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Our Community. Our Future

Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter. — Brian Solls

Greetings and welcome to the 2024 Wells County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Directory. We're delighted to have you as part of our community, whether you're a resident, business owner, employee, or a visitor. Your presence is valued, and we extend a warm welcome to you.

Within this directory, we take pride in showcasing stories, capturing memorable event moments, acknowledging individuals and businesses actively contributing to our community, celebrating members who go above and beyond, and offering valuable resources to help you connect within the community.

Our local businesses are eager to forge connections with you. The future of our community is about coming together to foster collaboration, build meaningful connections, and collectively create a vibrant environment for all. With nearly 460 diverse member businesses invested in Wells County, the Chamber has

been dedicated to supporting businesses, fostering growth, facilitating connections, and establishing partnerships since 1914.

Supporting local businesses is a key part of our mission. By choosing to shop locally in Wells County, you contribute to keeping money within our community, thereby fostering a robust local economy. Your choices in where you shop, live, work, and play collectively shape our community into a home.

We invite you to explore this directory, utilizing it as a valuable point of reference for services and connections. Additionally, for more information about the community, upcoming events, job opportunities, and finding a Chamber Member to meet your needs, please visit our website at www.wellscoc.com.

Our Community. Our Future
#WeLoveOurMembers



Erin Prible
Executive Director,
Wells County
Chamber of Commerce



Table of Contents

Board of Directors	4
Chamber Committees	8
Economic Development Council	10
Business of the Year	12
Citizen of the Year	14
Educators of the Year	16
Calendar of 2024 Events	18
Women in Leadership	20
Revitalization groups busy	25
WCLA's transformative journey	26
Chamber Ambassadors	28
Alphabetical Member Listings	30
Tourism's tremendous year	40
Ribbon Cuttings in 2023	52
New task force formed	56
Members by Category	58

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Erin Prible

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Project Assistant and
 Tourism Coordinator

Audry Dudley

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The 2024 Wells County Chamber of Commerce board members: Seated, from left: Gina Eisenhut, Sprunger & Sprunger; secretary Sarah MacNeill, Wells County Public Library; vice-president Julie Thompson, Bluffton Regional Medical Center; president Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union; past-president Sam Haflich, BKM Real Estate; Rick Gentis, First Bank of Berne; Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. Standing: Eventt Norris, Ossian Hardware; John Stauffer, WEG Commercial Motors; Blake Gerber, Wells County Commissioners; Mike Springer, Norwell Community Schools; Piercen Hamish, Shelton Financial Group; Larry Smith, Edward Jones; Chad Kline, Wells County Economic Development Director. Not present: treasurer Trent Bucher, Honegger Ringger & Co.; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank.

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Not Slowing Down Now

As we transition into the exciting year of 2024, Wells County Economic Development remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering growth, shaping vibrant communities, and positioning Wells County as an ideal destination for talent, tourism, and business. Building on the momentum of 2023, where our motto was “Full speed ahead,” we continue to push the accelerator past the floor to win the race on talent, business attraction, and workforce development.

In 2024, we will intensify our efforts to attract top talent and boost tourism through strategic marketing campaigns. The Talent Attraction Branding Campaign aims to increase Wells County’s population, meeting the workforce demands of local employers. Simultaneously, our Tourism Coordinator and Project Manager, Audry Dudley, will spearhead initiatives to enhance awareness of Wells County’s tourism assets, inviting more visitors to explore the recreational opportunities our county has to offer.

Wells County Economic Development is committed to the comprehensive development of our communities. Master plan development will be underway in 2024 to ensure thoughtful and sustainable growth, with a focus on housing, infrastructure, and community amenities. These plans will guide us in creating thriving environments for residents and businesses alike.


Our dedication to marketing Wells County as a prime destination for businesses remains unwavering. Throughout 2023, local manufacturers made investments of over \$20.3 million, resulting in the creation of nearly 100 new jobs. As we look ahead, we anticipate more business ventures and expansions, further enriching the economic landscape of Wells County.

Looking ahead to 2024, Wells County Economic Development is poised to lead aggressive initiatives. Our focus includes expanding opportunities for housing development, advancing community planning efforts, strengthening community investment opportunities, and implementing programs to foster population growth. The Wells County ED Council remains at the forefront, steering our efforts towards key initiatives that support community growth, promote assets, attract businesses and workforce, and facilitate workforce development.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we invite you to join us in making Wells County a place where people “Live Better. Live Wells.” Together, we will continue to shape the future and build a prosperous community that thrives on innovation, collaboration, and boundless possibilities.



Chad Kline
Executive Director,
Economic Development



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- Jessica Beste, Stockton Mortgage
- Doug Brown, News-Banner Publ.
- Doug Fear, Edward Jones
- Cyndee Fiechter, North Eastern Group Realty
- Chris Gerber, Edge Manufacturing
- Piercen Harnish, Shelton Financial Group
- Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne
- Nick Huffman, Steffen Group Inc.
- Kody Kumfer, Forgotten Children Worldwide
- Erica Lehman, Coldwell Banker-Holloway
- Heather Morgan, National Oil & Gas
- Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank
- Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage
- Casey Robbins, F&M Bank
- Kevin Sills, Farm Bureau Insurance
- Danielle Thompson, Flagstar Bank

Special Events Committee

Chair: Angie Arnold,

HomeCourt Home Care

- Lannette Bickel, Metropolitan Title
- Doug Brown, News-Banner Publ.
- Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building
- Danica Dunwiddie, WalkerHughes Insurance
- Pam Gregory, Pages & Stuff, Inc.
- Steve Higgins, Boy Scouts of America
- Gina Hon, First Merchants Bank
- Sara Jones, F&M Bank
- Janiece Lipsey, Creative Arts Council
- Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank
- Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union
- Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance
- Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage
- Stephanie Wheeler, WEG Commercial Motors

Advocacy Committee

Chair: Rick Johnloz,

Halderman Farm Management

- Jessica Beste, Stockton Mortgage
- Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building
- Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance
- Don Fiechter, Don Fiechter Farms
- Chandler Gerber, City of Bluffton

- Ryan Gustus, Eyecare Associates of Bluffton
- Conor Jackson, James S Jackson Co.
- Trout Moser, National Oil & Gas
- Jeff Stringer, County Commissioner
- Michael Vanover, Clean Fuels National

Connect Group

Chair: Angie Comment, Metropolitan Title

- Jordan Arnold, Strategence Capital
- Collin Campbell, CampHouse Marketing
- Ed Dittmeyer, TLC Window Solutions
- Klint Fiechter, Les Gerber Insurance
- Ryan Free, Fort Wayne Technology Group
- Perry Gerber, Les Gerber Insurance
- Becky Goshorn, Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Jan Herring, Environmental Solutions
- Thom Miller, Caylor Nickel Family Foundation YMCA
- Jeremy Reimschisel, Family Ford of Bluffton
- Kylie Tomlin, Helping Hands
- Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage
- Joni Donaghy-Myers, Coldwell Banker-Holloway

Connect Group2

- 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
- Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank
- Jeremy Penrod, Edward Jones
- Jim Sturgeon, Sturgeon Mechanical
- Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance
- Ed Dittmeyer, TLC Window Solutions
- Geoff Horner, Genesis Pest Services

Women in Leadership:

- Alyssa Brown, Archbold & Lewis
- Stacey Duncan, Tonner Transfer Station
- Kim Gentis, Raymond James
- Alicia Hill, Run Hard. Rest Well.
- Molly Hoag, Purdue Extension
- Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne
- Beth McConn, Caylor Nickel Foundation Family YMCA
- Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce
- Beth Singleton, Xsoft
- Tammy Slater, Wells County Foundation
- Julie Thompson, Bluffton Regional
- Kylie Tomlin, Helping Hands
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EDC Efforts 'Not Slowing Down'

For the Wells County Economic Development Council, 2023 was a pivoting year. The group had planned to focus on updating community master plans but life has a way of changing things.

"Early on, we had housing developers reach out to us, asking for our most recent housing assessment," EDC executive director Chad Kline said. There was none, so the group applied for and was awarded a Wells County Foundation "critical needs" grant of \$25,000. Adding some of their own funds to that, the Veridus Group in Indianapolis was contracted to complete a study that is slated to be finalized as early as late January 2024.

Among other things, the study will give what the industry calls "saturation opportunities," Kline explained. "How many apartments can we absorb in a year? How many single-family homes?"

The study will give developers some guidance since it will include looking at workforce trends and affordability factors, as well as what housing is currently in development.

"The new term being used is 'attainable housing,'" Kline continued, "since 'affordable housing' seems to have developed negative connotations. So now we ask, 'What is available or needed that is attainable for families making, say, \$60,000 a year?'"

With this new report, the EDC will then move forward with a more enlightened approach to developing master plans for the incorporated communities within



The Wells County Economic Development Council: In front row from left, Jason Fiechter, Julie Thompson, Mayor John Whicker, vice-chair Tamara Boucher, Steve Higgins, Barbara O'Connor, and Economic Development Project Manager Diane Johnson. In back row, Economic Development Director Chad Kline, Steve Huggins, Kody Kumfer, chair Ryan Schisler, Rick Elwell, Brandon Gerber, Jeff Stringer, and Bruce Herr. Not pictured are Josh Barkley, Patty Randall, and Sara Jones.

the county. However, with the new developments in providing sewage service by the Regional Sewer District to such areas as Murray, Liberty Center and Craigville, there will also be a more holistic, county wide master plan.

"So when we have this housing component and then add the master plan component, you start to dive into what infrastructure is necessary," Kline continued. "You can then identify pockets for areas of residential, commercial and industrial development." That effort includes working with the state's Strategic Sites Index, which lists potential sites for new industries in the state's database.

Attracting new industry is not the top priority however. Attracting people is the main focus of nearly all economic development groups these days, including Wells County.

Thus, "the big initiative in 2024 is marketing for talent and tourism," Kline said. "Think about it: (the two) lend into each other. You're trying to attract people to the community as visitors and as long-term residents."

The EDC and the tourism bureau are working together with LC Media and Huntington University to create content for the county's websites. That is being funded by another grant from the Wells County Foundation. Additionally, there is money in the 2024 budgets to hire a marketing firm to develop a strategy for both the talent and tourism efforts. Requests for Proposals are out; the firm will be selected sometime during the first quarter of 2024.

"What we hope people will see is that Wells County will be marketed significantly not just within but outside of the county to build more awareness of our

community," he said.

The new year will also bring new opportunities for grants. The council is keeping a close eye on such programs as Phase 2 of the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative. The county was able to take advantage of what is now called "READI 1.0" in 2023, tapping almost \$4 million to boost the new housing development on Ossian's north side and the pre-school program at Southern Wells schools. Other programs to watch include the Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission and the Indiana Destination Development Group.

"We're trying to leverage as much grant funding as possible to help community and quality-of-place initiatives that focus on population growth," Kline said.

"We're not slowing down," Kline concluded. "We keep pushing that accelerator."

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Bluffton Ethanol Plant Gets Nod as the Chamber's 'BOTY' for 2024

When Valero Renewables purchased what was the Green Plains ethanol plant in Bluffton in 2018, the company brought its community commitment with them. Company-wide, the Texas-based firm donated more than \$60 million to charitable causes in 2021.

"Valero has worked with United Way as a partner in change for over 40 years," reads a statement on the Valero corporate website. In his letter of recommendation that the local Valero plant be named the Wells County Chamber of Commerce 2024 Business of the Year, United Way of Wells County executive director Ben Renkenberger stated that Valero is "by far," the organization's "largest donor over the last several years."

Kim Barger, office coordinator at Valero, summarized the company's financial assistance, tallying more than \$320,000 to the local United Way since 2019. In addition to that, \$175,000 has been distributed to local charities from the proceeds of the annual Valero Texas Open PGA golf tournament and from the company's Benefits for Children foundation.

The company's culture goes far beyond just financial support. Employees are encouraged to volunteer their time as well. Among other groups, Valero employees have been and continue to provide valuable support to the 4-H backpack program.

The program provides foodbags over the weekends during the school year to children and teenagers with food insecurities. Susan Girod, the group's treasurer, also wrote a letter of support for Valero.

"The staff at Valero Renewables Bluffton take the time to go the extra mile," she wrote. "Once monthly the staff goes to the 4-H park to pack the foodbags that are distributed. During the 2022-2023 school year, (they) packed over 1,200 food bags with nutritious food for delivery to the three public schools."

Barger estimated that more than 1,300 volunteer hours have been contributed by Valero employees.

"We have made tremendous strides in 2023 ... we will set some high goals in 2024," Barger told the assembled employees at a December employee appreciation luncheon at which the announcement was made of the company's selection for the chamber honor. "I sincerely want to thank you for all of your hard work at the plant

and for your generosity ... I hope to expand it (our community involvement) so we get more employees involved and more businesses involved."

She shared two other examples of their volunteer efforts as they helped direct runners on the appropriate path to take during the Bluffton Parks and Recreation "Chicks Run" in June, and collected health and hygiene supplies for Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing. Employees have also volunteered their time at other Parks and Recreation events, including the Easter egg hunt and "Boo in Bluffton."

Plant Manager

Mark Brown has been with Valero for about 19 years, but recently took the leadership role at the Bluffton plant. He is looking to continue the legacy left by the previous plant manager, Justin Moen.

"I know Justin was involved with a few things, and I plan on being involved in those same things," said Brown. "Maybe I can do a few more things within the community and let people know that we are here to be a member of the community and work with them."

In making the announcement and presentation in December, Chamber executive

director Erin Prible said that the company's selection "is a testament to Valero's unwavering commitment to community involvement.

"As the world's largest independent petroleum refinery and the second-largest producer of renewable diesel globally, we value your collaboration with local farmers and co-ops. You recognize the importance of conducting business ethically, adhering to your core values," Prible said.

"Your actions and dedication show strongly as a dedicated community partner in every facet of your operations."

The United Way's Renkenberger added in his letter of support that "The impact of Valero Renewables on Wells County is nothing short of extraordinary. Their commitment to corporate responsibility and community engagement has strengthened the local business scene and significantly contributed to the overall well-being of our community through gainful employment and community investment."

The company's and the employees' continued commitment was made clear through a \$25,000 donation to the Backpacks program in December. Girod noted that this is on the heels of the company's \$15,000 donation in 2022.

The company will be formally recognized at the Chamber's Annual Dinner on Feb. 26.



Valero plant manager Mark Brown, center, was surrounded by a number of employees and community representatives at an employee appreciation luncheon at which the announcement was made of their selection as the 2024 Chamber Business of the Year. From left, Valero employees Joshua Peppers, Kim Barger, and Ryan Benedict; Erin Prible, Chamber; Jessica Bricker, United Way board president; Valero employees Jason Elzey and Mark Brown; United Way executive director Ben Renkenberger; Valero employees Dawn Donnelly, Brittany Kong, Bruce Snyder and Matt Wilson.

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)
- 2023 — Trusted Solutions Group



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A Complementary Couple Gets ‘The Greatest Compliment’

They say good things come in pairs, and this year’s recipients of Wells County Citizen of the Year would certainly agree.

“There’s no way we could accomplish what we do in this business, there’s no way we could accomplish what we could do in this community, without both of us,” said Jeff Lemler of he and his wife, Jamie.

“I think this award is actually for her and I just got thrown in,” he continued. “But we kind of complement each other. We’ve figured out where our strengths and weaknesses are, and we work together. It’s been a fabulous journey.”

Alongside multiple letters of recommendation from community members, Jessica Bricker had nominated the couple for the award. In her letter, she wrote, “While it may be unusual to nominate a married couple for this honor, I truly believe the Lemlers are a team and together, they are most deserving of this recognition ... I know there is likely much more that they have done over the years that we will never know, and they will continue doing so because that is the type of people they are.”

Those letters of support that Bricker had organized came from a variety of community members.

Bob Buehl, commander of Bluffton’s American Legion Post 111, wrote about the Lemlers’ unfailing support of veterans, through sponsorship of the post itself and more particularly of the Honor Guard.

“They always go the extra mile to make sure the proper military last rites are offered to the family,” he wrote. “As a matter of fact, in the case of indigent families, they’ve provided their services without charge.”

Jessica Beste wrote of the Lemlers’ support of the Wells County Girls Softball League, going “above and beyond” what might have been expected or even hoped for. She cited instances of financial support as well as personal involvement.

“Together, the Lemlers completely amazed me with their continued generosity of time and treasure,” she wrote. “The league is beyond grateful.”

Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday wrote about his interactions with the couple both professionally and personally. He cited instances when a funeral home must be summoned to the scene of an accident or incident. In addition to Jeff Lemler’s ability to deal with family issues, “Our deputies work tirelessly for the citizens of this county,” Holliday shared, “and sometimes those roles and responsibilities can take a heavy toll. Jeff is always very quick to recognize this, and without skipping a beat is willing to help



The Lemler family: Macy, Jamie, Jeff and Braden.

our deputies by offering a word of encouragement, a joke or a lighthearted comment, or even a simple thank you.”

Holliday also shared the level of support the couple continues to offer the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge’s annual “Cops and Kids” Christmas shopping event and “they just recently honored our local law enforcement by giving each deputy a customized tumbler to show their appreciation.”

Jeff and Jamie Lemler are lifelong residents of Wells County. Jeff graduated from Norwell High School, attended Purdue University, and returned home in 1999 to learn the funeral home trade under Howard Rich, who was also honored as the Citizen of the Year in 1991.

As he was learning the business, he met Jamie Kain, a Bluffton High School graduate, whose mother, Sally, often delivered

flowers to the funeral home from Country Squire Florists. “You need to meet my daughter,” Jeff often heard.

Jamie had earned a masters degree in occupational therapy at the University of Indianapolis and when they finally met, was scheduled to do an internship in Florence, South Carolina.

After several dates, she left for that job but convinced he was called to the funeral home and of his love for Jamie, Jeff took a plane to South Carolina and convinced her to take a job back home.

They’ve been a duo ever since.

The couple married in 2004, and have two children — Braden, 15, and Macy, 13, who attend Bluffton schools. After 17 years as a therapist at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Jamie joined the funeral home full-time when they became the sole owners in 2014.

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 Erleben
- 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
- 2023 — Kody Kumfer

“We’ve been blessed to have had such great examples,” Jeff said, referring to Howard Rich and Jamie’s grandparents, Jim and Mary Alice Jackson. “There’s no way we’d be where we are without what we learned from them.”

Ultimately, the couple believes the strength of the community is its ability to work together and help one another. They point to the “Light Up Wells” campaign they helped spearhead with others during the height of the Covid pandemic.

“In the midst of a scary time, people put up Christmas lights and raised money for health care workers. It was all about faith and hope and love,” Jeff said.

They point to other instances when the community came together, “which is what makes Bluffton unique,” he added.

“And it’s important that each generation learns this and passes it along. What Howard and Jim and Mary Alice passed along, perhaps we can pass it along as well.

“As long as you can leave the woodpile higher than you found it,” Jeff said, referring to a lesson that Howard Rich often shared. “And if there’s people in this county that thinks we’ve left things better than we found it, then that’s the greatest compliment they could give us.”

“We’re not done,” Jeff Lemler says. “As long as the journey goes, we’re not done.”

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Chamber Recognizes Three County Teachers

David Butler Southern Wells Community Schools

David Butler is a busy man. Besides teaching six different science courses at Southern Wells High School — two of them being dual-credit college-level — he is also the sponsor of the school's Biology Club and the advisor for the SWHS National Honor Society chapter, is a regional director of five states for the National Association of Biology Teachers and is the certified mentor for new teachers in the school system.

After being recognized in 2012 as the Outstanding Biology Teacher in Indiana, he was asked to develop and present a series of seminars for ongoing professional development. That work led to writing a textbook, "Science Strategies to Increase Student Learning and Motivation in Biology and Life Sciences (grades 7-12)."

There have been other awards along the way, including being selected as a



David Butler

finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching, a national teachers hall of fame semi-finalist, the Clyde Motts Award for Innovative High School Science Teaching.

Add to those and other awards and grants being named the 2024 Southern Wells Educator of the Year.

"It's a wonderful honor, certainly, because there are a lot of very good teachers here," Butler says. "It's really been a wonderful opportunity and I am very appreciative of the administration's and the school board's support in my work and involvement at the state and national levels. I try my best to find resources and organizations where I can find and learn new technologies and ways to present content and then bring those back to my classroom."

A Bluffton native and 1984 graduate of Bluffton High School, he earned his undergraduate degree at Ball State University and his masters at the University of Southern Indiana. Intent on continuing to learn, he is working on a second masters degree.

He began his teaching career in 1989 at Mount Vernon High School; six years later he moved to Hamilton Southeastern in Fishers where he taught for one year before accepting a position at Cardinal Ritter High School In Indianapolis. Four years later, in 2000, he returned to his home county and has been teaching at Southern Wells ever since.

He and his wife, Dr. Carol Butler, a pediatrician at Bluffton Regional Medical Center, are the parents of two children.

Butler received high praise from his peers for his work both in and outside the classroom in the nomination letter.

"His love for science is evident from the moment you walk into his classroom," the nominee wrote. "From the minute he starts teaching, he engrosses his students..."

He is noted for his field trips. His anatomy class, for example, makes a trip to a cadaver lab while his Earth Space Science students go on fossil hunts. He has impersonated historic scientists.

Fellow teacher Joel Roush adds, "Teaching is not just something David does. For some, teaching is a job. For him, it's a calling."

Mark Weinert Norwell Community Schools

Mark Weinert's global trip to Norwell High School was, in the end, "by accident."

After earning his bachelors degree in biology and chemistry from Purdue University, he enrolled in the Peace Corps and soon found himself in Benin, a small, French-speaking nation in West Africa.

Weinert taught those two subjects — in French — for two years in the city of Tanguieta, which is where he met his wife Salamatou. Forty years later, their two daughters, Sydney and Erica, have blessed them with five grandchildren.

His second two years in Benin was spent working for the World Food Program, "on loan" from the Peace Corps.

When the time came to head back home, he had hoped to find a teaching job in his hometown, perhaps even his



Mark Weinert

alma mater (South Side H.S., class of '78). There were no openings, however, but there was one at Norwell, a job he accepted "with the expectation of leaving in a couple years when a position came open in Fort Wayne," he explains.

Those "couple years came and went and in the meantime I grew to love the Norwell community."

That love was returned 37 years later by being named the school district's 2024 Educator of the Year.

"Mr. Weinert does an amazing job of bringing chemistry and science to life," wrote Norwell principal Kam Meyer in his nomination letter, further citing Weinert's "hands-on approach" and going "above and beyond" in all of his efforts.

Through decades of teaching, Weinert has earned a reputation for his integration of humor into the chemistry labs' daily lessons. An annual tradition, Meyer noted, is Weinert's "alternative pumpkin carving" lab, where the chemistry class explodes a pumpkin.

"I conveyed a level of learning to students by showing them that I care about them, treating them as human beings, and forming relationships with them, which is just central to what I do and what we all do," Weinert said. "My motivation has always been the students."

Over the years, Weinert has seen his former students become chemical engineers and doctors and even teach chemistry at the college level. Even so, one of the most meaningful teaching moments he recalls was when a student who was going through a difficult time pulled him aside in the hallway and said, "Thank you for seeing me."

"If I am honored and I do a good job, a lot of it's because of you, meeting us all halfway," he told an auditorium full of appreciative students when his selection was announced in early December.

"Also, the colleagues I work with, the strong administration we have, and all the Wells County parents who support us — from the bottom of my heart, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you. Thank you."

Jim Bueter
Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D.

While Bluffton High School’s marching band —the Bengal Brigade — has made it to the state finals four times during his stint as director, it was the first time, 2004, that stands out.

“It was the first time in 18 years that Bluffton qualified,” Jim Bueter says. “That was really special for the kids.”

It was BHS’s legacy in state competitions, earning two back-to-back championships in 1979 and ‘80, that initially drew Bueter to Bluffton. He had been the director of bands and teaching at Tippecanoe Valley when he became aware of the opening.

“I was very excited about becoming a part of such a rich heritage,” he says now, 26 years later. In addition to the four state final appearances, the band has also qualified for four Scholastic finals.

A native of Fort Wayne and a 1984 graduate of Bishop Dwenger High

School, Bueter earned a bachelors degree in instrumental music education in 1992 from Indiana University in Fort Wayne. He has also earned a masters degree in music technology from IU of Indianapolis. He and his wife Kierstein are the parents of three children, Nathan, Nick and Sarah.



Jim Bueter

In addition to his work at BHS, he is preparing for a second European tour as a staff member of the Indiana Ambassadors of Music.

“I don’t do anything that any other teacher doesn’t do,” Bueter told his class and those who presented his “Educator of the Year” award for the Bluffton-Harrison school district. “I just come and do the best I can. It’s great that I can represent the

other teachers, yet, I look up to everyone in this building everyday. It’s hard to be in the spotlight.”

In the nomination letter, Bueter is described as a teacher who has demonstrated a willingness to mentor and share his wisdom, which has impacted

many teachers over this career. Some of his students have gone on to major in music and return to pursue the continuation of that love for music and inspire young students.

In addition to his teaching, mentoring and band-directing duties, Bueter enjoys the annual “On the Banks of the Wabash” marching band competition. It is held the weekend after Labor Day and attracts 20 to 22 marching bands from throughout northern Indiana.

“Talk about a heritage, this has been going on for almost 50 years,” he reports. “For a school our size, it’s really remarkable and something we should all be proud of.”

There are two other annual activities that his students participate in: the annual Memorial Day ceremony and the Veterans Day program at the school.

“These are really important to me and I always want to make sure that the kids understand what these events are about and why they’re so important.”

“That’s really what it’s all about,” he concludes. “This is a great honor but I am so proud of my kids.”

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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.



Quarterly Membership Luncheons

Chamber members hear important speakers throughout the year. These include an economic forecast, “state of the city” and “state of the county” addresses, turnaround awards and other important topics.

In addition, the Chamber hosts breakfast meetings and seminars throughout the year with helpful, timely topics and speakers.

Fund Raisers

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

During the spring, a new Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall: Envelope Extravanagza and the popular annual Chamber Golf Expo is

Chamber 2024 Calendar

- Annual Dinner – Feb. 26
- Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall: Envelope Extravanagza — Spring
- Quarterly Membership Luncheons – Winter, Spring, Fall and Christmas
- Golf Expo – August 1

held the first Thursday every August.

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 2024 Indiana Legislative session. Watch for further announcements about specific dates.

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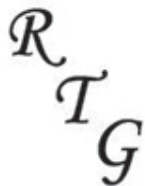


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Empowering Women to Learn, Lead and Leave a Legacy

In the heart of our Wells County community, there exists a vibrant and empowering group that is changing the narrative for women. Women in Leadership is not just another organization; it's a supportive network that fosters connections, personal growth, and the empowerment of women from all walks of life. Women are witnessing how this group has transformed lives, encouraged self-care, and helped others find their voices as leaders.



Connecting with Passionate Women

One of the most remarkable aspects of Women in Leadership is the diverse array of women it brings together. We come from different professions and backgrounds, each making a unique impact in our community. Whether we're entrepreneurs, stay-at-home moms, or CEOs, we all play vital roles in shaping our society. What's truly inspiring is that we're uniting to create a stronger community together. We're breaking down barriers and celebrating the value of our individual contributions.

Prioritizing Self-Care

In a world that often glorifies endless work and constant hustle, Women in Leadership stands as a beacon of a different message: the importance of rest and self-care. By attending conferences and luncheons, we collectively emphasize the significance of taking time for ourselves. We understand that self-care is not selfish but essential for our overall well-being. This group encourages us to embrace this concept together, reminding us that we can be hardworking leaders while still valuing our own health and happiness.

Inclusivity and Empowerment

Women in Leadership intentionally emphasizes that it is open to ANY woman. This inclusivity reflects our belief that every woman is a leader, making an impact in her own unique way. We've come a long way in challenging stereotypes and societal expectations. Women should have the freedom to pursue their passions, whether it's a career, motherhood, or both. This group is all about acknowledging the hard work we do, celebrating our individual paths, and underscoring the importance of self-care to sustain our efforts.

Recognizing Women as Leaders

This group signifies a significant shift in recognizing women for the leaders they have always been. Women have led in their homes, churches, communities, and workplaces for generations. Women in Leadership urges us to see ourselves as leaders, to

acknowledge our worth, and to embrace our roles in shaping our world.

Prioritizing Self and Asking for Help

The purpose of this group is clear: it empowers women to see their value and potential. It encourages women to strive for promotions, pursue dream careers, and balance motherhood—all without being afraid to ask for help. By prioritizing self-care and rejecting the urge to constantly compare ourselves to others, Women in Leadership teaches us to say no when necessary and to put our well-being first.

Building a Supportive Community

Women in Leadership is building a community of women who understand each other's challenges and triumphs. It's okay to feel burnt out, overwhelmed, or in need of a break. This group reassures us that we're not alone. It reminds us that we are all amazing, regardless of where we are in our journeys, and that our efforts are seen and appreciated.



Women in Leadership is more than just a group; it's a movement that is transforming the lives of women in our community. It's about connections, self-care, inclusivity, and empowerment. Through this group, we are rewriting the narrative for women, celebrating their leadership, and encouraging them to prioritize themselves. Together, we are creating a legacy of strong, confident women who can do hard things and make a lasting impact on our world. Women in Leadership is an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow, and it's a beacon of hope for all women in Wells County and beyond.

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Committee members are, from left; seated, Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building; Sara Jones, F&M Bank; Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce; Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank; and Danica Dunwiddie, WalkerHughes Insurance. Standing, Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance; Angie Dial, Family Centered Services; Pam Gregory, Pages & Stuff; Steve Higgins, Boy Scouts of America; Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Stephanie Wheeler, WEG Commercial Motors; Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage; Janiece Lipsey, Creative Arts Council; and Hattie Wondercheck, Wells County Chamber of Commerce.

Not present for the photo were: Lannette Bickel, Metropolitan Tile; Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union; and Gina Hon, First Merchants Bank.

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Revitalization Groups Had a Busy '23

Downtown Bluffton revitalization had another good year in 2023. Not only did the existing events see increased participation, the Community Reinvestment Program was fully utilized and Bluffton NOW!'s goal of creating and utilizing more useable space in the downtown area was advanced. The most significant thing, however, involved the group's current major project, which took a major step towards realization.

Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., the leader of Bluffton NOW!, which operates under the umbrella of the Wells County Revitalization, can now celebrate the actual construction of the Downtown Pathways project, which will transform five downtown alleyways into pedestrian areas.

"Phase 1" began in late October with work on three of those alleys getting underway.

The concrete work and lighting is slated to be finished perhaps as early as February 2024.

"Of course, that's dependent on the weather," Lautzenheiser said, "and whether we find any more surprises."

The construction crews had already discovered several surprises, including an old coal chute, unexpected gas lines and one huge concrete slab. While those discoveries caused delays and added costs, they were not totally unexpected.

"This can happen with any construction project," Lautzenheiser said. His day job of leading the Area Plan Commission has given him a number of experiences in that regard.

Once the concrete and lighting is completed, the group will address artwork and other amenities in the alleyways that will serve as conduits to the downtown area from the parking lots.

"There is still some discussion going on as

to whether we will place some tables where people can gather or to just have benches," he said. He compares the process to the one that produced Parlor City Plaza, in which the details of landscaping and pedestrian options were somewhat a work-in-progress as the project proceeded. "That seemed to turn out OK," he added.



Michael Lautzenheiser Jr.

The coming year will also see the launch of "Phase 2 fund raising," he continued. The group hopes to raise the remaining balance of the projected \$950,000 goal, of which about \$700,000 has been raised.

Meanwhile, the group's "normal" events continue to grow.

"We had another successful Brrfest" in 2023, he said, the ChiliWalk drew another big crowd and the Small Business Saturday had two new participants.

"We continue to see the retail base grow in downtown Bluffton," he said. He also hopes to see some progress on the developments at the corner of Marion and Washington Streets, where the historic GalHam building was destroyed by fire.



Kody Kummer

Since the Ossian Revitalization Committee completed the amphitheater at Archbold-Wilson Park in 2022, the group, led by Kody Kummer, spent a large part of 2023 focused on "identifying our next major project," he said.

That appears to be a downtown Ossian project in conjunction with the county's Economic Development Council.

"It looks like we'll be able to make an announcement on the details sometime in 2024," he noted.

Meanwhile, the group continues to explore an extension of East LaFever Street in order to improve access to the amphitheater in addition to extending and improving the downtown street lights and streetscape.

The group's annual events continued to grow — the chicken BBQ and pork chop fundraisers and the Hometown Christmas featured a horse-and-carriage ride, a live Nativity and a new marketplace that featured local holiday arts and crafts.

One particular highlight was the annual auction of Helen Witte's pies during Ossian Days. The bidding rose to \$9,000 in honor of Witte's 90th birthday.



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Your Leadership Academy's Transformative Journey

In Wells County, the belief in the power of leadership extends across all sectors, and the Wells County Leadership Academy stands as a testament to this commitment. This unique program, designed for individuals in any position, recognizes that leadership is not confined to titles or industries—it's a universal skill that can be honed by anyone, regardless of their role in nonprofit organizations, manufacturing, retail, healthcare, or government.

Initiated in 2008, the Wells County Leadership Academy has become a cornerstone in the community, having successfully graduated 267 individuals to date. What sets this program apart is its approach, acknowledging that the journey to becoming a good leader is continuous and applicable to individuals at any stage of their career.

Erin Prible, the Coordinator of Wells County Leadership Academy, emphasizes the crucial role of local volunteers, or fa-

ilitators, who play a central role in guiding participants through a self-discovery journey each month. These facilitators, themselves graduates of the program, bring a wealth of experience and understanding, making them invaluable mentors who help shape and influence those around them.

Central to the Leadership Academy's success is the adoption of the Habitudes leadership training curriculum, developed by Dr. Tim Elmore, the founder of Growing Leaders.

Dr. Elmore, a dynamic communicator with 25 years of collaboration with renowned leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell, incorporates principles, images, and stories to fortify leaders. The use of visual methods in presenting the Habitudes makes complex leadership concepts easily understandable and applicable in real-world scenarios.

Prible emphasizes the practicality of the program, stating, "Every community, business, and organization need strong leader-

ship to cast a vision to their team. The principles taught in the academy can immediately be put into action. The Habitudes are simple concepts; however, the difference is that they are presented in visual ways for easy understanding and application."

Becoming a leader is a continual process that goes beyond reading a book or attending a one-day class. Leadership demands practice, persistence, and a commitment to constant learning and application. As leadership guru John Maxwell aptly puts it, "Leaders become great not because of their power but, because of their ability to empower others."

Wells County takes pride in offering its community the invaluable opportunity to participate in the Leadership Academy, recognizing that strong leadership is the foundation for a thriving and empowered community. Through this transformative program, individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to nurture their leadership skills, fostering a culture of empowerment and growth that reverberates throughout Wells County.



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Director of New Business
& Communications
ashley.stockwell@nm.com

260.443.7653 heartwood.nm.com

Chamber Ambassadors Recognize



The Chamber Ambassadors, chaired by Erin Daugherty in 2024, 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: Hattie Wondercheck, Chamber; Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance, Alyssa Brown, Archold & Lewis; Danielle Thompson, Flagstar Bank; Rachel Reinhard, Chamber; Cyndee Fiechter, North Eastern Group Realty; Erin Prible, Chamber. Standing: Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Erica Lehman, Coldwell Banker-Holloway; Nick Huffman, Steffen Group; Chris Gerber, Edge Manufacturing; Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne; Kody Kumfer, Forgotten Children Worldwide; Jessica Beste, Stockton Mortgage; Piercen Harnish, Shelton Financial Group; Casey Robbins, F&M Bank; Doug Fear, Edward Jones. Not pictured: Heather Morgan, National Oil and Gas; Kevin Sills, Indiana Farm Bureau.



January:
Ruoff Mortgage



May:
More Than Mail



September:
Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse

2022 Ambassador of the Year



Erin Daugherty

The 2023 Ambassador of the Year will be announced at the 2024 Annual Dinner

2023 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:** Kody Kumfer
Forgotten Children Worldwide
- Third:** Kevin Pritchard
Ruoff Mortgage
- Fourth:** Cyndee Fiechter
North Eastern Group Realty



Nick Huffman



Kody Kumfer



Kevin Pritchard



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2023 'Members of the Month'



February:
Quality Car Care



March:
Markle Do-It-Best Hardware



April:
Team Mantra Wear



June:
Minnich's Lawn Care



July:
Halderman Farm Management



August:
ABC Studio & Activity Center



October:
Nicholson Family Dental



November:
Yergy's State Road BBQ



December:
Timber Ridge Catering

20/20
20/20 Custom Molded Plastics

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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
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 Equipment Sales.....	589-2964
Alive & Well.....	227-0246
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
Arrow Insurance Group.....	355-5201
AuctionIT, LLP.....	273-3682
Auto Doctor.....	824-5344

B

B&D Appliance Repair.....	437-0022
Balance Massage Therapy & Bodyworks.....	827-0541
Baller Signs.....	824-1987
Barkley Builders.....	622-7674
BBR Imports Liquidation Sales.....	758-0007
BCG Capital.....	273-2786
Beacon Credit Union/Beacon Ag Group.....	496-0725
Becky Goshorn-Mary Kay Cosmetics.....	824-0187
Beers Mallers, LLP.....	426-9706
Berne Apparel.....	622-1500
Bi-County Services.....	824-1253
Big Brothers Big Sisters NEI.....	456-1600
Biggs Property Management.....	724-9131
Bill's Roofing & Siding.....	622-0178
Billy Ann's.....	824-8060
BKM Real Estate.....	824-3982
Bluffton Animal Clinic.....	824-0924
Bluffton CPA Group.....	824-1040
Bluffton Dental Clinic.....	824-5940
Bluffton Family Eye Care.....	824-3424
Bluffton Free Street Fair Assoc.....	824-4351
Bluffton Masonic Lodge.....	227-2438
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.....	609-6820
Bluffton Strength & Conditioning.....	273-5437
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
Bott Radio Network.....	423-2337
Bowen Center..... (800)	342-5653
BoxDrop Fort Wayne.....	227-2145
Brickley, Dr. Harry Farm Foundation.....	824-3130
Briner Building.....	824-0120
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
Christian Care Retirement Community.....	565-3000
Citizens Advocating for Drug Awareness (CADA).....	824-8574
City of Bluffton.....	824-1520
Clean Fuels National.....	346-2500
Clear Choice Chiropractic.....	353-1400
Coblentz Family Enterprises Commercial Roofing.....	223-3327
Coldwell Banker Holloway.....	824-7653
Collier's Comfort Services.....	622-6622
Comfort Inn.....	824-4455
Community Care of Northeast Indiana..	353-3333
Community Harvest Food Bank of NE Indiana.....	447-3696



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Dr. Pam Johnson
Bluffton Dental Clinic
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Dr. Adrienne Ranly
Berne Dental Clinic
260-589-2110



Dr. Michael A. Johnson
Geneva Dental Clinic
260-368-7500



Dr. Abigail Colclasure
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 Dr. Harry Brickley Farm Foundation
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 F&M Bank
 Family Ford of Bluffton
 First Bank of Berne
 First Merchants Bank
 Heartland REMC
 HomeCourt Home Care
 Honegger, Ringger & Co.
 Hoosier House Family Restaurant
 Hott Family Dentistry
 Indiana Pancake House
 J&R Products
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 Lowe's Home Improvement
 Metropolitan Title
 Meyer Building, LLC
 Meyer Renovation
 MidWest America Federal Credit Union
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 Preferred IT Group, LLC
 ProFed Credit Union
 Raymond James Financial Services
 Reliance IO
 Ruoff Mortgage
 St. Joseph Catholic Church
 State Farm: Erin Daugherty
 Stockton Mortgage
 Super Pufft
 SYM Financial Advisors
 The Hideaway
 The Wright Insurance Company
 Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
 Trusted Solutions Group
 Valero Renewable Fuels
 WEG Commercial Motors
 Wells County Automotive Supply - NAPA
 Wells County Foundation
 Wells County Land Title
 Westland, LLC



Bluffton Rentco
 Craigville Appliance Store
 Family Centered Services
 Goodwin-Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel
 Inteva Products

Montpelier Generating Station
 Ossian Hardware
 Paul Davis Restoration
 PNC Bank
 Premier Flats
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 Clear Choice Chiropractic
 Double D Home Improvements
 Four Star Services
 Grants Catering & Smokin' Wheels BBQ
 Grass Green Inc
 Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant
 PeopleLink Staffing Solutions

Print Source Corp.
 Resource Maintenance
 River Terrace Retirement Community
 Roembke Mfg. & Design
 Strategence Capital
 The Nutrition Loft
 Topp CPA Firm
 Truland Equipment
 Wells Business Development
 Yergy's State Road BBQ

Member Listings - Alphabetical

Cornerstone Ag Solutions..... 307-7901
 Country Road Primitives..... 273-0222
 Covington Financial Services 827-0920
 Craigville Appliance Store..... 565-3166
 Creative Arts Council..... 824-5222
 Creative Cabinet and Countertops 414-7677
 Crimson House Cafe 622-0167
 Crop Performance (765) 894-0695
 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) 727-1027
 Dazey's Bluffton 824-9003
 Dedrick Tool & Die 824-3334
 DeHoff Insulation..... 565-3679
 Dicky's Express Car Wash 296-9700
 Don Fiechter Farms 346-2157
 Donaghy, Mr. Gene 437-9823
 Double D Home Improvements 402-4239
 Drying Kiln 228-0438
 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..... 227-8300
 El Camino Real..... 565-3300
 Elavatus Architecture..... 424-9080
 Elks Lodge 824-2824
 Ellie Grace & Co. 353-1514
 Emshwiller & Emshwiller 824-1826
 Environmental Solutions..... 565-4212
 Envive Healthcare of Berne 589-2127
 Erxleben, Ms. Bette 824-1499
 Espich, Mr. Jeff 543-2546
 Ethan's Outdoor Services 827-7945
 Excel Homes 827-8255
 Experience Audiology 706-2558
 Eyecare Associates of Bluffton 824-2020

F

F&M Bank..... 622-4141
 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 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
 Forrest Carvings LLC 273-9634
 Fort Wayne Knockerball 580-7164
 Fort Wayne Technology Group 824-9160

Fortitude Fund, Inc. 359-3720
 Foundations of Truth..... 273-8154
 Four Star Services..... 824-5384
 Fraction Apparel & Home 353-1344
 Freedom Academy (800) 200-6499
 Freightco Logistics..... 478-2581
 Friends of Ouabache State Park 824-0926
 Friends of the Wells County Library 622-7120
 Friends Who Care Foundation 307-1074

G

General Manufacturing 824-3440
 Genesis Pest Services 227-0742
 Gerber, Chandler & Rachel 273-8792
 Gerber Furniture..... 824-1200
 Goodwin-Cale & Harnish
 Memorial Chapel 824-3852
 Gordon & Associates 824-9377
 Grand Sweet Shop 433-7465
 Grants Catering & Smokin'
 Wheels BBQ..... (419) 258-2233
 Grass Green Inc 416-1898
 Grow Nau Inc..... 403-7328

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 492-6060
 Heartland Home Care
 and Hospice (866) 421-6973
 Heartland REMC 758-3155
 Helping Hands 824-4263

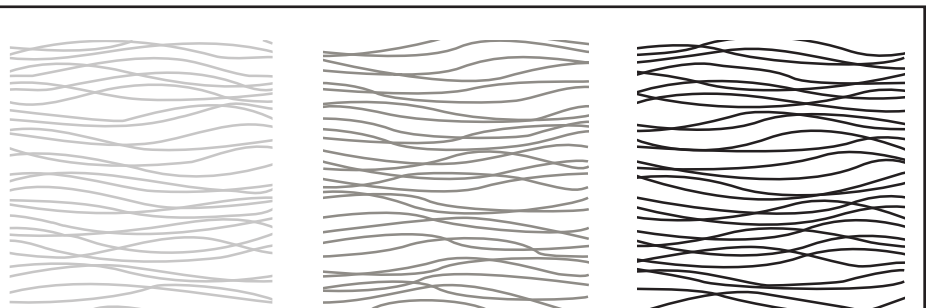
Heritage Pointe..... 375-2201
 Hiday Automotive Group..... (800) 824-0900
 HomeCourt Home Care..... 333-1114
 Honegger Animal Clinic 622-4186
 Honegger, Ringger & Co. 824-4107
 Honest Automotive 827-7055
 Hoosier Creek Farms 824-3255
 Hoosier House
 Family Restaurant 353-1415
 Hope Missionary Church 824-1844
 Horizon Events Corp 422-9070
 Hott Family Dentistry 824-2442
 Huffman Group Real Estate 827-8255
 Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse 353-1477
 Huntington University 359-4153

I

Ice King Indiana..... 415-7832
 Imel Group Golf Academy 824-4465
 In2Great, LLC 413-9027
 Indiana Michigan Power 408-3498
 Indiana Pancake House 353-1414
 Indiana Physical Therapy 824-0522
 Indiana Technical Installations 824-2488
 Indiana Wesleyan University 450-0650
 Integrity Inspections & Testing 437-1585
 Inteva Products..... (248) 861-9266
 Irving Materials 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



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Junior Achievement serving
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Junk King.....(317) 443-0024
Just Threads and More..... 508-6631

K

Karing for Kids 273-0716
Kelly's Collision Center..... 824-3995
Kemba Credit Union 827-2005
Kemper Flooring 622-7465
Kiwani's Club 824-6476
Knits Knots by Julie 433-5637

L

L S Construction 494-6648
Laura Kukelhan D.D.S..... 824-3100
Leas Seamless Guttering 820-1647
Lehman Appraisals 273-3615
Les Gerber Insurance..... 824-1237
Liby's Stripe Right..... 273-1729
LifeWise Academy - Wells County..... 273-3618
Lighted Gardens..... 622-4023
Lightsourcebp (765) 465-3649
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

M

Magical Vacation Planner
by Stephanie Hiday 417-7656
Magnolias & Minis 273-6735
Market Street Development..... 307-6150

Market Street Flooring..... 438-9001
Markle Do it Best Hardware
and Rental Center 758-3148
Markle Health & Rehabilitation 758-2131
Mast Outdoor Services 820-3253
Mat Matters..... 622-6262
Matalco 353-3100
MC Hair By Design Beauty Salon..... 273-1859
McDonald's..... 824-0433
Media Services Unlimited 273-2708
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 Fed. Credit Union 209-3440
Mike Anderson Chevrolet of Ossian 622-4115
Milli's Restaurant 827-0755
Minnich's Antiques & General Store 227-6056
Minnich's Lawn Care 760-4404
Monarch View Properties (320) 510-1077
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

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
Northwestern Mutual-Matthew Henry 849-2814
Northwood Computer 824-5652
Norwell Community Schools..... 622-4125

O

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

Paddlefish Solar Project (380) 203-2083
Pages & Stuff..... 820-3120
Pak-A-Sak 824-1566
Park Center 824-1071
Parlor Bluffs by D.R. Horton 797-9418
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
Phillips Financial..... 420-7732
Physicians Health Plan..... 432-6690

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Pitties Properties.....	827-7155
Pizza Hut.....	824-5701
PNC Bank.....	824-2510
Posy Pot Florist.....	824-3330
Potters Lawn Service.....	820-0437
Preferred IT Group.....	440-7377
Premier Clock and Vacuum Service.....	410-5406
Premier Flats.....	307-5505
Premier Signs.....	(888) 518-2498
Premier U-Storage.....	312-8488
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

R & R Pool Service.....	413-1646
Radiance, LLC.....	273-8442
RAM Advertising.....	366-7590
Raymond James Financial Services.....	824-8070
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 Group.....	(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

Sailaway Travel.....	273-7880
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Toppings Ice Cream Parlor.....	353-3355
Town of Markle.....	758-3193
Town of Ossian.....	622-4251
Treeboy Productions.....	273-6203
Truland Equipment.....	565-3659
Trusted Solutions Group.....	622-6000
20/20 Custom Molded Plastics.....	565-2020
TWN Communications.....	(813) 891-4731
Two Brothers Generator Sales & Services.....	638-4514

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Wells Business Development.....	820-0113
Wells Community Boys & Girls Club.....	824-5070
Wells Co 4-H Association.....	824-6412
Wells Co Automotive Supply-NAPA.....	824-4460
Wells Co Council on Aging.....	824-1070
Wells Co EMS.....	827-0166
Wells Co Food Bank.....	827-0053
Wells Co Foundation.....	824-8620
Wells Co Historical Society & Museum.....	824-9956
Wells Co Land Title.....	824-5263
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A Banner Year

'Visit Wells County' is a reality — up and running

In a year marked by achievements, the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission proudly wrapped up 2023, having overseen the successful collections of the Innkeepers Tax for the first time. The commission, comprised of dedicated individuals with firsthand experience of the impact of visitors in the county, has strategically positioned itself to address the evolving needs of Wells County's burgeoning visitor economy.

The past year was focused on establishing baseline metrics to measure effectiveness, setting the stage for an ambitious two-year strategic plan.

That plan is focused on four key areas of development: Strengthening Wells County's tourism assets to provide economic benefits that foster awareness of the community's culture; Increasing awareness of those assets through destination marketing; Enhancing awareness of the county's tourism commission as the central point; and the collection of data to evaluate both successes and shortcomings of the strategic initiatives.

With an eye on becoming the go-to resource hub for both residents and visitors, the commission aims to provide the latest information about Wells County.

Central to achieving this goal is the commission's commitment to supporting local tourism assets. By offering grant opportunities, fostering connections, and providing resources to help businesses overcome obstacles, the commission is actively contributing to the growth of Wells County's tourism sector. Plans are already in motion for improved "wayfinding signage" and comprehensive maps for roads and attractions, slated to be available in 2024.

In a move to extend the reach of Wells County events, the commission awarded three grants in 2023 to noteworthy events. The Friends of Ouabache Wonderland of Lights, The Bluffton Parks Department



Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission: Seated, from left: Audry Dudley, Scott Elzey, Steve Higgins; Standing: Jay Esparza, Brandy Fiechter, Jeff Reed, Zane Herr and Jon Winne.

W.O.O.F. Trail Run, and Parlor City Christmas received grants that not only boost their visibility but also provide valuable insights for both the events and the Visitors Commission to gauge effectiveness.

Looking ahead to 2024, the commission will continue its grant program, with applications being accepted throughout the year.

Wandering Wells on the web

- Visit www.visitwellscounty.com for the latest information.
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Members Getting to Know Members

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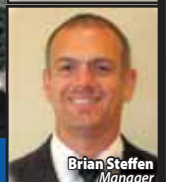


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The Wells County Chamber of Commerce once again partnered with First Bank of Berne to promote Shop Local in Wells County. First Bank of Berne sponsored billboard, newspaper, and radio ads to encourage our citizens to support our local businesses. The 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:

- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- First Bank of Berne
- First Merchants Bank
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The 36th edition of the Annual Golf Expo proved to be a resounding success as 40 teams teed off at Brookwood Golf Club on August 3, 2023. The business community rallied around this yearly event, showing support through team participation, sponsorships, and volunteering.

Erin Prible, Executive Director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the event's unique appeal: "People love this event because it's a business expo on the golf course, providing an excellent platform for marketing your business." The Tee Station sponsors added to the excitement, welcoming golfers to each hole with prizes, games, and goodies. Hiday Motors, the Hole-In-One Prize sponsor, generously offered a 2022 Dodge Challenger.

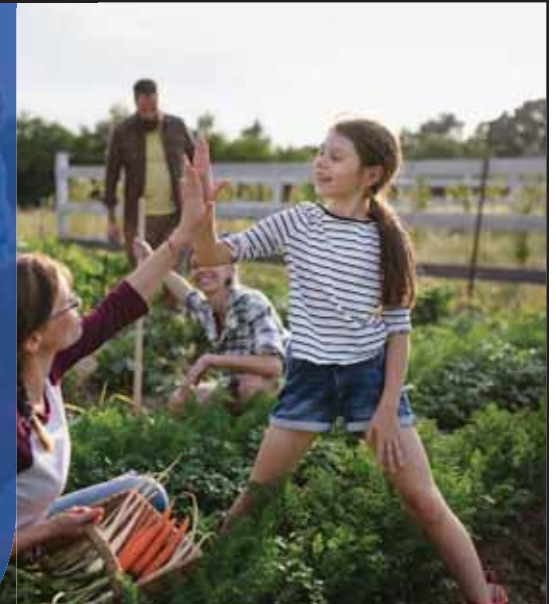
A special thanks to our major sponsors who played a crucial role in the event's success, including Heartland REMC as the Mulligan Sponsor, American Axle & Manufacturing of Bluffton as the Beverage Sponsor, and our esteemed Golf Cart Sponsors: Cereset, Edge Manufacturing, Farm Bureau Insurance, HomeCourt Home Care, IMI, James S Jackson, Lowes, Outdoor Concepts, Ruoff Mortgage, SYM Financial Advisors, and Trusted Solutions Group.

Mark your calendars for the 37th Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Expo, scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2024.



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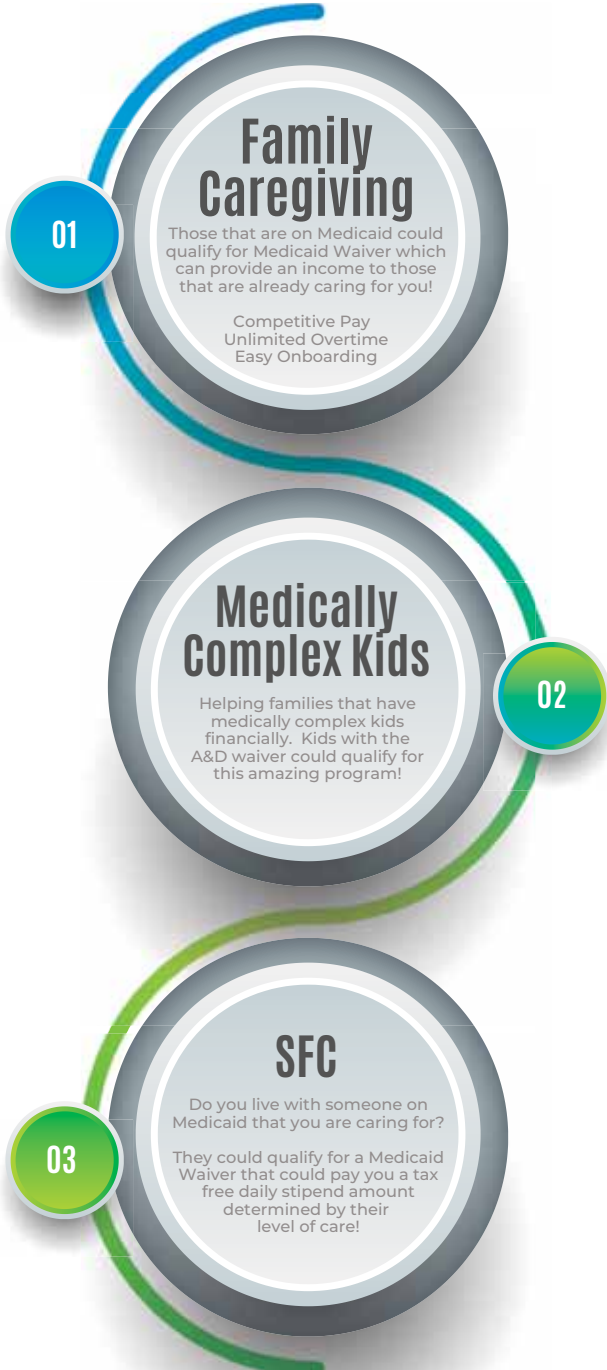
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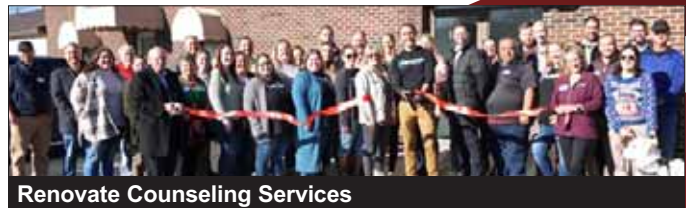
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Member Appreciation Day

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Empowering Change

Wells County Creates New Drug Taskforce Committee

This past year, the Wells County Advocacy Committee decided it was time to address the issues of drug addiction head-on when Congressman Jim Banks was brought in for a crucial conversation with community leaders.

After a compelling discussion about the drug problem on local, national, and global levels, the Wells County Advocacy Committee felt a renewed sense of responsibility. They believed that change could only come from a united effort. Inspired by this conviction, they organized a Round Table discussion, inviting over 60 individuals from various sectors of the community.

People from law enforcement, healthcare, education, and social services gathered to brainstorm and share their perspectives on the drug issues affecting the community. Ideas flowed freely, and a collective commitment to instigate change emerged. It was then that the Wells County Drug Taskforce Committee was born.

This taskforce comprised concerned members of the community who dedicated themselves to being educated on the issues at hand. Monthly meetings became a forum for sharing insights, discussing struggles in schools, workplaces, and the community. Each member felt the weight of responsibility to contribute ideas that would lead to tangible change.

In September, the taskforce organized its first major event — a week-long event featuring Cody and John Speak, individuals who had triumphed over addiction. The duo visited all three schools in the county, sharing their harrowing but ultimately triumphant stories with students. The week concluded with a community event that drew over 200 people eager to hear about the path to recovery.

Cody and John's narratives were raw, emotional, and resonated deeply with the audience. Their journey from the depths of



The first major event organized by the Chamber's new Drug Taskforce was a series of presentations and a community event featuring two friends who triumphed over addiction. At left are Hattie Wondercheck and Erin Prible of the Chamber, presenter Cody Knuckles with "Cody & John Speak" organization, Chandler Gerber, Drug Taskforce member and City Councilman, and presenter John Humphries.

addiction to the beacon of recovery served as a powerful inspiration. Attendees left the event not just moved but armed with a newfound determination to combat addiction within their community.

The momentum continues as the Wells County Drug Taskforce Committee presses

forward, generating ideas to implement in schools, workplaces, and the community. The taskforce's commitment to battling addiction is a beacon of hope for those struggling and a testament to what a community could achieve when we unite.

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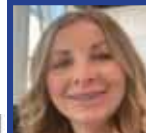
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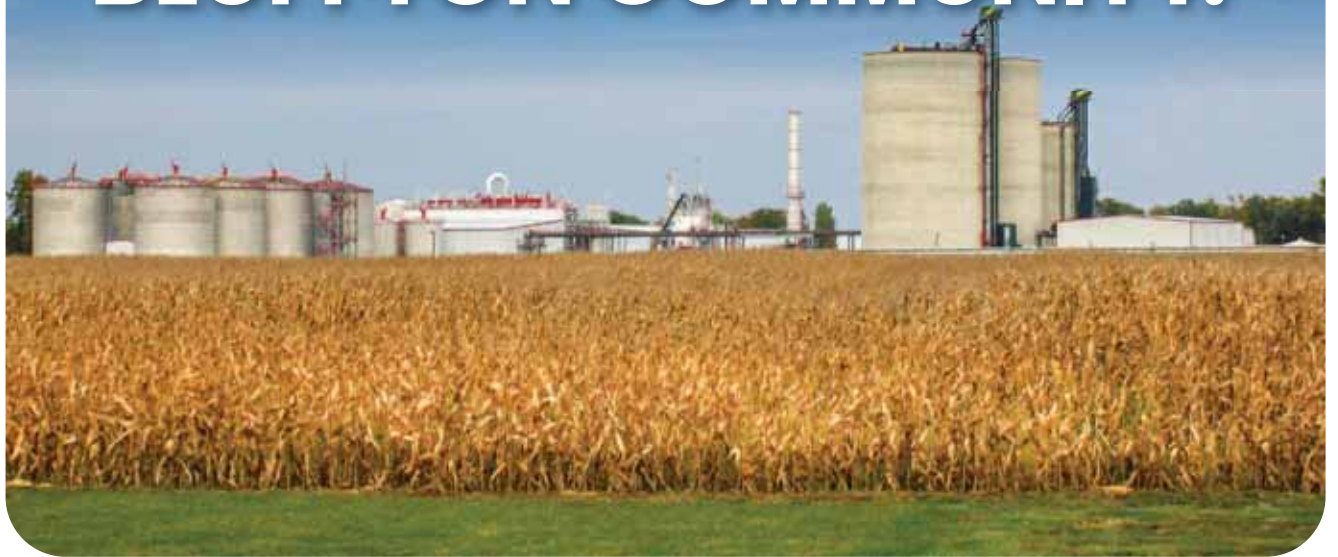
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Bluffton, IN 46714
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Contacts:

Brian Leydens
Manager of Grain
Procurement
(260) 353-1238

Todd Thornburg
Grains Procurement
Representative
(260) 353-1206

Adam Zelt
Distillers Grain Sales
Representative
(260) 353-1203

Member Listings - by Category

Cleaning Services, cont.

Resource Maintenance

Jeff Yergler
225 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-0866
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Clothing/Home Decor

Fraction Apparel & Home

Kristina Bardsley
124 W Market, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-1344
📍 fractionapparelandhome.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Just Threads and More

Lisa West
1220 S Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 508-6631
📍 Find us on Facebook

Clothing Boutiques

Ellie Grace & Co.

Diane Carroll
110 N Main St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-1514
📍 elliegraceco.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Magnolias & Minis

Kassie Schwartz
613 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 273-6735
📍 magnoliasandminisclothingstore.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Coffee Houses

Crimson House Cafe

Catrina Wells
304 N Jefferson St, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 622-0167
📍 www.crimsonhouse.net
📍 Find us on Facebook

Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse

Lydia Yaste
229 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-1477
📍 hughsbakeryandcoffeehouse.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Scooter's Coffee #1525

Mikayla Coyle
996 N Main St, Bluffton IN 46714
☎ (404) 683-8084
📍 www.scooterscoffee.com

Colleges/Universities

Huntington University

Wade Finicle
2303 College Ave, Huntington, IN 46750
☎ (260) 359-4153
📍 www.huntington.edu
📍 Find us on Facebook

Indiana Wesleyan University

Kevin Wachtel
3777 Priority Way So Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240
☎ (260) 450-0650
📍 www.indwes.edu
📍 Find us on Facebook

Ivy Tech Community College

Tracy Davis
3800 N Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
☎ (260) 480-4134
📍 www.ivytech.edu
📍 Find us on Facebook

Collision Repair

Kelly's Collision Center

Dustin Kelly
820 West Washington Street, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3995
📍 www.kellysautocollision.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Loren's Body Shop

Greg Lobsiger
243 E. Dustman Rd., Bluffton, IN 46717
☎ (260) 824-3523
📍 www.lorensbodyshop.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Commercial Fuel Tank Services

Clean Fuels National

Michael Vanover
4620 E 900 S, Keystone, IN 46759
☎ (260) 346-2500
📍 www.cleanfuelsnational.com
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Meeting Room Audio/Visual Technology

Meeting Room Audio/Visual (AV) consists of Multiple screens or monitors that are used to make everyone feel like they're joining the meeting in person. Desktop Video Conferencing System: All the video conferencing hardware and software is built-in to a computer or laptop.



Entry Systems

A door entry system is primarily designed to control access to and from a restricted area, building or zone, within residential and commercial environments and particularly multi-tenant / multi-user applications.



IP Video Surveillance

IP surveillance is a digitized and networked version of closed-circuit television (CCTV). In an IP surveillance system, an IP camera records video footage and the resulting content is distributed over an IP (Internet protocol) network.



Data Networks & Structured Cabling

A data network is designed to transfer data from one network access point to one other or more network access points via data switching, transmission. Structured cabling system is a complete system of cabling and associated hardware, which provides telecommunications infrastructure.



School Lighting and Sound

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Church Lighting and Sound

Having a professional sound and lighting system can allow for the congregation to become more engaged and focused, while also helping the service run smoothly for the congregation and the choir.

Commercial Refrigeration Services

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Ken Powell
5975 N 300 W, P.O. Box 190, Uniondale, IN 46791
☎ (260) 422-1730
🌐 www.temp-masters.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Community Assistance

Community Care of Northeast Indiana

Christine Walker
107 W Wabash St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-3333
🌐 www.cc-wc.org
📌 Find us on Facebook

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne

Jeremy McClish
2020 E Washington Blvd., St 500, Ft Wayne, IN 46803
☎ (260) 422-4828
🌐 www.habitatgfw.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

United Way of Wells County

Ben Renkenberger
122 Lamar St., Ste. 118, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-5589
🌐 unitedwaywells.org
📌 Find us on Facebook

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260.353.3000
angie.topp@stockton.com

Jessica Beste

Mortgage Banker NMLS 613932
260.273.2230
jessica.beste@stockton.com

stockton.com

Stockton Mortgage NMLS 8259
Equal Housing Lender | nmlsconsumeraccess.org

Member Listings - by Category

Community Foundation

Wells County Foundation

Tammy Slater
222 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-8620
🌐 www.wellscountyfound.org
📱 Find us on Facebook

Computer Services

Action Micro Technologies

Scott Steffen
408 Grassland Ct, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (317) 216-7988
🌐 actiongrp.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Fort Wayne Technology Group

Ryan Free
7617 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
☎ (260) 824-9160
🌐 www.fwtechs.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Indiana Technical Installations

Seth Eisaman
2220 N Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2488
🌐 www.ititech.biz
📱 Find us on Facebook

J Cole Tech LLC

John Cole
2155 N. Main St, Suite 3 #123, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 846-1899
🌐 jcole.tech

Northwood Computer

Drake Moser
3016 E. State Rd. 124, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-5652
🌐 www.northwoodcomputer.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Preferred IT Group

Ryan Slagle
6333 Constitution Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
☎ (260) 440-7377
🌐 www.prefereditgroup.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Reliance IO

Kaleb Dienelt
PO Box 514, Roanoke, IN 46783
☎ (260) 245-2510
🌐 www.relianceio.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Construction

Barkley Builders

Joshua Barkley
1383 E 950 N, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 622-7674
🌐 www.barkleybuildersinc.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Briner Building

Bryan Harshbarger
761 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-0120
🌐 brinerbuilding.com
📱 Find us on Facebook

Excel Homes

Nick Huffman
320 E Wiley Ave, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 827-8255
📱 Find us on Facebook

Habegger's Ace Lumber

Jesse & Jeremy Frauhiger
728 W. Market St., P.O. Box 533, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2600
🌐 www.acehardware.com
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James S. Jackson Co.

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☎ (260) 824-0918
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Bluffton Rotarians: Colin Andrews, Jordan Arnold, Tim Babcock, Bret Beer, Jessica Beste, Gary Boone, Doug Brown, Garrett Bucher, Amanda Burman, Erin Daugherty, Gina Eisenhut, Nate Fowler, Kim Gentis, Rick Gentis, Chandler Gerber, Paige Hamilton, Brandon Harnish, Mitch Harnish, Piercen Harnish, Greg Hiday, Steve Higgins, Steve Huggins, Conor Jackson, Jayde Ketring, Laura Kruchkow, Dan Lipp, Sarah MacNeill, Mark Miller, Thom Miller, Derek Myers, Bill Quegan, Casey Robbins, Nate Rumschlag, Nathan Shelton, Kristin Steckbeck, Phil Swain, Jeremy Todd, Angie Topp, Michael Towne, & Lee VonGunten

WHAT WE DO?

The Bluffton Rotary Club is a service based organization seeking the betterment of Bluffton & Wells County as a whole through public service & financial donations. We meet each week on **Tuesday @ noon in the Library**. If you have any interest in joining us either as a program, or potential member please reach using the contact information below!

Some projects/programs we've partnered with include but are not limited to:

- Downtown Plaza Stage
- 3rd Grade Dictionaries
- Kehoe Park Stage
- Wells County Food Bank
- River Greenway
- FCS & FCW

HOW TO CONNECT?

[bluffton.rotary.club](https://www.bluffton.rotary.club)
 (260)273-3618
 blufftonrotary@gmail.com

Member Listings - by Category

Construction, cont.

The Hagerman Group

Jeremiah Tomlin
510 W Washington Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
☎ (260) 424-1470
📧 www.thehagermangroup.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Convenience Stores

All-American #8 Ossian Deli Marathon

Adam Dager
9014 Black Wolf Pass, Leo, IN 46765
☎ (260) 622-7499
📧 ossianallamericangas.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Ossian BP

Goldy Goraya
506 S Jefferson St, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 797-1122
📍 Find us on Facebook

Pak-A-Sak

Jarod McIntire
204 W Wabash St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-1566
📧 www.pakasak.com

Cosmetics

Becky Goshorn-Mary Kay Cosmetics

Becky Goshorn
1425 S 450 E, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-0187
📧 www.marykay.com/bgoshorn
📍 Find us on Facebook

Crisis Center

Adams Wells Crisis Center

Megan Jinnings
P.O. Box 253, Decatur, IN. 46733
☎ (260) 728-9800
📧 www.adamswellscrisiscenter.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Dance Studios

ABC Studio & Activity Center

Andrea Mann
1169 N. Main St., Ste. 1, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 433-3417
📧 abcstudioandactivitycenter.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

The Dance Co.

Traci Daugherty
6258 N Goshen Rd, Huntington, IN 46750
☎ (260) 356-5542
📍 Find us on Facebook

Dental Care

Bluffton Dental Clinic

Dr. Pamela Johnson
1417 Baker Place, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-5940
📧 www.decaturdentalin.com/page.php?t=bluffton
📍 Find us on Facebook

Hott Family Dentistry

Dr. Bartholomew Hott
706 N. Main St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2442
📧 www.blufftondental.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Laura Kukelhan D.D.S.

Dr. Laura Kukelhan
1133 North Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3100
📍 Find us on Facebook

Mercy Seat Dentistry

Dr. Rotimi Wan
2155 Commerce Drive, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 823-3328
📧 www.mercyseatdentistry.com
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Nicholson Family Dental

Dr. Teresa Nicholson
116 East Dustman Rd, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2811
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Riverstone Dental

Dr. Blake Taylor
1429 Baker Place, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-4614
📧 www.riverstonedental.net
📍 Find us on Facebook

Department Stores

Family Farm and Home

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📧 www.familyfarmandhome.com
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www.wellscoc.com

Wal-Mart Supercenter

Levi Wemsing
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☎ (260) 824-0296
📧 www.walmart.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Disability Services

Bi-County Services

Tim Ramsey
425 E. Harrison Rd., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-1253
📧 www.bi-countyservices.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana

Jason Meyer
4919 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
☎ (260) 456-4534
📧 www.eastersealsnei.org
📍 Find us on Facebook

Dumpster Services

Junk King

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📧 junk-king.com/locations/fort-wayne

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📧 www.aliveandwellteens.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

LifeWise Academy - Wells County

Rhonda Maller
PO Box 371, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 273-3618
📧 www.lifewiseacademy.org
📌 Find us on Facebook

The Literacy Alliance

Melinda Haines
1005 W Rudisill Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46807
☎ (260) 426-7323
📧 www.fwliteracyalliance.org
📌 Find us on Facebook

Three Oaks Christian School

Lydia Fox
901 Everhart Dr, Decatur IN 46733
☎ (260) 301-3478
📧 threeoaksschool.org
📌 Find us on Facebook

Electrical Repair/Supplies

Zap Electric

Chuck Miller
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2927
📌 Find us on Facebook

Emergency Services

Wells County EMS

Rick Piepenbrink
140 W Spring Street, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 827-0166
📧 www.wellscounty.org/emergency-management

Yehoshua, Inc

Neil Ainslie
116 S Johnson St. , Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 307-2205
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Employment Agencies

PeopleLink Staffing Solutions

Heather Shanks
360 Main Street Ste E, Bluffton, IN 46714
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📧 www.peoplelinkstaffing.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Pro Resources Staffing

Chelsie Abbott
317 Hauenstein Rd, Huntington, IN 46750
☎ (260) 356-6264
📧 www.proresources.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Spherion Staffing

Tom Pentenburg
5625 Trishlyn Cove, Fort Wayne, IN 46835
☎ (260) 706-5050
📧 www.spherion.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Engraving - Plaques & Trophies

PTM Engraving

Mike Haigh
2130 W 1100 S, Keystone, IN 46759
☎ (260) 760-1986
📌 Find us on Facebook

Equipment Rental

Bluffton Rentco

Eventt Norris
P.O. Box 332, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 824-4000
📧 blufftonrentco.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Equipment Sales & Services

Bobcat of Fort Wayne

Buddy Funk
3630 Goshen Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818
☎ (260) 489-5511
📧 www.bobcatoffortwayne.net
📌 Find us on Facebook

The ROP Shop

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Equipment Sales & Services, cont.

Two Brothers Generator Sales & Services

Mitch Chavarria
3630 Goshen Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818
☎ (260) 638-4514
📧 www.twobrosngen.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Event Planning

Horizon Events Corporation

Jonathan Zoucha
621 Little River Trace, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 422-9070
📍 Find us on Facebook

Family Resource Services

Foundations of Truth

John Reinhard
P.O. Box 184, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 273-8154

Helping Hands

Kylie Tomlin
116 E Dustman Rd, Suite B, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-4263
📧 www.helpinghandscpc.org
📍 Find us on Facebook

Farm to Table Meats

Hoosier Creek Farms

David Teeple
2035 Commerce Dr, Suite 207, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3255
📧 www.hoosiercreekfarmsllc.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Festivals

Bluffton Free Street Fair Assoc.

Trudy Murray
113 S. Johnson St., P.O. Box 2, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-4351
📧 blufftonstreetfair.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Financial Services

Primerica

Rachel McElveen
PO Box 6393, Kokomo, IN 46904
☎ (765) 480-6334
📧 www.primerica.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Fitness

Anytime Fitness

David Spaulding
935 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-1321
📧 www.anytimefitness.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Bluffton Strength & Conditioning

Brian Lambert
2268 N State Rd 1, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 273-5437
📍 Find us on Facebook

Lockout Jujutsu

Mike Vanover
109 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 307-1142
📧 www.teamjujutsu.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Flooring/Carpeting

CJ's Flooring

Paul Wickey
947 N Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-5440
📧 www.cjsflooring.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Fairway Floor Covering

Charlie Thompson
1503 Lancaster, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3049
📍 Find us on Facebook

Kemper Flooring

Jeff Kemper
1525 Hillcrest Drive, Ossian, IN 46777
☎ (260) 622-7465
📧 kemperflooring.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Market Street Flooring

Jeff Adams
136 W. Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 438-9001
📍 Find us on Facebook

Florists

A Perfect Blend

Melinda Gilgen
1647 S 450 E, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-2695
📧 www.aperfectblendbluffton.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Posy Pot Florist

Donna Anderson
126 W Townley St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3330
📧 www.theposypot.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Food Assistance

Community Harvest Food Bank of NE Indiana

Carmen Cumberland
999 E Tillman Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46816
☎ (260) 447-3696
📧 www.chfb.org
📍 Find us on Facebook

Wells County Food Bank

Connie Kaehr
1254 S Main St, PO Box 186, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 827-0053

Funeral Homes

Goodwin-Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel

Douglas Cale
3220 E State Rd. 124, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-3852
📧 www.goodwincaleharnish.com
📍 Find us on Facebook

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

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Members

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☎ (260) 227-2145
📄 www.boxdropfortwayne.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

Gerber Furniture, Mattress & Window Treatments

Sara Imel
985 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 824-1200
📄 www.gerberinterior.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

The Mattress & Furniture Store

Peg Fiechter
915 N Main St, Ste. D, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 353-1099
📄 themandstorereviews.com
📌 Find us on Facebook

General Store

Minnich's Antiques & General Store

Kim Minnich
404 W. Wiley Ave, Bluffton, IN 46714
☎ (260) 227-6056
📌 Find us on Facebook

Gift Boutiques

Country Road Primitives

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Julie Smith
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☎ (260) 433-5637
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📄 www.etsy.com/shop/thebrokenvessel
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📍 stillwater-hospice.org
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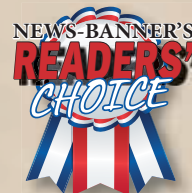
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Ms. Bette Erxleben

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Mr. Jeff Espich

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 ☎ (260) 543-2546

Chandler & Rachel Gerber

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 ☎ (260) 273-8792

Mr. Jim Ottjes

132 Dogwood Dr. Warren, IN 46792
 ☎ (260) 417-2473

Mr. Roger Sherer

221 Hillcrest Rd, Bluffton, IN 46714
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Insulation

DeHoff Insulation

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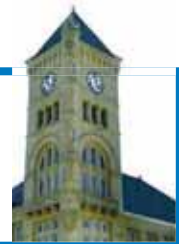
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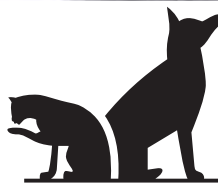
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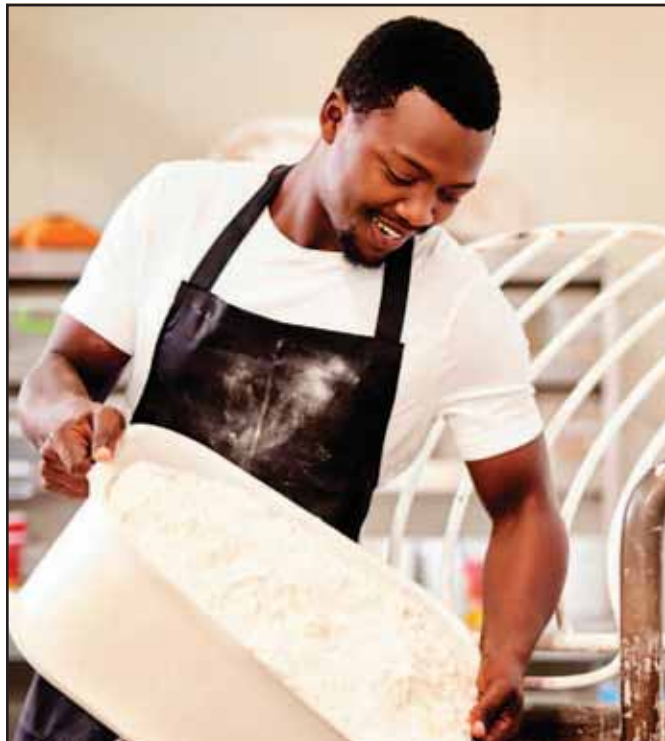
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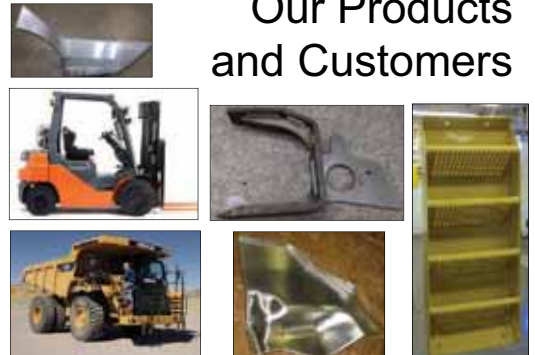
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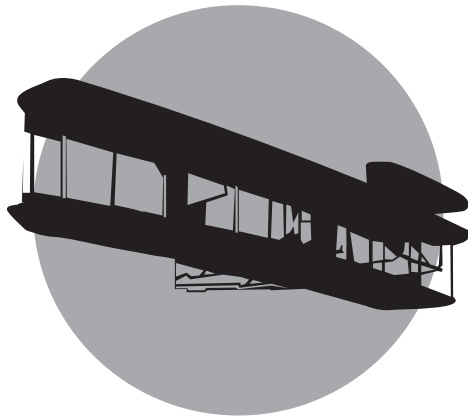
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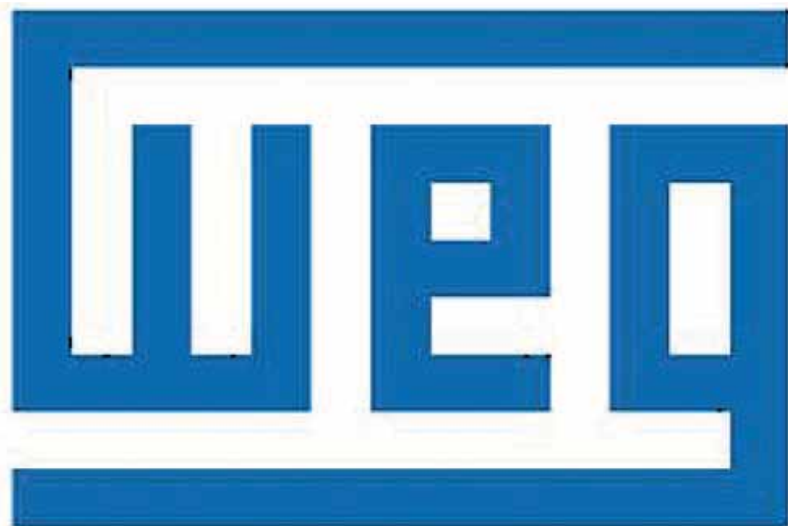
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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

BUSINESS	PAGE	BUSINESS	PAGE	BUSINESS	PAGE	BUSINESS	PAGE
A-1 U-Stor.....	94	Fairway Floor Covering	8	Magical Vacation Planner	9	Southern Wells Community Schools	81
Above & Beyond.....	102	Family Centered Services	77	Market Street Flooring.....	84	Spherion Staffing.....	15
AdamsWells Internet Telecom	9	Family Farm & Home.....	34	Mary Kay - Becky Goshorn.....	28	Sprunger & Sprunger.....	37
Alive & Well	99	Family Ford of Bluffton	7	Mediacom	33	Star Insurance	91
Allen Business Machines.....	84	Farm Bureau Insurance	26	Mercy Seat Dentistry	89	State Farm Insur - Erin Daugherty...	51
Almco Steel Products	86	Farm Credit Mid-America	102	Meridian Health Services.....	87	Steffen Financial Group	100
Andrews & Crell, Attys.....	Inside Back	Farmers Insurance - Shari Tomac	73	Meyer Building.....	64	Steffen Group - Nick Huffman.....	76
AT Ferrell	13	First Bank of Berne.....	60	Midwest America Fed Credit Union ..	24	Steffen Group Real Estate.....	93
Barkley Builders.....	40	First Merchants Bank.....	95	Milli's Restaurant	81	Steffen Oil.....	93
Bi-County Services.....	92	First Source Bank.....	17	Moose Lodge.....	85	Stockton Mortgage	69
Biggs Properties	55	Fort Wayne Technology Group	95	NAPA Auto Stores.....	92	Stylus Technologies.....	68
BKM Real Estate	25	Foundations of Truth.....	6	National Oil & Gas	56	Swiss Village	35
Bluffton Animal Clinic.....	34	Four Star Services.....	76	News-Banner Publications	104	SYM Financial Advisors.....	22
Bluffton City of.....	49	Friends of the Library.....	13	News-Banner/NB Digital.....	103	The Dance Co	3
Bluffton CPA Group	77	Friends Who Care Foundation	39	Northwood Computer	96	The Hideaway.....	Inside Front
Bluffton Harrison MSD.....	Back Cover	General Manufacturing.....	78	Norwell Community Schools.....	1	The Mattress + Furniture Store	49
Bluffton Optimist Club.....	102	Genesis Pest Services	13	Ossian Hardware.....	28	The Monument Center.....	42
Bluffton Rentco.....	44	Gerber Furniture	61	Ossian Health Communities	79	The Wright Insurance Company.....	100
Bluffton Roofing	103	Goodwin-Hale & Harnish		Ouabache State Park	69	Thoma/Rich, Lemler	
Bluffton Rotary Club	71	Memorial Chapel.....	80	Outdoor Concepts	93	Funeral Home	42
Bluffton Street Fair.....	102	Hagerman Construction.....	7	Paddlefish Solar	74	Three Rivers Credit Union	63
Bluffton Tire Inc.....	5	Halderman Farm Management.....	91	Parlor City Cabinetry	96	Trusted Solutions Group.....	40
Bowen Center.....	83	Heartwood Planning Group	27	Paul Davis Restoration	46	20/20 Custom Molded Plastics.....	29
Boy Scouts of America	10	Hiday Automotive Group.....	8	Pena's Mechanical Contractors.....	36	Unique Blue Bar & Grill.....	23
Briner Building.....	11	HomeCourt Home Care.....	51	Peoplelink Staffing Solutions	20	United Way of Wells County.....	91
Christian Care Retirement Comm	41	Honegger Animal Clinic.....	92	Peyton's Northern.....	21	Valero Renewables.....	67
CJ's Flooring.....	32	Honegger Ringger & Co	72	Pizza Hut	37	WalkerHughes Insurance	17
Coldwell Banker Holloway Realtors..	50	Indiana Physical Therapy	58	Pizza King.....	99	Wayne Metals.....	99
Collier's Comfort Services	56	Integrity Inspections.....	29	Potter's Lawn Service.....	97	WEG Commercial Motors.....	101
Comfort Inn	70	James S Jackson Co.....	75	Premier Flats	45	Welder Ingenuity.....	37
Community Harvest Food Bank.....	102	Jerry Flack & Associates	81	Premier Signs.....	38	Wells Business Development.....	26
Cupp Real Estate	3	Just Threads and More.....	8	Premier U-Store.....	34	Wells Co Chamber of Commerce.....	1
Dale, Huffman & Babcock	65	Kemper Flooring.....	57	Print Source.....	85	Wells Co Community Center	38
Daniel's Jewelers.....	7	Kukelhan, Laura DDS.....	17	Pro Resources Staffing.....	102	Wells Co Foundation	98
Dash 90 Wines	18	LS Construction	90	Raymond James Financial Svcs	66	Wells Co Land Title.....	76
Decatur Dental Services.....	30	Leas Seamless Guttering	13	Rem Johnsnton Printing	88	Wells Co Public Library	89
Early Learning Center/YMCA	85	Les Gerber Insurance	15	Resource Maintenance.....	47	Wells Co Republicans	54
Edward Jones.....	82	Lilac Lane Apartments.....	40	Rochester Travel Group	19	YMCA	10
Eyecare Associates	62	LSM Brickhouse Pups	25	Ruoff Mortgage.....	65	You Store in Comfort	100
F&M Bank.....	48	Lutheran Health Physicians.....	43	Shelton Financial Group.....	2	Zap Electric.....	44

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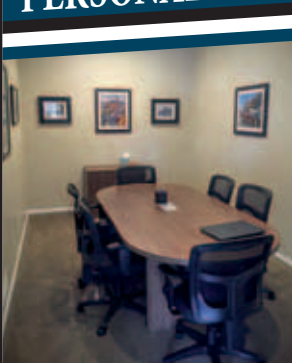
I'm a native Hoosier with a passion for assisting clients with their diverse personal and professional needs. I have been taught that no matter what you do, what matters most is your integrity and work ethic, and understand that no two individuals will have the same legal needs. *Bar Admissions:* Supreme 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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