

Chamber News • Business publication of the LaGrange County (IN) Chamber of Commerce • Phone (260) 463-2443 • Feb. 2024

LaGrange County Chamber's Annual Meeting Wraps Up with Inspiring Success and Unified Vision

LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting concluded on Thursday, January 11, marking a momentous occasion for the organization and its members. The event, held at the Blue Gate Garden Inn and catered by Shawna Rae's, brought together over 200 dedicated individuals, partners, and community members, fostering a spirit of collaboration and renewed commitment to foster hometown culture and drive exponential success.

Key Highlights of the Annual Meeting Include:

1. **Mission Impact:** The organization celebrated significant strides in achieving its mission. Attendees were presented with compelling evidence of the positive impact the LaGrange County Chamber has made over the past year, from next generation workforce development and individual empowerment, to the inaugural ConnectHER Conference and Small Business workshops.
2. **Strategic Roadmap:** The Executive Director, Sara Patrick, unveiled a comprehensive strategic roadmap for the upcoming year. Attendees gained insights into the organization's vision, including a few new initiatives, partnerships, and innovative approaches designed to amplify the impact the LaGrange County Chamber can have for its members.
3. **Gratitude and Recognition:** A heartfelt acknowledgment was extended to volunteers, partners, and supporters who played pivotal roles in the organization's success. Special recognition was given to the outstanding individuals and entities whose contributions exemplify the spirit of the LaGrange County Chamber through its Legacy Awards. Winners included: Educator of the Year, Brittany Cowley of Lakeland Jr./Sr. High; Member of the Year, Linder's Tavern on Main; Non-Profit of the Year, Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center; Professional of the Year, Sherri Johnston of the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation; Small Business of the Year, Trading Post Outfitters; and Young Professional of the Year, Andrea Howe of Farmers State Bank. Other winners named were Erin Olinger as Chamber Ambassador of the Year, and Andrea Howe as Chamber Director of the Year.
4. **Board of Directors Election:** During the annual meeting, the chamber membership was tasked with electing new board of director members. 2 vacancies were left resulting from Dan Byler of LaGwana terming off the board and by Keith James of Indigo Web Services relocating to Southern Indiana. Elected to fill those vacancies were Brittany Sams of LaGrange County REMC and Ben Martin of Lake Country Landscaping. Lauri Couture, representing Farmers State Bank, was re-elected to serve her second three-year term.
5. **Member Showcase:** Prior to the Annual Meeting, chamber members were given the opportunity to reserve showcase booths. These booths allowed members to highlight their businesses and organizations. This allowed them to interact and network with both members and non-members in attendance. Each year a Member's Showcase booth is selected by an anonymous group of judges to receive a free entry into the next year's Member Showcase. This year the winner of the 2024 Member Showcase was the LaGrange County Community Foundation.

The LaGrange County Chamber's Annual Meeting recap serves as a testament to the organization's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering dedication to positive change. As the Chamber looks towards the future, it does so with a strengthened resolve to make a lasting impact in LaGrange County.

Welcome New Members!

Mongo General Store

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Mongo, IN 46771

Shipshe Automotive Service & Shipshewana Towing Service

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100 S. Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN 46565

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Chamber Directors & Staff



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ANDY LINDER

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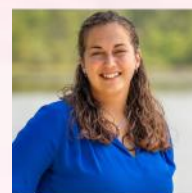
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BRITTANY SAMS

LaGrange County REMC

The Chamber News is a member publication and is distributed free of charge to businesses in LaGrange County and surrounding areas. Advertising is available only to Chamber members who invest in the business community by supporting the Chamber.

Renewing Members

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 Five Star Pizza
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LaGrange County Community Foundation
 LaGrange County Convention & Visitors Bureau
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 Lake Country Landscaping
 Lakeland Towing & Recovery
 Lambright Country Chimes
 Lambright Woodworking
 Lord's Inc.
 M.W. Repair & Sales
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 Miller's Food & Drug
 Music's Heating & Cooling
 Noble County Disposal
 Partners Brand Seed
 Shawna Rae's
 South Milford Grain Company
 Stroh Farm Supply
 Super Eight Motel—Shipshewana
 The Barn Door
 Town of Topeka
 Westview School Corporation
 Yoder & Sons Repair Shop

Thanks for your continued support!



First Presbyterian Church, LaGrange

This month, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church will be praying specifically for:

February 1: Yoder's Homestyle Cooking

February 8: Hostetler Tire

February 15: Yoder Farm Services

February 22: Northern Nutrition

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2024 LaGrange County Legacy Award Winners Celebrated at Annual Chamber Meeting & Luncheon

Over a six-week span, a slew of nominations were made for the 2024 LaGrange County Legacy Awards. These nominations fell into a number of different categories designed to highlight and celebrate Chamber members from every industry.

The 2024 Chamber Legacy Award Winners were announced and celebrated at the Annual Meeting on January 11th at the Blue Gate Garden Inn in Shipshewana. The first annual LaGrange County Legacy Award winners are:



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Foltz Bakery Kneaded It's Way Into Chamber Membership

New owners of Foltz Bakery, Trina and Chris Boyles, are no strangers to LaGrange County, being born and raised here. "I always dreamed of owning Foltz when I was a little girl," Trina stated when discussing how they came to be the new caretakers of the 88 year old bakery. When the previous owners were ready to sell, the Boyles knew they wanted to continue the legacy of Foltz.

Trina, a nurse practitioner, knew she wanted a career change and opened Designyer Donut in Middlebury. "Although I don't get to see my patients anymore in the healthcare field, I still get to see them when they come in to get donuts. I'm just taking care of them in a different way."

The Boyles are continuing the tradition of fresh made donuts, producing 30-100 dozen donuts daily. However, they are adding new menu items to the bakeries lineup. Soon Foltz will offer a sandwich menu and a new coffee menu will be available.

Stay up-to-date on their menu offerings by following them on facebook @FoltzBakery or by stopping by at 122 S. Detroit Street in LaGrange.

Mongo General Store Celebrates One Year & Chamber Membership

Lots of things are happening in the small town of Mongo. Since moving back to LaGrange County and purchasing the Trading Post in 2018, owners Andy and Jess Linder have done extensive work to make Mongo not just a tourist destination, but a place where locals and tourists alike can take pride in.

In the winter of 2022 the Linders got another nudge and purchased the Mongo General Store, formerly known as Mongo Town & Country Store. They are currently working hard to not only carry your typical convenience store needs, but also carry hunting and fishing items and mealtime foods as well. Mongo General Store has a burger, sub, and pizza menu that is fully customizable and available for carry-out.

The Linders hope to partner with local vendors and craftspeople to display their works and support the local community. Stay up-to-date with their latest food specials and events by following them on Facebook @MongoGeneralStore or visit them at 3000 SR 3 in Mongo.



Pictured above: LaGrange County Chamber Staff and Ambassadors welcome Foltz Bakery new owners Chris and Trina Boyles into the Chamber Membership during their ribbon cutting in early January.



Pictured above: The staff of the Mongo General Store pose during their ribbon cutting on January 22nd with the LaGrange County Chamber staff and members of the Chamber Ambassadors.

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Children First Center Looks to Serve More Families in LaGrange County

Children First Center has been serving families in 5 Northeast Indiana counties since 1971. Located in Auburn, they are a non-profit agency that believes every child, every family, and every community within their reach deserves the best beginning possible. For some, that may require an extra pair of caring hands or the insight of bright minds for guidance. For others, it may require learning more about the resources available to them within their communities.

Children First Center offers a broad scope of services for children and families through intervention, prevention and preservation for healthier kids, happier families, and stronger communities. All services and resources are free and voluntary to their clients.

To learn more about Children First Center and what they can offer you or a loved one, visit them online at www.childrenfirstcenter.org or by calling them at 260-925-3865.



Pictured left to right: Erin Olinger, Farmers State Bank; Lauri Couture, Farmers State Bank; Mariesa Goetz, Children First Center; Tony Schneider, LigTel; Cathy Parks, Children First Center; Chris Miller, Camp Lutherwald; Mareen Barton, Lake City Bank; Sara Patrick, LaGrange County Chamber; Sabrina Miller, Horizon Bank; and Denise Landers, Crossroads United Way.

Save the Date: Friday, February 16th @ 9:00am
Coffee with the County Event—State of the Schools

Learn more at lagrangechamber.org or by calling 260-463-2443



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