



Lifeline

Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2024

“CONNECTING BUSINESSES TO CUSTOM-

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

GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Gary Chamber of Commerce will hold its Monthly General Membership Meeting/Luncheon on Monday, February 12, 2024, 12:00 Noon at The Chateau Banquets, 530 W. 61st Avenue, Merrillville, IN. Join the Chamber as we welcome Gary-native writer and educator Vernon A. Williams. Communication and Community Engagement Strategist for IUPUI, as our guest speaker.

Previously, Vernon was one of the first reporters for the Gary Post-Tribune. He currently writes a weekly column for The Chicago/Gary Crusader Newspaper. Williams previously served as the first Black Assistant to the Chancellor for Communications at IUPUI and is the former Vice President Communications for Indiana Black Expo Inc.

Your business/organization needs to know the history, history makers and rich traditions of the City of Gary. Vernon has a career built on journalism, marketing, and education. Hear how business was in Gary and what it can become! Mr. Williams can use his experiences to help tell the Gary story. Join Vernon and Chuck in a fireside chat format in celebrating Gary's culture, heritage, and community.

The cost of the luncheon is **\$25 per person, reserve your seat(s) today.** Call the Chamber office (219) 885-7407. Payment required in advance. **Bring your business cards, networking starts at 11:30 a.m.**

• **LUNCHEON SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE** •

We now accept American Express, Master Card and Visa Credit and Debit cards.

GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STARTS NEW YEAR OFF WITH A BANG! JANUARY 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON



1st General Membership Meeting of 2024

The 22nd Mayor of the City of Gary proved to be one of our most popular elected mayor in many, many years.

Mayor Eddie Melton, the guest speaker for our first General Membership Meeting/Luncheon of the year brought out some of the regions best government officials, business representatives and Chamber members, all wanting to meet Mayor Melton and express their desire to work with his administration to break down barriers and help him carryout his agenda for the City.



Pictured above: Mayor Melton gives keynote address at luncheon. **Below:** Mayor and First Lady Crystal Melton accepts a hand made gift from the clients of Trade Winds Services. **Below right:** Chuck and Mayor Melton welcomes new member, Ashley Tarver, Ideal Luxury Estates, LLC.



Pictured above: Chuck along with Councilman Ron Brewer welcomes Chamber members from Indianapolis Lion195 Against Trafficking. **Below:** Daniel Vicari, Executive Director, Gary/Chicago International Airport and guest greet Mayor Melton.

Pictures compliments of Cooley's Video

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: A SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

What's Up



Chuck Hughes
President/CEO

As we celebrate Black History Month and not to diminish the contributions of Black Americans every month of the year, let's remember that Black Americans as well as all Americans are responsible for and have contributed to what we term, "The American Dream."

A THANK YOU to our January Luncheon sponsors: Meridian Title Co., Haywood and Fleming Associates, Gary Game Changers, Our BQuest LLC, The Boeing Co., and American Kitchen Delights.

SAVE-THE-DATE



4.11.24



Introduction of #Civility Counts Resolution at State House in Indy.

Tiny's Coffee Bar ♦ You Meet ♦ Greet ♦ Network ♦ All At Chamber Business-After-Hours



CWI & Computer Skills & Training Center ♦ Ribbon Cutting/Open House



Membership Activities

February 12, 2024	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON The Chateau Banquet Center, Merrillville	12:00 Noon
February 21, 2024	Economic/Business Development Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
February 23, 2024	Education Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
February 26, 2024	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	11:30 a.m.
February 29, 2024	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	9:00 a.m.

► **Check out additional pictures from the January 2024 General Membership Meeting/Luncheon on page 3.**

► **D & K Soul Food Sunday.** All you can eat Soul Food Buffet every Sunday. Dine-in buffet only. 11am—6pm, 3669 Broadway, Gary. Last seating, 5pm (*see flyer*).

► **Athena McLaurin, Agent American Family Insurance** wants you to start saving today for those who bundle auto and home insurance policies. Contact Athena at A.L. McLaurin Agency, 219-844-1218 or amclauri@amfm.com (*see flyer*).

► **Goodwill Industries of Michiana's Gary Community Career Center**, 4610 W. Ridge Road is offering classes for the month of February in Basic Computer Skills, Improving Credit, Mailchimp Information, and Job Search & Interview Workshop. For additional information, dates, and registration call: 219-964-4225 (*see flyer*).

► **February 12, 2024—Ivy Tech Community College** is accepting applications for a ServSafe Class, a 1 day class, at Ivy Tech Community College, Room 1053, 3491 Broadway, Gary, IN. Contact Lori Staack, 219-256-7511, lstaack@ivytech.edu for info.

► **February 13, 2024—Oak Street Health & Shear Creations Beauty Academy** sponsors of A Seniors Beauty Spa. 12-1:30pm, 1310 Broadway, Gary. Beauty Tips from the inside out. Free for seniors 60+. Sponsors. RSVP: 219-200-2615 (*see flyer*).

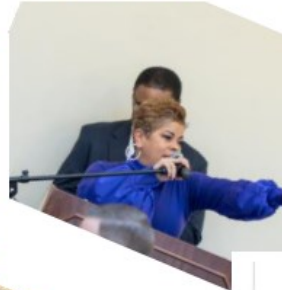
► **February 14-17, 2024—Tiny's Coffee Bar** presents Valentine's Days Celebrations. Valentine themed cocktails, coffees and desserts. 555 S. Lake St., Gary. Visit: www.TinysCoffeeBar.com (*see flyer*).

► **February 21, 2024—Mayor's Breakfast benefitting UNCF.** Join Mayor Jerome Prince, 8:30am, Gary Area Career Center, 1800 E. 35th Ave., Gary. For more information or sponsorships, contact: Indianapolis@UNCF.org. (*see flyer*).

► **February 23, 2024—The Webb House, Inc.** is hosting a Gala Honoring Female Veterans, Avalon Manor, 3550 E. US Highway 30, Merrillville. Honored guest speakers from around the country. Special entertainment by R&B Singer, Mikki Howard. Tickets on sale now. For additional info contact: Robert Farmer webbhouseinc41@gmail.com (*see flyer*).

► **February 25, 2024—Ivy Tech Community College**, College Goal Sunday, 2-4pm. Free FAFSA filing for 2024-2025 academic year. 9900 Connecticut Dr. Crown Point, IN. Contact: Divia Carter 219-981-4445, or ivytech.edu/collegegoalsunday (*see flyer*).

► **March 14, 2024—Urban League of NWI, Diversity & Inclusion Symposium.** Registration is now open. For information call: Urban League 219- 887-9621 (*see flyer*).





4.11.24

8th Annual World Civility Day

- A Celebration of "The Golden Rule"
- A Full Day of Civility Themed Events
- Morning Civility Workshops
- An Evening Awards Dinner

Venues:

- Dean and Barbara White Community Center
6600 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410
- Avalon Manor
3550 E. US Highway 30, Merrillville, IN 46410

Activities Include:

- Civility in the Classroom and Workplace Themed Workshops
- Civility Themed Discussions
- Vendor Fair
- Lunch Provided
- Awards Dinner w/Featured Speaker(s)
- Community Civility Counts Awards Presentation

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

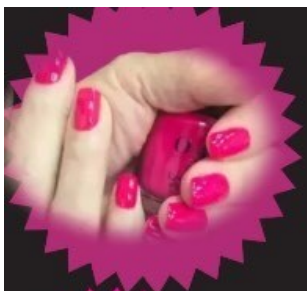
Early Bird Table Sponsorships Available

VIP-Tickets Available (all day pass)



For information contact:
Gary Chamber of Commerce
504 Broadway, Suite 328
Gary, IN 46402
Phone: 219-885-7407
chughes@garychamber.com
jbowden@garychamber.com
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February 13th
12:00-1:30pm

RSVP 219-200-2615
1310 Broadway Gary, IN

Sponsors:



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Pat Boyd CEO & Instructor



TINY'S COFFEE BAR

PRESENTS:

Valentine's Days

- ♥ **VALENTINE'S MARTINIS,
BOURBON, & WHISKEY
COCKTAILS**
- ♥ **VALENTINE'S COFFEE
DRINKS**
- ♥ **PAIRED DESSERTS**

Wed, Feb 14 thru Sat, Feb 17

See you there!

555 S. Lake St., Gary, IN
www.TinysCoffeeBar.com

D&K Soul Food "New in '24"



All You Can Eat Sunday Soulfood Buffet

Starting Jan 21st
11-6pm last seating at 5pm
Dinner, Dessert and
Beverage Only \$34.99

3669 Broadway Gary, In



BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS WORKSHOP

February 27th/2:00pm-3:30pm


Join us to learn computer skills such as:

- Basic Computer Use
- Internet Basics
- Using Email
- Windows & Mac Operating System
- Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint
- And much more!

Our self guided video modules are fun and easy!



Larry Neff Center for Career Connections
4610 W. RIDGE RD.
GARY, IN 46408
Call 219-964-4225 to Register


You're invited to Improving Credit Lunch & Learn

Join us to learn how to improve your credit score and manage your debt. RSVP at the site below or call Lauren Llanes at (219)902-4934.


Monday, February 12, 2024
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

Chase - Goodwill Center for Career Connections
4610 W. Ridge Rd
Gary, IN 46408

Space is limited, please RSVP by January 31 at events.chase.com/300026174



Deposit products provided by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. ©2023 JPMorgan Chase & Co.



Job Search and Interview Workshop



Thursday, February 15th
2:00p-4:00p

Please join us in this workshop to learn the fundamentals of effective job searching techniques and interview preparation.

Larry Neff Center for Career Connections
4610 W. RIDGE RD.
GARY, IN 46408
Call 219-964-4225 to Register




mailchimp Informational

Mailchimp is an all-in-one marketing platform that helps you create newsletters, then manage and talk to a vast number of clients, customers, and other interested parties.

Come learn the fundamentals of navigating this platform and its many features.

Tuesday, February 20th
2:00p-3:30p

Larry Neff Center for Career Connections
4610 W. RIDGE RD.
GARY, IN 46408
Call 219-964-4225 to Register





THE WEBB HOUSE, INC.
PRESENTS

HONORING FEMALE VETERANS & THEIR FAMILY
GALA

Friday, February 23, 2024
6:00 PM—Until

AVALON MANOR
3550 E. US HIGHWAY 30
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410



Donation
\$100.00



Hors d'oeuvres
Dinner

Featured Entertainment by: R&B Singer Mikki Howard

SILENT AUCTION—MILITARY MEMORABILIA

HONORED GUESTS SPEAKERS



Lt. Colonel Destiny Well
Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence
United States Army Reserves



Michelle Howard
4 Star Admiral US Navy



Junelle Mongno
The Office of Reporter General
Daughters of the American Revolution
(DAR)



For Addition Information Contact: Robert M. Farmer at: webbhouseinc41@gmail.com



ServSafe Food Manager Class & Examination 1 Day Class

Ivy Tech Community College
3941 Broadway
Gary, IN 46409

Monday, February 12, 2024
Check-in Times: 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Training Times: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Exam Time: 3:30 PM



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE!

REGISTRATION FORM: Confirmation letter will be mailed to the address you provided with class details and more information. MAIL TO Indiana Restaurant & Lodging Association, 1060 N Capitol Ave, Ste: 3-101 Indianapolis, IN 46204 or FAX TO (317) 673-4210.



COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

is Indiana's largest
FAFSA filing event!

Join us on campus to get free expert help filing your FAFSA for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Ivy Tech Community College uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for many types of financial assistance. Some types of funding are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it is important to file your FAFSA as soon as you are able. Let us help you file at College Goal Sunday!



February 25, 2024



2-4 p.m.



9900 Connecticut Dr.
Crown Point, IN 46307



Learn more at ivytech.edu/collegegoalsunday

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VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY



Urban League of
Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Diversity & Inclusion Symposium

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

HARRE UNION – 1509 CHAPEL DRIVE
VALPARAISO, INDIANA 46383

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Why you should attend

Invigorating Dialogue on Diversity, Inclusion, and Leadership

Who should attend

- Grass Roots Organizations
- Business/Corporate Administrators
- Affirmative Action Officers
- Secondary/Post-Secondary Educators & Students
- Community Leaders
- Non-Profits/Churches
- Police/Fire Personnel
- HR Personnel



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**Customers who bundle auto and home insurance policies may save up to 23% on both policies together (as of July 2022). Discounts may vary by state, property, policy form and company underwriting the auto and/or home policy. Discounts may not apply to all coverages on an auto or home policy.*



Athena McLaurin, Agent
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EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO BETTER FUTURES

UNCF
BREAKFAST
MAYOR'S
NORTHWEST INDIANA 2024



HOSTED BY

The Honorable Mayor Eddie Melton
Mayor, Gary Indiana

"Honoring the Legacy, Transforming Our Future."

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

8:30 A.M.-10 A.M. EST

Gary Area Career Center
1800 E 35th Avenue, Gary, IN

For more information contact: Indianapolis@UNCF.org

SUPPORTING HBCUs AND STUDENTS IN NEED LEARN MORE UNCF.org/Indianapolis



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