



NETWORK

JULY 2023



CHILDCARE
IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY



presented by:



KOERNER
DISTRIBUTOR, INC.



FRIDAY, JULY 21

HAM CITY JAM Demo

5pm - 7pm

JT's Tree Monster Truck | City of Effingham
Fire Truck & Police Car

5pm - 9pm

Food Trucks | Vendors | Beer Tent

5pm - 10:30pm

Hometown Throwdown Amateur BBQ
Competition & Tastings

5:30pm - until sold out*

The Troubadours

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Loose Lips

7pm - 10:30pm



DOWNTOWN EFFINGHAM

EffingHAMJAM.com or [f @effcochamber](https://www.facebook.com/effcochamber)

*While tasting samples last - no refunds. Proceeds benefit the Chamber Foundation of Effingham County Scholarship Program. Questions? Call the Effingham County Chamber (217) 342-4147.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Chamber Members,

July is here, and this means EffingHAM-JAM time! Once again EffingHAM-JAM will be in Downtown Effingham on Friday, July 21st.

The festivities will begin at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 21 with the Hometown Throwdown BBQ Competition & Tastings, Food & Specialty Vendors, as well as a HAM CITY JAM Demo by local skateboard enthusiast Deano Tull. There will also be musical performances starting at 5:30 pm with The Troubadours and Loose Lips will take the stage at 7:00 pm.

The proceeds of EffingHAM-JAM go to the Chamber Foundation of Effingham County's Scholarship Program; this year seven \$1,000 dollar scholarships were awarded. We hope to award the same amount next year. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available, visit EffingHAMJAM.com for more information.

In collaboration with Bushue HR and the City of Effingham, the Chamber is working on the 2023 Effingham County Compensation and Benefits Survey. The survey allows our members to make informed business decisions by giving them reliable benchmarks based on their industries and company size. The deadline to complete the survey is mid July. Contact the office at (217) 342-4147 if you would like to participate in the survey.

Also, please take some time to read the featured article on pages 14 and 15 and learn more about Effingham's Childcare Initiatives.

As always, reach out to me or any of the Chamber staff (Becky, Nicole, Jamie, and Jeff) 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

CAPITOL INVESTORS

Thank you Capital Investors for your unwavering support of the Effingham County Chamber, its initiatives, members, and staff. Your continued investment in the future of the Effingham County community is recognized and appreciated.



Grain Belt Express
An INVERGY TRANSMISSION Project



FIFTH THIRD BANK



You can become an Effingham County Chamber Capital Investor by contacting Membership Director Becky Brown at (217) 342-4147.

APRIL EVENT RECAP



FIRST FRIDAY NETWORKING LUNCHEON

A1 Liquors Hwy 33 & Lickin' My Chicken & Pullin' My Pork played host to our vibrant First Friday Networking event where professionals gathered to connect, exchange ideas, and enjoy a delicious meal in a casual environment.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Probst Auto Body offered an evening filled with productive conversations and valuable connections, as local businesses came together to foster collaboration and growth.



SPRING RADIO DAYS

WCRG hosted our Chamber members for Spring Radio Days. This day allows our members to immerse themselves in captivating storytelling about their respective business on air.



SUCCESSION PLANNING SEMINAR

The Succession Planning Seminar was an insightful session at the **Keller Convention Center** that equipped participants with the knowledge and strategies needed to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and long-term success for their organizations.

MAY EVENT RECAP



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS LUNCHEON

The May Mental Health Awareness Luncheon brought together individuals passionate about mental well-being in a supportive and empathetic setting. Featured Speakers Afthen Reens, MSW, LCSW, **Heartland Human Services** and Ashley Dillingham, MSSW, LSW, **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** shared valuable resources and thought-provoking figures that emphasized the importance of raising awareness.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Friends of Camp Wassatoga hosted a delightful Business After Hours in a picturesque outdoor setting. Attendees toured the grounds and gathered around a campfire to make s'mores. This was a unique opportunity to build meaningful relationships in a relaxed atmosphere.



CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

56th Annual Golf Outing: a thrilling day on the greens, the golf outing brought together avid and amateur golfers and Chamber members for a day of friendly competition, networking, and community support. Thank you to presenting sponsor **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**, all sponsors, and volunteers for lending not only financial support, but also your time.

JUNE EVENT RECAP



CHAMBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The **Chamber Foundation of Effingham County Scholarship** luncheon was a heartwarming event dedicated to celebrating academic excellence and supporting deserving students in our community. Our 2023 recipients included Matt Herzing, Heaven Kinnison, Emily Konkel (Jack Graham Scholarship), Bailey Niccum, Maci Niemerg, Krista Phillips, Isaac Vahling, and Emily Konkel. The Chamber Foundation Scholarship is established for Effingham County high school seniors and adults who are starting/continuing their education. Since its inception in 1996, the Chamber Foundation Scholarship program has awarded \$245,000 to 207 recipients.

Scholarship Photographer: Nuxoll Photography



COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

Hosted by **Civil Design Inc.**, the 2nd Quarter Coffee & Connections was a delightful opportunity for professionals to kick-start their day with networking and productive conversations. Attendees enjoyed warm cups of coffee while engaging with like-minded individuals outside of their respective industry.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

The **Top Shelf Effingham Business After Hours** was a fun-filled evening in a vibrant atmosphere. This event provided a memorable experience for potential collaborations amongst members.

Chamber Travel

EXPLORE THE WORLD



Sunny Portugal
April 13 - 22, 2024



Iceland's Magical Northern Lights
September 30 - October 6, 2024



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CHAMBER



(217) 342-4147



EffinghamCountyChamber.com



INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT



On February 15, 1831, an act of the Illinois Legislature named territory in Fayette County as being named Effingham County. This act appointed the very first County Board members referenced

as Commissioners John Haley, James Galloway, and John Hall to locate the seat of justice for Effingham County. The act specified these commissioners were to make this decision "with an eye to the best interests of said counties".

Since that time, Effingham County has grown to a population of over 34,000 with nine County Board members elected by county residents to ensure continuity of this representation for the county's "best interests".

So who are these nine County Board members chosen to represent the county's best interests?

Meet Your Effingham County Board

District B, Joshua Douthit -Chairman of the Board. Josh is an Effingham High School graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's Degree from Western Governor's University. Josh shares he chose county government to apply his education, experience, and talents to have a positive local impact. He has a desire to expand economic development participation and keeping taxes and spending at a level that allows citizens to thrive in a safe community while providing the opportunities and services they deserve.

District D, David Campbell-Vice Chairman of the Board. Dave is a Lake Land College graduate and has been the owner/ operator of Ad Works Publishing, Inc. since 1985. Dave states he choose county government to contribute in providing a solid foundation for Effingham County and ensuring the county is a better place to live for everyone including our children, grandchildren, and future generations. Continuing economic

development and housing efforts along with protecting our 2nd Amendment and Rights for the Unborn in Effingham County are some goals for Dave. He also sees continued networking with other counties as a necessity to show strength in numbers on various issues that affect all residents of the State of Illinois.

District A, Norbert Soltwedel-Chairman of the Tax and Finance Committee. Norbert is an Effingham High School graduate and a University of Illinois College of Agriculture graduate. He shares a desire for good government and the belief that it is our civic duty to get involved in our local communities. Norbert expresses a goal of studying local issues and working to ensure responsible spending, reasonable regulations, and essential services while working together as a nine member board; not always agreeing but never becoming disagreeable.

District C, Timothy Ellis-County Board Member. Tim graduated from Troy University with a Bachelor of Science degree and currently works at Heartland Dental as a Support Office Facilities and Administrative Manager. Tim believes we have a wonderful community and strives to be a part of the initiative that can promote our county. His goals as a county board member are to represent his constituents to the best of his ability while attempting to keep taxes low and government involvement in our day to day at a minimum.

District I, Jeremy Deters-Chairman of the Reports Committee. Jeremy is a Teutopolis High School and Eastern Illinois University graduate. In 2001, Jeremy retired from the Illinois Army National Guard and wished to continue civil service. Jeremy states he believes in the importance of community involvement and has the experience and commitment to contribute to the County Board. His goals are to maintain a transparent, ethical and prosperous local government. He feels Effingham County has many exciting opportunities available to it and is excited to be a part of promoting continued growth and success for his constituents.



DISTRICT A:
NORBERT SOLTWEDEL



DISTRICT B:
JOSHUA DOUTHIT



DISTRICT C:
TIMOTHY ELLIS



DISTRICT D:
DAVID CAMPBELL



DISTRICT I:
JEREMY DETERS



DISTRICT H:
SANDRA GILLET



DISTRICT G:
DOUGLAS MCCAIN



DISTRICT F:
ELIZABETH HUSTON



DISTRICT E:
CHRISTOPHER KELLER

10 Year Celebration

Dr. Navi Arora Celebrates 10 Years at Effingham Prompt Care

Dr. Navi Arora is celebrating his 10 year anniversary with Effingham Prompt Care, a primary care and urgent care clinic that has been serving Effingham and the surrounding communities for over 40 years.

Dr. Arora is a Board Certified Internal Medicine Physician and was born and raised in Effingham. After finishing his internal medicine residency at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield, he moved back home on July 1, 2013 to work at Effingham Prompt Care with his parents.

Dr. Arora is now the Medical Director of Effingham Prompt Care and offers patients state of the art approaches to healthcare and options not normally available in a rural setting. His areas of special interest include Weight Management, Hormone Restoration, Aesthetic Enhancement, and PRP Joint Injections.

In honor of Dr. Arora's decade-long milestone, he plans to engage with 10 local charities and organizations over the next 10 months by featuring them on the radio.

Please help Effingham Prompt Care in congratulating Dr. Navi Arora for his 10 years of dedication and commitment to our patients in Effingham and the surrounding area. He looks forward to delivering exceptional care for many years to come!





Effingham is the Heart of Heartland Dental

More than 25 years ago, what would become the largest network of affiliated dental practices in America was founded right here in Effingham, Illinois. The local community and local workforce was core in providing the springboard of growth for the Company and has been an integral part of the Company's story as it has expanded over the years.

How it began

In 1980, Rick Workman, DMD, set out to practice dentistry, opening his first dental office here in Effingham. Another office followed 15 months later. As he pursued his passion for dentistry, Dr. Workman was working over 70 hours per week providing patient care and on the business side of operations. He knew there had to be a better way for himself and future dentists to practice.

In 1982, Dr. Workman first introduced other dentists to the benefits of high quality, non-clinical administrative support. And, in 1997, Dr. Workman officially established Heartland Dental with the help of a growing team of inventive professionals.



Heartland Dental today

Today, Heartland Dental provides non-clinical administrative support to more than 2,700 supported dentists in more than 1,700 supported offices across 38 states and the District of Columbia and has been growing significantly each year. The Heartland Dental support team is about 22,000 team members strong and growing. Still, with a growing national footprint, Heartland Dental remains focused on providing great career opportunities for local people.

While the Company's footprint of supported dental offices has grown, Heartland is proud of its roots and wants others to experience the area as well. Effingham regularly hosts newly supported doctors and new support team members from across the country for our HeartStart on boarding program as they join the Heartland Dental support network. Effingham always has been and will continue to be core to Heartland's story.

My Heartland

Heartland Dental's history is full of interesting stories that landed the Company where they are today. After decades of hard work establishing the largest dental support organization in the nation, Dr. Workman and the leadership team saw the opportunity to capture the Company's history and the "why" behind what they do and what it took to get here.

Learn more about how the vision of local entrepreneur, Dr. Workman, came to life over the past four decades in a documentary, *My Heartland*. Join the Heartland Dental Family on Wednesday, July 26 at the Effingham Performance Center for a viewing of *My Heartland* – reception at 5:00pm and showing at 5:45pm. Tickets are available at Kirby Foods, the EPC box office or Effingham County Chamber.



A Great American Story.
A Great Effingham Story.



My Heartland

DOCUMENTARY

You're invited to a Community Viewing

*My Heartland celebrates the incredible journey of a man,
a company & community, and a culture of doctors & team members
as they shaped the future of dentistry over the years.*

EFFINGHAM PERFORMANCE CENTER

EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

WEDNESDAY

July 26

RECEPTION

5:00 pm

SHOWING

5:45 pm

GET YOUR COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

- Kirby Foods
- Effingham Chamber of Commerce
- Effingham Performance Center
- Heartland Family Dental Care

HEARTLAND.
DENTAL



Washington Savings Bank is celebrating 140 Years of Community Banking in 2023!

In 1883, a group of business leaders established The Washington Loan and Building Association, whose primary purpose was to help its members purchase homes. 140 years later, it is known as Washington Savings Bank and is the largest and oldest customer owned bank in their two primary markets, Effingham and Coles County. Consistent with the mission of its founders, Washington Savings Bank prides themselves on serving their customers/owners, supporting home ownership, and providing capital for small business growth. Over the past 140 years, Washington Savings Bank has seen organic growth and growth through three acquisitions with the latest being in 2021. Their mission is to be a financially strong, progressive bank, serving their customers by providing quality, professional and innovative products and services in a safe and sound manner with a friendly touch. As proof of this, Bauer Financial has given the bank a 5-star rating for over 30-years—a claim that can be

made by less than 2% of the banks in the country. Rest assured, banking with Washington Savings Bank means you're banking with a secure and dependable institution that's been serving their customers faithfully for the past 140 years.

The staff of the bank also pride themselves on using their resources to provide financial literacy education to people of all ages. For over 10 years, they have visited local schools teaching over 1,000 junior high students about saving and over 300 area high school students about the importance of credit each year. In 2022, Washington Savings Bank partnered with the online Financial Literacy Provider, Banzai. With this partnership, the bank provides local schools and community programs with access to free online financial literacy programs and written materials that are relevant to all age groups. With Banzai, Washington Savings Bank can help you bring financial literacy to your organization, your employees, and our community.

Washington Savings Bank has always placed a strong emphasis on helping and supporting their communities and throughout the years that has proven true time and time again. Their efforts have been recognized statewide and locally. They received the Illinois Banker's Association Community Service Award in 2018, the Community Banker's Association of Illinois' Excellence in Innovation Award in 2019, and in 2022 the Effingham Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Award.

For more information about Washington Savings Bank, visit www.washingtonsavings.net.



SINCE 1883



CELEBRATING

140 YEARS

of community banking





It's Bowling Night!

Winter Hours

Sunday: Open at 3 p.m.
Monday: Open at 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Open at Noon
Wednesday: Open at 3 p.m.
Thursday: Open at 3 p.m.
Friday: Open at 3 p.m.
Saturday: Open at Noon

Summer Hours

Sunday - Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Open at 3 p.m.
Friday: Open at 3 p.m.
Saturday: Open at 3 p.m.

2300 South Banker
Effingham, IL 62401

silverdollarlanes.com

217-342-3939

Save These Dates

14th Annual

GOLF BENEFIT

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023

For sponsorship information, visit
stanthonyshospital.org/golf



HSHS
St. Anthony's
Foundation

Women's Health Showcase

October 12, 2023

Keller Convention Center

Watch our Facebook page
for more information.
Registration will be live in August.



HSHS
St. Anthony's
Memorial Hospital



Ballard Nature Center Offers Fun-Filled Summer Activities for All Ages!

Summer is as busy at the Ballard Nature Center as you might expect. Visit us during the week and you might observe a group of children attending a summer camp with nets in their hands marching to a pond to learn about things that live in the water. Inside our visitor center, you might see a family looking at the displays while escaping the heat after a hike on Bluestem Trail. On a weekend,



you may see a group celebrating a birthday with a potluck in one of the pavilions. One evening, you might see volunteers with telescopes having a star-gazing party for visitors.



Alongside all the people enjoying the Ballard Nature Center, plants and animals are living life. There's a good chance you will see squirrels and rabbits along the trails. The purple martins make their presence known with raucous calls as they fly around the buildings and over the water

catching insects to feed their young in the nest structures we provide. A quiet hiker may be lucky enough to see a bobcat dart across the trail. The prairie truly shines in riotous color all summer. It's a great place to learn to identify some of the plants, or simply enjoy the butterflies that are busy in the flowers.

The Ballard Nature Center offers a variety of programs for people of all ages throughout the

year. Schools and home school groups from several counties visit for programs during the school year. Nearly 1000 children visited this past April and May. Our summer day camps are popular and fill quickly. This year over 100 families are participating.



From the beginning, we have made accessibility a goal. The visitor center is accessible, along with the trail around the wetlands and Leo's Perch, the observation platform in the wetlands. You will find accessible picnic tables and new accessible outdoor restrooms. Both docks on the Kid's Fishing Pond are accessible, with a concrete trail to each.



We offer a safe place to be outdoors, to get away from stress, and to relax with friends and family. Being outdoors is good for mental health, and the evidence for this grows every year. The Ballard Nature Center adds to the quality of life in our community. If you'd like to join our efforts, we are always looking for volunteers. We are a volunteer-led organization.

The Ballard Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on community support through fund-raising events and donations. We also use grants for various projects. No Federal, state, or local taxes are received. To learn more about us, go to our website ballardnaturecenter.org or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. For specific questions, feel free to call us at 618-483-6856.

CHILDCARE IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY



Guest writer: Johnna Schultz, Project Manager for Effingham Regional Growth Alliance

Childcare Update for Effingham County

How many times recently have you heard someone asking where to find childcare?

Whether it is care for an anticipated new infant or after school care for a first grader, there's a good chance that you've heard a conversation about the lack of childcare or you've initiated one yourself.

Childcare, more and more of us are learning, is truly the "workforce behind the workforce" and crucial for continued economic growth in Effingham County.

Over the past five months, Effingham County Childcare Research Committee with support from Illinois Action for Children teamed up with EduDream, a Latina-founded, woman-owned, education research consulting firm to perform a childcare feasibility study for Effingham County.

The primary objectives of this project were to (1) determine the current availability of childcare services in Effingham County as well as past patterns and (2) gauge any potential gaps in the county's present and future landscape.

Effingham County's population includes 2,648 children ages 5 and under, or 7.66% of the county's total population. While the overall child population has held steady at about 2,600 over the last 10 years, the number of children age birth to 2 has increased by 10.5% since 2018.

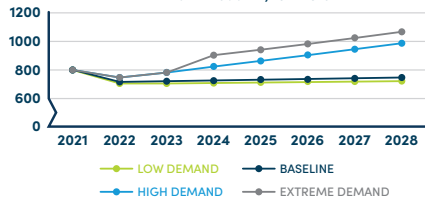
The results were concerning.

First, as most employers may be aware, childcare capacity across the county has fluctuated since 2012 when it was at its highest. Over the past ten years, though, licensed family home care has decreased by more than 50%. And, although more childcare centers have opened over the past ten years, slots there haven't been able to keep pace with the need.

By FY2021, Effingham County only had 44 childcare slots per 100 children.

EduDream's report further revealed that there is a large population of future children who will need childcare for their parents or guardians to participate in Effingham County's workforce. EduDream's most conservative estimate places the need for additional childcare slots at 723 over the next five years.

**DEMAND SCENARIOS FOR CHILDREN WITH WORKING PARENTS
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, 2021-2028**



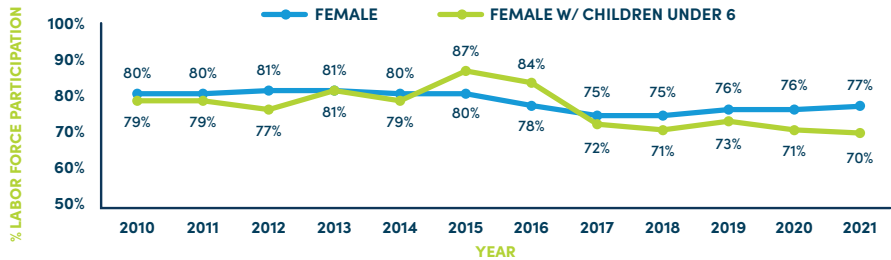
EduDream's research also revealed an interesting trend in Effingham County's workforce. The percentage of women working in Effingham County's workforce – especially those with children under 6 – has been falling since 2015. This is while women in surrounding counties – even those with children under 6 – have been participating in the workforce at rates of over 80%.

Clearly, there are many reasons why women in this age group are choosing not to be part of the workforce, but it's worth noting that the lack of childcare availability and options may be one of the reasons for the quiet, but noticeable exodus of women with children under the age of 6 from Effingham County's workforce. (Effingham Regional Growth Alliance (n.d.). Effingham Fact Sheet Final. www.groweffinghamcountyil.com. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from [groweffinghamcountyil.com](http://www.groweffinghamcountyil.com))

Because women with children under 6 are missing from the workforce, it's understandable that one of Effingham County's top industries Healthcare and Social Assistance will continue to feel the pinch of a very labor tight market (U.S. Bureau of Labor of Statistics (2022, March 7). Over 16 million women worked in health care and social assistance in 2021. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved June 30, 2023, from <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2022/over-16-million-women-worked-in-health-care-and-social-assistance-in-2021.htm#:~:text=In%202021%2C%2016.4%20million%20women,million%20workers%20in%20the%20industry>).



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION (AGES 20-64), EFFINGHAM COUNTY, 2011-2021



You can learn more about Effingham County's future need for childcare from the Informational Community Webinar hosted by EduDream and Effingham Regional Growth Alliance or by accessing the Fact Sheet made available by EduDream.

Increasing childcare infrastructure on the scale that Effingham County needs will require the collaboration of stakeholders from across the County, but thanks to work by the Effingham County Childcare Research Committee three programs, each addressing a separate aspect of childcare, have been launched to meet the need.

First, in an effort to address childcare employee retention, the Childcare Research Committee worked with the Effingham County Board to implement a one-time "thank you" stipend for childcare providers who had been working for more than 6 months.

Second, to increase childcare capacity, in-home family childcare providers and childcare center directors were offered the opportunity to take a course to strengthen their business and then apply for matching grant funds of up to \$5,000 to implement targeted improvements.

The Effingham County Board also took the Childcare Research Committee's recommendation to build capacity in Dieterich's childcare desert by directing \$100,000 of the \$400,000 childcare earmark to Dieterich's Wright Family Center and its child care component.

Finally, the Childcare Research Committee realized that the cost of childcare can sometimes outweigh the financial incentive for working. To help encourage and possibly bring more people into the workforce, Effingham County also launched a Childcare Scholarship for Effingham County residents who don't qualify for Child Care Assistance Program offered by the state of Illinois but live, work and have childcare in Effingham County.

To help encourage and possibly bring more people into the workforce, Effingham County also launched a Childcare Scholarship for Effingham County residents who don't qualify for Child Care Assistance Program offered by the state of Illinois but live, work and have childcare in Effingham County.

These eligible families have household incomes that are within 25% above the current Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program.

Effingham County Board Member and Effingham County Childcare Research Committee Members, Norbert Soltwedel explained the purpose of the program: "The Effingham County Childcare Scholarship effort is targeted to support what is

arguably one of our most vulnerable workforces. We recognize that Effingham County needs to retain these workers and that stabilizing their childcare by providing financial support will help. It's also our hope that this program would encourage those desiring to enter the workforce but currently prevented from doing so due to their income."

Effingham County employers and their employees can learn more about the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship in this informational webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN45yaNB-JE> and find the application by scanning the Childcare Scholarship image below.



"Finding a way to provide more safe, quality childcare is a priority for Effingham County," Effingham County Childcare Research Committee Chairman, Courtney Yockey summarized. "But just knowing that there is a need isn't enough to solve the challenge. We need community members from across Effingham County to be willing to share ideas and help build more capacity for our community."

To learn more about Effingham County's childcare challenge or to be part of Effingham County's PAVE Childcare Action Team email cyockey@groweffinghamcountyil.com or Brittany Sunderman, PAVE Coordinator, at efccopave@gmail.com

EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHILDCARE SCHOLARSHIP

Now Available

Do you live and work in Effingham County?
Have you been denied CCAP or Project CHILD?

Find out if your family qualifies
for Childcare Financial Assistance

Scan Here
for Info



efccchildcare@gmail.com

Is your network fully protected?

Get a specialist on your side.

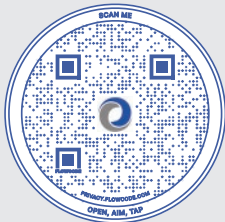
With Consolidated Communications, your company has access to a locally-based team of technology and business communications experts.

With deep roots in the Effingham area, our advanced fiber network spans more than 50,000 route miles across more than 20 states, making us one of the top 10 largest fiber providers in the country. We deliver a wide range of communications solutions, including high-speed Internet, data, phone, managed services, cloud services and security solutions.

Contact us today to find out how we can help keep your business safe from advanced cybersecurity attacks.

ONE MONTH FREE SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive one month free for any new service.



1.844.723.0918
consolidated.com/LocalTeam

*Limited-time offer for new and existing business services and locations. A one-year term commitment is required. After 12-month promotional period, standard rates apply. Services may not be available in all areas. © 2023 Consolidated Communications. All rights reserved.



Ben Wackler
Senior Account Executive



Bill Shelley
Account Executive



Chris Niebrugge
Senior Account Executive



Gunner Davis
Senior Account Executive



Karl Utz
Senior Account Executive



Kelley Gaddis
Senior Account Executive



Kye Petersen
Account Executive



Mary Beth White
Senior Account Executive



Samantha Barr
Account Executive



Brett Kingery
Senior Manager



Family Owned for 65 Years

Sales | Service & Repair | Car Rental | Collision Center
Detailing Services | Parts & Accessories



Dan Hecht



CHEVROLET



TOYOTA



Call or Text

217-342-4111 or 1-800-342-1892

2400 S. Banker St | Effingham, IL

www.danhecht.com



**Sundance®
Spas**

**Big
Green
Egg**

LEISURE TIMES
217.347.0777
LEISURETIMESFUN.COM • f i

POOLS • SPAS • FIREPLACES • GRILLS • BILLIARDS • PATIO

CHAMBER TEXTING PROGRAM

Be connected.
Stay informed.



Receive reminders for
upcoming events,
Chamber news,
sponsorships, & other
announcements.

Text your name to
(217) 342-4147
to sign up.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Share the Love Member Referral Program

A growing membership strengthens the Chamber's ability to impact community and business issues that are important to our members. With our member's being involved, you are showing support for the Chamber and the belief in our continued efforts to meet the needs of our members and provide even more valuable benefits.

How can you be more involved in the growth of the Chamber? Be an active participant in the Member Referral Program. The Member Referral Program is a member driven effort to increase Chamber membership to reach our collective goals.

How does it work? Easy! Identify a business or client you do business with and feel would benefit from a Chamber membership. Check our online business directory by scanning the QR code to see if they are a current member. Email their information to Becky Brown, Membership Director, at bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com or call (217) 347-6283. All referred businesses will be contacted for recruitment.

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



For any questions about Chamber membership or local businesses, reach out to Becky Brown to learn more.

Becky Brown, NFPC
Membership Director
bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com
(217) 342-4147

**See current
Chamber
members here!**



MEMBER REFERRALS



Bailey Whitney
Whitney Roofing
for Krystle Starr LLC



Becky McGee
for Jackson Health



Jamie Stang-Ellis
Stang Art
for Rusty Reel Events



Lisa Willson
Land of Lincoln Credit Union
for Behold Aesthetics &
Wellness Center

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dieterich:

Wright Family Center should be roughed in soon. **Red iron** is going up at the Distribution Center. Both projects have a tentative completion of late 2023.



Effingham:



Rent X purchased the former Visitor's Center and has started construction of their new building.

Home2Suites has announced plans to build on the lot located behind Top Shelf.

Fritz Krampe is constructing two 25,000 square foot warehouses on South Raney St.

Ford Avenue, Phase IA. This is a 500' roadway extension east from the existing terminus currently under construction.. No impact to travel expected.

Evergreen Ave/Willenborg Street Intersection project. Start construction this summer, Complete by end of the year. These roads will be closed to thru traffic. Awarded to Feutz Contractors.

Thies Avenue/Airport Rd Reconstruction. Construction will start late summer/fall. Thies Avenue will not impact travel. Airport Road will be closed to through traffic and have detours. Looking to bid this project in July/August.

Redoak Street Reconstruction (Hendelmeyer to Blohm) – Start date late Summer/Fall.

Quick Trip – Technology Drive Road Widening Project – Currently under construction. No set completion date / should be late Summer to early Fall.

Proposed Resurfacing Projects. Timeline not established yet.

1. **Wenthe (Koester to Evergreen)** Late Summer/Fall
2. **Koester (Holiday to Evergreen)** Late Summer/Fall
3. **Katrina (Maple to Martin)** Late Summer/Fall
4. **Holly Drive** Late Summer/Fall
5. **Pembroke (Temple to North Ave)** Late Summer/Fall
6. **Oakwood (Temple to North Ave)** Late Summer/Fall
7. **W. Cedar Ave (Park to 4th)** Late Summer/Fall
8. **Park Street (Elm to Cedar)** Late Summer/Fall
9. **Pine Drive (Cedar to 4th)** Late Summer/Fall
10. **Walk Avenue (Rt 45 to east terminus)** Late Summer/Fall

IDOT Projects:

1. **Fayette Avenue Phase I (Illini Drive to Walnut Street).** Started demolition earlier this Summer - utilities are currently being constructed.

- City will have New Sanitary Sewer Construction,
- Watermain Relocation and Sanitary Force Main relocation as a part of this project.
- 2-year project

2. **Fayette Avenue Phase II (Walnut Street to Long Street).** Estimated Bid Date/Construction – 2025. Under Design.

- 2-year project

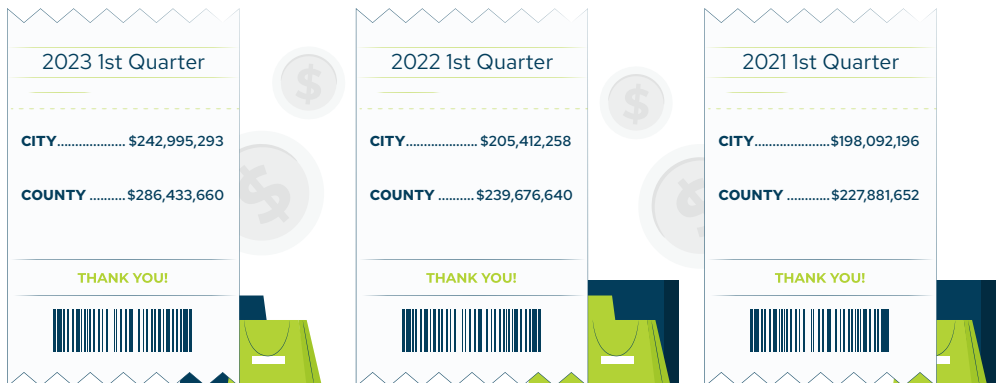
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

May (preliminary) • April and March (revised)

	MAY		APRIL		MARCH	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Total Labor Force	19,686	19,514	19,807	19,429	19,733	19,768
Eff. Co UE Rate	2.7%	3.1%	2.7%	3.1%	2.8%	3.2%
Unemployed	522	614	536	603	554	626
Employed	19,164	18,900	19,271	18,826	19,179	19,142
Illinois UE Rate	3.6%	4.5%	3.7%	4.4%	4.3%	4.7%
US UE Rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%

RETAIL SALES STATISTICS



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

UPSKILL YOUR EMPLOYEES WITH

LAKE LAND COLLEGE

TECH

2 DAY

A decorative graphic on the right side of the 'TECH 2 DAY' text. It features a grey circuit board with red and grey lines extending from it, and a grey gear with a red circle in the center.

**HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES
ON CAMPUS CLASSES 2 DAYS A WEEK
APPRENTICESHIPS
INTERNSHIPS**

LEARN HOW LAKE LAND TECH CAN HELP YOUR COMPANY!

lakelandcollege.edu/tech2day



LAKE LAND
COLLEGE

WELL DONE! – WHAT’S CHANGED?



Clint Rosine with **Legacy Harley-Davidson** made Master Technician Certified by Harley-Davidson.

Congratulations to the **Dieterich Business Association** Scholarship Recipients from Dieterich High School – Pete Britton & Courtney Brummer.



Dieterich Bank presented St. Michael School in Sigel, IL a check for \$10,000 to fund their new building project at the school.



First Mid Insurance Group proudly announced their Senior Solutions division, which assists Medicare beneficiaries

and seniors with their health insurance needs, received the 2023 Million Dollar Producers Award from Senior Marketing Specialists. They were recognized for impacting 824 lives in 2022 through service and sales to their customers.



Jersey Mike's Subs donated \$1,660 to Effingham Unit #40 Athletic Department as part of a fundraiser for the department.



JX Truck Center made a heartfelt \$2,000 donation to the Association for the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County. ADDWC provides vital vocational and life skills training to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Midland States Bank has been named a Top Workplace Winner by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the second consecutive year. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered for the paper. This confidential survey uniquely measures 15 culture concepts including alignment, execution, and connection.



Sarah Bush Lincoln made two donations to community agencies during the SBL Altamont Medical Center open house in April. A \$500 donation was presented to The Giving Plate, which provides meals to those in need, and a donation for \$500 was presented to Meals on Wheels, which delivers nutritious hot meals to seniors to help improve their well-being and help them maintain independent living.

WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?

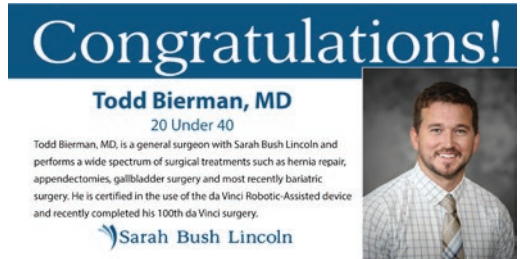


The Sarah Bush Lincoln Advanced Wound Center was awarded the Center of Distinction award by Healogics, the nation's largest provider of Advanced Wound Care Services. This marks the seventh consecutive year in which the Center received the award. The Center achieved outstanding clinical outcomes in 2022, including a patient satisfaction rate higher than 92 percent and a wound-adjusted comprehensive healing rate above 75 percent.

Springfield Clinic was recognized by the Business Intelligence Group as an Organization of the Year for their 2023 Excellence in Customer Service Awards. This annual business awards program recognizes entities that communicate with their customers to provide a differentiated level of customer service.



Teutopolis State Bank raised \$22,992.32 for El Shaddai Homes between their two locations Annual Community Charitable Cookouts in May.



Todd Bierman, MD, was recognized as one of the 20 People Under 40 who make a difference in Coles County.

Jackson Health has moved to 1901 S 4th Street, Suite 207



Washington Savings Bank promoted three employees in April:

Kathy Yarnell was promoted from Operations Officer to Assistant Vice President, Operations. Kathy handles many operational duties for the bank and supervises the tellers at their Charleston Avenue location in Mattoon.

Trina Niemerg was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Compliance from her previous title of Compliance Officer. Trina started with WSB in 2016 in the loan compliance role. She has since then received her Certified Community Bank Compliance Officer designation and assumed responsibility for all the bank's compliance functions.

Andrew Orrell was promoted from Commercial Loan Originator to Commercial Loan Officer.

WHO'S NEW? - CELEBRATIONS



Andrew Deane is the new Chief Financial Officer for **Vantage Surgical Solutions**.



Ashley Lovett joined the **Land of Lincoln Credit Union** in Decatur as an Accounting Manager.



Bill Lane joined **Stevens Industries, Inc.** as the Director of Marketing for not only the Stevens Wood team, but all of the company value streams.



Blake Roberts is a new Regional Sales Manager for **Stevens Wood (Stevens Industries, Inc.)**. Blake manages the following territories: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas,

Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Caritas Family Solutions welcomes Katie Lee, Family Finding & Recruitment Specialist.

Carrie Crippen is the General Manager for **Tuscan Hills Winery**.



Diana Moore and Sean Jennings are new Surgical Sales Representatives for **Vantage Surgical Solutions**.

Kelsey Dyckman has joined the Bank of Hillsboro as the Marketing Manager.



Kristina Berg, APN-BC, DNP has joined the team at **Effingham Prompt Care** as a new Provider.

Lesa McDaniel is the new Administrator for **The Glenwood Assisted Living of Effingham**.

Sydney Waters is the new Regional Director for the **Better Business Bureau**.



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

CELEBRATIONS



97.9 XFM and KJ Country 102.3FM recognized Angela James and Tonya Siner for 25 years of valuable service to the radio stations.

Jon Lin retired from the **Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc.** after nearly 15 years of service.



Kenny Cornell retired from the **Effingham Public Works Department** after 26 years.



Allen Hicks, Jarod Pugh, and Trevor Arsenault celebrate their 5-year milestone with **Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota**.



Norma Deters retired after 29 years of loyal dedication to **CEFS Meals on Wheels**.

Auto Glass Unlimited celebrating 35 years in July 2023.

Blissful Bites celebrating 2 years in August 2023.



The City of Effingham & Effingham Public Works recognized five employees at a City Council Meeting for their years of service to the City. These included:

Jane Kemper - 35 years
Todd Hull - 35 years
Justin Hayes - 20 years
Brett Stortzum - 20 years
Paul "Russ" Leppin - 15 years
Trent Hartke - 10 years
Derrick Helmbacher - 10 years

Crossroads Bank celebrating 50 years in 2023.

Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota celebrating 65 years in September 2023.

Dr. Navi Arora celebrated 10 years with **Effingham Prompt Care** on July 1, 2023.



Jane Lustig, Telecommunicator with the **Effingham Police Department**, retired after 31 years of service.

Probst Auto Body celebrated 20 years in January 2023.



Sgt. Aaron Lange celebrated 20 years of service with the **Effingham Police Department**. During his career, he has served as a Detective, School Resource Officer, Explorer Advisor, and

Active Shooter instructor, and currently as a Patrol Shift Commander.

Signature Weddings & Events LLC celebrated 1 year in July 2023.



Todd Kelly retired after 25 years of service as a Pressman with **Kingery Printing**.



Vicki Borries, Environmental Services with **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**, retired after 20 years of service.



WCRC 95.7 celebrating 60 years in 2023.

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

Air Force Recruiting Office

TSGT Kevin Alexander, Enlisted Accessions Recruiter

1001 Ave of Mid America, Ste. 2, Box 2, Effingham
(217) 343-3455
airforce.com

Government

Referred by: Bev Drake, Cromwell Media

Blissful Bites

Rebecca Webster, Owner
115 S Banker Street, Effingham
(217) 994-3326
loveblissfulbites.com
Health Food



E-Environmental Solutions

Robert Workman, Director of Claims
2001 W National, Effingham
(217) 254-4733
e-enviro.com

Waste, Collection, Disposal & Recycling
Referred by: Mike Depoister, TriPower Towing & Recovery

Elite Powder Coating & Technologies

Doug Giles, Manager & Co-Owner; Mitch Stevens, Jeremy Giles, Josh Stevens, Co-Owners
103 Norb Avenue, Dieterich
(217) 925-5859
elitepct.com

Professional Services

Referred by: Tom Wright, Dieterich Community Development Corporation (DCDC)



Krystle Starr LLC

Krystle Nordhaus, Owner
227 W Locust St, Cowden
(314) 410-0550
krystlestarrconsulting.com
Professional Services
Referred by: Bailey Whitney, Whitney Roofing

Mediacom Business

Kara Traxler, Business Account Executive
107 S Henrietta, Effingham
(217) 690-4284
mediacombusiness.com/
Telecommunications

Murfee & Weishaar Insurance

Brad Weishaar, President
1901 S. 4th Street, Suite 15, Effingham
(217) 342-5600
mwsinsagency.com
Insurance

Randy & Kathy Jones

Effingham, IL 62401
Lifetime Friend of the Chamber

Randy & Jane Ruholl

Teutopolis, IL 62467
Lifetime Friend of the Chamber



Robinson Outdoor LLC

Brent DeWilde, Sales Manager
50 Robinson Industrial Drive, Perryville, MO
(573) 768-8100
Robinsonoutdoorllc.com
Advertising/Marketing

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

Rusty Reel Events LLC

Kevin Wenthe, Owner
8724 E Marine Rd, Effingham
(217) 343-6099
rustyreevents.com
Entertainment & Recreation
Referred by: Jamie Ellis, Stang Arts Studio

Senior Health Specialties, Inc.

Brad Voyles, President & Charla Lake, Marketing/
Office Coordinator
15870 N 1400th St, Effingham
(217) 342-4490
Assisted/Retirement Living



Signature Weddings & Events LLC

Christina Miller, Owner & Lead Planner
(217) 275-2201
Signaturewedevents.com
Event Planning



Sport Designs and Graphics Inc.

Christi Pruett, Vice President of Operations
807 S Maple, Effingham
(217) 342-2777
sportdesigns.net
Embroidery/Monogramming/Silk Screening



Stine Seed

Travis Albin, Partner
539 W Main, Oakland
(217) 714-1989
stineseed.com
Agricultural Services
Referred by: Dr. Thomas Fonner



Quality Inn & Suites

James Gabriel, General Manager
4922 Paradise Rd, Mattoon
(217) 235-0222
choicehotels.com/illinois/mattoon/quality-inn-
hotels/il311?mc=llgxxpx
Hotels/Resorts



Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Timothy McCandless, Manager
402 S. Henrietta St., Effingham
(217) 347-2611
store.vioc.com/il/effingham/oil-change-050131.
html
Vehicle Services

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR



Tonya Siner

Vice President of Operations, Sales Manager and The Drive Home Personality of **97.9XFM and KJ Country 102.3**. I'm a mom to 3 boys (Patrick, Parker, and Preston) and a daughter in heaven (Peyton). I'll soon have 2 daughters in laws (Allison and Alix) coming up in 2024.

I'm a 1987 graduate of Effingham High School, a 1989 graduate of Lake Land College and a 1991 graduate of Sangamon State University (now U of I in Springfield).

I worked as a part time Disc Jockey at WCRC/ WCRA from 1988 until the early 90's. After graduating with my bachelor's degree in communications from Sangamon State University in 1991, I worked at radio stations in Springfield, WMAV/ WNNS/WQLZ as a Sales Assistant then as Account Executive. I didn't really want to give up being a disc jockey, so I started working part time on the weekends on WQLZ (Rock Station).

I decided to move back to Effingham to take a break from radio for just a bit. I started the life of being in retail at Maurices. Then after a few years, I started to miss the life of being on the radio. So, in 1998, I started at Premier Broadcasting as an Account Executive. By 2003, I was promoted to Vice President of Operations as well as Sales Manager.

In 2000, I earned my certificate as a Certified Radio Marketing Consultant (CRMC). In 2008, I earned my certificate as a Certified Digital Marketing Consultant (CDMC). In 2012, I earned my certificate as a Certified Digital Marketing Consultant 2.0 (CDMC 2.0). I do strive to learn as much as I possibly can about radio and marketing in general because it is such an ever-changing industry and I want to give my clients the most up to date information regarding their marketing decisions.

I am an Effingham County Chamber Grand Ambassador as well as serving on various boards: EPC Board Member, Strategic Training and Restoration Board Member (better known as S.T.A.R.) the organization that helps fund the Problem-Solving Program and Effingham Noon Rotary Secretary and Board Member.

As far as hobbies go.....I bowl on a couple of leagues at Pagel Silver Dollar Lanes, I love to kayak, go to concerts, ghost hunt (including scary movies) and watch television (especially Hallmark and Lifetime channels). Most of all I love being the cheerleader for my boys and nephew (Karter Overbeck).



Upcoming Events 2023

July

21 | EffingHAM-JAM
@ Downtown Effingham

August

4 | First Friday Luncheon
Kickoff to Education Preview
@ Keller Convention Center

4 | Ribbon Cutting & Open House
@ Rusty Reel

8 | Kickoff to Education
@ Keller Convention Center

9 | Coffee & Connections
@ Village of Dieterich

16 | Chamber Office Closed
Strategic Planning

24 | Business After Hours
@ BOHO Chic Clinique

September

4 | Chamber Office Closed
Labor Day

8 | First Friday Luncheon
@ Keller Convention Center

**21 | Business After Hours/
140th Anniversary**
@ Washington Savings Bank

28 | Chamber Bags Tournament
@ Teutopolis Banquet Hall

October

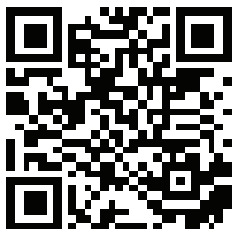
5 | Manufacturing Day

6 | First Friday Networking Luncheon
@ Gabby Goat

12 | Chamber Radio Days
@ WXEf

14 | Expungement Day
@ First Baptist Church Effingham

19 | Business After Hours
@ American Legion Post 120



VIEW OUR CALENDAR

Dates & locations are subject to change.

Check us
out online



Business:
Coaching | Directory | Resources
Chamber:
Awards | Foundation | Travel
Digital Publications
Energy Co-op
Event Calendar
Job Center
Latest News



Learn more about the Member Benefits the Chamber delivers!
See page 12.

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EFFINGHAM, IL
PERMIT NO. 172

(217) 342-4147 | EffinghamCountyChamber.com

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