

# NETWORK

*Effingham County Chamber of Commerce*

DECEMBER 2020

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

**Vision 2020**

in RETROSPECT

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## What is 2021 going to look like?

Most of the plans that we had made at the beginning of 2020 were changed within the first few months of the year and definitely look very different as we come to the end of 2020. Although, in many ways, 2020 has led us all to a little more introspection of how we spend our time and certainly given us a new perspective on how we operate and manage our businesses.

2020 definitely affirmed for the Chamber Board and staff that we are living our mission to "create connections that strengthen member businesses and stimulate regional prosperity." While we've had to adjust our programming and even cancel some valued programs and events, we have created new value through online resources and virtual delivery of services. We have created a new email marketing program to reach local residents and keep them engaged with local businesses and offer monthly webinars.

We have responded to the specific needs and interests of our diverse business members with tailored, value-based business, employee, educational and personal development experiences.

As our attention turns to 2021, we continue to listen and adjust to your needs and those of our community.

*Here are just a few things we are working on:*

Creating a **Financial Literacy Task Force** to develop resources and training for both business and personal financial needs. If you are interested in serving on this task force, give me a call!

A **Virtual Job Fair** and high quality online platform providing innovative solutions for students, teachers and employers for career preparedness, occupational exploration, student retention and employee hiring.

**Resource Groups** - Get together with your peers in small group settings where everyone has a voice

and take home ideas to implement. RG's for small business owners, non-profit leaders, women in business and more are in development.

A **new Chamber website** and more online resources are coming your way in 2021. Business operations tools, research and management resources and more are on the drawing board! We'll be working for you, even when we're not in the office!

The Chamber's work creates a strong community by connecting businesses to valuable resources and relationships, driving initiatives to improve our region and advocating for businesses with a unified voice. With 550+ members, representing 15,000+ employees, the Chamber has the strength to gain the attention of businesses looking for growth opportunities, government and community leaders who want to understand community needs and local residents to learn more about the business community for employment and purchasing needs.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.



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

## THANK YOU TO OUR CAPITAL INVESTORS



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



**DIETERICH**  
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# CAPITAL INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT

Passionate, focused, people-first and always advancing – these are the core principles of **The Patterson Technology Center**. The PTC provides innovative software solutions, cutting-edge services and world-class support for customers in the dental and animal health industries.

A publicly traded Fortune 600 company, Patterson serves customers in North America and Europe. The PTC serves as the nerve-center for designing and building Patterson branded software products such as Eaglesoft, FUSE and NaVetor as well as providing technical support for those customers.

From the beginning, The PTC has provided Effingham county and the surrounding areas with career opportunities, business relationships, community outreach and leadership-based initiatives designed to build and strengthen Effingham and beyond.

Are you ready to join the team? Check them out at [www.pattersoncompanies.com](http://www.pattersoncompanies.com).

The Patterson Technology Center is located at 1201 Althoff Ave, Effingham, IL 62401.

## CONNECTING EXPERTISE TO INSPIRED IDEAS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.



  
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The Patterson Technology Center (PTC) in Effingham is a premier employer and contributor to the local community. With a state-of-the-art building, the PTC provides industry-leading technology support and cutting-edge electronic services for Patterson Companies' customers in the dental and animal health industries.

Interested in working for us? Check us out at [jobs.pattersoncompanies.com](http://jobs.pattersoncompanies.com)

**Washington Savings Bank** is giving back to their community with a new #MonthofGiving campaign that began November 1. They kicked off the #MonthofGiving by fulfilling wish lists of 16 local nursing homes, assisted living and memory care facilities in the Effingham and Mattoon areas.

The Bank donated wish list items that would help put a smile on the resident's faces, as people living in these facilities have been hit especially hard throughout this pandemic. Donations of items like tablets, CD players with CDs, DVD players with movies, bird feeders, activity books, crafts, snacks and personal hygiene items were dropped off between the weeks of November 9th and November 20th.

In addition, the bank has been able to provide monetary donations to many local charitable organizations in the Effingham and Mattoon communities.

Finally, the bank has given back to their customers through daily drawings during the month of November for a daily Thanksgiving turkey, \$100.00 donation to the charity of their choice, and a gift card to a local restaurant.

Washington Savings Bank has won several awards for their outstanding programs and ways they have served their community. They continue to look for opportunities to help those in need and support many causes in the local areas.

Check them out at [www.washingtonsavings.net](http://www.washingtonsavings.net).

Washington Savings Bank's main branch is located at 200 South Banker, Effingham, IL 62401.

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Located in Effingham & Mattoon  
[www.washingtonsavings.net](http://www.washingtonsavings.net)



# DIETERICH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The **Dieterich Business Association** was organized in 2010 (Happy 10th Anniversary!) under the umbrella of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce. Local business owners help promote Dieterich's wide variety of business opportunities and offer a support network to promote, enhance, educate and create opportunities for local economic growth.

Current community support includes fundraising for the new Dieterich Community Center, presenting scholarships to Dieterich High School graduates and selling Movin' Moolah, a Shop Local gift card program to support Dieterich area businesses. Gift certificates in \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations can be purchased through Dieterich Village Hall or Wright's Furniture and Flooring.

For more information on the Dieterich Business Association, call 217-924-5410 or email: [villagehall@dieterichillinois.com](mailto:villagehall@dieterichillinois.com).



We encourage residents in the area to consider using Movin' Moolah in place of Amazon/Walmart Gift cards and local businesses to use them as bonuses. Movin' Moolah is a program from the recent Dieterich MAPPING. More info at the links below!

<https://dieterichillinois.com/mm>

<https://dieterichillinois.com/mm-participants/>



*Dieterich, Illinois*  
**ULTIMATE HOME GIVEAWAY**

*Additional Prizes, too!  
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VILLAGE HALL - DIETERICH BANK - WRIGHT'S FURNITURE  
**[WWW.DIETERICHCOMMUNITYCENTER.COM](http://WWW.DIETERICHCOMMUNITYCENTER.COM)**

**Grand Prize**  
**3 BED, 2 BATH**  
**NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOME**  
IN THE HARTKE SUBDIVISION *a \$250,000 value!*  
**-OR-**  
**\$100,000 CASH!**

**TICKETS \$100 EACH OR (6) FOR \$500**  
Proceeds go towards the Dieterich Community Center

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING:**  
***May 22, 2021***

Need not be present to win. Prize winners shall be responsible for all applicable license fees, local, state, and federal taxes. Prizes are subject to federal income tax withholding. Must be 18 years of age. Void where prohibited by law. Participation limited to continental United States. Dieterich community improvement foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt entity.

## ASK AN EXPERT

## The Most Important Technology Need

Backups should be everyone's #1 technology concern

No matter the various and current technology trends, the most critical worry has been around since it all started—protecting your important data, pictures, and digital content from accidental or even intentional loss.

While today's technology is reliable, the opportunities for losing what is important to us are increasing. We store essential information on phones, tablets, P.C.'s, in the cloud, and systems at work and home. Think of the information and content on your various devices and what would happen if it were lost forever.

Keep all essential information at work on a central system backed up to external devices or the cloud, whatever best suits your business needs.

Computer equipment does fail, and, in many cases, it fails with little warning. Accidental deletion and altering of data happen frequently, malicious attacks on systems are ongoing. Protecting your systems from attacks is very important but entirely another topic. If a virus or attack gets through, a successful backup process will

save you headaches, time, and money. If you must store data on your P.C. or laptop, be sure backup processes are in place. Confirm with I.T. support that all information vital to your company is protected. Many reasonably priced external storage devices, including software for backing up your content, are available for home use as well.

Suppose a virus slips through your protection software. In that case, it will try to find any attached device and infect it, so make sure to disconnect whatever backup medium you use from your system when not running backup processes. Depending on how important your digital information is to you, consider having a secondary backup that you run occasionally and store in a separate location, be it off-site or in the cloud.

- Steve Schallert  
Owner-CEO, SDS Technology

313 Professional Park Ave. • Effingham, IL 62401  
217-347-5242 • [www.SDSTech.net](http://www.SDSTech.net)

**Like Ask-An-Expert?** Chamber members are invited to submit a column on a subject of their choosing. The article can not 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 Norma at 217.342.4147.



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# Dive In

Providing a welcoming and accepting environment for  
the diverse population of Effingham County



# Welcome.

Effingham County has a new chance to offer our “Crossroads of Opportunity” to everyone. The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce has assembled a group of volunteers with aligned interests and access to valuable resources to combat a lack of diversity in our area and perceived tones of dissension and exclusion. **Dive In**, the Effingham County Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, aims to provide a welcoming and accepting environment for the diverse population of Effingham County.

If you would like to volunteer to help Dive In, if your business would like to be included in future listings, or you would like to contribute to the “Welcome” basket project, please contact Norma Lansing today via email at [nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com).





**LET US GROW  
YOUR BRAND.**

**WHEN YOU ADVERTISE  
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- new customers are attracted
- store traffic is generated
- employee morale is boosted

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**AFFORDABLE RATES & SIZES  
AVAILABLE!**

Contact Nicole by January 8 to get in the  
February issue!  
217-342-4147  
nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com

Congratulations to the **2020 Fall Draw Grand Prize Winners!** The \$5,000 Grand Prize was split between 5 winners.



Ann Deters, Dr. Ryan Jennings, & Deb Sanders



Allyson Gough-Grant & Lila Grant  
Not pictured: Marcy Wallace


# 2021 FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEONS

# NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP!

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- Interesting & informative presentations
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BUSINESS**

**THE PERKS**

- Unique opportunity to engage with members
- Showcase your business & the services you offer
- Stay connected with industry leaders

Contact Becky for more information.  
217-342-4147  
bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com



## CHAMBER OF THE YEAR



The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce was named the 2020 Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). This award is the most prestigious and competitive recognition presented by ACCE and is the only globally-recognized industry award that honors top chambers of commerce.

The Chamber of the Year Award recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their communities. Those recognized demonstrate organizational strength and make an impact on key community priorities.

The Effingham County Chamber was recognized on September 30 during the ACCE Future of Chambers Summit.

The Chamber is very honored to receive this award and look forward to celebrating (eventually) with the community!

### Notes of Recognition:

"Folks – Congratulations! It is a lot of work merely getting the application ready much less having all of the right pieces and parts in the right place to make it to the end and win. You have all gone through the process and come out on top!"

I just wanted to say well done to you. As the head of a chamber who has been there, I know you will find great value as chamber of the year. The shine will be on your chamber for many years to come."

*David G. Brown, President & CEO,  
Omaha Chamber of Commerce*

"Congratulations on your chamber winning for Category One! I could tell that you guys have a top quality staff and outstanding programs when I was looking on your website. I was pulling for you!"

*Amy H. Rudisill, Membership & Events Director,  
Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce*



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



Stella  
*Broken leg*



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# VISION 2020: IN RETROSPECT

"Success is the result of knowing where you want to go and the changes that you need to make to get there. The road to success becomes a lot smoother when you have the tools to develop the attitude of success."

– Lou Tice, Founder, The Pacific Institute

Effingham County Vision 2020 provided an opportunity for county residents to come together in 2005 to proactively build a positive future for our county at a time when the county's future was looking bleak. Population projections indicated a decrease for the first time in over 50 years, manufacturing jobs were diminishing and available land for future economic development was difficult to come by. Efforts by various groups to improve the county's situation were fragmented and many times overlapped.

Effingham Mayor Bob Utz, County Board Chairman Leonard Waldhoff and Chamber President & CEO Norma Lansing came together with a team of community leaders to discuss the situation and felt that it was time to take control of our future rather than leave it up to chance. Our research led us to The Pacific Institute, located in Seattle, Washington. TPI was familiar with Central Illinois through their work with Caterpillar in Decatur.

In the Spring of 2005, 40 community leaders came together to begin the process of building the plan for Effingham County's future with the assistance of The Pacific Institute's Master Facilitator Laural Manegre. Since her first visit to Effingham, Laural has been a champion for Effingham County and has assisted us

with repeated training, community outreach, support and encouragement over the past 15 years.

We created a visual representation of Effingham County as a healthy, balanced community, using the image of the spokes of a wheel. Our Effingham County wheel included the spokes of:



- Culture, Arts & Leisure
- Community Values
- Education
- Governance
- Health Care
- Infrastructure/Natural Resources
- Job Creation & Retention
- Retail/Tourism

## Results have been amazing!

**Trails Recreation - Effingham County (TREC) -** The idea of a county-wide trail system had been on the drawing board for a few years prior to 2005. Through the dynamics of Effingham County Vision 2020, the idea gained traction. Over the last 15 years, trails have been built linking Effingham to areas near Lake Sara and down to Effingham High School through the generosity of many local residents and state and federal grant programs.

*A Legacy Project was established to plant a tree in each community in Effingham County as a lasting tribute to Effingham County Vision 2020. The trees represent the community's life and growth, and provide a continuing reminder of the success and progress that Effingham County Vision 2020 instilled across the county.*



The City of Effingham received nearly \$1 million through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement program in 2017 and is waiting for approval of designs for city-wide bike lanes to begin construction that will include access from schools, parks, hospital and downtown. The project will include striping, signage and a parking lot or a trail head on Outer Belt West with a wide sidewalk along Keller Drive for safer transportation.



TREC has been approved for a Department of Natural Resources grant to construct more trails near the Ryans Crossing, the pedestrian bridge over the Little Wabash River. The TREC trail system now includes 6.5 miles of trails and bridges. [www.trectrails.com](http://www.trectrails.com)

**Effingham Artisan Fair** - 2021 will be it's 15th year! An arts fair was identified early in Vision 2020 planning as a need in Effingham County and within a few months, the Effingham Artisan Fair was born. A one day show on the courthouse lawn in downtown Effingham drew 25 artisans. Over the years, the show has grown to a Friday/Saturday event that includes an opportunity for local nonprofits to be showcased and an art auction supporting Community Support Systems, musical entertainment and the courthouse lawn filled with artisans. [www.effinghamartisanfair.com](http://www.effinghamartisanfair.com).

**Effingham Performance Center** - One man's dream of a performing arts center in Effingham became the 1,500 seat Effingham Performance Center, which opened its first season with acts like BB King, Bill Cosby, the B52s and has hosted major rock, country, Christian and other musical entertainment. Summer children's theatre and children's shows during the school year are also a popular part of the EPC's entertainment offerings. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org).



**Effingham County CEO** - A desire to instill the entrepreneurial spirit that is a part of Effingham County's DNA led to the creation of the high school entrepreneurship program called Effingham County



CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) in 2005. With a concept in mind and the criteria that the class would not be taught in a traditional classroom setting, the advisory board hired Craig Lindvahl to put the puzzle pieces together. Over the years, 380 students from all Effingham County high schools have experienced CEO. [www.effinghamceo.com](http://www.effinghamceo.com).

### **New organizations were formed to address community needs.**

Teutopolis residents formed **Teutopolis Community for Progress (TCFP)** to build on the community's strong roots and encourage community spirit, nurture new ideas and welcome all who share their vision. TCFP projects have included adding Christmas lights, flags and banners along Main street, welcome signs, helping fund and build a Veterans memorial and offering support for other community growth projects.

**Effingham Regional Growth Alliance (The Alliance)** - Sometimes goals take a little while to grow roots. First discussed as a county goal in 2005, bringing committed government and community leaders together to create a county-wide economic development organization was discussed. The discussions came to fruition in 2012, with the establishment of the Effingham Regional Growth Alliance, bringing a coordinated approach to attracting companies and jobs to the county. [www.groweffinghamcountytill.com](http://www.groweffinghamcountytill.com).

While the educational programming offered through The Pacific Institute was changing peoples' lives and community growth initiatives were improving communities all over Effingham County, celebrating our successes was critical (and still is!) to keeping people engaged and momentum growing.

**Community Celebration of Excellence Breakfasts** were held in the Spring and Fall to showcase the various communities in Effingham County and to celebrate Effingham County Vision 2020 successes. People come together from all parts of the county for a great breakfast and to hear from a great speaker, many who grew up and found their success right here in Effingham County. Each breakfast also serves as a fundraiser for the home school district through an Effingham County Promise fund with \$5 from each breakfast ticket sold going into a scholarship and education fund.

### **What's next?**

Community leaders started looking to the future of Effingham County beyond Effingham County Vision





## IMPACT 2030

2020 several years ago with updated impact teams replacing the spokes concept.

Creative Learning Culture - Quality Environment - Vibrant Economy - Safe Healthy People - Well Planned Community - Strong Community

Activities like a community dog park, Summer Activities Fair, reverse scholarship program to bring young people back to the community are all part of the next community action efforts to keep Effingham County moving forward.

One big project already accomplished through **Impact 2030** was participation in development of a group purchasing program for residential solar through the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

Through a collaborative partnership with Lake Land College, Coles Progressives, Effingham Recycles, Charleston Huddle, Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, City of Charleston, and Midwest Renewable Energy Association, homeowners throughout the Lake Land College District were able to participate in the program to pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that made solar installation affordable.

The Solarize East Central IL program ended in November 2019 surpassing participation goals, with 245.93 kW of solar going on 28 properties, offering a savings of \$.04/W per array, or \$352 on the average 8.8 kW system. Anticipated savings on electric bills was just over \$30,000 in the first year.

### 2021 Projects on the drawing board include:

County-wide planning - What's next for Effingham County?

While our plans to complete this project in 2020 were upset by COVID restrictions, work is underway

to implement this project in 2021. We encourage any Effingham County resident interested to join us in this initiative to create a long-range vision for Effingham County's positive future. High priority goals and an action plan for completion will be part of the planning process.

### Virtual Pacific Institute Training Coming Soon!

We are bringing the powerful Thought Patterns for High Performance to local businesses and residents virtually in early 2021. Facilitated by TPI Master



Facilitator Laural Manegre, this is your chance to work through the barriers that keep you from succeeding. In today's changed environment, business owners and managers can obtain the tools needed to enhance individual, team and organizational success. The program will be delivered in 7 two-hour sessions.

In 2005, community members came together to create a more positive future for Effingham County - and they did! As Effingham County Vision 2020 comes to a close, we are proud of all that was accomplished by coming together, dreaming together and working together.

The future of Effingham County is again in the hands of caring and dedicated individuals who are ready to roll up their sleeves and vision what that future will be. A lot has certainly changed in the last several months and the opportunities for Effingham County to be a leader in this "Next Normal" environment are many and varied. No effort is too small to be considered.

If you want to be a part of creating Effingham County's future, please contact Norma nlansing@effinghamcountychamber.com or 217.342.4147.

## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



*Kara Wade, Chairman*

The Chamber's Legislative Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Chamber Board of Directors to prepare and deliver information in a timely fashion on issues of concern to the business community.

### Progressive Income Tax Ballot Initiative

Thank you to those who supported our efforts to defeat the Progressive Income Tax ballot initiative. Our efforts as part of a state-wide coalition to point out the flaws of the Constitutional Amendment were heard by voters.

### 2021 Elections

Filing periods for many area races in the Spring 2021 elections are underway with a December 21 deadline. Effingham County voters will be selecting leadership of several villages, school boards and townships in the county. We will also be selecting Lake Land College trustees.

The Legislative Committee is working on several candidate education activities for those already planning to seek office and for those who have an interest in pursuing public service.

### Legislative Action Guide

The Chamber website contains a Legislative Action Guide under the Advocacy tab that contains information on the federal, state and local elected officials who serve Effingham County.

Visit: [effinghamcountychamber.com/advocacy/legislative-action-guide](http://effinghamcountychamber.com/advocacy/legislative-action-guide).



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## Dieterich



The Dieterich Community Center is a bold idea that came out of the recent community mapping initiative, with the goal of bringing new amenities to residents and economic growth to the community. The \$1 million project will help meet the community's demand for child care by incorporating a daycare, multi-purpose gym, community rooms, fitness center and walking track.



Through grants, donations, and fundraising, the project is planned without raising local property taxes. Groundbreaking for the center is expected in August 2021 and opening is set for May 2022.

The Dieterich Community Development Corporation has donated \$100,000 to the new Dieterich Community Center project, with funds earmarked specifically for the daycare center.



To learn more about the project, visit <https://www.dieterichcommunitycenter.com>.

## Teutopolis

The Teutopolis Fire Protection District has improved its fire protection rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to a Class 4 in the village and a Class 4X in the rural areas, effective December 1. The program assesses the district's fire suppression capabilities, emergency communications and water supply. This status could lower the cost of residents' homeowner insurance.

The Village of Teutopolis has added fiber optic Internet options along with phone and TV services available throughout the village limits, K&N subdivision, Weber and Country Lane subdivisions and Westwoods Estates subdivision.



## Effingham

Hetzl's Overland Transport's office and 50,000 square foot warehouse is nearing completion along Airport Road on the south side of Effingham.



St Anthony Church has a new rectory under construction adjacent to the church on North Route 45. The new rectory will serve as home to the parish priests.





Construction is underway on the new Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic, being built to replace its current facility at 1303 Evergreen.

The \$35 million replacement building is expected to be completed by February 2022. Once the move into the new facility is complete, the old building will be demolished and the parking lot reconstructed, which is expected to take until June 2022.

The 65,400-square-foot building will accommodate services, which are currently in Sarah Bush Lincoln buildings in Effingham. Surgeries and procedures will not be performed in the new SBL Bonutti Clinic. They will continue to be performed at the Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center and at Sarah Bush Lincoln.

# Uber

## Uber Expanding Services in Illinois

People across Illinois will now be able to catch a ride to their destination through the ride-sharing service Uber. Effingham is on the list of 39 additional counties where the Uber app is available. Anyone interested in driving with Uber must undergo a multi-step safety screen, including being checked for driving violations, impaired driving, violent crime, and other checks, according to the company. In addition, Uber rescreens drivers every year and uses technology to look for issues in between.

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)

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



Shackmann Hearing



Cricket Wireless



Kitchens Unlimited



The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce would like to help introduce your business to the community! All 2021 Ribbon Cuttings will be aired "live" on the Chamber Facebook page for Effingham County to share in your excitement.

Contact Becky @ 217-342-4147 or [bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com) to get on our list!

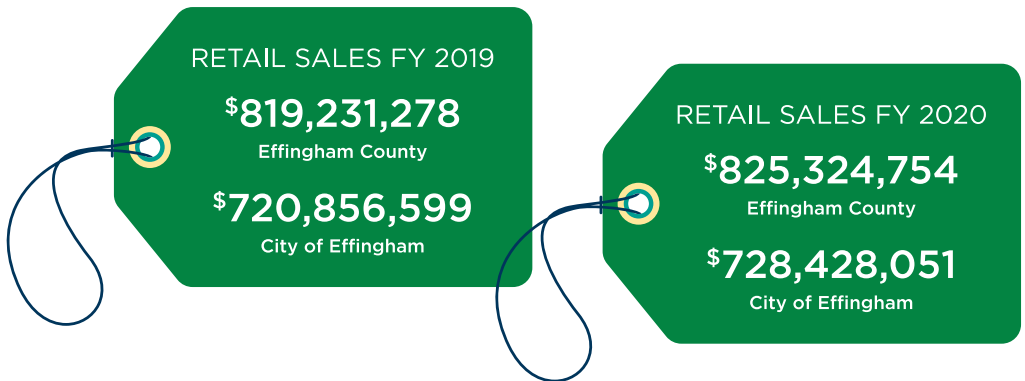
# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY LABOR MARKET

	SEPT 2019	SEPT 2020
Total Labor Force	19,258	19,222
Eff. Co UE Rate	3.00%	5.60%
Illinois UE	3.60%	9.80%
US UE	3.30%	7.70%

WIOA #23 - 13 counties including Effingham

Total Labor Force	132,806
Unemployed	8,544



Sources: Illinois Department of Revenue, [www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us); Illinois Department of Employment Security, [www.imi.ides.state.il.us](http://www.imi.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)



# CONGRATULATIONS!

**Waupaca Foundry Inc.**, a Hitachi Metals group company, is the winner of the 2020 Green Foundry Sustainability Award presented by the American Foundry Society (AFS). The company was honored for outstanding leadership in integrating sustainable business practices throughout its manufacturing operations by implementing the ISO 50001 program to create a formal management system approach to energy reduction. The company was able to achieve an overall reduction in energy consumption of more than 20% at all United States plants. Waupaca Foundry is the first United States metalcaster to receive the accredited ISO 50001 Energy Management certification. The company operates a machining and assembly plant in Effingham.



**Effingham Knights of Columbus Council 665** has received the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award for local councils. The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities.

**First Mid Bank & Trust** has been named to Newsweek magazine's ranking of America's Best Banks 2021. America's Best Banks 2021 is Newsweek magazine's first-ever Best Banks rankings, recognizing financial institutions that best serve their customers' needs. Further, First Mid Bank & Trust was named as the Best Small Bank in the state of Illinois. Newsweek partnered with LendingTree, the online loan marketplace and comparison site for financial services, for the magazine's inaugural Best Banks rankings. From more than 2,500 FDIC-insured institutions, they assessed U.S. banks and the savings and checking accounts offered based on 55 separate factors to come up with a best-in-class option in 19 categories — including the best big and small bank in every state.

The bank was also recently named the Central/Southern Illinois Community Lender of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Illinois District Office for the seventh consecutive year. This award is presented to

the community bank with the best overall performance record for lending to small businesses in Central and Southern Illinois in 2019.

Johnna Schultz, assistant director of **Effingham Public Library**, has received the 2020 Illinois Library Association Reference Services Award given annually for excellence in providing assistance to library users for her work in organizing the Effingham County Case Managers Program.



**Effingham Community Unit 40** Superintendent Mark Doan has been named 2020 Superintendent of Distinction by his colleagues in the Wabash Valley Region of the Illinois Association of School Administrators.



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## Welcome

**Community Blood Services** welcomes Carol Pearson, Donors Relations Consultant.

**Dale Carnegie Training of Greater Illinois** welcomes Rebecca Bledsoe, Business Development Consultant.



Chris Strohl has been named Dean of Workforce Solutions and Community Education for **Lake Land College**.

Lt. Tom Webb is the new contact for **Effingham Area Crime Stoppers**.



Courtney Yockey has been named President & CEO of the **Effingham Regional Growth Alliance**.

**Graham's Ankle & Foot** welcomed Rachel Watkins, Office Manager.

**Continental Mills** welcomes new HR Generalist Tara Cox.

Judy Fasnacht is the new HR Manager for **Pepsi Mid America**.

Please welcome Adara Jenne, General Manager for **La Quinta Inn & Suites**.

**Washington Savings Bank** has added two new lenders to their management team. Timothy Hoehn (R) has been named Assistant Vice President of Lending and Jacob Thomas (L,) Vice President of Lending.



## Changes & Notes

Linda Warner has been named Executive Director of **SWAN (Stop Woman Abuse Now)**, replacing Linda Bookwalter, who has retired.

**ESS Clean** has moved to 401 E Wabash Avenue #A, Effingham.

Corey Lybarger has joined **Fifth Third Bank** as a Mortgage Originator over their Effingham, Mt. Vernon and Marion branches.

Effingham Assembly Church is now **Crossroots Church** and their new website is <https://crossroots.church>.

**Advanced Digital Solutions** recently moved to 5955 Park Drive, Charleston, IL 61920.

Altamont News and St. Elmo Banner merged to become **Altamont News Banner**.

**Magoo & Associates** has relocated and expanded its Effingham service center, providing over 6,000 additional square feet, to provide greater security, pandemic resilience, and expanded services for our trusted partners. The company is now located at 1901 South 4th Street, Suite 30, Effingham.

**A1 Liquor** has a new website: [www.a1liquors.net](http://www.a1liquors.net).

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST  
**Effingham County Virtual Job Fair** - February 2021  
This is a job fair like no others!

During the 3-day live event, employers can showcase their open positions, share company videos, and track job seeker interaction through their customized online booth. The booth stays active for a full 30 days for employers to create their virtual presence for the live event. They can also access their personal Employer Dashboard to schedule interviews, live chat with candidates, and even offer education and training.

Job seekers entering the virtual platform will create a profile, upload resumes, explore career opportunities, build their skills, view participating employer booths, and apply for jobs.

Visit [effinghamcountychamber.com](http://effinghamcountychamber.com) for more details and to sign up!

# 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).

## **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Mike Burdick, Senior Pastor  
901 W Jefferson, Effingham  
(217) 342-4334  
<https://stjohnslcms.net>  
Churches

## **DELIA'S CLEANING SERVICES**

Ana Carro, Owner  
1207 Network Centre Dr, Ste 3B, Effingham  
(618) 882-3474  
Commercial/Residential Cleaning

## **CENTRAL STATE CONSTRUCTION**

Erika Reedy, Office Manager  
15358 E Clarksville Road, Marshall  
(217) 826-6152  
[www.centralstateco.com](http://www.centralstateco.com)  
Construction Services

## **EVAPCO INC.**

Jessica Hougham, People Operations Mgr  
1723 York Road, Greenup  
(217) 923-3431  
[www.evapco.com](http://www.evapco.com)  
Manufacturers/Processors

## **KITCHENS UNLIMITED**

Gene McWilliams, Owner  
306 S Willow Street, Effingham  
(217) 262-9950  
[www.kitchens-unlimited.com](http://www.kitchens-unlimited.com)  
Restaurants

## **JOURNEY12**

George Prudhomme, Comm. Partner Liaison  
240 LeBeau Lane, Saint Charles, MO  
(314) 254-3599  
[www.journey12.com](http://www.journey12.com)  
Education/Schools

## **THE JOURNEY CHURCH**

Steve Linton, Pastor  
Fourth Street, Village Square Mall, Effingham  
(217) 690-0214  
[www.thejourneyeffingham.com](http://www.thejourneyeffingham.com)  
Churches

## **SCHACKMANN HEARING**

Kerri Schackmann, Owner  
212 E Jefferson, Ste. 2, Effingham  
(217) 342-0304  
[www.schackmannhearing.com](http://www.schackmannhearing.com)  
Hearing Aids & Service

# MEMBER MILESTONES

## **Village Wine & Spirits**

10 years

## **Concrete Evolutions**

15 years

## **Henderson State Farm Insurance**

45 years

## **Doehring Winders & Co.**

65 years

# TOP COMMUNITY LEADERS UNDER 40





# UP AND COMING LEADERS



**2020 Top Community Leaders Under 40** includes a new Up and Coming Leader award, recognizing the positive impacts that these next generation leaders have on the positive future growth of Effingham County. The award was given to individuals between the ages of 14 and 18 who are full-time students at an Effingham County high school and achieve a "B" average or greater.

Congratulations to the inaugural Effingham County Up and Coming Leader award recipients:



**Faith Aherin**  
*Dieterich High School*



**Hanna DiBenedetto**  
*St. Anthony High School*



**Olivia Eckhardt**  
*Altamont High School*



**Reese Jones**  
*St. Anthony High School*



**Holden Lewis**  
*Effingham High School*



**Kaylynn Moeller**  
*Beecher City High School*



**Elizabeth Weidner**  
*Teutopolis High School*





**Ethan Weidner**  
*Teutopolis High School*



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 <b>Kids Package</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Princess Party</li><li>• Lego Batman Movie</li><li>• Recycled Percussion</li></ul>	 <b>Country Package</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lorrie Morgan</li><li>• Sawyer Brown</li><li>• Clay Walker</li></ul>	 <b>Timeless Package</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Winter Dance Party</li><li>• Blood, Sweat &amp; Tears</li><li>• Jefferson Starship</li></ul>	 <b>Build Your Own Package</b> <p>Choose any 3 Shows</p>
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**Hurry, offer expires December 23, 2020.**



**EFFINGHAM  
PERFORMANCE  
CENTER**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER

**Chamber Office Closed**  
Happy New Year!

event: 5-7pm  
**Business After Hours**  
@ Stanfield Chiropractic

## FEBRUARY

event: 7:30am  
**Coffee & Connections**  
@ TBA

event: 9-10am  
**Chamber Webinar**

31

**Chamber Office Closed**  
Happy New Year!

1

8

event: 12-1pm  
**First Friday Luncheon**  
@ Virtual Event

21

event: 9-10am  
**Chamber Webinar**

5

event: 12-1pm  
**First Friday Luncheon**  
@ Keller Convention Center

10

11

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

18

## JANUARY

*SAVE THE DATE*

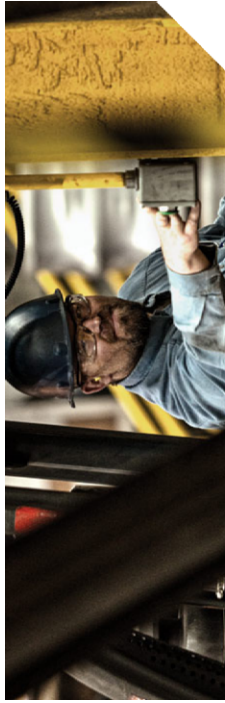
*Effingham County Chamber of Commerce*

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RECOGNITION GALA**

*April 24, 2021*

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