

A Walk In The Parks

A monthly newsletter

The Parks Chamber of Commerce



UP COMING EVENTS

**New Member Orientation
December 6th**



**Holiday Happy
Hour December
13th**

**Singo Bingo
January 10th**



From the Chairman

It has been an extremely busy year for the Parks Chamber in 2023. First, in March we hired a new Executive Director, Duncan Geddes. He is doing a phenomenal job as the leader of The Parks Chamber. Duncan has an extensive background in customer service and member support through his time as the Head Golf Professional at Aldeen Golf Club.

If you know any golfers out there, you probably realize how finicky they can be and how things need to be handled "just right". Duncan has a "members first" mentality and that shows in the events and offerings we are bringing to you as a Parks Chamber member. Duncan takes the time to meet and get to know people and he works hard to organize and execute special events.

Our events have been wide ranging this year. From ribbon cuttings to networking events to our sold-out golf outing on a brutally hot day in August, under Duncan's direction, these events have all gone well. Designed to help our members realize the value of belonging to The Parks Chamber, the opportunity to meet, network, have fun and grow your business will remain an important element of the chamber as we move forward.

In 2024 you will see more targeted events focused on helping our members connect with like-minded businesses looking to expand their reach. If you have ideas regarding how we can help your business expand, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, to Duncan, or to any of our board members.

In regards to our excellent Board, each member excels in their field and all have the same mentality that we want to enhance your experience as a Parks Chamber member. We greatly appreciate that you are a member of this organization and we value your opinion. Our goal is to help The Parks thrive and for this entire area to be as successful as it can possibly be.

If you are interested in joining our board, please let either Duncan or me know. I hope that you a very happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

Sincerely yours,
Michael K. Broski

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GOLF OUTING SUCCESS

On what was reported to be the hottest day in The Parks since 1947, the 2023 Parks Chamber Golf Outing was held at Forest Hills Country Club. With a forecast heat index of 115 degrees, the decision was made to shorten the event to 9 holes, move up the lunch and then let groups that wanted to finish their round head back out after lunch. With coolers of water everywhere, cool towels for each player and an ambulance on stand by, over 130 players (of the full 144 who registered) tee'd it up! Thank you to all our great sponsors, players, volunteers and staff for making the day a huge success!

WELCOME ANN KOSSMAN



The Parks Chamber has welcomed Ann Kossman as the Director of Membership and Sponsorship Development. Ann has many years of experience working for the Bank of Montreal's Wealth Management team and locally for The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association. Most recently, she has had the pleasure of working with The Studio Rockford as their marketing, publicity, and ad sales coordinator. In addition to her professional experience, she has had over 10 years of experience serving on the Board of Directors for Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity and 10 years as a Wish Granter for Make-A-Wish Illinois. Ann looks forward to using her many local community associations to help strengthen and grow The Parks Chamber. Connect with her at LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ann-kossman-63545429/> or email at info@parkschamber.com.

From the Director

What a learning curve these past nine months have been! I'd like to thank Mike Broski and the entire Parks Chamber Board for their confidence in hiring me to lead your Parks Chamber of Commerce.

After joining The Parks Chamber in the spring of 2022 as the Director of Membership Development, I learned a great deal from Tonya Lamia about chambers of commerce and about The Parks. With Tonya's departure back in February, my education really kicked in and I'm learning more each day.

After an all too quick transition period, it was time to run the events that were already scheduled. The largest of these was the golf outing and thanks to the help of our whole team, the day turned out great! Hot, but great.

In this next phase of transition, I would like to get your feedback (please see the link to our Membership Survey on the last page) on how you would like to see your Parks Chamber grow and how it can help your business succeed.



My goals going forward are improved connection with and support of our members, events that benefit you as a member, and improved communication between our members, our board, and our team! Thank you for this opportunity.

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Meet your Director of Member Support



As the Assistant to Mayor Jury, Sandra Wolfe has, over the past few years, made an big impact at the City of Loves Park. She has now been kind enough to assist The Parks Chamber by helping as our Director of Membership Support. Sandra's business experience has made her a perfect fit for managing The Parks Chamber database, membership MMS system, social media and event calendars. Sandra's help with ribbon cuttings, networking events and other special events including the golf outing have been extremely helpful. Welcome Sandra!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE A CHAMBER MEMBER?

Contact Ann Kossman, Director of Membership Development at 815-670-7112 or info@parkschamber.com

To register for upcoming events or to take our 2023 membership survey, please visit us at:

www.parkschamber.com

WELCOME 2023 NEW MEMBERS!

D1 Training Rockford
Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity
Hartwig Mechanical, Inc.
MartinKarl Consulting
Black Castle Properties
Extra Help Agency
James Egan & Company
Young Rembrandts - Rockford
Place Foundry
Stone's Botanical
ROTD Crafter's Corner
Wholesale Payments
GreenState Credit Union
Stuhr Commercial
Advanced Heat Treating Inc.
Napoli Pizza
Westside Children's Therapy
Express Employment Professionals
ppg paints
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren P.C
Rock Valley College
Tom & Jerry's
Flanders Insurance
Vintage Goose Cafe
Illinois Bank and Trust
Embroid This Inc
Medicare 411 Company
Sunmed Your CBD Store
FurstStaffing
O'Connor's heating cooling and Electrical
Morrissey Family Businesses
M3 Insurance
CD Source
Face Place Rockford PLLC
Senz Redieske Insurance Agency
Blevins Kitchen and Bath
Nexa Mortgage
Wallem Associates
Victory Pickleball & The Kitchen Tap Wall & Grill
Easterseals
Flowers on River Park
Rock Valley College
First Community Credit Union
Raynor Door Authority

OUR MISSION

To Help Businesses Succeed with the Right, Tools, Connections and Resources

The Parks Chamber of Commerce is a public/private partnership that convenes business, nonprofit, elected, and municipal leaders to help attract people to live, visit, and invest in the City of Loves Park and Village of Machesney Park, Illinois.



www.parkschamber.com