

NOVEMBER 2013

MONTH IN REVIEW

We all learned how to kick our meeting addiction last month with guest speaker B.J. May from State Farm. His presentation was not only informative, but it was extremely engaging and provoked thoughtful conversation afterwards. Thank you B.J. for an intriguing presentation!

Despite cold temperatures and a good bit of wind, CommU was a success! Several members as well as others in the community visited our tent and took part in chili, candy, and cupcakes, while some even played bags in the cold! Thanks to the CommU committee for planning a great event and cooking the chili! Our neXt team also took part in a workout competition at the Four Seasons, where we got to flex our muscles and strengthen our relationships. It was a great teambuilding experience! Thanks to those who came out!

NeXt members are planning on being very involved in the community this month. Between November 14th through December 16th neXt is hosting a Giving Tree event in support of The Salvation Army. For more information, email kmuckey@thesnydercompanies.com. Also, the Festival of Trees is on Friday, November 22nd. A group of neXt members will be volunteering at the Jingle Bell Junction- kids zone!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking to get involved in the community? Want to build personal and professional relationships? Get involved at one of our next socials, service projects or monthly meetings!

November

- 11/14 Service: Giving Tree Lighting at the Chamber office @ 3:15PM
- 11/22 Service: Festival of Trees @ 4:30PM

December

- 12/10 Social: Jack Lewis Jewelers @ 4:00PM
- 12/16 Last day to drop off Giving Tree gifts

January

- 1/24 Annual winter dinner at Eastland Suites @ 6:30PM

neXt MEETING

Please join the neXt Professionals for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 19th, 2013. The November meeting will be a lunch meeting and will begin at 11:30 AM at the Chamber office (2203 E Empire Street). The meeting will feature several community leaders. Panelists will speak to key areas within our community and leadership development opportunities that they offer:

Becky Ropp, Growmark – Leadership
Andrea Raycraft, I-I District of Kiwanis International – Criminal Justice
Todd Lowery, McLean County Chamber of Commerce – Government
Joe McDonald, Bloomington-Normal Math Tutoring – Leadership McLean County Facilitator

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Heather Wagner

Heather Wagner is the Communications Manager for the Town of Normal. Heather's responsibilities consist of overseeing all internal and external communications including press releases, marketing materials, the Normal Newsline, town presentations, website content and monitoring social media. Originally from Bloomington, IL, Heather is a graduate of the University of Illinois where she studied Business Administration with a concentration on marketing. Heather has been a member of neXt Professionals since 2013, and is also currently a member of the Normal Rotary Club, the communications director for the Lake Run Club, the secretary for the Association of Women in Communication and the vice president of the Kappa Delta Sorority House Corporation. An interesting fact about Heather is that she just got married last month! In her free time, Heather enjoys running, playing volleyball and softball, and reading.



Quote to live by:

"We are different, in essence, from other people. If you want to win something, run 100 meters. If you want to experience something, run a marathon!"

~Emil Zatopek

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LOCAL NEWS & BUSINESS: Inspiring Healthy and Active Lifestyles

Fleet Feet Sports Bloomington opened its doors on May 23, 2013. For owners Julie and Brian Sibley, Bloomington-Normal was the only place they considered for their new business endeavor. Having lived here for 15 years and feeling nested in the community, they were confident they could fill a need that existed. After almost six months of being in business, they couldn't be happier and are very grateful to everyone who has helped them realize their dream.



"While Fleet Feet is categorized as a run specialty store, our vision has always been more than that," stated co-owner Brian Sibley. "We want to be the business that everyone feels comfortable coming into and they know we will help them with whatever their goals are. We have helped put people from all walks of life in the right footwear to get through their day, from nurses to delivery drivers."

Fleet Feet is located at 105 Krispy Kreme Drive, Suite #5 in Bloomington and offers several training programs for runners of all levels. Whether people are looking for a couch-to-5K program or are interested in a half marathon training plan, Fleet Feet can help. Within their store, they host various open-house clinics, such as nutrition tasting, and periodically have exercise groups, such as Yoga and Zumba. Congratulations to Julie and Brian!