



ST. JOHN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ST. JOHN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**9495 Keilman St. St. John, In. 46373**

(219) 365-4686

Fax (219) 365-4602



April 2017

## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**As the old saying goes...April showers bring May flowers. Happy Spring to all! I am excited that everything is starting to bud and greener pastures are not far off the horizon. With that said, I hope that everyone enjoys the Easter holiday...I know that we will at the Chamber. The Easter Bunny Breakfast went off without a hitch. I wanted to take a moment to thank our sponsors, volunteers, and, participants for another great community focused event. I also wanted to say thank you to everyone that attended last month's membership meeting and participated in the networking session. It was fun and the feedback was very positive. I hope you made some new connections! Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support for Vince Bossi & The Bossi Family, as the event was a great success and you are all greatly appreciated. This month's membership meeting is taking place on April 12 at Lake Central High School, where our guest speaker, Dr. Larry Veracco, Superintendent of the Lake Central School Corporation, will provide us with an update on the school system. Our lunch will be catered by Rosati's Pizza. I hope you can join us. Stay tuned for more information on a Spring Networking Night, new Ribbon Cuttings Celebrations, the release of the 2017 Directories, and Scholarship Winners. There is so much fun going on at the Chamber! See you on the 12th and have a great month!**

**Ryan Spangler**

**State Farm Insurance**

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Ryan Spangler**

State Farm Insurance

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**Allison Maciejewski**

JMA Architects

**Leslie Devine**

First Merchants Bank



# CHAMBER LUNCHEON

## Mark your Calendars!

### APRIL CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 12th—11:30AM-1:00PM

St. John VFW

The lunch will be held at Lake Central High School Kay Trapp Room. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Veracco and we will be voting on the 2017 Shop Local Poster. Rosati's is our caterer. The cost for lunch is \$10.00.

Please **RSVP** to the Chamber by Monday, April 11th.  
The cost for lunch is \$10.00.



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**  
2017

*Mark Your Calendars*

### 2017 Luncheon Dates

<b>April 12</b>	<b>May 10</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>July 12</b>
<b>August 9</b>	<b>September 13</b>
<b>October 11</b>	<b>November 8</b>
<b>December 13</b>	

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chairperson(s)</b>
Breakfast with Easter Bunny	April 8	Maricela Avila, Allison Maciejewski
Advocates/Welcome Bags	On Going	Chris Zima, Scott Hodges
Corn Roast	August 11	Scott Hodges, Christine Zima, Bill Burke
Golf Outing	TBD September	Tim Swallers, Jeremy Gorelick
Christmas in the Park	2017 Mid November	Ryan Spangler, Bill Burke, Erik Schneider
Breakfast with Santa	December 9	Maricela Avila, Allison Maciejewski



***Thank you for your continued support and participation in making our chamber strong. The board of directors has the daunting task of reviewing pricing every calendar year. That means membership pricing, event pricing, advertising pricing, and lunch pricing. It is never easy to have to make the decision to increase costs, but after review of our lunch expenditures over the last several years we have found that often times we find ourselves in the red. It really boils down to this, upon review of our files we haven't raised the cost of a chamber lunch since 2008 maybe even prior to that, we would have to go to our archives to find that information. We all know that since 2008 the price of food has significantly increased. For that reason the board has agreed upon and voted in a slight lunch pricing increase that will be effective June 2017. The cost of a normal lunch will go from \$10 to \$13 effective at the June Chamber Meeting. Our hope is to have lunches at a breakeven point. When we attend venues outside that pricing structure like we have done in the recent past, we will continue to notify members of a pricing fluctuation in advance. We sincerely hope that you understand the need for the price increase and that you continue to see the value in being a member of the St John Chamber of Commerce. If you have questions please be sure to pass them on to the board members.***

***2017 St. John Chamber of Commerce Board Members***



# APRIL



PARK PLACE OF ST. JOHN

SPOTLIGHT

## Community growing at Park Place this Spring

**ST. JOHN, IN** | This has been an exciting year so far for Park Place of St. John! The first residents moved into the brand new retirement living building at the end of 2016, and 2017 has seen more move-ins and the growth of a great community.

Park Place, located in The Gates of St. John, is the first Providence Life Services campus in the state of Indiana. It offers not only retirement living, but also "Small House" skilled nursing, rehab, and memory care services. Phase 2 of the project will add assisted living, giving Park Place a full continuum of care for seniors in St. John — all at a predictable monthly rate, with no entrance fees or buy-in.

It's proving to be a popular place. By the end of March, 45 of the 60 total apartments will be occupied.

George and Darlene DeVries were among the first to arrive at the new community — they made the move to their third-floor apartment on Dec. 15, 2016. That same day, Bob and Jean Dorman arrived at 7:15 a.m. with a carload of goods. They weren't able to move in right away, but they couldn't wait another day to see their new home.

"We viewed a few other facilities," Bob said, "but Park Place had exactly what we were looking for."

Park Place was exactly what Elverna Dykstra was looking for, too. She was one of the first to claim her Park Place apartment, as well as one of the first to move in. She attended all the Park Place events as the building was being constructed, got to know her new neighbors, and was eager to get in her new apartment.

"I have found a comfortable spot at Park Place, and I feel like this is home," she said.



Park Place of St. John opened its retirement living building in December, and the community continues to grow: of the 60 apartments in the building, 45 will be occupied by the end of the month.

So far, the new Park Place residents have attended events at Crown Point Christian School and have taken trips to Target on the Park Place bus; they have shared many meals and played countless games of cards or dominoes in the lobby downstairs.

"It is very exciting to visit the building now that residents are settling in!" said Park Place Executive Director Nancy Van Drunen. "A real sense of community has developed."

While the retirement living residents continue getting settled in their new apartments, the Small Houses have been up and running since the fall.

"Right away when (visitors) see the furnishings and the layout, they 'get it,'" said Nancy Van Drunen. "They can see that this is not a traditional nursing home, it's not an institution, it's not a facility. The architecture and the staffing are set up differently, so the whole experience is different."

Small Houses have 10 private rooms arranged around a common kitchen and dining area. This means that there

are no long hallways — it's much easier for seniors to get around on their own. Small House staffing is different too. In many nursing homes, there may be hundreds of people, so staff try to provide care and services as efficiently as possible. Nurses do rounds to deliver meds as quickly as possible. Mealtimes are the same for everyone so that dining staff can serve people as efficiently as possible. Even bedtimes and morning routines are designed around shift changes. But in the Park Place Small Houses, the services can be much more personalized. Residents can decide when to wake up, what to eat, and how to fill their afternoons. It's person-centered care, designed for the residents to maintain as much independence as possible.

If you have any questions or interest in Park Place of St. John retirement living or care services, find more information online at [parkplacesjohn.com](http://parkplacesjohn.com), or contact us at (219) 525-4658 or [ppej@provlife.com](mailto:ppej@provlife.com).





# APRIL



First Savings Bank of Hegewisch  
10865 Parrish Avenue, St. John, Indiana 47373

10249 Indianapolis Blvd., Highland, IN 46322

1351 E. South St., Crown Point, IN 46307

OUR MAIN OFFICE IS LOCATED AT: 13220 BALTIMORE AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60633

11601 Avenue O, Chicago, IL 60617

18200 S. Halstead St., Homewood, IL 60430

18207 Burnham Ave., Lansing, IL 60438

4920 W. 159<sup>th</sup> St., Oak Forest, IL 60452

7048 Kennedy Ave, Hammond, IN 46323

734 Main St., Dyer, IN 46311

1100 Sibley Blvd., Calumet City, IL 60409

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In business since 1914 – 103 years!

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First Savings Bank of Hegewisch is a full service bank. We offer mortgage programs designed to meet the needs for single family, condominium and townhome residential home buyers. We also offer mortgage loans for owner and non-owner occupied multi-unit properties. All FSB checking accounts offer Free unlimited check writing, Free online mobile and tablet banking, Free online bill pay, Free 24-hour telephone banking, Free initial order of logo or safety checks with most accounts, Free online check imaging, Free Visa debit check card, Free transaction as FSB ATM machines, Free direct deposit, Free automatic savings option, Free combined statement, No teller transaction fees, and Card Valet allows customers to control the use of their debit card; Plus, many more free or discount services based on type of account.

First Savings Bank of Hegewisch is locally managed. We continue to offer customer courtesies like passbook accounts and Christmas Club savings which many banks are phasing out. We are a Community Bank, we portfolio our loans and service them at our main office. Over the years we have added products like free checking which includes a limited number of free transactions at foreign ATM's. Since 1914, our prime interest has been our customers. Because knowing what they value—and delivering it—is the formula for our success.

We believe in building strong ties to our neighbors and are involved in numerous organizations through staff involvement and donations.

St. John Chamber is a fantastic resource for everyone and they really work hard to improve the community. First Savings Bank is a current member of the St. John Chamber of Commerce and has worked with or donated to the St. John Lions Club, Youth Baseball and Festival of Lights.

For anyone who does not currently have an account with First Savings Bank of Hegewisch, we would like to offer you an 18 month CD for 1.40% APY, just stop into our St. John Office and ask for Nancy Williams, Manager or Lupe Becerra, Assistant Branch Manager. (CD offer ends April 30, 2017)



**APRIL**



**Northwest Indiana Cancer  
Kids Foundation, Inc.  
(NICK)**

**9495 Keilman St., St. John, IN**

**nwicancerkids.org**

- **For over 8 years NICK has strived to foster courage, faith and hope to families whose child has been diagnosed with cancer by providing resources and connections to other families who have traveled this journey.**
- **We provide immediate financial help upon diagnosis. Each family's needs are addressed according to their individual situations. Items of need are provided, help with post-transplant home prep, medical bill navigation and assistance and much more.**

**We feel the ultimate mission of any cancer foundation should be a cure. We raise money for organizations specific to childhood cancer research and advocate for increase federal funding.**

**We are the only organization in Northwest Indiana that provides support and services exclusively to families of children with cancer.**

**Providing Services to families 6 Northwest Indiana counties.**

**NICK was founded by a family who traveled the journey. There's no one better to talk to than someone who can truly say they've been there.**

**Our Mission Statement:**

**“Providing HOPE and HELP to Northwest Indiana families affected by childhood cancer and supporting promising research so that all children with cancer can be HEALed.”**







# THRIVING DOWNTOWNS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

We cordially invite you to attend our networking breakfast on May 18, 2017 at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, Indiana. Our breakfast will start with check in and networking from 7:30am – 8:00am. At that time we will commence with breakfast to present a panel of local business owners from the Griffith and Highland Downtown areas. These well-known business owners will share some inspiration and wisdom about how they helped to create a new wave of business momentum in what was once a fading downtown area.

**May 18, 2017**

**Networking at 7:30am**

**Breakfast Commences at 8:00am**

**Briar Ridge Country Club, 123 Country Club Drive, Schererville, IN 46375**

Tickets purchased by May 12, 2017 - \$7

Tickets sold after May 12 - \$10

Tickets may be purchased at the door

For questions please contact your local chamber office or email: [gina.fezler@bankatfirst.com](mailto:gina.fezler@bankatfirst.com)

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY THE FOLLOWING  
ORGANIZATIONS:



**RSVP TODAY**

CLICK RSVP TODAY TO COMPLETE  
YOUR REGISTRATION



### **Poster Contest Winners**

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the winners of the 2017 Lake Central Shop Local Poster Project: **Jennifer Chavarria** presenting “**Think Big Shop Small**” and **Sofia Hay** presenting “**Grow Your Community.**” These poster winners were clearly defined by the voting which took place at our April Chamber Meeting. We hope that you enjoyed viewing all of the talented artwork from our local LC students as much as we enjoyed working with them on this project. We will be inviting the winning students to attend our May Meeting and we hope to have the first set of printed posters for you to proudly hang in your businesses real soon! Thank you again to the students and the members for making this fun and memorable project experience.



**THINK BIG**

**SHOP SMALL**

BY SUPPORTING  
**LOCAL**  
BUSINESS, YOU ARE HELPING  
THE COMMUNITY  
**GROW**

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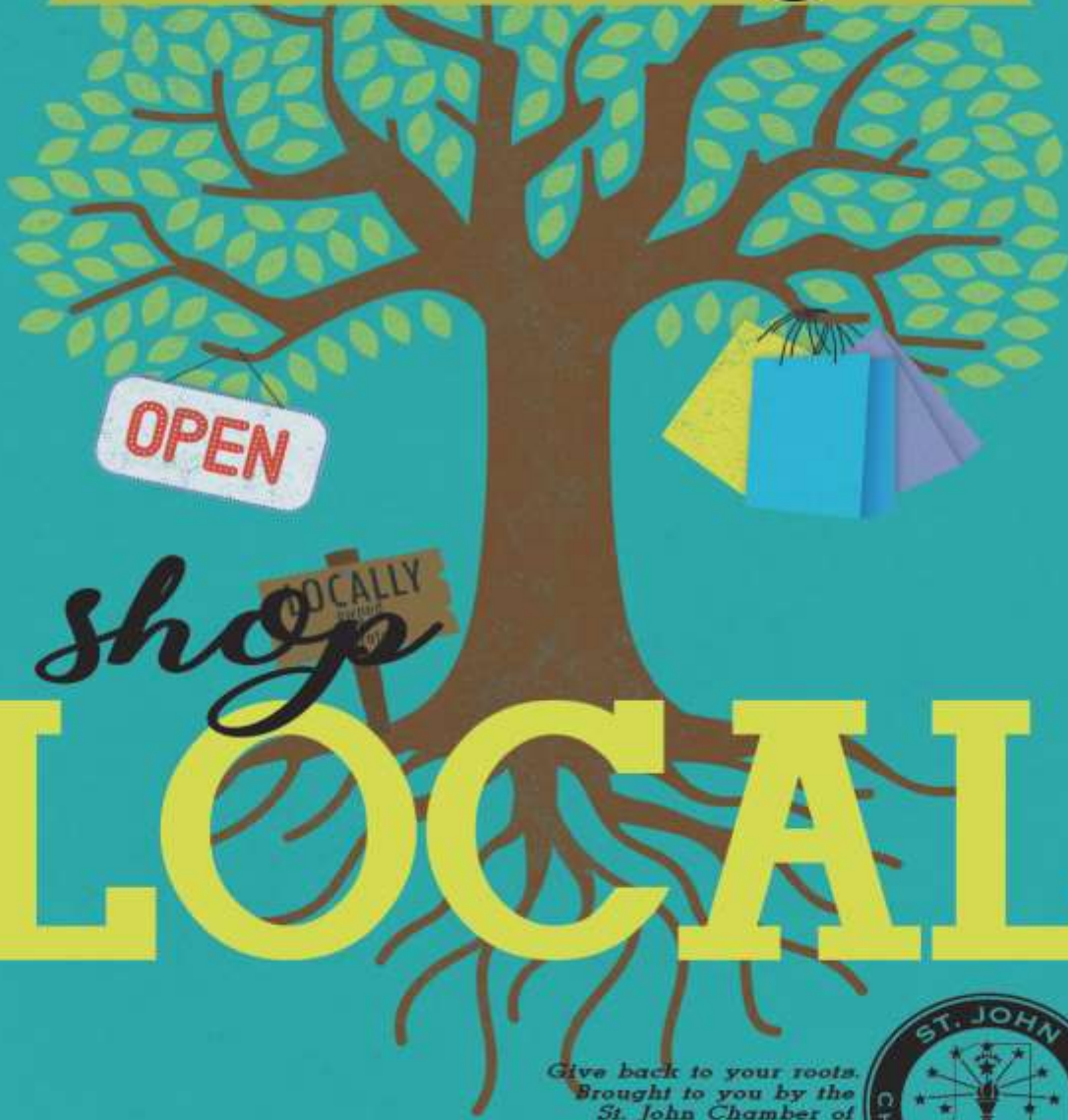
SHOPPING LOCAL MEANS LESS INFRASTRUCTURE,  
LESS MAINTENANCE, AND MORE MONEY AVAILABLE TO  
BEAUTIFY OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU SPEND IT HERE,  
YOU KEEP IT HERE.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [WWW.STJOHNCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNCHAMBER.COM)

GROW YOUR

*community*



**LOCAL**

*Give back to your roots.  
Brought to you by the  
St. John Chamber of  
Commerce.*

