



THE Business Connection

VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY | 2026

2026 marks a truly banner year for the City of Massillon — a moment rich with pride, reflection, and renewed momentum — as the community comes together to celebrate its 200th birthday. Two centuries of grit, innovation, and Tiger-strong spirit have shaped Massillon into the vibrant city it is today, and this bicentennial offers a rare opportunity to honor that legacy while looking boldly toward the future. From its storied history to its growing network of businesses, organizations, and community leaders, Massillon enters this milestone year with a deep sense of gratitude and an even deeper commitment to building the next chapter together.

As I step into the role of Chairman of the Board for the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce, I am filled with gratitude, purpose, and an unwavering belief in the power of community. My journey as the founder of The Legacy Project of Stark, a nonprofit organization, has shown me, time and again, that meaningful progress happens when people come together — when businesses, organizations, and individuals unite around shared goals and shared values. That spirit of collaboration is exactly what I hope to champion in the year ahead.

Massillon is a city built on resilience, pride, and connection. Our businesses are innovative, our organizations are passionate, and our people are deeply committed to seeing this community thrive. As Chairman, my vision is to strengthen the bridges between these groups, creating partnerships that not only support economic growth but also enrich the lives of the families who call Massillon home. In the nonprofit world, collaboration isn't just helpful — it's essential. It's how ideas grow, how resources multiply, and how real change takes root. I believe the Chamber can continue to serve as a catalyst for that kind of collective impact. By fostering relationships across sectors, encouraging open dialogue, and creating opportunities for shared initiatives, we can build a stronger, more connected Massillon. This year, I look forward to working alongside Debbie Busby and the staff of the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce, as well as business leaders, community partners, and dedicated volunteers who share a vision for a vibrant and inclusive future. Together, we can elevate the Chamber's role as a hub of collaboration — a place where innovation is welcomed, partnerships are nurtured, and every voice has the chance to contribute to our city's success.

Massillon's story has always been one of unity and forward momentum. As we enter this new chapter, I am honored to help carry that legacy forward. The work ahead is meaningful, and the possibilities are endless when we choose to build them together.



A Message From
Eugene Lingenhoel
2026 Board Chair
Massillon WestStark
Chamber of Commerce

LEGACY
EST. **OF STARK** 2015
PROJECT

RBS
Roseman Building Systems

Commercial • Industrial
Site Work
(330) 830-4655

12806 Lincoln Way W.
Massillon, Ohio 44647
rosemancontracting.com



COMMERCIAL
PERSONAL
HOSPITALIZATION
LIFE

210 Erie St. N. 330.832.7411



Choose a partner
not just a provider.

Local, friendly, personal service.

MCTV | BusinessPro®
INTERNET | PHONE | TELEVISION

330-833-4134 | MCTVOhio.com



Scan here to learn more.



Control your Cost, Empower Your Workforce

AulCare's NCQA-accredited plans and personalized customer service empower you and your employees to live their healthiest, happiest lives.

- 50+ Network Hospitals
- 20,000+ Network Providers
- National Network Access

AulCare is *here for you* ... committed to your company's greatest asset: *your people.*



330-363-6360
aulcare.com



8402/25

♥ Business is better when it's built on great relationships ♥

KRUGLIAK, WILKINS, GRIFFITHS & DOUGHERTY CO., L.P.A.

Massillon Office Attorneys



Matthew R. Hull
Corporate Business/Contracts/Non-Profit



Leslie I. Kuntz
Government



Madison Chapanar Robinson
Wills/Trusts/Powers of Attorney/Probate

KWGD
attorneys at law

**KRUGLIAK
WILKINS
GRIFFITHS &
DOUGHERTY
CO., L.P.A.**



- Business Law • Labor/Employment Law
- Oil, Gas & Mineral Law • Family Law
- Workers' Compensation Law
- Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law
- Litigation • Health Care Law
- Real Estate Law • Taxation Law

First North Building, 50 North Ave. NE, Suite 101, Massillon | 330-880-4550 | legal@kwgd.com | KWGD.com
Offices throughout Ohio: Canton | Alliance | Canfield | Hudson | Massillon | New Philadelphia | Sugarcreek

Commquest Ribbon Cutting



*TOP: Scott Oelslager, 48th District Ohio House of Representatives; Mayor Jamie Slutz, City of Massillon Mayor; Elaine Russell Reolfi, CommQuest Services; Matt Kishman, 50th District Ohio House of Representatives; Staff and Board members of CommQuest Services, Molly Romig, Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce
SECOND: Elaine Russell Reolfi, CommQuest Services; Matt Kishman, 50th District Ohio House of Representatives; Jim Thomas, 49th District Ohio House of Representatives; Scott Oelslager, 48th District Ohio House of Representatives*



Little Sprouts Child Development Center

Offering 10% off Full-time Enrollment for all active Massillon WestStark Chamber Members

310 Lincoln Way East, Massillon, OH 44646
&
2112 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, OH 44646

330-833-2325

Practical Networking Skills That Can Elevate Your Career

~Editors and Writers at Newsletter Station

Networking has become a cornerstone of professional success in today's highly connected and rapidly evolving world. Whether you're a recent graduate entering the workforce, a small business owner building partnerships, or an experienced professional seeking career advancement, strong networking skills can open doors to new opportunities, collaborations, and valuable insights.

More than ever, networking goes beyond simply exchanging business cards or adding contacts online. It's about cultivating authentic, mutually beneficial relationships that grow over time. When approached with intention and consistency, effective networking can support career growth, business development, and long-term professional confidence. Below are key strategies to help you develop practical networking skills that make a real impact.

1. Cultivate Authenticity

Effective networking starts with being genuine. Rather than presenting a polished persona, focus on being your true self. Authenticity builds trust, and trust is the foundation of strong professional relationships. Share your passions, be honest about your experiences, and show sincere curiosity about others. When you lead with authenticity, you encourage meaningful, two-way connections that last beyond a single interaction.

2. Practice Active Listening

One of the most overlooked networking skills is active listening. Successful networkers listen to understand—not just to respond. Please listen to others, ask thoughtful, open-ended questions, and acknowledge their perspectives. This demonstrates respect, builds rapport, and helps you identify shared interests or opportunities for collaboration.

3. Focus on Quality Over Quantity

A large network may look impressive, but meaningful connections matter far more than sheer numbers. Prioritize building a smaller group of strong, trusted relationships instead of collecting contacts. High-quality connections are more likely to lead to referrals, mentorship, partnerships, and long-term professional support.

4. Offer Value First

Networking is not a one-sided exchange. A powerful way to stand out is by focusing on how you can help others. Share useful resources, offer advice, make introductions, or provide encouragement. When you consistently add value, you become memorable and trusted—often leading to natural reciprocity over time.



An Essential Utilities Company

 /MyAquaAmerica

 @MyAquaAmerica

 AquaAmerica.com

Continued on page 6.....

Membership Renewals

We extend our gratitude to the members who renewed their commitments in December 2025. We acknowledge and appreciate your long-standing membership. Let's continue to support Chamber Members moving forward.

Air-On Mechanical Services, LLC.....	2
AultCare.....	19
Bates Printing, Inc.....	54
Canton Data Print LLC.....	4
Chick-fil-A Massillon.....	1
Compassion Delivered, Inc.....	1
Crescenze Cooling & Heating, LLC.....	17
Diehl Automotive.....	14
First Communications.....	34
Garner Ins. and Fin. Services, Inc.....	15
Hanover Healthcare Center.....	11
The Inn at University Village.....	16
Legends Care Center.....	22
Mastertech Auto Repair.....	1
The Ohio Drilling Company.....	69
Total Distribution Solutions, Inc.....	69
Pitts' Fire Extinguisher Inc.....	21
Quality Heating & Cooling.....	11
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.....	36
Rupp Construction.....	2
Shanklin Heating & Air Conditioning.....	10
Walsh University.....	4
WHBC AM 1480-FM 94.1.....	27
Whispering Grace Horses.....	8
YMCA of Western Stark County.....	29

WEEKLY NETWORKING SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS

LUNCH & NETWORKING

@ NOON
DANNY BOYS
 6081 DRESSLER RD., NW, NORTH CANTON, OH 44720



WEDNESDAYS

BREAKFAST & NETWORKING

@ 8:00 AM
CHLOE'S DINER
 112 1ST ST NE, MASSILLON, OH 44646



THURSDAYS

LUNCH & NETWORKING

@ NOON
WINKING LIZARD TAVERN
 5710 FULTON DR. NW, CANTON, OH 44718



CONNECT, COLLABORATE, AND GROW
 JOIN MOLLY ROMIG FOR ONE OR ALL OF OUR
 WEEKLY NETWORKING SESSIONS!

MROMIG@MASSILLONOHCHAMBER.COM
 330-415-2158

Welcome Dec New Members

Sterling Strength USA LLC

(330) 232-1228
 211 Albany Dr NW
 Canton, OH 44708

TK's Autos dba Go Fast Tuner Parts

(330) 224-0086
 2275 Manchester Ave NW
 North Lawrence, OH 44666

Thompson Electric Inc

(330) 323-4490
 1370 Sanders Ave SW
 Massillon, OH 44647
 www.thompstonelectric.com

Kreptowski Family Practice LLC

(330) 244-0480
 6509 Frank Ave NW
 North Canton, OH 44720

Hershey Contracting Incorporated

(330) 345-8667
 1650 Smith Drive
 Wooster, OH 44691



Business Connection Live

Sponsored by **AULTCARE**

February 23, 2026
 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Massillon Museum
 121 Lincoln Way E

REGISTER NOW

www.massillonohchamber.com
 (330) 833-3146

Members \$18
 Non-Members \$20



Special Speaker:
Para Jones
 President, Stark State College



109TH ANNUAL DINNER

MASSILLON WESTSTARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESENTED BY:



PLEASE JOIN US TO

CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S AWARD RECIPIENTS!

MARCH 19, 2026

BROOKSIDE COUNTRY CLUB

1800 CANTON AVE NW CANTON, OH 44708

Award Recipients

Whispering Grace Horses

Mike Gallina

C. Massouh Printing

Friends & Family Credit Union

Advanced Industrial Roofing

John Patrick Picard

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



Business Briefs

~Friday, February 2nd join the **Massillon Library** in making your own version of Mildred Thompson's "Magnetic Fields" painting. All supplies are provided and the event is from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

~Wednesday, February 11th **Stark Parks** will have an adult archery class from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Sippo Lake Park.

~Thursday, February 19th the **Massillon Library** will have a pinterest program making trinket dishes from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. All supplies are provided.

-Join the **Massillon Museum** for their Brown Bag Luncheon on February 24th. The luncheon runs from 12:10 to 12:50pm. Speaker will be Dr. Tameka Ellington and her topic is "Building the Stark County Black History Museum".

~Join **Junior Achievement**, for their JA Inspire on March 4th. JA Inspire is a game-changing career exploration event connecting 100+ local businesses with 3,000+ students! Your future workforce is waiting for you! Contact Susan Koosh (susan.koosh@ja.org).

~Peoples Services, Inc. has rebranded as **Total Distribution Solutions, Inc.** a name that reflects its unified, comprehensive logistics and supply chain capabilities. CEO, Doug Sibila said, "This rebrand marks a pivotal point in our company's evolution, Total Distribution Solutions, Inc. reflects who we've become, a unified, innovative partner helping customers gain a competitive edge with comprehensive supply chain solutions".

~**Lifecare Community Health Center** is proud to welcome Dr. Stephen McNulty, DO to their health center starting February 2nd.

Practical Networking pg 3 continued.....

5. Diversify Your Network

Limiting your network to a single industry or role can narrow your perspective. Building relationships across different fields, backgrounds, and experience levels introduces fresh ideas and unexpected opportunities. Attend varied events, engage in cross-industry conversations, and remain open to learning from professionals outside your immediate circle.

6. Balance Online and In-Person Networking

Digital platforms play an essential role in modern networking, but they are most effective when paired with real-world interactions. Online connections can spark introductions, while in-person conversations deepen relationships. Industry events, workshops, community meetups, and informal coffee chats all help turn digital connections into lasting professional relationships.

7. Follow Up and Follow Through

The real work of networking happens after the initial meeting. Send a thoughtful follow-up message, reference your conversation, and stay in touch periodically. Following through on commitments—whether it's sharing a resource or scheduling a meeting—demonstrates professionalism and reliability, strengthening your connection over time.

8. Be Patient and Consistent

Networking is a long-term investment, not a quick win. Relationships develop gradually through trust, shared experiences, and ongoing communication. Avoid expecting immediate results. Instead, focus on consistency and genuine engagement, knowing that meaningful opportunities often emerge when you least expect them.

Developing practical networking skills is an ongoing journey that requires intention, authenticity, and effort. When you focus on building genuine relationships and contributing value, networking becomes less transactional and more rewarding. Over time, these connections can play a decisive role in both professional growth and personal development.

By mastering the art of networking, you position yourself for new insights, collaborations, and opportunities that can elevate your career or business. Start refining your networking approach today and watch your professional network continue to grow.



The Business Connection

NEWSLETTER

Reach top businesses and key decision-makers across our region! The Business Connection Newsletter is distributed monthly to more than 1,000 members via mail, online and social media, offering your business prime visibility. Having a digital format also, expands your reach and highlights the Chamber's latest programs, events, and initiatives.



Reserve your space NOW!

Color Advertising	Black and White Advertising
2.50" w x 3.25" h \$110	2.50" w x 3.25" h \$80
4" w x 5" h \$165	4" w x 5" h \$140
8.25" w x 5.25" h \$285	8.25" w x 5.25" h \$235
4" w x 5" h on Back Cover \$195	

contact: Ashley Winter at awinter@massillonohchamber.com

Please provide digital artwork via email in color.

Accepted Formats:
High resolution PDF, JPEG, or PNG

Discounts:
12 - month participation receives a 10% discount.
6 - month participation receives a 5% discount.

Art Deadline:
The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to issue month. Ex: For ads running in the January newsletter, the ad is due by Dec 15th.

Newsletter Insert

Provide 500 copies of 8.5x11 insert - \$175

Provide Digital Artwork to Chamber - \$250

Max Paperweight is 28lb

Business Connection

LIVE

Sponsored by 

2026 Season Passes Now Available!

Purchase a season pass and get a lunch for free!
Season passes cost \$180!

Let Debbie or Ashley know today!

MASSILLON WESTSTARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - THE BUSINESS CONNECTION - 6

PUTMAN PROPERTIES

EST. 1985



Timothy J. Putman
330.495.0600



Wick Hartung
330.495.0601

- RETAIL
- OFFICE
- MEDICAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- INVESTMENTS
- MANAGEMENT
- DEVELOPMENT
- 1031 EXCHANGES
- SITE ACQUISITION

Call our team of professionals
for all your real estate needs!



Saylor Putman
330.495.8292



James Bednar
330.417.9034



Spencer Hartung
330.936.0276

4065 Fulton Dr NW, Canton 330.498.4400 putmanproperties.com



Business Growth Forum

Work ON Your Business Not IN Your Business

Risk & Liability

"One Lawsuit Away from Disaster? The Risks Most Small Business Owners Don't See Until It's Too Late"

February 27, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. - Registration & Networking
- 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - Panel Discussion
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Networking

5686 Dressler Rd NW
North Canton, OH 44720
Parking Behind the Building



Register



Since 1936

WHISLER

PLUMBING & HEATING

PLUMBING ★ MECHANICAL ★ PROCESS

Aultman Massillon

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY

aultman.org



Caring
for **OUR** Community

AULTMAN
HEALTH SYSTEM

HERE FOR YOU.

With 24/7 emergency services, radiology, lab, pain management, therapy and access to providers in surgery, orthopedics and heart care.



Board of Directors

Eugene Lingenhoel, Chair
 Saylor Putman, Treasurer
 Kathy Shultz, Past Chair
 Dan Murphy, Vice Chair-BEAC
 Richard Regula, Vice Chair-Legislative

Alex Williamson	Garret Kloots	Dylan Loader
Cory Foote	Mike Malinowski	James Busch
Michelle Hartman	Sean Smith	Denny Earl
Cathy Viscounte	Nicholas Mossides	Mary Beth Ulm-Green
Matt Hull	Bryan Woit	

Debbie Busby, President, Massillon WestStark Chamber
 John Picard, President, Massillon Development Foundation
 Nikki Bahler, President, Downtown Massillon Association
 Phillip Elum, President, Massillon Main Street, Inc.
 Foster Rose II, President, Massillon Area Greenways, Inc.



The First North Building
 50 North Avenue, N.E., Suite 100
 Massillon, Oh 44646
 P 330.833.3146
 F 330.833.8944
 massillonohchamber.com
 info@massillonohchamber.com

MISSION STATEMENT

- *To develop, enhance, and represent business
- *To promote economic growth
- *To improve quality of life for our community

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 CANTON OH
 PERMIT #1005

SANTANGELO CATERING
 Delicious Servings in the Massillon, Canton,
 Akron and Dover areas for over 50 years!



OUR REPUTATION IS ON YOUR PLATE!
 Breakfasts - Luncheons
 Dinners - Weddings
 Civic Events - BBQ's
 Fund Raisers & More!
330-456-1556
 www.santangelos.net

We are a preferred caterer to over 20 venues - Make us yours food

19,002 S.F. 2-STORY OFFICE BUILDING
 4690 Munson St NW, Jackson Twp., OH 44718



FOR SALE/LEASE

Located in Belden Village, Jackson Township - on Munson between Dressler and Everhard. Professionally managed building. New roof 2021, new asphalt and new LED lighting in and out. Other tenants include Erie Insurance and David J. Simmons & Assoc.
 Two suites for lease: 2,511 sq.ft. & 3,179 sq.ft.
For sale at \$2.5 million or \$131.56 per sq.ft.
 Spencer Hartung 330.936.0276 / Saylor Putman 330.495.8292

PUTMAN PROPERTIES
 4065 Fulton Dr NW
 Canton, OH 44718
 330.498.4400
 putmanproperties.com

Equipment Loan Special



New & Pre-owned Equipment Eligible
100% Financing Available
Terms Up To 84 months
Rates as low as 5.75% APR*

Finance with a local lender serving
 Northeast Ohio since 1965.



CONSUMERS National Bank

*Annual Percentage Rate
 www.Consumers.Bank - Member FDIC - Equal Housing Lender