

Good NEIGHBORS

A Publication of the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce

WWW.EASTTROY.ORG

DECEMBER 2015

VOLUME 26, EDITION 4



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

The crew at Extended Care Professional works out of the newly renovated building at 2096 Church St., the former Grand Theatre Professional Building.

ECP 123 making local, regional impact

By Vanessa Lenz • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It sits in one of East Troy's most historic buildings, the former 1890 Opera House and Grand Theater, but Extended Care Professional is creating its own spot in local history books.

East Troy native Len Hotz, the founder of the company, is setting an example for entrepreneurs by developing his business beyond the region and attracting tech-minded individuals to East Troy.

"ECP is committed to providing state-of-the-art software to the senior living community," said Hotz. "We're now in 42 states, three countries and are one of the top providers of senior care software used for the documentation and analysis of care needs and delivery of medications. In Wisconsin alone, ECP

• See **ECP 123** on page 6



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Len Hotz, founder of Extended Care Professional (left), works with James Baumeister, pharmacy consultant, on state-of-the-art software for the senior living community.

10 festive things to do this winter

Spend the most wonderful time of the year doing a holiday themed activity every day of the month right here in East Troy.

Mark your calendars for the following things to do before Jan. 1.



RIDE THE RAILROAD'S CHRISTMAS TRAIN

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Christmas Train merrily rides the rails the weekends of Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20.

Guests will board heated railroad cars, for the 10-mile roundtrip, half-hour jaunt from the East Troy Depot, 2002 Church St., to Santa's Workshop, located at The Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago.

At the workshop, children can visit with Santa, get a photo taken with

• See **FESTIVE** on page 5

Group looks to drive downtown revitalization

A new group has formed with hopes to drive downtown revitalization in East Troy.

The first public meeting to discuss the East Troy Connect Communities program was held in October at Ivan's Backstage.

The initiative, which is being led by the East Troy Community

• See **DOWNTOWN** on page 6

See Santa on the Square Dec. 5

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Train will make its annual journey into town on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Presented by the East Troy Electric Railroad in conjunction with the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce and Mukwonago Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Center, the beautifully lit four-car train will travel down the century-old interurban trolley line between Mukwonago and East Troy.

The train will depart at the Elegant Farmer at 5:30 p.m., stopping briefly at crossings along County Road ES, arriving at Division Street at about 6:25 p.m. There, Santa and crew will travel to the East Troy Village Square via East Troy Fire Department truck to light the Bob Barutha Memorial Christmas Tree.

The original East Troy Christmas Parade train, started by the East Troy Jaycees and the railroad in 1972, was an historic reproduction of the Schuster's Christmas Parade in Milwaukee.

The Schuster's Department store chain sponsored the parade, established in 1928, to kick off the Christmas shopping season. It disappeared in 1955 with the demise of the Milwaukee Electric Lines interurban and streetcar system.

In anticipation of Santa's arrival, festivities will

begin on the East Troy Village Square at 6 p.m. with concessions, winter activities and a Christmas carol sing-along.

The East Troy Lioness Club will also offer tacos, hot dogs and hot cocoa in the warmth of the Lions Lodge beginning at 5 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 92 will sell chili, chili dogs and baked goods on the square.

The East Troy Historical Society will offer refreshments and tours from 5-8 p.m.

Professional photos of children with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available inside Ivan's Backstage on the square following the tree lighting (after 6:30 p.m.) at a cost of \$5 each, with the proceeds to benefit the East Troy Food Pantry. All participants will get a printed photo and digital copy, courtesy of 2894 on Main. Entertainment will be provided by Cork N Christmas Carolers.

For more information, visit www.easttroy.org.

Midnight Magic, sponsored by the Mukwonago Area Chamber of Commerce, also takes place that day from 10 a.m. until midnight at sites throughout the community.

For more information, visit www.mukwonagochamber.org.

• See **SANTA** on page 5



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Santa, Mrs. Claus and their entourage will make their annual journey to East Troy aboard the East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Train on Saturday, Dec. 5. The lighting of the Bob Barutha Community Christmas Tree will take place at 6:30 p.m. followed by photos with Santa inside Ivan's Backstage.

Good NEIGHBORS

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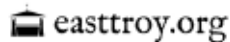
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Good Neighbors is a publication of the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce coordinated by the East Troy Times/News and published quarterly in March, May, September and December.

Third generation agent takes over

By Vanessa Lenz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
On Nov. 1, Tim Werwie took over the State Farm Insurance Agency on the historic village square in East Troy, leaving customers confident that the torch was passed on to capable hands.

Although it's his first insurance job, the transition makes perfect sense. Werwie, a third generation State Farm agent, grew up with the business.

His father Jerry Werwie has been a State Farm agent in Kenosha since 1978. His uncle Joe Werwie has been an agent for 35 years and his grandfather was an agent as well.

After graduating with a marketing degree from UW-Madison, Werwie worked for Kohl's, as an assistant store manager and then Human Resources Operations/CFH Manager since 2007.

When the opportunity to take over the Joan Palmer- State Farm Agency in East Troy came up, Werwie couldn't let it pass him by.

"My family is growing and I thought it was time to make a career change," he said. "I have State Farm in my background to begin with...And it's a great community."

Werwie and his wife Kelly live in Elkhorn with their two children, Titus, 3 and Lilly, 9 months. Werwie, a Kenosha native, said he went into the business because he likes people and likes helping them.

Being a State Farm agent, Werwie said he focuses on value, which saves his clients money and headaches in the long run.

"It's not always about the cheapest price. It's about getting the best service and product there is out there," Werwie said. "There are a lot of people who just commoditize insurance and don't really think about it. Really insurance is one of the biggest parts of our budget and it fascinates me how many people don't know their policies."

He said his clients don't need to bundle or go with different insurance companies since



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*
East Troy's new State Farm agent Tim Werwie (from left) and his team, including sales account managers Dan Richter, Jessica Cocroft and Janelle Flintrop (not pictured) and office manager Kathy Frymark will serve the area community from their office on the East Troy Village Square.

State Farm can meet all of their home, auto and life insurance needs.

"We offer the whole gamut and have a full service bank as well," Werwie said. "We also offer retirement products."

He said the Fortune 500 Company is ranked the number one auto, home and life insurance company.

"The biggest thing we are known for is our financial strength," Werwie said. "We are known for having a strong claims process. We are also known to be very thorough and for our customer availability."

Werwie and his team are currently working to make the transition as seamless as possible.

New sales account managers Dan Richter, Jessica Cocroft and Janelle Flintrop will work with Werwie. Kathy Frymark will stay on as office manager.

"I really want to continue to grow this agency and build it," he said.

To prepare for growth, Werwie renovated the office space, located at 2104 Church St., to make it more comfortable and welcoming to customers. While Werwie will spend the next year, working to get to know the ins and outs of the insurance business, he said a long-term goal is to get involved in the community. For more information, call (262) 642-2038.

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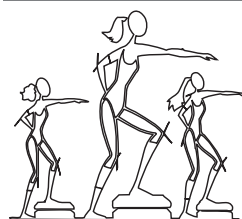
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Big News Announcement

Phoenix Stadium to open soon for baseball practice hitting and family recreation.



194440

East Troy hotel, pool gets facelift

East Troy's hotel has undergone a substantial facelift. The former Country Inn and Suites recently converted to a Quality Inn, a brand of Choice Hotels International, Inc. In order to meet Quality Inn's standards, the facility's new owner has completed several renovations to the 51-room hotel, located at 2921 O'Leary Lane just off of Interstate-43 at Highway 120. Quality Inn's manager said they have installed new carpets, beds, mattresses, flat screen TVs and are remodeling the bathrooms.

The goal is to revamp the lobby and rooms to have a more contemporary look. The hotel's heated indoor swimming pool opened in mid-October following a renovation to add new amenities and water features. The pool is currently available to the public. The fee is \$5 per session and \$3 on Wednesdays until 9 p.m. (expires February of 2016). Package rates are available for regular swimmers. For more information, call (262) 642-2100.



Top photo: After selecting a new franchise, the new owner of the Quality Inn and Suites has worked to completely renovate the interior of the property. Right: The newly remodeled pool is now open to the public.

VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

We've moved!

East Troy Chamber located upstairs at 2894 on Main

The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce is now located on the second floor of 2894 on the historic village square. The office is accessible by buzzing the doorbell. Elevator access is also available by request (It's the oldest operating elevator in all of East Troy.) The new modern office space comes with a push to increase technical capabilities that will enhance customer communications. "We want to give our members and visitors the same high quality services they have come to expect," said Chamber Executive Director Vanessa Lenz. Lenz said there are several projects and initiatives in progress to not only help make the Chamber more publicly accessible, but also a fun and exciting resource for both community members and tourists alike. Are you a member and interested in hosting Chamber resources? Contact us at (262) 642-3770 or email vanessa@easttroy.org. Find out more about the Chamber and East Troy at www.easttroy.org.



The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce is currently located upstairs at 2894 on Main (center blue awning) and accessible by buzzing the doorbell. Call or text (262) 642-3770 or email vanessa@easttroy.org to schedule an appointment.

VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Holiday Help program assists locals during the holidays

The Holiday Help for Families Program will continue this year, featuring the collaboration of various community organizations. East Troy Family and Community Resource Center coordinator Marolyn Komperud, who has taken the reins of the 2-year-old initiative, said a new organizational structure started last year made it easier than ever to take advantage of holiday giving opportunities. "Previously, community organizations have worked to assist families in need to provide gifts and food over the Christmas holidays, but often as separate entities," Komperud said. "In our inaugural year, Holiday Help of East Troy was able to serve 83 families with a combined 218 children between the ages of birth and 18 years of age. All of the agencies felt this was a successful endeavor and that it would be an asset to our community to move forward in future years with this format." Prospective families in need of the program are referred by the school district, the food pantry, Helping Hands of St. Peter's and other venues. Family gift pick up will be on Saturday, Dec. 19 at East Troy Bible Church. Here are ways to give this year:

1. TOY DRIVE

The East Troy Lions Club is collecting gifts for children birth to 16 years of age for its annual toy drive. Donations can be dropped off at the following locations: Citizens Bank, Dollar General, First Citizens State Bank and Frank's Piggly Wiggly East Troy. Donations will be accepted from Nov. 23 through Dec. 14.

2. GIFT GIVING TREES

Giving trees to purchase gifts for local children will be located at East Troy Bible Church, Good Shepherd Church, Realty Executives Integrity, St. James United Methodist Church and St. Peter's Catholic Church and School with collections due by Dec. 14.

3. SECRET SANTA FOR EAST TROY MANOR

Associated Bank is seeking East Troy community members/groups to serve as secret Santas by purchasing gifts for residents of East

• See **PROGRAM** on page 8

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Creekside Motors Chamber Golf Outing Champs

The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce’s traveling golf outing championship trophy can currently be spotted at Creekside Motors.

The car dealership team, including owners Peter and Chris Reshel and Simone Vitale and Jordan Lockhart took top honors at the Chamber’s 18th annual golf outing held Sept. 25 at Alpine Valley Resort.

Sammy’s Place took second place and Wisconsin Oven Corporation finished in third.

Members of the Chamber’s 2015 golf outing committee are very grateful to the event participants, sponsors and volunteers who made this important fundraiser possible.

The funds raised by the outing will benefit the Chamber’s work on behalf of the East Troy area community, including networking opportunities, advocacy efforts and other programs to support local businesses and organizations of all sizes.

The East Troy Chamber also assists visitors to our town and neighboring communities and promotes East Troy as an exceptional place to live, work and play.

Members of the golf outing committee included chairman Dave Scurek of American Family Insurance, Shannon Manske of Associated Bank and Lisa Dominski of the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to JoAnn McCormack of Spotlight Real Estate and Gregory Lee of FirstMerit Bank who served as event volunteers.

Citizens Bank sponsored the lunch and Wisconsin Oven Corporation sponsored the refreshments.

Additional event donors included Dave Scurek Agency- American Family Insurance, Associated Bank, East Troy Shell and Wisconsin Oven Corporation.

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Wild Flour Bakery
Wisconsin Oven Corporation

2105 Golfers

2894 On Main – Jim Rohrer, Jennifer Bresler, Janeen McPherson, Dave Tuttle
Alpine Valley Resort – Joel Baxter, Mark Williams, Jim Bucci, Jeannine Thielen
American Family Insurance – Dave Scurek, Andrew Sennett, Chris Clapper, Mike Spragia
Associated Bank – Shannon Manske, Joe Searing, Dave Dotzauer, Joe Dotzauer
Altenburg - Betty Altenburg, John Biersack, Cherie Biersack, Polly Burright
C-Dominski Plumbing – Chuck Dominski, Tom Stollenwerk, Steve Peter, Rick Kloth
Citizens Bank A – Jeff Standafer, Tony LaShay, Tim Standafer, Dan Heidelmeier
Citizens Bank B – DeAnne Conrad, Scott Conrad, Lea Sperle, Matt Sperle
Creekside Motors – Peter Reshel, Chris Reshel, Simone Vitale, Jordan Lockhart
East Troy Hometown Pharmacy –

Keith Witt, Tom McCormack, Donnie Gray, Greg Hunt
East Troy Computer Club – Jamie Rohrer, Ben Keating, Eric Meaney, Joe Morton
Grumpy Old Men – Jim Conrad, Don Lovas, Jim Searing, Dale Becker
Realty Executives – Gina Dingman, Sarah Alexander, Sue Stollenwerk, Dawn Kloth
Sammy’s Place – Sam Bresler, Joe Braund, Darrel Rayfield, Keith Mayotte
Sleeping Dogs Communications - Bill Vint, Jerry Schneider, Mike Jakubowski, Tom Clark
Wisconsin Oven A – Steve Kempowski, Russ Gest, Jeff Judd, Jim Lucas
Wisconsin Oven B – Dave Strand, Mark Schahczinski, KC Spaight, Jeff Kent
RTS Eagle Equipment dba Wisconsin Oven Distributors LLC – Tina Strand, Ryan Strand, Dennis Spurlock, Shawn Smith



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Golf outing chairman Dave Scurek of American Family Insurance and Mike Spragia lead 72 golfers on the course at the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce’s 18th annual golf outing.



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Alpine Valley Resort’s team, including (from left) Jeannine Thielen, Joel Baxter, Mark Williams and Jim Bucci, spent a day on their home course.



VANESSA LENZ *Good Neighbors*

Golfers (from left) Jeff Standafer, vice president of Citizens Bank, Timmy Standafer of Citizens Bank, Tony LaShay of Excel Engineering and Dan Heidelmeier connect with other business leaders at the Chamber’s annual golf outing.

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• FESTIVE from front page

the jolly old elf, work on a craft project and eat cookies. The heated cars will be decorated for the event. Departures are at 9:30 a.m., noon and 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$17.50 for children 0-11. Tickets can be purchased at www.easttroyrrt.org.

2 RING IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT ST. JAMES

St. James United Methodist Church, 2945 Main St., will host its annual Holiday Sale on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The sale will feature baked goods (homemade cookies, bread, etc.), Babe's Boutique (greeting cards, kitchen knives and crafts), handcrafted greeting cards, hand-knit items and miscellaneous Christmas items. For more information, call (262) 642-7642.

3 SHARE PANCAKES WITH SANTA

The Salvation Army– Army Lake Camp will host Pancakes with Santa from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the camp, N8725 Army Lake Road in East Troy.

Menu items include pancakes, sausage and more.

Children will have an opportunity to meet Santa, decorate their own Christmas cookie and get a gift. The cost is \$8 for 13 and older and \$6 for children ages 5-12. Admission is free for children younger than 4. Tickets are available at www.armylakecamp.org.

4 SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

The East Troy Family and Community Resource Center will host its annual Home Party and Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Bret Miller Gymnasium at East Troy High School, 3128 Graydon Ave.

The event will feature more than 70 different direct sale vendors and concessions with both breakfast and lunch items. Bake sale items will also be offered to benefit the Family Resource Center.

The East Troy High School Key Club and

East Troy Middle School Builder's Club will offer a drop and shop for parents for a nominal fee. They will host assorted games and activities for the kids to enjoy, giving parents a stress-free shopping experience. For more information, call (262) 642-4900.

5 SEE 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute is teaming up with Walking the Dog Theater of New York to offer a public performance of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" free of charge at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The show, featuring David Anderson, will be held in the Big Brown Barn at Michael Fields, located W2493 County Road ES (corner of Townline Road and West Main St.).

The seasonal favorite is appropriate for children 10 and older. A \$10 donation per person is suggested. For more information, visit www.michaelfields.org or call (262) 642-3303 (ext. 124).

6 HIT THE SLOPES

Alpine Valley Resort features 20 slopes that range from beginner to expert mogul runs with 388 feet of vertical skiing. The hill also includes three Terrain Parks, which offer snowboarders and freestyle skiers a variety of rails, boxes and snow features.

This year, Alpine is ramping up its offerings to include Weekday Specials, including Tremendous Tuesday (\$27 a.m. session lift tickets), Men's Day Wednesday (\$31 a.m. session lift tickets for men) and Women's Day Thursday (\$31 a.m. session lift tickets for women).

Weekday rates are \$38 (all area) and \$34 (beginner) from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 2 to 10 p.m. and \$53 (all area) and \$45 (beginner) for a full day. Weekend and Holiday rates are \$48 (all area) and \$43 (beginner) from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 2 to 10 p.m. and \$62 (all area) and \$56 (beginner) for a full day.

Alpine Valley is located at W2501 County



PHOTO SUBMITTED *Good Neighbors*

Alpine Valley Resort, located right in East Troy, provides some of the most diverse skiing and snowboarding terrain in the Midwest.

Road D. For more information, visit www.alpinevalleyresort.com.

7 GET CRAFTY WITH THE KIDS

The East Troy Family and Community Resource Center, 3066 W. Main St., suite 108 in the Windfield Plaza, hosts arts activities every Monday night from 6:15-6:45 p.m. In December, family craft nights will focus on home made ornaments, decorating sugar cookies and more.

The center will continue its Alphabet Adventures program on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10 a.m. for preschool age children to learn about cutting, pasting, coloring and number and letter recognition. The center also offers a free playgroup on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Playmore Park, 3072 Graydon Ave.

Programs are offered free of charge to families throughout Walworth County and Mukwonago. Participants must register for all events at (262) 642-4900 or easttroyfamily@gmail.com.

8 LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY

The East Troy Area Historical Society will showcase local history during East Troy's Santa on the Square event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. The event will also feature refreshments and tours.

The current exhibit will remain open in 2016 at the Kubicki Museum and Heritage Center, 2106 Church St., on the village square.

The museum is open to the public free of charge Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment by calling (262) 642-2642. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, visit www.etahs.org.

9 LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC

The East Troy Community Schools Music Department will host several holiday music concerts in December.

- Wednesday, Dec. 9: Seventh and eighth grade bands will perform at 7 p.m. in the East Troy Middle School gym, 3143 Graydon Ave.
- Thursday, Dec. 17: Fifth grade band and general music class will perform at 6:30 p.m. in the Prairie View School Gym, 2131 Townline Road.
- Sunday, Dec. 20: Middle school and East Troy High School choirs will perform at 3 p.m. in the high school Brett Miller Gym, 3128 Graydon Ave.
- Sunday, Dec. 20: High school bands will perform at 7 p.m. in the high school Gym 1.

10 GO SLEDDING

Mitchell Park, located directly north of the Rossmiller Sports Complex along Highway 20, is the largest sledding hill in East Troy, offering plenty of fun to delight sledders. Two additional East Troy sledding hills are located at 1824 Thomas Drive in the Pulliam Nature Area and 1825 Thomas Drive in the West Kettle Nature Area.

• SANTA from front page

NO LINE FOR PHOTOS

Professional photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available following the tree lighting after 6:30 p.m. inside Ivan's Backstage. The cost is \$5 with proceeds to benefit the East Troy Food Pantry.

Avoid the wait in line this year. Here's how it works: Walk into Ivan's Backstage and check in at the photo area. Linger outside or check out the offerings at one of the establishments on the square until your number appears on one of numerous status boards, indicating it's your turn for photos.

All aboard!

Limited tickets are still available for individuals of all ages who would like to ride in special passenger trolley cars that will follow the Santa Train. The return trip will depart the East Troy depot at 8 p.m.

The heated passenger trolley will begin boarding at 5 p.m. at The Elegant Farmer, depart at 5:30 p.m. and follow the Santa Train to East Troy.

Tickets for the special ride, which must be purchased in advance, are available for \$10 each at the East Troy Chamber Office, upstairs at 2894 Main St., (on the Village Square) or at www.easttroy.org.

SANTA TRAIN SCHEDULE

Spectators, who aren't aboard the train, can catch a glimpse of Santa along County Road ES. The train will stop briefly at the following crossings:

- 5:30 p.m., train departs at The Elegant Farmer
- 5:45 p.m., Army Lake Road – Army Lake Camp
- 6 p.m., St. Peter's Road
- 6:15 p.m., Byrnes Street
- 6:25 p.m., Division Street
- 6:30 p.m., Santa arrives on Village Square via East Troy Fire Department truck

East Troy Locations

Inside Frank's Piggly-Wiggly
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Sarah Alexander of Realty Executives welcomes Greg Coleman, who opened a Farmers Insurance Agency at 2541 Main St., Suite H, providing auto, home and other insurance products.



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Ann Zess of Allan Integrated Control Systems (center) welcomes Apogee Payments Systems, East Troy’s newest chamber member, including (from left) Karen Abler, president/founder Derek DePuydt and Steve Hauler.



VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

• ECP 123 from front page

serves over 500 assisted living communities.” The longtime software developer’s successful business started while developing an early version of the application for Brolen Park (an East Troy assisted living home) to create a way to document its residents’ care needs. Sadly, much of the initial program’s development was completed at the bedside of Hotz’s mother at Kiwanis Manor, where she had been admitted for terminal cancer. Hotz said he was able to see firsthand, the processes of long term care and documentation needs in this setting. The initial project and circumstances became the basis for the first vision for marketing the software, yet ECP needed years of research, investment and effort from Hotz and others to get it to where it is today. Two years after the initial development of ECP in 2004, Hotz teamed up with his partner Scott VanDusen, and together they retooled ECP to be a web based application, which would prove to be a key to the success of the tech business. Hotz, who previously owned Video Playground, RadioShack and The Wine Seller (Troy Liquor) in East Troy in the seventies and eighties, said VanDusen was a brilliant programmer even when he worked for him as an East Troy High School intern and then later became a lead programmer at Kohler. Today, their web-based software is rapidly developing, providing a service that had not been previously available. For nearly a decade, ECP has helped hundreds of assisted living and senior living communities throughout the country switch from paper to electronic charting. Hotz said their customer base, which ranges from small to large multi-state providers, is rapidly growing.

Creating culture

Hotz and VanDusen have worked to retain the company’s culture and values as its number of employees swells. Part of meeting that challenge was setting up shop in a space big enough. ECP purchased the building at 2096 Church Street to move ECP from cramped upstairs quarters to modern renovated offices throughout the rest of the site. The recent upgrade marks the first phase of an exciting plan to refresh the interior and exterior of the building. The new design features amenities like a 1950s diner-influenced break room, a new gym and special touches meant to make staff feel welcome. One of the coolest features of the space is the original stage of East Troy’s first opera house, featuring custom offices and a gold-leaf ceiling. The revamped layout and décor is part of Hotz and VanDusen’s goal to pay homage to the building’s historic past and help their hometown village square continue to blossom. One of ECP’s other major focuses at the moment is finding enough skilled people who share its vision. ECP has added over 30 individuals to its team in the past three years. M-Jai Harrell, an ECP consultant, was attracted to the company’s family-like environment. She moved to East Troy from New York in February of 2015 for the job and is quickly getting involved in the community.

“I love working in East Troy, right on the square because it provides a wonderful area for walk and talks, there is a delicious variety of cuisine to tempt me every day, and because we never miss out on the great events on the square; ringing the cow bell during the bike race, cheering for East Troy Trojans during their parades, and the Farmers Market every Friday afternoon,” Harrell said. Janel Koplinski, ECP support representative, grew up in East Troy and recently moved back to work at ECP. “With my health care support background with having to utilize electronic medical records, I enjoy that I get to be a part of helping these communities’ nursing staff with charting and educating,” she said. The effort that Hotz and VanDusen have put into the company appears to be paying off with significant growth expected in the future. The company has offices in East Troy, Whitewater University Technology Park’s Innovation Center, Madison and Florida and is looking to potentially expand to Europe in 2016. In addition to assisted living communities, ECP also connects with systems used by the specialized long term pharmacies that serve these communities. They now have over 300 such pharmacy partners. For more information, including career information and job opportunities, visit www.ecp123.com.

• DOWNTOWN from front page

Development Alliance and the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance, works with communities to advance downtown and urban corridor revitalization efforts.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation named East Troy one of 18 new Connect Communities this summer. “Downtowns and urban commercial districts play an important role in their communities and in Wisconsin’s overall economy, functioning not only as prominent employment and business centers, but oftentimes standing as the historic foundation of the communities they serve,” according to WEDC. “Communities and their business districts have changed dramatically over the years, and some downtowns need a boost or maybe a complete management system to lead the turn around.” The Connect Communities Program is WEDC’s way of offering resources and networking opportunities to local leaders interested in revitalizing their downtowns. The Connect Communities program is a complementary program to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s Wisconsin Main Street Program, a downtown revitalization program targeting the historic and economic redevelopment of traditional downtown business districts. For more information on Connect Communities, visit www.inwisconsin.com.

GET INVOLVED

East Troy Connect Communities/Downtown Advocacy meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m. at Ivan’s on the Square. The next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cathy Anderson of WCEDA at cathy@walworthbusiness.com.

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Thank you!

The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce would like to give a special thanks to the following volunteers and sponsors who helped make the 22nd annual East Troy Bluegrass Festival a success.

The committee was chaired by Bill Vint of Sleeping Dogs Communications. Other committee members included Eileen Kostopoulos of First Citizens State Bank- East Troy Office, John Bashaw of Pendragon Specialties, Robin Hudec of Hues and Waves and Lisa Dominski of the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Festival founder Melissa Sherman served as the artistic director for the event and Tom Kostopoulos provided assistance all weekend long.

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MIKE MORBECK Good Neighbors

Headliners The Little Roy and Lizzy Show close out a full slate of bluegrass bands on Day 1 of the 22nd annual East Troy Bluegrass Festival Sept. 12 on the East Troy Village Square.

The Donegan Family
MiKall Dominski, C-Dominski
Plumbing
Betty Douglass, East Troy
Woman's Club
Lauren Dufek
East Troy Cub Scouts Troop 92
East Troy FFA
Michaela Evans, East Troy Girl Scouts
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Abby Mitchell, East Troy FFA
Gina Peter
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Autumn Rhode, East Troy Girl Scouts
Maggie Reilly, ECP 123
Shirley Savina
Elaine Scanlan, Trim N Tidy
Sarah Scanlan
Jordan Scheel, East Troy Girl Scouts
Jerry Schneider, Sleeping Dogs Communications

Lisa Vint, East Troy Area Emergency Services
Dan Walsh, East Troy Food Pantry
Keith Witt, East Troy Hometown Pharmacy
Ashley Movroydis, ECP 123
Haley Taylor, James R. Taylor & Sons

THANKS ALSO TO:

Johns Disposal Service
Loomis-Martin American Legion Post 188
Kostopoulos Family
Village of East Troy Department of Public Works
Village of East Troy
Walworth County Department of Public Works

CHECK OUT PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT AT EASTTROYBLUEGRASSFESTIVAL.COM



MIKE MORBECK Good Neighbors

Area bluegrass jammers and pickers perform their own show on the south side of the East Troy Village Square during the East Troy Bluegrass Festival.

• PROGRAM from page 3

Troy Manor. A gift-giving tree will be located inside the bank lobby at 3292 Main St., through Dec. 22.

4. WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

The East Troy Lioness Club will be collecting hats, gloves, socks and slippers at First Citizens State Bank-East Troy Office through Dec. 1.

St. James United Methodist Church will also be collecting hats, gloves and mittens through Dec. 14.

5. SHARE THE WARMTH

East Troy Boy Scouts Troop 92 will be collecting winter coats and gear at Frank's Piggly Wiggly and the East Troy Lions Public Library through Dec. 13. All coats will be cleaned and donated locally.

Monetary donations for the Holiday Help Program can be sent to the East Troy Family Community Resource Center, PO Box 962, East Troy, WI 53120.

For more information or to confidentially request help for a family in need, contact Komperud at (262) 642-4900 or easttroyfamily@gmail.com

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