



Greater Elkhart

CHAMBER

# LEADING BUSINESS

JUNE/JULY 2023



*Where We Come Together!*



# First, we'll lend an ear.



The beginning of any strong partnership starts with knowing your business.

Lake City Bank's experienced loan officers are experts at listening to your needs and helping you take your business where you want it to go. We'll lend you our time.

We'll lend you an ear. We'll lend you a hand.

Call **(888) 522-2265**

Drop in.

 **Lake City Bank**  
Member FDIC



All loans are subject to credit approval. Institution ID #431669.

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

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



weIMPACT

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**President's Report** ..... 4

**Nominations for Board of Directors**..... 5

**Maria Rojas named Small Business Advisor** ..... 6

**Business Recognition Awards**..... 7

**New Educator Welcome**..... 7

**Quality of Place Matters** ..... 8

**Summertime in the City Parks**..... 9

**Member Celebrations**..... 10

**Transportation Luncheon** ..... 10

**Michiana Forty Under 40** ..... 11

**New Members and Anniversaries** ..... 12

**News About Our Members** ..... 13

**Ambassadors of the Month** ..... 13

**Calendar of Events** ..... 14

*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.*

Cover photos provided by Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“Leading Business” is the bi-monthly magazine published by:



418 S. Main St. | Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 293-1531 | [Elkhart.org](http://Elkhart.org)  
All rights reserved 2023

Permission from the Chamber President is required for any reproduction, reprint or reuse of the content of this magazine.

A PDF version of “Leading Business” is available at [www.Elkhart.org](http://www.Elkhart.org)

Please submit news releases, inquiries, and requests for information on advertising to [marketing@elkhart.org](mailto:marketing@elkhart.org) or call (574) 293-1531 ext 138.

# Where We Come Together



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Levon Johnson  
President/CEO  
ljohnson@elkhart.org

Quality of Place has been a major topic in economic development in recent years. This topic looms even larger as more and more Americans are choosing where they will live based less on the job they are seeking and more on the quality of place they will call home.

This means Greater Elkhart and the State of Indiana will have to continue to invest in, compete for, and innovate in quality of place initiatives in order to attract and retain the needed talent that drives our local and state economies on a global scale.

For purposes of this article, let's use this 2009 definition of quality of place, "the physical characteristics of a community, the way it is planned, designed, developed and maintained that affect the quality of life of people living and working in it and those visiting it both now and in the future."



I once heard a movie director say that most people watching a film forget that the setting for the story is a main character that enhances the storyline and engagement of the other characters.

Thinking about it in that context, the investments in quality of place, whether new spaces or maintenance of existing amenities, help create the backdrops for the daily interactions that create the experiences that make a place "sticky" to an individual or group.



No time of the year shows more evidence of the interaction of space, activity, and gathering than summertime in our area.

From Memorial Day Week to Labor Day Weekend the number of events hosted in our parks and venues that bring people together is energizing. It's during this time when we come together with old friends and colleagues or meet new friends and acquaintances for shared experiences.

There are so many opportunities to enjoy the parks, venues, events, and people in our region this time of year.

I would like to make a couple of calls to action.

First, for the next four months, invite your family and friends to join you as you experience the sights and sounds of the things our community has to offer.

While you're doing that, go do something that is different than what you would usually do. Shared new experiences are always great for strengthening relationships.

Second, while you out enjoying the parks, venues, and events during this time, commit to meeting at least one person you don't know. Think of it this way – you already have something in common because you both chose to be where you are.

We are fortunate to have individuals and organizations that are focused on making sure our quality of place provides opportunities for a great quality of life here in Elkhart County.

This issue of *Leading Business* includes articles from Jon Hunsberger, Executive Director of the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Jamison Czarnecki, Park Superintendent for Elkhart City Parks.

With a focus on how each of us can, and should, engage in creating the place we want and events that will happen in the place we have, they highlight how and where we can come together now and in the future.

Summer is here. I hope you make the time to visit the great places that make our region unique, have fun at many of the events that will be taking place for the next few months, and spend time with your community family.

See you out and about in Greater Elkhart!



## Chamber requests nominations for 2024 Board of Directors

The Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce will receive applications for its board of directors through September 1, 2023. Community leaders are encouraged to serve and participate in governing the finances and strategic initiatives of the Chamber, which represents roughly 44,000 total employees and over 900 member businesses and organizations.

Board terms are three years in length, and selected individuals from this year's nominations will be seated January 1, 2024.

Any employee of a member business or organization in good standing may submit a Board Application and resumé. The application is available online at [www.elkhart.org](http://www.elkhart.org) or by calling Amanda at (574) 293-1531.

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 at [www.elkhart.org/chamber-information/boardapplication](http://www.elkhart.org/chamber-information/boardapplication); mailed to PO Box 428, Elkhart, IN 46515; or delivered to 418 S Main St, Elkhart.

## Maria Rojas named Small Business Advisor



We welcome Maria Rojas, who has joined the staff of the Greater Elkhart Chamber as a Small Business Advisor.

In her role, she will be a liaison between Greater Elkhart small businesses and the Chamber and is responsible for assisting startups, entrepreneurs, and existing businesses.

She will provide personalized coaching and support to help individuals navigate the complex world of entrepreneurship. She will help the budding entrepreneur develop business plans; the start-up create a mindset that will keep them focused; and motivate the established small business owner to develop a strategic approach to achieve success.

Maria is bilingual, with over 15 years of global experience in project management, planning, and execution. Originally from Venezuela, she has a passion for helping entrepreneurs.

To schedule a counseling appointment with Maria, complete the form at [elkhart.org/small-business-advisor/](http://elkhart.org/small-business-advisor/)

## OSHA 10 Hour Training

The next 10 Hour General Industry Safety & Health Program will be held on October 3 and 4 at the Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart.

This 10 hour 2-day Course is designed to present detailed information on how the provisions of OSHA Act must be implemented in the workplace. The workshop fee includes breakfast and lunch both days and your personal copy of Introduction to OSHA Student Handbook.

Upon completion of the training, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion and a Department of Labor OSHA wallet size completion card.

The 20 Hour course will be offered March 5-7, 2024. Upon successful completion of the 10 and 20 hour courses, participants will receive their 30 hour certification.

Register at [www.elkhart.org/events](http://www.elkhart.org/events). Registrations must be made in advance and class size is limited to 40 attendees.



## It's all in the details



## MajorityBuilders.com

# Business Recognition Awards



RSM US LLP, 52700 Independence Ct, Elkhart, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. RSM traces its history to 1926, when Ira B. McGladrey started his accounting firm in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Since then, RSM has opened 82 offices in the United States. RSM US LLP is the U.S. member of RSM International, a global network of independent assurance, tax and consulting firms with 57,000 people in 120 countries. RSM is the leading provider of professional services to the middle market. The clients they serve are the engine of global commerce and economic growth, and they are focused on developing leading professionals and services to meet their evolving needs in today's ever-changing business landscape. Stewardship is a pillar of RSM. The Elkhart team participates in a firm-wide Volunteer Day to give back to their local communities and the Birdies Fore Love program to raise funds to help children and families. The Elkhart

team's charitable efforts in 2022 supported Cultivate and donated \$51,000 to the organization. To retain talent of college level individuals completing school, RSM takes part in recruiting events and job fairs by offering a variety of internship and full-time opportunities, and actively recruits for both student opportunities and experienced professionals throughout the state. RSM has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 1990.

**R Yoder Construction**, 27453 CR 150, Nappanee, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. R. Yoder Construction is a commercial construction company started in 1978 by the Yoder patriarch, Randy Yoder. His three sons Jason, Brad, and Kevin now run the business, which has grown to 38 employees. While R. Yoder is mainly focused on the commercial construction market, they are currently working on the residential Wellfield Subdivision in Nappanee. Recent commercial projects include Middlebury Fire Department renovation, Biggby Coffee, SmokerCraft HQ, Transformation Ministries, Concord School, and Nelson's BBQ and Catering. The company has built an amazing organization highlighting their core values of Integrity, Reliability, Sense of Urgency, Mentality, Team, Excellence in the Ordinary, Safety, Humility, Generosity, Attitude, and Accountability. They hire numerous interns from the area and actually hire more than they need so they can teach and keep these members of the community in the area. The company supports nonprofit organizations, including RETA, Transformation Ministries, and Cultivate. R. Yoder Construction has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 2019.



## New Educator Welcome for 2023-24 School Year

The Education/Career Development Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber will welcome new teachers and administrators of Elkhart, Concord, and Baugo School systems and area private schools with a welcome presentation at their school system's orientation in August.

Sponsors are needed for the canvas bags and items to fill them. The completed welcome bags will be delivered to each new educator at their school.

Each bag will contain information about Elkhart County, a listing of contributing businesses, and donated items such as pens, pencils, office supplies, coupons or products with company names and logos.

Two hundred items are needed to fill the bags and meet the goal to reach all new educators in the community. Donations should be received at the Chamber by July 21. Bag sponsorships (\$350) deadline is June 15.

For information, contact Kathy at (574) 293-1531 Ext. 122 or [kcardwell@elkhart.org](mailto:kcardwell@elkhart.org).



# Quality of place matters to our hearts and our community's bottom line



**Jon Hunsberger**

*Executive Director  
Elkhart County  
Convention and  
Visitors Bureau*

Does it matter if people love where they live?

Your immediate gut response is “Of course!” Dig into the research and you’ll find it matters, and not just at an emotional level. How people feel about the place where they live also carries significant economic implications as well.

The Knight Foundation’s groundbreaking Soul of the Community study of cities identified attachment – loving where you live – as the most significant factor in a community’s economic well-being.

Attachment is derived from “quality of place,” which describes a community’s:

**Aesthetics:** the overall physical and social environment of a place, including its natural and built assets, amenities, and community characteristics.

**Social offerings:** activities and events that bring people together for fun activities and interaction.

**Openness:** how welcoming a community is to all people.

Research has shown that high-quality places are associated with higher levels of economic activity and competitiveness. For example, businesses are more likely to invest

in areas that offer things such as good schools, access to cultural and recreational activities, and a safe and healthy environment.

Additionally, tourists are more likely to visit and spend money at destinations that offer unique and memorable experiences which reflect the local culture and character.

It is this idea that has driven the Vibrant Communities movement in Elkhart County since 2015.

A collaboration of the Elkhart County CVB and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Vibrant Communities has championed placemaking projects, programs and policies with an eye on the economic vitality of our hometowns.

Placemaking is a powerful tool for enhancing the quality of places and promoting economic growth.

By engaging local leaders and residents in the planning and design of public spaces and amenities, placemaking can create more vibrant, attractive, and functional spaces that reflect the unique character and identity of the community.

This can help to attract and retain residents, stimulate local entrepreneurship, support small businesses, and increase property values.

Placemaking can also promote more sustainable forms of

economic development by encouraging the use of public transportation, reducing reliance on automobiles, and promoting mixed-use development that integrates housing, retail, and commercial uses.

By creating more walkable, bike-friendly, and transit-oriented communities, placemaking can reduce congestion, improve air quality, and enhance public health, while also supporting local businesses and economic activity.

Eight years into this movement, Vibrant Communities has inspired thousands of residents to love where they live through the active process of creative placemaking, transforming our communities, neighborhoods, and downtowns.

This summer, Action Agenda 2.0 – building off the hugely successful first Action Agenda of 2016 – will be revealed and help propel Elkhart County into an even brighter future.

These ideas reflect an Elkhart County that embraces quality of place and promoting sustainable economic development. We want to create places that are more attractive, functional, and reflective of the unique character and identity of our community.

Join the movement for a more Vibrant Elkhart County!





# Summer Time in the City Parks



**Jamison Czarnecki**

*Superintendent  
Elkhart City Parks*

The cottonwood seeds falling from the trees tell me that summer has at last come again. Though there is never really a “slow” time for parks departments, there is no doubt that this season is our busiest.

One might almost say that this is our Christmas and we are the bustling elves getting ready for the 1st week of June when our new programs roll out, facilities open up, and event season kicks off.

We are bringing back many of the programs and events that people have enjoyed in years past, while also sprinkling in a dash of new offerings that the community will appreciate.

On June 9th and 10th, we will kick off our 43rd Rhapsody Arts and Music Fest.

It features artisan vendors, 6 live bands, a beer tent to enjoy an adult beverage around the island, and of course some of the best festival food options outside the Elkhart County 4-H Fair. Shout out to our title sponsor, Brinkley RV, for making it possible to be a free event again!

We are also continuing our 3rd Fridays Summer Chill Concert Series in NIBCO Water and Ice

Park June through September, featuring great bands, food, and music as well! Bring a lawn chair and relax with friends for some free Friday night entertainment.

Our 4th of July Party this year will be downtown again with an awesome fireworks show happening Saturday, July 1st at 6 pm.

Spoiler alert for Fall! We are bringing back “Island of Blues” festival which will be September 16th, bringing local favorites and new groups from as far away as New York.

Our weekly Farmers Market happens each Saturday until October from 9 am to 1 pm at Kardzhali Park next to NIBCO Water and Ice Park with more than 35 vendors with produce, jewelry, baked goods, and more to explore!

If you’re looking for something for you or your kids to do this summer, we’ve got you covered!

We have multiple summer camps, youth and adult sports lessons, recreation leagues, kayaking trips, a body mind and spirit series, programs for veterans, dancing programs, playground activity days, and even a wilderness survival camp!

No matter who you are, we are hoping to have something that spikes your interest.

The aquatic facilities, Pierre Moran Pool, Ideal Beach, and

McNaughton Spray Park (which is still free), open the 1st week of June through August. We will also have the splash pad at NIBCO Ice and Water Park going throughout the day with most hours at facilities from 12 pm to 7 pm.

Outside of our active programs, events, and facilities, I encourage you to participate passively in our parks as well.

The City of Elkhart features over 500 acres of greenspace, multiple sport courts, great fishing spots, updated playgrounds, and even a dog park!

My favorite spot currently is the recently paved New River Greenway Trail that hugs the Elkhart River for a fun experience.

One of Elkhart’s greatest assets is the vibrancy that comes to life in the summer and it is an honor to be a small part of so many great opportunities that our community can enjoy.

A great city has a great sense of community, but that only happens when people get off the couch and get outside!

See you out there, friends.



# Member Celebrations



**Alphagraphics**, a premier marketing and printing services solution serving the Elkhart market, has opened their new location at 22158 Elkhart East Blvd, Elkhart. [www.alphagraphics.com](http://www.alphagraphics.com)



Congratulations, **Eden Barber Academy**, on your grand opening! Eden Barber Academy is dedicated to preparing students to become professionals. Visit them at 111 Easy Shopping Place #B, Elkhart. [edenbarberacademy.com](http://edenbarberacademy.com)



**The Electric Brew Ivy Tech Elkhart** has opened inside Ivy Tech Community College South Bend-Elkhart campus located at 22531 Co Rd 18. They are excited to be serving students and the community! [theelectricbrew.com](http://theelectricbrew.com)



Let the real estate agents of **Howard Hanna EC Real Estate** guide you to your new home. Congratulations on your new Elkhart location at 1809 E Bristol St! [elkhart.howardhanna.com/Team/Detail/elkhart](http://elkhart.howardhanna.com/Team/Detail/elkhart).

## Transportation Luncheon features INDOT presentation

The 26th Annual INDOT Luncheon hosted by the Transportation Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber will feature special guests from the Indiana Department of Transportation, including Commissioner Michael J. Smith.

The luncheon will be held at Elcona Country Club, 56784 CR 21, Bristol, on Tuesday, August 8, 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 Indiana Toll Road. Event sponsors are Abonmarche, HRP Construction Inc.; Indiana Michigan Power; Lochmueller Group; Majority Builders; Niblock Excavating, Inc.; Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.; Robert Weed Corporation; and Surveying And Mapping, LLC.

Register at [www.elkhart.org/events](http://www.elkhart.org/events) by August 2.



Congratulations to **INOVA Federal** on the Corporate Branch Grand Re-opening celebrating the completion of their renovation project! Visit their downtown Elkhart location at 358 S Elkhart Ave. [www.inovafcu.org](http://www.inovafcu.org)



The **Lenox Event Venue**, 101 N Main St in downtown Elkhart, has been restored to match its 1905 design. They are ready to talk with you about booking your wedding or upcoming event! [www.LenoxEvents.com](http://www.LenoxEvents.com)



Welcome, **Pizza Hut**, to your new Elkhart location at 200 Junior Achievement Dr in the Riverwalk District. Order online for delivery or carry out. [locations.pizzahut.com/in/elkhart/200-junior-achievement-dr](http://locations.pizzahut.com/in/elkhart/200-junior-achievement-dr)

*Let us help you celebrate!*

Call 574-293-1531 to discuss your member celebration.

## 

- Dr. Abigail Battjes | Saint Joseph Health System\*
- Brittany Betz Lauer | Dairy Queen
- Whitney Boling, MD | Boling Vision Center\*
- Santana Bozman | Gibson\*
- Samantha Brady | South Bend International Airport\*
- Braxton Cave | Lippert Components, Inc.
- Juan Constantino | La Casa de Amistad
- Trevor Daugherty | Edible Michiana
- Beau Dunfee | Weichert Realtors/Jim Dunfee & Associates
- Rebecca Shetler Fast | CAPS - Child and Parent Services\*
- Raymond Fraser | Vital View Technologies, Inc.
- Austin Gammage | University of Notre Dame\*
- Sandra Garcia | Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County
- Megan Hamand | 1st Source Bank\*
- Deejra Lee | North Woods Village at Edison Lakes
- Kate Leichty | Kruggel Lawton CPAs\*
- Carli Luca | WNDU-TV\*
- Jeremy Lugbill | Career Academy South Bend
- James Lutaaya | South Bend Community School Corporation
- Dr. Paul Mannia | Three Oaks Dentistry/U.S. Air Force Reserves
- Laurel Marnocha | LaSalle Hospitality Group/Lama Enterprises
- Gevorg Martirosyan | Saint Joseph Health System\*
- Jamie McGraw | South Bend Medical Foundation
- Mitchell Olsen | University of Notre Dame\*
- Monnese Plummer | Fancy Delights LLC\*
- Adam Russell | THK Law, LLP\*
- Rachel Schnetzler | Warrick & Boyn, LLP\*
- Michael Scott | First Response DRS\*
- Jennifer Sinclair | Penn Harris Madison School Corporation
- Ashley Slack | Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency
- Kate Steury | Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn
- Ashley Swathwood | Ashley Rene's Prom and Pageant
- DJ Tavernier | River Valley Construction Group
- Maci Tetrick | ABC57 News\*
- Shaban Varajab | South Bend Community School Corporation
- Andrew Weiss | Knights of Columbus
- Danielle Campbell Weiss | City of South Bend
- Victoria Woodard | University of Notre Dame\*
- Amanda Zaluckyj | Athora Law Group, LLC
- Justus Zimmerman | South Bend Symphony Orchestra

\* designates member of Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

## JUNE AND JULY ANNIVERSARIES

### 50 YEARS +

D & W Inc.  
Elkhart Bedding Company, Inc.  
Hartzler-Gutermuth-Inman Funeral Home  
L.E. Johnson Products, Inc.  
Niblock Excavating, Inc.  
Noah's Landing Pet Care Clinic LLC  
Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.

### 45 YEARS

Bugsy's Elkhart Exterminating, Inc.  
KampCo Steel Products, Inc.  
Ruthmere Museum  
Sam's Tire Service, Inc.

### 35 YEARS

Housing Authority, City of Elkhart

### 20 YEARS

TruPay Corporation  
WorkOne Northern

### 15 YEARS

AI Manufacturing, Inc.  
Botkin & Hall, LLP  
Synergy Insurance Group

### 10 YEARS

Foamcraft, Inc.  
IMKO Workforce Solutions

### 5 YEARS

Green Stream Company  
Superior Tool & Die Co., Inc.

### 1 YEAR

The Arena  
Bag That Bag LLC  
Barron Furniture  
Coco's Restaurant  
Dave's Tax Service  
El Fogon Restaurante y Taqueria  
Final Phase Electric Company Inc.  
Heavenly Sent Sea Moss  
Hylant  
Keyline Sales, Inc.  
Ms. Nita's Apparel & Thangz  
Orange Rose Services Inc.  
Regality Inc.  
RN Social Media Management LLC  
Thrift at Woodland Crossing  
Tycol Excavating  
US Army  
Workbox Staffing  
Xantrex

# NEW MEMBERS

### Alzheimer's Association

alz.org/indiana  
7221 Engle Rd, Ste 230  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
(260) 750-0829  
Cassidy Engle  
*Nonprofit Organizations*

### Beacon Insurance

mybeacongroup.com  
5775 Nimtz Parkway  
South Bend, IN 46628  
(574) 303-3146  
Sean Behensky  
*Insurance*

### Dynamic Packaging Solutions

dynamicclearsolutions.com  
406 Kesco Dr  
Bristol, IN 46507  
(574) 848-1410  
Trif Dimitroff  
*Contract Assembly Service/Packaging*

### Eden Barber Academy

edenbarberacademy.com  
111 Easy Shopping Place, Ste B  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 333-3517  
Jose Oropeza  
*Barber School*

### Essence Restaurant + Bar

essenceofelkhart.com  
333 NIBCO Pkwy  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 327-6143  
Brad Canniff  
*Restaurants*

### Hartwood Tree Care

hartwood.biz  
4000 E Bristol St., Ste 3, #120  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 313-1414  
Tanzie Nielsen  
*Tree Services*  
Referred by Jason Shenk

### Lenox Event Venue

LenoxEvents.com  
101 N Main St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 501-0611  
Leanne Ivanov  
*Event Space*

### Midwest Automotive Designs LLC

midwestautomotivedesigns.com  
1826 Leer Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 522-4878  
Madalyn Mathews  
*Sprinter Van Custom Conversions*

### Monogram Foods

monogramfoods.com  
605 Kesco Dr  
Bristol, IN 46507  
(574) 966-2132  
Shaun Jones  
*Food Processing/Manufacturing*

### Northern Indiana Hispanic Health Coalition

nihhc.com  
444 N Nappanee St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 522-0966  
Liliana Quintero  
*Nonprofit Organizations*  
Referred by Business Diversity Initiative

### Pizza Hut

locations.pizzahut.com/in/elkhart/  
200-junior-achievement-dr  
200 Jr Achievement Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 295-2222  
Heather Haggard  
*Pizza*

### Ranger Distribution Inc.

rangerdistribution.com  
21496 Buckingham Rd  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 891-4994  
John Curran  
*Recreational Vehicle: Product Distributor*  
Referred by Nuway Construction

### The United Village Inc.

thevillagecommunitycenter.org  
215 E Indiana Ave  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 326-3274  
Leatra Scott  
*Nonprofit Organizations*  
Referred by Leadership Academy

### Woodland Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation

woodlandmanornursingandrehab.com  
343 S Nappanee St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 295-0096  
Mary Gallardo  
*Skilled Nursing Facility*

### WW Mobile Notary Service

wmmobilenotaryservicellc.com  
1 American Way Circle  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 226-4125  
William Walls  
*Notary Service*

## Elkhart Leadership Academy Accepting Applications

The Elkhart Leadership Academy is gearing up for its 36th Cohort! The Academy's nine-month program is designed for high potential employees to further develop their leadership, team building and communication skills and is exclusive for Chamber Members' employees only.

Participants will engage with various organizations at locations around the county to expose them to the uniqueness this community has to offer. Session content is geared toward building hard and soft leadership and communication skills while getting the participants in front of key leaders to learn from their insights. They will also gain an understanding of their workplace behaviors through Everything DiSC Catalyst assessments and how to work effectively with other behavioral styles. Content is rounded out with diversity and inclusion, problem solving, conflict management, decision-making, media communications, and presentation skills.

Academy members will participate in a group impact project over the duration of the program with local nonprofit organizations. This critical team building experience exposes them to the inner workings of nonprofits and philanthropy throughout the county and has deliverable results. They will also be asked to serve a one-year board internship with a local nonprofit organization or service club after graduation, if they are not currently serving on a board or service club or in the past.

Cohorts are limited to 30 attendees and the deadline to apply is July 20. The application can be found online at: [www.elkhart.org/elkhart-leadership-academy-application/](http://www.elkhart.org/elkhart-leadership-academy-application/)

# NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Ben's Soft Pretzels** has opened a new location at Indianapolis International Airport. They have over 150 locations in 15 states.

**Andy Jingst** has been appointed as Plant Manager at **Bonnell Aluminum Elkhart**.

**Alexandra Hunter** has been promoted to Bank Officer at **Centier Bank**. She is Branch Manager of the Elkhart North location.

**Shannon Oakes** is the new Director of Destination Development at the **Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau**.

**First State Bank** has promoted **Tessa Trigg** to Assistant Vice President, Electronic Services, and **Amanda Kindig** to Banking Officer, Branch Administration.

**Leslie Abel** has been named Branch Manager at **Horizon Bank**, located at 1909 E Bristol St, Elkhart.

**INOVA Federal** has opened their new branch at 602 N Main St, Mishawaka.

**J. A. Wagner Construction** welcomes **Adam Claeys-Smith** as Project Superintendent and **Mac DeShone** as Project Manager.

**Lacasa, Inc.** has promoted **Veronica Fredrick** to Construction Manager.

**Lake City Bank** has promoted **Allie L. Rhodes** to Vice President, Retail Banking Regional Manager.

**Jennifer Pickering MA** has been named CEO for **New Avenues, Inc.** **Mary Kowalski** retired as CEO and is now Chairperson of the Board and will remain as one of the four owners.

**The South Bend Cubs** reached a milestone in May, welcoming its three millionth fan under Andrew Berlin's ownership.

**Surveying And Mapping, LLC** has relocated their office to 2810 Dexter Dr, Elkhart.

**Tori Jorgensen** has been promoted to Executive Recruiter at **TalentSource**.

Submit your company's news and information to [marketing@elkhart.org](mailto:marketing@elkhart.org)

## Ambassadors of the Month

presented by **J2 Marketing**



**Debra Hoover**

**Watkins Family Dentistry**  
[www.watkinsfamilydentistry.com](http://www.watkinsfamilydentistry.com)

*"Building relationships with business owners, leaders and entrepreneurs is instrumental in my professional growth*

*and development. Being part of, as well as seeing first-hand, how the Chamber advocates and supports our thriving business community is exciting and rewarding. The vision of Elkhart is alive!"*



**Philip Sleseman**  
**Surf Internet**

[www.surfinternet.com](http://www.surfinternet.com)

*"I am very thankful to serve as an ambassador for the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce. It has been very*

*fulfilling both professionally and personally to give back to the great members of our chamber. I have greatly enjoyed connecting with members about the value of fiber internet as well as the value of their chamber membership."*

# CHAMBER EVENTS

## JUNE

26

### Annual Golf Outing

Tee Times: 8:30 am and 2:15 pm  
Elcona Country Club  
56784 CR 21, Bristol

## JULY

3-4

### Chamber Closed

Independence Day Holiday

7

### New Member Welcome

8:30 am  
Greater Elkhart Chamber  
418 S Main St, Elkhart

18

### After Hours

hosted by JSK Hospitality

4:30 - 7 pm  
3521 Plaza Court, Elkhart

## AUGUST

8

### Annual INDOT Luncheon

11:30 am  
Elcona Country Club  
56784 CR 21, Bristol

15

### After Hours

hosted by Boling Vision Center

5 - 7 pm  
2746 Old US 20 W Ste B, Elkhart

17

### Women's Council Planning Retreat

8 am - 12 pm  
The Gathering Place at Billings  
1231 Johnson St., Elkhart

24

### Young Professionals Luncheon - Growing on the Corporate Ladder

11:30 am  
The Arena, 2401 Middlebury St, Elkhart

29

### Economic Update Luncheon

11:30 am  
Aria Ballroom at Hotel Elkhart  
500 S Main St, Elkhart

Please visit [Elkhart.org/events](http://Elkhart.org/events) for more information.

Be part of the planning and help make things happen!  
Come share your ideas/topics for planning the 2024 calendar

## Women's Council 2024 Planning Retreat

Thursday, August 17 8 am - 12 pm

The Gathering Place at Billings, 1231 Johnson St., Elkhart

\$20 Members / \$30 Non-Members

Register at [www.Elkhart.org/events](http://www.Elkhart.org/events)



## Growing on the Corporate Ladder

Speaker: Bob Martin, President/CEO, THOR Industries, Inc.

Thursday, August 24 11:30 am

The Arena, 2401 Middlebury St, Elkhart

A Luncheon hosted by the Young Professionals Council - all ages welcome

Sponsored By: KRUGGEL  
LAWTON<sup>CPA</sup>

Register at [Elkhart.org](http://Elkhart.org)

# ECONOMIC UPDATE

featuring Tom Jalics  
Chief Market Strategist, Fifth Third Bank

Tuesday, August 29  
11:30 am

Aria Ballroom at Hotel Elkhart  
500 S Main St, Elkhart

\$35 Members / \$50 Non-Members

Register at [Elkhart.org/Events](http://Elkhart.org/Events)

Presented by



Hilton  
Garden Inn

HOME 2  
SUITES BY HILTON

Fairfield  
BY MARRIOTT

COURTYARD  
BY MARRIOTT

# After Hours

July 18 4:30 - 7 pm  
3521 Plaza Court, Elkhart

Adult Scavenger Hunt ♦ Live Music ♦ Tent Party

# Don't throw crumbs to your employees!

Promotions

Anniversaries

Retirements

Birthdays

Meetings

And more...

CONGRATULATIONS

**BOB JACKSON**

Good luck on your retirement!

Company  
Logo

## Give them the whole cookie!



*Sweet Oven Bakery*

53252 Ash Road, Granger IN 46530 574-304-7148



Presented by

**THOR**  
Go Everywhere. Stay Anywhere.™

# 66<sup>th</sup> Annual GOLF OUTING

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

**Tee Times: 8:30 am & 2:15 pm**

**Elcona Country Club**

*Enjoy a day of  
Golf, Networking and  
Elcona Don's BBQ Ribs!*

**Foursomes  
and Hole  
Sponsorships  
Available**

**Register at [Elkhart.org](http://Elkhart.org)  
or call 574-293-1531**