

**Edgebrook Chamber of Commerce**  
**5421 W. Devon Ave.**

**Sauganash Chamber of Commerce**  
**6023 N. Cicero Ave.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Dennis Hammer**  
**773.545.5700**

**Chicago**, December 16, 2016 - The Edgebrook Chamber of Commerce and the Sauganash Chamber of Commerce jointly announce that their boards of directors have voted to merge the two chambers into one entity: The Edgebrook Sauganash Chamber of Commerce, effective April 1, 2017.

“This decision was a natural outcome of working closely together over the years to serve two uniquely separate but closely knit business communities with significant duplication of efforts,” said Dennis Hammer, who will be the president of the new organization.

“Everything from our membership lists to the directors on each board was characterized by significant overlap,” Hammer stated.

The new organization’s officers and board of directors will consist of a combination of 15 board representatives from both chambers: the 5 people who overlapped on both boards, plus 5 directors from the Edgebrook Chamber and 5 from the Sauganash Chamber.

The new officers will be Dennis Hammer - President, Barbara Eastman - Vice President, Dr. Deanna Minkler - Vice President, Robert Klairmont – Treasurer, and Jenise Celestin – Secretary. All of the officers are affiliated with brick and mortar businesses in Edgebrook and Sauganash.

“We are committed to ensuring that both communities receive the highest level of support from the Chamber, so we are maintaining offices in both communities,” stated Barbara Eastman, owner of Happy Foods in Edgebrook. The Edgebrook office is inside North Branch Arts at 5421 W. Devon. The Sauganash office is inside BQS Realty at 6023 N. Cicero.

Jennifer Herren Gatesman, the current executive director of the Sauganash Chamber of Commerce will serve as the new organization’s executive director. She will receive support from Andrea Simon in the role of as the business ambassador consultant, and Nick Haak, as the business administrator consultant.

The new organization will be official on or before April 1, 2017, upon completion of legal filings.

###