

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6  
June 2025



## DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the LJC class of 2024-2025! This year's graduates completed a transformational journey of leadership, service, and innovation, leaving a lasting impact on our community. From supporting new moms and celebrating diversity, to promoting local parks and preserving history, their projects are a powerful reminder of what leadership in action looks like.

Well done, class of 2025; Jackson County is better because of you!  
- Rexanne Ude



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:

- ⇒ Director Spotlight with Rexanne Ude
- ⇒ Sponsor Shout Out
- ⇒ Student Moment

Page 2:

- ⇒ YoJACK

Page 3:

- ⇒ LJC Class of 2025

Pages 4-5:

- ⇒ 2025 Leadership Class Projects

Pages 6-8:

- ⇒ Where in Jackson County is LJC?

Page 9:

- ⇒ We Want to Hear From You
- ⇒ Supporting Our Youth
- ⇒ Sponsors Needed

## SPONSOR SHOUT OUT



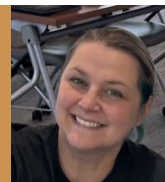
Thank you for continuing to support  
Leadership Jackson County!

## STUDENT MOMENT

Randall Rust  
Schwätzer's German Restaurant

**What did you enjoy most about LJC?**

I enjoyed getting out of my comfort zone to meet new people and getting the opportunity to network with people that I wouldn't have otherwise met.



# YoJACK



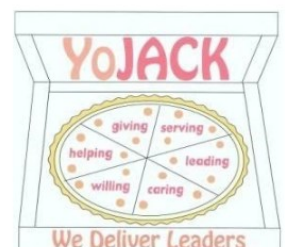
The latest YoJACK semester ended with our graduation meeting in early May. Mayor Matt Nicholson read a proclamation and declared the day, "YoJACK Day. During the 2004-2005 school year, a total of 82 students participated in the YoJACK program, learning many different leadership skills such as philanthropy, public speaking and team-building.

We are currently in the process of selecting students for the 2025 -2026 school year. The selection process is always a challenge and this year is no different. We received 114 applications for approximately 80 spots in the next cohort.

- Karen Haas, YoJACK Director



YoJACK is offered at no cost to all participants and relies on financial support from corporate and individual sponsors and the fundraising efforts of LJC. If you would like more information on how to help support YoJACK, please email Karen Haas, YoJACK Director, at [yojackindiana@gmail.com](mailto:yojackindiana@gmail.com).





# LJC Class of 2025





# 2025 Leadership Class Projects

## Health Team

Team Members: Les Chase, Amber Kessler, Grace Otte, Megan Sinclair, and Lisa Vermillion

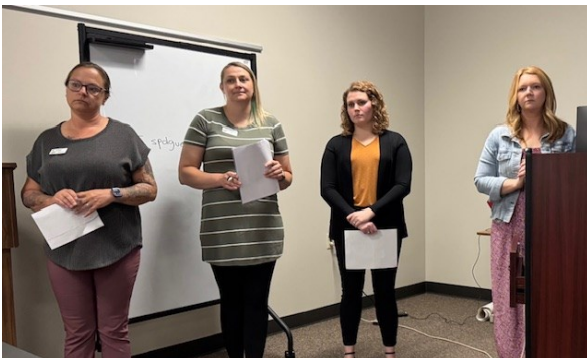
Project: **Empowering Motherhood**— A wellness event focused on prenatal care and resources for expectant mothers and families. This no-cost event was held on May 10th and included a “baby shower” for expectant mothers and mothers with children under 6 months of age. 21 vendors participated in the event which was held at Girls Inc. All 26 attendees each received a diaper bag filled with supplies and there were several other baby items and raffle items given away as well.



## Community Growth/Awareness Team

Team Members: Emily Goens, Katie Leitzman, Randall Rust, Jaylyn Stam, and Lisa Williams

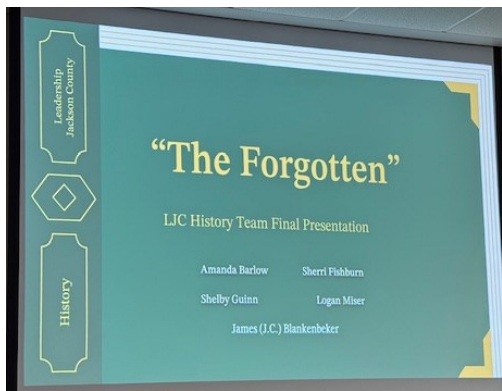
Project: **Seymour Parks & Recreation Guide**— The team created a guide to help families and the community to discover local parks and recreation activities. The guide highlights park locations, amenities and seasonal events. It also offers tips for planning visits and making the most of outdoor spaces. The guides will be available at Girls Inc, Boys & Girls Club, the Jackson County Public Library, and the Parks & Recreation office.



## Social Concerns Team

Team Members: Jacquie Bryant, Megan Grunden, Brandon Joray, Heather Keith, and Kristin Norman

Project: **Crossroads of Culture**— The group teamed up with the Seymour City Youth Council to host a “Crossroads of Culture” event. The event was held April 5th at Seymour Middle School. Community groups were offered a chance to bring an engaging booth to showcase characteristics within their respective cultures in an environment that was safe, fun, educational, and open to everyone. There were over 150 attendees at this event in its inaugural year.



## History Team

Team Members: Amanda Barlow, JC Blankenbeker, Sherri Fishburn, Shelby Guinn, and Logan Miser

Project: **The Forgotten**— This project focused on seeking out forgotten and unique historic places and aspects of each township in Jackson County including: Jackson, Redding, Carr, Brownstown, Driftwood, Salt Creek, Grassy Fork, Hamilton, Owen, Pershing, Vernon, and Washington townships. A booklet is being printed and will be made available to the public at the Jackson County Public Library, Jackson County Visitor Center, and TA Travel Center in Seymour.

**Success**— *The predictable result of hard work, patience, sacrifice, digging deep and pushing hard every day.*



## Where in Jackson County is LJC?

Follow along with this year's LJC class as they travel around Jackson County! We'll share spotlights of the places visited as well as highlights of the organizations that meet with the class of '25.



**Seymour Freeman Field Municipal Airport** is owned by the City of Seymour and operated under the direction of the Airport Authority Board. Freeman Field was built during WWII and served as a twin-engine training facility for pilots during the war. It has been named to the list of Historical Sites in Indiana. The Freeman Army Airfield Museum, located across the street from the airport, is dedicated to sharing the history of Freeman Field. The airport remains operational with four runways that can land a variety of aircrafts. Colin Smith is the Airport Manager.



**Jackson County Community Theatre** began performances in 1971, before they had a dedicated building. The Royal Off-The-Square Theatre was rented by the organization beginning in 1974 and purchased in 1980. Annually, the theatre produces five plays per year at the Royal, plus a dinner theatre at The Pines Evergreen Room in Seymour. If you are interested in volunteering, or purchasing tickets to an upcoming production, visit <https://www.jcct.org>.

**Southern Indiana Center for the Arts (SICA)** is a not-for-profit organization that provides art education and enjoyment to the surrounding communities, both in a gallery and studio environment. SICA was originally established in 1990 by John Mellencamp and offers many programs throughout the year. Members receive discounts on classes and art supplies, while helping to provide tax-deductible financial support to SICA. Silas Cheo is the current Executive Director. For more information, visit <https://www.soinart.com> or follow SICA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ArtatSICA/>.

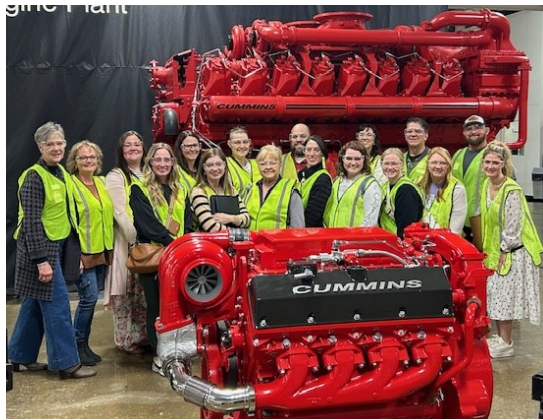


**Seymour City Hall** operates in what was formerly the Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Company. Built in 1929, the building's architecture is an attention-grabber in its downtown location. Within City Hall, the Johnson Meeting Room has been utilized as a space for our LJC classes as well as board meetings when our usual meeting spaces are not available. This year, flooding prevented the LJC class from visiting the Jackson County Learning Center, so they finished their daily reflection at City Hall.





**Cummins Seymour Engine Plant** allowed this year's class to take a tour of their facility and many were surprised and impressed by how clean the facility is, even in the manufacturing area. Cummins SEP produces high-horsepower engines including the company's largest diesel engine. The company is mindful of the environmental impact of their products and have shared that their goal is for their products to produce zero emissions by 2050. Cummins is a major employer in Jackson County employing over 1,000 people at its Seymour location.



LJC class members took a tour of **Seymour High School** and learned about the educational pathways that are currently being offered. SHS offers 34 Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses including areas such as construction, agriculture, welding, manufacturing, engineering, nursing, and other fields. They also offer dual credit college course options in partnership with Ivy Tech and Vincennes University. The school not only encourages project-based learning, but also service-based learning opportunities through participation in a school sport or club, and/or work-based learning through internships or paid positions for high school seniors. The goal is for Seymour High School students to be well-prepared to enter the local workforce, attend college or trade school, or enlist in military service upon graduation. Students have the opportunity to graduate with experience that often qualifies them for higher-level positions than they would otherwise have without these educational pathways.





## We want to hear from you

What you like to see in future editions of our quarterly newsletter? Feel free to reach out to us via our website or on Facebook with your ideas.

<https://www.leadershipjacksoncounty.com/>

## Supporting Our Youth

The Community Foundation of Jackson County provided an annual update and grant disbursement about two funds that were set up to support YoJACK. Board members were on hand to accept \$500 from the Jackson County Youth Fund as well as \$2,316 from the Nita Mousa YoJACK Fund. Both funds are managed by the Community Foundation and anyone can donate to help grow these through a one-time gift, regular giving, or through an endowment. For more information on how you can donate, contact Dan Davis at (812) 523-4483.



## Sponsors Needed!

We are currently seeking individual and corporate sponsors for the 2025-2026 YoJACK cohorts. If you or your organization is interested in supporting our youth leadership program, please visit our website at:

[www.leadershipjacksoncounty.com/support](http://www.leadershipjacksoncounty.com/support).

