



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

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 23RD, 2024



## Dear Chamber Members,

As you know, the Greater Sandusky Partnership was formed as a part of the Erie County Chamber of Commerce to enrich the economic development work in our community. In October of 2023, Erie County Economic Development Corporation strategically aligned with the GSP and Chamber to further strengthen the work we do for our businesses. You will be seeing some changes over the next six months as our three organizations undergo a strategic planning process to become a unified force. Our goal is provide more benefits to you, our valued members. And as questions arise, we are here to answer. We thank you and look forward to sharing in what is to come.

Sincerely,  
Alissa, Eric, Kelly, Lindsey, Makenna, McKenzie, Nico, Nikki, & Susan

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

[Upcoming Events • P. 2](#)

---

[Announcements • P. 3](#)

---

[Member Events • P. 7](#)

---

# Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
9:00am

## **Total Solar Eclipse Meeting**

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky for a discussion on the 2024 Eclipse and the community programs

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
12pm - 1pm

## **Webinar: Workplace Safety**

Julie Reynolds, from Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation will share programs available to increase workplace safety

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Feb. 16**  
12pm - 1pm

## **Webinar: Economic Development Tools**

Erika Roitblat-Bowers, Project Manager at Team NEO, will be discussing programs offered by JobsOhio

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Feb. 23**  
12pm - 1pm

## **Webinar: Recruiting & Training Employees**

Trudy Riddle, Ohio Means Jobs, will share programs and resources to assist you in the recruitment and training of employees.

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Mar. 1**  
12pm - 1pm

## **Webinar: Cybersecurity**

Frederick Remenyi from Spectrum Enterprises will discuss all ways to protect your business in the digital world.

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Mar. 7**  
9:00am

## **Total Solar Eclipse Meeting**

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to learn how to stay safe during the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

**Thursday, Mar. 28**  
9:00am

## **Total Solar Eclipse Meeting**

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to ask your last-minute questions about the 2024 Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

**Tuesday, Apr. 2**  
9:00am

## **Total Solar Eclipse Meeting**

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to ask your last-minute questions about the 2024 Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, April 12**  
8am - 1pm

## **BGSU Firelands Small Business Symposium**

Learn about Connecting Value to Values: Aigning Purpose with Profit at this annual professional development event

[Learn More](#)

**To view all events and for more information, please visit:**

<https://business.eriecounty.chamber.com/events>



*Stories you may have missed...*



## Metropolis now?

Erie and Ottawa counties now make up the Sandusky Metropolitan Statistical Area, a designation reflecting an integrated labor market

MARK MESZOROS | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

With a population of about 25,000, Sandusky certainly isn't the smallest of small towns, but when you're strolling the streets of its downtown, you probably do not feel as if you're wandering through a metropolis, either.

Relatedly, we tend to think of a metropolitan area as one centered around a city of at least the size of, say, Cleveland or Detroit. And yet, in the summer, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the Bureau of the Census created the Sandusky Metropolitan Statistical Area, consisting of Erie and Ottawa counties, which could help the region attract new employers.

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[Read the full story at www.thehelmsandusky.com](http://www.thehelmsandusky.com)

# Are your electric and gas bills rising?

Protect yourself now by following the simple steps below.



## 01 **Grab Your Bills**

Grab a recent copy of your electric and gas bills

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## 02 **Fill Out The Form**

Fill out the inquiry form on the second page

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## 03 **Email Both To Us**

Send your bills and completed form to [billreview@ceateam.com](mailto:billreview@ceateam.com) for a free bill review

Savings not guaranteed and actual savings may vary.



# BILL REVIEW REQUEST FORM

Chamber Energy Program & Chamber Sustainability Program

Chamber \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Contact \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT  
ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS BILLS (ALL PAGES).**

Are you inquiring for your...

**HOME**    **BUSINESS**    **BOTH**

Are you interested in lowering your rates?

**ELECTRICITY**    **NATURAL GAS**

Are you interested in lowering your usage and seeing what rebates and incentives you may qualify for?

**LED LIGHTING**    **SOLAR**    **OTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY FORM TO:**

**Email** - [billreview@ceateam.com](mailto:billreview@ceateam.com)

**Fax** - 330-721-8111

**Mail** - 3725 Medina Rd., Ste. 112, Medina, OH 44256

*For questions, call 330-208-2082 to speak with one of our team members.*



## Firelands Federal Credit Union Joins Veterans Benefits Banking Program

BELLEVUE, Ohio – Firelands Federal Credit Union (Firelands FCU) is now a participating member of the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP).

The Veterans Benefits Banking Program enables Veterans and their families to securely, reliably, and affordably receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through participating financial institutions.

As a VBBP participant, Firelands FCU can now further provide Veterans, beneficiaries, survivors, and caregivers access to essential financial products and services, including low-to-no-cost checking accounts when choosing Firelands FCU for their direct deposit needs.



*Dominic Después*

"We believe that every Veteran and their family deserves easy access to financial resources, and we are here to provide them with the accounts and service designed to meet their unique needs," said Dominic Después, Firelands FCU's SVP Member Experience.

To learn more about the Veterans Benefits Banking Program visit [www.benefits.va.gov/banking](http://www.benefits.va.gov/banking).

**About Firelands FCU:** Firelands Federal Credit Union had its humble beginnings in 1955, when seven Nickel Plate Road employees joined together to form a financial savings club. When officially chartered in 1957, the credit union was open only to railroad employees, but in 1970, opened its membership to include anyone who lives or works in Erie, Huron and Crawford counties. Today, Firelands FCU serves over 35,499 members.

As a member-owned credit union, the earnings on Firelands FCU's business activities are returned to the member-owner in the form of higher earnings on savings, lower rates on loans, and a wide range of related financial services at the lowest possible cost. Learn more by visiting: [www.firelandsfcu.org](http://www.firelandsfcu.org).



# GOOD FOOD FOR A GREAT CAUSE

**15%** OF YOUR TICKET  
PROCEEDS GOES TOWARDS  
**Firelands Historical Society**

WHEN YOU PRESENT OR MENTION THIS FLYER WHILE ORDERING.

**Firelands Historical Society**

**Feb 15, 2024**

**From 11 am to 9 pm**

**Chili's 1845  
5200 Milan Rd  
Sandusky, Oh**

Tax ID#:34-4471422

MENTION OR SHOW THE GIVE BACK FLYER WITH EACH CHECK TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE SALE. SALE CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN DONATION AMOUNT WITH FLYER. OFFER ONLY VALID ON THE DATE AND LOCATION STATED ABOVE. DONATIONS WILL NOT BE GIVEN ON SALES MADE PRIOR TO OR PAST THIS DATE.



# FREE Webinar Series Feb - Mar

Erie County Economic  
Development

## **February 9th from 12:00 to 1:00**

[Julie Reynolds](#) from [Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) to discuss the various programs available to business to increase workplace safety including the Safety Grant.

## **February 16th from 12:00 to 1:00**

[Erika Bowers](#) from [TeamNEO](#) to discuss the various programs offered by JobsOhio. Ranging from the Inclusion Grant for small business to Economic Development Grants for large business and everything in between.

## **February 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00**

[Trudy Riddle](#) from [Ohio Means Jobs](#) to discuss programs that assist in recruiting and training employees offered by the State of Ohio such as Job Creation Tax Credits, On the Job Training Dollars, etc.

## **March 1st from 12:00 to 1:00**

[Fred Remenyi](#) from [Charter Communications](#) to discuss various ways companies can protect themselves in the cyber space.

Register now at <https://bit.ly/2024-Webinars>







# 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 the Erie County Chamber of Commerce at [info@eriecountychamber.com](mailto:info@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](mailto:info@eriecountychamber.com)

## **Eric Wobser**

CEO, Greater Sandusky Partnership  
[ewobser@greatersandusky.com](mailto:ewobser@greatersandusky.com)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**BEST STAY  
CONCEPTS**  
HOSPITALITY FIRM

**Harbourview Products  
International, LLC**

**Buckeye Tree  
& Crane Service**

**Just Homes, LLC**



Follow Us on Social Media!

