

THE GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES AJ BYTNAR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA) DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 13, 2025 @ 12:00 Noon | \$25 per person



The Chateau Banquets | 530 W. 61st Avenue | Merrillville, IN

AJ brings more than 15 years of experience in economic development, urban planning, zoning, and redevelopment. During his tenure as Executive Director of Redevelopment for the City of Gary, he has worked on high-impact initiatives. AJ's is currently working directly with communities to facilitate investment within their TDD districts, launching the Land Development Entity, and broadening partnerships with communities and developers within RDA's territory.

• LUNCHEON SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE •

Payment is required in advance. Call (219) 885-7407 to reserve your seat.

Bring your business cards, networking starts at 11:30 am.

We now accept American Express, Master Card, and Visa Credit and Debit cards. For info visit: www.garychamber.com

September 8, 2025 General Membership Meeting/Luncheon:



Indiana University Northwest
Chancellor Arrick Jackson
our September luncheon
speaker gave attendees a
glance of what plans are in
place for the University and
the Northwest Indiana
community.



Pictured with Chuck, our
spotlighted new member,
and also a door prize
winner, Danisha Brown
of COATES, Inc.



This is the smile we get from
the winners of our door raffle
grand prize, a \$100 gift card.
Pictured l-r: Chuck Hughes,
Linda Barnes-Caldwell, City of
Gary Councilwoman, and
Nate Shaw, Notre Dame FCU,
sponsor of the gift card.



*A gift from the clients of Trade Winds was presented
to Chancellor Arrick Jackson by Annette Walker.*

*In need of signage, printing, etc.
Call Trade Winds Sign Shop (219) 945-0100.*

SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING!

The Gary Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Gary Economic Development team, Ryan Jeffries, Britanie Buggs and Eze Redwood have been working to bring Small Businesses into the area an opportunity to gain knowledge by networking and sharing ideas.



The first in a series featured Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics Dean, **Cynthia Roberts.**



Dean Cynthia Roberts the guest speaker at the September Small Business Networking event.



The next Small Business Networking event is scheduled for October 9, 6-8:30 pm. at the Gary RailCats



What's Up Chuck?



Lakeshore Classic

The 17th annual
Lakeshore Classic
is coming up.

The Corporate Luncheon takes place on December 2, 2025, at the Hard Rock Casino.

The exciting high school basketball doubleheaders are on **Friday December 5th and Saturday December 6th.**

All the action takes place at Westside High School. The kids are counting on you, so I hope to see you there.

The City of Gary and The Gary Chamber of Commerce Present:
SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING

BRIDGING THE GAP: BUSINESS & COMMUNITY UNITE

Join us for a dynamic event discussing how to gain access to big projects and company partnerships as a small business.

OCT. 9TH

6PM - 8:30PM

RAILCATS STADIUM
1 STADIUM PLAZA,
GARY, IN 46402

TO RSVP, EMAIL
BBUGGS@GARY.GOV OR
SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW:



www.Gary.gov/events

SPECIAL GUEST
SPEAKER: **TAMMI DAVIS**
Obama Foundation



Gary
Chamber
of
Commerce



GUEST DJ:



GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UP COMING ACTIVITIES

SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **The Gary Historical and Cultural Society (GHCS)** is accepting your old musical keyboards. The keyboards will be given to students to help them learn to play the keyboard at the Gary Youth Music School, a GHCS-run school. Email ghcsin@yahoo.com or call Linda Jones (219) 680-7215. No Pianos, please.
- **Be An Extra** in an upcoming movie. Now is your chance to get discovered and have fun. Delicious on-set meals and screen credit. Filming date: October 18, 2025, 9-11 am. For full details, email info@detoureddestiny.com.
- **Shut Up & Write** – A Free Writing Group meets every Saturday at Tiny's Coffee Bar, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, 555 S. Lake Street, Gary Miller Beach. RSVP to reserve your spot at: www.meetup.com/shutupandwritemillerbeach.
- Free LED Upgrades for Members- Limited Supply, Act Fast! Through Indiana Electric Utilities, fellow member **OEO Energy** is offering **FREE LED** Indoor, Outdoor & Warehouse Lights to replace your existing fluorescents. To order, call 800-553-2112 or info@oeo.com.
- Dementia or Alzheimer's sufferers? If you know of someone who could benefit from insurance information, schedule an appointment with **William Gossett**, (219) 985-5662, to learn more.
- **October 4, 2025 – Sons of David** presents 5th Annual Diane Lewis Scholarship Award Dinner. 5 pm, Chateau Banquets, 530 W. 61st Avenue, Merrillville. Info: sonsofdavid@att.net or call (219) 629-1946.
- **October 9, 2025 – COATES, Inc.** presents Coates & Conversation, an evening of networking, games, and good conversation. Food & drinks provided. IUN Library Conference Room 105, 3400 Broadway, Gary, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Call (219) 472-9928 for additional info.
- **October 9, 2025 – ECIER Foundation** presents Jubilation Joy-Celebration honoring Breast Cancer Survivors. Pre & Post Reception, a Variety of Venues for Dinner. 6:00 pm, Hellenic Cultural Center, 8000 Madison St., Merrillville. For info call: (219) 334-7690.
- **October 11, 2025 – The Chanute Aquatorium Society** Annual Fundraiser "Fall Fireside Fest". 5:00 pm, 6918 Oak Avenue, Gary. Catered by Da Experience, Beer & Wine, Firepits, and DJ Vanessa Smooth. Additional information: www.eventbrite.com/e/aquatorium-fall-fireside-fest-tickets-1693315715889.
- **October 11, 2025 – Verses & Vibes**, a night of Poetry & Storytelling, a monthly event at **Tiny's Coffee Bar**, 555 S. Lake Street, Gary. Hosted by Deidre Dixon. Sign up to enjoy the show or read your poetry or story at (219) 427-0418 or peggy@tinyscoffeebar.com.
- **October 14, 2025 – Community Forum**, hosted by: Mayor Eddie Melton & Team. Hear updates and share feedback with the City of Gary Departments and sister agencies. 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Indiana University Northwest Bergland Auditorium, 3400 Broadway, Gary. Call (219) 881-1300 for questions or concerns.
- **October 16, 2025 – Progressive Faith Productions Red Carpet Premiere "Nourishing Lives: The Power of Food is Medicine"**. Directed by Senator Mark Spencer, this film shows how **Faith CDC** explores the intersection of food and health. 6:00 pm, admission is FREE. Seating is limited. Indiana University Northwest, Savannah Hall, 3400 Broadway, Gary.
- **October 18, 2025 – Gary Alumni Pathway to Students (PATH)** presents Canvas of Greatness Soiree. Canvas Artworks of PeQue. Hosts: Jamia Steele, Larry Brechner, and Three's A Crowd Band. 6-9:00 PM, Marina Shores at Dune Harbor, 6159 S. Dune Harbor Dr., Portage. Tickets: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/greatness-of-gary-gala.
- **October 19, 2025 – Join the Northwest Indiana BidWhist Club** in celebration of "Real Men Were Black". Gary's own, Attorney Rinzer Williams III, will be recognized at this All-Black-Tie Affair. 5pm – 10pm, Hard Rock Casino, 5400 W. 29th Avenue, Gary. Entertainment provided by Comedian Damon Williams. Contact: Mary-From-Gary (216) 269-5622 for info.
- **October 24, 2025 – City Life Center's Gala 2025**, Award Ceremony & Gala Dinner. Guest speaker, First Lady Crystal Melton. 6:00 pm, The Chateau Banquet, 530 W. 61st Ave., Merrillville. Tickets contact: Rhonda Miller (219) 614-0599 or www.citylifeniwi.org/gala2025.
- **October 24, 2025 – Belvedere Senior Housing** Annual Trunk or Treat. 4-6:00 PM, Front Parking Lot, 343 E. 90th Drive, Merrillville. Wear your costume! Food, candy, and a bouncy house. Now accepting Candy donations. Call Andrea at (219) 501-1214.
- **October 25, 2025 – It's that time! Boys & Girls of Greater NWI Volleyball League**. The league runs 10/25 – 12/13/2025. Registration: \$50 members, \$65 non-members. Contact your home club for details or register at www.bgcwindiana.my.site.com/V2/s/login-home.
- **October 28, 2025 – HealthVisions Midwest "Vision of Health Luncheon"**. Celebrating Community and advancing health equity. 11am – 2pm, Dynasty Banquets, 4125 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. For additional information, (219) 433-4294 or email jroman@hvusa.org.
- **October 31, 2025 – Dimples Co.** presents "Sax Girls Rock". Hosted by Lady Sax featuring the Saxxy Six (6 sax-playing sexy ladies). Dynasty Banquets, 4125 Calumet Ave., Hammond. Tickets & details: www.ladysax.com, Zelle (219) 313-2414, and ladysaxofgary@mail.com 219.887-7729.



Boots on the Ground! It's time to register for the
Breast Cancer Awareness Walk!



**5K BREAST CANCER WALK
BOOTS ON THE GROUND WALK AGAINST
BREAST CANCER**

**SATURDAY
09/27/2025**

**MARQUETTE PARK
BEACH
1 N. GRAND BLVD.
GARY, IN**

**9:00AM REGISTRATION
10:00AM WALK BEGINS**

**\$30 PER WALKER
T-SHIRT
INCLUDED
ON-SITE WHILE
SUPPLIES LAST**

**SONYA GARNETT
(219) 951-5767
SGARNETT@CHN-
INDIANA.ORG**



**COMMUNITY
HEALTHNET
HEALTH CENTERS**

- RAFFLES
- VENDORS
- BEST DRESSED
- PHOTOS
- LINE DANCING

REGISTER



WWW.CHN-INDIANA.ORG

**Instead of just thinking about writing,
come get some real writing done!**

Be it a book, blog, script, essay, dissertation, resume, melody, poem, or just plain work stuff, you are invited to write it with us. No one will see what you've written or give you unsolicited advice.

FREE WRITING GROUP

**10:15 am to 12:15 pm every Saturday
at TINY'S COFFEE BAR
555 S. Lake St., Miller Beach, IN**

RSVP to reserve your spot at:

<https://www.meetup.com/shutupandwritemillerbeach>

Shut Up & **Write!**[®]

FREE LED LIGHTING UPGRADES

Funded by Indiana Electric Utilities



4' LED Tubes

Replace existing 4' T8, T12 & T5 fluorescent tubes used in offices, classrooms warehouses, retail, parking garages, and more.

Total cost: \$12 \$0



LED Outdoor fixtures

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

Total cost: \$250 \$0



LED High Bay Fixtures

Replace 400-1000w metal halide & high pressure sodium bulbs for high bay applications in warehouses, factories, industrial, garages, retail & gymnasiums.

Total cost: \$250 \$0

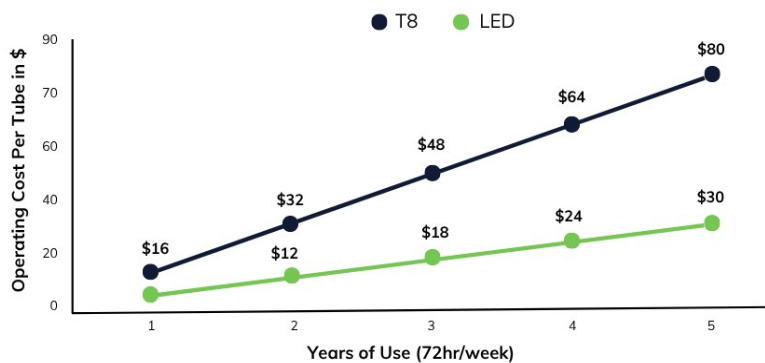
To order your lights: **CLICK HERE**

LED Benefits & ROI:

- Save 60%+ on energy costs
- Improve lighting instantly.
- Warranty: 5 Years or 50,000 hours.

Lasts 2.5x longer than fluorescents with superior LED lumen quality.

OPERATING COST OF FLUORESCENT VS OEO LED TUBES



LED LIGHTS = 2.5X LIFETIME OF FLUORESCENTS + 62.5% ENERGY SAVINGS

OEO Energy Solutions is Already Lighting Up:



Order your LED lights today!

+1 800-553-2112 | info@o eo.com

OEO.com

The City of Gary and The Gary
Chamber of Commerce Present:
SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING

BRIDGING THE GAP: BUSINESS & COMMUNITY UNITE

Join us for a dynamic
event discussing how to
gain access to big
projects and company
partnerships as a small
business.

OCT. 9TH

6PM - 8:30PM

RAILCATS STADIUM
1 STADIUM PLAZA,
GARY, IN 46402

SPECIAL GUEST
SPEAKER:

TAMMI DAVIS

Obama Foundation

TO RSVP, EMAIL
BBUGGS@GARY.GOV OR
SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW:



www.Gary.gov/events



Gary
Chamber
of
Commerce



GUEST DJ:



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING

VERSES & VIBES

Poetry and Storytelling Night

SAT
SEP 13
7 PM

SAT
OCT 11
7 PM

SAT
NOV 15
7 PM



ENJOY THE SHOW
OR READ YOUR POETRY OR STORY!

SIGN UP AT TINY'S:
(219) 427-0418
FRONT COUNTER CLIP BOARD
OR PEGGY@TINYSCOFFEEBAR.COM

CAN SIGN UP DAY OF:
BEFORE EVENT STARTS,
BASED ON AVAILABILITY

HOSTED BY:
DEIDRE DIXON

DEIDRE DIXON

WWW.TINYSCOFFEEBAR.COM

IN THE ♥ OF DOWNTOWN MILLER BEACH
555 S. LAKE STREET, GARY, IN



THE CHANUTE
AQUATORIUM SOCIETY
PRESENTS:

FALL FIRESIDE FEST

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

(2) AQUATORIUM EVENT SPACE RAFFLES

CATERED BY DA EXPERIENCE

BEER & WINE | FIREPITS | DJ VANESSA SMOOTH

OCTOBER 11, 2025 AT 5:00 PM

www.eventbrite.com/e/aquatorium-fall-fireside-fest-tickets-1693315715889

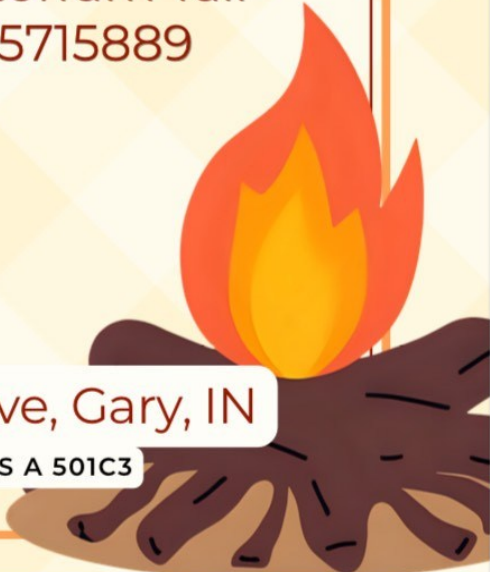


\$75 TICKETS



Gary Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave, Gary, IN

THE CHANUTE AQUATORIUM SOCIETY IS A 501C3





COMMUNITY FORUM



October 14th

5:30pm - 7:30pm

**Indiana University Northwest
Berglund Auditorium
3400 Broadway
Gary, IN 46408**

*Hosted By:
Mayor Eddie Melton & Team*

Mayor Eddie Melton and his team are inviting residents and partners to a Community Forum on October 14, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Indiana University Northwest, Berglund Auditorium, located at 3400 Broadway, Gary, IN 46408.

The forum will provide an opportunity for residents to hear updates directly from the Mayor and his team, as well as various City of Gary departments and sister agencies. Attendees are encouraged to share feedback and engage in a dialogue about the city's progress and future initiatives.

"This forum is an essential part of our commitment to transparency and community engagement," said Mayor Melton. "We are dedicated to building a stronger, more connected Gary, and hearing directly from our residents is critical to that effort. I look forward to a productive evening of dialogue and collaboration."

To ensure all voices are heard, residents with questions for Mayor Melton can submit them in advance by visiting www.gary.gov/feedback. The deadline for online submissions is Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

Residents can register for the event by visiting: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-forum-rsvp-tickets-1665402647149>.

**Media Contact:
Steve Segura**

City of Gary, Chief Communication Officer
Ph:219-806-6489
Cell:219-293-0101

www.Gary.gov

"Building a Greater Gary"



Hello,

On behalf of the Northwest Indiana BidWhist Club, I am honored to extend a personal invitation to join us for a powerful celebration of leadership, legacy, and community impact at our “Real Men Wear Black” All Black-Tie Affair, to be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at the Hard Rock Casino, 5400 W. 29th Ave., Gary, Indiana.

This year’s event holds special meaning for us as we proudly recognize Attorney Rinzer Williams III—a steadfast supporter of our club since 2023 and a respected voice in our community. Attorney Williams spoke highly of your leadership and encouraged us to reach out to you directly, knowing that your guidance could help us find the most impactful way to invite City of Gary employees to this extraordinary night of excellence.

This celebration is dedicated to honoring distinguished Black men who serve as pillars in our communities—men who lead with conviction, give generously, and uplift others through action. According to a report by the Brookings Institution, over 60% of Black men are actively involved in civic, volunteer, or mentoring work—a reality we see and honor in Northwest Indiana.

Beyond recognizing Attorney Williams, we will also celebrate our committed supporters, hardworking committee members, and generous sponsors who help us fulfill our mission of providing safe, enjoyable, and culturally rich entertainment rooted in tradition—through the timeless game of bidwhist.

We would be honored to partner with community members as a sponsor or guest contributor to this event. Your participation would further highlight our community’s commitment to celebrating and supporting Black excellence.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss how you can participate, please feel free to contact me directly. I would love the opportunity to speak with you. Thank you for considering this opportunity to uplift and honor Black men who continue to make a lasting impact in our communities.

With sincere appreciation,
Shanise S. Kemp
Founder, Northwest Indiana BidWhist Club

☎ (219) 789.3654
(219) 777-6747

Faith CDC Premieres Groundbreaking Documentary on Food Is Medicine and Health Equity in NWI

Red Carpet Screening of Nourishing Lives: The Power of Food is Medicine

(Gary, IND) — Families Anchored In Total Harmony, Inc. (Faith CDC), in partnership with Progressive Faith Productions, proudly announces the red carpet premiere of its first feature-length documentary, *Nourishing Lives: The Power of Food is Medicine*. The premiere will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at Indiana University Northwest's Savannah Hall (3400 Broadway, Gary, IN 46408). Doors open at 5:30 PM, with the film screening beginning promptly at 6:00 PM.

Directed by Senator Mark Spencer, this compelling film explores how Faith CDC is partnering with medical providers and community partners to confront chronic disease, food insecurity, and health inequities in Northwest Indiana. More than a documentary, *Nourishing Lives* is a movement—lifting up stories from families, healthcare leaders, and community advocates who are proving that access to culturally relevant, medically tailored meals can transform health outcomes and lives.

“This documentary explores the intersection of food and health with the goal of reshaping policies in Indiana by elevating Food is Medicine as a critical intervention,” said FAITH CDC founder and CEO Pastor Curtis Whittaker. “For individuals suffering from chronic diseases, access to nutritious, culturally relevant, medically tailored meals is not simply about sustenance—it is about healing, prevention, and long-term quality of life. By reframing food as medicine, this documentary underscores its power to reduce health disparities, improve disease management, lower healthcare costs, and restore dignity to communities most affected.”

Following the screening, guests will have the opportunity to engage in a dynamic panel discussion featuring documentary participants, local policymakers, and community partners. Together, they will discuss actionable strategies to advance food is medicine and improve health outcomes across the region.

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Guests are encouraged to RSVP using the QR code on the event flyer to secure their spot.

This premiere marks a major milestone for Faith CDC, transforming years of grassroots action into a powerful visual narrative that highlights its unwavering commitment to food justice, health equity, and lasting community change.

For media inquiries, interview requests, or press credentials, please contact Chelsea Whittington at 219-712-8182 or email chelsea@cwhitt.biz.

GARY ALUMNI PATHWAY To STUDENTS *presents* Canvas of Greatness Soirée



Hosts - Jamia Steele & Larry A. Brechner • Three's A Crowd Band

Featuring the Canvas Artworks of



PeDee

October 18, 2025

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM



Marina Shores at Dune Harbor
6159 S Dune Harbor Drive • Portage, IN 46368

To purchase tickets go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/greatness-of-gary-gala>
or scan this QR Code



Ticket price: \$90.00



C i g a r s • C h a r c u t e r i e • W i n e



 **BE PART OF THE MAGIC!**

BE AN EXTRA IN AN UPCOMING MOVIE!

Email info@detoureddestiny.com
for full details on how to get
involved.

**DELICIOUS ON
SET MEAL!**

SCREEN CREDIT!

Filming Date: **Saturday,
October 18, 2025**
Call Time: **Between 9:00
AM – 11:00 AM**

Now's your chance to get
discovered, have fun, and
connect with other creatives!



City Life Center

GALA 2025

Guest Speaker

First Lady
Crystal Melton



FRIDAY
OCTOBER

24

THE CHATEAU BANQUET HALL

530 W. 61ST AVE.
MERRILLVILLE, IN
DOORS OPEN AT 06:00PM

TICKET
\$100
Per Person

AWARD CEREMONY
GALA DINNER
STUDENT PERFORMANCES
BAND PERFORMANCES

Tickets

219-614-0599 - Rhonda Miller
citylifefenwi.org/gala2025



Vision of Health Luncheon

Celebrating Community. Advancing Health Equity.

Join us for a powerful afternoon of connection,
conversation, and community health.

Tuesday,
October 28, 2025

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Dynasty Banquets
4125 Calumet Ave
Hammond, IN 46320



Individual: \$40



Table of 8: \$300

Reserve your seat or become a sponsor by October !

jroman@hvusa.org | (219) 433-4294

OCTOBER 24

4:00PM - 6:00PM



**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**



FOOD & CANDY

FRONT PARKING LOT

BOUNCE HOUSE

*343 EAST 90TH DRIVE,
MERRILLVILLE*

Don't forget to wear your costume!



*WINEMAC OLD AUTO CLUB
WILL BE PARTICIPATING!!*