

# CHAMBER REPORT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PEORIA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[www.peoriachamber.org](http://www.peoriachamber.org)



APRIL  
2019

Vol. 24 Issue 20



MEMBER FEATURE: **ASHLEY HOMESTORE**



**this is home.**

Locally, family-owned, 5 generations and growing. Peoria, East Peoria, Bloomington and Champaign, IL

# WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

Employee Size Code (number of full-time equivalent employees in the tri-county area): (A) 1-10 (B) 11-25 (C) 26-75 (D) 76-150 (E) 151-300 (F) 300+

**1-800-Water Damage of Peoria /  
Bloomington (A)**

511 Denver Street  
Bloomington, IL 61705  
309.205.9221

**Ballers (A)**

3725 Willow Knolls Drive  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.839.2089

**Black Band Distillery (A)**

1000 SW. Adams Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309.208.0323

**Camp Bow Wow Peoria (B)**

1623 Pioneer Parkway  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309.692.2267

**Campbell Family Counseling (A)**

2000 W. Pioneer Parkway  
Suite 6  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309.253.2471

**Center for Health, ASC, LLC (C)**

8800 N. State Route 91  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309.683.5480

**Central Illinois Community Blood  
Center (B)**

2801 S. 10th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217.720.5254

**Cerno's Bar & Grill Elmwood (A)**

118 E. Main Street  
Elmwood, IL 61459  
309.741.1036

**Coyote Creek Golf Club (A)**

8201 W. Lancaster Road  
Bartonville, IL 61607  
309.633.0911

**DreamHouse Media LLC (A)**

1409 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61606  
309.431.1936

**Eco Mobile Stripping, Inc. (A)**

309 Brookview Road  
East Peoria, IL 61611  
309.339.6271

**Element Building (A)**

120 W. Jefferson Street  
Morton, IL 61550  
309.838.7420

**Escape Town Peoria (A)**

4812 N. Sheridan Road  
Suite B  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.229.9892

**First Ascent Climbing & Fitness (A)**

927 SW. Washington Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309.966.0831

**First Line (A)**

34745 CR 1600 N  
San Jose, IL 62682  
309.620.3100

**H & R Block (A)**

801 W. Lake Avenue  
Suite 111  
Peoria, IL 61606  
309.688.3686

**Heritage Restoration and Design,  
Inc. (B)**

207 Voris Street  
Peoria, IL 61603  
309.637.5404

**In and Out Mini Mall (A)**

4530 N. Brandywine Drive  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.258.9542

**iSTEAM Studio (A)**

7327 N. Radnor Road  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.397.8808

**John P. Edmonds, Ltd. (A)**

110 SW. Jefferson  
Suite 410  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309.674.3900

**Koenig Body & Equipment (B)**

2428 W. Farmington Road  
Peoria, IL 61604  
309.673.7435

**Lettering Works (A)**

820 SW Adams Street  
Suite C  
Peoria, IL 61604  
309.673.7435

**Mattress for Less (A)**

2415 N. University  
Unit B  
Peoria, IL 61604  
309.928.7179

**Mio Creativo (A)**

2200 W. War Memorial  
Peoria, IL 61571  
309.431.2168

**Moxie Solar (A)**

610 Abington Street  
Suite H  
Peoria, IL 61603  
847.769.5656

**Peck Tax and Accounting (A)**

4209 N. Dayton Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.688.7829

**Pinnacle Gun and Ammo (A)**

701 Main Street  
Suite 8  
Peoria, IL 61602-1274  
309.981.4987

**Plank Pilates (A)**

5001 W. American Prairie Drive  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309.431.2387

**Prairie Edge Landscape (A)**

9375 Goetze Road  
Green Valley, Illinois 61534  
309.267.0814

**Reliable Construction (A)**

8900 N. Industrial Road  
Unit C  
Peoria, IL 61615  
800.381.9374

**Scopes Safety Services, Inc. (A)**

2411 W. Miners Drive  
Dunlap, IL 61525  
309.229.4319

**Sola Salon Studios - Grand Prairie  
(A)**

5201 W. War Memorial Drive  
Suite 490  
Peoria, IL 61615  
513.444.8965

**Spruce Rentals (A)**

1101 SW. Washington Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309.369.6284

**Squeegee Squad of Peoria (A)**

1230 Independence Court  
Washington, IL 61571  
309.657.6568

**TCC (A)**

4125 N. Sheridan Road  
Space 5  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309.682.8200

**The Clubhouse Indoor Golf (A)**

2510 W. Farmington Road  
West Peoria, IL 61604  
309.424.6802

**The Nut House featuring Jane's  
Sweet Addictions (A)**

311 Main Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309.673.4622

**Total Spectrum (A)**

4921 N. Glen Park Place  
Peoria, IL 61607  
844.263.1613

**Trinity Heating and Cooling (A)**

320 N. Hanover Avenue  
Metamora, IL 61548  
309.696.2264

**UpTime Management Solutions  
LLC (A)**

2225 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61604-5443  
309.966.3323

**Visiting Angels of Peoria (A)**

4507 N. Sterling Avenue  
Suite 401A  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309.998.1000

# MEMBER FEATURE

## Ashley HomeStore of Central Illinois- "5 Generations in the furniture business and growing"

The #1 manufacturer and retailer of furniture and mattresses in the world is a lofty title to be proud of, however, we are more proud of being a locally, family owned business dating five generations back to 1872. My great great grandfather, Theodore Bruegge, was a cabinetmaker by trade and came to Illinois in the 1870s, founding the very first store in southern Illinois.

Today, our family's four stores in the Central Illinois area include Champaign, Peoria, Bloomington, and our NEWEST addition last year, East Peoria. These large showrooms host the #1 furniture name brand, Ashley HomeStore, which has helped attract other name brand retailers to the area.

Our mission statement is to "create a feel-good guest experience, that creates beautiful homes and lasting relationships". We provide a lifestyle shopping experience that is enhanced through in-store technology, and professional well-trained Design Consultants who greet you at the door. We know your time is valuable so we have developed expertise in the areas of design, delivery, service, maintenance, and of course style and selection. Our guests have told us repeatedly "your showroom is the most beautiful in the area".



Ellen Hook, Chief Operating Officer

"MORE SLEEP"- seems to be on everyone's mind these days! Our Bedding Experts consult and recommend, then give you the space you need to select your perfect sleep system. The national Hope to Dream program has collectively donated over 50,000 mattresses for children across the country, in need of a bed. We love sleep too.

*Come see me and my team, your home decorating and mattress experts!*



## STAY INFORMED.

SEE HOW THEY VOTED  
PEORIA CITY COUNCIL SCORECARD

Visit our new website at  
[www.bizpacillinois.com](http://www.bizpacillinois.com)

**AN ADVOCATE FOR BUSINESS**

### OLD WORLD CHARM

PEORIA

# HOFBRÄU

German-American Restaurant  
and Beer Stube (Est. 1984)

Tue. - Sat. 11 AM - 10 PM  
Closed Sunday, Monday & Holidays

**MAJOR CREDIT CARDS  
ACCEPTED**

2210 N.E. Jefferson, Peoria, IL 61603  
(309) 686-9739 • [www.peoriahofbrau.com](http://www.peoriahofbrau.com)  
(Located at the Converge of North Jefferson & North Adams)  
Just 5 minutes from downtown Peoria.

ENJOY LUNCH \* DINNER \* DRINKS

GERMAN AND AMERICAN FAVORITES

"EIN PROSIT" (CHEERS)

## awards & recognition

**Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. (ACH)** is proud to have awarded 20 awards for 1 Year of Service, a 5 Year Service Award, and a 10 Year Service award. ACH also held their annual awards dinner at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center on December 7, 2018. Of the Year Awards were also presented to the following people: Jessica Young, Esq., CCHP – President, PIC Award; Jaime Oehlwein – Vice President of Finance, PIG Award; Travis Schamber, DO, CCHP – Vice President of Physician Services and Director of LGBTQ Services, Practitioner of the Year; Jen Nolasowski, RN, Regional Nurse Manager of the Year; Tracy Hammitt, LPN, Nurse of the Year; Courtney Stewart, LPC, Qualified Mental Health Professional of the Year; Karrie Unger, Accounting Professional of the Year; Sue Webster, PHR, HR Professional of the Year; and Art Rose, Salesperson of the Year. The DAISY Award was presented to Sandi Lehman, LPN for going above and beyond for her patients. The Overdose Revival Award was presented to Terri Hamilton, LPN for her responsiveness in reacting to an overdose situation and saving the patient's life. A record of 165 total awards were presented. **ACH** would like to congratulate Brittany Krynski for receiving her Poynter ACES Certificate in Editing; Daler Sayfidinov for receiving his Microsoft Certification Solution Expert Certification; Erin Staley on receiving her Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP) certification; and Cecilia Escamilla for receiving her BSN degree.

**Bradley University** was named a Military Friendly School for the fourth time. This designation honors colleges, universities and trade schools that embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students. Bradley University's mascot Kaboom! was ranked by USA TODAY Sports' For The Win as the number one mascot in the 2019 NCAA tournament.

**The City of Peoria's** Central Business District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. The City of Peoria also awarded residents and business leaders for appreciating

Peoria at the Neighborhood Reception. Over 150 members of the community attended.

**Dewberry** congratulates Brooke Martin, AIA, LEED Green Associate, for being selected as the "Emerging Professional of the Year" by the AIA Prairie Chapter. **Dewberry** also congratulates **Bradley University** on the topping out of their new Business and Engineering Complex and is proud to be a part of such a transformational project for the University.

Nine attorneys from the law firm **Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen's** office were named Super Lawyers in the 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers listing.

**Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC** announced that eleven attorneys had been named to Illinois Super Lawyers and Illinois Rising Stars 2019.

**Midwest Engineering Associates, Inc.** would like to congratulate Mohammed Hamza Makkawi Ahmed for receiving his Professional Engineer – In Training (EIT) Certification from the State of Iowa. Mohammed is a civil staff engineer located in our East Peoria, Illinois office. Congratulations Mohammed!

**Peoria Charter Travel** was recently honored for its sales achievement in 2018, among 220 travel agency members of the MAST Travel Network, at an awards ceremony held recently in Addison, Illinois.

**Peoria Civic Center** was ranked in the top 200 arena and theater venues worldwide by Pollstar Magazine.

The **Peoria City/County Health Department** recognized 28 local establishments as recipients of the 2018 Food Safety Excellence Award on Monday, February 25th. The recipients were: Banner Elementary School (Dunlap), Brimfield School District (Brimfield), Calvin Coolidge Middle School (Peoria), Dairy Queen (Bartonville), Dr. Maude A Sanders Primary School (Peoria), Dunlap Grade School (Dunlap), Dunlap Middle School (Dunlap), Dunlap Valley Middle School (Dunlap), Evergreen Place (Chillicothe), Farmington Central (Farmington), Farmington

CUSD #265 (Farmington), **Gateway at River City** (Peoria), Hickory Grove Elementary (Dunlap), ICC North (Peoria), Kellar Central Primary School (Peoria), Mark Bills Middle School (Peoria), Northmoor School (Peoria), RA Jamieson School (Peoria), Ridgeview Elementary (Peoria), Rolling Acres Middle School (Peoria), Roosevelt Magnet School (Peoria), Sophia's Kitchen (Peoria), The Chef and the Baker (Peoria), Trewyn Middle School (Peoria), Valeska Hinton Early Childhood (Peoria), Von Stueben Middle School (Peoria), Whitter Primary School (Peoria), Wilder Waite Grade School (Peoria)

**Stuber Land Design, Inc.** celebrates 25 years in business. They have introduced a new logo as part of their celebration.

**The Waterhouse Banquet & Catering Facility** was named winner of The Knot Best of Weddings 2019.

## business moves

**Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. (ACH)** is excited to announce the promotions of Debbie Ash, RN, MSN, MBA, LNC, CCHP (Vice President of Compliance) to President of Training Division, Dr. Michael Roach, CCHP (Corporate Medical Director) to President of Medical Operations Division, Dr. Melissa Caldwell, CCHP-MH (Director of Mental Health Services) to Vice President of Mental Health Services, Dr. Travis Schamber, CCHP (Regional Medical Director) to Vice President of Physician Services & Director of LGBTQ Services, Jaime Oehlwein (Controller) to Vice President of Finance, Emma Caldwell (Accounting Manager) to Controller, Alex Kinzinger, Esq. (Contract Manager) to Associate General Counsel, Karen Fowler, RN (Regional Nurse Manager) to Director of Medical Operations – Southern Division, Meg King (Program Consultant) to Assistant Director of Business Development & Client Services, Sandi Lehman, LPN to Assistant Regional Nurse Manager – Northern Division, Sue Webster, PHR (Human Resources Generalist) to Human Resources

## business moves

Manager, Katie Byford (Recruiter) to Recruiting Manager, Amy Robinson (Office Manager) to Executive Administrator, Brittany Krynski (HR Assistant) to Ghostwriter, and Allen Karnes (IT Assistant) to Technical Support Specialist. **ACH** welcomed Melissa Baker, Regional Nurse Manager – Central Division, and Lisa Moschner, Assistant Regional Nurse Manager – Southern Division, and Shannon Miller as a Regional Nurse Manager, to their team.

**The Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA)** now offers certified domestic violence training to all cosmetologists, cosmetology teachers, estheticians, esthetic teachers, hair braiders, hair braiding teachers, nail technicians, and nail technology teachers in Central Illinois seeking licensure renewals.

**CityLink** welcomed Nick Standefer to its management team as an Assistant General Manager.

**Clifton Larson Allen (CLA)** is pleased to announce the following new hires to the Peoria office: Mackenzie McCall, Associate; Aaron Kurth, Associate; Keith Brooks, Client Engagement Leader – Enhanced Managed Services; Brandon Casey, Senior Consultant; Denny Nunez, Senior; Dan Hucal, Senior; Jason Bader, Senior; and Cheryl Pritzker, Associate.

**Cullinan Properties, Ltd.** welcomes Rob Lochner as Vice President of Development. Lochner brings more than 25 years of experience to the team.

**Easterseals Central Illinois** announced new officers and directors to its board leading into its 100th anniversary in 2019. The new officers are: Jon Michael, board chair; Chris Chadwick, first vice chair; Joe Creed, second vice chair; Brad Halverson, treasurer; Susie Ketterer, secretary; and Don Young, immediate past chairman. Directors elected to a three-year term are: Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer, Lance Lelm, Dr. Stephanie Lindstrom, and Dr. Walter Zakahi.

**Fortress Bank** is pleased to announce that Nick Esser and Jenny Garlach have recently joined the bank as Vice President, Commercial Banking Officer and Treasury Management Specialist.

## business moves

Doug Palmer has been promoted to Assistant Airport Director, Operations and Maintenance for the **Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria**, which operates both the **Gen. Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport** and **Mt. Hawley Airport**. Palmer has worked for **MAAP** in various roles since 2010, most recently as Director of Operations and Maintenance. Steve Perrone is the new Director of Finance and Administration for **MAAP**. Perrone was most recently a senior associate with CliftonLarsonAllen, specializing in local government and non-profit audits and consulting.

**Goodwill of Central Illinois** has announced the appointment of Leslie Vallar and Patti Abel to their board of directors.

**Hickory Point Bank** announced Scott Souter has been named Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking and will focus on the bank's commercial banking activities in the Peoria area.

**Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC** was proud to announce that Noah A. Menold has joined the firm. He will practice out of the firm's Peoria, Illinois office.

**The Kim Group** wants to welcome **Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.** to their new office location at 4500 N. Prospect Road, Suite 201; Peoria Heights, IL 61616. Hope your new location will be prosperous!

**Morton Community Bank Trust & Wealth Management** welcomes Connie Barr and Beth Jones to their office.

**OSF Healthcare**, the **University of Illinois System**, **Illinois Central College**, and the **Greater Peoria Economic Development Council** are joining forces to develop a Peoria Innovation Hub. If the necessary funding is approved the Peoria Innovation Hub could be physically set up and open by mid-to-late 2020.

The **Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce** welcomed Chelsea Bouppha as the Director of Membership Engagement and announced the promotion of

Sherneka Cagle to Vice President of Operations.

**Peoria County Sheriff** Brian Asbell is pleased to announce the promotion of Douglas Gaa to the role of Chief Deputy, effective March 1, 2019.

**Quinn, Johnston, Henderson, Pretorius and Cerulo**, a Peoria based law firm, is pleased to welcome Mitch Gilfillan as its newest partner. First Mid-Illinois Bancshares, Inc. ("First Mid") announced that the acquisition of SCB Bancorp, Inc. ("Soy Capital"), which includes Soy Capital Bank and Trust and its wholly owned subsidiary, J.L. Hubbard Insurance and Bonds, has been completed.

**Stuber Land Design, Inc.** welcomes Colton Estey to our team. Colton will be our new maintenance foreman working under Kim Boyle's leadership.

**TCC** Verizon Authorized Wireless Retailer opens new location in Peoria.

**UnityPoint Health** in Central Illinois's CEO, Debbie Simon, announced her plans to retire on June 30, 2019. The UnityPoint Health Board of Directors has named Dr. Keith Knepp as her successor.

The **University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria** (UICOMP)'s Regional Dean since 2008, Dr. Sara Rusch, announced her intent to retire in May of 2019. Rusch leaves a legacy of campus expansion, enhancement of the medical education programs, financial stability and facility upgrades.

**Walz Label & Mailing Systems** is proud to announce Amy Yingling as Inside Sales Representative. She works with businesses and organizations throughout the Greater Peoria area.

**Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. (ACH)** held their annual December Medical Training at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center on Saturday, December 8th. **ACH** proudly

## business news

partnered with **EPIC** for the fourth year in a row. **EPIC** packs and ships our holiday packages to clients and employees across 16 states.

**Align Peoria** hosted Community Stand for Student Success on January 7th at **Peoria Public Schools** high schools.

**The Center for Prevention of Abuse** will host a 5K run/walk in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month on April 13th.

**CityLink** provided March Madness transportation for the 2019 IHS High School Basketball Tournament.

The **City of Peoria's** yard waste pickup season started on Monday, March 18, 2019. Pickup will be weekly on the same day as trash pickup.

**F&M Bank** celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding on March 31st, 1869.

The **Gen. Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport** set a new passenger record in 2018, capping off a year that included seven record months.

**Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC** also announced that nine attorneys have become shareholders in the firm. This is the largest single-year class in firm history.

**Illinois American Water** invested over \$122 million in water and wastewater upgrades in 2018.

**Illinois Valley Yacht and Canoe (IVY) Club** welcomed more than 200 transient boaters during the 2018 boating season. **The (IVY) Club** kicked-off a new monthly fundraiser called "Cocktails for a Cause" on February 9 with BUILD PEORIA as the first beneficiary.

**OSF Healthcare** raised its minimum wage for workers to \$12 an hour on February 24th.

The **Peoria Civic Center** Theater hosts 21-time award winning country star Dwight Yoakam on Wednesday, May 22nd. The Theater also hosts The Doobie Brothers, known for their fusion of rock and blue-eyed soul, on Tuesday, April 16. The **Peoria Civic Center** Arena

hosted Bob Segar and the Silver Bullet Band on Tuesday, January 22nd, becoming the highest grossing show in the venue's 37-year history. On Friday, February 15th, John Mellencamp rocked the **Peoria Civic Center** Theater, setting another record for the highest grossing show in the theater's 37-year history.

**The Peoria Riverfront Museum's** Hitchcock Film Festival was led by New York Times Best-Selling Author Marc Elliot.

**The Shoppes at Grand Prairie** announced five new retail openings in February and March of 2019. JLL welcomes **Sola Salon Studios**, Mattress Liquidators, Dunkin', and **OSF Urgo** to the Shoppes at Grand Prairie, plus the opening of the newly remodeled Children's Indoor Play Area.

**United Stroke Alliance** announced that 2019 marks the 15-year anniversary of Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camps! This year they have 35 camps scheduled in 21 different states.

**WEEK** announces that nominations for the 19th Annual 25 Women in Leadership are now being accepted. The luncheon will be held on September 5, 2019 at the **Par-A-Dice Hotel**.

## business news

# Small Business of the Year



309.637.2110

[www.ctgabbert.com](http://www.ctgabbert.com)

*Showroom Location:  
1323 SW Adams St  
Peoria IL, 61602*

# MEMBER NEWS

## LED LIGHTS SERVE UP SAVINGS FOR PEORIA RESTAURANT

Mary Beth Milburn and her husband Cassel, along with son Dan Gilfillan, opened the doors of MD's Sports Bar & Grill in spring 2017.

That meant eight intense weeks cleaning up the Peoria restaurant they purchased and making it their own. The fluorescent lighting, several decades old, quickly moved to the top of their to-do list. "Lighting was something that needed our attention," she recalls. "We had a lot of old fluorescent bulbs."

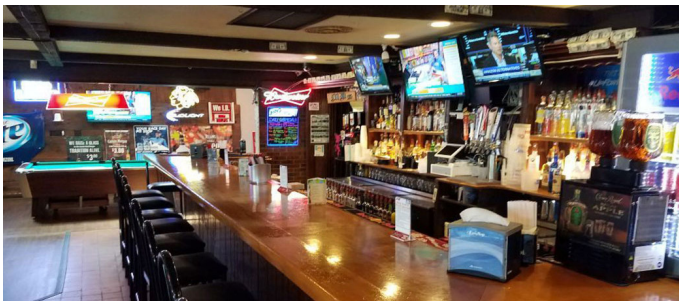
Help, however, was right around the corner. During renovations, the Milburns learned about Ameren Illinois rebates for lighting upgrades.

"We help with a variety of energy efficiency measures that can give small businesses a boost to their bottom line," says Keith Martin, the utility's Director of Energy Efficiency. "We connect customers to cash incentives and qualified contractors to help them make changes that will reduce their energy bills — and their impact on the environment."

"Now we have LEDs everywhere. It's made such a difference," says Milburn, who was initially concerned about the impact on their monthly power bill. Instead, we're seeing savings of about \$400 a month. I was shocked — in a good way!"

Beyond energy savings, LED bulbs boast a long life that translates to lower maintenance costs.

The LED lighting offers better illumination that enhances everything from cooking and cleaning to safety and marketing.



"Lighting is a great place for any facility to start saving, and technology is always advancing," says Martin. "LEDs have set a new standard for efficiency, and there are bulbs to meet every need."

"From beginning to end, the experience of working with Ameren Illinois to save energy has just been amazing. You may think you can't afford to do it, but you can't afford not to!" says Milburn.

Ready to begin?  
Visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com)  
1.866.800.0747

## SAVE THE DATE

### Business After Hours



#### Commerce Bank

April 18th, 4:30pm–6:30pm  
401 Main Street, Suite 100,  
Peoria, IL 61602



#### i3 Broadband

May 9th, 4:30pm–6:30pm  
602 High Point Lane,  
East Peoria, IL 61611



#### UnityPoint Health

June 13th, 4:30pm–6:30pm  
900 Main Street,  
Peoria, IL 61602

### Business Before Hours



#### United Stroke Alliance

April 23rd, 7:30am–9:00am  
2000 W Pioneer Parkway, Suite 16,  
Peoria, IL 61615

*\*No May Business Before Hours*



#### Alzheimer's Association Illinois

June 25th, 7:30am–9:00am  
614 W Glen Avenue,  
Peoria, IL 616114

### Upcoming Events

**Member Seminar:** *Excellence in Customer Service*

April 9th, 8:30am–10:00am  
Peoria Public Library Main Branch  
107 NE Monroe Street  
Peoria, IL 61615

#### Chamber's Picture Day

April 25th, 8:30am–1:30pm  
Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Office  
403 NE Jefferson Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61603

**Member Seminar:** *Are you on Brand?*

May 14th, 9:00am–10:30am  
Peoria Public Library Main Branch  
107 NE Monroe Street  
Peoria, IL 61615

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Facts about Chelsea Bouppha

The Chamber staff has gained a new edition! We wanted to make sure our members know who to contact when there are questions about member benefits. Chelsea's primary role is Director of Membership Engagement. In her role, she also organizes our free member seminars, handles all billing and invoices and schedules ribbon cuttings.

When did you start at the Chamber?

2/25/19

With about 30 days in your role now, what have you enjoyed?

*I have enjoyed getting introduced to such a talented group of people and being exposed to exciting events. I'm still pinching myself everyday that I get to work for the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce!*

What do you hope to accomplish in your first 90 days?

*I hope in my first 90 days that Chamber Members will get to know who I am and that they know I'm here to help!*

What do you love most about Peoria/Central Illinois?

*The people! Everyone is so genuine and giving. And I appreciate each season for what it is. Even those dreaded snow storms.*

I think these are good questions. Anything else you want to share with our members?

*I enjoy bike rides, hiking, dancing (salsa and bachata especially), spending time with my family, and traveling!*



Contact Chelsea at  
cbouppha@peoriachamber.org  
or 309.495.5923

## Customized protection for your Central Illinois business.

- Property, casualty, and employee benefits
- Coverage for businesses of every size
- Locally-sourced customer service
- Top-rated carrier partners

***If you have a need, we have a solution.***



**PEARL<sup>®</sup> INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**

309.679.0545 | [pearlinsurance.com/solution](http://pearlinsurance.com/solution)

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

## Our Strategic Plan in Action: Advocacy Update 2019

The second part of our Strategic Plan says that we will advocate by representing the interests of business in the region. In the first quarter of 2019 we have been busy with just that. The State of Illinois proposed a minimum wage increase that would take effect over time. As your representative to government at the local, state and Federal level we took action. We partnered with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce to contact our State Senators and Representatives and give them feedback we received from our members about this increase. Illinois will have a graduated minimum wage beginning January 1, 2020 with the first increase and continued increases through 2025.

In a continued effort to advocate for our members both as businesses and individually we have joined with Mayor Jim Ardis to make sure the message about pension reform is heard by others. On March 20 at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives annual Chamber Day Mayor Jim Ardis spoke to a room of approximately 75 Chamber executives on pension reform and the important implications it has for Peoria as well as other local governments in the State of Illinois. He shared how the system could be fixed to help local government budgets like that of Peoria's when paying pensions for the police and fire employees. His presentation showed that this is not something that only effects local governments but also business and employees because of the need for increased taxes in cities to assist with the budget deficits. The presentation was both informative and gave the Illinois Chamber of Commerce as well as the executives in the room talking points to speak with the state legislature.

There's more to come on pension reform, graduated income tax and advocacy in general in 2019. Stay tuned and please reach out to us if there is an issue you would like to discuss further or seek help to speak to the correct legislature.



(pictured from left to right) Todd Maisch, Jeff Griffin, Sherneka Cagle, and Mayor Jim Ardis



## Don't be tardy,

**For Commerce Bank's Annual  
State of the School Address**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

**Peoria Marriot Pere Marquette  
501 Main St, Peoria, IL 61602**

**Register online at  
[peoriachamber.org](http://peoriachamber.org)**



**Commerce Bank**

*It's that time of year again!*

*The Par-A-Dice Hotel | Casino Annual Golf Outing*

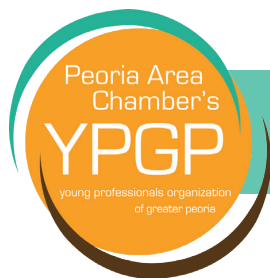
**May 23, 2019 | 11:30am**

*Register for this  
event online at ...*  
[peoriachamber.org](http://peoriachamber.org)

*Coyote Creek Golf Club*  
**8201 W Lancaster Rd  
Bartonville, IL 61607**



**PAR-A-DICE**  
HOTEL-CASINO  
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS



"To offer opportunities which attract and retain young professionals in the Greater Peoria Area."  
Contact Audrey Kamm for more information at 309.495.5974 | akamm@peoriachamber.org

### Dues:

\$25 through May 31, 2019

### Year:

\$50 June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

## April 11

### Secrets of My Success

12pm-1pm

@ Peoria Chamber (Bring your own lunch)

Speaker: Pat Farrell VP, Internal Audit RLI

## May 2

### Monthly Social

5pm-7pm

Check our facebook page for updates on the location!

## May 18

### Murray Baker Cultural Committee

Historical Tour

@ Bar Hop

## June 6

### Monthly Social

5pm-7pm

Check our facebook page for updates on the location!

## after?

Keep updated with the YPGP Facebook page for events!

## BIAGGI'S

RISTORANTE ITALIANO

pizza • pasta • steaks  
seafood • dessert • wine



WESTLAKE SHOPPING CENTER  
2601 W. Lake Avenue • (309) 686.8114  
www.BIAGGIS.com



Portable Storage Units  
RENTALS & SALES

5x8 8x10 8x15 8x20 8x40 Mobile Offices

### COMMERCIAL

Extra Retail Space  
Secure Jobsite Storage  
Special Events

### RENT OR BUY

Modifications Available



### RESIDENTIAL

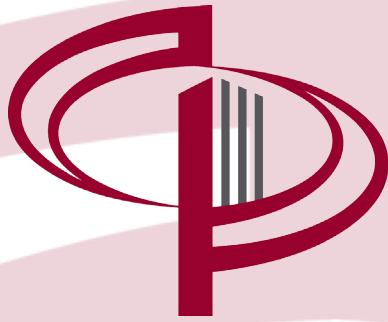
See Our Easy Moving & Storage Solutions

Fully Climate Controlled  
Container Storage Facility

Call Today! **309-697-6299**

Get A Quote at [www.Mobile-Maxx.com](http://www.Mobile-Maxx.com)

We're A Locally Owned Business - 108 N. Commerce Pl. Peoria, IL 61604



# CULLINAN PROPERTIES, LTD.

RETAIL | MEDICAL | MIXED-USE | OFFICE | GOVERNMENTAL | MULTI-FAMILY

For more than 30 years, the exceptional team at Cullinan Properties, Ltd. has been making a difference in the communities we serve - building relationships and developing distinctive projects that make life better for the people who live, work and play there. Blending visionary thinking and innovative design with an attention to detail and insistence on outstanding results is why we're known throughout the United States for our projects and the results we achieve. With offices in Peoria and Chicago, IL and St. Louis, MO, Cullinan Properties is rooted in and committed to Peoria.



*East Court Village - Pekin, IL*



*Cullinan Corporate Headquarters - East Peoria, IL*



*Plaza at Grand Prairie - Peoria, IL*



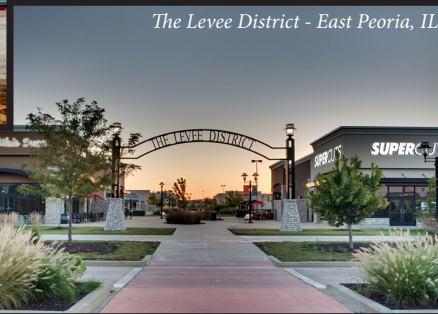
*Grand Prairie Developments - Peoria, IL*



*The Levee District Ribbon Cutting - East Peoria, IL*



*Hamilton Square Ground Breaking - Peoria, IL*



*The Levee District - East Peoria, IL*



*7707 N. Knoxville Ave. - Peoria, IL*

CHICAGO, IL | PEORIA, IL | ST. LOUIS, MO | 309.999.1700 | CULLINANPROPERTIES.COM



403 NE Jefferson Ave.  
Peoria, Illinois 61603

Periodical postage paid at Peoria, IL

**Contact us!** Please notify the  
Chamber at 309.495.5900 or  
[editor@peoriachamber.org](mailto:editor@peoriachamber.org) of name  
and address changes or additions.

# Ready to get your site off the ground?

- Site access for easy updating
- Custom design and build
- 100% USA built and hosted

**1<sup>ST</sup> MONTH FREE!**

**Launch**  
**opm**

Lease a  
new custom  
website

STARTING AT

**\$175**

PER MONTH\*

E-Commerce • Event Modules • Intranet  
Facebook Integration • Social Links • SEO  
Landing Pages • Data Management

Adam Sams  
[adam@adcoagency.com](mailto:adam@adcoagency.com)

[launchopm.com/free](http://launchopm.com/free)

Charlie Stewart  
[charlie@adcoagency.com](mailto:charlie@adcoagency.com)



**Microsoft** Partner



**Developer**

**AIVA**

Academy of Interactive  
and Visual Arts

adco.agency  
1302 W. Pioneer Parkway  
Peoria, IL  
309.692.7880



\* Based on a 36 month contract