



NETWORK

DEC 2023



EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER

LEGAL UPDATES FOR 2024: PAID AND UNPAID LEAVE



EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER

PROM



2024

ANNUAL GALA

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW! DEADLINE: 01/08/2024



saturday, January 20th
Keller convention center

5:30 PM

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays!

As we approach the conclusion of 2023 and I prepare to enter my third year at the Chamber, I find it important to look back on the accomplishments of this year.

Initially, I want to convey my heartfelt gratitude for your commitment and support towards the Effingham County Chamber.

This year has presented considerable challenges for my family, notably with the passing of my father. Taking a brief hiatus to fulfill my family responsibilities, I am thankful that the Chamber was capably overseen by our leaders, volunteers, and exceptional staff during this period. In light of this, I want to express heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Directors, Chamber Ambassadors, Committee Members, Community Volunteers, and our outstanding Staff (Becky Brown, Nicole Morrison, Michelle Markham, & Jeff Fritchtnitch) for their unwavering dedication and efforts. Their support is integral to the Chamber, and for that, I am genuinely appreciative.



Nevertheless, throughout the challenges, the Chamber has remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting you, delivering over 70 networking and educational opportunities in 2023. Beyond these offerings, the Chamber actively participates in county-wide initiatives aimed at assisting our member businesses, including involvement in the Effingham Regional Career Academy, PAVE (Promoting a Vision for Effingham County), and collaboration with our Downtown Businesses.



In the coming year, my goal is to continue in enhancing and expanding the services offered by the Chamber to our members, introducing a few new offerings as well. In August, the Board held a Strategic Planning Session to help steer the Chamber's initiatives (for more details, refer to my October article). Despite the current year winding down, we are actively engaged in preparations for the upcoming year. Keep an eye out for further details about what 2024 has in store, as they will be featured in the Chamber360 Magazine scheduled for early February publication.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the Chamber staff (Becky, Nicole, Michelle, and Jeff) to discover how we can be of assistance to you and your business.

P.S. Don't forget to Shop and Support Local Businesses this holiday season.



Best wishes,

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.

OCTOBER EVENT RECAP

RIBBON CUTTINGS

HSHS Medical Group celebrated their new location for HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine in Dieterich. Providers at the practice include Michelle Braddy, MD, and Jennifer Kistner, APRN.



We're thrilled to be celebrating the ribbon-cutting ceremony of our newest chamber member, **Elite Powder Coating & Technologies** in Dieterich!



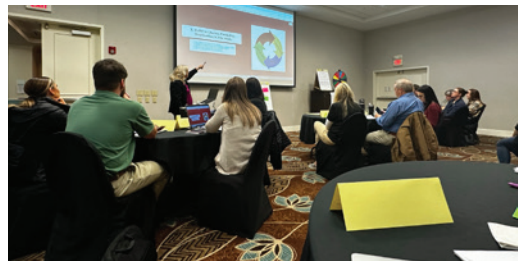
FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON



FALL RADIO DAYS



MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORKFORCE SEMINAR



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



NOVEMBER EVENT RECAP

RIBBON CUTTING



Layna Bond and Associates LLC,
American Family Insurance Effingham, IL



FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON



Thelma Keller Convention Center



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Thelma Keller Convention Center &
Holiday Inn of Effingham

FALL SOCIAL PRESENTED BY DIETERICH BANK



TOP COMMUNITY LEADERS



Emma Beckman
Dieterich



Olivia Copple
Teutopolis



Gracie Eaton
Effingham



Spencer Fox
Effingham



Hadley Hagler
Beecher City



Anna Niemeyer
St. Anthony



Blayne Pals
Effingham



Connor Roepke
St. Anthony



Noah Stanley
Altamont



Alex Anderson
Royal Sch. of Cosmo



Logan Arney
Patterson



Kayla Bowling
HSHS Medical



Ryan Brandt
Pyramid Marble



Michael Brummer
XCHNG



Mike Esker
J.B. Esker & Sons



Chris Etter
RE/MAX Key Adv.



Michelle Fombelle
U of I Extension



Andrew Grunloh
Grunloh Building



Clayton Hinton
West & Co.



Jennifer Kinkelaar
Brucke Financial



Derek Koester
Stevens Industries



Nick Lechman
NOVA Solutions



Krista Mette
Heartland Dental



Tyler Micenheimer
Heartland Dental



Nicole Morrison
Eff. Co. Chamber



Jessica Mottashed
HSHS, ST.A Rehab



Jake Niebrugge
Heartland Dental



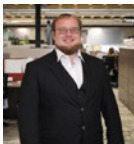
Katie Rincker
HSHS ST.A Hospital



Christo Schultz
Midland States Bank



Kayla Schumacher
Crisis Nursery



Henry Siemer
Siemer Milling Co.



Shelley Smith
Drs. Sehy & Jones



Tiffany Wasson
The Giving Plate



Bailey Whitney
Whitney Roofing



Courtney Yockey
Eff. Reg. Growth All.



PARTNER



PHOTOGRAPHY
firefly grill PIOTROWSKI STUDIOS

PRESENTING



PARTICIPATING



DECEMBER EVENT RECAP

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS



LUNCHEON WITH IL CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO, LOU SANDOVAL

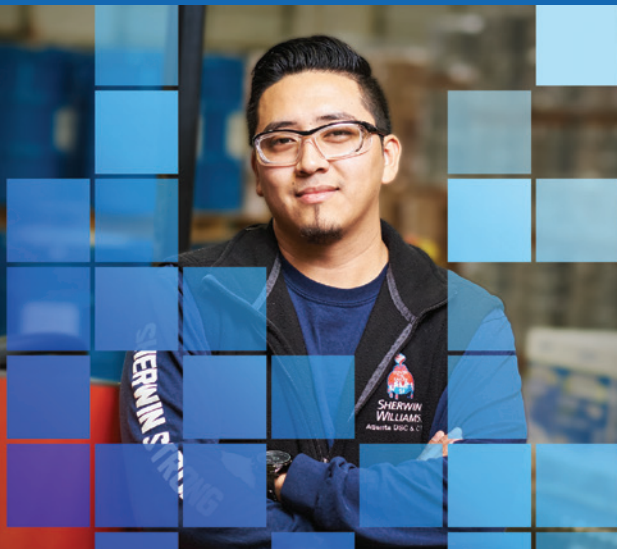


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OUR SHERWIN-WILLIAMS FAMILY

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We provide meaningful experiences to jump start your career and take ownership of your future. A strategic emphasis is placed on our employees' success with a focus on training and development, with long-term career advancement. We routinely offer a variety of positions in the following areas:

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MD



Kristina Berg,
APN-BC, DNP



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PA-C

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There's no place like home for the holidays... Except maybe here.

FIND JUST WHAT YOU NEED AT VISITEFFINGHAMIL.COM



There's no place like home for the holidays... Except maybe here.

This holiday season, let **Visit Effingham** be your guide to curating the perfect Midwestern Yuletide Getaway... Christmas in Effingham is a magical time (and place) to celebrate the season with the ones you love. Embrace traditions, both new and old, and enjoy holiday experiences for all ages...

Like our drive-thru light display, Wonderland in Lights! Each year, Community Park is transformed into a wintery spectacle. Wonderland in Lights, a drive-thru light display, features a variety of whimsical holiday scenes including reindeer flight school, Santa and his reindeer taking flight, a Nativity scene, a Gingerbread house, new dazzling tunnel and so much more. To help get you in the Christmas spirit, **Visit Effingham**, along with **97.9 XFM and KJ Country 102.3**, bring you the option to tune into continuous Christmas music on 90.7 FM while you drive through the display.

The display is now open and runs through the New Year. Hours are from 5 to 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 5 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Community Park is located on East Temple Avenue in Effingham, Illinois.

Santa visits Wonderland in Lights every Saturday from Thanksgiving through December 23rd to bring special presents to the children. The Wonderland in Lights is free, but donations are appreciated. For more information or to volunteer to spread Christmas cheer, please call 217-342-5310 or visit www.visiteffinghamil.com.

Extend the festivities, by visiting Light Up the

Lawn in Downtown Effingham to view our larger-than-life, 3-D holiday light displays. Check out the glittering 'Star,' the 'Royal Present,' the 'Heart of Christmas' walk-thru ornament, 'Santa's Sleigh and His Reindeer,' the 'Teddy Bear,' the walk-thru 'Gingerbread House,' the hot cocoa mug, and, the star of the show, our 34-foot, dazzling 'Christmas Tree.'

For locals, we encourage you to get in the holiday spirit by participating in our 10th annual Holiday Lights & Festive Sightings competition! Plan to decorate your residence or business to help spread holiday cheer and welcome visitors throughout the season. All residents and businesses residing within city limits are encouraged to participate in the competition.

The competition will feature three categories this year. The categories consist of the following: The More, the Merrier Award: over-the-top, kid-friendly or interactive; The Hallmark House Award: classy, elegant, "Hallmark;" and The Spirit of Effingham Business Award: businesses, including exteriors and/or window displays. We will announce one winner from each group.

Residences and businesses need to be completely decorated when they call to enter the competition. A fellow citizen or the residence or business owner can nominate himself or herself. Entries must be in by December 11th at noon. Call the Effingham Tourism Office at 217-342-5310 to enter your home or business in the competition. After all entries have been made, official judges will narrow the nominees down to the top three in each category. The top three will then be voted on by the public. Everyone is encouraged to vote. Entries can be voted for online at Visit Effingham's Facebook page, www.visiteffinghamil.com or in person at Effingham City Hall (201 E. Jefferson Ave). Voting will open up from December 15th through the 21st, at noon. Winners will be announced on December 21st in the afternoon.

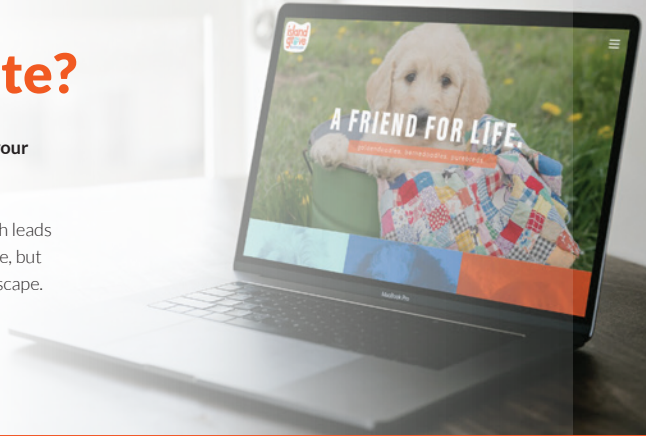
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HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has been a part of the Effingham community for over 148 years. First founded in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who established Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), St. Anthony's colleagues are still as committed to their Mission to provide high-quality Franciscan health care as they ever have been.

Below are just a few ways we continue to enhance our services and support community residents to make this a healthier community for years to come.

WITHIN OUR HOSPITAL

- **Inpatient unit renovation:** We recently renovated one of our inpatient care units for adult medical and surgical patients on the fourth floor. The 16-bed unit, which includes private rooms and bathrooms, was modernized to enhance the patient and visitor experience and increase staff workspace. An expanded central nurses' station plus nursing care pods and a waiting area for visitors next to the elevators are just a few of the improvements made to the unit.

Bobbi Kinkelaar, chief nursing officer, shared, "The unit's layout and design was determined by combining input from staff and knowledge of how health care delivery has changed. This design is not only beautiful and comfortable for patients and visitors, but also more efficient for care delivery to help nurses continue to be responsive to patients' needs."

- **Outpatient infusion therapy:** For over 10 years, we have been the local leader for infusion therapy services. Infusion therapy involves receiving medication through a needle or catheter, usually intravenously (IV). IV therapy is used for treatments for bleeding disorders, blood product needs, neurological conditions, nutrition, hydration, chronic inflammatory health issues, catheter care, PICC lines/ports, bone health, antivirals/antifungals, and many other specialized therapies. Specially trained infusion nurses and experienced on-site clinical pharmacists provide compassionate, high-quality IV therapy in a comfortable, healing environment. Offering private rooms with Wi-Fi, café room service, warm blankets, TVs,

beds and recliners, infusion services are available every day including holidays.

- **Surgery offerings:** Although no one wants to have surgery, our surgical experts are here when you need them most. Using the latest technology to provide excellent care close to home, our highly trained and experienced surgeons and staff perform a variety of surgical and non-surgical procedures, representing a wide range of specialties including:

- Endoscopy
- OB/GYN
- Podiatric
- ENT
- Orthopedic
- Vascular
- Eye surgery
- Plastic
- Laser procedures
- General
- Hand
- Lithotripsy
- Urology

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- **Adaptive Try-athlon:** In September, HSHS St. Anthony's Rehabilitation and Wellness held their second annual "Meet Me at the Finish Line" Youth Adaptive Try-athlon. Open to kids up to 18 years old who are overcoming physical challenges, the try-athlon of swimming, biking and run/walking events provides the chance to experience self-accomplishment and joy with friends and family cheering them on. We are proud to offer this event to children who inspire us every day with their courage and determination.

- **Community support:** Supporting our Effingham community collaboratively is crucial in meeting area health care needs. For example, we continue to be the main supporter of the Crisis Nursery of Effingham County to help assure this island of safety is available for families in crisis. We are also supporting the Dieterich community through our sponsorship of the new Wright Family Center to purchase the naming rights of the 24-Hour Fitness Center and the basketball court baselines.

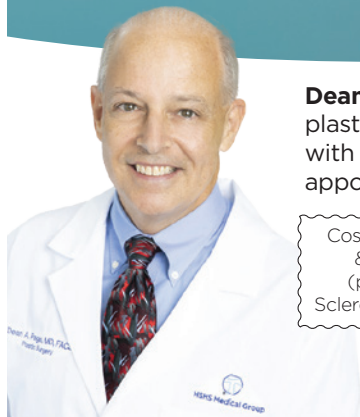
We are also proud to partner with the **Effingham County Chamber of Commerce** in sponsoring and participating in community events. We have served as sponsors of the **EffingHAM-JAM** entertainment and water tent, provided activities for children at the Artesian Fair, and sponsored the Top Community Leaders event and Fall Social.

For more information about HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, [visit stanthonyshospital.org](http://visit.stanthonyshospital.org).



HSHS Medical Group

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It's Bowling Night!

Winter Hours

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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

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

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CARITAS

FAMILY SOLUTIONS

Caritas Family Solutions, a prominent foster care agency in Southern Illinois, plays a vital role in communities across Southern Illinois. It is Illinois' second-largest foster care provider, serving more than 6,000 people, including 2,700 foster children. They would not be able to create such an impact without the support of the communities they serve.

Currently, there's a pressing demand for more licensed foster parents and case managers. Children who arrive in foster care can no longer live with their parents due to a variety of reasons, such as abuse, neglect, mental health issues or substance dependency. Approximately half of the foster children in Effingham County are placed with non-relatives, creating a need for a pool of qualified foster parents to ensure each child is matched with a family that best meets their needs.

To help support foster families, they created new positions. Their new Foster Parent Resource and Support Specialists are positions filled by staff members with at least two years of experience as foster parents. They are on call as a resource for foster parents, from emergencies to daily foster situations. Caritas introduced a Family Finding and

Recruitment team to aid youth in care or foster parents with support, temporary assistance, or new placements.

Case managers are true champions who also play a huge role in healing. In addition to ensuring the safety of children in care, they facilitate permanency and assist in meeting well-being goals. We need people who share our mission to strengthen individuals' and families' social and emotional well-being to create healthy relationships, loving homes and strong communities to join our team.



If you want to learn more about what it means to become a full-time foster parent, a short-term foster parent such as respite or emergency care or a case manager, you can email outreach@caritasfamily.org.

Infusion Care Close By

Sarah Bush Lincoln is happy to provide this much needed service locally.

We are pleased to expand our infusion services to care for the growing community. Before this facility opened, people in the area traveled 90 miles to the nearest infusion center for life-saving treatment.

Infusions are medications given intravenously through an IV, although they can be delivered by injection. Infusions allow for more efficient and effective treatment because medications flow directly into the blood stream. It's a way of delivering medications that can't be taken orally, or need to be given at a controlled rate.

Our infusion areas include warm blankets, TVs, recliners, refreshments, and privacy during treatment. In Effingham, the recliners have heat and massage controls.

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SBL Infusion Services
1000 Health Center Drive
Suite 204
217-258-4150

www.sarahbush.org/infusionservices



Common conditions treated with infusion therapy.

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- Iron deficiencies
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neuromuscular disorders
- Osteoporosis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

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LEGAL UPDATES FOR 2024:

PAID AND UNPAID LEAVE

A new year always brings updates in state employment laws, and 2024 will be no exception. Below is a review of various paid and unpaid leave laws going into effect in Illinois on January 1, 2024.

Paid Leave for All Workers Act

Effective January 1, 2024, the Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA) will provide all eligible employees with up to 40 hours (about 1 and a half days) of paid leave per applicable 12-month period to be used for any reason of the employee's choosing. Unless an exception applies, the PLAWA broadly applies to all private employers, as well as State or local units of government, any political subdivision of the State, or any State or local government agency, including all branches of State government. In addition to requiring employers to grant paid leave to employees, the PLAWA contains a robust list of additional employer obligations that employers must follow, unless they have in place a "qualifying pre-existing paid leave policy," defined as a "bona fide paid leave policy that an employer has enacted prior to January 1, 2024, that in practice, allows all employees to take at least 40 hours (about 1 and a half days) of paid leave for any reason of the employee's choosing." Included among these responsibilities are time and other recordkeeping and notice requirements, as well as a prohibition on requiring employees to submit documentation or other proof to support a request for leave.

Amendments to the Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act

Illinois legislators amended the qualifying bases under which an employee can request and use unpaid leave under the Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act ("VESSA"). VESSA applies to all Illinois employers, regardless of size. The amount of required leave an eligible employee is entitled to under VESSA varies depending on the employer's size. The amendments to VESSA add three new qualifying reasons for employees to take and use unpaid VESSA leave:

- to attend the funeral, an alternative to a funeral, or the wake of a family or household member killed in a crime of violence;
- to make arrangements for a family or household member killed in a crime of violence; and
- to grieve a family or household member killed in a crime of violence.

An employee who takes leave for one of the three new reasons above, is entitled to a total of two workweeks of unpaid leave (10 workdays), which must be completed within 60 days (about 2 months) after the employee receives notice of the death of the victim.

Under VESSA, an employer may require documentation certifying the need for leave. This law must be coordinated with Illinois' Family

Bereavement Leave Act (FBLA), which entitles eligible employees to up to two weeks (10 workdays) of unpaid leave time following the death of a covered family member.

If an employee is entitled to leave under FBLA, the amendments to VESSA do not create a right for the employee to take bereavement leave under VESSA that exceeds or is in addition to leave to which the employee is entitled under FBLA.

If an employee is not entitled to leave under FBLA, VESSA leave taken for the three new reasons above will be deducted from, and is not in addition to, the total amount of leave time to which an employee is entitled.

Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act

Illinois legislators passed the Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act (CEBLA), which goes into effect on January 1, 2024. CEBLA applies to all Illinois employers with 50 or more full-time employees in Illinois and provides employees who suffer the loss of a child by suicide or homicide with unpaid, job-protected leave. "Child" is broadly defined under the CEBLA to mean a biological child, adopted child, foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis.

The amount of required leave an eligible employee will be entitled to under the CEBLA varies depending on the employer's size. Employees who work for employers with 250 or more full-time employees in Illinois will be entitled to up to 12 weeks (about 3 months) of leave per year, while employees who work for employers with 50 to 249 full-time employees in Illinois will be entitled to up to six weeks of leave per year. Regardless of the employer's size, employees must use their CEBLA leave within one year of the employee notifying the employer of their child's passing suicide or homicide.

The CEBLA permits employers to require

employees to give advanced notice (when reasonable) of their need for CEBLA leave and to submit reasonable documentation supporting the employee's need for qualifying leave under the CEBLA. Reasonable documentation may include a death certificate, published obituary, or written verification of death, burial, or memorial service from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society, crematorium, religious institute, or government agency. In addition, if employees use CEBL leave, they will not be entitled to also use leave under the FBLA in connection with the death of the same child.

New Organ Donation Leave Requirement

Effective January 1, 2024, the "Employee Blood Donation Leave Act," which currently requires employers with 51 or more employees to provide eligible employees with up to 1 hour of paid leave every 56 days (about 2 months) to donate blood, will be renamed to be the "Employee Blood and Organ Donation Leave Act." While the obligations relating to donating blood will not change, what will change is that employers will now be required to provide eligible employees with up to 10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) of paid leave in any 12-month period to donate organs or tissue. Employees are entitled to leave under only if they have been employed full-time for at least six months and have received approval from their employer to participate in blood, organ, or tissue donation.



Scott Cruz

Labor & Employment
Attorney

Greensfelder, Hemker &
Gale, P.C.

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312.345.5008
www.greensfelder.com

MEMBER BENEFITS

Chamber Community Scholarship Program

In a couple of weeks, students will wave goodbye to school and dive headfirst into the Christmas break excitement. After festive fun with family and friends, they'll jump back into their studies come January. As the new year unfolds, not only does January symbolize a fresh start, but it also serves as a prompt that scholarship opportunities are within reach.

The Chamber Foundation is pleased to re-establish the Chamber Community Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program grants \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and adults embarking on or continuing their secondary education journey. Established in 1996, the Chamber Foundation Scholarship Program has distributed an impressive \$245,000 to 207 recipients.

Our incredible donors have made past distributions achievable. Donating to the scholarship program is simple yet meaningful. Your charitable contribution, ranging from \$25 to \$1000, makes a difference. Each donation, no

matter the amount, plays a role in shaping the educational journeys of deserving individuals.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our 2023 Donors, with special acknowledgment for our \$500 Donors: John Boos & Co., Koerner Distributor, and the Effingham New Car Dealers. Interested in making a positive impact? Scan the provided QR code for a smooth donation experience.

Your commitment to education is a beacon of hope for aspiring students.



Becky Brown
NFPC Membership Director

For more information or to contribute, contact me at:

bbrown@effinghamcountychamber.com

or (217) 347-6283 (Direct).



Supporting Education



Photographer: Nuxoll Photography



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS...

GIVE TODAY!

Questions? Contact Becky Brown at BBrown@EffinghamCountyChamber.com | (217) 347-6283

2024 Resolutions for Success: Maximize Your Effingham County Chamber Membership

The end of the year is the perfect time to reflect on our achievements and set resolutions for the future. For Effingham County Chamber members, this is a chance to commit to a more engaged and prosperous business journey in 2024. Here's how you can turn your resolutions into tangible actions, focusing on maximizing your investment with the Chamber.

Supporting Local - Let's reinforce our commitment to the community by embracing the 'shop local' mantra. By patronizing local businesses, we create a ripple effect that supports the growth and sustainability of our community. The Chamber encourages its members to consider this resolution and make a conscious effort to source goods and services within Effingham County.

Referring Member Businesses - Word of mouth is a powerful tool. Let's resolve to strengthen our Chamber network by referring fellow member businesses. The Chamber community is a vast network of diverse industries, and by actively recommending and endorsing each other, we boost the success of the entire business county. Make it a resolution to refer, collaborate, and foster a supportive environment for everyone to thrive.

Focused Investment - Your Chamber membership is an investment in your business, and resolutions should aim to extract maximum value. Attending or sponsoring Chamber events, tap into the resources available to you, and make connections that matter. The Chamber offers exclusive opportunities to promote your business through advertising and marketing, supplying a platform to highlight your products or services to a targeted audience.

Business Development & Coaching - In the pursuit of excellence, education is key. Chamber members have the unique opportunity to access Business Development & Coaching services through Dau Consulting. Whether you're an existing member business or someone aspiring to start a new venture, take advantage of free and confidential counseling/coaching. Maximize this resource to make informed decisions, plan strategically, and propel your business towards success.

Travel with the Chamber - Expand your horizons with travel opportunities organized by the Effingham County Chamber. Thanks to our national partners, we can offer

you enriching travel experiences that combine education, tourism, and cultural immersion. Let the Chamber help you discover a world waiting to be explored, all while networking and creating memories with fellow Chamber members.

A Wealth of Business Support - Your Chamber membership opens doors to a variety of resources—links to local, state, and federal business resources & agencies. Stay informed, connected, and use these resources to overcome challenges, stay compliant, and foster growth.

Chamber Outlets for Business News & Events - Make it a resolution to shout about your achievements and milestones. The Chamber provides various outlets, including print publications, online calendars, digital press releases, social media and more to share your business news and events. Utilize these platforms to enhance your business visibility and credibility within the community.

The Chamber Advantage - Investing in the Chamber is more than a financial commitment; it's a strategic move to gain visibility, build credibility, and receive support for your business expansion. As a member, you become part of a dynamic community that collaborates for mutual success.

Chamber Staff Always Here for You - While I may be out on maternity leave until mid/end February, rest assured that the Chamber staff is dedicated to supporting you. Our commitment to empowering your business to thrive and grow is unwavering. I encourage you to reach out for any help or information you may need during this period.

As the end of 2023 draws closer, let's make resolutions that go beyond personal aspirations—they should contribute to the growth of our business community. Your Effingham County Chamber membership is a valuable asset; let's make 2024 the year we maximize its potential.



Happy New Year, and cheers to a year of prosperity, collaboration, and success!

Nicole Morrison

Director of Marketing & Communications

nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com
(217) 347-6282



EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER

2024 Sponsorships

Whether you're a small or large business, the Effingham County Chamber offers cost-effective sponsorship options to boost your visibility among local businesses and leaders. Your sponsorship not only supports the Chamber but also provides exposure in various ways.

To streamline the process, if you wish to combine membership dues and sponsorships into one invoice, please indicate your preferred sponsorship level. We'll generate an updated invoice for you accordingly.

Coffee & Connections

Presenting - \$500 (annual)
Food & Beverage - \$100
(quarterly)

Seminars (bi-annual)

Presenting - \$500
Gold - \$250
Friend - \$150

Annual Gala - January 20

Presenting - SOLD
Gold - \$1,500
Silver - \$1,000
Bronze - \$500
Friend - \$250

Women in Leadership March 8

Presenting - SOLD
Gold - \$250
Friend - \$150
Swag - Donate Items

Job Fair - March 21

Presenting - SOLD
Gold - \$1,500
Silver - \$1,000
Bronze - \$500
Friend - \$250
Booth - \$150

Spring Golf Outing - May 17

Presenting - \$3,000
Golf Ball - \$1,500
Hole-In-One - \$1,000+
Driving Range & Putting Green - \$750
Beverage Cart (x2) - \$500
Courtesy Cart (x2) - \$500
Golf Cart - \$500
Halfway House - \$500
Highest Score - \$500
Skills - \$500
Team Photo - \$500
Breakfast - \$750
Lunch - TBD/Trade
Exclusive Hole - \$300
Golf Sign - \$100

EffingHAM-JAM - July 19

Presenting - SOLD
Entertainment - \$3,000
Trophy - SOLD
T-Shirt - \$2,000
Hometown Throwdown (x2) - \$1,500
Blue Smoke - \$1,000
Burnt Ends - \$500
Texas Crutch - \$250
Friend - \$150

Fall Social - Sept 13

Presenting - \$1,500
Gold - \$1,000
Silver - \$500
Bronze - \$250
Friend - \$150
Raffle - Donate Items

Fall Golf Outing - Sept 26

Presenting - \$3,000
Golf Ball - \$1,500
Hole-In-One - \$1,000+
Drv. Range & Putting Green - \$750
Beverage Cart (x2) - \$500
Courtesy Cart (x2) - \$500
Golf Cart - \$500
Halfway House - \$500
Highest Score - \$500
Skills - \$500
Team Photo - \$500
Breakfast - \$750
Lunch - TBD/Trade
Exclusive Hole - \$300
Golf Sign - \$100

Trades, Skills & MFG - Oct 17

Presenting - \$2,000
Gold - \$1,500
Silver - \$1,000
Bronze - \$500
Friend - \$250
Booth - \$150 (member)

Top Leaders - Nov 13

Presenting (x2) - \$1,500
Gold - \$1,000
Silver - \$750
Bronze - \$500
Friend - \$250

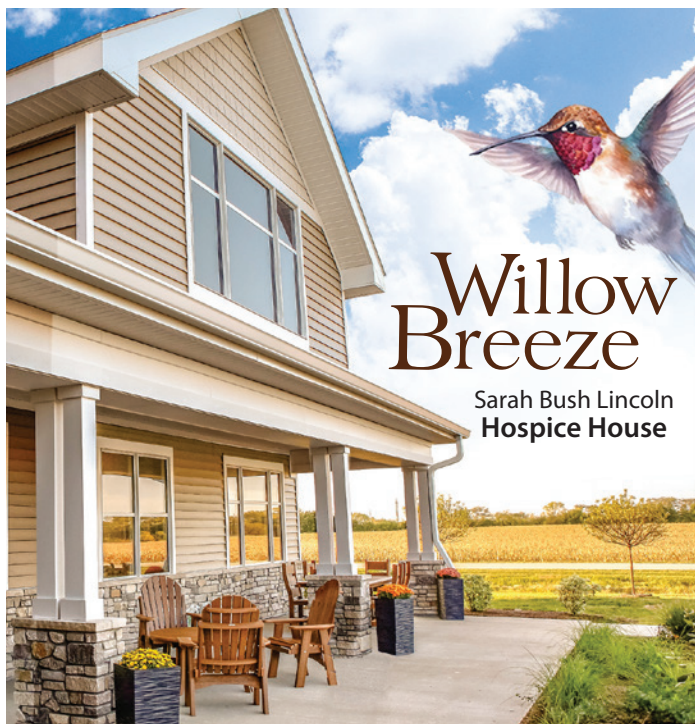
Hometown Christmas Dec 7

Presenting - \$1,500
Gold - \$1,000
Silver - \$500
Bronze - \$250
Friend - \$150



Scan the QR code and submit your
form to line out your 2024 Chamber
Event Sponsorships.

(217) 347-6282
NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com



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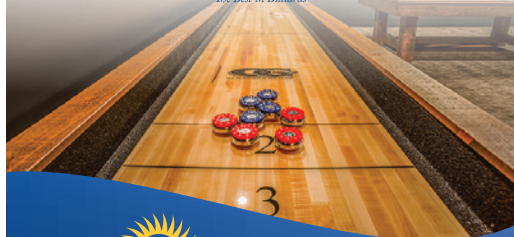
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ALTAMONT:

Altamont CUSD #10 approved a contract for the High School cafeteria to be renovated.

The City of Altamont Water Department purchased new equipment for the plant.

Kremer Pharmacy has started a remodel process to give a whole new look to their store. The city has almost completed the sidewalk renovation in front of the store and they have begun on the inside with renovations. They are doing the remodel in phases to continue to stay open and serve the community.



S&W Supermarket changed hands after 45 years of being owned by the Whites. S&W Supermarket will now be **Altamont Foods**.

South Pointe Subdivision still remains under development.

DIETERICH:



Wright Family Center Updates:

The gymnasium floor was being painted as of Friday, December 8.

Traci Bruns has been hired as the Director of the center. Questions about the center can be directed to her email at director@wrightfamilycenter.com.

Montessori Kids Universe – Dieterich will be opening at the beginning of January. Brad and Jordan Jansen are the owners of both Dieterich and Effingham locations. The daycare will be in the north end of the the building.

Memberships for the center will be available soon once the POS system is activated. All details can

be found online at WrightFamilyCenter.org. A grand opening is planned for February.

Grand openings for the **Clearview Car Wash** and **Rail Yard Bar & Grill** will both be in February.

CITY OF EFFINGHAM:

Lucia's Italian Kitchen is expanding its culinary offerings with the construction of Lucia's Steaks, conveniently located in the same shopping center as Lucia's at 400 W Clark in Effingham. Anticipate an opening date before Christmas. Hours will be Monday and Wednesday-Sunday 11a-7p, closed on Tuesday's.

Lupita's Mexican Grocery is moving into the old Mason's Yamaha building located at 1509 W Fayette Ave. In Effingham.



Rent X is open in their new location at 1505 Hampton Dr., in Effingham.



Both entrances to **Family Care Associates** are NOW OPEN! Please look for the green

"Patient Entrance" signs.

Phase 3 (of 4) has begun, and includes additional patient exam rooms as well as an enlarged laboratory and waiting room for lab patients.



Home2Suites by Hilton, under **McHugh Hospitality Group** ownership, is

slated to be open in September/October 2025 with four stories and 97 guest rooms.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City of Effingham Public Works Department:

Ford Avenue, Phase IA. This is a 500' roadway extension east from existing terminus is completed, but still waiting on street lights. Water and sewer are slated to be constructed this winter.

Evergreen Ave/Willenborg Street Intersection project is completed.

Thies Avenue/Airport Rd Reconstruction construction has begun on Thies Avenue with Airport Road construction taking place next spring.

Redoak Street Reconstruction (Hendelmeyer to Blohm) is budgeted for 2024 construction.

Quick Trip – Technology Drive Road Widening Project is complete and open.

Resurfacing Completed Projects:

Henrietta (Heritage to Evergreen)

Wenthe (Koester to Evergreen)

Koester (Holiday to Evergreen)

Katrina (Maple to Martin)

Holly Drive

Pembroke (Temple to North Ave)

Oakwood (Temple to North Ave)

W. Cedar Ave (Park to 4th)

Park Street (Elm to Cedar)

Pine Drive (Cedar to 4th)

McGrath Avenue Extension – City was just awarded \$960,000 through the Economic Development Program (EDP) for the extension of this roadway. Stevens Industries plans to commit to 13 new jobs as a part of this grant. Construction will likely be in 2025.

Roadway from Maple St. to 4th St. – City is purchasing property and easements for street, water and sewer extension between Maple and 4th. This project will go from the Sports Complex East to the Santa Maria/4th St. intersection. Design will

begin in 2024 with possible construction in late 2024 or early 2025. This is with the remaining TIF-1 Funds.

IDOT PROJECTS:

Fayette Avenue Phase I (Illini Drive to Walnut Street) construction started in the summer of 2023. This project will continue through the winter, primarily on the South side. The City will have new sanitary sewer construction and watermain relocation as a part of this project. Bidding began on December 12th with construction beginning early 2024. Fayette Avenue Phase I is a planned two-year project.

Fayette Avenue Phase II (Walnut Street to Long Street) has an estimated bid date/construction for 2025. It is currently under design and is also a two-year project.

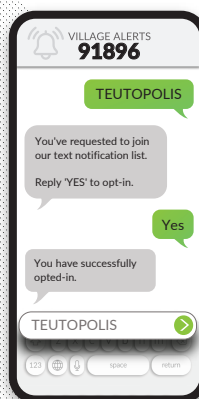
TEUTOPOLIS

The Village has implemented a new notification system called TextMyGov.

Another lot has been sold in **Prairie View Subdivision** bringing the total to 45 lots sold with 14 remaining. Lots are priced at \$5,000 for a spec home builder and \$10,000 for an individual. Reach out to the Village of Teutopolis for availability.

Text Alerts!

Get village updates sent directly to your phone via text message.



Sign up to receive village text message notifications!

Get Started,
opt-in to any of the following notification lists:

- For General Notifications, text "**TEUTOPOLIS**" to **91896**
- For Emergency Notifications, text "**TEUTOPOLISEMERGENCY**" to **91896**

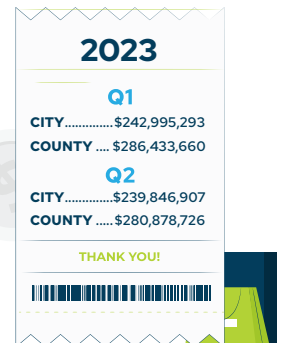
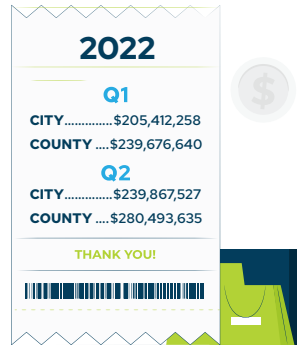
REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

October (preliminary) • September and August (revised)

	OCT		SEPT		AUG	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Total Labor Force	20,053	19,559	20,289	19,469	20,476	19,895
Eff. Co UE Rate	3.1%	2.7%	3.4	2.6%	3.5%	3%
Unemployed	617	524	686	512	720	587
Employed	19,436	19,035	19,603	18,957	19,756	19,308
Illinois UE Rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.9%	4.4%	5.3%	4.8%
US UE Rate	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	3.9%	3.8%

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

RETAIL SALES STATISTICS



HAVE NEWS?

Share your noteworthy updates with the Chamber membership! Whether it's special awards, employee promotions, new hires, or press releases, we welcome your news. Simply submit it through our convenient online form.

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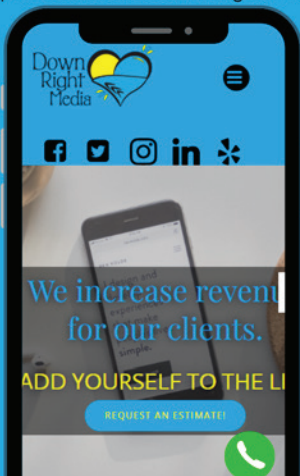
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WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?



Allied Capital Title Effingham ended the month of October with 50 closings, thus donating \$500 to Fear Nothing for Breast Cancer Awareness Month donation campaign. As a company, Allied Capital Title raised \$3,270 that will be donated to research and patient support organizations in our communities.



Area businesses donated to the Illinois Deer Donation Program. This program connects hunters, meat processors, and food pantries to support food security of individuals and families. Hunters donate a deer to a partnering meat processor and the ground venison is donated to an area good pantry.

Crossroads Bank donated \$100, **Effingham County Farm Bureau** donated \$500, **The Equity** donated \$1,500, and **Washington Savings Bank** donated \$250.



Blake & Laura Linders, Owner/Operators of **Linders Limited LLC** and 18 McDonald's across Central Illinois including Effingham, Charleston, and Champaign, were

recognized for their outstanding service to the McDonald's brand by receiving the Ronald Award in Las Vegas.

The Ronald Award is awarded to the top 1% of Owner/Operators across the country, specifically those who have made outstanding contributions to strengthening the McDonald's brand image and loyally serving their customers and local communities. The award recognizes Blake & Laura's dedication to McDonald's, their team members, and the communities in which they operate.



Boho Chic Clinique donated \$2,000 to Blessings in a Backpack-Effingham.

Crossroads Bank donated \$100, **Effingham County Farm Bureau**

donated \$500, **The Equity** donated \$1,500, and **Washington Savings Bank** donated \$250.



Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota organized a successful Kids Coat Drive throughout November for FISH & Catholic Charities Christmas Store. Along with donated coats, hats, and mittens, they collected monetary donations during The X and KJ ATHON at 97.9 XFM for a total of \$554.



Dawn Johnson of **Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.** received the Lexology 2024 Client Choice Award for Franchise in Missouri. Johnson was only one of two honorees in the United States in the franchise category.

Eastern Illinois University has been awarded a \$200K grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness among post-secondary students.



ENTEC Services announced the promotion of Samantha Ho to Director of Engineering.

WELL DONE! - WHAT'S CHANGED?



First Mid Bancshares, Inc. (First Mid) earned two 2023 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence awards,

just a few months after receiving the prestigious 2023 Top Workplaces Industry award through The Top Workplaces program. First Mid received an award for Employee Well-Being, which celebrates organizations who put the health and wellness of their employees at the center of their workplace culture. First Mid also received an award for Professional Development, which celebrates organizations who focus on developing their employees' careers and enable them to grow professionally.



JX Truck Center presented a \$2,000 check to Effingham County FISH Human Services.



Koerner Distributor Inc., has appointed Jordan Koerner President effective September 2023.



Land of Lincoln Credit Union announced the promotions of two outstanding employees: Ashley Brandenburg,

who has been promoted to the role of Assistant Vice President & Comptroller, and Alex Haney, now serving as the Branch Operations Manager in Mattoon.



Many of our Chamber Members donated to the Shop with a Cop Program/Effingham Police Department, including: **A1 Liquors, E-Environmental**

Solutions, Effingham Elks Lodge #1016, Effingham Prompt Care—Dr. Navi Arora, JEDCO Sales, Stanfield Chiropractic



Teutopolis Junior High accepted the 2023 National Blue Ribbon in Washington DC.



Aumann Auctions expands by adding 15,000 square feet of climate controlled showroom and operations space across four acres. Not only have they made substantial investments in infrastructure and hard assets, they have also expanded their staff and promoted several members of their team from within.

Family Care Associates of Effingham became a United Healthcare provider as of December 1.

Homewood Grill is expanding its reach to Newton, IL, with plans to open its doors in the spring of 2024. Nestled at 303 South Van Buren Street, this new location will be a collaboration with local residents Mark and Tiffany Keller. Together, they are set to establish another thriving venture under the HWG name, promising the same cherished recipes, cutting-edge machines, and top-notch products that define the Homewood Grill experience—now in Jasper County.

PASCO Systems Corp., a leading manufacturer of automation machinery acquired the assets of **Versatech Holdings, LLC**. This acquisition will allow Pasco Systems to expand its product offerings and strengthen its position in the automation industry.

WHO'S NEW!



AKRA Builders, Inc. welcomes Tim Butler and Kristopher Harper to the AKRA family. Butler joins as the Superintendent and Harper as a Field Engineer.

Amy Barnes is the new Office Manager for **Cancer Care Specialists of IL/Crossroads Cancer.**



Amy Brown is one of the newest Medical Assistants at **Effingham Prompt Care – Dr. Navi Arora.**

Cornerstone Christian Church welcomes Dustin Draear as their new Executive Minister.

FedEx Ground welcomes Manny Jeredia as their new Manager.

The Glenwood Assisted Living in Effingham has a new Executive Directory Penny Dowell. The Glenwood is also under new management – Meridian.



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital introduces Angela Kelly as the new Executive Director of Operations.

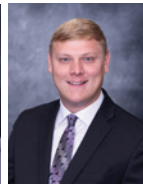


The Illinois Chamber of Commerce welcomes Lou Sandoval as the new President and CEO.

Jennifer O'Hara is the new Marketing Director for the **Royal School of Cosmetology.**



Kingery Printing Company welcomes Mr. Robert Schultz to their Board of Directors. It is a significant step toward the future for Kingery, as Bob is the first non-family member to serve on its Board.



Law Group LTD. welcomes new associate attorneys, Jared N. Schwarz and Karson E. Pruemmer.

Tari Jahn is the new Manager of **Lake Pointe Apartments.**



Siemer Milling Company is very pleased to announce the addition of Brian Semple to the Leadership Team as Vice President Grain Supply.

The Villas of Holly Brook welcomes Julie Brooks as their new Executive Director and Marie Kessler as their Business Office Manager.



Washington Savings Bank welcomed Justin Roley to their lending team as Vice President of Commercial Lending covering the Mattoon market area.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations on 4 Years!!!



Ashley Golden marks her fourth anniversary, while Lisa Warfel celebrates her first year milestone with Crossroads Bank.

Congratulations on 1 Year!



Bruce Hoene celebrates 40 years with **Stevens Industries, Inc.**



Carolyn Lewis celebrates five years with **Kingery Printing Company.**

Debbie Power retires from **Lake Pointe Apartments.**



Dr. Navi Arora of **Effingham Prompt Care** with honored by **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** for 10 years of service on the medical staff serving the residents of Effingham County and beyond.



Ernie Hutson retires after 18 years in the **Three Z Printing Co.** Scale house department.



Jen Vasquez celebrates three years with **Effingham Prompt Care – Dr. Navi Arora.**



Kingery Printing Company celebrates 55 years in business!



Sarah Bush Lincoln Controller, Bob O'Rourke, retired after 35 years of service with SBL.



Higgs Welding celebrates 40 years in business.

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!



Flying Buddha Fitness LLC

Vicki Funneman, Owner
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Flyingbuddhafitness.com
Fitness



National Athletic Hall of Fame

Josh Mathis, Executive Director
P O Box 59, Effingham
(618) 676-4163
Nationalathletichalloffame.com
Association



Upcoming Events

December

22-29 | Chamber Office Closed
Merry Christmas

January

1 | Chamber Office Closed
Happy New Year

12 | First Friday Networking Lunch
@ Firefly Grill

20 | Annual Gala
@ Keller Convention Center

25 | Legal Updates for Employers
@ Keller Convention Center

25 | Business After Hours

February

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

7 | Coffee & Connections
@ XCHNG

15 | PAVE Community Breakfast
@ Carriage House Event Center

15 | Business After Hours
@ Mid America Motorworks

March

1 | First Friday Networking Lunch

8 | Women's Leadership Event

14 | Business After Hours
@ Legacy Harley-Davidson

21 | In-Person Job Fair
@ Keller Convention Center

VIEW OUR CALENDAR

Dates & locations are subject to change.



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memories merry and bright.

Learn more about all of the sponsorship options available
through the Chamber! See page 18.

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