

February 2016



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Common Ground

ACCELERATE

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1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Lisa Klaustermeier
Anderson Hospital
Dave Viox
AAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

Guiding Principles

Chambers of Commerce honor and respect **capitalism** and **well-informed private sector job creators** as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through **education, business advocacy** and **leadership**.

2016 Ambassadors

Breck Ahlers, Extra Help, Inc.
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom TShirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
David Janes, Scott Credit Union
Amanda Linton, Northwestern Mutual
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments

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President & CEO
ceo@edglenchamber.com
Kerry Smith
Membership Director
membership@edglenchamber.com
Kathy Hentz
Administrative Assistant
office@edglenchamber.com

Vision

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will be the preferred provider of watch-dog, education and advocacy services that form a mission-critical catalyst for business success.

Mission

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

on the cover

Ed/Glen Chamber Launches New Initiative

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a new initiative designed to build and solidify our region's vibrant future workforce.

ACCELERATE is a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals with the tools to accelerate leadership acumen, hone communication skills, expand professional networks, connect participants with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community as a whole.

If your employer is an Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce member and you are interested in joining ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon, please complete the application on page 5 of this publication.

Completed applications, with \$50 payment, should be mailed to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, 1 North Research Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025. You may also fax your application to 618.656.7611 and call our office at 618.656.7600 to pay by credit card.

ACCELERATE participants have the opportunity to be mentored by well-respected CEOs and seasoned leaders from throughout our region. Mentor/mentee forms can be downloaded at edglenchamber.com/accelerate. The chamber will then pair you with an appropriate mentor. Those CEOs and business leaders who would like to serve as a mentor should also complete the form.

Completed mentor/mentee forms may be emailed to Kerry Smith at membership@edglenchamber.com



special investors

Gold Level

Anderson Hospital
Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level

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AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
Meridian Village
Sam's Club 4878
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville
Walgreens
Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Associated Bank
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar
Cassens & Sons
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255
City of Edwardsville
Doubletree by Hilton
Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville School District #7
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Clover Leaf Bank
Gori Julian & Associates, PC
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Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company
Juneau Associates Inc., P.C.
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Robert 'Chick' Fritz, Inc.
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Spectrum Business
Stur Restaurant
Village of Glen Carbon
Volkert, Inc.
West & Company, LLC
Wirtz Beverage Illinois

Premier Level

1818 Chophouse
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Abstracts & Titles Inc.
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Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
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Days Inn
Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC
Doc's Smokehouse & Catering
Donnewald Distributing
Edison's Entertainment Complex
Edwardsville Ambulatory Surgery Center
Edwardsville Pet Hospital
Envisioning Green
Express Employment Professionals
Extra Help, Inc.
FCB Edwardsville Bank
First Community Credit Union
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
First National Bank - Maryville
Gateway Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company
Glik's Department Store
Goddard School
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill
Hampton Inn & Suites
Harvey H. Breckner, DMD, MS
Hawkins Law Office, P.C.
Hawthorne Animal Hospital, LTD
Highland Recycling & Shredding
Holiday Inn Express
Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill
IMPACT Strategies, Inc.
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J.T. McDermott Remodeling Contractors
Jan's Hallmark Shop
KinderCare Learning Center
Kitchenland
Lindenwood University
Live Tanning Salon Spa, Inc.
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Market Basket
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Minuteman Press
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Northwestern Mutual
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Phone Masters
Plocher Construction Company, Inc.
Quality Inn & Conference Center
RE/MAX Alliance
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
Reed, Armstrong, Mudge & Morrissey, P.C.
Regions Bank
Richards Brick Company
RiverBender.com/EdGlenToday.com
Royal Office Products, Inc.
Royal Solutions, LLC
Scheffel Boyle
Sivia Business & Legal Services, PC
South Side's All-Star Collision Center
Southern IL Underwriters Agency, Inc.
Springfield Electric Supply Company
State Farm Insurance - Rick Marteeny
StraightUp Solar
Sugo's Spaghetteria
Sunset Hills Country Club
Sunset Hills Family Dental
Super 8 Motel
TheEDGEBANK
Thompson & Lengacher, P.C.
Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C, & Electrical
University Nursing & Rehab Center
US Bank
Vision For Life
Visionary Wealth Advisors
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill

save the date

3/8 Tuesday 12-1pm

networking@noon
Edison's Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/12 Saturday 5:30pm

Annual Gala & Auction
Meridian Ballroom
SIUE Morris University Center
Edwardsville, IL 62026
RSVP Online

3/17 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Associated Bank
1 Junction Drive West
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

4/5 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Expert-Led Skills Development
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/6 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/7 Thursday 7:30am

Mayors' Legislative Breakfast:
State of the City/Village
N.O. Nelson Leclair Room
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/12 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Networking
Glazy Squares
443 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/21 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
w/ First Clover Leaf Bank,
Bella Milano & MORE
N.O. Nelson Leclair Room
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/4 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/10 Tuesday 12-1pm

networking@noon
Edison's Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/19 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Olive Oils & More
202 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/24 Friday 7:30am

Annual Ed/Glen Chamber
Golf Tournament
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion, and Purpose by Zappos.com, Inc. founder Tony Hsieh is our book for all six of the Ed/Glen Chamber's 2016 networking@noon sessions. This year's theme will detail the art of customer service and is a must for every employee! Hsieh embodies the belief that customer service is the responsibility of the entire company, not just a department. Topical discussions will be facilitated each session, along with a networking activity. Prepare for great insights and lively interaction! Reading the book is not a requirement to participate in n@n!

Ed/Glen Chamber leadership staff has worked diligently to develop a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals tools to improve leadership acumen, hone effective communication skills, expand their network, connect with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community. To participate in the ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon initiative, download the participation form at www.edglenchamber.com and return, with payment, to the chamber office.

connect

the newly connected

Allen Insurance Group

Lisa Allen
Independent Insurance Agent:
Home, Auto, Business & Life
20 Edwardsville Professional Park,
Suite B
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-655-5380
www.alleninsurancegroup.net

Alliance Technologies, LLC

Bryan Buesking
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& Managed Services
205 South Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-954-5844
www.alliancetechnologiesllc.com

Catrinás

Megan Becerril
'New Mexican' Upscale
Authentic Mexican Restaurant
1027 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-5522

Enterprise Car Sales

Michael Rother
Pre-Owned Vehicle Sales
4251 South IL Route 159
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-0883
www.erac.com

Gordon Food Service

Joshua Baker
Food Service Distribution
340 Market Place
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
314-686-1010
www.gfs.com

Individual Member

Kathy Goclan
2650 Westmoreland Drive
Granite City, IL 62040
618-616-2642

J.S. Excavating & Hauling, LLC

James Stinchfield
Excavating & Grading Contractor
6401 Lebanon Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-9014

Lam-Tech, Inc.

Doyle Hale
Cabinet Sales
2525 East Broadway
Alton, IL 62002
618-465-2525
www.cslti.com

Midwest Regional Bank

Rob Pickerell
Business Banking,
Commercial & SBA Loans
333 Salem Place, Suite 100
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618-830-2231
www.mwregionalbank.com

Orion Commercial Properties, LLC

C. William Schmidt
Commercial Property Owner
P.O. Box 463
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-978-3654

Security Finance

Eric Cook
Consumer Loans
1500 Troy Road, Suites A & B
618-307-6272
www.security-finance.com



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to Ahhhhh!

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ACCELERATE

edwardsville  glen carbon

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a new Ed/Glen Chamber initiative designed to build and solidify our region's vibrant future workforce.

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a **business-centric initiative** designed to provide professionals like you with the tools to **accelerate your leadership acumen, hone your communication skills, expand your professional network, connect you with mentors,** and ultimately **strengthen our business community** as a whole.

Your Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

\$50 Participation Fee Enclosed *(Make checks payable to Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce)*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*** * * PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION * * ***

Return Application & Dues to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 618.656.7600 (p) | 618.656.7611 (f)



(From left) Kyle David, Assistant Vice President, TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group; and Dave Viox, Owner, AAdvantage Insurance Group.



Dave Viox:

About TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group

I moved into the area in 1989 and didn't know anything about the banking situation. So I started checking around and contacted TheBANK of Edwardsville, and I was pleasantly surprised at how welcoming they were and the way they did business. **I was completely sold right from the start.**

So when I was looking for new office space for my business, I never even thought about going to any other institution. I was happy to work with TheBANK. I sat down with my commercial banker, Kyle David, and he explained the different programs available for my situation. There were several different options available, and the one we worked out was perfect for what I needed. **The entire process was extremely satisfying. Everything was taken care of.**

Over the years I've been able to get to know so many good people that work at TheBANK. They're not only great business partners to have, but many are good friends. That's such a big part of being comfortable with your bank. When you know the people you're doing business with – when you know them personally and know that they're quality people – you don't have those questions, wondering if you're going to be treated right.



Contact us today to find out how we can help you with all your business banking, lending, and investment needs:

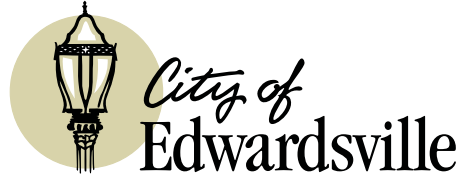
618-659-4590
www.4thebank.com



MEMBER FDIC

April 7, 2016 7:30am

Legislative Breakfast *with the* Mayors



Join the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce's government affairs committee for breakfast as they host the mayors of Edwardsville & Glen Carbon.

7:30am Full Breakfast Buffet
8-9am Introductions, Welcome & Program

In the LeClaire Room at Lewis and Clark Community College's N.O. Nelson Campus

Breakfast *with the* Mayors

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$25 each (\$35 non-members)

Business Name _____

Business Address & Phone _____

Names of Attendees _____

Contact Email Address _____

Please Bill Me _____ I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

Fax RSVP Form to: 618.656.7611

Mail to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025

Questions? Call 618.656.7600 or email office@edglenchamber.com.



Mayors' Legislative Breakfast Is Proudly Brought To You By IMPACT Strategies, Inc.

connect

We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of February. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

40+ YEARS

Madison County Farm Bureau

40-49 YEARS

Guaranty Title Company

20-29 YEARS

**Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois
Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, PC
Fitness Designs
Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts
United Way of Greater STL**

10-19 YEARS

**First Christian Church
Irwin Chapel of Glen Carbon
IL Federation of Business Women - Metro East
Mojo's Music
Law Office of Robert T. Bruegge
FCB Edwardsville Bank
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar**

**Holiday Inn Express
Magnuson Camelot Hotel
Super 8 Motel
Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C, & Electrical
Cornerstone Insurance Group
Madison County Record
Edwardsville Vision Center**

5-9 YEARS

**Benjamin Stephenson House
Extra Help, Inc.
Grime Stoppers, Inc.
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
AAvantage Insurance Group, LLC**

**Simply Smiles
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.
Ooh La La Spa, Anti-Aging & Wellness
Newsong Fellowship
Olive Oils & More**

1-4 YEARS

**CJD E-Cycling
Mary Beth Williams, Attorney at Law
Cambridge Capital Management, LLC**

**1818 Chophouse
Sugo's Spaghetteria
Madison County Career & Tech. Ed. System
Healing Touch Wellness Center**

**Homefield Energy, A Dynegey Company
Flex Consulting, LLC
IMPACT Strategies, Inc.**

business of the month



COMPANY HISTORY: The company was founded in 1993 by Jeff Gamblin and was originally named AAA ACECO Plumbing Inc., then was renamed Tiger Plumbing Services, LLC in 2004. In 2001 Tiger started offering heating and cooling services and in 2015 electrical services were added. In 2015 the name of the company changed to, Tiger Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical Services, incorporating all of the services Tiger offers. Jeff Gamblin is still the owner and he's still very active in the day-to-day operations at Tiger.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Tiger owns a building in downtown Glen Carbon, pays property taxes and employs several members of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community. Additionally, their service technicians patronize local shops and restaurants on a daily basis when running service calls in the area.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Tiger is always looking for ways to help out in the community. The company actively supports the American Cancer Society and participates in/donates to Relay for Life annually. Additionally, they support the Walk to End Alzheimer's, the local Toys for Tots campaign, and many area animal shelters. The company also care deeply about the environment and offers a variety of cost-effective tankless water heaters and energy efficient heating and cooling equipment. These products significantly reduce the amount of energy and natural resources needed for families to live comfortably.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: Tiger employees receive ongoing training to ensure that everyone is performing at their maximum potential. The company sends employees to the very best seminars and hands-on training out there. Bonus programs are offered, and employees are provided with opportunities for growth and advancement. Plus, Tiger offers the following benefits: an IRA, health insurance plans that cover the employee and their family, dental plans, fully paid vacations, disability Insurance, paid holidays, paid sick days, life insurance, in addition to an on-site workout and recreation room.

LEADERSHIP: Tiger's Assistant General Manager Todd Kiefer is on the HVAC board at Southwestern Illinois College. In addition, the company is veteran owned and several employees are members of the National Guard and/or actively participate in volunteer activities in the community.

INNOVATION: The customer always comes first at Tiger and most importantly they offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee. If the customer is not happy, we will do everything possible to make them happy. Phones are answered promptly by a real person, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week – even on holidays. The company offers immediate service response time, often less than one hour. Their technicians are drug-free, bonded and insured employees that are background checked to assure a clean criminal history, promising customer safety and peace of mind. Customers are provided with up-front pricing so they know how much the repair will cost, before any work begins.

EXCELLENCE: Tiger is A+ ranked with the Better Business Bureau, was named North American Comfort Contractor of the Year in 2014, received the Service Nation Alliance Efficiency Award in 2014, and was recognized with the Angie's List Super Service Award in 2013.

CHARACTER: The Tiger team wants to help families in the community live better lives with stress-free, on-time, dependable service.

FUTURE FOCUS: Tiger anticipates 10% growth in 2016 and looks to expand the size of its workforce, providing gainful employment to even more local residents.



schmooze

business after hours



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill and Illinois Business Journal, January 21

ground breakings & ribbon cuttings



City of Edwardsville Spray & Play Park, December 30



The Bedroom Store, January 14



Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill, January 21



Hot 4 Yoga LLC, January 26



Allen Insurance Group, January 27

The BRIDGE

Connecting Women Leaders of Today & Tomorrow

The Bridge is a special event series designed to be a vehicle for networking, fun and professional development.

“Thank you for making such a quality event available at no charge to business women in our community.”

See more examples of what other women are saying about The Bridge at bswllc.com/thebridge.



A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE

bswsmallbusiness.com | 314.983.1204
St. Louis | St. Charles | Glen Carbon

**Save These Dates For
Our Next Events!**

May 10
October 27

Brown Smith Wallace LLP

your business

Associated Bank Marks Grand Reopening of Missouri Avenue Branch Jackie Joyner-Kersey Is Special Guest

Associated Bank recently celebrated its continuing commitment to the East St. Louis community with an event marking the completion of a major remodeling of its 326 Missouri Avenue branch. Investment in the branch is estimated at \$750,000.

Phil Hickman, president of Associated Bank's Southern Illinois Community Market, hosted the event. "We were delighted to have been joined by Jackie Joyner-Kersey, several important local officials and other guests to hail the completion of this project," Hickman said. "Our refurbished branch will serve to improve the banking experience for our customers and at the same time enhance our continuing role as a lender in supporting future East St. Louis development."

During a brief program, Hickman presented Joyner-Kersey with a \$5,000 contribution from Associated Bank to support her local foundation's after-school program for children. Branch Manager Loretta Holmes introduced her branch team and shared their collective excitement over the project. "Our team has been thrilled watching the transformation of our 6,000-square-

foot building into a modern and efficient operation with a welcoming environment for our customers," Holmes said.

The renovation included new flooring and lighting, modern teller lines, accessible offices for special consumer and commercial banking activities, WIFI allowing staff to help customers become familiar with digital banking channels and numerous other upgrades. The refurbished branch includes a new community room which can be reserved by local not-for-profit organizations for their meetings. The bank was built in 1958 by then-owner State Savings and Loan. It later became part of First Financial Corporation which merged into Associated Bank in 1997.



Anderson
Hospital

The comfort
of private rooms...
plus the quality
you've come
to expect.

andersonhospital.org/privaterooms

your business

“Get to know m.e.” Campaign Announces Scholarship Recipients: Awards Go To Eight Area Students

The “Get to know m.e.” campaign has selected individuals to each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Two recipients from each of the host sponsor universities and colleges have received awards. The educational institutions awarding the scholarships are: Lindenwood University in Belleville, McKendree University in Lebanon, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Edwardsville, and Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. Winners were determined based on their applications and essays submitted last fall to the “Get to know m.e.” campaign.

Scholarship recipients for the “Get to know m.e.” Campaign are Jessica Moon and Sara Dewey from Lindenwood University, Bradley Schniers and Jennifer Blumberg from McKendree University, Anna Glushko and Heidi Quiggle from SIUE, and Benjamin Hankammer and Alex Mitchell from Southwestern Illinois College. Their award winning essays were chosen out of more than 150 applicants highlighting why they love living in the Metro-East. All recipients were required to be a resident of the Metro-East at the time of application, enrolled as a full-time student, and in good standing with the university or college.

The “Get to know m.e.” Campaign was launched as a positive-image campaign to celebrate the many reasons people love living and working in the Metro-East. The campaign works to help bring awareness to everyone living in and out of the St. Louis Metro-East area, encouraging them to gain a broader understanding of the many communities that make up the Metro-East and all they resources and attractions they have to offer.

The scholarships are part of the campaign’s initiative to complete projects throughout the Metro-East that improve lives, promote the area or positively impact the campaign and its missions. In addition to the scholarship program, the “Get to know m.e.” campaign also completed a community bench project, which placed more than 40 steel benches with the “Get to know m.e.” branding throughout the Metro-East area.

To learn more, go to www.Get2KnowTheMetroEast.com.



Our focus is to protect your life's journey

Protecting your lifelong assets and providing security for your legacy is a crucial part of every business owners' well-being. When you turn to a MM&R estate planning attorney, you know you have the most knowledgeable and experienced professionals on your side.

Whether you have a family member with special needs, require assistance in transitioning your family business to the next generation or seek to minimize the potential tax burden to your heirs, we are dedicated to developing and implementing an effective and comprehensive estate plan which provides you with comfort and assurance.

MM&R has proven experience in the administration of every aspect of estate planning, including:

- Wills
- Trusts
- Charitable gift planning
- Estate tax planning
- Post-mortem estate planning
- Business succession planning
- Buy-sell agreements
- Guardianships
- Gift planning
- Probate administration
- Probate litigation
- Special needs trusts for disabled beneficiaries

618.234.9800 | 618.656.2244 | 618.327.4300 | 314.421.2325
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A Better Place to Play Campaign Receives Large Donation to Fund ADA Ball Field at New Sports Park

The community-wide fundraising effort for three new recreational facilities in Edwardsville recently received additional funding for the proposed sports park by an anonymous donor. The \$200,000 donation will go toward construction of the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ball field at the sports park and gives the anonymous donor naming rights of the field, later to be announced.

Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton is excited about this recent donation as well as the planned sports park to be located near the I-55 Corridor. "The new sports park will have something for everyone. The green space will include softball, baseball and soccer fields, as well as tennis and pickleball courts. The most recent donation will be used toward the all-accessible field for those with special needs. This is a much needed recreational space for Edwardsville with so many select ball and soccer teams in need of fields."


The sports park is one of three parks being funded by the 'A Better Place to Play' campaign, which seeks donations from area businesses and individuals wishing to improve the community's recreational offerings. A spray and play

park at the intersection of South Main and Schwarz Streets is also being funded by the campaign and is now under construction. The spray and play park is expected to open in summer 2016. An ice rink and teen center to be located on the ECUSD #7 grounds is also being planned. The ice rink and teen center would help fill the need for ice time in the area and support many of the local hockey and figure skating needs.

Patton adds, "Edwardsville already has so much to offer visitors and residents. Adding these three new parks will make this community even stronger. It will support our local businesses with additional hotel stays, restaurant visits and other retail spending and it will help facilitate the many practice and play hours needed for our local teams. An investment in parks also helps in building stronger family bonds and keeping our local residents healthy."

For those interested in donating to the campaign, there are many options. Recently, the City of Edwardsville also announced a new coupon booklet for businesses or individuals wanting to make monthly donations to one of the three recreational facilities or to the general fund. A minimum donation of \$50 per month is requested for the use of the coupon booklets. To receive a coupon booklet or for more information about the campaign and how to become a sponsor, please contact Katie Grable of Edwardsville Parks & Recreation at 618.692.7538.

The 'A Better Place to Play' campaign partners with the Edwardsville Community Foundation so all donations are tax deductible. To donate, go to www.betterplacetoplay.com or edwardsvillecommunityfoundation.org. Donations may also be mailed to Edwardsville Community Foundation to P.O. Box 102, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Please make a notation on your check that the funds are to be applied to the "A Better Place to Play" Campaign. If you wish to support a specific parks project, please also notate the designated park with your donation.



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Scott Credit Union Wins Two State Awards: School CPR Kits, Adult Financial Education Program Garner Recognition

Scott Credit Union has garnered awards in two categories of the Illinois Credit Union League's annual state-wide awards competition. The local credit union won the top prize in a category focused on social responsibility and garnered the second place award for adult financial education.

Scott Credit Union won the first place award in the greater than \$1 billion asset categories for its partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA) to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training in area schools.

"The American Heart Association designed the CPR training program for schools that include scientifically advanced CPR kits," said SCU Community Relations Supervisor Jennifer Hess. "The CPR kits are portable, durable and designed to train 10-20 students at a time. Each kit includes an educational DVD and hands-on practice with mannequins, teaching students how to save a life."

"According to the AHA, every hour in the U.S. approximately 38 people will have a cardiac arrest event outside of the hospital," Hess added. "Nine out of ten people will not survive. However, if lifesaving CPR is performed, a victim's chance of surviving can double or even triple."

Scott Credit Union signed on with the AHA to fully fund 15 CPR kits for 12 schools in the Illinois counties of Madison, Monroe and St. Clair. The local credit union funded the initiative, which started in January of 2015, at a cost of \$35,000 over three years, Hess noted.

"An Illinois bill passed in May of 2014 mandates that students receive CPR education before they graduate high school," Hess said. "With funding becoming increasingly scarce for Illinois schools, this was an excellent opportunity for Scott Credit Union to step in to help fulfill the mission of a community partner while also benefitting local students and schools."

Scott Credit Union also received a second place award for its partnership that provided financial education to adults with disabilities at The Legacy Collaboration in Edwardsville.

"We were proud to partner with The Legacy Collaboration to put on a financial education workshop called The Money Series," Hess said. "The Legacy Collaboration is a local not-for-profit that helps individuals with disabilities work and live in their chosen communities. They approached us to help them engage their clients ages 16 to 33 while teaching skills that encourage independence in personal finance."



As part of The Money Series, Scott Credit Union hosted a CU 4 Reality budgeting fair. "The participants visited booths where they could make purchasing decisions about expenses such as housing, vehicles and luxuries," Hess noted. "Scott Credit Union and TLC volunteers helped each attendee balance their budget, giving advice to cut costs or add income through a part-time job if necessary. Additionally, Scott Credit Union provided a seminar on identity theft for attendees."

"We are very proud of the work we have done to give back to the community and schools, as well as what we have done to provide financial education," Hess added. "It is nice to be recognized with the awards, but the real happiness comes with knowing that we are able to help people. These awards really showcase our dedication to helping people."

Representatives from Scott Credit Union will be recognized at the keynote and awards program during the Credit Union League's Annual Convention this spring in Schaumburg, IL. Scott Credit Union has made giving back to its communities a major priority. The local credit union contributed more than \$370,000 and its employees volunteered more than 2,400 hours to a variety of local civic efforts throughout the region in 2015.

"We realize that without our members and the communities in which we serve, we would not exist as a financial alternative," Hess said. "That is why it is so important for us to give back and support the communities in which we have locations."

The credit union has increased its community involvement in the past few years while also increasing its efforts to educate consumers of the value of doing their financial business with a not-for-profit credit union.

Heyl Royster Announces Barry Noeltner as Partner in its Edwardsville Office

Heyl Royster is pleased to announce Barry Noeltner has become a partner at the firm.



Noeltner focuses his practice on the defense of personal injury, construction, nursing home claims, and professional liability litigation. In 1985, he was one of the original lawyers in the firm's Edwardsville office, and he returned to the Edwardsville office in 2012. He has taken numerous cases to verdict in both state and federal courts and has handled appellate matters in state and federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Noeltner is licensed to practice in Illinois and Georgia, including the federal district and appellate courts in those states, and has arbitrated construction

cases with the American Arbitration Association. He is a trained mediator who has been ranked an AV Preeminent Lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell since 1995. Noeltner received his Juris Doctorate from the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Heyl Royster is a regional Midwest law firm with more than 100 lawyers, and offices in Peoria, Springfield, Urbana, Rockford, Edwardsville, and Chicago, IL. The firm provides legal services for businesses and corporations, professionals, healthcare organizations, governmental entities, universities, insurance carriers, and other major institutions. Heyl Royster lawyers have successfully defended clients in all of the federal courts and in each of the 102 counties in the State of Illinois, as well as in courtrooms in Missouri and Wisconsin. Their attorneys also counsel clients on all aspects of business life. Through the firm's lawyers' participation in bar and industry activities, they identify and help develop trends in the law which they believe will be of benefit to their clients.

To learn more about the firm, go to www.heyvroyster.com.

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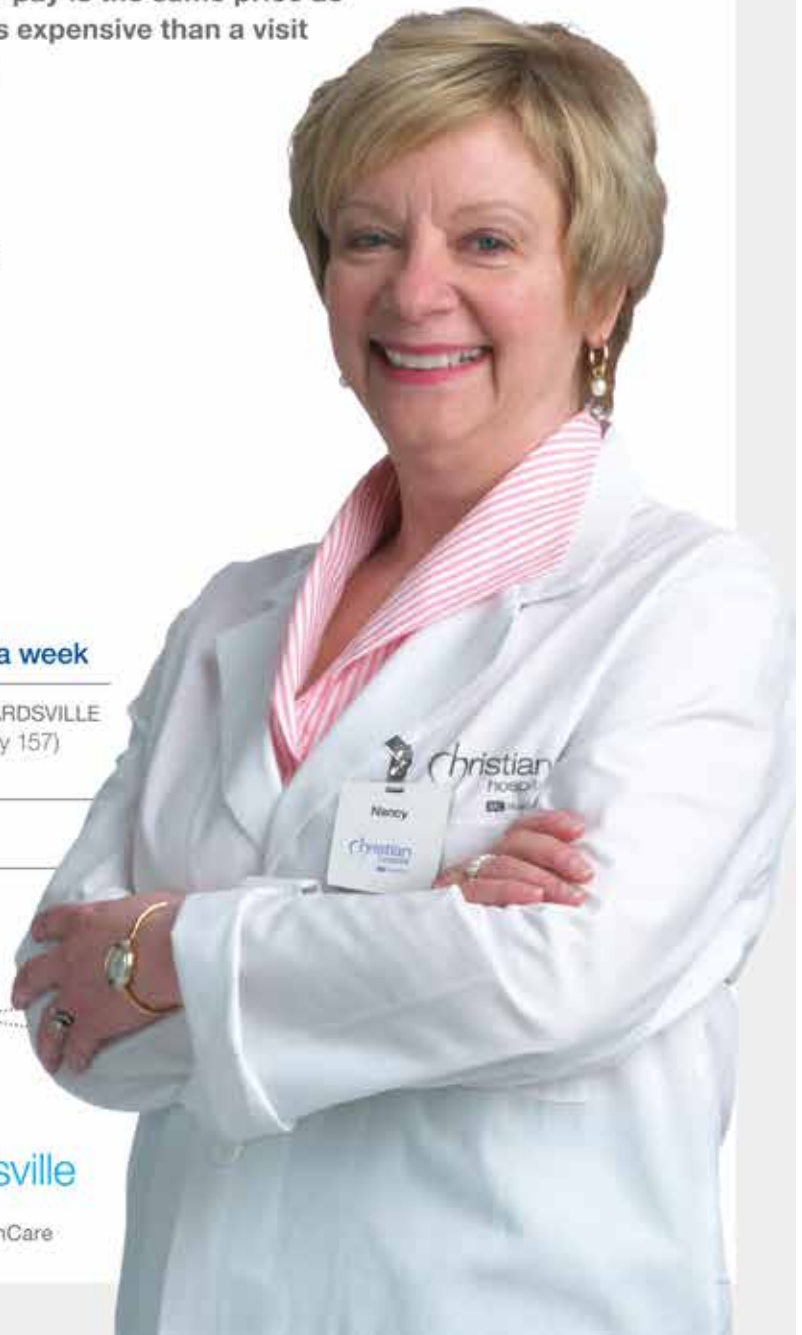
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The Illinois Economy Is Poised for Improvement

Article written by Doug Whitley, Chairman of the Illinois Chamber Foundation. Whitley is past president and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, former president of Ameritech Illinois, former director of the Illinois Department of Revenue, former president of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois and former executive director of the Supply Chain Innovation Network of Chicago.



As the state's legislative session begins in earnest, we need to acknowledge a new report that gives us a roadmap to improving the Illinois economy. We need to recognize that the state's economy was sorely lagging behind the national economic recovery, so jobs were not being created, unemployment was excessive, and people were steadily abandoning the state. The good news is that this new study points to strengths, and paves the way for Illinois to quickly choose which weaknesses it can fix.

For example, if things are so great in Illinois, why is it that the state continues to lose a Congressman every 10 years? That's just one of the downsides to losing residents. From 2000 to 2013, Illinois experienced a net population loss of 786,638. The 2015 census data revealed Chicago experienced the sixth greatest population outflow among U.S. metro areas. Most importantly, why was there no concerted effort to halt and reverse a troubling trend that erodes and undermines the ability of the state to finance its government?

Population trends have a direct economic bearing on retail sales, purchase of personal services, real estate transactions, commercial and residential construction, improved public infrastructure and tax receipts. There are fewer workers in the state to assume the burden of the increasing cost of government. It should be apparent that increasing the number of jobs and growing the population is in the best interests of all taxpayers.

Illinois' greatest failings were to take the state's historic economic standing for granted, deny competition exists for jobs and investment, ignore critical indicators that the capitalist engine sustaining all government spending is sputtering in Illinois and assume there would be no economic consequences for political decisions. The belief that simply being the fifth largest state in the union, the center of the third largest metropolitan market in the country and the 20th largest economy in the world was sufficient to hide a long running deterioration of the state's status when compared to other states' economic progress was short-sighted and downright neglectful.

There remain many positive points about Illinois' natural attributes, transportation advantages, business successes, economic opportunities, a world class city and an attractive quality of life, but the sense that the state has a robust economy, stable political leadership and a predictable future is sorely lacking.

A majority of 2014 voters recognized Illinois has been moving in the wrong direction. It was easy to see the abandoned industrial sites, empty retail stores, and vacant office space throughout the state. Everyone knows a friend, neighbor or relative who has left Illinois for either better employment prospects or out of frustration and disillusionment for a state that repeatedly demonstrates governmental dysfunction and routinely fails to address obvious problems.

The new Illinois Chamber Foundation report on economic competitiveness shows the social and economic indicators are compelling. The report documents past experience, establishes a base line from which to compare future progress or regression during the Rauner years, and offers insight and guidance for promoting economic growth and an improved standard of living for Illinois.

In order to improve the household incomes and relative standards of living for the people of Illinois elected officials should be attentive to economic indicators and assume more responsibility for improving basic measures such as: 1) growth in Gross State Product; 2) growth in non-farm employment; 3) growth in median household income; 4) percentage of personal income allocated to state and local taxes; 5) unemployment rates; 6) private sector job growth; 7) growth of per capita personal income and 8) the percent of the population living in poverty.

Illinois' current standing is not good. Growth in Gross State Product significantly lagged the national economic measures from 1998 to 2013. While the U.S. average grew by 91% Illinois grew by only 68%. While the national economy improved during 2011-2013 GSP data revealed Illinois lagging recovery in regional industrial states Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and the U.S. average.

In the Great Lakes Region Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin all surpassed the average personal income per capita growth recorded for Illinois residents from 2000 to 2013. Illinois ranked 46th in non-farm payroll employment growth from 2000 to 2012. During that time non-farm employment growth in Illinois was 2.7% while the national average was 10.3%.

In 2014, Illinois ranked 25th and slightly higher than the national average in median household income. In 1984 Illinois ranked 17th in median income. There has been a steady decline in this key measure of individual prosperity for Illinois residents.

In fiscal year 2012, Illinois residents allocate 10.2% of income to state and local taxes. Illinois residents assumed the 13th highest state and local tax burden among the 50 states. The tax burden was higher than the national average, the average for the Great Lakes states, the average burden for right-to-work states and the average burden for non-right-to-work states.

Although improved in the last two years, Illinois' long-term unemployment rate from 2000-2013 was more than a full percentage point higher than the national average. Illinois experienced net employment gains in 2014, but still ranked 47th in state job growth. Even worse than the ranking of 46th in job growth between 2000 and 2012 when the nation suffered a great recession.

Personal income per capita growth in Illinois was 8 percent below the national average from 2000 to 2013. In 2013, 14.7 percent of the state's population, 1.85 million, was defined as living in poverty by the U.S. Census Bureau. The percent of the Illinois population living in poverty closely mirrored the national norm.

Numerous comparative business narratives exist to help elected officials determine pro-growth business environments and favorable fiscal conditions. Illinois consistently appears on the least favorable end of the scale and frequently in the lowest percentile.

The challenge for Governor Rauner's administration and the rest of Illinois' elected leadership is to improve on the state's current status among at least some of the multiple measurements available to guide policy. The state's economic slide has gone on for too long. There needs to be a collaborative and all-out effort to reverse the trends because Illinois' future as a great state for business operations, entrepreneurship, economic opportunity and center for business excellence is at risk.

Illinois' political leaders should be pursuing and measuring human development policies that: 1) improve educational standards and outcomes; 2) invest in workforce development programs that are aligned with employer needs; 3) increase the absolute number of jobs; 4) increase the percentage of the population participating in the workforce; 5) increase the potential for every person to be an educated, working and productive member of society; 6) move the formerly incarcerated into meaningful work and 7) maintain high skilled advance degree programs for technology, engineering and medical training, as well as establish adequate opportunities for training skilled trades, repair and machine technicians.

Job growth requires government officials to be attentive to ever changing factors that influence private industry decision making. This includes technology, competitive markets, work force needs, modernization and the costs associated with fundamental business inputs such as the cost of taxation and regulatory compliance. Policy makers should: 1) nurture entrepreneurship and new business startups; 2) champion higher education and national laboratories while simultaneously promoting private sector research, development and innovation; 3) ease the challenges to "birthing of new businesses"; 4) embrace and introduce technology in government offices in order to reduce response time and improve efficiency in the delivery of government services; 5) reduce the burden of regulation, permitting and compliance; and 6) promote international trade.



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