

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS: *THE BLUE NEWS*

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May 17, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 19, 7 p.m. Christine on WUFPAC (Allen Co Nasty Women) Facebook zoom to discuss Jim Banks.

May 20, 6:30 pm HCWC Zoom call

June 3-5 Yard sale Brookfield Estates

June 4, First Fridays Auburn, IN

June 10, Hoosier Hospitality Dinner Virtual Keynote speaker: DNC Chair Jamie Harrison.

June 12, HCDP BBQ

June 19, Juneteenth (look for events)

May 1-30 Diaper and Wipe community service collection



NEW EVENTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED:

We have changed up our yearly schedule a bit to accommodate some new events that will not only be fun, but should help us with our fundraising efforts. The 1st change is to the Community service event in June. We will now be collecting first aid items to make into kits to be passed out easily to those without homes, or those who are unable to afford the expense of a much-needed first aid kit.

The 2nd change is a BIG ONE! Christine is currently working with the Indiana Gaming Commission to obtain a single event license for a cash raffle. The basics are as follows: We must sell a minimum of 100 tickets, and a maximum of 300 at \$50.00 each for this program. The tickets will be sold in the month of August and the cash raffle drawings will be every day in the month of September. Week 1, daily prize is \$75.00, Week 2, daily prize is \$100, Week 3 daily prize \$125, Week 4 daily prize \$150. Grand prize, drawn on October 1 will be for \$1250. If we sell 100 tickets, we will make \$600, however, if we sell all 300 tickets, the party will net \$10,600!!!! Here's the best part: each ticket will be placed back into the drawing, so the ticket holder could win more than once! Once we have the license number, we will begin promoting this event. What this could mean for our ability to support local candidates is exciting and something we haven't been able to do in a very long time! Start saving a couple of dollars a week so you can buy your tickets!

The 3rd change is the SPUDTACULAR Loaded Baked Potato sale happening on September 13 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm at the UAW Hall. We have the start time a bit earlier in the day in the hopes of getting some of the GM traffic leaving first shift and going into second shift. We are even hoping that we can have a volunteer take a batch of pre-sold potatoes to the plant. The cost for the potato (with any toppings they want) will be between \$5.00-\$8.00. The price is still yet to be finalized. We will need volunteers to help us plan and execute this fantastic fundraiser.

The 4th change is the date of the Outstanding Women of Huntington County Awards Banquet. This event has been moved to October 8 at the UAW Hall Local 2209. More information will be forthcoming from the Women's Council.

So why the changes? We want to take advantage of several very successful events, so that we are not having to constantly have fundraisers. If we can have 3-4 events throughout the year, we can build our cash reserves to not only support any and all local Dems on the ballot, but we can also be a player

Contact Us

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Donation Link:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/huntingtoncounty>

in the State and National races. If we have funds left over, we can begin the discussions about finding us a permanent headquarters.

PC'S NEEDED HUNTINGTON 11, 11a, 12, JEFFERSON, SALAMONIE 1 (WARREN), SALMONIE 2 (WARREN) AND WAYNE

If you would like to represent one of these Precincts, please contact Christine to be appointed. We also need of Vice PC's in Huntington 1A, 2A, 3, 4, 5A, 6A, 7, 7A, 8, 10, 11, 11A, 12, 12A, Clear Creek 1 & 2, Dallas 1, Jackson 1, Jackson 4, Jefferson, Lancaster, Rock Creek, Salamonie 1 & 2, Warren (Bippus) and Wayne.

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC LIDS PLEASE!



We are collecting lids to have them turned into a Buddy Bench. Please read the article below for the details. We are extremely excited about this project! UPDATE: We have already gathered 11 moving boxes of lids. PLEASE continue to collect them. The Bohm house can be a storage area until we have enough to get our first bench. <https://www.scearthconnection.org/bottle-caps-to-benches/>

WOMENS COUNCIL TO MEET ON MAY 20 VIA ZOOM

The Council meets again on May 20 at 6:30 via Zoom. It is important that all appointed members of the HCWC attend these zoom meetings. As the planning for this event continues, we will need everyone on the Council to participate. If the work is divided into smaller pieces, it is much easier to manage. If you would like to be one of the appointed Women's Council members, please reach out to Christine or Lori Rice.

WE NEED MEMBERS TO JOIN THE NEW SUBCOMMITTEE'S:

IF YOU WANT TO AFFECT CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, YOU MUST PUT IN THE WORK. IF NO ONE IS GOING TO STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER, THESE PROGRAMS WILL HAVE TO DISAPPEAR. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY FOR ONLY 2-3 PEOPLE TO DO ALL THE WORK. PLEASE STEP UP!

Event planning: parades, fireworks displays, candidate meet and greets, special monthly meetings, Blue Gala event, and other things of this sort.

Fund-raising: help plan and execute different fund-raising opportunities. This is a wide-open field that we can have a lot of fun planning and hosting. Candidate training and support: this could include helping candidates prepare for debates, helping craft messages that appeal to different demographics of the voting community, helping organize canvassing events, and other things necessary to insure a successful campaign.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, please reach out to Christine.

“If you're not actively involved in getting what you want, you really don't want it.” Peter McWilliams

BLUE ACRES

-The “propaganda” effects of Climate Change

"I believe that climate change in this country is largely leftist propaganda to change the way Americans live and create more government obstruction and intrusion in our lives." Jim Banks, 2016. For more

gems: <https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/local-politics/3rd-district-rivals-sound-off-at-forum-15610761>

Shall we discuss some aspects of climate change and agriculture? Who remembers when it was always cold in December, January, and February? Who remembers all night rolling thunder showers in June and July? These were consistently occurring events. We had consistent rain, a little at a time and not with destructive hail and wind. Our temperatures were consistent, no eating outside by Lake Michigan in February! All these fluctuations have consequences on crop production and how we maintain our livestock. Summer heating has gotten hotter over the last decade. The intensity of temperatures puts added stress on livestock in numerous ways from increased diseases; more antibiotic use and disrupted reproductive processes to name a few.

<https://academic.oup.com/af/article/9/1/3/5272569>

We see more destructive rainfall causing more intensified flooding. This flooding affects all of us right down to property taxes for landowners. As recently as 2018, area farmers had to make a choice to take insurance over planting corn. That season was drenched in doubt because of, if memory serves me, 12 consecutive weeks of at least 4 days of rain. That amount of rain kept pushing back planting corn to June of that year. Corn is long on its way by June. Planting that late affects the harvest, yield, and price. The choice was plant per acre at \$500.00 and hope you get enough to meet that cost in yield, or do not plant and get paid 300.00 per acre from insurance. It is not that simple but paints the picture.

You probably said, “Uh” at property taxes being affected by climate change. It did not dawn on me until I really thought about it. With the amount of rain, we get in minutes to hours now, we used to get over hours or days of gentle showers allowing draining to keep up with flow. Our rain is coming along with hail and wind that also increased over the last decade. All this water must drain. There are ditches all over the 388 square miles within our boundaries that maintain the entire county’s drainage system. Property owners are charged by the county for maintenance through ditch assessments on property taxes. As with more high-water events, these ditches take a beating. Thus, maintaining them is costing more, upping property taxes with those who have these ditches running through their property. As with schools, property owners are tapped for the bill. Landowners are responsible for their own drainage to these ditches. Every field has a combination of privately/county owned tiles creating a web of who fixes what and who maintains what, most importantly who pays for it.

Just as too much water can harm, we can look back to the Dust Bowl years to show the effects of severe drought. “The 1930s drought that turned the southern American Great Plains into what we now call the **Dust Bowl** was an example of a **climate** pattern—driven by sea-surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Pacific—that had always been typical of the region. Now, warming may make such droughts more frequent and more intense.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/dust-bowl>

If there is a silver lining to the shifting, wobbly, whacked out, Ma Nature needing a legal option to attitude control, is double cropping. The growing season appears to be shifting, currently allowing more crops per acre. Wheat is usually harvested in July, planted in the fall the previous year. Because we are warmer later into the fall months that allows for a second crop. Sunflowers is a good example of double cropping, wheat/sunflowers. They are beautiful, STAY OUT OF THE FIELDS! It is trespassing. Those calendar pictures are money to the farmer and need to pay for themselves at the very least. Double cropping wheat with soybeans has also been an option. Some will plant cover crops such as radishes, not the eating ones. The plants hold the dirt better, in turn less erosion over the winter months due to more rain events or wet snow that melts as quickly as it falls. In the spring they are plowed under and fertilize the ground.

There is no working propaganda concerning climate control. Farming practices have altered over the last 20 years in attempts to lessen the effects on the ground from climate change. The topics discussed are not ...largely leftist propaganda...”, and it should,” ...change the way Americans live...” Full Stop! --Joyce

THE BOOK WORM

If you are an avid reader, or come across a book you just love, feel free to send your recommendation to Christine to include in this list. We are thrilled that Pamela Beckford has given us this list. Pamela is an avid reader and we thank her for this contribution to our party!



On the House by John Boehner

I know what you're thinking, why read about a republican Speaker of the House? But this was a really entertaining read. Boehner writes like he talks. And while I don't agree with much he has to say about policies, he is easy to read and made me smile a lot. It is a quick and easy read.

Every Day is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth

If you only read one book this year, this should be the book you read. This isn't terribly political but very autobiographical. You learn about her background and life and how it helped to shape her politics today. Her Black Hawk being shot down was gripping and the challenges she has had to recover. She also goes into how she became a strong advocate for the military wounded. I was so engaged with this book and really recommend you take the time to read this book.

Madam Speaker by Susan Page

I have never been a huge fan of Nancy Pelosi, but this book gave me a new perspective of how she has reigned in the House. Learning more about Nancy's life showed me how she makes decisions. Susan Page is a thorough writer and based the book on several interviews with Pelosi. Speaker Pelosi is the best strategist, as well as fund raiser, the House has ever had.

HCDP GARAGE SALE:

The Brookfield Estates annual garage sale is scheduled for June 4, 5, & 6. Christine and Thomas will be having a yard sale, and since their driveway is 140 ft long, it is perfect to line the drive with tables and tents. If you would like to participate and sell your own items, you may do so with a donation of \$10 for the table space. If you have items that you are willing to donate to the party, please contact Christine or Mary Ellen and we can pick those items up. All items given to us will be sold and the profits will be given to the HCDP general fund. If there are items left at the end of the 3 days, the HCDP will donate any good, usable items to a local Huntington charity.

HCDP DAWGS GUN CLUB UPDATE:

The HCDP DAWGS (Democrats Always Working on Gun Safety) Club has begun it's work! The logo is being designed, the bylaws are being approved, the schedule of events is coming along, application to do events at Roush Lake is underway, and membership via the Facebook page is growing. If you haven't already, please join the facebook page "NE Indiana Blue DAWGS Gun club <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354879212633610>

SAVE THE DATE FOR A FREE FAMILY FUN DAY!

June 12 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., HCDP BBQ, Fishing, and Cornhole party. 2915 E 630 N at Christine and Thomas Bohm's home. This event is FREE! Bring your fishing pole, your own lawn chairs, and your appetite for food and fun! Fishing is CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY! We'll feed you, but I can't give away Thomas's fish, too! Please RSVP so we know how many to expect!

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Spring/Summer is finally here! Gardens are being planted, fields are full of working farmers, the cicadas are soon to emerge and create a deafening sound in their quest for renewal, the CDC has recommended we remove our masks if we are vaccinated, the sounds of lawn mowers hum on Saturday mornings, the hummingbirds and Orioles are back; the darkness is fading. We have made it to the other side and it is up to us to make the very most of our lives that were spared from this global pandemic. We must embrace this opportunity to make our City, County, State and Nation a better, more just place to raise our families or enjoy our golden years. We have been given the gift of life. So it's up to us to embrace and honor that life we were given.

Spring and summer are my favorite times of the year. I am not an "indoor" person, so being outside is where I find my zen. But the other place I find my purpose and my center is by helping others be their best selves. It means helping good humans become good candidates, who in turn, if they are fortunate enough to win, will continue that path of helping others. But, alas, the work is too large for a single person. We need everyone to care about their community, their neighbors, and their children's futures to help in this fight. It means rolling up your sleeves to make calls, write letters, attend events, support local parties, text-bank, phone-bank, donate. It means educating yourself on the issues. It means calling out what is wrong when you see it. It means you must care.

We are spoiled in America. We have the freedom to ignore issues if they don't directly affect us. We have the freedom to turn off the radio or the television if it "upsets" us. We have the freedom to choose to not hear each other. And, unfortunately, we have the freedom to hate each other. I choose love. I want to love all my fellow humans. Why? Because hate makes me tired. It wears on my soul. It wears on my zen. So today, I choose love. I choose to hear those who are oppressed. I choose to hear those I disagree with. I choose to love my fellow Americans like I did on September 12, 2001. I choose love. Will I get frustrated and angry and disappointed? Yes. But I still choose love. Will you join me in filling our community with hope, gratitude, small acts of kindness, and love? I need you by my side if we are to heal our Nation. We must lift each other higher. We must celebrate the small victories and continue to keep our eye on the larger battles. But those battles should never spiral downward into hating each other. We must look for ways to learn from each other, learn from those we disagree with. We must. Because if we don't try, if we don't open ourselves up for disappointment, if we don't attempt a reunification of our great Nation, we are destined for a Country that cannot be mended. It starts with us. Each of us. I have your back, do you have mine?

As always, it is an honor to be your Chair, but most importantly, to call you friends,

Christine