

# NETWORK

*Effingham County Chamber of Commerce*

APRIL 2021



## 2021 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS RECIPIENTS

### *Congratulations to Niemerg's Steakhouse & The Equity!*



**Niemerg's Steakhouse** served its first customer in 1978 under the leadership of two 23 year old kids - Gene Niemerg and Dennis Sandschafer with a mission to Gather, Serve and Give. They are committed to continuing to bring people together, in their dining rooms, at a catered event, or with takeout meals at home.

The support of the community and staff has allowed Niemerg's continued growth and expansion. Both dining rooms, the bar, and the kitchen have been expanded multiple times. The current addition being made is the smallest to date - a pickup window - born

out of necessity due to the global pandemic. Customers are now able to be served carryout dinners in the comfort of their own vehicle.

Niemerg's is a major attraction to travelers who note that they planned their trip so they could be sure to stay in Effingham overnight and have dinner at the restaurant. The staff has gotten to know many of these travelers and they are like long lost friends stopping by for a visit.

Niemerg's is blessed to be a part of Effingham County. As a locally owned, independent restaurant, they are honored by the support received the past 42 years and are committed to continuing to grow with Effingham County and the needs of their customers. They are privileged to serve value packed, family dinners to Effingham County.

[www.niemergssteakhouse.com](http://www.niemergssteakhouse.com)



**The Equity** began in 1919 with a group of forward-thinking farmers who saw that by joining together they would have greater buying power. Today The Equity is the largest independent agricultural cooperative in Illinois. Their market area covers approximately 20,000 square miles with 17 full-time locations in Illinois.

Investments in infrastructure and people support the agronomy, energy, feed/livestock and grain needs of their customer base. In 2020 alone, record revenues were achieved and volume grew

in all categories.

The Equity Farm & Home Store operates just off Temple Avenue in Effingham, and provides American-made brands for homeowners, farmers, contractors, hunters and more with curbside pickup. Corporate functions were relocated to the former Mid America Motorworks corporate office building and 23 acres of ground allow for expansion of demonstration plots and innovative educational opportunities for customers.

The culture of Team Equity, strategic directives from the Board of Directors, and their 5,000 members are what make The Equity successful and relevant today and into the future. Their core values of profitability, customer focus, constant improvement, integrity, and accountability will not change. Team Equity will continue to provide the best products, latest technology, and highest quality service - done right!

[www.theequity.com](http://www.theequity.com)



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I prepare to leave the Chamber, I do so with gratitude for the many opportunities that have been provided to me during my 40+ years with the Chamber. I leave with many treasured memories of working with you to create programs and services that make Effingham County a great place for you to do business.

And, I leave with the confidence that the Chamber will continue to grow and find even more ways to be your trusted and valued partner in progressive ideas and projects, your voice to the community and your resource for growing and improving your business.

I leave with appreciation of the hard work of the Chamber team - the staff, Board of Directors, Ambassadors and volunteers - who help keep the Chamber running smoothly and in the forefront of Effingham County's development.

And, I leave with deep gratitude to my family, who have always been understanding of my desire to make Effingham County the very best place it can be for all of us.

I leave the Chamber in the very capable hands of my successor, Lucinda Hart. If you haven't had a chance to meet Lucinda yet, I know she's anxious to meet each of you, hear your ideas and continue the great work of the Chamber.

I want to leave you with a couple of final thoughts:

- **Never think you can't accomplish something - because you can**
- **Never give up on an idea - sometimes it takes a long time to make a dream a reality, and**
- **Always remember that Effingham County is the best place in the world to accomplish your dreams.**

Thanks to each of you. It has been my pleasure to serve you.

**Norma Lansing**  
Outgoing President & CEO

I am honored to serve as the next President & CEO of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce. Replacing Norma will not be easy, but I am committed to making this an easy transition to ensure the continued success the Chamber has experienced under her leadership.

Even prior to arriving in Effingham, it has been wonderful virtually connecting with so many dedicated Board Members, Ambassadors, Members, and Staff. Your welcoming and encouraging words are truly appreciated - thank you for the warm welcome.

For the past 20 years my focus has been in nonprofit management where I focused on membership growth, business development, strategic planning, and team collaboration. I am dedicated to ensuring our members receive value from their membership. I eagerly await working together to position the Chamber as the source where connections strengthen member businesses and encourage prosperity in Effingham County.

I am someone who celebrates and welcomes diverse voices and perspectives. I enjoy learning and thrive on helping others succeed.

I am truly excited for the future of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to building upon the existing successful member programs as well as working with the very dedicated Board and Staff.

**Lucinda Hart, CAE, MBA**  
Incoming President & CEO  
[lhart@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:lhart@effinghamcountychamber.com)



## INTRODUCTORY SESSION

to The Pacific Institute's curriculum - Thought Patterns for High Performance

**Presenter: Laural Manegre**

Executive Advisor, Coach, Master Facilitator & International Speaker  
Nationally recognized speaker and spirited leader with dynamic energy  
& an ability to challenge individuals.

### LEARN HOW TO FOCUS ON:

- Lowering Levels of Stress & Anxiety
- Enhancing Individual, Team, & Organizational Success
- Creating Lasting Change

DATE: Friday, April 30

TIME: 7:30-9:30am

LOCATION: Holiday Inn,

1301 Avenue of Mid-America, Effingham, IL

COST: \$49/person

QUESTIONS: Call the Chamber at 217.342.4147

REGISTER:



**EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
*Engaging Business and Community*

## How to Create Raving Fans

with Michael Angelo Caruso

This webinar will teach you...

- How to create rockin' first impressions
- Why it doesn't matter if you like Twitter
- How the "affinity triangle" creates raving fans
- The concept of "sales enablement"
- The secret to relationship selling



REGISTER HERE:



MAY 6 | 9AM - 10AM

COST: \$49 PER PERSON

REGISTER 5 & 6TH IS FREE!



**EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
*Engaging Business and Community*

# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

# are back!

May 13 - Holiday Inn Express  
June 17 - Ramada by Wyndham  
July 8 - Effingham Prompt Care  
July 15 - Milano & Grunloh Engineers  
August 12 - Gliks  
September 2 - Crossroads Bank

September 23 - McDevitt, Osteen,  
Chojnicki & Deters  
October 14 - Wortman Printing Co.  
November 11 - Vantage Outsourcing  
December 9 - Village Wine & Spirits  
December 16 - Grunloh Building

We hope to see you at one of these great businesses.  
To schedule a 2022 Business After Hours, please call Becky Brown at 217.342.4147.



# FINANCIAL PLANNING *with* **DIETERICH** **INVESTMENT CENTERS**



*Chad B. Sutton, CFP®, AIF®*

217-582-4343

CHAD@DITERICHINV.COM

510 WEST FAYETTE AVE EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Investments are not secured by the FDIC and are not deposits or other obligations of, or guaranteed by, and depository institution. Funds are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of principal investment. Dieterich Bank is not a registered broker-dealer or Registered Investment Adviser. Dieterich Bank and Commonwealth are separate and unaffiliated entities.



HEADQUARTERED IN EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

**13,400+ TEAM MEMBERS | 1,800+ SUPPORTED DENTISTS | 1,150+ OFFICES ACROSS 38 STATES**

*Heartland Dental provides non-clinical administrative services including IT, marketing, HR, and accounting, which enables supported dentists to focus on what matters most—caring for their patients and serving their communities.*

HEARTLAND.COM

# ASK AN EXPERT

## Maintaining Healthy Joints in the Workplace

Just as a wooden bench is made more comfortable with a fluffy cushion, joint health is largely dependent on cartilage.

The “cushion” in our joints is called articular cartilage, and the loss of it leads to the development of osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, affecting millions of people.

Whether your job requires repetitive motion or sitting at a desk all day, here are five ways to keep your joints healthy so you feel your best at work and at home.

**Manage your weight.** Keeping a proper body weight for your frame is probably the most important thing you can do for the long-term health of your joints. For example, in climbing a stair, the pressure between the back of the kneecap and front of the thigh bone reaches 10-12 times your body weight.

**Exercise.** Strive for at least 30 minutes of low impact exercise a day. Swimming, cycling, water aerobics, elliptical machine or walking are all easy on the joints. Try taking a walk on your lunch break.

**Examine your diet.** Reduce foods that are known to cause inflammation. For example, those donuts in the break room probably contain bleached flour and sugar, two ingredients that can increase inflammation. Focus on anti-inflammatory foods instead, such as salmon, beans, lentils, broccoli, cabbage, and brightly colored fruit.

**Consider supplements.** Probably the best-known supplement to promote healthy cartilage is glucosamine chondroitin sulfate. The addition of ASU to glucosamine chondroitin can add anti-inflammatory properties as well. Daily doses of 2,000 IU of vitamin D and 1000-1500 mg of calcium can also help maintain bone health, reduce the risk of osteoporosis and fragility fractures.

**Talk to your doctor.** If you suffer from joint pain, ask your doctor about possible medications, physical therapy, joint injections and surgery options.

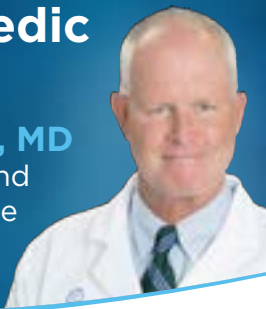
John Powell, MD

*Orthopaedic Surgeon*

*HSHS Medical Group Multispecialty Care  
900 W. Temple Ave., Building B, Suite 2500  
217-540-2350*

## Orthopaedic Care

**John Powell, MD**  
Orthopaedic and  
Sports Medicine  
Specialist



From sports injuries to joint replacement, Dr. Powell cares for patients of all ages in Effingham.  
**For an appointment, call 217-540-2350.**



**HSHS Medical Group**

[HSHSMedicalGroup.org](http://HSHSMedicalGroup.org)



**Like Ask-An-Expert?** Chamber members are invited to submit a column on a subject of their choosing. The article cannot be a solicitation for your business, but rather a sharing of topics, tips, and trends relevant to current business needs. If you have questions, please contact Nicole at 217.342.4147.



**NEW**  
Chamber website  
coming soon!

*All "Ask An Expert" columns will be archived and available for you to read at your leisure!*

# CHAMBER FOUNDATION

## **57/70 Task Force Fights Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is an often-invisible issue, and a local group of citizens believes people in the Effingham area are uniquely situated to help spot, report, and rescue victims of human trafficking. The 57/70 Task Force is a newly established group of individuals working through The Chamber Foundation of Effingham County to "Educate the community to eliminate human trafficking in Effingham County, one person at a time."



Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act and affects millions of men, women, and children every year. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help,

making human trafficking a hidden crime.

The task force is already reaching out via many avenues to fulfill their mission. They have hosted a series of informational roundtables to share the perspective and knowledge of the Effingham City Police Department and several related nonprofits. They have also set up awareness-building billboards in our area. The group's Facebook page amplifies local and online events and resources that will help people educate themselves on the issue and help them to



prevent or to report suspected trafficking, with a website coming at the end of the month.

57/70 Task Force has been actively working with local agencies like CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate), SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), Eden's Glory, SWAN (Stopping Woman Abuse Now), Effingham City Police Department, and Effingham Social Justice Group.

The 57/70 Task Force is actively seeking donors to support this cause, and money raised so far has gone to marketing, web design, education, and billboards in our area to raise awareness. The group thanks several donors who have stepped up to help spread awareness of this important issue.

Anyone wishing to donate to the 57/70 Task Force efforts, may contact the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, 217.342.4147, or by email to [nmorrison@effingham-countychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effingham-countychamber.com). You can also visit their Facebook page: [facebook.com/5770TaskForce](https://facebook.com/5770TaskForce) or contact them at [5770taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:5770taskforce@gmail.com).

## **Chamber Foundation Retains Jeff Fritchtnitch as Talent Pipeline Manager**

One of the highlights of Effingham County is the willingness of the area school systems and businesses to partner. Recently the Chamber Foundation of Effingham County's Board of Directors approved a new program to assist school districts in Effingham County, Lake Land College and the business community.

The program, called Effingham County Job Opportunities for Business Success or EC - JOBS, is being led by Jeff Fritchtnitch who is serving as Talent Pipeline Manager for the Foundation.

Jeff is a former Effingham County Chamber Board Chairman and retired school superintendent.



Jeff Fritchtnitch,  
Chamber Foundation  
Talent Pipeline Manager



dent. He is currently planning the rollout of the EC-JOBS program, scheduled for July 1, 2021.

The program will feature a web-based platform, called "Workbay", that students, displaced workers and businesses will utilize to seek employment in county businesses. Students will be able to build a resume, research area businesses and skills needed to work in those businesses. The business community will be able to share specific information about their business, skills needed for specific jobs within their business as well as recruit not only students, but displaced workers or the incumbent worker seeking a different career.

To learn more about the EC - JOBS, please contact Jeff at [frittereu48@gmail.com](mailto:frittereu48@gmail.com) or call 217-500-7886.

# SHARE THE LOVE



**Get Recognized!** Each time a referred business becomes a Chamber member, the referring individual will receive a \$25 credit for future advertising/promotions in a Chamber publication or e-blast!

The Member Referral Program is a member driven effort to increase Chamber membership to reach out collective goals. A growing membership strengthens the Chamber's ability to impact community and business issues that are important to our members. By actively participating in the program, you will help with the continued growth of the Chamber while creating new connections. With your involvement you are showing support for the Chamber and the belief in our continued efforts to meet the needs of our members and provide even MORE valuable benefits.

How does it work? Easy! Identify a business you feel would benefit from a Chamber membership and email their information to Becky Brown, Membership Director, at [bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com) or call 217.342.4147. All referred businesses will be contacted for recruitment.

CREATE NEW CONNECTIONS • STRENGTHEN THE CHAMBER  
• IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
903 N. Keller Dr., Effingham, IL 62401  
[www.effinghamcountychamber.com](http://www.effinghamcountychamber.com)



Congratulations to Jay Buehnerkemper, Chamber Ambassador & President of **First Mid Bank & Trust** for being our 1st recipient of the \$25 credit in the Share the Love Member Referral Program! Jay referred **Big Papa's**, a new Chamber member.



## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 12PM - 1:30PM

Keller Convention Center

**\$15.00 PER PERSON**

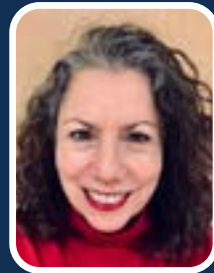
### FEATURED BUSINESS:



• announcement of the 2021 Employee of the Year

• chance to win door prizes from:  
Dan Hecht Chevrolet, Dairy Queen,  
Burkland's Florist & Gifts & more!

**Reservation Required - Please call the Chamber office at 217.342.4147 to reserve a table of 6+ guests.**



### FEATURED PRESENTER:

Susan Hanfland,  
Senior Consultant & Trainer,  
SCH Consulting

### REGISTER HERE:







# More choices. More rewards.

New best-in-class credit card options for you and your business are now available.

Learn more at  
[midlandsb.com/personal-credit-cards](http://midlandsb.com/personal-credit-cards)  
[midlandsb.com/business-credit-cards](http://midlandsb.com/business-credit-cards)



**Midland**   
States Bank®

Effingham Main Banking Center  
110 S. 5th Street | Effingham, IL 62401  
855-696-4352

Member FDIC

# CAPITAL INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT



## HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital's Mission has guided their ministry for more than 140 years: To reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry. As always, the hospital has remained focused on caring for their patients and community throughout the COVID-19 health crisis, thanks to the extremely hard work and dedication of their colleagues, leaders and providers.

### *Hospital Honors*

At all times, even in the midst of a pandemic, St. Anthony's colleagues work hard to prevent infections, double-check medications and keep patients free from harm. During this challenging time, St. Anthony's was the only hospital in the area to be nationally recognized with an "A" grade for patient safety, a confirmation of the daily commitment of colleagues and medical staff in the areas of quality and safety.

HSHS St. Anthony's is also known for orthopedic excellence, as one of only two hospitals in the state and


the only hospital in downstate Illinois to have achieved The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement.

CMS recently updated their ratings of hospitals across the U.S., evaluating hospitals on over 80 performance areas ranging from patient experience, safety, timeliness of care to unplanned revisits, death, and cost of care delivery. In their recent evaluation, HSHS St. Anthony's received a 4-star rating, putting the hospital in the top one-third of acute care hospitals in the nation.

### *Community Support*

Supporting the Effingham community collaboratively is crucial in meeting area health care needs. St. Anthony's partnership with Effingham Catholic Charities helps provide Emergency Prescription Assistance, Community Diabetes Program, food pantry milk donations and healthy food bags, and a Dental Voucher program. The hospital's support of the Crisis Nursery of Effingham County provides lunches for the kids they serve and offsets some operating expenses so this island of safety is here for families in crisis.

For more information about HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, visit [www.stanthonyshospital.org](http://www.stanthonyshospital.org).



**CALLED  
to  
CARE.**



HSHS  
St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital

## EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS' MARKETING PLAN

From Small Town Shops to Hospitals, Banks to Colleges, the Chamber's "Network" & "E-Network" Magazines get tremendous exposure in Effingham County!

### **When you advertise with us...**

- new customers are attracted
- store traffic is generated
- employee morale is boosted

### **Affordable rates & sizes available!**

Let Nicole help you grow your brand with the community & Chamber Members! Use your Chamber Credit or marketing budget in one of our next issues!

**Our June issue will be focused  
on Tourism & Hospitality!**

217.342.4147  
[nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)





## JOIN THE CHAMBER ENERGY PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

Combine your usage with other members to receive lower rates

- Low, Fixed-Rate Monthly Bills
- Long-term Budget Stability
- Group Buying Power
- Free Energy Education and Training
- Customer Service Assistance
- Experienced Energy Professionals handle the details.



To learn more and schedule a FREE energy bill analysis, call 217-521-9400 or email [shelby@cqiassociates.com](mailto:shelby@cqiassociates.com).

## EFFINGHAM PERFORMANCE CENTER EPC



[www.TheEPC.org](http://www.TheEPC.org) | (217) 540-2788 | [ticketmaster.com/epc](http://ticketmaster.com/epc)

# *the* EDUCATION *issue*

Students in Effingham County benefit from the collaborative efforts of the school system and the business community. Coming together to provide opportunities for students have resulted in partnerships that return dividends now and into the future.

Programs like CEO, CTEC and health occupations, that have their roots in Effingham County, give students a leg up on their futures by giving them the chance to “test drive” aspects of their career choice and make informed choices. Joining forces helps us maximize the resources available to school students and key in on the development needs of our incumbent workers by creating pathways to sustainable employment.

Collaborative efforts are also important ways to address other education concerns as schools face teacher shortages and funding issues. Additionally, businesses have looked to the school system to help address training needs of their employees. With the help of business investment, Effingham County has been able to deliver manufacturing skills and welding classes available to students and incumbent workers.



## EFFINGHAM REGIONAL CAREER ACADEMY

The largest collaborative effort in Effingham County is the Effingham Regional Career Academy.

A board that contains business leaders and educators is charged with developing a curriculum that prepares students for a career in one of five curriculum areas in highest demand in Effingham County: Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Agriculture, Information Technology and Automotive/Transportation.



ERCA's primary focus will be on stackable certificates that serve as building blocks toward a post-secondary degree or certificate. These stackable credentials not only allow traditional students a starting point for their careers but also serve as a professional development opportunity to upskill the current workforce. This allows students the option of earning a certificate and heading directly into the workforce after high school graduation, go back to school later to earn an associates degree and still later to pursue a four-year degree.

The career academy has attracted the interest of area school districts, with 14 signing intergovernmental agreements for the opportunity

**Altamont, Beecher City,  
Brownstown, Cowden-Herrick,  
Cumberland, Dieterich,  
Effingham, Jasper County,  
Neoga, North Clay, St. Anthony,  
St. Elmo, Stewardson-Strasburg,  
and Teutopolis**





The ERCA is designed to teach the skills and knowledge needed in both the current and future job markets. The mission is to attract, retain and grow area businesses by providing an innovative learning environment which provides hands on experiences and training to both students and incumbent adult workers.

to give students opportunities for success. Plans are to accommodate 150 students annually at the career academy along with providing upskilling opportunities for incumbent workers.

The ERCA will be housed in a new building to be constructed south of the Kluthe Center for Higher Education & Technology in Effingham. The 40,000 square foot facility will house two training labs and multiple classrooms with the flexibility to transition to new learning needs as they are identified.

The current construction timeline would have ERCA classes beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. The timeline could shorten pending available funding. A fundraising campaign will begin later this year for classroom infrastructure and equipment needs.

More information about the Effingham Regional Career Academy can be found at [www.erca.us](http://www.erca.us). Individuals interested in being a part of ERCA development are invited to contact the ERCA Board Chair Norma Lansing at [nklansing96@yahoo.com](mailto:nklansing96@yahoo.com)

## Members of the ERCA Board

**President - Norma Lansing**  
**Vice President - Mark Doan**  
**Secretary/Treasurer - Dr. Josh Bullock**

## Board Members

*Effingham County School Superintendents:*  
 Jim Littleford (Altamont,) Phil Lark (Beecher City,) Cary Jackson (Dieterich,) Matt Sturgeon (Teutopolis,) and Greg Fearday (St. Anthony.)

Kelly Roepke (Y-Yard Auto/Truck,) Matt Repking (The Equity,) Courtney Yockey (Effingham Regional Career Academy,) Laura Sullivan

## Board Members (cont'd)

(Eastern Illinois Education for Employment System,) Jami Sidwell (Patterson Technology Center,) Chad Thompson (North American Lighting,) Amanda Maag (HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital,) Blake Pierce (Rural King,) Bob Schultz (Schultz Investment Company,) Justin Niebrugge (Stevens Industries,) Dave Jansen (Siemer Milling Company,) and Lucinda Hart (Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.)

## Ex-Officio Board Members

Dr. Austin Cheney (Eastern Illinois University,) Jamie Corda-Hadjoui (WIOA 23,) Steve Miller (City of Effingham,) Heather Mumma (Effingham County Board,) and Julie Wollerman (Regional Office of Education.)

## Committee Chairs

Brent Emmerich (Marketing,) Jon Althaus (Programs and Curriculum,) Chris Strohl (Operations,) Christi Donsbach (Funding,) and Kellie Niemerg and Matt Roedl (Workforce Readiness.)





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### DIETERICH

The Village of Dieterich has been awarded \$2,014,800 for the Dieterich Community Recreation Center through the State's Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act (PARC) grant program.

Work is also underway on the expansion of the park pavilion and a handicapped accessible fishing pier.



### EFFINGHAM

Quik Trip will construct a new facility at 1320 North Third, the northeast corner of North Route 45 and Technology Drive.



A new 25,000 square foot building is under construction on North Route 45 for *170 Truck Center, Inc.* The truck center provides heavy duty installation and repair for service fleet and commercial tractor trailers along with an inventory of quality replacement parts. The company is also certified for annual DOT tractor trailer inspections. Owners Chris and Sharon Roepke and their staff of 17 are hoping to expand their team of experienced mechanics.



### *Bike Trail Improvement Project Moving Forward*

The Effingham City Council has approved a local agreement for Federal participation with IDOT and committed local funds to make Effingham more "bike friendly". Utilizing over \$900,000 in federal grant funds, the City is preparing for improvements on several routes through the city that include striping, signage and kiosks. Trailheads will be added along Ford Avenue and on Keller Drive. The city's share of the project is 20% of the project cost. Half of the city's costs will be provided by TREC (Trails Recreation Effingham County). The project is on the Illinois Department of Transportation's June bid letting calendar.



CEFS Head Start Program is moving to the old Library building on Market Street. The move will allow the organization to expand and bring the main program for 3 to 5 year olds and the Early Head Start serving younger children, under one roof. CEFS received approval to spend up to \$50,000 of tax increment finance dollars through the City of Effingham for the building renovation. The building will be completely solar-powered through funding made available through Illinois Solar for All. Plans are for the move to the new building to take place in May, with programming to begin in late summer and early fall.

Joe's Pizza and Pasta has entered the frozen pizza business, Joe's Froze. After two years of formulating the new product line, Joe's Froze are available in about 15 grocery stores throughout the state, at the Joe's Pizza restaurants and at local bars. Manufacturing began in June 2020. Currently eight varieties are offered along with a breakfast pizza.

#### ALTAMONT



A multimillion dollar expansion of *The Equity* is underway in Altamont. An existing building has been demolished to make room for a 40' x 80' office building with an 80' x 120' attached shop, an 80' x 100' chemical building, and 80' x 232' warehouse for chemicals and seed. The Altamont Equity location employs 21 full time employees and adds up to 15 part-time seasonal workers.

#### *El Rancherito opens in Altamont*



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CAPITAL INVESTORS



# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

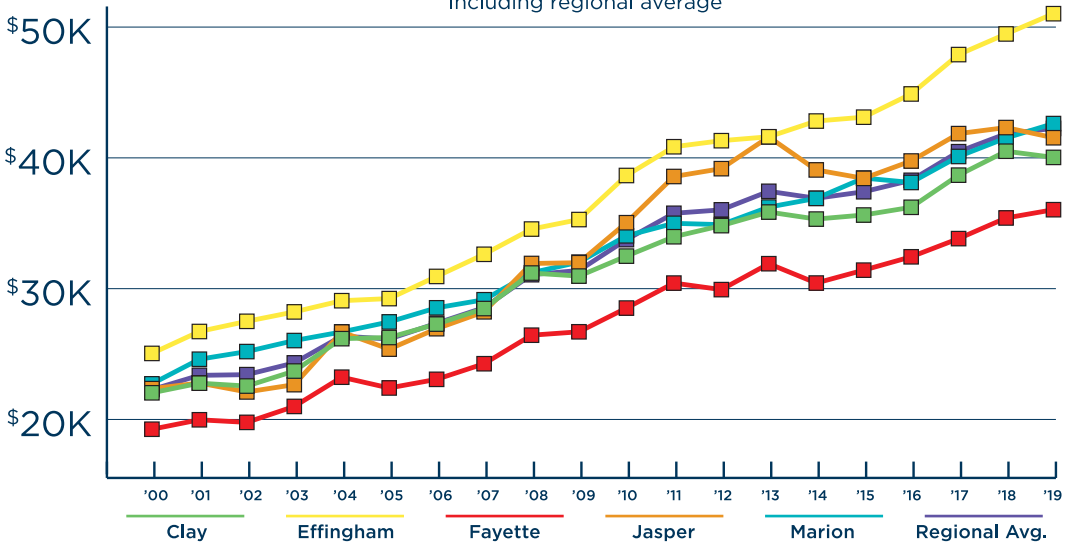
## EFFINGHAM COUNTY LABOR MARKET

	January		February	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Total Labor Force	19,235	19,227	19,132	19,083
Eff. Co UE Rate	5.2%	3%	4.7%	2.8%
Unemployed	999	615	900	535
Employed	18,236	18,612	18,232	18,548
Illinois UE Rate	8.5%	4%	7.8%	3.4%
US UE Rate	6.8%	4%	6.2%	4%



## 20-YEAR COUNTY PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

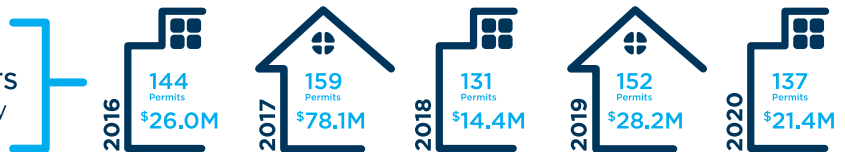
Including regional average



Given inflation, \$20,000 in 2000 had the same approximate spending power as \$29,600 in 2019

## 5 YEAR BUILDING PERMITS

Effingham County



Sources: Illinois Department of Revenue, [www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us); Illinois Department of Employment Security, [www.lmi.ides.state.il.us](http://www.lmi.ides.state.il.us); Effingham City Building Official, [www.effinghamil.com](http://www.effinghamil.com); Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov); U.S. Census Bureau, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov); and, Effingham County Treasurer, [www.co.effingham.il.us/treasurer](http://www.co.effingham.il.us/treasurer)

Nationally recognized with an  
**“A” grade**  
for patient safety.

## We're one of America's safest hospitals.

The colleagues of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital work hard to prevent infections, double-check medications and keep patients free from harm. During this challenging time, we are proud that St. Anthony's is the only hospital in the area to be nationally recognized with an

**“A” grade for patient safety.**



HSHS  
**St. Anthony's**  
Memorial Hospital



**EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
*Engaging Business and Community*

September 24th

**f LIVE@5:30pm**

**Tickets: \$50 each**

sponsored by **Midland**   
States Bank®



217-347-5223 [www.jansensheating.com](http://www.jansensheating.com)  
**JANSEN'S**  
Heating & Air  
"Your Comfort Specialist"

**ONLY**  
**300 tickets**  
**available!**

**\$5000 GRAND PRIZE**



To register: Visit [www.effinghamcountychamber.com](http://www.effinghamcountychamber.com)

# 2021-2022 DESTINATIONS WITH THE CHAMBER

## POMPEII & AMALFI

October 19-26, 2021

Sorrento, Capri, Positano, Ravello, Naples & Pompeii  
Pizza & Pasta demonstration & tasting  
Limuncello sampling

6 Nights, 10 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

*travel with us!*



## NEW YORK CITY HOLIDAY

Greenwich Village, Wall Street,  
Christmas Spectacular at Radio  
City Music Hall, Statue of  
Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11  
Memorial, 9/11 Museum,  
Broadway Show

December 6 - 10, 2021  
5 Days, 5 Meals: 3 Breakfasts,  
2 Dinners

2022 DESTINATION...

*Greece!*

Be watching for more info!



Visit [EffinghamCountyChamber.com](http://EffinghamCountyChamber.com) for more information about the Chamber Travel Program!

Sponsor a new member.  
Grow **your** Chamber.  
Support the Community.

## Pay It FORWARD

EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Local Businesses Supporting Local Business

Pay It Forward is an exciting opportunity for YOU to sponsor a Tier 1 membership. Do you work with a charitable non-profit organization? Know of a start-up entrepreneur? Work with a small business? What a great way to introduce them to all the valuable resources, programs & services offered by the Chamber just by sponsoring them as a new member of the Chamber family!

### THANK YOU to our 2021 Pay It Forward Partners:

- **Dieterich Bank** - 100+ Woman Who Care
- **Fifth Third Bank** - Effingham County Habitat for Humanity
- **First Mid Bank & Trust** - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- **HSBS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** - Effingham County CEO
- **John Boos & Co.** - Andrew Gobczynski Big Heart Foundation
- **Midland States Bank** - Effingham County FISH Human Services Organization
- **Patterson Companies** - Enduring Freedom Ministries
- **Washington Savings Bank** - Blessings in a Backpack

To become a Pay It Forward Sponsor, contact Becky Brown, Membership Director, at [bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com) with the name of the organization, entrepreneur or business you would like to sponsor and she will do the rest!

Effingham County Chamber of Commerce  
903 N. Keller Dr., Effingham, IL 62401  
[www.EffinghamCountyChamber.com](http://www.EffinghamCountyChamber.com)



# WELL DONE!



Carl Schwinke, Vice President of Grain Supply for **Siemer Milling Company**, received the 2021 University of Kentucky Wheat Science Service Award for support of the UK wheat science research.



Jerry Jansen, sales association with **CENTURY 21 Realty Concepts** won Century 21's 2020 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award. The annual award is based on results from the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Survey (QSS) which is e-mailed to consumers immediately after the purchase or sale of a home. To earn the Pinnacle Producer Award, an agent

must receive completed customer surveys for at least 50 percent of their transactions surveyed from January 1 - December 31, with an average survey score of at least 95 percent or better for 2 consecutive years.

**Stevens Industries** has been named one of the top 300 woodworking companies by FDMC Magazine, a monthly publication covering the best practices in woodworking technology and business. Stevens rated 72nd out of 300 for 2020. Stevens also announced the promotion of Justin Niebrugge to Director of Manufacturing Engineering and Maintenance. Justin has been with Stevens for 11 years.



The **Effingham Daily News** was named Newspaper of the Year in the small and medium-sized publications division by owners CNHI. The designation is for everyday news quality in print and online. In addition, reporter Charles Mills won for Best Video with his piece about a group of volunteers that made improvements to the home of a woman raising her three great-grandchildren. The newspaper was also a finalist in the Public Service category for a two-part series, "Coping with COVID".

Tzena Tucker Laue retired April 9 from **First Mid Bank & Trust** after 32 years of service. For the last 10 years she has been the Effingham Community President.



**C h a m b e r** President & CEO Norma Lansing was honored at the April First Friday Luncheon for her 45-year Chamber career. Past Board Chairmen

speaking at the luncheon were Dr. Josh Bullock, Lake Land College President; Matt Cekander, CPA & Partner, Doehring Winders & Co; and Current Board Chair Jeff Speer, Broker/Owner, Re/Max Key Advantage.



The **Village of Teutopolis** will be featured in WEIU's This Is Our Story Program on Thursday, June 17th at 7:00pm on WEIU TV and [www.weiui.net](http://www.weiui.net) and on Facebook and YouTube. This is Our Story features the heritage and spirit of local communities through the perspective of the residents.

## Who's New?

**Casey Adam** has been hired as the new superintendent of Altamont Community Unit 10.



Aaron Niebrugge is the new owner of **WET Pools & Spas**.

**Weber Optiks** welcomes Dr. Connor Kabbes to the team.

**Illinois Fiber Connect** welcomes Jason Griffy as Montrose Mutual Superintendent.



Damond W. Boatwright, MHA, MHS, FACHE, has been named the new President and CEO of **Hospital Sisters Health System**, beginning in June 2021, succeeding the current president and CEO of HSHS, Mary Starmann-Harrison. Boatwright has over 25 years of experience in the healthcare industry.

Jay Buehnerkemper has been named Community President for **First Mid Bank & Trust**, overseeing Effingham, Altamont and Neoga branches

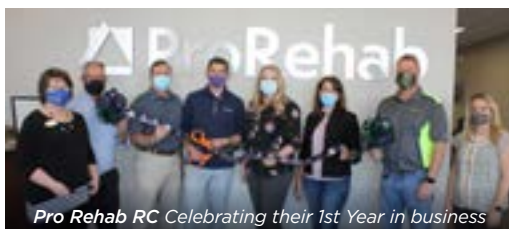


If you have news you want to share with the Chamber membership on special awards, recognition, employee promotions, etc., please e-mail the information to: Nicole Morrison at [nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)

## CELEBRATIONS



*Golden Corral Celebrating their Grand Opening*



*Pro Rehab RC Celebrating their 1st Year in business*



The **Downtown Effingham Business Group** hosted a Celebrating Women Wine Tasting & Special Business Owner Recognition Night on March 24 as part of their Women's History Month celebration. Mayor Mike Schutzbach read a proclamation declaring March 25 as Celebrating Businesswomen Day in Effingham.



The Chamber recently recognized **Effingham County Health Department** workers for their dedicated service to our communities!

Thank you to **Ameren Illinois** Energy Efficiency Program for selecting the Effingham County Chamber as a recipient of their membership grant program! We have received \$2,000 to support our members who have been hardest hit by the pandemic in retaining their Chamber membership for 2021!

# NEW MEMBERS

The Chamber encourages all members to do business with each other. The following companies and organizations have made an important investment in their business by joining the chamber. Please consider them for your personal and professional needs. To find a complete list of Chamber members, visit the Business Directory online at [EffinghamCountyChamber.com](http://EffinghamCountyChamber.com).

## **GOLDEN CORRAL**

Chris Hruby, Owner  
1102 Ave of Mid America, Effingham  
(217) 787-4660  
[www.goldencorral.com](http://www.goldencorral.com)  
Restaurant

## **AFLAC**

Johnnie Blank, Independent Sales Associate  
(618) 335-3811  
[www.aflac.com](http://www.aflac.com)  
Insurance

## **S & K VENTURES, INC.**

Scott Robinson, Owner  
607 W Clark Avenue, Effingham  
(618) 708-4450  
[www.skventuresigns.com](http://www.skventuresigns.com)  
Signs

## **JX TRUCK CENTER - EFFINGHAM**

Cindy Croy, Asst. Operations Manager  
1901 W Evergreen, Effingham  
(217) 347-5031  
[www.jxe.com](http://www.jxe.com)  
TruckDealers/Repair/Accessories;TruckParts

## **MERAKI HEALTH**

Tony O'Brien, Director of Business Operations  
102 N Jackson St, Newton  
(618) 783-7529  
[www.merakishine.com](http://www.merakishine.com)  
Speech, Occupational & Physical Therapy

## **DANCELIFE CENTER**

Antoine Thomas  
105 N Banker, Effingham  
(833) 432-6232  
[www.dancelifecenter.com](http://www.dancelifecenter.com)  
Dance Studio

## **BOBCAT OF EFFINGHAM**

Jessica Ward, Branch Manager  
1206 W Main St, Teutopolis  
(217) 717-4550  
[www.bobcatofeffingham.com](http://www.bobcatofeffingham.com)  
Construction Equipment

*Referred by: Bev Soltwedel*

## Member Milestones

**Civil Design**  
25 years

**Stanfield Chiropractic**  
30 years

**ProRehab Physical Therapy**  
1 year

### **Susan Hanfland and Marty Stock have joined the Chamber as Lifetime Friends of the Chamber!**

Friend of the Chamber provides an opportunity for retired executives, local residents and entrepreneurs to support the Chamber and the community and remain active & involved. Benefits include:

- Annual subscription to Chamber Communications (Network newsletter, Chamber 360 magazine, E-newsletters, and Texting Program)
- Access to Chamber events, programs. and services at member pricing
- Presence on the Chamber website with standard online directory listing
- Use of Chamber's conference room (per availability)

There are two investment options available: Annual investment for \$150 or Lifetime Investment for \$500.

If you or someone you know fits this criteria, please contact Becky Brown, Membership Director, at [bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com).

*\*This membership is not applicable to a business or organization or an individual affiliated with a Chamber member business.*

# meet your new marketing team.

## Have your marketing needs outgrown your personnel?

A partnership with ITMG provides the resources of our entire agency, most often for less than the cost of one full-time employee.

Whether serving as your outsourced marketing team, or supporting your existing team, you get the skills of a graphic designer, copywriter, web developer, videographer, photographer, and a CMO... all in a predictable monthly package designed to fit your unique needs.

**imaginethis!**  
MARKETING GROUP

branding & design • web development • photography & video • digital marketing • strategy

217.342.2661  
thinkcreatedo.com



**MAPPING**  
the Future of Our Community

Do you want to be a part of planning Effingham County's future?  
Call 217.342.4147 to sign up! Sessions start in the Fall.

**THE EQUITY**

*Team Equity thanks the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for being part of The Equity's success, but also keeping Effingham County viable.*

*Team Equity*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY

event: 5p-7p  
**Business After Hours**  
@ Holiday Inn Express

event: 7a-6p  
**Chamber Golf Outing**  
@ Effingham Country Club

6

event: 9a-10a  
**Webinar - Create Raving Fans with Michael Angelo Caruso**

7

event: 12p-1:30p  
**Employee Appreciation Luncheon**  
@ Keller Convention Center

13

20

event: 9a-10a  
**HYPE Webinar Series with Teresa McCloy**

21

## JUNE

event: 7:30a-9a  
**Coffee & Connections**  
@ Siemer Milling Company

event: 9a-10a  
**HYPE Webinar Series with Erin Bemis - Reach Customers Online with Google**

4

event: 12p-1:30p  
**Scholarship Recipients & Donors Luncheon 2021**  
@ Keller Convention Center

9

17

event: 5p-7p  
**Business After Hours**  
@ Ramada by Wyndham

## JULY

event: 5p-7p  
**Business After Hours**  
@ Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC

event: 5p-10p  
**EffingHAM-JAM 2021**  
@ Downtown Effingham

8

event: 5p-7p  
**Business After Hours**  
@ Effingham Prompt Care

15

event: 9a-10a  
**HYPE Webinar Series**

23

24

event: 8a-5p  
**EffingHAM-JAM 2021**  
@ Downtown Effingham

Dates & locations are subject to change/cancellation. Please check the Chamber website calendar for the most accurate info.



# save the dates

**Virtual Fall Draw  
Top Community Leaders Under 40  
and Up & Coming Leaders**

September 24  
September 28



# FRIDAY, MAY 21 EFFINGHAM COUNTRY CLUB



54TH ANNUAL



EFFINGHAM COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# GOLF OUTING

2021

## COSTS:

\$175/golfer

\$700/foursome (includes golf sign)

\$900/foursome (includes Exclusive Hole Sponsor)

Register here:



Sponsorships available - call Nicole 217.342.4147



**NEW**  
Chamber website  
coming soon!

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE

# PAID

PERMIT NO. 172  
EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

(217) 342-4147 | [EffinghamCountyChamber.com](http://EffinghamCountyChamber.com)

903 N. Keller Drive, PO Box 643  
Effingham, IL 62401