



January 2018

A Publication of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce

www.elginchamber.com

Elgin Area Small Business Academy Class of 2018 Begins January 18

The *Elgin Area Small Business Academy (EASBA)*, a program of the Elgin Area Chamber and Elgin Development Group, is now accepting applications from small business owners and budding entrepreneurs for its Class of 2018 which begins **Thursday, January 18**.

In 2017, this highly successful program modeled after the Chamber's award-winning Elgin Area Leadership Academy, provided nearly 20 participants with small business fundamentals thru a series of interactive classroom-style presentations and discussions from our local small business professionals.

Discussion topics for the four-month program are as follows:

Thursday, January 18, Session One: Nuts and Bolts

What are the pieces and how do you put it all together?

Thursday, February 1, Session Two: Creating Demand

What are you selling and how do you get the word out?

Thursday, February 15, Session Three: Sales

Nobody likes to be sold but everyone likes to buy.

Thursday, March 1, Session Four: Operations

Get to know the nitty-gritty to make your business successful.

Thursday, March 15, Session Five: Meet the Experts

An informal outing with our team of experts to answer your questions one-on-one.

Thursday, April 5, Session Six: Leadership

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right thing.

Thursday, April 19, Final Session: Graduation

Success requires learning as fast as the world is changing.

These bi-monthly sessions, which begin at **5:30 p.m.** with networking followed by the class from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, also enable participants to develop a network of business contacts from both classmates and presenters.

Cost of enrollment in the EASBA is only **\$150**.

For a complete syllabus or to register, visit ElginChamber.com/EASBA or call

847-741-5660 for more information.



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Annual Meeting & High Five Awards

What Local Businesses Like About Elgin

The Elgin Development Group, a division of the Elgin Area Chamber, would like to share with you some information about what businesses like about the City of Elgin. These are just a handful of reasons why local businesses decide to stay and expand in the community, and why new businesses move to Elgin.

City of Elgin Government – The City of Elgin continues to be fiscally responsible and has seen its bond rating climb to AAA because of strong fiscal management, a diversified revenue stream, and low debt burden. The Elgin Fire Department achieved an Insurance Service Office Community Public Protection Classification 2 rating, which places Elgin in the top two-percent of communities nationwide and lowers industrial insurance rates.

Education – Elgin is home to two schools of higher education that are an integral part of the success of our residents and businesses. Judson University and Elgin Community College do a fantastic job of preparing people for the workforce and understanding the needs of employers.

Elgin Development Group – The Elgin Development Group is the Economic Development arm of the City. The EDG has four active and functioning committees with members from the top businesses and organizations in the region. These committees include Business Retention and Attraction, Workforce Development, Enhancing Elgin and Transportation. Key leaders in these sectors contribute their time and knowledge to move this City into the future.

Housing – Elgin has a diversity of housing and continues to lead the State of Illinois in new housing construction and existing home sales. All of the fundamentals for a strong and stable housing market are in place in Elgin. Growth in manufacturing and new industrial construction

continues to fuel the need for more housing.

Population Growth – Elgin continues to attract people because of the growth of industry and availability of jobs. Elgin's 2016 population is estimated at approximately 112,123. The estimated population within 5 miles of Elgin is 175,000. There is a pipeline of people to fill jobs.

Quality of Life – There is much to see and do in Elgin including the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Grand Victoria Casino, Fox River Bike Path, special events, concerts in Festival Park, shopping, dining and nightlife, and sports. The Elgin Area Tourism Bureau markets the City to visitors as well as newcomers.

Transportation Network – Elgin is located less than 30 miles from O'Hare International Airport. The Jane Addams Memorial Tollway recently completed a multi-million dollar reconstruction that runs the entire length of the City. PACE has also added two Park-n-Ride facilities along I-90. U.S. Route 20, S.R. 31, S.R. 25

and S.R. 47 dissect the City allowing for the free flow of people and products.

Workforce – The City of Elgin is home to over 5,600 businesses with over 56,000 in its workforce. A substantial number of people are employed in advanced manufacturing jobs. Elgin is home to hundreds of manufacturers that produce products exported worldwide, and home to many international businesses including German, Swiss and Japanese. Foreign direct investment makes up a large portion of the new development that is happening here. Some of the largest companies in Illinois have their headquarters in Elgin like Middleby, Elgin Sweeper, John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Motorola, Wanxiang America, and Heritage-Crystal Clean.

If you would like to learn more about Elgin and its business community, contact Tony Lucenko or Bob Malm at **847-741-5660**.



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Elgin's Five FABULOUS Facts for January

This is an exciting time to be in Elgin! Our Enhancing Elgin Committee works to provide information about the many positive things about our city that are solidifying our reputation as The City in the Suburbs. Visit our website at ElginChamber.com/Fab5 or follow Enhancing Elgin on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@EnhancingElgin) or search the hashtag #ElginIL to learn more about what makes Elgin the place to live, work, learn, do business, get involved, visit and enjoy.



have had a positive impact on Elgin. Awards are available in six categories: individual professional; individual volunteer; projects; organizations or businesses; citizenship award and teen impact. Nomination deadline is January 24. Nomination forms are available at cityofelgin.org/imageawards or at City Hall.

Commission seeking Image Award nominations: Elgin's Image Advisory Commission is seeking nominations for its prestigious Image Awards, which recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that



MLK Day Celebration: Each year, the City of Elgin Human Relations Commission takes great pride in presenting a weekend of activities celebrating the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This

year's events include a food drive, the annual MLK Prayer Breakfast at Hemmens Cultural Center on January 13 with guest speaker Secretary of State Jesse White, and a Youth Leadership Conference at The Centre on January 15. For more information, visit cityofelgin.org/mlk.



Elgin High sends three to perform at Hamilton: Three Elgin High School students performed before the cast and crew of "Hamilton" and more than 1,500 students in Chicago as part of the Hamilton Education Project. Elgin High School juniors Fernanda Palomar, Mollie Geron and Alexandra Sampieri

performed a rap that touched on the debate between Washington and Hamilton on the role of both free and enslaved African-Americans in the revolution. Teachers John Devine and Heather Misner presented students with the competition as they studied the founding of America.



Elgin ranks highly as Illinois Safest City: In a recent survey by SafeHome.org, the city of Elgin was ranked #2 for cities with populations over 100,000, and #11 for cities with a population of 50,000+ on SafeHome.org's study of the Safest Cities in Illinois. Elgin's overall safety score was 86.24 out of a possible

100, ranking it ahead of cities like Aurora and Schaumburg.



City Skate now open: The ice rink is located in Civic Center Plaza, between City Hall and the Hemmens Cultural Center. Ice rink and warming shelter hours can vary due to weather. Find weekly information on those hours, plus skate rentals, lessons, and more at cityofelgin.org/cityskate. Before you head to the

rink, call the Parks and Recreation Hotline at **847-931-6140 (ext. 4)** for the latest updates.

Multi-Chamber Women in Business Progressive Luncheon

In partnership with Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce, the Elgin Area Chamber invites you to join us and a variety of local business leaders on **Thursday, February 1** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** for a Multi-Chamber Women in Business Progressive Luncheon. The event takes place at The Haight, 166 Symphony Way.

For each lunch course you will be assigned a different table so you can easily increase your network by 10, 20, 30 or more contacts. Every effort is made to seat you with a non-



competitive group at each table.

Tickets are **\$20 each** for Chamber members. Reservation deadline is January 30. Last year's event was very well attended!



Elgin Area Chamber

This is an exclusive event for Elgin Area Chamber and Northern Kane County Chamber members only so please take advantage of this

unique opportunity.

To register for our exclusive *Women in Business Progressive Luncheon* with the Northern Kane County Chamber, please visit ElginChamber.com or call the Chamber office at **847-741-5660**.

Chamber Action Calendar

Wednesday, January 3, 17

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
EARN Too Leads Group

Thursday, January 4, 18

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
EARN I Leads Group

Monday, January 8

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
**OSHA 30 Hour Training
Western DuPage Chamber
306 Main Street, West Chicago

Thursday, January 11, 25

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
EARN III Leads Group

Wednesday, January 17

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Legislative Brew with Elgin City
Councilman Corey Dixon
Elgin Area Chamber, 31 S. Grove Ave.

Thursday, January 18

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
**HR Round Table
Family Rec Center, Autumn Oaks Room
1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook

Thursday, January 18

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Elgin Area Small Business Academy
Session One: Nuts & Bolts
Elgin Area Chamber, 31 S. Grove Ave.

Friday, January 19

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Chamber Member Orientation
Elgin Area Chamber, 31 S. Grove Ave.

Tuesday, January 23

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
**HR Essentials A to Z
Hampton Inn Effingham
1305 N. Keller Drive, Effingham

Thursday, January 25

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
EAC Annual Meeting & High Five Awards
Grand Victoria Casino Grand Ballroom
250 S. Grove Avenue, 2nd Floor Pavilion

Thursday, February 1

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Chamber Women in Business
Progressive Luncheon
The Haight, 166 Symphony Way

To make your reservation for an event, please visit www.elginchamber.com

**** Special programs available to EAC members thru Illinois Chamber of Commerce**

Illinois Chamber Offers Programs to EAC Members

In partnership with Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Elgin Area Chamber will be promoting special programs for your business led by Illinois Chamber professionals.

On **Monday, January 8** from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** there will be an **OSHA 30-Hour Training** seminar offered at the Western DuPage Chamber at 306 Main Street in West Chicago.

Then on **Thursday, January 18** from **8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, there will be an **H.R. Round**

Table at the Family Rec Center's Autumn Oaks Room at 1450 Forest Gate Road in Oak Brook.

Finally on **Tuesday, January 23** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** there will be an **H.R. Essentials A to Z** at the Hampton Inn Effingham at 1305 N. Keller Drive in Effingham.

Costs for each event are listed on our website.

To register for these Illinois Chamber sponsored programs, visit **Elgin-Chamber.com** or call the Elgin Area Chamber now at **847-741-5660**.



ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Join a Chamber Committee, Shape Your Community

Membership with the EAC grants you access to opportunities and benefits that will strengthen your connection to the community while expanding your network and brand reach.

The Chamber recognizes that the success of all initiatives and goals requires support and engagement from a broad coalition of members, public officials, and community stakeholders. Members can support the EAC by getting engaged with one of many committees.

The **Advocacy Committee** exists to monitor and track legislation and government-related issues on a federal and state level. Topics reviewed would include the legislative platforms, taxation & fees, business climate, workforce practices and policies, economic development, entrepreneurship, transportation infrastructure, education, and technology

The **Program Committee** evaluates the content, frequency, and value of chamber programs, works to connect members with hosting and sponsorship opportunities. Surveys membership, analyze attendance numbers, as well as survey feedback, and strategizes ways to implement relevant ideas to enhance program and event value

The **Ambassador Committee** is comprised of volunteers who serve as peer contacts and support for members, providing information and assistance on how to best utilize the Chamber's services and abundant resources. Look for them at our events as they help to make valuable connections

The **Special Event Committee** provides leadership at key fundraising events for the Chamber, including: Annual Meeting Luncheon, Chamberfest Golf Outing, Hablamos Español Expo and other special programming

Interested? Send us an e-mail at info@elginchamber.com to find out more about joining one of our committees.



Pick up your
copy of our 2018
Community
Guide and
Business
Directory
this month!

Member Anniversaries

Thank you to these businesses for renewing their investments

Celebrating 50+ years

Fox River Trolley Museum
Ziegler's Ace Hardware

Celebrating 20 - 29 years

A-Tech Computer Service, Inc.
A1 Trophies & Awards, Inc.
FASTSIGNS

Celebrating 10 - 19 years

Konsultek
Tower Hill Healthcare Center
SBS Steel Belt Systems USA, Inc.
Triumph Community Bank
Daniel Sula DDS
Redmon's Towing

Celebrating 5 - 9 years

Re/Max - Ben Henrikson
REALTOR Association of the Fox Valley, Inc.
Sam's Club
Administer Justice
Good-Lite Company
Erwin Junker Machinery, Inc.

Celebrating 1 - 4 years

G. Lolos Masonry
Northwestern Medicine Regional Medical Group Internal
Medicine, Endocrinology, and Rheumatology
Jeff Seagren Inc.
Matrix Payment Systems
Healthcare Solutions Team - Cheryl Chalk
Kards Inc
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Elgin Area Chamber 110th Annual Meeting and High Five Awards

The Elgin Area Chamber's 2018 Annual Meeting and High Five Awards Luncheon takes place on **Thursday, January 25** at the **Grand Victoria Casino's Grand Ballroom**, Second Floor Pavilion, 250 S. Grove Avenue, from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

In the spirit of the upcoming entertainment award season, we have again combined the glitz and pageantry of our High Five Awards with our 110th Annual Meeting into one high flying and fun afternoon.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with networking until 12:00 p.m.

followed by a buffet luncheon and then our program, emceed by former Fox Valley Broadcasting President Rick Jakle. This brief program features the formal installation of our newest board members: **Linda Deering Dean - Advocate Sherman Hospital**, **Yvonne Irving - KCT Credit Union**, **Yaneth Medina - Elgin State Bank**, **Keith Rauschenberger - Rauschenberger Financial Advisors**, **Mike Warren - Rieke Office Interiors**, **Chris Zannis - Arthur**



J. Rogers & Co. and Jim Thomason - Grand Victoria Casino.

That will be followed by a brief video presentation of our Elgin Area Chamber and Elgin Development Group's success stories for 2017 and concludes with the recognition of our High

Five Award winning members and organizations who helped contribute to our success in 2017. A complete list of this year's award winners will be announced on our website later this month.

Tickets for the event are **\$30.00 each** or purchase a table of seven for **\$210.00**. Re-

serve your tickets in advance on our website at **ElginChamber.com**. Seating is limited.

Event sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Carol Gieske at **cgieske@elginchamber.com** or call **847-741-5660** for additional information.

We hope you will make a resolution to join us for lunch on January 25 and give us a High Five for a great new year with the Elgin Area Chamber.

Become More Engaged in the New Year

Kick off 2018 on the right foot by becoming more engaged with the Elgin Area Chamber at our *EAC*

Member Orientation, sponsored by **Napleton's Elgin Kia**.

Join us on **Friday, January 19** from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at the Elgin Area Chamber office, 31 S. Grove Avenue. Bring your appetite as a light lunch will be served. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and brochures as well to share with those in attendance.

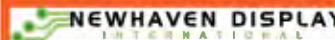


Whether you're a brand new member or a savvy veteran, this is a wonderful opportunity not only to meet your fellow members, as well as Chamber staff, but also to learn more about some of the valuable member benefits you may or may not be currently taking advantage of.

To reserve your seat at our first EAC Member Orientation of the new year, please visit our website at **ElginChamber.com** or call the Chamber at **847-741-5660**.

We hope to see you there!

PREMIER MEMBERS:



ENHANCED MEMBERS:

Andresen Active Healthcare

Daxam, Inc.

Edward Jones Investments
Michael McKay

Premier Veterinary Group

Willow Lake Estates

Windy City Bulls

Legislative Brew with Councilman Corey Dixon

Our first Legislative Brew, sponsored by AT&T, of the new year features **Elgin City Councilman Corey Dixon** on **Wednesday, January 17** from **8:30 to 9:30 a.m.** at the Chamber office, 31 S. Grove. You will have a chance to catch up over coffee with Councilman Dixon, ask your questions and mix and mingle with other Chamber members all in an informal setting. Seating is limited so reservations are recommended.

Corey Dixon was born and raised in Elgin. He graduated from Abbott Middle School and attended Larkin High School, but would later graduate from Elgin High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Grambling State University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration with

a concentration in government from Keller Graduate School of Management. He is a former Commissioner with the City of Elgin's Image Advisory Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Corey serves as Board President of Greater Elgin Family Care Center; School District U-46 Parent Leadership Institute Coordinator & Facilitator and serves on the Advisory Committee with School District U-46's Parents As Teachers. Corey is also a 2015 graduate of the Elgin Area Leadership Academy. He currently works for the State of Illinois where he serves as a Human Services Caseworker.

Reserve your cup of coffee and conversation with Elgin City Councilman Corey Dixon at ElginChamber.com or by calling the Chamber at **847-741-5660**.



CHAMBER HAPPENINGS: We celebrated the grand openings of the new **Pace Bus** Park and Ride facility in Elgin as well as **McAlister's Deli** at 1120 S. Randall Road. Chamber staff were privileged to volunteer to sort toys at Elgin's Annual Toy Giveaway at **Hemmens Cultural Center**. Our **Good Morning Elgin** event, sponsored by **AT&T**, **Pace Bus** and **Triumph Community Bank**, featuring **Mayor Kaptain's Annual State of the City Address** saw a packed house at **Elgin Community College**. Congratulations to the City of Elgin's two new Assistant City Managers, **Laura Valdez** and **Aaron Cosentino**. We look forward to working with you! *(Photos by James Harvey Photography)*



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We encourage you to pass this issue along to your colleagues. You will always find the newsletter on our website www.elginchamber.com in the section "In the News." Every issue is available in a .pdf format that is easy to read online or print out.

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EMPLOYERS:
GOT JOB OPENINGS?

SUBMIT YOUR JOB AD

Log in to your Member Information Center (MIC) on elginchamber.com to post your openings to hundreds of potential applicants.

JOB SEEKERS: Visit elginchamber.com/eacworks to find local employment opportunities. Be sure to sign up for email alerts on new postings!

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