

FEBRUARY2022

WORKFORCE RESOURCES

partnership of the Chamber Workforce Development Committee and



EC-JOBS



Make a \$1,000+ donation to be recognized as a Founding Donor







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Donations can be made by an individual or on behalf of a company. The Chamber Foundation of Effingham County is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For US Federal Income Tax purposes, donors may be able to deduct their donation(s) as a charitable contribution.

For more information, please consult with your tax advisor. Tax ID: 47-1076458



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Effingham County Chamber's staff and committees have been busy setting our 2022 Goals that will help us meet our mission to strengthen member businesses and stimulate the regional economy.

There is a lot to report, but in this feature, we will be highlighting just a few of the initiatives that the Chamber's Workforce Development Committee has been working on. First, I want to thank Dr. Austin Cheney, Chamber VP Workforce Development and Dean, Lumpkin College of Business & Technology at Eastern Illinois University for serving as chair of this Committee.

The overall goal of the Workforce Development Committee is to provide assistance to area employers in the attraction, development, and training of a quality workforce to ensure a stable employment for the area. In the first quarter of the year, the committee has already planned several opportunities to assist our members with this goal.



Please take some time to read the article on page 8 and learn more about these solutions and new initiatives.

As always, reach out to me or any of the Chamber staff (Becky, Nicole, and Jamie) to see how we may be of service to you and your business.

Lucinda Hart, CAE, MBA President & CEO

lhart@effinghamcountychamber.com | (217) 342-4147

Lucinda

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 CAPITAL INVESTORS































INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT

Are you looking for a powerful way to promote your local business? **Dieterich Bank** has a solution! Dieterich Bank is partnering with an online discount network, BaZing, that is available to our Extreme Green and Extreme Green Student checking account customers. The BaZing app offers benefits including deals at local businesses, roadside assistance, health savings, cell phone protection, ID theft aid, and \$10,000 travel accidental death insurance.

BaZing Savings encompasses both national and local merchants through the app. This gives the local businesses in our communities an opportunity to advertise a discount to our Dieterich Bank customers. All you have to do is add a coupon to the BaZing Savings discount network. In addition to being on the app, you will receive free geofencing to the customers using the app. This means, the app will notify those customers every time they are near your business.



Supporting local businesses is a huge priority at Dieterich Bank, and we want to encourage our customers to shop local as well! Because of this Dieterich Bank is also helping promote the businesses that sign up on the BaZing app with social media spotlights. After you sign up with BaZing, Dieterich Bank will promote your business on our social media with a business spotlight!

Are you ready to learn more about becoming a local merchant on BaZing Savings? Our Customer Care team and branch staff are happy to help! Visit a branch, call (800) 699-9766, or email customercare@dieterichbank.com.

JOIN BAZING TODAY!



Free to Participate

Advertise your business for free as part of the network in exchange for providing an ongoing, exclusive discount. Customers using BaZing are members of participating banks or credit unions that allow them access to special discount offers in the community.



A simple way to redeem

Customers use the exclusive
BaZing mobile app to access
discounts based on their
locations. At the point of sale,
they simply show a mobile
coupon to receive the discount.
Customers can also print a
paper coupon at BaZing.com.



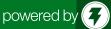
Control your offers anytime

Simply log in to your online BaZing merchant account to add new discounts or edit your existing offers. This gives you the power to make the best offers for your business. You can set your own limitations, terms, or exclusions to any discounts you provide.

READY TO LEARN MORE?

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EVENT RECAP

The Chamber celebrated its Annual Gala on Saturday, January 29 recognizing our tremendous members, Volunteer of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Excellence in Business recipients.

Tom Ryan, Chairman of the Effingham Water Authority Parks & Recreation Committee and Trustee of the Lake Sara Forever Foundation, received the Volunteer of the Year award sponsored by the Effingham – Teutopolis News Report and presented by Publisher Steve Raymond.







Mark Steppe received the Citizen of the Year award for his dedication and years of charitable service to the youth of Effingham County. This award is sponsored by the Effingham Daily News and was presented by Editor Jeff Long.

Steve Will, President & Senior Lending Officer for Dieterich Bank, was honored by Chamber President & CEO Lucinda Hart and Grand Ambassador Tonya Siner as the Ambassador of the Year. The Chamber Ambassadors are very active members who help develop the growth of the Chamber by volunteering their time encouraging and supporting the Chamber programs and services.

The Chamber also named two businesses as the 2022 Excellence in Business recipients, StangARTs (accepted by Owner Jamie Stang Ellis) and Washington Savings Bank (accepted by President & CEO David Doedtman).

Special thank you to our Gala Sponsors: Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota; Dieterich Bank; Heartland Dental; The Equity; Washington Savings Bank; Agracel, Inc.; CQI Associates; Crossroads Bank; EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.; Jansen's Heating & Air; Koerner Distributor; Midland States Bank; Patton Printing & Graphics; RE/MAX Key Advantage; Sarah Bush Lincoln; SC3F Wealth Management; Civil Design, Inc.; Doehring, Winders & Co. LLP; Effingham Prompt Care - Dr. Navi Arora; 1st National Bank of Waterloo; Keller Convention Center; Corrie Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.; SDS Technology; and Woods Advisors.







AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS



Things are moving forward at the Dieterich Community Center (DCC) with some exciting news and updates.

Tom and John Wright, along with the Wright Family, generously made a \$300,000 donation in honor of their father George Cedric Wright, for naming rights to the community center. Their dedication to the Dieterich community has always been nothing short of amazing and this donation cements their legacy in Dieterich as the community center will now be called the Wright Family Center.

Other updates include the Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) grant agreement being executed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) giving the green light to evaluate architects and engineers through the Request for Qualifications process. Farnsworth Group was selected as the architecture firm with Milano & Grunloh Engineers, FAMILY CENTE LLC chosen as the engineering firm.



The Village is currently working with Farnsworth to finalize building plans and send out bids in the coming months for site work to begin this spring continuing into summer. Work should be finished a few months before the October 3, 2023 deadline

Montessori Kids Universe Effingham (MKU), owned by Brad & Jordan Jansen, is still committed to leasing the daycare space which will offer up to 50 spaces for children aged six weeks to six years old. This Dieterich location is a passion project for Jordan, who graduated from Dieterich High School in 2008. The Jansen's are excited to help bring quality childcare and preschool to Dieterich making this local partnership even more special.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks as building plans and budgets are finalized. More information can be found by following @DieterichCommunityCenter on Facebook or calling the Village of (217) 925-5410.

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Effingham Regional Growth Alliance

The Effingham Regional Growth Alliance oversees a six-county regional collaboration that provides outreach and technical assistance towards local, state, and federal programs. This partnership is called the Business Navigator Alliance of Southcentral and Southeastern Illinois, which includes the counties of Clark, Coles, Crawford, Edgar, Effingham, and Moultrie.

We are providing a series of webinars to assist regional businesses in accessing resources that can help stimulate recovery and provide support as the economy rebounds from the pandemic. The Alliance hosts these webinars on the last Thursday of each month.

The March webinar provides an overview of local apprenticeship opportunities. Lake Land College will kick off the event by detailing their new

Apprenticeship Navigator services. Then we will dive into an Apprenticeship 101, discussing going from interest to implantation. Next, attendees will hear the perspective of a local employer on their experience with apprenticeships. We will speak about the forthcoming Leaders Innovating for Tomorrow (LIFT) career innovation center in Mattoon and the Effingham Regional Career Academy (ERCA) in Effingham. We will conclude the event with a Q&A session.

The webinar will be held Thursday, March 31st at 10:30 AM. There is no charge to attend but registration is required.

Visit www.ILBusinessNavigators.com for more information and to register.



BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY MEMBER!



Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness and Midland Area Agency on Aging are working to make the City of Effingham and Effingham County Dementia Friendly Communities! We invite you to become Dementia Friendly too!

A Dementia Friendly Community is one where businesses, service agencies, organizations, faith communities and others have knowledge of what dementia is, how to recognize a person living with dementia, know how to communicate with someone living with dementia, and understand that family members and caregivers need support while caring for their loved one.

Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness and Midland Area Agency on Aging are currently offering a free,

Call 217-342-4147 or scan the QR code to be part of identifying the goals, strategies, and projects necessary to move Effingham County into the future.

30-minute training for your business, agency, or group to become a Dementia Friendly Community Member. We can coordinate training times to your



convenience and will provide handouts and materials. Upon completion of the training, you will receive a Dementia Friendly Community Member decal to publicly demonstrate your commitment to being a dementia-friendly community member.

Please contact Shannon (Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness) at 217-663-0010 (email at eaaa. shannon@gmail.com) or Nancy or Judy (Midland Area Agency on Aging) at 618-532-1853 to schedule a training for your business, organization or agency!



The Chamber staff is proud to be a Dementia Friendly Community Member.



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, contact Nicole Morrison at (217) 342-4147.



At HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, we'll always be right by your side. Day or night, your experience means everything to us. It's because respect guides us, care defines us, competence empowers us and joy inspires us. HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. We're here with you.



Learn more at stanthonyshospital.org/ herewithvou



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- Connected TV (Hulu)





















217.342.2661 thinkcreatedo.com









The Chamber's Workforce Development Committee's overall goal is to provide assistance to area employers in the attraction, development, and training of a quality workforce to ensure a stable employment for the area. We are dedicated to serving the members of the Effingham County Chamber, and we wanted to provide an update on the plans and activities happening to support your business in 2022.

In addition to Job Fairs (two virtual and two inperson), Trade/Skills Day (March 10), and National Manufacturing Day (Oct 6) activities, we have several goals for this year that could impact your business tremendously.

For the Job Fair, the Committee wants to not only provide job seekers the opportunity to learn more about current job openings, but to also provide the job seekers with employment resources. At the in-person job fairs, job seekers will have the opportunity to use laptops provided by the Effingham Public Library. Resume review, headshot photography services, and mock interviews will also be available.

In an effort to educate our upcoming workforce (graduating students) about the employment opportunities in our County, the Chamber will host Trade/Skills Day (March 10) and Manufacturing Day (Oct 6). The focus of both of these Days is to raise awareness of the careers and skills needed as they begin to enter the workforce. We are also continuing to bring EC-JOBS to our local Effingham County schools.



Effingham County Job Opportunities for Business Success (EC-JOBS), under the leadership of Chamber Workforce Development Director, Jeff Fritchtnitch, continues to grow and evolve, and an update is warranted. EC-JOBS is now three fourths through its first year of existence and has taken a foothold with businesses and job seekers in Effingham County. Fritchtnitch's role is to recruit businesses to participate in the web-based platform, post jobs, as well as provide information about their specific industry so local students and job seekers can learn about different industries and careers.

As of mid-February 2022, the site has 94 businesses which have created a profile and of those businesses there are 80 job postings. There are 95 active job seekers on the site and 11 open applications submitted to area businesses. On the educational side portion of the platform those 95 active job seekers are currently involved in 38 video courses and hundreds of careers have been explored. All the high schools in Effingham County are participating in using the EC-JOBS website (ECJobs.org) as a career exploration tool and/or job seeker platform.

As EC-JOBS continues to grow its footprint in Effingham County, the Chamber invites the

community to show support of this program through a Founding Donor sponsorship (minimum \$1,000.00). Other financial support opportunities are available as well. We are thankful to our current Founding Donors, Ken & Norma Lansing, and Express Employment Professionals, for contributing to the EC-JOBS mission of continued excellence in our community.

Find out more about EC-JOBS by contacting Jeff Fritchtnitch at (217) 347-6284 or JFritchtnitch@ EffinghamCountyChamber.com.

If you are interested in being a Founding Donor Sponsor for EC-JOBS, contact Lucinda Hart, Chamber President/CEO at (217) 342-4147.

Additionally, the Workforce Development Committee has new initiatives related to supporting businesses exploring apprenticeships and internships. We are planning a "signing day" in May/June for new employees starting careers in Effingham County either fresh from high school or upon graduation from college. It's a time to recognize people newly entering the workforce and the area employers supporting them in those efforts!

Chamber Workforce Development Committee Members

Chair: Dr. Austin Cheney, Eastern Illinois University Sasha Althoff, City of Effingham Nancy Bushur, Metrics Works Effingham, LLC Mark Doan, Effingham CUSD #40 Jeff Fritchtnitch, Effingham County Chamber Lucinda Hart, CAE, MBA, Effingham Co. Chamber Anthony Hecht, Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota Laurie Jennings, CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp Mark Lovett, Quad Graphics Matt Roedl, Prudential Financial - Matt Roedl Jeff Speer, RE/MAX Key Advantage Christine Strohl, Lake Land College Christopher Swing, Vantage Outsourcing Susan Wilson, CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp. Mr. Courtney Yockey, Eff. Regional Growth Alliance Sarah Zerrusen, Stevens Industries, Inc.



For assistance in utilizing your membership to the fullest, contact Becky Brown, Director of Membership, at bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Building our community is one of the many initiatives the Chamber feels strongly about. Attracting and retaining key employees is crucial to the success of employers locally and around the country. Retaining our youth is a key element.

In 1996, the Chamber

Community Scholarship Program was established. To date \$230,000 scholarships have been awarded to 193 recipients. These scholarships are made possible with proceeds from the EffingHAM-JAM and monetary donations from our scholarship donors. A BIG Thank you to everyone for making this program a success with your continued support.

The Chamber Foundation of Effingham County will again offer the Chamber Community Scholarship Program, providing \$1,000 continuing education scholarships to area high school seniors and adults who are starting or continuing their secondary education.

High school seniors and adult learners going into the healthcare, daycare or vocational trades can also apply for the Jack Graham Scholarship. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Applications are available on the Chamber website at EffinghamCountyChamber.com. Deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 11. Be sure to share this information with your employees as an extra company benefit

Support the scholarship program with a charitable contribution from as low as \$25 to \$1000. Number of scholarships awarded is based on the sponsorships received. Thank you to all the 2021 Scholarship Sponsors. Special thank you to the \$500 sponsors: B & L Machine and Design; John Boos & Co.; Koerner Distributor Inc. & Whitney Roofing and the \$1,000 sponsors: Coldwell Banker; HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital; J & J Ventures Gaming & Siemer Milling Company.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at (217) 342-4147.



The Chamber Foundation of Effingham County is proud to offer the Community Scholarship Program for 2022!

\$1,000 general scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors & adults continuing their education.

Two \$1,000 Jack Graham Scholarships will go to applicants entering the vocational trades, health care, or childcare fields.





EffinghamCountyChamber.com (217) 342-4147

MARKETING BENEFITS

Membership with the Chamber creates a linked partnership between your business and the Chamber reputation that enhances your business credibility. Through our various advertising opportunities, you can cost-effectively market your products or services to a high quality, targeted audience of Chamber members and the Effingham County community. The Chamber has a variety of marketing outlets that provide our Chamber members with advertising opportunities.

Event Sponsorships

We host many events throughout the year with the help of our committee members and business sponsorships. Our events connect members and the community in both professional and social settings, but only members have the opportunity to sponsor these events. Sponsorships are a fantastic way to show your support of the Chamber and market your business in a fun environment to a wide audience. Our current sponsorships include:

- Annual Coffee & Connections Quarterly 2022
- · Trades & Skills Day March 10
- INSPIRE: Women Inspiring Women Leadership Panel - March 11
- Effingham County In-Person Job Fair March 31
- PAVE Promoting a Vision for Effingham County Mapping Program - April 2022
- 55th Annual Golf Outing May 20

Member Information Center (MIC)

Your presence in web searches can appear higher through your listing in the Chamber's online business directory - one of the top searched pages on the website! Each business has their own web page sharing contact information, hours of operation, and a business description. The contact information you provide is shared in the annual Chamber 360° Magazine, which makes it very important to keep it updated!

Dedicated E-Blasts

The Chamber offers members the option of sending a dedicated e-blast to 1,600+ email addresses. Members can share their business news, tips, events, or promotional items through this outlet. Dedicated blasts are in high-demand as this is only offered once a week (Tuesday's).

Electronic Banner Ads

An e-banner ad is an inexpensive way to reach other members and the community through two outlets: the Chamber's community/member newsletter or the Chamber website. The redesigned and easy-to-use Chamber website is a trusted and traditional source of business information that offers an additional advertising piece to your member benefit. All banner ads are linked back to your website.

Electronic Message Board

Add a quick message or your logo to the electronic sign outside the Chamber office that is seen by 20k vehicles daily. This is an effective way to grab someone's attention with a short and sweet message!

Publications

The bi-monthly Network Magazine for 2022 will offer three electronic issues (like this February issue you are currently enjoying) and three print issues. Purchase early or in bulk and you are set for the year!

If your investment level with the Chamber includes member credit or you have received credit by being an event sponsor, get in touch with Nicole Morrison, Director of Marketing & Communications, to grab coffee or lunch and discuss ways we can help grow your business!



Nicole can be reached at nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com or (217) 342-4147.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE





After 18 months of construction, the new **Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic** is opening in three phases.

The Orthopedic and Occupational Medicine Clinic, Interventional Pain Clinic and Diagnostic Imaging opened on February 14. A week later, on Monday, Feb. 21, Physical and Occupational Therapy opened.

The third phase opens in late summer after the front entrance of the building is complete, the old building removed, and a parking lot is built. Internal Medicine Clinic, Pediatrics, Walk-In Clinic and the Laboratory will open at this time. Until the front is complete this summer, patients will enter through Entrance B on the northwest side of the building. Staff will be present to greet visitors and help them find their destinations.

An open house will be hosted in late summer.



The Human Bean, located at 406 N. Keller Drive is nearing completion and will be opening soon.



Construction of a new 112ft x 100ft hangar is underway at the **Effingham County Memorial Airport**. The new hangar, owned by High Flight, is 37ft, 3in tall and large enough to house a small jet aircraft.





Petro Travel Center welcomes new business, **IHOP**, to Effingham in the old Iron Skillet restaurant located at 1805 W Fayette.

Bath and Body Works is relocating from the Village Square Mall to Crossroads Plaza North in front of Wal-Mart (by Famous Footwear).

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

November (revised) and December (preliminary)

	November —		December —	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Total Labor Force	19,372	18,791	19,141	18,625
Eff. Co UE Rate	2.8%	4.1%	2.7%	4.2%
Unemployed	549	-	515	-
Employed	18,823		18,626	_
Illinois UE Rate	4.5%	7.6%	4.3%	7.9%
US UE Rate	3.9%	6.4%	3.7%	6.5%

RETAIL SALES STATISTICS



WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?



Congratulations to Katie Koester, **firefly grill** on her promotion to Integrator (General Manager).





Tom & John Wright, along with the Wright family, donated \$300,000 to the new community center in Dieterich, now known as **Wright Family Center**.



Stevens Industries, Inc. company and employees collectively raised \$14,216 for United Way of Effingham County.



Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota presented a \$4,700 check to the United Way of Effingham County's 2021 campaign.



West & Company, LLC & employees donated \$3,120 to the 2021 United Way of Effingham County campaign.



The **Crossroads Bank** team supported the 2021 United Way of Effingham County campaign with a \$1,500 donation.

Congratulations to Jerry Tkachuk, Director of the Effingham Education and Regional Extension Centers for Lake Land College.

Charles Heuerman Trucking is now 3 Sisters Logistics.

Credit Collection Partners is now **PayCourt - Innovative Financial Recovery.** Their new website is www.paycourt. com.

Magoo & Associates, LLC has a new web address: www. magoo.tech.

Team ITS has a new web address: www.teamitsllc.com.

First National Bank of Waterloo has a new web address: www.fnbwaterloo.bank.

WHO'S NEW! - CELEBRATIONS

Todd Britton, Store Manager for NAPA Auto Parts.



Jackie Coffman, PA-C, joined Effingham Prompt Care as a Physician Assistant. Coffman is accepting new patients for primary care and urgent care.

Emily L. Fitch, Associate Attorney for Law Group of Illinois Ltd. Fitch intends to practice primarily as a litigator out of both the Effingham and Vandalia Office locations.

Kasey Kemmer, Youth Development Educator for the **U of I Extension Center**.

Cheri Moutria, Compliance Manager & Training Specialist for **Team ITS.**

Clayton Summers, Camp Host for Camp Walter Scott.

Heritage Builders celebrated 40 years in business in 2021.



Brant Yochum, Fire Chief for Effingham Fire Department.

Congratulations to Tim Rush on his retirement as Store Manager for NAPA Auto Parts.

Land of Lincoln Credit Union celebrated 75 years in business in January.

The AutoMall of Effingham celebrated 20 years in business in 2021.

Rich Hartke with **Prudential Financial** is celebrating 20+ years in business.



WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!



T-MOBILE

Jeffrey Rodgers, Retail Store Manager 910 N Keller Drive, Ste. B, Effingham (217) 708–4151 http://t-mobile.com



SHELBY REALTY BITZER AND ASSOCIATES

Matt Forcum, Owner 615 W Main St, Shelbyville (217) 774-5596 www.shelbyrealty.com Real Estate

MARK & LESLIE CROXELL

stillwater23@hotmail.com (Lifetime Friend of the Chamber)

JT'S TREE SERVICE LLC

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(217) 240-2262
www.jtstreeserviceofeffingham.com
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Referred by: Jeff Speer, RE/MAX Key Advantage

LAMAR ADVERTISING

Brian Lange, Account Executive 100 W Hazel Dell Rd, Springfield (217) 585-8110 www.lamar.com Billboards

ROAD HOME PROGRAM: THE NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Patricia McDaniel, Clinical Social Worker 1200 N 4th St, Effingham (217) 347-2597 http://roadhomeprogram.org Mental Health Clinic

WMG DEVELOPMENT LLC

Jonathon Brumleve, Executive Vice President 1200 Network Centre Dr., Ste. 3, Effingham (217) 540-2191 www.wmgdevelopment.com

Commercial Real Estate Development &

Referred by: Jeff Speer, RE/MAX Key Advantage



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

Upcoming Events

March

- 4 | First Friday Luncheon

 © Keller Convention Center
- 9 | Coffee & Connections
 © TEAM ITS
- 10 | Trades & Skills Day

 © Effingham Event Center

11 | INSPIRE: Women's Leadership Panel © The XCHNG

14 | Chamber Travel Info Mtg: Tuscany

© Siemer Milling Company

31 | Job Fair (in-person)

© Keller Convention Center

Dates & locations are subject to change. Please check the Chamber website calendar for the most up to date & accurate information.



April

- 1 | First Friday Luncheon

 (a) Keller Convention Center

21 | Spring Radio Days © WCRC

21 | Business After Hours

© Versatech Automation

May

- 4 | PAVE Mapping Mtg © Koerner Distributor, Inc.
- 6 | First Friday Luncheon

 © Keller Convention Center
- **12 | Business After Hours** (a) Land of Lincoln Credit Union

19 | Virtual Job Fair

20 | 55th Annual Golf Outing

© Effingham Country Club

30 - 6 | Chamber Travel: Danube River Cruise

EFFINGHAM

THERE'S A NEW CHOICE IN WIRELES

T-Mobile has a new store in your town!
With expanded coverage from coast to coast, plus benefits you'll love at no extra cost, we have you covered.
Stop by your new neighborhood store to learn more.

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N KELLER DR & HAMPTON DR