Bill Konyha has been named the Keynote Speaker for the Annual Luncheon due to a scheduling conflict with the Lt. Governor. Bill Konyha is the President and CEO of the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana, an advocacy organization supporting the policies of its private sector members in the eleven-county region. The mission of the Regional Chamber is to promote an environment in Northeast Indiana in which individuals, businesses and communities thrive in a global economy. The focus is on the pillars of 21st Century Talent, World Class Infrastructure, and a Competitive Business Climate. Konyha will speak on Advocating Policies that strengthen the business environment of NE Indiana.

The Member’s Showcase, election of officers, awards and year in review will also take place at the meeting.

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce Board of Director’s nominating committee has proposed the slate of Board candidates for the Chamber’s Board of Directors. As outlined in the bylaws, the nominated Chamber Members are in good standing with the Chamber and have proposed, if elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 16, 2020. The candidates as nominated by the committee for election are: Sabrina Penick, Horizon Bank; Ben Stuckey, LaGrange First Church of God; and Keith James, Indigo Web Services.

Up for re-election is Ervin Miller, owner and founder of E&S Wood Creations. Ervin has just completed his first three year term on the Chamber board. Sheldon Shrock, (Edward Jones) and Anu Sahni, (All That Jazz) but due to employment obligations and relocation both have declined to run for the board again. “Terming Out” of her place on the board is Jordi Disler, Parkview LaGrange Hospital.

Per the bylaws The ‘Official Ticket’ shall be presented and voted upon at the annual meeting, at which time nominations may be made from the floor. All candidates nominated from the floor must be contacted and their consent to serve obtained.

The Chamber’s nominating committee members are: Sandy Stertz Ringler, Heartland Insurance Partners, Mike Patka, Grogg Martin Auctions & Real Estate and Jody Holsinger, Mike Thomas and Associates.

Originally from southern California, Keith James and his wife, Laura, have lived in Howe nearly eight years and have two grown children. After serving in the Air Force, he earned his AS degree in Computer Information Systems at Santa Barbara City College. Keith is owner of Indigo Web Services and is also a professional photographer. He serves as an elder at Brighton Chapel Church and is a board member for The Farm Place.

Continued on page 8
Chamber Directors & Staff

Jody Holsinger  
*Mike Thomas Realtors*

Jordi Disler  
*Parkview LaGrange Hospital*

Kerry Sprunger  
*Farmers State Bank*

Ervin Miller  
*E&S Wood Creations*

Andy Linder  
*Trading Post Outfitters*

Anu Sahni  
*All That Jazz*

Sandy Sturtz Ringler  
*Heartland Insurance Partners*

Jennifer Harker  
*Serenity Salon*

Sheldon Shrock  
*Edward Jones - Shipshewana*

Mike Patka  
*Grogg-Martin Auctioneering*

Dan Byler  
*LaGwana*

Staff:

Beth Sherman  
Executive Director  
director@lagrangechamber.org

Melissa Pettit  
Administrative Assistant  
info@lagrangechamber.org

Renewing Members

South Milford Church of Christ
The Craftsman’s Daughter
Glen Oaks Community College
The Lake and Land Team
Atlas IT
Hillside Happenings
Trading Post Outfitters
Snax In Pax
Northeastern Indiana
Association of Realtors
Purdue Extension
Frurip May Funeral Home
Mike’s Automotive
Schlemmer Hardware
Junior Achievement Serving LaGrange County
High Point Design
Mary Kay Consultant
Stacy Shrock
M.W. Repair & Sales, Inc.
Lord’s, Inc.
Farmers Mutual Rescue Insurance
Schonbrook Farm
Drs. Roush & Will
Christner’s Catering
Camp Lutherwald
Lambright Country Chimes
Yoder Meat & Cheese
Midwest Tool Expo & Auction LLC
D & L Metals Sales LLC
Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center
Patrick Wiltshire
Northeast Internal Medicine
Farmers State Bank
Nature Lane Greenhouse
Northeastern Center
LaGrange County Health Coalition

Thank you!

Northwest Indiana Business Expo  
January 24th & 25th  
Michiana Event Center  
Shipshewana, IN

Thank you!
Welcome to the Chamber

New Members

Topeka Pizza
Larry & Pauline Yoder
260-593-3090
118 S. Babcock St
Topeka, IN 46571
www.topekapizza.business.site

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana
Hollie Dove
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www.cancer-services.org.

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Glen Oaks Community College is a quality provider of education programs serving the needs of residents and businesses of St. Joseph County and beyond. The College, established in 1965, sits on 320 acres of land in rural Centreville, Michigan. GOCC offers 16 associate degree programs and 18 certificate programs. The student-to-faculty ratio of 20:1 affords students personal attention and provides opportunities to for them to accomplish their goals and grow and succeed in a supportive, ethical and academic environment.
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LaGrange County Trails Joins the Chamber Membership

The LaGrange County Trails has joined the Chamber Membership in hopes of keeping the public abreast of the progress being made on the project. The volunteer board would like you to know that all improvements under this project will lead towards enhancing quality of life for all LaGrange County residents. LaGrange County Trails is a 501c3 nonprofit committed to creating hiking/biking trails for LaGrange County which will eventually connect with two other neighboring counties, and connect the towns of Millersburg, Topeka, and Wolcottville.

If you would like to learn more about the proposed Hawpatch Trail, the LaGrange County Trails committee or to donate please visit www.lagrangecountytrails.org.

Ambassadors Welcome Topeka Pizza to the Chamber

The Ambassadors welcomed Topeka Pizza and boy did it smell good in there!

Larry and Pauline Yoder first began making and serving pizza at the Topeka Pizza location on Main Street in Topeka. The opportunity to expand arose and the two decided to build a brand new, larger Topeka Pizza located at 118 S. Babcock Street which is just one block west of the first location.

The restaurant serves not only pizza but soup, salads, wraps, sandwiches, ice cream and breakfast! Pizza Buffet is available on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Hours are Monday thru Saturday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or to place an order phone 260·593·3090.

L to R: Keith & Laura James, Indigo Web Services; Mark Thompson & Jordan Younce, Farmers State Bank; Joy Sharp, Lewis & Lambright; Beth Sherman, Chamber; Chaley Fisher, Farmers State Bank; Mary Lee Mitchell, Insurance and Financial Services; Mike Patka, Grogg-Martin Auction & Realty and Judy Yoder, Lotions & Potions

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LaGrange County Community Foundation awards $126,836 in Community Impact Grants

The LaGrange County Community Foundation awarded Community Impact Grants totaling $126,836 in 2019 to 18 projects and programs benefiting LaGrange County.

Through Community Impact Grants, the foundation aims to support nonprofit needs and provide innovative programs and services in LaGrange County.

LaGrange County Trails, Inc., of Topeka was among the 18 organizations who received funding. The Community Foundation awarded LaGrange County Trails $25,000 for The Hawpatch Trail, a proposed 17-mile trail that will stretch from Millersburg to Wolcottville, connecting three counties. The grant will support the early stages of developing the Hawpatch Trail in Topeka through legal fees, title research, surveying and appraisals.

Founded in 2019, LaGrange County Trails, Inc. is committed to creating hiking and biking trails for LaGrange County and to encourage safe, active, outdoor experiences.

The Town of LaGrange received $20,000 to support an inclusive park and splash pad in the heart of downtown LaGrange. The grant will support phase one of the new park, a splash pad accessible for all ages and abilities. The next phase will consist of an inclusive play area and a pavilion. Phase one will break ground spring of 2020. The Town of LaGrange Park Committee will fundraiser to complete all phases. Located near the existing bathrooms this inclusive park and splash pad will serve all families of LaGrange County.

“I am so excited that the new town park is coming to fruition. We really want a space that provides play opportunities for all kids and is unique enough to bring in visitors from surrounding towns,” said Brittany Cowley, Town of LaGrange Park Committee Member.

Each year, the Community Foundation accepts proposals for charitable projects and programs that help local nonprofit organizations provide services to LaGrange County families and individuals. The Grants Advisory Committee reviewed the submitted grant applications and made recommendations to the Board of the Directors who approved the grant awards. The grants are made possible through the generosity of donors who have supported the unrestricted and field of interest charitable funds at the Foundation.

The 2019 Community Impact Grant awards include:

- LaGrange County, Courthouse Restoration & Historical Project, $5,225
- Veterans Headstone Project, American Flag Holder Program, $4,350
- WNIT, Education Counts Michiana, $10,000
- Science Central, Science 4U Outreach Programming, $5,000
- Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, Junior Achievement Finance Park, $4,725
- Agape Child Care Ministry, Materials and Toddler Playground, $6,000
- Trine University, Walk Into My Future Event, $3,000
- United Fund of LaGrange County, United Way 211, $2,979
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Client Advocate and Client Services, $3,500
- LaGrange County Parks, Duff Lake Fen Development, $15,000
- Community Harvest Food Bank, LaGrange County Farm Wagon, $5,000
- Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, “Meat” the Need, $5,000
- LaGrange First Church of God, LaGrange Night to Shine, $2,000
- ACRES Land Trust, Massasauga Rattlesnake Habitat Recovery, $3,000
- LaGrange County Public Library, Genealogy Microfilm Reader Scanner, $4,057
- Community Health Clinic, Community Outreach Education, $3,000
- LaGrange County Trails, Inc., Hawpatch Trail, $25,000
- Town of LaGrange, Inclusive Park and Splash Pad, $20,000

In 2020, applications for Community Impact Grants will be accepted on April 1 and Sept. 3. To learn more, visit lccf.net/grants.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation’s mission is to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership and service. Founded in 1991, the Community Foundation connects people to charitable causes and provides resources to non profits to make a lasting and sustainable impact.
Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana Is Welcomed to the Chamber Membership

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana were recently welcomed to the Chamber membership by Ambassadors and Members of the Chamber.

Hollie Dove, Outreach Coordinator with Cancer Services of NE Indiana told us that anyone living in Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, or Whitley counties in Indiana who has been diagnosed with any type of cancer may use their programs and services. Programs and services are offered to those with cancer and their families at no cost. Programs and services are designed to alleviate the emotional and financial burdens associated with cancer and include financial assistance for cancer-related costs, health supplies, medical equipment, emotional support, support groups, massage, exercise, and more.

For more information phone Toll Free: (866) 484-9560 visit www.cancer-services.org.

Noel Frost with Coldwell Banker Joins Membership

Coldwell Banker realtor, Noel Frost joins the LaGrange County Chamber membership. Growing up on the Northern Indiana Lakes gives Noel firsthand insight to help with your search for whatever you are looking for, whether it’s an all sports property, a more serene lake location, or a great investment.

Noel is a full-service real estate professional, she can meet all of your needs, whether you are buying or selling a property.

Phone Noel at (260) 585-4112 or email her at Nfrost@coldwellhomes.com

L to R: Deb Sills, Miller’s Merry Manor; Beth Sherman, LaGrange County Chamber; Noel Frost, realtor; Lauri Eash, Farmers State Bank; Mary Lee Mitchell, Insurance and Financial Services and Taylor Stidham, Westview School Corporation.
Sabrina Penick - Sabrina is a lifelong resident of LaGrange County, having grown up and still living in Topeka. She graduated in 1997 from Westview and attended Purdue University. Sabrina started in the banking profession as a bank teller while she was still in High School, she is now the Assistant Manager at both Horizon Bank branches in LaGrange and Howe. Sabrina has served as an Ambassador for the Chamber and has been active with Junior Achievement.

Benjamin Stuckey received his Bachelors of Art in Biblical Studies from Piedmont University and has a Master’s of Art degree in Religion and Leadership from Liberty University. Ben has served in many capacities on local boards and has developed strong working relationships with businesses, organizations and leaders within the LaGrange community. He has been married to his wife Kristen for almost 15 years and together they have 2 children Corbin (7) and Reagan (5) who both attend Prairie Heights Elementary. As a potential board member, Ben, desires to continue his work of building and strengthening relationships within LaGrange County to see it become a stronger and more viable place to call home.

Taking place before the Annual Meeting is the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce’s Member’s Showcase. Exclusively for Chamber Members only, this event gives members a chance to exhibit their services, wares and, opportunity to potentially gain new customers for their business. The Member’s Showcase Booth space is only $50.00!

The Blue Gate Restaurant will be catering the event and will be serving attendees a wonderful meal consisting of: a garden salad, lightly lemon flavored escalloped chicken breast, seasoned rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, dinner rolls & butter, yummy pieces of pie and beverages.

For more information, to make a reservation for the Showcase or the Luncheon please phone the Chamber of Commerce office at 260-463-2443. Deadline for luncheon reservations is January 10th.