



Downtown of Tomorrow

City Manager



Welcome to the seventh edition of our downtown newsletter.

Good day neighbors – it's a pleasure to share this month's Downtown Washington Court House newsletter. Our downtown is defined by small businesses that tie the past and present together, and this edition celebrates one of those cornerstones. Tony's Barber Shop is a family of service and tradition that has been welcomed in our community for more than 60 years.

Tony Hicks's story is a reminder of what makes our city special: skill passed between generations, relationships built one haircut at a time, and a dedication to a place that makes Washington Court House ours. At 83, Tony still greets customers with the same care and charm that began in 1965, and alongside barber Gracie Matthews, he continues to serve longtime patrons and new visitors alike. Please join me in thanking Tony and all our small business owners who invest time, pride, and heart into Washington Court House every day.

Thank you, Joe Denen, City Manager, City of Washington Court House

The Beginning of History

This month we highlight a business that has been flourishing in downtown Washington Court House for over 60 years.

Tony Hicks followed his brother Tom to barber school in 1965. After completing barber training at Dayton Barber College, they returned to Washington Court House to open Hick's Barber Shop at 126 S. Main Street.

After Tom passed away, Tony changed the name to Tony's Barber Shop and kept the business going for their thousands of customers. Barber Gracie Matthews came to work for him after she graduated from barber school in 1991.

Tony is now 83 years old and still works three days a week at the shop. Tony said he likes to work and stay active since his wife passed away three years ago. He has two sons and three grandchildren.

Tony is there from 8 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, Friday and 8 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. Gracie works Tuesday through Saturday.



Tony's History

Tony grew up in New Martinsburg, Perry Township, and graduated from McClain High School in Greenfield. Tony had 2 brothers and 7 sisters. One sister is still living and resides in Fayette County. His mother was a homemaker, and his father retired from NCR, and all the children were raised in New Martinsburg.

Old World Charm

The barber shop adheres to the old-world charm. He has a large, old-fashioned television set atop a refrigerator in the back corner of the shop. Old rabbit ears sit in the front window, because he doesn't use cable.

Tony was an avid bowler in his day, and 11 trophies and 4 bowling plaques adorn his wall and shelf on display. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, golf, and likes to play cornhole. To pass the time at home, he has three and a half acres to mow, and tends to his garden.



A Tradition Began

In the early 1970s, Sam Marting came in for a haircut. Tony liked the Marting hat he was wearing. Tony asked if Sam had an extra one of those neat hats. From that first gifted hat, Tony began collecting hats from all over, many customers gave him hats from various businesses and vacation spots. The ceiling was turned into a hat collection display. He had to take many of them down when the walls of the shop needed painting in the past few years, and some were returned to their hanging spot, and others had to be packed away.

Military hats began to be donated by family and friends, and are now on display on his trophy wall.

A Hunters Love

With Tony's love of hunting, he shot and had mounted two bucks which are hanging next to his trophy wall. One is an 11-point trophy taken in November 1981, a 280 pound field dressed buck. The other is a 9-point trophy taken in November 1979, a 300 pound field dressed buck.



Love of the Business

Tony said he has no specific health issues, still loves to cut hair, and has cut hair for three generations of his clientele. He has seen children grow up and keep coming back to this day. He said you get to know your customers, know who you can joke with, and who just wants a quiet haircut.

Tony is covering for Gracie for a couple weeks with more shop hours due to her being away for personal reasons.

Tony's Thoughts

Tony's philosophy is treat your customers right, learn to listen a lot, and make the customer feel good about their new look. He believes in quality barber services and special attention to each customer. Tony has been in the same location for 60 years and has no plans to retire at this time.

Editor's Note:

This is the seventh edition of the city monthly newsletter. A different person, place, or business is featured each month. An email list is being compiled so downtown businesses and individuals of Washington Court House can receive it electronically, or distributed in paper form, your choice. Residents can also pick up a copy of the newsletter on the counter in the City Water Department office on Main Street.

To receive this newsletter electronically via email, please send your email address to WCHNewsletter@CityOfWch.com. The city email system has been restored, however, if you don't receive your copy, please resubmit your email address request. Some of the former email submissions could not be restored. Thank you for supporting and helping to revitalize our downtown area for a better tomorrow.