

# NETWORK

*Effingham County Chamber of Commerce*

OCTOBER 2020

## ILLINOIS CHAMBERS AGAINST the PROGRESSIVE TAX AMENDMENT

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual GOLF OUTING 2020

Thanks to all of our golfers and sponsors for the tremendous support of this year's Chamber Golf Outing! A shout out to the staff at Effingham Country Club for the outstanding job they do to support our event.



Overall Winner & Front 9 Team Winner: StaffQuick



Back 9 Team Winner: Doebling, Winders & Co. LLP



Presented by:

 **Consolidated**  
communications

**RISE**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**THANK YOU!  
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU!**



Being named a national Chamber of the Year in 2020 would not have occurred without the ongoing support of the Chamber by our professional staff, volunteer committees and an active and engaged membership. YOU are the reason we received this treasured designation.

The Chamber of the Year nomination process begins with completion of an Operations Survey conducted by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Chambers must qualify in three

of five designated categories to begin the Chamber of the Year application process. We are fortunate to have a membership that exceeds over 75% of chambers in our size category and our member retention rates are at over 90% annually.

The COY application process is extensive and detailed covering organizational excellence, member services and connections including our strategy for supporting our organization's mission, value and relevance and a review of two key programs. This year, our application focused on the business impact of the AXIS shared workspace and building a better equipped workforce with Effingham County Manufacturing Day. The final piece of the Chamber of the Year process is an interview that digs into how the Chamber brings all of our initiatives together for the betterment of our members and Effingham County.

We are proud of this recognition by our industry peers. We are even prouder to share this award with the community.

While we'll take some time to bask in the spotlight shown on Effingham County, the Chamber Board, staff and volunteer committees will continue to lead the way in providing outstanding programs and services, advocating for your business interests and seeking ways to make Effingham County attractive for business success and community growth.

*In this Issue:* We are closing in on Election Day 2020. And, we all know it's a big one from the national, state and local levels. Locally we will see a slight change on the Effingham County Board and our representation in Springfield will see at least two new legislators representing Effingham County. Illinois voters are being asked to vote on a Constitutional Amendment that will change how Illinois residents are taxed on their income.

The Chamber Board of Directors has reviewed this issue and is opposed to the Amendment for reasons that include the timing of this change in a year when Illinois residents are already hurting from the pandemic and resulting economic conditions. We oppose giving new powers to a state legislature that is mired in ethical challenges and eliminating the protection of only one tax on incomes. The anticipated additional taxes raised will not begin to cover the amount needed to dent the state's budget deficit. And, finally, changes to the tax structure will be another hit to the growing out migration of prime working age and educated Illinoisans.

Illinois' fiscal policy and tax laws should actively promote economic growth by encouraging increased capital investment, productivity, and creation of new jobs for its citizens, not create an environment that punishes citizens who want to improve their lives and grow their incomes.

**Norma Lansing, President & CEO**  
nlsansing@effinghamcountychamber.com  
217-342-4147

## THANK YOU TO OUR CAPITAL INVESTORS



2021 DESTINATIONS WITH THE CHAMBER

# it's not too early to *Sign Up!*

## CROATIA AND ITS ISLANDS

August 13-24, 2021

### Small Ship Cruising on the Adriatic Coast

Optional 2-night Dubrovnik  
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Departing October 19, 2021

6-Night accommodations in Sorrento  
Breakfast daily at the hotel & 4 dinners  
Guided excursion to Positano and Ravello/Amalfi/Pompeii  
Tours of Capri & Naples, and much more!

For more information, contact  
**Norma Lansing**  
(217) 342-4147



## NEW YORK CITY HOLIDAY

Departing November 29, 2021

### 5 Days, 5 Meals

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

### Book Now & Save \$200 per Person!

Double \$3,099, Single \$4,099,  
or Triple \$3,069



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

## Looking for Family Owned Businesses!

Our December Network feature is **Home Grown**, a look at family-owned businesses in Effingham County and their contributions to the community. Our focus is on family-owned businesses that are in the second generation and beyond.

All family owned businesses that complete the survey will be recognized in the story.

Advertising and recognition of your business news for the December Network are now being accepted. Share your business news on special awards, recognition, employee promotions, etc. Advertise your business' products, services and special promotions, just in time for the holidays! Quarter page, half page and full-page ads are available as well as providing an Ask An Expert column and business ad.

For information or to be featured, please contact Norma Lansing at [nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com).

2020 Edition  
Effingham County Map

**NOW AVAILABLE!**

Featuring Effingham County,  
City of Effingham,  
Lake Sara & Teutopolis Street Maps

Available at:

EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & THE EFFINGHAM  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

# congratulations!

Chamber of the Year is a well-deserved honor reflecting everything the Chamber does for the people and the businesses of Effingham County.

We are so proud of the Chamber and love working with Norma and her team!

**great job!**



**imaginethis!**  
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f i n



## ASK AN EXPERT

### Manage your Facility's Energy Usage

#### *Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program*

By knowing how and when the energy you are using is the most expensive, you can find ways to reduce use and reduce overall costs. Energy efficiency is an easy way to boost the bottom line – before budgets get stretched to the breaking point. Something as simple as upgrading to LED exit signs could save hundreds of dollars a year in energy and maintenance costs. Ameren Illinois is an ally for customers who wish to eliminate energy waste and reduce their monthly power bill.

The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has launched a free digital tool that can help you manage your energy usage at your facility. You can see how your energy usage compares with similar businesses, share savings tips with co-workers, and explore personalized energy efficiency recommendations – specific to your business! Now more than ever, it's important to understand how your business is using its energy, so you can make small changes to make a big impact on your utility bills and save money in the long run. This tool, called the Energy Analyzer, is available at no charge to you. We understand times are hard right now, and we want you to have access to information that can help your business save money.

The Energy Analyzer provides you with high level energy insights including a tracking report, and provides average daily cost and average daily usage as well as average temperature and humidity to help you determine how these conditions may affect your usage. You can see how your facility compares to similar facility types and if you have multiple sites, you can use the account ranking feature to view how your annual costs compare for each location.

The Energy Analyzer will provide you with recommended solutions and best practices on how to conserve energy in different categories. With better visibility into your energy usage and spend, you can save money and find energy savings solutions, which in turn should help improve your bottom line.

Registering for the Energy Analyzer is free and easy, just go to [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Engage](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Engage) and enter your account number and zip code for immediate access. The steps you take today will deliver savings for years to come. Please call the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program if you have any questions, or need additional assistance with registering for your free account at 1.866.800.0747.



Like Ask-An-Expert? Chamber members are invited to submit a column on a subject of their choosing. A 300 word (text only) article can be submitted to Norma Lansing at [nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com).

The article can not be a solicitation for your business, but rather a sharing of topics, tips and trends relevant to current business needs. With the purchase of an Ask An Expert feature, your business will receive a ¼ page ad in the Network magazine and the Ask An Expert articles will be available on the Chamber website. Only two Ask An Expert columns will be featured in each issue of Network. If you have questions, please contact Norma at 217.342.4147.

## ENERGY ANALYZER

**REGISTER ONLINE & SAVE TODAY!**



**Saving energy and money for your business is important now more than ever.**

Sign up to use the new and FREE Energy Analyzer tool from Ameren Illinois and learn more about ways to help your business save energy and money on your utility bill. Register today and receive a 20% incentive increase on your next standard lighting project!

For more information and to register, visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Engage](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Engage)

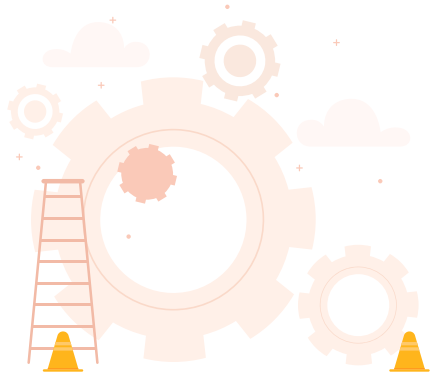
## EFFINGHAM COUNTY'S PATH FORWARD

While we work through the economic recovery after COVID-19, economic drivers like a skilled and available workforce are top of mind for area employers.

The Chamber's Workforce Development Division team, led by Matt Roedl of Prudential Financial, has been looking for solutions that fit into today's more virtual environment and meet the needs of employers and job seekers from high school students to incumbent workers. We know that local employers are looking for workers who not only have technical skills but also have the essential skills needed to be a good employee, like a positive attitude, ability to follow directions and effective communication.

We feel we have found a **high-quality, innovative, and interactive career development platform** that links recruitment, skill building and career navigation into one system. In November we will be using this platform to host a Virtual Job Fair. Stay tuned for more!

**EMPLOYERS:** Remember the Chamber website is one of the top resources utilized by the community to search for local career opportunities. Chamber members can post job openings as part of your chamber membership. Want to learn more? Email [nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com).



Stella  
*Broken leg*



# Always ready.



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Memorial Hospital**

**Go to [stanthonyshospital.org/ER](https://stanthonyshospital.org/ER) to learn more.**



## *The Chamber's Annual Fall Draw went virtual in 2020!*

And, it was a sell out! All 250 tickets were sold!

Our 1st Facebook Live Event raised over \$10,000 to support the Chamber's ability to serve you and our community with programs and to grow businesses and the economy.



*Thank you to all of our sponsors, prize donors and to all who purchased a ticket!*

# BRING THE BANK TO YOU.

- View account balances
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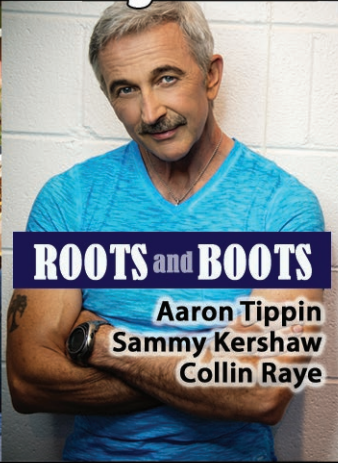




# Country is coming to The EPC . . .



**LORRIE**  
MORGAN



**ROOTS and BOOTS**

Aaron Tippin  
Sammy Kershaw  
Collin Raye



**CLAY WALKER**

View our full schedule online at  
**[www.TheEPC.org](http://www.TheEPC.org)**

 **EFFINGHAM  
PERFORMANCE  
CENTER**

Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

## LOCAL LINK



- Delivered locally to individuals, members and non-members **FREE!**
- Marketing Opportunities
- Featured Job Postings
- Local Business Updates

Contact Nicole Morrison for more information at  
[nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

## **The Equity Purchases 23 Acres at Mid America Motorworks.**

The Equity and Mid America Motorworks have announced the purchase of the Mid America corporate office building and 23 acres of ground at Mid America Motorworks' location along North Route 45.

The Equity ran out of space at their Roadway Avenue location and will use the new space for its Corporate functions and the Agronomy business unit, including demonstration plots and educational events. Business operations along with the Grain, Feed and Energy divisions will remain on Roadway Avenue. The Equity is the largest independent agricultural cooperative in Illinois. The organization offers a broad range of products to fulfill customers' needs, including Agronomy, Grain Services, Feed & Livestock, Energy, and a Hardware Do It Center.

Mike Yager, CEO of Mid America Motorworks stated that "we are pleased to welcome The Equity to 23 acres of the Corporate Campus situated north of Effingham." Mid America Motorworks carpet operations and interior manufacturing division, known as Performance Choice, have been moved to Alabama and Texas, which allow the full aftermarket Corvette and Air-Cooled VW company to move its daily operations into the Performance Choice Office building.

Located behind the 1910 Gas Station, the move to completely renovated offices also allows for the connection of the MY Garage Museum and Mid America Motorworks' Retail Operations with the addition of a breezeway. The Corporate Campus will remain set up and operational for events, with the iconic Fun Dome, and Install Domes, along with the Funfest Amphitheater on the northeast 90 acres of the property.

Yager noted that the move is a huge positive for Mid America Motorworks, as it allows the company to streamline several aspects of operations and retain all staff and have even added to their team.

## **State Renews Altamont/Beecher City Enterprise Zone**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has renewed the Enterprise Zone that includes much of Effingham County.

Enterprise Zones are an economic development tool used to encourage job growth and investment in economically underserved communities. Companies and organizations within a zone may qualify for various tax incentives, including sales tax exemptions for qualifying building materials, investment tax credits, utility tax exemptions or various local incentives.

Once designated, an Enterprise Zone maintains its designation for 15 years. The zone approved includes much of Altamont as well as an extension north along Illinois Route 128 to and including parts of Beecher City.

## **Continental Mills Expanding in Effingham**



Continental Mills, Inc., the maker of premium baking, breakfast and snack brands, has purchased the former Hodgson Mill plant located adjacent to its existing manufacturing plant in Effingham, providing the company the capacity it needs to support continued growth.

The 175,000 square foot renovated facility, is expected to be up and running sometime in 2021. In addition to providing increased capacity, the Effingham facility offers excellent proximity to Continental Mills' customers in the Eastern U.S., Midwest and Southeast.

Company Senior Vice President of Operations Mike Meredith said Effingham was a natural choice for the company's next expansion. "We already have a great partnership with the Effingham community and, as a family-owned business, those relationships are very important to us," Meredith said. "We have a tremendous amount of confidence in our team in Effingham, as well as employees across Continental Mills who will prepare this plant to open next year."

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Continental Mills has been in Effingham since 2014, when it acquired the 190,000-square-foot manufacturing facility built by Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Corp. in 2001. The Effingham manufacturing plant focuses on production of large quantity dry-mix products.

### Effingham Veterinary Clinic Ready to Expand



Effingham Veterinary Clinic Growing and An Expansion Was Inevitable

Owners, Dale Spindler, James Gratz and S. Chad Ely, broke ground on an expansion of their 408 Keller Drive location on August 20. The 4,000 square foot expansion will include an additional exam room, treatment area, expanded ICU rooms for small animals, as well as a cat only waiting area. For large animal services, the addition allows for expanded overnight stabling for hospitalization and extended space for equine surgery. Additional parking is also part of the expansion. Grooming services will be added in the future.

The clinic has also hired additional staff and expanded the treatment and exam areas to provide more efficient service for their clients. Dr. Katie Shreve recently joined the clinic and Dr. Jessie McKinney was welcomed back.

Effingham Veterinary Clinic was founded in 1973 by Dr. Sauers. Dr. Spindler became his partner in 1988. Dr. Gratz and Dr. Ely joined as partners after Dr. Sauers retirement. There are currently have 5 associate veterinarians - Dr. Mara Fehrenbacher, Dr. Lindsay Goeckner, Dr. Tanner Kirby, Dr. Jessie McKinney and Dr. Katie Shreve. This team of 8 veterinarians have a combined 100 years experience. With the purchase of Newton Veterinary Clinic in 2012, they have been able to offer the same excellent care to Jasper County as well.

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

### Altamont Opens Solar Plant



City officials in Altamont recently celebrated the completion of their newly installed solar panel array which produces a maximum capacity of 500 kW and is made up of 1,674 solar panels.

The solar plant is a project of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, which supplies wholesale power to Altamont. As a demonstration site, the plant will supplement electric capacity by enough to supply approximately 100 Altamont residential electric customers.

The power plant began commercial operation on August 26.



*New Teutopolis Village Hall*



*Cash Equipment now located at 1900 Pike Ave. in Effingham*



# CHAMBERS AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE TAX AMENDMENT

The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce has joined a coalition of state organizations and local chambers in opposition to a proposed change to the Illinois Constitution that would change the way Illinois residents' income is taxed.

Illinois currently has a flat income tax rate as mandated by the Constitution. Everyone pays a tax on their income at the same rate (currently 4.95%) and corporations pay the same tax rate (currently 7%). The current rate protects taxpayers by allowing the state to levy only one tax based on income.

The Constitutional amendment proposes to eliminate this taxpayer protection and opens the door to multiple tax rates on multiple types of income. Rates will be set by statute, not by the Constitution, and there are no requirements on how the tax income can be spent.

Proponents of the Constitutional Amendment claim the revised tax structure would lower the tax rate on middle and lower incomes and raise taxes on higher income wage earners. Estimates are that the revised tax structure would bring in an estimated \$3.6 billion in new revenue to the state.

The Amendment gives the Legislature power to increase taxes on any group of taxpayers with no limits and no accountability and without any requirement to use the additional revenue to fund essential needs such as healthcare, education or public safety.\*

***The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has studied the issue and has voted in opposition to the Constitutional Amendment.***

## POSITION STATEMENT PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX BALLOT INITIATIVE

"The Board of Directors of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, which represents 550 regional businesses and their 15,000 employees, opposes the proposed amendment to the Illinois

Constitution that will allow a new progressive tax structure on the grounds that such an amendment harms businesses of all types and sizes; will cost Illinois jobs, hurt workers, and allows the Legislature to raise taxes on all levels of income without limit. The proposed change leaves the door open for more than one tax on income and types of income. The increase in revenue is not tied to any type of spending cuts, providing an open checkbook for a legislature that already has ethical challenges."

The Chamber's mission is to *strengthen member business and stimulate regional prosperity*. This amendment does neither.

The Chamber Board's concerns of the proposed tax increase amendment include:

### 1. Timing of the proposed amendment in light of the current economic conditions resulting from the prolonged impacts of COVID-19.

- Small businesses and individuals have been especially hard hit this year. While the amendment promises lower taxes for smaller incomes, the amendment removes any restrictions on rates.
- Small businesses account for an ever-increasing percentage of business income and employment in Illinois and frequently operate as sole proprietors or through some form of tax pass-through entity (partnerships, Sub-S Corps, or as an LLP/LLC). As such, small business owners pay individual income tax on their business income, rather than corporate tax. Increasing tax rates on small businesses leaves less available revenue for economic expansion such as hiring additional employees or making capital investments.
- Under the proposal, corporate income would be taxed at flat rate of 10.49%, the third-highest rate in the nation, while the highest bracket for pass-through business income would be taxed at 9.49%, the fourth highest in the nation.

Illinois is already in the lowest ranks of Worst States

for Taxes in the U.S. The tax increase would rank Illinois as #3 in highest Corporate Tax Rate and #4 in Pass-Through Entity Tax Rate in the U.S. Illinois already has the second highest property taxes nationally. Illinois' average sales tax statewide is 8.78% compared to the national average of 6.99%

- While Illinois is discussing increasing Income Tax Rates, our neighboring states have been lowering their tax rates (IN dropped from 3.4% to 3.23%, MO dropped from 5.9% to 5.5%, Iowa plans to decrease to 6.5%, and KY recently changed from a progressive tax system down to a flat rate of 5%).

## 2. Increased Power & Trust in the General Assembly

- The proposed amendment to increase taxes also introduces new powers to the General Assembly which more easily allows taking away of credits & incentives depending on an Individual's tax bracket, and makes it easier for the State to begin taxing Retirement Pensions & Social Security income.

- There is no Cap on future increases and tax brackets.

- The Legislature has already approved an 8-tax Bracket plan for Illinoisans (instead of 1, which is simpler to understand & plan). The plan can be changed at any time by the legislature.

- The projected increased revenue (estimated at \$3.6 billion), doesn't address the state's growing Pension issue (which at is close to 1/3 of the State's \$40 Billion FY19/20 Budget).

## 3. Outmigration of Illinois residents

- Illinois lost more than 850,000 residents to other states during the past decade, causing the state's population to shrink for six consecutive years and suffer the largest raw decline of any state in the 2010s.

- Since 2010 Illinois has lost prime working-age individuals of every race and ethnicity to other states on net.

- The largest group leaving were prime working-age residents, which erodes the state's future.

## 4. Will lower income residents see a Tax Savings?

- Here are 3 Examples of Proposed Tax impact, which doesn't appear to save current Taxpayers much (at the expense of driving out higher income earners & businesses that are likely creating & providing the Jobs in IL):

- **Single Individual** \$40k/yr: \$20 less tax annually (~\$0.75 bi-weekly paycheck), based on proposed 4.75%

rate vs. current 4.95% flat rate.

- **Married Couple** \$80k/yr: \$40 of less tax annually (~\$1.50 bi-weekly paycheck), based on proposed 4.90% vs. current 4.95% flat rate.

- **Married Couple** \$280k/yr: \$700 of more tax annually (~\$30 less on bi-weekly paycheck), based on proposed 7.75% vs. current 4.95% flat rate.

Illinois fiscal policy and tax laws should actively promote economic growth in Illinois by encouraging increased capital investment, productivity, and the creation of new jobs for the citizens of Illinois.

A graduated or progressive income tax can create a very real dis-incentive to work as it punishes, through higher tax rates, those who choose to work more hours or longer days.

**Progressive Tax Amendment Tax Rates in SB 687**  
(Public Act 101-0008) By Single and Joint Taxpayer Filings

By Tax Bracket	Rates by Single Taxpayer	Rates by Joint Taxpayer Filings
\$0-\$10,000	4.75%	4.75%
\$10,001-\$100,000	4.9%	4.9%
\$100,001-\$250,000	4.95%	4.95%
\$250,001-\$350,000	7.75%	7.75%
\$350,001-\$500,000	7.85%	7.75%
\$500,001-\$750,000	7.85%	7.85%
\$750,001-\$1,000,000	7.99%	7.85%
\$1,000,000+	7.99%	7.99%

### Question that appears on the ballot:

*"The proposed amendment grants the State authority to impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels, which is how the federal government and a majority of other states do it. The amendment would remove the portion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitutions that is sometimes referred to as the "flat tax," that requires all taxes on income to be at the same rate. The amendment does not itself change tax rates. It gives the State ability to impose higher rates on those with higher income levels and lower income tax rates on those with middle or lower income levels. You are asked to decide whether the proposed amendment should become part of the Illinois Constitution."*

In 2017, the Illinois General Assembly passed an Income tax hike that increased personal income tax by 32% and 33% for corporations, raising Illinois' total tax burden to at least 6th highest from the 10th highest. More than \$1.2 billion went to pensions and debt.

Personal income tax rose from 3.75% to 4.95% and the corporate tax rate rose from 5.25 to 7%.

## The actual Constitutional Amendment language:

The measure would amend Section 3 of Article IX of the Illinois Constitution. The following underlined text would be added and ~~struck-through~~ text would be deleted:

### Section 3. Limitations on Income Taxation.

(a) ~~A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the rate or rates of any tax on or measured by income imposed by the State.~~ In any such tax imposed upon corporations the highest rate shall not exceed the highest rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.

#### Information Sources:

*\*Proposed Amendment to the Illinois Constitution pamphlet sent to every Illinois voter by Secretary of State Jesse White.*

*\*\*[www.illinoispolicy.org](http://www.illinoispolicy.org)*

*Visit [ChambersAgainstTax.com/effingham/](http://ChambersAgainstTax.com/effingham/) to learn more.*

*The requirement for constitutional amendments is either (a) 60 percent of votes cast on the ballot measure itself or (b) a simple majority of all of those voting in the election.*



## Changes & Notes

**Cash Equipment LLC** recently moved to their new location at 1900 Pike Avenue, Effingham.

**SC3F Wealth Management Group** (formerly known as Wells Fargo Advisors) has moved to their new offices at 406 E Jefferson Street in Effingham. Their new website is [www.sc3fwmg.com](http://www.sc3fwmg.com).

**Probst Auto Body** has purchased second business location in Flora

Ashley Huelsing is the new owner of **Huelsing Trucking LLC**.

**Dieterich Bank** has completed acquisition of five Illinois branches from First Bank, Creve Coeur, Missouri. The branch offices are located in Breese, Chester, Columbia, Red Bud and Waterloo, Illinois. The acquisition increases Dieterich Bank assets to just over \$1 billion and brings its number of banking locations from nine to fourteen.

**Stevens Industries** has promoted Bill Lane to Director of Sales, Panels and Components Division. Bill has been with Stevens for more than 26 years, 22 years in sales of StevensWood. He previously occupied the role of Distribution and Supply Chain Manager, overseeing North American distribution.

Join Chamber's texting program and bring important messages to your phone with reminders about Chamber events and community information. To sign up, text your name and cell phone number to Norma Lansing at **(217) 246-5844**.

Join the

Chamber Texting

Program Today!





# Welcome



The **Effingham County Chamber of Commerce** welcomes Nicole Morrison as Director of Marketing and Communications.

Dave Budde has been named the new Emergency Management Agency Director for the **City of Effingham**.

**Sacred Heart School** has hired Angela Sheehan as new principal

**Dieterich Bank's** Lending Team is growing: Melissa Ruholl has joined the Lending Team as a Mortgage Loan Officer in our Dieterich branch and Jayme (Dasenbrock) Pals has joined as a Mortgage Loan Officer in our Effingham branch.

**Dent Law Offices** has welcomed Matthew McCormick as an Associate Attorney

**Altamont News** welcomes Carissa Sitka as Editor.

**Effingham Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates** welcomes Emily Kreke, Physician Assistant - Certified (PA-C).

**Effingham County CEO** welcomes new facilitator Michelle Niebrugge. (right)



**Farmweld's** new Marketing Director is Kait Sheehan and Kristin Nottingham is in Purchasing/HR/Operations.

**La Quinta Inn & Suites** new Assistant General Manager is Mikayla Travis.

**Crossroads Truck Equipment** welcomes Brian Toops, Marketing Manager.

Chelsey Beavers is the new Practice Manager for **Mid Illinois Medical Care Associates, LLC**.

**Law Group of Illinois Ltd** announces the hiring of Attorney William C. Love as its newest associate. Mr. Love brings with him 10 years of legal experience and will be practicing in the areas of general civil litigation, resolution of business and corporate disputes and agricultural law.



**HSHS Medical Group** welcomes Radhika Annam, MD, endocrinologist, to their medical team. Dr.



Annam sees patients at Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at HSHS Medical Group - Effingham, located at 500 N. Maple St., Suite 200. For information on a referral to Dr. Annam, please call 217-787-8870. To learn more about Dr. Annam and other HSHS Medical Group specialists, visit [HSHSMedicalGroup.org](http://HSHSMedicalGroup.org).

## Congratulations!

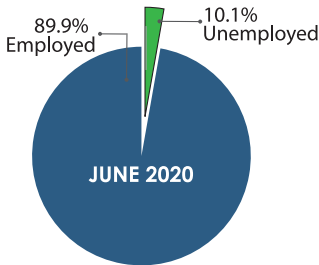


2020 Employee of the Year - Vicki Yocum, **Land of Lincoln Credit Union**

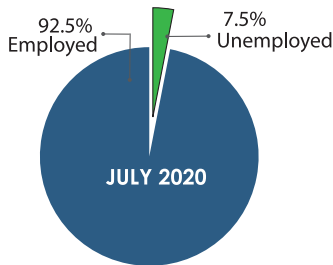
If you have news you want to share with the Chamber membership on special awards, recognition, employee promotions, etc. please e-mail the information to: Norma Lansing at [nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com)

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

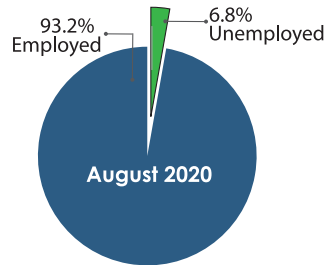
### EFFINGHAM COUNTY LABOR MARKET



**Total Labor Force: 19,889**  
Effingham County Unemployment: 10.1%  
Illinois: 14.6%      United States: 11.2%



**Total Labor Force: 19,138**  
Effingham County Unemployment : 7.5%  
Illinois: 11.3%      United States: 10.5%



**Total Labor Force: 19,848**  
Effingham County Unemployment: 6.8%  
Illinois: 10.9%      United States: 8.55%

#### RETAIL SALES Q2 2019

**City: \$189.3MM**  
**County: \$215.3MM**

#### RETAIL SALES Q2 2020

**City: \$183.6MM**  
**County: \$208.8MM**

#### RETAIL SALES 2018 Calendar Year

**City: \$721.6MM**  
**County: \$819.8MM**

#### RETAIL SALES 2019 Calendar Year

**City: \$734.7MM**  
**County: \$833MM**

### EFFINGHAM COUNTY REAL ESTATE TAXES

**2019, payable 2020**      **\$56,825,065**  
**2018, payable 2019**      **\$54,174,881**

 **an increase of**  
**\$2,650,084**

#### 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)

# 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).

## **MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS STUDIO**

Renee England, Owner  
1901 S Fourth Street, Ste. 13, Effingham  
(217) 347-0831  
[www.merlenorman.com](http://www.merlenorman.com)  
Health/Beauty

## **3D2LIFE DESIGN STUDIOS, LLC**

Joseph Sipes, Owner/Lab Technician  
15509 N Lakeview Drive, Effingham  
(217) 500-0335  
[www.3d2life.com](http://www.3d2life.com)

Dental Laboratory Services

*Referred by: Kim Stanfield - Lustig Custom Cabinets*

## **WURTSBAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY**

Mick Wurtsbaugh, Owner  
4504 Mary Todd Rd., Mattoon  
(217) 549-5948  
[www.wurtsbaughphotography.com](http://www.wurtsbaughphotography.com)  
Photography

## **CRICKET WIRELESS AUTHORIZED RETAILER - SUKAR & SONS INC.**

Lindsay Clan, District Manager  
1602 Ford Avenue, Suite C, Effingham  
(217) 240-9443  
[www.cricketwireless.com](http://www.cricketwireless.com)  
Cellular Telephone Sales/Service

## **SPECIAL PET FOODS**

Tom Robb, Owner  
312 N Keller Drive, Ste. E, Effingham  
(217) 347-7622  
[www.specialpetfoods.com](http://www.specialpetfoods.com)  
Pet Supplies

## **CR FLOORING, INC.**

Curt & Laura Reardon, Owners  
106 W Cumberland, Altamont  
(618) 267-0318  
[www.crflooring.net](http://www.crflooring.net)  
Floor Care

*Referred by: Dawn Burrow, Promark Advertising*

*Thanks to our Pay It Forward membership program, the following non profits have received the benefits of Chamber membership:*

**Andrew Gobczynski Big Heart Foundation** - *Pay It Forward by John Boos & Co.*

**Blessings in a Backpack** - *Pay It Forward by Washington Savings Bank*

**100+ Women Who Care of Effingham** - *Pay It Forward by Dieterich Bank*

**Enduring Freedom Ministries** - *Pay It Forward by Patterson Companies*

**Effingham County FISH Human Services** - *Pay It Forward by Midland States Bank*

**From Blessings in a Backpack:** The board wishes to give our sincere thanks to Washington Savings Bank for choosing to "Pay it Forward" with a chamber membership for Blessings in a Backpack - Effingham Chapter. We are grateful they've chosen us to sponsor; this membership gives us the opportunity to stay connected with the community and local resources. **Thank you!**  
- Casey Burgholzer

# MEMBER MILESTONES

**America's Best Value Inn**  
25 Years in business

**Vantage Outsourcing**  
30 Years in business

**Taylor Law Offices**  
135 Years in business

**HSBS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**  
145 years in business



# CELEBRATIONS

**Tick Tock Energy** is proud to be named one of the top solar contractors in the United States by Solar Power World magazine. Tick Tock Energy achieved a rank of 268 and is being recognized for the sixth year in a row. In 2019, Tick Tock Energy had its busiest year ever installing 1,660 kW of solar installations throughout Illinois for homes, farms, and businesses. Through the MREA's Solarize group-buy program, Tick Tock installed 246 kW of solar capacity on 28 area residential homes. The company is Central Illinois' best-established solar installer and is owned by local brothers Eric and Craig Pals.

David Doedtmann, President & CEO of **Washington Savings Bank**, was recently appointed to the Illinois Bankers Association 2020-2021 Audit and Investment Advisory Committee. This committee reviews the Association's financial policies and procedures; provides guidance on the Association's budget proposal process and oversees the performance of the Association's investment program.



**Dieterich Bank** has been named one of the Best Places to Work in Illinois for the second year in a row. The awards program is promoted by The Daily Herald Business Ledger in partnership with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, MRA-The Management Association, the Small Business Advocacy Council and Best Companies Group. This statewide survey and awards program was designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best employment places in Illinois. These companies benefit the state's economy, workforce and businesses. Dieterich Bank was among 19 companies recognized in the medium category (100-499 employees).

**Dieterich CUSD #30** has once again been recognized as one of the top school districts in the state. According to the 2020 Niche school district rankings, Dieterich Schools came in at #49 out of 859 school districts in Illinois. Niche, a data-analyzing website focused on schools, created its annual report of the best school districts in Illinois from Department of Education data, student and parents surveys and other categories. Niche gives each district a numerical ranking and assigns them a grade. Dieterich Schools was given a grade of A-.



Special Pet Foods ribbon cutting



Broughton Tattoo Company ribbon cutting



Express Employment Professionals ribbon cutting



Heartland Health Food ribbon cutting

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER



## 2021 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

March 11 – **Pyramid Marble & Granite**

August 12 – **Gliks**

April 22 – **Crossroads Bank**

September 23 – **McDevitt, Osteen,  
Chojnicki and Deters LLC**

May 13 – **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

June 17 – **Ramada By Wyndham**

October 14 – **Wortman Printing**

July 15 – **Milano & Grunloh**

November 11 – **Vantage Outsourcing**

*If you are interested in hosting a Business after Hours in 2021, please contact Jamie Niemerg at [jniemerg@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:jniemerg@effinghamcountychamber.com). Only 3 openings are available!*

**Visit [EffinghamCountyChamber.com](http://EffinghamCountyChamber.com) for more information**

*Please tear off and post for your employees.*

## \*NEW\* STUDENT MEMBERSHIP RATE

10 coworking spots available for students at \$50/month



Manage your  
facility's energy  
usage with tips  
and tools from  
Ameren Illinois

See page 4



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

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nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com