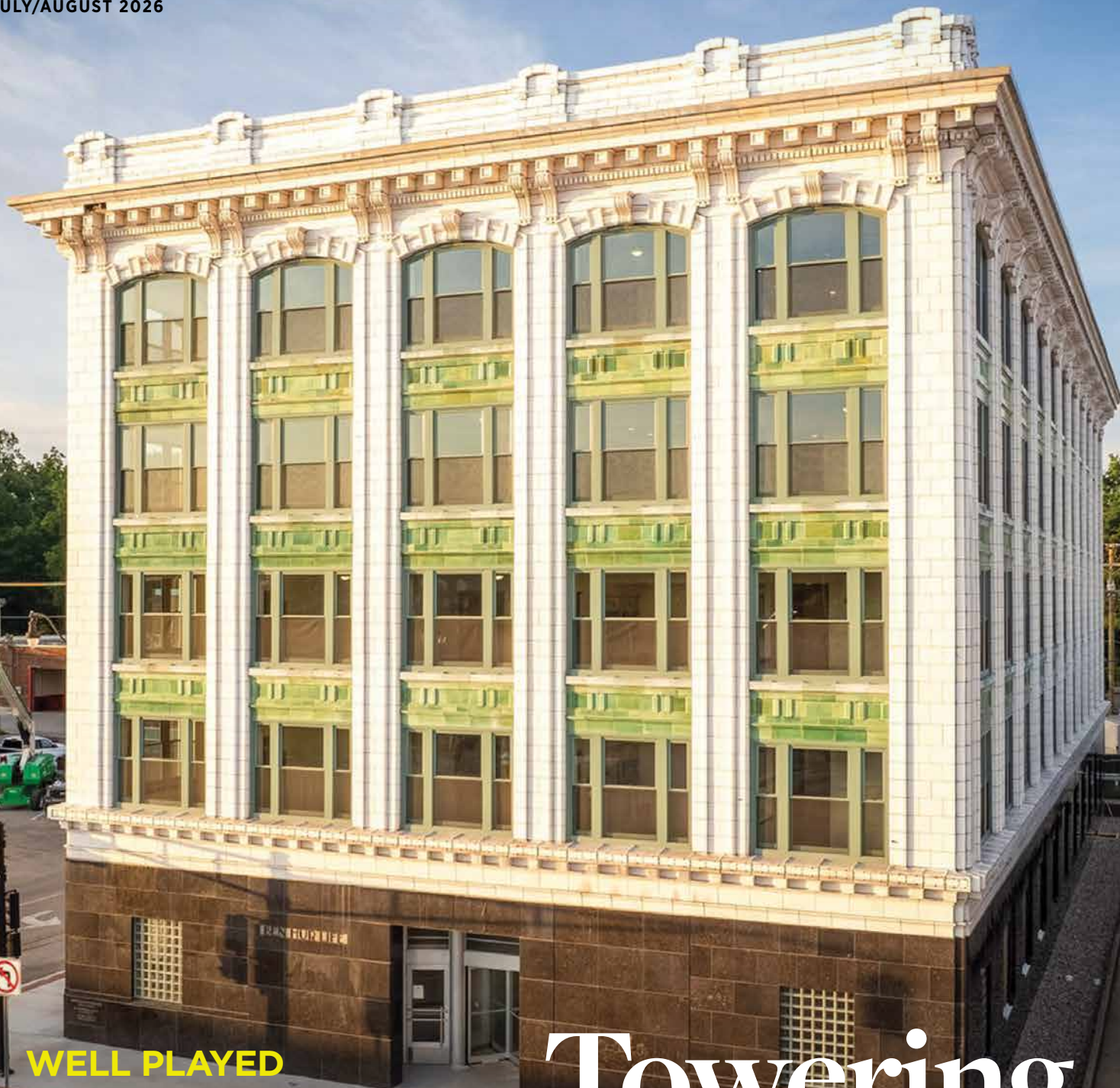


# INDIANA PRESERVATION

JULY/AUGUST 2026



INDIANA LANDMARKS



## WELL PLAYED

Exploring historic sites of recreation

## PASSIONATE PROTECTOR

Indianapolis trailblazer earns Williamson Prize for preservation leadership

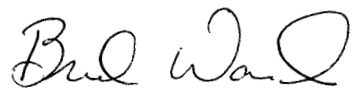
# Towering Comeback

Crawfordsville's Ben-Hur Building wins Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration

## Tragic Blow

ON MAY 11, WE WERE HEARTBROKEN to learn that fire had engulfed Trinity United Methodist Church in Madison, causing catastrophic roof failure and partial wall collapse. A golf cart fire near the building is believed to have sparked the blaze, which climbed from a window frame through the walls into the attic. With its towering steeple and setting near the city's picturesque Broadway Fountain, the 1874 church has long been a cherished landmark for residents and visitors alike, an enduring part of what makes Madison so special.

In the hours after the fire, city leaders, preservation advocates, church officials, and neighbors quickly came together to chart a path forward. Their response underscores something essential: saving Trinity will take the full strength of a community that knows what this church means to Madison. Places like this are more than structures; they hold shared memories, mark life's most meaningful moments, and bind generations. Indiana Landmarks will continue to support the congregation as it grieves the loss and determines what can be salvaged and rebuilt, and we are proud to stand with all committed to ensuring this landmark house of worship has a future.



Brad Ward, President

### On the Cover

Crawfordsville's Ben-Hur Building wins the 2026 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration following a \$13 million rehabilitation for apartments and meeting space. See pp. 4-5.  
PHOTO COURTESY AP DEVELOPMENT LLC



GREG SEKULA



INDIANA LANDMARKS

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## STARTERS



COURTESY WALL FAMILY

## ALL SKATE

**Roller skating** may spark visions of teens circling oval rinks under flickering disco balls to the music of ABBA, but its roots go much further back. Early versions of skates took shape as early as the 1760s, a century before the real breakthrough in 1863 when New Yorker James Plimpton patented a four-wheeled skate and opened the first public roller skating rink soon after in a converted dining room at a Rhode Island resort. By the early twentieth century, roller rinks were popping up across the country, and mass-produced roller skates brought the pastime into the mainstream, ushering in the Golden Age of Roller Skating. More than a passing fad, Jim and Marg Wall of Fort Wayne, Indiana, opened their Roller Dome in 1950, and the rink remains family-operated today. Read more about their legacy on p. 16.

## Butter Together

“**L**ocally Grown, Internationally Known.” That’s how Franklin’s historic Artcraft Theatre describes its famously addictive popcorn. Served at the vintage concession stand inside the restored 1922 theater, the buttery fan-favorite fuels movies, author talks, bingo nights, and just about everything in-between. Experience it for yourself when the theater hosts attendees of Preserving Historic Places, Indiana’s Statewide Preservation Conference, on September 29-October 2. See details on p. 22.

COURTESY THE HISTORIC ARTCRAFT THEATRE



# 193

door handles embossed with “TBH” for Tribe of Ben-Hur, 174 of which were replicated to match missing originals as part of the \$13 million rehabilitation of Crawfordsville’s Ben-Hur Building, winner of the 2026 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. Read more about the project on pp. 4-5.

COURTESY AP DEVELOPMENT LLC



## Crawfordsville Building's Revival Wins Cook Cup

**IN CRAWFORDVILLE, THE** Ben-Hur Building dominates the city streetscape, its size and central location making it impossible to ignore. For decades, the empty and deteriorating landmark loomed over downtown like a dark cloud, but today, its gleaming white terra cotta shines again following the building's \$13 million transformation as apartments and meeting space, a dramatic reversal that earned AP Development LLC Indiana Landmarks' 2026 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration.

The Ben-Hur Building dates to the early 1900s, when the fraternal benefit organization Tribe of Ben-Hur—founded in Crawfordsville and inspired by Gen. Lew Wallace's bestselling novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of*

*Built in 1911 for the fraternal order The Tribe of Ben-Hur, Crawfordsville's Ben-Hur Building once drew locals downtown for meetings, shopping, and dental visits. After decades of vacancy left the structure in a precarious state, a top-to-bottom transformation started in 2021 by AP Development LLC earned Indiana Landmarks' 2026 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration.*

PHOTO COURTESY AP DEVELOPMENT LLC

*the Christ*—commissioned a new headquarters to reflect its national prominence. Designed by Indianapolis firm Herbert L. Bass & Co., the building broke ground in 1911 at Main and Water streets. For years, it served as a hub of civic and commercial activity, housing offices, meeting rooms, retail space, and the organization's headquarters. A 1940 renovation replaced the original street level white tile with black granite panels.

By 2006, the building stood empty after multiple redevelopment proposals had stalled. Decades of vacancy had taken a toll: a failing roof allowed water to infiltrate, damaging the once-grand lobby and interior. Terra cotta began to loosen, forcing sections of the surrounding sidewalks to be covered or roped off.

Despite its diminished condition, much of the building's historic features and original layout remained intact. The City sought a reuse that would restore its original character while adapting it for modern use and reestablishing its role downtown. In 2021, AP Development launched a comprehensive restoration, reviving key elements including the original corridors, lobby, façade, and hardwood and terrazzo floors, while upgrading all major systems and adding a new accessible entrance.

Craftspeople carefully restored the 1911/1940 lobby, including its staircase, lunch counter, revolving door, and elevator, and replicated missing historic elements stolen by vandals based on original designs. The Tribe of Ben-Hur boardroom table was restored for use in a conference room, and crews replicated millwork throughout where the original could not be saved. In a happy surprise, workers discovered original burl walnut paneling underneath wallpaper in the conference room.

"We intentionally took our time to bring back the building's integrity while extending the life of the structure for the next 100 years," says Dustin McClain, director of construction management for AP Development LLC. "I'm proud we didn't go the path of least resistance, taking the character away or trying to do things on the cheap. Instead we intentionally took our time to select the right materials. If we could restore it, or find salvaged materials, we did."

"Saving the building was a matter of persistence and patience. We could have easily developed it more quickly, gutting it out and modernizing it, but we would have lost the historic nature," says Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. "The City invested a lot of money and time into this to make sure it happened. I can't imagine tearing it down and putting in a parking lot. That would have been a travesty."

The project introduced 49 modern apartments and repurposed the historic boardroom as a short-term rental. At its 2025 reopening, the Ben-Hur Building welcomed more than



1,000 visitors, signaling strong community enthusiasm for the project. The redevelopment also brought new life to downtown by adding residents who have increased foot traffic to nearby shops and restaurants and supported the city's broader goal of creating a more vibrant, walkable urban core.

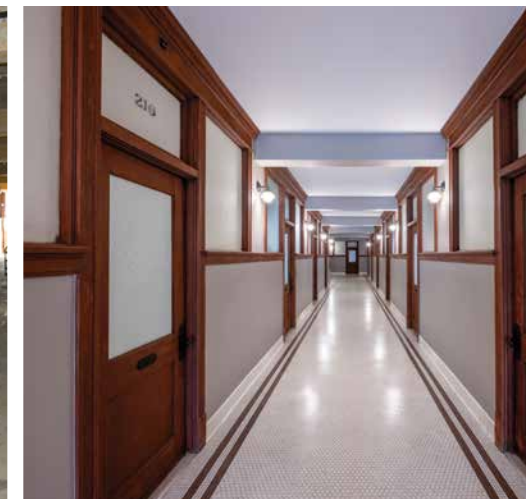
The project aligned closely with Crawfordsville's Stellar Communities initiative launched in 2014, reinforcing long-term investment in downtown. The preservation-driven transformation, supported by city and county leadership, local tax increment financing, state tax credits, and the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Credit, reflected a shared commitment to revitalization and the power of public-private collaboration.

*Guided by the City of Crawfordsville's desire to revitalize the building while honoring its history, craftspeople restored the original façade and lobby (top left) to their former grandeur while adapting the landmark for modern apartments.*

PHOTO COURTESY AP DEVELOPMENT LLC

"The support from the community from the beginning has been incredible. Everyone was eager for this landmark to be redeveloped," says Jon Anderson, president of AP Development LLC. "Throughout the process of restoring the Ben-Hur, everyone had a story about the building and their connections to it. That made it all the more important to save the building and give it new life."

"Few projects in recent memory have so completely transformed our community—physically, economically, and socially—as the revitalization of this long-neglected landmark," adds Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. "The Ben-Hur Building stands as a model of what can be achieved when vision, craftsmanship, and civic partnership come together. It demonstrates that historic preservation is not simply about saving buildings, it is about restoring identity, fostering community, and creating opportunity."





## A Champion for Indianapolis Preservation

**TODAY, INDIANAPOLIS IS KNOWN FOR ITS** vibrant commercial core and picturesque historic neighborhoods, but in the 1970s, when Jim and Marjorie Kienle relocated to the city, downtown was characterized by blight and disinvestment, so much so that one realtor advised them not to look for a house south of 86th Street.

The Kienles ignored that advice, instead becoming part of a group of dedicated urban residents who helped revive the Lockerbie Square neighborhood. Their efforts launched a lifetime of advocacy for historic preservation, work that Marjorie has continued following Jim's passing in 2022. In recognition of her decades of community activism, Indiana Landmarks selected Marjorie Kienle to receive the 2026 Williamson Prize.

Marjorie credits Jim, a preservation architect, with shaping her appreciation for historic places, starting with early dates to visit "smelly old buildings" and continuing with their hands-on restoration of three historic houses and nightly discussions of his latest projects at the dinner table. The couple moved to Indianapolis in 1975, when his firm won the contract to

For decades, Marjorie Kienle has defended the character of Indianapolis's historic neighborhoods, beginning with Lockerbie Square's revival in the 1970s. Recognizing her steadfast commitment to preserving and protecting the city's architectural heritage, Indiana Landmarks awarded Kienle with the 2026 Williamson Prize for Outstanding Preservation Leadership.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

develop a master plan for the Indiana State Capitol complex.

They began looking for a home within walking or biking distance of his work and decided on Lockerbie Square. At the time, the neighborhood was scarred by vacant lots and boarded-up homes marked with demolition numbers. Undaunted, the Kienles bought an 1872 Carpenter Gothic-style house Indiana Landmarks had relocated to a vacant lot to save from demolition and embarked on a DIY renovation despite the lack of running water. Alongside other determined neighbors, they helped spark Lockerbie Square's revival. Marjorie supported the neighborhood's continuing renewal

by twice serving as president of the neighborhood association.

"Early on, we really had to fight to educate people as to why it was important to save buildings," recalls Kienle. "We've come a long way in gaining acceptance for preservation, but there's still work to be done to convince people not to tear old buildings down."

A speech-language pathologist, Kienle developed preservation expertise through hands-on work and by attending conferences hosted by the American Institute of Architects and National Trust for Historic Preservation, where she saw how communities around the country repurpose and sustain historic places. She gained additional insights managing Jim's preservation architecture practice for seven years, serving as president of Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis (HUNI), and as a member of Indiana Landmarks' Real Estate Committee.

For more than a decade, Kienle has worked with HUNI and the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations on initiatives to keep Indianapolis attractive and competitive, including fighting the intrusion of digital billboards into historic neighborhoods. After learning of a proposed signage plan in 2015, Marjorie spent her Thanksgiving holiday emailing every member of the Indianapolis City-County Council to voice her concerns. Her efforts helped return the issue to the council, which ultimately passed an ordinance banning digital billboards.

"Marjorie is tenacious, energetic, and articulate. She does her homework and has the ability to lead people, help them understand the issues and the process, and change minds," says Marsh Davis, who collaborated with Kienle on a variety of preserva-

Kienle has championed Indianapolis's historic places through leadership roles with Indiana Landmarks and Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis. In 2017, Kienle helped bring together stakeholders to examine a proposal to reconstruct and widen Interstates 65 and 70 through downtown, helping spur creation of the nonprofit Rethink Coalition, which advocates thoughtful design to reconnect historic neighborhoods.

PHOTO BY BRUCE W. BUCHANAN

tion issues as past president of Indiana Landmarks. "She's been a champion of preservation at all levels. You've heard the phrase, 'You don't mess with Mother Nature?' When it comes to local preservation, you don't mess with Marjorie Kienle."

In 2017, after the Indiana Department of Transportation proposed reconstructing and expanding Interstates 65 and 70 through downtown Indianapolis, Kienle organized community leaders to call for a review. Their efforts led to a better design that reduced barrier walls and prohibited new lanes within eight historic districts. The coalition also launched the Rethink Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for recessed interstates and reconnected neighborhoods in central Indiana.

"Marjorie is direct, forthright, and impossible to ignore," says Garry Chilluffo, who served alongside Kienle for HUNI. "She's that rare combination of intellect, grit, and civic devotion to quality-of-life issues."

"I'm passionate about protecting our visual environment from clutter so that people can see the beauty of what's around us," says Kienle. "When it comes to preservation, I've learned it always takes longer than you think it will. It usually costs more. But it's worth the effort."

The Williamson Prize honors the impactful career of Indiana Landmarks' Past President Reid Williamson Jr., who championed the value of local preservation organizations and using restoration to revitalize communities. The prize includes a sculpture by the late Evansville artist John McNaughton and a \$1,000 cash award. Kienle will be honored as part of Indiana Landmarks' annual meeting in Indianapolis on September 12 (see p. 23).



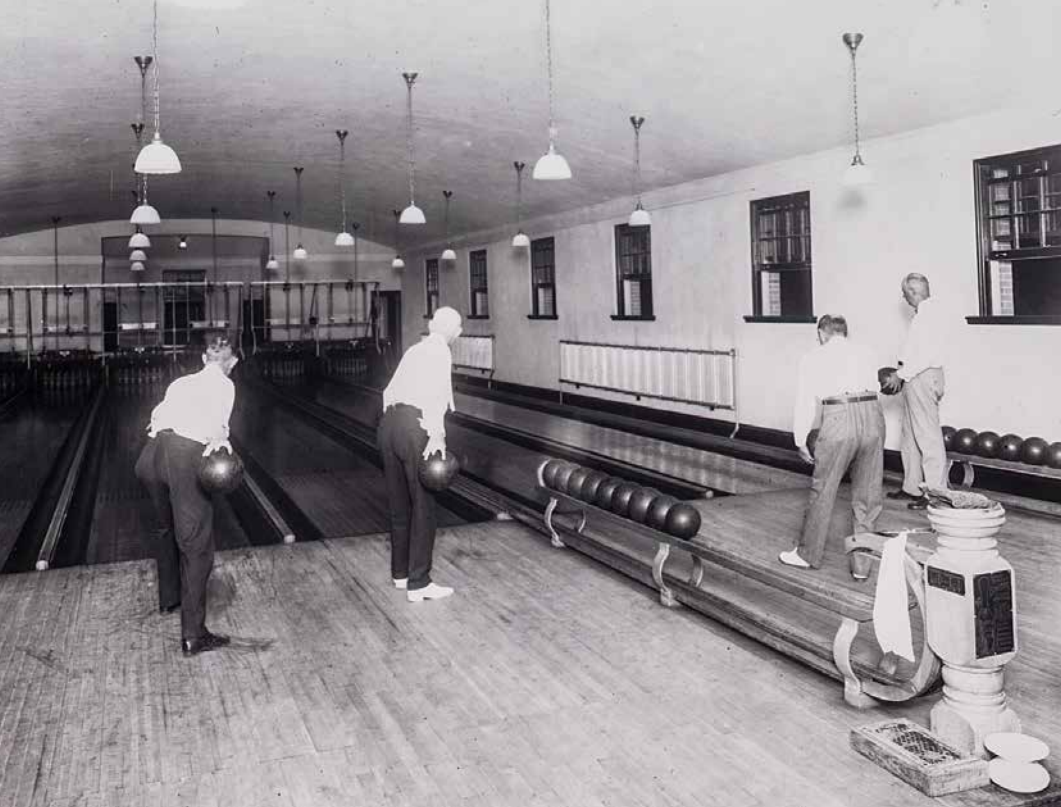
# Play It Forward



**P**eople have been playing for millennia, drawn to sport and recreation for amusement, health, competition, and connection. The same instincts inspired our ancestors to create spaces where they could gather and play, from indoor gaming halls to outdoor venues. While trends in sport have ebbed and flowed,

The Billiard and Bowling Pavilion at West Baden Springs Hotel has returned to its roots as a vibrant recreation hub, restored as a venue for bowling, billiards, and Sprudel's Pizzeria.  
PHOTO COURTESY FRENCH LICK RESORT

places designed for recreation endure as new generations rediscover, enjoy, and reinvent them. Around the state, historic bowling alleys, parks, miniature golf courses, and roller rinks continue to draw people together to experience the joy of play.



## King Pin

Archeological evidence suggests forms of bowling date back to ancient Egypt, but the game earned the nickname “sport of kings” from its prevalence in the courts of England’s King Edward III and King Henry VIII. In the United States, New York City’s Knickerbocker Hotel claims distinction as the location of the nation’s first indoor bowling alley, created in 1840. In Indiana, bowling alleys in West Baden Springs and West Lafayette stand as recreational landmarks dating to the early twentieth century.

Located at the edge of West Baden Springs Hotel’s formal gardens, the Billiard and Bowling Pavilion opened to hotel guests on Christmas Day in 1917, replacing an earlier wooden structure destroyed by fire. German architect Peter Weber—designer of the hotel’s grand porch and east ter-

The West Baden bowling alley’s updated design drew inspiration from historic photos, including lane lighting that resembles original fixtures. In addition to installing a flood control system, the rehabilitation introduced geothermal heating and cooling and restored the pavilion’s exterior to its historic proportions, including reconstructing a wing removed in the 1960s. PHOTO COURTESY FRENCH LICK RESORT

race, as well as the Hygeia and Apollo springhouses and the West Baden National Bank Building—contributed to the pavilion, giving the limestone structure a classical appearance that visually connected it to other buildings on the property. Repeated water damage caused the bowling pavilion to close by 1929, followed by closure of the entire hotel during the Great Depression. In the property’s era as a Jesuit seminary, the pavilion was repurposed as a community recreational space, later serving as a student center during Northwood Institute’s tenure. By the early 1980s, the pavilion was largely vacant.

“Following the restoration of our hotels, this building has always been on our radar for renovation. It was the only building on resort grounds that had not undergone a modern upgrade,” says Chuck Franz, CEO of French Lick Resort.

Located in a flood-prone area, the pavilion required a comprehensive mitigation strategy before any interior work could begin. Engineers implemented a flood control system combining pumps to remove excessive water with protective gates to

safeguard the building. After addressing the exterior challenges, the resort kicked off interior rehabilitation in 2022, transforming the space into a vibrant social hub for guests and community, featuring bowling, billiards, and Sprudel’s Pizzeria.

Architect George Ridgway led the restoration, with general contractor Boldin Construction overseeing work. Decades of vacancy and water infiltration left holes in the roof and a crumbling concrete slab floor. Construction crews rebuilt a wing demolished during the Jesuits’ ownership in the 1960s. Inside, workers restored the wood floors and original Tuscan columns near the bowling area.

Historic photos guided the design, offering inspiration for hanging lights over the bowling lanes, recreated to mimic the originals. Restored windows flood the building with natural light, while plexiglass encases pin resetting machinery, reducing visual clutter and enhancing the alley’s historic open character. In keeping with the building’s heritage, no electronic scoring system was installed; bowlers keep score by hand. Acoustic panels and carpeting were strategically

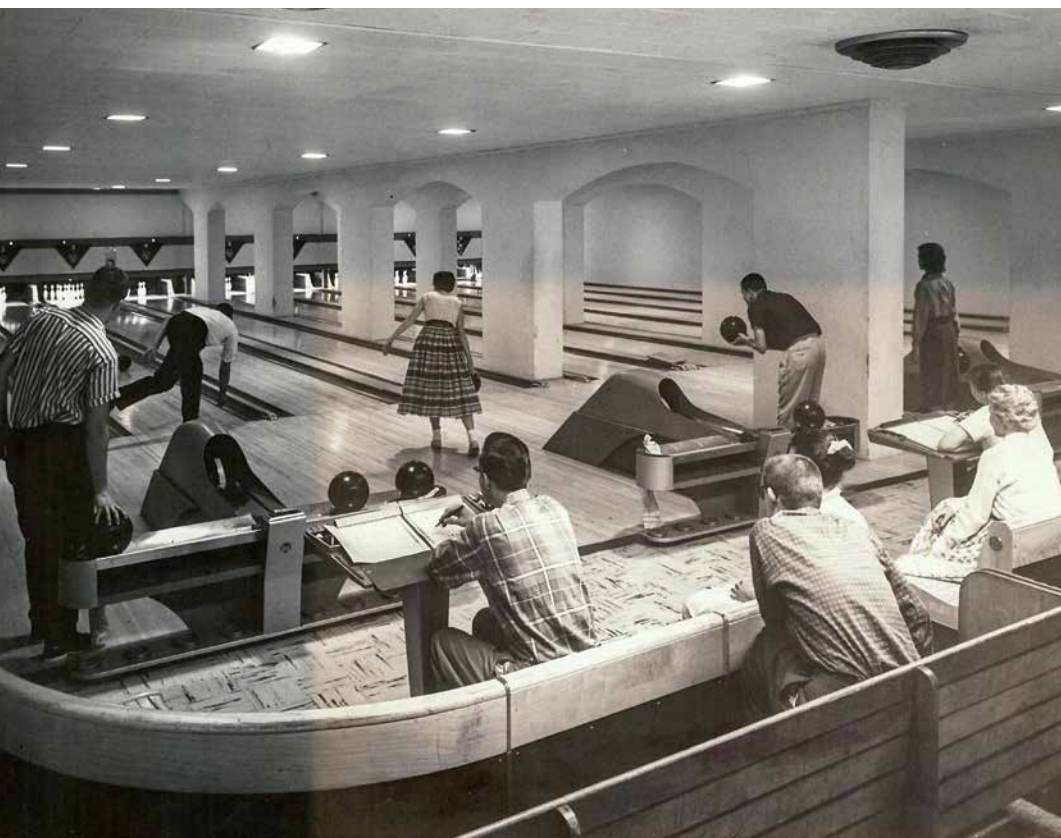
Since the 1930s, students have gathered to bowl at Purdue’s Memorial Union (right), where the Union Rack and Roll attracts players for fun and course credit. Recent renovations introduced a modern pinsetter system and upgraded lanes for Hyper-Bowling, an interactive video game-style experience featuring lighted bumpers. PHOTO COURTESY PURDUE UNIVERSITY; VICTORIA DENO

applied to reduce the noise of the pins. The pavilion reopened in January 2026, quickly becoming a favorite gathering place for pizza, drinks, and friendly games of bowling or pool.

“When everything was done, it’s amazing how close to the original it looks, and that was very intentional,” says Carl Cook, CEO of Cook Group, parent company of the resort. “This wasn’t a re-adaptation but putting back what was there, and this fills a void for guests looking for something to do on the hotel grounds.”

“This Billiard and Bowling Pavilion really mirrors our hotels in terms of saving a building that was literally on the verge of crumbling,” adds Franz. “To bring this building back for its original use and to see guests having fun bowling and shooting pool is such a fun sight to see.”





At Purdue's Memorial Union, a bowling alley has been part of campus life since the late 1930s. Known today as the Union Rack and Roll, the lower-level venue in the 1924 building remains a popular hangout for students, faculty, and the broader community.

The alley stays busy each semester thanks to course "PES 115: Bowling," which draws over 290 students who earn credit while learning and practicing the game. Student and faculty teams also use the alley's 10 lanes, and they can be rented by visitors for walk-in play.



At its peak, Memorial Union featured 14 bowling lanes across two floors, helping cement the sport's popularity on campus. Today, 10 lanes remain open on the lower level. The ground floor was recently renovated as Atlas Family Marketplace, offering meeting and dining spaces alongside billiard tables that can be reserved by students and guests, an intentional nod to the building's historic billiards space.

PHOTOS COURTESY PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION AND KEVIN MIYAZAKI

Beginning in 2022, a series of renovations refreshed the space so it could continue to serve as a hub for recreation. Updates include an e-sports lounge, meeting space, updated seating near the lanes, and a new string pinsetter system that requires less maintenance than traditional systems. The redesign also introduced two pool tables and relocated the pro shop to the front of the space. The result blends modern amenities with the Rack and Roll's signature cozy ambiance.

"Memorial Union is special in what it can offer to students on campus for recreation opportunities. I don't know of too many other universities that have a bowling alley directly on campus," says Carson Opela, Union Rack and Roll manager. "It's a great place to unwind, where people create good memories and want to come back."

## Par for the Course

For more than a century, miniature golf has captivated hobbyists and professionals, prized for its compact scale, accessibility, and in some cases, playful kitsch. The game is believed to have originated in Scotland, where a course was built in 1867 for the St Andrews Ladies' Golf Club. Later, in the early twentieth century, it gained widespread popularity in the United States, and with the 1922 invention of a fake-grass putting surface—made from cottonseed hulls, sand, oil, and dye—by golf devotee Thomas McCulloch Fairbairn, mini courses could be built almost anywhere.

In 1927, Tennessee entrepreneur Garnet Carter boosted the sport's popularity by patenting his Tom Thumb mini-golf course, inspired by a successful attraction at his Fairyland resort on Lookout Mountain. Because mini-golf required less space, develop-

ers could construct courses in innovative places, fueling a boom in rooftop venues during the 1920s. Franchised Tom Thumb locations appeared across the country, including one atop the nine-story Test Building in Indianapolis, overlooking Monument Circle. Though that installation is long gone, a 1930s-era Tom Thumb course still operates in Noblesville's Forest Park, restored in the 1990s to recapture its original character.

On Arlington Avenue in southeast Indianapolis, former landscaper Leonidas Gleason set out to create a true miniature of a full-scale course. Inspired by Scotland's scenic links, Gleason eschewed artificial materials in favor of natural grass, sand traps,

Dating to 1924, Rustic Golf on Indianapolis's south side offers a true miniature version of the game, with 18-hole and 9-hole courses built at one-twelfth the scale of a regulation course. Inspired by Scotland's picturesque golf courses, landscaper Leonidas Gleason incorporated natural grass, boulders, and sand traps into his course designs. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

and boulders, building Rustic Gardens in 1924 at one-twelfth the size of a regulation course. Open seasonally to the public ever since, Rustic Gardens gradually expanded to include such various offerings as table tennis, archery, croquet, fishing, and even, at one point, a petting zoo.

In keeping with the rustic theme, an 1832 log cabin reconstructed on site has served alternately as a concessions stand, pro shop and storage space and is now being renovated as an event venue. Today known as Rustic Driving Range & Mini Golf, the historic attraction features both 18-hole and 9-hole courses along with a driving range, drawing loyal local customers and out-of-state visitors alike.

"When you play on this course, it's totally different than the turf versions," says Matt Goel, managing partner. "People come to enjoy the fun of being outdoors and spending time with their loved ones in a nice, clean place for a couple of hours."

In the 1950s, frustrated by gimmicky miniature courses that used features like waterfalls and spinning windmills to throw balls off course, insurance salesman Don Clayton set





out to create something different for the popular pastime. He designed a new kind of miniature course that relied on hills, ramps, and angled barriers, requiring players to apply geometry and precision to sink their putts. In 1954, Clayton founded the Putt-Putt Corporation in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and began franchising both his course designs and the Putt-Putt name, today a federally registered trademark owned by Putt-Putt, LLC.

By 1976, an estimated 1,300 Putt-Putt courses had been built at 700 locations in the United States and eight foreign countries. In the 1980s, the company began allowing more elaborate landscape designs incorporating mountains, caves, and fiberglass animal statuary, used as ornaments not obstacles.

Today, Indiana is home to two franchised Putt-Putt locations in Fort Wayne and Mishawaka. Opened in spring 1979, the Mishawaka Putt-Putt course on Main Street has evolved over the years to include a fiberglass menagerie, including some animals acquired from an Anderson Putt-Putt after it closed.



Dating to 1979, the Mishawaka Putt-Putt (above) features a classic course design accented with whimsical fiberglass animals. Opened in 1921, Indianapolis's Douglass Park was the city's only park open to Black residents. It quickly became a social hub for the surrounding community, hosting golf, swimming, baseball, picnics, and other events (below).

PHOTOS COURTESY PUTT-PUTT FUN CENTER MISHAWAKA, IN; INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER COLLECTION, INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



But the historic landscaping and overall course design remain intact, including the elevated 18th hole, a signature feature of Putt-Putt courses.

The game's nostalgic appeal continues to draw customers in Mishawaka. "It's a game that doesn't require a lot of training that you can do with your significant others or great-grandchildren or anyone in between," says owner John Rice.

## Made by Community

Beginning in the 1920s, Douglass Park on Indianapolis's east side served as a haven for the city's Black community in an increasingly industrialized area of the city, expanding over time to include a pool, golf course, community center, playgrounds, tennis courts, athletic fields, skating rink, and green space.

"It was a community hub for Black people in Indianapolis and their only option for visiting a park at the time as they were barred from all other city parks," says Eunice Trotter, director of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program.

Edward Claypool donated land for Douglass Park—the city's first

park for African Americans—which opened July 7, 1921. A swimming pool was added in 1922, followed by a golf course in 1927. Members of the community originally built the six-hole course themselves, using tomato cans for holes. Black attorney Robert Lee Brokenburr advocated with the City for park improvements, helping secure a nine-hole course that hosted the United Golfers Association (known previously as the Colored Golf Association) national tournament in 1932.

Douglass Park soon became a center for other social and recreational events, hosting family reunions, a boxing club, a state tennis tournament, and local ball teams. Along with Belmont Beach on the White River, the park's pool offered swimming lessons for Black children, sponsored by the City's parks and recreation department, Flanner House, the Works Progress Administration, the American Red Cross, and the *Indianapolis Recorder*.

Although the early structures that marked Douglass Park's development are gone, many of the park's amenities remain in their historic locations. To raise awareness of the area's significance, Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program is supporting nomination of the park and surrounding Martindale neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

The park became so highly regarded within the community that developers leveraged its popularity to attract new families to the area. After establishing a Black neighborhood west of downtown Indianapolis, Flanner House Homes—a self-help cooperative initiated by the city's redevelopment commission—looked to expand into the Martindale area near Douglass Park in the 1950s, promoting the park as a key selling feature to potential buyers.

The park was renamed Frederick Douglass Park in 2017 to recognize the abolitionist widely believed to have inspired the original name. In recent years, the park has undergone multi-million dollar improvements, including a new family center, splash pad, computer lab, basketball courts, track, and event space. While none of the original structures from the park's earliest development survive, the golf course, fields, and pool remain in roughly the same location as their historic predecessors.

With support from the Mellon Foundation, Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program is elevating awareness of Douglass Park's legacy by supporting nomination of the Martindale-Douglass Park Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2025, the program hosted a public information session to share information about the area's significant history and the benefits National Register status would confer, including access to grants and tax incentives.





## Ready to Roll

In the 1940s, Fort Wayne resident Jim Wall returned from serving in World War II determined to build a lasting business that could support his wife, Marjorie, and their growing family if anything were to happen to him. Inspired by their own story (the couple met at a roller skating rink) and a broader desire to create a place for family-friendly entertainment, Wall commissioned an architect to design a roller rink on the edge of the city along Coliseum Boulevard on what had once been an apple orchard. With help from his father, Joe, Wall constructed the building himself. Completed in 1950, the Roller Dome marked the beginning of a skating legacy for Jim, Marg, and their 12 children.

In its early years, the Roller Dome housed not just the family business but the Walls themselves, who lived in quarters at the rear of the building for many years before moving into a separate home in 1977. Jim Wall personally crafted the roller rink's wooden rotunda floor, steaming and bending boards to form the

For more than 75 years, Fort Wayne residents have circled the floor at the Roller Dome, the skating rink built by the Wall family in 1950. Original wood floors and saucer-shaped light fixtures remain to lend vintage charm. Jim Wall (below, far left) constructed the landmark venue with his father Joe, and it remains a multi-generation family operation today.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE WALL FAMILY

oval surface skaters still glide across today. Drawing on their expertise, the family founded Wall Consultant and Management Inc., advising new rinks and installing hardwood floors across the country. They expanded further with the launch of Wall Skate Supply in 1969, and by the mid-1980s the company was producing around 60,000 skates per year across 23 states.

Despite the business's national growth, the Walls remained deeply committed to providing family fun for members of their community, including a program that loaned roller skates to local elementary schools. They later built Roller Dome South on Bluffton Road, now repur-



posed as "The Rink," a vintage and antique mall with booths on the original wooden floor. In recognition of their lasting impact on the industry, both Jim and Marg were inducted into the Roller Skating Hall of Fame, and Marg's "Rules of the Rink" became a national standard.

Today, the family's original Roller Dome blends historic charm with modern conveniences, offering a nostalgic atmosphere that resonates with both first-time visitors and lifelong skaters. Original saucer-shaped pendant lights and disco balls

still hang over the floor as they have for decades. All-Night Skates remain a favorite tradition, along with freshly spun cotton candy made on a vintage machine.

Where skaters once circled the floor to the sounds of organ music, today digital tunes come from the deejay booth. Now stewarded by the second, third, and fourth generations of the Wall family, the Roller Dome carries on Jim Wall's vision of providing a family-friendly place to connect. Learn more:

[rollerdomenorth.com](http://rollerdomenorth.com)



## BRIEFLY NOTED

### WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

Indiana Landmarks welcomes several new staff at its Indianapolis headquarters:

**Rachel Adkins** joins Indiana Landmarks as accounting and human resources specialist. Adkins holds a bachelor's degree in English from Marian College and recently worked for RCI as an accounts receivable specialist.

**Tara Hatheway** is administrative assistant, supporting Indiana Landmarks' executive staff and board. Hatheway holds a bachelor's degree in arts administration from Butler University and previously worked at Franklin Township Community School Corporation.

**Divine Holmes** joins Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program as historic preservation assistant, helping document and interpret significant sites, including Project 250, a statewide public history and community initiative to document the 250 most significant Black heritage sites in Indiana. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Ball State University and previously worked at the Indiana Archives and Records Administration.

**Sarah Johnson-Taylor** is volunteer coordinator in our education and engagement department. Johnson-Taylor holds a master's degree in history from Indiana University Indianapolis and recently worked as a gallery lead at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.

**Trista Riggs** is Indiana Landmarks' new customer service coordinator in Indianapolis. Riggs holds a master's degree in information and library science from Indiana University

Indianapolis and recently worked at the University of Evansville coordinating events, outreach, and communication efforts.

**Sarah Rohrer** is associate director for Sacred Places Indiana, helping congregations preserve their historic houses of worship. Rohrer holds a master's of divinity degree from Emory University and previously worked as director of Berea College's Emerging Scholars Program.

Along with continuing to serve as director of Indiana Landmarks' Northern Regional Office in South Bend, **Todd Zeiger** is now also vice president, heritage trades, coordinating our statewide efforts to fill a gap in qualified craftspeople to repair historic buildings.

At our Juneteenth Celebration last month, **Robin and Charlitta Winston** received the Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Award, honoring the couple's leadership and philanthropy advancing efforts to preserve Black history statewide, including supporting the Black Heritage Preservation Program and creating the Robin and Charlitta Winston Family Fund for African American History at the Indiana Historical Society.

### OUR APOLOGIES

In the March/April issue of *Indiana Preservation*, we misidentified the city where Trout Glass & Mirror Inc., is located. The family-owned company that led installation of glass panels at the House of Tomorrow is based in Valparaiso.

### BOARD NOMINATIONS

Members of Indiana Landmarks are invited to elect directors at the organization's annual meeting on September 12, 2026. Board members serve three-year terms. According to Indiana Landmarks' bylaws, members may vote for candidates proposed by the Governance Committee of the board, or by at least 10 voting members. To nominate a candidate for election to the board of directors, submit your nomination in writing by August 21 to Hilary Barnes, Board Chair, Indiana Landmarks, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46202.

## Creating Connections

**FOR ARCHITECTURE AFICIONADOS, COLUMBUS, Indiana,** is a not-so-well-kept secret, a small town that became a Modernist mecca through the efforts of civic leaders who believed good design could uplift an entire community. For longtime resident Tracy Haddad, this vision mirrors her own belief that preserving historic places not only shapes a community but also creates opportunities for connections, learning the history of a place and activating spaces with new purpose.

Haddad moved to Columbus with her family in 1973 after her mother and father, Bob and Helen Haddad, decided to settle there following years of relocating for Bob's work. While Bob established his corrugated manufacturing, trucking, and warehousing operations, Helen immersed herself in the arts, anchoring the family in the city they grew to love. The couple's generosity later helped expand the historic Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Administrative Office into a performance and event venue called Helen Haddad Hall.

"My parents were always very philanthropic, therefore, community as well as place became important to me," says Haddad. "My dad's big focus was investing in the people, enabling them to provide for their own families and thus support their community. His philosophy was to invest in the community that supported his business and therefore our family. I am not sure who benefited more—the community and its residents or Bob and Helen!"

Haddad continues that philanthropic vision as head of the Tracy L. Haddad Foundation, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, through which she has supported Indiana Landmarks' Rescue Party—the annual fundraiser for our endangered places programs—and our recent statewide capital campaign. She also serves on our board of directors. In Columbus, Haddad is board chair for Landmarks Columbus, an Indiana Landmarks affiliate, and the Heritage Fund board, the local community fund.

"I enjoy identifying what I call six degrees of separation when I meet people and how they connect to historic places," says Haddad. "With cell phones and social media reducing in-person contact, it's important to have places where people can gather to be together, connect with other likeminded people, and share places of significance."



Believing historic places create opportunities for connection, Columbus resident Tracy Haddad advances preservation locally and statewide as head of the Tracy L. Haddad Foundation, supporting Indiana Landmarks' Rescue Party and our capital campaign to save meaningful places.

PHOTO BY HADLEY FRUITS

Haddad's appreciation for place guides her travels, whether visiting a historic church in Italy, learning how centuries-old design continues to shape Barcelona's Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, or staying in the Flat Iron Hotel in downtown Asheville, North Carolina. Closer to home, Haddad loves the nostalgic atmosphere of Butler University's historic Hinkle Fieldhouse, First Christian Church and North Christian Church in Columbus, and historic town squares across Indiana.

In Columbus, Haddad is eager to see what comes next for the Crump Theatre, Indiana's oldest surviving theater. "I think as society has evolved, preservation has increasingly focused on repurposing historic places and activating spaces for people to gather and enjoy as they learn about their history, thus encouraging support for preservation in the future."



# Rescue Party 2026

ED STEWART PHOTOGRAPHY

*Thanks to the extraordinary generosity* of our attendees, sponsors, donors, and volunteers, our 2026 Rescue Party at Indiana Landmarks Center on April 25 grossed more than **\$200,000** in support for Indiana Landmarks' Endangered Places Program, which provides advocacy, technical assistance, and resources to help save meaningful places across the state.

Nearly 300 supporters from across Indiana joined us for cocktails, conversation, live entertainment, and immersive experiences inspired by the Century of Progress World's

Fair. The event also featured a silent auction and mission appeal benefiting endangered places statewide.

The night's success reflects the commitment of those who believe these historic places matter. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, donated, sponsored, volunteered, and helped spread the word. We are especially grateful to members of the Rescue Party Committee—Hilary Barnes, Sara Edgerton, Joe Jarzen, Anne Schneider, and Jonathan Young—for their leadership, creativity, and dedication in making the event such a success.

We also thank our generous sponsors whose support made the evening possible:

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**  
**Berglund Construction**

**HOUSE OF TOMORROW EXPERIENCE SPONSOR**  
**Trout Glass & Mirror**

**CENTURY CIRCLE SPONSOR**  
**Barnes & Thornburg, Inc.**

**SALON SPONSOR**  
**Tracy L. Haddad Foundation, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF)**

Save the date  
now for next year's  
**RESCUE PARTY**  
**Saturday,**  
**April 24, 2027**

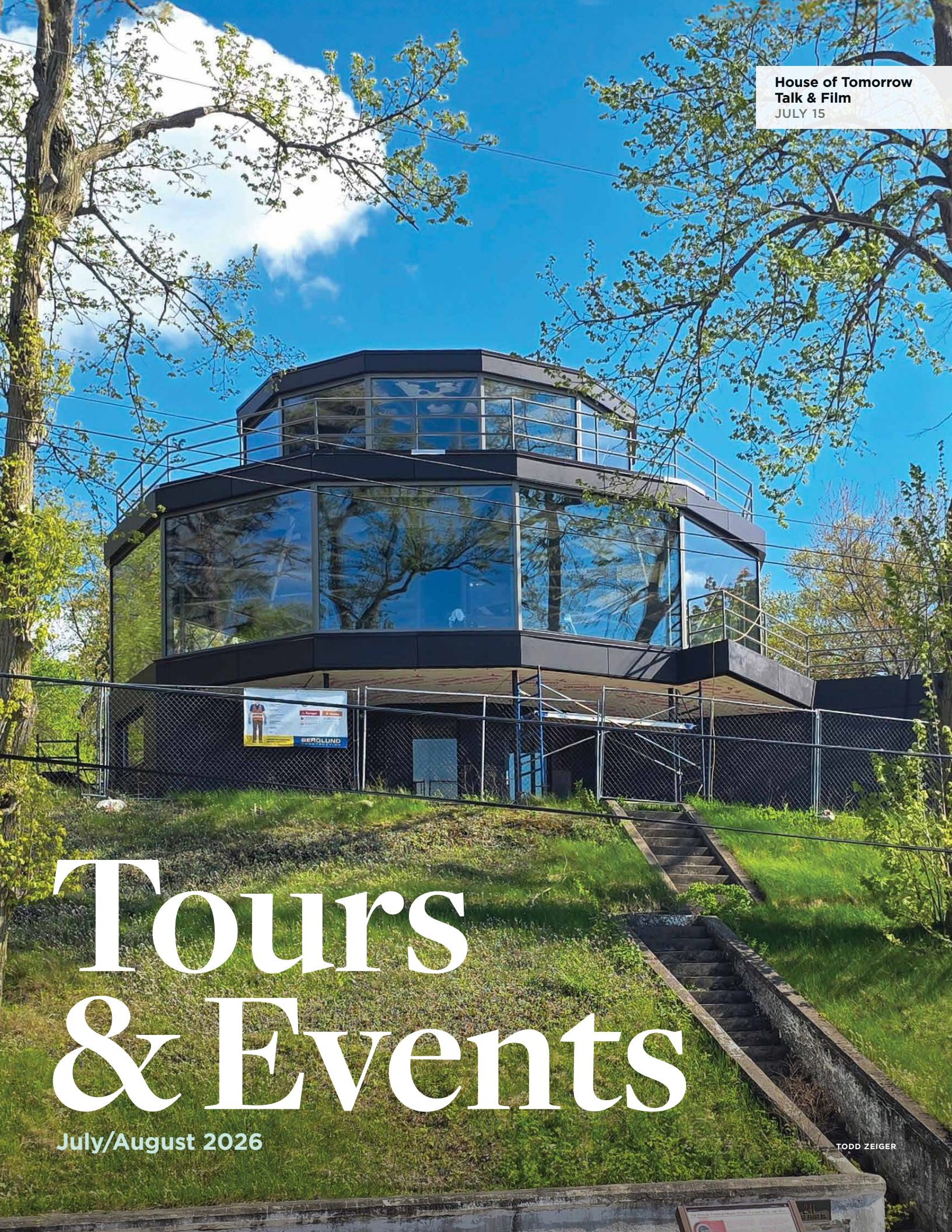
We look forward to celebrating with you again next spring.



PAIGE WASSEL



ED STEWART PHOTOGRAPHY



**House of Tomorrow  
Talk & Film**  
JULY 15

Visit [indianalandmarks.org/tours-events](http://indianalandmarks.org/tours-events) to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.

### **White River State Park Walking Tour**

**July 1, Aug. 29 & Sept. 16, Indianapolis**

Explore the cultural significance of White River State Park on a guided walking tour highlighting the area's history from Indianapolis's settlement to the present day. Take a closer look at the park's landmarks including the historic Washington Street bridge, limestone-lined river promenade, 1870 pump-house, and more. Presented in partnership with White River State Park Development Commission. Departure times vary. \$12/general public (ages 18 & up); \$10/member; \$7/child (ages 6-17); free to children 5 and under.

### **Mass Ave Walking Tour**

**July 12 & Sept. 12**

Discover the unique history of Indianapolis's Massachusetts Avenue, a flourishing cultural and commercial corridor that anchors the historic district affectionately known as Mass Ave. Departure times vary. \$20/general public (ages 12 & up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

### **House of Tomorrow Talk & Film**

**July 15, Indianapolis and online**

Hear the story behind exterior restoration of George Keck's iconic House of Tomorrow from the expert team of architects, engineers, and preservationists tasked with reviving the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair home in Indiana Dunes National Park. Producer and director Glenn Pratt begins the program with a screening of his short documentary film, *The New House of Tomorrow: Restoring America's First Glass House*, followed by a panel discussion with Charlie Hasbrouck of bKL Architecture; Jeff Berglund of Berglund Construction; Mike Ford of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; and Todd Zeiger of Indiana Landmarks. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. Tickets cost \$10/general public; free to members with registration.

### **SAMARA TOURS**

Apr.-Nov.  
West Lafayette

Explore Samara, one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most fully realized Usonian designs, on regular public tours offered at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, except when the house is closed for private events. \$20/general public; \$18/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

[samara-house.org](http://samara-house.org)

**Woodruff  
Place**  
JULY 11 & 25



KELLY HARRIS

## **Indianapolis Neighborhood Walking Tours**

**May-Oct.**

Explore some of the city's most fascinating historic neighborhoods on guided walking tours offered select Saturday mornings and weekday evenings. Departure times vary. \$20/general public; \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

### **July 11 & 25 - Woodruff Place**

In 1872 entrepreneur James O. Woodruff created the city's first planned residential suburb, Woodruff Place, an upscale, park-like neighborhood of stately homes and tree-lined esplanades that remains largely intact today. Ninety-minute guided tours depart at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

### **Aug. 11, 12 & 13 - Old Speedway City**

Incorporated in 1926, the Town of Speedway celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, where residents continue to embrace a spirit of innovation and honor the community's automotive history through preservation of historic residential and commercial blocks. Two-hour guided tours depart every half hour between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

### **Sept. 1 & 26 - Chatham Arch**

Chatham Arch, one of the city's earliest residential areas, developed into a thriving neighborhood of modest cottages, grander homes, apartments, churches, and commercial buildings that is still desirable today. Ninety-minute guided tours depart at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 1 and at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 26.

# **Tours & Events**

**July/August 2026**

TODD ZEIGER



# Franklin Hosts Statewide Preservation Conference

Preserving Historic Places, Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference, changes locations each year to highlight Indiana's historic communities. This year, September 29-October 2, 2026, the conference heads to Franklin to explore its vibrant historic downtown and active preservation community. From adaptively reused buildings like the Garment Factory and Johnson County Museum of History to restored landmarks like the iconic Artcraft Theatre and historic Johnson County Courthouse, the city showcases a blend of innovation and tradition.

At the annual conference, attendees can choose from over 20 expert-led educational sessions on a variety of historic preservation and archaeology topics, including heritage tourism, Main Street revitalization, historic theater renewal, advances in canal archaeology, marketing and storytelling for historic sites, and the impact of short-term rentals on historic neighborhoods. Specialized workshops will take a deeper look at select subjects such as historic preservation law, fostering community entrepreneurship, and understanding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The



Garment Factory, a 1920s factory turned events center located near the center of downtown, serves as conference headquarters.

In addition to educational sessions, conference attendees will enjoy social and networking opportunities hosted at historic sites that highlight Franklin's commitment to preservation, including an evening of vintage film and locally grown popcorn at the 1922 Artcraft Theatre and an open house at Madison Street Salvage, both operated by the dedicated staff and volunteers of preservation nonprofit Franklin Heritage, Inc.

On October 2, an exclusive talk and tours feature the campus of Franklin College, designated a National Register-listed historic district in 2025, and a 1914 former elementary school earning national attention for its homeowners' creative transformation-in-progress of the 9,000-square-foot building into their family home.

Preserving Historic Places is hosted jointly by Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and Indiana University. See the full conference agenda and register at [indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places](http://indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places). Early bird pricing ends August 1.

## Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

July 16 & Aug. 20, Indianapolis and online

On July 16, Bryan Glover, vice president and board chair of Roberts Settlement, shares the legacy of the Hamilton County community founded in 1835 by free people of color. On Aug. 20, Angi Rogers, great-niece of African American race car driver Charlie Wiggins, relates the story of his legendary achievements. Presented in partnership with Freetown Village. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. Free with registration at [freetownvillage.org](http://freetownvillage.org) or 317-631-1870.

## Indiana Automotive Speedway Tour

July 17-18, Indianapolis

Celebrate Indiana's racing heritage on a two-day tour exploring the Town of Speedway—from the founding of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to today's preservation efforts in the National Register-listed Speedway Historic District. Attendees will enjoy guided walking tours, an after-hours look at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, a visit to the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust's Allison Branch, and more. Tickets cost \$110/general public, \$100/Indiana Landmarks members, \$90/Indiana Automotive members and include a catered reception, lunch, and all guided tours.

## Monument Circle Walking Tour

July 19 & Aug. 9, Indianapolis

One-hour guided walking tours explore Indianapolis's most recognizable historic district, highlighting how and why these blocks have become a symbol of the city. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. \$10/general public (ages 12 & up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

## Save the Date for Century of Progress Tour

Tickets for the annual Century of Progress Tour in the Indiana Dunes National Park, hosted this year on September 26, will go on sale Monday, August 3, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (8 a.m. Central Daylight Time) at [centuryofprogresstour26.eventbrite.com](http://centuryofprogresstour26.eventbrite.com). Tour tickets cost \$50/general public; \$45/member.

## FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

Discover the fascinating history of two turn-of-the-century hotels and their award-winning restorations on daily guided tours. (Tues.-Sat., June-Dec. & Wed.-Sat., Jan.-May)

**West Baden Springs Hotel**  
2 & 4 p.m.

**French Lick Springs Hotel**  
Noon

\$18/adult, \$15/member, \$8/child ages 6-15, and are free to children ages 5 and under. Advance tickets required.

## Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Get an exclusive look at spaces not normally open to the public at West Baden Springs Hotel on a two-hour tour beginning at 2 p.m. on July 2 & 23, Aug. 6 & 20, and Sept. 10 & 24. Tickets cost \$50/person, \$45/member. Advance tickets required.

## Twilight Tours

Costumed characters depict famous guests at West Baden Springs during its heyday in the 'teens and '20s. Tours depart at 7 p.m. on July 18, Aug. 22, and Sept. 12. Tickets cost \$25/adult; \$20/member; \$10/child (ages 6-15). Advance tickets required.

[indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden](http://indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden)

## Indiana Landmarks Annual Meeting

Sept. 12, Indianapolis and online

Join fellow Indiana Landmarks members and friends in Indianapolis for our 66th Annual Meeting. We'll elect new directors, applaud winners of the Sandi Servaas Memorial Awards, Williamson Prize, Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration, and Renaissance Award, and hear updates from Indiana Landmarks' president, Brad Ward. Program begins at 3:30 p.m. in person and online with reception at Indiana Landmarks Center to follow. Free with registration.

## Propylaeum Building Tour

Sept. 13, Indianapolis

Take a deep dive into Indy history at the Propylaeum, a Queen Anne-style landmark in the city's Old Northside that has served as a hub for arts, culture, and women's leadership since 1923. Presented in partnership with the Propylaeum Historic Foundation. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. \$15/general public; \$12/member; \$10/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

**You can help save Indiana's meaningful places!**

- Upgrade your membership
- Make a donation
- Encourage others to join
- Leave a legacy gift

For more information contact Jennifer Hiatt at 317-822-7922

Visit [indianalandmarks.org/tours-events](http://indianalandmarks.org/tours-events) to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.



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AND FINALLY



# Encore Performance

**IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES,** theaters are especially important downtown anchors, connecting generations through shared memories and bringing patrons to nearby businesses. In Lawrenceburg along the Ohio River, community leaders saw potential for the long-dormant 1893 Liberty Theater to become an economic catalyst for the region. Today, the revitalized landmark fulfills that vision, serving as a central gathering place for live music and events and

Lawrenceburg's Liberty Theater has earned Indiana Landmarks' 2026 Renaissance Award, recognizing revival of the 1893 landmark as a live music and events venue driving new momentum downtown.

PHOTO COURTESY DAN MCCABE AND PLAN B IMAGES

bringing renewed foot traffic downtown. To honor its transformation, Indiana Landmarks selected the project to receive the 2026 Renaissance Award.

The City of Lawrenceburg Redevelopment Commission partnered with Dan McCabe's Thigmatrope LLC on the \$4.75 million renovation completed in 2024. Two new storefront businesses, Stage Left Whiskey Bar and Stage Right Kitchen, celebrate the region's whiskey and fried chicken traditions, drawing locals and tourists for lunch or drinks. The project also restored the main stage, reconnecting the theater to its musical roots. Originally built by the Lawrenceburg Liedertafel Society to foster music and amusement, the building has come full circle—a transformation worth applauding.