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**Joe Hamrock**

**NISOURCE PRESIDENT & CEO  
JOE HAMROCK  
FEBRUARY LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

The Gary Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly General Membership Luncheon Monday, February 12, 2018, 12:00 Noon at The Gary SouthShore RailCats Administration Building, 2nd Floor, One Stadium Plaza, Gary. Join the Chamber as we welcome Mr. Joe Hamrock, President & CEO of NiSource, the parent company of NIPSCO as our guest speaker.

Mr. Hamrock will discuss NiSource and NIPSCO’s Inclusion and Diversity programs and commitments.

Bring your business Cards and join us at 11:30 a.m. to network. The luncheon cost is \$20.00 per person in advance, \$22 at the door. Call the Chamber at (219) 885-7407 to reserve your seat(s) today.

Avoid the lines and pay in advance. We accept most major credit and debit cards.

**Catch a lifeline...Join the Gary Chamber!**



**Thank you to our Luncheon Sponsor  
Meridian Title Corporation**



**“TAX TIME”**

It’s that time of year, and before you know it the April 17 deadline will be upon us.

The Chamber recommends two exceptional Chamber members to help with your tax filing needs: Marcus Douglas, Liberty Tax Service, 1285 Broadway, Gary, (219) 979-6541 and H&R Block, various locations in the Gary and Merrillville area, main office (219) 887-4023.

Call today to get your taxes done by reliable tax experts.



January Luncheon Sponsors: (l to R) Palmer Myers and Cindy Finley. [www.meridiantitle.com](http://www.meridiantitle.com)

**SAVE-THE-DATE**

World Civility Day on April 12, will start a kickoff lunch and workshops at the Indiana Welcome Center, Hammond, IN

An evening dinner at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, will include entertainment, featured speakers and awards.

Call 219.885.7407 for information.



**Top:** The Chambers’ first general membership luncheon of 2018 was held on Monday, January 8th at The Diamond Center in Gary. The Honorable Karen Freeman-Wilson was the guest speaker for the “Fireside Chat” moderated by Chamber Executive Director Chuck Hughes.

**Below:** New members in attendance (l-r) Laura Lovell, NorthShore Health Center; Marcus Douglas, Liberty Tax Service; Olivia Sanders, Metro Recycling Service pictured with luncheon sponsor Meridian Title Corporation.

## What's Up Chuck? - February—Black History Month

In observance of Black History Month let us salute all African Americans who have contributed to the success of



our country. Let us also be reminded that during this month of the year it takes the combined efforts of all citizens to make this country the best that it can be. **Community Civility Counts.**



### January 21-27, 2018 National School Choice Week

The Chambers' Public Policy Committee through the Community Civility Counts initiative, celebrated



National School Choice Week.

Pictured: (L-R) Jakar Gordon, Jaivon Gordon, Joshua Toggles and Javier Cardona.



### EBD Committee WELCOME

**Left:** The Economic/Business Development Committee of the Chamber welcomes Paul Dawning of **Paul Dawning State Farm Insurance Co.** as a new committee member.

Paul has been a long standing member of the Chamber but decided 2018 would be the year to share his knowledge and expertise with this committee.

For all your insurance needs, you can contact Paul at 5100 Cleveland St., Gary, 219.884.6947.

The committee also welcomes new member Olivia Sanders of **Metro Recycling** 1501 E. Main St., Griffith. 219-922-1830 (see attachment).

Dwayne Walker and staff of Chicagoland Popcorn is celebrating the grand opening of another locat-

ion at 8329 Wicker Avenue, in St. John, IN, 219-558-0748. Chicagoland Popcorn with its 250 popcorn flavors to choose from flagship store is located at 5470 E. Lincoln Highway in Merrillville, (219) 940-114 or visit [info@chicagolandpopcorn.com](mailto:info@chicagolandpopcorn.com)



### GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - UP COMING ACTIVITIES - Mark Your Calendar!

February 12	<b><u>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON</u></b>	12:00 Noon / Networking - 11:30 a.m.
February 19	<b><u>PRESIDENTS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED</u></b>	
February 20	<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b>	11:30 a.m.
February 21	<b><u>Economic/Business Development Committee Meeting</u></b>	9:00 a.m.
February 22	<b><u>Board of Directors Meeting</u></b>	8:30 a.m.
February 23	<b><u>Education Committee Meeting</u></b>	11:30 a.m.
February 27	<b><u>Public Policy Committee Meeting</u></b>	9:30 a.m.

#### **Member Activities:**

- Lake County Commissioners are seeking to identify minority business enterprises and woman owned businesses (MBE or WBE) located in Lake County Indiana who can provide products and services that are purchased by Lake County. Interested businesses must submit a letter expressing their interest along with the documentation of their MBE or WBE status to Commissioner Kyle Allen, Sr., 2293 N. Main St., Crown Point, IN 46307. You must identify the type of services or products that you provide.
- **McShane's Computers & Networking** wants to know where will your main focus on IT spending be in 2018? Take a 2-3 minute survey to see how you compare. In return for taking part, they will send you a copy of the resulting research report and you'll go into the draw to win \$2000. Call McShane's 800.837.1400, ext. 334 for survey information.
- **Metro Recycling** has launched a scrap vehicle pick-up service for owners who are ready to get rid of a junk car. You now have the option of either bringing in your vehicle or have them pick-it up. Metro will pay consumers for junk cars. Call 1-855-97-SCRAP or visit [www.mycarisjunk.com](http://www.mycarisjunk.com) to arrange a pick-up. Towing services available in Northwest Indiana (see attachment).
- **The Methodist Hospitals** announces new staff member Jim Renneker as new Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. Jim is an accomplished nurse executive with over 35 years of experience & leadership in his medical field.
- **February 15, 2018—ECIER Foundation** presents Red Carpet Movie Premier "**Black Panther**" (see attachment).
- **February 23, 2018 – Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson** will deliver the State of the City Address, Genesis Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. (CST). For ticket information call 219-881-1314 or via email: [cityofgaryeventsrsvp@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:cityofgaryeventsrsvp@ci.gary.in.us) by February 16th.
- **February 24, 2018 – "Live Strong" Women & Girls Summit** presented by: **Gary Commission for Women, I AM THEM.** Women on The Move and Seed To The Nations. Giving awareness to Domestic Violence and Teen Dating Violence. 8am to 2:30 pm, The Center, 1845 W. 37<sup>th</sup> Ave., Gary. For information contact: Dara Smith, [dasmith@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:dasmith@ci.gary.in.us) (see attachment).

#### **SAVE-THE-DATES**

- ▶ **March 10, 2018 – Celebrating Health Hearts Scholarship & Awards Luncheon**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Genesis Convention Center, Gary. For ticket and sponsorship information call: Rose Green Thomas, 219-616-3912.
- ▶ **March 13, 2018—Free networking "Breakfast With SCORE"**, 7am, The Diamond Center. Call for details, 219.885-7407.
- ▶ **March 22, 2018—Urban League of Northwest Indiana** hosts Diversity Luncheon, Avalon Manor, 3550 E. U.S. Highway 30, Merrillville. Sponsorships & tickets available (see attachment).



**FOR RELEASE on 2/1/18**

**Contact:** Olivia Sanders

**Phone:** 219-922-1830

**Email:** [Olivia.Sanders@wheredolrecycle.com](mailto:Olivia.Sanders@wheredolrecycle.com)

## **Local Consumers Can Call to Scrap a Car**

*Metro Recycling offers new pick-up service*



**[Griffith, Indiana, February 1, 2018—]** Metro Recycling has launched a scrap vehicle pick-up service for owners who are ready to get rid of a junk car, announced CEO Neil Samahon today.

This new customer service provides the opportunity for consumers to remove unwanted vehicles without the hassle and safety risks of transporting a vehicle to recycling facilities, he said.

Metro Recycling is building on a long history of serving local communities with recycling needs. Samahon explained, “Customers frequenting our yards in their efforts to recycle have repeatedly asked us to provide towing services when it came time to part with a junk vehicle. With so many requests, Metro Recycling felt it was beneficial to give our customers the option of either bringing their vehicle to one of our facilities or giving them the convenient option of us picking up the vehicle for them.”

Metro pays consumers for junk cars. To use the service, a customer can visit [mycarisjunk.com](http://mycarisjunk.com) and receive a quote, or call 1-855-97-SCRAP to arrange a pick-up.

Junk car towing service is available throughout Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana. In addition, it’s available to residents of Wheatfield, Demotte, Hanna, Wanatah, Westville, LaCrosse, and Hamlet.

### **More Info**

For further information or to arrange a tow, visit [mycarisjunk.com](http://mycarisjunk.com) or call 1-855-97-SCRAP.

###

### **About Metro Recycling**

Metro Recycling is a family-owned business founded in 1988, with recycling yards in Valparaiso and Griffith, Indiana as well as Blue Island, Illinois. Its sister company, Metro Auto Recyclers, launched in 1998, with yards in Valparaiso and Indianapolis, Indiana. Metro takes pride in its commitment to the community and to sustaining the environment by helping to protect diminishing resources. For more information, visit [www.wheredolrecycle.com](http://www.wheredolrecycle.com) and [www.metroautorecyclers.com](http://www.metroautorecyclers.com)

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EMPOWERING STUDENTS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA**





## Gary School That Defies All Odds Gets Renewed Charter

January 18, 2018

Dear Friends:

Ball State University has approved a new charter contract for 21st Century Charter School in Gary, Indiana. In doing so, the school will continue to defy all odds and show the nation that it can and should expect more from students in K12 public schools.

Last year, 21st Century Charter School in Gary, Indiana became the first high school to graduate a student (Raven Osborne pictured with U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos) who earned her bachelor degree while in high school and *before* earning her high school diploma. Raven did so free of charge to her and is now fully employed with retirement and health and dental benefits--and she is debt free (no college debt!).



This is no small feat and even more surprising that the first student to do this in Indiana's history is from Gary, Indiana, not the more affluent neighborhoods of Zionsville, Carmel, Fishers and others in the state.

At GEO, we are fiercely focused on beating poverty and to do that, we must go beyond the talk of closing the achievement gap and actually exceed the achievement of most others in the state. Last year, we had 43 graduates and six of these students earned their Associate Degree and Raven earned her Bachelor degree. Our 2017 graduates earned an average of 17 college credits while in our high school. Pretty impressive!

Raven was inspired by our first Associate Degree student, Vincent Pena. And today, Raven has inspired another generation of students. Erin Lewis (pictured to the right) is a freshman who completed 15 college credit hours in her first semester of high school. How many freshmen anywhere in the country have done that? According to Erin's professors, she is among the top students in her classes. Erin aspires to earn her bachelor degree while in our high school, too. Rest assured, we will do everything we can to help Erin achieve her goals.



We are forever grateful to Ball State for the chance to go beyond a traditional school and to break the mold and help students achieve much more than traditional students, and *experienced* school leaders, believe possible.

At GEO, we believe students are capable of doing so much more than we allow them to do in traditional schools. And our students are proving us right every day.

We look forward to continuing to serve the great families and community of Gary, Indiana!

Sincerely,  
Kevin Teasley  
President  
GEO Foundation  
317-694-9985  
Twitter: @teasleygeo

**FREE**

# LIVE STRONG WOMEN & GIRLS SUMMIT



Presented by: Gary Commission for Women, I AM THEM,  
Women On The Move and Seed To The Nations

**Keynote Speaker: Shawnie Jones**

**Event Purpose: To give awareness of  
Domestic Violence and Teen Dating Violence**

Event to include:

- Special Guest Dance Performance
- Fashion Show- Women Owned Businesses
- Break out Sessions and Much More

*Register at:*

*[https://livestrong-  
registertoday.eventbrite.com](https://livestrong-<br/>registertoday.eventbrite.com)*

**DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

**TIME: 8:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION: THE CENTER**

**1845 W. 37TH AVE. , GARY, IN 46408**

Questions Contact: Dara Smith @ 817.262.042 or

dasmith@ci.gary.in.us

*Seed To The Nations*



An Affiliate of the National Urban League

# URBAN LEAGUE OF NORTHWEST INDIANA, INC.

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Urban League Supporter,

As President and CEO of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, I am pleased to announce and invite you to our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity & Inclusion Awards Luncheon scheduled on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 11:30 am at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Joining me in this invitation is Angie Nelson Deutch, 2018 Chair of the Board of Directors, and NIPSCO, Project Manager – Gas Maintenance and Transmission.

This annual event recognizes contributions from businesses, not-for-profits and civic organizations, and educational institutions that enhance our quality of life by encouraging, embracing and promoting cultural diversity and economic opportunity & inclusion throughout Northwest Indiana. Last year over 500 attendees joined the Urban League of NWI in recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations that make our Region a better place in which to live, work, and recreate.

This event, we believe, promotes inclusion and collaboration and provides recognition for “Stellar Performance in Practicing Diversity” and we strongly encourage NWI organizations to showcase their efforts in behalf of diversity and inclusion.

As the Urban League’s efforts to honor and celebrate diversity and inclusion expand, we are excited to again announce our two new award categories – The Youth Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. We hope that you will not only join us as a sponsor, supporter and attendee but you will also submit an application for your organization to be recognized and celebrated for its programs, policies, and results.

A Nomination Application can be located on the Urban League website at [www.ulofnwi.org](http://www.ulofnwi.org). During the event, recognition will be focused upon a number of organizations in all or one of the following areas:

- Community Impact Award – Award will be presented to an organization that actively creates, initiatives, engages diverse citizens and develops opportunities for inclusion.
- Leadership Award – Award will be presented to an organization that influences diversity and inclusion on a national and/or global level and the influence highlights the Northwest Indiana region.
- Workforce Diversity Award – Award will be presented to an organization that implements innovative strategies to attract, select, promote and maintain employees from underrepresented populations.
- Moving the Needle Award – Nominees with exceptional effort in all above four categories
- Youth Award – This award will be presented to an organization or group which involves and engages the youth in activities that promotes diversity and inclusion
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Award will be presented to one individual or organization for outstanding vision, dedication and lifelong commitment to advance diversity and inclusion.

3101 Broadway  
Gary, Indiana 46409

P (219)887-9621  
F (219)884-4519

Dr. Vanessa Allen McCloud  
President/CEO

**Website**

[www.ulofnwi.org](http://www.ulofnwi.org)

**Email**

[inf@ulofnwi.org](mailto:inf@ulofnwi.org)

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Lake Area United Way



United Way of Porter County

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We hope you will consider a sponsorship of your choice. Sponsorship commitment forms can be faxed to our office at: (219) 887-0020 or emailed to Stella Simpson at [ssimpson@ulofnwi.org](mailto:ssimpson@ulofnwi.org)

Again, we invite you to nominate your organization, youth group, or an individual for one of our Diversity & Inclusion awards. The application process is outlined on our website at [www.ulofnwi.org](http://www.ulofnwi.org). The deadline for all applications is Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 12 noon.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Vanessa Allen McCloud*  
President and CEO

*Angie Nelson Deutch*  
Board Chair

## CHN's Open House Mix & Mingle with Dr. Janet Seabrook



# Open House Mix & Mingle

Friday, February 23, 2018

5PM – 8PM

1021 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

## Art

featuring

Hazel Kimble  
Karina Mitchell  
Jerome Lynch  
Photography

## Jazz

featuring

Garrett Cope's  
Jazz Ensemble

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featuring

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for more info: 219.484.2444

[www.chn-indiana.org](http://www.chn-indiana.org)





**Civility! Civility! Civility!**

We are embarking upon our third annual World Civility Day. Many thanks to all of our sponsors, partners and supporters who helped make the first two World Civility Days sold out events.

Every day and in every walk of life there remains the need for us to exhibit more civility in our attitudes, actions and demeanor. It is important in our daily interactions with each other and critical to the social and emotional development of our youth.

As we continue to attract civility groups and committed individuals from around the world to Northwest Indiana, we need you. Simply go to the Civility Counts Facebook page, call the Gary Chamber of Commerce or invite us to your organization to get you on board.

Let's continue to show the world that we are the voice for civil behavior! Northwest Indiana will continue to lead the way. Region Strong!

**Chuck Hughes**  
Executive Director  
Gary Chamber of Commerce



**COMMUNITY CIVILITY COUNTS WILL HOLD ITS THIRD ANNUAL WORLD CIVILITY DAY EVENTS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018.**



A full day of civility-themed activities and an awards dinner in the evening again will be held at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond and Avalon Manor in Merrillville.

Community Civility Counts started as an initiative of the Gary Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee and it has expanded to include many partners both locally and nationally. It was launched in 2015 at a press conference held in the Gary room in City Hall.

"As the executive director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce and speaking on behalf of our board of directors, I am elated over the scope and success of the Community Civility Counts initiative," said Chuck Hughes. "We could not have envisioned early on that CCC would now be recognized in several areas of the world."

Its first World Civility Day event, April 14, 2016, was sold out with 300 people from Indiana and nine other states and three countries. UN Ambassador Dr. Clyde Rivers gave the keynote address at the packed Majestic Star Casino ballroom in Gary.

Dr. Rivers returned for the second World Civility Day and gave out civility awards at an event that again attracted people from many states and several countries. He is expected to return next year.

World Civility Day on April 12, 2018, will include a kickoff lunch and workshops at the Indiana Welcome Center.

The dinner, held at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, will include entertainment, featured

speakers, and awards presented by Community Civility Counts.

Sponsorships and tickets are available through the Gary Chamber of Commerce at (219) 885-7807. Tickets - \$90 VIP for all World Civility Day events, \$30 for the afternoon lunch and workshops (\$15 for students), \$70 for the dinner (\$650 for a table of 10) - can be obtained by calling the chamber.

Groups and businesses are welcome to join this initiative and be added to our growing list. Just contact the Gary Chamber.

To follow the activities of Community Civility Counts, visit and like the Civility Counts page on Facebook.



**WORLD CIVILITY DAY**

**COMMUNITY CIVILITY COUNTS**  
facebook.com/civilitycounts



**4.12.18**



**Community Civility Counts**

**TOGETHER WE WIN!**  
#civilitycounts

**IT ALL STARTED WITH AN IDEA**

Well before barrage of sound bites in the presidential campaign, Community Civility Counts was unveiled in March 2015 at a news conference in the Gary room at City Hall.

The Gary Chamber of Commerce had developed a civility initiative through its public policy committee and unveiled a logo. The Times of Northwest Indiana got on board, and they joined forces to announce a local campaign including using the hashtag #CivilityCounts.

The time was right. The initial news release/announcement noted: "As we witness incidents of disrespect, discourtesy, intolerance, bullying and violence in all of our communities, we see the need to raise the conscious level of everyone and those from every walk of life."

"Whether in politics, business, education or our personal lives, we can be better. We must be better in order to live in a civil manner and in a civilized society."

Community Civility Counts gained momentum in various ways, and for its first anniversary it announced World Civility Day and planned an event in Merrillville. Attendees came from 10 states and three nations, and Dr. Clyde Rivers offered the keynote address.

Dr. Rivers, founder and president of iChange Nations and ambassador at large for the Republic of Burundi, connected with the Gary Chamber at the beginning and has been taking Community Civility Counts around the world.

As the next World Civility Day is being planned for April 12, it's a good time to look at the accomplishments of Community Civility Counts, started in Gary. They are:

- World Civility Counts have been approved by local governments including Gary, Hammond, Valparaiso, LaPorte councils and Lake County Council.
- Civility resolutions have been approved by the state House and Senate, making Indiana the first state to approve such a resolution.
- Community Civility Counts partnered with the Pierogi Fest to bring #CivilityCounts welcome greeting to the Region's largest festival. It organized a volunteer army to do so for three years.
- Community Civility Counts partners Chuck Hughes and Dr. Gordon Bradshaw of the Gary Chamber of Commerce and Bob Haines of The Times were inducted into the North-

west Indiana Society of Innovators as a team.

A civility in the classroom curriculum was introduced in Lighthouse College Preparatory Academy in Gary and it has expanded to other schools.

An anti-bullying logo and initiative was introduced by Community Civility Counts, first reaching out to schools to share the best anti-bullying programs and last year naming the top effort for a World Civility Day award.

Community Civility Counts gave out its first of awards at World Civility Day in 2017. The awards will be annual.

The Times won several journalism awards for its involvement in Community Civility Counts, including the Associated Press Media Editors' Innovator of the Year in 2016 and the Indiana APMEI public service award.

Chuck Hughes and Bob Haines were finalists for the first-ever local Civvy Awards, presented in Washington.



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