



# EFFINGHAM BUSINESS REPORT

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CROSSROADS OF OPPORTUNITY

SPRING 2009

## “It’s Good to be Here”

**Effingham County offers an exciting opportunity for success.** Everyone who lives here benefits from the special quality of life offered in our dynamic, yet comfortable community. While we may experience some of the economic issues affecting the entire country...a powerful spirit of confidence and caring fills many of us with positive attitudes and unrelenting optimism. We know we are fortunate. Local banks are strong, homes are occupied, and the large majority of people have jobs. The bottom line is... **It’s Good to be Here!**

We work hard here in Effingham County. And many others join us. The active number of quality workers is much larger than the census number indicates. The City of Effingham’s permanent population is 12,400. But, each day, that number swells to over 21,000 people as everyone comes to work. That’s a 73% increase!

**It’s Good to be Here.** We live in a faith-based community with caring neighbors from all walks of life. More than 44 churches and over 65 service organizations in Effingham County reflect the strong values that our good people share. We participate in activities that improve our local community, support our nation and help promote a better world for everyone.

People from around the Crossroads Region come to Effingham County for fun, fine food or casual dining in more

than 60 restaurants. Shopping is enjoyed in locally-owned shops and large national chain stores. Visitors often find a place to spend the night in more than 18 hotels with more than 1,200 rooms. There is 24-hour-a-day activity where eateries, entertainment, stores and travel centers are open around the clock.

**It’s Good to be Here.** Crossroads Region healthcare providers are

unsurpassed in any community our size and larger. Our hospital serves as the region’s premier anchor for outstanding medical services. More than 105 physicians,

optometrists, chiropractors, and dentists have practices in Effingham County. Several local clinics, social service groups and numerous private practices provide residents with access to superior health care. When you or a family member become ill; or it is time for a new baby to be born...“It’s Good to be Here!”

For more than a century and still today, all of us benefit from an active group of manufacturing, distribution and service-related businesses along with many retail stores in Effingham County. Each business provides jobs for our friends and neighbors from teens to seniors. Yes, some come and go, but our diversified economy helps cushion the tougher times.

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### Effingham Fun Facts

Lake Sara has 27 miles of shoreline.

Effingham County encourages good values with over 44 churches and more than 65 civic groups.

More than 105 doctors and medical professionals have practices in Effingham County.

Workers increase the city population 73% every day from 12,400 residents to 21,000+.

The average travel time to work is 17.4 minutes.

The Cost of Living is 23% lower than the national average.

More than 32,200 cars and trucks drive daily through Effingham on Interstate Highways 57&70.

Over 40% of the flour in Girl Scout cookies comes from the Effingham Crossroads Region.

The Cross at the Crossroads is 198 feet tall and 113 feet across.



# Time to Register for B2B Marketplace

**Area business professionals are marking** their calendars to exhibit at the new Crossroads Regional B2B Marketplace '09. B2B is a focused trade show and education event where business services and product suppliers can talk directly to high value business clients in an environment of innovation and excellence. The 2009 dynamic business day is scheduled for October 1, from 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

Exhibitors will reveal the latest developments in financial services, marketing innovations, office technology, health services, facilities care and much

more! Take advantage of this dynamic opportunity to

present your message to a superior quality audience that can directly benefit from what you have to offer. Share your own company's success and increase it as you interact with the Crossroads Region's

dynamic business community.

In addition to the trade show, several Education and Government Resources will exhibit and conduct informative presentations in the Knowledge Center throughout the day. Learn practical



information on business start-ups, financing, training, efficiency, customer relations and other important topics. Special presentation rooms are also available for Marketplace exhibitors.

U of I Springfield Distinguished Professor Richard

Judd will be the featured speaker. Judd advises numerous businesses on the changing marketplace and is a member of the Wall Street Journal Opinion Leaders Research Panel. He will share a fast-

paced, insightful message full of ideas on how your business can cope in the current economy and prosper in the years ahead.

## Reserve Your B2B Show Booth Today

- **Increase Awareness of Your Business**
- **Network & Make New Business Contacts**
- **Showcase Products & Services in Your Booth**
- **Obtain Expanded Area Business Clients**

**FREE CrossroadsB2B.net Virtual Marketplace online business page with your exhibit registration**

**For the best available space call 217.342.4147 or go to [www.CrossroadsB2B.net](http://www.CrossroadsB2B.net)**

Crossroads Regional  
**B2B Marketplace '09**  
Where Business Talks To Business

# Effingham sites included in art and architecture project

**The City of Effingham's appreciation** of the arts is being acknowledged by the National Road Association of Illinois.

Since August 2007, a volunteer committee has been compiling a list of the 100 top art and architecture sites along the historic National Road. Each of the 100 selected sites will be included in the Art and Architecture Tour, which will highlight and promote qualifying sites in communities along the National Road.

To qualify, a site must be within one mile of the National Road and reflect artistic or architectural style and significance. Each location receives a bronze plaque and certificate marking its inclusion. Among the Effingham honorees are the Sculpture on the Avenues and Oak Ridge Cemetery. Others will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Sculpture on the Avenues is an outdoor exhibition that features over 30 sculptures created by some of the

Midwest's best-known and unknown artists. Going into its 10th year, the outdoor exhibition transforms Effingham's avenues into an art gallery for residents and visitors to enjoy. The self-guided walking tour begins at Effingham City Hall, located at 201 E. Jefferson, and from there, winds in and out of Downtown Effingham. New pieces are added each July to the exhibit. For more information or a culture guide of the tour, contact 217-342-5305 or visit [www.visiteffinghamil.com](http://www.visiteffinghamil.com)

The second site recognized in Effingham is the Oak Ridge Cemetery, located on East Jefferson Avenue. This non-denominational city cemetery is the final resting place of many fascinating figures from Effingham's past. Historical figures buried at the cemetery include Ada Kepley and Col. John J. Funkhouser. The cemetery also has notable memorials, including the Grand Army of the Republic

soldiers memorial located in the north section of the cemetery.

Other sites in the Effingham area are anticipated to be on the tour. The National Road Association of Illinois is notifying the selected sites and will conduct plaque presentations this spring. Upon completion, the project will be promoted as a driving tour.

The National Road, the only highway surveyed and built completely with federal funds, was created in 1806 through legislation signed by President Thomas Jefferson. Known as the "Road that Built the Nation," it began in Cumberland, Maryland and ended in Illinois where the 164-mile corridor stretches from Marshall to East St. Louis. The National Road Association of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization that preserves the history of the road and promotes tourism and economic opportunities along the corridor.

# National Teacher of the Year from EHS

WASHINGTON, D.C. —  
Effingham High School teacher

Joseph Fatheree has won top honors as the National Teacher of the Year! With more than 20 years of teaching experience, Fatheree was recognized for his creativity, his love of teaching and learning, his willingness to serve as an advocate for his profession, and his ability to uniquely lead and share.



Fatheree holds a history degree from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Educational Administration. He has devoted his career to expanding student awareness of issues beyond their own community. A deep advocate for students, his attention to creating unique ways to truly understand diversity and his

continual outreach to the community have also been noted among Fatheree's many positive achievements.

Fatheree has linked his rural students with inner city students in Los Angeles to produce a film for the United Nations. In addition, his students have produced films that have been aired nationally, developed an animated storybook used to teach English to African children, and created an interactive

website for the Illinois State Board of Education.

Fatheree has won numerous awards and honors. He is active in many professional and community activities and is known by his peers for his professionalism. As the 2007 Illinois Teacher of the Year, Joe had the

opportunity to speak at teacher workshops, educational conferences, and civic and community meetings around the state. He also represented Illinois at the NASA Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Now, as the new National Teacher of the Year, Fatheree is released from classroom duties during the year to travel nationally and internationally as a spokesperson for the teaching profession.

The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. A national selection committee representing the major national education organizations chooses the honoree from among the State Teachers of the Year. The program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

## Citizen of the Year – Greg Sapp

One of the best-known public personalities in the area was recently honored as the Effingham Daily News 2009 Citizen of the Year. Recipient Greg Sapp is the highly respected news and sports broadcaster with Premier Broadcasting WXFJ and WKJT radio. Sapp has spent a career serving as a voice full of information and



inspiration along with an optimism that helps an entire community feel good about itself and the world around it.

Sapp tirelessly pursues the latest stories and reports them in a timely, accurate and unbiased manner (unless it is his favorite Cubs). His goal is to inform and encourage members of the community to be active and involved, whether it is with our governments, schools, organizations or notably, church events.

Greg is a humble but highly competent person. He has worked in radio since his youth. Greg is very active in the community serving such

organizations as St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital's Advisory Council, Salvation Army, Chamber of

Commerce, Choir Director, Deacon and Sunday school Teacher at Calvary Baptist Church and member of the Noon Rotary Club. His personal faith has led him to volunteer for mission trips to help the less fortunate. Greg finds time to sing at weddings and funerals, frequently emceeds community functions,

is well read and knowledgeable on a myriad of subjects, and even finds time to enjoy a game of golf.

Whatever he does, he does with commitment and integrity. Greg offers much to our community, in addition to his on-air comments promoting a positive outlook on life.

There are many wonderful people in the Effingham Crossroads Region who give so much of their time and treasure to improve the quality of life for others. Among this significant group, Greg Sapp has risen to the top as the 2009 Citizen of the Year.

## New Bank facility near Lake Sara

First National Bank of Dieterich received approval from the Effingham Plan Commission for a new facility at the intersection of Ill. 32/33 and Nazarene Road north of Effingham. The new facility will replace an existing branch located in a gas station at the intersection of Ill. 32/33 and Lake Sara Road.

Marcy Scott, First National Bank Vice President, said the new facility will create more space. The current branch has grown too small for the banking activities of Lake Sara and area customers.

The new 2,406 square foot facility will be located on 1.96 acres and will include 26 parking spaces, plus entrances on both Ill. 32/33 and Nazarene Road. The bank plan is subject to Illinois Department of Transportation and Summit Township approval with respect to roadway access, and the Effingham County Health Department regarding a private sewage disposal system.

Construction is expected to begin late Spring/early Summer. First National Bank of Dieterich plans to have the facility open by the end of the year.

# Employees own Stevens Industries

In late 2008, Tom Wegman, President of Stevens Industries, Inc. announced a change in ownership at Stevens Industries, Inc. The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) became the 100% owner of the company. This completed a process that was started in 1998 when the ESOP acquired 46% ownership in the company.

Stevens Industries, Inc., which employs approximately 525 people year round with an additional seasonal workforce, is a major supplier of commercial cabinetry, millwork,



laminated panels for other manufacturers and shelving products in North America. Stevens Industries, Inc. was started in 1956 by Chuck Stevens and has been majority owned by Tom Wegman since 1998. From its beginnings as a kitchen cabinet manufacturer, Stevens Industries now sells cabinetry into schools, hospitals, medical clinics and laminated panels to manufacturers of office furniture, store fixtures, and shelving systems in all 50 states and Canada.

“This is a very exciting time for all Stevens Industries and a great time to be part of the Stevens team. The original Employee Stock Ownership Plan from

1998 has produced great results and we expect our associates to enjoy additional ownership and stock appreciation in the future. The ESOP allows for a transitional plan that keeps the ownership in the local community, specifically our associates.” stated Tom Wegman. “It was very important to keep local ties to the ownership and I wanted to make sure the company was in the hands of people who

care about the company, the employees and the community,” Mr. Wegman added.

The Employee Stock

Ownership Plan is a benefit to employees to participate in the earnings of the company through stock ownership. The Stevens ESOP does not require cash contribution from the employees, in fact, it is not allowed. The corporation is financing the ESOP buyout on behalf of the employees. Over time, as the loan is paid down, the shares are distributed to the employees who then participate in any stock price changes over time in their ESOP retirement account.

The Stevens Industries team feels this is a great opportunity going into the future. This 100% ESOP structure is an exciting benefit to all Stevens’s employees.

## Effingham sees lower crime in 2008

**The Effingham Police Department** saw a decrease in activity from 2007 to 2008 almost across the board. The overall criminal incident report went down by 8.42 percent, even as service calls rose 3.29 percent for the year. Likewise, a drop of 20.36 percent was seen over 12 months for criminal activity such as damaged or stolen property.

Automobile accidents were also down by 13.29 percent. Possible reasons for the accident decrease cited by Police Chief Mike Schutzbach include a milder winter, better traffic and safer drivers. Police officers contributed to more aware drivers by increasing warnings issued by more than 50 percent.

Of the 942 cases assigned to the Effingham City Police Investigation Division, 188 were forwarded to the Effingham County State’s Attorney for prosecution, with 160 cases being closed. The Division also assisted other organizations with cases, including the Department of Family Services, Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Illinois Bureau of Prisons.

Also logging high numbers for the year, the K-9 team recorded more than 180 vehicle, residential and school searches. These searches were performed for the City of Effingham, Effingham County Sheriff’s Department,

## Cont’d from page 1

We appreciate the important contribution those jobs make towards the pleasant quality of life most folks enjoy.

**It’s Good to be Here.** The communities of Effingham County provide us with a family safe environment. We are able to safely walk the streets and we don’t need permission to use our parks. Sometimes we take for granted the feeling of safety we have – no extra bars on windows or triple locks on doors. But, after visiting other places, we are grateful for the sense of security we enjoy here.

We invite you to come and see why ... **“It’s Good To Be Here.”**

## FedEx Freight settles in at Effingham



Since opening for operation in December, FedEx Freight Service Center in Effingham has added approximately 100 employees, including drivers. Manager Scott Riches reports that the 43-acre facility currently moves 1.2 to 1.6 million pounds of freight on about 100 trucks each day. The Effingham service center also utilizes top-of-the-line technology to update delivery status, and is one of only two FedEx facilities to use the most current handheld devices.

Illinois State Police and Altamont Police Department.

In 2008, the Telecommunications Department successfully implemented the Phase II Wireless E911 service. As of May, citizens can use cell phones to call 911.

With a positive report for 2008, the Effingham Police Department has focused on goals for 2009. They hope to increase drug investigation productivity by working with informants for controlled drug buys; increase narcotics enforcement with additional assistance from the K-9 team; and convey Crime Stoppers tips through text messages and emails with a software update.

## AHA film festival showcases talent



The multimedia students at Effingham and Teutopolis high schools once again had the opportunity to showcase their talents at the Fifth Annual AHA Film Festival. Organized by teachers Craig Lindvahl and Joe Fatheree, the festival took place at the Rosebud Theatre in Effingham filling the 1,500 seats.

Each year the film festival grows, with professionals from around the country working with local students. The pre-show looked back at earlier films presented at the festival. The evening included showing a collection of 29 student films. Following the films, awards were given.

New to the festival this year, an afternoon of creative and technical seminars, taught by film professionals, was enjoyed by high school and college students, educators and administrators. The afternoon was organized in conjunction with the Mid America chapter of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, a non-profit group that presents the Mid America EMMY Awards. Writers, producers and composers taught participants about topics including documentary production, writing, computers, audio production, new media and careers in broadcast and new media.

In addition to producing the entertainment for the evening, students are responsible for organizing the event, from creating a business plan for the festival, to deciding how many tickets and DVDs to sell. Their hard work paid off with an evening that showcased a range of local talent.

## Summer festivals bring thousands to town

As warmer weather heats up Effingham, community groups are preparing for annual festivals that bring thousands of visitors to the Illinois Crossroads Region. Whether its shopping for art, enjoying a wine tasting with

friends, or checking out Herbie the Love Bug at Mid America Motorworks VW Festival, residents and visitors will find lots to do in Effingham this festival season!

## 11th Annual VW Funfest

Mid America Motorworks will host the 11th Annual Funfest for Air-Cooled VW on June 6 and 7 on its campus, located on North U.S. 45. During the two-day customer appreciation party, Mid America is expecting over 1,300 Volkswagens and 8,000 enthusiasts to join in the annual celebration that is the largest of its kind in the Midwest.

This year's event includes a Volkswagen Auction, a celebration of the 40th anniversary of Herbie, a swap meet, technology seminars, and a road tour ending with an old fashion street party! Family activities, great food, and live entertainment make this event a must for VW enthusiasts. For more information, visit the Mid America Motorworks website at [www.mamotorworks.com](http://www.mamotorworks.com).



## More Upcoming Events

Other events coming up this year include: Swapfest at Mid America Motorworks, May 2; Sheriff's Posse Ride, June 6; Illinois High School Rodeo State Finals, June 11 to 13; Thresherman's Festival & Antique Tractor Show, July 24 to 26; Effingham County Fair, Aug. 1 to 8; Annual Ford Show and Ford Family Celebration, Sept. 13; Jeep Swap Meet and Greet, Sept. 13; Altamont Schuetzenfest, Sept. 18 to 19; and Corvette FunFest, Sept. 25 to 27.

For more information on these events, visit the Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau website at [www.visiteffinghamil.com](http://www.visiteffinghamil.com) or call (217) 342-5310.

## Fourth Annual Artisan Fair and Wine Tasting

Local folks and visitors from miles away were encouraged to "Come out and enjoy the arts" at the Fourth Annual Artisan Fair in downtown Effingham!

The 2009 Annual Artisan Fair included two days of activities that were fun for the entire family. "Arts and Hearts," a night celebrating community programs and organizations was held on Friday, April 24, and then the traditional Artisan Fair and Wine Tasting event occurred on Saturday, April 25.

The "Arts and Hearts" event included: a live art auction on the courthouse lawn; an Effingham Food Fair, with local restaurants participating; a wine tasting, featuring eight regional wineries; sidewalk



chalk art; live jazz music; a blood drive; and much, much more!

On Saturday, more than 40 artisans set up shop on the Court House lawn where artist-created pieces were on display for purchase. Several artists demonstrated their crafts during the day. Also, the wine tasting and food fair with live entertainment continued all day Saturday.

# Siemer Milling expands mills

Siemer Milling Company of Teutopolis is expanding its wheat flour production capacity by a total of 30% with major investments at its mills in Teutopolis, IL and Hopkinsville, KY. The total investment is expected to be \$16 million with the improvements contributing to enhanced efficiencies and increased profitability.

Flour production capacity at the mill in Teutopolis will increase by 10%, to 550 tons every 24 hours. Capacity at the mill in Hopkinsville will increase 50%, to 800 tons in 24 hours. The Teutopolis expansion will be finished this Spring. Work has begun at Hopkinsville, with completion scheduled for March, 2010.

"We continue to identify new business opportunities," said Rick Siemer, CEO. "But our current capacity is effectively sold out, especially at peak times of the year. We are enthused about the growth potential enabled by this expansion."

"Both operating costs and overhead

costs per unit will decline as a result of this initiative. Employment will increase by no more than 5%. Also, we expect that the latest-generation equipment we're installing will improve our product yields while using less energy," Siemer stated.

One of the key benefits to the local economy from this expansion lies in Siemer's increased demand for wheat.

The higher production will mean almost five million more bushels of wheat sourced each year from area farmers. At today's prices, that's an additional \$25 million per year invested back into the communities. The two mills currently use 15 million bushels of wheat annually.

Siemer Milling Company processes locally-grown soft red winter wheat into flour for a wide variety of foods, including Girl Scout cookies, Duncan Hines cake mixes, Rold Gold pretzels, Frito-Lay snack crackers and Grandma's cookies, McDonald's breakfast biscuits, and most store brand crackers. The company employs 150 persons at its facilities in Illinois and Kentucky.



# Altamont Library shares history with hospital

While doing genealogical research at the Altamont Public Library, Kurt Becker found a box of old newspapers. After taking a closer look, Becker realized those papers held local historic significance. The papers were issues printed following the 1949 fire at St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham, in which 77 people were killed.

Altamont Library Board members decided to donate the newspapers to the Friends of St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. They consider this a small gesture toward showing their appreciation for all the hospital has done for Effingham County.

The newspapers, printed between April 6 and April 15, 1949, were collected from the Effingham Daily News, Decatur Herald and Chicago Daily News. A total

of 13 newspapers were found, along with a mint-condition letter from the Effingham Civic Foundation Hospital Fund. The letter was part of an effort to raise funds to rebuild the hospital after the fire.

Friends of St. Anthony's Chairman, Tom Wright, was surprised to receive the historic documents. The papers will be preserved using archival-safe materials to prevent any further deterioration due to age. Plans to make the papers available for

public viewing include a display for National Hospital Week, as well as during the 60th anniversary of the hospital fire and the 55th anniversary of the current hospital.



# Grant brings new truck to fire district

Congressman John Shimkus recently announced the Tri-County Fire Protection District, based in Beecher City, will receive a \$190,000 grant to purchase a new tanker tender. The Tri-County Fire Protection District is one of five departments in Shimkus' district that will receive grants.

This new truck will give the fire district a much-needed equipment upgrade. It replaces a 1960s farm truck that was converted to carry a steel drum for water storage during fires. The department's truck committee is currently gathering specs and information for the new vehicle. They hope to purchase a truck in the immediate future and put it into service by July 2009.

Once purchased, the new fire truck will haul 2,500 to 3,000 gallons of water and serve to supplement the main pumper truck. Together the trucks will have the capability of supplying 7,000 gallons of water to a fire.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration, administered this grant. As a fire department that serves fewer than 20,000 residents, Tri-County is responsible for 5 percent non-federal matching funds, or \$9,500. Previous resources secured by the department through grant funding include rescue tools, air packs, a compressor and turnout gear.

## Dental Practice Constructs Office



A new dentist office is underway for Ted B. Koester, DMD, PC. at the corner of First and Section Streets in Effingham. The practice welcomes new patients and uses the slogan..."Put an Extra Sparkle in Your Smile"

## National Bank has local ties

When a bank branch closed in Altamont, local native and National Bank President Harry Hutchinson was pleased to take over and continue service uninterrupted. Hutchinson, a 1974 graduate of Beecher City High School, has family and friends in the area and



knows that Altamont's reputation as a solid, progressive community is accurate.

Established as Montgomery County National Bank in Hillsboro, Ill., National Bank continued service to all Meridian Bank depositors. As an FDIC insured bank, National Bank attracts customers with competitive rates and farm lending. Fourteen locations and 13 ATMs, across nine south central Illinois counties, as well as Internet Banking, give National Bank a strong foundation on which to serve the Altamont community.

## All-weather track for Altamont

A long anticipated all-weather track will soon be a reality in Altamont. Superintendent Jeff Fritchitch expects construction of the facility to begin as early as this Spring. The track, estimated to cost \$250,000, will be built behind the Altamont Grade School.

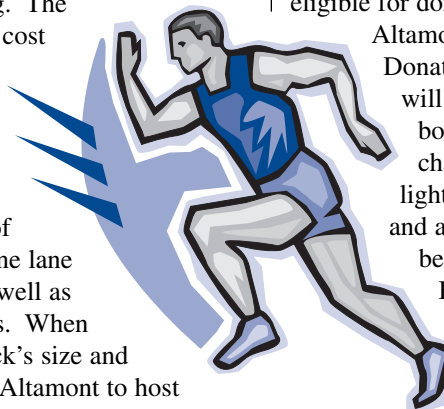
The all-weather track will consist of eight lanes with nine lane straight-aways, as well as field event surfaces. When completed, the track's size and design will enable Altamont to host grade school and high school State Sectional events.

In addition to use for school events, the facility will also be part of "Community

Wellness." All residents will be encouraged to use the track to improve their overall health and fitness.

As a community project, the track is eligible for donations through the Altamont Education Foundation. Donations are tax deductible and will be used toward press boxes/concessions/restrooms, chain link fencing and lighting. Grants for bleachers and additional seating are also being sought. The Altamont Board of Education has issued Working Cash Bonds in the amount of \$300,000 for construction of the track facility.

Donations can be made to the Altamont CUSD #10 Unit Office, 618-483-6195.



## Y-Yard president named most influential

Kelly Roepke, President of Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc. in Effingham has been named one of the top "25 Most Influential Auto Recyclers of 2008" by *Locator UpFront*, an automotive recycling magazine. Roepke was named top in the "Successor" category in the automotive recycling industry. Every year *Locator UpFront* selects 25 of the most influential automotive recyclers from across the country.

"The *Locator* recognizes that this industry is built on the enthusiasm and dedication of entrepreneurs who have put their heart and soul into their businesses.

We want to acknowledge the accomplishments that they have made," explained Charis Lloyd, *Locator* Executive Vice President/C.O.O.

Roepke became president of Y-Yard after attending college and making the decision to rejoin the family business. She finds personal gratification in knowing how hard her parents worked to build the business and seeing that business grow into what it is today. With 18 employees and more than 30 years of experience, Roepke plans for continued growth at the Y-Yard.

## Celebration of Excellence showcases Beecher City

Effingham County residents who attended the Celebration of Excellence Breakfast in March were treated to an outstanding Vision 20/20 event hosted by Beecher City High School and the Beecher City and Shumway communities. The well-organized event clearly impressed the more than 300 people in attendance. The community breakfast consisted of whole hog sausage smoked by the local FFA chapter and catering from Gayla's Kountry Kitchen.

Beecher City High School alumnus Keith Soltwedel was the morning's speaker. Currently the manager of strategic marketing for John Deere's Traditional Ag Segment in North America, Soltwedel spoke on "Secrets of Success: Agriculture's Impact on the Community." Attendees also visited displays that showcased local businesses, including information about their products and services.

The Vision 20/20 initiative encourages communities within

Effingham County to work together to create a culture that maximizes individual potential, imagination and cooperation. The Celebration of Excellence Breakfast raises awareness for Vision 20/20 and gives Effingham County residents an opportunity to learn more about their neighboring communities.

The Beecher City schools and community did themselves proud showcasing a "spirit of cooperation" and their "let's get it done right" attitude.

# Sponsor Spotlight - Village of Dieterich

## Dieterich continues to grow.

Having added another residential subdivision, North Pointe Estates East, the community has added more new homes, each on an approximately 1/2 acre lot that are offered for \$5,000 each. In this addition, several lots are designed for the construction of duplexes. Recently one of those was purchased and soon Dieterich will have a high-quality duplex to provide for those that prefer less maintenance. Dieterich can offer these affordable building lots by utilizing Tax Increment Financing allowing the Village to give back to the community.

In the Zumbahlen Industrial Park, a new business is currently breaking ground to construct their landscape business. Gardenscape Contractors, Inc, owners Paul Garcia and Scott Niebrugge will offer commercial and residential landscaping as well as having a retail shop. Gardenscape is the second of two businesses coming to Dieterich in the past several months. Leon Gobczynski has

opened his doors for classic car refurbishing. Rodney Fish, owner of Advance Powder Technology, has recently added on to his building and Keith Boyd and Neil Breer, owners of Ideal Machine, are planning on expanding in the near future. EJ Water has purchased the remainder of their block on Main Street,



cleaned up, landscaped and also hope to expand soon.

In a quest to provide for a better quality of life, the Dieterich Education Foundation has been formed to offer incentives to graduating seniors going on to higher education. This is to encourage the students in the community to return to the area after furthering their education.

A 2.83 mile walking path has been laid out beginning at the beautiful Veteran's Memorial, going around the park pond, then out through the industrial park and back. All this, and much more. The formation of a second TIF district promises to promote lasting growth and a desire to stay in the community.

This community of 591 is proud of all they have accomplished in recent years. Being home to 230+ residences and 40 area businesses, Dieterich continues to be a progressive community with an active business district, phenomenal school system, several churches and attractive residential neighborhoods. Dieterich offers a capable and willing workforce

where the ethic remains strong. Nestled only 10-miles from Effingham and 7-miles from I-70, Dieterich has the amenities of "small-hometown living" but close enough to access larger communities to satisfy your shopping, historical and cultural desires. Dieterich is indeed one of the most progressive small towns in southeastern Illinois.

Effingham Business Report is published quarterly

## Share This Report/Address Change

Do you know someone who would be interested in the business activity of the Effingham County Area? Has your mailing address changed? Just fill out this form and send it to the Chamber office for a free subscription.

Address Change      Mail to: The Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
P.O. Box 643, Effingham, IL 62401

Email: chamber@effinghamchamber.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## For more information:

The Greater Effingham  
Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
903 N. Keller Drive  
Effingham, IL 62401  
www.effinghamchamber.org  
or call 217/342-4147  
FAX 217/342-4228  
nlansing@effinghamchamber.org

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