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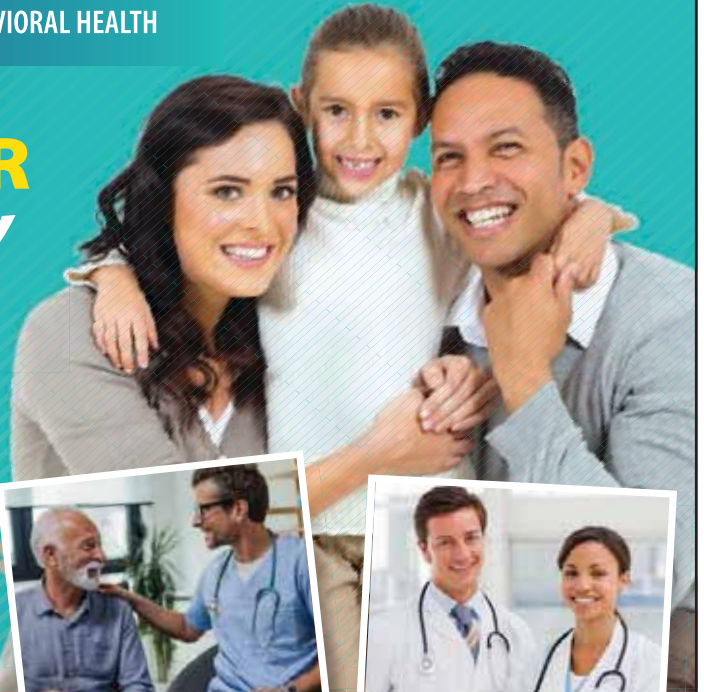


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Welcome to the 2025 Wells County Chamber of Commerce Directory! Whether you are a resident, a business owner, an employee, or a visitor, we warmly welcome you to our thriving community—a place where connections create lasting impacts, and every interaction helps build something greater.

This directory is more than just a resource; it’s a celebration of who we are as a community. Within its pages, you’ll discover inspiring stories from our local leaders, snapshots of memorable moments at community events, celebrations of significant achievements, and a calendar of upcoming opportunities to connect. It’s a guide to the businesses and organizations that are working tirelessly to support and enhance the quality of life here in Wells County.

Our local businesses are eager to connect with you, to help grow our vibrant community. With over 460 member businesses, the Chamber of Commerce has been fostering these connections and empowering local growth since 1914. Each member brings a unique contribution, ensuring Wells County is a place where people feel welcome and businesses can thrive. These

relationships are the cornerstone of our shared success, as they foster growth, mutual support, and a deep appreciation for what we build together.

Supporting local businesses isn’t just an economic decision—it’s an investment in the future of our community. Every time you choose to shop locally, you help keep our economy strong, ensuring that Wells County continues to grow and flourish. The places where we live, work, and play are shaped by these choices, and together, we make Wells County more than just a place—it’s a home.

As you explore this directory, we encourage you to use it as a vital tool for connection, a reference for discovering the services you need, and a way to stay informed about what’s happening across the county. For even more information on upcoming events, job opportunities, and how to connect with a Chamber member, visit our website at www.wellscoc.com.

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Erin Prible

Executive Director,
Wells County
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Wells County Chamber of Commerce

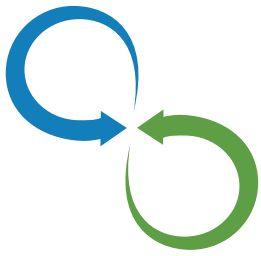
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Staff

**Executive Director
Erin Prible**

(260) 824-0510, Ext. 2
eprible@wellscoc.com



**Project Manager
Hattie Wondercheck**

(260) 824-0510, Ext. 1
hwondercheck@wellscoc.com



**Accounting Manager
Rachel Reinhard**

(260) 824-0510, Ext. 3
rreinhard@wellscoc.com



**Media Manager
Samantha Creager**

(260) 824-0510, Ext. 4
screager@wellscoc.com



**Tourism Coordinator
Audry Dudley**

(260) 824-0510, Ext. 5
adudley@visitwellscounty.com



2025 Board of Directors

Patty Randall, President
ProFed Credit Union
(260) 824-5991
prandall@profedcu.org

Julie Thompson, Vice-President
Bluffton Regional Medical Center
(260) 760-5631
Julie.thompson@blufftonregional.com

Trent Bucher, Treasurer
Honegger, Ringger & Co.
(260) 824-4107
tbucher@hrc-cpa.com

Sam Haiflich, Past-President
BKM Real Estate
(260) 824-3982
sam@bkmauction.com

Julie Quinn, Secretary
1st Source Bank
(260) 824-4800
quinnj@1stsource.com

Gina Eisenhut
Sprunger & Sprunger
(260) 824-0500
gina@sprungerandsprunger.com

Piercen Harnish
Shelton Financial Group
(260) 436-7006
piercenharnish@sheltonfinancial.net

Sarah MacNeill
Wells County Public Library
(260) 824-1612
smacneill@wellscolibrary

Keith Muhlenkamp
First Merchants Bank
(260) 469-6316
kmuhlenkamp@firstmerchants.com

Eventt Norris
Ossian Hardware
(260) 622-4171
ossianhdwe@gmail.com

Larry Smith
Edward Jones
(260) 622-7952
Larry.smith@edwardjones.com

Mike Springer
Norwell Community Schools
(260) 622-4125
mike.springer@nwcs.k12.in.us

John Stauffer
Market Street Development
(260) 307-6150
staufferproperties@gmail.com

Angie Topp
Stockton Mortgage
(260) 353-3000
Angie.Topp@stockton.com

Dean Vendal
American Axle & Manufacturing
(260) 824-6800
dean.vendal@aam.com

Ex-Officio:

Erin Prible
Wells County
Chamber of Commerce
(260) 824-0510
Cell: 260-205-0409
eprible@wellscoc.com



The 2025 Wells County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Seated, from left: Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage; treasurer Trent Bucher, Honegger, Ringger & Co.; vice-president Julie Thompson, Bluffton Regional Medical Center; president Patty Randall, ProFed Credit Union; past-president Sam Haflich, BKM Real Estate; secretary Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank; and Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce. Standing: Eventt Norris, Ossian Hardware; Dean Vendal, American Axle & Manufacturing; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Mike Springer, Norwell Community Schools; Gina Eisenhut, Sprunger & Sprunger; John Stauffer, Market Street Development, Larry Smith, Edward Jones.



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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.



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2025 Committees

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United Way**

Jessica Beste, Wells County
Economic Development
Doug Brown, News-Banner
Publications
Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance
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
Kira Lee, Three Rivers Federal
Credit Union
Erica Lehman, Lehman Appraisals
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

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WalkerHughes Insurance**

Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care
Lanette Bickel, Metropolitan Title
Doug Brown, News-Banner Publ.
Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building
Angie Dial, Family Centered Services
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, Wells County
Economic Development
Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building
Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance
Don Fiechter, Don Fiechter Farms
Dr. Ryan Gustus, Eyecare Associates
of Bluffton
Conor Jackson, James S Jackson Co.
Trout Moser, National Oil & Gas
Michael Vanover, Clean Fuels
National

Connect Group

**Chair: Angie Comment,
Metropolitan Title**
Collin Campbell, CampHouse
Marketing
Anita Correll, River Terrace Estates
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
Kylie Tomlin, Helping Hands
Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage
Joni Donaghy-Myers, Coldwell
Banker-Holloway

Connect Group2

Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care
Cullen Bryant, Premier Signs
John Cole, J Cole Tech LLC
Ed Dittmyer, TLC Window Solutions
Brandi Hewson, Family Ford
of Bluffton
Geoff Horner, Genesis Pest Services
Keith Muhlenkamp, First
Merchants Bank
Julie Rupp, Cupp Real Estate
Jim Sturgeon, Sturgeon Mechanical
Mindy Thomas, Media Services
Unlimited,
Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance
Robert Vanover, Premier Clock &
Vacuum Service
Todd Zorich, Body Magic Massage

Women in Leadership:

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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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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.

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 three major fund raising events this year.

From April through June, a Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall Envelope Extravaganza is held; the popular annual Chamber Golf Expo is held the first Thursday every August.

A new event this year is the **Chamber**

2025 Chamber Dates

- Annual Dinner – Feb. 24
- Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall Envelope Extravaganza
— April through June
- Chamber Bro Bingo – April 11
- Quarterly Membership Luncheons – Winter, Spring, Fall and Christmas
- Golf Expo – August 7

Bro Bingo — a bingo night for guys. Mark your calendar for April 11 and watch for all the fun details.

Third House Meetings

Legislative representatives from the state and national levels have spoken at Third House Meetings throughout the years. These are traditional “town hall meetings” at which the public is invited.

There will be at least one Third House Meeting during the 2025 Indiana Legislative session. Watch for further announcements about specific dates.



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Peyton's Northern Distribution Center, in collaboration with the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, is dedicated to building a strong and vibrant community—making Wells County a great place to discover a career and raise a family.



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Meyer Building gets top Chamber honor

Being chosen as the 2025 Wells County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year came as quite a surprise to Jason and Matthew Gerber.

“My first reaction was ‘Wow, they would choose us?’” younger brother Matthew says. “But I think we’ve arrived at ‘yes, it’s quite an honor, but it’s not about the recognition. Let’s keep our eye on the main thing and take this as encouragement to keep doing what we’re doing.’”

“The other piece of that,” Jason chimes in, “is that we have a really good team — a group of employees that work hard and care about what they do. It wouldn’t be possible without them.”

While the brothers have co-owned and operated Meyer Building since Jan. 1, 2020, the company has been in business since Bob Meyer, Sr., began Meyer Farm Enterprises in 1968 in a barn behind his home. He initially focused on farm equipment, adding what was then known as pole buildings as a dealer for a regional company. His son, Bob Meyer, Jr., joined the business and they began building their own version of post-frame buildings, changing the name to Meyer Buildings and moving to their present location in Craigville in 1975.

Jason and Matthew’s father, Gene Gerber, began as the company accountant in 1994 and eventually became the sole owner along with his wife Becky in 2009.

Hence the two grew up in the business in many respects. After graduating from Bluffton High School, they both attended Purdue University. Jason earned a degree in civil engineering in 2007 before Matthew followed, earning his degree in construction engineering management in 2013. Jason worked for Engineering Resources in Fort Wayne for several years — qualifying for his professional engineer license — and then as a project manager for Wiegand Construction. Matthew spent several years as a project manager for Shambaugh & Sons before coming home to be the operations manager at Meyer in 2016.

“I thought at the time it would be temporary,” Matthew notes.

Meanwhile, Jason recalls earlier opportunities to return to work for their father, “but it just didn’t feel right at the time. But,” he continues, “about a week or so before dad approached us about

buying the company, my wife brought up the possibility just out the blue.”

Father Gene has remained as the company controller and mom still works part-time as a sales assistant and book-keeper.

While their timing wasn’t the best, taking over only weeks before the impact of the Covid pandemic shut things down in March 2020, it eventually “all worked out,” Matthew says.

“It was a challenging year, for sure,” Matthew adds. “But things really picked up in 2021 and then the challenges were getting supplies and the increasing costs.”

While the pandemic caused “some pivoting,” as both describe it, “there’s been no shortage of pivoting over the last five years,” Matthew says. Almost all of that’s been intentional. After mentioning changes in personnel, material vendors, operationally and “the philosophy of how we’re executing jobs,” Matthew continues, “the one big change is that we’ve become a general contractor.”

Their customers have increasingly asked if Meyer Building could take care of other aspects of the projects beyond just the building itself, such as the plumbing and excavating.

“It was a huge change for us,” Jason adds. “And added more challenges along the way of course.”

But it was also part of the pivot in the company’s marketing focus. Meyer Building has historically focused on the agricultural segment but particularly with Jason’s background, they wanted to expand more into the commercial market. The company has now constructed a variety of residential, commercial production and office buildings, schools, fire stations, and churches. The most recent and very visible local project is the new Truland (formerly Troxel Equipment) complex just northeast of Bluffton.

Jason emphasizes, however, that “we want to continue with our roots, the smaller residential and storage barns. Absolutely.”

When the brothers took over five years ago, the company employed about 20 and also had about 20 people that formed their subcontracted crews. Those numbers have about doubled now, and it is the employees’ diversity that also drew the attention of John Re-



Brothers Jason, left, and Matthew Gerber have taken a company that Bob Meyer, Sr., began in his barn in 1975, to more than 80 employees and workers. The company’s slogan, “The Building People,” means more than erecting structures.

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
- 2024 — Valero Renewables

inhard, who nominated Meyer for the chamber award:

“Just as Meyer Building is not a single-focused company, neither do their employees fit a single mold,” Reinhard wrote. “In a walk through their break room, one may encounter four different languages at once, as they employ German-speaking neighbors, along with Russian-speaking Ukrainian refugees, Spanish-speaking Mexicans on work visas and English-speaking locals. They have also found ways to provide meaningful employment to the physically disabled.”

Jason sees all that as part purposeful and part something that’s just happened.

“We need good workers, they need a job,” he says. There have been instances when “we’ve seen a need and we have the ability to step in and walk beside them. It can be good for both of us.”

“I don’t want to over-spiritualize anything,” Matthew adds, “and I don’t want to make us sound amazing or anything special, but what we are trying to offer is that this is God’s company, not Jason and Matthew’s. That language is used here a lot, probably,” he adds with a chuckle, “because I need to keep tell-



The Gerber family was surrounded by a number of employees and representatives from the Chamber at the announcement of their recognition in early December.

ing myself.”

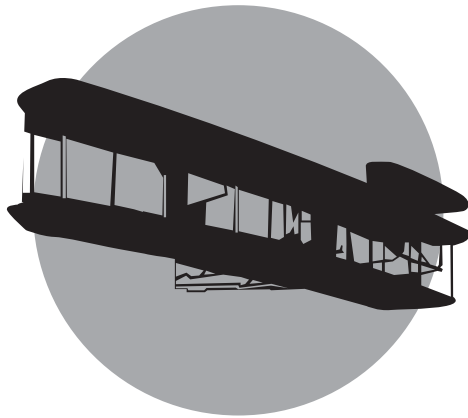
The company’s “pivoting” will continue, the pair agree.

“We have to constantly observe and adapt,” Jason says. Meanwhile, “we want to be a partner and asset in our community. Obviously we need to be profitable, but we always want to give back.” The brothers name a variety of local and area non-profits and ministries they support and encourage their employees by often matching gifts they make.

“But what we do is also important on the personal — or personnel — level,”

Matthew adds. The company slogan is “The Building People.” He says that’s a play on words. “Yes, we build buildings but we’re also building up our people.”

The brothers’ philosophy is summed up in the vision statement — “Strategic and sustainable growth that increases our impact: For the kingdom of God; For our customers; For our employees; For our community; For the post-frame industry. — and their mission statement: “Empowering people and leveraging resources to accomplish more tomorrow than we can today.”



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Roger Sherer 'overwhelmed' by community support and Chamber honor

He grew up on a farm in Noble County, graduating from East Noble High School in 1973. He retired in the fall of 2019 after almost exactly 40 years as Wells County's 4-H Educator in the Purdue Extension Service. His path from there to here included five years at Purdue University and a detour to Poland. At the time, it did not feel like a permanent move.

"But here I am," the 2025 Citizen of the Year says with a smile.

As far back as Roger Sherer can remember, he has been involved in 4-H. He and all four of his siblings earned their 10-year membership pins; he showed beef and swine and was active in the community as a Junior Leader. He enjoyed summers at Camp Limberlost as both a camper and a counselor.

"I had also thought maybe I might be an ag teacher," he recalls. "I'd been active in FFA. But I was also always drawn to extension service. They were always on the cutting edge of agriculture and youth development. I was always impressed and felt I wanted to be a part of that."

He picked up a second major — thus the five years in West Lafayette — graduating in 1978 with degrees in agricultural education and animal science. Looking for a job was put on the back burner however, since he had been selected as a delegate in an International 4-H Youth Exchange program, joining nine other American students on a six-month stay in Poland.

As it turned out, it was during an historic time.

"We were working on a government-owned farm with students from other countries too," he explains. "One day, the people in charge called us all in to a meeting. They were very excited because (the Catholic church) had chosen a Polish pope. Everything shut down. There was like a two or three day celebration."

Despite the imposition of communism



Roger Sherer stands in front of the "Wall of Life" at the Community Center at the 4-H Park which recognizes donors that made the building possible. This illustrates, he says, "how this community comes together to solve problems and make it the community that it is."

after World War II, the Catholic church remained a strong influence in Poland. There was a feeling at the time, Sherer recalls, that the communist leaders in Poland felt John Paul II was chosen in order to further anti-communist feelings there, Sherer shares. "We witnessed a part of history."

The group returned in December and were wrapping up meetings at the National 4-H Center in Washington D.C. when he got a message from his former 4-H Educator in Noble County to call the placement office at the Purdue Extension Service.

"We have some openings and want you to interview," they told me. 'But I haven't applied'" I told them, but apparently that didn't matter," he says now with a chuckle.

There was an opening in Elkhart County which he found interesting since it was close to Noble County and was "a pretty

good-sized. A good opportunity," he recalls. "But they guided me towards Wells County and I thought 'well, that'd be a good start and there will be opportunities to move up later.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.

Sherer interviewed shortly after New Years Day 1979 with local 4-H leaders in the extension's courthouse office, which currently houses the surveyor's office. "I think my first day was Jan. 15," he says.

At the time, the extension services operated out of that courthouse office and some space on the second floor of the old quonset hut building on the 4-H Park grounds. Committee meetings were held in a variety of places where room could be found, such as the Farm Bureau Insurance office. All of which eventually led to perhaps Sherer's signature accomplishment: the completion of the Wells County Community Center at the 4-H Park in 1998.

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 Gittlin
- 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 Sallsbery
- 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
- 2024 — Jeff and Jamie Lemler

“It was quite a process, it took some time,” he reflects today.

The idea sprung up in the wake of the downtown revitalization efforts in the mid-1990s which raised over \$1 million. The local 4-H Association leaders met with the fund-raising company that had been hired by the revitalization committee to explore their assessment of possibilities for a new building on the 4-H grounds.

“They were very encouraging,” he says. Very long story very short: \$1.2 million was raised to build what now hosts the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, not to mention many other community events as well as weddings and receptions.

Sherer was also instrumental in a number of improvements on the fairgrounds including rebuilding the historic log cabin that sits in the park — twice. Moved from a Wells County farm, it serves as a setting for programs throughout the summer months and during the annual 4-H Fair.

“He inspired community action and dedicated his life to the head, heart, hands and health of all that set foot on the 4-H park grounds,” Kent Ulmer noted in his letter of support for Sherer’s nomination.

Helen Witte and Pat Wall teamed up to make the formal nomination of Sherer for the honor, highlighting those achievements along with his work with the Bluffton Optimist Club, the Wells County Leadership Academy, the Feeding Tomorrow’s Future Today, the Indiana 4-H Foundation and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.

Letters of support also came from Mike Morrissey of the Knights of Columbus, Jim and Betty Van Winkle of the Optimist Club, Shelly Bingle of the Indiana 4-H Foundation, Susan Girod for the

backpack program, Angie Dial of Family Centered Services and Tammy Slater from the Wells County Foundation. Each detailed Sherer’s continued active involvement and support in a number of efforts both before and since his official retirement.

Sherer’s “retirement” includes maintaining the Wells County Historical Society’s Facebook page, the Optimist Club, the leadership academy, the backpack program, the Indiana 4-H Foundation and the IFYE (international youth exchange) Foundation, his church and the K of C, and three programs at Family Centered Services: the Teen Court, Youth As Resources and the Youth Leadership Forum.

“I have slowed down,” Sherer insists. “I am doing the things I want to do.”

He has been able to travel much more with his more flexible schedule. This past year included two gatherings related to his career.

In July he traveled to Great Falls, Montana, for the annual convention of the IFYE Foundation. The highlight was a reunion with the other members of that Polish exchange trip 50 years ago.

In October, it was to Boise, Idaho for the first post-pandemic gathering of the

National Association of Extension 4-H Educators, a group in which he had long been active. Although he did not know it until just two weeks before he left, he had been chosen for the “Outstanding Service to Community” national honoree.

While that honor and this parallel local recognition are appreciated, humbling, “and even a little overwhelming,” Sherer says, he can share an even more meaningful chance encounter with a former student while walking across the Purdue University campus on the day he turned in his retirement papers.

“I just never felt like I had thanked you,” the student said.

After the initial shock of the December 2 surprise announcement and given more time to reflect, Sherer feels like the Chamber board award “was just that I brought the right people together,” he says.

He notes how he was often amazed at how people like Judge David Hanselman and Bette Erxleben would agree to take the time necessary make the Teen Court a reality or how the community came together to raise the money for the community center and other park improvements.

“It’s not about me,” he says, “it’s about lots of people working together.”



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Chamber recognizes three county teachers

Andrew Cook Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D.

Since joining the staff at Bluffton High School in the fall of 2015, Andrew Cook has clearly made an impact. At the announcement of his selection as the school system's Educator of the Year in early December, two of his students spoke about their experience at the school.

"He changed my life," said Lucas Yates. "Out of every teacher here, or even the entire district, (he) has an aura of passion, dedication, enjoyment, introspection.

"While I see (the same spirit) in other teachers, he just has it in so many spades that it's unprecedented," he continued.

Yates and Logan Zoll, both seniors, plan to study cybersecurity, and give credit to Cook's mentorship. They have also already received certifications in the field, as a result of Cook's work in introducing dual-credit opportunities.

"Mr. Cook is very deserving of this

award," said Superintendent Brad Yates. "We have many, many teachers that would fit into the same category of being so deserving, but one thing that really steps out for Mr. Cook is his ability to make every moment just truly matter for our students. It is not a one swing for the fence, it's a gradual progression that he works with our students to make sure they can be successful in the long term."



Andrew Cook

Cook is in his 10th year of teaching math and science at Bluffton High School, where he's been involved with the school's social committee, serves as a building-level teacher technology specialist and coaches the Cyber Tigers eSports team.

He describes his journey to Bluffton as an "unconventional path." Born in Louisville, Kentucky, he grew up in Parker, Colorado, graduating from Ponderosa High School in 2010. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics at the Colorado School of Mines in 2014 and his masters in education at Purdue University in 2016.

"After finishing my undergraduate

degree in Colorado, I was accepted into a 'Transition to Teaching' master's degree program at Purdue University," he explains. As part of the program, he received a stipend to cover tuition and other expenses in return for teaching in a rural district in the state of Indiana for at least three years. He was looking for jobs in the spring of 2015 and stumbled across a math opening at Bluffton High School.

"The rest is history," he said. "I'm lucky I found a school with such supportive administration, friendly staff, and great culture."

His parents, Paul and Theresa Cook who now live in Columbus, Ohio, were able to attend the announcement. He mentioned them and "all the teachers and our students here, (I) couldn't do it without a village, so credit to them."

"Mr. Cook is what I would call the epitome of what every teacher and educator should strive to be," said BHS Principal Steve Baker. "He puts in the time. He has a heart for kids. He wants to make a difference in their lives. He has poured his whole self into his job — it's not a job for him, it's a calling."

Peggy Haigh Southern Wells Community Schools

Peggy Haigh only applied for a teaching position at Southern Wells Elementary School because her husband Mike had been hired as band director and teacher. But it's worked out well.

"It's truly an honor to teach here — it's a great (school) system," she said after being named the Educator of the Year.

"A lot of team effort comes into this," she continued. "It's not just me, I had a lot of good support with the administration and other teachers, parents and the kids."

After graduating from South Dearborn High School in southeastern Indiana, she earned her degree in 1986 at Ball State University, which is where she met her husband, who grew up in Kokomo. The two have three grown children, sons David and Kevin, and a



Peggy Haigh

daughter, Vanessa Kumar.

At the school assembly in early December at which the announcement was made, former and current students mentioned that their second grade teacher will incorporate different games for reading and math to keep students be engaged.

"She would put us with the best possible people to help us learn," current sixth grade student Olivia Hoffacker said. "She always had a positive attitude. If I were to choose my favorite teacher, Mrs. Haigh would be my first."

"She helps us learn," second grader Reagan Slusher said. "If you get hurt she helps you and she will get you a Band-Aid."

Brynlee Caldwell said, "I love that she's so nice and all the time she just smiles. Her jokes are pretty funny."

This positivity also extends to the staff at Southern Wells Elementary. Teachers and other staff members said that they can come to her when they are feeling low, and that her personality picks them up and puts smiles on their faces.

"She is very positive," literacy coach Kim Huffman said. "You could be having the worst day ever and go into her room at the end of the day and just fall down on a chair and she would perk you up. She would encourage you and be willing to listen to your beefs and make you feel better about any situation."

Haigh's positivity, fairness and penchant for incorporating games into her teaching style have put her in great standing with teachers, students and administration. Superintendent Trent Lehman described her as an amazing professional, and will remain positive about herself throughout any circumstance.

"When I've come into her classroom she is always prepared," Lehman said. "The students are engaged, she's smiling, she's kind. She is just positive about herself as a teacher, about education in general and about her kids. It's amazing that she maintains that positive attitude in a world where it's sometimes easy to be negative. She's always smiling, engaging and loving to her students and always a professional with her coworkers."

Kylie Heckber
Norwell Community Schools

When Norwell Community Schools was in the process of establishing its own special education programming, Kylie Heckber had been teaching a fourth grade class at Lancaster Elementary School for more than six years. But she recognized a need and was sure she could fill it.



Kylie Heckber

“I had special education students in my general education classroom and working with them was my favorite because it was hard,” she explained. “So when they finally got it, the light bulb was even brighter. Growth is worth celebrating, and now I get to be the one to celebrate with these babes all day every day.”

Heckber “stepped up,” as LES principal Ginger Butcher wrote in her nomination letter for the school system’s Educator of the Year honor, “by leaving

the comforts of her fourth-grade classroom in the middle of the school year to pursue additional training.”

Butcher added that Heckber has been an integral part of establishing the school system’s special education protocols and procedures.

Heckber grew up in Steuben County, graduating from Angola High School in 2013. She met her future husband Bradley while attending what was then Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne.

“He farms on his family farm, so if we were going to stay together I knew I would need to be in Wells County, so I student taught in Ossian Elementary,” she explained. After earning her bachelors degree in elementary education with a concentration in special education in 2017, she taught one year in the Fort Wayne Community Schools before accepting the open fourth grade position at Lancaster.

The couple are parents of two daughters, Paxton and Dayton. She credits her parents, Matt and Linda Bidlack, for supporting her desire to go into education “since I was in first grade,” she

said.

Heckber also serves as the Lancaster building representative for the Norwell Classroom Teachers Association and co-leads the Social Committee which plans system-wide staff events.

“The staff can attest to her enthusiasm during the annual Graduate Senior Walk Day as ‘DJ Heckber,’” Butcher noted.

“Everyone needs a Kylie in their life,” Butcher said at the announcement of her selection in early December. “You make people better, 100% — whether at home or school.”

“Teaching runs through Kylie’s body,” Butcher added. “Helping students be successful and reach their potential is what fuels Kylie each and every day.”

Butcher added that Heckber individualizes incentives to help students succeed.

“Some kids have extra needs because of their home lives,” Heckber shared at the event as she paused to collect her tears. “Getting to help kids, whether with access to hygiene or extra love, I get to fill them up here. I always want to be the teacher that they remember forever.”

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Chamber nets two awards for ‘Excellence in Innovation’

Your Wells County Chamber of Commerce received two awards from the Indiana Chamber Executives Association at its 2024 annual dinner held in Madison in June.

The prestigious “Excellence in Innovation” awards recognize innovative new projects introduced by chambers in the past year, highlighting programs that bring fresh ideas and solutions to their communities.

The first award was granted for the formation of the Wells County Drug Taskforce Committee. This initiative emerged in response to an urgent need to tackle drug concerns within the community. The committee is a diverse coalition of nearly 40 individuals representing various sectors of the community.

The second award recognized the introduction of the Real Colors Team Building workshop in the workplace. Erin Prible, who received certification as a Real Colors instructor, offers these workshops to local businesses and orga-

nizations. Real Colors is a personality assessment tool that enhances communication and collaboration by helping participants understand personality dynamics. The workshops provide a user-friendly and practical approach to uncovering individual temperaments—Gold, Green, Blue, or Orange—and leveraging this knowledge to improve interpersonal relationships and teamwork.

“We’re excited to share these awards with our community and Chamber Members,” Prible says. “Our goal is to continue to offer programs and resources that are relevant to our Chamber Members. Our team works diligently throughout the year, dedicating their time and talents to serve our members in creative, sustaining, and impacting ways.”

These awards from ICEA underscore the Chamber’s dedication to addressing critical issues and fostering professional development within Wells County, Prible continued. “We are committed to



On hand to accept the two awards at the annual banquet were Samantha Creager, Media Manager; Hattie Wondercheck, Program Manager; Erin Prible, Executive Director; and Rachel Reinhard, Accounting Manager

supporting local businesses and enhancing the community’s well-being through innovative programs and strategic partnerships.”

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2025 Special Events Committee

Dedicated to offering members of the Chamber valuable promotional and networking prospects that directly contribute to their ongoing growth and success, these Chamber volunteers play a crucial role in coordinating, planning, and engaging in various special events, including the Chamber Golf Expo, Chamber Annual Awards Dinner, the Annual Appreciation Luncheon, and other fundraising initiatives.

Front row from left, Erin Prible, Wells County Chamber of Commerce; Angie Topp, Stockton Mortgage; Pam Gregory, Pages & Stuff, Inc.; Shari Tomac, Farmers Insurance; Julie Quinn, 1st Source Bank; Lori Brubaker, Meyer Building; and Angie Dial, Family Centered Services. Back row from left, Janiece Lipsey, Creative Arts; Angie Arnold, HomeCourt Home Care; Stephanie Wheeler, WEG Commercial Motors; Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Hattie Wondercheck, Wells County Chamber of Commerce; Steve Higgins, Boys Scouts of America; and Sara Jones, F&M Bank. Not pictured: Danica Dunwiddie, WalkerHughes Insurance; Gina Hon, First Merchants Bank; Lannette Bickel, Metropolitan Title; and Patty Randall, ProFed.



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Building a Stronger Community through Empowerment and Connections

Since its inception in 2022, the Wells County Women in Leadership organization has become a beacon of support, fostering connections, personal growth, and the empowerment of women from diverse walks of life. The committee's mission is simple yet profound: "Learn, Lead & Leave a Legacy." This guiding principle has shaped the organization's events, initiatives and outreach efforts, impacting women in the community and beyond.

This past year, the committee hosted a series of events featuring outstanding speakers who brought relevant and engaging topics to attendees. From discussions on "Burnout" to "The Power of Meaningful Relationships" and even a session on "How to Avoid Being Squirrels," the programming has resonated with women navigating the complexities of life and career.

As the year came to a close, the organization was preparing for its signature event—the annual EmpowerHER Conference in November. This conference is designed to inspire women by featuring professional speakers who address essential topics like decoding the body's signals, transforming health, and reclaiming vitality. Attendees also learned how to tap into their heart's strength to live with purpose, resilience, and authenticity. Through the C.O.M.P.E.T.E. method and speakers' personal stories, women are encouraged to take meaningful action in their lives.

The importance of these events cannot be overstated. Women, often balancing numerous roles, struggle to slow down and prioritize self-care. The Wells



County Women in Leadership organization has addressed topics such as the importance of sleep, strategies for self-care, and the impact of cortisol on overall health—reminders that women need to take care of themselves in order to care for others.

"The topics are relevant to any woman at any stage in life," says Erin Prible, a Women in Leadership Committee Member. "We want to give strategies to women that can be helpful and transformative, so they can be healthy, connected, and embrace their roles with confidence."

Since its founding, more than 500 women have attended these events. One of the most remarkable aspects of Women in Leadership is the diversity it brings together. From entrepreneurs and stay-at-home moms to CEOs and community leaders, each woman brings a unique perspective and plays a vital role in shaping the community. Together, they are creating a stronger, more united Wells County.

To continue this journey of growth and connection, we encourage the women of Wells County to join our Wells County Women in Leadership Facebook page. The page is a space for inspiring stories, updates on upcoming events, and highlights of local women making an impact in our community.

With a commitment to continuous growth and empowerment, the Wells County Women in Leadership organization remains dedicated to helping women thrive, lead with confidence, and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the dedicated Women in Leadership Committee members: Jessica Beste, Alyssa Brown, Kim Gentis, Alicia Hill, Molly Hoag, Jayde Ketring, Beth McConnell, Erin Prible, Beth Singleton, Tammy Slater, Julie Thompson, Kylie Tomlin, and Hattie Wondercheck. Their commitment and contributions are vital to the success and growth of our organization.



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Historic year for local tourism

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission (WCCVC) has had a flourishing year and one for the history books as Wells County was the northernmost point in Indiana that would receive totality of the 2024 solar eclipse. Wells County welcomed visitors from outside the state and even the country. Ouabache State Park, Wells County's No. 1 Visitor Destination, successfully managed what could be historically the largest influx of visitors in one day.

WCCVC worked with L.C. Media to capture content of Wells County's visitor assets, which will be used in social media, website and print marketing. This was made possible by a grant from the Wells County Foundation.

The Commission also has partnered with Britton Marketing to carry out a 12-month campaign which will provide a creative approach to destination-marketing with an efficient and measurable approach to track effectiveness. Britton is targeting six segments of audiences through event and asset marketing. The campaign will help provide hard data, analytics and benchmarking to guide future investments and marketing avenues for the Visitor Commission.

The Visit Wells County Event Marketing Grant program continued through 2024 to reach an audience outside of Wells County. Grant recipients included Bluffton Parks Department's Chilly Chili Run and 50th Anniversary Parlor City Trot with a large majority of participants being non-residents. The Wells County Historical Society's Harry Lindstrand Exhibit reached record numbers in attendance at the museum by utilizing the funds on radio and print advertising. Multiple other grants provided included Bluffton NOW! Music



Commission members include, seated from left: Michelle Blount, Steve Higgins, Scott Elzey, and Justin Osborn; standing: Audry Dudley, Jay Esparza, Zane Herr, and Brandy Fiechter. Not pictured: Jeff Reed and Jon Winne.

on The Plaza Concert Series, Ossian Parks Department Concert Series, Wells County Council on Aging Senior Expo, Bluffton Free Street Fair, Parlor City Christmas, and Friends of Ouabache Wonderland of Lights.

The Commission has provided the design and print of maps for visitors, residents, and visitor assets to utilize. The maps are a high-demand item requested for multiple uses such as relocation, new business, and tourism purposes. The maps include Downtown Bluffton to Ouabache Connection and a county-wide street map with a focus on Bluffton, Ossian and Markle.

Merchandise with Wells County branding is now available at three locations: Magnolia Grace (Bluffton), Crimson House (Ossian), and Dash 90 Wines (Warren) as well as the Visitor Center. The Commission will continue to provide apparel and hats that are desired by both residents and visitors.

VisitWellsCounty partnered with the

Bluffton Parks Department to promote a Summer Bingo that encouraged the utilization of local assets such as restaurants, parks, pools, libraries and so much more. User-generated content and images were collected and those who completed the bingo cards were entered to win a prize package of Bluffton Parks and Wells County gear.

Regional print marketing has been utilized throughout 2024 to attract visitors to a variety of visitor attractions, lodgings, and events.

The Commission will continue to fulfill the strategic plan by working on the following four pillars: Strengthen Asset Development, Market Activities & Attractions, Enhance Organizational Awareness and Data & Evaluation.

Go to www.visitwellscounty.com to find places to be and things to do to shop, eat, events, stay, and play. Sign up to receive news and updates.

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Revitalization Groups Had a Busy '24

Since the Ossian Revitalization Committee completed the amphitheater at Archbold-Wilson Park in 2022, the group, led by Kody Kumfer, has been focused on improving access to that area.

"We were able to partner with the Wells County Foundation and the town to invest over \$300,000 to get that done," Kumfer reported. The construction began this past November and is slated to be completed this spring. The project was made possible, he added, by a matching grant from the Lilly Endowment.



Kody Kumfer

The group's annual events continued to grow — the chicken BBQ and pork chop fundraisers posted new highs. The pork chop dinner during Ossian Days also includes the group's announcement of the annual Lance Hunter Award and the auction of Helen Witte's pies.

"That auction brought another new record — \$11,000," Kumfer said.

Despite some rough weather, the group's Hometown Christmas event has to be considered another success.

"We were able to celebrate with Santa lighting the tree in front of the library and 17 craft vendors at the Ossian Methodist church," Kumfer reported. "The cold weather created challenges with not being able to have the horse and carriage ride along with the live nativity scene, but the downtown business still opened up their doors to welcome the community."

Those attractions will return, along with the outdoor Christmas Marketplace, he said.

Still in the works is a joint downtown project with the county's Economic Development Council. While they had hoped to make an announcement in 2024, "I think it's definitely on track for this coming year," Kumfer said.

two highlights in 2024 and plenty of plans for the new year.

Michael Lautzenheiser, the leader of Bluffton NOW!, which operates under the umbrella of the Wells County Revitalization, said the group is particularly excited about the "record setting attendance" at the Downtown Summer Concert Series.

"We want to build on that success, and the Chilli Walk also was so well attended," he said.

Was that growth at least partially influenced by the completion of Phase 1 of the Downtown Pathways project?

Three downtown alleyways, designed to facilitate access to the downtown area from nearby parking lots, were transformed with special paving, artwork and lighting. "We have heard very positive comments and responses," Lautzenheiser said.

The group is currently in the fundraising mode for Phase 2, which will transform a fourth alley between Wabash and Market streets east of Main Street and add some amenities to the three completed alleys.

The group "is still discussing some of



Michael Lautzenheiser

those details," Lautzenheiser said, "and we've also worked out an arrangement with the city Parks Department about maintenance and policies."

"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.

"We're working with the property owner to apply for a grant to do a feasibility study," he explained. "It's really a first step in a process."

Meanwhile, the Community Reinvestment Program helped fund "five great projects" in the downtown area, he said. The partnership with the city will continue.

On the radar for 2025 is the implementation of establishing a DORA District in the downtown area. The designated outdoor refreshment area "is a key piece in expanding the Downtown Concert Series," he said, "and will better involve the downtown businesses when these events are held."



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Nurturing Leadership

Since its inception in 2008, the Wells County Leadership Academy has been a beacon of growth for individuals across our community. With a nine-month program designed to enhance skills, knowledge, and abilities, Leadership Academy has welcomed over 280 graduates from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

“Investing in leadership development programs is essential for those who are equipped to address the evolving needs of their communities, drive positive change, and inspire others to do the same,” remarked Erin Prible, Coordinator of the Wells County Leadership Academy.

The program’s impact extends far beyond its duration, as participants emerge with a newfound understanding of their potential to effect change. “Becoming a good leader is a lifelong process, no matter what position you hold or how old you are,” noted Prible. As renowned leadership expert John Maxwell once said, “to be effective, leaders must always be learners. You can never arrive—you can only strive to get better.”

Central to the success of the Leadership Academy are the dedicated facilitators who generously contribute their time and expertise each month. These individuals, themselves graduates of both levels of the Academy, serve as mentors, guiding and influencing those

around them to reach their full potential.

At the core of the Academy’s curriculum is the Habitudes leadership training program developed by Dr. Tim Elmore, founder of Growing Leaders. Dr. Elmore’s dynamic approach, grounded in principles, images, and stories, has empowered countless leaders worldwide. With over 25 years of collaboration alongside internationally recognized leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell, Elmore brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the program.

Through the Wells County Leadership Academy, participants not only gain valuable skills and knowledge but also become catalysts for positive change within our community. As they embrace their leadership journey, they inspire others to do the same, fostering a culture of growth, innovation, and collaboration that moves us forward into a brighter future.



Wells County Leadership Academy
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For more information, call:
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Chamber Ambassadors Recognize



The Chamber Ambassadors, chaired by Ben Renkenberger in 2025, 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: Erin Prible, Chamber of Commerce; Danielle Thompson, Flagstar Bank; Erica Lehman, Lehman Appraisals Standing: Ben Renkenberger, United Way; Hattie Wondercheck, Chamber; Heather Morgan, National Oil and Gas; Kevin Pritchard, Ruoff Mortgage; Erin Daugherty, State Farm Insurance; Keith Muhlenkamp, First Merchants Bank; Cyndee Fiechter, North Eastern Group Realty; Nick Huffman, Steffen Group; Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne; Doug Brown, News-Banner Publications; Jessica Beste, Wells County Economic Development; Chris Gerber, Edge Manufacturing. Not pictured: Kody Kumfer, Forgotten Children Worldwide; Piercen Harnish, Shelton Financial Group; Casey Robbins, F&M Bank; Kevin Sills, Indiana Farm Bureau; Kira Lee, Three Rivers Federal Credit Union



January:
Strategence Capital



May:
Linder Oil



September:
Mr. Kool Heating & Cooling

2023 Ambassador of the Year



Kevin Pritchard

The 2024 Ambassador of the Year will be announced at the 2025 Annual Dinner

2024 Ambassadors of the Quarter

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

- First:** Cyndee Fiechter
North Eastern Group Realty
- Second:** Cyndee Fiechter
North Eastern Group Realty
- Third:** Cyndee Fiechter
North Eastern Group Realty
- Fourth:** Cyndee Fiechter
North Eastern Group Realty



Cyndee Fiechter



Cyndee Fiechter



Cyndee Fiechter



Cyndee Fiechter

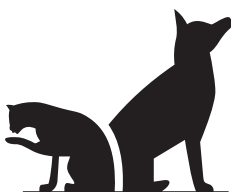
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2024 'Members of the Month'



February:
Meyer Renovation



March:
Steffen Group



April:
Creative Arts Council



June:
Loving Shepherd Ministries



July:
Perfect Pet



August:
Walmart



October:
State Farm - Erin Daugherty



November:
HomeCourt Home Care



December:
El Camino Real

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Steve Higgins
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steven.higgins@scouting.org

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127 E Oak Forest Dr, Bluffton
Julie 260.797.2802
Michelle 260.820.0811

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 Chiropractic	273-3495
Action Coach.....	450-9163
Action Micro Technologies..... (317) 216-7988	
Adams Wells Crisis Center.....	728-9800
AdamsWells Internet-Telecom.....	565-3131
Affolder Equipment Sales.....	589-2964
Age in Place Home Services.....	824-5602
Airplane Express Bluffton	824-2136
Alive & Well	227-0246
All-American - 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
Anthony Wayne Area Council, Scouting America.....	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.....	273-3682
Auto Doctor.....	824-5344

B

B&D Appliance Repair.....	437-0022
Baller Signs	824-1987
Barkley Builders.....	622-7674
BBR Imports Liquidation Sales.....	758-0007
BCG Capital.....	273-2786
Beauty & Beyond.....	525-0461
Beauty from Ashes Studio	353-1622
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
Bijou Gift Boutique.....	820-2760
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 KOA.....	824-0127
Bluffton Masonic Lodge #145	824-2524
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 & Reflexology.....	353-9410
Bordner, Ms. Jean Ann	273-0642
Bott Radio Network.....	423-2337
Bowen Center..... (800) 342-5653	
BoxDrop Fort Wayne	227-2145
Brickley, Dr. Harry, Farm Foundation.....	824-3130
Brightpoint	415-4176
Briner Building	824-0120
Burman Photography..... (937) 212-8393	
Buskirk Engineering.....	622-5550

C

C J's Flooring.....	824-5440
CampHouse Marketing.....	437-7738
Cancer Services of NE 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
Cintas	609-8872
Citizens Advocating for Drug Awareness (CADA)	824-8574
City of Bluffton	824-1520

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Age in Place Home Services Bluffton
Beauty & Beyond
Beauty from Ashes Studio, LLC
Bluffton Ducks Unlimited
Bluffton KOA
Brightpoint
Cintas
Cleaning One, Inc
Custom Truck One Source
Divine K9s LLC
DJ's Nails
Edward Jones Financial Advisor:
Trent Moore
Expert Transmission
Extreme Automotive Detailing
Fast Pace Health Urgent Care
Felger Hart Residential Services
Funkee Monkee Creations
G6: Military Grade IT
H&H Custom Apparel +
Imagine Early
Kemba Credit Union
Lehman Appraisals LLC
Luxe Detailing

Major League Creamery
Maple Lake Lodge
Market Street Suite
Micromatic LLC
Minnich Motors
Mr. Scott Mentzer
Ms. Beth Singleton
Ms. Diane Johnson
Ms. Jean Ann Bordner
O&R Precision Grinding, Inc
Old Ways Books & Curio
Par and Below LLC
Parkview Huntington Hospital
Phantom Lines Tattoo LLC
Pennick's Pest Control
Pitties Dog House
Precision Land Management
Premier Payroll
Property RX
Rebekkah Hanford Photography
Simply Clean Microgreens
Studio 2190 Salon and Spa
Summit Pain Management
The Farmhouse Merc.
The Bourbon MD, LLC
Tonner Transfer Station
VanAusdall & Farrar



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Member Listings - Alphabetical

Clean Fuels National	346-2500
Cleaning One, Inc.....	273-7192
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
Cornerstone Ag Solutions.....	307-7901
Country Road Primitives.....	273-0222
Covington Financial Services	827-0920
Craigville Appliance Store.....	565-3166
Creative Arts Council of Wells Co.....	824-5222
Creative Cabinet and Countertops	414-7677
Crell Law.....	747-5353
Crimson House Cafe	622-0167
Crop Performance	(765) 894-0695
Cupp Real Estate	824-1588
Custom Truck One Source	800-252-0043

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
Divine K9s LLC.....	353-3040
DJ's Nails.....	353-9433
Don Fiechter Farms Inc.....	346-2157
Donaghy, Mr. Gene	437-9823
Dunwiddie Heating & Plumbing	824-1999

E

E-Z Bowl.....	824-9966
Easterseals Arc of NE 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
Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Trent Moore	622-7952
Eiro Wellness, LLC.....	227-8300
El Camino Real.....	565-3300
Elks Lodge.....	824-2824
Emshwiller & Emshwiller	824-1826
Environmental Solutions.....	273-9014
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
Expert Transmission	824-9687
Extreme Automotive Detailing	273-1145
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
Fast Pace Health Urgent Care . (615) 962-2245	
Felger Hart	489-2134
Felger Hart Residential Services.....	244-6328
First Bank of Berne... 824-9982/(800) 589-7848	
First Merchants Bank.....	758-3111
1st Source Bank	824-4800
5S Building Co.....	437-1643
Flagstar Bank	824-0910
Flex Fitness & Meal Prep/ Timber Ridge Catering.....	452-4572
Flight Financial Advisors.....	824-5000
Forgiven Church.....	824-2000
Forgotten Children Worldwide.....	353-1580
Forrest Carvings LLC	273-9634
Fort Wayne Knockerball LLC.....	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, Inc. (800) 200-6499	
Freedom Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	(800) 824-0900
Friends of Ouabache State Park.....	824-0926
Friends of the Wells County Library ...	622-7120
Friends Who Care Foundation	307-1074
Funkee Monkee Creations	849-3360

G

G6: Military Grade IT	(800)560-3359
General Manufacturing	824-3440
Genesis Pest Services	227-0742
Gerber, Mr. Chandler & Rachel	273-8792
Gerber Furniture, Mattress & Window Treatments.....	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

H

H&H Custom Apparel +	223-5029
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-Fort Wayne	484-7622
Heartland REMC	758-3155
Heartwood Planning Group- Matthew Henry.....	849-2814
Helping Hands	824-4263
Heritage Pointe.....	375-2201
HomeCourt Home Care	333-1114
Honegger Animal Clinic	622-4186
Honegger, Ringger & Co.	824-4107
Hoosier Creek Farms LLC.....	824-3255

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Hoosier House Family Restaurant.....	353-1415
Hope Missionary Church	824-1844
Horizon Events Corporation	422-9070
Hott Family Dentistry	824-2442
Huffman Group Real Estate	827-8255
Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse	353-1477
Huntington University	359-4153

I

Imagine Early.....	353-3009
In2Great, LLC.....	413-9027
Indiana Michigan Power	408-3498
Indiana Pancake House	353-1414
Indiana Physical Therapy	824-0522
Indiana Wesleyan University	450-0650
Integrity Inspections & Testing.....	437-1585
Inteva Products..... (248) 861-9266	
Irving Materials, Inc.	824-3428
Ivy Tech Community College.....	480-4134

J

J Cole Tech LLC	846-1899
J&R Products.....	353-3600
James S. Jackson Co.....	824-0918
Jerry Flack's Investments & Insurance.....	824-1618
Johnson, Diane.....	824-1801
Junior Achievement serving Wells County.....	484-2543

K

Karing for Kids.....	273-0716
Kelly's Collision Center.....	824-3995
Kemba Credit Union.....	827-2055
Kemper Flooring.....	622-7465

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 LLC	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.....	824-8080
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
Luxe Detailing.....	827-7601

M

Magical Vacation Planner by Stephanie Hiday.....	417-7656
Magnolia Grace	824-3837
Major League Creamery.....	703-0877
Maple Lake Lodge	216-5615
Market Street Development.....	307-6150
Market Street Flooring	438-9001
Market Street Suite.....	402-7631
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

McDonald's.....	824-0433
Media Services Unlimited	273-2708
Mediacom	(855) 633-4226
Melching Machine.....	622-4315
Mentzer, Mr. Scott.....	615-1566
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
Micromatic LLC.....	589-2136
MidWest America Fed Credit Union	209-3440
Mike Anderson Chevrolet of Ossian	622-4115
Milli's Restaurant	827-0755
Minnich Motors	827-8215
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 Services..	824-1126

N

National Oil & Gas	824-2220
Neoti	494-1499
News-Banner Publications	824-0224
Nicholson Family Dental	824-2811
NIPSCO.....	439-1330
North Eastern Group Realty	489-7095
Northwood Computer	824-5652

O

O&R Precision Grinding	368-9394
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Alphabetical

Office 360	482-9674
Old Ways Books & Curio	820-2885
Optimist Club of Bluffton	565-3486
Ossian Hardware	622-4171
Ossian Health Communities	622-7821
Ossian Rotary	402-8272
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
Par and Below LLC	402-1424
Park Center	824-1071
Parkview Huntington Hospital	353-1954
Parlor Bluffs by D.R. Horton	797-9418
Parlor City Production	273-6203
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
Penick's Pest Control	(765) 661-3072
PeopleLink Staffing Solutions	824-1797
Perfect Pet Food Accessories, Training, Grooming	846-0276
Perma-Column	622-7190
Peyton's Northern	824-0882
Phantom Lines Tattoo	530-0340
Phillips Financial	420-7732
Physicians Health Plan (PHP)	432-6690
Pierre's Party and Tent Rental	824-9434
Pine Grove Apartments	565-4241
Pitties Dog House	827-7155
Pitties Properties	827-7155
Pizza Hut	824-5701
PNC Bank	824-2510
Posy Pot Florist	824-3330
Potters Lawn Service	820-0437
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Primerica Financial Services	494-5483
Print Source	824-3911
Pro Resources Staffing	356-6264
ProFed Credit Union	824-5991
Professional Systems Installations	492-0358
Property Rx	639-4774
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
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R

Radiance Tanning Salon	273-8442
Raymond James Financial Services	824-8070
Rebekkah Hanford Photography	(765) 625-1841
Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana	424-0863
Rem Johnston Printing	824-1528
Renovate Counseling Services	307-5030

Resource Maintenance	824-0866
Rethceif Packaging	622-7200
River Terrace Retirement Comm	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

Scooter's Coffee #1525	946-0122
Senior MoneyLife	296-0437
Shelton Financial Group	436-7006
Sherer, Mr. Roger	824-8308
Simply Clean Microgreens	494-5758
Singleton, Ms. Beth	820-1865
Snider Fleet Solutions	824-4520
Southern Wells Comm Schools ...	(765) 728-5537
Southern Wells FFA	(765) 728-5534
Spherion Staffing	706-5050
Sprunger & Sprunger, Attys at Law	824-0500
Sprunger Title	589-2338
St. Joseph Catholic Church	824-1380
Star Engineering & Machine	824-4825
Star Insurance - Hilb Group	724-3111
State Farm Insurance-Ben Burman	824-1928
State Farm- Erin Daugherty	827-0527
Stealth Partner Group, An Amwins Company	200-6543
Steffen Financial Group	824-8175
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Strategence Capital	236-0385
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Stronghold Glass	824-4715
Studabaker Specialty Woodworks	273-1326
Studio 2190 Salon and Spa	(419) 633-2397
Sturgeon Mechanical	273-1878
Sturgeon Seeding Services	273-5116
Stylus Technologies	888-8953
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Summit Pain Management	7483650
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Swearingen Elder Law	888-9256
Sweet Creations	273-2091
Sweet Obsessions-Bake Shoppe	273-2145
Swiss Village	589-3173
SYM Financial Advisors	403-6928

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Team Mantra Wear	273-0421
Temp-Masters	422-1730
The Bourbon MD	310-9664
The Broken Vessel Sign Co.	273-2780
The Charcuterie Shop	442-1183
The Corner Depot	824-4775
The Dance Co.	356-5542
The Farmhouse Merc.	228-1041
The Garage	273-0600
The Hagerman Group	424-1470
The Hershey Salty Snacks Co.	824-4838
The Hideaway	341-6749
The Literacy Alliance	426-7323
The Mattress & Furniture Store	353-1099
The Nutrition Loft	353-1554

The Parlor City Brewing Co	307-3858
The Wright Insurance Co	(317) 610-3306
Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home	824-3850
Three Oaks Christian School	301-3478
Three Rivers Federal Credit Union	824-0042
Tienda Mexicana La Katty	535-1618
TLC Window & Pressure Washing	525-1765
Tonner Dumpster Services	438-9203
Tonner Transfer Station	296-3499
Topp CPA Firm	589-8778
Town of Markle	758-3193
Town of Ossian	622-4251
Truland Equipment	565-3659
Trusted Solutions Group	622-6000
20/20 Custom Molded Plastics	565-2020
TWN Communications	(813) 891-4700
Two Brothers Generator Sales & Services	638-4514

U

Unique Blue Bar and Grill	827-0756
United Way of Wells County	824-5589

V

VacMan Air Duct Cleaning	273-0313
Valero Renewable Fuels	846-0011
VanAusdall & Farrar	692-2365
Velocity Motors	824-2165

W

Wal-Mart Supercenter	824-0296
WalkerHughes Insurance	824-0513
Wayne Metals	758-4676

WEG Commercial Motors	827-2200
Welches All Vehicle Repair	824-3811
Welder Ingenuity	273-7820
Wells Business Development	820-0113
Wells Community Boys & Girls Club	824-5070
Wells County 4-H Association	824-6412
Wells County Automotive Supply - NAPA	824-4460
Wells County Council on Aging	824-1070
Wells County EMS	827-0166
Wells County Food Bank	827-0053
Wells County Foundation	824-8620
Wells County Historical Society & Museum	824-9956
Wells County Land Title	824-5263
Wells County Lock-Up	824-4887
Wells County Public Library	824-1612
Wells County Republicans	273-1920
Wheeler's Bees	223-7354
WorkOne Northeast	824-0855
WZBD Radio	589-9300

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Yaste Painting & Decorating	824-1242
Yehoshua, Inc	307-2205
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Zap Electric	824-2927
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 Kyle Morphew; Animal Shelter
 Tina Morris; Animal Shelter
 Karen Nash; Building
 Richard Triplett; Building
 Anthony Crowell; City Attorney
 Rick Elwell; City Council
 Blake Fiechter; City Council
 Chandler Gerber; City Council
 Sarah Reed; City Council
 Janella Stronczek; City Council
 Josh Hunt; City Council / BOW
 Scott Mentzer; City Council / BOW
 Jennifer Krinn; City Court/Police
 Robert Bate; City Judge
 Amber Hartman; Clerk Treasurer

Briana Lautzenheiser; Clerk Treasurer
 Anna Wayman; Clerk Treasurer
 Christine Bennett; Dispatch
 Savannah Browning; Dispatch
 Dallas Creager; Dispatch
 Nicholas Fields; Dispatch
 Andrea Garrett; Dispatch
 Courtney Harvey; Dispatch
 Tiffany Leas; Dispatch
 Jayme Miller; Dispatch
 Michael Miller; Dispatch
 Kimberly Noble; Dispatch
 Devin Smith; Dispatch
 Zachary Zeis; Dispatch
 Jessica Beste; Economic Director
 Travis Barnes; Electric

Josh Grandlienard; Electric
 Dick Green; Electric
 Josh Jellison; Electric
 Justin King; Electric
 Kevin King; Electric
 Shawn Miller; Electric
 Matt Moore; Electric
 Ryan Nash; Electric
 Brad Penrod; Electric
 Colin Alberson; Fire
 Kirk Bear; Fire
 Seth Bennett; Fire
 Nathan Bueter; Fire
 Alexander Burkhardt; Fire
 Matthew Burkholder; Fire
 Don Craig; Fire
 Gage Diffee; Fire
 Landon Eads; Fire
 Brian Ehrman; Fire
 Jordan Ehrman; Fire
 Taylon Elzey; Fire
 Dennis Fiscus; Fire
 Timothy Franklin; Fire
 Kaine Garza; Fire
 Kadin Gerber; Fire
 Justin Gerdom; Fire
 Joshua Hall; Fire
 Adam Hannie; Fire
 Jeremy Heckel; Fire
 Michael Henderson; Fire

Caitlin Herndon; Fire
 Brian Hubble; Fire
 Lucas Ash; Fire
 Trenton Markley; Fire
 Brandon Mechling; Fire
 Joshua Moriarity; Fire
 Michael Moriarity; Fire
 Eric Musselman; Fire
 James Platt; Fire
 Abraham Pratt; Fire
 Cameron Rittmeyer; Fire
 Jonathan Templin; Fire
 Ryan Stahly; Fire
 Nicholas Stephens; Fire
 Christopher Templin; Fire
 Chris Wolf; Fire
 Jeremy Wolf; Fire
 Dane Zoda; Fire
 Karen Morris; Information Systems
 Brenda Jackson; Mayor's Office
 John Whicker; Mayor
 Jonah Baumgartner; Park
 Laurie Baumgartner; Park
 Barry Crosbie; Park
 Brandy Fiechter; Park
 Karla Fritts; Park
 David Grimm; Park
 Amy Johnson; Park
 Randy Peeper; Park
 Alex Penrod; Park

Richard Schoenherr; Park
 Susan Campbell; Park Board
 John Gerber; Park Board
 Rick McEvoy; Park Board
 Christine Zadylak; Park Board
 Brent Archbold; Police
 Jason Baker; Police
 Jeffrey Belda; Police
 Ethan Daggett; Police
 Andrew Ellis; Police
 Travis Ford; Police
 Geoffrey Gilbert; Police
 Benjamin Griner; Police
 Marijean Heckel; Police
 Evan Holliday; Police
 Logan House; Police
 Amanda Johnson; Police
 Trae Jojola; Police
 Philip Kurut; Police
 Tyler Lambert; Police
 Justin Pitman; Police
 Kyle Randall; Police
 Josh Smith; Police
 Clifford Thomas; Police
 Trevor Werst; Police
 Todd Chrisman; Street
 William France; Street
 Steven Gase; Street
 Bradley Kelly; Street
 David Robison; Street

Tim Simpson; Street
 Alexander Toth; Street
 Shannon Cale; Utility
 Michelle Collins; Utility
 Michael Ferguson; Utility
 Kimberly Okey; Utility
 Jon Oman; Utility
 Karen Shaffer; Utility
 Steven Bracht; Wastewater
 Gregory Castilow; Wastewater
 Adryan Chacon; Wastewater
 Derrick Deininger; Wastewater
 Todd Durham; Wastewater
 Tony Fey; Wastewater
 Christopher Geisman; Wastewater
 Michael Gillispie; Wastewater
 Collin Mechling; Wastewater
 Charles Michael; Wastewater
 Triston Niblick; Wastewater
 Erin Pezo; Wastewater
 William Vaughn; Wastewater
 Chris Anderson; Water
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Members Getting to Know Members

The Chamber's popular meet-and-greet events give Chamber Members the opportunity to promote themselves and members the chance to get to know each other.

To host a Business Before, During and After Hours event, contact the Chamber office.



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Gatherings

From Jim O'Donnell's annual economic chat to the "State of the City and County," "Turnaround Awards" and Lunch-and Learn events, your Chamber provides opportunities to learn and network throughout the year.



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Ashley Stockwell
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& Communications
ashley.stockwell@nm.com

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Shop Local in Wells County

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce teamed up once again with First Bank of Berne to champion the Shop Local movement in Wells County. Thanks to First Bank of Berne's sponsorship, billboard, newspaper, and radio ads encouraged residents to support local businesses. To boost holiday shopping, the Chamber introduced the Shop Local Passport program, reminding the community to shop small. Local businesses contributed prizes, and First Bank of Berne proudly sponsored the Grand Prize drawing for the initiative.



Julie Thompson was one of many prize winners in the Shop Local Passport promotion

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!

Buying local means more money stays in the community and those businesses often donate to local causes and serve in leadership roles.

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 and 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:

- F&M Bank
- 1st Source Bank
- First Bank of Berne
- Flagstar Bank
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Chamber Hosts Entrepreneurial Meet & Greets

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce began hosting a series of “Entrepreneurial Meet & Greet” events in 2024 and will continue the opportunities, spotlighting two local entrepreneurs at each event, held at their business locations. These gatherings provide an opportunity for attendees to hear inspiring stories of how these entrepreneurs started their ventures, overcame challenges, and achieved success. The events also foster community mentorship, encouraging open dialogue for those considering starting a business or seeking advice to grow their current operations.

By learning from one another, the Chamber aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit within the community and promote ongoing commerce in Wells County.

Each event also features resources designed to support small businesses, offering tools and services to help entrepreneurs launch or elevate their endeavors.

This past year, attendees were inspired by stories from Hugh’s Bakery and Coffeehouse, Team Mantra, Meyer Building, Felger Hart, Archbold & Lewis Insurance, and Toppings Ice Cream Parlor.

These events are open to everyone. To join the invitation list or learn more, contact:

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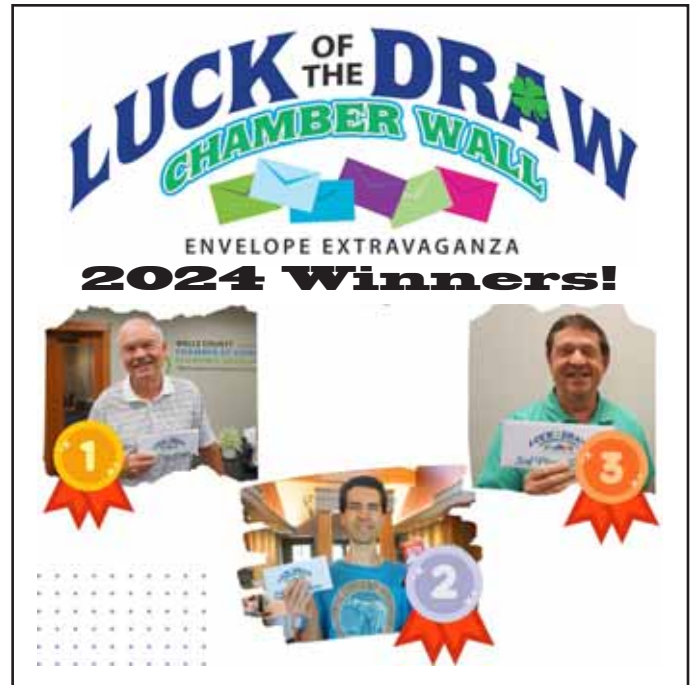
The Chamber's 'Luck of the Draw' Fundraiser Makes a Big Splash!

The Wells County Chamber's newest fundraiser, *The Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall Envelope Extravaganza*, turned heads with its simple concept and big impact! This exciting event featured 200 numbered envelopes displayed on a wall, and participants could buy any number they wished. The twist? Your name was entered into the drawing the same number of times as the envelope number you purchased. For example, if you bought envelope #155 for \$155, your name went into the drawing 155 times!

And the prizes? Even more thrilling! The top prizes were \$1,000 in Chamber Bucks for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd, and \$250 for 3rd. But the fun didn't stop there — nearly \$3,000 worth of prizes were purchased to create exciting gift baskets from local retailers. After the top three winners were drawn, the remaining names got to choose from the baskets on a first-come, first-pick basis.

"This was a lot of fun! I have been following along on Facebook and the Chamber did a great job promoting the event. The prizes were awesome. We really appreciate it." — Pam Tuttle.

"We got our whole office involved and passed out tickets so everyone could participate. It was a lot of fun this year and we really enjoyed it. Thank you for putting this on." — Sophia



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With plans to make the event even bigger in 2025, the Chamber will launch the next round in April, running through June. Stay tuned by visiting www.wellscoc.com and following us on Facebook for daily updates!

Don't miss out on the fun—get ready for the 2025 Luck of the Draw Chamber Wall Envelope Extravaganza!



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Teeing Up Success: The Best Annual

The Annual Chamber Golf Expo on August 1, 2024, at Brookwood Golf Club was a hole-in-one! With 40 teams and nearly 200 participants, it was the biggest and best event to date. "This event could not be made possible without the outstanding support from the business community participating with teams, sponsorships, donations, and volunteering," said Erin Prible, Chamber Executive Director. "We can't say thank you enough for the continued support to make this one of the best events."

The Golf Expo transformed the course into a lively business expo, where Tee Station sponsors engaged with golfers through games, great food, and networking. Major sponsors played a key role in making the day memorable. Special recognition goes to Edge Manufacturing as the Prize Sponsor, Heartland REMC as the Mulligan Sponsor, American Axle & Manufacturing of Bluffton as the Beverage Sponsor, Hiday Motors as the Photo Sponsor, and a fantastic lineup of Golf Cart Sponsors including DR Horton, HomeCourt Home Care, IMI, James S Jackson, Lowes, Outdoor Concepts, Property RX, Ruoff Mortgage, SYM Financial Advisors, and Trusted Solutions Group.

Mark your calendars for the 38th Annual Chamber Golf Expo on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Brookwood Golf Club. Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary event!



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Member Appreciation Day

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Wells County Drug Taskforce Drives Awareness, Education, and Support

The Wells County Drug Taskforce Committee has been working diligently throughout the year to implement strategies focused on community awareness, education, and support programs for youth, parents, and employers. Over 20 dedicated members meet monthly to brainstorm and execute initiatives that address substance use and its prevention.

During the recent school registration period, a grant from the Wells County Foundation funded the deployment of the **Hidden in Plain Sight** trailer at all three county schools.



Wells County Drug Task Force: Front row: Rachel Reinhard, Hattie Wondercheck, Jinny Broderick, Stacy Morrison, Angie Topp, Erin Prible, Valerie Runyon, Sue Dickason. Back row: John Johnson, Heather Baumgartner, Ben Renkenberger, Michael Lautzenheiser, Trent Lehman, Chad Bradley, Joe Dickason, Anna Murphy. Not pictured: Kari Adams, Vicki Andrews, Lisa Antrim, Wendy Bailey, Steve Baker, Josh Barkley, Garrett Bucher, Bethanie Burns, Carla Castro, Kim Conner, Angie Dial, Stephanie Eddy, Brenda Funk, Jason Habegger, Sam Haiflich, Paige Hamilton, Molly Hoag, Josh Hunt, Jessica Killingbeck, Holly Morgan, John Reinhard, Lane Sander, Jeff Stineburg, Jeff Stringer, Janella Stroncsek, Christine Walker, Mark Wilson, Brad Yates, Andy Yergler.



Designed to educate parents and caregivers, the trailer replicates a teenager's bedroom and highlights both positive influences (assets like music, family, or sports) and risk factors (items associated with substance use, such as vapes, alcohol, and marijuana).

"You'd be surprised at how everyday items can be transformed into hiding spots for paraphernalia," said committee member Erin Prible. "Many parents were shocked to discover how easily substances can be concealed and purchased online. Awareness, asking ques-

tions, and understanding these risks are key to saving lives."

Expanding Training and Resources

This year, several committee members completed training through the **Ship Happens** program. The training equips participants to educate employers and organizations on using Narcan, an opioid overdose reversal medication, and emphasizes the importance of preparedness in saving lives. Free Narcan is available locally at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce and The Thrift Store in Bluffton, which serve as distribution sites.

If you or someone you know needs help, support groups and resources are available within the community. Contact

Mark Your Calendars!
Recovery on the River
 August 24, 2025
 Kehoe Park

The event begins with a 5K run at 1:30 p.m., followed by music, keynote speakers, resource vendors, and food trucks from 2 to 6 p.m. This free event is open to all and aims to promote recovery and community support.

the Wells County Chamber of Commerce for assistance in connecting with these services.

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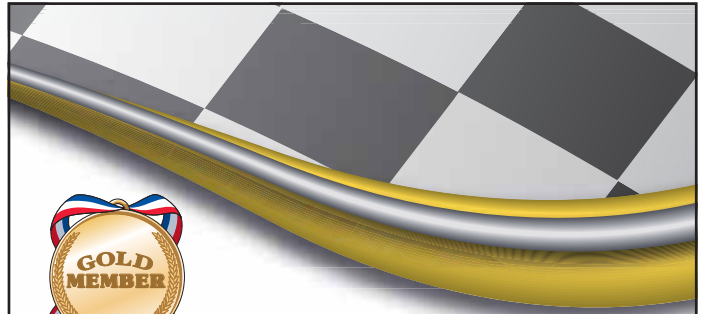
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United Way of Wells County

Ben Renkenberger
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Community Foundation

Wells County Foundation

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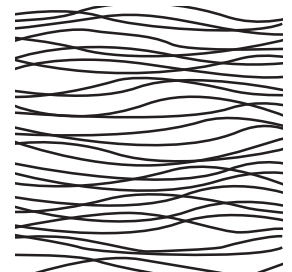
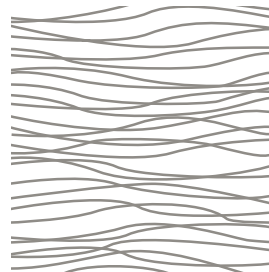
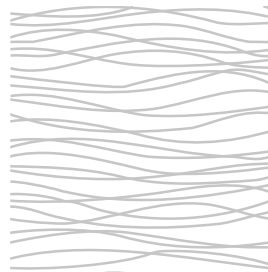
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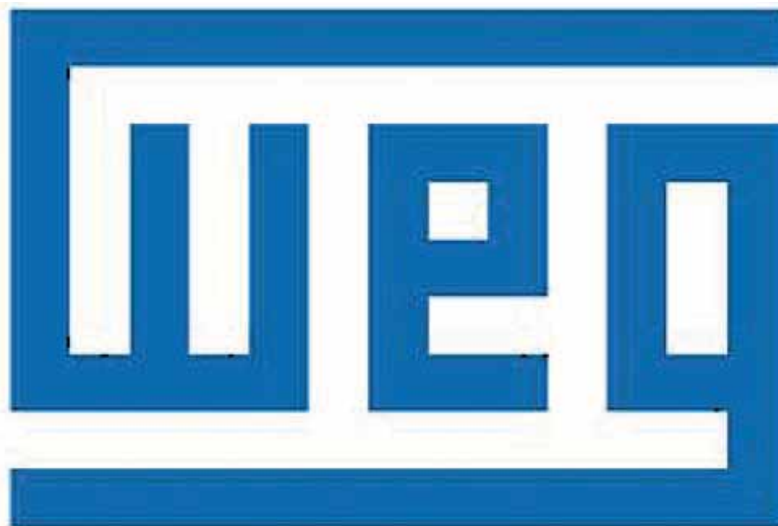
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