



Artist's rendering of the new \$300 million Hard Rock Casino-Northern Indiana in Gary. The opening day is May 14 following a week-long celebration.

## HARD ROCK CASINO-NORTHERN INDIANA OPENING MAY 14, 2021

Hard Rock International announced Tuesday that its new land-based casino in Gary, Hard Rock Casino-Northern Indiana, will open its doors to the public on May 14. Highlights of a week-long celebration will be, a Friends and Family event taking place on May 11, with a VIP only opening on May 13.

Hard Rock International and Spectacle Entertainment are partners in the \$300 million Gary project. The casino complex, is located off Interstate 80/94 at the Burr Street exit.

## COVID-19 VACCINE



Governor Eric J. Holcomb delivered a statewide address to lay out the road ahead for Hoosiers in the fight against COVID-19.

The state public health emergency will be renewed for another 30 days, beginning April 1. The state plans to open vaccine eligibility to all Hoosiers 16 years and older on Wednesday, March 31, provided Indiana receives a large increase in the amount of vaccine as outlined by the federal government. Additional mass vaccination clinics will be scheduled for April and the state will implement a large employer vaccination program.

The statewide face covering mandate will become a mask advisory on April 6. Face coverings will remain mandatory in all state buildings and facilities. Mayor Jerome Prince says the city of Gary's mask mandate will stay in place until April 8, will COVID-19 numbers are tracked.

Gov. Holcomb said. "It's up to each and every one of us to do our part to stay on our course."

## CGI COMMUNICATIONS

The Chamber is excited to announce our partnership with CGI Communications, Inc., along with the City of Gary and Mayor Jerome Prince to produce a series of professionally produced videos to highlight everything Gary has to offer residents, visitors, and business owners. As a part of this program, our Chamber Members will get the first look at this project and you will have the opportunity to showcase your business. Project Manager: Mark Tatar with CGI will be reaching out to our Chamber members in the coming weeks to schedule a quick meeting to showcase the project and sponsorship opportunities. If you would like to learn more about the program and get one of the first looks you can email or call Mark Tatar directly to request an appointment at [mtatar@cgicompany.com](mailto:mtatar@cgicompany.com) or his Cell at 585-748-5533 (see attached press release).



## CITY OF GARY INCOME PILOT PROGRAM

Gary Mayor Jerome Prince announced the city of Gary will participate in a universal income pilot program. The Guaranteed Income Validation Effort (GIVE) is a privately funded pilot program that gives \$500 a month basic income to 125 people chosen by a lottery. This program is designed for families struggling during this economic down turn.

For additional information contact the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services 219-881-4815.



Gary Chamber of Commerce

## EBD COMMITTEE UPDATE

The March monthly meeting of the Chamber's Economic/Business Development Committee hosted an informational ZOOM meeting with guest speaker, Mr. Taryl Bonds, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Gary Housing Authority. Mr. Bonds briefed the committee on his vision for the future of the Housing Authority, the revitalization of the city's Broadway corridor, and the re-development of the city's housing complexes that have been razed.

Mr. Bonds expressed many ways the Chamber can be of assistance with the future of these developments. The EBD Committee will share this info when it becomes available. Stay Tuned!

## What's up Chuck?



Chuck Hughes  
President/CEO

### COVID-19

Happy that we seem to be turning the corner with the virus but let's be diligent, follow the science. We want our schools and businesses to open. But we want them to **"Stay Open"**

Happy Easter



**IVY TECH**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On Saturday, April 10 the Ivy Tech Foundation is hosting it's 17th Annual spring Fundraiser, this year with COVID-friendly carryout cuisine.

For the first-time ever the event will take place for 2 days, from 11am and 2pm, Saturday, April 10 at Aberdeen Manor in Valparaiso and on Sunday April 11 at Theo's Steakhouse in Highland.

Tickets to order your takeout meals, which will include a FREE bottle of wine can be purchased on line at [connect.ivytech.edu/meal](https://connect.ivytech.edu/meal). For more information, contact Cindy Hall, 219-476-4710 or [cjhall@ivytech.edu](mailto:cjhall@ivytech.edu) (see attached flyer).

### Mass Vaccination Site to Open at Gary's Roosevelt High School

Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb, together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced that an eight-week mass vaccination clinic with the capacity to administer 3,000 COVID-19 vaccines a day will open in Gary. A total of 2,000 vaccine doses per day will be administered at the Gary location. A media bliss will take place on April 6 beginning promptly at 10:30am for the vaccination process RSVP to the Chamber for this event.

The clinic will run from April 7 to June 2 on the grounds of the former Roosevelt High School, 730 W. 25th Ave., Gary. The vaccination clinic will be a drive-thru or walk-thru operation from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT seven days a week and will offer first doses of the Pfizer vaccine during the first three weeks of operation and will be guaranteed a second dose during the fourth, fifth, and sixth weeks of the clinic. The single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be administered the final two weeks of the operation.

For current eligibility requirements, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov>. Registration for the mass vaccination and mobile sites is expected to open the month

### Indiana University Bicentennial Medal Award

Gary Mayor Jerome Prince was Awarded the Indiana University Bicentennial Medal for his longstanding commitment to Fostering positive change in the city of Gary, Indiana.

Indiana University Northwest



Chancellor Ken Iwama, (l) awarded Mayor Prince (r) the Bicentennial Medal. This medal is given to people and organizations who have "broadened the university's reach through personal efforts". "It's an honor to accept this award on behalf of the people of the City of Gary" said Mayor Prince.

Among the past recipients of the IU Bicentennial Medal have been, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, billionaire investor Mark Cuban as well as our very own Chamber President/CEO Charles "Chuck" Hughes.

## Gary Chamber of Commerce News Briefs — Mark Your Calendar

- ▶ **Congratulations to Tolbert & Tolbert LLC, PR firm partners Shelice R. Tolbert and Michael E. Tolbert for the 2nd year in a row of being included on Indiana's Super Lawyers list for 2021. Attorneys are selected through an evaluation process that includes professional achievement and peer recognition. The list represent the top 5% of lawyers in the state. "Well Done".**
- ▶ **April 7, 2021—Urban League of Northwest Indiana continues with their "Diversity and Inclusion" series. Presenting with Valparaiso University a free Virtual Symposium, 11am-12:30pm "Lessons from the Movement" What would MLK Say? Guest panelist: Congressman Frank Mrvan, Joey Kikke, Dr. Danny Lackey, Lucille Upshaw, Rev. Kevin Miller, Nia Pullins and moderator Chelsea Whittington. Link to symposium: <http://itvalpo.wufoo.com/forms/s9ka10207q8z76/>. For information: call 219-887-9621 or email: [plove@ulofnwi.org](mailto:plove@ulofnwi.org) (see attached flyer).**
- ▶ **April 9, 2021—The Annual Katie Hall Public Service Awards Presentation, at the South Atrium, 2nd Floor, Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, at 2pm (EST). Confirmed honorees are: Gov. Eric Holcomb, Mr. Mark Spencer, Director Westside Leadership Academy, Gary and Dr. Glenda Glover, Supreme Basileus, Alpha Kappa Alpha Nat'l Sorority. For presentation info contact Junifer Hall (219) 883-7711.**
- ▶ **April 21, 2021—Horizon Bank will host a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Celebration for the new full service banking branch located at 3599 Grant Street, Gary. Branch Manager Maurice Brown welcomes the public from 2:00pm-4:00pm, face mask will be required (see attached flyer).**
- ▶ **April 21, 2021—GCC Economic/Business Development Committee virtual zoom meeting, 9:00 a.m.**
- ▶ **April 23, 2021—GCC Education Committee virtual zoom meeting, 11:00 a.m.**
- ▶ **April 26, 2021—GCC Executive Committee virtual zoom meeting, 11:30 a.m.**

**URBAN LEAGUE OF NWI *and***  
**VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY**



Presents

***DIVERSITY* and *INCLUSION***

~ **FREE** ~

**VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021**

**Link:** <https://itvalpo.wufoo.com/forms/s9ka10207q8z76/>

**“Lessons from the Movement”**

**What Would MLK Say?**

**11a—12:30p**

**GUEST PANELISTS:**



**CONGRESSMAN  
FRANK MRVAN**  
U.S. House of Representatives



**JOEY KIKKE**  
Visual Artist  
Educator



**DR. DANNY LACKEY**  
Director of Diversity  
Merrillville School Corporation



**LUCILLE UPSHAW**  
Retired Educator  
Gary Community School



**REV. KEVIN MILLER**  
Pastor, First United  
Methodist Church



**NIA PULLINS**  
Valedictorian  
Calumet New Tech High

For More Information: Call (219) 887-9621 or email [plove@ulofnwi.org](mailto:plove@ulofnwi.org)

We are **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES** and **CHANGING LIVES!** To Donate: [www.ulofnwi.org](http://www.ulofnwi.org)



**IVY TECH**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Ivy Tech Foundation is hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fundraiser, this time with COVID-friendly carryout cuisine for the first-time ever! The event takes place Saturday, April 10 at Aberdeen Manor in Valparaiso and on Sunday, April 11 at Theo's Steakhouse in Highland. Proceeds support students attending the Lake County and Valparaiso/Michigan City campuses.

To order your takeout meals, choose your location, entree and pickup time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Both options include side dishes, bread and dessert, as well as a FREE bottle of wine! Each meal costs \$60 or 2 meals for \$110. Tickets can be purchased online by Friday, April 2 at [connect.ivytech.edu/meal](https://connect.ivytech.edu/meal).

For more information, contact Cindy Hall at (219) 476-4710 or [cjhall@ivytech.edu](mailto:cjhall@ivytech.edu).

The background of the flyer features a large, flowing red ribbon on the right side, with a pair of silver scissors positioned as if cutting it. The ribbon and scissors are surrounded by a variety of colorful confetti pieces in shades of yellow, green, blue, purple, and orange. The Horizon Bank logo is prominently displayed on the left side of the flyer.

# HORIZON<sup>SM</sup> BANK

Horizon Bank invites you to attend a Ribbon Cutting in celebration of the Grand Opening of our new office in Gary.

*Please join us.*

**Wednesday, April 21st  
2pm - 4pm  
3599 Grant Street**

**Raffle & Giveaways**

Member  
FDIC