



HENDRICKS COUNTY HOMEMAKER HAPPENINGS

Jan.
2026

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

2025-2026 Officers

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

2026 Calendar

- Feb 2:** Council Meeting
- Feb 3:** Leader Lessons (Page 6)
- Feb 12:** Make a Difference Day (Page 3)
- Feb 16:** Office Closed
- Mar 9:** Council Meeting
- Mar 12:** Helping Hands
- Apr 3:** Office Closed
- Apr 7:** Council Meeting
- May 5:** Office Closed
- May 5:** Council Meeting;
- May 7:** Achievement Day
- May 25:** Office Closed
- Jun 9:** Council Meeting
- Jun 28:** Cultural Arts Tour (Page 4)
- July 3:** Office Closed

Happy New Year, Homemakers!!!

The HCEH calendar year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. We have a lot to be proud of during the first half of our year in 2025 and a lot yet to come in 2026.

I'm excited that SO MANY Homemakers participated in Holiday Fest. As our premiere fundraising event, 2025 proved to be UNBELIEVEABLY successful! We will be having a wrap-up Holiday Fest meeting on January 21 @10am, at the Fairgrounds to discuss successful and less-than-successful aspects of the event. We have asked Club Presidents and/ or Club representatives come and share experiences which will make the 2026 event even better!

Because we had such a financially successful event, we have asked for suggestions from Clubs on where we should spend some of the funds. As you discuss this within your Club, please try to think of lesser-known organizations that benefit the County as a whole.

As we move from Winter into Spring we will be having Helping Hands, Leader Lessons (daytime and evening opportunities) and District Day. So, stay tuned!

Ellen Looney,
HCEH President

from the President's Pen

IEHA Families Home Page — 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://bit.ly/4l4gKCK>)

Facebook Page (<http://bit.ly/HCEH-FB>) (Please take a moment to "follow" our Facebook page.)

Committee Reports

Cookies Galore!!!!

Thank You, everyone for all the fabulous cookies. We had traditional, decorated, new recipes, and gluten free cookies. We sold 316 one pound containers, 18 two pound trays and 13 three pound trays. We donated trays to Hendricks Power, the Republican, and Donovan CPAs. Well done, Homemakers!



O Warm Christmas Tree!

Did you get a chance to see the warm homemakers Christmas tree? All the homemakers came through again. We had more warm items than would fit on the tree. We had 6 garbage bags full. They were taken to Brownsburg, Pittsboro, Danville, Coatesville Police Departments and the Hendrick County Sheriff Office. There were a total of 492 items: 126 hats, 61 scarves, 162 pairs of socks, and 143 sets of gloves.

Holiday Fest Sub-Committee

The Holiday Fest Sub-Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 21, at 10 AM at the Board Room at the Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center. Anyone is welcome to attend. At this meeting, we will evaluate the past Holiday Fest and start planning for the next one. If you are unable to attend, but would like to voice your opinion, please feel free to email your thoughts to the council at HCEHCouncil@gmail.com.

Teacher Grant Updates

Our November winner of a HCEH Teacher Grant is Laura Searcy of Cascade High School. Mrs. Searcy has been teaching in the Agricultural Department for 10 years and is also the Director of the Cascade FFA Chapter. In her classes the students learn a wide variety of skills such as small engine repair, welding, construction, and the agriculture curriculum. The welding department at Cascade is used by grades 9-12 as well as the FFA Chapter, who were the district winners for the past two years. Mrs. Searcy will be using the grant to purchase several new pairs of welding gloves to replace the current ones, which were purchased ten years ago and are well worn and have small holes in the fingertips.



The latest project for her classes is creating beautiful picnic tables, which are very sturdy.



These picnic tables are for sale and the money raised will help support other programs and purchase additional needed supplies for their projects. The tables are \$300.00 and if you are interested please call Cascade HS at (317) 539-9315.



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) and Lisa Pitts (pitts15@purdue.edu). Handwritten copies may be given or mailed to Melissa Phillips (9388 S. County Road 100 W., Clayton, 46118).

Newsletter
Deadline

Make A Difference Day

February 12—10am-2pm
Bartlett Chapel

Happy 2026!! I hope you had a great holiday season. Now it is time to get back to work—I mean fun. We are having a four hour time to get together to make a craft for Cypress Manor, decorate a cookie for each of the residents, and make more blankets for Riley. With all that fun you would think it couldn't get any better, but it does. Bring a dish to share and we will have time to eat a meal together!! You won't want to miss this exciting time together. I hope to see you there.

Thank you, Char Lloyd



News Chair

#1: FACEBOOK:

Over the past few months, I have been trying hard to post often on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, take a moment to follow our page. Whenever you see one of our posts, please 'like' it. The more likes it gets, the more it is seen.

I could also use some 'material' for Facebook. There are days that my mind just so blank! Imagine that!!!! So, if your club makes a craft, does something special like dress up in hats, goes on a field trip, etc.; please take a picture and forward it to me with a small paragraph. I can use these as posts on Facebook. Oh, I don't include individual names, but will indicate the Club's name. It's a GREAT way to get people excited about the Homemakers by exposing them to all the fun that we have. Over the next couple of months on Facebook, I will be encouraging people to join. So, these personal posts will help so much.



#2: YOUR OPINION WOULD BE HELPFUL!

I have been tasked with creating a handout for an activity that the Extension Homemakers are sponsoring in March. It would be good to make this handout more "personal" than our regular pamphlet. In order to do this properly, it was suggested that I poll a number of the homemakers by asking some general questions. The answers to these questions can then be pulled together to create the handout.

So, I've sent this request out to about 20 ladies. Unfortunately, I only have received back about 5 responses so far. Oh, I know there is still time! However, since I would really like a few more responses, I thought I would simply put it in the newsletter for anyone to respond.

If you have a few minutes, below are the questions. The answers don't have to be long!

- How many years have you been a homemaker?
- Why did you join Homemakers?
- What's your favorite part of being involved in Homemakers?
- What activity do you like participating in most as a Homemaker?
- What would you say to someone who asked you why they should join?
- What can be done to improve your experience as a homemaker? (This one question is more for the council as we look to the new "Homemaker" year and begin planning.)

Oh, please do not worry, your name will NOT be attached to anything in the pamphlet. If, for some reason, it is decided to use someone's exact words for a quote, the only thing I will use to identify the quote are initials, if that.



Thank you SO much for your time. This will be a big help. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by either email or phone.

Melissa Phillips, HCEH News Chair (PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com // 317-410-6892)



Activities & Lessons



CULTURAL ARTS TOUR AT HENDRICKS LIVE IN PLAINFIELD HENDRICKS COUNTY SYMPHONY CONCERT SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026, 3:00 P.M. STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

The program for this concert has not been determined, but last June the program included the 1812 Overture, the Stars and Stripes Forever, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, and America the Beautiful. It is anticipated that the 2026 concert will include most of this music and other patriotic pieces. The Hendricks County Chorus will also perform.

The concert is 2 hours in length with an additional 20-minute intermission. Concessions are available, but only credit card purchases are accepted. There is no bag policy. Free parking is available at the Plainfield Downtown Parking Structure at 125 N Center St Plainfield, IN 46168. ADA parking is available in the parking lot directly behind the Town of Plainfield Government Center at 206 W Main St Plainfield, IN 46168. All tickets are the same price regardless of where you sit.

Ticket prices for the June concert have yet to be determined and tickets will not be available to purchase until April 1. The price will be set the first part of February. **More information with a payment/reservation form will be e-mailed to each member, including mailbox members, in February and will be in the Homemakers' Happenings in February. If a club member does not have e-mail, please see they get this information.** Once you receive the information you will have approximately one month to return the payment/reservation form. There are only two performances of this concert, and they sell out very quickly. Therefore, tickets will be purchased on April 1. The theater will have a list of those who have purchased tickets. You will go to the Will Call Window at the theater just before the concert to pick-up your ticket. The building opens one hour before the concert. Theater doors opens 30 minutes before the concert.

Health and Human Sciences has several upcoming programs around the community focused on food, cooking, and overall well-being. Whether you are interested in building confidence in the kitchen or learning more about healthy habits, these programs offer something for everyone.

We hope you will join us—registration information is available now or coming soon. Check out the flyer for registration details! Call the office at (317)745-9260 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Amanda Marciano-Feutz,
*Extension Educator Health
and Human Sciences*



EDUCATOR'S

CORNER:

Extension - Health and Human Sciences

UPCOMING HHS PROGRAMS

Cooking for 1 or 2

February 11th
Washington Township Park Pavilion
6-7pm
Registration open - visit Washington Township Park Website

Cooking with Herbs & Herb Benefits

March 11th
Washington Township Park Pavilion
6-7pm
Registration open - visit Washington Township Park Website

Why Sleep Matters/Sleep Benefits

March 12th
Brownsburg Library
6-7pm
Registration coming soon

To stay up to date on HHS community programming, follow us on Facebook!

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For questions call (317)-745-9260 or email at hendrces@purdue.edu



Club News

Chat 'N Do:

Chat N Do had their annual Christmas pitch-in at Rosie Lenahan's beautifully decorated home. After a delicious meal, we enjoyed an auction of items we donated which is our fundraiser for the year.

In January we met at Stacks in Plainfield. Fifteen members and one guest answered roll call. Our guest, Pam Hoffman joined our club.

A Health and Safety lesson was given on Winter Blues. We filled out our 2026-27 Committee Sheet. We recapped the Holiday Fest Cafe. We discussed our assignment for Achievement Day and Home & Family Arts Day at the fair.

We will bring canned fruit for the Blessing Box next month. Reservations for Leader Lessons must be made by January 27th.

After adjourning, we enjoyed lunch and visiting.

Submitted by Karen Hole

Happy Homemakers

In September and October the Happy Homemaker ladies were busy creating crafts. We gathered on September 14 at the "U Paint" store in Plainfield. We each chose a piece of pottery to paint. After much needed help and encouragement from the ladies at the store, we each completed our pieces. When we returned to pick up our 'fired' pieces, most of us were shocked at how good they looked.



In October our meeting was conducted by our new vice president, Pam Short. She did a great job for her first time taking over while our president was on vacation.

Barbara Stockman gave an interesting lesson on "Something that is everywhere and you cannot avoid it." The answer was "Work Zones" and I'll say AMEN to that!

Karen Dayvolt showed us how to make the cutest snowman out of two tin cans. These were messy but lots of fun. I'll be enjoying mine all winter as it's sitting on my kitchen counter.



The Club headed north in November to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We enjoyed our 'eats' at Cracker Barrel in Zionsville.

In December, after our work at the Cookie Walk at the Holiday Fest, we gather the following week at the home of Mary Wooden in Avon for our Christmas party. After snacks and a few fun games, we played 'dirty Santa' and exchanged gifts. It is so wonderful having fun and encouragement of so many friends. This is one of the biggest joys that comes from being a member of Homemakers.

Submitted by Naomi Cook

Hazelwood Homemakers:

The Hazelwood Homemakers will resume meetings in February. We take a break in January, so we will have a lot to catch up on. We had our Christmas lunch at our vice-president's home. We enjoyed a lovely Italian dinner, then had fun exchanging gifts (or rather stealing from each other), for no gift was safe...lol... From hot chocolate to noodles, we enjoyed the Holiday Fest as we had members doing different tasks all through the day. We are looking forward to projects and outings being planned by the council and our club plans. We wish each of you a healthy and happy New Year.

Submitted by Sandy Kelley



Modern Homemakers:

We met on December 18 at Bartlett Chapel. We had 13 members in attendance including another new member, Johana Mitchell. Our hostess for the evening, Melissa Sexton treated us to a hot chocolate bar and Christmas cookies. There were so many things that you can add to hot chocolate. We all shared a favorite Christmas memory or how we are currently spending the holiday. It was lots of fun. Pam gave us a recap on the cookie walk and its success. We all agreed that we need to make more cookie trays next year. Lynn Lillard will go ahead and purchase trays and the bags to put them in now, while they are on markdown prices. After a short business meeting, Ellen gave us a lesson on reindeer and *The Night Before Christmas* poem. We all participated in reading of the poem. Our president, Pam Pizzato, had us play several games of Christmas Bingo for fun prizes.

Submitted by Lynn Lillard

Young Moderns:

Young Moderns Home had to cancel their Christmas Dinner with their husbands due to weather in December. Janell Anderson decided to move it to our January meeting at Missy Call's home. We decided to have a pitch-in meal and a Dirty Santa exchange for all. It was attended by 8 members and their husbands. A very enjoyable evening and laughter by all. We had a short business meeting. We discussed committee duties, and officers needed for this next year. Since we only have 9 members with Karla Janning dropping out, we are struggling to get new members.

We were told the Holiday Fest made a profit this year which was good as this helps with our scholarships to be presented in the Spring. This is January the beginning of a New Year.

Submitted by Sue Hatfield

Praline Crunch Snack Mix

8 cups Crispix cereal
2 cups itty bitty pretzels
2 cups pecan halves
1 cup butter
2 1/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon salt



- Preheat oven to 200°F.
- In a large mixing bowl, add the cereal, pretzels, and pecans. Set aside.
- In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the butter, brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook on medium-high heat until it comes to a boil.
- Reduce the heat to low-medium and let the mixture boil for 5 minutes; remove from the heat.
- Stir in the vanilla and salt.
- Pour the mixture over the cereal and pecans and stir until the pieces are evenly coated, being careful not to crush the cereal.
- Divide the mixture between two sheet pans* and spread out evenly.
- Bake for 1 hour, stirring each pan of praline crunch every 15 minutes.

Remove from the oven and give each pan a good stir (this will help prevent big clumps). Let cool and store in an airtight container.



Hendricks County Extension Homemakers Lessons Tuesday, February 3, 2026

1:00 PM



Let's Sharpen Our Memory

Ever find yourself forgetting names, misplacing keys, or losing track of your to-do list? Don't worry - it's more common than you think! But what if you could boost your memory in fun, effective ways? Join us as we dive into techniques designed to enhance your memory skills. Through interactive activities, relationship building techniques and creative strategies, we'll explore practical ways to keep your mind sharp and your memory stronger than ever.

2:00 PM



Mediterranean Diet & Health Benefits

This lesson explores the history and cultural significance of the Mediterranean diet, highlighting its origins and evolution over time. Participants will learn practical ways to incorporate Mediterranean-inspired foods into their daily meals, focusing on whole grains, lean proteins, healthy fats, and fresh produce. Additionally, the session will cover the scientifically supported health benefits of this eating pattern, including its role in heart health, weight management and chronic disease prevention.

6:00 PM



Strategies For Living on Less

1 Tips and strategies for stretching your income in the areas of food, utilities, cleaning products, personal care items, clothing and entertainment will be shared during this interactive program. Living on less does not have to mean doing without. Join us to learn how to enjoy your current lifestyle while spending less money. If you have a favorite saving tip, please bring that to share as part of the program.

WHERE: HENDRICKS COUNTY 4-H
FAIRGROUNDS & CONFERENCE
COMPLEX, DANVILLE, IN

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

There is no cost to participate, but registration by January 27 is required to allow educators to prepare adequate materials. Scan the link to register or call the Hendricks County Extension Office at 317-745-9260.



Areas that need YOUR help!

Honoring Carol Pearson

The Extension Office has been searching for a meaningful way to honor and remember Carol Pearson, and we feel that a memorial bench at the fairgrounds would be a fitting tribute. We understand that her club—and possibly the council—may have already made a donation to an organization in her name, which is a wonderful and very appropriate way to honor her. We are not asking anyone to duplicate an effort if you have already chosen to remember Carol in another way.

Rather, we are simply offering an additional opportunity for those who knew her to remember Carol here, at the fairgrounds—where she spent so much of her time and gave so much of herself. For those who may not know, Carol worked in the Extension Office for many years, including serving as the HHS Administrative Assistant working closely with the Homemakers.

If you as an organization, or if an individual is interested in contributing, donations should be sent to the following address:

Hendricks County Extension Office
Attention Memorial Bench
PO Box 7
Danville, Indiana 46122

Checks should be payable to the Hendricks County 4-H Fairboard.

Questions can be directed to Lisa Pitts at 317-745-9260 or pitts15@purdue.edu.

Office Supplies:

It has been brought to our attention, that we as Homemakers tend to rely on the Extension Office for various office supplies. The Extension Office has been very gracious over the years to help us out in these cases. However, we really need to begin supplying our own office supplies for the many events that we have at the Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center. SO! We are starting to collect office supplies and place at the Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, so they would be available to any Homemaker when needed.

Do you have any extra pencils, pens, sharpies, post-in-notes, stapler/staples, markers, paper clips, rubber bands, or other miscellaneous office supplies? If so, please give them to your Club President at your next Club meeting to bring to the following Council meeting. You may, of course, give the office supplies directly to one of our County Officers. Thank you for your help in this area!



Needed!!! Assistant Director for Home & Family Arts Open Class

Our organization is on the lookout for someone willing to step up as an **Assistant** for the **Home and Family Arts Open Class Show!** This assistant help with the planning and execution of the open Class Show this coming July; be a back up the Director when needed; and also bring your own ideas to the table. We are hoping that the Assistant will continue in that role for the following year (2027), and then be willing to step up into the Director's shoes for 2028.

If you're the type who loves organizing things, enjoys teamwork, and isn't afraid to lend a hand when things get busy, this might be your moment to shine. It's a great way to get more involved in the Homemakers without wearing the BIG HAT *and* have some fun along the way.

If you're interested—or if you know someone who'd be perfect for it—please reach out to Kim Weber at kimweber36@yahoo.com or 317-745-7247.



Heartfelt Message from the HCEH Council

Ladies,

We have two positions on the Council which need to be filled for the 2026-2027 calendar year and **your** help is needed. The two positions are: Vice-President and Education Chair. Below are the job descriptions as outlined in the current By-Laws (located in the HCEH Program Book which are distributed to all HCEH members -typically in June each year or at the time of joining). More descriptive comments for each position have been added in italics.

We are reaching a **critical juncture** where we may not be able to continue contributing to the Hendricks County community as much as possible without filling these positions. If you are interested or know of someone who might be a good fit for either position, please reach out to either Melissa Mikesell (Nominations), our County President, Ellen Looney, or anyone else on the Council.

HCEH Vice President:

- a. Assume the duties of the President upon request.
- b. Be of assistance to the President.
- c. Serve on the Budget and Review Committee. ****Typically, one meeting outside of the Council for each of these items***
- d. Set dates for the following and clear with Conference Center Rental Coordinator. Dates to be printed in the coming year's Program Book: ****This is a committee lead project. Club VPs are encouraged to assist in completing the annual Program Book***
 - Achievement Day
 - Holiday Fest
 - Council Meetings
 - Educational Programs
 - Make a Difference Day
 - Have a Program Book ready to go to the printer by May 1st.



HCEH Education Chair:

- a. Be responsible for the establishment of and/or chairmanship of the Scholarship Committee. ****This committee already exists as part of HCEH. It is most active during the Winter and early Spring. In the recent past, the Chair of this Committee annually reviews: the application for students, the metric for reviewers, sets deadlines for applications, sets meetings for reviewers, promotes scholarships within the County, reports the outcome to applicants, works with HCEH Treasurer to make sure funds arrive at academic institution, and invites awardees to the HCEH Achievement Day in May of each year***
- b. Encourage and report on Home and Family Conference Awards such as 'First Timer' and 'I want to go again' ****The IHEA (Indiana Home Extension Association) provides applications, instructions and award recipients***



Sincerely,
HCEH Council
(HCEHCouncil@gmail.com)

