



Gary
Chamber
of
Commerce

Lifeline

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2021

“CONNECTING BUSINESSES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS”

Please visit us @www.garychamber.com and catch a *lifeline*...



Mayor Jerome Prince and Chuck Hughes were along to celebrate the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the new Horizon Bank Gary location at 3599 Grant Street.

Horizon Bancorp is a locally owned, independent, commercial bank holding company serving Indiana and Michigan. Horizon also offers mortgage-banking services.

The Gary team to serve you are: Branch Manager Maurice Brown, Community Lender Telethia Barrett, and Customer Service Representatives Keyona Gibson and Kenneth Whisenton.

Banking hours Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Saturdays 9am-12pm. Video banking and drive-up services provided 7am-9pm. Now through May 31st, the branch will celebrate with special offers and giveaways.



CONGRATULATIONS

West Side Theatre Guild director, Mark Spencer pictured here with Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor, State of Indiana shows off his Merit of Distinction Award.

Mr. Spencer was presented the award for his nearly thirty years of service to Northwest Indiana as an educator, filmmaker and director.

The award was presented at the Indiana Statehouse for the Annual Katie Hall Public Service Awards.



Brother's Keeper Generous Donations

Residents of Brother's Keeper received help from federal and local government and the Region's Indian community.

Issac Mootye, director of Brothers Keeper (center) accepts donations of gift cards, clothing, bedding and

reading glasses from Dr. Sudhish Chandra, left, of the Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana. Also participating were Lake County Sheriff Oscar Martinez, and a representative of U.S. Sen. Mike Braun's office.

Brother's Keeper is a men's homeless shelter located at 2120 Broadway, Gary. Info on treatment programs call: (219) 882-4459.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Next Level Academies, Excel Center Gary graduates its first NCCER Construction class this term. L-R: Maria Lopez (Life Coach), Eric Baker, Director Theresa Knipe, Tacoda Armwood, Sage Spore, Whit Johnson, Y'reme Robinson, David Lori, and Antonio Lipscomb (instructor and president of Next Level Academies).

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MICHIANA—"THE EXCEL CENTER"

The Excel Center®, Goodwill's free high school for adults (18+), provides dropouts the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, industry recognized certifications and college credits — all at no cost. The Excel Center is designed to address educational barriers and to accelerate coursework and career readiness through:

- Academic and life coaching
- Free on-site child care for young children
- Transportation assistance
- Flexible scheduling, accelerated (8-week) terms and year-round classes
- Free college credits and industry-recognized certifications
- Hands-on internships and job training
- Job placement with private sector employer partners specifically seeking Excel Center graduates.

Since its opening in 2016, The Excel Centers in the Michiana locations has served over 2600 students. Excel Centers are located in South Bend, Hammond, Gary, and coming soon to Elkhart Indiana to support Michiana students as they work to complete their high school education, increase their independence and reach their potential.

Ms. Theresa Knipe, Director Gary Campus welcomes all new students. You can apply at www.excelcenterhs.org or visit The Excel Center at 4610 W. Ridge Road, Gary. Applications are being accepted now for the 2021-2022 school year.

What's up Chuck?



Chuck Hughes
President/CEO

**MAJESTIC
STAR
CASINO**

Thank you.... **Majestic Star Casino** management, staff and employees for being supportive and gracious to the city of Gary community as you transition to Hard Rock

Casino located at 5400 W. 29th Avenue, Gary.

As a community partner, supporter of the Gary Chamber and the region Majestic Star will be forever appreciated.

NIPSCO Donates \$10,000 to TradeWinds

Lisa Tatina, left, director of donor development and marketing at TradeWinds, Jon Gold, TradeWinds CEO, Meghan Henning NIPSCO project communications lead, and Dana Booth, president of Budd mechanical systems, present a \$10,000 check to TradeWinds Services, Inc.

The money will be used to install air purifiers at TradeWinds main facilities in Merrillville and group homes throughout the community. The air purifiers were installed by Budd Mechanical Systems, Hammond.



Happy Memorial Day



Jasmine Home Care Training Program LLC

GRAND OPENING

We take the pleasure to cordially invite you to the grand opening where we will have Pie eating contest, chair massages, bouncy house, clown and face painting, food, music, special guest and door prizes. Please make the occasion even more special by your presence.

05.15.21
12:00pm-6:00pm
720 W 5th Ave.
Gary, IN

CROSSROADS
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EXPO 2021

Re-Connect!

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Gary SouthShore RailCats
1 Stadium Plaza, Gary, IN

Opening Game Day!

For more information

PH 219.769.8180

Deann@crossroadschamber.org

Register on-line:

www.crossroadschamber.org

The Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand Project

The project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to be part of the transportation solution to the hunger relief and food scarcity issues by providing eco-friendly, gas-free emissions-free electric vehicles to organizations serving urban food deserts. For info contact Bob Kopach, 312.852.0132 or bkop64@gmail.com (see flyer).



Gary Chamber of Commerce News Briefs — Mark Your Calendar

- ▶ **Edgewater Health**, a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization is pleased to announce that Dr. Roland Walker has joined the leadership team as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Walker brings over twenty years of experience practicing pediatrics and family medicine and is well versed in Federally Qualified Health Center regulations, and industry standards. For more info contact Ben Clement Chief Strategy Officer 219.885.4264 or www.edgewaterhealth.org.
- ▶ **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana** announce that Marcus Steele, Jr. from the John Will Anderson Gary Club was named the 2021 Indiana State Youth of the Year! For three years in a row, the organizations has held the title . Marcus will now move on to the Regionals! Keep an eye on Marcus as he completes his journey.
- ▶ **NorthShore Health Centers** welcomes two new Pediatrician to their healthcare family, Dr. Ramadevi Sankaran, Merrillville location and Dr. Isil Halac, Hammond location. Contact NorthShore Health Centers 219.841.5070.
- ▶ **The Gary Historical and Cultural Society** needs your help. If you have any new or used musical instruments, please consider donation them. Students will be taught to play the instruments during their Summer Enrichment for Learning Program which begins June 7th. Please contact ghesin@yahoo.com or www.ghesinc.weebly.com.
- ▶ **May 12, 2021—AT&T** invites you to Tech Talks for Business: Lessons and Tools to Protect and Grow Your Business in the Digital Age. Free live stream event. See attached flyer for registration via Ticket Falcon app.
- ▶ **May 18, 2021—Opening Day! Gary SouthShore RailCats.** Get your tickets today, call 219-882-2255
- ▶ **May 31, 2021—Memorial Day—Office Closed**
- ▶ **May 19, 2021—GCC Economic/Business Development Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- ▶ **May 24, 2021—GCC Executive Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ **May 28, 2021—GCC Education Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 11:00 a.m.

To: Gary Chamber of Commerce Members
From: The Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand Project, a 501(c)(3) organization

I hope all is well,

I am writing to see if any of you might have time for a phone call regarding a program called The Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand Project. We are a non-profit whose mission is to set up and provide gas-free and emissions-free transportation to organizations that serve urban food deserts. Our goal is to be part of the transportation solution to the food desert/hunger issue in an eco-friendly way by using street-legal, low-speed, electric mobile farm stands.

No matter the organization's source for the fruits and vegetables -- local distributor, food pantry, grocery store or community farm, The Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand Project simply wants to help take healthy fruits and vegetables from A to B -- senior living facilities, housing communities, schools or just like an ice cream truck, make stops in various neighborhoods -- anywhere citizens might not be able to get to a healthy food source because of distance, age, lack of funds, lack of transportation or a disability.

We are currently planning a program with Gary's FAITH Farms and Orchard in collaboration with The Center for Urban and Regional Excellence at IU Northwest and are looking for a partner(s) to adopt a vehicle for the project. A one-time, lifetime vehicle adoption is \$16,500. The adoption fee covers base vehicle cost, charging system, farm stand design/build-out and graphics (executed by local Gary trade school students) and on-going program administration. The name and/or logo of the vehicle adopter will be prominently placed on the farm stand for permanent recognition as a partner in helping alleviate the food desert/hunger issue -- in an environmentally friendly way.

Below is a mock up design example of a possible adopted Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand for FAITH Farms and Orchard.

Below is a link to a quick program overview.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13VdmsBaUxgfQxjoWoPVCg3bMt9ggEB3Ia2kYbdoFXXs/edit?usp=sharing>

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the project with you in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Kopach
Executive Director
The Eco-Friendly Mobile Farm Stand Project
312-852-0132
bkop64@gmail.com



AT&T INVITES YOU TO



TECH TALKS FOR BUSINESS

LESSONS AND TOOLS TO PROTECT
AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

During Black History Month, AT&T Retail Stores across the East Region, nominated local Black-Owned businesses for a cash award and the opportunity to learn valuable lessons from business leaders at AT&T. Now we extend the invitation to Tech Talks for Business to you.

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 12TH
11AM-3PM (EST)

CLICK, SCAN OR TAP
HERE TO REGISTER



TOPICS AND SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Presented by **DANIEL VINE**, Sales Director

Learn about systems and tools to automate your business, take it online and thrive there.



DIGITAL MARKETING

Presented by **ALYSSA BILLUPS**, Lead Manager of Brand Social and Content

Learn ways to use social media, online content and influencers to amplify your business and increase your revenue.



CYBERSECURITY

Presented by **THERESA LANOWITZ**, Director of Cybersecurity Communication and **RODERICK WHITE**, Cybersecurity Application Manager

Hackers are especially targeting small businesses. Learn how to protect your data and prevent cyber-attacks.



GO-TO-MARKET STRATEGY

Presented by **SAM OYEKOYA**, Sr. Director, Strategic Sales & Partnerships

Yes, your business and product ideas are amazing! Learn how to successfully take them to market.

FIND OUT
HOW TO

WIN \$10,000 FOR YOUR BUSINESS
OR DREAM!

Click or Scan QR
Code for details





The Gary Historical and Cultural Society Needs Your Help

Dear Supporters:

If you have any new or used musical instruments that you no longer want, please consider donating them to the **Gary Historical and Cultural Society**. Students will be taught to play the instruments during our Summer Enrichment for Learning Program which begins on June 7, 2021.

In addition, we are in need of Gary High School yearbooks so that we can use them to respond to the many requests that we receive weekly from individuals seeking information about their relatives who formerly attended Gary schools.

Should you have a musical instrument or yearbook, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at ghcsin@yahoo.com and visit our website www.ghcsinc.weebly.com.

The Gary Historical and Cultural Society Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law in the United States of America



SINGLE GAME TICKETS

ON SALE

WEDNESDAY

OPENING DAY—MAY 18, 2021



Steel Yard
One Stadium Plaza
Gary, IN 46402
219.882.2255