



WHAT

The Rural Routes to Main Street Cultural Trail launches May 2010 with the development of a website and distribution of the guidebook. This self-paced, self-directed driving tour will lead you deep into the heart of the community. The trail features 10 locally owned businesses including shops, galleries and studios as you travel along scenic open roads. Each location of the trail features either fine arts and handmade crafts, value added foods and products, historical attractions or agricultural businesses. Featured in the initial launch of the trail are:

- o Artistic Designs Gallery, Brownsburg
- o Avon Quiltery, Avon
- o Bread Basket Bakery & Cafe, Coatesville and Danville
- o Chateau Thomas Winery, Plainfield
- o Frazee Gardens, Brownsburg
- o Garden Gate Gift Shop, North Salem
- o Glass Passions, Plainfield
- o McCloud Nature Park and Art Gallery, North Salem
- o Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library Art Gallery
- o The Gallery on the Square, Danville

Sites offer exhibits, tours, activities for visitors to do, demonstrations and artisan products for sale. The trail covers 71 miles of scenic driving, and while the guide recommends starting at the center quadrant listing the sites in an easy to follow route, guests can customize their route beginning from their home or local hotel. The entire tour can be completed in two leisurely days.

WHEN

Businesses on the trail can be visited Thursday through Saturday every week, year round between the hours of 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Many businesses are open additional hours. Dining locations have varied hours, check the guidebook for more detailed information.

Several of the locations offer a full class schedule, which visitors can use to plan their trips. A detailed calendar of events will be added to the website during the month of May.

WHERE

Various locations throughout Hendricks County, beginning just 10 minutes west of Indianapolis. Guidebooks can be picked up at any participating location, the Hendricks County CVB offices or any of the local Chamber of Commerce offices. Information and a download of the guidebook can also be found on the website, RuralRoutesToMainStreet.com and on social media sites including Facebook.com.

WHO

Developed and presented by the Hendricks County Convention and Visitors Bureau in partnership with the Hendricks County Arts Council.

WHY

The Hendricks County Tourism Commission d/b/a the Hendricks County Convention and Visitors Bureau attracts visitors to the county by promoting and developing tourism, which stimulates economic growth and enhances quality of life.

CONTACT

Jaime Bohler Smith, Jaime@TourHendricksCounty.com. Toll Free: 800-321-9666; Local 317-718-8750; online at www.TourHendricksCounty.com.

See below for some quick story tips about some of the destinations along the trail. All trail participants and artists can be made available for phone and in-person interviews through the Hendricks County CVB.

Artistic Designs Gallery – This fine art gallery features monthly exhibits and receptions that showcase a new Indiana artist to the local community. In May, ADG will host the **4th Annual Miniature Fine Art Exhibit** that brings noted national and internationally acclaimed artists to Brownsburg. Explore meticulous artwork in multiple mediums as small as a postage stamp to just 80 square inches for free beginning May 3rd through the 29th.

Avon Quiltery – Outgrowing their first space, the Quiltery recently moved a few doors down to expand their offerings. The Quiltery is home to several art groups including the **Sewing Circle** and the **Art Quilt Guild** and also offers dozens of classes in beginning quilting, binding, advanced quilting, appliqué and machine work. The Quiltery is committed to the "**Girls Helping Girls**" cause and serves as the pickup and drop off point of girl's dresses made for charity and distributed all over the world. In 2008 their customers made around 500 dresses and in 2009 747 dresses were made and distributed. The goal for 2010 is to reach 900 dresses.

Bread Basket Cafe & Bakery – The cafe & bakery is family owned and operated and offers handcrafted breads, decadent desserts, fresh soups and salads, sandwiches made on their own bread as well as daily specials that include pasta dishes made with homemade pesto and alfredo sauce. The bakery expanded into Danville in November 2009 after participating in the **Downtown Danville Farmers Market** throughout the 2009 season. Their success was built around the miniature versions of the homemade pies & cakes affectionately known as "**Baby Cakes & Sweetie Pies**". The cafe in Coatesville is celebrating their 5th anniversary this June.

Gallery on the Square – Born from a group of dedicated volunteers who continually asked 'What if?' the Gallery opened in May 2009 after a committee meeting identified the PERFECT space and the current tenant gave notice on the same day! The **co-op of artists** is the first of its kind in Hendricks County and features fine art and fine craft items for sale. The gallery also has a number of classes which are offered by a variety of artists and a special "**Our Art Party**" series geared toward children. The Gallery kicked off an effort in **Danville** to create a diverse destination including a historic theater, outdoor public sculptures, a concert series and over a dozen special events and festivals.

Garden Gate Gift Shop – Owners Vicki Cox, Bonnie Fischer and Terri Solomon set out to refurbish a run-down building in North Salem and ended up creating an **eclectic shopping experience** that is a cornerstone of revitalization for the North Salem community. The boutique showcases original jewelry, unique gift items and specialty finds in a warm and inviting setting. Be sure to visit the **Cozy Nook Designer Boutique** inside the shop featuring amazing vintage clothing, hats and more.

Glass Passions – Established in April of 2006, Glass Passions came into being out of a **love of glass** and limited resources in the area. The studio carries a complete line of stained glass tools and supplies for experts and hobbyists, and can **spur your passions** thru a variety of classes in foil, lead, mobiles, wind chimes, mosaics and more. Owner Beth Williams and fellow artist Carin Swalley can create a wide variety of **custom glass pieces** including items for the home, office, kitchen, garden or business.

Fraze Gardens – The Gardens were founded in 2008 by Brownsburg Landscape Company and Garden Center. Brownsburg Landscape has been serving customers since 1987, and continues to be one of the area's **largest family-owned landscape companies**. The store showcases original 2D artwork in a small gallery and also has many unique gift items for sale. They also offer a variety of classes including the upcoming Mother's Day card-making demonstration and the always popular **Grow Your Own Recipe series**, featuring salsa for the month of May.

