WE MISS YOU!

The monthly luncheon sponsored by Indigo Web Services will be a picnic lunch for “social distancing purposes” at the Howe Town Park on July 9th.

The LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation is the presenter. Ryan Chasey from the HPG Network will give an update on LaGrange County Housing. Romer’s will be catering! Our picnic will include: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit & Drink.

For reservations, phone the Chamber at 260-463-2443 or email info@lagrangechamber.org.

Cost of the luncheon is $12.00 for members and their guests, $17.00 for non-members.

Reservation deadline is July 6th.

22nd Annual Chamber Golf Classic Scheduled for August 7th at Cedar Lake Golf Course

The 22nd Annual LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 7th at the Cedar Lake Golf Course.

As a prominent fundraising event for the Chamber, the annual Golf Classic provides the perfect balance of leisure and business. Participants have the opportunity to enjoy a day on the links with both business colleagues and potential clients, while networking with LaGrange County Chamber leadership, board members and key decision makers in our community.

Stutzman Power Equipment is sponsoring a “Hole in One Contest”. Hopefully a golfer will place the little white ball in hole #17 and win his or her choice of a Kubota Zero Turn Mower or a Kubota Utility Tractor.

As a side event, golfers can participate in the “Closest to the Keg” event sponsored by Gay’s Hops-N-Schnapps. Participants can purchase numbered balls and “chip shot” towards the keg…..closest to the keg wins a keg of beer of their choice.

The event begins with registration at 8:00 a.m. Followed by a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. At the completion of the 18 hole competition a steak dinner is served and the winners are announced.

For more information on sponsorship or to register your team, phone 260-463-2443.
Chamber Directors & Staff

**Jody Holsinger**  
Mike Thomas Realtors

**Kerry Sprunger**  
Farmers State Bank

**Ervin Miller**  
E & S Wood Creations

**Andy Linder**  
Trading Post Outfitters

**Sandy Sturtz Ringler**  
Heartland Insurance Partners

**Jennifer Harker**  
Serenity Salon

**Mike Patka**  
Grogg-Martin Auctioneering

**Dan Byler**  
LaGwana

**Sabrina Penick**  
Horizon Bank

**Ben Stuckey**  
LaGrange First Church of God

**Keith James**  
Indigo Web Services

Staff:

**Beth Sherman**  
Executive Director  
director@lagrangechamber.org

**Karen Kistner**  
Executive Assistant  
info@lagrangechamber.org

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Renewing Members

Grabers Well Drilling  
Silver Star Leather  
Kendricks Stationary  
Trademygun, Inc.  
Lewis & Lambright, Inc.  
Lehman’s Variety Store  
Quality Floor  
One Eleven Design  
Merit Dental, Inc  
Joy Sharp  
Foltz Bakery  
Will’s Heating & Air  
Romer’s Restaurant & Spirits  
Community Dental Clinic  
E & M Sales, LLC  
Vision Source Innovative Eye Care  
Wana Cabinets & Furniture, LLC  
Fiebig Jewelers, Inc  
The Arc of LaGrange County  
Thrift Store  
Happiness Is Ice Cream  
Michiana Laminated Products, Inc  
Weaver Furniture Sales

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Thank You!

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

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July

Independence Day Weekend Market & Fireworks  
July 3rd - July 4th  
Shipshewana Flea Market  
345 S Van Buren St  
Shipshewana, IN

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PBR Bullfest  
July 10th & 11th  
Michiana Event Center  
455 E Farver St  
Shipshewana, IN

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Gary Puckett and the Union Gap  
July 25th  
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center  
760 S Van Buren St  
Shipshewana

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2020 Can/Am Clydesdale Extravaganza Sale  
July 30th  
Michiana Event Center  
455 E Farver St  
Shipshewana, IN

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Lonestar  
July 31st  
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center  
760 S Van Buren St  
Shipshewana

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“MAY WE THINK OF FREEDOM, NOT AS THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE PLEASE, BUT AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.”  
— PETER MARSHALL
Center for Hospice Care is offering FREE yard signs to place in front of your business or home.

One of the signs states “Hats off to you Heroes” and the other states “In This Together”.

To obtain your FREE sign and yard stake, contact Sarah Youngs at the Center for Hospice Care at her direct line 574-276-8557 or toll free at 800-413-9083. To contact Sarah by email, youngss@cfhcare.org.
More Value in the Long Run

Your Dollars Go Further with PHP
As the only not-for-profit health insurance company in Northern Indiana, PHP knows Indiana's business environment. Our 1,500+ business clients include various industries such as restaurants, law firms, family businesses, and construction companies; large to small—across the state. We understand local economics and can work in partnership with you to bring value to your bottom line. And, through the PHP Foundation, we invest any profit back into the communities we serve.

More value in the long run—consider PHP. Learn more at phoni.com/considerPHP
Avail Portable Toilets Joins Chamber Membership

Avail Portable Toilets based out of Topeka, Indiana has joined the Chamber. They are owned by Nate and Kari Mauck. Avail Portable Toilets has rentals of portable toilets that are available for daily, weekly, and monthly rentals. If you are hosting an event that you may need extra facilities for, they have you covered. They have different options available from your standard, ones that include a sink, handicapped, and ones that have a flush unit. If you are planning on having construction done, they have you covered during that time also with having construction toilets available to rent. Do not worry about having to clean them, they have you covered by having weekly cleanings for longer rentals. If you are looking for a rental you can contact Avail Portable Toilets by calling (260) 350-0851.

Pictured above from left to right: Deb Sills, Millers Merry Manor; Colin Eley, Farmers State Bank; Kari & Nate Mauck, Avail Portable Toilets; Beth Sherman, LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce; Marreen Barton, Lake City Bank; Taylor Stidham, previously with Westview School Corporation and Karen Fleisher, Flagstar Bank.

- We have no idea of the name of the photo bomber located across the street!

LaGrange County 4-H Fair Won’t Be The Same, Due to Covid-19

The 67th Annual LaGrange County 4-H Fair had been scheduled for July 11 to July 18 before the corona virus pandemic upended plans for the summer event.

The volunteer LaGrange County 4-H Fairboard along with Purdue University have implemented plans so that the fair will remain in place but there will be no concerts, no demolition derby, no food vendors, no side shows among other fair favorites. What will take place is a show-and-go format for all of the animal shows this year, which will allow for greater social distancing as well as allow for the facilities and common areas to be cleaned between shows.

The schedule of animal shows will be limited to two to three shows per day in an effort to limit the number of people on the fairgrounds at a time. Animals that are able to be shown off their trailers will be shown that way, officials state in the news release. Concessions of stalling and grooming animals will be made for those who need it, and no animals will be allowed to stay overnight on the fairgrounds.

All shows will be open to the public and event organizers are looking into the possibility of live streaming the shows as well.

As always, the 4-H Fairboard will try and do everything possible to make it a good experience for the 4-H kids.
How People and Companies Feel About Working Remotely

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly one-third of the U.S. workforce, and half of all “information workers”, are able to work from home. Though the number of people working partially or fully remote has been on the rise for years now, the COVID-19 pandemic may have pressed the fast-forward button on this trend.

With millions of people taking part in this work-from-home experiment, it’s worth asking the question – how do people and companies actually feel about working from home?

The Flex Life

It’s no secret that people value freedom of choice. A whopping 98% of people would like to have the option to work remotely for the rest of their careers. Aside from working in sweatpants, what are the things people like about working from home?

A flexible schedule, the ability to work from any location, and no more commuting were the top reported benefits.

Of course, not everything is positive about working from home.

Here are some of the challenges people face as they work remotely.

* The top issue faced by remote workers was “unplugging” from work. Without the clear-cut change of location and defined office hours, many people had a tougher time clearly dividing their personal and professional time.

* As well, the lack of person-to-person communication can be a challenge for some people. In fact, one-third of people were concerned that the full extent of their professional efforts wouldn’t be appreciated because of a lack of in-office contact.

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* For the majority of people, having tough conversations via phone or teleconferencing software was actually viewed as a positive development.

Barriers to Implementing a Remote Work Policy

Despite the popularity of remote and flexible working, not every company has embraced the concept. While there can be technical or security-related reasons behind remote work resistance, a major barrier is simple resistance to change. Over 50% of companies that didn’t have a flexible or remote workplace policy cited “longstanding company policy” as the reason. In other words, that is just the way things have always worked.

Managers are worried that productivity and focus will be diminished if people are working in more informal locations, such as home or a cafe. Also, if people aren’t working in the same physical location, managers feel that team cohesiveness and company culture could suffer.

On the flip side, the cost savings associated with remote work may win over many companies. Research has found that typical employer can save about $11,000 per year for every person who works remotely half of the time. As well, switching to virtual meets in some instances can also be a significant cost savings.

Flexibility: The Ultimate Perk?

Location flexibility isn’t just a way to keep current employees happy. Companies that don’t embrace flexible working may find themselves at a disadvantage when recruiting new talent. Nearly two-thirds of candidates say that having a choice of work location is a key consideration in choosing an employer.

Lockdown measures have highlighted the value of workplace flexibility – particularly for people with kids. A total of 86% of parents now want to work flexibly, compared to 46% pre-coronavirus. As the economy slowly begins to reopen, it remains to be seen whether or not COVID-19 accelerated inevitable trends in workplace culture. If so, taking Zoom calls in sweatpants may become the new normal for millions of workers.

To read the entire article visit: https://www.visualcapitalist.com/how-people-and-companies-feel-about-working-remotely/
As the 'ole saying says….absence makes the heart grow fonder. Now, more than ever many companies and businesses in our area are working remotely and some businesses are still closed or are restricted from their normal activities, people are longing to get back to normal. Here at the Chamber we are trying to find our new “normal.” We so want to find ourselves back to the way it was on March 12th, the date of our last luncheon at Topeka Pizza, where there were 74 members in attendance. People are wanting to be back to their favorite places and near familiar faces.

For our local businesses here in LaGrange County, pandemic has created a crisis, but just like the recession of 2007-2008, our business community is showing its resilience. Together, we all can find ways to be stronger than ever before.

Our Chamber team, day by day tries to keep critical information coming to our members. However, sometimes it’s just best to let our members do what they are known to do best…..pull up their shirt sleeves and persevere with diversity.

To our members – we love you, miss you and can’t wait to be back together with you all soon.

Beth & Karen