ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

An Affiliated Partner of **Greater Sandusky Partnership**

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

DEAR CHAMBER MEMBERS,

Our mission at the Erie County Chamber of Commerce is simple – to support, promote and attract business for the advancement of our community. We strive to provide what you need to succeed.

Your Chamber Membership extends to all of your employees, so not only can you be involved, but all your staff can be involved in the Chamber too.

We hope that you are finding your Membership helpful to you and your business. If there's anything we can do to better serve you or if you have any questions about your chamber benefits, please contact Kimberly Montana at (419) 625-6421 or via email at kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com.

We thank you for your continued support.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Events • P. 2

Announcements • P. 3

Member Events • P. 11

COSE MEWA Benefits • P. 23

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities • P. 24

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Nov. 8
6pm - 9pm

3rd Annual Best of The Bay

A food competition like no other. Think your signature dish is the Best of the Bay? Put it to the test at the annual competition.

Learn More

Monday, Nov. 13
11:00am

Ribbon Cutting at AutoGate

Please join AutoGate for the ribbon cutting at their brand new manufacturing facility in Berlin Heights.

Learn More

Nov. 16 - Dec. 31
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Lake Erie in Lights

Check out Lake Erie in Lights at the Erie County Fairgrounds while supporting Ability Works, a local non-profit.

Learn More

Saturday, Dec. 2
10am - 1pm

Deck the Mall!

Free, Fun, Festive! Crafts, games, face painting and more. Visit the Sandusky Mall - Center Court.

Learn More

Monday, Dec. 4
6pm - 8pm

FurFest Silent Auction

Lots of great silent auction and raffle items, food, drinks and friends- all for a great cause! The auction is virtual, so you can even bid at home if you aren't able to join us!

Learn More

Thursday, Dec. 7
11am - 2pm

2023 Business Hall of Fame Luncheon

It's that time of year for the 2023 Business Hall of Fame. Be sure to get your nominations in by October 1, 2023.

Learn More

Saturday, Dec. 16
12pm - 4pm

VLFCU Holiday Party

Join VLFCU on December 16 at the Sandusky Mall for a fun holiday party. Drop off last-minute toy donations for children served by Erie County Department of Job & Family Services.

Learn More

To view all events and for more information, please visit:
https://business.eriecountychamber.com/events

ERIE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

PRESS RELEASE

November 7, 2023

The Erie County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Heather Gilchrist has been honored as the 2023 NOACC Chamber Bright Star at the highly anticipated 15th Annual NOACC Bright Star Awards. The event, held at Sawmill Creek by Cedar Point Resorts on Friday, October 27, 2023, brought together 48 chambers from across northern Ohio to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of their outstanding volunteers.

To quote Joseph Addison, "No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." Thank you to all the volunteers that give their time, talent, and tenacity to help lighten the load for our chamber leaders, staff, and board. What you do matters! – Cindy Holzheimer, NOACC President/CEO

An impressive gathering of over 260 people attended the dinner and awards ceremony, including esteemed Chamber leaders, Chamber board members, business professionals, and community members. This annual event serves as a testament to the remarkable dedication and commitment displayed by individuals who selflessly contribute their time and expertise to support the growth and success of our local businesses.

The Erie County Chamber of Commerce extends heartfelt congratulations to Heather Gilchrist for this well-deserved recognition. Their passion, dedication, and tireless efforts have truly made a significant difference. As we move forward, we invite all community members to join us in acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of our exceptional volunteers, who continue to shape and strengthen our local business landscape.

For more information about volunteering on the Ambassador team at the Erie County Chamber of Commerce and the impactful work carried out please contact Kimberly Montana at kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com

VacationLand Federal Credit Union

Your lifestyle. Your banking. ***Connected.***

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 11/1/2023
Contact: Heather Gilchrist
Tel: 419.625.9025, ext. 1342
Email: hgilchrist@vlfcu.org

For Immediate Release

VLFCU 12th Annual Toy Drive

(Sandusky, OH), (November 1, 2023) — VacationLand Federal Credit Union

VacationLand Federal Credit Union is sponsoring their 12th Annual Toy Drive, benefiting families in Erie and Huron Counties. Monetary or new, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at any VLFCU branch in Sandusky, Huron, Norwalk and Vermilion by Friday, December 15, 2023. All donations will be provided to children served by the Reach Our Youth organization in Huron County and the Erie County Department of Jobs & Family Services.

Donations can also be dropped off on Saturday, December 16, at the wrap up event at the Sandusky Mall from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free holiday activities will be available for families, and Dollar Dog is scheduled to make several appearances. There will be giveaways for all ages, while supplies last. Event details will be available soon at www.vlfcu.org or www.sandusky-mall.com.

For more information, contact Heather Gilchrist, AVP of Marketing for VacationLand Federal Credit Union, at 419-625-9025, extension 1342 or email hgilchrist@vlfcu.org.

###

Gifts for Kids

The **VLFCU 12th Annual Toy Drive** will benefit children served by the Erie County Department of Job & Family Services and the Reach Our Youth organization in Huron County. Drop off unwrapped, new toys at any VLFCU branch by December 15th! Monetary donations also accepted at our branches, if you prefer that we shop for you!

OR stop by the

VLFCU Holiday Party

Saturday, December 16th
Sandusky Mall (Center Court)
12:00pm to 4:00pm

- Activities for the kids
- Giveaways while they last
- Dollar Dog appearances
- Drop off last-minute toy donations

Additional information is available online @ www.vlfcu.org.

Happy Holidays!

VacationLand® Federal Credit Union

Sandusky, Huron, Norwalk & Vermilion
419.625.9025 • www.vlfcu.org
Email: hgilchrist@vlfcu.org

Thursday, November 16, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

Methadone is proven effective in helping people with substance use disorders regain control over their lives. Despite methadone being a well-established medication, people tend to misunderstand it due to misinformation and various stereotypes.

Join BrightView's Mikaela Taylor (Vice President of Clinical Operations in Ohio) and Dr. Heidi Ginter (State Medical Director of Massachusetts) as they sort out the science from the stigma when it comes to methadone. They will provide their clinical and medical perspectives on this important tool used in medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs nationwide.

Attendees will learn:

- The top facts and fiction you need to know about methadone
- Why methadone is misunderstood
- How methadone compares to other medications used in MAT programs
- How to know when methadone is the best option for a patient
- What patients should expect when taking methadone

This forum includes an open discussion where attendees can ask questions of our panelists.

Register Here

For more information about this event, please contact:
info@brightviewhealth.com

ERIE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS SAVINGS FOR HOMES

Competitive residential electric and natural gas supply offers with no early termination fees available!

Whether you are with your utility for supply, are enrolled in a government aggregation program, or have a supply agreement that has expired, you may benefit from reviewing your options.

To view current offers & sign up online, simply scan the QR code, or visit: ChamberEnergyProgram.com/Home

Savings not guaranteed and actual savings may vary.
Eligible electric utilities include AEP, AES, Duke Energy, The Illuminating Company, Ohio Edison, and Toledo Edison.
Eligible natural gas utilities include CenterPoint Energy, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Dominion Energy, and Duke Energy.

CHAMBER ENERGY PROGRAM

ENERGY RATES REMAIN HIGH ACROSS OHIO.

CHAMBER ENERGY PROGRAM

chamber sustainability program

OUR TWO STEP APPROACH TO...

Reducing Energy Costs

When you submit a recent copy of your electric and natural gas bills online at chamberenergyprogram.com to request a **free bill review...**

1

We review your bill for:

- Supply rate reduction opportunities
- Potential sales tax savings
- Contract options that allow for efficiency measures

2

If you select solar, LED, or other efficiency projects on your request form, we will provide you with:

- Project quotes from reputable local vendors
- Information about grants and incentives you are eligible for to cover up to 100% of your project costs

Enjoy peace of mind when you work with your chamber's trusted energy program. Request your free bill review today by going online and completing our simple request form.

WWW.CHAMBERENERGYPROGRAM.COM

Free Billboard Advertising!

Erie County OMJ recently received a grant to offer

FREE

digital billboard advertising for job postings for Erie County Employers

If your business is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity contact:

Trudy Riddle

Trudy.Riddle2@jfs.ohio.gov

or call 419-627-4462

Ohio MEANS Jobs

Erie County

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Sweet Potato Catering

Thanksgiving Dinner To Go 2023

Place Your Order By:
Friday, November 17th

Pickup On:
Wednesday, Nov. 22rd
between 1 & 3 pm

To Go Thanksgiving Menu

	Small Family of 4	Large Family of 10
Herb Roasted Turkey (with leftovers!)	$ 70	$ 125
*** Turkeys will vary in size. Small turkey will feed 4-8. Large turkey will feed 10-14		
Sliced Herb Roasted Turkey Breast	$ 55	$ 135
Pan Gravy	$ 12	$ 25
Chestnut Sausage Stuffing	$ 28	$ 65
Mushroom Herb Stuffing (Vegetarian)	$ 24	$ 55
Creamy Mashed Potatoes	$ 16	$ 40
Sweet Potato Puree with Pecan Crumble	$ 20	$ 50
Roasted Fall Vegetables	$ 20	$ 50
Green Beans with Roasted Garlic & Shallots	$ 16	$ 40
Brown Sugar Glazed Carrots	$ 20	$ 50
Cranberry Orange Compote	$ 8	$ 16
Dinner Rolls with Roasted Garlic Herb Butter	1/2 dozen $9	dozen $18
Apple Crumb Pie	8”	$ 20
Pecan Pie	8”	$ 25
Pumpkin Pie	8”	$ 20
House Made Whipped Cream	pint	$ 8

www.SweetPotatoCatering.com • 1302 W. Monroe Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 • ph: 419.202.4740

Vine & Olive

mediterranean bakery, foods, wine

Holiday Corporate Gifts

Pre-holiday specials

419-502-4000 | Vine-olive.com

Order by November 15th to receive discounts!

Gift baskets Pre-made gift baskets starting at $50. Orders of 15 baskets or more will receive **20% off**. Orders of 14 or less will receive **10% off**.

Gourmet chocolates Large or small holiday boxes of our gourmet chocolates. Orders of 10 boxes or more will receive **15% off**.

Gift cards Available in any denomination. Free $10 card* with every $50 in gift cards purchased.
*Free gift card cannot be used towards alcohol.

Party trays Choose from meats, cheeses, sandwiches, desserts & more. Orders of $150 or more will receive **10% off.** 48 hours' notice needed.

Oil & Vinegar Pairings Orders of 25 or more sets will receive **20% off.**

V&O Spice Sets Orders of 15 or more sets will receive **20% off**.

Cookie Trays Orders of 15 or more trays will receive **20% off**.

Holiday Open House

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023
Time: 10:00am to 7:00pm
Place: 4917 Milan Road
Sandusky, OH 44870

Sponsorships available for FurFest

FurFest is our largest fundraiser of the year!

Our exciting hybrid event that includes unique silent auction items available for bid to those at home or in attendance. Other games and prizes will be available to attendees only.

FurFest will be held at The Winerie on Hayes Avenue, and will take place on **Mondav, December 4, 2023** from 6-8:30pm

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ERIE COUNTY
1911 Superior Street Sandusky, OH 44870

Become a sponsor!

Humane Society of Erie County
FURFEST 2023

Standard
$250

-Unlinked ad on FurFest auction items page

-Recognition on HSEC website and Facebook for FurFest advertising

-Listing on signs at venue

Premium
$500

-Highly visible ads including Web Link to Sponsor's website on multiple FurFest pages

-Recognition on HSEC website and Facebook for FurFest advertising

-Logo signs at venue

-Two tickets to the event

AutoGate

YOU'RE INVITED!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING AT OUR BRAND NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY.

NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023
AT 11:00 AM
7306 DRIVER ROAD
BERLIN HEIGHTS, OH 44814

Hosted by:

ERIE County Board of Developmental Disabilities
BUILDING BRIDGES

Deck the Mall!

at the

SANDUSKY MALL

Free, Fun, Festive!

Crafts, games, face painting & more!

While supplies last!

Saturday, December 2

10 AM-1 PM

Sandusky Mall - Center Court

4314 Milan Rd, Sandusky, OH 44870

Kalahari®
RESORTS & CONVENTIONS

SAVE THE DATE

SMALL BUSINESS HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH ★ 6-10 P.M.

KALAHARI RESORTS & CONVENTIONS - SANDUSKY, OHIO

HORS D'OEUVRES ★ FESTIVE COCKTAILS ★ BUFFET DINNER ★ DANCING

Erie County Children Services is working to get together Holiday gifts for our kids, and you can be a part of that!

~ HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP ~

You can call and get the name, age, and wish list of a child and have a great time shopping for them!

OR

We have individuals who are willing to shop for kids if you prefer to give a monetary donation.

We would love to help as many children as we can at the holidays and throughout the year with your donations.

Please contact Michelle Schultz at (419) 627-4489 if you are interested in shopping for a child or have questions.
or email Michelle.Schultz@jfs.ohio.gov

*If you would like to give a tax-deductible monetary donation, please send the donation to:
Erie County Children Services, Attn: AJ Lill
221 W. Parish Street Sandusky, OH 44870
(Checks can be made out to: Erie County Children Services)

ERIE COUNTY
Job & Family Services
Children Services

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

Join us for the Food Tasting Competition
You Sample. You Vote.

Wednesday, November 8th
24 Vendors - 10 Categories - $35/person
Tickets available at:
https://cedarpointsportscenter.thundertix.com/events/217459

Participating Restaurants: Al Fresco, Bake Erie, Bay Harbor, Cedar Point, Cedar Point Sports Center, The Commons of Providence, Cupcake Crazy, Fatboyz by Al & Zoe, Kona Ice, The Last Bite (Kalahari), Miller's Table, enRoll, My Vegan Soul, Quaker Steak, Sandusky Bay Pancake House, Sandusky House of Donuts, Saucy Brew Works, Snooties BBQ, Storm Mount Coffee, Tofts on 250, Vine & Olive, Vita, Taco Bus, and Zuppaman

COMMUNITY EVENT

CRAFT FAIR

NOV 18TH 10AM-3PM

A VARIETY OF VENDORS!

ADMISSION: Canned Goods to donate to the Vermilion Food Pantry

VENDORS WANTED
Set up time: 8:30am

Refreshments (water, pop) and lunch (hotdogs, sloppy jo's, chips) will be available for purchase.

LOCATED AT
KINGSTON RESIDENCE OF VERMILION
6010 WEST LAKE ROAD. VERMILION OH 44089

FOR MORE INFO CALL/TEXT COURTNEY 419-461-5798

KINGSTON RESIDENCE of VERMILION

Lake Erie in Lights

NOV 16 - DEC 31 | ERIE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
Every Thursday thru Sunday from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

SPONSORSHIPS

PLATINUM SPONSOR - 1500

- Name in lights attached to a large display of your choice
- Chance to put up a banner on the fairgrounds fence along Columbus Avenue
- Recognition in the program
- Featured on our website, individual social media recognition

DIAMOND SPONSOR - 1000

- Name on a sign in front of a large lights display of your choice
- Recognition in the program
- Featured on our website, individual social media recognition

GOLD SPONSOR - $500

- Name on a sign in front of a small lights display of your choice
- Recognition in the program
- Featured on our website, individual social media recognition

If you have any questions , please contact Doreen Ehlert at 419.509.7613 or dehlert@ability-works.com or Tim Loris at 419.656.6542 or tlaccurate@gmail.com

Lake Erie in Lights

NOV 16 - DEC 31 | ERIE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

Every Thursday thru Sunday from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Form

Name/Business name_____

Mailing address_____

Contact person _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Sponsorship Level

- ☐ $1,500 Platinum Sponsor
- ☐ $1,000 Diamond Sponsor
- ☐ $500 Gold Sponsor

Please make checks payable to: Ability Works Inc

Mail this form to:

Ability Works
3920 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky OH 44870

First Night SANDUSKY

Presented by Great Lakes Audio Visual

Sunday, December 31st
Downtown Sandusky
6pm -Midnight

Celebrate New Year's Eve and our community as Great Lakes Audio Visual presents a unique evening of free performances, events and activities for all ages.

First Night Sandusky is a festival of the arts where our community can come together to celebrate and ring in the new year. This family-friendly event was started in Boston in 1976 and is held in over 180 cities worldwide.

First Night Sandusky creates a festive atmosphere taking place in several venues throughout all of downtown Sandusky. Each venue hosts a number of different activities, artists, and entertainment.

We are looking for Vendors, sponsors, and partners to join us for the First Annual *First Night Sandusky.*

FirstNightSandusky.com

First Night SANDUSKY

Presented by Great Lakes Audio Visual

Great Lakes Audio Visual invites you to join and support the first annual First Night Sandusky, a New Years Eve Celebration as we give back to our community, and celebrate the new year!

We are looking for local businesses, venues, and vendors to join us for an extravagant night of celebration. If you or your business may be interested in sponsoring, donating, or would like to join in on the festivities, please reach out to Danny@greatlakesaudiovisual.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	VENDOR
	$2,500	$1,000	$500	$50
Featured Sponsor ***	X			
Event Banner	X			
Main Stage Annoucements	X	X		
Sponsor Banner	Logo	Logo	Listing	
Social Media Recognition	X	X	X	
Event Guide **	Featured	Featured	Listing	Listing
Website Link	Logo	Logo	Listing	Listing
Exhibitor/Vendor Booth *	X	X	X	X

*Exhibitor/Vendor Booth: Business, food trucks, and vendors are welcome to provide giveaways, specials, products, and services at First Night Sandusky. Limited availability.

**Event Guide: First Night Sandusky Event Guide is an itinerary for all events through out the celebration. It will include a highlighted list of businesses that support First Night Sandusky. Featured listings have the opportunity for an advertisement or message next to business name.

***Featured Sponsor: Company will have opportunity to highlight and feature their businesses through out the Celebration. First Night Sandusky will customize a promotion, activity, or feature for your business at the main stage Downtown.

If you or your business may be interested in sponsoring, donating, or would like to join in on the festivities, please reach out to Danny@greatlakesaudiovisual.com

FirstNightSandusky.com

ERIE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

Membership Benefits: Small Business Health Benefits

Greater Cleveland Partnership
COSE

MEDICAL MUTUAL®

The Erie County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and Medical Mutual to offer a new type of health insurance coverage for our member businesses, titled the Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA). This coverage is available for businesses with 50 or fewer employees, including business owners with no employees.

What the COSE Benefit Plan Offers:

Attract & Retain Talent

Ensure your most valuable employees are satisfied with both their job and their compensation package to increase longevity and retention.

Gain Tax Savings

Employers and employees pay less for health insurance when it is purchased at a group level because it is paid for with pre-tax dollars.

Network Access Benefits

Group health plans often have access to large networks of doctors and hospitals compared to an individual plan on the public exchange.

Get Broker Help

A broker can guide you through the process and help you find the best health plan for you and your employees.

One-Stop Shop

Dental, vision, group life, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and short-term disability can be added to your health insurance plan.

Cost Savings

In addition to health insurance, as a Chamber member, you can take advantage of savings on electricity and natural gas, office supplies, workers comp and more.

To learn more or sign up for this benefit package, contact Kimberly Montana at kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com

ERIE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

2023 Corporate Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Business Hall of Fame

December 7, 2023
Kalahari Resorts

- **Presenting Sponsor: $3,000** — 1 of 1 available
  - Includes event signage, program listing, lunch for two tables of eight = 16 guests, and logo on video at event.
- **Business Achievements Sponsor: $250** — 10 of 10 available
  - Program listing, and lunch for four guests.

Contact Kim Montana
To Become A Sponsor Today!

kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com
(419) 625-6421

ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

2023 Corporate Event Sponsorship Opportunities

SPONSORSHIP FORM

This selection offers our chamber-member businesses the convenience and ability to forecast and budget for upcoming Chamber events that they would like to sponsor. The Chamber will send out an invoice one-month in advance for the events that your business has selected to sponsor.

SPONSOR OPTIONS:

Business Hall of Fame

☐ Presenting Sponsor: $3,000

☐ Business Achievements Sponsor: $250

RETURN FORM BY:

MAIL:
Erie County Chamber of Commerce
604 W. Washington St.
Sandusky, OH 44870

EMAIL:
kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Payment Options ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express
☐ Check (payable to Erie County Chamber of Commerce)

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code (CCV): _____

Billing Address _____

Billing City _____ State _____

Signature _____

Questions? (419) 625-6421 kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com eriecountychamber.com

ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

An Affiliated Partner of **Greater Sandusky Partnership**

604 W. Washington St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-6421
https://eriecountychamber.com
info@eriecountychamber.com

Eric Wobser
CEO, Greater Sandusky Partnership
ewobser@greatersandusky.com

Kimberly Montana
Director of Membership/Business Manager
kimberlym@eriecountychamber.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NESCO RESOURCE

golden corral

TRUE ALPHA
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
TODAY | TOMORROW | TOGETHER

UNITED CHURCH HOMES®
the PARKVUE community

Follow Us on Social Media!