



**MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
TO ADDRESS CHAMBER LUNCHEON**

The Gary Chamber of Commerce will hold its February General Membership Luncheon on Monday, February 14, 2022, 12:00 Noon at Hard Rock Casino Council Oak Steak House, 5400 W. 29th Avenue, Gary. The featured guest speaker will be Mr. Clarence Hulse, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, Michigan City, Indiana.

Mr. Hulse leads the EDCMC that works to lure new businesses and strengthen existing ones in the community with programs, services and one-on-one assistance aimed at helping customers prosper. The EDCMC also works to solve community development issues such as food deserts, childcare, neighborhood improvements and housing. Hulse is credited with attracting over \$3.5 billion in capital investment and creating more than 30,000 jobs over the course of his career.

Come out and hear how economic development partners with businesses, local government, schools and community groups to become successful. The meeting/luncheon is open to all interested parties. The cost is \$25 per person. All reservations must be paid in advance. Networking starts at 11:30am. Call the Chamber office (219) 885-7407 to reserve your seat (s) today or email Jan Bowden at jbowden@garychamber.com.

LUNCHEON SPONSOR—HASSE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

JOIN THE GCC • EXERCISE YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS • JOIN A CHAMBER COMMITTEE

IT'S TAX TIME

January 24, 2022, the official start of the 2022 tax filing season.

The Gary Chamber of Commerce has members that are here to help with all your tax filing needs.

Hollis Fullilove of Crain Financial, LLC, (219) 501-1001 and Sheleita Miller of Gatekeeper Accounting Services (219) 301-0427, are certified CPA's with years of accounting experience.

Give Hollis or Sheleita a call Today!



Angela Curtis (R), Executive Director of Sojourner Truth House accepts a \$25,000 donation from L-R, Matt Schuffert, and Dawn Reynolds Pettit, of Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana.



The new host of Lakeshore Public TV's classic movies series "Classic Movies Chicagoland" is Mark Spencer, director of the Gary Community School Corporation's West Side Theater Guild. Mark is also owner of MAS Media 7, a film & video production company.



1st's for 2022

The beginning of a new year brings 1st for the Gary Chamber of Commerce.

R-L (top) Mayor Jerome Prince was our featured speaker at the 1st Chamber luncheon of 2022 and we also welcomed a new member, Taryl Bonds of Northwest Indiana Development Corporation (NIDC). Bottom center: new Chamber Board of Director member Alexius Barber of



Member Announcements

- ◆ Thank you to the January Corporate Luncheon Sponsor: **Notre Dame Federal Credit Union**, and luncheon sponsors: **Meridian Title Company, Fuel Media Holdings, and Northwest Indiana Development Corporation.**
- ◆ **Fresh County Market Plaza** located at 25th Avenue & Grant St. Gary, is adding 2 new 12,000 sq. ft. commercial centers with space for 8 retail stores. Mark Musleh, owner of the property is looking for restaurants and clothing retailers to occupy the new retail stores. Mr. Musleh is hoping the buildings will be completed in 2022. Started in 2021 he has been stymied because of shortages in supplies and labor.
- ◆ The Pathways To Employment Program for is a program funded by **Center of Workforce Innovations** & the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board for Out-of-School Youth (age 16-24). Job readiness training, will be provided by **TradeWinds Services**. To determine eligibility and register contact, Pam Hord, (219) 802-3096, or phord@tradewindsnwi.org. (see flyer).
- ◆ **Comcast RISE**—was created to help small businesses owned by people of color survive the pandemic and thrive in the future. Comcast RISE has provided over \$60 million in grants, marketing and technology services to more than 6,700 entrepreneurs nationally – and the program just expanded to include all women-owned small businesses. For more information and to apply visit: www.comcastrise.com, or Karen Dale at karen_dale@comcast.com (see flyer).



What's Up Chuck?

February is Black History Month and needs to be celebrated. However Northwest Indiana plays its greatest rhapsody when all of Northwest Indiana is celebrated and in complete harmony. **Together we win!**



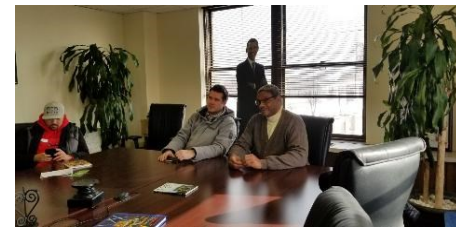
Congratulations to Donna Golob, Executive Director of A Positive Approach to Teen Health (PATH), on being awarded the 2021 Indiana Youth Institute D. Susan Wisely Youth Worker of the Year award for her work with teens throughout northwest Indiana. For more information about PATH, 5997 Carlson Avenue, Portage visit: www.positiveteenhealth.org. PATH, Inc. a Chamber Member since 2013

Congressman Frank J. Mrvan Visits Gary Chamber of Commerce

The Gary Chamber of Commerce its economic/business development committee, city of Gary official and community members, hosted a mobile tour with First District Congressman Frank J. Mrvan as the guest. The group visited several Gary businesses which are either in the process of full functionality or are on the precipice of creating jobs and opportunities for people in Gary and the Greater Northwest Indiana community.

At each stop the group got to witness firsthand some of the amazing things happening in the district.

The businesses visited by the group: Smart Dog Technology, owner Milton Thaxton, Jr., 1085 Broadway, 1st Floor, Gary East Side Community Development Corp. (GESDC), Dr. Marlon Mitchell, President, 308 E. 21st Avenue, and the old Salvation Army Building, 1351 W. 11th Avenue also owned by GESDC.



GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE— UP COMING ACTIVITIES

504 Broadway, Suite 328, Gary, IN

- February 14, 2022 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON** Noon
- Hard Rock Casino Council Oak Steak House / 11:30 am Networking
- February 16, 2022 Economic/Business Development Committee Meeting** 9:00 am
- Hybrid Meeting: Conducted via Zoom & in person, Chamber office
- February 24, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting** 11:30 am
- Hybrid Meeting: Conducted via Zoom & in person, Chamber office
- February 25, 2022 Education Committee Meeting** 11:30 am
- Hybrid Meeting: Conducted via Zoom & in person, Chamber office



MEMBER EVENTS

- ▶ Merrillville-based **Centier Bank** was recognized by the Indiana District Office of the Small Business Administration as one of the state's top small business lenders during a record year for small business lending in the state. Centier was awarded its Silver Award for Community Lending and the Third-Party Lender Award. Centier is Indiana's largest private, family owned bank with locations in 11 counties.
- ▶ **WorkOne Northwest Indiana** is your partner for success. Free Virtual and In-Person Workshops. Adult Learning Centers enrollment is always open that offer: WIOA Adult Re-entry programs, High School Equivalency prep classes, Youth Career Advisors, Job Search tools, and priority service for Veterans. For more information or to register, go to www.gotoworkonenw.com or 219.462.2940 ext. 1040. A **Center of Workforce Innovations** Community Connection, www.cwicorp.com/adult-learning-center/.
- ▶ **February 4, 2022**—Celebrate Black Heritage with the **Miller Beach Arts & Creative District**. Take a glimpse into the artistic eye of four influential regional artists, from February 4 thru March 18. Opening reception 6—8 pm, February 4, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake Street, Gary, www.MillerBeach.org. Chamber member **Sanovia Reynolds-Parks** is one of the featured artist. (see flyer).
- ▶ **February 10, 2022**—Mayor **Jerome Prince**, city of Gary will be the guest speaker at the **Munster Chamber of Commerce** monthly luncheon, 11:30am—1:00pm, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Contact Karen Mashura at 219-836-5549 or email info@munsterchamber.org to register for the luncheon.
- ▶ **February 19, 2022** – **Edgewater Health** will be hosting a "Back on Track" event, 11am—2pm, 1100 W. 6th Avenue, Gary. Get kids up to date on shots for school and wellness checks. COVID Vaccines and testing available. Learn more at MDwise.org/BackOnTrack or call 800-356-1204. Registration encouraged by not required at Edgewaterhealth.org or call (219) 885-4264, ext. 4704 (see flyer).
- ▶ **February 22, 2022**—**A Positive Approach To Teen Health (PATH, INC.)** "Spark The Dream, Ignite The Future" Reception, County Line Orchard, 200 S. County Line Road, Hobart, Indiana, 6-8 pm. Celebrate the great work being done throughout the region by PATH, Inc. Register for your FREE ticket at (219) 254-2678, or info@positiveteenhealth.org (see flyer).
- ▶ **NIPSCO's** Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) partners with participating local agencies in each county to help those struggling financially with their energy bill. NIPSCO will help those find and apply for the energy assistance needed. For more information visit; NIPSCO.COM/AssistancePrograms or call: 1-800-464-7726.

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

For Out-of-School Youth
(age 16 to 24)

Job Readiness training:

- Financial Literacy
- Career Awareness
- Work Experience
- Exploration



WIOA Youth Program Elements to be provided by TradeWinds Services

1. **Financial Literacy** - network with local banks, Financial Informational sessions: Individual Development Accounts, and other financial literacy training through creative learning. These trainings may be in person and/or via technology.
2. **Career Awareness** - review and discuss current employment trends and future opportunities, explore career choices, job shadowing in diverse positions, and review various positions and requirements. Network with local businesses and organizations and other community resources.
3. **Unpaid and Paid Work Experience** in the community in various settings to develop skills and potential employment opportunities.
4. **Job Placements and Follow Up Services** - ongoing mentoring and on/off site job support.

- Training groups are limited to 7 to 10 participants.
- Training is available to Out-of-School youth who are not attending secondary and post-secondary school, not younger than age 16 or older than age 24 and meet other eligibility requirements.
- Please call for information on next available start date for program.

To determine eligibility and register for Pathways to Employment Program

CONTACT, Pam Hord, Career Support Manager,

219-802-3096, phord@tradewindsnwi.org

Our Goal: To prepare program participants with diverse abilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community. Consistent employment will help the individual move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency and improve overall quality of life!

Our Commitment: Provide the program participants we serve and employers with exceptional support and to be a valuable community resource.

tradewinds 

Realizing Potential

3198 East 83rd Place, Merrillville, IN 46410

219-945-0100

www.tradewindsnwi.org

This WIOA Title 1-funded program/activity is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

The program is funded by
Center of Workforce Innovations
& the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board.



Four for February: Celebrating Black Heritage FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 18



The Miller Beach Arts & Creative District is proud to provide a glimpse into the artistic eye of four influential regional artists.

Each who strives to emphasize the significance of community and black culture utilizing multiple mediums, photography, painting, writing and technology.

An artistic experience you won't want to miss!



**Opening Reception
February 4
6 – 8 pm**

**Tyrell Anderson
Decay Devils**

**Dr. Cranston
Sedrick Knight**

Karina Mitchell

**Sanovia
Reynolds - Parks**

**MARSHALL J. GARDNER CENTER
FOR THE ARTS**

540 S. Lake Street
Gary, IN 46403
219.885.9114

MillerBeachArts.org
Friday & Saturday 6 – 8 pm
Sunday 2 – 4 pm



COMCAST RISE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN TO ALL WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

In its first year alone, Comcast RISE has provided over \$60 million in grants, marketing and technology services to support more than 6,700 small businesses owned by people of color in Comcast's national footprint – including nearly 550 in the company's Greater Chicago Region

With the expansion to all women-owned small businesses, the program is on track to support 13,000 businesses by the end of 2022

CHICAGO (January 19, 2022) – Comcast announced today that its Comcast RISE program is open to all women-owned businesses in its Greater Chicago Region, which includes Illinois, Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. The expansion of Comcast RISE to women-owned businesses furthers the company's efforts to advance [digital equity](#) and help provide underrepresented small business owners with access to the digital tools and funding they need to thrive.

In its first year alone, Comcast RISE has provided more than \$60 million in grants, marketing and technology services to more than 6,700 small businesses owned by people of color – including Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and Asian Americans – in Comcast's national footprint, including nearly 550 in the company's Greater Chicago Region. Of the 6,700 Comcast RISE recipients to date, nearly 70% have been businesses owned by women of color, spurring Comcast to take a deeper look into the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

According to a [study](#) by the National Association of Women Business Owners, 42% of businesses in the U.S. are owned by women – and that women start more than 1,800 new businesses each day. That's nearly five times the national average. However, according to the same study, women-owned businesses tend to grow at only half the rate of those run by men, namely because women struggle to access capital and other resources to help them succeed.

Karen Cahn, Founder & CEO of IFundWomen, echoed this important point, "The data about how women, a rapidly increasing number of whom are small business owners, have fared during the pandemic is stark. Women business owners tend to have limited access to capital and debt-free funding options, yet they represent a tremendous opportunity. Women-owned businesses deliver two times higher revenue per dollar invested than those founded by men, making them great investments."

"As we continue to rebuild and emerge from the effects of the pandemic, small businesses will continue to be the backbone of our economy – and we must take every opportunity to help them thrive," said Teresa Ward-Maupin, Senior Vice President, Digital and Customer Experience, Comcast Business. "Looking forward, this expansion will enable Comcast RISE to further empower and strengthen even more small businesses that are the heart of our local communities across the country."

Comcast RISE, which stands for Representation, Investment, Strength and Empowerment, is part of [Project UP](#), Comcast's comprehensive initiative to advance [digital equity](#) and help provide underrepresented small business owners with access to the digital tools and funding they need to thrive. Over the next 10 years, Comcast has [committed](#) \$1 billion to programs, like Comcast RISE, and partnerships that will reach an estimated 50 million people with the skills, opportunities and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world

Comcast RISE, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, is open to racially and ethnically diverse small business owners and all women-owned businesses. More information and the application to apply for marketing and technology services are available at www.ComcastRISE.com.

About Comcast Corporation

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company that connects people to moments that matter. We are principally focused on broadband, aggregation, and streaming with 57 million customer relationships across the United States and Europe. We deliver broadband, wireless, and video through our Xfinity, Comcast Business, and Sky brands; create, distribute, and stream leading entertainment, sports, and news through Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, Universal Studio Group, Sky Studios, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, multiple cable networks, Peacock, NBCUniversal News Group, NBC Sports, Sky News, and Sky Sports; and provide memorable experiences at Universal Parks and Resorts in the United States and Asia. Visit www.comcastcorporation.com for more information.

About Comcast Business

Comcast Business offers a suite of Connectivity, Communications, Networking, Cybersecurity, Wireless, and Managed Solutions to help organizations of different sizes prepare for what's next. Powered by the nation's largest Gig-speed broadband network, and backed by 24/7 customer support, Comcast Business is the nation's largest cable provider to small and mid-size businesses and one of the leading service providers to the Enterprise market. Comcast Business has been [consistently recognized](#) by industry analysts and associations as a leader and innovator, and one of the fastest growing providers of Ethernet services. For more information, call 866-429-3085. Follow on Twitter [@ComcastBusiness](#) and on other social media networks at <http://business.comcast.com/social>.

About Effectv

Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, helps local, regional, and national advertisers use the best of digital with the power of TV to grow their business. It provides multi-screen marketing solutions to make advertising campaigns more effective and easier to execute. Headquartered in New York with offices throughout the country, Effectv has a presence in 66 markets with nearly 35 million owned and represented subscribers. For more information, visit www.effectv.com.



Get your kids up to date on shots for school and wellness checks

COVID Vaccines and Testing Available

Saturday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Edgewater Health

1100 W. 6th Ave., Gary, IN 46402

(Park in 5th Ave. lot)

Learn more or get transportation help at

MDwise.org/BackOnTrack

or call **800-356-1204**.

Register at Edgewaterhealth.org
or by calling (219) 885-4264, ext. 4704

Registration encouraged but not required.

Door
Prizes of \$50
Gift Cards!

Free
Food!

Free
School
Supplies!



A McLaren Company



Indiana
Department
of
Health



Limited Tickets Available!



Come and join us at the beautiful County Line Apple Orchard for our upcoming *Spark the Dream - Ignite the Future Reception*.

The evening will be casual with light entertainment, heavy hor'doeuvres, raffles, and a brief organizational update from our Executive Director, Donna Golob.

Register now and don't miss out on this fun, free, magical event on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, from 6-8 pm.

Bring a friend or have a coworker tag along to help celebrate the great work we are doing throughout the region!

Register For Your FREE Ticket Today!



A Positive Approach to Teen Health
5997 Carlson Ave, Portage, IN 46368
219-254-2678