



NETWORK

JUNE 2025



10TH ANNIVERSARY

Take a Springtime River Cruise through
HOLLAND & BELGIUM
Spring 2026



TIME TO TRAVEL

Mu with the Chamber

Suab Saisl

T-shirts · Hats · Toys



Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria

OKTOBERFEST

Fall 2026

LETTER

from our president

Hey there, Chamber Friends!

Summer in Effingham is something truly special. The sunshine, longer days, and energy around town make it a season full of connection and community pride. Whether you're catching a sunset at Lake Sara, strolling through downtown, or supporting a favorite local business, there's something undeniably magical about this time of year.

Growing up here, I've always appreciated how Effingham embraces the season—from early morning walks on the TREC Trail and afternoons on the lake to live music, pickleball games, and patio gatherings. There's always something happening, and it brings our community together in the best way.

One of the highlights of my role continues to be our Day in Your Shoes series—getting to step into your businesses, work alongside you, and see firsthand the heart and hustle behind our Chamber members. Whether it's shaking cocktails, assembling cabinets, or delivering furniture, each experience deepens my appreciation for the people who power Effingham County.

We're also excited to welcome Anna, our summer intern! She's already bringing great energy to the Chamber, helping with social media, member visits, and event prep behind the scenes.

I'm so grateful for the incredible team I get to work with each day—Becky, Nicole, and Michelle—who bring creativity, dedication, and heart to everything we do. Together, we're here to support you and strengthen our business community.

And if you follow along with our weekly #WeekInTheLife posts, you've seen just how many amazing stories we get to share—from ribbon cuttings and new ventures to longtime member milestones.

As we enjoy the summer season, I encourage you to keep supporting each other—stop into a business you haven't visited in a while, reach out to a fellow member, or attend an upcoming event. Let's continue building on the connections that make Effingham County such a great place to live, work, and grow.

Here's to a fun, meaningful, and connection-filled summer!

Katie Koester

President & CEO | KKoester@EffinghamCountyChamber.com | (217) 342-4147



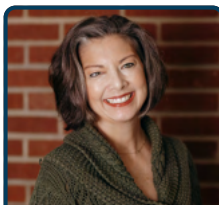
MEET THE TEAM

effingham county chamber



BECKY BROWN

MEMBERSHIP



MICHELLE MARKHAM

ADMINISTRATIVE



NICOLE MORRISON

MARKETING & EVENTS

CAPITAL *investors*

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



Follow Us On
SOCIAL MEDIA



@effcochamber





WHEN YOUR FEET HURT, YOU HURT ALL OVER.

Our new foot clinic brings specialized treatment close to home—everything from sports injuries to diabetic foot care. At HSHS Foot & Ankle Specialists, we've got your feet covered.

Be one of our first patients! Don't let foot pain slow you down another day.

HSHS Foot & Ankle Specialists—your new hometown solution for happy, healthy feet!

Take your first step towards relief by scheduling your appointment today.



**HSHS
Medical Group**
Foot & Ankle Specialists



EFFINGHAM | 217-342-0578



EVENT RECAP



Nuxoll Photography





EVENT RECAP



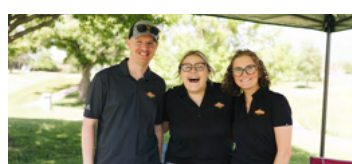
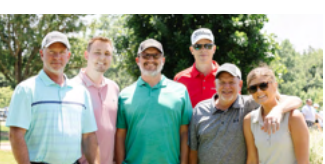


EVENT RECAP





EVENT RECAP



COMMUNITY *spotlight*

JOIN LAKE LAND COLLEGE FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW EFFINGHAM TECHNOLOGY CENTER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025 | 3-7:00 P.M.

Virtual reality learning equipment, simulated hospital training rooms, a spa-like massage clinic and state-of-the-art classrooms where innovation thrives – these are just some of the things students can look forward to this fall at the Lake Land College Effingham Technology Center, and the whole community can experience it at the Grand Opening on Wednesday, July 30!

The community is invited to join Lake Land for a special event to celebrate the launch of the newly remodeled Effingham Technology Center. Beginning at 3 p.m., the family-friendly celebration will allow guests to explore the building, view demonstrations in the cutting-edge labs, experience hands-on activities with mobile simulators, enjoy food trucks and even get an up-close look at Lake Land's race car, Volt and other high-tech gadgets!

With the opening of the newly remodeled 100,000-square-foot Effingham Technology Center, Lake Land is strengthening its decades-long presence in the Effingham community to expand local educational opportunities for people

LAKE LAND
COLLEGE

of all ages. In addition to housing the academic and program offerings from the Kluthe Center, the space will be the first-ever home for Creating Opportunities for Regional Employment (CORE), the Effingham-based career academy, while also hosting Patterson Companies and serving as a satellite location for the Small Business Development Center at Eastern Illinois University.

The Grand Opening event will include a brief dedication ceremony beginning at 5:30 p.m., with special remarks from Lake Land College President Josh Bullock as well as leaders from the partnering organizations: Cecile Shauer, Vice President of Dental Software Business at Patterson Companies and Norma Lansing, CORE ERCF Treasurer.

"We hope you'll join us as we celebrate this landmark occasion in our ongoing partnership with the Effingham community," Bullock said.

To learn more about Lake Land College, visit LakeLandCollege.edu or follow [@LakeLandCollege](https://www.facebook.com/LakeLandCollege) on Facebook.



NON-PROFIT *spotlight*

Who We Are

Effingham County ROSC is a community-based initiative funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.

At the heart of our efforts for the past 2 years are **Samantha Hicks**, Effingham County ROSC Coordinator, and **Felicia Depoister**, Certified Peer Support Specialist.

As local residents raising families in Effingham County, they bring a deep commitment and personal passion to building a healthier, more resilient community—one that actively supports recovery from substance use and mental health disorders. Their lived experience along with the ROSC Persons with Lived Experience Committee is a powerful driver in creating meaningful change. These collective experiences allow for the facilitation of empathetic support and forge authentic connections with individuals navigating their recovery journey.

The ROSC Council collaborates with and fosters relationships with local agencies, businesses, education, civic, youth-serving, and community members to connect individuals with the resources they need—meeting them where they are along the continuum of care. Their partners in community change are far reaching while holding numerous family-oriented events for anyone to come and participate. Follow them on Facebook at Effingham County ROSC for updates on what they're doing in Effingham County!

The ROSC Council's message is clear: **"We Can and Do Recover."** By embracing recovery out loud, they aim to reduce stigma, inspire hope, and foster a stronger, healthier future for Effingham County.

If you'd like to attend a ROSC Council meeting, they meet every 3rd Monday of each month at 1 - 2:00pm at 104 E. Blohm Ave. Effingham, IL & on Zoom. If meetings aren't your jam, call or text Samantha at (217) 663-0823 to see how you can become a part of the solution.

To learn more about ROSC, visit HourHouseRecovery.org or follow them on Facebook [@EffinghamCountyROSC](https://www.facebook.com/EffinghamCountyROSC).



NON-PROFIT *spotlight*

For more than a century, the **Effingham Sunrise Rotary** and **Effingham Noon Rotary Clubs** have been working to make the world a better place—both in our local community and beyond. With deep roots in Effingham, Rotarians are community leaders dedicated to service, fostering meaningful connections, and helping shape a stronger future for all.

Together, the two clubs are made up of approximately 100 members who share a commitment to taking action and creating positive change. Whether it's organizing annual community traditions or supporting behind-the-scenes efforts that often go unnoticed, Rotary's influence can be seen throughout Effingham.

Each year, Effingham Rotarians help coordinate and contribute to a variety of impactful events and initiatives:

- Annual Effingham Fourth of July Fireworks
- Effingham Halloween Parade
- Rotary Student Exchange Program
- Society for Academic Achievement Awards Dinner
- Scholar Athletes Awards Dinner
- Community events like a free concert and a pickleball tournament
- And many other local projects and programs



In addition to hosting community events, both Rotary Clubs provide financial support and hands-on service to local projects—like painting the Crisis Nursery building or helping fund a public bus shelter near the County building. Rotarians are proud to be known as “people of action.”

Rotary is also guided by a strong ethical foundation, the **Four-Way Test**—a set of principles recited at each meeting:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

If you're looking to get involved, grow as a leader, and give back, we invite you to join us:

- Sunrise Rotary meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.
- Noon Rotary meets Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m.

Find us online:

Sunrise Rotary Facebook:
[@EffinghamIllinoisSunriseRotary](#)

Noon Rotary Facebook:
[@EffinghamNoon.RotaryClub](#)

Both at First Baptist Church in Effingham. Guests are always welcome.

Compensation & Benefits Survey

2025



EFFINGHAM COUNTY
CHAMBER

SCAN THE QR CODE

This survey allows you to make truly informed business decisions by giving you reliable benchmarks based on your industry and company size.

Not only does it help determine competitive pay, it will guide you in making a complete compensation package.

Bushue HR, Inc. will contact participating organizations to complete a questionnaire for the Compensation & Benefits Survey.

Investment:

\$175 | Chamber Member Participant*

\$375 | Non-Chamber Member

\$500 | Non-Participant Survey Results Only

**Participation in the Survey is included in Influence & Capital Investor membership levels.*



Deadline to register:

Friday, July 18.

Questions? Call us at

(217) 342-4147.

THE SUMMER THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!



Holiday World
& **Splashin' SAFARI**

Save! UP TO \$24 OFF PER TICKET*
AT HOLIDAYWORLD.COM/SAVE WITH CODE **DISCOUNT843**

*Total savings may vary based on date of visit. \$24 savings calculated from \$1 off Pick Your Date Tickets on select days through June 12. Tickets must also be purchased at least a day in advance for full savings.

Scan
for tickets:





friday, july 18

10TH ANNIVERSARY



Downtown Effingham is set to come alive on Friday, July 18, as EffingHAM-JAM celebrates its 10th anniversary—a milestone year for one of the area's most anticipated summer events. What began as a small gathering has grown into a full-scale community celebration, drawing thousands of attendees with live music, barbecue, kids' activities, and local vendors—all while raising funds to support education in Effingham County.



This year's event, presented by Koerner Distributor, Inc., promises to be bigger and better than ever. Country music fans won't want to miss **Thomas Mac**, a viral sensation and rising country star, headlining the stage from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Mac, who previously performed at the Rusty Reel Lake Jam, left such a strong impression on the community that he's making his return for the main stage this summer. Opening the show will be The Troubadours, a talented local band known for their high-energy performances and crowd favorites—setting the stage for a full night of great live music.



The Hometown Throwdown BBQ Competition is a crowd favorite for good reason. Teams set up early in the morning and spend the day prepping, seasoning, and slow-cooking their entries—turning downtown into a smoky, mouthwatering hub of friendly competition. It's more than just a contest; it's a full day of camaraderie, skill, and passion for barbecue as teams compete for cash prizes, custom trophies, and serious bragging rights. Categories include pork butt, turkey breast, wings (judges only), and side dishes. Community members are invited to sample the entries while supplies last and get in on the action.

The event also features:

- Kids' Activities including Wild Foam Adventures Foam Party, tractor train rides, bubbles, chalk art, and face painting*
- A live skateboarding demo by Deano Tull and the HAM CITY JAM crew
- A diverse lineup of food and drink vendors including: All American Grill, Blaze & Glaze Pizza Co., Crazy 8's BBQ, Gate to Plate, Mac Daddy, The Fair Lady, Krazy Sweet Treats, The Lemonade Stand, Toppins, and Koerner's famous beer tent



Supporting Education & Celebrating Community

Proceeds from EffingHAM-JAM directly support the Effingham County Chamber Community Scholarship Program, which provides





\$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors and adult learners pursuing post-secondary education.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of this initiative, the Chamber made a strategic change in 2024 by retiring the Chamber Foundation and transitioning management of the scholarship fund to the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation.

Since the program's inception in 1996, it has awarded \$264,000 to 226 recipients, helping students across Effingham County take the next step in their education.

EffingHAM-JAM is about more than great music and BBQ — it's about investing in our community's future. We're grateful to everyone who attends, volunteers, sponsors, and participates. This event makes a real difference.

—Katie Koester, Chamber President & CEO

This event would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses and organizations., in addition to presenting sponsor Koerner Distributor, Inc., the Chamber thanks:

John Boos & Co. | HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital | City of Effingham / Visit Effingham | Wabash Communications Co-Op | Stang ARTs | XCHNG | Rumpke Waste & Recycling | Heartland Dental | Premier Broadcasting 97.9 XFM/102.3 KJ Country | Edward Jones – Adam Butts | RE/MAX Key Advantage | American Fiber Network | First Mid Bank & Trust | The Glenwood Assisted Living of Effingham | Law Group, LTD. | Midland States Bank | Whitney Roofing | Dieterich Bank | Drs. Sehy & Jones Optometrists | SDS Technology | Washington Savings Bank | The Marxman Group | SIR Investigations | Effingham Park District | Goeckner Bros. | Heartland Towing & Recovery | Y-Yard Auto

Their continued partnership helps ensure that EffingHAM-JAM remains a free*, family-friendly event open to the entire community.

Whether you're here for the food, the music, or the memories, EffingHAM-JAM's 10th anniversary is the perfect time to experience everything that makes this event—and our community—so special.

Visit EffingHAMJAM.com or contact Nicole at (217) 347-6282 or NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com for full event details

Kids Area

5pm – 7pm

HAM CITY JAM Demo

5pm – 8pm

Food Trucks* | Vendors* | Beer Tent*

5pm – 10:30pm

Hometown Throwdown BBQ Challenge

5:00pm – until sold out

(while tasting samples* last – no refunds on unused tasting tickets)

LIVE Music

5-6:30pm | Troubadors

7-10:30pm | Thomas Mac

EFFINGHAMJAM.COM



*additional costs

Schedule

MEMBER *benefits*

The Effingham County Chamber is proud to keep offering programs and services that make a real difference to our members and our community. We're here to do more than just provide networking opportunities — we're here to support local businesses, help people connect, and be a resource you can count on. We are always looking for ways to bring value and help our members succeed. We truly appreciate your involvement and the trust you place in us to be part of your business journey.

2025 Membership Survey Results

We recently wrapped up our Membership Survey, and the Membership Development Committee carefully reviewed the responses.

The top three reasons our members value their Chamber investment are:

- Community Support & Involvement
- Networking
- Increased Exposure & Visibility

We're working on new ways to strengthen these opportunities — from making more personal visits with members, to offering additional chances for members to connect with each other, to creating a small business focus group for sharing ideas and insights and continuing to provide new ways to offer exposure and visibility.

I've personally (and Flat Katie) met with members who requested a visit to review the benefits included with their Chamber investment. These conversations were a great chance to hear what's new in their business or organization, offer resources, and review their online Chamber directory profile to boost their online presence.



Shredding Program

The Chamber has partnered with Affordable Shred to provide safe, secure document shredding for both businesses and residents.

Here's how it works:

- Documents are weighed, and a small fee of \$0.50 per pound is charged.
- Once containers are full, Affordable Shred will come by to complete the shredding.
- Documents can be dropped off during office hours:
 - Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Closed on holidays

We recommend calling (217) 342-4147 to confirm the office is open before dropping off.



MEMBER *benefits and.*

Recycling Program Update

For over 10 years, we have offered a Recycling Program for printer cartridges. Each year, the list of qualifying cartridges changed on a quarterly basis. For more than five years, Debi Probst and her students from Altamont Schools generously volunteered to pick up cartridges, check them against the eligibility list, pack them, and send them off for recycling.

Unfortunately, we've seen more cartridges being thrown away rather than recycled, making the program unsustainable. As a result, the Effingham County Chamber has decided to discontinue accepting printer cartridges.

We sincerely thank all the businesses and residents who supported this program over the years. A special thank you goes to Debi and her students for their incredible commitment and effort.

As always, thank you for being such an important part of the Chamber. We couldn't do what we do without the support, ideas, and involvement of our members. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected business community, and we're excited to keep working alongside you in the future.

If you ever have questions, ideas, or just want to chat about how we can better support you, please don't hesitate to reach out — we're here for you!

“ I really appreciate all your help through these years! I've been able to bring my students out to eat, buy rewards for the classroom, and purchase classroom supplies with the money earned. ”

— Debi Probst,
Altamont Schools



Becky Brown, NFPC

Membership Director | BBrown@EffinghamCountyChamber.com | (217) 347-6283

MARKETING *benefits*

Hey Members,

At the Chamber, we believe supporting local is about more than transactions—it's about connection. That's why we're expanding our *Support Local* initiative this summer to spotlight Chamber members, share their stories, and encourage our community to eat, shop, sip, play, and be local whenever possible.

Whether it's grabbing lunch at a neighborhood café, picking up a gift downtown, or referring a friend to a local service, every action makes a difference.



We're also glad to welcome Anna Thomas, our summer intern, who's helping lead this effort. She's assisting with social media, joining member visits, and highlighting what makes Effingham County a great place to live, work, and play.

If it's been a while since you've stopped by a local business, now's the time. Because when you support local, you're investing in your neighbors, your community, and the future of our county.



Nicole Morrison

Director of Marketing & Communications
NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com
(217) 347-6282



JOIN US FOR THE

GRAND OPENING OF THE LAKE LAND COLLEGE EFFINGHAM TECHNOLOGY CENTER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 ♦ 3-7 P.M.

TOURS ♦ GIVEAWAYS ♦ FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

1201 Althoff Dr, Effingham, IL ♦ Dedication Ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

LAKE LAND
COLLEGE



ECONOMIC *development*

Ford Avenue Extension

Construction is underway on a 600-foot extension of Ford Avenue. The project includes two travel lanes, a center turn lane, sidewalk, bike trail, and street lighting to improve safety and connectivity.

Santa Maria Avenue Extension

The extension project from Maple Street to 4th Street has been awarded to Feutz Contractors and is expected to begin this summer. It will feature two travel lanes, curb and gutter, storm sewer, sidewalk, bike trail, and street lighting. Additionally, a new pond with a walking path will be constructed just north of the Richard E. Workman Sports & Wellness Complex.

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

The City recently completed a \$500,000 DCEO grant-funded sanitary sewer lining project. Construction is now underway on a second, larger phase funded by a \$1.5 million DCEO grant to continue improving sewer infrastructure citywide.

RISE Implementation Grant

The City has been awarded \$373,500 through the DCEO RISE Implementation Grant Program. Funds will be used to acquire 2.65 acres along Heritage Avenue, which will be improved with storm sewer infrastructure and subdivided for up to 17 new single-family homes.

Effingham Performance Center Parking Lot Expansion

Construction is progressing on the EPC parking lot expansion along Outer Belt West. The project will add 100 new parking spaces, enhanced lighting, pedestrian improvements, and an additional entrance for better traffic flow.

Annual Maintenance Projects

Several regular maintenance initiatives have been awarded and are set to begin in the coming weeks, including:

- Street Resurfacing: Circle Drive, Temple Avenue (from Willow to N. Ealy Street), Mini Hills Drive, Lustig Lane, and Steger Drive
- Sidewalk Replacement: Various locations citywide
- Oil & Chip Program: Citywide
- Crack Sealing Program: Citywide
- Concrete Pavement Patching: Citywide

Downtown Mural Project

A new mural sponsored by HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is currently under construction by StangARTs on the east wall of 105 Jefferson Avenue in Downtown Effingham.



ECONOMIC *development and.*

IDOT Fayette Avenue Project

The long-anticipated IDOT improvements to Fayette Avenue are nearing completion, with final work expected to wrap up by July 31, 2025.

Residential Growth & Enterprise Zone Impact

The City's residential Enterprise Zone incentives have contributed to the construction of five new single-family homes and a 17-unit apartment building in Effingham during 2025 alone.

Commercial Developments

- A1 Liquors is currently under construction on a new building in Downtown Effingham.
- Gabby Goat American Pub & Grill is preparing to open the doors to their new facility this summer.
- Sarah Bush Lincoln is slated to begin construction later this summer on the SBL Effingham Specialty Pavilion, a new two-story, 39,946 sq ft medical office building located across from the SBL Effingham Clinic at 905 N. Maple St. The facility is projected to open near the end of 2026.

Info collected from: Jeremy Heuerman, Director of Public Works; Sasha Althoff, Economic Development Specialist, and Jordan Budde, Office of the Building Official

WELL *done*

Brookstone Estates of Effingham was recently voted the People's Choice Award for 2025 in Effingham for Assisted Living Community. They were also rated as a best senior living community for assisted living by the US News and World Report based on survey results from both residents and family members. They were recently recognized as a "Great Place to Work" by Great Place to Work.

The **Dieterich Business Association** recently awarded \$500 scholarships to Sophia Niemerg and Emma Beckman through the Dieterich Community Education Scholarship, a fund established to support graduating Dieterich High School students by helping cover the cost of tuition.



Eastern Illinois University was designated an Opportunity College and University by the Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education.

Eastern Illinois University was named a Voter-Friendly Campus by the Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The initiative recognizes institutions that have planned and implemented practices that encourage their students to register and vote. EIU is one of only 272 campuses in 39 states and the District of Columbia to earn the distinction.

WE'VE *done it*nd.

Effingham Child Development Center (ECDC)

announced that its recent fundraising campaign successfully paid off the center's mortgage—made possible by the outstanding generosity of the Effingham community.



Effingham Sunrise Rotary

donated \$5,000 to HSHS St.

Anthony's Rehabilitation & Wellness Walk to End Parkinson's Disease.



Grunloh Construction was awarded 2024 Project of the Year by the International Concrete Repair Institute – Chicago Chapter.

Midland States Bank's Kelsey Rubin, Commercial Sales Assistant, based in Effingham, has been named a 2024 One Midland Club honoree—the company's highest employee recognition.

Siemer Milling Company

donated boxes of Swan's Down Cake Flour to Catholic Charities Food Pantry and St. John's Lutheran Food Pantry in the Teutopolis and Effingham communities in celebration of World Flour Day,



WHAT'S *changed*

Andes Health Mart & Pharmacy celebrated the opening of their new location at 805 W Fayette Avenue in Effingham.

The Beanstalk Boutique has a new website address: TheBeanstalkBoutique.com.

Donsbach Meinhart Insurance Agency opened their newly constructed office at 410 W Jefferson and is home to insurance agents Mitch Meinhart & Wayne Donsbach, and Financial Representatives Brad Meinhart & Jake Donsbach.

HSHS Medical Group and HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital opened a new podiatry practice, **HSHS Medical Group Foot & Ankle Specialists**, located within HSHS St. Anthony's Health Center.

WHAT'S *changed and.*



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital started a transformative and needed expansion in pediatric health care. Renovations started early March on a new Center for Pediatric Therapy that will be located at 904 Medical Park Drive in Effingham.



Bryan King Orthotist & Prosthetist is now **Journey Orthotics & Prosthetics.**

TEAM ITS, LLC has officially partnered with BlueHaven IT and will now operate as **TEAM ITS, LLC, a BlueHaven IT Company.**

WHO'S *new*

AKRA Builders, Inc. welcomed two new employees to their team:

Caleb Siemer | Project Engineer Summer Intern
David Browning | Superintendent



Cromwell Media welcomed Amy Reynolds as Administrative / Customer Support Manager and DeeAnn Bauguss as Marketing Consultant in February.



Eastern Illinois University appointed Dr. Michael Gillespie as Dean of Student Success.

Angie Newsome has joined the **Effingham Prompt Care/MDVIP-Navi Arora, MD** office as a Medical Receptionist.



Have news to share? We'd love to hear it!

Email your updates to Nicole at:
NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com

or scan the QR code



WHO'S *new chd.*

Full Circle Realty welcomed Michael Dirks, Mandy Henning, and Alicia “Ali” Winskill to their team as licensed brokers.

Michael, known for his knowledge of Lake Sara and background in forestry, will specialize in land sales.

Mandy brings experience in commercial lending and will focus on assisting commercial buyers and sellers.

Ali, a lifelong Effingham resident with a strong eye for detail, will bring that same perspective to helping families find their next home.



The Heart Theatre, Inc. welcomed a slate of new community leaders to help steer the organization into its next chapter. Joining current board members Nicole Wear-Maloney (secretary), Larry Johnson (treasurer), and Amy Van Bergen (president) are eight newly elected members:

Chase Cooley | Laura Polarek Dider | Monique Hortenstine | Marlyn Koester | Carrie Rodman | Sara Ruding | Kenneth Thies | Brett Ward (vice-president)

HSHS Medical Group Foot and Ankle Specialists-

Effingham welcomed Zane Qureshi, DPM, ABPM to its team.



HSHS Medical Group Family & Internal Medicine – Effingham

welcomed Chancie Warren, PMHNP, to its team.



Blake Reynolds was named the new Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer for **Land of Lincoln Credit Union**.

Michael McNish Sr. is the General Manager for **McAlister's Deli**.

Aaron Geisen is the Sales Manager for **Turnkey Computer Systems**.

Washington Savings Bank hired Landon Etheridge as Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer in Effingham.



CHEERS

Bike & Hike celebrated 20 years of business in Effingham in May.

Bob Shields celebrated 50 years on the radio with WCRC/WCRA) in March.

Effingham County FISH is celebrating 55 years in 2025.



SHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital honored members of the medical staff for their years of service to St. Anthony's:

5 years | Dr. Kelly Geldmacher | Dr. Josia Henry | Dr. Masoor Kamalesh | Dr. John Powell | Dr. Huzefa Chinwala | Dr. Eric Foster | Dr. Janna Henry | Dr. Abbie Massengill | Dr. Isaac Tran

10 years | Dr. Dean Collette | Dr. Casey Duncan | Dr. Sheera Lall | Dr. Jennifer Maneja | Dr. Dawn McDaid | Dr. Jessica Prange | Dr. Didi Omiyi

15 years | Dr. Jason McCallaster | Dr. John Sudkamp

20 years | Dr. Jeff Brummer

25 years | Dr. Patrick Stewart | Dr. Thomas Heischmidt | Dr. Hope Knauer | Dr. John Opilka | Dr. Lana Schmidt

30 years | Dr. Kaller Haller

35 years | Dr. Peter Bonutti | Dr. James Graham

40 years | Dr. Ruben Boyajian

Joe Sippers Cafe celebrated their 20th year of business in March. Originally opened in 2005 by Kevin & Christy Hiatt until it was purchased by Emily & Brennan Debenham in 2018.



John Boos & Co. announced recent promotions: Jennie Coon to Director of Food Service Sales & Consultant Services; Tara Spraker to Chain Customer Success Manager, and Tiffany Ebeling to Inside Sales Manager.



Kathy Schroeder celebrated 40 years with Mary Kay in April.

Michael Kingery, President of **Kingery Printing Company**, celebrated 45 years with the family company.



Premier Broadcasting/97.9 XFM celebrated May anniversaries for:
Matt Robinson - 5 Years
Millie Lange - 15 Years
Brian Dust - 5 Years

CHEERS *To End.*

Sports Designs & Graphics celebrated their 20th year of business in Effingham in May.

Three Z Printing Company celebrated 10 years in May under the ownership of Bill Zerrusen and his family.



Tracy Covington, Senior Vice President of Operations, retired from Washington Savings Bank after 40 years in the banking industry

Kasey Kemme was promoted to County Director for the **University of Illinois Extension Office**. Kasey was also one of our 2024 Top Community Leaders – kudos to her!



Washington Savings Bank promoted several team members:

•Elaine Buehnerkemper to Executive Vice President



•Tabby Day to Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer



•Terri Gilbert to Vice President of Operations



•Trina Niemerg to Vice President and Compliance Officer and will also serve as the bank's Corporate Secretary



•Kristin Niemerg to Controller and has been named an officer of the bank.



West & Company, LLC announced that Kayla Duncan has been admitted to their partner group effective April 1, 2025.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER

► 2025 ◀

FALL SOCIAL



SAVE

THE

DATE

SEPT 19TH

**LAKE SARA
COMMUNITY BUILDING**

5-9PM

9282 E PARK AVE.



EFFINGHAMCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM | (217) 342-4147

WELCOME to the chamber



Affordable Shred

Tom Schreyer, Sales
3327 Terminal Ave., Springfield
(217) 741-1577
AffordableShred.com
Shredding Services



Bike & Hike Effingham

Robby Sams, Owner
300 W Jefferson Ave., Effingham
(217) 342-2453
BikeAndHikeEffingham.com
Bike Sales/Service



Anchord Money

Linda Simpson, Owner
Charleston
(217) 232-1042
Anchord.Money
Financial Planning



Blaze and Glaze Pizza Co.

Jenny Bailey, Co-Owner/Operator
406 Stilt Lane, Louisville
(618) 892-1285
BlazeAndGlazePizzaCo.com
Food & Beverage - Restaurants

Referred by: Teresa McCloy, The REALIFE Process



Arrow Valley Landscaping

Tucker Willims, Owner
609 N 7th St., Vandalia
(618) 339-8450
ArrowValleyLandscaping.com
Landscaping & Gardening

Referred by: Shy Haxton, Whitney Roofing



Carrsan Carroll Creative

Carrsan Carroll, Owner
Effingham
(618) 919-1322
[Instagram.com/CarrsanCarroll](https://www.instagram.com/CarrsanCarroll)
Social Media

WELCOME To the chamber and.



Derksen Buildings of Effingham

Matt & Sue Huelskoetter, Owners
1420 E Fayette Ave, Teutopolis
(618) 322-1145

DerksenBuildingsOfEffingham.com
Home Builders



Holiday World & Splashin' Safari

Ashley Blankenbaker, Marketing Director
452 E Christmas Blvd, Santa Claus, IN
(812) 937-4401
HolidayWorld.com
Entertainment/Recreation
Referred by: Tonya Siner, 97.9 XFM &
KJ Country 102.3



Downtown Lounge

Brian Schultz & Kevin Chambers, Owners
102 N. Main, Effingham
(217) 342-5654

Bar/Lounge

Referred by: Jill Schultz, Boots & Soles



Lakeland Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

Sara Flickinger, Payroll/Accounts Payable
800 W Temple, Effingham
(217) 342-2171
LakelandByTutera.com
Nursing Home



Ginger Ale's Effingham

Casey Walk, Owner
302 S Walnut St, Effingham
(217) 342-0254

MyGingerAles.com

Food & Beverage - Restaurants
Referred by: Tonya Siner, 97.9 XFM &
KJ Country 102.3



Loker Photography

Nathan Loker, CEO/Artist
Effingham
(217) 690-1963
LokerPhotography.com
Photography

WELCOME To the chamber and.



Mosaic Counseling

Mallory Weber, MS, LCPC
214 W Jefferson, Effingham
(217) 821-9980

PsychologyToday.com/us/therapists/mallory-c-weber-effingham-il/1381160
Counseling/Mental Health



Thompson Auction Team

Jake & Tina Thompson, Owners
1102 W Jefferson, Effingham
(217) 663-4352
ThompsonAuctionTeam.com
Auctioneers



The Office of Dr. DeAnna Brookhart

Dr. Dee Dee Brookhart, Mental Health Therapist
Effingham
(618) 553-8380

GrowTherapy.com/provider/e7ilzw1ndrat/dr-deanna-dee-brookhart
Counseling/Mental Health



VP Fire & Security Inc.

Mark Verdeyen, President
12900 N 1775th Rd., Teutopolis
(217) 857-3010
VPFireSecurity.com
Fire/Security Systems
Referred by: Pals Electric



The Red Thread Boutique

Alexis Buenerkemper, Owner
111 W Jefferson, Effingham
(217) 994-9525
ShopTheRedThread.com
Boutique



WAND TV

Abby Winans, Account Executive
904 W South Side Dr., Decatur
WANDTV.com
Advertising/Marketing

WELCOME *To the chamber and.*



Wild Foam Adventures

Tim Dunahee, Business Manager
910 N Burtschu St., Vandalia
(618) 964-5131
WildFoamAdventures.com
Entertainment & Recreation



Wright Choice Counseling

Kaitlyn Eade, Counselor
1901 S Fourth St., Ste. 236, Effingham
(610) 699-8874
WrightChoiceCounseling.com
Counseling/Mental Health



EFFINGHAM COUNTY
CHAMBER

SHRED DING

PROGRAM

What can be shredded?

Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, File
Folders, Staples, Binder Clips, Envelopes,
Junk Mail, Rubber Bands, Spiral Notebooks

Drop off location:

Effingham County Chamber
903 N Keller Dr.
M-F | 8a-4p

Secure & professional shredding for just \$0.50/lb!

Need more info? Call Michelle Markham at:
(217) 342-4147

CALENDAR

chamber

JULY

4 | Chamber Office Closed
11 | First Friday Networking @ Village Wine w/ Pizza Man
18 | EffingHAM-JAM (10th Anniversary!)

AUGUST

1 | First Friday Breakfast @ TBD
6 | Coffee & Connections @ Dieterich High School
22 | Fall Golf Outing @ Cardinal Golf Course
28 | Business After Hours @ ProRehab

SEPT

1 | Chamber Office Closed
5 | First Friday Networking Luncheon @ Culver's
19 | Fall Social @ Lake Sara Community Building
25 | Business After Hours @ American Legion #120

OCT

2 | Trades, Skills & Manufacturing Day
3 | Lunch & Learn: Better Business Bureau @ Hampton Inn
4 | HAM CITY Fall Fest @ Downtown Effingham
7 | Business After Hours @ SBL Bonutti Clinic
9 | Fall Radio Day @ Premier Broadcasting/97.9 XFM
13 | Chamber Office Closed
23 | Succession Planning Seminar @ Holiday Inn Effingham
23 | Business After Hours @ EJ Water Cooperative
25 | Downtown Effingham Trick or Treat
27 | Chamber Travel Info Meeting: Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria

NOV

7 | Lunch & Learn: Identity Security @ Hampton Inn
12 | Coffee & Connections @ Siemer Milling Company
20 | Top Leaders Dinner @ Keller Convention Center
21 | Business After Hours @ Elizabeth Yager Designs
27-28 | Chamber Office Closed
29 | Downtown Effingham Hometown Christmas

DEC

5 | First Friday Luncheon Christmas Party @ A1 HWY 33
11 | Business After Hours @ HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
24-26 | Chamber Office Closed
31-2 | Chamber Office Closed



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CHAMBER

FALL GOLF OUTING



friday, july 18

10TH ANNIVERSARY

(217) 342-4147 | EffinghamCountyChamber.com

903 N Keller Dr., P.O. Box 643
Effingham, IL 62401

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

EFFINGHAM, IL
PERMIT NO. 172

Friday
August 22, 2025



12:00 PM
Shotgun Start



Cardinal Golf Course
15737 N Beach Rd., Effingham



Team Registration
\$350/foursome



includes 18 holes, carts, lunch, mulligans & drink tickets

EffinghamCountyChamber.com | (217) 342-4147



sponsorships available!