



**Gary Chamber of Commerce**

# Lifeline

Volume 15, Issue 10

October 2024

“CONNECTING BUSINESSES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS”

Please visit us @[www.garychamber.com](http://www.garychamber.com) and catch a *lifeline*...

## THE NEW NIPSCO PRESIDENT/COO TO ADDRESS OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON



The Gary Chamber of Commerce will hold its' monthly General Membership Luncheon on Monday, October 14, 2024, 12:00 noon at The Chateau Banquets, 530 W. 61st Avenue, Merrillville. Join the Chamber as we welcome the newly appointed President/COO of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), Mr. Vince Paris, as our guest speaker.

Vince will address NIPSCO's infrastructure enhancements and modernization to the gas and electric systems and how the community and businesses benefit from these projects, and NIPSCO's commitment to the Gary community through philanthropy, outreach and volunteerism.

**The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person.**

**Call the Chamber office (219) 885-7407 to reserve your seat**

**Bring Your Business Cards—Networking Starts at 11:30 am.**

## OCTOBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR



## September Luncheon Speaker Vanessa Green Sindors



Annual Lakeshore Classic Corporate Luncheon  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024  
Signature Luncheon Sponsorship - \$5,000.00  
Luncheon Sponsorships - \$1,000.00  
Table of 6 - \$300.00  
Individual luncheon tickets \$50.00  
Also Available—Lakeshore Classic Game Sponsorships



**SAVE-TH-DATE: FRI/SAT November 29-30 2024**

**16th ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC**

Boys & Girls Indiana & Illinois Basketball Teams  
November 26— Corporate Classic Luncheon  
November 29-30— Lakeshore Classic Basketball Games  
• Game Schedules TBA •



The Gary Chamber membership has been busy this last month of summer. Our September General Membership Luncheon's guest speaker was Vanessa Green Sindors, President/CEO Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Bottom left: Senator Ed Charbonneau and Vanessa celebrating with new chamber members. Center left: Luncheon sponsors, Smith Bizzell & Warner Funeral Home. Pictured far right: A Ribbon Cutting & Open House Celebration, The Rainey Center, 2100 W. 11th Ave., Gary, with below right: Quad J's James Ward's Food Truck. Join in on the fun. Celebrate with us...Great Networking! Become a Gary Chamber member. Call 219.885.7407 for information.



## What's time is it Chuck?

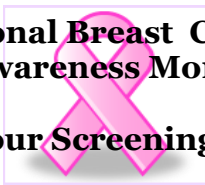


The end of the month of October is recognized in some form or fashion by most people but I am happy to say that we anticipate no tricks but a continuation of the treats that you as members and supporters have provided to the Gary Chamber of Commerce.

We will continue to serve and to appreciate you throughout the year.

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Get Your Screening Today



## The Brass Idol Restaurant Ribbon Cutting

The Brass Idol restaurant, located in the heart of Downtown Miller at 5900 Miller Ave, hosted its official ribbon cutting ceremony. Open from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm Wednesday through Friday and 9:00 am to 10:00 pm Sat. & Sun. Take Out and delivery is available, call 219-427-0176. For more information visit: <https://www.thebrassidol.com/>



Top: Owners Sam Geraci and Steve Stepanek pictured with Mayor Eddie Melton. Below: Chuck Hughes and Dr. Sharon Johnson Shirley, Superintendent of Lake Ridge New Tech Schools attend the grand opening & ribbon cutting.



## Gary Chamber of Commerce - October 2024 Member Activities

◆◆ Additional Flyers Attached ◆◆

- ▶ Gary Public Transportation Corporation (GPTC) is celebrating The Metro Center in Gary 40th Anniversary.
- ▶ Big Shoulders Fund hosts Transition to Teaching Reception 2024, at the Calumet College of St. Joseph campus. Teaming up with Calumet College of St. Joseph, and Catholic Diocese of Gary. This event celebrates teachers making their transition to teaching. The Northwest Indiana Teachers Scholarship offers full tuition scholarships for students interested in the teaching program at Calumet College of St. Joseph.
- ▶ Free LED Lighting Upgrades. Replace your 4' LED Tubes, LED Outdoor Fixtures and LED Warehouse and Big Box retail. All fixtures for FREE with free shipping. Order your free lights today. Contact OEO Energy Solutions, 847.847.3997, [Matt@o eo.com](mailto:Matt@o eo.com) (see attached flyer).
- ▶ Gary Historical & Cultural Society preparing an exhibit to honor NWI Veterans the months of October and November. Mail your veteran family members & friends photos to: GHCS, P.O. Box 64603, Gary IN 46402, or drop off at Gary Main Public Library, 220 W. 5th Avenue, Gary or call: (219) 680-7215 (see attached flyer).
- ▶ October 3, 2024—Ivy Tech Community College 23rd Annual Chancellors' Scholarship Event, 5:30pm at Avalon Manor in Merrillville. The celebration will honor 26 academic scholarship recipients. Also, honoring the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana as the Lake County Benefactor of the Year. Contact Erik Prokop 219.476.4711
- ▶ October 10, 2024—Know Your Lemons Virtual Presentation, Breast Cancer Awareness online presentation. 6pm—6:45pm. To register and link to the presentation, contact LaTanya Woodson 219-885-4264 ext. 4707 or [lwoodson@edgewaterhealth.org](mailto:lwoodson@edgewaterhealth.org) (see attached flyer).
- ▶ October 11, 2024—“A Vision of Health Banquet” by HealthVisions Hammond, 6pm—10pm, Hellenic Banquet Center, 8000 Madison Street, Merrillville. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hvusa.org](http://www.hvusa.org) or call 219.947.8560
- ▶ October 12, 2024—Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month, HealthVisions Midwest and Edgewater Health presents “Pioneers of Change: Empowering Communities to Build a Healthier Future Together”, Iglesia Cristiana Pentecostes Church. Special guest: Karina Buenavides, Indiana Department of Health. Free health services. Contact Sandra Campos at 219-885-4264 ext 2808 or [scampos@edgewaterhealth.org](mailto:scampos@edgewaterhealth.org).
- ▶ October 26, 2024—Shuler's Stable presents “Brawl for the Fall”. Sanctioned bouts of live boxing, 3:00pm, Hudson Campbell Sports Center, 455 Massachusetts Street, Gary. Ticket info: 219-616-3067.
- ▶ October 30, 2024—Community Forum hosted by Mayor Eddie Melton & Team, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway, Gary, Bergland Auditorium (see attached flyer).
- ▶ November 7, 2024—Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc. annual Diversity & Inclusion Awards Luncheon. 11:30am—1:30pm, Avalon Manor, 3550 E. US Hwy 30, Merrillville. Registration open. Call 219.887.9621.
- ▶ November 9, 2024—Gain valuable insights, tips, and access to trusted professionals in the real estate industry at United Way Northwest Indiana First-Time Homebuyer Vendor Fair, 10:00am—Noon. Dean and Barbara White Community Center, 6600 Broadway, Merrillville, IN. FREE to the public. For info: Lourdes Swift, 219.786.9605 or [Lourdes@unitedwaynwi.org](mailto:Lourdes@unitedwaynwi.org). Sponsorships available (see attached flyer).



IT'S NATIONAL VOTER  
REGISTRATION DAY, AND THE  
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IN MANY  
STATES IS APPROACHING IN THE  
COMING WEEKS. WILL YOU CHECK  
YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION NOW?

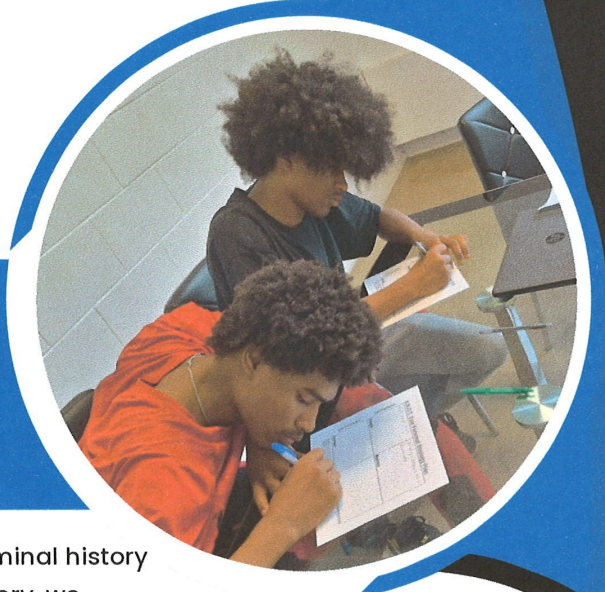
[www.betterinaunion.org/register](http://www.betterinaunion.org/register)



# EARN AND LEARN

## NO COST TO PARTICIPATE

The Goodwill Youth & Young Adults Second Chance program aids young individuals returning to the Gary region. Referrals can also come from the judicial or justice systems.



If you are acquainted with someone who has a criminal history and is seeking help in determining a career trajectory, we encourage you to visit our office or schedule an appointment.

### Eligible participants must:

- Be at least 15 years old and not older than 24 years of age on the date of enrollment.
- Reside in Gary, Indiana
- Have been expelled from a school OR had juvenile or adult justice system contact.

### THE GOALS OF SECOND CHANCE ARE TO:

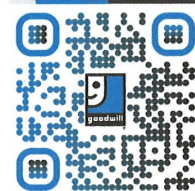
- Increase conflict resolution skills and develop strategies to prevent and avoid violence.
- Introduce and prepare for the world of work.
- Identify career interests, attain relevant skills and gain work experience.

### SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM OFFERS:

- Earn up to \$3,000 in six weeks
- Resume and Cover Letter Assistance
- Interview Preparation
- Free Training & Certifications
- \$15/hour Work-based Learning Experience
- Supportive Services



JUSTICE INVOLVED • RE-ENTRY



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL: LATANYA COLEMAN  
LCOLEMAN@GOODWILL-NI.ORG • 219-384-5198



Allies for  
Community  
Business



# When Banks Must Say No, We Can Say Yes

[a4cb.org/loans](https://a4cb.org/loans)

Allies for Community Business values our relationships with banks who provide entrepreneurs with traditional services such as bank deposit accounts. If your bank cannot lend you what you need, we may be able to do so and therefore banks will often refer valued entrepreneurs to us.

We offer term loans and lines of credit between \$500 and \$100,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses in Illinois and Indiana. We charge 9% in interest and 2% in closing fees.

We are a little different from other lenders: we do not use credit scores and do not put liens on your personal assets. Instead, we evaluate how well you have managed your debts over the past two years and how much cash you have available to make monthly loan payments to us. We provide a loan to every entrepreneur who qualifies, and we provide free coaching to every entrepreneur who is interested in growing their business.

Want to connect with us before applying? [Click here](#) to schedule a 15-minute session with a Community Lender or contact us at 312-929-1952 or [loan@a4cb.org](mailto:loan@a4cb.org).

[Apply](#)



# FREE LED LIGHTING UPGRADES



## Free 4' LED TUBES

To replace existing 4', T8 or T12 fluorescent tubes used in offices, warehouses, retail parking garages and more. If you are using T5 fluorescents, please call for details.

## Free LED OUTDOOR FIXTURES

To replace existing 400-1000W parking lot/outdoor fixtures.

## Free LED WAREHOUSE FIXTURES

To replace existing 400-1000W fixtures currently used in warehouses, big box retail and more.

To order free lights: [CLICK HERE](#)

### Program Details

- Quantity eligible for upgrade is equal to the number of lights currently in use.
- Free shipping for tube orders over 250 (case pack 25). Free shipping on fixture orders over 30 (indiv. case packing).
- Warranty: 5 Years or 50,000 hours. Lasts 2.5x longer than fluorescents with superior LED lumen quality.
- Availability: Limited quantities. First come, first served, while inventory lasts.
- Participants must have an eligible non-residential electric account.
- OEO is a registered program ally with electric utility energy efficiency programs nationally.

**ORDER YOUR FREE LIGHTS TODAY!**

847-847-3997 | [Matt@OEO.com](mailto:Matt@OEO.com)

**OEO.com**

Energy Solutions Since 1996

143 E Main St, Lake Zurich, IL 60047



# Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

SEPTEMBER 15th -  
OCTOBER 15th

The Mind, Body & Spirit Wellness Program will host multiple events featuring health, nutrition and primary care services education in recognition of **National Hispanic Heritage Month**.



**Karina Buenavides**  
Health Equity Certified Community Health Worker, Indiana Department of Health, Office of Minority Health

## Saturday, October 12 • 11 am - 12:30 pm

Iglesia Cristiana Pentecostes Church, 1007 W. Chicago Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312

### Featured Presentation

*“Pioneers of Change: Empowering Communities to Build a Healthier Future Together”*

- Getting real about Preventive & Self-Care
- Seeking alternative treatments – Know your rights
- Understanding health risk factors
- Understanding social determinants

**FREE**

- Blood pressure checks and blood glucose screenings
- Preventive health literature and brochures
- Nutrition presentation from Purdue Extension
- Chronic care prevention presentation from HealthVisions Midwest
- Lead testing for children from Lake County Health Department



**All are Invited**  
**Registration Preferred**

Contact Sandra Campos at **219-885-4264**  
ext. **2808** or [scampos@edgewaterhealth.org](mailto:scampos@edgewaterhealth.org).

**GARY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY  
WILL HONOR NWI VETERANS AT THE  
GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY DURING  
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

# **VETERANS ★ DAY ★**



**WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU SUBMIT A 5X7  
OR 8X10 B/W OR COLOR PHOTO OF YOUR  
VETERANS TO GHCS NO LATER THAN  
OCTOBER 15TH TO HANG IN THE EXHIBIT.  
PICTURES SHOULD INCLUDE NAME, RANK,  
AND BRANCH THE VET SERVED IN.  
PHOTOS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**



**Please mail photos to: GHCS, P.O. Box 64603, Gary, IN 46401  
or you may drop off photos to the Gary Main Public Library at  
220 W. 5th Ave., Gary, IN 46402  
Call (219) 680-7215 if you have any questions.**





*Gary Residents and Partners are cordially invited to a.....*

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Hosted by Mayor Eddie Melton & Team*

**October 30, 2024  
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Indiana University Northwest  
Bergland Auditorium**

Hear updates from the Mayor and his team.  
Share your feedback with City of Gary Departments  
and sister agencies.

***Have questions for Mayor Melton?***

**Submit them online**

**or**

**complete a form at City Hall  
by October 23rd.**

**Submit your questions here!**





Urban League of Northwest  
Indiana, Inc.

# Diversity & Inclusion Awards Luncheon

November 7, 2024.

11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m

Avalon Manor

3550 E. US HWY 30

Merrillville, IN 46410

Sponsorship, individual registration, and vendor  
information opportunities.

Click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/xok87Ya3RBbYiw929>

Register today!

For further details, feel free to call our office at:  
(219) 887-9621.



A background image showing a close-up of two hands in business attire, one holding a set of keys. In the lower-left corner, there is a small, white model of a house with a blue roof.

# First-Time Homebuyer Vendor Fair

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024**



**10AM - NOON**



**Dean and Barbara White  
Community Center  
6600 Broadway,  
Merrillville, IN 46410**



**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

**WINNERS  
DRAWN EVERY  
HALF HOUR**

**ATTENDEES MUST BE REGISTERED  
AND AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE TO BE  
ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAWINGS.**

**Are you dreaming of owning  
your first home?**

**Join us for an exciting First-Time Homebuyer Vendor Fair, where you'll gain valuable insights, tips, and access to trusted professionals in the real estate industry.**

- *Explore a Variety of Homeownership Opportunities*
- *Meet Experienced Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Lenders, and Home Inspectors*
- *Learn About Financing Options, Down Payment Assistance Programs, and Mortgage Pre-Approval*
- *Discover Essential Home Maintenance Tips and Tricks*