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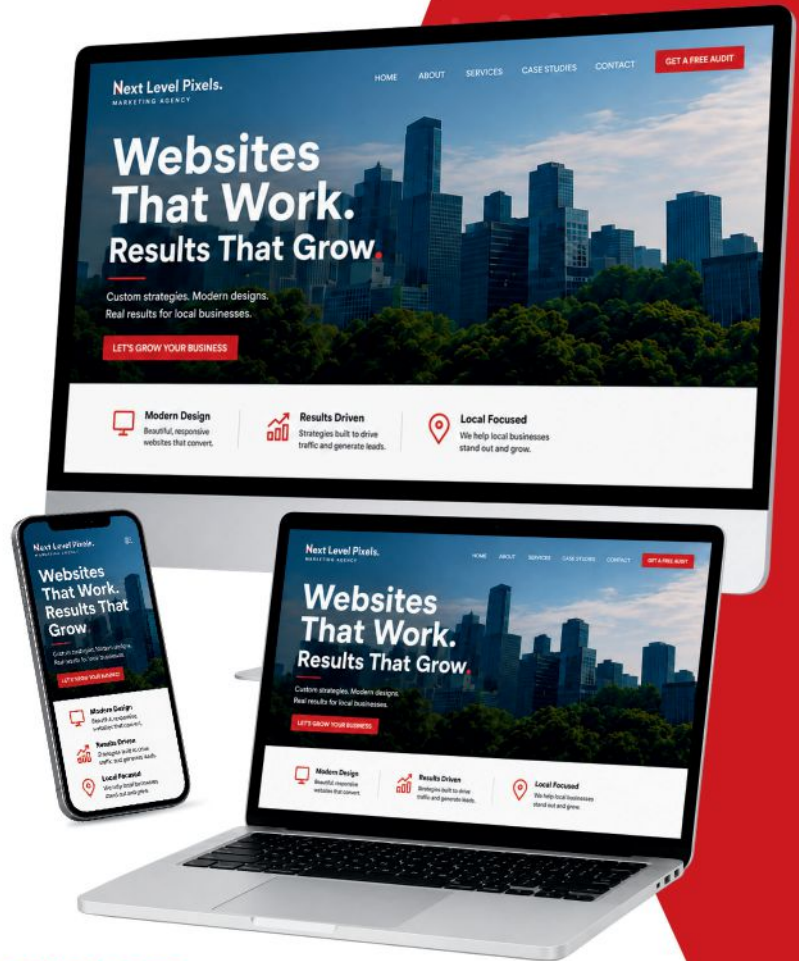


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418 S. Main St • P.O. Box 428
Elkhart, Indiana 46515
(574) 293-1531 • elkhart.org

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ON THE COVER: Mr. Fairbanks was created as the mascot of the Chamber's Beautification Committee nearly 60 years ago. The Committee was formed to recognize those who engaged in making Elkhart a more beautiful and livable space. The beautification awards given by the Business Recognition Council still carry the Fairbanks name.



PUBLISHERS
Eli Lussiana & Kenny Smiley

ADVERTISING SALES
Harrison Clarke & Sarah Scobell

MANAGING EDITOR
Kenny Smiley

ART DIRECTOR
Rick Skippon

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A Century of Business Building Communities That Last

As the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce continues to celebrate 100 years of incorporation in 2026, it is fitting to recognize another remarkable milestone—businesses that have operated for a century or more. These organizations represent more than longevity; they embody resilience, leadership, adaptability, and commitment to community that spans generations.

Over the past 100 years, Elkhart has experienced significant economic evolution. Early business activity was shaped by manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, and retail enterprises that supported a growing region. As the decades progressed, Elkhart became nationally recognized for its recreational vehicle industry while also developing strong clusters in musical instrument manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, construction, financial services, and professional services. Each era brought new opportunities, challenges, and innovations that helped shape the local economy.

One of the defining characteristics of businesses that endure for 100 years, or more, is their ability to successfully navigate leadership transitions. Whether passing ownership from one generation to the next, transitioning to new executive leadership, or adapting governance structures to changing times, long-lasting organizations understand that continuity requires thoughtful planning. Strong leaders honor the values and vision that built the business while embracing the innovation necessary to remain relevant in changing markets.

The community impact of century-old businesses extends far beyond their products and services. These organizations provide stable employment, invest in local initiatives, support charitable causes, mentor future leaders, and contribute to the civic life of the region. Their stories become intertwined

with the story of the community itself. Through economic cycles, technological change, and shifting consumer preferences, they remain trusted institutions that help strengthen the foundation of local prosperity.

Yet the next 100 years will require more than preserving what already exists. Continued business sector diversification remains critical to the long-term success of the Greater Elkhart region. While established industries continue to play a vital role, growth in emerging sectors such as technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare innovation, entrepreneurship, and professional services will create new opportunities for future generations. A diverse economy enhances resilience and creates pathways for businesses of all sizes to thrive.

As we celebrate the Chamber's centennial year, we also celebrate the businesses whose endurance has helped define our region. Their legacy reminds us that lasting success is built through leadership, adaptability, community engagement, and commitment to growth. By supporting both established enterprises and emerging industries, we can ensure that more businesses reach the 100-year milestone and become part of the enduring foundation of our business community.



Levon Johnson

LEVON JOHNSON

President/CEO

Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce



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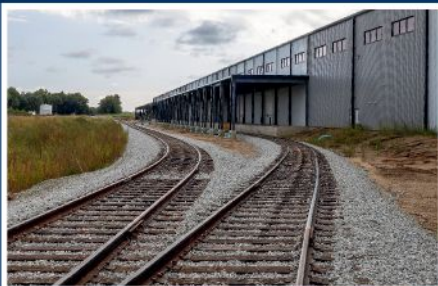


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Nominations for Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce 2027 Board of Directors

The Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce will receive applications for its board of directors through September 30, 2026. Community leaders are encouraged to serve and participate in governing the finances and strategic initiatives of the Chamber, which represents roughly 47,000 total employees and nearly 950 member businesses and organizations.

Board terms are three years in length, and selected individuals from this year's nominations will be seated Jan. 1, 2027. Any employee of a member business or organization in good standing may submit a Board Application and resume.

A nominating committee will review candidates and make selections to fill positions based on business category, occupation or profession, memberships in civic and fraternal organizations, achievements, community contributions, and participation in Chamber projects or events.

Business categories include retail, professional, service, manufacturing, technical, wholesale, not-for-profit, and others.

Applications may be submitted using the form online, mailed to PO Box 428, Elkhart, IN 46515, or delivered to 418 S Main St, Elkhart.

To access the application online, visit
www.elkhart.org/chamber-information/boardapplication
or call the Greater Elkhart Chamber at (574) 293-1531.

Thank You to Our 2026 Chamber Board of Directors



Front Row (left to right): Jessica Hilary, Junior Achievement & Lemonade Day Serving Elkhart County; Cedric Waters, Airxcel, Inc., Executive Board Member; Emma Jordan, Paycor, Board Chair; Kathy Sears, Centier Bank, Treasurer; Allen Stanley, NIBCO, Inc., Executive Board Member; Valentina Jaurer, La Güera Seafood and Mexican Grill; Hugh Johnson, J2 Marketing

Back Row (left to right): Megan Mars, DaVonne Kramer, Regality, Inc.; Dan Gartee, OSMC; Tony Gaipa, Gibson; Mark Brett, Beacon Health System; Craig Joachim, MapleTronics Computers; Delia Grajeda, DeliaMar Mega-Shop; Chris Norvell, ITR Concession Company; Jason Demeter, Patrick Industries; Jay Mattern, Red Pony Marketing; Lori Snyder, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northern Indiana Real Estate; Levon Johnson, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

Not Pictured: Janilyn Daub, Barnes & Thornburg LLP; Chrissy Mast, Crowe LLP; Byron Sanders, Baugo Community Schools; Megan Woest, Ancon Construction Co., Inc.; Anita Wilson, Hopman Jewelers, Executive Board Member

More Than a Century STRONG

Businesses Teach Us About Legacy, Leadership, and the Future of Elkhart

There is something comforting about seeing a business that has stood the test of time.

Long before GPS directed traffic, before email replaced handwritten correspondence, and before smartphones fit the world's information into a pocket, many of Elkhart's oldest companies were already opening their doors each morning. They weathered world wars, economic recessions, changing industries, and remarkable technological advances. They watched horses give way to automobiles, typewriters to computers, and assembly lines become increasingly automated.

Yet somehow, they remain. That kind of longevity doesn't happen by accident.

Businesses that celebrate 100 years, or more, share something far greater than an impressive anniversary date. They possess an uncommon ability to evolve without losing themselves. They understand that honoring tradition doesn't require resisting change. Instead, they recognize that preserving a legacy often means embracing innovation while remaining grounded in the values that built the company in the first place.

Across Elkhart, several companies have reached this extraordinary milestone. Though they represent different industries and serve different markets, they have much in common. Their stories reveal lessons not only about business success but about leadership, community, resilience, and the enduring spirit of a city that has always valued hard work and ingenuity.

Honoring Yesterday While Building Tomorrow

It's easy to assume that century-old businesses succeed because they refuse to change.

The opposite is almost always true.

The companies that survive for generations are often the ones willing to reinvent themselves over and over again. Products evolve. Markets shift. Customer expectations change. Technologies emerge that would have seemed unimaginable to their founders.

Successful companies learn to ask a simple question repeatedly: *"How do we remain who we are while becoming who we need to be?"*

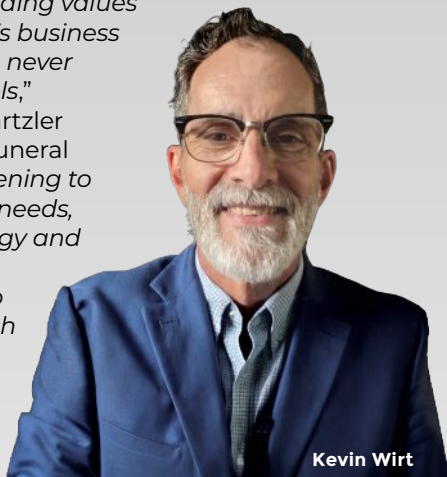
That balancing act is part science, part art.

History serves as a compass rather than an anchor. A company's founding principles, integrity, craftsmanship, customer service, innovation, or stewardship, remain constant even as the methods of delivering those values continue to evolve.

That balance between honoring tradition and embracing change has been essential for many of Elkhart's longest standing businesses. At **Hartzler Gutermuth Inman Funeral Home**, remaining grounded in the organization's founding values while adapting to the needs of each generation has been key to its longevity.

"Staying true to founding values while preparing one's business for the future means never resting on your laurels,"

says **Kevin Wirt** of Hartzler Guterthum Inman Funeral Home. *"It means listening to changing customer needs, embracing technology and ensuring that our decisions reflect who we are. This approach to service has kept us in business since 1852 and will continue to guide us into the future."*



Wirt also emphasizes that enduring success is built by more than a single leader. *"Successful businesses are built around more than just a strong leader. Having a good team around a good leader helps to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Being able to identify and develop potential leaders helps to create a steady stream of talent all sharing the same common goal."*

In many ways, a century-old business resembles a historic home. The foundation remains strong because each generation has invested in repairs, renovations, and improvements without erasing the character that made the home worth preserving in the first place.

Innovation isn't abandoning tradition. It's ensuring tradition has a future.

Every Generation Writes a New Chapter

If buildings require maintenance, businesses require something even more valuable: people.

One of the greatest tests facing any long-standing company is leadership transition. Every generation eventually hands the keys to the next.

Sometimes that transition happens within a family. Other times leadership passes to longtime employees or outside executives who become trusted stewards of the organization's future.

Regardless of who assumes responsibility, succession planning is rarely about replacing one leader with another. It's about preparing people long before the transition occurs.

The strongest organizations understand that leadership development isn't an event. It's a continuous investment.

That philosophy has guided century-old organizations across Elkhart as they prepare for leadership transitions long before they become necessary. At **Warrick & Boyn LLP**, succession planning has been a cornerstone of the firm's longevity.

"Our success over the last 116 years is directly related to our dedicated effort to provide the highest quality of legal service to our clients, our succession planning, and our dedication to give back to the community we serve," says **Gary Boyn** of Warrick & Boyn LLP. *"It is essential to adapt to and plan for upcoming changes as far in advance as possible, hiring new lawyers and staff with ample time to train and familiarize them with the firm's practices and procedures."*

That intentional approach ensures each generation is prepared not simply to maintain the firm's legacy, but to strengthen it for those who follow.

Knowledge must be shared. Relationships must be cultivated. Opportunities for growth must be intentionally created.

Perhaps most importantly, future leaders need room to bring their own ideas. After all, each generation faces challenges the previous one never imagined.

Today's leaders navigate cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, global supply chains, workforce development, and rapidly changing customer expectations. Tomorrow's leaders will undoubtedly encounter challenges we haven't even named yet.

Preparing the next generation doesn't mean asking them to think exactly like their predecessors. It means giving them the confidence to think differently while remaining faithful to the organization's core values.

That's how businesses endure. Not because each leader copies the last, but because each leader builds upon the last.

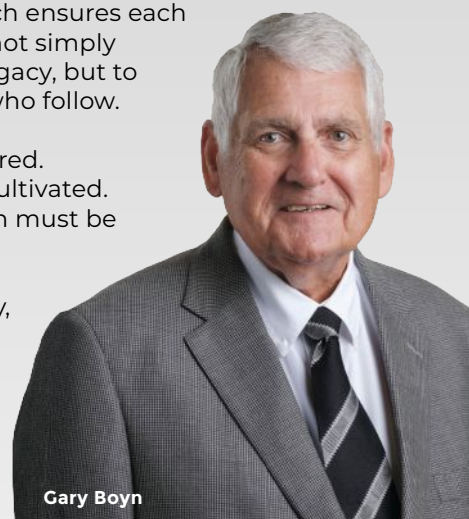
The Community Advantage

Businesses don't operate in isolation. Neither do communities.

For more than a century, Elkhart's oldest companies have done far more than manufacture products or provide services. They've helped build neighborhoods, supported schools, sponsored youth athletics, invested in nonprofit organizations, and created opportunities for generations of local families.

Many employees have spent entire careers within these organizations. In some cases, grandparents, parents, and grandchildren have all worked under the same company name. That creates something larger than a workforce. It creates legacy.

Community involvement has never simply been a charitable obligation for these businesses. It has been a business strategy rooted in relationships.



For many of Elkhart's century old businesses, community engagement isn't separate from business. It's part of their identity. **Century Chemical** has embraced that philosophy throughout its history by investing not only in its business, but also in the people and organizations that make Elkhart strong.

*"Choosing to be involved in and around the Elkhart community shows our dedication and commitment to caring for our neighbors and our home," says **Denyse Pontius**, Chief Executive Officer of Century Chemical. "Supporting and connecting with others on a real level is a key component to our longevity."*

Pontius believes that commitment extends well beyond formal sponsorships or organized events.



Denyse Pontius

"Our opportunities to lead by example as individuals and organizations aren't limited by hosting a special event or from a sponsorship platform. Often, they are formed by our choices in everyday moments."

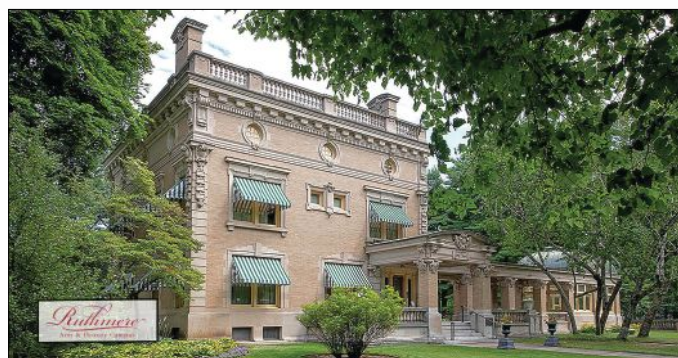
Those everyday investments in people and relationships help create the kind of community where businesses and residents alike can thrive for generations.

When companies invest in their hometown, they strengthen the

environment that allows businesses to thrive.

Strong schools produce future employees. Healthy nonprofits improve quality of life. Economic development creates opportunity. Vibrant neighborhoods attract talent.

The success of a company and the success of a



Ruthmere Arts & History Campus
1910 - Forever

community become deeply intertwined. It's difficult to separate one from the other.

Perhaps that's why so many enduring businesses continue to view community engagement not as an expense but as an investment with returns measured in decades rather than quarters.

Staying True While Looking Ahead

If the first hundred years teach anything, it's that the future rarely arrives exactly as expected. Few founders could have imagined cloud computing, robotics, artificial intelligence, remote work, or international digital commerce.

Yet here we are.

The companies positioned for another century understand that planning for the future requires both imagination and discipline. They continue investing in technology. They modernize facilities. They strengthen cultures. They recruit diverse talent. They improve processes.

But beneath all that change, something remarkably consistent remains: Purpose.

The mission that inspired a company's founders often continues guiding strategic decisions generations later. Customers still matter. Employees still matter. Integrity still matters. Relationships still matter.

Those values never become obsolete. Instead, they become increasingly valuable in an era where change often feels constant.

Perhaps that's the secret – companies don't survive because they predict every trend correctly. They survive because they know who they are. Everything else becomes easier from there.

Why Elkhart Still Matters

In an increasingly connected world, companies can choose almost anywhere to locate their headquarters.

Talent moves. Markets expand. Technology reduces geographic barriers. So why do so many long-established companies continue calling Elkhart home? The answer goes well beyond geography.

Elkhart offers something difficult to manufacture elsewhere: A culture of craftsmanship. A resilient workforce. Entrepreneurial spirit. Strong educational partnerships. Collaborative civic leadership. Generations of skilled employees who take pride in solving problems and building things that matter.

This community has long embraced innovation without forgetting its roots. That's a rare combination.

Continued on page 12

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Businesses find value not only in infrastructure and transportation but in relationships with local government, educational institutions, nonprofits, fellow businesses, and neighbors.

For **Elkhart Brass**, those relationships have been central to the company's success for nearly 125 years. While its products are trusted by firefighters around the world, the company continues to invest in the community where its story began.

"Elkhart is more than where we're located. It's part of who we are," says **Chris Martin**, Vice President of Marketing at Elkhart Brass. *"We've called this community home since 1902, and the region's strong manufacturing heritage, skilled workforce, and culture of innovation continue to make it an ideal place to design and build products that are trusted by firefighters around the world."*

Martin adds that the company's future remains firmly tied to the region. *"Many of our employees have deep roots here, with multiple generations having worked at Elkhart Brass. Those relationships, combined with partnerships with local schools, organizations, and the business community, help us attract talented people and invest in the next generation of manufacturing and engineering professionals."*

That combination of heritage, innovation, and community investment continues to position Elkhart as a place where businesses can grow while remaining true to their roots.

Over time, those relationships become competitive advantages that simply cannot be replicated elsewhere. Home becomes more than an address.

As Pontius puts it, *"Honestly, I can't imagine it being the same anywhere else! The vibrancy,*

resources, support, innovation, and openness our community offers to all, it's beautiful to witness and an honor to be a part of. We belong here."

More Than a Milestone

Celebrating 100 years is certainly worth recognizing. But perhaps anniversaries are less about looking backward than they are about looking forward.

Every century-old company began with uncertainty. Someone took a risk. Someone believed an idea could become something meaningful. Someone invested in people before profits were guaranteed. Each generation since has carried that responsibility forward.

The companies featured in these pages remind us that longevity isn't measured solely by years in business.

It is measured by trust earned. Promises kept. Communities strengthened. Employees empowered. Customers served. Legacies protected.

As these organizations begin writing their next chapter, they continue demonstrating that success isn't simply surviving change. It's leading through it.

And perhaps that is the greatest lesson century-old businesses offer all of us. The future belongs to those willing to innovate. It belongs to those who remember why they began in the first place.

Because while buildings may age and technology will certainly evolve, values, when carefully protected and intentionally passed from one generation to the next, never go out of style.

That's the kind of legacy that doesn't simply last 100 years. It inspires the next hundred.

Written by Levon Johnson



Chris Martin

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Elkhart Leadership Academy

Empowering emerging leaders



Elkhart Leadership Academy Class of 2026

The Elkhart Leadership Academy, a program of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, engages participants to strengthen themselves, their organizations, families, and communities through service and leadership. The Academy has had 877 graduates, and the 2026-27 Class is the 39th cohort.

The ten-month program combines key community issues and enhanced leadership skill development to advance community stewardship. Presentations, hands-on experiences, exclusive tours, DiSC assessments and work on nonprofit impact projects are a part of

the monthly sessions. Topics include Arts and Culture, Education, Diversity, Media, Community Service, Communication, Team Building, Critical Conversations, and Economic & Community Development. Academy sessions take place August – May.

After orientation in August, members embark on an overnight retreat in September. Subsequent sessions are full-day experiences each month. Members also work each week on small group projects for local nonprofit organizations and serve a one-year board of directors internship. Participation is limited to 30 individuals.

Reflections

Elkhart Leadership Academy Graduates

NORAIMA CHAVEZ *Welch Packaging Group Inc.*

Before I started the Elkhart Leadership Academy, I was constantly asking myself, "Why don't I see leaders who look like me?" When the opportunity to participate in the program was presented at Welch Packaging, I said yes immediately.



Early in the year we heard that leadership is about influence and that it can be done in many ways. In the program, I had the opportunity to practice different leadership skills and grow with my team while helping CAPS with their April campaign.

By the end of the program, I came to realize that there are many leaders who are leading from a place that is service oriented and relational to the community, focused on listening, building trust and supporting others rather than a position of authority or a pursuit of a title. I had built good friendships. I discovered that the leadership style that felt more natural to me was to show up and make space for others. It sounds so easy, but often, showing up is the hardest part.

I believe all of us have gifts to contribute to a greater, more prosperous vision for our community; we just need to make space and polish those gifts to let them shine. I learned that speaking up is crucial and there is abundant growth that comes from listening. Leadership is more effective when you can influence communities by inspiring people to participate because they feel valued and that they, too, have something to contribute. There are many ways to be a leader and to be of service and have a meaningful impact, and I aspire to be one of those leaders.

**Registration for the
2026-2027 Elkhart
Leadership Academy
is open at**

www.elkhart.org/elkhart-leadership-academy-application

**The deadline to submit your
application is July 30.**

ZACH MILLER *Federated Media*

The Elkhart Leadership Academy was not at all what I thought it was going to be. I thought much of it would be a class that took place once a month, followed by networking with peers from different organizations. All while finding ways to help elevate ourselves within our own companies. It was almost the exact opposite of what I had anticipated.



We learned more about ourselves, looking at what our personality on a DiSC map means and how that will have influence on how we show up as a leader.

We learned about Servant Leadership from some of the best servant leaders in the area to understand what that looks like in the real world. I took much of what was talked about to heart for my own leadership path. Realizing that we must become good stewards of the gifts we've all been given and be mindful of our inner thoughts and outward actions while working with our peers. Keeping our ears open so we can become great listeners before leaders. Making sure our eyes are open – to our people and not to the problems. Open our hands – relinquishing control and equipping others to be as effective as they can be for the good of the team and themselves. Lastly, an open heart – so we can honor each other. All of these create the mindset for a great leader.

RYAN OPALINSKI *Kem Krest*

I'm not originally from around here, I grew up in metro-Detroit and that's always been home... since I moved here in 2009, this has just been where I currently live. Something changed in me over the course of this experience where what we were doing, and whom we were helping became personal.



The Elkhart community became my community. Being in this program doesn't make you a leader but it definitely gives you the tools and resources to seize an opportunity to become a leader. I honestly feel that I have. This is something I do not and will not take for granted. I will always be proud of my Detroit roots, but this experience has finally helped me realize that this is truly my home.

Welcome New Members

Please give a warm welcome to new members joining the Chamber November 2025 through April 2026

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Mary Jo Ogren
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(574) 247-6830
Tom Housand
Wealth Management

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brightstarres.com
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Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 821-7653
Jesse Riegsecker
Real Estate

CDR ProSource LLC

cdrprosource.com
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Baton Rouge, LA 70806
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Michelle Miller
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Circle Federal Credit Union

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Niles, MI 49120
(269) 684-6005
Lissa Purlee
Credit Unions

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Goshen, IN 46528-7803
(574) 522-2822
Natalie Brookins
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Anna Schmidt
Insurance

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Indianapolis, IN 46240
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Carrie Colvin
Construction Management

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ChoiceLight

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(574) 218-7872
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Elkhart Nutrition LLC

<https://www.facebook.com/ElkhartNutrition>
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Elkhart, IN 46517
(574) 333-4987
Lidia Cruz
Health & Diet Food Products: Retail
Referred by Delia Grajeda,
DeliaMar Mega-Shop

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Rosie Morales
Restaurant

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Elkhart, IN 46516
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Ben Runkel
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Cabinet Manufacturer

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maximus-tces.com
(800) 274-8582
Elizabeth Hansen
Human Resources Business
Process Outsourcing
Referred by Emma Jordan, Paycor

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(574) 206-5475
Jennifer Beer
Monument Dealer

Momentum Entrepreneurship Hub

momentummsb.com
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(574) 208-3965
Kristopher Priemer
Entrepreneurship Hub
Referred by Matt Metzger, Leadership Tap

Northwestern Mutual

www.northwesternmutual.com
4215 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Ste 200
Mishawaka, IN 46545
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Macauley Hill
Financial Services

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www.nothingbundtcakes.com/find-a-bakery/in/elkhart/bakery-1175
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Samantha Camarillo
Bakeries: Retail

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Recreational Vehicle:
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Steven Bowen
Fitness Facility

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(574) 218-0642
TJ Meehan
Roofing Contractors

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Bakers: Commercial

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(574) 327-2654
Melissa Thomas
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sjcainc.com
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South Bend, IN 46601
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Scott Lee
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Elkhart County Highway

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Conor P. Schmucker
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Maria Rojas
Marketing

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Mishawaka, IN 46545
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Elkhart, IN 46515
(574) 295-0000
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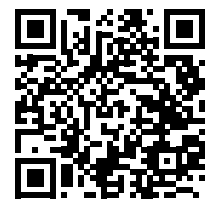
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www.weaverinsurancecellc.com
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Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 333-3094
Michael Weaver
Insurance

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www.xmlconstruction.com
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LoveWay, Inc.
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Wildman Business Group

10 Years

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The Office Barn, Inc.
Ozinga
Satellite Industries
Springer Dental Care, LLC
TRC Companies
Vala Marketing

15 Years

Aluminum Trailer Company
HRP Construction Inc.

20 Years

Classic Transport, Inc.
Five Star Life / Summit
The Healy Group, Inc.
Ziker Cleaners

25 Years

Heart City Health Center, Inc.
Texas Roadhouse

30 Years

Business Furnishings LLC

35 Years

AAYS Event Rental
Custom Formulating & Blending
Lechlitner Door Sales & Service, Inc.
Volcano Pizza

40 Years

Helgeson Steel, Inc.

45 Years

Heritage Financial Group, Inc.
Insight Accounting Group, PC

50+ Years

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Gaska Tape Inc.
Ivy Tech Community College
L.E. Johnson Products, Inc.
Morgan Advanced Materials - Thermal Ceramics
Niblock Excavating, Inc.
Noah's Landing Pet Care Clinic LLC
Oaklawn
Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
Zeigler Ford of Elkhart



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.

Why Are Businesses Joining the Greater Elkhart Chamber?

“To further our business’s development in the community, to connect with business resources, and network with like-minded members.”

“Provides opportunities to showcase our business and collaborate with a group focused on enhancing our community by enhancing each other.”

“Best and most direct connection to the pulse of the Greater Elkhart business community.”

“Allows us to foster the continued growth of the Elkhart business community and create synergies with other community leaders.”

Educate. Advocate. Elevate.

We **EDUCATE** our members.

- Seminars & Training
- Information resource
- Development programs

We **ADVOCATE** for our members.

- Legislative watchdog
- Business-friendly activist
- Your voice: local, state, federal

We **ELEVATE** our members.

- Networking opportunities
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What is Membership ROI?

- All Chamber members are listed in the business directory with a hyperlink to their website. A high percentage of the 2,500 visitors per month visit the business directory for products and services and click onto member websites.
- The Chamber E-Newsletter is emailed weekly to over 1,700 leading member business professionals and contains a listing of Chamber and member events.
- The Chamber magazine reaches thousands of leading business professionals quarterly in print and online. It features Chamber information, event updates, business and legislative issues overviews, business advice, new member listings, member news announcements and more.
- The Chamber is the voice of the business community in local, county, state and federal issues, promoting economic development, transportation issues, and downtown redevelopment. The Chamber has been the advisor on many community issues and projects.
- Inquiries are made each week for referrals and information about products and services available in the Elkhart region. These referrals are given to tourists, those relocating to the area, and the business community — all potential customers.
- Celebrate your accomplishments! Ribbon Cuttings and Groundbreakings are great ways to bring attention to members, new products, remodel or addition, anniversary, award, etc. Ribbon Cutting pictures are published in the quarterly news magazine with circulation to 2,000 business leaders.
- Energetic interactive networking and prospecting events allow you to make numerous contacts in a short amount of time while accumulating a high volume of leads and referrals. These events are a fantastic resource for making contacts with current and prospective clients. There are several each month.
- The Chamber conducts or coordinates a wide variety of seminars such as Skill Enhancement, OSHA, and Leadership Training. These programs are available at significant discount to Chamber members.
- Chamber monthly OSHA council meetings update members on current OSHA safety standards and requirements. OSHA 10- and 30-hour General Industry training classes are available at significant discounts to Chamber members.
- Participation and networking opportunities in any of our 9 dynamic councils: Ambassadors, Business Diversity Initiative, Business Recognition, Economic Development, Leadership, OSHA, Transportation, Women's, and Young Professionals.



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Business Recognition Awards

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Founded in 2004, **Caribbean Auto Spa** has built a strong reputation across Northern Indiana for delivering reliable, high-quality car wash services while remaining committed to the communities it serves. Under the leadership of Lyle and Lee Miller, the company has experienced steady growth through a customer-first approach and consistent operational excellence.

Caribbean Auto Spa operates touchless automatic car washes in Elkhart and Middlebury, offering customers a modern wash experience that protects vehicles by eliminating brushes from the wash cycle. The company also provides self-serve wash bays, vacuum stations, vending services, and a popular monthly wash club designed for convenience and value. With a team of ten employees, Caribbean Auto Spa continues to invest in technology, process improvements, and service quality to ensure a dependable customer experience.

The company is equally committed to supporting the community through contributions to organizations including Faith Mission, Church Community Services, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County.

Caribbean Auto Spa's commitment to innovation, steady growth, customer service, and community involvement makes them a deserving Greater Elkhart Chamber Business of the Month.



For more than 100 years, **Dometic Group** has shaped how people live, travel, and experience the outdoors. Dometic's origins trace back to the early 1920s, when Swedish engineers Baltzar von Platen and Carl Munters pioneered absorption cooling technology. That innovation laid the groundwork for a legacy of reliable, purpose-built products designed for life on the move. Through its evolution under Electrolux and later as an independent company, Dometic has grown into a global organization serving the RV, marine, outdoor, hospitality, and professional markets.

While Dometic operates globally with approximately 8,000 employees and sales in nearly 100 countries, its presence in Elkhart County is both significant and expanding. They employ 400 people locally and continue to invest in the region's manufacturing and distribution footprint. A recent expansion includes a new distribution and warehousing facility in Bristol, adding 40 new jobs. This investment reinforces Elkhart County's role as a critical hub within Dometic's North American operations.

Beyond its operational impact, Dometic is committed to being an active community partner. They support organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and Habitat for Humanity.

Dometic's commitment to innovation, steady growth, and community involvement makes them a deserving Greater Elkhart Chamber Business of the Month.

Sponsored by



The Chamber recognizes our Business of the Month winners, recipients of the prestigious Fairbanks Awards for Beautification, and Quarterly Nonprofit Award winners. Each honoree represents the innovation, pride, and community spirit that continue to strengthen the Greater Elkhart area.

Business Recognition Awards are sponsored by Interra Credit Union.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Founded in 2010 by CPA and former Crowe Tax Partner Milind Agtey, **Nimbello** has grown into a leading accounts payable automation company serving manufacturers and higher education institutions across the country. Originally launched as Easy Access, the Granger-based company was built with a mission to simplify complex financial processes and help organizations operate more efficiently.

Today, Nimbello employs more than 50 team members and specializes in automating high-volume, complex invoicing for manufacturers. Its platform integrates with major ERP systems including Infor SyteLine, Microsoft D365, Plex, and Workday, helping companies reduce manual data entry, improve accuracy, and increase financial visibility. Under the leadership of Milind and his son, Sunjay Agtey, the company has experienced significant growth, processing millions of invoices annually while expanding its reach throughout the manufacturing sector.

Nimbello also maintains a strong commitment to the Michiana community through support of organizations including the Boys and Girls Clubs and Five Star Life.

Nimbello's continued innovation, industry leadership, and investment in both people and community make the company a deserving Greater Elkhart Chamber Business of the Month.



Founded in 1973, **Poly Electronics** was purchased in 2016 by Matt Kain, his father, and a small group of partners. The company relied heavily on one major customer in the dairy segment. Within the first year, that customer was hit hard, cutting nearly half the company's business.

Instead of retreating, the team pivoted. They leaned into automation, invested heavily in capital equipment, and asked their customers a simple but powerful question: What do you want in an electronics manufacturing partner? That mindset changed everything. Today the company employs 65 people, all working from a single recently remodeled location. Dairy now represents only about 5% of their revenue, replaced by a diverse and growing customer base that includes major appliance and electronics manufacturers. Poly Electronics recently invested in new SMT equipment, positioning the business to add substantial capacity. The leadership team actively invests in developing talent, starting as early as high school, and are committed to retaining and growing the next generation of manufacturing leaders.

The company has participated with Startup Moxie, CAPS, and Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grants to support both workforce development and operational expansion.

Poly Electronics' continued innovation, leadership development, and community investment make the company a deserving Greater Elkhart Chamber Business of the Month.

QUARTERLY NON-PROFIT AWARDS



For more than 50 years, **PBS Michiana - WNIT** has served northern Indiana and southwest Michigan as a free, trusted source of education, information and local storytelling. WNIT brings PBS programming into homes across the region—programs people rely on to stay curious and connected. From public affairs and science to history, arts, and documentaries, it's programming that helps connect what's happening in the world to everyday life here at home. They also produce more than 100 hours of local programming each year, including Experience Michiana, Education Counts, and our Legends of Michiana documentary series. PBS KIDS programming is a part of daily life for many families.

Each month, shows like Sesame Street and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood are streamed more than 1.7 million times, giving children steady access to content that helps them grow, learn, and get ready for what comes next. Each year, more than 38,000 kids and caregivers take part in their educational outreach programs, in partnership with more than 50 schools, libraries, and community organizations.



The Potawatomi Zoo has experienced remarkable growth over the past decade, transforming into a recognized regional destination and industry leader. In 2016, the Zoo had 180,000 visitors annually. By 2026, that number has more than doubled to 410,000 visitors. Signature events like Zooluminate alone drew 80,000 visitors last year, further solidifying the zoo's reputation as a must-visit destination. Community support has played a critical role in this success. The zoo's sponsorship base has expanded to more than 35. This backing has enabled continued growth, including a thriving education department through field trips and programming. Staffing has grown from 21 full-time employees in 2016 to 54 today, with 80 seasonal employees.

Spanning 23 acres, the Zoo continues to evolve while maintaining a strong commitment to conservation and education. It recently renewed its five-year accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), an elite designation that ensures the highest standards in animal care, ethical breeding, and conservation practices. The Zoo is currently leading a \$5.5 million campaign for the Big Cat Track, an initiative designed to transition big cats from smaller enclosures into expansive, natural habitats.

FAIRBANKS AWARDS



In 2025, **DOJO Creative** underwent a major renovation of their façade, with new siding and signage to the front of the building. The signage itself, which is an upscaled, 3D rendering of the DOJO Creative logo, utilizes internal lighting to glow brilliantly in the dark. Beyond the façade, DOJO Creative also completed a striking mural on the building's south side, a collaboration between Cassi Graber, a South Bend-based artist, and Joshua Harmon, DOJO's Creative Director.



Goshen College Center for Nursing and Public Health at Westlawn brings together advanced learning spaces, hands-on simulation labs and community partnership under one roof. Designed to expand Goshen College's impact and respond to a growing regional need for healthcare professionals, the center supports students, educators and healthcare partners by providing enhanced learning spaces for their programs and expanding access to experiential learning and cutting-edge technology for the community.

AMBASSADORS

of the Month

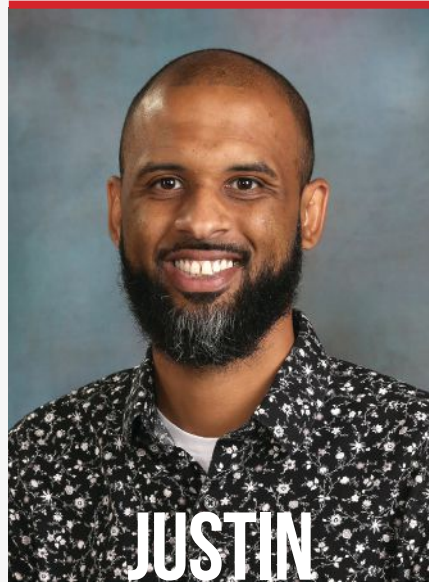
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APRIL



CHRIS

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Federated Media

Congratulations



Renovations on the Beardsley Discovery Center are complete! This exciting addition to the Ruthmere Campus is located at 819 N Main St in Elkhart. www.ruthmere.org



Brentwood Independent Living celebrates 25 years! The premiere senior living community, at 3600 E Bristol St in Elkhart, offers a range of living options and services tailored to meet the needs of residents.



Bright Star Real Estate Services now has an Elkhart location! Bright Star RES serves Michiana in sales of land, farm, estate, personal property, and residential homes. www.Brightstarres.com



Chem-Dry of Michiana Carpet Cleaning has new owners! Located at 1800 Sterling Ave in Elkhart, Chem-Dry is proud to serve Michiana with a deeper and healthier carpet cleaning service. www.chemdrymichiana.com



Church Community Services received a generous donation of their new facility at 59710 CR 3 in Elkhart. Now called The Acres at Jamestown, this new facility will mark a new chapter of impact for CCS.



The Delta Neighborhood is open at 138 N Clark St in Elkhart! The Delta includes three new mixed-use retail and multi-family buildings in the Elkhart River District. www.TheDeltaElkhart.com

CELEBRATIONS



DOJO Creative has a new look! Located at 119 S Main St in Mishawaka, DOJO Creative helps you put your best foot forward through web, print, branding and digital marketing. Letsgodojo.com



1st Source Wealth Advisory Offices celebrates the grand reopening of their renovated offices at 131 E Franklin St in Elkhart. www.1stsource.com/personal/wealth-management



Gulab Indian Restaurant celebrates their Grand Opening at 1635 Cassopolis St, Elkhart! They are the only Northern Indian restaurant in Elkhart! www.gulabindianrestaurant.com



High-Def Detailing celebrates their new location! Visit them at 301 Enchanted Gardens Lane in Elkhart. High-Def Detailing is proud to serve our community! www.highdefdetailing.com



The Lenox celebrates their grand opening at 101 N Main St in Elkhart! They offer all-inclusive event services in versatile spaces that can be tailored to suit a variety of events. Lenoxevents.com



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Transportation Luncheon Features INDOT Presentation

The 30th Annual INDOT Luncheon hosted by the Transportation Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber will feature special guests from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

The luncheon will be held at the Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart, on Tuesday, August 4, beginning at 11:30 am.

The program will include updates from INDOT and the Transportation Council on local and state projects. This is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming plans for transportation infrastructure in the South

Bend/Elkhart area and celebrate what we have achieved in working together, including US 31 between South Bend and Indianapolis.

The presenting sponsor of this event is the Indiana Toll Road. Event sponsors are Abonmarche; American Structurepoint; Centier Bank; Century Chemical; ChoiceLight Inc.; Elkhart County CVB; HRP Construction Inc.; Indiana Michigan Power; Lochmueller Group; Ozinga; Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.; and Surveying and Mapping, LLC.

Register at elkhart.org/events by July 31.

Minority Business Excellence Award Nominations Requested

Minority Business Excellence Awards honor outstanding minority business leaders who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields. The awards recognize individuals and organizations across various sectors who have significantly contributed to the success of their businesses and the empowerment of their communities. Each award category celebrates unique achievements, ensuring that the diversity of talent and impact is acknowledged.

A list of categories and the nomination forms are available at www.elkhart.org/celebrating-minority-business-excellence-awards-nominations. Each category has its own nomination form, and all nominations must be received by midnight on Friday, August 7. A link to the list of previous winners is on the

nomination cover page.

The nominees must conduct business or provide service in Elkhart County, be minority owned and operated (at least 51%), and have been in business for at least one year.

Award recipients will be determined by members of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Business Diversity Initiative.

Recognition of recipients will take place at the Celebrating Minority Business Excellence Dinner, presented by The Community Foundation of Elkhart County, on September 10, in the Crystal Ballroom at the Lerner, starting at 5:30 pm. Event sponsors are KeyBank and NIBCO. Registration is now open at Elkhart.org/events.



SOUTH BEND ORTHOPAEDICS
An OrthoAlliance Partner Practice

Eat. Drink. Network.

Business After Hours
July 21, 5-7p.m.
at our office at the Elkhart Clinic,
303 N. Nappanee St, Elkhart

Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
Register at elkhart.org



THE STERLING ROOM
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
TUESDAY · AUGUST 18
FIVE O'CLOCK UNTIL SEVEN IN THE EVENING

*Join us as we introduce this space to our community.
Beverages and grazing bites will be served.*

530 E LEXINGTON AVE, DOWNTOWN ELKHART
Pre-registration requested at www.Elkhart.org



PLANNING retreat

Thursday August 20
8 am - 12 pm

Ancon Construction Co., Inc.
2121 W Wilden Ave, Goshen

100th Anniversary
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER
1926-2026

Women's Council
Register at elkhart.org

Presenting Sponsor
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER
An AEP Company

Event Sponsors
ANCON CONSTRUCTION
KRUGGEL LAWTON

Business After Hours
Hosted by Everwise Credit Union

September 15 from 5 - 7 p.m.
Everwise Credit Union
201 County Road 6 West | Elkhart
Hors d'oeuvres will be served

Register at www.elkhart.org



OSHA Council Breakfasts Promote Safety in the Workplace

The mission of the Greater Elkhart Chamber's OSHA Council is to promote safety and health in the workplace through a professional forum and networking with the goal of exchanging knowledge, expertise and best practices.

The OSHA Council is an organization of member companies with an interest in safety and health awareness in the workplace. The council hosts a breakfast meeting at 7:30 am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September – May. The council continues to focus on

the foundational topics of health and safety and strives to stay up to date on emerging technology.

Any Chamber member may send one or more representatives to the monthly breakfast meeting, but reservations are required. OSHA Council Breakfasts are open to all Greater Elkhart Chamber members. The next meetings in 2026 will be September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16. Topics will be announced soon on the Chamber's website, elkhart.org.

Greater Elkhart Chamber Upcoming Events

JULY

21 Business After Hours
hosted by South Bend Orthopaedics

AUGUST

4 INDOT Luncheon
18 Business After Hours
hosted by The Sterling Room
20 Women's Council Planning Retreat

SEPTEMBER

10 Celebrating Minority Business Excellence Dinner
15 Business After Hours *hosted by Everwise Credit Union*
16 OSHA Council Breakfast
17 Women's Council Luncheon
24 Safety Conscious Supervisor Training
25 New Member Welcome

OCTOBER

16 Women's Council Wine Tour
20 Business After Hours *hosted by Potawatomi Zoo*
21 OSHA Council Breakfast
22 Intrigue, Inspire, Ignite Elkhart County

More information about events can be found at elkhart.org/events.



Boss Women

Panelists:
Breanna D. Allen, Tolson Center
Melanie Birky, Coaching with Melanie
Hayley Boling, Boling Vision Center
Ashley Martin, NIBCO

September 17 11:30 am
Ivy Tech Community College
22531 CR 18, Goshen

Presenting Sponsor:

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER
An AEP Company

Event Sponsors

everwise
CREDIT UNION

SPECIALIZED
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Greater Elkhart CHAMBER
Leading Business...Leading Our Community

Women's Council

Register at elkhart.org



Greater Elkhart CHAMBER
Leading Business...Leading Our Community

New Member Welcome

Friday, September 25 8:30 am
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
418 S Main St, Elkhart

Presenting Sponsor **LEADERSHIP TAP**

Register at www.Elkhart.org



Annual Wine Taste & Tour

Friday, October 16 11:30 am - 5:30 pm
Locations will be announced soon!

Presenting Sponsor

FSB
FIRST STATE BANK

Event Sponsors

COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL SERVICES

KRUGGEL LAWTON
CPA

WATERFORD CROSSING
A Kings Bank Group Company

100 GREATER ELKHART
CHAMBER
A CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP
1926-2026

Women's Council

Register at elkhart.org



THE ZOO
After Hours

Register to experience the wild!

October 20, 5-7 pm

POTAWATOMI ZOO.ORG





Celebrating the Best of the Best

Greater Elkhart Chamber Annual Meeting Award Winners

Each year, the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to celebrate the people, businesses, and organizations that help shape the region's success. Through their leadership, innovation, community involvement, and commitment to excellence, this year's award recipients represent the very best of Greater Elkhart. Their achievements reflect the entrepreneurial spirit and collaborative mindset that continue to strengthen our business community and inspire others to make a lasting impact. Congratulations to this year's outstanding honorees.

Business of the Year • WelImpact Group

WelImpact Group is Transforming Communities, One Vision at a Time. At the heart of Elkhart's transformation is WelImpact Group, a company dedicated to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in business, community development, and social impact. Founded by Dave Weaver, WelImpact simplifies complex issues to create intentional outcomes that solve prevalent challenges in the communities it serves.

WelImpact is creating transformational change. With a focus on entrepreneurship and philanthropy, WelImpact is behind some of the most innovative community development projects in Elkhart. They played a pivotal role in revitalizing, Elkhart Health & Aquatics, The Elkhart River District and the Elkhart Opportunity fund to name a few.

WelImpact believes that every building and development should contribute to the public realm, creating spaces that are meaningful, inspiring and engaging for both locals and visitors.

Through WelImpact, Dave Weaver and his team continue to redefine what's possible for Elkhart's business and community landscape. With each initiative, the company builds momentum, proving that when entrepreneurship and social good intersect, the results can be truly transformational.

The Business Recognition Council recognizes twelve businesses throughout the year for their innovative product/service, growth, community involvement, unique entrepreneurial story, and impact on the local economy.

Ambassador of the Year • John Snyder, Office 360

John Snyder, Office 360, exhibited a passion for building relationships and meeting with companies to discover ways to aid ongoing growth and success; represented his company and the chamber in a positive, enthusiastic manner at networking events and member celebrations; and encouraged other ambassadors. The award was renamed this year in honor of co-chair John Snyder, who passed away recently. His family accepted the award on his behalf.



Each month an Ambassador is recognized for excellence and awarded the Ambassador of the Month. The Ambassador of the Year is voted on by members of the council from the 12 monthly winners.



Century Plus Community • Century Chemical

Century Chemical was founded in 1926 and 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.

The Century Plus Community Award is presented annually to a Chamber member business or organization who has operated in our region for 100 consecutive years or more.



Nonprofit of the Year • Heart City Health

Heart City Health, established in 1993 as a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center, has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Elkhart County. Initially founded to provide affordable, high-quality medical and dental care to underserved residents, it has grown into a premier healthcare network recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. With just 6% federal funding, Heart City leverages diverse funding streams to maintain flexibility and expand services. Over the past 5 years Heart City Health has grown and expanded, adding a dedicated Women's health facility and behavioral health services and can now provide holistic healthcare to those in need.



Heart City Health's community impact and engagement is exemplary, with over 30 partnerships driving impactful initiatives. The most significant community impact comes from their annual Health Fest, started 20 years ago where they provide free screenings, demonstrations, and back-to-school donations. Health Fest is an event that truly represents what Heart City Health strives to be for Elkhart County. Heart City Health puts their money where their mouth is by "ensuring no one is turned away regardless of ability to pay."

Each year The Greater Elkhart Chamber's Business Recognition Council recognizes one outstanding nonprofit organization that serves our community. Throughout the year we honored four nonprofits and selected the Nonprofit of the Year from those winners.

Woman of the Year • Bethany Hartley

Bethany Hartley is the President and CEO of the South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership, a regional economic development organization that serves five counties in Indiana and Michigan. Bethany leads a team of professionals who are dedicated to catalyzing regional innovation, digital skills and new technology adoption, scaling startups, and ensuring inclusion to achieve shared prosperity. She is responsible for setting the strategic direction, overseeing the operations, and managing the multi-sector partnerships of the organization.

Under her leadership, the Regional Partnership has launched and implemented several initiatives to support the regional ecosystem, such as the WE+YOU talent attraction brand, HustleSBE Business Bootcamp, and Founder Factory, a large-scale entrepreneurship event. Bethany has a strong background in leading digital system transformations, organizational restructuring, large event management, and marketing and communications strategy.

The Women's Council presents the Woman of the Year Award to recognize a woman who has distinguished herself in her organization, profession, and community. Bethany was out of the country, and her team accepted the award on her behalf.



News About Our Members

Natalie Buroker is the new Chief Advancement Officer at **Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County**.

Aaron Hankins has been named Branch Manager for the Elkhart and Goshen offices of **Cressy & Everett Real Estate**.

For his outstanding contributions in fighting food insecurity and serving our local community, **Cultivate Food Rescue** co-founder Jim Conklin received the Community Impact Award from Impact Ministries of Michiana.

Elkhart Brass claimed the championship of the annual Coolest Thing Made IN Indiana contest hosted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Elkhart Brass earned the "Coolest Thing" title for its XD Glow in the Dark Smooth Bore Nozzle, a firefighting innovation designed to improve safety and efficiency by allowing fire departments to quickly identify the correct hose for specific conditions.

Jennifer Lee, Supervisor of Accounting, Audits & Investments at **Elkhart Community Schools**, has received top honors from the Indiana Association of School Business Officials (IASBO).

Ferret, Inc. received the Safety Award of Honor from the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association (FMA), for having a perfect safety record in 2025 with no recordable illnesses or injuries.

Fifth Third Bank has completed an acquisition of Comerica Bank, marking a major step forward as they become the ninth-largest bank in the nation.

Sean Kearns is stepping into a new role as East Region President at **1st Source Bank**.

Horizon Bank has named Ryan Hoffman as successor to Bruce Piekarski as Market President of Southwest Michigan and the North Central Region of Indiana.

Ali Moren has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Human Resources Business Partner, at **Interra Credit Union**.

Cindy Madrick has joined **KERAMIDA** as Vice President of Business Development.

Simon Smucker, CPA, and Brian Ulrich, CPA, have rejoined **Krugger Lawton CPAs** as Senior Managers.

Lake City Bank has promoted Heidi N. Green to Financial Advisor on the Lake City Investments Team.

James Horvath, President and Founder of **LecsIT**, recently earned certification as an AI Business Maturity Model coach through AIBMM.ai.

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union has promoted Mireya Olvera to Vice President, Regional Area Manager, and Jose Cazarez to Assistant Branch Manager at its new Elkhart branch.

Oaklawn has named Kelli Liechty, LCSW, MBA, as Chief Operating Officer. Kristin Tawadros, PsyD, HSPP, has been appointed Chief Clinical Officer.

Patrick Industries Inc. has announced the public debut of The Experience, a collaborative digital design studio that empowers customers to bring ideas to life in real time and prototype at full scale.

Launa Leftwich has been named the new President and CEO of **Ryan's Place**.

Matthew Presley will transition from his role as President and Chief Education Officer at Legacy Medical Academy to President, North Central Region, of **Senior1Care**.

Synergy Insurance, which traces its roots to the Michael Reddy Agency and has served the Region for nearly 20 years, has teamed up with Higginbotham, a Texas-based company.

TalentSource announces the addition of Alyssa Eslinger as Business Development Manager and Anna Cenova as Recruiting and Marketing Specialist.

Michele McDermott, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Chief Human Resources Officer at **THOR Industries**, has been appointed to the RV Women's Alliance's (RVWA) Board of Directors.

Tom Naquin Chevrolet-Nissan-Cadillac, Inc announces Thomas Nikolas (Nik) Naquin has become the new dealer operator at the multi-line family-owned dealership. Nik becomes the third-generation family member to head the enterprise.

Wellfield Botanic Gardens has been ranked the #1 botanical garden in the United States in a new national study released by outdoor apparel brand KÜHL. The study evaluated 407 public gardens across the country.

White Pine Services was recognized by Google Reviews as the Best of 2025 Elkhart Award Winner in the Janitorial Service Category.

Nick Hasenecz is the new General Manager of **WNDU Stations**.

Jess Koscher of **Write Connections | strategy + design, LLC** has been named by Great Companies as a Visionary Woman Founder to Watch for 2026.

Complex Technology Doesn't Have to Mean Uncontrolled Costs

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For growing businesses, technology should be a reliable growth engine, not a source of constant frustration and escalating expenses.

As your company scales, IT decisions naturally become more complex. Moser Consulting brings clarity to your decisions and results through our Strategic Consulting Services. We provide you with a trusted, executive-level technology partner who understands your local business landscape, delivering strategic oversight without the overhead of a full-time permanent hire.



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Join us as we celebrate REAL Services' 60 years of caring hearts and lasting community impact, while honoring those whose leadership, compassion, and service continue to strengthen our communities.

2026 AGE OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES



WANDA P. DUDLEY

Change Agent of the Year



CARL HETLER

Sargent Shriver Champion of the Year



**MILTON ADULT DAY SERVICES
CENTER FOR HOSPICE**

Becky Zaseck Professionals of the Year



DEAN R. HEISEY
in memoriam

Wyatt Mick Volunteer of the Year



SPIKE ABERNETHY

Les Fox Hoosier lifetime Achievement Award



PETE MULLEN

Les Fox Hoosier lifetime Achievement Award

Silent Auction | Fund the Need

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Doors Open at 5:30 PM

Gillespie Conference & Special Event Center

Our Gold Sponsor



Our Media Sponsors



Featuring
Chris Singleton



After losing his mother in the Charleston church shooting, this former South Bend Cub inspires audiences with a message of hope and resilience.



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