organizations and individuals were sought from the community as a way to acknowledge excellence in the business community and beyond. After the nomination and selection process, recipients were announced during the March 10 Franklin Chamber Annual Meeting, which also featured the Franklin State of the City Address by Mayor Steve Barnett.

## Community Service Award: Kathy Ballou

The Community Service Award

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BlueDistinction.  
Center  
Maternity Care

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# CORPORATE CHATTER

recognizes an individual or organization that has contributed significantly to the Franklin Community, serving selflessly without intent for personal or monetary gain. Ballou was recognized for bringing The Wall That Heals Traveling Vietnam memorial to Franklin in June of 2021. Kathy led the initiative and coordinated fundraising efforts and volunteers.

## **Community Impact Award: Franklin Development Corp.**

The Community Impact Award recognizes a business or organization that has demonstrated outstanding business success in the areas of growth, stability and commitment to quality of life and overall contribution to the community. The Franklin Development Corp. was recognized because of their residential grant and loan program, along with a commercial façade grant and low interest revolving loan program. To date, FDC has partnered with a total of 221 property owners on renovation projects, resulting in the noticeable change to the aesthetics of Franklin's residential and business communities as well as increased economic impact as more and more people choose to live, work and play in our city.

## **Business Hall of Fame Award: The Historic Artcraft Theatre**

The Business Hall of Fame Award recognizes a business or organization in business for 25 or more years. The award is presented to a business based on their success in growth and stability, commitment to quality, and overall contribution to the community. In its 100-year existence, the Artcraft Theatre has hosted countless first dates, gatherings of friends and family, and entertained thousands. It is one of the few remaining theaters in the state

dedicated to exhibiting movies on 35mm film as its primary format. The theater is operated by a small staff and a volunteer base and is listed on the Indiana State and National Register of Historic Places. The revival of the theater was pivotal in the revitalization of historic Downtown Franklin.

## **Medical supply firm Sarnova picks Greenwood for expansion**

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced that Sarnova HC, LLC, will expand to Greenwood to increase their Midwest presence. Sarnova, an Ohio-based medical supply corporation, plans to develop a new distribution center in Greenwood near Allen and Collins Roads. The company received a tax abatement for their investment of \$8.5 million in logistics equipment.

The company provides equipment to first responders and EMS agencies across the country. Three Sarnova subsidiaries would be located in the 200,000 square foot building: Bound Tree Medical, Emergency Medical Products and Tri-anim Health Services.

## **Franciscan Health Indianapolis rated for medical excellence**

Franciscan Health Indianapolis has been rated as the No. 1 hospital in Indiana for medical excellence in cardiac care and for the second year in a row has been rated as the No. 1 hospital in the state for medical excellence in interventional coronary care, as reported by the 2022 ratings announced by CareChex, an information service of Quantros, Inc.

## **GivetoGriz exceeds fundraising goal for event's 10th year**

Donors to Franklin College once again broke a record for a single day of giving.

During this year's #GivetoGRIZ event, which took place over the entire 24 hours of April 13, students, alumni, trustees, friends of the college and corporate sponsors donated a combined \$298,840, surpassing their initial goal of \$200,000, with 1,228 donors combining for the figure, according to a Franklin College news release.

It was the 10th annual #GivetoGRIZ event, which has had increased monetary donations each year since its inception. During the first event in 2013, donors raised \$14,500.

The money will go toward numerous areas of Franklin College, including the Franklin Fund, which provides tuition assistance for students who qualify.

## **Bank launches local book drive and financial literacy campaign**

First Financial Bank (Nasdaq: FFBC) will celebrate National Financial Literacy Month in April with a book drive and financial literacy outreach in each of its financial centers in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Financial centers will collect books of any type from April 18-30, to be donated to local organizations in the community such as schools, libraries and churches.

At each of its financial centers, First Financial is also providing a list of books and articles that support growth in financial literacy for all ages. From "Bunny Money" for elementary students to "The Total Money Makeover" for adults, the list of 11 titles will be helpful to people regardless of whether they're saving in a piggy bank or managing credit card debt.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Sister Marlene Shapley, vice president of mission integration, is joined by Franciscan Health CEO Dr. James Callaghan and Beech Grove Mayor Dennis Buckley at a ribbon-cutting to officially open Franciscan Trail on April 15. The walking-biking pathway is a 2.5-mile trail that will include a portion of the former Franciscan hospital campus.



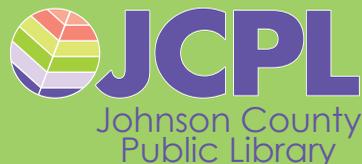
Reis-Nichols Jewelers, 789 US Highway 31, Greenwood, celebrated its 20th Anniversary and grand reopening with a ribbon cutting on April 8.



Sharpest Coding Co. DBA Code Ninjas Greenwood celebrated its first anniversary with a ribbon cutting on April 5. The business is at 1259 N. State Road 135, Suite B, Greenwood.

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## COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS

### FEBRUARY FRANKLIN

89 E. Jefferson St.  
Hood System  
Contractor: Burnette  
Hoods  
\$15,000

150 S. Water St.  
Foundation Release  
Contractor: Bemis  
Group  
\$45,000

2011 Earlywood Drive  
Land Disturbance  
Contractor: John Price

### FEBRUARY JOHNSON COUNTY

6927 W. Horseshoe  
Road, Morgantown  
Larry J. & Lisa M.  
Kinser  
Pole Barn  
\$30,000

4596 W. County Road  
700S, Trafalgar  
Ryan W. & Carrie L.  
Bergman  
Pole Barn  
\$25,000

229 S. State Road 135,  
Franklin  
Great Hope Separate  
Baptist Church  
Electrical Upgrade  
\$1,500

5199 W. Fairview Road,  
Greenwood  
Center Grove  
Community School  
Corporation  
Remodel/Repair  
\$1,437,000

247 S County Road  
600E, Franklin  
Pn Properties, LLC  
Pole Barn Demolition  
\$5,000

247 S County Road  
600E, Franklin  
Pn Properties, LLC  
Pole Barn  
\$250,000

0 County Road 650S,  
Franklin  
SBA Communications  
Electrical Upgrade  
\$2,500

4900 Watson Road,  
Greenwood  
Eastern Bros, Inc.  
Electrical Upgrade  
\$5,000

### FEBRUARY GREENWOOD

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$79,044.88

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$143,206.46

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$157,636.01

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory

Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$177,782.92

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$35,393.23

1140 Emerson Pointe  
Drive  
Emerson Pointe  
Apartments  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Garrett  
Construction  
\$50,458.04

1842 Veterans Way  
VFW Post 5864  
Commercial Accessory  
Structure  
Contractor: Home  
Depot  
\$3,200

270 S. Marlin Drive  
Texas Roadhouse  
Commercial Addition  
Contractor: Deaton's  
Mechanical Company  
\$250,000

898 E. Main St.  
Valle Vista  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Strauser  
Construction Co., Inc.  
\$1,625,000

1173 Airport Parkway,  
Ste. D  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor:  
Commercial Team  
Construction  
\$30,000

11 Declaration Drive A  
3 Agaves Mexican  
Restaurant  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Francisco  
Garcia Lopez  
\$10,000

1263 N. State Road  
135 A  
Raymond James  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor:  
Koombobber  
\$22,000

853 N. Emerson Ave.  
Ideal Image  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Jayger  
Construction Group  
\$300,000

1700 W. Smith Valley  
Road, Ste. C2  
A New Smile Dentistry  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Alderson  
Commercial Group, Inc.  
\$147,545

1251 U.S. 31 North,  
N20 G07A  
Pandora Jewelry  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Strahm  
Building Solution  
\$125,000

1150 S. Park Drive A  
The Refuge  
Playground  
Contractor: Kinetic  
Recreation  
\$35,000

250 Market Plaza  
Commercial Demolition  
\$3,800

156 Marlin Drive  
Biggby Coffee  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Petersen

Bracken, LLC  
\$105,000

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$678,975

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$145,260

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$426,096

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$309,888

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$215,469

2537 E. Main St.  
Main Street Self Storage  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: Boyle  
Construction  
Management Inc.  
\$174,312

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## COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS

### FEBRUARY BARGERSVILLE

3382 N. County Road  
250W  
Wireless  
Communication  
Tower/Cell Tower

### MARCH FRANKLIN

498 S. Main St.  
Kenneth Chastain  
Commercial Addition  
Contractor: Kenneth  
Chastain  
\$4,000

201 E. Jefferson St.  
James Brashears  
Fire Alarm System  
Contractor: Summit  
Electrical Company,  
LLC  
\$40,000

81 & 89 Forest Road  
Mike Weaver  
Sprinkler System  
Contractor: GDI  
Construction  
\$24,000

600 Ironwood Drive  
Tom Padgett  
Electrical/Mechanical/  
Plumbing Upgrade  
Contractor: Padgett's  
DeSigns  
\$500

### MARCH JOHNSON COUNTY

0 S. County Road  
575W, Morgantown  
Jeffrey J. & Samantha  
Krukemeier  
Pole Barn  
\$50,000

6822 E. County Road  
350N, Needham  
Needham Community  
Fire Dept., Inc.  
Remodel/Repair  
\$21,000

6388 W. Smith Valley,  
Greenwood  
Martin Marietta  
Conex Container —  
IMI Facilities  
\$3,700

6388 W. Smith Valley,  
Greenwood  
Martin Marietta  
Scale Trailer — IMI  
Facilities  
\$20,000

2179 N. Hurricane  
Road, Franklin  
James & Samantha  
Dugan  
Pole Barn  
\$35,000

0 County Road 500W,  
Greenwood  
Center Grove School  
Building Corp.  
Pavilion — CG  
Elementary School  
\$30,000

7151 E. County Road  
650S, Edinburgh  
Bell South Cellular  
Corp.  
Cell Tower Conduit to  
New Dish Platform  
Meter Base  
\$5,000

### MARCH GREENWOOD

1607 W. Smith Valley  
Road  
Indiana Montessori  
Community  
Commercial  
Accessory Structure  
Contractor: Miller's  
Mini Barns  
\$5,000

801 Loews Blvd.,  
Ste. A  
JMR LLC

Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: JMR LLC  
\$50,000

615 W. Smith Valley  
Road  
Greenwood High  
School  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Custer  
Electric Inc.  
\$850,000

5889 N. State Road  
135  
Center Grove Fit Body  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Vernon  
Snyder  
\$60,000

2150 Independence  
Drive, Ste. B and C  
Camellia Nails Lounge  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Doans  
Construction  
\$300,000

791 S. State Road  
135, Ste. B  
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Capitol  
Construction Inc.  
\$350,000

1777 W. Stones  
Crossing  
Ageless Aesthetics  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Huffer  
Construction Co., Inc.  
\$190,000

1354 E. Worthsville  
Road  
Clark-Pleasant Middle  
School  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor:  
Performance Services  
Inc.  
\$1,800,000

997 E. County Line  
Road  
Pizza With a Twist  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Burnette  
Hoods  
\$12,560

1530 American Way  
Core Managed Inc. &  
Target Continuum  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Alderson  
Commercial Group,  
Inc.  
\$409,510

2441 E. Main St.  
Eli Lilly Storage  
Facility  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: F A  
Wilhelm Construction  
\$2,200,000

1028 S. U.S. 31  
Nail Salon  
Commercial Remodel  
Contractor: Jennifer  
Nguyen  
\$5,000

1621 Collins Road  
DIN4-M MAP Retrofit  
Commercial Structure  
Other Than Building  
Contractor:  
Consolidated Storage  
Companies  
\$65,568

11 Keran Manor  
Court, Ste. C  
Commercial Structure  
Other Than Building  
\$3,000

455 Madison Ave.  
The Madison —  
Building B  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: CRG  
Residential  
\$7,200,000

523 S. Madison Ave.  
The Madison —  
Building E  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: CRG  
Residential  
\$1,810,000

601 Madison Ave.  
The Madison —  
Building F  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: CRG  
Residential  
\$7,200,000

689 Madison Ave.  
The Madison —  
Building G  
New Commercial  
Building  
Contractor: CRG  
Residential  
\$7,200,000

### MARCH BARGERSVILLE

5164 N. State Road  
135  
South Grove  
Commons  
Electrical Non-  
residential

3382 N. County Road  
250W  
Wireless  
Communication  
Tower/Cell Tower

5185 W County Road  
144  
Accessory Structure  
— Non-residential

75 N. Baldwin St.  
Electrical Non-  
Residential

89 S. Baldwin St.  
Taxman Brewing  
Company  
Special Event



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Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance's mission is to drive economic development and business success in Johnson County and southern Indianapolis. As the local economic development organization for Johnson County, Aspire leverages community development opportunities to attract, retain, and expand businesses in the county. As the chamber of commerce, Aspire leads the area's business community by advancing pro-growth public policy and providing comprehensive member services to entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large corporations.

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### BUSINESS SUCCESS (FOR-PROFIT)

#### 1-49 EMPLOYEES

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 **Hoosier Brewing Company**

### BUSINESS SUCCESS (FOR-PROFIT)

#### 50+ EMPLOYEES

AECOM Hunt

 **Indiana Foundation Service**

### BUSINESS SUCCESS (NON-PROFIT)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana

 **Festival Country Indiana**

Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County  
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### EXCELLENCE IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1-49 EMPLOYEES

Airtomic LLC

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### EXCELLENCE IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT

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Moumita Mukherjee



Kelli Park

# Area artists' works selected for Statehouse display

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Two paintings by Johnson County artists were chosen to be displayed at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, according to State Rep. John Young (R-Franklin).

Kelli Park of Franklin and Moumita Mukherjee of Greenwood were selected to have their artwork decorate the Statehouse as part of Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch's and Indiana State Treasurer Kelly Mitchell's annual Hoosier Women Artists initiative. This year, 44 pieces of art were chosen out of more than 200 entries.

"These beautiful works created by Kelli and Moumita are truly a testament to their artistic skill," Young said. "The amount of effort and dedication they put into their work is phenomenal, and having it displayed for all to see at the Statehouse is an awesome achievement."

Park's piece, "Blackford County Courthouse," and Mukherjee's work, "Four Stages of Life," are displayed in Mitchell's office.

Young said Park, an art teacher at Franklin High School, received a grant to photograph each of Indiana's 92 courthouses. Of those pictures, Park created 15 different works inspired by courthouse details. The piece chosen to hang in Mitchell's office portrays details of columns framing the entry of the Blackford County Courthouse.

"When my husband Bob and I went to a town,

we often ate at the courthouse square and asked questions of those who passed by, like 'what does it mean to be a Hoosier' and 'what do you like about living here?'" Park said. "We have a lot of memories of visiting all these courthouses."

Mukherjee is a self-taught artist who is a civil engineer manager with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. She said painting is her passion, and the inspiration for her chosen work, "Four Stages of Life," came from turning 50 years old.

Mukherjee said her acrylic painting on wrapped canvas depicts a woman transitioning through four stages of life, as defined by Hindu scripture — the student, the householder, the forest dweller and the homeless renouncer.

"It was a very surreal experience to see myself be the only Indian artist and the only state employee selected," Mukherjee said. "Getting recognized for my art inspires me to create more."

Park, Mukherjee and other artists were honored at a Statehouse ceremony March 3 as a part of Women's History Month.

"I will treasure this experience for the rest of my life," Mukherjee said. "Down the road I know whenever I look at the prestigious certificate I received at the opening ceremony it will always bring a smile."



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# HEALTHFUL HELPER



# Audra Nicholls brings nutritional store to area

STORY BY JENN WILLHITE \ \ PHOTOS BY MARK FREELAND

Helping others find balance by adopting a healthy lifestyle is Audra Nicholls' calling.

Nicholls, who owns Country Nutrition in Greenwood, has assisted and advised numerous individuals in healthy living through proper nutrition and supplementation for more than 20 years.

"Everyone who comes here will find a staff member they like working with," Nicholls says. "That is what I like about us, we are not just a health food store, and we truly have more knowledge."

Nicholls holds degrees in food nutrition and dietetics, with a specialty in food science, but firmly believes all the book knowledge in the world does one no good without having the know-how for practical application. And that is a view she extends to her staff, as well.

Not only does Nicholls have decades of experience to back her up, but her staff is composed of a diverse group of knowledgeable individuals with experiential specialties in everything from horticulture to naturopathic

medicine, she says.

Nicholls and her husband, Jim, first moved to Indiana more than a decade ago when he relocated for work. Prior to the move, Nicholls was managing a Country Nutrition store in Decatur, Illinois, she says.

"I was still traveling some back and forth to Illinois," she says. "I would do nutritional counseling, the ordering via the internet and phone, and then going there in person twice a month."

Following the birth of the couple's second child, Nicholls knew



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the south side of Indianapolis was in need of a health food store, so she and Jim began their due diligence to research what it would take to open a store in the area.

The couple opened Country Nutrition on State Road 135 and Smith Valley in 2008. Then, about 10 years ago, the couple moved the store, with the help of several devoted customers, in a single weekend to its current location on Olive Branch Parke Lane.

“I was open there on a Saturday and then we opened here on Monday,” Nicholls says.

Country Nutrition’s staff offers customers natural solutions to whatever health issues they may be having or are concerned with, she says. And these days, more and more people are looking for natural alternatives for their health, Nicholls adds.

“I find more and more people are looking for options,” Nicholls says. “They are sick and tired of being sick and tired. I can only foresee that education and trust is going to be a part of our future.”

Depending on the individual and their health needs, restoring balance to a system that has long been out of balance can take time. Restoring homeostasis is possible, Nicholls says, it just may take longer for some than others.

“We are helpers and educators,” Nicholls says. “We can lead them to options that would be better for either nutrition or situation they are going through with their health. We are just another piece of the puzzle.”

It is easy for first-time customers to feel a bit overwhelmed when they enter the store, Nicholls admits. The south side location is always fully stocked with numerous brands of supplements and herbal remedies; organic, green personal care and cleaning products; and organic grocery, as well as special dietary offerings, including gluten-free and vegan options.

“My storefront doesn’t look large, but when you walk in you realize I have a lot of options,” the mother of

*“I find more and more people are looking for options. They are sick and tired of being sick and tired. I can only foresee that education and trust is going to be a part of our future.”*

AUDRA NICHOLLS



four says. “Sometimes people just need to digest, walk through and see what we have.”

Nicholls and her staff of seven always make it a priority to order in the highest quality non-GMO and organic products, she says.

“A lot of these companies have more certification beyond non-GMO,” Nicholls adds. “I will tell people there is good, better and best in everything. My goal is to have no synthetics. We want to offer therapeutic products.”

Devon Shive has worked with Nicholls for four years and is also a naturopathic doctor. Highest among the perks of working in a health food store like this one is being in a position to help others achieve overall health, he says.

“People are searching for an alternative to medical and

the natural route has been a blessing for a lot of people,” he says. “The benefit is absolutely the feeling you get because our bodies are meant to consume and be around good products and food that way we can truly absorb the nutrients we are getting.”

Adopting a healthy way of living isn’t reserved for those who have experienced issues or a breakdown in their overall health, Nicholls cautions.

“I feel like we can be of help to anyone of any age even if there aren’t any health issues, because preventative health is actually far superior to waiting until someone is in crisis,” Nicholls says. “We continue to grow every year since I’ve opened my doors. I like being a part of a small community and that is all I see myself as and I am very content with that.”

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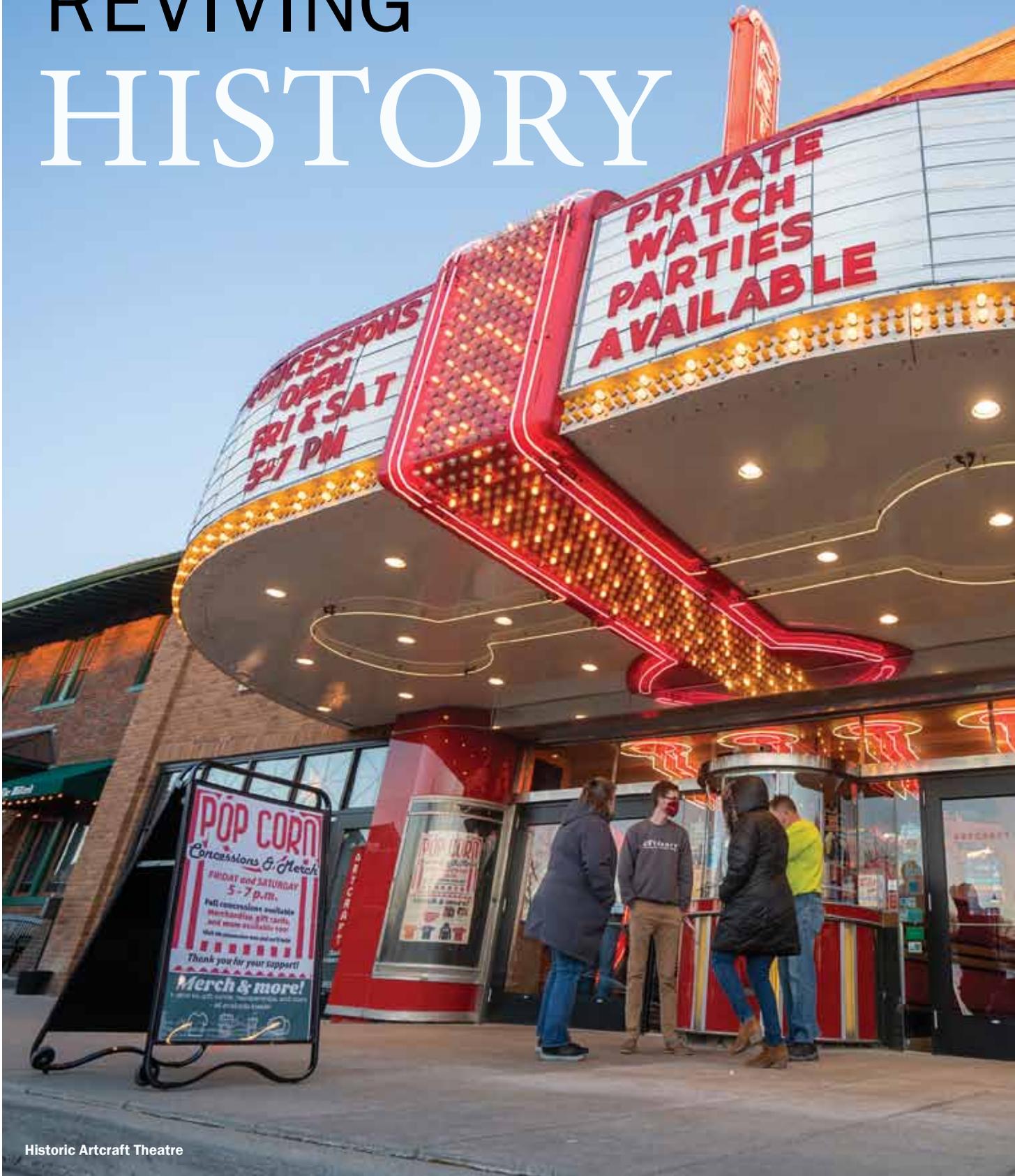
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# REVIVING HISTORY



Historic Artcraft Theatre



# Franklin Development Corporation helps improve local historic buildings

STORY BY JENN WILLHITE  
PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON

For more than a decade, the historic city of Franklin has been undergoing changes to restore it to its original beauty and splendor, from the Historic Artcraft Theatre to the Hazelett building that houses the Franklin Daily Journal, and it's all thanks to the Franklin Development Corporation.

Founded in 2009, the FDC is a non-profit organization intended to promote the city's betterment and beautification by way of economic development.

The organization is funded through tax increment financing (TIF) dollars sourced through the City of Franklin Redevelopment Commission, explains Krista Linke, community development director for the FDC. Put simply, the TIF-funded programs are designed to offer incentives for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic properties, she says.



*“If you have a beautiful community, people want to be here, then businesses want to come and it is a lovely cycle and it is great to see that happen over the last several years.”*

ROSIE CHAMBERS

“Those recommissioned dollars go toward façade grants and low interest loans and even for residential, all-property-improvement type programs that help to increase the assessed value,” Linke says. “It is just a creative way to leverage those dollars with private investment dollars as well in order to make a lot of repairs and upgrades that are needed for a lot of the older buildings and homes in town.”

Among the 200 completed projects and another 51 residential projects, the FDC has helped bring many historic sites back to life that would have otherwise become a casualty of time and neglect.

Through networking and collaborative efforts, the FDC works closely

with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, as well as Discover Downtown Franklin and Franklin Heritage, Linke says. And it is those relationships that fuel what Rosie Chambers, executive director at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, calls a domino effect — especially when it comes to bringing in new businesses.

“I think it is really important to know that is what is attracting new businesses that want to come to Franklin,” Chambers says. “If you have a beautiful community, people want to be here, then businesses want to come and it is a lovely cycle and it is great to see that happen over the last several years.”

Over the past decade the FDC has evolved to meet the community’s

needs, Linke says, however, as more of the downtown area is rehabilitated, the focus is shifting more to the residential side of things.

Homeowners within the city of Franklin whose properties are located in the TIF district are eligible for funding for renovations and repairs, Linke says. The FDC doesn't advertise the residential program with much gusto only because the available funds aren't unlimited, Linke adds.

Most qualifying properties will be located on the city's major thoroughfares, Linke says. For instance, properties that touch north or south Main Street, Jefferson Street and King Street or within the area from King to South Street are included, as well as some other areas of town, Linke says.

Unfortunately, not too many homeowners apply because they either don't know about the program or assume they are ineligible due to their income. Linke says that may not be the case. The determination of acceptance and award amount is based on the homeowner's median income.

She stresses that more people qualify than one would think are eligible and it is based on a sliding scale.

"People sometimes think it is too good to be true," she says. "I would love to see more people apply for that residential program because they could get up to \$25,000 for any kind of exterior repairs to their home. It could be foundation work, painting, porches, landscaping, or all kinds of things."

Connecting with property owners and others in the real estate community via word of mouth has been the main avenue the FDC has relied on to get the word out, Linke says.

"Normally what happens is one person will do it and tell their neighbors and we rely on that method a bit," Linke says. "We have an approved contractor list and if they meet with someone who needs some work done, then they let them know about our programs."

Anyone who drives through Franklin is going to see the changes that are

directly attributed to the FDC, Chambers says. She adds that the FDC has significantly contributed to the beautification and aesthetics of downtown businesses and homes, as well by offering low interest loans and matching façade grants.

And the FDC's tireless work hasn't gone unnoticed.

Each year, the Franklin Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding organizations and businesses in the area and this year it was FDC in the spotlight.

In March, the organization was awarded the Franklin Chamber Community Impact Award in recognition for their work in the community over the years, Chambers says.

"Businesses are nominated for their positive contribution to the Franklin area," Chambers says. "It was really nice to reward them and see their good work get a little acknowledgement."

Linke says the FDC has met with several other communities across the area that are trying to replicate the program. Oftentimes, when an individual is trying to open a new business,

especially a small specialty one, there is not a lot of financial assistance available and that is where FDC is able to step in and help out.

"These programs help with some of those upfront costs," Linke says. "A lot of times we provide that gap financing needed to purchase a property, purchase signage or make repairs that they couldn't finance through a regular bank."

Chambers says her organization looks forward to a continued relationship with FDC as they are an integral part of the behind the scenes tapestry of individuals and organizations working to rehabilitate the downtown area and city of Franklin.

"They are very impactful in the community and anytime there is a pro-business organization, like FDC, the Franklin Chamber is going to stand behind them and help them in any way possible," Chambers says. "We've had a really cooperative relationship and have for several years and the work they are doing is incredibly impactful to our business community and also our quality of life for our residents."





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