



THE GREATER

Belleville

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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**NEW MEMBER
INFORMATION**



**ADVANCING BUSINESS.
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY.**

Celebrate with us!

Ribbon Cuttings are held to help promote your business. Whether you are a new business hosting your grand opening, celebrating an anniversary or wanting to showcase a remodel, the Chamber can help promote the event with a ribbon cutting! This event is usually held Monday through Friday between 11 AM & 2 PM. Give the Chamber a call to schedule.

Referrals

Looking for potential customers and leads? We can help. Each day the Chamber receives phone calls and emails from potential customers looking for businesses that can help them with specific goods or services. We only recommend our chamber member businesses when we receive a referral request. In addition to the telephone calls and walk-in inquiries, our website receives an average of over 150,000 hits per month where your business will be listed in our online directory.

Get Connected with Leadership Belleville

Leadership Belleville is a unique nine-month training program focusing on developing effective community leaders and expanding awareness and understanding of important community issues. Members also establish valuable relationships with business and civic leaders as well as fostering a commitment to personal, professional and community growth. Each Leadership Belleville class is composed of up to 25 professionals who demonstrate the highest leadership qualities. These classmates create a valuable network of resources. This program has become prestigious throughout the Belleville community with over 500 area alumni.

To learn more about the program, call the Chamber or visit the Leadership Belleville page on the Chamber's website.
www.bellevillechamber.org

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce! As a member, you have made an investment to support the growth and prosperity of our members and the local business community. Your membership in the Chamber provides many opportunities to network and connect with other members to promote your business. As a member, please take full advantage of your membership investment and get involved with the Chamber. We look forward to working with you and servicing you in the months and years ahead. We are confident that your decision to join is one of the best investments you can make for your business. We look forward to seeing you at future Chamber functions! Together we can continue the Chamber mission of "Advancing Business, Supporting Community."

-Wendy J. Pfeil, President & CEO of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce

WHO WE ARE

We are a 501(c)6 non-profit, membership-based organization that supports and advances business and community interests, as well as the quality of life in Belleville and surrounding communities.

The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce was ranked the fourth largest Chamber in the Greater St. Louis Area according to the St. Louis Business Journal (2019). The list ranks chambers according to the most recent annual budget. The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce is also the largest chamber in Illinois south of Springfield, IL.

The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce currently runs on an annual budget of \$580,000 with a membership of more than 550 businesses.

The Chamber provides its members with an array of opportunities including but not limited to: networking, advertising, workshops, and committees. Members are able to take advantage of many of these opportunities free of charge or of minimal charge as they are included with membership dues.

An additional part of the Chamber's outreach involves the greater Belleville community. The Chamber hosts several community events throughout the year including the Annual Belleville Chili Cook-off, Back2School Fun Fair, and more.

The mission of the Chamber: "Advancing Business. Supporting Community."

NEW MEMBER CHECKLIST

Congratulations on Becoming a New Member of the Chamber - Now Get Involved!

- ☐ Set up your member log-in via the website at www.bellevillechamber.org.
- ☐ Review your business information on the Chamber's online directory.
- ☐ Let your business associates and customers know you have joined the Chamber - add on social media, announce via email, add Chamber logo to website, etc.
- ☐ Get Social - Connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- ☐ Schedule your ribbon cutting to promote your business as a member of the Greater Belleville Chamber.
- ☐ Sign up and attend monthly Chamber events - add them to your calendar.
- ☐ Add other employees to online representative list to receive communications.
- ☐ Attend your first Business After Hours and get introduced as a NEW member.
- ☐ Display your membership plaque and/or decal in your business.
- ☐ Let your coworkers know about seminars that would be of interest to them - HR, Customer Care, Finance, Marketing, etc.
- ☐ Read and forward the Weekly Email Update & Monthly Chamber Connection Newsletter to your employees if they are not already receiving from us.
- ☐ Get involved with a committee.
- ☐ Volunteer at a Chamber event (Chili Cook-off, Otto Golf Tournament, Annual Dinner).
- ☐ Invest in the Chamber by sponsoring or hosting one of our future events.
- ☐ Add available job postings to the Chamber website through your online portal.
- ☐ Drop off your company brochures, business cards & promotional items to the Chamber office.
- ☐ Pay bills and renew your annual membership through your online portal.

WHY INVEST IN THE GREATER BELLEVILLE CHAMBER

Networking, Promotion and Growth

The Chamber hosts many networking events throughout the year so members can meet and exchange ideas, develop business relationships and increase their professional network.

Business After Hours are held the 1st Thursday of each month and are hosted by other chamber member businesses. This event provides a relaxed atmosphere perfect for networking with community businesses.

Coffee Cup Connections is held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and hosted by chamber members. This networking event is a more intimate group allowing members to learn more about other member businesses.

Lunch & Learn Seminars are held monthly at local member restaurants on the 4th Thursday of each month with featured speakers and topics ranging from Business Fraud & Security, Marketing, Microsoft Office Tips, Work Force Development, Employee Retention & Hiring, and more.

Young Professionals is a group open to members of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce that connects and empowers young professionals by creating and encouraging a community of diverse professionals who have the desire to advance business and support community in the greater Belleville area. This group meets on a monthly basis during lunch with a featured speaker or late-day social hour.

Issues & Eggs are informative business breakfasts that are hosted by the Chamber and held semi-annually with featured speakers that address key issues concerning our business community.

ChamberNet is an annual networking event bringing together chamber members from all of the chambers in the area. There's typically five to ten participating chambers, so it's a great event to network with members from other communities.

Event Task Teams are where our members make things happen. Let us know if you would like to be involved with the planning of our annual chamber events including the Chamber Annual Dinner, Otto Golf Classic, Teacher Appreciation Reception, Government Officials BBQ, and Chili Cook-off.

Marketing and Promotion

Need to connect with potential customers, build your business or promote your brand? Our marketing options such as our website, monthly Chamber Connection Newsletter, and Weekly Email Update can position your business as a proactive business and community leader.

Each member receives a free listing in the online business directory on the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce's **website**, www.bellevillechamber.org. This site serves as an informational portal to the Belleville area community. Chamber members may increase their exposure by choosing additional listing categories at no extra cost.

Every month the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce produces the **Chamber Connection newsletter** including Chamber news and activities plus member updates. Chamber members can submit new hires and promotions, awards, events, or other news in a pre-written article at no cost. The Chamber Connection is distributed to the entire membership via email to nearly 1,500 individuals. You can also pay a small fee and place ads or flyers in this publication.

A **weekly email update** is emailed out to all members notifying them of upcoming chamber and community events. This is a free marketing tool available to all members to communicate their special events. To have them included, just visit our website calendar and add your event! They automatically are added to the email and are available to the public to view on our calendar. There is also a quarterly sponsorship opportunity available to have your businesses banner at the top of the email. Contact the Chamber for info.

Each year the Chamber publishes an **annual report** with updates from the past year. There is also an opportunity for member businesses to advertise in this publication.

The Chamber hosts many events in which **sponsors** are needed. These sponsors are included in signage for the event, along with any print advertising and web presence. Sponsored events include the Annual Dinner, Otto Golf Classic, Teacher Appreciation Reception, Government Officials BBQ, Chili Cook-off, Coffee Cup Connections and the monthly Business After Hours.

Promote Your Upcoming Events

Members are welcome to share their upcoming events with other members and the community by posting them to our calendar on www.bellevillechamber.org! Simply go to the "calendar" page and choose "submit an event" in the top right corner.

Share Your Job Openings

Once you have created an online account, you can post job listings to the Chamber Job Board! Click the "Log in to Chambermaster" button in the top, right corner at www.bellevillechamber.org to access your account.

Need help setting one up or want your HR professional to do it? No problem! Contact the Chamber at 618-233-2015 to help get set up.

THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A PART OF THE GREATER BELLEVILLE CHAMBER.

CHAMBER STAFF

The Chamber staff is available Monday through Friday to assist our members and the general public interested in finding out more information about our member businesses.

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2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Edmond Brown, Immediate Past Chairperson
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