

Hear About

Hamilton County Tourism News

Hamilton County cities gain national attention

Accolades continue to pile up for Hamilton County cities thanks to high quality-of-life, affordability, schools, parks and more. Just this month, Carmel was named the No. 1 “Most Livable,” by Money Magazine and No. 1 “Best Small City to Raise a Family” by SmartAsset.com. Money Magazine named Fishers the “Best Place to Live” in the U.S. (Carmel was named No. 16). Carmel, Fishers and Westfield were the top three cities on Wallet Hub’s “Best Cities to Raise a Family in Indiana.”

All this attention not only makes residents feel good about living here, it helps Hamilton County gain attention nationally by people thinking of visiting or moving to the area. Economic growth helped land Fishers on Money Magazine’s exclusive list. The publication cited major redevelopment projects, job growth, affordable housing and an emphasis on parks and community. The ranking comes as the spotlight shines on Fishers with the recent openings of IKEA, Topgolf and Portillo’s. Money Magazine sifts through all kinds of research to calculate where you can realize the good life. It considers growing jobs, quality schools, cultural and recreational resources and affordable houses.

The \$90 million in Fishers’ downtown redevelopment projects caught the attention of the magazine, as it has captured the attention of businesses wanting to relocate to the city. Moody’s Analytics projects 11.6 percent job growth by 2021. The \$40 million Yard project will bring as many as 18 new restaurants and entertainment venues with a culinary incubator all just down the road from IKEA on 116th Street.

Other attributes that helped Fishers land the top spot were the city’s 24 parks and 104 miles of nature and multiuse paths. It’s not the first time Fishers has been on the top 10 Best Places to Live list. Fishers ranked No. 8 in 2010 and No. 12 in 2012, the same year that Carmel won the No. 1 ranking.

[See the full article.](#)

USA Today – in announcing Carmel as the Most Livable City in the U.S. – said people who live in Carmel are healthy, wealthy and well educated, noting that 70 percent of people in Carmel has a bachelor’s degree. It’s also one of the safest places in the country. The ranking comes from analysis from 24/7 Wall St., which created an index of more than three dozen socioeconomic measures to identify the 50 best American cities to live. The most livable cities span the country – from the Deep South to New England and from the mid-Atlantic to the Pacific Northwest. [See the full article.](#)



Colts finds new home for training camp at Grand Park

The City of Westfield signed a 10-year agreement with the Indianapolis Colts to host the annual training camp at Grand Park beginning in 2018. The training camp should bring thousands of fans seeking to get a first look at new draft picks, nab autographs from Colts veterans and wander around an expanded (72,000-square-foot) Colts City fan experience.

“To have an NFL team committed to Grand Park for a decade proves that our facility is not only a premiere venue for youth sports, but also for professional athletes,” Westfield Mayor Andy Cook said.

Grand Park will be only the third spot for the Colts off-site, summer training camp. Anderson University hosted the camp from 2010 through 2016, and from 1984-1998. From 1999 through 2010, training camp was at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute. This past summer, training camp was conducted at the team’s complex on Indianapolis west side, which severely limited fan access. That will change in 2018 with expanded fan experiences.

“Holding training camp at Grand Park will give our team a chance to practice at a top-notch facility in addition to giving us the chance to connect with our fans as we prepare for the season,” said Colts General Manager Chris Ballard during the contract announcement. “The venue is located in an ideal proximity to our fan base, and we feel this is an advantageous move for the Indianapolis Colts.”

Nearly 20,000 fans attended camp in 2016, down from more than 38,000 in 2015. While Colts City will be expanded at Grand Park, the Colts also plan to bring Play 60, an NFL initiative designed to tackle childhood obesity by encouraging kids to live healthier lives by being active at least 60 minutes every day.



Introducing the Partner Information Network

To help hotels, restaurants, attractions and other partners promote their events and discounts, get business leads, order travel guides and have access to other resources, Hamilton County Tourism launched the Partner Information Network (PIN). This online portal makes it easy for partners to have all the information they need in one location.

This extranet site allows partners to manage their HCT account, upload photos and videos, see advertising opportunities and even connect with other partners through Post Board, which will allow partners to pose questions or post comments about tourism-related issues. While Hamilton County Tourism has more than 900 partners, it's the first time there has been a forum allowing them to connect, share and learn from one another.

“We want to provide resources, information, connections and opportunities to help support the business goals of our partners,” said Hamilton County Tourism President/CEO Brenda Myers. “The Partner Information Network puts all this information in one spot, making it easier for our hospitality partners to promote their information, and respond to leads.”

Partners also will be able to request publications, such as the travel guides, maps, trail guides, golf guides and more. If you have questions about how to use the PIN, or you are interested in becoming a HCT partner, contact [Megann Kramer](#).