



# NETWORK

NOV 2023



EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER

# TRADES, SKILLS & MANUFACTURING DAY



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

**CHAMBER**

## PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

through the Chamber's most powerful recruitment tool that highlights our members achievements, volunteer acts & community involvement throughout 2023.

### RATES:

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Spaces are limited. Deadline to submit artwork is December 21.  
The magazine will be published in February 2024.

Scan the QR code to reserve your spot.  
Questions? Contact Nicole at (217) 347-6282.

2024 CHAMBER  
**360° MAGAZINE**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall! It has been a remarkably busy fall season at the Chamber, and I am happy to update you on a few things.

First, I want to welcome our newest staff member, Michelle Markham. Michelle is joining us as the new Administration & Membership Associate. She will be the one greeting you at the front desk and when you call the office. Help me in welcoming Michelle the next time you see her.

In August, the Chamber Board of Directors and Staff participated in a Strategic Planning Session. Throughout the day-long planning session, the Chamber Board and Staff discussed the Chamber's current situation, recent changes, trends, and developments. We did an organizational assessment and then dived into strategic issues which resulted in adopting eight Strategic Goals.

These Strategic Goals identify the Chamber's top priorities, serving as a road map to lead our Chamber from where it is now to where it strives to be in three to five years. I am pleased to share the elements of the Strategic Plan listed below.

## Effingham County Chamber Strategic Plan | 2023-2026

*How Will Effingham County Be Different as a Result of Our Chamber's Work?*

**Vision:** To be the recognized advocate and regional leader for Chamber members through maximized business connectivity, growth, and success.

*What Is the Chamber's Unique and Fundamental Purpose for Existing?*

**Mission:** To create connections that strengthen member businesses and stimulate regional prosperity.

*The Chamber's Guiding Principles That Govern Our Conduct and Our Relationship with Our Community and Region.*

**Core Values:** Professional | Accountability | Unifying Voice for Business | Visionary Leadership | Fair Business Practices & Ethics | Open, Accessible & Informative

## Strategic Goals:

1. Develop a youth pipeline program (Grades 6-12)
2. Engage surrounding communities in Effingham County
3. Create a new Chamber Event to engage 200-300 members
4. Create community planning tools for surrounding areas
5. Increase student & young professionals' engagement in the Chamber by 50 percent
6. Annually review Chamber events/initiatives and identify/eliminate as needed
7. Achieve a workforce composed of 60 percent of Effingham County graduates living in Effingham County
8. Build a mentor program

**What is next?** I will be preparing a Business Action Plan for the Chamber Board to review and adopt in the next few months. The Business Action Plan will outline the implementation steps to attain the strategic goals.

Then on October 5th we held our 10 Year Anniversary of hosting Manufacturing Day. This year we had over 200 students and 14 tours this year. See page 10 for more details.

As always, your feedback is welcomed and appreciated. Reach out to Becky, Nicole, Jeff, Michelle or I with any thoughts or suggestions.



*Lucinda Hart*

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.



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

# JULY EVENT RECAP

In July, the Chamber was abuzz with vibrant activities and heartfelt farewells. Here's a snapshot of our memorable July events:

## QUARTERLY NETWORKING LUNCHEON

The third-quarter networking luncheon brought Chamber members together at **Pinky's** in a relaxed setting. Amidst delightful cuisine, our members enjoyed a beautiful day while fostering valuable connections.



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

**Higgs Welding** graciously hosted a fantastic July Business After Hours. Members savored tours, delectable refreshments, and a fantastic giveaway. Exploring various businesses always offers an enriching experience.



## FAREWELL

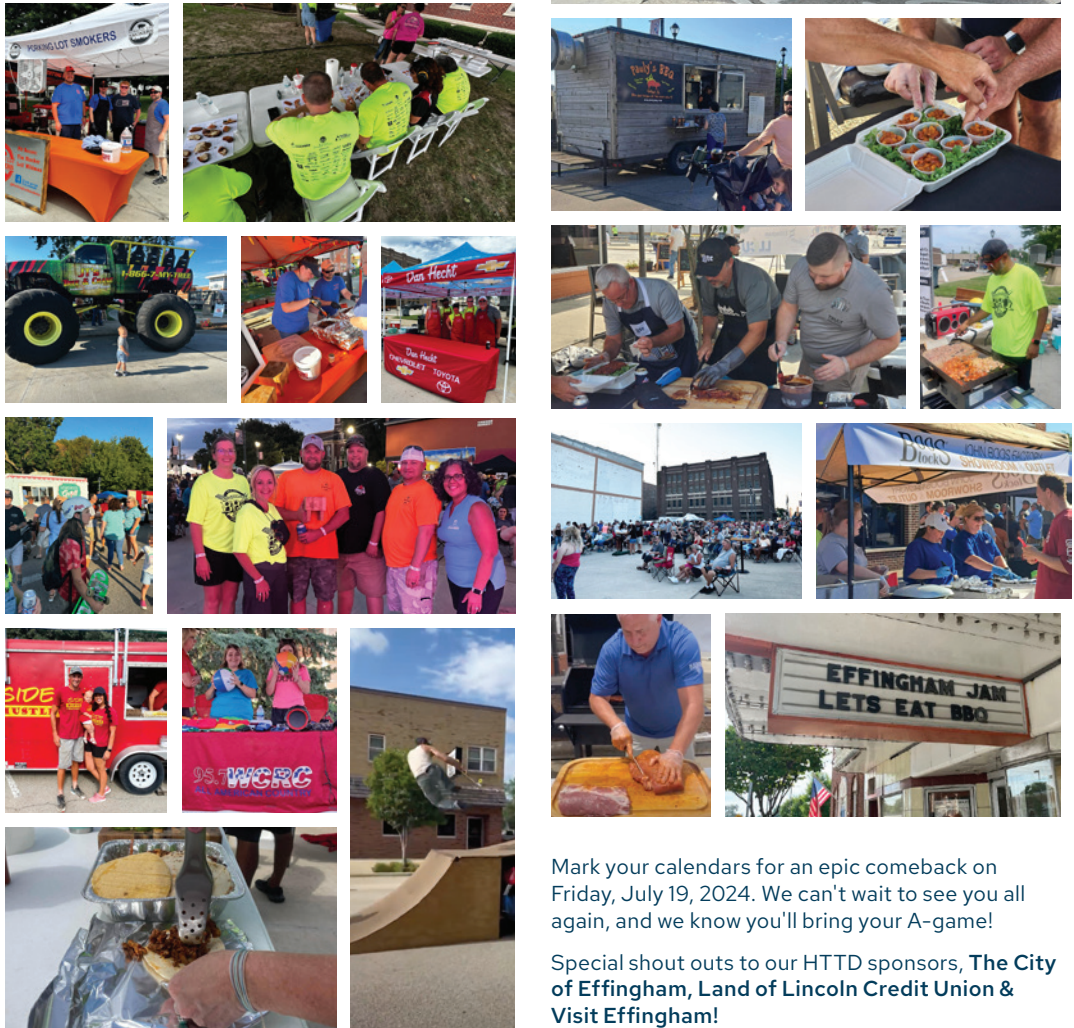


We bid a fond (temporary) farewell to our esteemed Peace Corp Fellow & **PAVE Project** Coordinator, Brittany Sunderman. Though we bid goodbye, she didn't stay away for long! Brittany is now embracing a new role as the manager at **Joe Sippers Cafe**. Swing by and say hello to our dear friend!

# HAM-JAM EVENT RECAP

A huge thank-you to all the fantastic participants of the EffingHAM-JAM presented by **Koerner Distributor, Inc.** Your incredible energy and talent made the event a roaring success. Congratulations to our remarkable winners - your dedication and skill were truly outstanding!

We hope everyone had an absolute blast and made unforgettable memories at this year's event. But don't worry if you didn't take home the Grand Champ title this time - there's always next year!



Mark your calendars for an epic comeback on Friday, July 19, 2024. We can't wait to see you all again, and we know you'll bring your A-game!

Special shout outs to our HTTD sponsors, **The City of Effingham, Land of Lincoln Credit Union & Visit Effingham!**

# AUGUST EVENT RECAP

August was bustling with remarkable Chamber events and introductions to new ventures and developments. Here's a snapshot of the engaging happenings:

## FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Norma Lansing and Jerry Tkachuk sparked enthusiasm with a comprehensive update on the groundbreaking developments at **ERCA**. The exciting news included renovations at the **Patterson Technology** building to accommodate ERCA's future classes, promising funding, and extensive plans. A true gem enhancing Effingham County's resources!



## COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

The third-quarter Coffee & Connections event at the **Village of Dieterich** provided an intimate setting for members to forge connections and exchange ideas. It was a delightful opportunity for meaningful conversations and new friendships.



## RIBBON CUTTINGS

August saw the celebratory ribbon cuttings for Rusty Reel Events, comprising **Rusty Reel Boatyard & Rusty Reel Bar** at Lake Sara. Additionally, the long-awaited arrival of **QuickTrip** in Effingham was met with a warm welcome.



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

**Boho Chic Clinique** hosted a splendid Business After Hours at their new clinic on Network Centre Drive. Their stunning space promises to enhance your inner radiance. Don't miss the chance to visit and discover how they can make you glow from the inside out!



## SEPTEMBER EVENT RECAP

September might have been quieter, but it was packed with quality and significance. Here's a quick rundown of the notable events:

### FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON

The month started with an enlightening session focused on education. Local high schools, **Eastern Illinois University**, and **Lake Land College** shared their visions and plans for the 2023-2024 school year. It was a valuable session that offered insights for all in attendance.



### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

A milestone worth commemorating! The monthly Business After Hours event marked the remarkable 140 years of **Washington Savings Bank**. A true testament to longevity and success!



### CHAMBER NEWS

Effingham Mayor Mike Schutzbach proclaims September 10 through September 16, 2023, as Chamber of Commerce Week in Effingham. Effingham County Chamber works with the businesses, merchants, and industry to advance the civic, economic, industrial, professional, and cultural life of the **City of Effingham**.



# Patient-first care for the whole family.

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# Congratulations to our 2023 Top Community Leaders

## 16th Annual Class | Under 40

Alex Anderson  
Andrew Grunloh  
Bailey Whitney  
Chris Etter  
Christo Schultz  
Clayton Hinton  
Courtney Yockey  
Derek Koester  
Henry Siemer

Jake Niebrugge  
Jennifer Kinkelaar  
Katie Rincker  
Kayla Bowling  
Kayla Schumacher  
Krista Mette  
Logan Arney  
Jessica Mottashed

Michael Brummer  
Michelle Fombelle  
Mike Esker  
Nick Lechman  
Nicole Morrison  
Ryan Brandt  
Shelley Smith  
Tiffany Wasson  
Tyler Micenheimer

## 4th Annual Class | Up & Coming

Noah Stanley | Altamont  
Hadley Hagler | Beecher City  
Emma Beckman | Dieterich  
Blayne Pals | Effingham

Gracie Eaton | Effingham  
Spencer Fox | Effingham  
Anna Niemeyer | St. Anthony  
Connor Roepke | St. Anthony

Olivia Copple | Teutopolis



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Firefly Grill | Effingham Daily News

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

## NON PROFIT SPOTLIGHT



In the heart of Effingham, Illinois, there is a remarkable organization that is quietly making waves in the community. **"100+ Women Who Care of Effingham County"** is a collective force for good, bringing together local women with a shared vision of making a meaningful impact on the area.

Established in 2016, the Effingham chapter of "100 Women Who Care" has since grown into a powerful network of women united by a simple, yet effective concept: coming together to support local charitable causes. The organization holds quarterly meetings, during which members nominate and advocate for local non profits in need of financial assistance.

The process is straightforward but immensely impactful. Each member commits to donating \$100 at every meeting, and when they gather, three nominated charities are randomly selected. The nominating members then passionately present their chosen causes, shedding light on the vital work these organizations do within the Effingham community.

After the presentations, the members cast their votes, and the winning charity receives the collective donations. This direct and collaborative approach ensures that the funds raised go directly to where they are needed most, with no overhead or administrative fees. The results are tangible and immediate, providing critical support to local non profits that may otherwise struggle to secure



necessary resources.

"100 Women Who Care" is not just about financial contributions; it's also about fostering a sense of community and empowerment among its members. Women from all walks of life join the organization, forging meaningful connections while collectively making a difference. Their impact ripples through Effingham, touching the lives of countless individuals and families.

Effingham's chapter has supported a wide range of causes totaling over \$260,000, from education and healthcare to social services. This diversity reflects the organization's commitment to addressing the multifaceted needs of the community. Effingham is fortunate to have this remarkable organization at its heart, exemplifying the spirit of compassion and giving that defines a thriving community. With each meeting, "100 Women Who Care" continues to illuminate the path toward a brighter future for Effingham and its residents, one heartfelt donation at a time.



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THE CHAMBER  
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**ARTWORK DEADLINE: 11/30/23**

contact:

**Nicole Morrison**

**Director of Marketing & Communications**

[nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)  
(217) 347-6282



Celebrating a Decade of Excellence:

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER TRADES, SKILLS & MANUFACTURING DAY 2023

Nestled in the heart of Effingham County, Illinois, a remarkable tradition unfolds with each passing year. The Effingham County Chamber Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day is a celebration of community, craftsmanship, and innovation. And in 2023, this cherished event marked a significant milestone: its 10th anniversary. In this feature article, we delve into the rich history of this event, its enduring impact, and what the future holds for Effingham County's vibrant manufacturing sector.

## A Decade of Discovery and Innovation

Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day has come a long way since its inception in 2012. What started as a small gathering and tours of local businesses, educators, and students has grown into a day that all look forward to each year. The event took a brief hiatus in 2020, making every year since all the more special.

The event was conceived with a simple yet powerful vision: to bridge the gap between education and industry, providing students with a firsthand look at the diverse and dynamic world of manufacturing, skills, and trades in Effingham, IL. This day has grown into over 10+ business tours, demonstrations that showcase the county's thriving manufacturing sector, and a mini career fair.

In the early years, the event served as an introduction to the local manufacturing sector. Students and educators had the opportunity to visit local businesses and get a firsthand look at the innovative processes, machinery, and products that defined Effingham County's manufacturing landscape.

With time, Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day evolved to include more interactive elements, capitalizing on hands-on learning and career exploration. The annual event is now packed with factory tours and live demonstrations that allow students to engage with cutting-edge machinery and technologies, making the learning process fun and interactive.

Through TSM Day, students discover that manufacturing is not just about manual labor but also encompasses a wide spectrum of roles, including accounting, human resources, marketing, and more. It's a realm of creativity and innovation where diverse skills are valued. They learn how modern manufacturing incorporates advanced technologies such as 3D printing, robotics, and CNC machining, which underpin the industry's cutting-edge developments. This firsthand experience often sparks students' interest in careers they may not have considered



*"We couldn't be prouder of how TSM Day has evolved over the years," says Lucinda Hart, CAE, MBA, IOM, President & CEO of the Effingham County Chamber. "It's a testament to the strong collaboration between our local businesses, schools, and community members. Our mission has always been to inspire and prepare the next generation of skilled workers, and we believe we're achieving that goal year after year."*



otherwise, showcasing the breadth of opportunities within the manufacturing sector.

## Community Engagement and Networking Opportunities

The Effingham County Chamber's Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day is not only an educational opportunity but also a platform for local businesses to connect with the community and with one another. Each industry comes together to showcase their products and services, exchange ideas, and foster connections.

The event's networking sessions have proven invaluable for local businesses. Businesses can identify potential talent early on by interacting with students who have a keen interest in their field.

*"It's a win-win situation," says Jeff Fritchtnitch, Workforce Development Director for the Effingham County Chamber. "We get to spot future stars, and students get to understand what our industry is all about. It's like planting seeds for the future."*



Moreover, TSM Day has attracted new businesses to participate in this treasured event of Effingham County. The exposure and connections gained from participating in the event have enticed businesses outside of Effingham County to set up a booth at the career fair, further boosting the local economy.

As TSM Day continued to grow, so did its scope and impact. One of the key milestones in its evolution was the inclusion of a career fair, transforming the event from an educational visit to local manufacturing businesses into a crucial resource for students and job seekers.



Manufacturers, local businesses, trade associations, and educational institutions have found a common ground to collaborate and share their insights. They discuss the latest industry trends, workforce development strategies, and technological advancements, all of which contribute to the future success of the local manufacturing sector.



The effervescent environment fosters cross-generational connections and mentorship opportunities. It allows students to envision their future careers and gain valuable advice from seasoned professionals. On the flip side, businesses have the chance to spot potential talent and establish a direct link to the county's educational institutions.

## A Glimpse into the Future

As we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day, it's clear that this event will continue to evolve. With new technologies continually shaping the landscape of manufacturing and skilled trades, TSM Day will adapt to reflect these changes.

The event's future holds a promise of even greater integration between schools and local industries. This includes expanded apprenticeship programs, more extensive scholarship opportunities, and increased collaboration between educators and manufacturers. Effingham County aims to prepare its youth for careers in a rapidly changing world.

*"We're excited about what the future holds," Jerry Tkachuck, Lake Land College Director of the Effingham Education and Regional Extension Centers, expresses. "Effingham County's manufacturing sector is strong, and we're committed to keeping it that way. TSM Day will play a pivotal role in nurturing talent, fostering innovation, and ensuring our community's long-term success."*



The next decade promises to be even more exciting. The Effingham County Chamber's Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day will continue its mission of inspiring and preparing the next generation of skilled workers for the evolving world of manufacturing and trades. With the support of local businesses, educational institutions, and organizations, the event will grow and adapt, ensuring the prosperity of Effingham County's manufacturing sector and its workforce.

### Grateful Acknowledgment to Our Sponsors and Participating Businesses & Schools

The success of Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We extend our deepest gratitude to our 2023 Presenting Sponsors: **City of Effingham** and **Effingham County**, Silver Sponsor **Effingham Regional Growth Alliance**, and Bronze Sponsors **John Boos & Co.**, **The Krusteaz Company**, **Sherwin-Williams**, **Three Z Printing**, and **Y-Yard Auto Parts**. Your commitment to our event and the future of our community is greatly appreciated.



## The Alliance

Effingham Regional Growth Alliance



Your contributions have enabled us to continue inspiring and educating the youth of Effingham County while fostering the growth and innovation of our local manufacturing sector. We are truly thankful for your unwavering support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude not only to our dedicated sponsors who have been instrumental in the success of Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day but also to the exceptional local businesses who generously open their doors to our eager visitors, providing invaluable insights into the inner workings of their operations. Your willingness to lead tours and showcase your companies

has made this event truly special.

We also appreciate the businesses who set up at our career fair, offering a diverse glimpse

into the numerous roles within our thriving and essential community enterprises. Your collective efforts make a significant impact in nurturing the future of our workforce and celebrating the vitality of Effingham County's manufacturing sector.



We extend our appreciation to all the schools that have been an integral part of Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day throughout the years. Altamont, Aspire, Beecher City, Brownstown, Cumberland County, Dieterich, Effingham, Jasper County, North Clay, Pathways, St. Anthony, Stewardson-Strasburg, Teutopolis, and TLC.

Your consistent participation has enriched our event and has contributed significantly to our mission of inspiring and preparing the next generation of skilled workers. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and empowering students with hands-on experiences and insights into the vibrant world of manufacturing and skills. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our community's future.

### The Decade That Has Shaped a Bright Future

By embracing its industrial past and looking forward to a promising future, Effingham County's Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day showcases the essence of a community that continually invests in its youth and industry. As we celebrate a decade of success, this event serves as a beacon for other regions looking to bridge the gap between education and workforce while fostering innovation and excellence.

The next decade promises to be even more exciting, as Effingham County remains committed to preparing the next generation of skilled workers for the ever-evolving world of manufacturing and trades. With the ongoing support of local businesses, educational institutions, and community members, this treasured event will continue its mission of inspiring and educating, ensuring the prosperity of Effingham County's manufacturing sector and its workforce.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Your Chamber investment provides numerous opportunities to enhance your business's visibility, credibility, and network, which are essential in the world of business. Exposure is a critical factor because it helps build brand awareness, which is vital for retaining existing customers and attracting new ones. When customers are familiar with and trust a company, they are more likely to become loyal customers. Therefore, the broader your brand exposure, the greater your potential for generating revenue from both existing and potential customers.

As part of your Chamber investment, you have access to cost-effective advertising options to boost your brand's visibility. Here are some upcoming advertising opportunities to consider:

1. **2024 Chamber 360° Magazine:** This magazine serves as a powerful marketing tool to raise awareness about your business and the products or services you offer. It puts your name in front of more than 1,000 business and community leaders.

*Deadline to submit your artwork or business spotlight is December 21, 2023.*

2. **Business Listing in the print and online business directory:** This resource helps you connect with fellow members and establish a presence in the broader community.

*We try our best to ensure information is up to date in our Chamber 360° Magazine every year. Help us out and confirm your information is accurate prior to December 21, 2023.*

3. **Electronic Sign:** Your message will be visible to an impressive 20,000 vehicles daily, providing substantial exposure.

4. **Banner Ads:** These ads are featured in our bi-weekly Community E-Blast and bi-weekly Member-Only E-Blast, reaching over 1,600 members each week.

5. **Website Banner Ads:** While availability is limited, these are a powerful way to capture the attention of the Chamber's substantial online audience. The Chamber website has attracted a significant number of users, sessions, and page views, making it a valuable platform for reaching potential customers.

6. **Enhanced Job Listing:** You now have the option to showcase your job opening at the top of our online job board or opt for a more creative eye-catcher with an ad along the right side of the page. This new benefit can elevate your business and make a lasting impression with these straightforward ways to stand out.

Depending on your investment level, you automatically receive credit that can be applied to the advertising opportunities listed above. You can choose more than one option based on your available credit. REMINDER – your annual credit expires at the end of each year – use it or lose it! To schedule your advertising and inquire about your credit, contact Nicole at nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com.



As your Membership Director, I am here to ensure that you get the most value out of your Chamber investment. Feel free to reach out to me at [bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com) if you have any questions or need assistance with any Chamber-related matters.

**Becky Brown, NFPC Membership Director**

[bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com) (217) 347-6283

# Chamber Travel

# EXPLORE THE WORLD



**Sunny Portugal**  
**April 13 - 22, 2024**



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EFFINGHAM COUNTY

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# WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS



Navi Arora,  
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Kristina Berg,  
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Jackie Coffman,  
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## Support Effingham County: Embrace Small Business Season!

As the vibrant heart of Effingham County beats with the enthusiasm of Small Business Season, it's time to champion and celebrate our local businesses. Effingham County's diverse tapestry of small businesses, from cozy cafes to boutique stores and innovative startups, is the cornerstone of our community's economic and social fabric. These establishments contribute to our county's identity and vitality, supplying not just goods and services but a unique local flavor and culture.

### Why Support Local?

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. They foster job creation, drive innovation, and infuse character into our neighborhoods. By supporting these local enterprises, we invest in the well-being and prosperity of our community. Every purchase made, meal eaten, or service availed from a local business has a direct impact on the economic health of Effingham County.

### Ways to Show Support

Supporting our local businesses goes beyond financial transactions. Here are several impactful ways you can contribute to their success:

**Social Media Engagement:** Engage with, share, like, and comment on the social media posts of your favorite local businesses. By doing so, you expand their reach and visibility.

**Spread the Word:** Share your positive experiences with friends, family, and colleagues. Word-of-mouth recommendations carry significant weight and influence.

**Write Reviews:** Take a few moments to leave positive reviews on platforms like Google, Yelp, or Facebook. Your feedback can encourage others to explore and support local businesses.

**Attend Events:** Take part in local events, markets, and fairs hosted by businesses in Effingham County. Your presence and involvement can make a substantial difference.

### The Ripple Effect of Support

When you support a local business, you contribute to a cycle of positivity. Your actions lead to increased revenue, enabling these businesses to hire more employees, invest in better services, and further contribute to the community through sponsorships, charitable initiatives, and more. Small Business Season is not just about shopping or dining; it's about fostering a sense of community and empowerment. The strength of Effingham County is in the unity and support we offer to each other.

Let's band together and make a resounding impact by prioritizing our local businesses. Each action you take—whether a small purchase, a glowing review, or a social media share—makes a difference in the growth and prosperity of Effingham County.

As we revel in Small Business Season, let's pledge to fortify our local businesses and champion the spirit of community, growth, and prosperity in Effingham County. Together, we can ensure a thriving environment for everyone.



Support local and embrace the essence of Effingham County.

**Nicole Morrison**

*Director of Marketing & Communications*

[nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)  
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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## DIETERICH

**Clear View Car Wash** will be breaking ground soon. The car wash will be located in lot 23 of Industrial Park East.



**Dieterich CUSD #30** is currently undergoing a \$5.5 million construction project to add much needed instructional space to the current facility. The project includes 6 classrooms, 1 high school science lab, 2 new banks of restrooms, renovation of all existing restrooms, ball park improvements and a new parking lot. Dieterich Schools has experienced a 30% increase in enrollment over the past 14 years, resulting in an overall enrollment of 610 students. The spike in enrollment has created the need for additional instructional space to reduce class sizes, notably in early elementary.



**The Maroon Spoon** (ice cream shop) is owned by Jeff Schuppert. The shop is currently undergoing interior renovations. Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the official opening date.

**Rail Yard Bar & Grill** has a tentative open date of January 2024.



Finishing touches are being put in at the **Wright's Distribution Center**. Racking was installed at the end of September and beginning of October with operation being planned for mid-October.

**Wright Family Center** is slated to be finished in December. An open date is to be determined based on the hiring of a Director for the center.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## EFFINGHAM

**South Central F.S.** has demolished the former Kirby structure on Willow Street and is in the process of erecting a brand-new, expansive 17,000 square foot facility to house their feed store and warehousing operations.

Launching this Autumn at 400 West Clark Avenue in Effingham (Overpass Plaza), **Level Up Bungee Fitness** is co-owned by Maria Niebrugge Tegeler and her daughter, Grace Tegeler, both of whom hold certifications as bungee instructors.



**QuikTrip** opened at the end of August.

**Truck Centers Inc. of Effingham** is thrilled to announce its latest expansion, aimed at better serving its dedicated customer base. An impressive 8,616 square-foot addition is in the works, stretching 120 feet in length and 80 feet in width. Positioned at the East end of the existing shop, this expansion will introduce seven new bays to the facility.

A notable highlight of this expansion is the addition of a 7th bay, designed as a drive-in alignment bay, specifically tailored to meet the needs of RV travelers. This marks a significant stride towards providing comprehensive services under one roof.

This enhancement is poised to reduce repair times,

ensuring customers can get back on the road swiftly, all while fostering local economic growth. As part of this expansion initiative, Truck Centers Inc. is proud to announce the creation of 7-10 new job opportunities for the Effingham community.

The company extends its heartfelt gratitude to the City of Effingham for their steadfast support and collaboration, which have played pivotal roles in bringing this vision to fruition. With optimism for the opportunities this expansion presents, Truck Centers Inc. looks forward to making an even more substantial contribution to the local community and its valued customers.

The target completion date for this project is set for January 2024.



**Kirby Foods** recently completed remodel for Midtown Fuels is inside only – New cabinets, countertops, soda equipment, and coffee equipment were added. and they now offer NEW hot food items. Fresh look new look. Two phases: week of September 4 (1st Phase) and week of September 18 (2nd Phase). Hoping for completion September 22 or 23. Will schedule a ribbon cutting.

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY

**Sperry Sales** is constructing a new facility located directly across the highway from their existing establishment along Rt. 32/33.

## TEUTOPOLIS

**Repking Eye Care**, an optometrist office, will soon be open in the Village of Teutopolis in the Kasey's on Main building next to Habing Furniture. Business plan is the be open in early 2024.

Two new homes are being constructed in **Prairie View Subdivision**, with a third to start soon.

## WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?



**Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota** employees and customers made a donation of \$525 to Pack the Bus, benefitting the Ramblin' Rose bus.

**Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota** employees donated \$400 to Relay for Life in support of employee Tammy Lorton's two-year-old daughter Layla Freeman who competed in the Baby Miss Relay Pageant.



**Dieterich Bank's** Andy Hess has been named one of the Best Bankers in St. Louis by Small Business Monthly.



The Effingham County Board leased three new buses at no charge for **Community Support Systems**. This addition to the CSS bus fleet allows them to transport folks on safe and reliable vehicles.

**Effingham Fire Department** has been recognized for successfully achieving certification in the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)



At the recent Rotary 6490 District Conference, the **Effingham Sunrise Rotary Club** was presented with three awards for their community engagement during the July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, Rotary year, with Michael Wall as the Club President.

The recognitions received include:

- Community Avenue of Service for the Laundromat project with Enduring Freedom Ministries in Shumway
- Vocational Avenue of Service for combined Sunrise and Noon Rotary Club meeting and Rotary Week activities
- Rotary Club of the Year (small/under 49 members; there are 44 clubs in our district, of which 31 are in the small category.)

**High Point University's Workman School of Dental Medicine**, the state's only private dental school, achieved a milestone by receiving its initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) on August 24.

In 2022, **Heartland Dental's** Founder and Executive Chairman, Dr. Rick Workman donated to the new dental school through the Rick and Angie Workman Fund, reinforcing his and the Company's commitment to furthering the dental industry. HPU's Workman School of Dental Medicine is positioned to provide innovative curriculum and clinical training for its students. Nearly 1,000 people have already applied for HPU's first cohort of dental medicine class. The first cohort of students will arrive in the fall of 2024 as HPU celebrates its 100th anniversary.



**Jersey Mike's** Mattoon and Effingham donated \$2,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Effingham County during BBBS Day.

In celebration of **Niemerg's Steakhouse & Brass Rail Lounge** 45th Anniversary, they gave back to local schools through a Round Up for Education Program:

- \$420 to Altamont Lutheran Schools
- \$1,603.10 to Altamont Unit #10
- \$2,121.45 to Beecher City Schools
- \$1,661.13 to Dieterich Schools
- \$1,308.27 to Sacred Heart School
- \$1,308.27 to Sigel St. Michael
- \$3,600.69 to St. Anthony Schools
- \$2,474.97 to Teutopolis Education Foundation
- \$3,057.00 to Unit 40 Education Foundation

## WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?



**Pepsi MidAmerica** donated \$500 to Walmart Effingham's Children's Miracle Network Campaign.



**Prudential Advisors** Financial Advisor, Rich Hartke, of Effingham, has been listed on the *Forbes*® 2023 Top Financial Security Professionals Best-In-State list.

**Rick & Diane Siemer** were presented with the Distinguished Community Leader Award at the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Gala.



Screen Printing Mag shines a spotlight on extraordinary women in the screen printing industry through the Women in Screen Printing competition. Tina Brumleve, Co-Owner of **Designs Unlimited, Inc.**, stands proudly among the distinguished honorees.

These remarkable women, including founders, presidents, and owners of screen printing businesses, are celebrated for their outstanding contributions to the industry. Their exceptional leadership, growing responsibilities, and commitment to community engagement have earned them this prestigious recognition.

**Sonne Energy Solutions** was named a 2023 Top Solar Contractor by industry magazine, *Solar Power World*.



**Teutopolis Junior High School** was among the 353 schools recognized by the US Department of Education today as a National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2023. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance and affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for and attaining exemplary achievement.



**Washington Savings Bank** President & CEO David Doedtman was appointed to the Illinois Banker's Association (IBA) Board Leaders for the 2023-2024 year.



Christopher Swing was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Vantage Surgical Solutions**.



**Civil Design, Inc. (CDI)** would like to congratulate Wes Kistler, PE, on his recent promotion to Water Resources Service Leader. Since joining the team in 2012, Wes has become integral to CDI's success as an organization, both internally and externally.

His enthusiasm and supportive nature are an asset to the CDI team, and his unwavering dedication to helping our clients reach their goals has undoubtedly contributed to CDI's continued growth across the region. Thank you, Wes, for continuing to Build Stronger Communities. CDI can't wait to see you grow in your new role.

**Effingham Prompt Care** has new hours. They are now open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 6:00pm.

**The Glenwood Assisted Living** new address is 101 E. Rickelman Avenue, Effingham.

## WHO'S NEW!



**Dieterich Bank** welcomed Raymond Wagner, Managing Director and Partner at Thompson Street Capital Partners, to the boards of Prime Banc Corp. and Dieterich Bank.



Mandy Lewis is the new Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer for **First Mid Bank & Trust**.



Johnny has joined the team at **Tolliver & Co. Barbers**. He is a recent graduate of Lockhart's Barber College.



**Midland States Bank** welcomed Clinton Hood to their team as Business Banking Relationship Manager, specializing in Agriculture Lending, for the Southern Illinois region.



Dr. Katelyn Klosterman has joined the **Sarah Bush Lincoln Effingham Medical Clinic** within SBL Bonutti Clinic as a family medicine provider.



Paige Fullriede, RD has joined the **HSHS Medical Group Diabetes and Endocrinology in Springfield** as a registered dietician.

Kathya Stokes is the new Office Program Coordinator for **Caritas Family Solutions**.



Kevin L. Lewis, MD, CPE, FAASM, has joined the HSHS executive leadership team as Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Executive.

Sarah Dhom is the new Branch Manager for **ESS Clean Inc.**

Tom Patel is the new Owner & General Manager for **Country Inn & Suites**.

Teresa Rinne is the Account Manager for **ImpactLife**.

Lauren Fryer is the new Director of Operations at **Senior Health Specialties**.



**The Law Group Ltd.** is pleased to announce that Brittany N. Meeker joined the Law Group in June 2023. Attorney Meeker plans to practice primarily out of the Effingham office location and brings with her nine years of prior experience.

Brittany concentrates her practice in civil litigation, insurance law, agricultural law, property law, real estate law, and collections.



Dr. Lisa Kowalski, an experienced general surgeon, joined **St. Anthony's Wound Healing Center** care team one clinic day a week.

**Fifth Third Bank** welcomes their new Branch Manager Tabi Perrelle and Marketing Manager Carrie Hagovsky.

Leah Bolander is the new HR Business Partner at **Patterson Companies**.

Payton Hartbank is the District Manager for **Jersey Mike's Subs**.



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



Arnold Miller celebrated 5 years with **Kingery Printing**.



**Effingham Police Department**  
Telecommunicator  
Linda Wendling celebrated 30 years of service.



Becky McGee celebrated 40 years with **Crossroads Bank**.



Congratulations to  
Jeri Beasley, **Taylor Law Offices PC** on her retirement after 32 years.



**City of Effingham City**  
Clerk Abbey Nosbisch was awarded Employee of the Quarter.



Laura Goeckner celebrated 10 years with **Wies Insurance Agency, LLC**.

Congratulations to Jon Spitz on his upcoming retirement. He has been with **Washington Savings Bank** for 42 years.

**Crossroads Bank** celebrated 50 years.



Sheila Myers (General Manager) celebrated 25 years with **Cromwell Media/WCRC 95.7**.



**Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota** celebrated 65 years.



Tina Rozene, MD, FAAP celebrated 25 years of health care with seven of those years with **Springfield Clinic Effingham**.

## CELEBRATIONS



**CORRECTION** from July issue: Todd Kelly celebrated 35 years of service as a Pressman with **Kingery Printing**.



Mrs. Vicki Wenthe celebrated 20 years and Ms. Kasey Tays celebrated 15 years with **Sacred Heart School**.



Tom Wright retires from **Wright's Furniture & Flooring** after 47 years.



**Walmart** Associate Debra celebrated 35 years with the Effingham store.



Tracy Willenborg celebrated 20 years with **Taylor Law Offices, PC**.



**Koerner Distributor, Inc.** is pleased to announce the appointment of Jordan Koerner as the company's new President. Jordan's career with Koerner Distributor, Inc. began when he joined the company in July 2015.



Troy Greene was promoted to Director of Sales within the Central Division for **Koerner Distributor, Inc.** This division includes 37 central and southern Illinois counties of the 66 counties where Koerner operates.

With an impressive career spanning nearly three decades with Koerner Distributor, Troy's dedication and expertise have earned him a place among the esteemed recipients of the Koerner Distributor Distinguished Associate Award.

Jordan currently serves as a Board of Director of the Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois and is also on the Advisory Council for Molson Coors Great Lakes Region, and recently has been appointed as a member of Molson Coors Next Generation Advisory Council. Locally, Jordan serves on the Effingham Child Development Center Board of Directors and on the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship Board of Directors.

**Visiting Angels** celebrated 25 years.

**Stevens Industries** is celebrating 25 years of employee ownership.



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LOCK IN RATES  
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*\*compared to the current weighted average Ameren rate*

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- scan the QR code ▪ call (217) 521-9400
- email [shelby@cqiassociates.com](mailto:shelby@cqiassociates.com)





# 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: Open at 3 p.m.  
Monday - 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](http://silverdollarlanes.com)  
217-342-3939

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# CHAMBER 360°

**THE DEADLINE TO SEND IN YOUR INFO  
FOR THE CHAMBER 360° MAGAZINE  
IS COMING UP:**

# 12-21-23

**CONFIRM YOUR SPOT ASAP!!!**

Contact Nicole Morrison  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
[nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com](mailto:nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com)  
(217) 347-6282

## WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

### **Adobe**

Valerie Cecil, Marketing Coordinator  
345 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA  
(408) 753-5826  
adobe.com  
Graphics Arts/Design



### **AFLAC**

Jessica Webster, Associate  
Effingham  
(217) 823-0878  
aflac.com  
Insurance & Benefits



### **A Notch Above**

Becky Laue, Owner  
7366 E 2000th Avenue, Shumway  
(217) 821-9587  
Cleaning & Janitorial Services  
Referred by: Kara Wade, Taylor Law Offices



### **Down Right Media**

Michelle Hanley, Owner  
400 N Keller Drive, Ste. F, Effingham  
(217) 690-4249  
downrightmedia.com  
Advertising/Marketing



### **Effingham Storage Solutions, LLC**

Zach Bailey, Manager  
2301 S Banker Street, Effingham  
(618) 237-4442  
effinghamstoragesolutions.com  
Storage Units

## WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!



### Health Alliance

Eric Brunk, Account Executive, Sales  
3310 Fields South Drive, Champaign  
(217) 902-8124  
healthalliance.org  
Insurance/Benefits



### Katrina's Skin Escape

Katrina Smith, Owner  
3009 S Banker Street, Effingham  
(217) 821-9121  
Medical Services

### Midwest Mattress Company

Angie Thompson, Owner  
105 N Keller Drive, Effingham  
(618) 267-4846  
midwestmattresscompany.com  
Furniture/Home Furnishings

### Resin

Kelly Koskelin, Founder-CEO  
305 E Fayette Avenue, Effingham  
(952) 381-4503  
raisewithresin.com  
Recycling

### WAD It Up Transport/West End Reception & Events

Doug Weddell, Owner  
202 Museum Drive, Newton  
618 783 3214  
Wadituptransport.com  
Transportation & Event Center



### Dorothy Behrns, Certified Health Lifestyle Coach

Teutopolis  
217 259 5589  
Professional Services

### LeAnn's Light

Kathy Schroeder, Board Member  
8607 E 1250th Ave, Effingham  
217 821 1422  
LeAnnslight.com  
Non-Profit Organization

# '23-'24 Upcoming Events

November

**15 | Top Community Leaders**  
@ Keller Convention Center

**16 | Business After Hours**  
@ Keller Convention Center/  
Holiday Inn Effingham

**23-24 | Chamber Office Closed**  
Thanksgiving

**30 | Ribbon Cutting**  
@Layna Bond & Associates

December

**1 | First Friday Luncheon**  
Economic Forecast  
@ Keller Convention Center

**2 | Hometown Christmas**  
Downtown Effingham

**13 | Coffee & Connections**  
@ Community Support Systems

**14 | Business After Hours**  
@ Roy Schmidt Honda

**22-29 | Chamber Office Closed**  
Merry Christmas

January

**1 | Chamber Office Closed**  
Happy New Year

**12 | First Friday Networking Luncheon**  
@ Firefly Grill

**20 | Annual Gala**  
@ Keller Convention Center

February

**2 | First Friday Luncheon**  
Surrounding Community Updates  
@ Keller Convention Center

**7 | Coffee & Connections**  
@ TBD

**9 | PAVE Community Breakfast**  
@ Altamont

**15 | Business After Hours**  
@ Mid-America Motorworks

## VIEW OUR CALENDAR

Dates & locations are subject to change.





DOWNTOWN EFFINGHAM

# HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 2 | 3P-5P

SHARE IN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS & FAMILY FUN  
WITH A HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE, TRACTOR TRAIN  
RIDES, LIVE REINDEER, ENTERTAINMENT, HOT DRINKS,  
KETTLE CORN & FUN IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP!

AT 5PM, SANTA & FRIENDS WILL BE DASHING THROUGH  
DOWNTOWN IN A LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE!

## Letters from Santa

PARENTS OF CHILDREN 12 &  
UNDER- SUBMIT YOUR SANTA  
LETTER REQUESTS BEFORE

DECEMBER 4.



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