



Greater Elkhart

CHAMBER

# LEADING BUSINESS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023



## Lifelong Learning



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report .....	4
Business Recognition Awards.....	5
Nominations for Board of Directors.....	5
Fairbanks Awards .....	6
Startup Moxie .....	7
Lifelong Learning .....	8-9
Member Celebrations.....	10
Business Education Partnership Award .....	11
New Members and Anniversaries .....	12
Golf Outing Winners .....	13
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.*

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# Lifelong Learning



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Levon Johnson  
President/CEO  
ljohnson@elkhart.org

What was the first thing you ever learned?

Not the first thing you learned in school, but the very first thing ever. Scientists probably have an answer for the first thing babies learn but I don't know if anyone truly remembers.

What was the last thing you learned?

Not the last thing you learned in school, although it could have been. It could have been something simple. What you learned may have helped you in your work or it could fall into the category of useless knowledge. Whatever it was, my bet is that you have learned something new within the last week, maybe even today.

***The reality is that learning never stops.***

Lifelong learning is a phrase that has been around for a long time and depending on who you ask, what it means may get you different answers.

The important thing, despite definitions, is that we all know we should be lifelong learners and be in a place where we can be that both formally and informally, through experience and education, or with intention and by happenstance.

Educational opportunities and the strength of those opportunities and access to them is critical to economic development.

As businesses and people, especially families, research moving to an area, one of the very first things sought is information about education.

In addition, evidence has shown that communities that have the best chances for economic growth in an ever-changing business climate are those that will be able to provide the needed educational choices to adapt.

One of the great things about living in the Greater Elkhart area is the depth of access opportunities to engage in educational growth.

We live in a region that values education and continuously works to provide how and where to receive the learning opportunities you want and need.

As school aged children are preparing to return to school in the next few weeks, it reminded us that the learning is not determined by the calendar or confined to a set of hours in a day. Nor does learning stop at a certain age.

From pre-k to retired, there is a significant number of organizations committed to making sure our region has educational access to learn new things or strengthen existing skills.

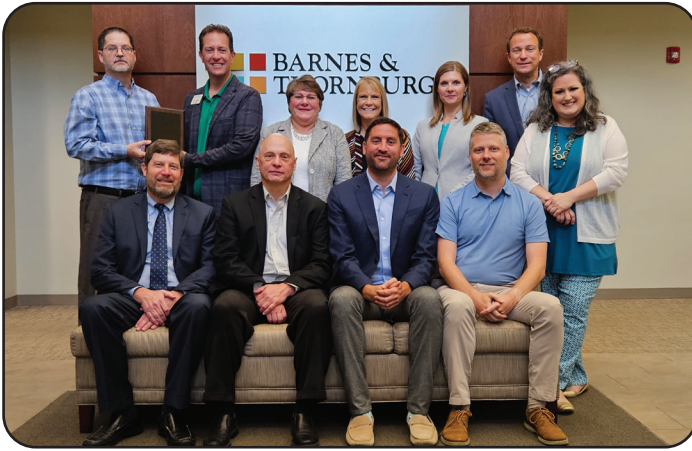
We wanted to make sure that we shared your fellow Chamber members that are here for our community with a commitment to make sure lifelong learning is part of the fabric that makes up the place we call home.

This list can be found in the center spread of this magazine and these educational providers can also be found on the Chamber's business directory located on our website.

My hope is that each of us continue to intentionally aim to learn something new every day. While you're at it, don't forget that you have the chance on most days to also teach someone around you something that you know.

The beauty of education is that what we learn can and should be shared.

# Business Recognition Awards



**Barnes & Thornburg**, 52700 Independence Ct, Elkhart, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. Barnes & Thornburg is a full-service business law firm, providing legal advice and services from a wide range of practice areas for businesses in many different industries. They opened their 23rd office in 2023, with existing offices from New York to Los Angeles. The two local branches in Elkhart and South Bend account for 70 employees, including attorneys. BT Valueworks is their suite of legal operations solutions that ensure value, innovation, efficiency and predictability to the legal services they provide. They want to ensure the best possible service to and for their clients and foster true collaboration among attorneys, in-house legal operations professionals and law firm professionals, supported by business and legal operations

technology. Their professionals are committed to supporting nonprofit organizations in the communities where they work and live, and are encouraged to participate on boards, committees, bar associations and other volunteer opportunities. They are a member of the Law Firm Pro Bono Project, a national nonprofit organization of leading national firms committed to pro bono legal services. The Barnes & Thornburg Racial and Social Justice Foundation is committed to promoting, advocating, and effecting racial and social justice in their local communities and nationally. Barnes & Thornburg has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 1983.

**Ruoff Mortgage**, 901 Parkway Ave, #5, Elkhart, has received a Business of the Month Award from the Greater Elkhart Chamber Business Recognition Council. In 1984, David Ruoff began the company with 20 employees as a full-service mortgage origination office in Ft Wayne. Today the company has more than 900 full-time employees, and is licensed in 45 states, with offices concentrated across Indiana, Michigan, Florida and Ohio. In 2022, they appeared for the 10th consecutive time on Inc.'s 5000 list, as one of the fastest growing companies in America. Mark K. Music came to the company in 2007 with a vision that shunned conventional wisdom at the time, and pursued a fresh new approach to mortgage banking. He set his sights on making Ruoff the #1 choice of the top talent working in the mortgage industry, as well as the top choice of consumers needing assistance in achieving their home ownership goals. The company prioritizes employee wellness and encourages volunteerism to United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity and others. Ruoff Cares, a non-profit organization, was established in 2020 to provide an employee assistance fund to assist members of the Ruoff Team who find themselves in extenuating circumstances. Ruoff Mortgage has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 2012.



## 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.



# Fairbanks Awards



AlphaGraphics has received a Fairbanks Award from the Business Recognition Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce. The award is for their new building, located at 22158 Elkhart East Blvd., Elkhart. The commercial print shop also offers a common space where the community is welcome to stop by to do work, relax or hang out. AlphaGraphics has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 2019.



Billings Funeral Home and The Gathering Place have received a Fairbanks Award from the Business Recognition Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce. The award was for the beautification of their facility, located at 812 Baldwin St, Elkhart, with landscaping and other improvements. Billings Funeral Home has been a member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber since 1996.

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)

## Building Effective Safety Committees

Presenter: Jason Demeter, Industrial Safety & Environmental Services

Wednesday, September 20 7:30 am  
Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Annual Sponsors

An OSHA Council Training Breakfast Register at [www.Elkhart.org](http://www.Elkhart.org) Pre-registration required

Greater Elkhart  
**YP**  
network develop serve

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

## OSHA TRAINING

### 10 Hour General Industry Safety & Health Program October 3-4, 2023

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

Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart  
Register at [www.elkhart.org/events](http://www.elkhart.org/events). Registrations must be made in advance.  
Class size limited to 40 attendees.

# Startup Moxie: Fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs in Elkhart County



## Kris Weimer

Executive Director  
Startup Moxie  
Elkhart County

Imagine if your high school self was given the opportunity to meet leaders in our community and see firsthand what Elkhart County has to offer. Ponder how that might have changed the trajectory of your life.

High school students in Elkhart County can experience this!

Through the Startup Moxie Elkhart County program, business owners and community leaders get to share their expertise with the next generation of young innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs. Throughout the school year, high school juniors and seniors in Startup Moxie interact with local business and community leaders.

This interaction occurs through guest speakers and on-site tours, collaborating on projects such as a class micro-businesses or community events, one-on-one mentorships, pitching to local entrepreneurs and creating their own startup business.



## Outcome Goals

- Transform students into entrepreneurs of their own lives
- Positively impact the economy of the South Bend Elkhart Region through workforce retention
- Fuel the South Bend Elkhart entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration skills
- Execute the creation of a class or individual business



## Class Components

- Open to all High School Juniors and Seniors in Elkhart County
- Class meets Monday - Friday from 7:30am - 9:00am in the business community
- Students earn 4 High School Credits and 16 Dual Credits through Ivy Tech
- Weekly networking opportunities
- Practice pitching personal business plans

## How you can help

- Host the class
- Mentor a student
- Give a tour
- Speak to the class
- Donate to support the mission of Startup Moxie

Incredible outcomes occur when students have the opportunity to learn through immersive experiences in our community!



## Quotes from alumni

*"My experience in Startup Moxie stretched me in many ways, not only as an entrepreneur, but as a collaborator, thinker, strategist, and networker as well."*

*I was able to step out of my comfort zone every day, whether it was through learning about running a business and solving problems with purpose and intentionality, communicating with my classmates and our guest speakers and local business owners in a way that produces meaningful and long-lasting connection, or brainstorming individually to build a startup I was proud of. I discovered so much about myself during this program.*

*Without being involved in Moxie, I would not be confident in myself and my abilities as a young person. For this reason, I am thankful for those who work hard to give other high school students this amazing opportunity. This generation has the ability to impact the Elkhart-South Bend community in a powerful way, and Startup Moxie Elkhart County is incredibly influential in training up young people to realize their potential."*

Kylie Vida, Class of 2021

*"The Moxie community had a huge impact on my life and helped in preparation for college."*

*I use many of the skills I learned at Moxie for my work and the business I am building as a side job. Moxie has also helped me with networking and looking at life in a different perspective."*

Abigail Hahn, Class of 2021



For more information visit [startupec.org](http://startupec.org) or call 574-606-8942.

# Lifelong Learning

Elkhart serves as an educational epicenter, offering access to educational opportunities from Pre-K to college and vocational training. These members of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce promote Lifelong Learning in our area, working to ensure a well-prepared workforce, and making the Greater Elkhart area an ideal location for raising kids, finding top-notch talent, and upskilling employees.

## Pre-K

### **Elkhart Child Development Center**

2121 Prairie St  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
(574) 293-5316  
elkhartchildcare.org

### **Elkhart & St. Joseph Co. Head Start Consortium**

245 N Lombardy Dr  
South Bend, IN 46619  
(574) 283-8128  
headstartesj.com

### **Foundations Child Care Center, Inc.**

1517 Grant St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 501-4323  
foundations4ece.com

### **Genai Excellence Academy, Inc.**

2201 Toledo Rd  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 367-8123  
genaicoleman.com

### **Gr8t Beginnings**

### **Early Childhood Coalition**

601 CR 17  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 295-1650  
gr8tbeginnings.org

### **Growing Kids Learning Center**

825 W Bristol St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 266-1800  
growingkids.com

## K-12

### **Baugo Community Schools**

29125 CR 22 W  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
(574) 293-8583  
baugo.org

### **Concord Community Schools**

59040 Minuteman Way  
Elkhart, IN 46517-3499  
(574) 875-5161  
concondschools.com

### **Elkhart Christian Academy**

25943 CR 22  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
(574)-293-1609  
elkhartchristian.org

### **Elkhart Community Schools**

2720 California Rd  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 262-5516  
elkhart.k12.in.us

### **The Stanley Clark School**

3123 Miami St  
South Bend, IN 46614  
(574) 291-4200  
stanleyclark.org



## Vocational

### **ADEC, Inc.**

19670 St Rd 120  
Bristol, IN 46507  
(574) 848-7451  
adecinc.com

### **Eden Barber Academy**

111 Easy Shopping Place, Ste B  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 333-3517  
edenbarberacademy.com

### **Elkhart Area Career Center**

2424 California Rd  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 262-5802  
elkhart.k12.in.us/eacc/

### **Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.**

PO Box 3846  
South Bend, IN 46619  
(574) 293-1818  
goodwill-ni.org

### **RV Technical Institute**

3333 Middlebury St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 549-9080  
rvti.org

### **WorkOne Northern Indiana**

430 Waterfall Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 295-0105  
gotoworkone.com



# Higher Education

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## **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

3003 Benham Ave  
Elkhart, IN 46517-1999  
(574) 295-3726  
ambs.edu

## **Goshen College**

1700 S Main St  
Goshen, IN 46526  
(574) 535-7564  
goshen.edu



## **Indiana Tech**

881 Parkway Ave, Ste 100  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 296-7075  
indianatech.edu

## **Indiana University South Bend**

PO Box 7111  
South Bend, IN 46634  
(574) 520-4872  
iusb.edu

## **Indiana University South Bend Elkhart Center**

125 E Franklin St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 294-5550  
southbend.iu.edu/elkhart/

## **Ivy Tech Community College**

22531 CR 18  
Goshen, IN 46528  
(574) 830-0375  
ivytech.edu

## **Purdue Polytechnic South Bend**

635 S Lafayette Blvd Ste 128  
South Bend, IN 46601  
(765) 494-7872  
purdue.edu/southbend

## **University of Notre Dame**

405 Main Building  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
(574) 631-1099  
nd.edu

# Educational Partners

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## **Bashor Children's Home**

PO Box 843  
Goshen, IN 46527  
(574) 875-5117  
bashor.org

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart Co.**

102 West Lincoln Avenue, Ste 240  
Goshen, IN 46526  
(574) 534-5933  
greatfutures.club

## **Center for Business Excellence**

418 S Main St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 293-1531  
elkhart.org/business-resources/cbe/

## **Crossing National Inc.**

515 S Main St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 226-0671  
crossingeducation.com

## **E3 Robotics Center Inc.**

3709 Cassopolis St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 536-4847  
E3robotics.org

## **Elkhart Education Foundation**

200 W Lusher Ave  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
(574) 295-4920  
elkharteducationfoundation.com

## **Elkhart Public Library**

300 S 2nd St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 522-3333  
www.elkhart.lib.in.us

## **ETHOS Innovation Center**

1025 N Michigan St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 266-7149  
ethosinc.org

## **Five Star Life / Summit**

2204 California Rd  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 266-4038  
fivestarlife.org

## **Horizon Education Alliance**

124 E Washington St  
Goshen, IN 46528  
(574) 970-5820  
heaindiana.org

## **Jimtown DECA**

59021 CR 3 S  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
(574) 295-2343  
jhs.baugo.org/activities/deca

## **Junior Achievement & Lemonade Day Serving Elkhart County**

1025 N Michigan St  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
(574) 320-6222  
jalemonade.org

## **Premier Arts**

410 S Main St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 612-2301  
premierarts.org

## **Startup Moxie**

418 S Main St  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
574-606-8942  
startupec.org



# Member Celebrations



**Barnhart Crane & Rigging** has expanded into Elkhart! Barnhart has provided installation services and maintenance for over 60 years with dedication to providing superior customer service. [www.barnhartcrane.com/elkhart-indiana/](http://www.barnhartcrane.com/elkhart-indiana/)



**Harmony at Elkhart** celebrates their Grand Opening! Harmony, 1129 Parkway Ave, Elkhart, is designed so residents can live the lives they choose in a beautiful, and supportive environment. [harmonyseniorservices.com/senior-living/in/elkhart/harmony-at-elkhart/](http://harmonyseniorservices.com/senior-living/in/elkhart/harmony-at-elkhart/)



**The Potawatomi Zoo** has opened the Wilma and Peter Veldman Family Lion Habitat. Visit the zoo's new pride of lions – Kembe, Shtuko, and Shaba – in their newly renovated habitat. [www.potawatomizoo.org](http://www.potawatomizoo.org)



Congratulations, **Shutter and Brushes**, on your grand opening! Their classes will inspire your creative side. Visit their store, located upstairs at Birds Gotta Fly Vintage, 916 N. Michigan St, Elkhart. [www.shutterandbrushes.com](http://www.shutterandbrushes.com)



**Starfish Project** celebrates their new location at 1010 Eisenhower Dr S, Ste A, Goshen! Starfish Project is a Social Enterprise with a Holistic Care Program that cares for women escaping human trafficking and exploitation in Asia. [starfishproject.com](http://starfishproject.com)



Congratulations, **Surveying And Mapping, LLC**, on your new location at 2810 Dexter Dr, Elkhart! The multidisciplinary land surveying and engineering company has delivered services to clients throughout the area for more than 100 years. [www.sam.biz](http://www.sam.biz)

# Business Education Partnership Award



The Elkhart County Health Department has received a Business Education Partnership Award from the Education/ Career Development Council of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce.

The Elkhart County Health Department has an ongoing relationship with schools, including educational programming and offering services such as vaccine clinics. The programming is an annual partnership with local schools and continues throughout the entire school year. The Health Department feels that this programming is “our opportunity to give back, support student education, and foster our relationships with families.”

## Breakfast with the Superintendents

Updates on our local schools with the Superintendents from Baugo, Concord, and Elkhart Community Schools

**September 14 8 - 9:30 am**

Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart

Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$30

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

Hosted by the Education/Career Development Council

## Styling For Success

Presenter: Kendra Cross, Mary Kay Consultant

**September 21 11:30 am - 1 pm**

Hubbard Hill, 28070 CR 24, Elkhart

Members \$20/Non-members \$30

Sponsored by KRUGGEL LAWTON CPA

Register at [Elkhart.org/events](http://Elkhart.org/events)  
Hosted by the Women's Council



It's all in the details



**MajorityBuilders.com**

**AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**1 YEAR**

Camco Manufacturing, LLC  
 Cubiletes Mexican Bar & Grill  
 Endeavour Commercial & Construction  
 Graphix Unlimited  
 The Grounds Guys of Elkhart and Goshen  
 Hoosier Crane Service Company  
 Ivy & Oak LLC  
 KC Layne Makeup and Lash Studio  
 Michiana Stone & Monument  
 Northwest Bank  
 Octopot, LLC  
 Serenity Home Medical, LLC  
 She Shack Maker's Studio  
 Sweet Oven Bakery

**5 YEARS**

Indiana Physical Therapy  
 Robert James Inc.  
 Sergio's Cafe  
 Stephanie Krol Public Relations

**10 YEARS**

Subway of Elkhart, Corporate Office

**15 YEARS**

Business Health Advantage  
 Kobelco Compressors Manufacturing  
 Indiana, Inc.  
 Prime-Time Specialty Vehicles, Inc.  
 Solution Source  
 Trinity Consultants

**20 YEARS**

A & M Systems Inc.

**25 YEARS**

Serim Research Corporation

**30 YEARS**

Personnel Partners, Inc

**35 YEARS**

Tri-State Protection, Inc.

**50 YEARS**

Clevenger Insurance  
 Gaska Tape Inc.  
 Tepe Sanitary Supply Inc., div. of Imperial Dade

**50 YEARS +**

Manpower, Inc.  
 Zeigler Ford Lincoln  
 Morgan Advanced Materials -  
 Thermal Ceramics

**100 YEARS**

KeyBank

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Alzheimer's Association**

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

**Aflac - Kyle Kauffman, LUTCF**

500 N Nappanee St, Ste 4A  
 Elkhart, IN 46514  
 (574) 265-3210  
 Kyle Kauffman, LUTCF  
*Insurance & Employee Benefits*  
 Referred by Jim Orbik

**The Benefit Companies, Inc. -**

**Paul Dowd**  
 connectandsimplify.com  
 250 N Patrick Blvd Ste 100  
 Brookfield, WI 53045  
 (262) 501-4225  
 Paul Dowd  
*Employee Benefits*

**El Rancho Viejo 7**

3011 Belvedere Rd, Ste 101  
 Elkhart, IN 46514  
 (574) 343-2016  
 Rafael Lopez  
*Restaurants*

**The Enterprise Building Indiana**

theenterprisebuildingindiana.com  
 421 S Second St  
 Elkhart, IN 46516  
 (574) 329-1794  
 Sam Voss  
*Office Space: Lease*

**Four Winds Casino Resort**

fourwindscasino.com  
 11111 Wilson Rd  
 New Buffalo, MI 49117  
 (269) 405-2508  
 Timothy Adams  
*Casino*

**Garden Inn**

ElkhartGardenInn.com  
 3011 Belvedere Rd  
 Elkhart, IN 46514  
 (574) 266-2121  
 AJ Singh  
*Hotels*

**Gates of Elkhart**

GatesOfElkhart.com  
 2405 Cassopolis St  
 Elkhart, IN 46514  
 (574) 584-2040  
 Jordan Cox  
*Automobile Dealers: Used*  
 Referred by Amanda Logsdon

**KMC Controls, Inc.**

kmcccontrols.com  
 19476 Industrial Dr  
 New Paris, IN 46553  
 (574) 831-8187  
 Chad Brew  
*Building Automation & Control Solutions*

**Shutter & Brushes**

shutterandbrushes.com  
 916 N Michigan St  
 Elkhart, IN 46514  
 (574) 524-6214  
 Amy Bechtel  
*Furniture: Refinishing & Repairing*

**Starfish Project, Inc.**

StarfishProject.com  
 1010 Eisenhower Dr S, Ste A  
 Goshen, IN 46526  
 (574) 584-4685  
 Deb Alwine  
*Nonprofit Organizations*



*Celebrating KeyBank and their 100 year partnership with the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce! KeyBank is one of our founding members.*

*Thank you for your century of support to the community!*

## Congratulations to our winners at the 66th Annual Golf Outing

presented by



**THOR**  
Go Everywhere. Stay Anywhere.

### Winning AM Foursome Welch Packaging

Dave Wilkerson, Tom Kershner,  
Jay Sheets, Charlie Stapke

### Winning PM Foursome HGR Group General Contractor

Justin Reinke, Steve Staszewski,  
Corey McGann, Justin Crook

### Contest Winners

- #3 Closest to the Pin – Drew Schneider
- #7 Longest Drive (Men) – Brady McKibben
- #9 Longest Putt – Sean Fick
- #13 Closest to the Pin – Daniel Hart
- #14 Shortest Drive – Dale Wills
- #16 Longest Drive (Women) – Roxanne Dirnberger
- #18 Longest Putt – Jay Sheets

**Thank you to all of our  
Golfers, Sponsors and Volunteers!**

**Plan to join us for next year's Golf Outing on  
June 24, 2024**

# NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Ameenah Starks** is the new Assistant Director for **Bowen Center Elkhart County**.

**Amber Pulford, MBA**, has joined **Cressy Commercial Real Estate** as Director of Corporate Advancement.

**Kevin Deary** is the new Director of Professional and Organizational Development for the **Community Foundation of Elkhart County**.

**David Damerow** has been named as the new Director of Business Retention and Expansion at **The Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County**.

**Teachers Credit Union (TCU)**, the largest credit union in Indiana, has changed its name to **everwise credit union** to better reflect its mission and grow beyond its original educator roots.

**Excel Electronics, Inc.** has earned their IPC J-STD-001 and IPC-A-610 Class 2 Qualified Manufacturers Listing Recertification.

**Jenny Vargas** has been promoted to Learning and Development Trainer for **INOVA Federal**.

**Brandon Yoder** has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Wealth Services at **Interra Credit Union**.

**Lacasa, Inc.** team members **Ashley Bowen and Rocío Arévalo Espinosa** have been appointed to the national NeighborWorks Advisory Committee.

**Lake City Bank** has received a Bronze U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer work with **Junior Achievement's** work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy activities across northern Indiana.

**Lerner Theatre** announces the graduation of **Michelle Frank**, Executive Director, and **Sarah Macer**, Director of Events, from Venue Management School.

**Sam's Tire Service** is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2023, with their third generation of family ownership.

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

## Ambassadors of the Month

presented by **J2 Marketing**



### Monica Abair

**Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.**  
[www.goodwill-ni.org](http://www.goodwill-ni.org)

*"Serving the community fills my heart and soul with joy. Being an Ambassador is a terrific way to be involved in the city and region while assisting fellow Chamber members reach their goals. This aligns with Goodwill of Michiana's mission of empowering and preparing people for independence through training, personal growth, and work."*



### John Snyder

**Office 360**  
[www.office360.com](http://www.office360.com)

*"Being an Ambassador has been a rewarding experience. Not only have I made great friendships on the council itself, but I've been introduced to a number of entrepreneurs making their own way in the Elkhart business community. It has given me better perspective and an appreciation for the hard work being done each day."*

# CHAMBER EVENTS

## AUGUST

- 8

**Annual INDOT Luncheon**  
11:30 am  
Elcona Country Club  
56784 CR 21, Bristol
- 15

**After Hours with Live LASIK at Boling Vision Center**  
4:30 - 6:30 pm  
2746 Old US 20 W, 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

## SEPTEMBER

- 1

**New Member Welcome**  
8:30 am  
Greater Elkhart Chamber  
418 S Main St, Elkhart
- 12

**After Hours hosted by Elkhart County Board of Realtors**  
5 - 7 pm  
57225 Alpha Drive, Goshen
- 14

**Breakfast with the Superintendents**  
8 am  
Matterhorn Conference Center  
2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart
- 20

**OSHA Breakfast - Building Effective Safety Committees**  
7:30 am  
Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis St, Elkhart
- 21

**Women's Council Luncheon - Styling for Success**  
11:30 am  
Hubbard Hill  
28070 CR 24, Elkhart

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

# ECONOMIC UPDATE

**Featuring National and Local Perspectives**

**Tom Jalics, Chief Market Strategist, Fifth Third Bank**  
and a panel discussion with  
**Mayor Rod Roberson, City of Elkhart**  
**Suzie Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner**  
**Mike Yoder, Town of Bristol**

**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**



**Business After Hours**

SEE  
AMAZING  
IN ACTION!

Live LASIK  
Procedure

• • •

Featuring  
*Dr. Rich Boling*

Tuesday, August 15th 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
2746 Old US 20 W, Elkhart, IN 46514

*After Hours*

Hosted by the  
**Elkhart County Board of REALTORS®**

Along with the Greater Elkhart and Goshen Chambers of Commerce.

**Tuesday, Sept 12th 5pm-7pm**  
57225 Alpha Drive, Goshen

Be our guest at this lively, casual after work event. Enjoy light bites, refreshments, and great company. Drop in your business card for prize drawings. There is no cost to attend.

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS

**THAT'S WHO WE ARE**

In the advertising world they say,  
“we use cookies” to connect with  
potential clients.



*Sweet Oven Bakery* has the best  
cookies for  
your world!





# 32nd Annual Community Leaders' Prayer Breakfast

October 26, 2023 from 7:30-9:00  
At the Northern Indiana Event Center

Featured Speaker 3-Time NASCAR Winner  
"the Melon Man" Ross Chastain



Thirty-two years ago a group of Christian leaders with CBMC (Christian Business Men's Connection) in Elkhart began the *Annual Community Leaders' Prayer Breakfast*. It was a success in terms of bringing the community together for a united time of fellowship, prayer and to hear a strong message of faith from someone who has risen to success but also has a testimony to share about how faith helped to overcome struggles and obstacles.

United States Senator Bill Armstrong was the first speaker at the inaugural event in 1991. Since then speakers include Dan Quayle, Mike Singletary, Tony Dungy, Darrell Waltrip, Bobby Bowden and Tim Brown. Other powerful speakers but perhaps not as well known include astronaut Robert Stewart, swimmer Josh Davis, the military man who was responsible for the hunt and capture of Saddam Hussein—Steve Russell, and Mark Whitacre that had a movie made about his life's story called *The Informant*.

The speaker for this year's event is Ross Chastain, an 8th generation watermelon farmer and the driver of the No. 1 Chevrolet for Trackhouse Racing in the NASCAR Cup Series. Ross started racing at age 12 and since has won three races in the NASCAR Cup Series and finished runner up in the points standings in 2022 after completing the "Hail Melon" pass at Martinsville, the most viral moment in the history of NASCAR.

## FROM MELON FARMER TO VICTORY LANE!



Chastain earned the nickname Melon Man due to his family's heritage in the watermelon farming industry. Despite being a star in the NASCAR Cup Series, he remains connected to his roots and continues to farm when his schedule allows. Chastain's celebratory move is to smash a watermelon on the front stretch after a win.

CBMC has been active in Elkhart since 1974 when Charlie Miller was its first chair and one of the founders of the Community Leaders' Prayer Breakfast. CBMC is active in the community all year long with programs that include monthly forums, bible studies, one-on-one mentoring, leadership training and lunch gatherings. The goal is to help people walk out a Christian faith in their lives at work and home while connecting and staying connected with each other.

Come join CBMC and the Community Leaders' Prayer Breakfast to hear Ross Chastain's stories from behind the wheel and in the pits as he blazes a new trail for himself in NASCAR and enjoy the breakfast catered by Nelson's.

This year's Annual Community Leaders' Prayer Breakfast will take place on October 26, 2023 at the Northern Indiana Event Center located at 21565 Executive Parkway in Elkhart from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. For more information contact Matt Schrock with DJ Construction at (574) 533-1645 or email [matt@djconstruction.com](mailto:matt@djconstruction.com). Tickets available online at <https://32nd-elkhart-clpb.eventbrite.com>