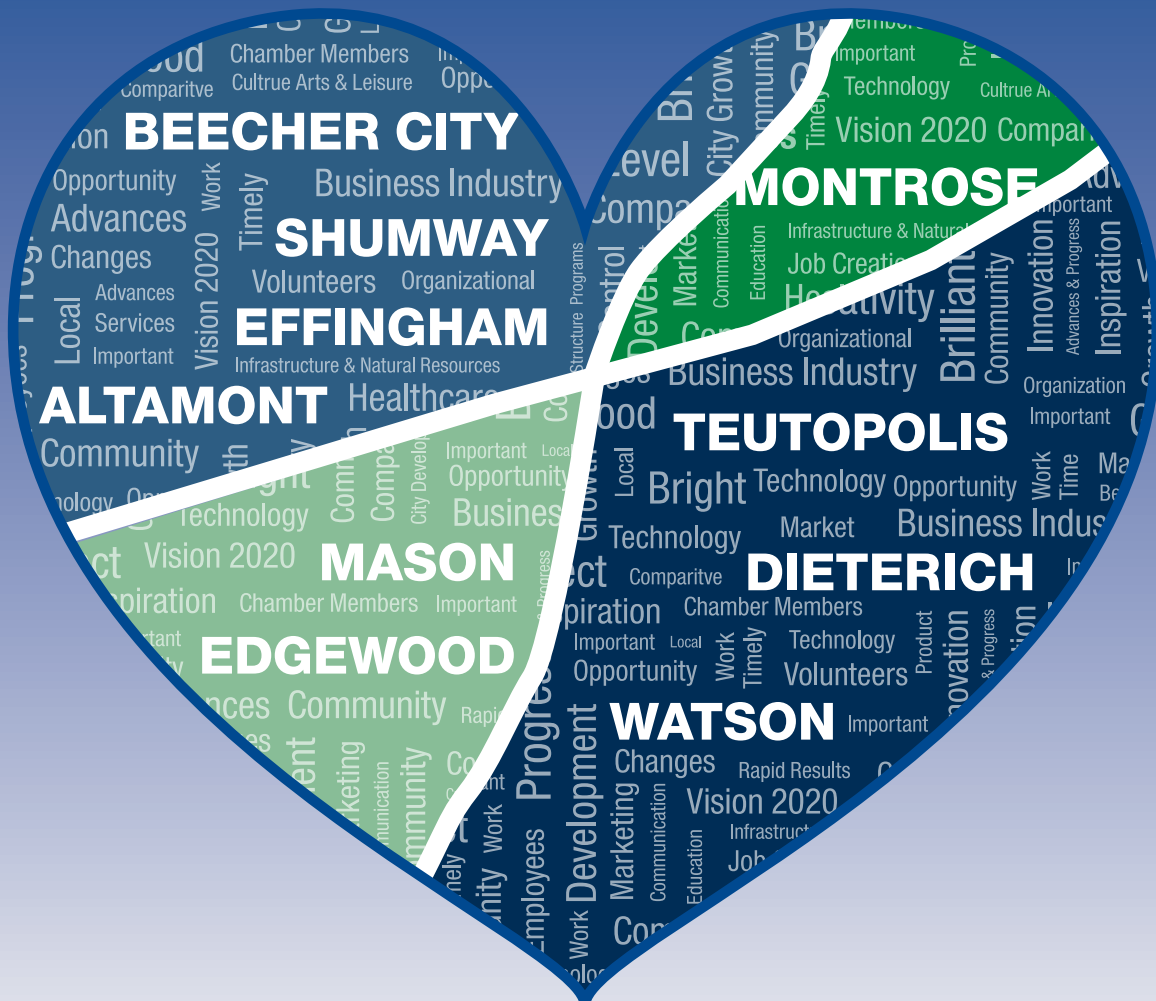


the
CHAMBER

360

Issue 3 • 2014



Effingham County Chamber of Commerce
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Dear Friends,

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We've chosen this as the theme for the 2014 Chamber 360 Magazine for one simple reason – **You** are the Chamber.



That's me at the Great Wall of China! See more about our Destinations program on Page 8.

The Chamber building at 903 North Keller Drive is the physical face of the Chamber – the front door to the Effingham County business community. The Chamber staff keeps the programs running, promotes the Chamber and Effingham County and speaks on behalf of the business community. But, the real chamber of commerce is You – the business men and women who work every day to deliver products and services, provide jobs, support local charities and build the community.

Throughout the pages of this magazine, you will find our members in action at Chamber events, through stories about individual businesses and in our new "Headline News" section, which shows how businesses are investing in themselves and in the community to make a better quality of life for all. We've also included results from this year's Membership Survey and the county-wide Vision 2020 survey showing how you value your Chamber membership and the quality of life you enjoy in Effingham County.

The Chamber and Effingham County are successful because **You** invest your time, your talent and your resources to make a difference each and every day.

Best Wishes for an Outstanding 2014,

Norma Lansing

Norma Lansing

President

Illinois Accredited Chamber Executive

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EFFINGHAM COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Engaging Business and Community

Dear Chamber Members,

As I sat down to write this article, I started thinking about my goals for 2014. My mind starts racing every time I think about goals because the possibilities are endless.

I went back into my past files and reviewed some of my past goals- both business and personal. The first list I looked at was from 2011 which included 9 goals I wanted to accomplish that year. Out of those 9 goals, 8 of them were accomplished. When I reviewed last year's goals, the results were similar, I had accomplished 7 out of my 11 goals. This simple task of writing out my goals has proven to be very effective.

So what are my goals for the Chamber for 2014? There are 3 major goals I'd like to see the Chamber tackle in 2014:

1. Find ways to engage non-members in the Chamber.
2. Make plans to get members more actively involved in the chamber.
3. Develop an advisory board to work with businesses to promote Business Growth.

When I was first asked to join the Chamber, I remember thinking how can this benefit me? I really didn't know anything about the Chamber at that time. What I found out was the chamber provided endless opportunities to meet other individuals. If we could get non-members engaged in the Chamber before becoming a member, the results would be tremendous for that business and the Chamber.

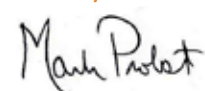
The second goal will always be a concern of the Chamber. We want our members actively involved in the Chamber. Not every program works for every business. With our new Chamber Master software, we are able to monitor our members' activity and use this information to engage more members.

My third goal is centered on business growth. In November of 2008, I received a flyer from a company called Management Success. The headline was "I Don't Have Any Dough And I Can't Seem To Grow." This flyer described every problem I was facing in my business.

Needless to say, I went to the seminar and signed up for their consulting program. This company has guided me in becoming the business owner I am today and I am very thankful for that. I'm a huge believer in training and coaching because I know it works. I want to see the chamber coaching our small businesses to success and growth.

As the 2014 Board Chairman, I'm excited to start this New Year. Each year the chamber grows stronger and stronger developing people, businesses and the community. I look forward to this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Mark Probst
2014 Board Chairman

Dear Chamber Members,

Another year has passed us by and as the speed of the monthly calendars get torn off, your Chamber continues to further the interests of our businesses at the highest level possible.

It has been an honor serving as the 2013 Board Chair and I feel this past year continued a long standing tradition of positively accomplishing our short and long-term action plans. I'm excited for next year's Chamber leadership, as once again, the call for

volunteerism has yielded a talented Board that will assist the Chamber's staff in delivering exceptional value to our members. This value proposition lays the ground work for so many businesses allowing Effingham to be a Downstate leader in economic relevancy.

Our economy both nationally and in Illinois seems to plod along but we have some serious issues to resolve and I believe they center on a lack of Leadership

and Governing. In Downstate Illinois, our biggest problem is a downward trend in losing population. We desperately need a strong employment base that will energize a population increase for our area.

The Chamber can provide community and business leaders an assortment of training and business development support so every business can thrive and reach their potential in the most uncertain of times.

In 2013, we accomplished so many milestones. A few key items were

- Growing and retaining a membership of 560+ towards a final goal of 600
- Our sustainability fund, created to help the Chamber weather the toughest of financial times 3 short years ago, has grown to \$22,000
- We re-purposed our annual legislative event and met locally and in Springfield with the sole intent of developing key relationships with non-local legislators and other Illinois officials
- And, we hosted our first Effingham County Manufacturers' Day promoting businesses to 150 area high school students.

Many thanks to Norma, the Chamber staff, and Board whose long hours and dedication help make our Effingham County Chamber the strongest partner for our members. I urge all of us in 2014 to continue to work together so we can continue to make Effingham County the most economically vibrant community that we can all call home.

Kindest Regards,



Bill Teichmiller
2013 Board Chairman





2014 Chamber Board of Directors

L to R: Norma Lansing, Chamber President; Jerry Doll, Nova Solutions; Marv Phillips, Cromwell Radio Group; Mark Probst, Probst Auto Body; Tzena Tucker, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust; Jeff Fritchtnitch, Altamont Community Unit 10; Karen Kull, Lake Land College; Dean Kremer, Koerner Distributor; Dr. Ryan Jennings, Marshall Clinic; Mel Stock, Midland States Bank

NOT PICTURED: Joe Forbes, Versatech; Lisa Kingery, BB&K; Jeni Hagen, Ameren Illinois; Ed Deters, McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters; Joan Thies, Stevens Industries; Roger Bloemker, America's Select Homes; Bill Teichmiller, EJ Water Cooperative; Kary Jansen, Jansen's Auto Sales; Kris Zerrusen, South Central FS



The Chamber Ambassadors

L to R: Jim Hecht, Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota; Dr. Carol Hourigan, Three Chicks & A Stage; Greg Schumacher, Ameren Illinois; Tonya Siner, Job Match Personnel Services; Jeff Muhlbachler, Muhlbacher Insurance; Jerry Jansen, Century 21 Realty Concepts; Randy Jones, Washington Savings Bank; Kevin Gouchenouer, Century 21 Realty Concepts; Mike Shabbing Global Technical Systems

NOT PICTURED: Steven Will, First National Bank of Dieterich; Del Wortman, Wortman Printing Company; Kathy Schroeder, Mary Kay Cosmetics; Jo Huskey, Enterprise Dynamics; Bob Shelton, Community Directories; Eric Zeller, Effingham Ophthalmology Associates

Effingham County Chamber of Commerce 2013 Chamber Accomplishments

- New Chamber Staff Position Created - Administrative Assistant
- Sustainability Fund Reaches \$20,000 for future Chamber needs
- Qualified for Chamber of the Year Award by American Chamber of Commerce Executives - 2nd year in a row!
- First Chamber - sponsored Travel Destination - China with 39 passengers
- Legal Policy Manual Created ensuring Chamber bylaws and policies are current
- First Effingham County Manufacturing Day held - 150 students from 8 high schools toured 10 local manufacturers
- First Effingham County Legislative Day drew 52nd District Senator Mike Frerichs, 54th District Senator Kyle McCarter, 113th District Rep. Jay Hoffman, 110th District Rep. Brad Halbrook, 109th District Rep. David Reis and 107th District Rep. John Cavaletto
- Chamber participated in national business retention pilot program along with the City of Effingham, Effingham County Board, Effingham County Economic Development Foundation and Ameren Illinois
- Created Effingham County Page on national internship website - www.interships.com

2013 Chamber Membership Survey Results

Greatest Value of Membership



Events & Services Most Used by Members



OUR VISION

The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization that provides leadership to promote, introduce and connect people, resources and ideas to achieve business success and community growth.

Congratulations to the 2014 Recipients

First National Bank of Dieterich

Even though The First National Bank of Dieterich has been around for over 100 years, the bank still finds ways to stay fresh in today's competitive and global economy. In the early years,



the bank served local farmers, merchants and citizens in the Village of Dieterich. Today there are 7 bank branches serving communities in Effingham, Jasper, Randolph and St. Clair counties and a new Corporate Center located in Effingham opened early in 2013.

Credit goes to community support and loyal employees for the bank's ongoing growth and prosperity. The main bank location still operates out of the location constructed in 1986 in Dieterich and branches have sprouted between Effingham and Teutopolis, near Lake Sara and in the heart of Newton in Jasper County. The bank's fifth location opened in downtown Effingham in 2008.

Since then, efforts have turned to acquisitions, with the acquisition of the First State Bank of Red Bud and its Belleville branch, completed in 2012. The loan processing center and corporate staff moved into the new Corporate Center along North Route 45 early in 2013.

Through its leadership, innovation, technology and genuine customer service, the bank's efforts have not gone unnoticed. SNL Financial named First National Bank of Dieterich #62 of the top 100 best performing community banks in the country with between \$500 million and \$5 billion in assets, the only community bank in Illinois to receive this honor. The Community Bankers Association of Illinois also recognized the bank as one of 13 Patrons of Community Banking, an honor it has received 11 times since 1991. CBAI also recognized the bank as the #1 participant in education programs – showing a strong commitment to their 100+ employees in providing them with quality education and training programs.

The First National Bank of Dieterich is an active participant in development of the communities they serve, participating in corporations like the Dieterich Community Development Corporation, the Effingham County Economic Development Foundation and Dieterich Business Association and in community service to organizations such as Rotary, Relay for Life, United Way and many others. They sponsored the inaugural Taste of Teutopolis fundraiser event to benefit Catholic Heart Work Camp to help pay for 76 students and 13 chaperones to participate in a mission trip. Bank employees also donate their time to help customers when they find there is a need.

Each fall, a large Customer Appreciation picnic draws hundreds of bank customers for a cookout and chance to win great prizes.

Versatech LLC

Versatech is a full service supply chain partner serving a diverse group of customers in several different industries throughout the United States and internationally. They deliver a broad range of products and services which fit into three core business areas: Engineering, Manufacturing, & Consulting.

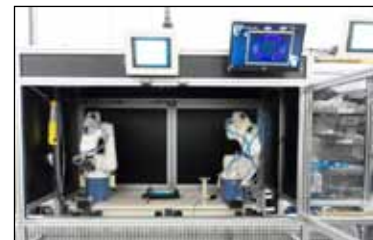


Versatech LLC was established in August 2008 in a 6,000 SF facility with 3 employees.

Rapid growth has led to two moves in the last 5 years, most recently to their current location at 1609 West Wernsing in the Effingham Business Park earlier this year. They currently employ 82 in their 75,000 SF Facility. More than 60% of Versatech's employees hold Engineering & Technical positions with another 20% filling Skilled Machinist roles.

Versatech's primary focus is in engineering, with nearly 65% of revenue generated from custom designed and built equipment and work holding solutions.

Versatech also offers a full service machine shop for build to print and low volume machining projects and prototype work. Three high-volume manufacturing lines to process automotive suspension components for Honda have been



added. As a full service supplier to its clients, Versatech also provides consulting services for projects including continuous improvement program implementation, equipment specification, plant layout, energy management solutions, & project management.

Versatech has been fortunate to partner with several customers and vendors and have been rewarded for their efforts in receiving additional business as well as receiving industry accolades. The company has received Innovator of the Year award from NIST-MEP for Lean Manufacturing consulting work at SK Hand Tools, a Supplier Performance award from Spartan Light Metals for Versatech's support in their Clutch Housing Prototype project and becoming a Preferred Integrator for Automated Vision Systems from Keyence Corporation.

The team at Versatech understands the importance of community involvement and the need to help others in trying times. Employees can recommend worthy organizations for Versatech to assist. Charities supported by Versatech and its employees are Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Mercy Children Hospital, Blessings in a Backpack, and CASA. Many employees volunteer their time coaching a variety of local school sports.

Past Excellence in Business Recipients

2011

- Midland States Bank
- Y-Yard Auto & Truck Inc.

2012

- Patterson Technology Center
- Legacy Harley Davidson

2013

- Heartland Dental Care
- Siemer Milling Company



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We offer young professionals from 21 to 45 the opportunity to network with each other and the area's top business leaders in social and professional settings. Professional development workshops provide career advancement while volunteer opportunities assist in the community development in Effingham County.



New! Corporate Membership Program

Enrolling in the new Corporate Membership Program allows you to offer a terrific opportunity to all of your qualifying employees. Not only is YBNext a great organization to enhance the professional skills of your staff, but it also serves as a great way to promote your business. The Corporate Membership Program offers affordable rates to allow more of your employees to get involved with YBNext.

- **5 - 9 Employees** - \$200 (Regularly \$250 - \$450)
- **10 - 14 Employees** - \$400 (Regularly \$500 - \$700)

Bonus Level

Your Logo appears on our website as a corporate supporter!

- **15 - 19 Employees** - \$600 (Regularly \$750 - \$950)
- **20 - 24 Employees** - \$800 (Regularly \$1,000 - \$1,200)
- **25+ Employees** - \$1,000 (Regularly \$1,500+)

Annual Membership: \$50 for Chamber Members, \$75 for Guest Members
For more information: Call: 217-342-4147 Email: ybnextrsvp@gmail.com

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Get Involved



Golf Outing



Chamber Banquet



ECBG Taste of Freedom



Celebrating Member Business Growth



Radio Days

"The many Chamber events have helped to build and develop better business friendships, in business dealings as well as social friendships. The **exposure** the Chamber offers you, in networking and in all the events, is **priceless** in advertising."

- Kathy Schroeder
Mary Kay Cosmetics



Radio Days



Fall Social

Over 100 events attended by over 5,000 people in 2013!

See Calendar of Events on Page 30 and Mark Your Calendar!

If you would like to host or sponsor an event this year, contact the Chamber.



The Chamber Ambassadors



Featured Business



Business After Hours



YBNext Mix-N-Mingle



Women in Business



Speed Networking

Gain Business Insights



Women in Business Panel



Lunch & Learn

Cogno
web-based training
and certification
curriculum coming
in 2014!



Manufacturing Day -
Students Visiting Industries

"Through the many events and informative articles sponsored by the Chamber, I have been able to educate myself on many topics relevant to today's business issues. The Chamber has also provided a voice on political issues that could greatly affect the success of our family business. Their voice commands the attention of our lawmakers and allows a small business, such as ours, to get our message out."

- Tom Wright
Wright's Furniture & Flooring



Business Breakfast



EntreLeadership Seminar



Future Fair



Community Celebration
of Excellence

www.effinghamchamber.org

Effingham County Business Resource Guide -
Helpful Resources to develop, maintain and grow a
successful business in Effingham County.



Legislative Day
Farm Visit



Washington, DC



YBNext Professional Development Luncheon

Grow Your Business



Free & Confidential Business Counseling Available Weekly

National Study by the Schapiro Group:
Consumers are 63% more likely to buy from Chamber members.



The Chamber Hosted 20 Ribbon Cuttings in 2013!



Solutions for Workforce Problems



Advertising & Promotion Opportunities

"Within one month of our membership, we received an order for culverts from a neighboring state. The company obtained our business information from the business directory on the Chamber website. We were very pleased to get the referral and the exposure provided for our business from the Chamber."

- Monte & Susan Van Dyke, Van Dyke Metal Culvert Sales & Backhoe Service



Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER 2 MEMBER

Discount Program

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Discount Card: Expires December 2015 • www.effinghamchamber.org

"This program has helped our business and helps to keep our name out in the community. We encourage other Chamber members to get a card & save money. We would like to thank the Chamber for providing this service." **- Marilyn Woodruff, Maurices**



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"I laughed, learned a ton; and am now fired up with ideas! THANK YOU for bringing my mojo back. "We're more than mobile now Baby!"

- Heather Mumma, B&B Homes



PEOPLE BEING CURIOUS IS HOW THINGS GET DONE.

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Anything that ever got accomplished began with people asking: "What if?" Challenging themselves. Challenging the system. At Fifth Third Bank, "What if?" is one of our favorite phrases. As a proud sponsor of The Effingham Chamber of Commerce, we support those who aren't afraid to reach, try and ask.



Headline News



2013 Chamber Community Scholarship Recipients:
Front Row (L-R): Abbie Massengill, Nicole Haarmann, Leah Kremer, Luke Armstrong and Monica Lin. Back Row (L-R): Joseph Garland, Zachary Pruemer, Michael Goldstein and Christopher Lidy. Not pictured: Emily Weichman.



2013 Effingham Citizen of the Year Loretta Koester with Effingham Daily News Publisher, Paul Semple.



2013 Employee of the Year Joely Puckett - St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.



Becky Brown Received her Non Profit Professional Certification October 2013.



Kyle McCarter Illinois Chamber Champion of Free Enterprise Recipient.



Top 100 Best Performing Community Banks (\$500 million to \$5 billion).



First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust is the 10th largest provider of SBA 7(a) loans in Illinois and ranked fourth among those banks headquartered in Illinois for 2013.



Firefly Grill cover of 2013 Illinois Travel Guide.



Dieterich Community Development Corporation 2013 Outstanding Leadership in Community & Economic Development Award.

Dieterich Community Development Corporation was the 2013 Outstanding Leadership in Community & Economic Development Award from the East Central Illinois Development Corporation.



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Lean Manufacturing Consulting
Energy Management Solutions
Engineering Services Consulting



Coming in 2014!

Effingham County Incubator Network

Incubator space (office and other) for new and growing businesses in and around Effingham County, Illinois.

<http://www.facebook.com/effinghamcountyincubatornetwork>

Vision 2020 survey results

88% Agree home grown businesses are supported

87% Are optimistic about the future

94% Believe local charitable giving is alive and well

All survey results can be found at
www.effinghamcountyvision2020.com

BK Resources

BK Resources, Inc. opened its doors in November of 2001, founded on the premise of offering high quality components and equipment for commercial foodservice market, restaurant and bakery kitchens. Additionally, they expanded the business into high-quality finished goods such as sinks and shelving.



Located in Altamont, they have grown along with the greater Effingham area bringing revenue, jobs and value to the community. A 20,000 square foot addition was completed in late 2013 to help the company achieve its goal of doubling its sales growth over the next five years and adding more employment and community support.

A relatively young business, BK Resources, Inc enjoyed its 12th year in business this winter and looks to enjoy many many more in the future.

Want to know more? Visit the website at www.bk-resources.com.

BK Resources Inc. • 120 Frontage Road
Altamont, IL 62411

Helen Matthes Library

A long cherished institution in the Effingham area, The Helen Matthes Library is more than just a place to borrow books. Established in 1883, they currently offer over 53,000 books, magazines, audio-visual materials and a wide variety of programs and services. Story times, movie screenings, art classes, club meetings and author visits, there is something for everyone at Helen Matthes.

**HELEN
MATTHES
LIBRARY**

In 2013, The Helen Matthes Library celebrated 130 years of growth, service and education to Effingham's young and old alike. In 2014, the library will begin the process of remodeling and relocating to a new location at 200 North Third Street.

Want to know more? Visit the website for a calendar of upcoming events at www.effinghamlibrary.org.

Helen Matthes Library • 100 E. Market Avenue
Effingham, IL 62401

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Evergreen
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, LLC

Evergreen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center would like to announce Linda Siemer as the in-house Nurse Practitioner. Linda is on site at the facility working with primary care physicians assuring continuity of care for all residents. Linda has worked at the Clay County Medical Center in Flora before coming to Evergreen. Linda has over 15 years experience working with the geriatric population and in long term care. Linda resides in Effingham with her husband and they have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

1115 N. Wenthe • Effingham, IL 62401 • 217-347-7121

Washington Savings Bank

The year 2013 marked some significant milestones for Washington Savings Bank. The two major markers include celebrating the bank's anniversary as well as the naming of a new bank president.

In September 2013, Washington Savings Bank celebrated the 130th Anniversary of serving Effingham and the surrounding communities. As part of the 130th anniversary celebrations, the bank promoted 130 Random Acts of Kindness as a way to promote kindness in the community. In addition, Washington Savings Bank hosted a customer appreciation luncheon and Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours celebration to commemorate this event.

Following the Anniversary celebration, Claude Hudson, President and CEO, announced his successor and upcoming retirement from the bank. The Board of Directors named David Doedtman as the bank's new President and CEO effective January 2, 2014.

Hudson joined Washington Savings Bank in 1997, and served as President and CEO and Board Member since 2001. He will continue to serve the bank in an advisory role until March 12, 2014, and will remain an ongoing member of the Board of Directors.

As the second oldest bank in Effingham County, Washington Savings Bank has grown from a small association to the largest customer-owned financial institution in the community. Today, it has grown to include two locations – one on Banker Street and one on Keller Drive, and offers a full line of personal and commercial deposit and loan products. In addition, the bank has received a 5-Star rating, the highest possible, from Bauer Financial for 25 consecutive years.

Further information about the bank, is available at its website at www.washingtonsavings.net or on the bank's Facebook timeline.

Banker Location • 200 S. Banker St
Keller Location • 1300 N. Keller Drive
Effingham, IL 62401



Woods Advisors, LLC

Offering advice, motivation, writing and speaking services to area business leaders, Board members and organizations, Dan Woods at Woods Advisors, LLC is helping to build a better Effingham.



In 2013, Woods Advisors guided the Effingham Civic Foundation in its transition to the Effingham County Economic Development Foundation and is serving as its first President. In 2014, Dan Woods is publishing his first book.

Want to know more? Find Dan on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/danwoodsface.



Dan Wood's QR Code contact info

Woods Advisors, LLC • 502 N. Bent Tree Dr.
Effingham, IL 62401

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota Inc.

A local automotive institution, Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota provides the greater Effingham area



with quality pre-owned and new vehicles and also award winning service and body repair. They even offer the area's only out of the weather service drive in so customers can pull right in to the service area on bad weather days.

Now owned and operated by the four sons of Dan Hecht, the business owners have a combined

Dan Hecht Continued from page 15

total of 133 years of experience. They have been recognized by both General Motors and Toyota for their quality dealership.

In addition to serving our community, Dan Hecht's team supports our local schools, churches, St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, the United Way, Catholic Charities and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

In 2013, Dan Hecht's celebrated 55 years in business. Want more information? Check them out at www.danhecht.com.

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota • 2400 S. Banker
Effingham, IL 62401.

Glik's

While Glik's may be new to the Village Square Mall, it is hardly a new store. Located at #78 in the Mall, Glik's brings to us 116 years of offering popular fashion and brand name goods for men, women and children such as North Face, Fox Racing and Silver jeans.

Still family owned and operated by the 4th generation of the Glik family, the company is dedicated to providing excellent service, the latest fashions and community involvement from one of the nation's largest privately-held store chains.

In 2013, Glik's was honored to receive the Illinois Family Business of the Year by Loyola University. The award recognizes exceptional Illinois-based family businesses that have demonstrated positive family/business linkage, multi-generational family business involvement, contributions to industry and community and innovative business practices and strategies.

Want to know more? Visit us at www.gliks.com.

Glik's • 78 Village Square Mall
Effingham, IL 62401



Kingery Printing Company

A young and eager John Kingery began his printing career fresh out of high school by working for Worman Printery/Teutopolis Press. He quickly realized the industry was changing from "hot" type (letterpress) to "cold" type (offset). His vision of tomorrow's printer included investing in offset technology, the latest in its time, and placing a high priority on customer service. On October 1st, 1968, with the help of his wife Dolores, John founded Kingery Printing Company in a rented building on the Courthouse Square in Effingham.

Today, Kingery Printing Company is owned by John and Dolores' children. The founding vision of continued investment in the latest technologies and superior customer service are preserved and built upon by its family Board of Directors pictured below, which includes, left to right: Michael Kingery, President; John Kingery, Chairman; Steven Kingery, Vice-President; and Angela Helmuth, Secretary.

On October 1st, 2013, Kingery Printing Company celebrated its 45th Anniversary by commissioning its latest investment, a Goss Sunday 2000 web press. This high-quality press, one of the fastest in the world, produces more than 24 miles of paper per hour, 3x faster than any other press in the Kingery lineup. With two locations, Kingery Printing Company takes pride in providing excellent customer service to its clients and being an active part of its communities.

Kingery Printing Company • 3012 S. Banker St.
Effingham, IL 62401



Phelps Map Service

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Village of Teutopolis

As Teutopolis residents prepare for the village's 175th birthday in 2014, they point proudly to a past rich in entrepreneurial spirit, strong work ethic and caring community values. They also look with anticipation to a future bright with those same strong values, active support for continued growth and development and dedicated preservation of their cultural heritage.

As the oldest incorporated municipality in Effingham County, this town of 1500 people has witnessed substantial growth and development in recent years with new businesses opening, existing businesses expanding and growing quality of life activities that provide reasons to make Teutopolis a place to call home.

A drive through town shows that people care about their community and are investing in future community growth.

Active community leaders support growth with initiatives like Teutopolis Community for Progress and Wooden Shoe Development so that they can invest in those who are starting or growing their



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Village of Teutopolis Contined from page 17

businesses and nurture new ideas to keep Teutopolis growing into the future.

With many locally-owned businesses, continued community improvements and engaged citizens, Teutopolis continues to reflect the proud German heritage of its founders.

No story about Teutopolis would be complete without a mention of its school system and athletic accomplishments. Students at Teutopolis Community Unit 50 are typically ranked among the top performers in East Central Illinois and both the boys and girls athletic teams are renowned for their achievements and supported enthusiastically by the community.

There's much more to see and appreciate, so take a drive along the Old National Road to Teutopolis and enjoy the trip. Teutopolis residents invite you to join them at their Terquasquicentennial Celebration from July 26 through August 3. Be sure to watch the www.teutopolis.com website for event details.



BB & K Development

With Effingham's visible location along Interstates 57 and 70, the hospitality industry is a big part of our community's economy, and the BB & K team has owned and operated some of the most recognizable names in the hotel industry here in Effingham for nearly 40 years. Marriott properties like the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Choice Hotels represented by the Comfort Suites, a Best Western International location and Hilton properties, represented by a Hampton Inn and the newest of the BB & K hotels, the Hampton Inn & Suites, which opened in mid-2013.



The BB & K team is not just content with average when it comes to their hotels as they have consistently won industry awards including Hotel of the Year for the Fairfield, Outstanding evaluations from Hilton for the Hampton Inn for nine consecutive years, Gold awards for the Comfort Suites for 14 years running and a Best Western ranked in the top 10% of properties in the United States.




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Richard Beatty has been a Best Western Governor for Southern Illinois and contributes his expertise to the hospitality industry locally as a member of the City's Tourism Advisory Board since its inception.

Want to know more? Visit www.bestwestern.com; www.choicehotels.com; www.marriott.com/mtoef; or www.hamptoninn.com.

Ten Brooke LeAnne

Who is the newest face on the fashion scene in the Effingham area? It's Ten Brooke LeAnne, the place for trendy looks for all ages. Opening its doors in November 2013, Ten is an independent, locally owned fashion boutique located in the Keller Drive Plaza. From party dresses to cozy sweaters to bling, Ten has you covered.



In the winter of 2014, Ten Brooke LeAnne proprietor, Brooke Zerrusen, is planning an official grand opening celebration to introduce the shop in style. Check their Facebook page for dates, sales information and new arrivals.

Want more information? Like them on www.facebook.com/tenbrookeleanne.

Ten Brooke LeAnne • 401 N. Keller Dr., Suite 5
Effingham, IL 62401

EJ Water Cooperative

A vision to provide potable water to the rural areas of Effingham and Jasper Counties in



1989 has led to development of a multi-county award-winning regional water system with over 1,500 miles of water lines and over 8,000 members.

EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. is putting the finishing touches on a 5,100 square foot expansion of their headquarters along Main Street in Dieterich and preparing for future growth with the next wave of water line expansions to serve more households in more rural areas in central Illinois. The building



expansion brings all of their departments and employees into one location allowing for efficient and productive allocation of services to their customers.

In addition to completing their expansion project, EJ Water was in tough competition for the right to claim the title of Best Tasting Water in Illinois. They were victorious in this quest and awarded first place by the Illinois Section of American Water Works Association and then named to the top 20 Best of the Best in the United States by AWWA.

EJ Water will be celebrating its 25th year in business in 2014 and looking ahead to new areas to serve with safe, drinkable water.

Want to know more? Visit www.ejwatercoop.com.

EJ Water Cooperative • 108 South Main Street
Dieterich, IL 62411 • 217-925-5566

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866-925-5566

In late 2012, EJ Water officials began discussing a possible building renovation and expansion. Funding was secured and the construction and expansion of EJ's headquarters began. This much needed office addition will allow all of the departments to be in one location, allowing for efficient and productive execution of meeting the needs of those we serve. The facility has all the latest energy efficient building concepts and materials with the objective of minimizing utility costs. The Coop's board and staff are excited to invest in the future of serving our members and contractual customers at the highest level possible.



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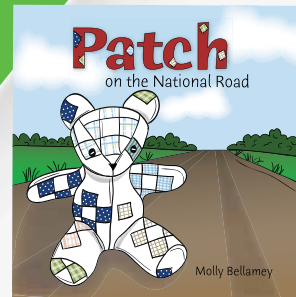
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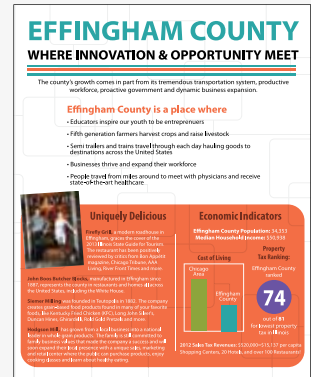
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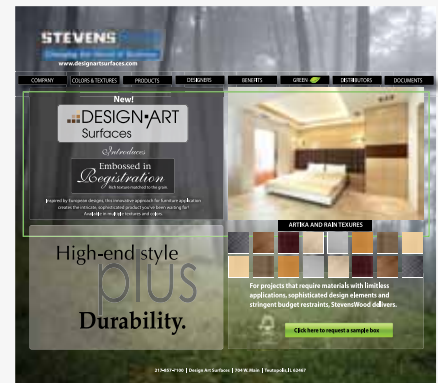


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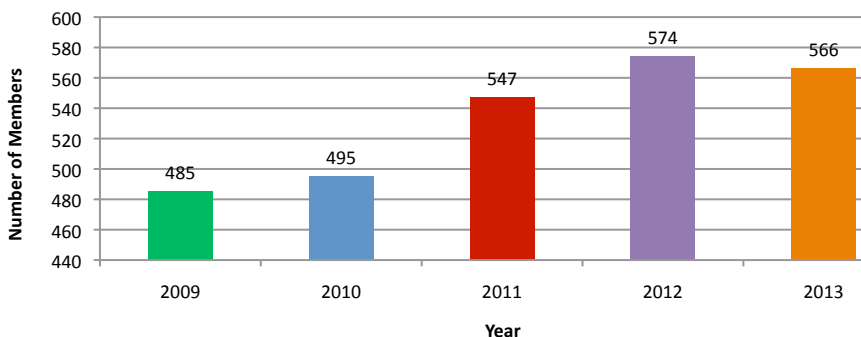
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Chamber Membership Growth



Goal: 600 Members

Can you help us reach our goal in 2014?

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Your Referrals = New Chamber Members + New Business Connections!

To learn more, go to www.effinghamchamber.org/member-referral-program.htm

2013 Chamber Member of the Month Recipients are noted in the directory with a picture and their company name in bold.

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Comfort Suites
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Compass Advisory Group
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Copple, Pat
Cornerstone Wealth Management
COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services
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Coventry Health Care
CQI Associates
Creative Designs

Crisman, Pam
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Effingham & Teutopolis News Report
Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center
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Effingham Elks Lodge #1016 - October



Effingham Equity - September



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The First National Bank of Dieterich - April



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Wayne's Stripe-A-Lot
WCIA
Weber Optiks
Weber's Clothing & Jewelry
Weis Insurance Agency, LLC
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC.
Wente Plumbing & Heating, Inc. - July



Village of Dieterich
Village of Strasburg
Village of Teutopolis
Village Wine
Visionary Eyewear, LLC
W S Broom & Co. Inc.
W.E.T. Inc.
Wabash Tire and Auto
Wal-Mart #0936
Walgreens
Walnut Street Weddings
Washington Savings Bank
Watts Copy Systems

West & Company, L.L.C.
Wiedman Cleaners, Inc.
Willowbrook of Effingham
Wireless Stores Inc.
Witt's Smokehouse and Deli
Woodlawn Cemetery/Effingham Monument
Woods, Daniel J.
Wortman Printing Company
Wright's Furniture & Flooring
WTWO-TV-Illinois Bureau Office
Y Yard Auto and Truck Inc.
Zone Enterprises Fitness Center

If you would like information on how to become a Chamber member, contact Membership Manager Becky Brown at bbrown@effinghamchamber.org.

Did You Know?

We now repair more cars in one month than we did our whole first year of business? - **Probst Auto Body**



Stay Informed

www.effinghamchamber.org

New Website Coming 2014!
Enhanced Business Directory, Job Postings, Hot Deals, Improved Calendar of Events, Online Event Registrations, E-Referrals & More!
Plus, New Website Coming Soon!

Take Five Newsletter

Online and in Print! Watch for new format coming in June!

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Seen by over 20,000 vehicles daily



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Keep your Chamber in your pocket with MyChamberApp, where Chamber members and the public can find member businesses, local events, discounts and hot deals. Available to download for free on the iPhone, iPad, Android, and Blackberry.



Calendar of Events 2014

JANUARY

Jan. 23 Candidate Academy
Jan. 30 Business after Hours - Orr Law LLC

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 Legislative Summit, Springfield
Feb. 7 First Friday Luncheon
Feb. 11 Illinois Chamber HR Essentials Seminar
Feb. 12 CEO Business Conference
Feb. 13 YBNext Membership Luncheon
Business after Hours - Holiday Inn
Feb. 20 Lunch & Learn

MARCH

Mar. 7 First Friday Luncheon
Mar. 11 YBNext Annual Meeting
Mar. 13 Business after Hours - Legacy Harley Davidson
Mar. 17 Business Breakfast with Michael Angelo Caruso
Mar. 20 Lunch & Learn
Mar. 27 Business after Hours - Mette's Cabinet Corner

APRIL

Apr. 3 Business after Hours - EJ Water
Apr. 4 Employee Appreciation Luncheon
Apr. 10 Community Breakfast - Dieterich
Apr. 11 Radio Days on WCRC
Apr. 17 Lunch & Learn
Apr. 24 YBNext Professional Development Luncheon
Business after Hours - Effingham Builders Supply
Apr. 30 CEO Trade Show

MAY

May 1 Business After Hours - Chestnut Family Music
May 2 First Friday Luncheon
May 10 ECBG Coffee Crawl
May 15 Business After Hours - Effingham Senior Services

JUNE

June 2 Chamber Golf Outing
June 6 First Friday Luncheon
June 20 ECBG Taste of Freedom
TBA Business After Hours - Effingham Elks

July

July 11 First Friday Luncheon

AUGUST

Aug. 1 First Friday Luncheon
Aug. 14 Business After Hours - Effingham Performance Center

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5 First Friday Luncheon
Sept. 6 Dieterich Business Assn. Cruise In
Sept. 22-30 Germany/Austria Trip
Sept. 25 Business after Hours - Bonutti Clinic

OCTOBER

Oct. 2 Business after Hours - Siemer Milling Company
Oct. 3 First Friday Luncheon
Oct. 9 Radio Day on WXEf
Oct. 17 ECBG Chili Fest
Oct. 31 ECBG Trick or Treat Night
TBA Effingham County Manufacturing Day

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7 First Friday Luncheon
Nov. 29 Hometown Christmas
Small Business Saturday



Scan this code with your smartphone or visit us online at www.iffinghamchamber.org for up-to-date calendar information.

Our Partners in Business & Community Growth



A special Thank You to everyone that helps us do our job!



Becky Brown **Membership Manager**,
Norma Lansing **President & CEO**, Amanda Apke **Administrative Assistant**, Danielle Snyder **Program Manager**

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