



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Celebrate New Community Mural in Etna Green**

**Etna Green, IN. —7/3/25 —** Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) Kosciusko and Town of Etna Green are proud to invite the community to a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the unveiling of a new public mural, titled *"Welcome to Etna Green"*, located at 107 N. Walnut St., Etna Green, IN 46524. The event will take place on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12 pm, and will feature remarks from the artist, local leaders, and community partners. Doughnuts and juice will be provided along with a kid-friendly activity.

Mural painting will begin after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday. Created by artist Justin Vining, an Etna Green-born artist whose creative journey—from a farm in Etna Green to law school and ultimately full-time artistry—combines regional storytelling with live-event painting and community leadership. His work bridges traditional plein-air techniques with modern entrepreneurial savvy, earning him local and national recognition. You can learn more about the artist at <https://www.vininggallery.com/>

“Welcome to Etna Green” features two historical scenes of Etna Green captured in the form of two old-style postcards featuring the words “Welcome to Etna Green” in the middle, providing a place for visitors to take pictures. It will be painted on panels located on the south side of the Etna Green Post Office.

“This project allows the community of Etna Green to extend its art assets and grow its town center, and will be cross-promoted through communications with the Engage Kosciusko Passports, which currently includes thirty-two public art locations in Kosciusko County. It will also be added to the Art All Things Art Map as well as the Art Spaces brochure managed by the Kosciusko County Convention & Visitors Bureau,” stated KCVB Director Cori Humes.

“We are excited to unveil this fun new mural, which is more than just art—it’s a testament to our community’s resilience, creativity, and rich history,” said Suzy Klinefelter, Etna Green Town Board Member and project lead.

Amy A. Roe, Kosciusko County Community Coordinator, stated, “The Town of Etna Green has demonstrated remarkable grit and adaptability, rising above every challenge to bring this project to fruition. It’s been a true honor to walk alongside this resilient community and work together—with the support of generous donors and dedicated partners—to turn this vision into reality.”

This project and celebration were made possible through the support of the Town of Etna Green, HELP Kosciusko, Kosciusko County Convention, Recreation, and Visitor Commission (KCCRVC), Kosciusko County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (KCCVB), “All Things Art” managed by Kosciusko Development Land Trust (KDLT), The Stichter Family Charitable Fund, a donor advised fund through Kosciusko County Community Foundation (KCCF), Silveus Insurance Group, mural artist Justin Vining, Strebis Construction, Alderfer Bergen & Co., Family Express, and the gracious property owners located at 107 N. Walnut St.

The event is **free** and all are welcome to attend.

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#### **About HELP Kosciusko:**

The Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) supports communities directly by building capacity, creating a peer network system between communities participating in the program, developing a strategic investment plan, and providing access to set-aside funding. HELP is rooted in four pathways: advancing e-connectivity, promoting community wellness, enhancing quality of place, and strengthening local economies.

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