

GREATER NILES  
Chamber of Commerce

# CHAMBER CURRENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce



## 100th Anniversary Luncheon is May 14

Please join the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce in their 100th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 14! This annual celebratory event is an opportunity to gather with fellow business professionals and community leaders to celebrate the greater Niles area. This year, the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce is proud to present five awards: Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Young Professional of the Year, Chamber Ambassador of the Year, and the Community Leadership Award.

If one is interested in supporting this event through sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Eileen Villanueva](#) at 269.683.1833

## IDEA Week 2019

There is still time for you, your company, and/or your organization to get involved with IDEA Week 2019. IDEA Week is a large annual innovation festival that celebrates the blossoming startup and tech environment taking place at Notre Dame and in the surrounding South Bend - Elkhart region, which includes Southwest Michigan. As one of the largest business events in Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan, over 7,500 people attended IDEA Week's 43 LEARN and COMPETE informative sessions in 2018 (its first year) while another 11,500 attended its 10 PLAY and MEET events, for a combined total of over 18,000 people.

We encourage you check out [IDEA Week](#) and choose the way(s) you would like to participate! If you have any additional questions about IDEA Week, or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Nick Swisher](#) at 574.631.2984.

## M-51 / US-12 Update

On Wednesday, February 6, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) hosted an open house to discuss the plans for the M-51/US-12 interchange in Niles, Michigan. This project began with the need to take corrective action on the deteriorating US-12 bridge over M-51. MDOT has proposed several options to manage the bridge that needs to be repaired by 2025.

**Option 1:** Rebuild the interchange. (\$16.2 million)

**Option 2:** Grade-separated diamond interchange. (\$15 million)

**Option 3:** At-grade signal with indirect left turns. (\$8.7 million)

**Option 4:** At-grade signal with direct left turns. (\$8.5 million)

The Michigan Department of Transportation has advocated for option 3, the at-grade signal with indirect left turns. However, there are still some concerns for this option being voiced by the community. The general opinion of the public claims that the indirect left turns option is not only inconvenient, but dangerous for this area. Many feel that option 2, the grade-separated diamond interchange, is a much safer option. MDOT is currently reviewing the concerns expressed at the last open house and will announce their final plans in October of 2019.

For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the primary representative from the Michigan Department of Transportation's Southwest Region Office, [Kyle Rudlaff](#), at 269.337.3928.

**More Info:**

[US-12 over M-51 Interchange](#)

[WSBT - Frustration Expressed Over Possibility for Michigan Left at M-51/US-12 Interchange](#)

[SB Tribune - Overpass South of Niles Could Vanish and Make Way for 'Michigan Left' Turns](#)



## March Eye Opener Breakfast

March 1 | 7:30-9:00 AM

Leader Publications  
217 N. 4th St.  
Niles, MI 49120

Come and learn more about the 2019 Niles Visitor Guide & Directory at the March Eye Opener Breakfast, hosted by [Leader Publications](#). The breakfast will take place on Friday, March 1st from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at Leader Publications and will be a great opportunity to network before work and enjoy a scrumptious breakfast!

Register



## Business After Hours

March 12 | 5:30-7:00 PM

Old National Bank  
1903 S. 11th St.  
Niles, MI 49120

Join the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce and [Old National Bank](#) on Tuesday, March 12 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for the March Business After Hours. Relax and network after work with fellow business professionals and community leaders.

[Register](#)



## Niles Vision Clinic Ribbon Cutting and Grand Reopening

March 15 | 12:00 PM

The Niles Vision Clinic has been renovated! To celebrate this fantastic achievement, the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce and the Niles Vision Clinic are hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 15 beginning at 12:00 noon. We encourage you to take this time to network with fellow community leaders, enjoy light refreshments, and help empower the greater Niles business community by celebrating the achievements of its members.

## Welcome to Our New Members!

*Please give a warm welcome to Indiana Tech and The Brass Eye, the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce's newest members.*

**Indiana Tech** is a university that provides students with a professional education by focusing on active participation, career advancement, and leadership in the global 21st century society. Indiana Tech offers an array of undergraduate and graduate programs from accounting, to organizational leadership, to web development

[More Info](#)

**The Brass Eye** is a cocktail lounge located in the heart of Niles. It offers award winning cocktails, craft beer, wine and the best ramen in all of Michiana.

[More Info](#)

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[Email Barkley](#)

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