

The Elkhart Truth

Amid COVID-19, some are hiring in Elkhart County

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ELKHART — Several large and small businesses in the Elkhart area have announced that they are hiring amid the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 22,000 Hoosiers filed for unemployment last week.

Nursing homes

Three Elkhart nursing homes are looking for a total of 23 new full-time, part-time and temporary employees.

Riverside Village, Elkhart Meadows and East Lake Nursing & Rehabilitation Center are part of American Senior Communities, which is hiring across Indiana.

Regional operations director Kelly Holder said the three nursing homes are looking to hire hospitality aides, cooks, servers, housekeepers, student nurses and certified nursing assistants, among others.

“We’re seeing a lot of people in our community that have been overwhelmed with things happening with this COVID-19 crisis, and people in the restaurant industry and hotels and small business being laid off or having to close their businesses temporarily, and so, as a community member ourselves, we’re trying to get the word out that we do have opportunities available,” Holder said.

Since these are unprecedented times, American Senior Communities is preparing for the unknown, Holder said, and that means adding new staff.

“They can help take on a lot of roles and responsibilities that will free up our clinicians to be able to take on the clinical tasks,” she said.

Grocery storesSome large businesses are also hiring, including grocery stores that have been particularly busy during these last few weeks.

In response to strong demand in stores, Walmart is hiring 150,000 new associates through the end of May. In Indiana, Walmart plans to hire more than 2,000 associates to work in stores, clubs, distribution centers and fulfillment centers.

“As a reward for their hard work and dedication to serving customers during this unprecedented health crisis, Walmart will provide more than \$365 million in cash bonuses to hourly associates in the U.S. Every hourly associate employed by the company as of March 1 will qualify, and it will pay out on April 2,” a news release said.

In addition, the company will accelerate the next scheduled quarterly bonus for associates a month early. The early bonus payout will add up to \$180 million nationwide. Those steps are in addition to a new COVID-19 emergency leave policy that provides support to employees if they are impacted by the coronavirus.