

December 2011



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Common Ground

Season's Greetings



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	Monthly Rate	Color Charge
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1/4 Page	\$65	\$10
1/2 Page	\$110	\$15
Full Page	\$210	\$20
Back Page	\$310	Included

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Mission Statement

Through commitment and involvement of its members, the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce provides leadership for the benefit of the business community by promoting economic opportunities, advocating in the interests of business, providing members with education and resources, and encouraging mutual support.

Common Ground

200 University Park Drive, Suite 260
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Phone: (618) 656-7600

Fax: (618) 656-7611

www.edglenchamber.com

on the cover

Wishing You Well This Holiday Season

Season's greetings from the Ed/Glen Chamber staff and board of directors! We hope your holiday season is filled with joy.

As you shop for friends and loved ones, remember to support your local economy. The second annual Shop Chamber campaign is in full swing, and five lucky winners will enjoy an extra special holiday gift this season thanks to the many local retailers participating in this year's campaign, which includes four weekly prize drawings and one **\$1,000 CASH** grand prize sponsored by First Clover Leaf Bank.

Visit any of the following locations and fill out the 'Shop Chamber' ticket for your chance to win!

Blanquart Jewelers & Gold Exchange
Caffé Avanti
Chef's Shoppe
Cold Stone Creamery/Rocky Mtn. Chocolate
Crushed Grapes Wine Shop
Culver's of Edwardsville
Edwardsville Auto
Exactime Watch & Clock
First Clover Leaf Bank
Glik's Department Store
Hudson Jewelers
Jan's Hallmark Shop
Kettle River Furniture & Bedding

LaBest, Inc.
Lee Russo Designs
Lo-Cal Cafe
Lost Arts & Antiques
MacXperts-Illinois
Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch
Mojo's Music
Olive Oils & More
Scott Credit Union
Sweeties Fine Chocolates & Confections
The Garden Kingdom
US Bank
What to Wear

Go to www.edglenchamber.com for complete details & rules.



Greening Your Business



Now offering a green workshop that gives local business owners practical steps to create a sustainable work environment. Learn how to reduce resource consumption, streamline waste management, green information technology systems, and more. Simple changes can drive measurable savings.

Saturday, December 3 & 10, Edwardsville

Class size limited. Call today to enroll! **618.468.5740**

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Gateway Regional Medical Center
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Meridian Village
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Bronze Level

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AT&T
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant 255
Charter Business
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Eden Village Retirement Community
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Edwardsville Publishing Company
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Royal Office Products, Inc.
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West & Company, LLC
Village of Glen Carbon

Premier Level

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American Family Insurance
Answer Direct
Ashley Furniture Home Store
Associated Physicians Group
Assurance Brokers
B & R Cleaning
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Bauer-Hite Orthodontic
Baugher Financial & Assoc. Inc.
Bella Milano Restaurant
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Grace Manor Restaurant
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The Scheffel Companies
Thompson Flaherty CPAs
Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen Inc.
Tiger Plumbing
University Nursing & Rehabilitation
US Bank
USO of Missouri
Verizon Wireless
Wenzel & Associates

events

12/1 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
The Garden Kingdom
3711 South IL Route 157
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

12/6 Tuesday 7:30-9am

YPG Learn From A Leader
Breakfast with Roger Relfe
at First Clover Leaf Bank
2143 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

12/8 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Reputation Salon
214 Hillsboro Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025

12/9 Fri 8:30-11:30am

Professional Education
Reaching Your Target Market
Session 3: Successful Email
Marketing with Steve Robinson
of Constant Contact
at Hortica
#1 Horticultural Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025

12/15 Thursday 4:30pm

Ribbon Cutting
Think Tank PR,
Marketing & Design
117 Glen Crossing Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

12/15 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Think Tank PR,
Marketing & Design
117 Glen Crossing Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

12/16 Friday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting & Open House
Eberhart Sign &
Lighting Company
108 First Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025

save the date

1/11 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting & Open House
LaBest Pet Resort
4933 Indian Hills Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/13 Friday 7pm

Ed/Glen Chamber Trivia Night
at St. Mary's Church
1802 Madison Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(see page 7 for info)

1/24 Tuesday 8:30-11:30am

Professional Education:
Work Smarter, Not Harder!
Fighting Unemployment
Claims, presented by Illinois
Department of Employment
Security

1/27 Friday 11:30am-1pm

Annual Ed/Glen Chamber
Membership Meeting
Location TBD

2/10 Friday 12-1pm

networking@noon
GC Cuisine
1230 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/3 Saturday 5:30pm

Ed/Glen Chamber
Annual Dinner & Auction
SIUE Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL 62026

connect

2012 business after hours schedule

January 5	OPEN	August 2	ChamberNet at Anderson Hospital
January 19	Edwardsville Intelligencer	August 23	Regions Bank
February 2	St. Boniface Catholic School	September 6	Glen Carbon Centennial Library
February 16	Bella Milano at N.O. Nelson LeClaire Room	September 20	OPEN
March 8	First Clover Leaf Bank	October 4	AAdvantage Insurance
March 22	Edison's Entertainment Complex	October 18	OPEN
April 5	Edwardsville YMCA (Esic Center)	November 1	OPEN
April 19	Extra Help, Inc.	November 15	Lost Arts & Antiques
May 3	Crushed Grapes/American Family Insurance/Catered AFFAIR	December 6	OPEN
May 17	Sellstate Expert Realty	December 20	OPEN
May 31	OPEN		
June 14	Balke Brown Associates, Inc.		
June 28	OPEN		
July 12	OPEN		
July 26	OPEN		

Business After Hours is one of our most popular events, and a great way to showcase your business and make new contacts! If you are interested in booking an available BAH date, please call 618.656.7600 to speak with Linda.

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618.960.3431

www.socialschool.net

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Mary Campbell

Public Golf Course

4701 College Avenue

Alton, IL 62002

618.465.3888

www.spencertolinalgolf.com

annual dues reminder & notice

As you may all recall, in 2011 the board of directors for the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce changed the annual dues to be charged on a calendar year basis instead by the anniversary month of the member as it had been done in previous years. Therefore, our members will receive their 2012 membership dues invoice the last week of December 2011 for payment in January 2012. All invoices will be due within 30 days of receipt. Please note that all invoices, generated by the Chamber after December 2011 and not paid within the specified payment schedule, will be subject to a monthly 1.5% finance fee on the balance owed to the Chamber until it is paid in full.

community link map sales set to begin in march

The Chamber's new map project will kick off in March 2012 – remember to earmark advertising dollars for maps sales! Look for notices early in 2012 to learn when our CommunityLink sales representative will be in Edwardsville & Glen Carbon scheduling visits.

VISA Business Check Card



- No Annual Fee
- 2 lines of embossing: Your business name and cardholder name on card
- Higher daily limits may be set for the account owner, lower for authorized signers

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- LIVINGSTON - 618-637-2070
- WORDEN - 618-459-7211
- BENLD - 217-835-4384
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at

**Anderson
Hospital**

6800 State Route 162
Maryville, Illinois
www.andersonhospital.org

Frightrfully fun trivia – join us if you dare!

Second
Annual

trivia

NIGHT

edoglen
Chamber of Commerce

Friday, Jan. 13

Brought to you by the
Ed/Glen Chamber & sponsored
by St. Mary's Church

Hosted at the St. Mary's Church Gym
1802 Madison Avenue in Edwardsville

7pm

Cash prizes awarded!

BYO food & beverages.

**GREAT COMPANY TEAM
BUILDING TOOL!**

TRIVIA NIGHT REGISTRATION FORM

Round up your team of trivia geniuses now! Deadline to register is Thursday, January 12.

Submit payment to: Edwardsville Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
200 University Park Drive, Suite 260, Edwardsville, IL 62025

TEAM or COMPANY NAME: _____

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ E-MAIL: _____

OFFICE PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

_____ FULL TABLE of EIGHT (\$100)

_____ Mulligans (\$20 per table)

_____ Individual Seat(s) (\$15 per person)
*Trivia is a team based competition. If you come
alone, we can match you up with a group.*

_____ **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

- SPONSOR or DONATE -

_____ I will sponsor one round of trivia at \$100.
(10 rounds available).

_____ I will donate an attendance prize.

Prize description: _____

SPONSORS & DONORS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE EVENT & IN CHAMBER COMMUNICATIONS.

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AAdvantage Insurance Group	FREE Quotes & Guidance	618-692-4440	Mastroianni Orthodontics	FREE Consultation & 10% OFF	618-288-0600
Accelerate Health & Fitness Consulting	15% OFF	618-203-1418	McBride and Sons Homes	\$2,000 OFF	618-288-0888
Al's Automotive Supply	10% OFF	618-656-5022	Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch	\$5 OFF	618-288-9899
Allure Sunless Tan	\$20 Airbrush Tan	618-978-1191	Montessori Glen/Ed Inc.	5% Discount	618-692-8249
American Home Lending USA, LLC	FREE Appraisal & \$350 Credit	618-659-8500	Mr. Anthony's Fashions, Inc.	Buy One Get One 15% OFF	618-656-9800
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.	Complimentary Seminar	618-655-0420	Mr. Handyman of Madison County	\$25 OFF	618-659-5055
B & R Cleaning LLC	\$20 OFF	618-304-7174	People in Business, Inc.	\$100 OFF	618-655-0930
B & R Cleaning LLC	\$50 OFF	618-304-7174	People in Business, Inc.	FREE Tax Organizer	618-655-0930
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Bella Milano	10% OFF Event Bookings	618-659-2100	Pristine Cleaning	\$10 OFF	618-920-0233
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Brickman Orthodontics	FREE Consultations & 10% OFF	618-656-3837	Red Robin Gourmet Burgers	10% OFF	618-655-9513
Caffé Avanti	10% OFF	618-659-9050	RE/MAX Alliance	Home Warranty	618-604-1984
Cartridge World	\$2 OFF	618-656-4440	RE/MAX Alliance	Special Commission Rate	618-604-1984
Charter Business	\$100 Credit	800-314-7195	Royal Solutions, LLC	Free Network Inspection	866-394-0334
Cork Tree Creative	Consultation or Press Release	618-656-7333	Scott Credit Union	Get \$50!	618-692-1200
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.	\$25 OFF	618-254-8300	Silkworm Inc	10% OFF	618-307-1070
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Creative Options Graphic Design	FREE Consultation	618-655-1032	Southern Illinois Underwriters, Inc.	Auto-Owners Insurance Program	618-656-0120
Crushed Grapes Wine Shop	10% OFF 3 Bottles	618-659-3530	Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Inc.	Portfolio Review	618-659-3780
Da-Com	10% OFF	618-741-5913	Sweeties Confections	10% OFF	618-288-7650
Duke Partners	\$10 Gift Card	618-407-0592	Swing City Music	15% OFF Books	618-656-5656
Dairy Queen	10% OFF Entire Order	618-692-8191	Swing City Music	15% OFF DVDs	618-656-5656
e. Smith Solutions	10% OFF	618-931-7676	Taplin Defense Firm	FREE Consultation + 20% OFF	618-288-1111
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Edwardsville Auto, Inc.	FREE Lube, Oil & Filter	618-656-8447	The Garden Kingdom	FREE Delivery	618-288-0101
Edwardsville Auto, Inc.	Headlights Foggy?	618-656-8447	The Goddard School	FREE Registration	618-692-9464
Edwardsville Auto, Inc.	Nitrogen For Your Tires	618-656-8447	The Pasta House Co.	10% OFF	618-655-9955
Edwardsville Intelligencer Publishing Company	2 "I's" for the Price of One!	618-656-4700	The Tutoring Center	\$150 OFF Tuition	618-656-6677
Edwardsville Intelligencer Publishing Company	24 Week Subscription & 2x4 Ad	618-656-4700	The UPS Store	Color & B/W Copy Savings	618-659-9259
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Embrich Plumbing	15% OFF	618-343-9899	Tiger Plumbing Services	10% OFF	618-288-6480
Exactime Watch and Clock	1/2 PRICE / 10% OFF	618-288-9999	Visions by Carol Photography	FREE Session & \$50 Credit	618-531-5992
Extra Help, Inc.	\$100 GIFT CARD	618-655-1212	Wal-Mart	\$10 OFF Contact Lens Exam	618-692-0550
Fazoli's	20% OFF Catering	618-655-0134	Wal-Mart	\$5 OFF Basic Eye Exam	618-692-0550
Fazoli's	Buy One Get One FREE	618-655-0134	Wal-Mart	Tire & Lube Combo	618-692-0550
First Clover Leaf Bank	\$50 Visa Gift Card On Us!	618-656-6122	West & Company, LLC	FREE Consultation OR \$25 OFF	618-656-4949
First Clover Leaf Bank	Kids Club Offer	618-656-6122			
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust	FREE Safety Deposit Box	618-288-5557			
Four Muddy Paws	5 FREE Treats	618-692-4729			
GCS Federal Credit Union	.25% Rate Discount	618-797-7993			
GCS Federal Credit Union	\$500 OFF Mortgage Closing	618-797-7993			
Glen-Ed Pharmacy	\$5 OFF	618-288-7474			
George Alarm Company	4 Months FREE	618-288-2092			
Grace Manor Restaurant	\$20 GIFT	618-655-0650			
Grime Stoppers, Inc	10% OFF	888-864-4434			
Hampton Inn & Suites	10% OFF	618-288-1513			
Hudson Jewelers	1/2 Batteries & Installation	618-656-3188			
I. Salsman PR	FREE Consultation	314-495-3017			
Jacoby Arts Center	10% OFF	618-462-5222			
Kuhlmann Business Services	20% OFF QuickBooks	618-830-2272			
Kurt's Carstar Collision Center	FREE Vehicle Cleanup w/ Repair	618-345-4519			
Kurt's Carstar Collision Center	FREE Vehicle Inspection	618-345-4519			
Lexow Financial Group	\$25 OFF Training Center	618-692-9999			



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Business of the Month:

Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts, in business since 1998, is located at 310 Hillsboro Avenue in Edwardsville. Owner Rich Grogan, a physical education teacher in the Edwardsville School District and SIUE alumni, started training in martial arts in 1981. With 30 years of martial arts experience, Rich is a Master Instructor and 5th Degree Blackbelt and has earned all martial arts credentials from numerous visits to South Korea.



When Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts first opened, their primary focus was exercise and fitness, fitness videos, and self defense classes. Rich operated the business from a home office and taught aerobics at a variety of health clubs. He also taught personal training & conditioning for individuals and sports teams, along with self defense for individuals & police officers. After years of searching, saving and planning, he opened his first studio location in May, 2005. The focus had shifted to martial arts, and the Academy finished that first year with 10 students, half of whom were family and friends.

Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts is now in its third location, which is 3600 square feet. They have trained over 300 students, and currently have more than 100 active students, and their core service is martial arts instruction.

When asked what differentiates Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts from competitors, Rich responded, "We focus on instilling courage and confidence into each and every student, with an emphasis on manners, discipline and respect. Students gain the courage to try and succeed, and the belief in themselves to stand up to peer pressure, bullying and negative influences. We also offer a one of a kind behavior incentive program that assists parents in setting limits and following through with consequences, to instill proper manners, discipline and respect at home."

"Improved self confidence also leads to better grades for students, and better career opportunities for adults. We teach students how to properly condition their bodies, improving balance, coordination, flexibility and endurance. Students must complete hours of community service, maintain good grades and good discipline reports from home and school, and preparing mentally and physically to be invited to test for advancement. Every rank advancement is earned, and each student must put forth his or her best effort in order to advance. Students are each evaluated on their own personal best – they don't have to be the best, but they have to try their best."

In addition to teaching in the Edwardsville School District and running his

business, Rich serves as assistant coach for his son's baseball and football teams, is a member of the Soo Bahk Do Federation, and is regional examiner and board director for World Moo Duk Kwan organization. Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts regularly contributes to the American Heart Association, Relay For Life, and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

"The positive impact that Martial Arts has had on me and my family is invaluable. I have always played & coached sports since a very young age, and have always enjoyed giving back the knowledge that I have received to others, to help them experience all the joys that I have. To be able to pass that gift on to others and to see their positive growth is priceless," said Grogan.

Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts has been an Ed/Glen Chamber member since opening their first location in 2005. "The Chamber has had a huge impact on our overall success, and I truly couldn't be happier with the limitless possibilities that the Ed/Glen Chamber has provided."

Grogan's mantras: "What we invest in our children today provides priceless dividends later," and "Learn from the past, prepare for the future, and make the most of the gift of today."

Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts has a fun, safe, and very family friendly environment that is not threatening or intimidating, and the first class is always free! For more information, go to www.grogansma.com, or call 618.656.7700. Be sure to 'like' Grogan's on Facebook and follow on Twitter!





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Shareholder

Sandra J. Tatoian
Associate

Beth K. Flowers
Associate

Christine S.P. Kovach
Associate

Shareholders

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Reaching Your Target Market



Session 1: September 14

Search Engine Optimization, Search Engine Marketing & Internet Presence Marketing
8-8:30am Networking; 8:30-10:30am Program

Session 2: October 19

Using LinkedIn as a Powerful Prospecting Tool
8-8:30am Networking; 8:30-10:30am Program

Session 3: December 9

Successful Email Marketing

8-8:30am Networking; 8:30-11:30am Program

All programs hosted at Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits; #1 Horticultural Lane in Edwardsville

I will attend: ☐ Session 3 at \$20/person (\$30 non-members)

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Name of Attendee(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

schmooze

business after hours



Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation
at TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 3



Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation
at TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 3



Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 17



Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 17

5 Ways to See Your Business in *Common Ground*

- 1 Purchase Advertising
- 2 Write an "Ask the Expert" Column
- 3 Submit an Announcement
- 4 Win Our Business of the Month Award
- 5 Come to Chamber Events!

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Chamber of Commerce

ribbon cuttings



Always Evergreen Gifts at St. Boniface Catholic Church, November 8



National Bank, November 10

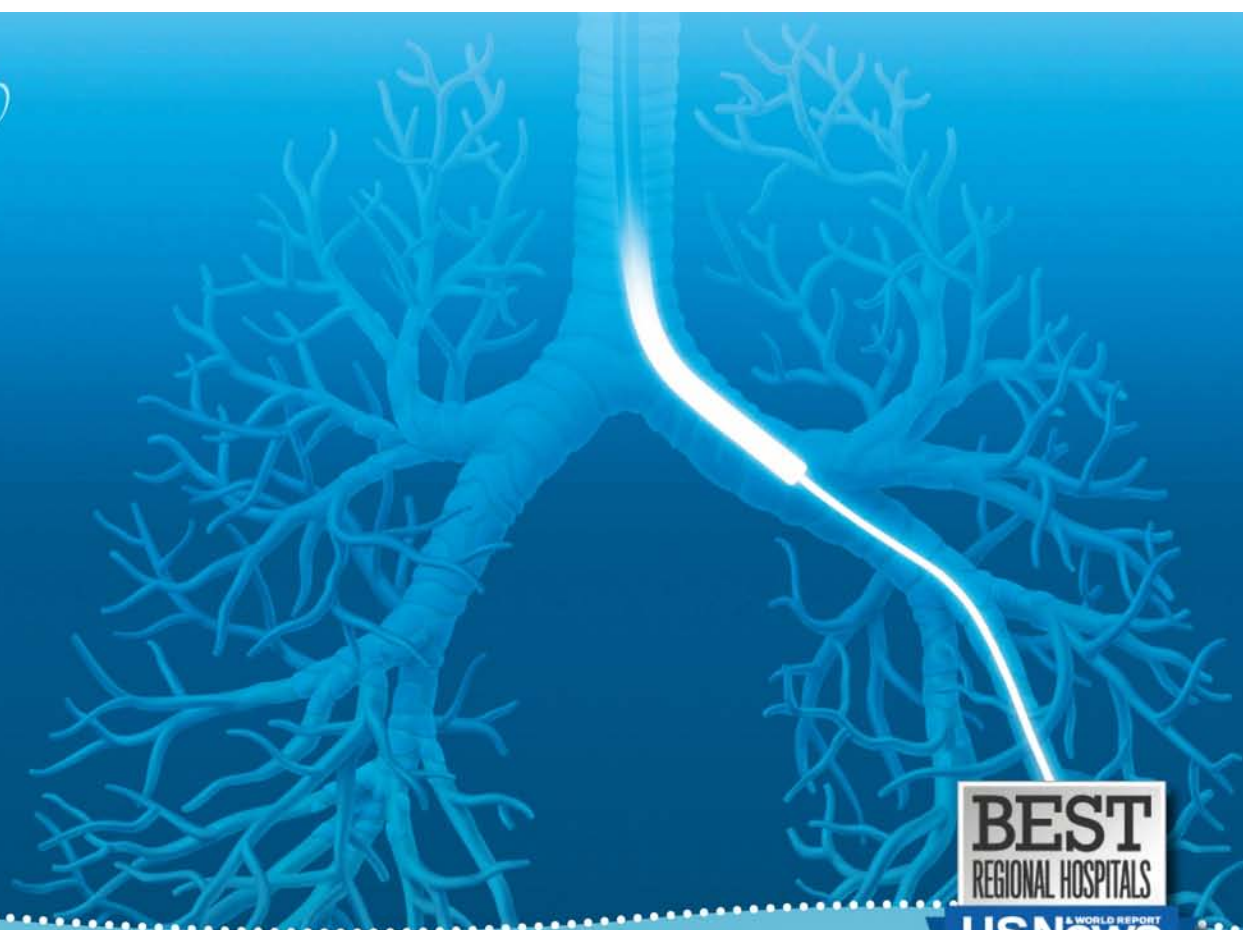
networking@noon



Speed Networking with Iris Salsman, November 18



Speed Networking with Iris Salsman, November 18



Christian Hospital's Center for Advanced Pulmonary Medicine is Branching Out for Early Detection

Faster, Safer Lung Diagnosis at Christian Hospital

Christian Hospital is the only community hospital in the St. Louis area using two advanced technologies — endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and electromagnetic navigation system (InReach) — in earlier detection of lung disease and cancer with less risk.

For more information on how you or a loved one can benefit from this breakthrough technology, call 314-653-5532 or toll-free 1-877-638-8575.



Care for LifeSM

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Scott Credit Union Donates to Edwardsville District Schools

Scott Credit Union (SCU) recently donated \$175 to Edwardsville District schools at the culmination of a month-long SCU program that helps schools raise funds when minors open accounts at the local credit union. The Scott Credit Union Edu-Ca\$h program is meant to encourage kids and teens to start saving with their own savings account. For each minor account opened during the month through the program, Scott Credit Union gives back \$25 to the local school of the student's choice.

The program offered the parent opening an account with their child the choice of schools from throughout the school district. Scott Credit Union will offer the program in different school districts throughout the area over the next year, according to SCU Marketing Promotions Coordinator Carrie Norrenberns.

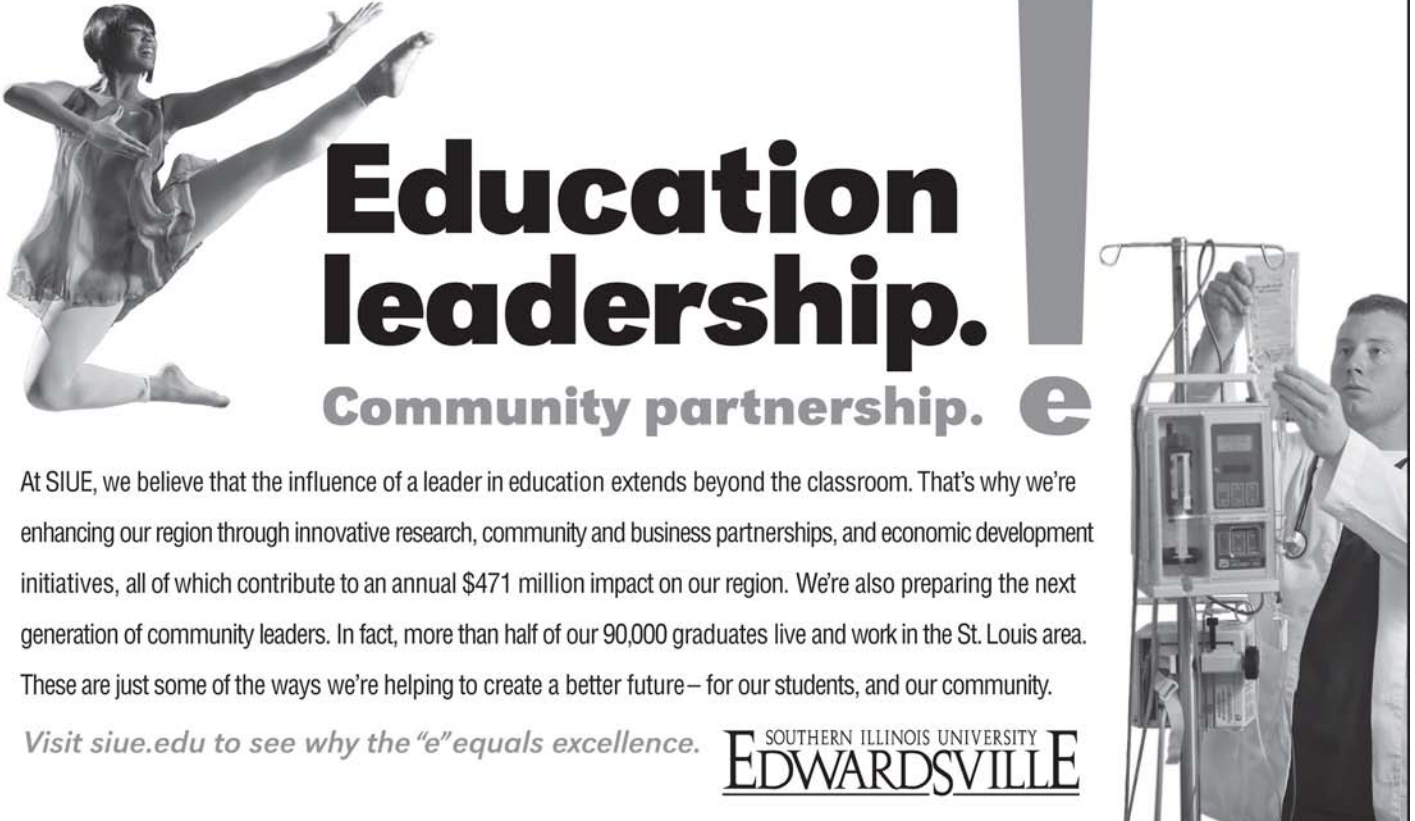
"During economic times like we are in now, schools can use all of the help they can get," she added. "This program was designed to help give back to the schools. We hope that it will grow and the amount of money we donate to the schools increases over the next year."

Scott Credit Union has locations in 13 area communities and will offer the program for one month in each of the communities in an effort to give money back to all area schools when students open accounts at the local credit union.

"The program is really simple. A child or teen can come in with their parent and open a new savings account with as little as \$5," Norrenberns noted. "They choose the school they want the donation made to and that's it. At the end of the month in that school district, we total the number of minor accounts opened and write a check to the schools."

The credit union opened seven new minor savings accounts during the month when the program was featured in the Edwardsville School District.

For more information about the program and the schedule of when it will be offered in each area school district, email Norrenberns at cnorrenberns@scu.org



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Gateway Regional Opens New Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Gateway Regional Medical Center opened its new, cardiac catheterization lab on November 15 to provide Metro East residents and surrounding communities with a higher level of cardiac and vascular care. The \$3.5 million renovation and expansion replaced the previous lab and is conveniently located adjacent to the hospital's Emergency Room.

"The new cardiac cath lab features FD20 technology which provides improved image detail while reducing radiation exposure," said Ed Gillmeister, Senior Director of Cardiovascular Services at Gateway. "With the diagnostic procedures we have the ability to go anywhere in the body—the legs, heart, head, or arms—and 'take pictures' to help identify problems such as interruption of blood flow. Because our physicians have better visualization of the vessels they are able to better diagnose what it is that these patients have and then determine the best course of treatment. This can be as simple as medication or as proactive as interventional procedures such as balloon angioplasty and stent placement."

The skilled cardiovascular surgeons at Gateway will perform both diagnostic and interventional procedures in the new lab. In addition to the FD20 technology, the new, 2,624 square foot cardiac cath lab features five prep/hold rooms for pre and post procedures, a family consultation room and a comfortable waiting area for family members. There are also private patient entrances, a physician office with remote viewing and dictation capabilities, and expanded storage areas.

"Gateway Regional has a long standing commitment to the constant improvement of services and technology at the hospital," adds Mark Bethell, CEO. "Accordingly, with this new lab, we are excited to bring a new level of cardiac care to the communities we serve."

According to the American Heart Association, the cardiac catheterization test is one of the most useful and accurate tools in diagnosing cardiovascular problems by detecting where arteries are narrowed or blocked, measuring blood pressure within the heart and oxygen in the blood, and evaluating heart muscle function.



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Express Associates Work 3M Hours in One Week

More than 80,000 people working 3 million hours in one week is cause to celebrate. Express Employment Professionals, one of the nation's Top 10 privately-held staffing companies, announced today that its associates at more than 550 franchise locations in the United States, Canada and South Africa worked 3 million hours in one week for employer clients across various industries.

"Regardless of the struggling economy and lackluster job market, we've managed to find jobs, put people to work and help employers who need qualified, long term/full time and temporary staff on hand," said Marc Voegelé, owner of the Edwardsville Express office. "Express is proud to help so many people find jobs. We are seeing companies start to hire as productivity increases, and we are hearing from clients that their business is picking up."

The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2006 and serves the Metro East area with temporary help and direct hire employees in a variety of fields. Express Employment is located at 20 Junction Drive West in Glen Carbon, accepting applications. For more information, call 618.288.8011 or visit www.expresspros.com/3million.

SIUE Plans Spring Merchants Fair

The business community is cordially invited to participate in the annual Spring Merchants Fair at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Tuesday, January 24, 2012 from, 10am–3pm in the Morris University Center. The Fair is designed to welcome new and returning students, faculty, and staff back to SIUE for the spring semester, build community relations, and enhance campus life and school spirit. Specifically, this is an opportunity to promote your business to more than 14,000 SIUE students and 2,400 faculty and staff. The August 2011 Merchants' Fair attracted more than 800 participants.

The event will help to increase student, faculty, and staff awareness of area businesses, services, and activities and to facilitate interaction between students, faculty, staff, and the local business community. Advance registration is required. For information regarding fees and registration, please contact Cheryl at cheard@siue.edu or 618.650.2686.



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TheBANK of Edwardsville Supports Mission of Moms

For soldiers serving overseas, the holidays can be the toughest time of the year. Deployed thousands of miles away from their loved ones, often in hostile environments, it can be difficult to find the comforts of home most of us take for granted. However, Marcia Fish and her non-profit organization, Mission of Moms, has been on a 'mission' for the past eight years to change that, delivering comfort items to military members serving on deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Almost every day, Fish spends time in her basement or garage packing boxes with the 300 pounds of donated items she receives each week, readying them for mailing to individuals or units she has "adopted." It started with one soldier, then three soldiers, then a platoon. Now there are thousands of military members who have, in one way or another, received something from her efforts.

"I don't golf ... I pack boxes," Fish said with a chuckle. "Instead of doing the things most people do, I pack boxes."

This holiday season, Mission of Moms is getting help from TheBANK of Edwardsville. Through December 23, TheBANK's Edwardsville Center on

Troy Road will accept donations of supplies for care packages, along with letters to the troops – a highlight for many of the soldiers – and donations for postage through December 9. Edwardsville School District 7 is joining in the effort with TheBANK of Edwardsville, asking students to write letters to the soldiers for distribution by Mission of Moms.

"I can't think of a better organization to get behind during the holidays than Mission of Moms," said Dawn Schmidt, Manager of TheBANK's Edwardsville Center on Troy Road. "These people put their lives on the line for us every day and they deserve all the support from home that we can give them."

According to Fish, it takes help from businesses like TheBANK of Edwardsville as well as other organizations and individuals throughout the local communities to make it all happen. "I'm just the worker bee," she said. "It takes the whole community to do what we do."

The list of needed items is a long one, and can be found on the Mission of Moms website at www.missionofmoms.com. But Fish said it's basic items – like cotton socks, beef jerky and candy left over from Halloween – that are big hits during the holiday season.

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Give the Gift that Money Can't Buy: Help Save Lives This Holiday Season by Donating Blood

Think outside the box this holiday season. The perfect gift is at your nearest American Red Cross blood drive or blood donation center. And, unlike the latest fashion trend, video game or golf club, it costs nothing but an hour of your time. When you donate blood, you give the perfect gift – another hug, another laugh, another smile, another chance – to someone in need of blood.

"It's the season of giving and there's one gift that won't cost you a penny, but means the world to a patient in need," said Scott Caswell, CEO of the Red Cross Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region. "By donating blood, you can give someone an opportunity to spend another holiday with their loved ones."

It only takes about an hour to donate blood, and in that hour, you can unwrap a lifetime of memories for hospital patients in your community and across the country. The need for blood is constant and doesn't pause for the holidays. By taking time to donate this winter, you can help the Red Cross ensure a stable blood supply for all patients who need blood products.

All blood types are needed to help maintain a sufficient blood supply, especially type O negative. Type O negative blood, the universal blood type, is always in high demand because it can be transfused to patients with any blood type, especially in emergency situations.

How to Donate Blood: Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate.

To learn more about the American Red Cross, go to www.redcross.org or join their blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.



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1. Illinois Presence for Nearly 40 Years

Now we can better deliver our broad range of accounting, tax and consulting services to area businesses.

2. Our Clients Value Us

Greg Fowler, P.E., President and CEO, J. F. Electric, Incorporated, says: "We've been a client for about 35 years. They have assisted us in many aspects of our business, and their team members have all been very knowledgeable in their fields of expertise."

3. Illinois Savings Opportunities

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City Moves Winter Concert Series to Wildey

Since 2008 the popular Edwardsville Parks Department's Winter Concert Series has entertained the Edwardsville community at the N.O. Nelson Complex with a focus on quality musicians representing a variety of genres. The Parks Department is pleased to celebrate the fifth year with a move to the historic Wildey Theatre. The schedule is as follows:

December 2: Perfect Image

January 13: Kim Massie & The Solid Senders

January 27: Dueling Pianos

February 24: Fiddleback w/ students from the St. Louis Fiddle Ensemble

March 23: SIUE Jazz Faculty

All concerts takes place at 7pm on Friday evenings. Appetizers, included in ticket price, will be served from 6-7pm in the second floor Marquee Room. Tickets are available for \$10 at Edwardsville City Hall, the Edwardsville Public Library and www.wildeytheatre.com. For more information call the Park Office at 618.692.7538.

Lambert Partners with Google to Map Indoors

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport is one of the first airports to partner with Google to create new indoor maps of its terminals and concourses. Android users can now use Google Maps to zoom in on Lambert and view floor-by-floor layouts that can help direct individuals to multiple airport locations like airline gates, restrooms and retail stores. They also see where they are inside Lambert with the Google Maps My Location feature, which displays a user's location via the familiar "blue dot" icon. The technology allows passengers and visitors to pre-plan their trip through Lambert or find their way on the go without having to refer to fixed map directories or signs.

"Travelers can now use Google Maps for Android to more quickly and effortlessly figure out where they are and what's around them when they're indoors," said Steve Lee, Director of Product Management at Google. "We're thrilled to work with Lambert-St. Louis International Airport to improve people's airport experience."

For more information on Google's indoor maps feature, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/gmm6press/> or contact press@google.com.



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Ask the Expert

by Patrick Shelton, Benefit Plans Plus

Keeping Your Retirement & Benefit Plans in Check

The last few years have brought a wave of new regulations for retirement plans leaving many plans out of compliance and their business sponsors unaware.

Failure to adopt fundamental practices could result in regulatory intervention and potentially significant personal liability for plan fiduciaries. Taking the time to conduct a fiduciary health check can result in savings of time and money.

Periodic evaluations of retirement plans and benefits can identify small issues, and preventable errors, before they become big problems with the Department of Labor or Internal Revenue Service.

It is important that you find a credible third party administrator who has technical expertise and takes the prudent approach by focusing solely on the interests of plan participants and their beneficiaries.

A thorough review of retirement and benefit plans should include an assessment of current fiduciary compliance structures and processes that immediately identifies opportunities and improves procedures and documentation.

First, gather the necessary information in order to begin. This includes plan documents and amendments, summary plan descriptions, most recent 5500 filing, current employee communications and vendor service agreements as well as recent compliance testing and fiduciary or fidelity bond insurance coverage.

Second, meet with a third-party administrator who can meet with plan fiduciaries and ensure that each understands and acknowledges the responsibilities involved. This process should include the evaluation of pertinent plan documents and materials to ensure complete compliance.

Periodic reviews may be one of the most important things you can offer to your retirement plan clients. Any problems discovered can be resolved more easily and economically than if they are brought to your attention through a Department of Labor or Internal Revenue Service audit.

For more information, contact Benefit Plans Plus at 618.654.3100 or go to bpp401k.com.



This advertisement has a red background. On the left, the words "STRENGTH & STABILITY" are written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. To the right is the SIUE Credit Union logo, which features a stylized figure holding a red flag above the letters "SIUE" and "Credit Union" below it. At the bottom, the text "Since 1959" is on the left and "618.650.3760 siuecu.org" is on the right.

This advertisement features a black cat looking into a glass bowl filled with goldfish. The text "PICKING FRIENDS IS EASY" is at the top, with "EASY" in red. Below it, the text reads: "Picking an insurance plan should be easy too. When there's so much out there, making the best choice can be frustrating. At Hortica, our insurance experts will guide you through the process of choosing the best insurance plan for your family or business that will meet your needs and keep you on budget. How EASY is that?" The Hortica logo, which includes a green leaf icon and the word "hortica" in a sans-serif font, is at the bottom right. Below the logo, it says "INSURANCE & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS" and "More going on here than you think." On the left, it lists "Home • Auto • Business • Life • Health" and provides the website "www.hortica-agency.com", address "#1 Horticultural Lane • Edwardsville, IL 62025", and phone number "618.656.4088".



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Top Performer on
Joint Commission
Key Quality
Measures
2010

Heart Attack
Heart Failure
Pneumonia
Surgical Care