



SEPTEMBER 2025



# WHO'S NEXT?

**SECURING YOUR COMPANY'S  
FUTURE THROUGH  
SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic  
invites you to our Effingham County Chamber

# **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

featuring our 24<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Effingham Art Guild

## **ART EXHIBITION**

5 to 7 p.m.  
on Tuesday, October 7  
5:45 — Award Ceremony

Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic  
1303 W. Evergreen, Effingham

Refreshments and  
hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The logo consists of three curved, overlapping lines in shades of blue, resembling a stylized 'S' or a wing.

**Sarah Bush  
Lincoln**  
Trusted Compassionate Care



# LETTER

from our president

## Dear Chamber Members,

As of August, I've officially been in this role for one year—and I've loved every second of it. Meeting so many of you, learning about what our businesses need most, and seeing our community come together has been nothing short of inspiring. I truly feel fortunate to serve in this position.

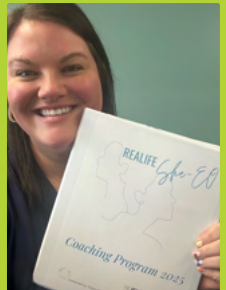
Of course, I couldn't do it without the outstanding Chamber team. Becky was recently recognized on stage at the ACCE convention in Philadelphia with the Silver Sales Award, a testament to her hard work and commitment. Nicole keeps our social media fresh and fun (even if I'm usually the punchline!) and works tirelessly to make sure every Chamber event is engaging and memorable. Michelle is often the first friendly voice or face you encounter and has taken on new responsibilities with great care—keeping our office running smoothly every day. I'm so grateful to each of them.

## Our committees have also been busy working on exciting initiatives:

- **Business Development Committee** – Hosting our upcoming Succession Planning Seminar on Thursday, October 23 at the Holiday Inn. The agenda is filled with strong speakers, plus a panel of business leaders who have recently gone through the process.
- **Workforce Development Committee** – Looking ahead to April 2026, this committee is launching an all-new Interview Day as an alternative to the traditional career fair. Students and job seekers will have the chance to sit down for real interviews with local employers—an invaluable experience that connects talent with opportunity. To ensure participants are ready, we'll also be offering virtual classes beforehand on how to prepare for an interview, build the perfect résumé, and apply for jobs online.
- **Membership Development Committee** – Planning a Canva Training Event for February 2026. This program is designed to give our members practical tools for branding and marketing on a budget, helping businesses strengthen their visibility.
- **Legislative Committee** – Preparing for Chief of Staff Day, a unique opportunity to showcase our Chamber's priorities and business community at the state level. We are reaching out to agencies including IDOT, DCEO, DES, DOL, and more to ensure Effingham County's voice is well represented.

As you can see, our committees are hard at work creating programs and opportunities that directly benefit our members. I encourage you to stay connected, get involved, and take advantage of these resources.

Thank you for your continued membership and support. Together, we are building a stronger business community in Effingham County—and I cannot be more excited for what lies ahead.



**Katie Koester**

President & CEO | [KKoester@EffinghamCountyChamber.com](mailto:KKoester@EffinghamCountyChamber.com) | (217) 342-4147

# 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.



HSBS  
St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital



The City of  
**Effingham**  
Illinois



**DIETERICH  
BANK**  
*Live for Today.  
Bank for Tomorrow.*



States Bank®



**Sarah Bush  
Lincoln**  
Trusted Compassionate Care



FIFTH THIRD BANK



**First Mid**  
BANK & TRUST



**J&J Gaming**



**JOHN BOOS  
& CO.**



**KOERNER  
DISTRIBUTOR, INC.**



**SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.**



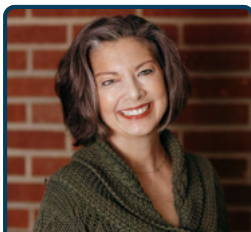
**Washington**  
Savings Bank

## MEET THE TEAM *effingham county chamber*



**BECKY BROWN**

**MEMBERSHIP**



**MICHELLE MARKHAM**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**



**NICOLE MORRISON**

**MARKETING & EVENTS**





WHEAT  PENNY  
SPEAKEASY



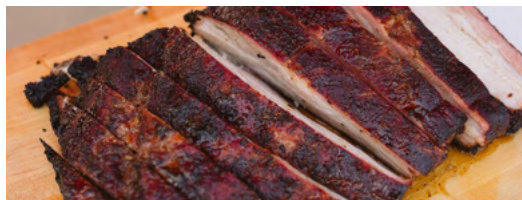


# EVENT RECAP

📷 Carrsan Carroll







# EVENT RECAP







# EVENT RECAP





# EVENT RECAP





# CAPITAL INVESTOR

*spotlight*



On November 15, 1875, three Hospital Sisters of St. Francis arrived in Effingham to provide health care in this community and that commitment continues today at **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**.

For a century and a half, HSHS St. Anthony's has stood as a cornerstone of health care in Effingham, evolving to meet the changing needs of families. Celebrating their 150th anniversary this year, they reflect not only on their rich legacy of compassionate care and medical excellence, but also on their unwavering commitment to innovation and growth and the community's health. Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Powers said, "St. Anthony's has a long history of providing quality, compassionate care and we continue to build on that, ensuring people know that they can get high-quality health care close to home where they want it."

## **New Center for Pediatric Therapy Now Open – Open House Scheduled for Nov. 13**

One of St. Anthony's most recent service expansions is their new Center for Pediatric Therapy, located at 904 Medical Park Drive, Effingham. Recently opened, the center is an investment in area children, offering innovative therapy treatment services catering to their unique needs, providing a child-friendly environment to promote development, improve mobility and encourage independence. It is the first and only comprehensive center of its kind in the region.



St. Anthony's provides comprehensive pediatric therapy services for children with autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, developmental delays and other conditions. The new center allows the pediatric therapy team to expand offerings to include specialized treatments like pelvic floor therapy, intensive exercise programs, tongue tie therapy, sensory interventions, communication support and advanced feeding therapy.

This is a new location for pediatric therapies while adult therapies remain conveniently offered in the Richard E. Workman Sports and Wellness Complex, as well as at St. Anthony's Health Center in Altamont.

A public open house of the center is being scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13.

Scan to follow HSHS St. Anthony's on Facebook for details on upcoming events.



Scan for more information about HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.







# 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

# CAPITAL INVESTOR

*spotlight*



**J&J Gaming** has been a trusted partner since 1929, built on a foundation of service and lasting partnerships. J&J leads the gaming industry forward by focusing on being the most trusted and innovative operator. This year, the J&J team reached new milestones—introducing cutting-edge technology and earning recognition as a top industry leader.

The J&J Gaming app marks its first-year anniversary with great success in patron loyalty retention and expansion for the upgraded Player PAYBACK® experience across all 2,500+ locations in Illinois. Through extensive research and development to ongoing innovation for our partner locations, J&J is proud to celebrate one year of delivering new value and experience!

Inc. Magazine recognizes J&J's efforts in growing the industry and our footprint into new states and industry opportunities, ranking J&J #3,839 on the Inc 5000 Series for fastest-growing private companies in the Nation and #130 in the Midwest! J&J is proud to be expanding its reach and honored to still be recognized for our Midwest success story in Illinois.

Further recognition is also on the horizon for J&J Gaming as we have been shortlisted for Land-Based Operator of the Year by the Global Gaming Awards Americas for 2025!

These milestones further solidify the J&J team's commitment to growth, success, and moving the industry forward in excellence and in true partnership. Since 1929, J&J has made our partners the priority while continuously investing in their success.

For more details and to stay up to date with us, visit: [JJGaming.com/](https://JJGaming.com/) or our social media pages!



## Milestones in Action!

Recognizing continued innovation and growth in the video gaming industry.

(855) 921-1030 |      | [jjgaming.com](https://jjgaming.com)

# CAPITAL INVESTOR

*spotlight*

## Midland



States Bank®

### Midland States Bank Earns State-Level Recognition for Community Involvement

Midland States Bank was recognized by the Illinois Bankers Association as a recipient of the Illinois Community Service Award.

This industry award honors three Illinois financial institutions that demonstrate a high level of service in their communities. This award recognizes the bank's entire community service portfolio of projects, not just a single project.

"We're honored to be recognized for our continued efforts to empower individuals and strengthen communities, yet we know this kind of impact doesn't happen without the dedication of our people. This award is only possible because of our employees who actively show up in our communities on behalf of Midland, building trust, relationships, and brighter futures every day," commented Jeff Mefford, Midland States Bank President.

Midland's Community Impact Investment Statement (CIIS) serves as the foundation of its financial inclusion efforts. Through initiatives such as Financial Empowerment Booths, Community Partnership Days, and partnership-driven collaboration with local nonprofit organizations, Midland has provided ways to empower individuals to build stronger financial futures.

The award was presented at the Illinois Bankers Association Conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

To learn more about Midland's community involvement efforts and services, visit [MidlandSB.com/About-Us/Community](https://MidlandSB.com/About-Us/Community).

## BRIGHTER TOGETHER

Midland







EFFINGHAM COUNTY  
**CHAMBER**

# TOP LEADERS

presented by



HSHS  
St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital



LAKE LAND  
COLLEGE

## BECOME A SPONSOR

## AWARDS DINNER

**November 20, 2025**

Keller Convention Center



### ALL SPONSORS RECEIVE

name/logo on marketing materials  
recognition on/in social, electronic & print  
dinner & drink tickets

### **SOLD** PRESENTING (2) - \$1,500

opening/closing remarks | award presenter | reserved  
table of 8 w/ drink tickets | \$150 advertising credit

### **GOLD - \$1,000**

6 dinner tickets w/ drink tickets | \$100 credit

### **SILVER - \$750**

4 dinner tickets w/ drink tickets | \$75 credit

### **BRONZE - \$500**

2 dinner tickets w/ drink tickets | \$50 credit

### **FRIEND - \$250**

2 dinner tickets w/ drink tickets

**SCAN  
TO  
REGISTER**



Call Nicole @ (217) 347-6282

NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com



**Holiday World!**

# Happy Halloween Weekends

**NEW!**



**DINO CORN MAZE ADVENTURE**

**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS**  
**SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 26**

Dinos Soar in the Sky on Saturday Nights!

*Scan to Save!*



# Make your milestones brighter.

**Midland** 

**BRIGHTER TOGETHER**

Midland States Bank is Member FDIC.

**midlandsb.com**



# WHO'S NEXT?

## SECURING YOUR COMPANY'S FUTURE THROUGH SUCCESSION PLANNING

Picture this: your phone rings tomorrow with news that forces you to step away from your business indefinitely. Who would make payroll? Who would reassure your employees? Would customers stay loyal, or look elsewhere? Without a succession plan, uncertainty can unravel decades of hard work overnight.

Every business—no matter its size, industry, or ownership structure—faces a defining moment when leadership must change hands. That transition may come sooner than expected or be years in the making, but one truth remains the same: without a clear succession plan, the future of the business is left to chance.

Succession planning is not simply a legal formality or a financial checklist. It is an intentional process of preparing your company for continuity, growth, and stability well beyond the current leadership. For Chamber members, this topic is particularly relevant. Our businesses are woven into the fabric of Effingham County, providing jobs, supporting families, and shaping the local economy. To ensure that legacy continues, succession planning must be taken seriously.

On October 23, the Effingham County Chamber will host a half-day seminar dedicated entirely to succession planning at the Holiday Inn Effingham. Beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and concluding at noon, the event brings together some of the area's most respected professionals to guide attendees through the many dimensions of this process.

### **Planning Ahead Pays Off**

Too often, succession planning is delayed until it's too late. A sudden illness, retirement, or unexpected opportunity can leave a business scrambling. Studies show that businesses without clear succession plans face a far higher risk of closure, lost revenue, or internal conflict. For family-owned companies, the lack of a plan can strain relationships and jeopardize generational wealth.

Succession planning isn't only about protecting assets—it's about protecting people. Employees who feel secure in the future of their workplace are more loyal, productive, and engaged. Customers, too, are reassured when they know the business they've come to rely on won't disappear overnight.

It is easy for business owners to get caught up in the day-to-day demands of operations. Customer service, staffing, product development, and financial management often leave little room for long-term strategic thinking. Yet, as many seasoned owners will attest, succession planning is one of the most important investments you can make—not only for yourself, but also for employees, customers, and your community.

### **Learning From Trusted Experts**

This seminar isn't about abstract theory—it's practical, actionable advice from professionals who work with local businesses every day. They understand the unique challenges of running a company in our region and will tailor their insights to what matters most here at home.

Kayla Duncan, Partner with West & Company, L.L.C., will open the morning with a financial perspective, addressing tax implications, valuation, and how to set your business up for a seamless financial transition.



Teresa McCloy, Owner of The REALIFE Process, will then speak on current succession trends and the challenges businesses often face when aligning leadership with organizational goals.

The discussion will continue with Joe Fearday, Partner at SC3F Wealth Management, who will explore how succession fits into retirement planning, investment strategies, and wealth transfer. Following him, attorney Chad Chojnicki, Partner at McDevitt, Osteen, Chojnicki & Deters, will walk through the legal side of protecting your legacy, including estate planning, buy-sell agreements, and risk mitigation.

Together, these speakers will equip attendees with a toolkit of strategies designed to reduce uncertainty, minimize conflict, and strengthen long-term stability.

**Learning From Those Who've Been There**

One of the most valuable parts of the seminar will be hearing directly from Chamber members who have navigated succession planning themselves. A panel discussion moderated by Chamber President & CEO Katie Koester will feature Dan and Madonna Patton, Retired Owners of Patton Printing & Graphics, Chris Swing, President & CEO of Vantage Outsourcing, and Caleb Mette, President of Effingham Builders Supply.

These leaders will share candid stories about what prompted their planning, the obstacles they faced, and what they wish they had known earlier in the process. Their insights will remind attendees that while no two succession stories look alike, the common thread is that preparation always pays off.

For many businesses, the hardest part is simply starting the conversation. Family dynamics, employee expectations, and financial uncertainty can make the subject uncomfortable. But avoiding it can jeopardize years of hard work. The panelists' willingness to share their experiences will serve as a reminder that you are not alone in this process—other Chamber members have walked this path and are eager to share lessons learned.

**Building the Next Generation of Leaders**

Beyond financials and legalities, succession planning is also about people. Who will carry your vision forward? How do you prepare emerging leaders to take the helm with confidence?

To close the seminar, Dan Woods, President of Woods Advisors LLC, will speak on training the next generation of leaders. His session will highlight the importance of identifying talent early, investing in their growth, and creating pathways for them to step into leadership roles. After all, a business cannot succeed in transition if there isn't a capable team ready to take over.

**Why the Chamber Is Your Resource**

Events like this underscore the Chamber's role as a connector. Not only do we bring experts to the table, but we also encourage members to lean on each other for support. Whether you're seeking legal advice, financial guidance, or simply want to hear how a peer navigated succession, your Chamber network is a powerful resource.

By attending, you'll gain more than just information—you'll build relationships with professionals who can walk alongside you as you prepare for the future. From accountants to consultants, financial advisors to attorneys, the Chamber community is full of trusted partners who want to see your business survive long after leadership changes hands.

Every business in Effingham County has a legacy worth protecting. Succession planning isn't just about numbers or contracts—it's about ensuring that your life's work continues to provide value long after you've stepped away. The cost of waiting is too high. The best time to plan was yesterday—the next best time is October 23.

Register

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 23 | 7:30a – 12p (includes breakfast)

**Location:** Holiday Inn Effingham

**Cost:** \$50 Chamber Members | \$75 Non-Members

**Sponsorships available:** \$250–\$750



# MEMBER *benefits*

## Spotlight on Chamber Committees: Membership Matters

Chamber committees are where members help shape what the Chamber does, and the Membership Committee plays a really important role. They do more than welcome new members—they help keep the Chamber growing, strong, and connected.

### What the Membership Committee Does

- **Grow Membership:** Reach out to potential members and share why the Chamber is valuable.
- **Welcome New Members:** Help new members get settled, understand their benefits, and get involved right away.
- **Keep Members Engaged:** Check in with current members and find ways to keep everyone connected.
- **Offer Feedback:** Share ideas on what's working, what could be better, and ways to improve Chamber programs.
- **Plan for the Future:** Work with staff to brainstorm new programs, events, and opportunities that benefit all members.

### Why It Matters

The Membership Committee helps make sure the Chamber stays strong. More members mean more networking, more resources, and more opportunities for everyone. Without engaged members, none of our events, programs, or initiatives would be possible.

### Why You Should Join

Being part of this committee is a great way to:

- Share your ideas and be a voice for other members
- Help shape how the Chamber grows
- Build relationships with other business leaders
- Learn more about all the benefits the Chamber offers

If you want to make a difference—for your business and the entire Chamber community—the Membership Committee is a great place to get started.

### Becky Brown, NFPC

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



“Serving on the Effingham County Chamber membership committee has allowed me to see first hand how much the Chamber is a vital part of our community and how hard the Chamber works to provide value to members through programs, resources and support to business leaders and their employees. I would encourage local business staff to get involved and serve on a committee as a great resource for making connections and having your voice heard.”

**Debbie Womack** VP Loan Officer | Retail Relationship Manager First National Bank of Waterloo



# MARKETING *benefits*

## Is it time for a Social Media Checkup?

Running a business means your marketing sometimes ends up on autopilot. But every so often, it's worth hitting pause and asking: "What's actually working here?"

Which posts got people liking, sharing, or commenting—and which ones fell flat? A quick look at your insights can show you what your audience is connecting with, and help you plan future posts that land.

This summer, Anna, our college intern, gave us a fresh perspective on our social media (because let's be honest—we're starting to feel more "seasoned" than she is). She reminded us that sometimes the simplest tweaks—short videos, reels, or just snapping more in-the-moment photos—keep content engaging.

We'd be lost without our "Queen of Social Media," Carrsan Carroll, who helps capture our bigger events from a non-staff perspective. While I'm running around making sure signage is straight, vendors are set up, and the mic actually works, Carrsan is the one grabbing those behind-the-scenes shots and candid moments that tell the real story. Having that outside lens gives our feed more depth and lets me focus on event execution.

And then there's our fearless President & CEO, Katie, who has zero shame in her game and always goes along with my wild ideas—I love her for that. (She also puts up with me sending her reel ideas at all hours of the night... the true definition of patience.)

Becky, our Membership Director, may not live in the world of social media, but she understands the impact it has for our Chamber and our members. She's always willing to jump in "for the gram" when I need her, and that kind of team spirit makes all the difference.

### Here are three quick ways you can give your own business pages a refresh this season:

1. Audit your posts. Look back—what got the most traction? That's your roadmap.
2. Plan ahead. With events, holidays, and year-end coming, map out a few key posts now.
3. Experiment. Try something new—polls, behind-the-scenes peeks, or even letting a younger staff member "take over" your stories for a day.

Social media doesn't have to be perfect—it just has to be consistent and authentic. A little reflection now could set you up for smoother, stronger marketing as we close out the year.



**Nicole Morrison** Director of Marketing & Communications | [NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com](mailto:NMorrison@EffinghamCountyChamber.com) | (217) 347-6282





SAVE THE DATES

Come see our **NEW**  
**Center for Pediatric Therapy**

Thursday, Nov. 13 | **Open House**

Thursday, Dec. 11 | **Chamber Business After Hours**

**904 Medical Park Drive** | Effingham

Watch HSHS St. Anthony's Facebook page at  
**Facebook.com/StAnthonysMemorialHospital**  
for details closer to the event.



HSHS  
**St. Anthony's**  
Memorial Hospital

Center for Pediatric Therapy

*Follow Us On*  
**SOCIAL MEDIA**



**@effcochamber**





# ECONOMIC *development*



## City of Effingham:

Good news for growth in Effingham! The newest **Enterprise Zone Annexation** has been approved, adding one square mile of residential, commercial, and industrial property now eligible for Enterprise Zone incentives. Curious if this includes your area? Scan the QR code to check out the detailed map and learn more.

## New Business Construction & Openings



- **A1 Liquors / Upper Deck Bar & Grill** – Construction is underway at 201 S. Fourth St., - expected completion date of February 2026.
- **Angeled Kids Foster Closet & Resale** – Now open at 1704 S. Banker St.
- **China Buffet** – Relocating to 2402 N. Third St.
- **Diamond Blade Barber** – Open at 1108 S. Banker St.
- **New Indian Restaurant** – Coming soon at 1601 W. Evergreen Ave.
- **Northside Ford-Lincoln Car Wash** – Planned for 1703 Ford Ave.; start date has not been set.
- **Sarah Bush Lincoln** – Broke ground on a new medical office building at 902 N. Maple St., which will house several entities once construction is complete.

## Public Works Department:

- The City recently completed a **\$1.5 million DCEO grant project** for sanitary sewer lining across Effingham. This cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) work restores sanitary sewers & helps protect against stormwater infiltration.
- The **2025 Street Resurfacing Program** is finished. Improvements included Circle Dr., Temple (Willow to N. Ealy Street), Mini Hills Dr., Lustig Lane, & Steger Dr.
- Construction is underway on the **Effingham Performance Center** parking lot addition. This project will add 100 parking spaces, new lighting, pedestrian enhancements, & an additional entrance along Outer Belt West.
- **Evergreen Avenue improvements** have been awarded to McCarthy Improvement. Work will stretch from Willenborg St. to just east of Oceola & include a reconstructed asphalt street with curbs, gutters, storm sewers, a sidewalk on the north side, & a bike trail on the south. Construction begins in the fall of 2025.
- The **Ford Avenue extension** is in progress. This 600-foot roadway extension will feature two lanes, a center turn lane, sidewalk, bike trail, & streetlights.
- The **IDOT Fayette project** is nearing completion, with this phase expected to wrap up within the next few weeks.

# ECONOMIC development fund.

- **The Santa Maria Avenue extension project** has been awarded to Feutz Contractors and is now underway. Extending from Maple Street to 4th Street, the project includes two lanes, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, sidewalk, bike trail, & streetlights. It also features a pond with a walking path & additional parking north of the Workman Sports Complex.

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

## Effingham County:

**Effingham County Building Updates** – The Effingham County Sheriff's Office has secured grant funding for renovations to expand the Sheriff's Office on the first floor allowing for additional workstations, evidence processing, evidence storage, deputy mailboxes, and additional office furniture. Grant funding was also secured for 911 control room updates. The County Building, as a whole, has also been getting an updated look with new flooring, paint, and stair treads.

**Effingham County Coroner Morgue** – On July 10, 2025, Effingham County purchased property at 207 W. St. Anthony Avenue in Effingham for the purpose of a morgue.



**Effingham County Courtyard Pavilion** – The recently named Effingham County Courtyard Pavilion has been completed with a ribbon cutting ceremony that was hosted on June 20th, 2025. Continued updating to the Courtyard has been added landscaping rock around the Historic Courthouse and benches to be added to the pavilion in September.

**Effingham County Regional Airport** – Construction is underway at the airport for the runway extension and new hangar project. The east-west runway is currently closed for 60 days. Project is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving.

*Info collected from: Angie Thompson, MS-HRM, County Board Administrator*



# ECONOMIC development and.

## Village of Dieterich:

**EJ Water Cooperative** is nearing completion of their brand new 15,000 sq ft Operations and Maintenance Facility in the Dieterich Industrial Park East located at 401 Corporate Street. Their grand opening is scheduled for fall 2025.



**RoadRunner Refuel** is a new gas station and convenience store under construction in Dieterich. They are located at 405 E. Center Street, and their grand opening is slated for fall 2025. Follow their construction progress on their Facebook page called RoadRunner Refuel.



*Info collected from: Brittny Gipson, Dieterich Village Clerk & Economic Development Coordinator*

## Village of Teutopolis:

**Community Support Systems** broke ground in May adding onto its Harvester Street location.

**Jerene & Jo's Boutique** opened at 107 E Main St. by sisters Lacey Niemeyer & Melissa Belford.

This one-of-a-kind shop brings together rustic charm, modern glam, & a touch of attitude.



**The Oak Street Project** was recently completed. This project widened the road to allow easier access for parent pickup & drop off at the Teutopolis Grade School.

**Teutopolis Unit #50** is finishing up remodeling projects at the Teutopolis High School, Unit #50 Offices, & Teutopolis Junior High School.

*Info collected from: Amy Vahling, Teutopolis Village Clerk*





# IT'S TIME TO BOOK THAT **VACATION**



**Chamber Travel**  
**(217) 342-4147**

**Switzerland, Austria, Bavaria**  
**featuring Oktoberfest**  
*info meeting Monday, Oct 27*

# WELL *done*

Congratulations to Andy Wiles (Jansen's Heating & Air), Amanda Rieman (Siemer Milling Co.), Nick Pals and Wyatt Abbott (Tick Tock Energy) on completing the rigorous, 22-month **Emerging Leader Institute** program under the guidance of Dan Woods.



**First Mid Bank & Trust** has been named a Top Workplaces award recipient in the Financial Services Industry for the third year in a row by Energage, a purpose-drive organization that develops solutions to build and brand Top Workplaces.

**Midland States Bank** was recognized by the Illinois Bankers Association as a recipient of the Illinois Community Service Award. This industry award honors three Illinois financial institutions that demonstrate a high level of service in their communities. This award recognizes the bank's entire community service portfolio of projects, not just a single project.



**The Royal School of Cosmetology** donated 80 haircuts to local kids during their Free Back to School Haircuts event in August.



**Sonne Energy Solutions, LLC** was named a 2025 Top Solar Contractor by Solar Power World.

# WHAT'S *changed*

**J & J Gaming** has a new website: [www.jjgaming.com](http://www.jjgaming.com).

Congratulations to Aroyn Borries & Brett Miller, Partners of **Built Right Door & Trim Co.** (formerly known as Lindsay's Prefinishing). Their new website is [www.builtrightdoor.com](http://www.builtrightdoor.com).

# WHAT'S *changed and.*

Chad Hawkins, owner of **Risen Jiu-Jitsu** (formerly known as EpLegends), has a new website: [RisenAJJEffingham.com](http://RisenAJJEffingham.com). Their previous website: [EPLegends.com](http://EPLegends.com) is still live.

## WHO'S *new*



**CORRECTION** from June 2025 issue Andy VanNatta is the new Orthotist Prosthetist with **Journey Orthotics & Prosthetics**.

Christian Deters has joined the Commercial Lending team at **First Mid Bank & Trust**.



Jordan Amlong is the new Accountant Manager for **GFI Digital**.



Dr. Bashar Alzahabi has joined the the **HSHS Medical Group Family and Internal Medicine – Effingham** team. He is a board-certified nephrologist with more than 25 years of experience treating patients with kidney disease in Effingham and is also board-certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Kevin Hsu joined the **HSHS Medical Group Foot and Ankle Specialists – Effingham** team. He is a board-qualified podiatrist who specializes in the medical and surgical treatment of the foot and ankle. His clinical interests include general podiatry, wound care, diabetic limb salvage, sports medicine and trauma.



HSHS Medical Group welcomed Emily Konrad, APRN, to **HSHS Medical Group Urology** in Effingham.

Jordon Hunsaker is the new Human Resource Generalist for **The Krusteaz Company**.

Desiree Behl is the new Branch Manager for **Land of Lincoln Credit Union-Effingham South** branch.



Jacob Schuette is a new Mortgage Loan Originator for **Midland States Bank** at the Effingham branch.



# WHO'S *new chd.*

Kylie Rhodes is the new Branch Manager for the **StaffQuick Effingham** office.



Kacie Tull is one of the newest Health Insurance/Benefits Specialists at **Weis Insurance Agency, LLC.**



Devin Wright is the third member of the fifth generation to officially join the **Wright's Furniture & Flooring** team.

# CHEERS *To*



**Cromwell Media** celebrated two anniversaries in August: 18 years for Bev Drake and 27 years for Sheila Myers.



Marty Fearday has been appointed as the new President of **Grunloh Construction**, as Tom Grunloh transitions to CEO, and Troy Ozenkoski to Senior Vice President.

**Siemer Milling Company** announced leadership milestones and promotions: Amanda Rieman was promoted to Vice President of Human Resources; Henry Siemer was named President effective August 22; and Rick Siemer marked 50 years with the company, elected Executive Chairman after 39 years as President.



Allie Apke was promoted to Strategic Account Operations Manager at **Stevens Industries, Inc.**



Liz Evans celebrated 10 years at **Weis Insurance Agency, LLC**

# WELCOME *To the chamber*



## **ADM Animal Nutrition**

Kyle Dieter, Plant Manager  
1200 McGrath Ave., Effingham  
(21) 342-3986

[ADMAAnimalNutrition.com](http://ADMAAnimalNutrition.com)  
Farm Supplies



## **Conspectus Gaming**

Chet Bogdajewicz, Owner  
302 W Jefferson Ave., Effingham  
(570) 244-CLUB

[CoGClub.games](http://CoGClub.games)  
Retail



## **Barn & Bottle Winery**

Andy & Melissa Voelker, Owners  
10810 N 1<sup>st</sup> St., Altamont  
(618) 322-7327

[BarnAndBottleWinery.com](http://BarnAndBottleWinery.com)  
Winery



## **Effingham Tractor and Vehicle Museum**

Austin Walk, Owner  
17732 N US 45, Effingham  
(217) 994-0504

[EffinghamTractorAndVehicleMuseum.com](http://EffinghamTractorAndVehicleMuseum.com)  
Entertainment & Recreation



## **Althoff Seeding & Lawn Care LLC**

Mitch Althoff, Owner  
Effingham, IL  
(217) 821-1754  
Landscaping & Gardening

# WELCOME To the chamber and.



## **El Rancherito**

Bryan Angel, Manager  
1311 N Keller Dr, Effingham  
(217) 342-4753  
[ElRancheritoInc.com](http://ElRancheritoInc.com)  
Restaurants



## **LHC Illinois Home Care Effingham**

Christina Frailey, RN Clinical Director  
1102 W Jefferson Ave, Ste. 2, Effingham  
(217) 240-7227  
[LHCGroup.com](http://LHCGroup.com)  
Home Health Care



## **Spero Family Services**

Tunezia Badger, Development Coordinator  
1901 S. 4th St, Ste. 206, Effingham  
(618) 242-1070  
[SperoFS.org](http://SperoFS.org)  
Non-Profit Organization



## **MidState Building Supply**

Ben Goebel, President  
209 N Henrietta St, Effingham  
(618) 869-2222  
[MidStateBuilding.com](http://MidStateBuilding.com)  
Building Supplies



## **Watts Copy System Inc.**

Kaleb Guymon, Senior Product Consultant  
820 Broadway, Mattoon  
(217) 310-2059  
[WattsCopy.com](http://WattsCopy.com)  
Printing Equipment



# MEMBER *quotes*



What really sets the Effingham County Chamber apart is the way they go beyond just hosting events —they build connections, share stories, and make sure member businesses are seen and supported. It's that extra layer of involvement and creativity that makes this Chamber something special."

## Clint Holkenbrink

MARKETING MANAGER  
WABASH COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP



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*

## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

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

## DECEMBER

5 | First Friday Networking Luncheon Christmas Party @ Gabby Goat

11 | Business After Hours @ HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

24-26 | Chamber Office Closed

31-2 | Chamber Office Closed

# SAVE

*The date*

**The Chamber's 2026 Annual Gala – Saturday Night Fever will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2026.**

**This year's celebration brings a fresh spin to the evening with a lively, cocktail-style atmosphere—perfect for mingling, networking, and dancing the night away.**

**Full details and registration coming soon!**

Dates & locations are subject to change.



SECURING YOUR COMPANY'S  
FUTURE THROUGH  
SUCCESSION PLANNING  
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(217) 342-4147 | EffinghamCountyChamber.com

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

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DOWN TOWN EFFINGHAM

# HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

3P - 5P

SANTA'S WORKSHOP  
REINDEER & SLEIGH  
TRACTOR TRAIN RIDES  
HOLIDAY CHARACTERS  
FACE CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
MACKLIN KETTLE CORN

JOE SIPPERS HOT CHOCOLATE & TREATS

5P

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

DOWN JEFFERSON AVE.

[effinghamCountyChamber.com](http://effinghamCountyChamber.com)

