



# HENDRICKS COUNTY HOMEMAKER HAPPENINGS

Sept.  
2025

Mission Statement: To strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development and volunteer community support.

## 2025-2026 Officers

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ✦ President: Ellen Looney             | ✦ Teacher Grants: Lynn Lillard                 |
| ✦ Vice President: Open                | ✦ 1st Member at Large: Melissa Mikesell        |
| ✦ Secretary: Rachel McKenney          | ✦ 2nd Member at Large: Deb Culler              |
| ✦ Treasurer: Joanna Sell              | ✦ 3rd Member at Large: Karla Janning           |
| ✦ Asst. Treasurer: Kim Webber         | ✦ 4th Member at Large: Sandra Kelley           |
| ✦ HHS Educator: Amanda Marciano-Feutz | ✦ Volunteer Community Support: Charlotte Lloyd |
| ✦ Education: Theresa Hatfield         | ✦ News Chair: Melissa Phillips                 |
| ✦ Home & Family Arts Show: Kim Weber  |  |

## 2025 Calendar

**Sept 25:** Chorus Fundraiser at Los Patios  
(50 Old Farm Rd., Danville all day)

**Sept 30:** Council Meeting

**Oct 2:** Fall District Meeting:  
(Shelby County)

**Oct 7:** Leader Lessons

**Oct 9:** Make a Difference Day

**Oct 13:** Office Closed

**Oct 13-17:** IEHA Celebration Week

**Oct. 27:** Chorus Fundraiser at Culvers  
(200 S. C.R.200 E., Danville); 5-8 pm.

**Nov 4:** Council Meeting

**Nov 11:** Office Closed

**Nov 13:** Helping Hands

**Nov 27-28:** Office Closed

**Dec 2:** Christmas Brunch

**Dec 5:** Holiday Fest

**Dec 24-26:** Office Closed

**IEHA Families Home Page — [www.ieha-families.org](http://www.ieha-families.org)**

(Check out the new website for information about our State Officers, safety lessons that you can share with your club, State-wide events and more!)

**Purdue Extension Hendricks County Website**

(<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/hendricks/hhs/ehmhendrickscounty.html>)



**Facebook Page (<http://bit.ly/HCEH-FB>)**

Please take a moment to “follow” our Facebook page. There are actually two pages, but both pages will be combined at the end of this month. The link above is the Facebook page that will remain



**Pecan Books Available:** Recipe Books from the Pecan contests are now available for purchase (\$2) in the Extension Office (check or cash only).

**Cheeseballs:** If you are interested in purchasing cheeseballs you may go to the Extension Office M-F from 8-4pm, get a cheeseball from the freezer in the main kitchen and put your payment in an envelope in the HOMEMAKER box (outside Lisa's office) in the Extension Office.

## *from the President's Pen*



I love fall! The leaves, the cider and the gentle transition into the Holidays with hibernation from the icy, cold, snowy days to come.

When I was a kid we would go on Sunday drives (sometimes this happened on Saturday). These were leisurely drives in the country with the windows down and no destination in mind. Driving on the back roads that curved and sometimes ended for no reason. These roads were named for people or families we had never heard about, or they were numbered county roads with no name at all. Whatever we came across was new to us and an adventure. As I got older and was a passenger on these 'drives' I would think: "don't we have anything better to do?"; "is this what old people do?" and "can we just go home now!".

Now that I'm notably older, I'm fondly remembering these trips. One 'drive' in particular we went on the quest to find the GREEN CASTLE around Greencastle in Putnam County- spoiler we didn't find it.

All of this is to say, enjoy the season of the year and this season in your life- make it an adventure this Fall.

Ellen Looney, President

**PS—UPDATE Cheeseball sales:** Thanks to everyone who helped make or sell cheeseballs at FAIR ON THE SQUARE. We made 191 and sold approximately 138 cheeseballs at the two day event. Since then we have sold several more with a little over 40 left in the freezer at the Extension Office. If you are interested in purchasing cheeseballs you may go to the Extension Office M-F from 8-4pm, get a cheeseball from the freezer in the main kitchen and put your payment in an envelope in the HOMEMAKER box (outside Lisa's office). Please mark on you payment CHEESEBALL for tracking. We are currently asking the Fairgrounds how long we can keep them in the freezer in the kitchen.

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### **Name Tags**

We will be placing an order for magnetic nametags soon. For all new members who have not received a nametag, when they joined, there is no cost. For others who want to order a nametag, the cost will be \$10-12.00 depending on the number in our total order. For all members that want a nametag ordered, I will just need to know the name you want put on it. Please e-mail or call your request by October 15th . E-mail is [jjsell28@gmail.com](mailto:jjsell28@gmail.com) Phone is 317-745-5947. Joanna Sell, County Treasurer



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### **Newsletter Deadline**

Submissions for either the "Happenings" or the "Happenings Minute" are due the 15th of each month. We'd LOVE to include your club news or news from your committee. Submissions should be emailed to both Melissa Phillips, News Chair, ([PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com](mailto:PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com)) and Lisa Pitts ([pitts15@purdue.edu](mailto:pitts15@purdue.edu)). Handwritten copies may be given or mailed to Melissa Phillips (9388 S. County Road 100 W., Clayton, 46118).



# Committee Reports

## Helping Hands/Make A Difference Day September/October 2025

We are off to an exciting start to the fall. Our first meeting was on September 11th and we had 27 ladies who came to the September Helping Hands Day. We had so much fun catching up with each other and we had several people come for the first time. We finished right on time and we completed 90 blankets for Riley Children's Hospital. With 10 already completed that makes an even 100 blankets to go to Riley this month. Well done ladies. Thank you for your participation.

We will meet again on October 9th at 10am. This will be our Make A Difference Day meeting and we will meet for 4 hours with lunch at noon. Bring your favorite dish to share and we will end up with a delicious lunch and lots of laughter! We will be making a craft for Cypress Manor residents and we will be finishing more blankets for Riley Children's Hospital. We may even be making some hygiene kits for the homeless. You won't want to miss the fun!

We need to start thinking toward Christmas. We will once again be making Christmas bags and filling them for Cypress Manor. Melissa Phillips will be putting together a Sign Up Genius so you will know what we need and how many are needed for each bag. We usually fill 24 bags with lots of goodies for each resident. The residents are always so appreciative of the special gifts that we give them. Thanks for your generosity. I will have bags cut out ready to take home to sew to all that can help with this project.

Thanks to all that are making a difference by helping with these projects. I appreciate all that you do! See you in October.

Make A Difference Day  
October 9, 2025  
10am-2pm  
Bartlett Chapel on old Highway 36

See you there.  
Charlotte Lloyd  
Text or Call 812-236-6083

### Donations Needed:

- Travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, small soap, combs, shampoo for hygiene kits
- Full size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, brushes, lotion, body wash, Word searches, coloring books for adults, crosswords, pens, coloring pencils, etc. for Cypress Manor at Christmas time





# Club News

## Chorus:

The Hendricks County Choral Club aka The Treblemakers has two scheduled fundraisers.

- Thursday, September 25 at Los Patios, 50 Old Farm Rd., Danville all day. And
- Monday, October 27 at Culvers, 200 S. County Road 200 E., Danville from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

The fundraisers help pay for our music and other miscellaneous costs. Thanks to all who help support the chorus.

## Hazelwood Homemakers:

The Hazelwood Homemakers club began the 2025/2026 season on Wednesday, September 3rd. We began with our pledges and prayer for the meeting. We were greeted with a lovely Fall flower arrangement for each of us. We discussed our obligations and volunteer projects for the year. We enjoyed seeing each other and looking forward to a great year. Of course we had a tasty brunch while we caught up with one another. Sandy Kelley, president

## Modern Homemakers:

Our club met on August 21 for our first meeting of our new year. We celebrated our annual August indoor picnic with a pitch-in dinner. We are off to a great start by welcoming **3** new members. Donna Carter, Betty Coombs, and Patty Riley. We have health concerns for 2 members: Debbie Beck with leg surgery and Phyllis Percy with hospital stays and emergency surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery. In old business we discussed our team at this year's Chopped Challenge. They won the 1st round but was unfortunately defeated in the all-around final. Theresa Hatfield was able to daily take several gifts to the young lady we sponsored in the Distinguished Young Women Scholarship competition here in Hendricks County. Next year we discussed adding on to the scholarship list as well as sponsoring an individual participant. In new business we decided to donate to the Danville Little House project. We also reminded members of the upcoming educational lessons taught by Educator Amanda and the deadline for the October District Day meeting. We completed filling out our books for this year with some fun and exciting events and lessons. We finished the evening with a lesson on making sugar scrubs which Pam learned at this year's Annual Conference. They smelled wonderful. Next month we will be collecting school supplies to donate to a local school in need of assistance.

## Chat N' Do:

On September 10, fourteen members were hosted by Janet Palmer at her stepdaughter's home in Danville. Martha Rardin led an interesting topic of "What do you do that brings joy to others?" and "What is your favorite random act of kindness you like to do?" Many of us shared what we like to do for others and how we feel when we receive an act of kindness. Martha passed out a sheet of 50 some ideas of ways we can help seniors. Judy Ricketts shared some ideas she has researched for the County Cultural Arts Tour. Several were presented. but more information will come later before making a decision. Holiday Fest will be coming up on Dec. 5. So we need to mark our calendars to help set up on Dec. 4. Deb Culler, our president, reminded us that the Fall District Meeting is coming up soon, and reservations are due by Sept 24. Deloris Elza told us that items of personal hygiene would be collected in October for our Blessing Box contributions. Meeting adjourned. Members enjoyed lunch and conversation.

Chat 'N Do had a great meeting on August 13, 2025, where we welcomed two new members. We're excited to work together this year! We celebrated the success of the Pecan Contests at the Fair. And the success of all the Club members winning prizes in Open Class.

Judy Ricketts will be working with Kitty Joseph to plan a Cultural Tour. They have a few venues under consideration. Nothing firm at this time. Chat 'N Do, Hazelwood and Pollyanna will be manning the Holiday Fest Café.

Carol Pearson's husband, John, passed away on August 3, 2005

In October, we'll be donating personal care items to the Blessing Box at the Fairgrounds.



# Activities & Lessons

## BUNDLE 'EM UP - COAT DRIVE

Help those less fortunate stay warm this winter. Donate new or gently used coats in adult or children's sizes for the Bundle Up Hendricks County Coat Drive. Donations may be made Sept. 28 - Oct. 12 at various locations throughout Hendricks County, including the Hendricks County Extension Office.

You can also drop off donations at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Small Animal Barn only during set-up days on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 10 am – noon or Friday, Oct. 17, from 10 am – 2 pm. Donation of hats and gloves or mittens is also appreciated.

Distribution will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 am – 2 pm in the Small Animal Barn at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds.

## Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!

The Council is working on revising our display board that we use to 'advertise' the homemakers at Holiday Fest and other events. We'd like to update some of the pictures. SO! Here's where your help comes in. If you have any pictures of your club's activities or of our county events (i.e.-Achievement Day, Holiday

Fest, etc.), please send them to Melissa Phillips either by email (PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com); text (317-410-6892), or upload into our "google drive" at <http://bit.ly/47KOFxI>.



## 19th Annual Bundle Up Hendricks County Coat Drive



Collecting winter coats Sep 28th – Oct 12th



For drop off locations, please visit  
[www.bundleuphendrickscounty.org](http://www.bundleuphendrickscounty.org)

The coat giveaway will be held on Oct 18 from 10a-2p @  
HC Fairgrounds Small Animal Barn

Held in partnership with:

- Prevent Child Abuse Hendricks County
- Just Be Kind Club
- Plainfield Federation of Churches
- Hendricks Co. 4-H Fairground & Conference Center

## First Books For Kids



Head Start is getting organized again in Hendricks County and will be opening up a Preschool Class sometime this fall. They are interested in having us read to the students as we have done in the past and have us give a copy of the book to each of the students. They are to let me know when the class or classes will be opening up and I will send out information to those who have read in the past years. If anyone has not participated in the past and is interested in reading to the students, they can contact me at [jjsell28@gmail.com](mailto:jjsell28@gmail.com) or 317-745-5947. Joanna Sell, Chair of First Books For Kids



**Home & Family Conference 2026 "special project":** hand/home-made book or toy for children of any age. Guidelines: Maximum of 18" x 18" x 18", but it can be smaller. Use any medium: wood, paper, canvas, crochet, knit, quilting, etc. For books—no commercial printing/publishing, but parts can be printed from a printer and printed transfers can be used. The earliest toys were made of materials found in nature like rocks, sticks, and clay. Let's see what we can do!



## Christmas Brunch Tuesday, December 2

This year the Hendricks County Council has decided to open our Christmas Brunch to all our members. We are excited about this change and invite **YOU** to join us on Tuesday, December 2nd, for our annual Christmas Brunch. It will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and will start at 9:30 am and end around 11:30 am.

During our time together, we will have a wonderful "pitch-in" brunch. In addition, some other things that are on the agenda are possibly a holiday game, a craft, and some fun entertainment.

Mark your calendar, now, for Tuesday, December 2nd, and plan to join us. Then, next month, watch for our newsletter for the link to sign-up. Sign-ups will close on November 11th, to give us time to finalize all the details based on the number of ladies signed up.



## Holiday Fest

Holiday fest is coming up soon. Clubs please go over your responsibilities within your club. If you have any questions please contact Karla Janning 317-727-0767. Also remind all of your members that they each need to make 6 dz. Homemade Christmas cookies.

Flyers will be handed out at the next council meeting.

Also please be thinking of groups of young people that can come and help vendors carry things in on the Thursday night load in for the Holiday Fest from 4-7pm. We will be sharing more details in at the next two council meetings.

Remember this is one of our biggest fundraisers for the year so it takes us all pitching in and doing our part. Thanks again. Karla

## Teacher Grant Update


We are starting a new year in our grant giving after very successful last year. Last year we awarded **10** grants to some very deserving teachers.

At the beginning of each year the grant requests come in slowly, but we do have a winner for August. Our August grant will be going to Patty McLane of the new Evergreen Elementary School in Avon. She is a 1st grade teacher and will be purchasing math programs that promote early math strategies through hands-on and visual learning.


Please help spread the word about our Teacher Grants to help get more opportunities for our teachers and students.

The application and information can be found at the following link:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/hendricks/hhs/teacher-grant-application-homemakers-revised-2022.pdf>



**Tuesday, October 7, 2025**  
**Hendricks County 4-H**  
**Fairgrounds**



**Afternoon Lessons**

**1:00 pm Mandy Gray**  
**Declutter & De-Stress**

Helps participants explore the connection between physical clutter and emotional well-being. This lesson offers practical strategies to simplify the home environment and reduce stress through small, manageable steps. Participants will leave with tools to create a more peaceful, organized space that supports mental clarity and calm.

**2:00 pm Rachel Peine**  
**Creating a Beautiful & Healthy Edible Centerpiece**

Participants will learn how to create an edible centerpiece using fruits and vegetables. This lesson will offer nutritional and safe food handling information. The participants will leave with skills on how to create a fruit arrangement that is artistic, safe, and nutritious.

**Evening Lesson**  
**6:00 pm**

**Pandora Taylor Cooking for One or Two**


Preparing healthy meals at home can be challenging when cooking for just one or two people. Meal planning, food storage, and using leftovers efficiently are key to reducing food waste, saving money, and maintaining a balanced diet. This program provides practical strategies and confidence-building techniques to make cooking at home enjoyable and manageable.

**What You'll Learn:**

- Easy and practical meal preparation for one or two
- How to modify recipes for smaller portions
- Smart ways to repurpose leftovers
- Strategies to reduce food waste and grocery costs
- Essential food safety tips

This interactive session includes discussions and hands-on activities to help participants develop skills they can use immediately. Whether you're a college student, single parent, or retiree, this program will empower you to create healthy, delicious meals with ease.

**Lessons are FREE**  
**Registration is required to provide sufficient materials to participants.**  
**Scan to register**



**Questions?**  
317-745-9260  
hendrces@purdue.edu

