

CELEBRATING EFFINGHAM'S
GROWTH OVER THE YEAR

Progress

2020 EDITION

FROM VISION
TO IMPACT



Rick Siemer
Karen Luchtefeld
Jeff Speer

VISION
2020

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

IMPACT
2030



Lisa Teichmiller
Michael Nosbisch
Abbey Nosbisch

Innovation and Quality coming together



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We continually seek ways to elevate the care we provide to all those who come through our doors. ***How do we do it?*** We concentrate on innovative renovations, expanding our services, upgrading our technology, and collaborating with physicians and

surrounding communities. ***We invested over \$16.8 million in capital to our facilities and equipment improvements this year.***

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We continue to expand our outreach efforts as we offered Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine to more schools in our service area. This

program puts an athletic trainer in the school during sport events to evaluate and manage injuries and concussions. Another means of outreach is through our HSHS Home Care and Hospice services. This service reaches across 27 counties in southern Illinois, with over 111,000 annual visits to patients to ensure they are safe and cared for in their homes.

As an identified need for our community's health, we have collaborated with Heartland Human Services, to provide an on-site provider and telemedicine services to support those with behavioral health issues.

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PAYROLL



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\$7.2 million

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CAPITAL

St. Anthony's continues to make capital improvements to update and improve our facilities and purchase new medical equipment.

\$16.8 million

St. Anthony's continually takes steps to boost the local economy and advance health care services offered to the residents of this region. Through capital spending, St. Anthony's generates over **\$40 million** for our local and state economy per year.



PURCHASED GOODS & SERVICES

\$64 million



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AN EFFINGHAM DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

COVER STORY



Alex Wright, from left, moderates a panel discussion with Dieterich Village Clerk and Economic Development Coordinator Brittny Gipson, Dr. Michelle Braddy of Family Medicine and Dieterich Medical Center and Mark Probst, owner of Probst Auto Body, during a Vision 2020 Community Celebration of Excellence Breakfast last year in Dieterich.

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ON THE COVER:

Three members of Vision 2020 initiative: Rick Siemer, Karen Luchtefeld and Jeff Speer. On the backside, three members of the new Impact 2030 group: Lisa Teichmiller, Michael Nosbisch and Abbey Nosbisch. Portraits by Chet Piotrowski, Jr. / Piotrowski Studios.

From the Editor

Progress Magazine has always had an eye on the past while trying to gaze into the future. This year the staff of the Effingham Daily News had a timely opportunity to sharpen that focus. As “Vision 2020” comes to a close, a new initiative called “Impact 2030” is kicking off.

Vision 2020 began in 2005 as a guideline to bring specific qualities together for Effingham County residents and proactively build a culture that maximizes individual potential, imagination and cooperation. It was made up of 40 county residents who created a playbook designed like a wheel with spokes that focused on topics such as health care, job creation and retention, culture, arts and leisure, community values; retail and tourism; infrastructure and natural resources; and governance.



Now, 15 years later, the torch has been passed into a new initiative as a new group looks ahead toward 2030. During the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce gala held in mid-January, President and

CEO Norma Lansing encouraged people to continue their efforts.

“It takes all of us working together, connecting our ideas, our resources and our leadership to make sure that the community we live in is the very best that it can be – so we can live, play and enjoy,” Lansing

told the crowd at the Thelma Keller Convention Center.

Read more about Vision 2020 and Impact 2030 throughout the pages of the 2020 edition of Progress.

We also take a look at recent accomplishments in communities across Effingham County, and take a peak at what’s ahead for them.

Jeff Long

Jeff Long is the editor of the Effingham Daily News and the Shelbyville Daily Union. A 1987 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, he has worked for newspapers in England, Pennsylvania and Virginia. For 13 years, he was a reporter and later an editor at the Chicago Tribune. He lives in Altamont with his wife, Karen.

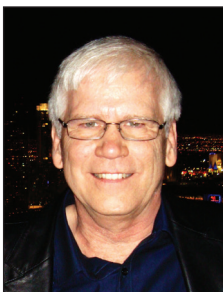
Staff Bios



Cathy Griffith is news editor of the Effingham Daily News. She is a 1998 graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She has worked at the Daily News for 18 years in news and magazine publications. She is a lifelong resident of Effingham, where she resides with her husband, Tim, and daughter, Leah.



Crystal Reed is a staff reporter for the Effingham Daily News who covers towns in the eastern coverage area such as Teutopolis, Dieterich, Montrose, Neoga and Sigel. She is a graduate of Richland Community College and Eastern Illinois University with degrees in journalism. She is originally from Decatur, Illinois.



Charles Mills is reporter and videographer for the Effingham Daily News. A 1983 graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, he is the son of a south-central Illinois newspaper publisher, worked as master control director for a St. Louis television station, assistant video editor at a video editing facility on Music Row specializing in music-videos, served as senior video editor for a Nashville television station and learned the art of computerized video editing while living in Hollywood, California in the middle 80s. Mills is a native of Vandalia, where he lives with his wife, Zoryana.



Dawn Schabbing is a senior reporter at the Effingham Daily News, devoted to special projects, while also covering Effingham City Hall, Effingham Unit 40 and the community. A graduate of Lake Land College and Eastern Illinois University with degrees in journalism, she has worked in the newspaper field for more than two decades. She previously worked in news and features at the Journal Gazette and Times-Courier newspapers in the Mattoon and Charleston areas. She lives in Neoga with her husband, Paul.



Kaitlin Cordes is a reporter for the Effingham Daily News, covering Effingham County and law enforcement. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Eastern Illinois University in May 2018. During college, she spent two summers as an intern at the EDN. Cordes is a native of Effingham, where she lives with her mother, Kayla, and sister, Kourtney.

FROM VISION TO IMPACT

By Dawn Schabbing

Community members
creating a guide to 2030

Good things come for a community when people join forces, pool resources, and share forward-thinking ideas.

An initiative called Vision 2020 began in 2005 as a guideline to bring specific qualities together for Effingham County residents and proactively build a culture that maximizes individual potential, imagination and cooperation.

A group of 40 county residents came together and breathed life into communities when they created a playbook in the design of a wheel with spokes that each focused on topics such as health care; job creation and retention; culture, arts and leisure; community values; retail and tourism; infrastructure and natural resources; and governance.

Now, 15 years later, the torch has been passed into a new initiative as a new group looks ahead toward 2030.

During the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce gala held in mid-January, President and CEO Norma Lansing encouraged people to continue their efforts.

"It takes all of us working together, connecting our ideas, our resources and our leadership to make sure that the community we live in is the very best that it can be — so we can live, play and enjoy," Lansing told the crowd at the Thelma Keller Convention Center.

And it appears Vision 2020 and now "Impact 2030: Beyond the Vision" are paying off.

Lansing said the Effingham County Chamber recently learned this county is only one of nine counties in Illinois that has gained population in the past 10 years.

"In 2005, we had a vision of what Effingham County would look like in 2020," said Lansing. "Those efforts have resulted in significant accomplishments."

Those accomplishments include The Effingham Performance Center, Effingham Artisan Fair, TREC Trail, Richard E. Workman Sports & Wellness Complex and Effingham County CEO program. Other projects included obtaining signage for 911 throughout Effingham County and creating



Photo by Dawn Schabbing
Mitch Cox, 15, of Charleston reads over lines before the audition of "Willy Wonka Jr." at the EPC.

Teutopolis Community for Progress.

Today Impact 2030 brings together people who want to work together, continuing ideas from Vision 2020. Led by the Creative Learning Culture, the new initiative asserts networking and communicating between organizations is vital leading into the next decade and beyond.

Chelle Beck, Unit 40 curriculum director, said the Creative Learning Culture was an avenue from Vision 2020. It includes six teams working to bring projects to fruition during this next decade. Other areas of concentration for Impact 2030 involve keeping people healthy, protecting the environment, and creating a strong, connected and vibrant community.

"City and county officials wanted to be very intentional about economic development in Effingham County," said Beck, a team member.

Now, there is a team working on Impact 2030 and a steering committee that will

continue the work to help Effingham County be the best it can be, she said. Those efforts began in 2017.

Astrid Hutchison, a marketing leader for Impact 2030, said the newer group will carry out the same mission as Vision 2020, but with different specific goals due to the different challenges the community faces today.

There are projects on their radar, she said, with goals of completion by 2030.

In a promotional video encouraging others to get involved with Impact 2030, Hutchison encourages people to jump on board to help make Effingham County "an even better place to live."

"We want you to be a dreamer with us," said Hutchison. "What are some things you'd like to see in this community by 2030, so you and your kids can thrive here?"

Game Changer

Members of Impact 2030 went through four days of training at the Thelma Keller Convention Center with the Pacific Institute, based in Seattle. Lisa Teichmiller was among others who said the training was a game changer for her.

Lisa has been involved with the group since it was formed about two years ago. Her husband, Bill Teichmiller, was part of Vision 2020.

The two are joining together for Impact 2030. They are interested in helping strengthen communities within Effingham County, not only economically, but as great places to live and work for future generations.

Lisa Teichmiller is a member of the Creative Learning Culture team, which she calls a perfect fit for her.

"I have attended two of these personal growth sessions and would advise those who wish to lead or serve others with a positive outcome to consider attending one of these training sessions," said Lisa Teichmiller. "They do not come around that often, but they bring like-minded people together who want to produce and bring excellence to Effingham County."

Looking ahead, she feels confident the efforts being applied in Impact 2030 will benefit Effingham County.

“When people join together and truly collaborate ... you are always going to generate energy towards something magical,” said Lisa Teichmiller. “Bill and I truly love our community and the amazing people who live here. We are truly blessed and fortunate that our younger generation is eager to participate with YBNEXT and with many of their members involved with Impact 2030.”

The training program for Vision 2020 member Jeffrey Speer was also a game changer.

Speer, who is managing broker and co-owner of RE/MAX Key Advantage, recalled the first meeting and being in a room with many people he knew and trusted, all participating in a brainstorming exercise.

“The fun part was that everyone was exchanging ideas and even though it was the same question for everyone, there were so many diverse answers,” said Speer. “What Vision 2020 gave to me was a way to live your life in a more balanced and productive fashion ... this allowed me to become a much more constructive person in our Effingham community.”

Speer added while the initiative began as a self-improvement exercise for him, later it made him a more community-involved citizen.

“I believe Effingham County is one of the best ‘get it done’ areas that I have lived in – or seen,” said Speer. “I believe that Vision 2020 enhanced that and gave everyone involved a deeper sense of cooperation and trust in the people in our community.”

Another Vision 2020 participant, Rick Siemer, President of Siemer Milling Company in Teutopolis, said he opted to bring the same experience to his business, which benefited the company.

Vision 2020 was intended to be a catalyst for people to follow their own ideas.

“The idea was to let 1,000 flowers bloom,” said Siemer. “Everybody has a great idea. But what makes a difference is when someone with such passion says, ‘This is what I think will make Effingham a better place.’ So much good has happened in this community and this program has been an encouragement.”

The training emphasizes different, more positive ways of thinking, he said. It teaches you to look at the possibilities and the opportunities and affirm ‘you can do this,’ said Siemer. Still today, he said some off-shoot results from those early discussions remain constant in the county.



Top: Two young people walk along TREC's Calico Trail, as shown in this Daily News file photo
Above: Several pieces of ADA regulated playground equipment is nearly ready for the public to try out. The Harmony Playground is tentatively opening in late August. Dawn Schabbing photo

“The affirmations contribute to a visualization of what your ideal environment is,” said Siemer. “At the end of the four days, those participating in this training were very impressed and enthused. But, you have to continue and you have to recreate how you think and how you act.”

The Pacific Institute

A catalyst to Vision 2020, Lansing said, came in 2003 when the City of Effingham was concerned about the impending closure of a major manufacturer, Quebecor World, that would lead to the loss of hun-

dreds of jobs.

“Back then, the city, the county and the chamber got together to discuss how we could lessen the impact on the community,” said Lansing. “That led us to the idea of a countywide visioning effort.”

She said they looked at Decatur, which had faced a similar manufacturing crisis and appreciated its approach that focused on training people to envision their own success first – rather than going through a traditional visioning exercise, which many times ends up going unused.

They learned about The Pacific Institute



Kaitlin Cordes photo
Left: Megan Young holds up her painting during the annual CSS art auction during the first night of the Artisan Fair.

Dawn Schabbing photo
Bottom: Michael Skelly of Charleston auditions for a part in "Willy Wonka Jr." at the EPC during theater camp.



and how it helped Decatur.

"During the training at that time, we discussed broad county goals – we called them spokes, due to our transportation heritage in Effingham – and each spoke encouraged celebrating successes. Out of this came our semi-annual Community Celebration of Excellence Breakfasts."

"Caterpillar in Decatur had utilized a process that was different and it was so successful in improving the productivity in that plant, the plant manager championed it and brought the city's attention to it," said Siemer. "As a result, the City of Decatur changed to an optimistic attitude and things

began to change back then."

Siemer said Decatur had bought into The Pacific Institute's way and Effingham wanted to apply some of those same techniques.

A couple years after the city's efforts, Siemer Milling Company decided every person in the company should have the same training. That's still in place today, but the new challenge is to keep the training fresh.

"We decided we wanted to move ourselves according to this kind of affirmation and visualization," said Siemer. "I think we have put a number of items together based

on this. You don't get everyone moving along at the same speed, but ideally you start with your key players."

In the past 12 years, Siemer Milling Company has enjoyed its most successful business years in its history, the president of the company said.

"We have historically been extremely profitable," Siemer. "We have expanded our production capacities by over 70 percent."

Community Involvement

Lansing said Vision 2020 began as a grassroots effort – not a written, step-by-step plan. In doing so, those participating found it helped their individual creativity take root, as well.

"There wasn't an overarching group overseeing the various efforts, and sometimes things fell by the wayside if there wasn't someone to keep a project moving forward," said Lansing. "But, on the other hand, many people were able to take TPI training concepts and use them personally to impact their families and their companies."

The initiative began with communities in Effingham County contributing financially and from private donations. The main funding was to bring in The Pacific Institute to train 40 community leaders and as some seed money for projects, Lansing said. Those municipalities supporting the effort were Effingham County, City of Effingham, Teutopolis, Altamont, Beecher City and Dieterich.

"We continue to raise funds annually to support the breakfasts, training and community initiatives. This type of funding approach will continue as we transition to Impact 2030," Lansing said.

Lansing said the work continues with the new group.

"We need to keep looking to the future to continue taking advantage of the good things we have and not lose opportunities because we are not prepared," said Lansing. "A small group of interested citizens started the journey . . . but it isn't one community project. We all have a stake and vested interest in the future success of Effingham County. It is up to us to educate and sell the vision to all."



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HSHS St. Anthony's Emergency Department Renovation: The Evolution of Emergency Care

The delivery of health care is always changing. Safety guidelines and regulations are updated and the patients and their families request high-quality care in a private, convenient and comfortable setting. That is why HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital undertook a renovation of their Emergency Department from January 2018 through August 2019.

Director of Emergency Services, Convenient Care and Respiratory Care Deb Murbarger shared why the hospital invested in this renovation. "The current Emergency Department (ED) opened in 1992. The delivery of health care has changed drastically over the 25 years since the previous design of the ED was completed. While it was state-of-the-art then, we wanted to make improvements to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of the department," she explained. "Our focus was on making sure the over 24,000 annual visitors to our ED and their families have the highest quality care in the most comfortable, safe environment possible."

Most noticeably, the renovation included an expansion of the department, taking its square footage from approximately 8,000 square feet to 13,000 square feet. The increased footprint of the department allowed for the creation of 17 private rooms – the same number of beds in the previous ED but they were

semi-private rooms. The new private rooms allow patients to receive confidential care, particularly helpful when providers consult with specialized medical providers via telemedicine.

The newly renovated department also has improved patient and visitor safety while enhancing their experience. The Security office was relocated to the entrance of the ED to help provide safety oversight for patients, colleagues and physicians. To increase the safety and security of all of our patients, the updated department also includes private patient triage and registration functions that include the repositioning of the nurses' station, allowing staff to have a line-of-sight to each patient treatment area. Murbarger shared, "This new design allows our physicians, advanced practice providers (nurse practitioners and physician assistants), nurses and technicians to have a watchful eye on all patients in our ED, as well as have a workflow to efficiently care for the multiple patients under their care. While our Emergency Department is located in a smaller community, our location at the intersection of two major interstates means that we have the possibility of treating a larger population than what is in our area," she said.

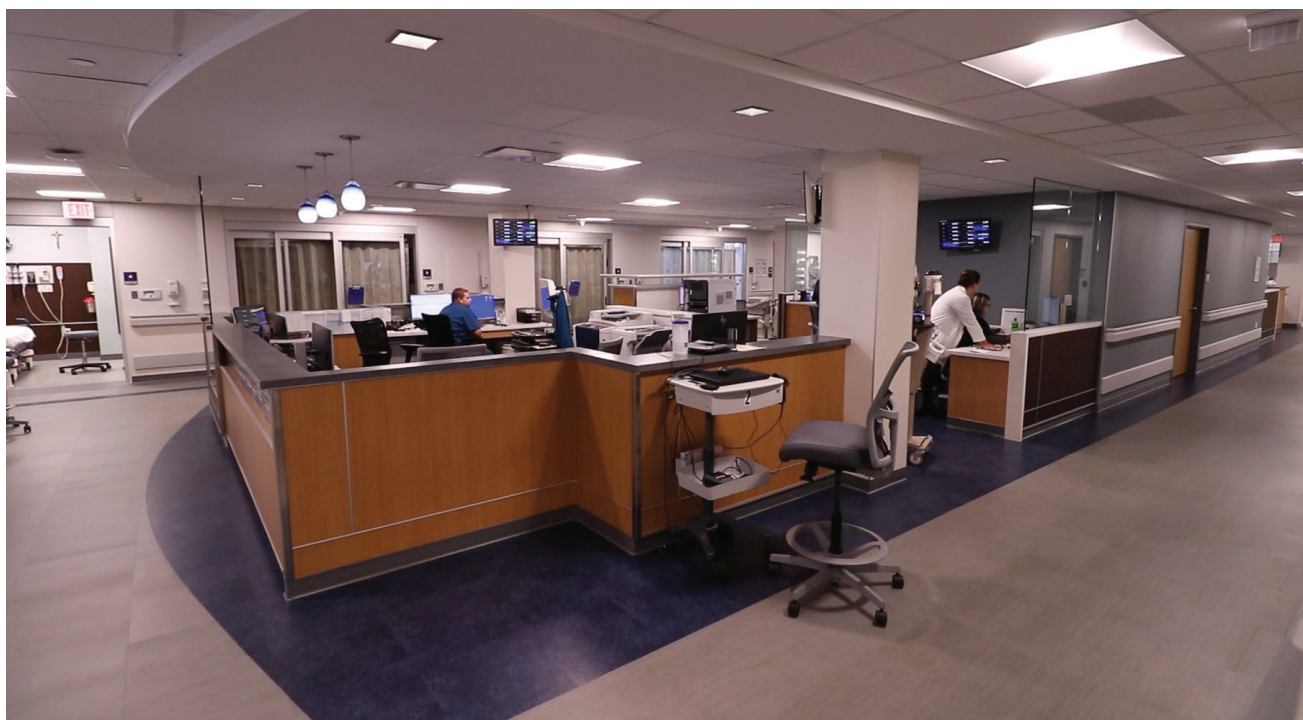
The safety of those with behavioral health issues and preparing for potential contaminants were also two concerns

that led to some of the renovations.

Murbarger explained, "The new renovation also includes new rooms designed to help keep behavioral health patients safe, fully equipped with special furnishings and equipment to keep them from harming themselves," she said. "We have also added two negative pressure rooms for quicker isolation of contagious patients, and have enhanced decontamination capability by creating an additional entrance for contaminated patients."

Deciding what changes needed to be implemented in the renovation was the result of listening to those who use it. "The biggest challenge in providing care is to give patients the experience they want from their provider. We listened to the voices of our patients, their family members, colleagues, and medical providers – all involved asked for more privacy, better workflow and increased safety for patients and colleagues," said Murbarger. "We are excited to have this newer, modern Emergency Department, designed with the patient in mind, while also increasing efficiency and safety. The new renovation benefits both our patients and health care providers alike."

For more information, check out stanthonyseffingham.org/emergency-department-effingham.



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"The business was started over four decades ago in Dieterich by my father, Floyd," said Cathy Bierman, who currently runs the business. "We've been in our current location in Effingham for 18 years."

Floyd still works part time in the shop, along with Bierman's sons Zak and Kurt.

The business has grown over the years with an emphasis on security and surveillance systems. An incident with the company's founder actually led to the creation of the business.

"Floyd ran an appliance store in Dieterich," said Cathy. "Someone broke into the business, so he installed his first security system in that business."

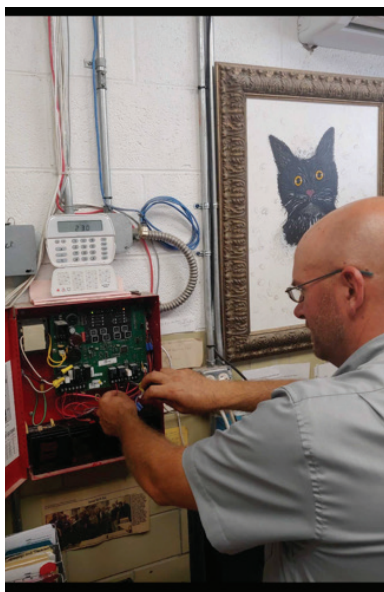
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Village of Greenup

Greenup, Illinois, is an opportunity to step back in time and see a simpler way of life, while never leaving the amenities to which we have become accustomed. Platted by William C. Greenup in 1834, while he served in a supervisory capacity on the National Road, Greenup has a rich and interesting history. Residents and visitors alike can appreciate Greenup for its numerous elements of charm.

The village of Greenup is a small community of just over 1,500 residents, located along interstate 70 and at the junction of Illinois Route 130 and Illinois Route 121. The National Road, US Route 40, runs through the southern edge of Greenup as well providing another source of tourism and transportation. Greenup is strategically located 23 miles to the east of Effingham, 25 miles to the south east of Mattoon, and 16 miles south of Charleston, providing residents with numerous options for dining, entertainment and employment all within a short commute.

That is not to say that Greenup doesn't have an impressive offering of these services itself, particularly given its size! Greenup boasts a local winery, numerous antique stores, a state of the art Love's

Travel Center, several restaurants, and many small shops to frequent. The locals appreciate that they have their own grocery store, and various convenience options should they not want to travel. The school district, located outside of town, prepares students to become productive citizens; people wishing to pursue higher education or learn a trade have access to Eastern Illinois University and Lake Land Community College, both less than an hour's commute from the community. The largest employer in Greenup is by far Evapco, employing over 400 skilled workers, building high end industrial AC and refrigeration units that are utilized around the world!

Within the village proper, Greenup has 8 restaurants to provide a variety of choices. After dinner, residents or visitors can treat themselves to a unique downtown experience with the view of the store fronts which provide Greenup its title, "The Village of Porches". The porches have a style that would be perhaps as much at home in 1880's New Orleans as a rural community in Illinois, and they give visitors an enjoyable look at the beauty of historic architecture in the area. For those interested in seeing

beautiful architecture up close, Greenup is also home to a modern covered bridge, built in 2000 and boasting no weight restriction on its use. The Greenup covered bridge has an observation deck as well as a nature trail along the banks of the Embarrass River. History lovers will enjoy that the original covered bridge that had occupied the site, used timbers laid by Abe and Thomas Lincoln. Of course, being the land of Lincoln, the ties to the Lincoln family don't end with the bridge. Greenup is just south of the famed Lincoln Log Cabin, home to the Lincoln's after they moved to Illinois, as well as the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery, the final resting place of Abraham's father and step-mother.

For those looking to make an extended trip of their visit to Greenup, there are options from which to choose. Greenup has two motels as well as a new bed and breakfast in a restored historical building along the National Road. During that extended stay, visitors may want to visit our two local museums or take in one of the two local parks. Whatever your reason for visiting, Greenup has your needs and your comfort covered.





Historic GREENUP, IL

I-70
EXIT 119

www.villageofgreenup.com
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7 Days A Week 7am-8pm

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Greenup American Legion
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(217) 923-5308

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**Cumberland Co. Historical Society
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(217) 923-9306

**Cumberland Co. Historical Society
Illinois Military Museum**
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(217) 923-9306
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AirBnB.com

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Greenup Chamber of Commerce
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Fri. thru Sun 4:00 to 10:00
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June 26, 2020

Greenup Fall Festival
September 23-26, 2020

Cumberland County Fair
August 15-22, 2020

Hootenanny
1st Saturday of the Month

Halloween Celebration
October 24, 2020

Santa House Opens
December (TBD)

JACKSON TRUSS COVERED BRIDGE



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital - Committed to Excellence, Collaboration and Innovation

As the new 2020 decade begins, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is proud of our growth and development to benefit those who choose us for their health care. Our Mission is "to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry."

The advancements made at HSHS St. Anthony's this past year are the result of a common dedication to this Mission, combined with a commitment to excellence, collaboration and innovation. Together, St. Anthony's was able to achieve the following health care advances, benefitting the residents of this region:

Enhanced Clinical Quality and Service

At HSHS St. Anthony's, we are proud of our achievements in clinical quality and service for our community:

- We are one of two hospitals in the State of Illinois and the only hospital in downstate Illinois to have achieved The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement.

- We are extremely pleased to receive the 2019 IMEC Recognition Program Silver Award for Excellence. This award is a demonstration of our hospital's teamwork and con-



tinuous journey in elevating the care we provide.

- We have been named a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement. This demonstrates our expertise in total knee and total hip replacement surgeries, resulting in fewer patient complications and hospital readmissions.

Physical Growth for You

We are always working towards more convenient, patient-focused care. St. Anthony's makes improvements to bring health care to you where you need it, and in comfortable, private settings.

- We invested in our infrastructure by building a \$13.7 million Health Center in Effingham for the convenience of our patients.

- We also completed a \$7.5 million renovation of our Emergency Department to care for our population now and in the future (you can read more about this renovation in this issue).

Expanding Services and Specialties

St. Anthony's continues to expand the services and specialties offered so that people can receive high-quality care close to home and close to their family.

- We have expanded our HSHS Home Care and Hospice services across 27 counties in southern Illinois, with over 111,000 annual visits to patients to ensure they are safe and cared for in their homes.

- We have added new physicians this

past year to our Medical Staff including a new orthopedic surgeon Dr. Scott Urch with the addition of another orthopedic surgeon joining him this year. We added a much-needed specialty to our Medical Staff with the addition of Dr. Kevin Calder, a surgeon specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Excellence through Collaboration

Collaboration plays an essential role on any excellence journey. On our journey towards excellence, we have undertaken several collaborative efforts that allow us to expand access to care for the communities we serve.

- We have six Diagnostic Centers in various communities in partnership with local providers to provide testing services for their patients, located in Altamont, Teutopolis, Neoga, and a new office location in Newton this past year in the new Newton Medical Complex. We are currently working with HSHS Medical Group to place a seventh Diagnostic Center in the primary care office they are building in Mattoon.

- Collaboration is crucial in meeting needs identified in our Community Health Needs Assessment. Through our partnership with Effingham Catholic Charities, Crisis Nursery of Effingham County, and area school districts, we can assist the underserved to help improve the health of the community:

- We continue our partnership with Effingham Catholic Charities through community benefit support of their





Emergency Prescription Assistance, the Community Diabetes Program, food pantry milk donations and healthy food bags, and the Dental Voucher program.

- We provide support to Crisis Nursery of Effingham County to provide lunches for the kids they serve and some of their operating expenses so they can have this island of safety for families in crisis.

- We assist area school districts in a variety of ways, by providing School Wellness Programs for their 3rd grade students and helping meet state health regulations by offering CPR classes to high school students as well as conducting their school hearing and vision testing as required by law.

Innovative Practices

Innovation is essential in the excel-



lence journey of any organization but can be especially important in health care in providing much-needed services. For example:

- **Increasing Access to Care.** Access to behavioral health services has been an ongoing concern for the Effingham area. To help alleviate gaps in behavioral health care, we had to think innovatively to be able to provide behavioral care to those who need it. St. Anthony's partnered with Heartland Human Services to provide funding for a telemedicine psychiatrist, as well as provide nursing support for the program. This support supplements Heartland Human Services (HHS) outpatient counseling services.

The need was so great that a year after the program's launch, the telemedicine psychiatrist expanded his hours and we expanded our partnership with HHS to place a full-time, on-site provider within Heartland's facility – Andrea Cutler, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Besides providing much-needed care for those struggling with mental illness in our community, this supports our area health care providers by providing a resource for their patients dealing with complex and severe mental illness.

- **Saving Lives Through Innovation.** Most notably, we have put innovative processes in place to improve the care of patients with sepsis and save lives across the region. Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

Sepsis can be treated when symptoms

are identified rapidly enough. Much like a heart attack, time is a critical factor. To give patients the highest chance of survival, our team developed processes to quickly identify patients with sepsis and then rapidly provide the essential treatments. Since our journey began in 2015, over 500 lives have been saved across our region and sepsis mortality has decreased from 15 percent to less than four percent.

Because of these efforts, we were awarded an Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) Innovation Challenge Partners in Progress Award. Through this, we worked with IHA to bring our quality improvement project about our "Journey to Sepsis Improvement" to another hospital in the state – Washington County Hospital in Nashville, IL – so that they can make changes to be able to identify and treat sepsis quickly to save more lives.

All of these are just a few of the ways that HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital took more steps on our journey of continuous performance improvement to advance the care provided to area residents over the past year. The commitment of our hospital colleagues and physicians, and the collaborative nature of our community allows St. Anthony's to grow, continually enhancing the care provided to the region and making a difference in the lives of all that we serve.

For more information about HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, visit the hospital's website at stanthonyhospital.org.

CREATING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

By Charles Mills

Creating business opportunities has always been the goal of local leaders to keep Effingham a thriving community.

Led by President and CEO Norma Lansing, the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce encourages new business in Effingham County through its Business Outreach Center.

"It is a complementary service of the chamber," Lansing said. "We have been doing this for four years now."

"This is more of a service type of program where we are pairing people who want to start a business," Lansing said. "We help people who are trying to buy an existing business or take a business they already have, grow it or move it in a different direction."

Lansing said most of the people the chamber works with just want to start a business. To help those people, the chamber uses an application process. A volunteer intake team evaluates the applications and determines what needs they may have to start a business.

She said some people are just looking for money and go to a bank for a loan with no business plan. The bank will then refer that person to Chamber Outreach Center for help developing a plan.

"We go through the intake process with them to clarify their business goals," Lansing said. "Maybe there are specific parts of the business plan they need to emphasize."

Lansing said the intake team submits a profile of a client's future businesses needs. She then works with volunteers to select one or two mentors to assist them.

"If they need a marketing person, we set them up with a marketing person," Lansing said. "If someone wants to start a restaurant, we will find someone who has that experience."

Lansing said if the chamber does not have a volunteer in its database who has



Photos by Charles Mills

Certified Enneagram Professional Teresa McCloy, business coach, speaker and trainer, has her home-based business south of Altamont and uses AXIS as her Effingham office to meet clients.

experience in a certain area, they will reach out to someone in the community who does have the experience to help.

"Currently, we have about 20 matches taking place," Lansing said. "We've had a lot of interest since the first part of December."

She said if a potential business needs more professional help, like finding an attorney or certified public accountant, they would guide them in the right direction.

"Our function is just to get their business off the ground," Lansing said. "When they get to the point where they are needing professional assistance, then we help them find somebody and step out of it at that point in time."

Lansing said the chamber helped get Gopher's Grill in downtown Effingham off the ground, as well as Heartland Health Foods.

While the current program is only a few years old, Lansing said the chamber has

been providing such services for much longer.

"We've been providing this service for just about 30 years back when the Small Business Centers were active," Lansing said.

The Small Business Centers were run through community colleges. When state funding collapsed about three years ago, the centers were one of the services cut.

Lansing said new business startups can now take advantage of physical space in downtown Effingham, Dieterich, Newton and Teutopolis through the Effingham Regional Incubator Network created six years ago.

One of those spaces, AXIS@109 West, opened its doors in December in downtown Effingham.

AXIS is a shared workspace area located in a downtown storefront to create a collaborative environment for anyone



AXIS@109 West is a membership-based shared workspace available for business startups, home-based entrepreneurs and traveling business professionals to name a few.

wanting to pursue business opportunities in Effingham.

Effingham Regional Incubator Network Board member Bob Schultz believes the program has a special role in the community.

“Shared workspace is a growing concept for office needs for both companies and individuals,” Schultz said. “It provides a focused business and networking environment for remote workers, independent contractors and entrepreneurs.”

Schultz said it was evident such a place was needed in downtown Effingham after members of the Incubator Network created a focus group to determine the needs and opportunities for startup businesses and the professional community.

“From there, we toured similar-type spaces in St. Louis, Terre Haute and Champaign,” Schultz said. “This is something that has been popular in larger cities since the last decade and grown dramatically in the last few years.”

“It is estimated that 30 percent of all new business base by 2030 will be utilizing shared workspace,” Schultz said.

Schultz said the demand for shared workspace is due to how Millennial and Gen X business owners of the future embrace the idea of a shared and flexible workspace environment to inspire creativity.

The downtown Effingham location has a variety of seating arrangements depending upon the mood of the users at any given

time. There are high tables, stand-up work areas, regular tables, conference room, lockable cubicles, comfortable couch and chairs creating more of a home front room environment and a shower available as part of the membership fees.

Schultz said the shared workspace is also designed for people who have a home office and would like a more collaborative environment sometimes.

“This is an opportunity to have that alternate space,” Schultz said.

“The downtown proximity is another attribute,” Schultz said, noting there are four restaurants within walking distance.

“We were blessed by the landlords Gehl and Tara Higgs for providing rent space for AXIS,” Schultz said. “They have been more than just landlords. They’ve been partners.”

In addition to Gehl and Tara Higgs, Schultz credits other community organizations and businesses for donating either dollars, materials or items to make Axis@109 West a reality, including the City of Effingham, Effingham Regional Growth Alliance, Agracel Inc., Bob’s Discount, Consolidated Communications, Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, EJ Water Cooperative, Imagine This! Marketing Group, John Boos and Company Inc. and Mette’s Cabinet Corner.

Certified Enneagram Professional Teresa McCloy has a home-based business south of Altamont that offers business coaching, speaker and training services. She uses

one of the cubicles available in the shared workspace and has worked out of the facility for the past few weeks.

“It is really nice to have a place where I can meet clients,” McCloy said. “You have the Internet and it’s a quieter space to work in.”

“I also have a team member and I’m able to meet her here,” McCloy said. “It works out well to just have that space. It’s been great so far.”

McCloy also likes the idea of a shared workspace for economical reasons.

“It’s not super expensive and you’re not investing in a lease on a building or paying for upkeep and maintenance,” McCloy said. “But yet, you have the ability to have a place to meet with clients and do business.”



Jaron Allred recently experienced AXIS for the first time. He is an independent contractor and likes the idea of having work space away from his home.

Dan Woods started using the AXIS shared work-space in downtown Effingham since it opened last year.

"I think it's a great benefit for the community," McCloy added. "I travel for my work and only see these in larger cities."

Jaron Allred, a local independent contractor specializing in flooring and hardwood tile, used the space for the first time in January. He has a home office and wanted to try the shared space concept.

"I feel way more productive here," Allred said. "I sometimes have too many distractions at home. I feel more relaxed here."

Dan Woods made his home in Effingham 20 years ago. Now a leadership coach, Woods said he offers business owners and CEOs training in decision-making and also runs a leadership development program for emerging leaders and up and comers.

Woods has been using the AXIS facility since it opened in December.

"I have a home office where I do most of my desk work," Woods said. "AXIS is very useful between clients."

Woods said his work takes him to businesses for CEO and up-and-coming

manager training and he does a lot of one-on-one coaching.

"It's a central location," Woods said. "Before this, I would use one of the local coffee shops, which was great, but this

environment allows me to focus more."

"I am twice as productive here than in a coffee shop," Woods said. "And it's a good opportunity to work with other business people."



WORTMAN PRINTING COMPANY CELEBRATING 30 YEARS 1990-2020



This year Wortman Printing Company will be celebrating their 30th year in business.

Wortman Printing Company is located at 1713 S. Banker Street in Effingham where they have been located for the last 25 years.

The company was founded by Del Wortman in October of 1990 and started in the 15'x20' garage at his then residence located on Henrietta Street in Effingham. With a modest beginning and Del's determination to grow and succeed, the business has become one of the premier printing companies in south central Illinois.

Today, his son James oversees all operations as Production Manager and continues to grow the company into the future. There have been many changes in printing over the last 30 years, yet they welcome any challenge or change that may be ahead.

"Keeping up with the changes in this industry have helped make us a stronger, more focused company and have driven us to become what we are today," James said.

They offer graphic design services, digital printing, variable data printing, and traditional offset printing. They cater to the small, medium, and large business with any type of printing needs.

Their clients tell them the things that make Wortman Printing stand out from other printers are their employees, their customer service, and their ability to stay on schedule for deadlines.

In 2018 and 2019, Wortman Printing was awarded the Superior Performance in Printing Management by CPrint International, competing with hundreds of printing companies across the nation.

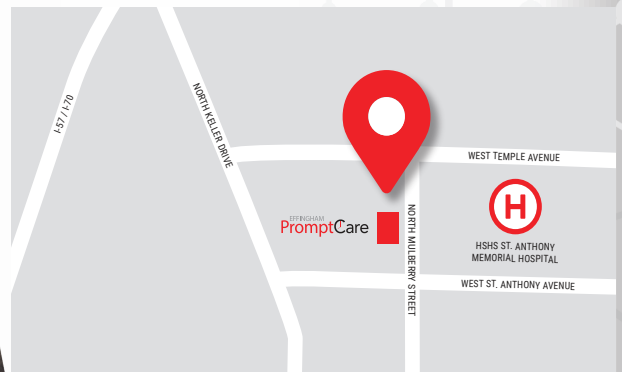


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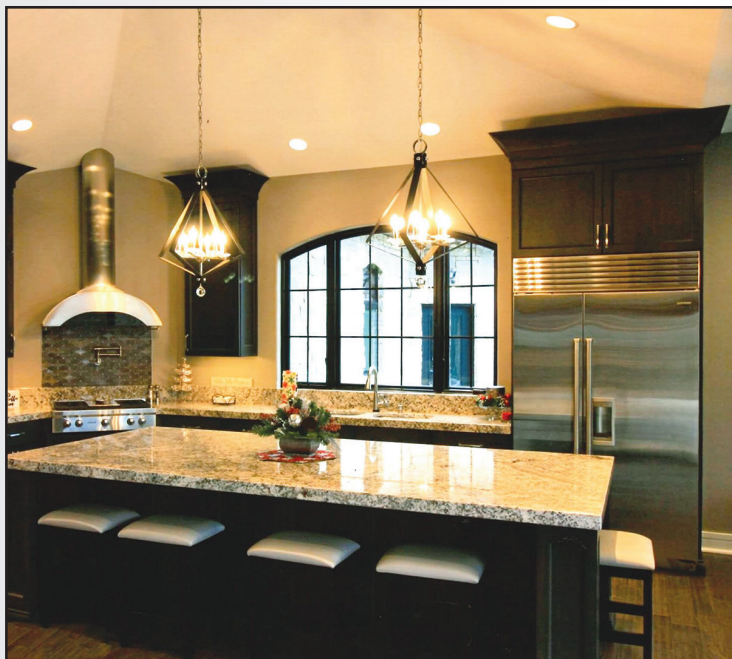
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Effingham Public Library

New Decade

Renewed Focus on Connection and Service

2020 is seen by many as a pivotal year, and it's no different for the Suzette Brumleve Memorial Effingham Public Library.

Celebrating 5 years this September at our 200 N. Third St., Effingham location – the library continues to embrace its mission to be a catalyst for positive change while creating unique opportunities to connect with literature, learning and the community.

With an average of 500 daily visitors – we are excited to see that almost half of them make the trek to our second floor where they can enjoy quiet study areas and the wonderful children's space.

Our core values of connection and service continue to serve our 5 strategic goals.

Welcoming: We continue to focus on creating and maintaining a welcoming environment for our whole community – and most recently we're pleased to note that library staff have completed "dementia friendly" training.

Communication: Good communication is key to a healthy and vibrant community. Making library meeting room space available to local non-profits once a month for free is a win for all.

Connection: Communities that have great quality of living for all their residents provide opportunities for people to engage and learn as well as develop outreach initiatives that foster deeper community ties – and this is a priority for the library.

Education: Libraries provide creative collaborative opportunities to engage in lifelong learning – whether it is learning how to manage celiac disease or how to

play a guitar to manage stress – we want to bring these free opportunities to our community.

Safety: "Because the library is a trusted non-bias community resource – we continue to host Community Conversations around challenging community issues – topics like foster care, homelessness and child care are ones that the community needs to learn more about – and the library can bring a variety of perspectives to one trusted place. A place where they can feel secure in asking questions and learning more." Amanda McKay, Library Director, explains.

We look forward to this new decade. We're excited to continue building on partnerships and collaborations we've developed and look forward to seeing how the library can affect positive action for the Effingham area.

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System Development Services

For over 35 years SDS has been providing professional technology service to companies and individuals in Effingham and surrounding area.

The business began as a programming firm in 1984 working with the local printing industry. It has continued to evolve into a group of highly skilled technical advisors with a wide range of expertise.

SDS has continued to grow and is constantly evolving to offer the best technology services available. They recently completed renovations to their 5,300 square foot facility on South Banker to include an additional meeting space to accommodate their customer's technology and training needs.

When you think of the strides in technological developments over the last 35 years it is pretty amazing. It surrounds us daily and the impact on our lives continues to grow. The lines between types of technology blurs more and more as they cross between home and office. VOIP Phone systems are a great example.

SDS is the area partner for 8x8 Communications, a top internet-based phone/communication system, helping their customers save time and money with a modern solution.

SDS is well known for their expertise, prompt service and innovation. They believe in aggressively investing in the technology needs of their customers. They maintain partner relationships with leading vendors such as IBM, Lenovo, Microsoft, SonicWall, 8x8, HP, Dell and others. These partnerships assist in maintaining advanced certification levels which keep their staff on the cutting edge of the ever-changing technology curve. SDS is the area's leading provider in computer and networking sales, security and services.

The industry continues to change at a rapid pace and when their technicians aren't working with clients, they're studying the latest trends and technologies geared to today and tomorrow's real-world business needs.

Network security is an area to watch

closely. The rise in virus, adware, scareware, and ransomware continues to be an area of constant worry. SDS's Tech Shield Managed Service package offers a combination of security and monitoring benefits for their clients who are forward thinking and proactive. Vulnerability Scans which assess the health of your computer network and business technology are also available. These identify vulnerabilities that could leave your organization at risk of a business interruption or breach. Data gained from these scans allow them to offer clients suggestions on ways to prevent unauthorized access, augment security systems, and ways to better lock down sensitive data.

They have recently added several new staff members for their VOIP services, IT security, and managed services teams. SDS will continue investing in new technology to grow and adapt to the needs of their customers.



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Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce's role as the leading business organization in Effingham County continues to focus on providing community and business leadership and support for the needs of Chamber members and county residents. With over 550 businesses representing over 15,000 employees, the Chamber has the strength to gain the attention of companies looking for growth opportunities; government leaders who want to better understand local community needs and community leaders who seek assistance in ensuring that Effingham County is the very best place to live and do business.

The Chamber will spend 2020 defining the many ways the Chamber provides value to the business community and to individuals within Effingham County. Working to introduce programs and resources to help engage the local

community, the Chamber's emphasis will focus on adding or enhancing resources such as local job postings, providing leadership to community initiatives like the Effingham Regional Career Academy and the Effingham Regional Incubator Network as well as supporting new business growth and development through the Chamber's Business Outreach Center.

Also, in the coming year, a strong effort will continue to educate and prepare young people entering the workforce and to bring these skilled workers together with the employment opportunities right here in Effingham County. Working in collaboration with local educators and community leaders, the Chamber plans to establish new methods to establish and enhance communication with this age group, to create awareness of the programs and career opportunities avail-

able in this area.

The Chamber's efforts gained recognition in 2019 as a Top 3 Chamber in the country as a finalist in the national Chamber of the Year for membership retention and financial responsibility. Chamber staff expanded with the addition of a marketing and communications specialist, transition to a new tiered membership program provides greater flexibility for Chamber members and outreach to special interest groups like human resource managers and young professionals and others bring attention to the needs of various segments of the community.

While Chamber programs and services grow and change with the needs of the businesses and our community, the Chamber follows its mission to advocate for business needs and stimulate regional prosperity.



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LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Kaitlin Cordes

Education key to county's growth

Education in Effingham County has always looked to the future. In the past decade, several entities and individuals have worked to create facilities, programs and opportunities for young minds to bring their talents back to the area.

REGIONAL CAREER ACADEMY

Perhaps one of the largest projects geared toward promoting education in Effingham County is the Effingham Regional Career Academy. The original idea for the 36,000-square-foot facility came a decade ago, in 2010, when then-Altamont Unit 10 superintendent Jeff Fritchtnitch held a round-table discussion with area business owners to learn more about what employers' expectations were for incoming workers involving skills and education.

The discussion revealed employers needed sustainable employment and a supply of highly skilled workers.

The results of that round-table discussion were passed on to other area superintendents and Effingham County Chamber of Commerce President Norma Lansing. Soon, Lake Land College officials came on board. With an increasing number of students seeking careers that do not require a four-year college education, the plan for a vocational academy in Effingham was put into motion and the Effingham Regional Career Academy was born.

In 2018, Lake Land College Board of Trustees agreed to conduct a \$14 million capital campaign to construct the Rural Technology Development Center that will house the academy by 2023. The State of Illinois appropriated \$8.4 million for construction of the center in its 2019 fiscal year budget.

The career academy is a partnership of area businesses, schools, the chamber of commerce, state and local government, Lake Land College and various other community stakeholders. Effingham Unit 40 Superintendent Mark Doan serves as the president of the regional career academy.

In 2018, then-Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti recognized the academy as one of the state's Top 20 examples of local



Photo by Dawn Schabbing

The CTEC Students working on this shed are shown from left to right: Josiah Bozdech, Effingham; Wiley Wines, Effingham; Tyler Abbott, Dieterich; Brayden Will, Teutopolis; Noah Probst, Teutopolis; Quinton Milleville, St. Anthony; and Dakota Kuhlman, Altamont.

government groups sharing resources and expenses.

Doan said that in recent years, the career academy board has tapped into five areas the academy will focus on in its infancy to aid the local job market in obtaining skilled, educated workers.

"In the past two years, business representatives from the five program areas of agriculture, advanced manufacturing, health care, technology and transportation have helped guide focus group discussions to determine skills required of future employees and equipment needs for ERCA

programs," Doan said.

Doan said these businesses will also be involved in developing the ERCA curriculum and will fulfill roles as advisory members to the five program areas.

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2026 employment projections indicate professional business services, health care, leisure and hospitality, retail trade and manufacturing will be the largest employing industries in the state. The projections also state construction will make up nearly 4 percent of the employing industry in 2026 while transport-

Top right: Health Occupation students dissect organs in this Effingham Daily News file photo.

Photo by Dawn Schabbing

Bottom right: Lauren Hill of Olney and Gina Kocher of Newton meet Karis Hortin of Albion, owner of Jars of Hope. Hortin's jars come premixed and premeasured for easy to make meals or treats. She was featured at the CEO-Next National Trade Show.

tation will make up 5 percent.

Despite statewide projections, local conversations with area businesses indicate that the five focus areas for ERCA will be of the biggest need in the future in this region. The Department of Employment Security reported that between 2016 and 2026, health care and social assistance employment and the trade, transportation and utilities sector are each anticipated to add over 1,300 new jobs statewide while manufacturing will add 518 new jobs in the Southeastern Economic Development Region, of which Effingham County is a part.

Doan said overall manufacturing and health care account for nearly one-third of the employment base in Effingham County. He said ERCA gives high schoolers and adults continuing their education to pursue these in-demand occupations.

“The ERCA provides an innovative outlet through which educators and employers inspire students to pursue training for high-demand careers in the regional workforce,” Doan said. “Creating targeted educational opportunities and a pipeline of skilled individuals for area employers will positively impact future access to a skilled workforce and our region’s agility in adapting to forthcoming industry trends.”

Doan said ERCA classes will incorporate hands-on training, which could possibly be led by local industry experts. He said ERCA will be a highly flexible training space that is adaptive to evolving industry needs.

The Rural Technology Development Center that will house ERCA is expected to be erected by 2023 near Lake Land College’s Kluthe Center for Higher Education and Technology in Effingham.

The academy already started offering classes in fall 2017 despite not having a building. These classes included horticulture, welding and manufacturing skills; part of the curriculum involves classroom work while part is hands-on learning in a lab or shop setting.

These programs, and a basic nurse assisting program, are held through a partnership with Effingham High School. The classes are offered at the school and the Kluthe Center.



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The focus on enhancing educational opportunities to better future employees has also spurred the creation of several high school-based programs. These programs depend on collaboration among school districts and community leaders.

Now in its sixth year, the Construction Trades of Effingham County program assists high school students in becoming workforce ready in the construction field. Much like the plans for the ERCA, the CTEC program often takes students to job sites for hands-on learning about concrete work, insulation, electrical and more.

Program facilitators said in a 2019 interview with the Effingham Daily News that the program is a great way to show students “bits and pieces” of every aspect of construction trades — and let them decide what best suits them for a career in

the industry.

Most recently, the Altamont Unit 10 school board approved an industrial arts program for its high school curriculum. The program will be available to students in the 2021-2022 school year and will ultimately intermix business, physics, industrial arts, art and community.

The program will be unique to the area in that it will focus on every aspect of production from design to sales. Students will also work with local businesses while enrolled in the program.

Altamont Community High School Industrial Arts Teacher Logan Hill said it will be a blend of the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities class and a manufacturing class.

A long-time program also helps area high school students prepare for a career in the health care field. The Effingham



Photo by Dawn Schabbing

Troy Stanford with AKRA Builders, Ben Wente, a student in the CTEC program, and Jeremy Ruffner, CTEC facilitator, visit during a CTEC open house at the Effingham Junior High School.

Health Occupations program began in 1992 through a partnership with HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.

Juniors and seniors from Beecher City, Casey-Westfield, Cowden-Herrick, Dieterich, Cumberland, Effingham, St. Anthony, Neoga, Stewardson-Strasburg and Teutopolis schools spend five weeks in area health businesses and organizations to receive in-depth training about a career by working with professionals in the industry.

The program also gives students opportunities to take the state exam to become a certified nurse assistant.

The Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, or CEO, program is another forward-thinking educational opportunity for high school students. Through CEO, students learn the ins and outs of running a personal business.

Students get a behind-the-scenes look at the businesses and industries in the county, aiding them in creating their own small business. In a 2019 EDN interview, CEO Facilitator Kristy Sayers said the visits to area businesses gives the students a new perspective on the area, allowing them to consider returning after graduating college.

Sayers said CEO is an example of how education has changed over the past decade and also represents an investment in the future economic development in each community in the county.

VISION 2020 and IMPACT 2030

Education has been at the forefront of the county in the past 15 years, as indicated by local effort Vision 2020. One of its eight community spokes focused solely on education for more than a decade.

Some of the goals of the education spoke included entrepreneurial education, educating students to succeed after high school and teaching them to become lifelong learners. These goals were likely achieved through programs such as CEO, CTEC and establishing the regional career academy.

With a new decade ushered in at the start of 2020, a community-minded group has turned its focus to Impact 2030. Impact 2030's Creative Learning Culture pushes lifelong learning beyond the classroom.

Creative Learning Culture Lead Chelle Beck said the focus for the next 10 years will be how to help Effingham County citizens grow personally.

"Effingham County's Creative Learning Culture embraces lifelong learning for all citizens, cultivates creativity and innovation and celebrates personal growth," Beck said. "We are all lifelong learners. We just may have different learning goals, and those goals may change over time. Learning results in growth, which aids our community as a whole."

Beck said the Creative Learning Culture team consists of individuals from various sectors of Effingham County, including

business, health care, art, culture and education. The team includes Johnna Schultz, Joanna Davies, Lisa Teichmiller, Samantha Weidner, Kim Jansen, Stacey Rhodes and Stacey Zerrusen.

To promote learning beyond school walls, Beck said her team and the Impact 2030 Strong Community team hosted the Summer Activities Fair at the Village Square Mall where parents could browse various summer activities available for their children in the county.

Beck said her team also hosts trimester "lunch and learn" programs to showcase opportunities in Effingham County. The lunch and learn programs are designed to build relationships among the various entities whose common goal is to help others through learning opportunities.

Lansing said educational opportunities in the county will continue to grow along with an expanding job market.

"The future job market remains strong in Effingham County as major industries continue to expand in product lines, new customer base and technological advancements. The diversified business environment also provides opportunities," Lansing said.

"The same reasons that have made Effingham County attractive in the past will continue to make it attractive in the future. The growth and investment in technologies, like improved fiber optic ac-

cess, and transportation improvements, like the planned south interstate interchange, and expansion of the airport runway, plus collaborative business, education and government relationships attract interest and attention from across the country.”

TEACHER SHORTAGE

Despite progress toward growing educational opportunities, central and southern Illinois rural schools are suffering from a teacher shortage.

Some Effingham County schools are also feeling the crunch of a short list of available teachers. The five school districts recently started meeting to discuss issues facing their schools, as well as how to work together to remedy those problems.

At the first meeting in October 2019, Altamont Unit 10 School Board President Shelly Kuhns said her school district struggles with replacing Spanish and agriculture teachers when they leave the district.

Dieterich School Board President Cory Niebrugge said at that same meeting Dieterich schools also struggle to fill those same teaching spots, as well as finding bus drivers and referees for ball games.

The board members met again in January to focus their discussion on the teacher shortage. David Ardrey with the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools spelled out the scope of the downstate issue of lack of teachers during that meeting.

“I want you to understand a little bit about rural Illinois. There’s a political belief that rural schools and districts and issues are a downstate problem. That might have been true until you move the line from I-80 south and call that downstate, which is what the policy makers have done,” Ardrey said.

Ardrey, who oversees 500 rural districts in downstate Illinois, said the statewide teacher shortage will ultimately fall on rural schools like those in Effingham County. He said this is because it is difficult to get teachers to stay in rural communities.

Often, young teachers are driven out of rural school districts by more opportunities and better pay in more urban areas, Ardrey said. He said that consolidation in smaller school districts seems to be the solution lawmakers think will solve issues such as the teacher shortage.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, as of Oct. 1, 2019, there were 4,831 unfilled positions in schools across the state. The majority of those unfilled positions were teaching positions, with 1,985 teaching spots remaining open.

ISBE reported that Effingham County schools had a total of five unfilled positions as of Oct. 1, 2019. Beecher City Unit 20

“The ERCA provides an innovative outlet through which educators and employers inspire students to pursue training for high-demand careers in the regional workforce.”

Mark Doan

Effingham Unit 40 Superintendent

had the most unfilled positions, with one position open for an art, one for Spanish and one for a music teacher.

Altamont Unit 10 district was seeking a physical education teacher while Teutopolis Unit 50 sought a superintendent.

Numbers were similar for surrounding counties as well.

In Clay County, the North Clay Unit 25 district had four unfilled positions: elementary music for grades kindergarten through eight, biology, special education and other administration.

Cumberland County had one unfilled math teacher’s position at Neoga Unit 3.

Fayette County reported five unfilled positions across three school districts; Ramsey Unit 204 had open positions for driver’s and health education teachers while St. Elmo Unit 202 sought a Spanish teacher and Vandalia Unit 203 needed special education and remedial math teachers.

Shelby County schools had three unfilled positions.

Cowden-Herrick Unit 3A needed an intern speech language pathologist, and Windsor Unit 1 sought a Spanish teacher and biology teacher.

In all, across the state, 53 Spanish teachers were needed across 45 school districts. A majority of those districts seeking a Spanish teacher fell below Interstate 80, the “line” Ardrey said lawmakers use to divide the northern portion of the state and the southern part.

The number of unfilled positions in schools across the state has increased dramatically in just one year. The 2019 results show 4,192 unfilled positions; that number has increased in 2020 by 639 open positions.

The unfilled positions reported to ISBE has seen a huge change even since 2018. Reports indicate that in 2018, there were just 2,893 open positions in Illinois schools. The survey results only reach as far back as 2017, but what has remained constant up until this year is that teaching positions make up the majority of open positions at schools in the state.

For Effingham County schools, Ardrey suggested changing the conversation around the education profession to a more

positive one. This includes encouraging students early on that going into the education field is a good thing and that coming back to teach in their communities is worthwhile.

Higher education is also taking note of its role in producing more teachers for the future. Members of the Effingham County school boards heard from Drs. Doug Bower and Brian Reid with Eastern Illinois University’s education program.

Bower said of the 220 students currently in the teacher education program at EIU, over 60 percent of them are dedicated to returning to their own rural communities to teach. He said the teacher education program has turned a focus on what he called “growing your own” teachers.

“We want to focus on growing your own because we know if your teacher comes to you from your own community, they’re going to stay in your community,” Bower said.

To do this, EIU’s teaching program utilizes the Illinois Grow Your Own Teachers Grant through which the program gives students an opportunity to be in an off-campus cohort that targets rural communities. The grant also allows the teaching program to develop a pipeline of teachers through the High School Rural Teacher Corps, Community College and EIU Rural Teacher Corps and the New Teacher Rural Corps.

Eastern is also providing scholarships specifically for teachers returning to rural areas to teach. Bower said Eastern has started an accelerated baccalaureate program in which college seniors or mid-career changing adults can take summer courses, do a yearlong internship with a rural school and receive their teaching license the following summer.

Bower said the long-term solution to the teacher shortage is getting those college-aged students prepared and willing to teach for many years in small communities.

“We need to figure out how do we get our 18-to-21-year-olds to commit their life to teaching because that’s the long-term solution to the problem,” Bower said.

ALTAMONT

preparing students with new program

By Charles Mills

Altamont Community High School is making an impact on the city's economic development by preparing students for life after graduation.

Last year, Industrial Arts teacher Logan Hill pitched a new idea to the Altamont board of education.

His idea was to purchase equipment that would prepare students for job positions right out of high school. In November, the board approved the purchase of the equipment and curriculum.

Today, the equipment is in place and operational.

Hill recently hosted a showcase day of his new equipment for Altamont Unit 10 Board of Education members, donors making the new curriculum a reality, and a special guest from ACHS industrial arts' past: Bill Wendling.

Wendling started as industrial arts teacher in 1955. Wendling was the second industrial arts teacher at ACHS.

Wendling walked into the industrial arts

classroom and immediately recognized a worktable that was used in his classroom when he was a teacher. He said as part of his shop class they removed engines from demo derby cars used at the fairgrounds in addition to creating woodworking projects.

However, many things in the room have changed, as Wendling learned when Hill described the major pieces of new computerized equipment his shop class would be using.

"I had no idea all of this was happening now," Wendling said. "Things sure have changed."

Altamont Board of Education approved money to purchase the equipment, matching the money local businessman Ryan Eckhardt and Thrivent Financial donated to the project. Eckhardt also helped the new program apply and get a grant for the purchase of a welding simulator.

"We were very blessed with the donations that we have received," Hill said. "We are going to have equipment many

schools don't have access to. It will definitely be high-tech."

The new industrial arts curriculum, set to be in place for 2021-22 school year, will ultimately intermix business, physics, industrial arts, art and community. It will be unique from manufacturing programs at other area districts, involving students in every aspect of production — from design to sales — all while working closely with local businesses.

Hill came up with the idea following discussions with Eckhardt, a wealth adviser at Thrivent Financial.

"He asked me if I could have a dream shop, what would it be," Hill said. "The first thing I thought of was what Effingham was doing."

Hill studied under Ty Totten, who was the industrial arts instructor in Altamont before becoming industrial arts/manufacturing skills teacher at Effingham High School. Hill kept in touch with Totten after graduating from Altamont High School and said he was instrumental in helping to get his idea off the ground.

"I like business in general," Hill said. "I figured if you could blend the CEO class with manufacturing, we could do something really cool here getting the community involved."

And he did just that.

Hill gathered a group of local businessmen, manufacturers, Altamont High School Principal Jerry Tkachuk, school board member Al Shumaker, Superintendent Steve Mayerhofer and Altamont High School art teacher Toni Niebrugge.

With the businesses, faculty, staff and manufacturers in place, Hill was able to get a good feel for establishing the educational training and equipment needed to prepare students for the workforce after graduation. He said the collaboration enabled him to come up with a working curriculum and equipment list for the school board to consider.

Indian Industries was the first name Hill proposed for the new program, but as the project evolved, it became ACHS Indus-



Photos by Charles Mills

ACHS Industrial Arts Teacher Logan Hill demonstrates how a PlasmaCam cuts through a piece of metal based on a design loaded into a computer.



Above: Altamont Community High School Industrial Arts Teacher Logan Hill received new equipment for a curriculum he developed to prepare students for work right after high school.

Right: Altamont Community High School industrial arts students create a fire pit with new equipment to be used for a new industrial arts curriculum. Pictured from left, Connor Reardon, Jared Kollmann, Tim Moore and Clay Conner.



tries.

Hill's goal is to get more than just the industrial arts students involved with the program. The equipment he plans to order will allow students to produce products that can be sold to the public. With the proceeds from the sales, Hill plans to purchase and update the equipment he has ordered.

"We will have the economics classes involved," Hill said. "They will be able to analyze, for example, it takes us one week to make 20 cups and so it might be we could make more money doing some other project."

"If the profits are different, they will be able to tell us that," Hill said.

Hill said students would also be able to come up with advertising ideas for the products they produce.

"That is going to get a bunch of students involved who wouldn't typically take an industrial arts class," Hill said. "That just might get them interested in taking an industrial arts class."

Niebrugge is looking forward to the new curriculum. The computers that drive the new equipment are able to import designs created in Adobe Photoshop, a software she uses in her classroom.

"Mr. Logan and Mrs. Niebrugge have gone above and beyond our expectations," Board of Education President Shelly Kuhns

"I like business in general. I figured if you could blend the CEO class with manufacturing, we could do something really cool here getting the community involved."

Logan Hill
Industrial Arts teacher

said. "They can create things in art class and bring them here for the shop class to make."

Niebrugge believes the ability for the designs to be transferred into the system will open the door for more student opportunities.

"I would like to see more girls get involved with the program," Niebrugge said.

"It's going to be a learning curve at first for the two of us to figure out how we incorporate the two classes," Hill said.

"This should be exciting," Niebrugge

said.

In addition to CAD classes, several carpentry classes, introduction to drafting, production technology and foundations of technology already offered at the school, the new curriculum adds a new welding class as a prerequisite. The new Manufacturing I class will shadow students in the Manufacturing II class, who will actually operate the equipment. Manufacturing I students will then advance to a Manufacturing II class.

Hill said his first-year goal is to get students creating fire pits, custom signs, engraved Altamont Indian coasters and Christmas décor. He projects first-year gross sales to be \$4,500. He expects that amount to nearly double the next year to \$8,000. For the third and fourth years, Hill wants to continue to create new partnerships within the local area and work toward training his students to be more employable while at the same time generating sales of \$13,000 the third year and \$18,000 the fourth year.

By the fifth year, Hill expects to see his first seniors completing the full manufacturing curriculum to graduate with a sales goal of \$25,000.

Hill hopes down the road students from other schools will come to Altamont for manufacturing training.

“What is going to separate us from the other schools is we are not just making products,” Hill said. “Our students will be working hand in hand with local businesses coming up with products to make, and our students will be coming up with pricing, making sales pitches to the different businesses and doing a lot of work to make them successful down the road.”

“It was a long process getting to this point,” Hill said. “I would say since last February I’ve been spending 10-15 hours a week on this project.”

Tkachuk is excited about the new curriculum and how the industrial arts program can intermix with several different programs from physics to art to economics.

“Logan has done a lot of work on this,” Tkachuk said. “And I think he has done an outstanding job.”

“We are talking about taking a lot of outside classes that we do here and bringing them into one idea,” Tkachuk said. “We don’t look at starting one program to meet the needs of one program.

We are looking at starting a program here that is going to involve several programs so students can see what it takes.”

“This really incorporates a lot of content areas,” Altamont Superintendent Steve Mayerhofer said. “It’s not just manufacturing and industrial arts. There is a lot of cross-curricular opportunity there in the future.”

Board of Education member Alan Shumaker is pleased with the board’s decision to move forward with the program.

“I am happy that all of the businessmen that we have contacted and dealt with in the community have been so helpful and so excited about this project,” Shumaker said. “We can’t say enough thanks to Ryan Eckhardt and Thrivent Financial for both the monetary support and standing behind us.”

“I think it is important to have the community behind the school,” Shumaker said. “And I get excited when I see the community wants to get involved in a project such as this.”



Top: Keaten Barker works on an engraving project with new equipment recently purchased for the Altamont Community High School industrial arts class.

Above: Bill Wendling, Toni Niebrugge and Logan Hill hold some of the work students can produce on recently purchased equipment for industrial arts class.



One of the many products ACHS students are able to produce with new equipment purchased for their industrial arts program.



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The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic

The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic of Ruben Boyajian, MD and Emily Boyajian, NP, located in the newly built St. Anthony's Health Center at 900 West Temple, Building B, Suite 2500 in Effingham, Illinois is celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to the community. The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic provides evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the breast, multidisciplinary oncology care, gastrointestinal endoscopy and laparoscopic procedures.

Ruben Boyajian, MD, owner, is an active member of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Society of Surgical Oncology. He is also the Director of the Women's Wellness and Cancer Services at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. The Women's Wellness and Cancer Services of St. Anthony's main objective is promoting the early detection of breast cancer as well as other services

such as dexamethasone scanning, lactation services, etc. In addition to all this, Ruben received certification by the MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2018. And, Ruben has been voted as the People's Choice Best Surgeon by Effingham Daily News readers since 2004. He was honored in 2014 with the Effingham County Citizen of the Year Award for his countless hours helping many organizations in Effingham County and beyond. His dedication to his patients and his expertise sets him apart in his field.

The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic prides itself on providing a team approach for cancer care, minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and encourages patient involvement in the process. Their primary concern is the care and welfare of each individual patient. The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic maintains dedication and leadership in the areas of cancer educa-



Pictured left to right: Cathy Raddatz, RN, Julie Schumacher, Janene Swingle, Emily Boyajian, NP, Ruben Boyajian, MD and Shelby Overbeck, RN.

tion, prevention and treatment.

Joining Ruben on his team at The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic is his wife, Emily Boyajian, NP, who received the degree of Master of Science from Indiana State University. A highly qualified team of surgical nurse specialists and administrative staff work side by side with Ruben and Emily to continue the pursuit of the ideal of service to their patients and to the community they are proud to serve.

To learn more about The Breast and Surgical Care Clinic, call them at (217)347-2255 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment or visit them online at www.rboyajianmd.com where you will find a general review of their practice, directions to their office, community concerns and advances in surgical care.

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Located on the 2nd Floor, Suite 2500
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Ruben Boyajian, MD



Emily Boyajian, NP

(217) 347-2255



Siemer Milling Company

Siemer Milling Company sales volumes for flour, coproducts, and Specialty Ingredients continue to expand at all three mills: Teutopolis, Hopkinsville, KY, and West Harrison, IN. Total annual volume is over 1.3 billion pounds of processed wheat products. SMC mills grind 100,000 bushels of wheat each day, over 26.5 million bushels per year. That's nearly 20% of the U.S. soft wheat crop annually milled for food! Almost all of the wheat is grown within 200 miles on either side of the Ohio River.

Siemer Milling Company continuously invests for growth and profitability. We have doubled our production capacity in just the last decade, and still operate at 100% of capacity on an annual basis. In Teutopolis, SMC completed one of its biggest plant & equipment

investments ever in 2019 – the new bulk flour storage facility will make handling finished flour much more efficient and enhance employee and food safety.

2019 SMC People Events:

- David Jansen, with 30 years experience, was named VP of Production. Also this year, he is president of the International Assn of Operative Millers, that provides education and training to millers around the world.

- Vernon "Red" Tegeler, one of the country's most highly-regarded millers, and a 45-year SMC veteran, retired as Vice President of Production; he stays involved as Sr. VP of Strategic Initiatives.

- Kenneth Stice became Teutopolis Plant Manager.

- Henry Siemer is now Manager of Performance Standards

- Jodi Cole, Manager of Food Safety and Product Performance.

- Curtis Anderson retired as Manager of Quality Standards and Compliance.

- Several other long-time employees who retired in 2019 were Elaine Ashley, support staff; Ron Pruemer, miller and grain receiving; Robert Roedl, miller and lab; Frank Webster, loader.

- Jane Summers, a key member of SMC support staff, was elected a Teutopolis Village Trustee.

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Lake Sara Marina

Lake Sara Marina is announcing its new partnership with Lake Sara Forever. This partnership includes a pledge of \$200 for every new boat sold to a Lake Sara resident. These funds will be used for the improvement projects for Lake Sara Beach and Pearson Peninsula.

Last month word was received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that the Lake Sara Beach and Pearson Improvement Project was one of 86 OSLAD Grant recipients. The Effingham Water Authority was awarded \$400,000 for the project. The Lake Sara Forever Committee will be working diligently in the next months to raise the matching funds required to receive the grant. A successful 2020 Lake Sara Marina Boat Show would be a good assist in helping to raise these funds.

The 2020 Boat Show Spectacular is scheduled to run from March 5th through March 8th. The event will have over 80 boats on display for patrons to check

out. It will be held at the Village Square Mall in Effingham. Lake Sara Marina has nine boat lines and 5 motor lines. Representatives from the manufacturers will be on hand to answer any of the patrons' questions. There will be special offers available and a large staff on hand.

Lake Sara hosted their 7th annual Fishing Clinic on February 6. Speakers at this event included, Terry Bolton, Professional Ranger Fisherman, JE Valetta of Minnkota-Hummingbird and a Lowrance Electronic representative. Mike Mounce, a retired Department of Natural Resource Officer, was also there to answer questions regarding fishing on several area lakes. Door prize winners were Corky Graham and Dawn Scoggins.

General Manager, Howard Janis has been in the industry for over 30 years. The marina also has five mechanics with the combined experience of 140 years, giving them a considerable advantage



over the small repair shops.

Lake Sara Marina has been the recipient of a number of awards, all the while attributing those awards to their superior customer service. They are honored to have been part of the Effingham Community for nearly 50 years, serving over a 100 mile radius.



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This 5th Generation Family Business Just Celebrated its 130th Anniversary and Has No Plans of Slowing Down Soon

It's estimated that less than three percent of family businesses make it to the fifth generation. However, Wright's Furniture & Flooring has not only made it, the locally-owned business is flourishing.

"In the last 10 months, we've actually opened a store in Robinson, Illinois, purchased a store in Taylorville, Illinois and found a new location and remodeled our Wright at Home store in Effingham, Illinois. It's been a busy year," said Tom Wright, Wright's Furniture Chairman and CEO.

A lot has changed since George W. Wright first opened Wright's Furniture & Flooring in 1889. The business, which was once both a furniture store and funeral home, was run by only a handful of employees and was half its current size. Fast-forward 130 years later, the business now has multiple locations, 45 employees and has a 35,000 square-foot showroom.

President John Wright said he attributes the company's success to their incredible employees and long-standing commitment to customer service.

“Being a family business is different than a corporation,” said John Wright. “We live here and we’re part of the community and we care about building relationships with our customers. You can’t stay in business in a small rural area and not treat people right.”

Wright's Furniture & Flooring features a large selection of quality living room, bedroom, dining room, home office, entertainment and custom furniture as well as a wide selection of flooring. The business also offers interior design services and window treatments through its Wright at Home store located in Effingham.

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**Roy Jackson Dent, III,
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I founded Dent Law Offices, Ltd. in 2017. My goal was to create a smaller firm where I could meet with people personally and help them solve their problems, thus, our motto: “Personal, professional service when you need it most.” Last August, my wife, L. Kaye DeSelms Dent, joined me. Our 10th anniversary seemed like the right time to enter into a professional partnership.

While my practice is limited to bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, and tax, my wife is an Elder Law attorney, helping people plan for the costs and tough decisions that come with age, as well as the care of loved ones with special needs. She’s lucky to practice in an area of law that allows her to help families plan for the future and gain peace of mind. As you can tell, we get to do what we love, with the person we love.

Kaye attended law school with plans to practice disability law. Having worked her way through college at the University of Illinois assisting students with disabilities, she graduated law school in 1996. She initially worked with a non-profit law firm serving persons with disabilities and has served as both a State’s Attorney and Public Defender. Meanwhile, I was busy earning a Master’s of Arts in history and made the tough choice between a Ph.D. in history and law school. I moved from my native Los Angeles to Chicago-Kent College of Law, graduating in 1998. I was certified in both consumer and business bankruptcy by the American Bankruptcy Institute in 2006, the same year I realized that I had made the right choice in my career path, because it led me to Kaye.

A member of ElderCounsel, WealthCounsel, and IL NAELA (National Association of Elder Law Attorneys), Kaye has an array of resources available for her clients’ planning needs. She has also served as President of the Board of Directors for Heartland Human Services and as a board member of Effingham Child Development Center, and member of Effingham Noon Rotary (Club President, 2017-2018). She currently serves on the boards of the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois, Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation Advisory Board Effingham County, and the Fifth Circuit Pro Bono Committee of the Public Interest Law Initiative (as Chair). Kaye speaks frequently to public groups regarding Estate Planning, Nursing Home Planning, Special Needs issues and other topics. She co-presented “Elder Law Crossover: 10 Things Elder Law Attorneys want Estate Planning Attorneys to Consider” for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education in 2016, acted as Moderator for IICLE’s recent program “Estate Planning for the 99%,” and has presented for several other continuing legal education courses.

Both of us at Dent Law offices, Ltd. take pleasure in accepting pro bono cases from various nonprofit agencies, a very rewarding commitment of the practice of law.

Because all work and no play makes Roy a dull boy, Kaye makes sure we find time to travel with our two sons, Conrad, 17, and Jack, 15. Seeing the world through their eyes is proving very rewarding. We’ve traveled the entire width of the country via car, for a total of 29 states visited. We’ve also visited 15 foreign countries and manage to see at least one of our former exchange students on any journey.

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HEALTH CARE

has evolved in Effingham County

By Kaitlin Cordes

As with many industries, health care has evolved into a consumer-driven field. This is true closer to home as area health care officials have noted that both in the city of Effingham and Effingham County, the industry has headed in that same direction over the past decade and will continue to adapt to the community's needs in the future.

As Effingham's and the county's only hospital, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is at the forefront of health care in the community. Hospital officials say the biggest shift in the hospital's care model in the past decade has aligned with health care as a whole.

"There is a move to outpatient (care)," Chief Nursing Officer Bobbi Kinkelaar

said. "We are seeing patients in their home. Patients don't come to the hospital unless they absolutely need to. You'll see urgent cares and priority cares. That's so we can keep our emergency department for truly critical patients."

Kinkelaar and other hospital officials agree patients in the city and county now seek care that is quick, efficient and more outpatient-based.

The hospital's chief medical officer, Dr. Ryan Jennings, said value also plays a huge factor in what has become a consumer-based health care industry.

"When you look at it in the grand scheme of things, this idea of hospitals and health care in general has shifted away from a system that's paid by the click, paid

by every time you come in, to whether or not you're bringing value to the table," Jennings said. "The consumer driving health care is, I think, a huge shift where they've kind of taken the wheel."

Jennings said patients and consumers are more savvy to "shopping around" for their health care. He said they will often use the internet to search for health care providers with good ratings or reviews and also those who are at a low cost.

That need for value and convenience is coupled by health care close to home.

Hospital Executive Director of Outpatient and Ancillary Services Mike Janis said the hospital has moved past the services it offers within its walls.

Janis said many of the HSHS St.



Shown is the HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital robotic surgery team. From left are Jennifer Habing, RN, Breana Johnson, RN, Abbie Massengill, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Iyob Ilyas, MD, FACS, FASCRS, Colon and Rectal Surgery, and General Surgery, Jennifer Harding-Dow, RN, Millie Nelson, MD, FACOG, MMM, CPE, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Emily Funneman, MD. In the center is the da Vinci® Xi™ Robotic Surgical System.



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital photo

In this photo, Telemedicine is being used for neonatal consultations with SIU Medicine. For newborns with health issues or concerns, a neonatologist (on screen) can view the baby through the monitor and consult with physicians and the hospital's neonatal nurse practitioner, as well as their nursing staff to provide extra support and input. Shown is Dr. Robert Frost, Family Medicine, left, and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Laura Hickenbottom, APRN, right.

Anthony's Memorial Hospital clinics and offices were created to better serve patients who reside even outside the county. Most recently, a St. Anthony's clinic was established in Newton at the request of patients and a physician there.

"Consumers tells us, 'We want it to be outside of the hospital. We want it to be close to our home.' The facilities you see and the growth that we've had, that growth and collaboration is related to the patients that need service and those physicians in that market," Janis said.

"As we talk about the expansion of our footprint, it's not just the brick and mortar of this facility. We have six facilities outside our walls today, and we have plans for multiple other ones and those are meeting those needs where the patients are and providing those services at a convenient location and also using technology like apps and smartphones to meet with a doctor on a mobile device."

The turn to a consumer-driven model has also evolved with technology. Jennings said the use of robotic surgery systems and Teladoc services has aided the hospital in delivering close-to-home, quick care.

"I think the concepts around the innovations and technology, whether that

be telemedicine or the advanced robotic surgeries that we are performing right here in Effingham, not only allows a higher -than-normal precision and maybe even quality, but it also lends some efficiency," Jennings said. "It allows patients to recover faster and to get out of the hospital sooner and to return to their regular life faster, which is a big deal.

"We all have responsibilities at home and with jobs and those types of things, so anything that we can do to reduce the amount of time that somebody has to be in a hospital is a benefit."

TELADOC AND ROBOTS

With the Teladoc system, patients connect with doctors remotely via phone, video or the Teladoc app. Kinkelaar said the hospital provides psychiatric services through Teladoc, as well as connecting patients with an intensivist, or a board-certified physician who provides special care for critically ill patients, at St. Anthony's sister hospital, St. Elizabeth O'Fallon.

Kinkelaar said with robots, hospital health care providers can now listen to heartbeats and lungs and even examine eyes. The hospital also utilizes the da Vinci Xi Surgical System to perform surgeries

that are less invasive as the robot allows for more precise movements far greater than a human hand can manipulate.

St. Anthony's has also created a robot surgery team that includes Drs. Iyooob Ilyas, Millie Nelson and Abbie Massengill. The team can perform specialized surgeries, such as gynecological surgeries, as well as general surgeries.

Hospital President and CEO Theresa Rutherford said the hospital system's use of such technologies circles back to meeting the needs of the community. With the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment, Rutherford said the hospital discovered that, despite an excellent medical care structure in Effingham and the county, citizens still struggle to access care. The most recent assessment was in 2018, and another will be done in 2021.

"It's about how do you use technology that allows the patient to be seen where they want to be but also then interfaces with the best and brightest of providers, be that here or at a tertiary center. It allows us to have access to far more than what we could ever have in a community the size of Effingham," Rutherford said.

"That's really driven by community needs with our Community Health Needs

Assessment. They've told us that even as good as our health care structure is, they still at times struggle to access care. But what that means is, they struggle to access care that's convenient, time-sensitive, cost-sensitive for them personally."

MOVING FORWARD

Rutherford said that 10 years ago the hospital was focused solely on what it could provide in house and perhaps what the hospital could do for a patient short term. Now, Rutherford said the hospital's HSHS Home Care and Hospice service speaks to the hospital responding to community needs.

Executive Director of Post-Acute Care Shawna O'Dell said the home care and hospice program started five years ago in response to a sort of gap in patients' lifelong care.

"Our hospice service line is another example of how we listen to our community. We put a lot of focus on our mother-baby programs starting from birth, and we've taken them through illness, but at the end of life, there was a gap that our community didn't have from us," O'Dell said. "When we started our hospice, it was in response to that and that's what fits those needs — being there for them wherever they were at in their stage of life."

O'Dell said the home care and hospice program now makes 100,000 in-home visits across 27 counties each year.

O'Dell said another change the hospital has undergone in the past decade is a focus on preventative care. She said 10 years ago, the hospital and health care in general was reacting to acute illnesses or situations, whereas now the hospital and the field wants to be there for a patient at any point in their life, not just when they become ill.

Much of that preventative focus comes through a partnership with the community. Outreach Facilitator for Community Benefit Lisa Hoelscher said her department goes into schools to educate the younger generation about being and staying healthy.

Jennings said programs like the school talks are leading the hospital to be more socially minded, something he said is new since the past decade.

"Our focus around community benefit has changed to much more prevention and wellness-focused activities and to starting early and trying to teach someone at a young age to be healthy and spanning things that aren't traditionally what you think about as being health care -- things like supporting reading and things at the schools and providing technology to the



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital photo
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is a partner with Crisis Nursery, which helps children like those shown here. From left to right are Ian, age 3, Elizabeth Kelly, Prevention Care Specialist, Lindsey Sigrist, Prevention Care Specialist, and Serena, age 4.

schools. Their resources are limited like everyone else's, so having the ability to affect things that ultimately end up in health but in a way that hospitals traditionally would never have thought of," Jennings said.

"Fitness education is part of it, but (it's) literacy around health, specifically. It's things like the Crisis Nursery, where we're partnering with an agency to try to take care of somebody that has a true vulnerability to make sure that we can break a cycle. Those are things that, historically, you didn't think of a hospital as being in that business, and yet, we're seeing ourselves more and more having a social responsibility to be present at the table for conversations going on around day care and that type of thing and how we make ourselves a stronger and healthier community in the long run."

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

It's not just about teaching the next generation about how to be healthy. O'Dell said the hospital is also looking at ways to get youth excited about entering the health care field as a career.

She said the health care industry continues to battle a nursing shortage, and a way the hospital is combating that is to bring the field to those who will be the next nurse, doctor or health care provider.

"Using things like the schools to reach the kids and having that mentor relation-

ship could inspire them to come into health care and to work at the nursing shortage and other things that we are battling today. We've only forecasted it to worsen, so we want to inspire individuals to come into health care to do the same things," O'Dell said. "It is a challenge that we as nurses think about every day, like who's the next person that we can convert to a nurse. (It's) how can we get them to us, and by doing these activities, I think it will help inspire the youth of today."

Along with visiting schools, Hoelscher said the hospital is also partnering with the University of Illinois extension office to invite fifth grade students to a career fair of sorts focused on the health care industry.

IMPACT 2030

As with any field, health care is always looking to the future. HSHS St. Anthony's Hospital is already starting to do the same.

Local groups Vision 2020 and Impact 2030 have kept health care in its sights as well. These two organizations focus on the betterment of the county. While Vision 2020 wrapped up at the beginning of the year, Impact 2030 is just starting.

Hoelscher is slated as the team leader for Impact 2030's Safe and Healthy People team. The team will focus on interagency cooperation, substance abuse, prevention and treatment, poverty awareness and homelessness.

Hoelscher said a lot of the same goals Impact 2030 has in the health sector may align with the goals the hospital creates from its upcoming 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment.

St. Anthony's and the community has achieved some of what Vision 2020 leaders saw as areas to address in the county's health care. Jennings said the Vision 2020 goal of Effingham and the county becoming a health care destination has been accomplished, yet Rutherford noted that goal has likely transformed with the need to bring care to the patients closer to home.

Vision 2020 Health Care looked at bringing a cardiac center to the area as well as having more medical specialists. HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is now home to a Prairie Heart Institute center with three full-time cardiologists, as well as Prairie Cardiovascular physicians who service communities throughout the county and region.

Jennings said that over the past decade, St. Anthony's has brought in providers in gastroenterology, additional orthopedic surgeons, a colorectal surgeon, additional obstetricians, plastic surgeons, additional



cardiology services and psychiatry.

Another goal Vision 2020 sought was creating a wellness and fitness culture.

Rutherford said she believes the community has done this through the creation of the TREC Trail, the Richard E. Workman Sports and Wellness Complex and even Harmony Playground.

Now that Impact 2030 has started and a new decade has begun, those at HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital are looking ahead to what the next decade will bring in the world of health care.

Janis believes the future will continue to be focused around new technologies. For St. Anthony's, Janis said the hospital's story will still revolve around its partnership with the community and keeping in with what the community's ever-changing needs will be.

"I think you'll see things like mobile booths and devices that you can use to see a provider digitally. You'll see the expansion of telehealth and a lot of things that we may not even expect like the Apple watch, which wasn't even a concept or a thought 10 years ago, but I think there are things like that technology that will continue to evolve," Janis said. "I think the biggest thing for us is we adapt to meet the needs of our community and that's always going to be the focus. That's why the sisters started providing health care 140 years ago, and fast forward 140 years from now, the vision is going to be the same — just adapting to technology and the needs of those people."

HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

Other entities also service the health needs of Effingham and Effingham County in addition to HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.

In recent years, Sarah Bush Lincoln, a Mattoon-based hospital, has expanded its

services to Effingham County. The hospital opened its first clinic, the SBL Effingham Clinic in 2018.

In an October 2019 interview with the Effingham Daily News, Public Relations Specialist Laura Glenn said the clinic was built to consolidate the many services Sarah Bush provided the Effingham area and to provide ear, nose and throat care.

SBL's most recent institution in Effingham is the SBL Evergreen Clinic, located at 104 W. Evergreen Ave. After 13 years in private practice, Dr. James Flaig, DO, joined Sarah Bush Lincoln's medical team in April 2019 to begin practicing at the Evergreen Clinic. Also at the clinic is local surgeon Dr. Kevin Malone, MD.

The Evergreen Clinic offers services in gallbladder removal, hernia repair, thyroid biopsy and removal, appendectomy, colon surgery, breast care, surgical oncology, dialysis access, thoracic procedures, skin lesion care, port placements, Coolsculpting and more. Glenn said SBL Urologist Fernando Gonzalez, MD, also offers urological care at the clinic one day a week.

Bonutti Orthopedic Services Ltd., its diagnostic imaging services, Biomax Rehabilitations, urgent care and occupational medical facility in Effingham joined Sarah Bush Lincoln in 2018. SBL has instituted a permanent GE Signa Voyager MRI unit at the SBL Bonutti Clinic.

Also in 2018, owners of the Effingham Surgery Center invited SBL to become partial owners of its center.

In January 2019, SBL's Effingham Clinic welcomed family physician Douglas Kabbes, MD, and Dr. Louis Schwing IV, who cares for those 16 years old and older in the internal medicine department of the clinic and Paul Oltman, MD, for family practice.

Another goal of Vision 2020 was to bring more dermatologists to the area. This



Top left: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital President and CEO Theresa Rutherford

Top center: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Executive Director of Post-Acute Care Shawna O'Dell

Top: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Bobbi Kinkelaar

Center: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ryan Jennings

Bottom: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Executive Director of Outpatient and Ancillary Services Mike Janis

Photo by Dawn Schabbing

Sarah Bush Lincoln Effingham Clinic at 905 North Maple in Effingham is shown. Dr. Doug Kabbes, family medicine, is at that clinic. Also, Dr. Louis Schwing, internal medicine, is at that location in his practice.

was achieved through Springfield Clinic, which has two locations in Effingham County, in Effingham and Altamont.

Services offered at the Altamont location include dermatology and family medicine. The Springfield Clinic became affiliated with Marshall Clinic in Effingham in 2016 and offers dermatology, endocrinology, family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery and pediatrics.

The Effingham County Health Department has been an ongoing source of health education for county residents. The county health department services those in county communities by preventing and minimizing disease and injury through essential, evidence-based, cost-effective, accessible and collaborative public health interventions, per its mission statement.

The health department offers services such as breastfeeding services, family case management, immunizations, maternal and child health and WIC assistance. The



ECHD also offers information on environmental health topics, including food safety, water supplies, sewage disposal, tanning, body art, tobacco use, radon and indoor air

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As for us at RE/MAX Key Advantage we are committed to serving our clients in the most professional manner possible. You deserve the best possible service available and a company that can provide results.

Effingham County Market 2019 at a Glance

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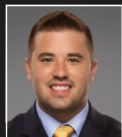
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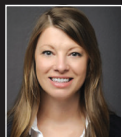
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TOP LAWYERS

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These **LEADING LAWYERS** have been recommended by their peers to be among the **TOP LAWYERS** in Illinois.

Q. Anthony Siemer Close/Private Held; Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Resident; Trust/Will/Estate	Attorney at Law	Effingham	217.342.9291
John L. Barger Agriculture; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
Robert G. Grierson Agriculture; Banking; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
R. Sean Hocking Personal Injury Defense: General; Products Liability Defense	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
J. Patrick Lee Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies & Misd; Family; PI Defense: General	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
Gregory C. Ray Personal Injury Defense: General; Workers' Compensation Defense	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
John F. Watson Insurance/Ins Coverage/Reinsurance; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481
Elizabeth Eberspacher Nohren Family	Dove & Dove	Shelbyville	217.774.2137
Jack Kiley Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; PI Defense: General; Personal Injury: General	Erickson Davis Murphy Johnson & Walsh Ltd	Decatur	217.428.0948
Daniel L. Gaumer Workers' Compensation Defense	Featherstun Gaumer Stocks Flynn & Eck LLP	Decatur	217.429.4453
Jerrold H. Stocks Commercial Litigation; Ins/Ins Coverage/Reinsurance; PI Defense: General; Product Liab Def	Featherstun Gaumer Stocks Flynn & Eck LLP	Decatur	217.429.4453
R. Samuel Postlewait Agriculture; Closely/Private Held; Comm Lit; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate	Hughes Tenney Postlewait Coale LLC	Decatur	217.428.5383
Larry A. Apfelbaum Workers' Compensation	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509
Todd A. Bresney Personal Injury: General	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509
Charles N. Edmiston II Workers' Compensation	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509
William J. Harrington Personal Injury: General	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509
John J. Waldman Workers' Compensation	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509
Keith W. Casteel Agriculture; Banking; Environmental; Real Estate: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325

Edward Q. Costa Bankruptcy/Workout: Comm; Commercial Litigation; Creditor Rights/Comm Collection	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
Scott E. Garwood Closely/Private Held; Mergers & Acquisitions; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
James T. Jackson Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Defense: General; School	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
Mark E. Jackson Adopt/Reproductive Tech; Med-Mal Def; PI Defense: General; Product Liab Def; Work Comp Def	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
Darrell A. Woolums Agriculture; Banking; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
Timothy M. Shay Personal Injury: General; PI: Professional Malpractice; Workers' Compensation	Shay and Associates	Decatur	217.425.5900
David W. Sutterfield Nursing Home Negligence; Personal Injury: General; Social Security Disability	Sutterfield Law Offices PC	Effingham	217.342.3100
Daniel C. Jones Personal Injury: General	Tapella & Eberspacher LLC	Charleston	217.639.7800
K. Lindsay Rakers Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Prof'l Malpractice; PI Pltff: Product Liability	Tapella & Eberspacher LLC	Charleston	217.639.7800
William R. Tapella II Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Professional Malpractice	Tapella & Eberspacher LLC	Charleston	217.639.7800

This **EMERGING LAWYER** has been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

Angelica W. Wawrzynek Closely/Private Held Business; Commercial Litigation; Trust/Will/Estate	Armstrong Grove & Wawrzynek LLC	Mattoon	217.234.7123
Kaylee I. Boehm Family	Dove & Dove	Shelbyville	217.774.2137
Christopher L. Siudyla Closely/Private Held Business; Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin	Erickson Davis Murphy Johnson & Walsh Ltd	Decatur	217.428.0948
Rusty K. Reinoehl Mineral & Natural Resource	Reinoehl Kehlenbrink LLC	Robinson	618.469.1000
Joshua J. Dubbelde Closely/Private Held; Real Estate: Commercial; RE: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325
Craig W. Runyon Banking; Creditor Rights/Commercial Collection; Trust/Will/Estate	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly LLP	Decatur	217.429.4325

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Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center

Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center is located at 904 W. Temple in Effingham and is a fully licensed, certified, and accredited outpatient surgery center. The center is known as a same day surgery center and surgeries are performed that do not require an overnight stay. Because it is a smaller facility, it is more affordable and conveniently located, as well as being able to offer more personalized care with shorter waiting periods, all within a clean, comfortable environment. Their highly trained professionals perform a broad range of outpatient surgical procedures and strive to care for every patient and their family as if they were their own. When combined with their state-of-the-art equipment, the care delivered is of the highest quality and safety. The team at Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center has worked hard to achieve their exceptionally high patient satisfaction rate and growth and it shows with their most recent Guardian of Excellence Award, for the 2nd time in 2 years.

The Surgery Center understands that any type of surgery can be intimidating, and that is why they do everything they can to ease any concerns and ensure your trust. This includes providing state-of-the-art equipment and highly trained surgeons, doctors, nurses, and staff members. Your family members will appreciate the easily accessible waiting rooms, and you will appreciate their comfortable surgical suites. Unlike other larger surgical facilities, they have a small, focused team dedicated to their patients' experience. Their providers get to know each patient's medical history and background so that they can provide the most individualized care possible.

The vision of a local ambulatory

surgery facility began with the humble aspirations of a local family doctor. He knew his community would truly benefit from a patient centric "hometown" surgery center. The Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center did its first surgery in January 1995. In 2005, the building was expanded in order to better facilitate privacy, comfort and convenience for the patients. The services at the Center have continued to flourish making the Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center a facility of excellence.

In December 2019, it was named a 2019 Guardian of Excellence Award Winner By Press Ganey. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing health care organizations that have achieved the ninety fifth percentile or above of performance in Patient Experience. This award is a nationally recognized symbol of achievement of the highest order in health care. It is presented annually and honors clients who have consistently performed in the top 5% of all Press Ganey clients for each of the reporting periods during the course of the year. The Surgery Center won the same award in 2018.

According to Jeany Dunaway, RN, CASC, Administrator, the award represents an important recognition from the industry's leaders in measuring, understanding and improving the patient experience. Dunaway also states that the Center strives to be a Center of Excellence and that is demonstrated by how the patients are treated, much like a member of their own family.

Attention to detail is of the utmost importance and is demonstrated through their impressive infection control rates and patient satisfaction rating. In the last four years EASC has done over 27,000

cases and their surgical site infection rate remains under 0.15%. These rates were this low because of the superior attention to the care of each wound and fully explaining the at-home instructions upon discharge. Additionally, they ensure their facility is as clean as possible in order to exceed industry standards and prevent the spread of diseases.

Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center serves a large portion of central Illinois providing surgical services to patients in the specialties of podiatry, general surgery, endoscopy, orthopedics, hand surgery, plastics, ophthalmology, gynecology, ENT, urology pain management and oral maxillofacial surgery. EASC also boasts a high quality anesthesia team with two full time anesthesiologists and two nurse anesthetists. They have 29 surgeons on staff along with 60 employees

The mission statement of the Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center is to provide first class surgical services for the community in a safe, comfortable and welcome environment; one in which they would be happy to treat their own families. EASC is committed to assuring the choice of the highest quality care delivered with compassion and respect in an environment centered around patient comfort and confidentiality. Their excellent patient satisfaction, infection control and safety rates are a reflection of just how much they adhere to their mission statement.

Be sure to visit them at effinghamsurgerycenter.com or follow them on twitter and facebook

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THE EFFINGHAM AMBULATORY
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Patient experience comments:

“Excellent experience, I would highly recommend your facility to anyone & everyone.”

“Best place ever if you need surgery. Everyone is kind, compassionate and punctual. Very responsive to needs”



“The objective and mission of the surgery center has always been to provide exceptional care to our patients. I believe this award validates that we have been successful in our mission. We have been recognized as one of the most outstanding healthcare institutions in the country. We are 1 of 5 in Illinois and the premier provider in Effingham. We would like to thank our patients for allowing us to take care of all their surgical needs over the past 25 years. I would also like to thank all of our staff and physicians for their exceptional care over the past 25 years.”

~ James Flaig, DO

Ruben Boyajian, MD, General Surgery

James Flaig, DO, General Surgery

James Graham, DPM, Podiatrist

Kelly Haller, MD, Gynecologic Surgery

John Kay, MD, Ophthalmology

Lisa Kowalski, MD, General Surgery

Frank Lee, MD, Orthopedic Surgery

Kevin Malone, MD, General Surgery

Jason McAllaster, DO, General Surgery

Nash Naam, MD, Hand Surgery

Brian Ogan, MD, Pain Management

Lisa Sasso, MD, Hand Surgery

Joseph Spraul, MD, Ophthalmology

Patrick Stewart, MD, Hand Surgery

Jay Swanson, DDS, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

About Press Ganey

Press Ganey pioneered the healthcare performance improvement movement more than 30 years ago. It works with more than 33,000 healthcare facilities in its mission to reduce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the overall safety, quality and experience of care.



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Effingham Veterinary Clinic

Effingham Veterinary Clinic is a locally owned business that has been serving our community since 1973. It has six full-time veterinarians, who have a combined experience of 90 years in the industry, who can perform orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, organ biopsy, bladder surgery and skin procedures.

The clinic is located at 408 N. Keller Dr., and offers business hours of 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 7:30 a.m.-noon Saturday. They also offer 24-hour emergency service, and are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Effingham Veterinary Clinic is your go-to stop for high-quality pet diagnostics, among other services offered. Whether your pet is sick, hurt or just needs preventative care, Effingham Veterinary Clinic can offer the services needed in one stop. They provide services such as full lab work, digital

X-rays, ultrasound, therapeutic laser, and blood and urine analysis. From spaying and neutering to extensive surgery and orthopedics, as well as farm services, it is all available at Effingham Veterinary Clinic.

Whether you need a health certificate or a health diagnosis of your farm animal, count on the professionals at Effingham Veterinary Clinic to provide it for you. They offer a host of services like general surgery, immunization, general animal wellness, pet wellness, advanced vet services, animal hospital intensive care, large animal care, farm service, equine care, cow care and pig care.

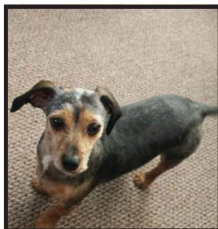
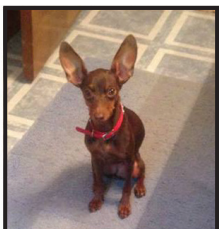
The veterinarians at Effingham Veterinary Clinic are compassionate and always strive to provide the highest quality of care to all of their pet patients. Pet wellness is one of the top priorities for the staff at Effingham Veterinary Clinic, as well as making sure that your expect-

tations are exceeded with the quality of service you receive and making sure that every experience has the personal touch and commitment that goes above and beyond.

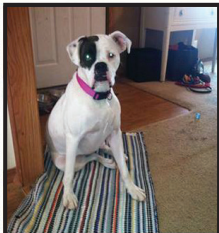
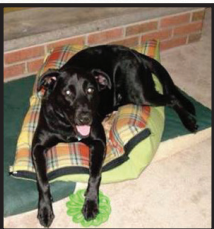
One of the main reasons Effingham Veterinary Clinic continues to stand out in its field is because of its innovative and sustainable veterinary care for most species. The staff uses the latest veterinary techniques and best practices in veterinary care.

Effingham Veterinary Clinic is proud to have received the Effingham Daily News People's Choice Award for Best Veterinary Clinic and Best Veterinarian, Dr. Chad Ely in 2019.

Follow Effingham Veterinary Clinic on Facebook at Effingham Veterinary Clinic or visit the website at effingham-vetclinic.com



Dr. Chad Ely
Dr. Dale Spindler
Dr. Mara Fehrenbacher
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Pagel's Silver Dollar Lanes

Your one-stop for entertainment for the whole family

Pagel's Silver Dollar Lanes on South Banker is a one-stop-shop with entertainment for the whole family. Co-owners Sheree Limes and Larry Pagel are creating an atmosphere of fun with something for everyone.

"Our customers have a lot to choose from when they visit," shared Limes.

A recent addition is their video gaming lounge. "In 2017 we opened the gaming lounge, which has been popular. We have five games in a separate room for customers to enjoy."

Traditional bowling is available on 24 lanes and they also offer Galaxy Bowling. Bowlers can listen to hit music while enjoying bowling in the dark.

Each year they host the Silver Dollar Classic tournament. Youth bowlers can qualify at Pagel's to move onto the Pepsi Youth Tournament.

Avid bowlers will appreciate their Winter, Summer and Youth leagues. Bowling specials are available on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Pagel's has a full-service pro shop, and sell balls, shoes, bags and other accessories.

The fun doesn't stop with bowling. Pagel's has two pool tables and host frequent pool tournaments for competitive players. Dart boards are always in play, and darts tournaments offer a way to test one's skills.

Limes adds, "We are available for

private parties, and have several packages a customer may choose. We have an ideal space to host birthday parties, church gatherings, corporate events and post-prom parties."

Pagel's Silver Dollar Lanes is open seven days a week during the winter, with summer hours in effect May through August.

For more information, follow them on Facebook at Pagel's Silver Dollar Lanes, visit www.silverdollarlanes.com, email silverdollar@effingham.net, or call 217-342-3939.

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Friday: Open at 3 p.m.
Saturday: Open at Noon

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Taylor Law Offices, P.C.

The attorneys at Taylor Law Offices, P.C. has been providing exemplary legal service to clients and the community since G. F. Taylor first opened a law office in Effingham, Illinois in the late 1880's.

More than a century later, the team at Taylor Law remains steadfastly committed to its clientele and the generations of families and businesses who have depended upon its innovative and effective legal solutions and services. We have three locations to conveniently serve you in Effingham, Flora, and Springfield, Illinois.

As the largest law firm in the area, Taylor Law provides superior legal services to clients large and small. Our attorneys provide legal services in the fields of commercial litigation, business and corporate law, real estate, trial practice, personal injury, criminal defense, municipal law, utility and energy law, agricultural law, and estate planning.

Taylor Law's history is long and distinguished. G. F. Taylor began his

legal career by reading the law under Mr. Benson Wood, one of the first graduates of the University of Chicago Law School. Benson Wood was a former mayor of the City of Effingham, a United States Congressman, and a veteran of the American Civil War. His diploma from the University of Chicago School of Law dated June 30, 1864, hangs in the Benson Wood conference room in our Effingham office. G.F. Taylor's son, Harold J. Taylor graduated from the University of Illinois School of Law in 1925, and joined his father in the practice of law in Effingham, Illinois, under the firm name of Taylor & Taylor. G.F. Taylor died in 1945.

Under the leadership of Harold J. Taylor, the law firm of Taylor & Taylor grew to a four-lawyer firm, which included A. Leonard Anderson, George Dehn, and Carl Becker, who later became circuit judge in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Chester, Illinois. In 1961, Harold J. Taylor's son, Thomas F. Taylor, a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Law, joined the firm.

After the untimely death of Thomas F. Taylor at the age of 48 years in 1983, Taylor & Taylor merged with the firm of Dale F. Wolff & Associates, P.C. and became Taylor & Wolff. In 1987 with five attorneys, the firm was incorporated as Taylor Law Offices P.C.

The firm currently consists of seven partners, Bruce Burkey, Lou Viverito, Matthew Hortenstine, Christopher Koester, Tracy Willenborg, Aaron Jones, and Aaron Leonard.

Taylor Law has two associate attorneys, Kristen Flood and Kara Wade. The firm is dedicated to the community through sponsorships of local organizations and programs, in addition to the attorney's volunteerism on various boards and committees within the Effingham area.

The attorneys of Taylor Law Offices are strong advocates for their clients and believe in providing innovative legal service along with exceptional customer care.



Bruce A Burkey
Matthew R Hortenstine
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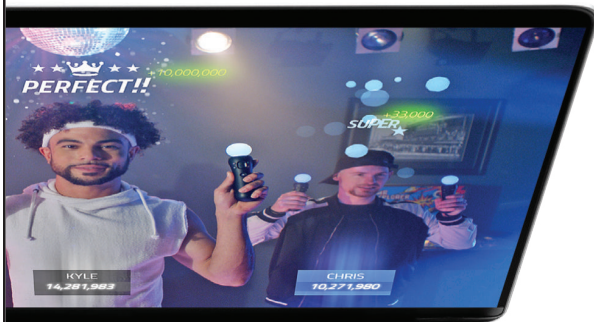
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[^]99.9% Network Reliability: 2019 Mediacom Executive Summary Outage Exception Report.

ENTERTAINMENT

and art thriving and growing

By Crystal Reed

Effingham has a wide variety of arts and entertainment options and those options have grown over the last 10 years and will continue to grow into the future. One of those arts and entertainment options is the Effingham Performance Center.

Jodi Thoele, director of tourism for the City of Effingham, said the Effingham Performance Center's growth and evolution has made a huge impact on Effingham in the last 10 years.

"We've had some really great names come to Effingham, both at the EPC and the county fair," she said. "So we hope to see that trend rise over the next 10 years."

The EPC was known as the Rosebud Theatre in the beginning and ran as a for-profit theater for the first two years. That format did not work, and it was taken over by a not-for-profit organization.

"Arts Connection of Central Illinois is a nonprofit that operates the Effingham Performance Center," said Kim Jansen, ex-

ecutive director of the EPC. "The mission of Arts Connection of Central Illinois is to promote live entertainment and education."

Jansen said like all organizations, the group is always looking to the future for ways to expand services. The EPC hosts about 30 or more live performances each season, according to Jansen.

"We've had a lot of success with that, we bring in lots of genres of music and entertainers – everything from country to rock 'n roll to oldies to big band," she said.

The Effingham Performance Center is the home for Three Chicks and A Stage production company. The theater group puts on two shows every season, a fall production and a Christmas production.

"We provide them with a platform to come and present their plays," said Jansen. "It's awesome because it gets local participants into the theater, so local actors and actresses and people who are interested in the theater have an outlet to come and explore those arts with us."

The performance center also has a theater camp that is a junior camp for younger kids and two camps for the older kids. The younger kids come and learn theater skills and do a mini production.

The older kids camp lasts two weeks. They learn acting skills, do their own publicity, make posters, get headshots and audition for a free show they perform for the community at the end of the camp.

Jansen believes the center will continue to be a successful organization that will promote live arts in the community.

"I think we will help the community by bringing different types of arts to the community," she said. "We also brought a ballet to Effingham. We've brought musicals to the stage and acrobats to the stage."

Jansen said Effingham may be a small community, but it boasts many hotels, restaurants, a sports center, stores – and a really great theater.

"We're just one more thing Effingham can do," she said.



Jerry Rhoads works at a small lathe creating another piece of art. The Vase Flame, which can be seen on the top shelf behind him, won Mayor's Choice Award in this Artisan Fair file photo.

Photo by Dawn Schabbing

Stangehands Kevin Deadmond and Stefanie Pocrnich run cables for speakers and microphones for Six String Summit show held at the Effingham Performance Center.

Jansen hopes to continue providing affordable tickets to patrons.

"When we have national shows, of course some of the ticket prices are more expensive," she said. "But there's a lot of shows that are affordable to all our community members."

"You're going to see more community outreach from us in the future," she said. "You're going to see us get more people in the building and to experience the arts and see us really develop into more of a community center."

LIVE MUSIC

Thoele has seen a resurgence of live music across the area.

"It's been very well supported in our community in recent years, with businesses like Tuscan Hills Winery, Village Wine and Gifts and Effing Brew dedicating specific evenings to celebrating and supporting the community's wide array of talented musicians," she said.

Local music festivals have flourished as well.

Bill Passalacqua, executive director of the nonprofit Poss Music Works, has organized three music festivals for several years, with a fourth planned for this year.

Moccasin Creek and the Summer Sundown Festival are held at Larson's Landing on Lake Sara and the Wander Down Festival is held at the Touch of Nature Center in Makanda, Illinois. All of these festivals incorporate Americana/roots music.

The Moccasin Creek Festival features songwriters, storytellers and string and bluegrass bands. Summer Sundown is similar, but incorporates local talent and is more eclectic. New this year is a blues festival that has yet to be named.

He hopes the festivals will grow bigger in the next 10 years as the music community develops.

"By doing that, we are building a music scene in southern Illinois and people will start thinking of Effingham as a destination for music and the great people that they've met," Passalacqua said.

Passalacqua said he is constantly on the lookout for talent and people who can draw festival-goers. Passalacqua has had people recognize songs that the artists sing at his festivals, but not recognize the artist's name.



"You may not have heard of them but you will like them when you attend," he said.

One draw is that the local festivals have easy access.

"You can park across the street from the stage, walk across the street and put your chair down and watch music for four straight days," Passalacqua said.

Besides local festivals, Passalacqua produces shows in Effingham, Olney and Newton and is looking for more communities to expand in. He produces around one show a month.

Passalacqua also has an Artist in Residence Program in the spring and fall for young artists. He also hosts youth open mics and shows in the community, as well as work in the local schools.

ARTISAN FAIR

The Artisan Fair has also been a wonderful event for the community and has expanded to be a staple event on everyone's spring calendar, according to Thoele.

It's been led by Cottie Dial and Lisa Elliott for 15 years.

The Effingham Artisan Fair grew out of the Effingham County Vision 2020 initiative's Culture Arts and Leisure section and has grown from one to two days. New art exhibits and activities and expanded entertainment and other events have been added to the fair over the years.

One of the central events during the fair is the annual Community Support Systems Art Auction. The auction features paintings

and one group painting created by the CSS consumers.

The auction has raised over \$10,000 for CSS annually. The 2019 CSS Art Auction raised a record \$12,495 last year, upping the 2018 total by nearly \$2,400.

Elliott and Dial are stepping down as organizers because they feel it was time to put the fair in someone else's hands. The two, along with the Artisan Fair Committee, will still head the 2020 fair on May 1 and 2.

SCULPTURES

Another attraction that has grown in Effingham over the last 10 years is the Sculpture on the Avenues program in downtown Effingham.

"We have taken on more sculptures and showcased between 20 and 30 sculptures in the outdoor exhibition each year," Thoele said. "We also give guided tours of the exhibition, upon request."

Thoele hopes the tourism bureau continues its long-standing relationship with some of its tried-and-true artists over the next 10 years, but added the city is always looking for new artists with fresh ideas.

WONDERLAND IN LIGHTS

Every winter a drive-thru holiday light display that features a variety of lighted Christmas scenes comes to life at Community Park.

The display, hosted by City of Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau, continues to grow, with 6,230 vehicles driving

through the display last year.

As the display is sustained through donations, Thoele said the city looks forward to purchasing new light exhibits to help light up the City of Effingham again next year.

The city has also continued to grow its 3-D Christmas light display on the Effingham County Museum lawn that attracts visitors every year.

FACE

Another element of arts and entertainment in our area is FACE (Fine Arts, County of Effingham) Players, Orchestra and Chorus. The group formed in 1974.

FACE players do three shows a year, performed in the Fine Arts Room at the Ron Diehl Center.

The FACE orchestra and chorus perform at various events and on summer evenings in the gazebo on the Effingham County Museum lawn. The singers and orchestra also perform a Christmas concert each year.

When it comes to plays, the group predominantly performs comedies.

“Our goal is to provide an escape from the everyday problems,” said Les Liss, the group’s director. “Our members want the escape.”

On the music side, the orchestra and chorus perform everything from classical to contemporary, and there is always a wide range of different types of music. The FACE orchestra is directed by Bev Marshall.

“We work hard, play hard and value ourselves and the quality of our shows,” Liss said.

Over the past 10 years, there has been more competition in the area from school shows. Liss said the variety is good for the community.

“We will continue to present quality opportunities to participate or view our performances,” Liss said.

MOVIES AND MORE

Effingham has seen an upgrade to the RMC Stadium Cinemas in the last 10 years.

In December 2018, it was announced the cinemas had completed the purchase of a section of the Village Square Mall after five months of negotiations.

The additional space was to allow the theater to expand with up to two more auditoriums, a larger concession stand and a large lobby. Those two auditoriums have about 50 seats each. RMC now has 10 theaters to select from.

If you’re looking for a unique way to be entertained, the Bent Key Escape Room opened in April 2017. The business is owned by Justin and Kat Roepke and Steve Niemerg.

Escape rooms have been around since 2004 but they seem to have become more popular within the last several years.

Escape rooms are a 60-minute gaming experience where you have to solve riddles, mind tricks and puzzles hidden throughout the room. Roepke said what draws people to escape rooms is anyone can do them and they are a fun, challenging and interactive game.

“You must work together to find hidden clues and unravel the mystery,” she said. “It is an experience you won’t forget and will want to do again and again.”

Bent Key Escape Room has three rooms: the Hangover, Home Alone and Strange Things of Effingham. They change every six months to a year or sometimes more.

Roepke said escape rooms have evolved over the last few years with technology and

their first rooms were basic.

“Our newer rooms involve more technology and magnetic locks,” she said. “In the next 10 years, the technology will only advance.”

She said they have been contacted by several virtual reality companies, so those will eventually play a role in how a participant completes an escape room.

ART GUILD

Visual artists have the ability to meet with other artists through the Effingham Art Guild, whose mission is to unite artists and patrons of Effingham and its vicinity for the purpose of friendship, individual and group development of the visual arts.

Effingham Art Guild President Stacey Zerrusen says that the group has grown in the last year. Its membership now touts 70.

During the guild’s monthly meeting, an artist demonstrates his or her craft and sometimes those in attendance get to do art with them. Twice a year the group has full-day workshops for various types of visual arts.

The art created by members is displayed throughout Effingham in various venues and through shows the guild hosts.



Photo by Kaitlin Cordes
Macy Arietz finds pottery that catches her eye
at the Artisan Fair.

EFFINGHAM

County continues to thrive

By Kaitlin Cordes

It's no secret that Effingham County has emerged as a hub of growth, development and progress over the last decade.

Community leaders expect the county to continue on its path to becoming a beehemoth in the state.

Effingham County Board Chairman Jim Niemann has watched the county blossom since he was elected to the board in 2010. Niemann said it is the residents of the county who are responsible for the positive growth the county has enjoyed.

"Effingham County's most notable asset has always been the people who live here. The traditions of hard work, good schools and a safe place to raise a family have been adopted," Niemann said.

Niemann said the county has grown significantly in its economic and technological standpoints. Many new businesses have set up shop in the communities that are contained within the county, and companies and well-known brands continue to seek out Effingham as a place for one of its franchises.

Niemann said perhaps what is most striking is how the county has been recognized by neighboring counties and counties across the state. He said a large part of this impact has to do with the county being a transportation hub and a centerpoint for travelers.

Effingham County is the place Niemann said he calls home for many reasons.

"It has the comfort and safety of home for so many," Niemann said. "Here, we care about each other and offer help without reservation. One simply needs to look at our churches, volunteer and social organizations and our groups dedicated to the less fortunate among us. People want to stay here because it is a good place with good jobs and great people."

Niemann would like to see all of the county's communities continue to plan for the future while learning from the past. He said this involves adapting to new technologies and remaining competitive in the marketplace while protecting the county's core values.

In the past year, the county board has made decisions that speak to what Nie-

mann said about planning for the future.

Most recently, the board passed a 3.5 percent cannabis retailer's occupation tax in anticipation of the legalization of adult-use recreational marijuana, which occurred at the beginning of 2020. At the September 2019 meeting during which the tax was approved, Niemann told the board the tax would cover costs the county will incur from added enforcement.

The board also approved in December an intergovernmental agreement between Altamont and Beecher City to expand and extend the life of the Altamont Enterprise Zone. The expansion of the enterprise zone would now include Beecher City city limits.

Niemann said since being selected as county board chairman, he has felt thankful

for the opportunity to serve those he represents as well as his fellow board members. He said he looks forward to continuing to do so in the future.

"I can't begin to express how blessed and honored I have been to have garnered the trust of my neighbors to represent them on the county board as well as the trust my fellow board members have placed in me to serve them as chairman," Niemann said.

"Effingham is home for me. I started my career in another town and took a pay cut to move back home to raise my children here. There really is no place like Effingham."



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EFFINGHAM

builds on city's past to forge the future

By Dawn Schabbing



Photos by Dawn Schabbing

The former Apria Healthcare building at 500 West Jaycee has been renovated to become Fire Station 2. The station located at 2401 South Banker has outdated its usefulness as a fire station and will be sold.

Many improvements in Effingham over the past decade are glaringly obvious. But city officials say the public might not immediately notice others that are helping shape the community.

Millions of dollars each year are pumped into the city's infrastructure. The local tax dollars and state and federal grants not only maintain what Effingham has, but help prepare the city for growth.

"Street, water and sewer infrastructure is the foundation of the city," said Public Works Director Jeremy Heuerman. "Without it, we could not grow and maintain our quality of life in Effingham."

Heuerman, who was promoted to public works director in May 2019, had served as city engineer and planner for the eight years before that. He replaced Steve Miller, who was named the city's second city administrator in January 2019 after the departure of Jim Arndt in June 2019.

"Over the last 10 years, miles of streets have been resurfaced, reconstructed, sealed and maintained through all funding sources of the city," said Heuerman. "New streets have been constructed, opening up prop-

erty for development and providing long-term infrastructure to the community."

Some of the major street projects involved Pike Avenue, Lange Avenue, Gillenwater Avenue, Outer Belt West (north section), North Raney Street, Ford Avenue, Jefferson Avenue and Thies Avenue.

Over the last decade, the city made some major upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant to make room for growth. But the Waste Water Treatment Plant has not seen many upgrades in the past decade. In 2020, the city will install a UV disinfection system and will be looking at phosphorus removal to remain in compliance with EPA standards and provide cleaner effluent. This will require major upgrades to the plant over the next 10 years. Also, millions of dollars have gone into lift station upgrades to provide fewer overflows and better service to the community.

The downtown area has received major upgrades, including a new 10-inch water main, new concrete pavement, decorative crosswalks, electrical services for events, and new outdoor seating areas.

"These improvements are an investment to keep businesses thriving in the down-

town area and to bring more visitors to Effingham," said Heuerman. "It sets a new vibe, welcoming visitors and residents to visit the downtown area and truly is one of the best downtown districts in central and southern Illinois."

Officials have also been working to improve the south side of the city.

"A lot of effort and resources have been placed on South Route 45 (also known as South Banker Street) to make improvements to the entire corridor, and it shows. Several businesses have invested in their buildings for the long term, and we hope the trend continues with support from the city."

The city is working to improve housing in that area and elsewhere as well.

Effingham has received two major housing grants within the past 10 years. The first was for \$400,000 in 2015. Already this year, the city has received \$500,000 that will provide funds to low-moderate income families to make safety and health improvements to their residential homes, improving property values and their quality of life. Up to 10 homes are expected to receive major improvements in 2020.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

After several years of planning, the City of Effingham has made a number of improvements to its buildings. The most notable was the new police station, which took about two years to construct but doubled the space for that department, which had been in a renovated Kroger store.

That building was torn down in July 2017 to make space for the new building that would complement city hall.

"I'm certain that the building initially met the needs of the department," said Police Chief Jason McFarland, who took over that post in May 2019. "Over time, the City of Effingham continued to grow, along with the need for additional services from the police department. With the construction of the new facility, several issues that plagued the former facility were addressed."

He said problems with the facility ranged from lack of space for private interviews, to insufficient room to process and store evidence.

The new state-of-the-art police station encompasses 26,457 square feet, has a training room, 911 Dispatch Center, a secure sally port and processing area. There is also a report-writing room and a roll call room for daily briefings.

The station has room for a second-floor expansion, as well as growth in the 911 center. The new police station was built

with 30,000 bricks that match city hall. The bricks were made at the same brick plant and laid by the same mason.

Along with a new facility, came new programs.

"The EPD has recently implemented programs that increase our engagement with the community," said McFarland.

"Programs that include providing training to the community on important issues, such as an active shooter and human trafficking awareness, as well as providing a full-time school resource officer."

McFarland said the department will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the community.

Along with a new police station, the fire department is receiving a new station of its own.

Effingham Fire Chief Bob Tutko said the department worked closely with the city council to find the most feasible way to replace an aging fire station.

"The creative solution was purchasing an existing commercial building and converting the facility for use as the new home of Fire Station 2," said Tutko. "The building will enhance the area of Jaycee Avenue and Banker Street and the project has saved taxpayers nearly \$1.5 million versus purchasing land and constructing a new building."

The new building was expected to open in mid-February.



Shown is the exterior of the Firefly Grill restaurant.

The department also adopted a Community Risk Reduction Strategy, replacing the traditional public education model of fire prevention, which will enhance community safety, Tutko said.

Additions were made to the Public Properties Building, which will allow the city to combine equipment, tools and storage into one facility that will be more efficient for staff and allow better public access to the cemetery office.

The city also constructed a shed to store equipment and pumps at the Street/Sewer Maintenance facility. This shed will allow an older salt storage building to be demolished and make room for more material storage, Miller said.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fayette Avenue

A project that has been talked about for more than a decade might actually happen in the early 2020s under state funds pack-



Shown are some of the Effingham police officers and former and current city officials cutting the ribbon for the official grand opening of the Effingham Police Department in February 2019.

aged for what is being called “Rebuild Illinois.”

Recently, the state announced \$61.2 million for the Fayette Avenue reconstruction project that includes parts of US 40, US 45, Illinois 33 and Fayette Avenue.

Effingham Mayor Mike Schutzbach said the project to widen the heavily traveled four-lane road has been long awaited.

“The city has been desiring the expansion of Fayette Avenue for decades because of how narrow that roadway is,” said Schutzbach. “Over the years, the city has worked with the state. Everyone knows of the importance of widening it for safety reasons.”

The south side of Fayette is expected to be most affected – and in some cases, it could be detrimental to businesses there.

While officials continue to cross fingers that the funds will be allocated soon and the project will come to fruition, Schutzbach hopes the project will come in the “very near future.”

Heuerman said Phase I will include improvements from Illini Drive to Banker Street. IDOT will be acquiring most properties to the south throughout the section if they are impacted by the project. Businesses and homes will have to be relocated. This will all be taken into consideration during the right-of-way acquisition phase

“Street, water and sewer infrastructure is the foundation of the city. Without it, we could not grow and maintain our quality of life in Effingham.”

Jeremy Heuerman
Public Works Director

by IDOT.

“It was determined to widen the street to the south to have the least amount of impact to the community and the most efficient alignment for construction costs” said Heuerman.

Bike Lanes

Related to the street improvements, Effingham is also making strides to become more friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians. Constructing major portions and additions to the TREC trail allows for access to retail and commercial districts.

The community will see a major upgrade in bicycle access in 2020 with the striping of bike lanes and trail heads, connecting community parks, schools and commercial

districts, Heuerman said.

A \$1.17 million citywide bike lane project has been slowly gaining ground over the past several years.

The project has been ongoing since a bicycle and pedestrian plan was developed and later adopted into the city’s comprehensive plan in 2011.

In 2017, the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program awarded Effingham \$934,000 for design, construction and construction engineering to stripe bike lanes on roadways throughout Effingham. A trail head/parking lot, signage, kiosks and trail connections are also planned for construction.

Heuerman said Effingham was among the first to apply for the ITEP funds under the new Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements. Therefore, it took the city more than a year to get funds for engineering and design work.

The city will share the smaller portion of the cost with TREC, as the trails will connect with the bike lanes. The city’s portion is expected to be no more than \$117,800.

Frank Brummer, president of TREC, said the idea is to make Effingham bike friendly.

“The best is yet to come,” said Brummer about the plans to expand bike lanes around the city. “The mileage (of bike



During the 2017 excavation work of the former Effingham police station, the crew sorts out metal from blocks for recycling.

lanes) will more than double our bike lanes here when it is complete.”

Brummer added that the new plan, along with the existing TREC trails, will allow bikers a safe route from the city to Lake Sara.

“This is a dream project for the TREC and City of Effingham,” said Brummer.

Commercial Development

Director of Economic Development Todd Hull said having the right tools for any job is critical and for Effingham’s economic development that comes in Tax Increment Financing districts and similar ways.

“The city has been blessed to have Tax Increment Financing districts (TIFs) that were very successful in the past,” said Hull. “One of these TIFs will be expiring in 2021 and the additional funds generated after that point will be going back to the respective taxing bodies as an increase in their revenues.”

The city is looking to connect and extend the life of two other existing TIFs. Also in the tool box are Business Districts, which will make infrastructure improvements and spur development within the key commercial areas in our community.

“Currently, the city is working on several industrial and commercial expansions that are very exciting,” said Hull. “These projects will be announced as soon as possible ... the future looks bright. We continue to appreciate the residents and business that make our community what it is today, and in the future.”

The city has helped businesses throughout the city update and improve their facilities through the rehabilitation TIF program. Hull said since the program began in 2003 nearly 70 projects have received financial assistance for facade improvements in the downtown and southtown areas of Effingham.

“It is also a great program in that a business or building of any size located in the program area can apply for the funds to make facade improvements to the facility,” said Hull. “And per council approval, staff is looking forward to continuing the program for fiscal year 2021.”

Build it and they will come

The local tourism director said Effingham continues to grow as a destination.

“We have seen this in the number of events and festivals that occur each year, new attractions, restaurants and hotels that have opened in the last decade and in the economic impact numbers that have steadily increased over the years,” said



Jodi Thoele.

The Illinois Office of Tourism reported that in 2018 Effingham generated \$3.44 million in local tax revenue and \$170.71 million in visitor expenditures.

“We expect these numbers to continue to increase for 2019 and 2020, as they have each year over the past decade,” said Thoele. “We have also seen Effingham continue to grow as a culinary destination. Places like Firefly Grill, Tuscan Hills Winery and John Boos & Co. have really put Effingham on the map for those foodies. Tourists now want an experience and we are able to give that to them when they come to Effingham.”

Thoele said although it is difficult to predict what new attraction could be in the next decade, the city has always been elated with what people have done in the past for Effingham.

“We’ve always been pleasantly surprised by what people dream up and bring to life,” said Thoele. “We have some passionate event coordinators and community leaders who want Effingham to continue to prosper and be a place where visitors feel welcome.”

Thoele said tourism is an essential part of the City of Effingham.

“Its success allows us to support a variety of community projects and programs that help make our community a great place to eat, stay and play,” Thoele said.



Top: At Left, Tim Thies of Effingham, a plumber with Central State Construction and right, Peyton Winterrowd, an apprentice plumber, work inside the building being renovated to serve as Fire Station 2.

Above: Director of Public Works Jeremy Heuerman speaks about the Jefferson Avenue Downtown Project prior to the official dedication of the street with a ribbon cutting ceremony in October 2019.

BUSINESSES

thriving in Effingham

By Charles Mills

Businesses in Effingham over the past 10 years survived despite the national economic recession in 2007. That's according to City of Effingham Economic Development Director Todd Hull.

"During that time, we worked to retain John Boos, Sherwin-Williams and Patterson Dental," Hull said. "Those are the companies looking at doing a project or going somewhere else."

"Retaining the companies that we had was huge during that time period," Hull said. "That takes you back to 2008 and 2009 when the economy was bad."

Hull said during the recession only a few commercial businesses left the Effingham area.

"Effingham weathered that economic storm pretty well," Hull said. "I know some of the big-box businesses actually said their stores here in Effingham were doing better than most stores in the area."

One tool the city uses to retain businesses is the enterprise zone. The economic development tool is used to promote growth, job creation and retention by offering incentives in a designated area.

"The value of having an enterprise zone is pretty significant," Hull said. "Most companies on the industrial side are looking for locations that have enterprise zones."

"To be competitive we really needed to have that zone," Hull added.

With the expiration of some of the city's enterprise zones in the last decade, the city applied for a new one a few years ago. This time the city included other entities and expanded the zone to encompass additional areas in the county.

Hull said the old zones were governed by only Effingham and Effingham County. He said the new zone is made up of three different governmental bodies: Effingham, Effingham County and the Village of Teutopolis.

The majority of the new enterprise zone includes the city of Effingham.

"Now most of the industries in Teutopolis are in the zone as well," he said.

Hull said in addition to a new enterprise zone, the city created three new business districts during the last decade.

"Those have just started to generate some funds," Hull said. "It's kind of like TIF (Tax Increment Finance), where we can take the funds and utilize them to enhance and redevelop the area."

Hull noted the funds collected in a business district have to be spent in that district.

"You can't transfer them to another district," he said.

The three new business districts join a fourth already-established business district encompassing the Kohl's property and strip center that faces Ford Avenue.

Over the years to accommodate more industry and business, the city purchased farmland owned by the Bourgeois family

"The value of having an enterprise zone is pretty significant. Most companies on the industrial side are looking for locations that have enterprise zones."

Todd Hull

City of Effingham Economic Development Director

near The Cross at the Crossroads.

"The Beck's Seed facility went in there and Koerner Distributing," Hull said. "We still have 10 acres left."

"It was good that we were able to utilize that property to bring in some industry," Hull added.

Business expansion was also a factor during the decade, according to Hull.

"During that whole period, the hospital did three or four major expansion projects," Hull said. "And Heartland Dental made an expansion."

Some other big projects of the decade Hull noted was John Boos & Co., which relocated to a building south of Effingham; Joe's Truck Lube and Truck Centers; FedEx Ground; and Nuxoll Food Center. Mette's Cabinet Corner made an expansion, RMC Cinemas in the Village Square mall made improvements, Heartland Towing built a new building, and ADM made an addition as well.

"Sherwin-Williams made a lot of improvements to their facility over the past 10 years," Hull said.

During the past decade, vacant buildings that once housed major employers were redeveloped for new business.

Photos by Charles Mills

Heartland Dental moved their family dental business from the first floor of Heartland Dental headquarters to a dedicated facility at the intersection of North Keller Drive and Outer Belt West in Effingham.





City of Effingham Economic Development Specialist Sasha Althoff and Economic Development Director Todd Hull in their downtown Effingham office reception area.

Fedders facility was purchased and developed into a public warehouse. HG Development redeveloped the former TSI Graphics building on South Raney Street and Mansfield Drive, creating Accuracy Firearms retail gun store, shooting range and gunsmith shop. Hobby Lobby came to Effingham locating in the former Kmart building last year.

“Any businesses that went out, we were really quick to fill,” said City of Effingham Economic Development Specialist Sasha Althoff. “There has been so many changes over the past 10 years it would be hard to mention them all. We now have six boutiques in downtown Effingham.”

“Effingham’s downtown is very vibrant,” Hull said. “Between the city and the business owners, there’s been a lot of money invested in downtown.”

Hull is looking forward to the next 10 years.

“I see a lot of commercial development in Effingham’s future,” Hull said. “Meijer is just one of them.”

Hull said internet sales have changed the whole commercial market.

“We are very fortunate that we are still able to attract brick and mortar commercial business,” Hull said. “I think we have all of the right tools in place to be competitive.”

Hull foresees industrial expansion in Effingham as well.

“If the economy stays how it is, the industrial side will pick up a little bit. There are some existing industries looking to expand,” he said.



Top: John Boos and Company built a new facility south of Effingham within the last 10 years. Middle: The Nuxoll Food Center is just one of several new construction projects in Effingham over the past decade. Above: Hobby Lobby moved into the former Effingham Kmart store.

ALTAMONT

has seen boom over last decade

By Charles Mills

The past 10 years have created several changes to the business landscape throughout the city of Altamont. City Clerk and Treasurer Sarah Stephen witnessed several of those changes.

"It's hard to believe so much has happened in just a short period of time," Stephen said. "Most of your basic needs you can get in Altamont."

The Carriage House Event Center was established in 2012, bringing to Altamont a venue for weddings, private parties, business parties and corporate parties. Joe's Pizza opened a location north of the interstate in November of 2013 next to a McDonald's. It underwent a major renovation over the last 10 years. The Cobblestone Inn and Suites, a 37-bed hotel, was finished in 2016. A new Subway restaurant was built last year, moving across the street from their Jack Flash location, which is being rebuilt. Deb's Catering moved from its restaurant location north of Interstate 70 to a new building south of the interstate on Do-It Drive in 2017. The business evolved and grew over the years, starting in 1988 when Alvin and Deb Schultz purchased the Dairy Bar building on Altamont city property next to Schmidt Park. The Schultz family made additions to the original building in 1990 and 1992 and started catering soon after.

Several new businesses have opened south of Interstate 70 as well.

Interstate 70 Towing and Recovery is now located south of the I 70 on Mill road. Springfield Clinic Altamont is located at 3 Do-It Drive. It includes offices for Dr. Robert Frost. HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Diagnostic Center is also located along the same street, offering medical services including Ultrasound, X-ray, lab testing and EKGs.

Do-It Drive is home to other changes. The Neeleys purchased Mayce's Competitive Edge in January creating Neeley's Tumble and Fitness. Danielle Vaughn took ownership of SouthSide Gym, and Beck's Auto Body and Repair just opened at 8 Do It Drive.

Dr. John Opilka opened Opilka Wellness Center, placing several medically related businesses under one roof in July of 2017



Photos by Charles Mills

Opilka Wellness Center in Altamont has been open since July of 2017.

"We are fortunate to have two doctors in our small town."

Sarah Stephen
Altamont City Clerk and Treasurer

at 5 East Cumberland Road. It includes Weber Optiks, Kremer Pharmacy and HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital lab, imaging and therapy services, nutritional counseling and weight management.

"We are fortunate to have two doctors in our small town," Stephen said.

CR Flooring opened where the old antique mall was located at 106 West Cumberland Road in March of 2019 and just down the road to the east at 308 East Cumberland, a new eating establishment called Feedin' Frenzy opened. A new business InLine Physical Therapy moved into 305B East Cumberland Road.

The Early Learning Center moved to a new location from Bethlehem Church south of town to Division Street.

Kim Bouas created Vault Five, a downtown Altamont boutique in 2019. RDM Designs Cabinetry and Flooring and KT Boutique established new businesses in downtown. Bella's Gaming and Spirits

opened a business north of the railroad tracks at 205 North Main Street.

Last year, a new \$7.7 million residential apartment complex for seniors 55 years of age and older was completed in Altamont along U.S. Route 40. The Altamont Senior Apartments features a 700-square-foot community room and several modern features.

With all the new changes, Stephen said she is optimistic about Altamont's future and looks forward to the new Jack Flash Truck Stop later this year. It will replace the former Jack Flash that was located in the former Stuckey's building between McDonald's and Carriage House Event Center.

"That should be a big revenue maker for us I think," Stephen said.

A Mexican restaurant hopes to open where the former Dairy Bar restaurant used to be next to Schmidt Park.

Stephen said within the last 10 years the city has annexed property they hope will attract new businesses to the area in the next 10 years.

"I foresee some of the downtown properties selling for new business," Stephen said. "There are two buildings downtown now that are for sale. I look for those to sell and hopefully become prosperous businesses."



Top: The Carriage House Event Center was established in 2012 and one of several new building projects in Altamont over the past decade. Center: A new and improved Jack Flash truck stop is due to open this year in Altamont. Above: Construction of the Cobblestone Inn and Suites over the past 10 years brought a new hotel to Altamont. Left: Future home of Deb's Catering, Inc. and it's vending business south of Altamont. Owners Deb and Alvin Schultz hope to open the facility April 1.

DIETERICH

expects growth in coming decade

By Crystal Reed

The Village of Dieterich has seen a lot of changes in the last 10 years and officials predict even more changes to come.

A lot of the beautification and improvements under the Americans with Disabilities Act started about 10 years ago, according to Brittny Gipson, the village's clerk and economic development coordinator.

"On the west side of Main Street, we took all the wooden poles and overhead electric and put them underground, and then did the first phase of the sidewalks and improvements to this side of Main Street," she said.

Gipson added the look of Dieterich has drastically changed in the last decade.

Dieterich has also had its share of economic development, with 15 new businesses opening in the last 10 years. The largest of those is Dollar General, which opened last year.

The population has increased during that time, and so has the number of homes that have been built.

The building boom was spurred by the village's creation of North Pointe Subdivision in 2005. Seventy houses have been built there in the last decade. The village's newer subdivision, Hartke Subdivision, has had 18 lots sold since the subdivision started in late 2018. There are currently 16 homes built or under construction and the other two lots should be starting foundations as soon as the weather cooperates.

The village's residential growth has meant enrollment increases for Dieterich School District as well.

As the village grew, so did the need for a local medical facility. Although the village has had a medical clinic for about 20 years, the building was renovated and expanded with a pharmacy in the last 10 years.

On the horizon for the village are improvements to Liberty Memorial Park.

"This summer we are planning to do a facelift to Liberty Memorial Park," Gipson said. "Courtesy of an OSLAD grant, through the Department of Natural Resources, they are getting two new tennis courts, completely reworking the pond,



Photos by Crystal Reed

Mike Campbell of the Dieterich Streets and Alleys department points out the area where a 40x50 open air addition will be added to the pavilion as part of the updates Dieterich will be doing to Liberty Memorial Park after receiving a \$306,600 state grant.

add in an ADA fishing pier, new sidewalks and an addition to the pavilion, making it bigger and doubling the size of the restrooms."

State grants will help fund more beautification and compliance with ADA. Sidewalks, new street lighting, storm sewers, gutters and underground utilities are on tap.

Looking to economic development, village officials are excited about the opening of a new industrial park. The village purchased 25 lots last year that are zoned commercial or light industrial for the industrial park, which has two streets coming off Illinois Route 33.

Gipson said the village has some verbal commitments from businesses looking to locate to the new park.

Another project in the works is a multi-use community recreation center that will offer recreational opportunities for all ages. The concept for the facility came from a MAPPING session held last fall. A lack of recreational opportunities was identified during the session.

The land that the center will occupy was donated by Dieterich School District. The village has applied for a grant through the Illinois Park and Recreation Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC) to help fund this new facility.

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The center will be a 16,500-square-foot single-story multi-use facility open to the public and offering numerous recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities. Gipson said there will be a workout facility with cardio and weight equipment, a two-lane walking track around the gym and three community rooms to allow for activities such as card and quilting clubs, fitness classes, birthday parties and more.

Gipson said the facility will have one large multi-use court with a retractable dividing curtain that can be converted to two multi-use courts and there will also be portable bleachers.

The courts will be striped for basketball, pickleball and volleyball. Numerous camps and leagues are planned for sports including soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball.

The facility will include an office space for recreation staff and a kitchen/concession area. About 3,180 square feet of the center will feature a four-room day care facility with a director's office at the north

end. All costs of the dedicated day care facility are completely excluded from the grant funding request.

Concrete parking areas will be on all four sides of the center, with Steppe Drive being used for both entrance points to the parking lot. Steppe Drive is currently a gravel road and will be improved with a concrete surface, Gipson said.

The vacant land south of the center will be a future shared parking lot constructed by Dieterich School District. Planned hours of operation for the center are 5 a.m.

to 10 p.m. daily.

"There are no existing indoor recreation spaces – a clear detriment to Dieterich," Gipson said. "As we grow, the demand for recreation opportunities for all increases."

Gipson said rural communities don't have access to recreation like metropolitan areas. Dieterich officials realize this facility is a much-needed addition. They also realize the village can't afford it without grants.

Mike Campbell points out the area where a handicapped accessible fishing pier will be added as part of the updates Dieterich will be doing to Liberty Memorial Park.



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W.E.T. Pools & Spas

Water Equipment Technologies, Inc., better known as W.E.T. Pools & Spas, has been serving the community since 1996. W.E.T. started as a pressure washer sales and service business and in 1999 became a full-service pool dealer. This year they will celebrate their 24th Year Anniversary with special events throughout the year.

Owner Doug Thoele sold the pressure washing side of the business three years ago, and their focus is now solely on pools and spas.

"Pools and spas are our specialty," said Tammy Quast, who has been with the company since 1998. "We have sold pools as far away as Osage Beach, Missouri and Nashville, Tennessee," she continued. Their most popular style is

the rectangular 16x40. The company sells, installs and services pools and spas.

W.E.T. is a retailer for BioGuard chemicals for maintaining a beautiful pool. Their customers can take advantage of W.E.T.'s expertise to keep their investment looking its best.

"Each spring we host a 'Pool School' for our customers," explained Quast. "Our local BioGuard representative comes in and teaches a class about the use of their products. He'll explain water testing and treatment. Customers appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and get advice before summer starts. They'll learn everything they need to know to enjoy their pool all summer long."

W.E.T. will be bringing in new products this spring to create the ultimate pool and spa experience. Their staff recently returned from a trade show to research new products. "We have the latest pool and spa products in our showroom. There is something fun for everyone."

"We will be scheduling our spring open house soon, so the public can view all we have to offer," said Quast. Follow W.E.T. Pools & Spas on Facebook to learn more about upcoming events and classes.



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SMALLER

communities thriving, growing

By Kaitlin Cordes

Edgewood

Edgewood, in the past few years, has become home to a new restaurant. Carolyn's Bar and Grill, located at 308 Locust St, serves a variety of home-cooked foods to its patrons.

Carolyn's Bar and Grill has daily food specials which are posted each day on the restaurant's Facebook page.

The Edgewood American Legion Post 1168 and the Ladies Auxiliary continue to be staples in the community as well. Recently, in December, the Legion, along with the Effingham American Legion Post 120, participated in the Legion's Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave Program.

During the Christmas season, this program provides all veterans in nursing homes a special gift from the American Legion, plus a big "thank you" for serving in the defense of the United States of America. Some of the gifts included jackets, sweat suits and blankets.

Mason

Mason Mayor Don Flowers said his small town has seen a bit of economic growth in recent years.

He said a resale shop, Unique Station, opened in Mason three years ago and is now relocating and changing its name. The new consignment shop will be located on the north side of Illinois 37 and will be renamed 37 and Main.

The mayor said a café has also called Mason home within the last year. Deja Brew is located on Washington Street and serves food and drinks to patrons.

The Mason Civic Center continues to thrive as well. Flowers said community events are often held there, and families can rent the space for their personal events.

As for Mason's future, Flowers said he and the town board are looking to make their community a little more prepared.

"Right now we're working with the Emergency Management Agency to try to get some grant money to work on being prepared for any natural disasters or any man-made disasters that may occur," Flowers said. "We're trying to be a little more proactive on it and start looking at what we can do in case something like that happens."

Meanwhile, Flowers said the town board has been looking at the community's future revolving around now-legalized recreational adult-use cannabis. He said the board has not yet passed an ordinance but has

verbally agreed not to allow pot sales in the town, something he said the board may officially do in the future.

Mason's leadership itself is looking at its own future as well, Flowers said. Flowers' eldest daughter, 23-year-old Taylor, recently joined the community leadership as a board trustee, and Flowers said the board is looking to get its younger community members involved.

Flowers was not elected as mayor but was brought on when former mayor Sue Henderson resigned in 2018.

"Having never done anything like this, I had a bit of fear going into it with whether or not I would manage it properly and just afraid that I would fail the board and all that. I have learned some things, and I'm still learning. I like that part of it," Flowers said.

Getting to help those who live in Mason and preparing the town for its future has been exciting as well, Flowers said.

"Another thing I like about it is sometimes you're able to help some of the residents and the community out. That makes you feel good when you can do that," Flowers said.

Montrose

The town of Montrose is turning 150 this year. Montrose's Sesquicentennial will be held on July 31, Aug. 1 and 2, 2020, but there will be events throughout the year to commemorate the milestone.

According to the Montrose Sesquicentennial 2020 Facebook page, upcoming fundraising events for the Montrose Sesquicentennial include a Dueling Piano's music and comedy show on March 21 at 5 p.m. at the Grove Township Community Center. A trivia night will take place on May 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Toledo.

Sesquicentennial Committee Member Chris Will said there will be Glo Run on May 1 in the evening at the Montrose park. A Queen of Hearts drawing will be held throughout the year and continue until the culminating 3-day event unless someone wins before then, Will said.

The Queen of Hearts drawings will take place every Friday at Dozer's Pub in Montrose unless a fundraising event is taking place on a Friday, Will said. Then, the drawing will be held at the fundraising event.

Will encouraged those interested in the anniversary events to continue to check the Montrose Sesquicentennial 2020 Facebook

page for updates and events.

The Sesquicentennial celebrates the year J.B. Johnson laid out the Village of Montrose on July 19, 1870. The town was later incorporated in 1892.

Shumway

In the past year, Shumway received a new addition. In April 2019, Shumway's Enduring Freedom Ministries was gifted a cross which reached over 30 feet high.

The cross was given to the ministry by pastors Bill and Carol Mantel of Christian Cross Ministries from Cambridge, Minnesota, who were on a journey delivering and planting crosses. They were giving away crosses across the United States and abroad.

EFM Executive Director Vicki Kight said in an interview with the Effingham Daily News that she met the Mantels while working part time at the Hampton Inn in Effingham, and after learning about the Mantels' cross-giving ministry, Kight inquired about getting one for her own ministry.

Twenty volunteers helped lift the cross with ropes and direct the aluminum structure into place in April.

According to Kight, now that the cross is towering 30 feet over the Enduring Freedom Ministries building, it will serve as a landmark she can use to let people know where to find them in Shumway.

Watson

The Watson Civic Center continues to be the hub of activity for the community. Last year, Watson hosted its annual Watson Memorial Homecoming with some new additions.

The 2019 homecoming featured a brand new magic show and a slime-making workshop for its young attendees. Some old favorites returned, too, such as the hot dog eating contest and karaoke.

An ever-growing charitable organization continues to be a staple of the Watson area as well. Krops4Kids was started by Gary and Debbie Niebrugge in 2015.

The organization teaches youngsters to garden and grow their own food and other crops and plants. When it comes harvest time, the families and children who grew the food can then take it home at no cost.

Krops4Kids also helps its participants get in touch with their faith as well as get a sense of community and belonging through the organization.

TEUTOPOLIS

is mapping its future

By Crystal Reed



Photos by Crystal Reed

Farmweld broke ground on a 10,000-square-foot new office space. Those in attendance participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Teutopolis Village President Greg Hess has seen a lot of changes over the past 10 years in his town.

Much of that has been construction. Hess said that the village has been averaging about 30 building permits per year for the last several years.

“There has been a lot of construction going on, with around 100 acres added to the village limits,” he said. “Forty of that is from the Prairie View Subdivision.”

The subdivision included 21 homes in its first phase. The second phase, which started last fall, includes 28 lots with a list of people wanting to build.

The village has seen an uptick in business construction as well.

Farmweld has built one warehouse, a truck access route, a lot to store products, and is building an office complex. Hess says the company also has plans to build a few more warehouses.

Canarm, which is east of Farmweld, is a manufacturer of lighting fixtures and industrial blowers. It also built in the last 10 years a distribution center. As a result of the growth of Farmweld and Canarm, the village extended sewer and water lines out to Canarm. That was planned so that a lift station will service Meyer Storage Buildings.

Siemer Milling Company built a seven-story storage facility, which has allowed the company to produce more flour. That means more customers and more employees. Stevens Industries also expanded its

Teutopolis Village Board President Greg Hess receives a key to Farmweld from Farmweld Vice President Lori Runde.

“We are anxious to hear from others in the community what they would like Teutopolis to focus on.”

Rich Hartke

President of Teutopolis Community for Progress

space and hired more people.

The village has undergone infrastructure improvements in the last decade.

The village added Commercial Drive, which is home to four businesses, and Hess said the village has installed digital automatic water meters, using video gam-

ing fees to pay for them. The meters send readings to the computer at the village hall and water is measured by the gallon.

Fiber optic is also something that has come to the village. According to Hess, installation is two-thirds complete and will eventually be village-wide.

Hess noted Teutopolis is not the bedroom community people think it is. Teutopolis is a place to work for many people in the area.

“There are more people that work here than sleep here at night,” Hess said.

About 10 years ago the village started thinking about the future and developed a comprehensive plan. As part of that plan, the village did a sewer infiltration study to figure out how to best address the village’s lingering draining problem.

All seven members of the village board took a part of town to check for gutters



Photo by Charles Mills

Teutopolis Village President Greg Hess holds a blueprint of the Prairie View Subdivision in this 2018 photo.

and other methods that would possibly be causing surface water to go into the sewers. The village fixed all of the issues, thereby, slowing the amount of surface water going into the sewer.

“This stopped a lot of infiltration and drainage issues on the south side of town from east to west,” Hess said.

Another part of the comprehensive plan dealt with water service.

“We were able to hook on with Newton, which took care of our water supply,” he said. “We have three wells and we also get some water from Effingham.”

Hess said that the village will soon start a MAPPING program instead of revising its comprehensive plan.

The mapping program is being coordinated by citizens and was started by Teutopolis Community For Progress, an outgrowth of the Effingham County Vision 2020 community development program. Hess said that Dieterich has found similar mapping to be useful.

“We will get together in groups and brainstorm to come up with solutions,” he said. “We’re looking forward to doing



that.”

The Teutopolis Community for Progress was founded in 2005. The organization is made up of 12 volunteer board members, who meet twice a month on Thursday mornings at the Teutopolis Legion. Meetings are open to the public.

“At TCFP, we want to assist the village board and encourage continued growth for both residents and businesses in our town,” said the group’s president, Rich Hartke.

Some of the organization’s accomplishments include new Christmas lights, welcome signs, flags and banners downtown along Main Street, funding for the veterans memorial, assisting with a business reten-

tion survey, and assisting with the 2010 comprehensive plan.

The group also assisted with the newest subdivision, Prairie View, by getting the village in touch with the owners of the property. TCFP also assisted Wooden Shoe Development with the industrial park, which is home to four businesses so far.

The mapping project TCFP will assist is through the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and Western Illinois University.

Hartke said all this work is essentially about the future of the community’s kids.

“We are anxious to hear from others in the community what they would like Teutopolis to focus on,” he said.

A large advertisement for Car Corral. The background is a dirt road with tire tracks. In the center, the words "CAR CORRAL" are written in large, bold, red letters. To the right of the text are logos for Polariss, Slingshot, CFMOTO, Can-Am, and Fury. Below the logos, there are images of various off-road vehicles: a red and black Can-Am, a black and red Can-Am, a blue and black Can-Am, a blue and black Can-Am, a black and red Can-Am, a white and black Can-Am, a yellow and black Can-Am, a yellow and black Can-Am, a black and orange Can-Am, and a black and orange Can-Am. At the bottom, the address "620 McCawley Ave., Flora, IL 62839" and phone number "618-662-2641" are listed, along with the hours "Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m." and the website "www.carcorralpolaris.com".

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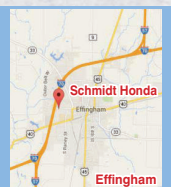


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Dieterich Bank

Dieterich Bank (DB), located at 101 North Main Street in Dieterich, Illinois, was chartered on November 15, 1909. The bank served local farmers, merchants, and people of the Village of Dieterich. Originating as The First National Bank of Dieterich, we simplified our name to Dieterich Bank in September 2015. This change was not the result of a merger. With hundreds of First National Bank of Somethings out there, we wanted to stand out and reflect who we are. The Village of Dieterich is part of our heritage, so it was only fitting that Dieterich is now our first name.

Fast-forward 110 years from when the bank began, and we have grown significantly with locations in Dieterich, Teutopolis, Newton, Effingham, Lake Sara, Red Bud, Belleville and St. Elmo. Dieterich Bank's current asset size is

\$806 million with 136 employees. We continue to grow and strive to provide quality products and service to our customers, a pleasant work environment for our employees, and support to our communities.

The bank is expanding its footprint in the Metro East market with plans to open a branch in Edwardsville, Illinois. This strategic initiative will create long-term value. The project timeline includes opening a temporary facility in the first quarter of 2020 with plans to begin construction on the permanent facility in early summer.

Plans are underway to open a loan production office in South County St. Louis. The bank has leased office space and is scheduled to open the loan production office in April 2020. This will allow the bank to pursue loan opportunities in that

area and continue to grow the commercial loan portfolio.

Dieterich Bank received an award for being named 2019 Best Places to Work in Illinois by The Daily Herald Business Ledger in partnership with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, MRA-The Management Association, the Small Business Advocacy Council and Best Companies Group. Dieterich Bank has created a culture of opportunity for its employees and offers perks outside of the regular pay and benefits package that employees appreciate and enjoy. The bank was pleased to receive this award as the key to its success is attributed to its people.



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Effingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau (Effingham Tourism) launched Weddings in Effingham: a Destination (WED) this past March, and it's been an exciting endeavor to say the least! Destination weddings are an untapped market for the City of Effingham -- one that Effingham Tourism is looking forward to diving into.

The goal for the association is to highlight the exceptional venues and vendors in the area who draw couples from all over the country to our community for their wedding celebrations. The WED Association not only caters to those bringing in guests for their destination weddings, but is also a resource for local brides and grooms, as well. You can browse the website at www.effinghamweddings.com, for more information. You can also tune in to WXEf and KJ Country each month to hear

expert advice from some of the WED's experienced members. Keep an eye out for their new commercial, too... It airs during ABC's The Bachelor!

Another highlight for Effingham Tourism continues to be the Wonderland in Lights. This holiday season proved to be yet another successful season, bringing in 6,230 cars and \$16,655.94 in donations. The drive-through light display continues to draw visitors from all over the area, and beyond. It is a wonderful family tradition for those that visit the lights each year.

In addition to Wonderland in Lights, the Downtown Effingham light displays are more popular than ever, especially the newest display, "Teddy Bear." Effingham Tourism loves to see families and friends lined up each weekend to take photos in front of the displays. They are looking forward to adding new displays

in the future.

Looking ahead for the community, Effingham Tourism is excited to delve into another niche market with great potential -- sports tourism. The Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the Effingham Park District, has been paving the way for sports tourism to flourish in the Effingham area, by way of marketing and networking with key sports rights holders. Effingham Tourism currently has a large youth baseball tournament in the works for Summer 2020 that has the potential to make an impressive economic impact in our community.

Promoting the attractions and hidden gems of Effingham to locals and visitors alike, the Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau highlights the fact that Effingham really is a great place to Eat, Stay and Play!

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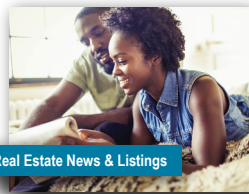
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Chiropractic Care Center

Got a backache or a pain in the neck? Come up with either ailment and someone is sure to advise a trip to the chiropractor. But, as Dr. Laura Ames explains, there are so many more aches, pains, ailments and conditions that can be diagnosed and helped with a visit to her or her associates at the Chiropractic Care Center in Effingham.

The list of conditions the chiropractic practice helps includes: colic, fibromyalgia, learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, depression, anxiety, insomnia, allergies, irritable bowel syndrome, reflux/heartburn, hormone imbalance, chronic sinusitis and restless legs to name a few.

Dr. Ames' stated her mission is to search for the root cause of a patient's ailment, so they are not taking medications to just treat the symptoms. Examples are patients who have fibromyalgia, or irritable bowel syndrome whose symptoms may sometimes be caused by food allergies or patients with ADD/ADHD who can be helped with alternatives to prescribed drugs, by a technique called Neurolink, which works with the belief

that the brain should be evaluated like a computer which controls your body. Any disconnections with the signals between your brain and your body will result in imbalances which can cause different symptoms. Dr. Ames states that it is so rewarding using Neurolink to help change the lives of children who have struggled with learning disabilities and ADD, who without medication, are now succeeding in school.

In addition, Dr. Ames works to correct any damage caused by a disease or condition. Patients with gluten intolerance, for example, may learn to avoid the food, but the digestive system damaged from years of irritation needs to be repaired through a nutritional protocol to become healthy and function normally again. Patients who have had several rounds of antibiotics need to reinoculate their system with the correct probiotics in order to re-establish their immune system.

"We are often the last resort for a patient who comes to us after having several tests done, only to be told there is nothing wrong with them," Dr. Ames said. "We

utilize different evaluations to help determine if their symptoms are being caused by a particular food, neurological disorganization, nutritional deficiency or other imbalances that have not been detected from standard tests.

We strive to educate, inspire and empower our patients to take a more active approach in overcoming their health issues. Often, dietary changes have to be made and the patient has to be willing to take supplements and to eliminate certain foods from their diet in order to become healthy again."

Dr. Ames is joined at the center by Dr. Andrea White who has been practicing there for several years and Dr. Allison Cain, who joined the practice over a year ago. The doctors are continually attending educational seminars, classes and programs to make sure they are staying at the cutting edge of developments in their fields and are able to do the best job they can to heal their patients and arm them against any future issues. If you are interested in learning more about neurolink, you can go to www.neurolinkglobal.com.

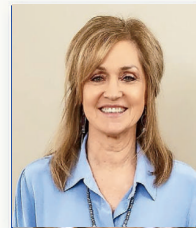
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Dr. Laura Ames



Dr. Andrea White



Dr. Allison Cain

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HSHS Medical Group Experiences Significant Expansion

Primary and Specialty Health Care in Effingham

HSHS Medical Group has continued to expand access to patient-first care in Effingham. In the last year, they welcomed several new physicians and advanced practice clinicians.

Primary Care for All Ages

Our primary care providers care for patients of all ages and offer a variety of services, including minor procedures, general wellness care, well-child exams, women's health care and acute and chronic illness management.

Elene Awad, MD, PhD, and Lauren Lustig, APRN, are located at HSHS Medical Group Internal Medicine, 901 Medical Park Dr., Suite 101.

Robert Frost, MD; Tammy Sasse, APRN; and Kathi Vaughn, APRN, are located at HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine & Obstetrics, 3 Do It Dr. in Altamont.

Michele Hartke, APRN, and Amanda Stroud, APRN, are located at HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine, 900 W. Temple Ave., Suite 1500.

Specialty Care Expansion

HSHS Medical Group Multispecialty Care – Effingham, located at 900 W. Temple Ave., Building B, Suite 2500, is home to a range of specialists.

David Bitzer, MD, urologist, treats all urologic conditions in both male and female patients of all ages. He addresses conditions that include incontinence, overactive bladder, cancers of the urinary tract and male genital system, impotence and stones.

Kevin Calder, MD, FRCS, plastic, reconstructive and hand surgeon, offers

surgical and nonsurgical procedures that enhance and reshape structures of the body to improve appearance and confidence. Reconstructive surgery is performed to treat structures of the body affected aesthetically or functionally by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally done to improve function and ability but may also be performed to achieve a more typical appearance of the affected structure.

Nitin Kumar, MD, FASGE, gastroenterology and weight management specialist, grew up in a medical family and is a native of Flora, Illinois. He treats conditions such as abdominal pain, ulcers, diarrhea, cancer and jaundice. Dr. Kumar is skilled in colonoscopies, endoscopy, intragastric balloon placement, and has specialization in obesity medicine.

Iyob Ilyas, MD, FACS, FASCRS, colon, rectal and general surgery specialist, treats a wide range of surgical needs. Commonly treated health concerns include constipation, anal fissure, anal abscess, anal pain, anal cancer, colon and rectal cancer, colonoscopy, diverticular disease, fecal incontinence, hemorrhoids, irritable bowel, ostomy, pelvic floor dysfunction, rectal prolapse, general surgeries, hernia repair and cholecystectomy.

Scott Urch, MD, orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist, diagnoses and treats conditions and injuries of the bones, muscles, joints and tendons both surgically and non-surgically.

Manjeshwar Prabhu, MD, pulmonologist and sleep medicine specialist, sees patients at HSHS Medical Group Pulmonology Specialty Clinic, located at 900

W. Temple Ave. While his pulmonology specialty concentrates on diseases involving the respiratory tract, Dr. Prabhu's proficiency in sleep medicine also helps patients sleep better through diagnosis and therapy of sleep disturbances and disorders.

Corporate Health and Wellness

HSHS Medical Group recently opened an Occupational Health and LeadWell clinic in Effingham. This clinic is specifically designed to serve the needs of local employer groups. LeadWell can help a business reduce health care claims by 30-40%, reduces absenteeism, increases productivity, increases employee engagement and can decrease recordable injury frequency. Services include on-site and near-site medical clinics, wellness services, pre-placement screenings, executive physicals, occupational health, workers' compensation and innovative virtual care technology.

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LeadWell Clinic Nurse Practitioners Angela Brumleve, APRN, and Susan Esker, APRN, cut the ribbon for the new HSHS Medical Group Occupational Health and LeadWell Clinic on November 12, 2019.

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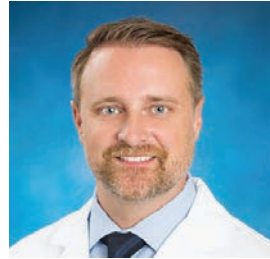
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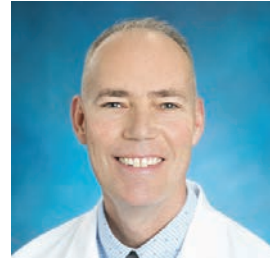
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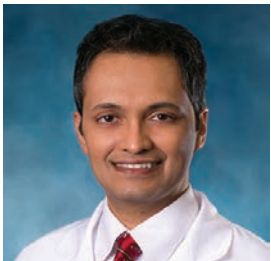
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