

GREATER NILES  
Chamber of Commerce

# CHAMBER CURRENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce



## Recreational Marijuana Now Open for Business

On Thursday, January 23, The ReLeaf Center of Niles became the first recreational marijuana retail shop in Southwest Michigan, having received licensing from the city the very night before.

As the first recreational marijuana retailer in Niles, Michigan, The ReLeaf Center of Niles sold over \$2,000 worth of product within the first hour of business and hosted a packed lobby and lines leading out through the front door for hours.

The City of Niles opted in to recreational marijuana sales in October of 2019. The consensus behind the decision was due to the revenue that would be accrued from licensing fees and taxes for the City of Niles, however, exact revenue projections are still unclear.

On a state level, however, from the time that the first state marijuana retailers opened their doors back in December of 2019, adult-use sales have grossed over \$12.6 million, and have generated more than \$1.2 million in state excise tax and over \$837,000 in states sales tax, according to data from the [Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency](#).

For the time being, [The ReLeaf Center of Niles](#) remains the only active provisioning center and retail shop, but at least three more facilities will be seen opening their doors in the coming year.

More Information

  
**NEXT LEVEL Niles**  
The Employer's Guide to the Cannabis Industry

## Niles Chamber to Host Employer's Guide to the Cannabis Industry

On Thursday, February 27, the [Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce](#) will host a business education seminar focused on the impact of the cannabis industry on local employers. The event is titled [Next Level Niles: The Employer's Guide to the Cannabis Industry](#) and will take place at Southwestern Michigan College Niles from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

Sponsored by [Green Stem Provisioning](#), The Employer's Guide to the Cannabis Industry is ideal for business leaders who manage employees that are Michigan residents, who operate within a Michigan based brick and mortar business, or who have lingering questions regarding the impacts of marijuana on their community, their employees, or their business operations.

This event is ticketed in order to provide attendees with a delicious catered breakfast by [Katharos Catering](#), while getting their questions answered by industry experts. Tickets will cost \$15 for Chamber members, and \$20 for non-Chamber members.

[Register | More](#)

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## Final Project Plans for M51/US12 Reconstruction

The [Michigan Department of Transportation \(MDOT\)](#) has finalized plans for the M51/US12 reconstruction project. MDOT has decided to remove the existing bridges, reconstruct one mile of US12, and resurface 2.5 additional miles of M51. Indirect left turns, also known as "Michigan Lefts", will replace the M51/US12 interchange and the intersection at US12 and 3rd Street. The second phase of the M51/US12 reconstruction is expected to begin in 2023.

The M51/US12 reconstruction is estimated to cost approximately \$26 million.

The entirety of the reconstruction project has been in the works for several years, as MDOT has hosted several public and stakeholder meetings, and in October of 2019, the first phase of the M51/US12 reconstruction was completed with the repair and resurface of M51 from Chestnut to M51/US12 interchange.

[View Full Report](#)



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## Chamber Award Nominations Now Open

It's time once again to submit your nominations for the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Ceremony. The Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce will present five awards at this year's Chamber Pulse, the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Award Ceremony. Awards will include Volunteer of the Year, Young Professional of the Year, Community Leadership, Business of the Year, and Economic Impact.

[Nominate Now](#)

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## February Eye Opener Breakfast

Hosted by the [Niles-Buchanan YMCA](#)

February 21 | 7:30-9:00 AM

[More](#) | [Register](#)

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## March Eye Opener Breakfast

Hosted by [Leader Publications](#)

March 13 | 7:30-9:00 AM

[More](#) | [Register](#)



## April Business After Hours

Hosted by the [Honor Credit Union](#)

April 02 | 5:30-7:00 PM

[More](#) | [Register](#)

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## Welcome our New Members!

*Please give a warm welcome to Ten Thousand Villages, Western & Southern Financial Group, and The LaSalle Council, Boy Scouts of America, the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce's newest members.*

[Ten Thousand Villages](#) is a retailer that showcases hand-made products ranging from home decor, to bath and body, to jewelry! Ten Thousand Villages represents a movement that aims to break the cycle of generational poverty and ignite social change by pioneering fair trade and putting people, and the planet, first!

[Western Southern Financial Group](#) has over a 130-year heritage of meeting the financial stability needs of their customers — individuals, families, businesses, foundations and nonprofits — with a wide range of insurance, investment and retirement solutions through an ever-growing distribution system.

[The LaSalle Council](#) is your local Boy Scouts of America Council, serving eight counties across Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. The programs of the Boy Scouts of America serve young people by enabling them to build healthy habits and make positive choices.

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