



Terri Richardson | The Journal Gazette

The Sunken Gardens in Huntington is in a former quarry and features beautiful landscaping and ponds filled with fish.

OUR TOWNS

# Huntington more than Nick's

TERRI RICHARDSON  
The Journal Gazette

You won't find a "Main Street" in downtown Huntington. Actually, the city's main street is Jefferson Street — a one-way road lined with a coffee shop, antique and thrift stores, businesses and restaurants that takes you through the heart of downtown.

One of those businesses has been a staple in Huntington for more than 100 years — Nick's Kitchen.

It's in this diner that both locals and visitors have gathered to sample the restaurant's famous breaded tenderloin (it's been at the top of many magazines, TV food shows and reviewers' lists of being one of the best in the state and country) or sampling a piece of pie.

On a rainy Saturday in May, Nick's was packed with diners during the lunch hour. One of those people was Shirley Lima, who graduated from Lancaster High School in 1958 but now lives in Dallas. She was there visiting with three other friends, classmates Sandra Boxell and Nancy Rogers and friend, Kate Nave, whose husband was a classmate of the three women.

Lima says a visit to Nick's is a must when she comes back home. The others agreed.

There's no doubt that

## ABOUT HUNTINGTON

**Population:** 36,240 (2018 census estimate)

**County:** Huntington

**Founded:** Formed in 1832

■ Named for Samuel Huntington, president of the Continental Congress under The Articles of Confederation who signed the Declaration of Independence.

■ It earned the nickname "The Lime City" because of the natural limestone deposits in the area.

■ Home to former Vice President Dan Quayle, who served from 1989 to 1993, and the Quayle Vice Presidential Learning Center.

■ A must-see is the Sunken Gardens, which started out as a stone quarry and then turned into a beautiful garden with trees, ponds, pergolas and stone bridges, located in Memorial Park.

■ Home to the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, or known as the Victory Noll Sisters, which has a long history dating back to 1922. The beautiful Victory Noll home, which is built in Spanish Mission-style, includes interesting architecture and a sprawling property.

Nick's is one of the favorites of this city of more than 17,000. But it is just one of many attributes the city boasts.

Huntington is a neat blend of old and new. With the growing Huntington University campus, as well as businesses and factories, it is able to keep its small town charm but still offer its residents a number of opportunities.

Steve Kimmel, executive director of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce, says the way the city balances the old and new is "that we try to think backwards and forward, we look where we came from, our heritage, the people that ac-

tually built this community, and honor those individuals."

And it's the people that live in Huntington that make it a great place to live, Kimmel says. "We have really great people that live locally."

The city also has great amenities, a vibrant downtown, a robust reservoir system and really nice restaurants, Kimmel says.

Kimmel says Huntington is very fortunate to have a university in its community. He says Huntington University has been a pillar in the community and "attracts a lot of people to our community, students from around the state and nation."

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY



Photos by Michelle Davies | The Journal Gazette

Numerous shops are within walking distance along Main Street in Roanoke.

OUR TOWNS

# Downtown shopping made easy

**TERRI RICHARDSON**  
*The Journal Gazette*

Roger Couch hands a visitor a small flyer.

The flyer lists all the upcoming events for the year in Roanoke. It's one of the things Couch likes best about the small community in northern Huntington County.

That and the fact Roanoke is a "nice, friendly community," says Couch, who owns Grandma Sue's Pies and More with his wife, Susan.

The couple moved to Roanoke from Huntington in 2004 and Susan, or Grandma Sue, eventually opened the store to sell her pies. So far, she has made more than 38,000 of them.

The shop is along a strip of downtown businesses and boutique shops.

The proximity of many of the shops makes it easy to walk to them, says Kelly Moses of Fort Wayne, who was in Roanoke in early May, shopping with her sisters-in-law Rachael Veenstra of Fort Wayne and Kelbi Veenstra of Nappanee.

"It's a cute little small town," Kelbi Veenstra says.



Downtown Roanoke underwent a revitalization in the 1990s.

## ABOUT ROANOKE

**Population:** 1,694 (2018 census estimate)

**County:** Huntington

**Founded:** 1848

■ The town was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Miami Indians.

■ Became a top shipping and trading location as part of the Wabash & Erie Canal in the mid-19th century.

Roanoke oozes charm, making it a great destination spot or place to live because of its location between Fort Wayne and Huntington.

The town was a prosperous commercial center in the mid-19th century, being a location for a lock as part of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

However, things started to decline many years later until the town conducted a revitalization of its historic downtown in the 1990s.

Now the town boasts art galleries, antique shops, clothing stores, cafés, a winery and upscale restaurants. It also has a 25-acre park that becomes the center of many of the town's events, including its annual Fourth of July activities.

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FOCUS ON QUALITY OF LIFE

# Eshelman crucial to Roanoke success

**SARA FIEDELHOLTZ**  
*Fort Wayne Magazine*

When it comes to Roanoke, it can be said that Pete Eshelman, co-owner with his wife, Alice, of Joseph Decuis restaurant and farm, helped put this rural town on the map.

In 1986, when Eshelman was recruited to northeast Indiana by Lincoln National Life Insurance, he, Alice and their growing family chose to live in Roanoke, and a few years later when he decided to go out on his own and start a sports and entertainment insurance company, he based it in Roanoke.



Eshelman

"I thought Roanoke was pretty cool and at the time it had some old buildings that I could afford to purchase. It was close to the farm where we lived and the airport, and that was the beginning of my involvement with Roanoke," Eshelman said.

As his insurance business grew, Eshelman acquired more buildings downtown and restored them. Eshelman said he made the choice early on that he was going to preserve the historical character of the buildings and maintain the charm of this turn-of-the-century town.

"The insurance business was the economic driver for my involvement with Roanoke," he said. "I think understanding the area's history was huge because it gave the area distinction. People who live here are proud of Roanoke's history. We helped to create something special because the community became the caretakers of this historic frontier town."

As Eshelman was busy growing his insurance business, his wife got involved with the Roanoke community and helped to establish special annual events, festivals and programs.

The nationally award-winning Joseph Decuis restaurant began as a private dining room for Eshelman's clients when they were in town.

"In 2000, we opened the restaurant to the public and it became the economic driver for downtown Roanoke," Eshelman said. "The restaurant was the anchor that drew other businesses; in the last 10 years between the restaurant and inn we own, along with the shops, additional restaurants and the winery down the road, Roanoke has become a destination."

The restaurant has consistently earned the Best of Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator, AAA's Four Diamond Award, and was voted Indiana's No. 1 restaurant (and one of the top 50 in the United States) by Open Table. It was also recently recognized by Open Table as one of the top 100 eco-friendly restaurants in America.

"When we started the restaurant, its mission was to be one of the top fine-dining establishments in the country. We started the farm so we could ensure we had great food and began raising our own produce and raising the renown Japanese wagyu beef which brought international attention to the restaurant and farm," Eshelman said.

Joseph Decuis is the only restaurant in the U.S. to raise its own wagyu beef. Eshelman was recently appointed president of the America Wagyu Association.

The Eshelmans are continuing to bring attention to northeast Indiana with their high-quality and innovative cuisine with the announcement that they will open a spinoff of its Joseph Decuis restaurant with a more casual approach in Fort Wayne's Electric Works project.

# FOCUS

on Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana

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QUALITY OF LIFE

## History not far away

### No need to travel sizable distances to visit a museum

**BLAKE SERRING**  
For The Journal Gazette

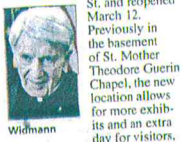
Maybe the budget dictates a staycation this summer, or maybe the kids' extracurricular schedule means there's limited time for anything too extensive as a family.

Or, maybe the opportunities in the area are just too intriguing to pass up.

Northeast Indiana is home to a number of small museums that are relatively inexpensive but can capture the attention of adults and children alike. Everyone knows of The History Center, Fort Wayne Museum of Art or the Kruse museums in Auburn, but here's a list of some of the cooler, smaller collections in the area.

### Diocesan Museum

Formerly known as Cathedral Museum, the Museum of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was recently relocated to 1103 S. Calhoun St. and reopened March 17.



Widmann

Previously in the basement of St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, the new location allows for more exhibits and an extra day for visitors, according to director Father Phillip Widmann, who founded the museum in 1980.

"We've got about 40 more items up than we've ever had before," Widmann said. "That includes some of the paintings Bishop Dwenger brought back from Europe, some of the statues that we didn't have room for before and some of the little odds and ends mostly. It just all fits together."

Wonder who Bishop Luers or Bishop Dwenger high schools were named for? This is the place to ask while observing some amazing paintings and stained glass window displays. There's even a handwritten scholar's Bible thought to be written about 1250. There are also statues, chalices and other interesting religious items.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, go to [www.diocesefwsh.org/Diocesan-Museum](http://www.diocesefwsh.org/Diocesan-Museum).

### Karpeles Manuscript Library

There's actually the manuscript library at 2410 Fairfield Ave. and a map museum at 3039 Piqua Ave.



Photos by Mike Moore | The Journal Gazette

Stained-glass window displays are among the attractions offered at Diocesan Museum on South Calhoun Street.



Following its relocation in March, Diocesan Museum is able to display 40 additional items.

The Karpeles exhibits are part of a national rotation of displays. According to Director Al Brothers, Fort Wayne is one of only two cities that have both manuscript and map museums. The manuscript museum currently has displays on Samuel Morse and the invention of Morse Code and permanent exhibits of large-scale models of ships the USS Constitution, a Spanish Vasa, HMS Victory and the Galleon. There are also Egyptian sandstone and figurines, a 1793 map of Fort Wayne and an original proposal for the first modern Olympic Games.

Go to [www.rain.org/~karpeles/fw/m.html](http://www.rain.org/~karpeles/fw/m.html).

### Luckey Hospital Museum

After serving local communities from 1930 to 1957, Luckey Hospital stood as a nursing home until 2000 when it was converted into a museum, according to the

facility's website, [www.luckeyhospitalmuseum.org](http://www.luckeyhospitalmuseum.org).

The hospital was run by J.E. Luckey and his sons, Robert and Harold. J.E. Luckey's two great-nieces, Mary Adams and Shirley Hile, converted the building into a museum to show off their collection of obsolete equipment. Their collection includes an iron lung for polio patients, a cooling board, which was used to preserve bodies during winter months until they could be buried, and other historic medical equipment and clothing.

The museum, at U.S. 33 and Indiana 109 in Wolf Lake, is open by appointment only.

### Mid-American Windmill Museum

The major purpose of the museum at 732 S. Allen Chapel Road in Kendallville was to display all windmills manufactured at Kendallville's Flint and Walling Co.

Since opening in 1992, 52 windmills have been collected for display. Perhaps sticking to its historical roots, the museum does not accept credit cards.

For more information, go to [www.midamericawindmillmuseum.org](http://www.midamericawindmillmuseum.org).

### Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum

This is a part of history that's fun for both adults and kids — especially the kids.

Located at 226 W. Washington Blvd., in what was once the city's largest firehouse, there are all kinds of antique vehicles like an 1848 Button Hand Pumper and an early Steamer on display.

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For information, go to [www.fortwaynefiremuseum.com](http://www.fortwaynefiremuseum.com).

### Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site

This one takes a bit of a drive but highlights one of the most famous women in state history.

Gene Stratton-Porter wrote 12 novels, seven nature studies and various books of poetry, magazine articles and children's stories. In 1912, her family moved to Sylvan Lake where they built the cabin "Wildflower Woods."

With eight of her books being turned into films, she moved about 1919 to California where she died in 1924 from injuries suffered in a car crash.

Among the interesting items on the site are a 16-room log cabin, the grounds and garden.

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## HISTORY

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For more, go to [www.genestratton-porter.com](http://www.genestratton-porter.com).

### Hoosier Air Museum

There's more than 16,000 square feet of photographs, books, videos and models about aviation at 2822 County Road 62 in Auburn, but the thing that gets everyone excited are the aircraft, including planes and helicopters from 1915 to 1996.

It is open weekends from mid-March until early December from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, go to [www.hoosierairmuseum.org](http://www.hoosierairmuseum.org).

### Dan Quayle Learning Center

Opened in 1993 as the Dan Quayle Center and Museum in honor of former Vice President Dan Quayle, who is from Huntington, the facility was renamed as the Quayle Vice Presidential Learning Center in 2008 and is home of the United States Vice Presidential Museum.

At 815 Warren St. in Huntington, the facility appeals to historians, but its main focus is educational programming. Topics include presidential elections, the Constitution, Congress, the General Assembly, symbols of Indiana and the nation, Indiana natives who have served as vice president and the history of the nation's vice presidents.

The center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. week-

days. There's more information at [historyeducates.org](http://historyeducates.org).

### Sheets Wildlife Museum and Learning Center

Another option while visiting Huntington is Sheets Wildlife Museum, which opened in 2005 to showcase the collection of Summer B. Sheets, a farmer who made hunting expeditions around the world. Wildlife specimens are preserved in taxidermy.

For more on the facility at 200 Safari Trail in Huntington, go to [www.sheetswildlifemuseum.com](http://www.sheetswildlifemuseum.com).

### Garrett Historical Railroad Museum

At 300 N. Randolph St. in Garrett, the site of a former

Baltimore & Ohio freight station has been restored to reflect a typical rural railroad station of the early 1900s.

According to the website (<https://thegarrethistorical.society.weebly.com>), the basement of the museum is home to the Greater Midcontinent Railroad Co., an HO-scale model railroad layout. Outside is a passenger car and a former Chesapeake and Ohio caboose.

### Greater Fort Wayne Aviation Museum

Before aviation security rules changed following 9/11, everyone visiting Fort Wayne International Airport (then called Baer Field) could visit the museum. Now, it's only open to passengers who have cleared security or are

participating on a previously arranged tour.

Along with displays of aviation at Baer Field throughout its history, the museum showcases the lives of Fort Wayne natives Art Smith and World War I ace Paul Baer.

Tours are free and can be arranged by calling 747-4146, ext. 433. The website is [fwairport.com/fort-wayne-international/aviation-museum](http://fwairport.com/fort-wayne-international/aviation-museum).

### Chief Richardville House

Jean Baptiste de Richardville's home at 5705 Bluffton Road is recognized as the

Midwest's oldest Native American structure.

Built in 1827, the house was named a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

Richardville, the son of a French fur trader and a Miami Indian who was the sister of Chief Little Turtle, built a trading empire by taking advantage of the St. Marys and Wabash rivers.

The Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society bought the property in 1991 and restored the building's interior. Tours are offered the first Saturdays of May through November.

For more, go to [www.fwhistorycenter.com/ChiefRichardvilleHouse.html](http://www.fwhistorycenter.com/ChiefRichardvilleHouse.html).

...ing. In addition, the city has seen a growth in businesses, she says.

North Manchester is also considered a college town with Manchester University sitting in its backyard.

Vanderpool says Main Street Alive, which is a collaboration of Manchester Main Street and North Manchester Chamber of Commerce, is not only fo-

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