

# MARKETPLACE

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▲ PHOTO | DAMON STONE  
**Holly Wood, right, and Wendy Jackson, left, both run the National Store Marketplace. Wood explained that the store had been in her family's possession for 40 years, having done various pop-up stores at the space since 1993. "When I decided to open the store back up, I thought National Store Marketplace would be a good name, and it's a name that I've used for a few years," Wood said.**

possession for 40 years, having opened her first store in the space for the first time in 1993.

"When I decided to open the store back up, I thought National Store Marketplace would be a good name, and it's a name that I've used for a few years," Wood said.

The store opened at 10 a.m., with Wood being pleased with the turn-out, whether it be from friends or former workers at the store.

"We've had some people just come in to reminisce about days working here at the National Store, or when their grandmother or grandfather did," Wood explained. "They've just done a walk through to remember the time when they were here and a part of it."

Wood explained that the National Store had played a significant role in the city's history by helping the economy, and providing jobs for people, while fostering close relationships among the employees.

Now, the store sells vintage items that

Wood described as "pre-loved," with some being parts of the history of Allen County.

"We actually have things that were a part of the National Store, Charm Beauty Shop, Morton's Department Store, Porter Paint, Marblewood Lumber, J&W Home Center," Wood listed. "We have a lot of local things as well."

Wood added that the items currently in the store belong to her or her family, with the inventory of the store being an accumulation of those storages in one central spot.

The space, consisting of over 5,000 square feet, offers antiques, vintage, thrift, salvage, clothing, furniture, houseware, holiday decorations, toys, books, arts and craft supplies, historic items, including signs from various businesses, and bricks of the Jacksonian, along with several more.

"As far as the way the National Store worked, we're only in a small section of it," Wood explained. "The spot next door will be my husband's (art)

studio, which would have been the kids' department, but there are cinderblocks and you would have to take them out to expand into the other sections. And, those are all privately owned by other people."

Wood explained that they plan to do a grand opening on a future date, as they have to price their items in the 6,000 square feet of the space.

"We'll continue with Thursdays, and continue to just price and get everything ready for a bigger opening," Wood said. "(We could do) pop-up days, like if I'm in town and I'm up here, the sign will say open or closed, and if it says open, then come on in."

The grand opening will be announced at a later time, after each item in the store has been priced.

"For a lot, it's like being able to reconnect and connect those memories, and I just enjoy when people are coming, and hearing the stories of where they worked, what they did, and how they contributed to us as a community,"



▲ PHOTO | DAMON STONE  
**Several signs from historic businesses are at the National Store Marketplace. Along with signs, the National Store Marketplace has several items from other historic stores. "We actually have things that were a part of the National Store, Charm Beauty Shop, Morton's Department Store, Porter Paint, Marblewood Lumber, J&W Home Center," Wood listed. "We have a lot of local things as well."**

Wood said. "For some it was when they were teenagers, or as a first job, (...) It's not so much as selling somebody something, it's about community."

Wood added that she hopes to hang pictures of the original store throughout the building, while already having items from the original store, such as a stamp dispenser, an adding machine, a wrapping paper dispenser, along with display tables original to the National Store.

"One of our future goals would be to rent spaces out to other vendors as well," Wood said. "Right now, we already have a waiting list for people who would like to rent a space, so as we sell down inventory that we have, that would be a future goal."

Wood explained that it would be the point of the marketplace to have other people in collaboration to have a store within the space, with a wide variety of possible stores within, whether that be an antique store, boutique, or any other kind of store, with there being 10 people on that waiting list.



▲ PHOTO | DAMON STONE  
**On the back of the building are several ads from the original store, turned into murals along the windows.**



▲ PHOTO | DAMON STONE  
**The store is at the site of the historic National Store, being in the corner of the same block as Oishi Resto, Ivory Mill, and EXIT Realty.**

# ADOPTED

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Board members approved a mandatory policy for District's Internet Safety Policy and CIPA Compliance. Federal Communications Commission relates The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. Protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal. Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about

appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

A federal funded Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program (Pilot Program) provides up to \$200 million to selected participants over a three-year term to purchase a wide variety of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment. Modeled after the FCC's Connected Care Pilot, the Pilot Program will evaluate the effectiveness of using Universal Service funding to support cybersecurity services and equipment to protect school and library broadband networks and data and whether to fund them on a permanent basis. The local district has submitted an application for \$98,000 with a 85 percent funding and 15 percent local funding if approved.

District Director of Human Resources and Pupil Personnel, Trey Harper, reported

opening day census for the district at 3,030 students with an increase to 3,053 within the first week of instructional enrollment.

Approval was given for principal and school report filings and the consent agenda was approved with no corrections or additions.

Board members adopted the compensating rate for both real property and personal property for 2025 tax period. Rates would be 48 cents per \$100 of assessed real property value (compensating plus exonerations of 0.2 cents per \$100 of assessed property) and 53.3 cents per \$100 of assessed personal property value along with 51.8 cents per \$100 of assessed motor vehicles property value. The board also approved levying taxes on recreational and non-commercial aircraft as well as non-commercial watercraft registered out-of-state or with the U. S. Coast Guard.

Allen County-Scottsville P3 Perkins Innovation & Modernization

Grant Director Josphed Cosby reviewed board members concerning July 29, 2025 email canceling funding for the five year \$7.4 million grant. The grant is being used as the Allen County-Scottsville High School, the Allen County Career and Technical Center, and the James E. Bazzell Middle School implements Pathways, Proficiency, and Promotion (P3) project. Superintendent Travis Hamby has related the local district placed a significant commitment and pledged a 50 percent match to this grant, demonstrating their belief and the importance of investing in our students' futures and our community.

The Department of Education received over 160 applications from 43 states and the District of Columbia with requests totaling over \$860 million. Following a rigorous process, only 19 entries were selected with Allen County Schools among the chosen recipients." Dr. Amy Loyd, Assistant

Secretary of the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education at the US Department of Education, at the grant awarding, expressed her belief that the plans for the P3 project aligns with those of the U.S. Department of Education. A reduction funding has already been in place during this second year of implementation in Allen County Schools. Director Cosby related a letter of appeal has been sent and supporting accomplishments of implementation has been periodically reviewed with a model affirmation received from administrators with the Department of Education.

Board approval was presented for creation and funding an Assistant Swim Coach for Allen County-Scottsville Patriot Swim Team with a \$750 annual stipend.

Policy 07.1 revisions received first reading for Food and School Nutrition Services which related to audit clean up for changes already currently in place yet not in written policy.

Annual approval was given for Allen County Admissions and Release Chairpersons (ARCs) for 2025-2026 school year.

Board members approved the purchase Financial Literacy Curriculum program titled The Life Course.

As the AC-S Career & Technical Center supports and trains within co-op positions with local industries, board members approved to create a student position of Allen County-Scottsville High School to work with the maintenance staff within the local facility.

Additional need for a third Virtual Teacher was presented to the board for consideration. The Patriot Academy is at maximum instructional student capacity for virtual attendance. A third instructor would fill some of the existing instruction time periods along with easing case loads for new requirements. Board approved to publish and hire another virtual position.