

# 2023 Directory

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# Connections Start Here

*The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination, and resources of its people.*  
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Welcome to the 2023 Wells County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Directory. We are happy you are a part of our community whether you are a resident, business owner, employee, or a visitor. We welcome you with open arms.

We are very proud of the Chamber Directory which includes stories of those that have made an impact in our lives, photos of events throughout the year, recognition of individuals and businesses involved in the community in many ways, celebrations of members who go above and beyond, and resources to connect you in the community.

Our local businesses want to connect with you... because connections start here. Over 450 diverse member businesses are invested in Wells County through their membership to the organization. Since 1914, the Wells County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development has supported businesses,

provided resources for growth and connection, and creating avenues and partnerships to strengthen our economy.

Every part of what we do here at the Chamber is about supporting our businesses in the community. You can do your part by shopping local in Wells County. Shopping local keeps money in our community, which makes a thriving local economy. Where we shop to live, work, and play makes our community a home.

Enjoy this directory and use it as your point of reference for services and connections. Visit our website at [www.wellscoc.com](http://www.wellscoc.com) to learn even more about the community, dates for upcoming events, search for jobs, and find a Chamber Member that can serve your needs.



**Erin Prible**

Executive Director,  
Wells County  
Chamber of Commerce

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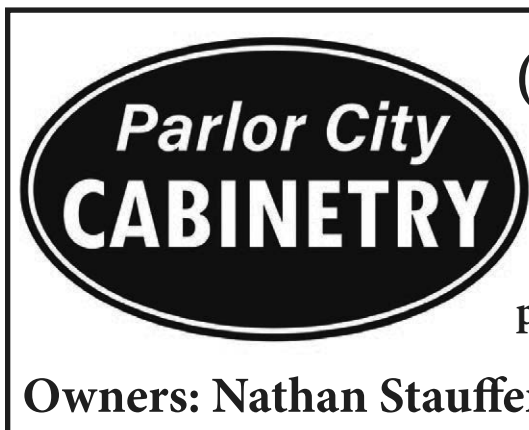


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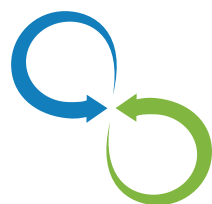
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# WELLS COUNTY INDIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## *The 2023 Board of Directors*

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#### **Erin Prible**

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eprible@wellsccoc.com





The 2023 Wells County Chamber of Commerce board members: Seated, from left: Chad Kline, Wells County Economic Development Director; John Whicker, Mayor of Bluffton; Trent Bucher, Honegger Ringger & Co.; Sam Haiflich, BKM Real Estate; Rick Gentis, First Bank of Berne; Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank; Dr. Brad Yates, Bluffton-Harrison MSD. Standing: Julie Thompson, Bluffton Regional Medical Center; Larry Smith, Edward Jones; Eric Gerber, Edge Manufacturing; Blake Gerber, Wells County Commissioner; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Jeremy Collins, Rethceif Packaging; Eventt Norris, Ossian Hardware; Rick Johnloz, Halderman Farm Management; Brad Baumgartner, Four Star Services; Mike Grant, Town of Markle. Not pictured: Stacey Duncan, WEG Commercial Motors; Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union; David Crell, Andrews & Crell; Michael Lautzenheiser, Bluffton NOW!; Vicki Andrews, Wells County Council; Sarah MacNeill, Wells County Public Library; LuAnn Martin, Town of Ossian.

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# Keeping the pedal to the metal

With many projects getting underway in 2022, and many still to come, investment in Wells County continues to shape our communities for the future.

Wells County growth in housing was in full speed in 2022 as numerous homes were constructed in new developments created in Bluffton, Ossian, and Markle. Additional new lots are being constructed in the Harvest Acres addition in Bluffton with new home construction slated to begin in 2023. Additional new housing development is poised to be added to Wells County throughout 2023.

Additionally in 2022, local manufacturers announced over \$27 million in investments and pledged to create nearly 50 new jobs. Several new small businesses also set up shop in areas around Wells County as seen by the number of ribbon cuttings hosted by the Wells County Chamber of Commerce.

20/20 Custom Molded Plastics continues to grow with the announcement of plans to construct a new 200,000-sq.-ft. warehouse at their Bluffton facility. Additionally, the Town of Ossian and Wells County partnered with Ossian Spec, LLC to support the development of a new Speculative Building in the Ossian Industrial Park. The 30,000 square foot building is currently under construction with an estimated completion date of the first quarter of 2023.

Throughout 2023, Wells County Economic Development looks to continue to be a leader in continued housing development, long-term community planning, marketing efforts to strengthen community investment opportunities, support business retention and attraction efforts, and develop programs that lead to population growth.

Through the leadership of the Wells County ED Council, the organization continues to focus on strategies that will guide efforts toward meeting key initiatives to support community growth, promote community assets, increase business investment, increase workforce attraction, and support workforce development.

As we look to 2023, we will continue to lead aggressive efforts to increase the population in Wells County to provide ample workforce needs for employers. Additional assets and marketing efforts will increase throughout 2023 to build awareness of the outstanding quality of place that Wells County offers to residents and visitors of the county.

The efforts of our businesses, schools, and community groups continue to make Wells County a place to Live Better!



**Chad Kline**  
Executive Director,  
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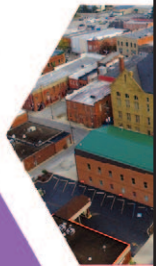
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**Coldwell Banker-**  
**Holloway**

Jessica Beste, Thrive Mortgage  
Doug Brown, News-Banner  
Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance  
Stacey Duncan, WEG Commercial Motors  
Doug Fear, Edward Jones  
Cyndee Fiechter, North Eastern Group Realty  
Sandy Garcia, Wells County Republicans  
Brianna Gooden, Flagstar Bank  
Piercen Harnish, Shelton Financial Group  
Jayde Ketrang, First Bank of Berne  
Kody Kumfer, Forgotten Children Worldwide  
Nick Huffman, Steffen Group Inc.  
Heather Morgan, National Oil  
Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank  
Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage  
Casey Robbins, Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Alyssa Sponseller, Archbold & Lewis Insurance



Erica Lehman

### Special Events Committee

#### Chairman:

**Julie Quinn,**  
**1st Source Bank**

Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care  
Lannette Bickel, Metropolitan Title  
Doug Brown, News-Banner  
Lori Brubaker, Wells County Land Title  
Danica Dunwiddie, General Insurance

Pam Gregory, Pages & Stuff, Inc.

Steve Higgins, Boy Scouts of America  
Gina Hon, First Merchants Bank  
Sara Jones, Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Janiece Lipsey, Creative Arts Council  
Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union  
Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance  
Angie Topp, Thrive Mortgage  
Stephanie Wheeler, WEG Commercial Motors



Julie Quinn

### Advocacy Committee

**Chairman: Rick Johnloz,**  
**Halderman Farm**  
**Management**

Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance  
Don Fiechter, Don Fiechter Farms  
Chandler Gerber, BKM Real Estate  
Ryan Gustus, Eyecare Associates of Bluffton  
Conor Jackson, James S Jackson Co.  
Trout Moser, National Oil & Gas  
Eventt Norris, Ossian Do It Best/ Bluffton Rentco  
Jeff Stringer, Wells Co. Commissioner  
Michael Vanover, Clean Fuels National



Rick Johnloz

### Connect Group 1

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**Metropolitan Title**  
Joy Addington, Bijou Gift Boutique

Jordan Arnold, Strategence Capital  
Ed Dittmeyer, TLC Window Solutions  
Taylor Estes, Star Solar Holdings  
Ryan Free, Fort Wayne Technology Group  
Perry Gerber, Les Gerber Insurance  
Becky Goshorn, Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Jan Herring, Environmental Solutions  
Nick Boratenski, Helping Hands  
Erica Lehman, Coldwell Banker-Holloway  
Jeremy Reimschisel, Family Ford of Bluffton  
Angie Topp, Thrive Mortgage  
Emily Striker, Perfect Pet Food, Accessories, Training, Grooming  
Collin Campbell, CampHouse Marketing  
Thom Miller, Caylor Nickel Family Foundation YMCA

### Connect Group 2

Lori Brubaker, Wells County Land Title  
Cullen Bryant, Premier Signs  
John Cole, J Cole Tech LLC  
Lance Diffendarfer, Paul Davis Restoration  
Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care  
Holly Hacha, Emshwiller & Emshwiller  
Brandi Hewson, Family Ford of Bluffton  
Stephanie Hiday, Magical Vacation Planner  
Randy Mathis, Premier Flats  
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## New group's launch a big success

The inaugural event of a new effort — Wells County Women in Leadership — drew 112 participants on an early November afternoon.

Founded “to support and equip local women in their respective areas,” Erin Prible, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce explained, “the conference was for a mom to a CEO and anywhere in between. We, as women, are here to help one another and lift each other up, build those connections and have meaningful, purposeful connections with one another.”

The main event of the conference was a workshop called “Run Hard, Rest Well,” led by Brenda Jank, who founded an organization by the same name.

Jank proposed that women tend to

juggle many items in life — work, raising children, coordinating family schedules, serving in the community, maintaining relationships, upkeeping housework — and don't create space to rest and recover.

Over time, she said, an absence or lack of rest takes its toll relationally, physically, spiritually and emotionally.

In her own life, Jank said she began to implement the practice of taking a “Sabbath,” or one day a week where she left her day-to-day work behind. She said it's important for each person to honestly assess their balance between work and rest, and confide in close relationships for support.

The second half of the workshop featured practical applications and times for the women in attendance to connect with others about their experiences.

The afternoon followed with

workshops from Jamie Nau of Grow Nau Consulting and Cheri Hampton-Farmer of Communicating Matters, as well as a panel discussion about networking from Gabrielle

Ginder, pastor of St. Joe at the Jackson R. Lehman YMCA, Lori Zacharias, health and life coach, and Andi Hines-Lagemann, founding director of Own Your Success.

The group plans to offer more events in 2023.



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# Tourism efforts paying big dividends

What a difference a year can make.

As 2022 began, efforts to launch a more formal tourism program were finally beginning to gain traction. A loosely organized but active subcommittee of the Economic Development Council was putting together a website and a tourism guide. Meanwhile, Wells County Economic Development Director Chad Kline and Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley were shepherding a proposed Innkeepers' Tax through the county council and commissioners.

Missions accomplished.

The new website was the first of those three elements to become reality. "Where will Wells County take you?" is the home-page question at [www.visitwellscounty.com](http://www.visitwellscounty.com). That question, of course, is answered with a number of "tabs" to explore events and opportunities to enjoy what the county has to offer.

In late April, the county's first-ever Tourism Guide became a reality. A collaboration between Dudley, her tourism steering committee, Trade Design in Markle and the News-Banner, was inserted into the newspaper because "part of tourism is educating local people



Tourism coordinator Audry Dudley holds a copy of the first Tourism Guide, completed in April 2022.

about all the neat things there are to do here," Dudley said.

Each visitor to Ouabache State Park was offered one and the guides have also been distributed at local and area lodging facilities and restaurants.

There is also a link on the website to view and download the 44-page guide.

Perhaps the most important element was formalized in early December

when the Wells County Council unanimously adopted the Innkeeper's Tax, which will collect a 5 percent fee on any rentals in the county of 30 days or less. This will provide "sustainable funding" which is what Kline has argued is essential for the county to have an ongoing tourism effort. This will trigger the establishment of a formal Convention and Visitors Bureau, provide a salary for a tourism coordinator, fund further development of the visitor's guide, strategic planning by the tourism commission, and regional collaboration with Indiana organizations.

That board, which will oversee the use of the tax revenues, will consist of three members appointed by the county commissioners, two by the county council, three by the Mayor of Bluffton, and one by the Ossian Town Council.

As 2023 begins, efforts are focused on the second Tourism Guide.

"The first time doing anything is always the hardest," Dudley said. "We were really pleased with the first one but even more excited about moving forward, with more of the pieces falling into place."



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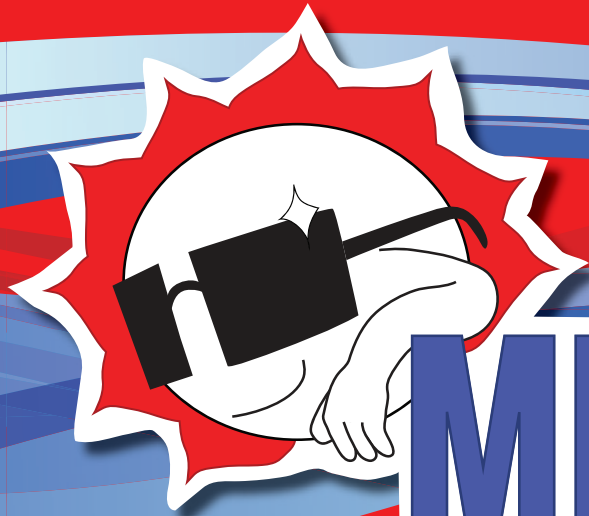
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# Getting ready for 'what's next'

Wells County's Economic Development Council spent 2022 fine-tuning a more "focused" strategy on Wells County's future.

"'Laser-focused' might be too strong of a word," says council president Tamra Boucher, "but we intentionally tried to narrow our focus on those things this organization could impact."

Additionally, while strategic plans are always referred to as "living, fluid documents," she adds, because this world is constantly changing at an ever-faster pace, this one is focused on just two years.

For example, "we want to prepare the community for what comes next, which we're not really sure what it will be," she adds.

Economic Director Chad Kline mentions the Hoosier Highway improvements several years ago.

"The commissioners had been looking at this and working towards a solution when some grants were announced," he explains. "We had a plan ready and we got those grants."

Likewise, Wells is one of the few counties benefitting from the 2022 READI Grants (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative).

"If all goes well, we will get \$3 million for the housing project northwest of Ossian and another \$70,000 for Southern Wells' Pre-K program," Kline says.

"Our neighboring county got zero because they were not ready for READI,"

he says.

"What's next?" he asks and answers. "We don't know but if we don't have some ideas and plans developed we will not be in a position to take advantage of these (state and federal) grants that come along."

The new plan, finalized about mid-year, includes "four pillars, each with at least two or three strategies," Boucher says.

"It's backed up with demographic studies and statistics about where we are now," she adds.

For example, studies show that more workers leave Wells County than travel to the county for jobs.

The four pillars are:

- **Develop the workforce.** This is primarily focused on working with the Area 18 Career and Technical Education programs to develop collaborative agreements with businesses and schools.

- **Providing both professional and personal growth and development opportunities** are a critical part of the advancement and development of the Wells County workforce," the study says.

- **Increase population.** "One thing we need to stop doing," Kline says, "is being such a 'humble Hoosier.'"

The December meeting of the state's Economic Development Association included a talk by Gov. Eric Holcomb, who, Kline says, told the group that "we need to do more tooting of our own horns, why people should want to live

in Wells County, why we have the best schools and the best place to start or grow a business."

- **Enhance our assets.** This effort has already paid dividends in getting the 5 percent Innkeepers Tax approved in December. This will provide sustained funding for the county's nascent tourism efforts.

"There's much more work to do there," Kline adds, including looking at a Riverfront Development District in Bluffton, moving forward on a mixed-use development in downtown Ossian and how Downtown TIF Districts can be used to increase development. Another key element is coordinating feasibility studies to support expansion of Ind. 1 between Bluffton and I-469.

"We don't know what that might look like, but we need to be ready with some sort of plan the community will support."

- **Increase business investment.** This primarily involves identifying the county's infrastructure capacity and limitations and "being ready, instead of being reactive," Boucher says.

The EDC's role is primarily as a facilitator and advisor.

"We need to lead and be a part of community conversations about our future," Kline says, "but the community needs to be a part of that, the community needs to have these conversations because ultimately, it's the community's decisions, not the EDCs."



The Wells County Economic Development Council: Front row, from left: Chad Kline, Executive Director; Barbara O'Connor, Zanesville; John Whicker, Bluffton Mayor; Tamra Boucher, Markle; Sam Haiflich, Chamber Board President; Patricia Randall, Chamber Board Vice President; Brandon Gerber, Business Representative; and Diane Johnson, Project Manager. Standing: Steve Huggins, Wells County Council; Kody Kumfer, Wells County Revitalization; Jeff Stringer, Commissioner; Rick Elwell, Bluffton; Josh Barkley, Ossian; Steve Higgins, Non-Profit Representative; and Jason Fiechter, Agriculture Representative.





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# A company that reflects its community

While “Trusted Solutions” is a company that has seen many changes over the years, the core values from its beginning have not. Lane Gerber feels that is an apt description of Wells County as well. Which makes Trusted Solutions Group of Ossian a fitting choice for the 2023 Business of the Year recognition.

“Our culture is very important,” Gerber says. “My parents were focused on this from the very beginning, both for our employees and our customers.”

Mike and Cheryl Gerber began on West Cherry Street in 1991 with two customers and three employees. The journey from there to today — with nearly 70 employees, four plants and a customer base that spans the continental United States (and includes those two original customers) — has had its ups and downs. But through it all there has been something that Gerber feels parallels their community.

“This is such a great community,” Gerber shares. “Of course, all of our family is here, but we have great resources in services and people. It’s one of those communities that just feels safe. There is a lot of strong Christian and godly influence. Wells County has done a great job of keeping that.”

The name in 1991 was “Quality Manufacturing.” It provided what is called contract manufacturing specifically in metal, to serve other manufacturers’ needs for custom-designed metal parts. While that remains the company’s main focus today, there are other product lines and services that help diversify revenue sources, which will hopefully avoid such major disruptions that they, and nearly all companies, experienced in the 2008 recession and in the wake of COVID-19.

“One of the largest markets we serve is the furniture industry,” Gerber explains. “One of our taglines is ‘We know metal so you don’t have to.’” These customers manufacture, for example, furniture for hospitality and health care needs, as well as office furniture. These might include chair frames or high-end trash receptacles. Other customer needs include brackets to secure equipment to service trucks.

“Typically the customer brings us a design and we will collaborate with

them through the metal side to make sure it is manufacturable and not overly expensive,” Gerber says. “We help them select the different types of materials and then go into prototyping and production.”

A growing sector is what he calls their “wall division.” Trusted designs, manufactures and installs floor-to-ceiling modular walls primarily used in temporary office trailers at construction sites.

Mike and Cheryl Gerber, now fully retired, focused on growth and culture. Mike grew up on a farm in Adams County and raised hogs for a time, but

health issues necessitated a change.

“He was always an entrepreneur,” Lane Gerber

says, “and a good one.”

The company soon moved into a building at Bluffton’s south side where the New Holland dealership now exists and then in 1994 moved into their current main building at 1625 Baker Drive in Ossian’s industrial park, sharing space with Thermtron.

“Dad bought them out a couple years later, which got us into the cellulose insulation business,” Lane Gerber continues. The company operated under that title, but they found the insulation business to be “either feast or famine, while the contract manufacturing was much more steady.”

Soon, the Thermtron lines were sold off and the name was changed to “TMI.” The name “Trusted” was adopted purposefully to reflect what the Gerbers wanted to be both for their customers and employees. “Trusted Manufacturing” soon evolved into “Trusted Solutions Group” to “more accurately reflect what we do,” he explains. The company saw consistent growth, adding plant space down the street in what had most recently been the Dawn Foods plant, and a building on West Lefaver Street.

Until 2008, that is.

“That was pretty rough,” Lane Gerber shares. Their employee count was cut by about 60 percent, one of their major customers had to consolidate with a larger company in order to survive. That company had other resources.

“Thanks to some family and friends, we survived,” he says. “And these are the times you truly learn that God is in control.”

Things began to pick up again in 2011. While they also experienced the impacts of the pandemic in 2020, today “we’re always looking for the right people,” Gerber says. They’ve added more production room, leasing space in the Haldrup building in Ossian.

“A key part of my parents’ mission,” Lane shares, “was to create a culture for our employees to be another family they can count on. We’ve worked diligently to continue that ‘family first’ culture. One of our pillars is to ensure we provide a safe place where everyone gets the opportunity to succeed both personally and professionally.”

Trusted also recognizes the importance of supporting local projects such as the development of the Archbold Wilson Park, the Wells County Food Bank and local schools.

Lane Gerber, who earned a degree in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University after graduating from Adams Central High School in 1994, has been part of the team since 2000. He worked for Navistar’s engi-



## Past winners of the Wells County Business of the Year:

- 1996 — Almco Steel Company
- 1997 — James S. Jackson Co.
- 1998 — Franklin Electric Company
- 1999 — Pretzels, Inc.
- 2000 — Honegger, Ringger & Co.
- 2001 — Ossian State Bank
- 2002 — Dale & Huffman
- 2003 — Thoma-Rich, Hewitt & Chaney Funeral Home
- 2004 — Christian Care Retirement Community and Ossian Health & Rehabilitation Center
- 2005 — Roembke Mfg. & Design
- 2006 — Bluffton News-Banner
- 2007 — Bluffton Reg. Medical Center
- 2008 — General Manufacturing
- 2009 — Hiday Automotive Group
- 2010 — Heyerly’s Meat Market
- 2011 — AdamsWells Internet Telecom TV
- 2012 — Troxel Equipment Co.
- 2013 — National Oil and Gas
- 2014 — Peyton’s Northern
- 2015 — Edge Manufacturing
- 2016 — United Way of Wells County
- 2017 — First Bank of Berne
- 2018 — Alexin LLC
- 2019 — Ossian Deli
- 2020 — Outdoor Concepts
- 2021 — Daniel’s Jewelers
- 2022 — Wells Co. Automotive (NAPA)





"We are blessed with a great leadership team," Trusted CEO Lane Gerber says. "They make my job easier." His leadership and management team includes, front row from left: Dan Huffman, Ed Nevil, Jimmy Ervin, Brad Steffen and Kimberly Smith; back row: Brad Gehring, Todd Lantz, Gerber, Ed Dennis, Trent Gerber and Lyle Isch.

neering department for a couple years after college. He and his wife, the former Christen Geisel, are the parents of two boys.

"I cannot discount Christen's contributions," Lane Gerber adds, "although she's never worked here. She's been by my side and a huge part in helping me

manage my time and manage people."

Faith is obviously central to the Gerber family. In Gerber's office, within easy reach of the multiple computer screens are a Bible, a devotional book, a plaque that quotes Joshua 1:9 and a book that he knows exemplifies his parents' approach: "Never, Never Quit."



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# ‘A passion for service’ earns a special recognition

Sam Haiflich knew he was bucking tradition when he submitted his nomination of Kody Kumfer for the 2023 Wells County Citizen of the Year.

“I am aware that the Citizen of the Year Award usually goes to someone much older, with many years of active service to our community,” Haiflich wrote. “However, knowing Kody and serving with him on multiple committees, I have been so impressed with his leadership skills, his passion for serving others, his generous willingness to give of his time and talents to make a difference in this community.”

While it is not recorded with the list of past honorees, it is indeed likely that Kumfer, 32, is the youngest to be so honored.

A 2008 graduate of Norwell High School, he was a member of the school’s baseball team that won the state championship in his sophomore year and were state runners-up his junior year. As a senior, he was selected for Norwell’s annual Bobby Moser Mental Attitude Award.

He began working at Markle State Bank as a teller after high school while attending Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne. He earned an associates degree in accounting there and went on to earn a bachelors degree in business administration and accounting from Trine University in 2012.

Meanwhile, he was working his way up in the bank’s loan department. Then, in 2014, he accepted a position as agribusiness and commercial lender at the First Bank of Berne. He admits that his initial involvement in community groups was an effort to meet more people and build a larger customer base, but he discovered something.

“It was exciting,” he says now. “I found out I really enjoy building re-



Kody Kumfer at the main entrance of Bluffton-based international non-profit Forgotten Children Worldwide. “I basically advocate for vulnerable children,” he explains, by sharing FCW’s vision with local groups and churches while working with the organization’s partners to address human trafficking in Asia and Africa.

lationships with people and working together on projects and ideas.”

His career took a decided turn in 2017 when he went on a “visions trip” for Forgotten Children Worldwide, which fights child trafficking in India, Nepal, Malawi and Uganda. He discovered what he calls a “passion” for service.

He began serving in an advisory capacity and then the board of FCW. In March 2021, he left the banking business to become associate executive director of Forgotten Children Worldwide, “learning the ropes” in order to eventually fill the shoes of founder and current executive director Matt Hartsell.

“Something had been missing,” he says now.

“I think for me there’s a lot of pieces in my life,” Kumfer said. “I heard a sermon and I continue to reflect on that. God kept leading me down a path. ‘Kody, do you want more stuff, or do

you want more stories? How will you impact people?’ We’re put on this earth for a purpose. I think distractions can get in the way of discovering that purpose,” he added.

In his nominating letter, Haiflich referred to Kumfer as an “unrecognized hero,” observing that he is, “quietly and unselfishly making a difference in this community and beyond.”

Kumfer serves as the president of the Ossian Revitalization Committee, is a member of the Norwell High School Agriculture Advisory Board, a member of the advisory board for Lifewise Academy for Northern Wells, a member of the Norwell Chapter of the Youth for Christ Advisory Board, serves as a Chamber Ambassador, a member of the Wells County Economic Development Committee, a board member of the Wells County Alumni Association and a past member and president of the Wells

## Past recipients of the Citizen of the Year Award:

- 1980 — Dr. Harold Caylor and Cecil Lockwood Sr.
- 1981 — Fred Park
- 1982 — Amos Gerber
- 1983 — Edward J. Schaefer
- 1984 — John T. Flaningam and Dr. William Gitlin
- 1985 — Frank Monroe
- 1986 — Charles W. Decker Jr.
- 1987 — James Stogdill and William Fitzpatrick
- 1988 — Dr. Truman Caylor
- 1989 — Don V. Harris
- 1990 — Harold Bowman
- 1991 — Howard Rich
- 1992 — Mr. and Mrs. Claude Decker and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moser
- 1993 — Edward Hanrahan and Alfred J. Norris
- 1994 — Dick Wilkey
- 1995 — Paul Bender
- 1996 — Jim Barbieri and Everett “Tuck” Faulkner
- 1997 — David Park
- 1998 — Loren Barkley
- 1999 — Connie Cupp
- 2000 — David Dale
- 2001 — Gene Meyer
- 2002 — Ted Smith
- 2003 — Keith Huffman
- 2004 — Dr. Michael Sailsbery
- 2005 — Ralph Nowak
- 2006 — Bette Erxleben
- 2007 — John Whicker
- 2008 — Diane Humphrey
- 2009 — Judi Merkel
- 2010 — Ed Goetz
- 2011 — Ken Honegger
- 2012 — Ted Ellis
- 2013 — Jeff Espich
- 2014 — Dr. George Babcock
- 2015 — Tony Garton
- 2016 — Paul and Lu Reiff
- 2017 — Dr. Jim VanWinkle
- 2018 — Steve Stauffer
- 2019 — Dr. Marcelo Gavilanez
- 2020 — John Reinhard
- 2021 — Mark Miller
- 2022 — Todd Riemschisel



County Business Networking International Group. He has also served on the board of the Wells County Leadership Academy and as an instructor.

“God has given me the skills of being able to meet with, work with and talk to people,” Kumfer said, “So how can I use those skills to His glory?”

Kody and his wife, the former Ashley Thornton, are the parents of three children — Jazlynn, Bryant and Ryder — and are active at Hope Missionary Church.

“Recognizing him as the 2023 Citizen of the Year would be an acknowledgment not just of Kody’s accomplishments and service,” Haflich concluded, “but would serve to send a message that the contributions of the younger members who contribute to the betterment of this community are valued and appreciated.”

“I want to spend the years I have here focusing on how to serve the vulnerable people of the world. The chance to be able to get up every day and be an advocate for kids who are starving, to enable those kids to go to school — kids who don’t have access to simple things that we take for granted like clean water



A number of family and friends were on hand in December when representatives from the Chamber surprised Kody Kumfer with the announcement that he’d been chosen as Citizen of the Year. From left, grandparents Bob and Sandy Rohr, parents Kevin and Jeanne Kumfer, Kody and Ashley Kumfer, Kody’s sister Kaley Grzych and in-laws Erika and Nathan Allison. In front are the Kumfers’ three children, Jazlynn, Ryder and Bryant. In back of Bryant are family friends Micah and Grace McAfee

— just to know that we can actually do something for them,” Kumfer says.

“Just to be able to actually talk with others about that, to make a difference in someone else’s life, that’s why I chose to change careers,” Kumfer said.

“It’s always an honor to be recognized by your peers and your community. It makes me feel genuinely cared for,” he added. But he’s also quick to point out, “There are a lot of other people who are more deserving of this award.”



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# Chamber recognizes three county teachers

## Jacob Amstutz Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D.

The nice things that his principal, his superintendent and fellow teachers said to nominate and select him as this year's outstanding educator in the Bluffton-Harrison system are much appreciated.

"I humbly accept," Jacob Amstutz said, "but it wouldn't happen without their support."

What's more important, he added, is that the recognition affirms a decision he made more than 10 years ago.

The 2009 South Adams graduate had decided to attend Ball State University, but was on the fence between a career in marketing or education.

"I gave it a lot of thought, and came to the conclusion that I could be a better servant as a teacher, that this would be a better fit for my gifts and talents," he said. He was thrilled when his first education course confirmed that: "This is it," he thought.

He put his interest in technology to work as his focus, but he would later

add another passion to help complement what he does in the classroom.

He began his "DJ Paws" as a hobby but put it to work at Ball State at parties and weddings. After doing his student teaching in Bluffton and graduating from Ball State in 2013, he joined the staff at the Bluffton-Harrison Elementary



Jacob Amstutz

School as a "related arts" teacher, meaning he sees all students at least once a week for his technology class.

It was a new area for the school. It started with keyboard skills and has grown to computer programming. This year, utilizing a Purdue Mac-Lab grant, he adapted the curriculum to introduce concepts behind 3-D printing, design and problem solving.

"He's grown this program from nothing to what it is today," said BHMSD Superintendent Brad Yates.

He began to share his DJ Paws talents — he continues to do weddings — to help promote a school reading program. Students can earn "Tiger Tickets" that can be used at school dance parties hosted by "DJ Paws."

"I don't know that I do anything different (from other teachers) but I am a different individual," Amstutz said. "I like to be a little silly with the students, let them know that I care about them and love them, and that we are here to learn things but we can do it in a fun way."

Amstutz and his wife, whom he met at Ball State, are the parents of two children.

"He is always looking and searching out new and inventive ideas to help kids," said Principal Schlaura Linderwell. "He's willing to help any child discover something new and willing to help any staff member in our building. We are very fortunate to have someone like Mr. Amstutz in our building."

Fellow staff member and last year's Indiana Teacher of the Year Tara Canower first met him while he was cruising the halls on his Razor scooter.

"I was a new staff member in the middle school and he couldn't wait to share a new tech tool that would enhance my class," she said. "That's who he is — he's a sharer of new things and a supporter of crazy ideas. He empowers his students and colleagues."

## Kevin Morris Northern Wells Community Schools

Kevin Morris has some "winner's guilt," he says.

"There are a lot of teachers here who do the same thing every day. They're very dedicated."

Being named the Educator of the Year for the Northern Wells schools was a total surprise. "I was shocked," he says.

That's not to say he is not appreciative.

"We've built an automotive program with the help of the administration and various community members," he told a school assembly that gave him a standing ovation when the announcement was made. "While I do appreciate this, this is a team effort."

The Wells County native and 1984 Norwell grad was nominated by no less than the school superintendent, Mike Springer, who cited Morris' "great com-

munication with parents and students daily" and his "enthusiasm and positive attitude (that) have such an impact."

Springer's decision to nominate Morris was also heavily influenced by his description of Morris as "being a team player and a leader."



Kevin Morris

With less than 24 hours before the start of the 2022-2023 school year, a teacher resigned that left about 100 students with no classes to attend. Long story short, Morris and the administration figured it all out, and Morris went into full-time teacher mode in addition to owning and operating his auto and truck repair business in Bluffton, Precision Services.

Which, in and of itself, is an entirely additional story to Morris' journey to becoming a teacher, let alone an award-winning teacher. Morris was one of just four educators in the entire state to receive an award of excellence for outstanding secondary and post-secondary career and technical education program of study. He received that award last spring.

After graduating from Norwell, he earned an associates degree in automotive and diesel maintenance at the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima. While working at what was then the Bob Bate Chevrolet dealership in Ossian he went back to teach in Lima, which he definitely enjoyed and considered making that his career.

"But I was helping my grandfather farm and we (he married his high school sweetheart; he and Deb have two grown sons and have been married for 36 years) grew up here and that was too far to commute to," he said.

So he started his own business and was doing well when he became aware of a resignation of Norwell's automotive instructor. His love of teaching was rekindled. Long story short, he worked to earn his teaching certification — he has a "workplace specialist license" — and has been teaching Norwell's career and technical classes for about 10 years.

"I couldn't be doing this without my wife's support," he quickly points out. "She's been very gracious and supportive."



## Leigh Lieurance Southern Wells Community Schools

If your grandfather had served as the Superintendent of Public Schools for Wells County, you might think a career in education was a given.

"I loved the outdoors from my early childhood," Leigh Lieurance says, "but I also loved little children, but I didn't handle tests well."

Diagnosed with dyslexia in the fourth grade, she had extra hurdles to clear.

After graduating from Southern Wells in 1984, she first enrolled at Taylor University but soon switched majors and transferred to Vincennes University where she earned an associates degree in outdoor recreation.

"But then I decided I really wanted to do education," she said, so she enrolled at Ball State University in early childhood education and then later decided to move in with an aunt in Fort Wayne

to finish her degree at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne.

"It became kind of a joke in the family," she says with a chuckle. "What school are you at now?"

This seems an appropriate place to mention that her favorite hobby is traveling, particularly in our western states.

Although it was a round-about journey, she's been teaching first grade at her alma mater for six years, where her work has drawn the recognition of her colleagues and leaders to be named the 2023 Educator of the Year for the Southern Wells schools.

"She's here because she cares about each of (her students)," SWES Principal Cari Whicker said. "She's impressive. When you tell her that, she's also that person who humbly says 'it's no big deal' or 'it's nothing,' but you know that it is. That's what makes her special."

The nominating letter for Lieurance's honor mentions several things — she adapts her lesson materials to her students, inspires her students through her

positive attitude and energy, and communicates with her students and parents on a regular basis.

"Ms. Lieurance's classroom is the epitome of the George Evans phrase, 'Every child can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way,'" the nomination letter stated.

"I don't think I'd have received this without the help of my assistant, Kian Palmer, Mrs. Whicker, and (assistant principal) Mrs. (Jessica) Killingbeck," Lieurance says. "I'd also like to thank the other teachers who give me their support, and my family and friends."

The award has also made her think of her grandfather. Lloyd Lieurance's career in education included his tenure as superintendent of schools for the entire county after World War II and into the 1950s. After recognizing a need to better assist developmentally handicapped children, he led the efforts to establish the Vera Cruz Opportunity School in 1955, which is now Bi-County Services.

"This award means a lot to me," she says. "and I like to think that my grandfather would be very proud."



Leigh Lieurance



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Committee members are, from left: seated, Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce; Lori Brubaker, Wells County Land Title; Hattie Wondercheck, Wells County Chamber of Commerce. Standing, Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance; Steve Higgins, Boy Scouts of America; Angie Dial, Family Centered Services; Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank; Stephanie Wheeler, WEG Commercial Motors; Pam Gregory, Pages & Stuff; Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union; Gina Hon, First Merchants Bank; Janiece Lipsey, Creative Arts Council; Sara Jones, Farmers & Merchants Bank; Angie Topp, Thrive Mortgage; Not present for the photo were: Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care; Lannette Bickel, Metropolitan Tile; and Danica Dunwiddie, General Insurance.



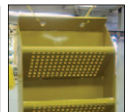
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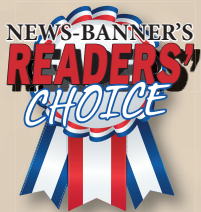


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# Looking forward with excitement

The two groups specifically focused on the revitalization of the county's two largest communities remain enthusiastic after another successful year.

It is difficult for Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., to find any aspect of Bluffton NOW!'s efforts in 2022 to *not* be excited about. The events were all successful, several new businesses opened in downtown Bluffton, the Community Reinvestment Program was again fully funded and fully subscribed, and the Pathways project nears its construction phase.



Michael Lautzenheiser Jr.

The leader of the group, which operates under the umbrella of the Wells County Revitalization, uses the words "successful" and "exciting" often when talking about 2022's work.

He cites the uniqueness of two new businesses in downtown — Downtown DIY and Brown Suga Beauty — as well as several ongoing projects, some of which even he is unaware of the details. "We haven't calculated it yet, but we expect the occupancy rate downtown has risen again," he says.

While the downtown farmer's market and summer concert series were "extra-well attended" and both the ChiliWalk and Small Business Saturday were "super successful," the

BrrFest sold a record number of tickets and "we're already selling tickets for next year's event," he adds.

Meanwhile, the Pathways project, which will transform five downtown alleys into a mix of pedestrian walkways and gathering spots, was the object of much of the Bluffton NOW! members' focus for 2022.

"We continue to do some fundraising, get the engineering completed and ready for construction, which we plan to begin in 2023," Lautzenheiser says. If there is anything less than exuberance about any of their efforts in 2022, it might be that the approximately \$900,000 goal was not reached.

"We're at about \$691,000, which gives us many options for moving for-

ward," he continues, "all of them good. But we remain optimistic we will get there. Regardless, construction will begin soon."

While that will be the main focus for 2023, the group remains committed to more improvements downtown, utilizing the CRP to achieve that.

"Our preference will be in funding structural improvements in 2023," he explains, "more brickwork and roofs on buildings that have not been in the program yet. Of course, it's a two-way deal," he says. "The owners have to apply, they have to invest in their properties but we want to work with them."

## Ossian re-focuses

After completing the multi-year project of the new amphitheater at Archbold-Wilson Park, the Ossian Revitalization Committee has been focused on "identifying our next major project," says committee chair Kody Kumfer.

"We had more concerts at the park this past year," he notes. "It was really great

to be able to see the community come together for that."

There are two possibilities at this point for their new efforts. One is centered around the downtown block which includes the city-owned lot on which the building was demolished. "There are some interesting possibilities," Kumfer says, "but there are a lot of moving pieces to that puzzle." The group is working with the county's economic development team to explore all of that.

"We've also been looking at the possibility of extending East LaFever Street to go all the way out to the amphitheater," he says.

Meanwhile, after just experiencing another popular and well-attended Hometown Christmas, Kumfer mentions the group's fundraisers. A Nelson chicken sale was successful, as was the annual pork chop dinner and pie auction during Ossian Days.

"I think we set another new record with that this year," he says.



Kody Kumfer



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# Leadership academy marking 15 years

Since the inception of Leadership Academy in 2008, there are now 267 individuals that have graduated from the program. Each year a group of about 20 individuals gather from September through May to experience a life-changing program created by Dr. Tim Elmore, founder of Growing Leaders. Elmore uses image-based learning to help instill important leadership habits to people. The program is based off Elmore's program called *Habitudes*.

Each image introduces adults to powerful leadership principles rooted in real life, sparking conversations with facilitators that lead to memorable experiences. These unique and transformative encounters are a part of an ongoing process that builds leadership habits and attitudes.

*Leadership Academy has made an impact on me by growing my confidence in myself. I was able to go into an interview without being shy and show my confidence to obtain the job. I have also used what I have learned to have better communication and understanding with my children, family, friends, and co-workers. I will use what I have learned for the rest of my life.*

Elizabeth Morales, Aqua Blast  
Level 2 Graduate

Participants submit an application to participate and then the Wells County Leadership Academy Advisory Board reviews the applications and selects the individuals to participate. Approximately 20 individuals are selected to participate in the program from a variety of sectors in the community.

"We really are looking for individuals that want to empower themselves and their team and understand the importance of why relationships are important in your growth," said Prible. "Each year new and great friendships are formed and after the completion of the program they have created a sound-ing board for one another. It truly is an awesome sight to see each year."

*Great program all the way around. Great content, amazing people, would 100% recommend.*

Landon Gerber, The Rop Shop  
Level 1 Graduate

A few of the *Habitudes* that are taught in the program allow participants to understand the importance of taking care of themselves such as "Emotional Fuel," or the stresses of life can be overwhelming and so the discussion of "Rivers and

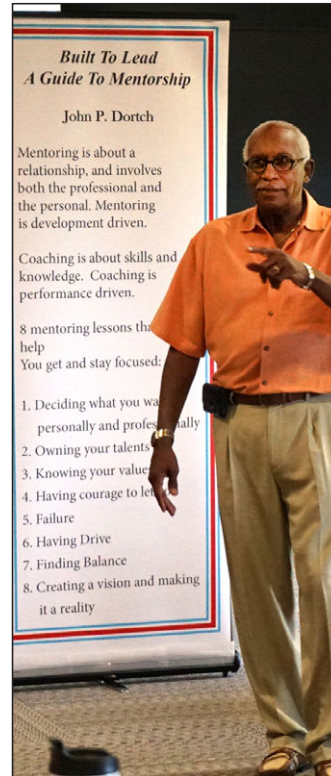


Members of the Wells County Leadership Academy Advisory Board are: Jordan Arnold, Brandy Aschliman, Pamela Beckford, Chaz Carroll, Stacey Duncan, Becky Goshorn, Tim Hartigan, Erin Prible, Kevin Pritchard, Beth Singleton, and Tammy Slater.

"Floods" is introduced, and being in leadership means having strong character and integrity such as the "Iceberg."

"Each has a very specific meaning and applies to every individual experiencing this journey," explained Prible.

*Leadership Academy is a great way to make community connections and has been beneficial not only to my career, but also to my personal life. You can tell that the speakers are invested in us as Wells County leaders and want us to succeed and give back to our community. This class has made me realize that no matter your career or walk of life, we all have a lot in common and have similar challenges. We can all learn from each other's*







experiences. This is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and be involved in our Wells County community.

Crystal Reinhard, Honegger, Ringger & Co  
Level 1 Graduate

Each month a four-hour session is facilitated by various community leaders bringing their experience and background to the group. "The Habitudes are led by over 20 volunteer community leaders, who have graduated from Leadership Academy or have gone through training to become a Facilitator," said Prible. "The time, energy and dedication of what each individual brings to the program is priceless."



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# Chamber Ambassadors recognize



The Chamber Ambassadors, chaired by Erica Lehman in 2023, welcome new businesses with Ribbon Cuttings and mentor other Chamber Members. The group also recognizes one local business or organization as the Chamber Member of the Month. Chamber Ambassadors make sure each company or organization knows that their contributions to the local economy and the community are greatly appreciated.

Seated, from left: Sandy Garcia, Wells County Republicans; Alyssa Sponseller, Archbold & Lewis Insurance; Stacey Duncan, WEG Commercial Motors. Standing: Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Hattie Wondercheck, Chamber; Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance; Piercen Harnish, Shelton Financial Group; Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Doug Fear, Edward Jones; Kody Kumfer, Forgotten Children Worldwide; Jessica Beste, Thrive Mortgage; Casey Robbins, Farmers & Merchants State Bank; Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne; Erin Prible, Chamber. Not pictured: Nick Huffman, Steffen Group; Heather Morgan, National Oil; Cyndee Fiechter, North Eastern Group Realty; Brianna Gooden, Flagstar Bank; and Erica Lehman, Coldwell-Banker Holloway.



January:  
**Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant**



May:  
**Mr. B's**



September:  
**Valero Renewable Fuels**

## 2021 Ambassador of the Year



Alyssa Sponseller

The 2022 Ambassador of the Year will be announced at the 2023 Annual Dinner

## 2022 Ambassadors of the Quarter

Each quarter, an ambassador is recognized for their level of participation and support of the program.

- First:** Nick Huffman  
Steffen Group
- Second:** Erin Daugherty  
State Farm Insurance
- Third:** Erica Lehman  
Coldwell Banker Holloway
- Fourth:** Doug Fear  
Edward Jones



Nick Huffman



Erin Daugherty



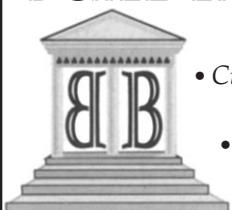
Erica Lehman



Doug Fear

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# 2022 'Members of the Month'



February:  
**American Axle**



March:  
**Parlor City Trophy**



April:  
**Pages & Stuff**



June:  
**Irving Materials, Inc.**



July:  
**Wells County YMCA**



August:  
**Capri Meadows**



October:  
**Rod's Rustics**



November:  
**Archbold & Lewis Insurance**



December:  
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## Member Listings - Alphabetical

All numbers are Area Code 260  
unless otherwise noted.

### A

A Harvest of Health.....824-1600  
A Perfect Blend.....824-2695  
A T Ferrell.....824-3400  
A1 U-Stor.....824-1846  
ABC Studio &  
Activity Center.....433-3417  
Above & Beyond Vehicle  
Reconditioning.....525-1441  
Absolute Machining.....747-4568  
Achieva Salon.....824-0726  
Action Coach.....450-9163  
Action Micro  
Technologies.....(317) 216-7988  
Adams Wells Crisis Center...728-9800  
AdamsWells Internet-  
Telecom-TV.....565-3131  
Affolder Implement Sales.....589-2964  
All-American #8 Ossian  
Deli Marathon.....622-7499  
Allen Business Machines.....744-4259  
Almco Steel Products.....824-1118  
American Axle &  
Manufacturing.....824-6800  
American Legion Post 111....824-3815  
American Marketing &  
Publishing.....(815) 756-2840

American Pest  
Professionals.....(800) 347-2115  
American Salvage.....353-1170  
Amstutz Insurance Agency...622-4169  
Andrews & Crell P.C.....824-4049  
Anthony Wayne Area  
Council BSA.....432-9593  
Antique Engine Rebuilding...824-4649  
Anytime Fitness.....353-1321  
Apache Propane.....824-2722  
Aqua Blast Corporation.....728-4433  
Archbold & Lewis Insurance.622-4866  
AuctionIT, LLP.....273-3682  
Auto Doctor.....824-5344

### B

B&D Appliance Repair,.....437-0022  
Babcock, Dr. George.....824-0426  
Balance Massage Therapy  
& Bodyworks.....827-0541  
Baller Signs.....824-1987  
Barkley Builders.....622-7674  
BCG Capital, LLC.....273-2786  
Becky Goshorn-  
Mary Kay Cosmetics.....824-0187  
Beers Mallers, LLP.....426-9706  
Berne Apparel.....622-1500  
Best Days Travel.....273-7790  
Bi-County Services.....824-1253  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Northeast Indiana.....456-1600

Big Picture Imagery  
Sign Group.....(574) 248-5047  
Biggs Property  
Management.....724-9131  
Bijou Gift Boutique.....820-2760  
Bill's Roofing & Siding, Inc....622-0178  
Billy Ann's.....824-8060  
BKM Real Estate.....824-3982  
Bluffton Animal Clinic.....824-0924  
Bluffton Dental Clinic.....824-5940  
Bluffton Family Eye Care.....824-3424  
Bluffton Free Street  
Fair Assoc.....824-4351  
Bluffton Moose 242.....824-0660  
Bluffton Pizza King.....824-4956  
Bluffton Regional  
Medical Center.....824-3210  
Bluffton Rentco.....824-4000  
Bluffton Roofing Co.....824-3564  
Bluffton Rotary Club.....436-7006  
Bluffton Super Wash.....824-9822  
Bluffton Tire.....824-0418  
Bluffton U-Stor.....827-7679  
Bluffton-Harrison MSD.....824-2620  
Bobcat of Fort Wayne.....489-5511  
Body Magic Massage.....824-4150  
Bona Vita Architecture.....471-9449  
Bott Radio Network.....423-2337  
Bowen Center.....(800) 342-5653  
BoxDrop Fort Wayne.....227-2145



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Bott Radio Network  
Brown Suga Beauty  
Central House  
Cereset Bluffton  
Chill Out  
Cornerstone Ag Solutions  
Country Road Primitives  
Crop Performance  
Dash 90  
Downtown DIY  
Easterseals Arc of NE Indiana  
Eiro Wellness  
Ethan's Outdoor Services  
Fraction Apparel & Home  
GPS Goetz Pool Service  
Horizon Events Corporation  
In2Great, LLC  
Leas Seamless Gutters  
Lifewise Academy of Northern Wells  
Mediacom**

**Navigator Financial  
Ossian BP  
Ossian Rotary Club  
Ossian Wine & Spirits  
Parlor City Oil Shop  
Phillips Financial  
Primerica  
Professional System Installations  
Restoration 1 of Bluffton  
Stillwater Hospice  
Streetlight Take & Bake  
Studabaker Specialty Woodworks  
Swearingen Elder Law  
The Charcuterie Shop  
The Wright Insurance Agency  
Tinkertique  
tj's Honeysuckle Alley  
Town of Markle  
Treeboy Processing  
Twisted Metal Detailing & More  
USAlternator LLC  
Wayne Metals  
Wells Co. Council on Aging  
Wells Co. Food Bank  
Wells Co. Regional Sewer District  
Yehoshua, Inc  
You Store In Comfort  
Zesto Ice Cream**

## Member Listings - Alphabetical

Brickley, Dr. Harry,  
Farm Foundation.....824-3130  
Briner Building.....824-0120  
Brown Suga Beauty.....820-2151  
Budget Inn.....824-0820  
Burman Photography.. (937) 212-8393  
Buskirk Engineering.....622-5550  
Busted Haft Throwing.....824-4777

### C

C J's Flooring.....824-5440  
CampHouse Marketing.....437-7738  
Cancer Services of  
Northeast Indiana.....484-9560  
Capri Meadows  
Apartments.....824-4626  
Caylor-Nickel Foundation  
Family YMCA .....565-9622  
Central House.....417-6479  
Cereset Bluffton.....353-1598  
Chaney, Mr. Mike.....273-9800  
Chill Out.....307-1430  
Christian Care Retirement  
Community.....565-3000  
Citizens Against Drug  
Abuse (CADA) .....824-8574  
City of Bluffton .....824-1520  
Clean Fuels National .....346-2500  
Clear Choice Chiropractic.....353-1400  
Coldwell Banker Holloway.....824-7653

Collier's Comfort Services ....622-6622  
Comfort Inn.....824-4455  
Community Care of  
Northeast Indiana.....307-5125  
Community Harvest Food Bank  
of NE Indiana .....447-3696  
Cornerstone Ag Solutions.....307-7901  
Country Road Primitives.....273-0222  
Covington Financial  
Services.....827-0920  
Craigville Appliance .....565-3166  
Creative Arts Council.....824-5222  
Creative Cabinet and  
Countertops .....414-7677  
Creative Carpets.....438-9001  
Crimson House.....622-0167  
Crop Performance ..... (765) 894-0695  
Croy Machine & Fabrication .565-3682  
Cupp Real Estate .....824-1588

### D

D&D Fish and Tenderloin  
Food Truck.....273-8821  
Dale, Huffman & Babcock ....824-5566  
Daniel's Jewelers.....824-9643  
Dash 90 Wines ..... (765) 348-9160  
Day Creative Solutions.....760-0123  
Dazey's Bluffton.....824-9003  
DB Blasting LLC.....227-3202  
Dedrick Tool & Die .....824-3334

DeHoff Insulation.....565-3679  
Don Fiechter Farms Inc.....346-2157  
Donaghy, Mr. Gene.....437-9823  
Double D Home  
Improvements .....402-4239  
Downtown DIY.....827-8008  
Dunwiddie Heating &  
Plumbing.....824-1999

### E

E-Z Bowl.....824-9966  
Easterseals Arc of  
Northeast Indiana.....456-4534  
Edge Manufacturing .....827-0482  
Edward Jones - Financial  
Advisor: Doug Fear .....565-4134  
Edward Jones - Financial  
Advisor: Jeremy Penrod..824-2354  
Edward Jones - Financial  
Advisor: Jeremy Todd .....824-0686  
Edward Jones - Financial  
Advisor: Larry Smith.....622-7952  
Eiro Wellness, LLC .....227-8300  
El Camino Real.....565-3300  
Elks Lodge.....824-2824  
Ellie Grace & Co.....353-1514  
Emshwiller & Emshwiller .....824-1826  
Environmental Solutions.....565-4212  
Equipment Warehouse Div. .824-2090  
Erleben, Ms. Bette .....824-1499

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 Ethan's Outdoor Services.....827-7945  
 Excel Homes .....827-8255  
 Experience Audiology .....706-2558  
 Eyecare Associates  
 of Bluffton .....824-2020

## F

Fairway Floor Covering .....824-3049  
 Family Centered Services ....824-8574  
 Family Farm and Home .....827-0377  
 Family Ford of Bluffton .....824-2300  
 Farm Bureau Insurance.....824-2234  
 Farm Credit of Mid-America .824-3630  
 Farmers & Merchants  
 State Bank .....622-4141  
 Farmers Insurance - Shari  
 Tomac Agency .....824-4400  
 Felger Hart .....489-2134  
 Fields of Grace  
 Floral Boutique .....824-3837  
 First Bank of Berne .....824-9982  
 First Merchants Bank.....758-3111  
 1st Source Bank .....824-4800  
 Flagstar Bank .....824-0910  
 Flex Fitness & Meal Prep/  
 Timber Ridge Catering ....452-4572  
 Forgiven Church .....824-2000  
 Forgotten Children  
 Worldwide .....353-1580

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But it's bigger than that. We're now part of a global organization of more 17,000 employees worldwide. Ask any Hershey employee and they'll tell you that the company has a strong culture and legacy built on purpose and values. Values of integrity, togetherness, excellence and making a difference guide the actions we take in showing up for our communities, people and planet, and also guide us in our purpose of **Making More Moments of Goodness** for consumers around the world.

It's this dedication and care towards each other and our stakeholders that is core to Hershey's culture. It's also why we are always investing and evolving our work experience.

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We're proud of the work we've done as Pretzels Inc., and grateful to the people who helped us become an important part of the community. And we're looking forward to a great future as part of one of America's most recognizable companies. We hope you'll join us on this next step in our journey.

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## Alphabetical

Forrest Carvings .....	273-9634
Fort Wayne Knockerball .....	580-7164
Fort Wayne Technology Group .....	824-9160
Foudy CPA Group .....	824-1040
Foundations of Truth .....	565-3151
Four Star Services .....	824-5384
Fraction Apparel & Home .....	353-1344
Freedom Academy .....	(800) 200-6499
Friends of Ouabache State Park .....	824-0926
Friends of the Wells County Library .....	622-7120
Friends Who Care Foundation .....	307-1074

## G

G6 Communications... (800)	560-3359
Garcia, Ms. Sandy .....	273-1920
Geenex Solar .....	(380) 203-2083
General Insurance Agency .....	824-0513
General Manufacturing .....	824-3440
Genesis Pest Services .....	227-0742
Gerber Furniture, Mattress & Window Treatments .....	824-1200
Goodwin-Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel .....	824-3852
Gordon & Associates .....	824-9377
GPS Goetz Pool Service .....	413-1646
Grand Sweet Shop .....	433-7465
Grants Catering & Smokin' Wheels BBQ .....	(419) 258-2233
Grass Green Inc .....	416-1898

## H

Habegger's Ace Lumber .....	824-2600
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne .....	422-4828
Halderman Farm Management & Real Estate .....	824-3130
Haldrup USA .....	(844) 694-6205
Harris Human Resources Group Inc. ....	492-6060
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Heartland REMC .....	758-3155
Helping Hands .....	824-4263
Heritage Pointe .....	375-2201
Heyerly's Bakery .....	622-4196
Hiday Automotive Group .....	(800) 824-0900
Holiday Inn Express & Suites .....	459-1888
HomeCourt Home Care .....	333-1114
Honegger Animal Clinic .....	622-4186
Honegger, Ringger & Co. ....	824-4107
Honest Automotive .....	827-7055
Hoosier Creek Farms .....	824-3255
Hoosier House Family Restaurant .....	353-1415
Horizon Events Corp .....	422-9070
Hott Family Dentistry .....	824-2442
Huffman Group Real Estate .....	827-8255

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Hugh's Bakery &  
Coffeehouse.....353-1477  
Huntington University .....359-4153

### I

Imel Group Golf Academy ....824-4465  
In2Great, LLC.....413-9027  
Ind Brow Designer .....820-1573  
Indiana Michigan Power .....408-3498  
Indiana Pancake House .....353-1414  
Indiana Physical Therapy .....824-0522  
Indiana Tech .....359-8324  
Indiana Technical  
Installations .....824-2488  
Indiana Wesleyan  
University .....450-0650  
Integrity Inspections  
& Testing .....437-1585  
Inteva Products..... (248) 861-9266  
Irving Materials, Inc. ....824-3428  
Ivy Tech Community College.480-4134

### J

J Cole Tech LLC .....846-1899  
J&R Products.....353-3600  
James S. Jackson Co.....824-0918  
Jerry Flack's Investments  
& Insurance .....824-1618

Junior Achievement serving  
Wells County .....484-2543

### K

Karing for Kids .....273-0716  
Kelly's Collision Center.....824-3995  
Kemper Flooring .....622-7465  
Kiwanis Club.....824-6476  
Kroger .....824-3700

### L

LaunchPointe  
Marketing ..... (317) 771-0262  
Laura Kukelhan D.D.S.....824-3100  
Leas Seamless Guttering ....820-1647  
Les Gerber Insurance.....824-1237  
Liby's Stripe Right.....273-1729  
LifeWise Academy-  
Northern Wells County ....273-3618  
Lighted Gardens.....622-4023  
Lilac Lane Apartments .....824-0808  
Linder Oil Company.....622-4680  
Lockout Jujutsu.....307-1142  
Loren's Body Shop .....824-3523  
Lowe's Home Improvement..565-4700  
LSM Brickhouse .....824-9000  
Lutheran Health Network  
Home Health .....449-1130

### M

Magical Vacation Planner by  
Stephanie Hiday.....417-7656  
Magnolias & Minis .....273-6735  
Market Street Development..307-6150  
Markle Do it Best Hardware  
and Rental Center.....758-3148  
Markle Health &  
Rehabilitation .....758-2131  
Mat Matters.....622-6262  
Matalco .....353-3100  
MC Hair By Design  
Beauty Salon.....273-1859  
McDonald's.....824-0433  
Mediacom ..... (855) 633-4226  
Melching Machine.....622-4315  
Mercy Seat Dentistry .....823-3328  
Meridian Health Services.....436-0932  
Metropolitan Title .....824-0200  
Meyer Building.....565-3274  
Meyer Renovation .....414-7677  
Mi Casa Mexican  
Restaurant .....622-6555  
MidWest America Federal  
Credit Union .....209-3440  
Mike Anderson Chevrolet  
of Ossian.....622-4115  
Miller, Bruce & Terri .....404-1735  
Milli's Restaurant .....827-0755

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General Store.....227-6056  
Minnich's Lawn Care .....760-4404  
Mitchel Enterprises.....353-1050  
Montpelier Generating  
Station..... (765) 727-9125  
Monument Center.....824-2832  
More Than Mail.....824-7660  
Mr. B's Services.....622-7070  
Mr. Kool Heating & Cooling .824-1126

Ossian BP.....797-1122  
Ossian Hardware.....622-4171  
Ossian Health Communities . 622-7821  
Ossian Rotary.....402-8272  
Ossian Wine & Spirits.....797-1122  
Ottjes, Mr. Jim.....417-2473  
Ouabache State Park .....824-0926  
Outdoor Concepts .....824-5189

## P

Pages & Stuff.....820-3120  
Pak-A-Sak .....824-1566  
Park Center .....824-1071  
Parlor City Cabinetry .....824-8600  
Parlor City Oil Shop.....353-1610  
Parlor City Trophy & Apparel.. 824-0216  
Paul Davis Restoration .....436-7510  
Pena's Mechanical  
Contractors .....622-1312  
PeopleLink Staffing  
Solutions .....824-1797  
Perfect Pet Food Accessories,  
Training, Grooming .....846-0276  
Perma-Column .....622-7190  
Pet Esthetics.....388-1651  
Peyton's Northern.....824-0882  
Phil's One Stop.....824-4848  
Phillips Financial.....420-7732  
Physicians Health Plan.....432-6690  
Pierre's Party and  
Tent Rental.....824-9434

## N

National Oil & Gas.....824-2220  
Navigator Financial.....824-5000  
Neoti .....494-1499  
News-Banner Publications ...824-0224  
Nicholson Family Dental .....824-2811  
NIPSCO.....439-1330  
North Eastern Group  
Realty .....489-7095  
Northern Wells Community  
Schools .....622-4125  
Northwestern Mutual-Matthew  
Henry .....849-2814  
Northwood Computer .....824-5652

## O

Office 360 .....482-9674  
Optimist Club of Bluffton.....565-3486

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 Potters Lawn Service.....820-0437  
 Premier Flats .....307-5505  
 Premier Signs..... (888) 518-2498  
 Pretzels, Inc.....824-4838  
 Prible Ag Products..... (765) 728-2400  
 Primerica ..... (765) 480-6334  
 Print Source Corp. ....824-3911  
 Pro Resources Staffing.....356-6264  
 ProFed Credit Union.....824-5991  
 Professional Systems  
 Installations .....492-0358  
 Prudential Billing and  
 Consulting ..... (888) 862-9377  
 PTM Engraving .....760-1986  
 Purdue Cooperative Extension  
 Service .....824-6412

## Q

Quality Car Care & Welding  
 Supplies .....824-5548

## R

Radiance, LLC.....273-8442  
 RAM Advertising .....273-7456

Raymond James Financial  
 Services .....824-8070  
 RediMed .....479-3523  
 Regional Chamber of Northeast  
 Indiana .....424-0863  
 Reliance IO.....245-2510  
 Rem Johnston Printing .....824-1528  
 Renovate Counseling  
 Services .....307-5030  
 Resource Maintenance.....824-0866  
 Restoration 1 of Bluffton.....224-4417  
 Rethceif Packaging.....622-7200  
 River Terrace Retirement  
 Community .....824-8940  
 Riverstone Dental .....824-4614  
 Rochester Travel ..... (800) 466-0444  
 Rock Creek Stone Quarry .....273-1851  
 Rod's Rustics.....557-8451  
 Roembke Mfg. & Design.....622-4135  
 Run Hard. Rest Well.....414-1299  
 Ruoff Mortgage.....489-5595  
 Rural 1st .....824-3630

## S

Sherer, Mr. Roger .....824-8308  
 Senior MoneyLife.....296-0437  
 Shelton Financial Group.....436-7006  
 Snider Fleet Solutions .....824-4520

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Southern Wells Community  
Schools ..... (765) 728-5537  
Southern Wells FFA.... (765) 728-5534  
Spherion Staffing .....706-5050  
Sprunger & Sprunger, Attorneys  
at Law .....846-6788  
Sprunger Title .....589-2338  
Stag Bar and Grill .....827-0756  
Star Engineering & Machine.824-4825  
Star Insurance - Hilb Group.. 724-3111  
Star Solar Holdings.....694-6343  
State Farm Insurance-  
Ben Burman .....824-1928  
State Farm Insurance-  
Erin Daugherty .....827-0527  
Stealth Partner Group, An  
Amwins Company . (815) 975-5515  
Steffen Financial Group.....824-8175  
Steffen Group Inc. ....824-3006  
Steffen Oil a Division  
of AgBest.....824-3772  
Stewart, Brimmer, Peters & Cady  
dba Insurance Services ..827-9990  
Stillwater Hospice .....435-3222  
Stratgence Capital .....236-0385  
Streetlight Take &  
Bake..... (419) 670-2305  
Stronghold Glass.....824-4715  
Studabaker Specialty  
Woodworks .....273-1326  
Sturgeon Excavating .....273-2048

Sturgeon Mechanical.....273-1878  
Sturgeon Seeding Services..273-5116  
Stylus Technologies.....824-8953  
Subway.....824-7821  
Swearingen Elder Law.....888-9256  
Sweet Obsessions-  
Bake Shoppe .....273-2145  
Sweet Tea Photography .....273-7708  
Swiss Village .....589-3173  
SYM Financial Advisors.....403-6928

## T

Team Mantra Wear .....273-0421  
Temp-Masters.....422-1730  
The Center for Energy  
Education .....224-0232  
The Charcuterie Shop .....442-1183  
The Corner Depot.....824-4775  
The Dance Co. ....356-5542  
The Garage .....273-0600  
The Gathering Place.....525-0134  
The Hagerman Group.....424-1470  
The Hideaway.....341-6749  
The Literacy Alliance .....426-7323  
The Mattress & Furniture  
Store .....353-1099  
The Nutrition Loft.....353-1554  
The Parlor City Brewing  
Company.....307-3858  
The ROP Shop ..... (844) 697-6774

The Wright Insurance  
Company..... (317) 610-3306  
Thoma/Rich, Lemler  
Funeral Home .....824-3850  
Three Rivers Federal  
Credit Union .....824-0042  
Thrive Mortgage .....353-3000  
Timber Ridge Golf Course....824-2728  
Tinkertique .....341-1177  
tj's Honeysuckle Alley .....413-5700  
TLC Window & Pressure  
Washing .....525-1765  
Tonner Dumpster Services...438-9203  
Toppings Ice Cream Parlor...353-3355  
Town of Markle .....758-3193  
Town of Ossian .....622-4251  
Treeboy Processing.....273-6203  
Treeboy Productions .....273-6203  
Trine University.....665-4316  
Trusted Solutions Group.....622-6000  
TTG Equipment .....565-3659  
20/20 Custom Molded  
Plastics.....565-2020  
Twisted Metal Detailing  
& More .....824-2030  
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& Services.....638-4514

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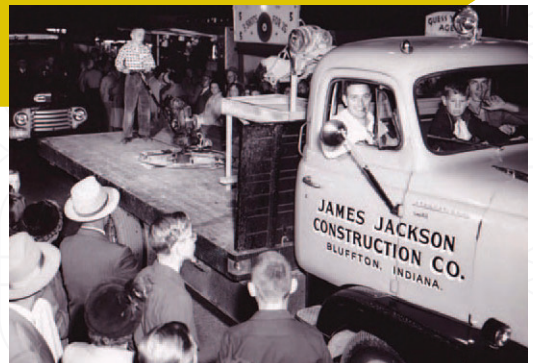
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USAlternator ..... (517) 706-6868  
Utz Quality Foods .....824-2800

### V

VacMan Air Duct Cleaning ....273-0313  
Valero Renewable Fuels.....846-0011  
Velocity Motors .....824-2165  
Villa North Centre .....827-8755

### W

Waggin & Braggin  
    Pet Services.....258-2606  
Wal-Mart Supercenter .....824-0296  
Wayne Metals .....758-4676  
WEG Commercial Motors.....827-2200  
Welches All Vehicle Repair...824-3811  
Wells Business  
    Development.....820-0113  
Wells Community Boys &  
    Girls Club .....824-5070  
Wells County 4-H  
    Association.....824-6412  
Wells County Automotive  
    Supply - NAPA .....824-4460  
Wells County Council  
    on Aging .....824-1070

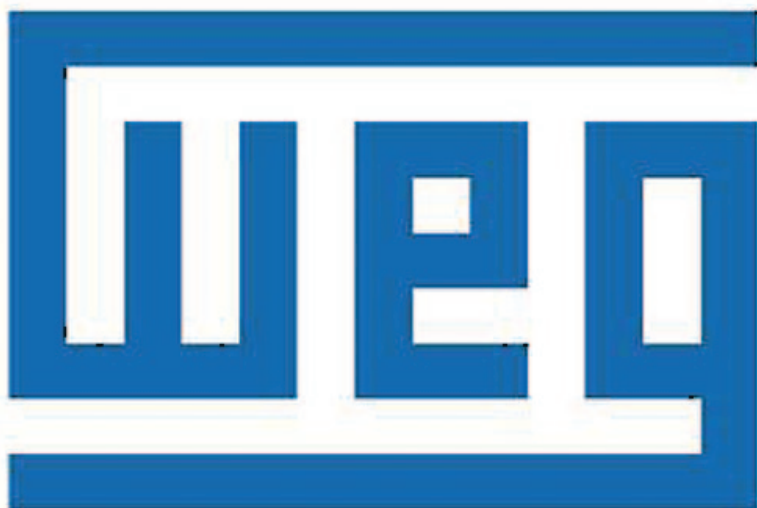
Wells County EMS.....827-0166  
Wells County Food Bank .....827-0053  
Wells County Foundation .....824-8620  
Wells County Historical Society  
    & Museum.....824-9956  
Wells County Land Title.....824-5263  
Wells County Lock-Up .....824-4887  
Wells County Public Library .824-1612  
Wells County Regional  
    Sewer District.....353-1616  
Wells County Republicans....273-1920  
Westland, LLC .....273-6680  
Wheeler's Bees .....223-7354  
WorkOne Northeast.....824-0855  
WZBD Radio.....589-9300

### Y

Yaste Painting & Decorating.824-1242  
Yehoshua, Inc.....307-2205  
Yergy's State Road BBQ .....824-4950  
Yoder Tree Service .....565-3764  
You Store In Comfort .....824-1588  
You've Got Style .....824-1841  
Youth For Christ.....824-1330

### Z

Zap Electric.....824-2927  
Zesto Ice Cream .....565-2663



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# Calendar offers many opportunities for involvement

The Chamber of Commerce organizes a number of events during the year that benefits members, the community and the Chamber itself.

## Business Before, During and After Hours

These events serve two purposes: an opportunity for a member company to showcase their business; and an opportunity for members to meet and greet to be better acquainted with their community colleagues.

## Parlor City Market

The market offers fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and hand-made artisan items for sale. The market is held at the Parlor City Plaza every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting June 3 and running through Sept. 16.

## Small Business Assistance

The Chamber partners with the Small Business Development Center who comes on an as-needed basis to provide business assistance to not only new companies, but



also companies already in business. This assistance is *free* and confidential.

## Fund Raisers

In order to keep dues to a minimum, the Chamber has two major fund raising events each year.

During the summer, a Chicken BBQ is held, and the popular annual Golf Expo is held each August.

## Quarterly Membership Luncheons

Chamber members hear important speakers throughout the year. These include an economic forecast, "state of the city" address, turnaround awards and other important topics.

In addition, the Chamber hosts breakfast meetings and seminars throughout the year

## Chamber 2023 Calendar

- Annual Dinner – Feb. 27
- Quarterly Membership Luncheons – Winter, Spring, Fall and Christmas
- Chicken BBQ Fundraiser – Summer
- Golf Expo – August 3

with helpful, timely topics and speakers.

## Third House Meetings

Legislative representatives from the state and national levels have spoken at Third House Meetings throughout the years. Past speakers have recently included State Senator Travis Holdman and State Representative Matt Lehman. These are traditional "town hall meetings" at which the public is invited.

There will be at least one Third House Meeting during the 2023 Indiana Legislative session. Watch for further announcements about specific dates.

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- Lafayette
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- Muncie
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- Portland
- Richmond
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- Addiction & Recovery Services
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  - Women's Recovery Home
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# Local chamber part of regional partnership

The mission of the Regional Chamber is to promote an environment in Northeast Indiana in which individuals, businesses and communities thrive in a global economy. In pursuit of that mission, the Regional Chamber aligns our region's priorities into a legislative agenda, and presses for the passage of that agenda at the state and federal level.

The Regional Chamber serves as a complement to local and regional economic development organization's by creating a better environment, in which they can help attract, retain and grow businesses. The Regional Chamber serves as an added-value to local chambers of commerce and their members as well. Most local chambers lack the resources necessary to mount sustained advocacy efforts for their members at the state and federal

levels. The Regional Chamber will provide that service on behalf of local chambers when appropriate, and will defer to the more intimate relationship

between local chambers, their members, and their legislators when appropriate. Far from seeking to compete with local

chambers of commerce, the Regional Chamber seeks to bolster the cadre of services they are able to offer to their members.

"We have been very pleased being a part of the NEICC as they keep us up to date on legislative actions, workforce development initiatives, and provides the region with a voice at the State and National levels," Erin Prible said. "This partnership is a huge advantage for our region."



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# Member Appreciation Day

Another perfect June day gathered on the Chamber patio for lunch and fellowship ...



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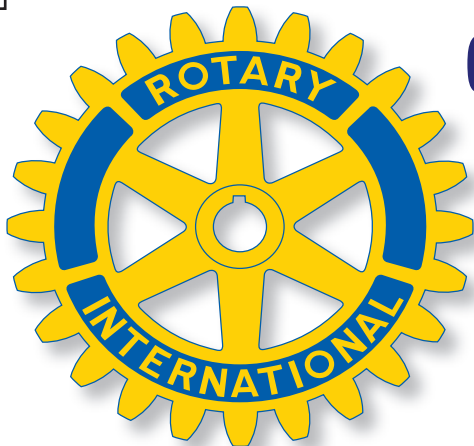
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# Celebrating over 100 years of “Service Above Self”

The Bluffton Rotary Club is proud  
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Rotary’s motto is more than just words. The Bluffton Rotary Club, as well as Rotary Clubs around the world, are always seeking ways to help improve their communities. That includes their immediate “hometown” community as well as working through the Rotary Foundation to help make a difference in all parts of the world.

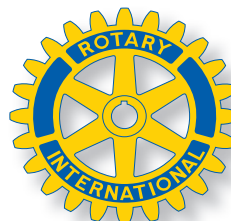
Our most recent project has been the Rotary Stage at the Parlor City Plaza, however Bluffton Rotary has a long history of financial contributions and volunteering time to a number of groups and efforts, including:

*Sponsor of the Ossian Rotary Club  
River Greenway  
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**Bluffton  
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Chartered 1919

For more information contact:  
**Nathan Shelton, President, 260-436-7006**  
**Jordan Arnold, President-Elect, 260-236-0385**

**Bluffton Rotarians:** Colin Andrews, Jordan Arnold, Andy Ault, Tim Babcock, Bret Beer, Jessica Beste, Gary Boone, Doug Brown, Garrett Bucher, Amanda Burman, Erin Daugherty, Gina Eisenhut, Ron Foudy, Kim Gentis, Rick Gentis, Mitch Harnish, Piercen Harnish, Tim Hartigan, Greg Hiday, Steve Higgins, Keith Huffman, Steve Huggins, Conor Jackson, Jayde Ketrang, Laura Kruchkow, Dan Lipp, Sarah MacNeill, Bruce Miller, Mark Miller, Thom Miller, Ked Moser, Derek Myers, Casey Robbins, Nate Rumschlag, Nathan Shelton, Kevin Sills, Kristin Steckbeck, Phil Swain, Jeremy Todd, Angie Topp, Michael Towne, Lee VonGunten, George Witwer

# The 33rd Annual Chicken BBQ Event



Chamber members once again came together to help make our annual Chicken BBQ event another record-setter, utilizing two drive-thru locations.



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# Annual Golf Expo Going Strong After

The 35th Annual Golf Expo didn't disappoint with 36 teams hitting the links at Timber Ridge Golf Course on August 4, 2022. The business community comes together to support this annual event with teams, sponsorships, and volunteering.

"People love this event because it is a business expo on the golf course and what better way to market your business," said Erin Prible, Executive Director, Wells County Chamber of Commerce. "The Tee Station sponsors are welcoming each golfer to the hole with prizes, games, and goodies to add to the excitement and fun for the day. Hiday Motors was the Hole-In-One Prize sponsor providing a 2022 Jeep Wrangler Willy 4x4."

We appreciate the other major sponsors to make the event a success such as Heartland REMC as the Mulligan Sponsor, American Axle & Manufacturing of Bluffton as the Beverage Sponsor and our Golf Cart Sponsors such as ABM, Edge Manufacturing, IMI, James S Jackson, Lowes, MidWest America Federal Credit Union, Ruoff Mortgage, SYM Financial Advisors, and Trusted Solutions Group.

The 36th Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Expo is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2023.



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# Business Before, During and

The Chamber's popular meet-and-greet events were undoubtedly the most impacted by the pandemic. After a tentative re-start in 2021, they returned with an active schedule in 2022. Hosting an event gives a Chamber Member the opportunity to promote themselves and it gives members the chance to get to know each other. To host a Business Before, During and After Hours, contact the Chamber office.



... and there are always refreshments and door prizes!



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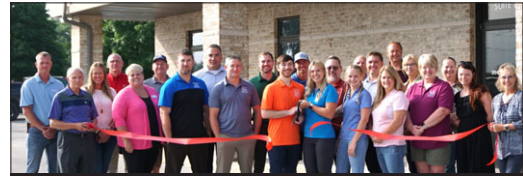
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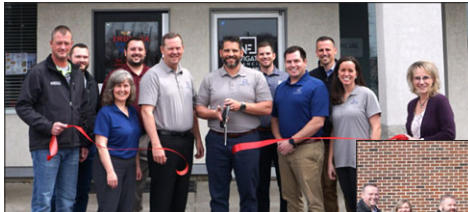
Fraction Apparel & Home



Downtown DIY



Lotus Revival



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# Groundbreakings



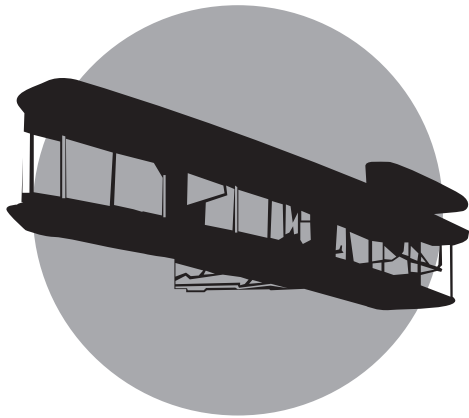
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# Scenes from our 2022 Annual Dinner

"It's Showtime in Wells County" was the theme of the 2022 annual dinner. The event drew the regular full house at the 4-H Community Center to showcase our community and our honorees.



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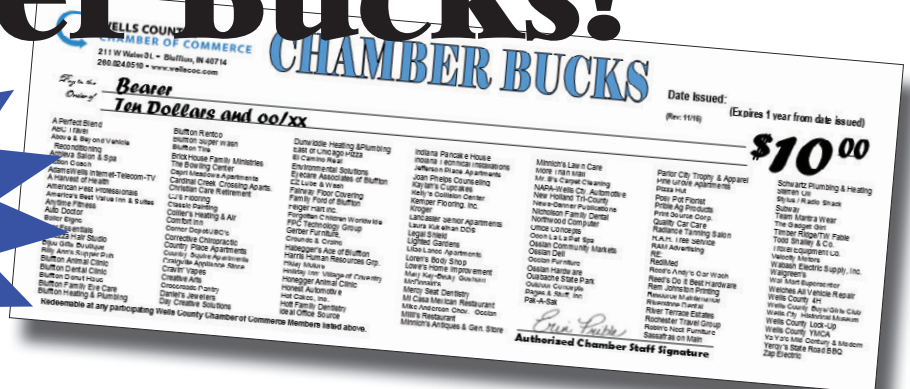
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The Wells County Chamber of Commerce once again partnered with First Bank of Berne to promote Shop Local in Wells County. First Bank of Berne sponsored billboard, newspaper, and radio ads to encourage our citizens to support our local businesses. The Chamber offered Shop Local Passport programs for the holidays encouraging community members to think of our small businesses first. Local businesses donated prizes and the Chamber sponsored Chamber Bucks as the Grand Prize drawing for the initiative.

# Support Local, Shop Local with Chamber Bucks!

Click on the "Chamber Bucks" link on the Chamber's website for a current list of participating members!



Creativity, entrepreneurship, and passion are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community and a better place to live. Buying local means more money stays in the community and those businesses often donate to local causes.

One very simple way to keep those dollars in our community and "Support Local" is to purchase *Chamber Bucks* ... Gift Certificates redeemable only at participating Chamber member businesses. The program is designed to promote our members and keep dollars in our community.

There are over 200 businesses that accept *Chamber Bucks*

in Wells County. *Chamber Bucks* are offered through the Wells County Chamber of Commerce in increments of \$5 and \$10.

Supporting our local businesses is embracing what makes our community unique. These local business owners live here, volunteer in programs, support causes, and serve in leadership roles. Local ownership of business means residents with roots in the community are involved in key development decisions that shape our local environment.

*Chamber Bucks* can be purchased for any reason because it is the perfect gift for anyone ... holiday gifts, anniversaries, birthdays, perfect attendance, or just to say thank you.

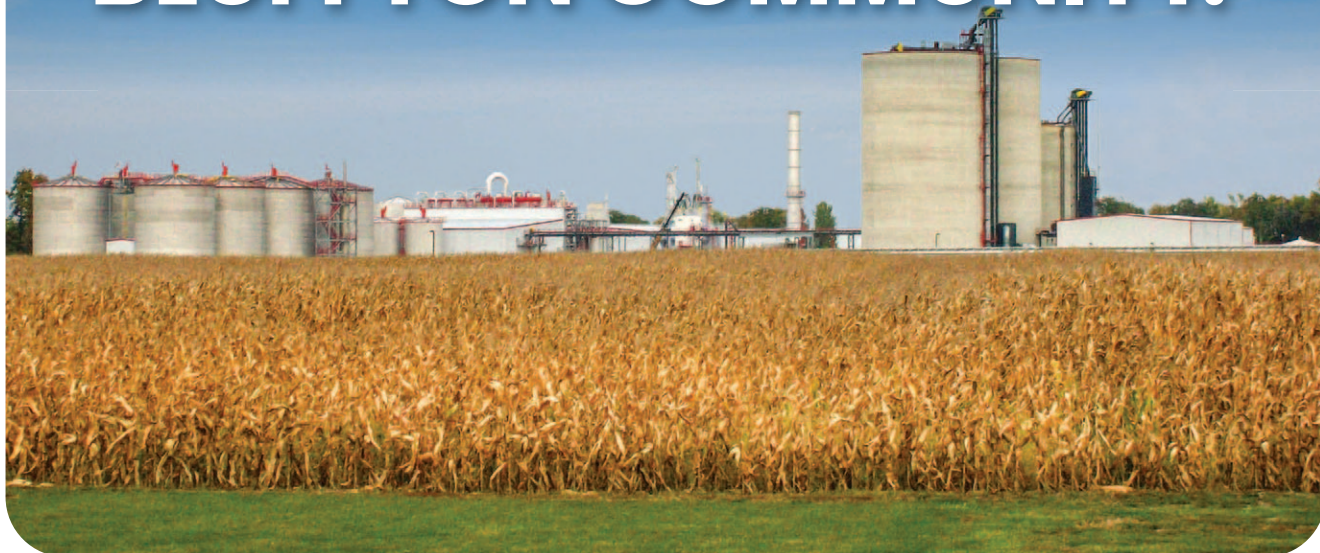
*Chamber Bucks* can be purchased at the **Wells County Chamber of Commerce**, 211 Water Street in Bluffton, call 824-0510.

They can also be purchased at the following:

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**Todd Thornburg**  
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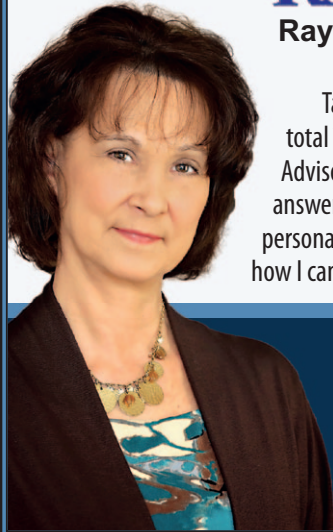
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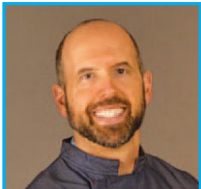
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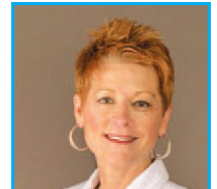
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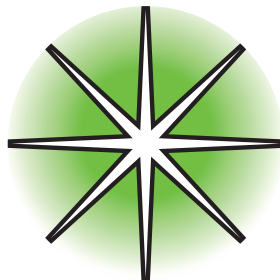
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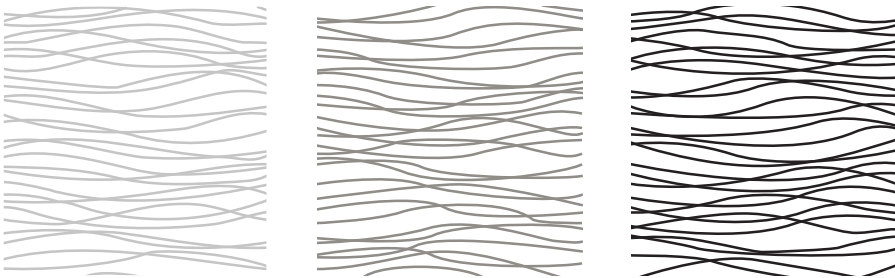
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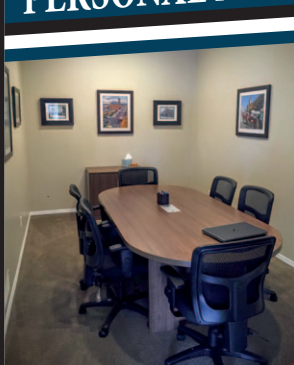
I'm a native Hoosier with a passion for assisting clients with their diverse personal and professional needs. I have been taught that no matter what you do, what matters most is your integrity and work ethic, and understand that no two individuals will have the same legal needs. *Bar Admissions:* Supreme Court of Indiana; *Education:* Ave Maria School of Law, Ann Arbor, Michigan, J.D. - 2007



**David G. Crell**

The most enjoyable part of being a lawyer is combining my genuine interest in others with my passion for helping people. I have successfully performed more jury trials in 10 years than most lawyers get to do in a lifetime. *Awards:* Selected as a Top Lawyer in Fort Wayne Monthly and as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Rated "Superb" by AVVO.

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