



Greater Elkhart

CHAMBER

LEADING BUSINESS

December 2024/January 2025

*Crossing
into
the
New Year*

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The mission of the Chamber is to be the leading resource for making connections that foster collaboration which serves and promotes efforts to strengthen the Greater Elkhart business community.

"Leading Business" is the bi-monthly magazine published by:



418 S. Main St. | Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 293-1531 | Elkhart.org
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Please submit news releases, inquiries, and requests for information on advertising to marketing@elkhart.org or call (574) 293-1531 ext 138.

Crossing into the New Year



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Levon Johnson
President/CEO
ljohnson@elkhart.org

Some time ago, in a place I can't remember now (*don't worry, I'm not going on a Star Wars trip*), I came to a bridge not much different than the one on the magazine cover.

There was a sign on this particular bridge that said "Before crossing, leave anything that is unnecessarily weighing you down behind." Reading as a youth, I immediately thought about physical things like backpacks and bags.

Now that I am a little wiser and more experienced, I understand that the sign has a much deeper meaning and probably the meaning that was intended by the person that put it there.

As we begin crossing into a new year, we should all be committed to not carrying any unnecessary weight into 2025.

During this time of reflection and resolution, it is important to recognize the parts of our work that presented both challenges and opportunities in 2024 that are necessary to carry with us moving forward. Only you can decide what those things should be.

I think there are some things that we can all agree should always be carried across the bridge of time as we continue to pursue building and strengthening the Greater Elkhart business environment and community at large.

Let's carry kindness into the new year.

Our interactions with people both at work and in our communities can, and should be, led with kindness. Like so many places around the country, we aim to be a welcoming community.

Let's go a little further and commit to giving everyone in Greater Elkhart a sense of belonging. A simple start to that commitment is to be kind to those around us.

Let's make sure we find enough space to pack extra kindness on our trek across the new year bridge.

The art of collaboration has never been lost on our area, and it *is* an art.

Collaboration begins with building lasting relationships based on listening and then finding commonality. This allows people to collectively address a need or a problem that exists and work to solve it together. It is bringing the best of individual or business talents or skills together to achieve something greater.

Let's make sure we strap collaboration on tight as the new year approaches.

Throughout the history of our county, we have never been short on resiliency so let's make sure we continue to carry that into the future.

Just like when I walked over that bridge I mentioned, I didn't know what exactly was on the other side and 2025 may be similar.

For any number of factors that impact our economy and our society, we may not know what is on the other side, but as long as we are resilient and adaptable, collectively we can take on whatever the new year has in store.

Lastly, I would encourage us to take innovation on our trip across the new year bridge.

We all know that the way work is done is changing, and we should aim to be out front of those changes.

Economists believe Elkhart County is poised to be one of the regions in the country that is best positioned to be in front for the expected new manufacturing revolution.

To meet this expectation, we will need to innovate at an appropriate pace.

We are a community of smart, creative, and innovative people and their ideas should be supported in the new year.

I am confident that all of you reading this can think of other items that should come across the 2024/25 bridge. I am excited to live and work in a community that is forward thinking.

It is in this space that your Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce works everyday to help business and community thrive.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your trek across the bridge.





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MAJORITY BUILDERS, INC

It's all in the details



MajorityBuilders.com

Member Celebrations



Celebrating new member **Cubilete's Mexican Bar & Grill**, 4100 E Bristol St, Ste 1, Elkhart! Their menu is inspired by the cuisine of the State of Guanajuato and surrounding regions. cubiletesmexicanbarandgrillin.com



Cultivate Food Rescue, dedicated to eliminating hunger and food waste, opened their new volunteer meal packaging facility in Elkhart. Located at 5220 Middlebury St., they will host 200 volunteers weekly. CultivateFoodRescue.com/Elkhart



Elkhart Community Schools launches a new coffee truck for Hart City Coffee Company, a non-profit organization run by ECS Young Adult Program students. The program serves individuals ages 18-22 who have disabilities and is an extension of traditional Special Education programming. www.elkhart.k12.in.us



Eminence Beauty Bar, located at 116 S Main St in downtown Elkhart, celebrates their Grand Opening! Eminence Beauty Bar is a full-service experience backed by cutting edge techniques and training. (574) 389-7230



NPS Wellness celebrates their Grand Opening at 5230 Beck Dr, Ste 3, Elkhart! NPS Wellness specializes in weight loss and hormone treatment, medical care and aesthetic services. www.npswellness.com



Congratulations to the **Voyant Beauty Plant** - Elkhart Home Care on Superior Street for their new line expansion as part of their ongoing partnership with their strategic customer. This will include new job opportunities within Elkhart County.

Third House Meetings Begin January 31

Discuss issues affecting you, business, and industry with State Legislators at the Third House Meeting on Friday, January 31 from 12 – 1:30 pm.

Hear updates from legislators about the agenda of the current legislative session and where those items are in the process. Following updates, the floor is open for your questions. Engaging with our elected officials ensures that the voices of Elkhart County are being echoed in the Statehouse during legislative sessions. Third House Meetings give legislators and residents of the community a chance to communicate in an open forum.

Advocacy on behalf of members is at the core of the work the Chamber does daily. Being able to host our state lawmakers so they can meet face-to-face with constituents is a privilege.

Indiana legislators invited to the Third House Meetings include Rep. David Abbott, Rep. Joanna King, Rep. Doug Miller, Rep. Timothy Wesco, Sen. Blake Doriot, and Sen. Linda Rogers.

Additional Third House meetings will be held Friday, February 28 and Friday, March 28 from 12 – 1:30 pm.

Third House Meetings are sponsored by We Impact.

These meetings are free to attend, in-person or virtual, by registering at www.elkhart.org.



NIBCO celebrates the opening of The Rex Martin NIBCO Interactive Museum. The museum's mission is to promote their history through educating customers, associates, students, and the general public. Visit www.nibco.com/about-us/museum to request a tour.

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Dr. Shannon Avena, OD, has joined **Boling Vision Center**.

The Council on Aging of Elkhart County has appointed **Tina Fraley** as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Essence Restaurant + Bar has earned the AAA Four Diamond designation.

Eyedart Creative Studio has been purchased by former Creative Director **James Korn** and former Director of Marketing **Neil King**.

The League of American Bicyclists has named **Goshen College** a Bike Friendly University with a bronze certification.

Todd Yoder has been named Vice President of Development at **Greencroft Communities**. **Jeremy Kauffman** is the new Vice President of Strategy and Development.

Amy Sink, CEO at **Interra**, has been named Chair of the Indiana Credit Union League board.

Scot Spoljaric has joined the **Indiana Toll Road** as Director of Infrastructure

Krugger Lawton has moved to their new offices located at 101 S. Main St, Elkhart.

Lake City Bank has promoted **Leah M. Osborn** to Retail Banking Officer at the bank's Middlebury branch.

Surf Internet has appointed **Chad Burgh** as Vice President of Network Engineering and **Patrick Wheeland** as Chief Information Officer.

Thor Industries has moved to their new corporate headquarters at 52700 Independence Dr, Elkhart.

Naomi Leary is the new Executive Director for **The Window of Goshen**.

Submit your company's news and information to marketing@elkhart.org

**Transportation Breakfast**

South Shore Line Improvements

Friday, December 6 8 am
Matterhorn Conference Center 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Event Sponsors



NEW MEMBERS

Cubiletes Mexican Bar & Grill LLC

cubiletesmexicanbarandgrillin.com
4100 E Bristol St, Ste 1
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 333-3077
Doris Escobar
Restaurant

Epic Dance Studio

epicdancestudios.com
3700 E Mishwaka Rd
Elkhart, IN 46517
(574) 830-5243
Stephanie Pairitz
Dance Instruction
Referred by Stephanie Krol Public Relations

Garrison Frazier Development Corporation

garrisonfrazier.com
127 E Michigan St, Ste 110
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 691-1725
Stephen L. Scott
Real Estate Developers

GigWorx

gigworx.com/sbe
1415 Lincolnway W, Ste G
Osceola, IN 46561
(574) 444-9679
Matt Welsch
Staffing Services
Referred by Lori Swihart, ABC 57 and
Chris Boynton, FROGGY 102.7

Harmony at Elkhart

harmonyseniorservices.com
1129 Parkway Ave
Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 966-8800
Victoria Parker
Alzheimer's Care
Assisted Living Facility

IN Farm Bureau Insurance

infarmbureau.com/agents/Robert-Reese-Elkhart-Elkhart-IN
322 S Elkhart Ave, Ste 200
Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 295-4488
Bob Reese
Insurance & Employee Benefits

JobSquad

thejobsquad.com
4101 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Ste 350
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 931-2989
Melinda Miller
Employment Contractors:
Temporary to Permanent

Leadership Tap

leadershiptap.com
53250 Bajer Ln
South Bend, IN 46635
(574) 318-8636
Matt Metzger
Leadership Development Training

Legacy Safety Group

legacysafetygroup.com
2201 E 46th St
Indianapolis, IN 46205
(812) 679-3073
Rob Shoaff
Safety Consultants

Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Bar

loscabosmexicangrillandbar.com
3011 Belvedere Rd
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 343-2016
Edgar Escamilla
Restaurant

Madrid & Tokio Fusion Bar

facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559021139515
600 S Main St
Elkhart, IN 46516
Restaurant
Referred by Business Diversity Initiative

McCarthy Insurance Group Inc.

mccarthyins.com
802 Lincolnway W
Mishawaka, IN 46544
(574) 259-5622
Connor McCarthy
Insurance
Referred by Chris Boynton, FROGGY 102.7

Milford Food Bank

milfordfoodbank.org
111 S James St
Milford, IN 46542
(574) 527-4796
Angie Deak
Nonprofit Organizations

Mojo Events

eventswithmojo.com
12970 McKinley Highway, Ste 7
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 387-2580
Jeff Snyder
Audio-Electronic Equipment: Designer/Developer
Referred by Shane Frost, Momentum Marketing

Novum Digital

novum-digital.biz
PO Box 371
New Carlisle, IN 46552
(574) 440-5428
Brian Gleva
Digital Marketing
Referred by Chris Boynton, FROGGY 102.7

NPS Wellness

npswellness.com
5230 Beck Dr, Ste 3
Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 622-1522
Fax: (574) 699-5688
Stephanie Kertes
Medical Clinic
Medical Spa
Referred by Krystal Morris, Slick Raven Marketing

OnSite Health Solutions LLC

OnSiteHealthCorp.com
316 S Eddy St
South Bend, IN 46617
(574) 968-3702
Fax: (574) 243-0185
Jon Bryan
Employee Healthcare and Safety
Women Business Enterprise Certification - WBE

Paapri Cloud Technologies

paapri.com
1007 Chapin St
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 231-7111
David Yankosky, III
Software: ERP/Manufacturing

Rise Above Academy

riseaboveacademy.org
PO Box 8241
South Bend, IN 46660
(614) 202-5842
Calvin Swan
Nonprofit Organizations
Referred by Business Diversity Initiative

Sierra Forest Products

3701 S Main St
Elkhart, IN 46517
(574) 544-9419

Dave Ramundo

Building Materials:

Wholesale & Manufacturer

Success Loves Discipline

www.successlovesdiscipline.com

PO Box 52

Granger, IN 46530

(574) 339-3988

Jalen Maust

Coach: Business/Personal

Summers Plumbing Heating and Cooling - Elkhart

www.summersphc.com/elkhart

1846 Cassopolis St

Elkhart, IN 46514

(574) 784-4069

Johnnie Woods

Plumbing, Heating/AC Contractor

USI Consultants, Inc.

www.usiconsultants.com

824 Lincolnway, Ste A

LaPorte, IN 46350

(219) 369-6545

Charlie McKenzie

Civil Engineering Services

Referred by Transportation Council

Minority Business Excellence Winners



The 2024 Celebrating Minority Business Excellence event honored the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of minority businesses in our community.

Congratulations to the seven local minority businesses and individuals honored at the dinner: Restaurant: Great Wall Chinese Restaurant; Nonprofit Leadership: Pastor Cora Brown; Community Impact: Cyneatha Millsaps; Retail: AG Mart/Dolly's; Service: Samuel Kamwenji; Healthcare: Dr. Orlando Landrum; and Communications: El Puente (not pictured)

For more information on the Business Diversity Initiative, contact staff liaison Maria Rojas at mrojas@elkhart.org.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

70+ YEARS

Elkhart General Hospital
JJ Babbitt Co., Inc.
Matzke Florists, Inc.
Northern Indiana Public Service Co.

50+ YEARS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Applied Innovation
Comcast Business
Elkhart Truth
Indiana Michigan Power
NIBCO Inc.
USI Insurance Services LLC

45 YEARS

Concord Community Schools

40 YEARS

Elite Emergency Physicians, Inc.

35 YEARS

Builders Association of Elkhart County
RSM US LLP

30 YEARS

Burston Marketing, Inc.
Majority Builders, Inc.

20 YEARS

Old National Bank

15 YEARS

Accident Fund Insurance Company
of America
Kimi's Hair Designs
Once Upon a Child
Reschcor
Versa Machinery

10 YEARS

The Art of Design (TAOD)
Victory Construction, Inc.

5 YEARS

Alliance RV, LLC
Center for Healing and Hope
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkhart North
Travelodge

1 YEAR

The Center for the Homeless, Inc.
Custom Machine Motioneering Inc.
The Hunny Pot Studio
Imperial Surveillance
KERAMIDA Inc.
Kid City USA
NextReality Studios, LLC
Remax Results Goshen - The Viruez Team
Ronald McDonald House Charities of
Michiana
Slick Raven Marketing
Town of Bristol
Women of Valor in Training

Business Recognition Awards



Century Chemical Corporation, 28790 CR 20, Elkhart, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. Century Chemical was founded in 1926 and has 98 years of experience in the sanitation industry. It is one of the oldest and most trusted names in the production of sanitation products and other chemical supplies in the RV, Marine, Aviation, Charter Bus, and Portable Sanitation Industries. Their products include Bio-Tab® septic solution and the Travel Jon® line of products. Pat and Denyse Pontius purchased the business in 2021. A woman-owned business, Century Chemical has 10 employees, and their niche is with smaller customers. Century Chemical is committed to promoting physical and mental wellness among its employees and has become a Recovery Friendly and Stigma-Free

Workplace. Their culture also includes professional development, and they will help pay for college and training for people in the areas they want to develop. They make it a place that people want to work, and they lead by example in that way. The company's community service includes Habitat for Humanity, RVIA Park Clean Ups at Potato Creek State Park, T-ball teams, investing in charities that support community foundations and first responders, Marine Corps, Care Camps, and they are Pride Allies. They have an appreciation for different cultures and the different backgrounds people have.

Medix Specialty Vehicles, LLC, 3008 Mobile Dr, Elkhart, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. Founded in 2001 with 5 employees, Medix has seen substantial growth and now has 270 employees. Tom Maleski was the founder of Medix, and the company was recently acquired by Demeers Braun - Crestline, based in Ohio. Medix is in the top 5 companies that manufacture ambulances in the country, and is in the process of relocating one of the Ohio locations to a new building on CR 6 in Elkhart. They manufacture three types of Ambulances with 10+ different models, and produce 1,300 units annually. International demand is growing, especially in Type 2 units. Medix garnered attention for its international efforts, particularly in Israel, where they recently shipped 17 units. This was featured in a Wall Street Journal article discussing the logistical challenges of the operation. The company's family-friendly policies include generous benefits for employees. They offer 90% tuition coverage for employees who stay with the company for at least a year, helping them advance within their roles. Medix has a strong commitment to community engagement, regularly participating in donation drives for causes including Adopt a Family, Faith Mission, the Humane Society, and local food drives.



Ambassadors of the Month presented by J2 Marketing



Amber Pulford
everwise credit union
www.everwisecu.com

"As an Elkhart Chamber Ambassador, I cherish the opportunity to connect with our vibrant community, support local businesses, and foster lasting relationships. Together, we empower each other to thrive and succeed, making Elkhart a better place for everyone."



John Snyder
Office 360
www.office360.com

"Being a member of the Ambassador Council has been a joy. Supporting and honoring the men and women who make Elkhart business work every day is an honor. Getting a close-up view of the how they roll up their sleeves to make it happen is humbling. Elkhart has a strong business ethic."

Quarterly Nonprofit Awards



Center for Community Justice has received a Quarterly Nonprofit Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Business Recognition Council. In 1978, a groundbreaking initiative known as the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) was born in Elkhart County, IN. It marked a pivotal moment in the United States' criminal justice system—a moment that embraced compassion, healing, and reconciliation. Restorative Justice shifts the focus from broken laws and incarceration to repairing broken lives and healing damaged relationships. CCJ has been working to build an agency where all the programs are true to the principles of restorative justice: creating opportunities where all of Elkhart County can heal from the harms that happen in relationships and in life whether through business, neighborhood conflict, or crime. They also provide additional services to the community, including coaching, mediation, facilitation, and conflict coaching.



Lexington House of Elkhart has received a Quarterly Nonprofit Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Business Recognition Council. Lexington House of is a community of recovery, hope and dignity that empowers people with a history of mental illness through friendship, meaningful work and cultivating strengths. They support adults with a history of mental illness in the Elkhart community by rebuilding their confidence and resilience through their mental wellness journey using the Clubhouse International model including work ordered days, employment programs, education opportunities, community support and housing, wellness, and social activities. They are part of a worldwide community of more than 300 Clubhouses, including 12 within Indiana. The original Lexington House, founded by Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, was located in the YWCA Lexington Building at 120 Lexington Avenue. They have recently moved to 311 W Hively Ave in Elkhart.

Woman of the Year Nominations Now Open

The Woman of the Year Award was created to recognize a woman who has distinguished herself in her organization, profession, and community. The recipient epitomizes the Greater Elkhart Chamber's values and represents the best of who we are as women and leaders.

The winner will be chosen based upon the following criteria: Participation, Career Accomplishments, Community Involvement, Educational Accomplishments, and Overall Leadership/Service.

To review complete criteria and submit a nomination, please use the online form at www.elkhart.org/woman-of-the-year-award/. A list of previous winners is also on that page.

Nominations must be received by Midnight, January 31, 2025.

Recognition of the 2024 Woman of the Year will be at the Greater Elkhart Chamber Annual Meeting in 2025.

For more information about the Women's Council, please contact Kathy Cardwell, at kcardwell@elkhart.org.

Managing the Aftermath of Safety Trauma

Wednesday, December 18 - 7:30 am

Matterhorn Conference Center 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Annual Sponsors



PATRICK



THOR
On Everywhere, Stay Anywhere



US COMPLIANCE

An OSHA Council Training Breakfast Register at www.Elkhart.org Pre-registration required

OSHA TRAINING

10 Hour General Industry Safety & Health Program January 29-30, 2024

*Upon successful completion of the 10 and 20 hour classes, participants will receive their 30 hour certification.
The 20 Hour Class will be offered on March 4-6, 2025.*

Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Register at www.elkhart.org/events. Registrations must be made in advance.
Class size limited to 40 attendees.

CHAMBER EVENTS

DECEMBER

3 **Root Cause Accident Investigation Workshop**
1 - 5 pm
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
418 S Main St, Elkhart

6 **South Shore Line Update - Transportation Breakfast**
8 am
Matterhorn Conference Center
2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

18 **OSHA Council Breakfast - Managing the Aftermath of Safety Trauma**
7:30 am
Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

24 **Chamber Closed for Holiday**
Reopen Thursday, January 2

JANUARY

15 **OSHA Council Breakfast - Workplace Violence Prevention**
7:30 am
Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

16 **Women's Council Luncheon - Motivational Speaker**
11:30 am
Hubbard Hill Living Wisdom Community
28070 CR 24, Elkhart

21 **Business After Hours hosted by Corner Bar**
5 - 7 pm
Corner Bar - Hotel Elkhart
500 S Main St, Elkhart

23 **YP Luncheon - Setting Goals for a Successful New Year**
11:30 am
Lexington Event Center LLC
112 E Lexington Ave, Elkhart

29 **OSHA General Industry 10 Hour Training**
January 29-30, 8 am - 5 pm
Matterhorn Conference Center
2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

31 **Third House Meeting**
Noon
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
418 S Main St, Elkhart

Please visit Elkhart.org/events for more information.

Workplace Violence Prevention

Wednesday, January 15 - 7:30 am
Matterhorn Conference Center 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Annual Sponsors



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THOR
OSHA Council Training Breakfast



US COMPLIANCE

An OSHA Council Training Breakfast Register at www.Elkhart.org Pre-registration required

Thursday, January 16
11:30 am - 1 pm

Motivational Speaker

**Location: Hubbard Hill Living
Wisdom Community**

Register at elkhart.org



**Greater Elkhart
CHAMBER**
Leading Business...Leading Our Community

Women's Council

Register at elkhart.org



... BUSINESS AFTER HOURS ...
JANUARY 21
... 5PM - 7PM ...
LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF
MAIN AND MARION STREETS
INSIDE HISTORIC HOTEL ELKHART,
THE CORNER BAR OFFERS
A FLARE OF ELEGANCE
AND FINE DINING, WITH A TOUCH
OF OLD-FASHIONED VIBES!

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS
A CORNER BAR!

THE CORNER BAR

Hotel Elkhart logo

The CORNER BAR
FEBRUARY 19

Greater Elkhart
YP
network develop serve

**Setting Goals
for a Successful
New Year**

January 23 11:30 am
Lexington Event Center

A luncheon hosted by the Young Professionals Council - all ages welcome
Register at elkhart.org

Goal Setting

- S** Specific
- M** Measurable
- A** Attainable
- R** Realistic
- T** Time-bound

A Council of
Greater Elkhart
CHAMBER
Leading Business...Leading Our Community