

April 2008



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Common Ground



www.route66festival.org

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Ribbon-Cutting Photo Contributors

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 the interests of business
- Providing members with education and resources
- Encouraging mutual support

On the cover

www.route66festival.org

The Chamber is excited to announce the new Route 66 Festival website - www.route66festival.org.

The new Festival website is your go-to-guide for this year's events. Download the vendor application or see the stage entertainment line-up. Browse photos from previous years and find out information on becoming a sponsor of the event. Check back often as more information is added daily in preparation for this year's event.

The website is made possible by the generous donation of Royal Solutions.

Get ready to celebrate the "Mother Road" and our community at the 2008 Route 66 Festival, June 13th and 14th.

Are You Making the Most of Your Membership?

Carol Foreman, Executive Director, will provide you with an in-depth review of Chamber benefits and how they can be applied to enhance your business.

Or come to our monthly New Members' Welcome Reception and meet new Chamber members and learn about the benefits available to your business. New Members' Receptions are held on the last Friday of the month, and alternate between 8 am and noon.

Call Carol at 656-7600 to schedule a one-on-one "Membership Opportunities" meeting or check the website, www.edglenchamber.org, or your Weekly Reminder email for the next New Members' Reception.

Newsletter Notes

Articles for the Chamber of Commerce newsletter must be submitted by the second Monday of the preceding month for placement in the next month's issue. Chamber members may submit a maximum of four articles containing 175 words or less during the calendar year.

Monthly distribution: 1,000 issues.

Send comments or questions about Common Ground to jwojcieszak@edglenchamber.com

Copyright 2007 Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, 200 University Park Drive, Suite 260, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. (618) 656-7600, www.edglenchamber.com

2008 Advertising Rates:

	Monthly Rate	Color Charge
1/8 Page	\$32	\$7
1/4 Page	\$65	\$10
1/2 Page	\$110	\$15
Full Page	\$210	\$20
Back Page	\$310	Included

Book One Year of Advertising in Common Ground and Receive a 15% Discount.

Call (618) 656-7600 for details

Common Ground

200 University Park Drive, Suite 260

Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Phone: (618) 656-7600

Fax: (618) 656-7611

www.edglenchamber.com

From The Desk of Carol Foreman



Congratulations to Second Vice President Greg Bellaver!



Greg has accepted an administrative position with the SIU School of Medicine's Department of Neurology in Springfield and will no longer be serving on the Chamber's Board of Directors. Greg leaves Associated Physicians Group after almost 12 years.

Greg has been a great asset to our organization. He joined the Chamber in 2001 and has chaired the Route 66 Festival, and provided leadership on the Ambassador committee. Greg was elected to the Board in 2004 and became an Executive Board Member in 2006.

Greg earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Science degree from SIUE. He Lives in Hillsboro, Illinois with his wife Kelley and their two children Makenzie and Brock.

Best wishes to Greg on this new chapter in his life!

Carol Foreman

Carol Foreman, Executive Director

events

4/2 Wednesday 4 pm

Ribbon Cutting
Noble Roman's Pizza of
Edwardsville
6663-A Edwardsville Crossing
Drive
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/3 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours
Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/10 Thursday 4 pm

Ribbon Cutting
Lour Facility Planning
1604 Eastport Plaza Drive
Suite 100
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

4/11 Friday 8 - 12:30 pm

Professional Education Series -
Exceeding Customers'
Expectations
Lewis and Clark's
N.O. Nelson Campus
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/16 Wednesday 4 pm

Ribbon Cutting
Chocolates n'Amour
1719 B Troy Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/17 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours
Watershed Nature Preserve
1591 Tower Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025

4/18 Friday noon

networking@noon
Hosted by Rinnovi Medical Spa
at Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/25 Friday noon

New Members' Reception
Chamber Office
200 University Park Dr., Suite 260
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/30 Wednesday 4 pm

Ribbon Cutting
Ann's Printing & Copying Co.
219 Second Avenue, Suite E
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

save the date

5/1 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours
WellCare Health Plan and
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 Highway 157 South
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/9 Friday 8 - 12:30 pm

Professional Education Series -
Internal Customer Service Skills
Lewis and Clark's
N.O. Nelson Campus
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/14 Wednesday 5 - 7 pm

Gateway Grizzlies ChamberNet
GCS Ballpark
2301 Grizzlie Bear Blvd.
Sauget, Illinois 62206

5/15 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours
Gateway Regional Medical
Center

5/16 Friday noon

networking@noon
Hosted by Hortica
at Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/26 Monday

Memorial Day
Chamber Office Closed

5/29 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours
American Family Insurance
and Crushed Grapes
1500 Troy Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/30 Friday 8:30 am

New Members' Reception
Chamber Office
200 University Park Dr., Suite 260
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

6/13-14 Friday and Saturday

Route 66 Festival

connect

Route 66 Festival Sponsorships Available

Become a Sponsor of the Route 66 Festival and market your business to thousands of visitors while supporting this great community event!

Park Sponsor - \$2,500 (limited to one organization)

- Exclusive signage in high traffic area of the park
- Exclusive banner ad on all pages of festival website
- Tent and table in park to promote organization
- Opportunity to provide welcome for stage entertainment both evenings
- Logo on Festival 66 t-shirts

Family Zone - \$1,000 (limited to one organization)

- Market your organization to families of all ages
- Exclusive signage in Family Zone area
- Recognition as Family Zone sponsor on festival website
- Tent and table in Family Zone area to promote organization

Festival 66 Idol - \$500 (limited to one organization)

- Receive maximum exposure for your organization at this popular event
- Signage on the stage
- Table by stage to distribute coupons, create sweep-stakes or contests to maximize your exposure
- Opportunity to provide employees 'in uniform' to introduce the contestants
- Stage time for 'commercial' (2 to 3 minutes) between performances

Route 66 Talent Show - \$500 (limited to one organization)

- Promote your organization during this showcase of local talent
- Signage on the stage
- Table by stage to distribute coupons, create sweep-stakes or contests to maximize your exposure
- Opportunity to provide employees 'in uniform' to introduce the contestants
- Stage time for 'commercial' (2 to 3 minutes) between performances

"Taste of the Road" Food Court - \$500

(limited to two non-competing organizations)

- Opportunity to market organization to all attendees
- Signage in the Food Court
- Tent and table in Food Court to distribute coupons, create sweep-stakes or contests to maximize your exposure

"Wellness Road" - \$500 (limited to two non-competing organizations)

- Direct interaction and education to hundreds of customers
- Signage within the area
- Opportunity to provide health screenings and distribute promotional materials

Beer Tent - \$500 (limited to two non-competing organizations)

- Strategically placed alongside the main stage, one of the most visited areas in the park
- Signage in Beer Tent
- Opportunity to provide employees to volunteer 'in uniform' and assist guests
- Option to supply beer cups with your logo

Car Show/Poker Run - \$250 (limited to four non-competing orgs)

- Highlights over 400 cars and more than 1,000 visitors
- Signage at all five Poker Run locations throughout area
- Recognition from the stage during announcements
- Opportunity to provide items for goody bags (over 400 bags) for participants

Fine Art Fair - \$250 (limited to four non-competing organizations)

- Identify your product with more than 20 of the finest local artists
- Signage near Art Fair in park
- Opportunity to provide employees 'in uniform' to judge entries

"On the Road" Historic Tour - \$250 (limited to four non-competing orgs)

- Tour of historic sites in Edwardsville
- Signage near shuttle pick up in park
- Opportunity to provide employees 'in uniform' to assist guests

Festival Enthusiast - \$50 - \$249

All Festival 66 Sponsors receive:

- Mention in all Festival 66 promotions in the Suburban Journals and Intelligencer
- Signage within park
- Listing in Festival 66 promotional pieces and on t-shirts
- Company name listed on Festival website and in Chamber newsletter

SIUE Credit Union

1566 Lewis Road
Edwardsville, IL 62026
Phone 618-650-3760
www.siuecu.org



*"Investing in
each other."*

***"Serving the SIUE & Edwardsville School District
Community Since 1959"***

Special Investors

Gold Level

Anderson Hospital
Wal-Mart

Silver Level

AmerenIP
AT&T
Eden Village Retirement Community
Gateway Regional Medical Center
Hortica
TheBANK of Edwardsville

Bronze Level

Ashley Furniture Home Store
Associated Bank
Best Buy
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
City of Edwardsville
Edwardsville School District #7
Edwardsville Publishing Company
First Clover Leaf Bank
Holiday Inn Collinsville
MetLife
Meridian Village
National City Bank
Ready Mix Service
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
Richards Brick Company
R.P. Lumber
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard
Shop 'N' Save
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Village of Glen Carbon
WellCare Health Plan

Premier Level

'62 Sports Group
Abstracts & Titles Inc.
Adecco Staffing Services
American Family Insurance
Angel's Food & Ice Cream
Associated Physicians Group
Assurance Brokers
Baughner Financial & Assoc. Inc.
Bella Milano Restaurant
Belleville News Democrat
Best Western Camelot
Brickman Orthodontics
Byron Gerber Petri & Kalb, LLC
Bully's Smokehouse
Chicago Title Insurance
Coffey Law Firm, P.C.
Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors
Collision Plus
Comfort Inn
Commerce Bank
Contours Express
Country Hearth Inn & Suites
Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.
Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly, Inc.
Credit Control, LLC
Culver's of Edwardsville
DATAJACKS, Inc.
Days Inn
Denny's
Dr. Hal R. Patton, D.D.S.
DRDA Electric Company
Eagle Publications, Inc.
Eberhart Sign & Lighting Co.
Edwardsville Nursing & Rehabilitation
Edwardsville Pet Hospital
Enterprise Car Sales
Excelogy Consulting Group
Extra Help, Inc.
FCB Edwardsville Bank
Fitness Designs
First American Title
First Bank
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
First National Bank - Maryville

Fitness 4 Life Physical Therapy
Four Flags Motors
Gateway Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Glik's Department Store
Hampton Inn & Suites
Hawthorne Animal Hospital
Henderson Associates Architects, Inc.
Holiday Inn Express
Hurford Architects, Inc.
IMO'S PIZZA
Jan's Hallmark Shop
J.F. Electric Inc.
Juneau Associates, Inc., PC.
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Kitchenland
Krieger's Hometown Sports Grill
Kurl's Carstar Collision Center
Lee's Services
Louer Facility Planning
Madison Mutual Insurance Co.
Market Basket
Mastroianni Orthodontics
Medical Billing Solutions, Inc.
Metro Limousine
Midwest Burrito Factory
Minuteman Press
Morning Glory Homecare
Mt. Everest Air
Neruda
Noble Roman's Pizza
OCE Imagistics
Office Depot
Office Max
Open MRI of Southern IL, LLC
Our Health Club & Spa
Partners Bank
Partners Personnel Services
Piedmont Development Corp.
Pizzini Distributing Company
Prudential One Realty Centre
Reed, Armstrong, Gorman, Mudge & Morrissey
Regions Bank
RH Donnelley
Royal Office Products, Inc.
Rusty's Restaurant
Scheffel Companies
Schnuck's
Schwartzkopf Printing
Scott Credit Union
Shell Community Federal Credit Union
Sherrill Associates, Inc.
Sivia Business & Legal Services
Southern Illinois Underwriters
Spring Green Lodge
Sprint
St. Clair Square
Stahly Carlage Co.
Stonebridge Golf Club
Sunset Hills Country Club
Super 8 Pontoon Beach
T-Mobile
The Telegraph
Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen Inc.
Today's Advantage
Traveling Tails Inn
University Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
US Bank
Valley View Cemetery, Mausoleum & Funeral Home
Verizon Wireless
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Wenzel & Associates
West & Company, L.L.C.
Wise Choice Coffees

Meet Your New Board Member: Emily Gates!

Meet Your Board Member

continues with Emily Gates, a new board member on the 2008 Board of Directors.



Emily has worked in the non-profit sector for over nine years and is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for Children's Home + Aid in Granite City. "After spending a year at home with my daughter, I was

looking for a part-time position that would utilize my skills from previous positions. It has been a great experience and provides a wonderful balance to my life," Emily said of her position.

Emily lives in Edwardsville with her husband, Stephen and their daughter, Caroline. A graduate of Edwardsville High School, Emily earned a Bachelor's of Art in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University.

Emily also is active in the Goshen Rotary and serves on the Edwardsville Public Library Board of Directors.

Emily joined the Chamber two years ago. "I love the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Communities and wanted to get more involved in the growth and development of businesses in the area." As a Board Member, Emily hopes to actively support the Chamber through her involvement in activities and events, provide leadership when needed and serve as a community advocate for the Chamber.

edwardsville.com

News Classifieds Events

Chamber Special: Two Month Free Business Upgrade (\$40 Value)

Promote your business in Edwardsville and Glen Carbon's pure city domain named sites, edwardsville.com and glencarbon.com. With a business account, you can add events with your business name on the public calendar, write press releases for the local community to read and search engines to find, define keywords making your own website more visible and rotate a snapshot of your website into the home page.

For a free upgrade, contact:

George Sykes at Wildfire Internet - 618-452-2400. sykes@wildfire.net



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Theme Announced for 2008 Halloween Parade

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce has been carrying on the long community tradition of the Annual Halloween Parade for more than 90 years.

In 2006, the theme "Children's Movie's" led to pirate ships from Pirates of the Caribbean, Who's from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", and other movie scenes parading down the streets of Edwardsville. Last year, crowds welcomed lions, tigers, and bears as the theme "At the Zoo" was portrayed in many entries.

The theme for the 2008 Annual Halloween Parade will be "It's A Small World" in honor of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Start thinking of other countries, other cultures, and even other worlds and begin working on your float.

Registration will begin September 1st.

Chamber Scholarship Applications Now Available

The Chamber is pleased to announce that the 3rd Annual Scholarship Program is under way. Two \$1,000 scholarships are offered yearly: one each to a high school senior and a college/university student. Applications have been delivered to EHS, MELHS, Lahr-Well Academy, Westminster Christian Academy, SIUE, and LCCC. Additional applications are available at the Chamber Office and on our website at www.edglenchamber.com. Applications must be received in the Chamber office by April 25th.

Contact Linda at 656-7600 or ldaniels@edglenchamber.com for further information.

"Why should anyone care about economics? It's a useful tool to help you think about life's trade-offs and the choices we make every day."

SIUE

faculty

Rik Hafer, Ph.D.
Distinguished Research Professor
Department of Economics and Finance
SIUE School of Business

Professor Hafer is analytical, inquisitive and creative – all at the same time. He believes students need a certain level of curiosity and the ability to see connections between economics and the world around them. With more than 80 articles published in prominent scholarly journals, Hafer is a noted expert in economics.

e = excellence.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

www.siu.edu

Sign up to Host a networking@noon

On the wait list to host a Business After House? Consider hosting a networking@noon instead.

These monthly networking events are a great way to meet other business people in a smaller group setting. This fun, fast-paced, members-only 'speed networking' event is designed to get you in, fed, connected, and on your way in 70 minutes or less.

The host must arrange with a member restaurant or use a member caterer, but is not expected to serve complimentary food or beverages. The host will welcome guests, acknowledge new members, introduce their business, and will provide a networking tip or ice-breaker game and two door prizes. There is a \$50 fee to host a networking@noon.

Dates are available in 2008 and 2009. Contact the Chamber to book yours today.

What's New?

Promote your business in Common Ground by informing us of your involvement in community service, new hires, new locations, new products or new services.

Email a 175 word press release announcing your occasion to Jeanne at jwojciezak@edglenchamber.com, and read about your business in the newsletter. Photos are encouraged!

All submissions are due by 5pm the second Friday of the month. Space is not guaranteed.



Planning an event? not have it at Gateway Center!

Meetings
Holiday Parties
Conventions
Seminars
Public Shows
Banquets
Tradeshows
Showers
Consumer Shows
Receptions

For every event you book between now and the end of the year, with event dates before December 31, 2008, you will be entered into a drawing to win a one-year YMCA Full Family Membership, valid at any of the Southwestern Illinois locations.

Please mention this ad when booking. Drawing will be held and winner will be notified on December 31, 2008. Membership will be valid from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 and can be used at the following YMCA locations: Cahokia, Collinsville, Downtown Belleville, East Belleville, Monroe County (Columbia), O'Fallon and Red Bud.



One Gateway Drive :: Collinsville, IL 62234 :: 800-289-2388 :: www.gatewaycenter.com

connect

business after hours schedule

The purpose of a networking mixer is to meet new people, make new contacts, promote your business, and to talk with other business people facing the same challenges you do. All are welcomed and invited to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. A business card raffle and 50/50 drawing will occur at approximately 6:00 pm. Entry fee is \$5. This is an excellent way to network outside of your normal routine.

4/3 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

4/17 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Watershed Nature Preserve
1591 Tower Avenue
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

networking@noon schedule

Can't make a Business After Hours? Networking@noon is a great way to meet other business people in a smaller group setting without taking time away from your busy day. This fun, fast-paced, members-only "speed networking" event is designed to get you in, fed, connected, and on your way in 60 minutes or less.

4/18 Friday noon

Hosted by Rinnovi Medical Spa
at Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/16 Friday noon

Hosted by Hortica
at Bella Milano
1063 S. State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

17th Annual Goshen Rotary Golf Scramble



Attention All Golfers!

It's time again for the Goshen Rotary Golf Scramble. Proceeds from the tournament go to our various community children's programs, such as our "Return to School" assistance program.

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Belk Park Golf Course, Woodriver, IL
618-251-3115

11:00pm Registration

12:00 pm Shotgun Start

5:00 pm Dinner

Golfer's Names (\$90 per player)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Tee Sponsor Information (\$100)

Sponsor _____
Address _____

Phone # _____

Become a GOSHEN ROTARY 5-STAR SPONSOR

For Only \$555 (includes the following)

1. 18 Holes & Cart for 4
2. On Cart Beverages & Snacks
3. Hole Sponsorship with Special Recognition
4. Skins Game and Mulligan's included
5. Reserved Seating for Dinner

Other Sponsorships Available

To ensure proper recognition and to guarantee your spot, please return this form and a check to Goshen Rotary by May 1 to the address below or to any Goshen Rotary Member.

Steve Cooper
TheBANK of Edwardsville
330 W. Vandalia
Edwardsville, IL 62025
659-4578

Dave Toby
FCB
6659 Center Grove Rd.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
692-7915

Scott Gruber
US Bank
101 North Main
Edwardsville, IL 62025
656-9090

Ambassadors

Meet Your Ambassadors: Lola Shashack

By Natalie Head, Anderson Hospital

Have you met the first woman President? Certainly you must have met Lola Shashack at one of our Chamber events! Lola proudly holds the title as the first woman President -- of the Collinsville Rotary that is -- and currently holds the title of Ambassador with the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber!



Lola is one busy lady! When she isn't busy on the job as the Marketing/Sales Coordinator for Eden Village Retirement Community, she can be found volunteering for the Goshen Rotary, the Village of Glen Carbon Community Events Committee, attending ribbon cuttings and business after hours for the Chamber or even showing houses to perspective buyers! (She is also a licensed real estate agent with Prudential One Realty in Edwardsville.)

Needless to say, Lola knows first-hand the importance of being a Chamber member. "The Chamber stays abreast of what is happening in local and state government and how it will affect the businesses in this area," said Lola. "The networking, education and assistance the Chamber offers is so valuable to the businesses in this area."

One of Lola's missions as an Ambassador is to educate members and non-members about what the Chamber has to offer. Her advice to members, and those considering to be, "Attend as many Chamber events as you possibly can and let your Chamber membership work for you!"

Lola is originally from Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and lived in Collinsville for 36 years before moving to Glen Carbon where she now resides with her husband. Lola has one son, two step-sons and one step daughter.

Ambassadors News

By Sara Sanderson, Chairman, Ambassadors

This month I have the pleasure of introducing our new Ambassadors. We had an overwhelming response from our call for Ambassadors and unfortunately, we had more applications than positions available. Thank you to everyone that applied. If you were not selected but still want to get involved, please contact Carol at the Chamber office to get further details on other Chamber committees that are looking for members.

The new Ambassadors are as follows:

- Nancy Baahlmann, Beverly Farm Foundation
- Dana Klassen, C.A.F.E. – Community Association for Financial Education
- Ryan Matthews, Hortica
- Pamela Perlmutter, Girl Scouts of River Bluff Council
- Dr. Matt Uchtman, Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd.

Please congratulate these new Ambassadors when you see them!

Ambassadors

Nancy Baahlmann

Beverly Farm Foundation

Danelle Brown

Marcel Brown Technologies

Ashleigh Deatherage

Scott Credit Union

Melissa DeLassus

Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center

Ed Faller

Faller Photography Group

Natalie A. Head

Anderson Hospital

Gary Hoggatt

National Bank

Justin Huneke

TheBANK Of Edwardsville

Debbie Jung

Community Title & Escrow

Dana Klassen

C.A.F.E. Community Association for
Financial Education

Mark Krenning

West & Company

Bonnie Kotsybar

Chocolates n'Amour

Sue Mancuso

Suburban Journals

Ryan Matthews

Hortica

Chad Opel

Edward Jones

Pamela Perlmutter

Girl Scouts of River Bluff Council

Sara Sanderson

Liberty Mutual

Lola Shashack

Eden Village

Donna Sheard

Avon

Dr. Matt Uchtman

Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd.

Crystal Anderson Wenzel

Individual Member

Exceeding Customers' Expectations



Friday, April 11th

**2008 PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION SERIES:**

**REALLY SUCCESSFUL
SELLING &
CUSTOMER SERVICE**

2008 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SERIES

Develop skills to seize rapport-building opportunities, encourage add-on sales and assist with the retention of customers while offering consistent service to callers. You will learn:

- Effective techniques to handle difficult customers.
- Add-on and soft question techniques to raise sales.
- Correct techniques for challenging workplace & personal situations.
- How to recover business opportunities.
- How to manage the feelings of disappointed customers.
- Differences found in passive, average and proactive customer service representatives.
- How to take advantage of rapport-building opportunities.

Friday, April 11th 8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast & Networking 8:30 – 12:30 Workshop
Leclaire Room, Lewis and Clark's N.O. Nelson Campus, Edwardsville

ENROLL NOW FOR ONE OR BOTH WORKSHOPS!

FRIDAY, MAY 9 INTERNAL CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS

Identify essential elements that create an environment of excellent customer service and techniques for handling customers skillfully to increase your competitive edge.

The Professional Education Series is offered in partnership with Lewis and Clark Community College.

**\$99.00 for Chamber members
\$139.00 for non-members**

Call (618) 656-8800 ext 5851 to register.
www.edglenchamber.org

Coming this Fall: Successful Selling Series
Three new workshops from Dale Carnegie Training based on their popular Sales Advantage course.

Breakfast Sponsored by:



Event Sponsored by:



Exceed Your Customers' Expectations

The 2008 Professional Education Series: Really Successful Selling and Customer Service continues this month with Exceeding Customers' Expectations on Friday, April 11th at 8:00 am in the LeClaire Room at Lewis and Clark's N.O. Nelson Campus in Edwardsville.

The Telephone Doctor, a premier provider of customer service training headquartered in St. Louis, continues the series with this four-hour interactive workshop. Take your organization to the next service level by exceeding customers' expectations!

In this highly interactive workshop, you will learn skills and techniques to be more proactive, seize rapport-building opportunities, encourage add-on sales, and assist with the retention of customers, while offering consistent service to both internal and external callers. You'll also learn:

Each participant will receive a workbook and desktop reminder cards for continuous reinforcement of skills learned. The cost is \$99 each for members and \$139 each for non-members. A full breakfast buffet is included in the registration fee. Networking and breakfast will start at 8:00 am, with the program beginning promptly at 8:30 am and will end at 12:30 pm. To register call 656-8800 ext 5851.

What Chamber members said about the first Telephone Doctor session, Essential Customer Service Skills, on March 14

"I felt as though all of the topics discussed were relevant to my job. Even though I have worked with the public for many years, I really wanted current problem solving." ~ Kathryn Sharpe, I.C. Management

"Very informative. I will be able to use this information in a real life setting." ~ Skip Sponeman, Walmart

"I really enjoyed this class very much and will use many of the techniques." ~ Mike McPherson, Mike's Sealing & Striping

"Good techniques offered that brought my attention to some definite "no's"" ~ Sandy Riley, Anderson Hospital



Christian Hospital is a leader in providing the most advanced technology available — like our new 64-slice CT scanner with 3-dimensional images of the body's internal organs and tissues; and our new Electrophysiology Lab to correct electrical problems of the heart, which account for 80 percent of all sudden cardiac deaths.

And Christian Hospital is transforming the way health care is delivered to create a consistently excellent experience for everyone who comes here to either receive care, work or practice medicine.

Our Centers of Excellence ...

- Cancer Care Center, home to the Cancer Resource Center
- Heart Care Program, with surgeons from Washington University School of Medicine
- 24-hour Emergency Departments at Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare
- Diabetes Institute with its Diabetes Busters mobile unit
- Neuroscience Center
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spotlight

Chocolates N'Amour

Chocolates N'Amour owner Bonnie Kotsybar left a job in retail to open a chocolate shop. Four years later, Chocolates N'Amour is moving into a new storefront location at 1719 Troy Road in Edwardsville.

At Chocolates N'Amour you will find everything chocolate as well as assorted candies and desserts for any occasion. "We offer something for everyone. We have a large assortment of chocolate and candies including kid's candy, sugar-free options, and even custom molded chocolate," said Bonnie. "We've done chocolates for corporate events, weddings, anniversary parties, even birthday parties."

"We strive to provide friendly personal service and love to share our knowledge of chocolate and candy making. We are really surprised with the calls we receive from cooks at home," Bonnie added.

Bonnie joined the Chamber before her store opened. "In all honesty, my initial reason for joining was for the Ribbon Cutting opportunity," she said. "But after I realized what the Chamber was involved in and all they do for the community, I wanted to become part of that."



Bonnie is an Ambassador and also volunteers for various Chamber committees including the Annual Dinner & Auction, Route 66, SIUE Week and the Chamber Golf Challenge.

"Working on a committee is a great example of additional ways our Chamber provides networking opportunities," Bonnie said. "We are all very busy, but there has to be something the Chamber offers that would motivate you to become involved."

Chocolates N'Amour is located at 1719 Troy Road in Edwardsville. For more information, you can call 656-NUTT(6888).



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Faith in Action

By Jeanne Wojcieszak

"Your neighbor's independence depends on you." This is the motivation behind Faith in Action, a volunteer-based ecumenical organization which works with the community to provide services that support the independence and well-being of seniors and individuals with special needs.

With a volunteer base of over 100, all services are provided to area seniors and individuals with special needs at no cost. Volunteers assist in many ways including shopping for groceries, providing rides to medical appointments, doing light housekeeping, and providing companionship through visiting or phoning.

"Our reputation has been built on the willingness of our volunteers to provide personal, responsive, and caring service," said Joyce Gusewelle, Executive Director for Faith in Action.

A recent community assessment by the United Way identified the need for greater access to health care as one of the key issues facing seniors in Madison County. Faith In Action helps to meet this need with our assisted transportation service. We are helping to provide seniors in our community with access to healthcare, enabling them to attend their medical appointments in a timely manner.

In addition to Joyce, three part-time employees and a 10 member Board of Directors, headed by President Donna Marrone, of Madison County Shelter Care, work to place volunteers with participants and to ensure the organization keeps meeting the needs of the community. "To keep our services alive and growing, we need both financial donations and volunteers from the community," Joyce said.

Faith in Action has been awarded several grants to support its mission, but it also holds annual special events to raise money for its programs – Christmas in July Dinner Auction, Arts of Fire Evening, and Community Breakfast.

Faith in Action has been a Chamber member for over seven years and has taken advantage of the networking and marketing opportunities the Chamber provides. "The Chamber offers many opportunities to promote your organization's services and events. They are very supportive," said Joyce.

For more information about the Annual Christmas in July Dinner Auction or to learn more about Faith in Action, call 618-692-0480 or visit www.faithinaction.org.



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State of Ed-Glen



State of Ed-Glen, February 28



State of Ed-Glen, February 28

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Essential Customer Service Skills, March 14

Business After Hours



Associated Physicians Group, February 28



Associated Physicians Group, February 28



First Clover Leaf Bank, March 6



First Clover Leaf Bank, March 6

Your Business

Right Balance Nutrition & Fitness Consulting Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Right Balance Nutrition & Fitness Consulting is celebrating their one year anniversary.

Since opening in March 2007, owner Lorraine Huntley provides private and individualized nutrition and fitness program creation and counseling. As a registered/licensed dietitian and certified personal trainer, she devises programs that fit and are the "right balance" to meet each client's specific goals.

Right Balance, LLC is located at 435A S. Buchanan in Edwardsville, IL. For more information, call 954-8387 or log onto www.rightbalanceconsulting.com



Jackson Promoted at Citi Smith Barney

Kyle Jackson, financial advisor and financial planning specialist, has been promoted to 2nd Vice President – Wealth Management at Citi Smith Barney.

Kyle provides holistic wealth management services that include financial and retirement planning, investment strategies, insurance and estate planning and lending services. Kyle is primarily involved with consulting individuals, families and business owners as well as consulting businesses and other institutions in particular financial areas.

Kyle lives in Edwardsville with his wife Catherine and their two daughters, Olivia and Ava.



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Understanding Rebate Offers

Rebates are often used by retailers and manufacturers as a means of enticing consumers into making a purchase. Offered on a variety of goods, rebates are designed to save consumers money while increasing sales. However, some rebate requirements have become increasingly difficult to complete, often leaving consumers frustrated and without their promised rebates.

Q: I recently decided to purchase a new television and have been shopping around for the best price. While making comparisons, I noticed several rebate offers. Would you please explain how rebates work and whether I should consider these offers as I decide which purchase to make?

A: There are two types of rebates—those that can be redeemed immediately at the register and those that must be mailed in. The majority of rebates are of the mail-in variety, and they typically require consumers to send specified documentation to a redemption address. Some retailers allow consumers to file for rebates online; you should check the company's Web site to see if this option is available to you.

The documentation required for a rebate usually includes the original sales receipt, UPC code (which sometimes must be cut from the product package), rebate certificate, and the customer's name, address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address.

By law, companies are required to send rebates within the time frame promised. If the offer specifies no time frame, companies must send rebates within a reasonable time. "Reasonable" in this case often is interpreted as within 30 days.

When weighing a rebate offer in your purchasing decision, you should first note the expiration date on the offer to determine if you will have time to complete the rebate submission. You also should consider whether any special mailing instructions or the cost of sending the required documents outweighs the value of the rebate.

If you decide to make a purchase with a mail-in rebate offer, the following tips will help ensure you receive your rebate as promised:

1. Keep your receipt. Many manufacturers require you to send them the original or a copy of the receipt.
2. Retain packaging until you're certain you have all the required proofs of purchase. These could include UPC symbols, a special logo, or even a box top.
3. Read all of the directions on the rebate form and enclose all of the required documentation before mailing in your rebate request. If you have any questions, check the company's Web site or see if they have a phone number set up for rebate inquiries.
4. Make and keep copies of all your documents before you mail them. Print the mailing address clearly and correctly. Consider sending your rebate materials via certified mail.
5. Make note on your calendar of when you expect to receive your rebate. When it arrives, be sure to cash or deposit it before any expiration period noted on the check.
6. If your rebate doesn't arrive, follow up with the company or call the Illinois Attorney General's Office at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013) or 1-800-243-0618 (TTY: 1-877-844-5461).

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Your Business

Salute to Steel



The Salute to Steel sculpture was created by Design Director John Celuch of Inlandesign for the Chamber of Commerce of Southwestern Madison County.

Located in a new roadside park in Venice, the 24,000 pound stainless steel monument was fabricated in Granite City, Illinois by Wright Industrial and Accurate Fabricators. The intersecting rings symbolize the communities of Granite City, Madison and Venice, which have historically contributed the majority of the workforce to the steel industry. The rings and colored vertical elements also symbolize a steel pour.

Bella Catering to Host Open House in New Leclaire Room

Bella Catering will host an open house in the Leclaire Room on Lewis and Clark's N.O. Nelson Campus on Sunday, April 13 from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Leclaire room is Edwardsville's newest banquet facility with a great garden view and seating from 25 -275. The facility has the opportunity to provide charm and character to weddings, receptions, luncheons, breakfast meetings, corporate parties, anniversary parties, retirement parties and much more.

For more information about the Leclaire Room's banquet facilities, contact Bella Catering at 975-5446.

Collision Plus Auto Body Repair Ranked #1

Collision Plus Auto Body Repair Center placed #1 in the nation out of 136 body shops for its outstanding customer survey index rating of 100% for the month of January 2008, by Fix Auto, The International Network of Collision Repair Shops.

The score is based on customer satisfaction, speed of repair, estimator and technician ratings.

Collision Plus Auto Body Repair Centers is a 50-year family-owned business and has four locations in Belleville, Swansea, O'Fallon and Glen Carbon.

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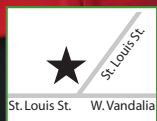
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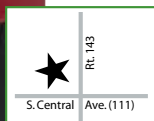
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Your Business

Hospice of Southern Illinois Receives \$500,000 Challenge Grant

Hospice of Southern Illinois has received a \$500,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor to help fund the Community Hospice Home.

Every dollar the organization receives will be matched until June 1, 2008.

One-time monetary gifts, gifts of securities, or three-year pledges can be made by calling Susan Reilmann at 235-1703

Two Men And A Truck Ranked Top Franchise in United States

The Collinsville office of Two Men And A Truck earned a top spot in the franchise system's Achievement in Excellence Award Program.

Franchises are judged according to high performance standards in customer service, operational excellence, learning and growth, system involvement and commitment to the community.

There are 173 Two Men And A Truck franchises in the United States. The St. Louis office was one of 14 that met, or exceeded, the Achievement in Excellence standards.

"This award is a true demonstration of across-the-board excellence," said Brig Sorber, president of TWO MEN AND A TRUCK®. "We are a customer service company first. Our one-of-a-kind awards system is stringent and based on yearlong numbers. We're proud to recognize top performers who make excellence a priority in all areas of business."

The franchise, based in Collinsville, has been open since December of 2004. The location operates six trucks and has 17 employees.

"Our first priority is training our employees to exceed customer expectations", said the Manager of four years, Ken Wienhoff. "It is the key to our success."

Ann's Printing & Copying Has Moved

Ann's Printing & Copying Company has moved to 219 Second Avenue, Suite E, in Edwardsville.

Their phone number has not changed. It is still 618-656-6878.

Southwestern Illinois Living Celebrates One-year Anniversary with a Special for Chamber Members

Southwestern Illinois Living magazine is celebrating its one-year anniversary by offering all Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber members a special rate for the June/July issue.

The magazine is mailed every other month to the top 30% of homeowners in Madison, St. Clair and Monroe counties with an unprecedented circulation of 51,000. This distribution provides quality exposure to every one of the best prospects for businesses in these areas.

Southwestern Illinois Living, as well as St. Louis County Living, is a resource guide for home and lifestyle enhancement for upscale families. Advertisers are also offered exclusivity in their respective category of business.

In addition, the magazine provides editorial support to advertisers in every issue. These articles educate and pre-sell readers about quality service. It is a great way to differentiate a company and provide more in-depth understanding. This also ensures that the content of the magazine is completely local.

Please call fellow chamber member Lisa Adams at 618-416-1839 to schedule an appointment and discover how Southwestern Illinois Living can help increase your sales and grow your business.

Scott Credit Union to Host Golf Scramble for United Way

Scott Credit Union will host its Second Annual Golf Scramble to support the United Way's Southwest Illinois Division of Greater St. Louis.

Last year's tournament raised over \$8,000 for the organization.

The 2008 tournament will be held Wednesday, May 14th at Stonebridge Golf Course. Golfers, sponsors, and auction items are still needed.

For more information, please contact Ashleigh Deatherage at adeatherage@scu.org or 651-9500.

TheBANK of Edwardsville Receives USDA Award



Featured from left to right are mortgage loan originators for Madison County from TheBANK of Edwardsville, Gay Minnigerode, Justin Huneke, Jack McDole, Betty Jacober (USDA Rural Development Program), Robb Treat, Kent Schmitz, Barry Case and John McDole.

TheBANK of Edwardsville has been recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Program for closing more than \$2.6 million in Guarantee Rural Housing Loans during fiscal year 2007. TheBANK is proud to be a part of this beneficial program in the area.

"We believe wholeheartedly in the Guarantee loan product and are very proud to receive recognition from the USDA Rural Development Program for our efforts to provide this type of loan to our customers," said Steve Fuehne, vice president of mortgage lending for TheBANK of Edwardsville. "Likewise, our customers have embraced the Guarantee loan product and have been thrilled with the opportunity to take advantage of the loan's features and flexibility, making it easier for them to own their dream home."

Guarantee Rural Housing Loans are available to assist eligible households with incomes that do not exceed 115% of the medium income for the area. The program provides up to 100% financing for the moderate-income applicants. This eliminates the need for a down payment and private mortgage insurance. Customers receive competitive 30-year loans with fixed-interest rates. Borrowers are able to work with local community lenders, such as TheBANK of Edwardsville, using conventional lenders' forms and receive quick service.

"This is a terrific option for families or individuals that have a moderate income but have goals of owning their own home or are interested in making a transition to a larger home," added Fuehne. "The product is incredibly flexible and has proven to be a good fit for several of our customers."



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Your Community

SIUE To Wrap Up Birthday Celebrations With Community Festival

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will wrap up its 50th anniversary by celebrating with the community.

For nearly a year, SIUE has celebrated its 50th anniversary and its commitment to the community. Activities on April 5, 16, 17 and 19 will close the first 50 years of the University's history, allowing it to usher in the next 50 years. The community is invited to join in the fun.

The largest ever fireworks display in Southwestern Illinois history will be launched at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 5 on the SIUE campus. The fireworks display will be free and open to the public. Community members can bring lawn chairs and park in the University fan lots to enjoy the spectacle.

A Time Capsule Burial Ceremony will take place from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Stratton Quadrangle on the SIUE campus. The time capsule will be sealed and will not be opened for 50 years.

SIUE
50
1957-2007

That same day and Thursday, April 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., also in the Quadrangle, individuals are invited to take part in an SIUE tradition and paint "the Rock." For more than 30 years, students have gathered at the Rock for rallies, meetings and activities. A pictorial history of the Rock also will be featured.

The culminating event will be the 50th Anniversary Community Festival, Discover e Day, featuring fun and educational campus tours, activities, demonstrations and performances from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Two trolleys will be on hand to transport visitors to stops around campus, introducing them to exciting, family-friendly venues. Free parking will be available all over campus. For more information, visit the 50th Anniversary Web site, www.siu.edu/50.

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Faith in Action

Caring and compassionate volunteers needed to transport care receivers to and from appointments, shopping or errands. Volunteers are also needed to visit with care receivers or provide light household duties. Volunteer must have reliable transportation. Training provided. faegc@yahoo.com 618-692-0480



The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation Supports Local Charities and Encourages Volunteerism in our Community.

Local community service groups should contact the Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation to be included in next month's listing. www.edwardsvillefoundation.org

Lewis and Clark Spring Enrollment Reaches More Than 8,100

Enrollments at Lewis and Clark Community College continue to grow, as this spring semester finds the college with a two percent growth in enrollment and a five percent increase in credit hours. This spring marks the 13th consecutive spring semester of growth. When coupled with the 12 consecutive fall semesters of growth, the college has experienced 25 consecutive fall and spring semesters of continuous enrollment increases.

Last spring was the first year the College surpassed the 8,000 credit student mark. This year that number grew again, increasing two percent from 8,016 to 8,163 credit students. Enrollment has increased more than 60 percent since the spring semester of 1995.

The College set a benchmark this fall, surpassing the 60,000 credit hour mark. This spring that number grew five percent from the previous spring, as students have combined for 62,378 credit hours, which is a new record.

"Each semester continues to set a higher standard for Lewis and Clark, not just in terms of growth, but in terms of academic excellence," Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman said. "Our significant period of growth challenges us to continue to find new programs and new ways to provide the highest level of academic services to a growing number of individuals who choose Lewis and Clark. We are pleased with the continued growth and the growing recognition of the College's outstanding programs."

Chapman added that some of the factors positively impacting the College's growth include the expansion of online offerings, the continuous growth of dual credit programs within the high schools, the expansion of the N.O. Nelson campus in Edwardsville and the completion of the state-of-the-art nursing facility.

Online enrollments, which were up 12 percent last spring, experienced phenomenal growth again this year boasting a 22 percent increase in students from 1,148 last year to 1,404 students taking advantage of online classes this year. Enrollments at N.O. Nelson also increased by 14 percent with the completion of the third phase this spring.

Other areas of growth included full time students. The number of students enrolling full time grew 12 percent, which also created a five percent increase in the College's Full Time Equivalency (FTE). Day students also increased three percent as more than 6,965 students now attend classes during the day.

Vice President of Enrollment Services Pete Basola said the College is encouraged by the areas that experienced growth this spring. "We are pleased to see students making stronger commitments toward completing their education, as more students chose to enroll full time to complete their degrees this semester. The growth in credit hours also indicates that students are taking more classes at a time," Basola said.

"The online growth and the growth at our second campus in Edwardsville continue to be amazing areas to watch. We expect to see continued growth in that area in the future," Basola said.

Robert Watson, Lewis and Clark's Board of Trustees Chairman, said the faculty and staff of Lewis and Clark are to be commended for maintaining the College's high standards during this period of growth. "The College has successfully increased its services and programs to a growing number of students while maintaining a balanced budget and keeping the unit cost below the state average," he said.



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Habitat for Humanity Chapter Becomes Official

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chapter of Habitat for Humanity is now an official member of the Lewis and Clark Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chapter joins existing chapters in Alton, Highland, Greenville, Wood River, and Collinsville under the Lewis and Clark Affiliate umbrella.

The Chapters under the Lewis and Clark Affiliate have already completed 30 homes in the Madison and Bond County areas. The Edwardsville Chapter will help continue this amazing success.

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chapter also approved its 2008 Officers and Board of Directors. Chris Azar will serve as Chairman, Trish Cheatham as Vice Chair, Diane Schwind as Secretary and Harry Windland as Treasurer.

The Chapter will be responsible for all Habitat houses that will be built in the area. The next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, April 2 at Madison Mutual Insurance at 6:30 pm.

Junior Service Club Announces Charity Golf Tournament

The Junior Service Club of Edwardsville-Glen Carbon will be hosting a golf tournament on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Fox Creek Golf Club in Edwardsville, Illinois. The tournament will be a four-person scramble with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The entry fee of \$400 per team includes golf for four, cart, beverages, dinner, snacks, and attendance gifts.

The Junior Service Club of Edwardsville-Glen Carbon is a philanthropic and social organization dedicated to furthering interest among its members in the civic and economic welfare of our community. In its 69 years of service, it has made financial contributions to hundreds of community organizations and charity groups. All proceeds will be donated back into our community.

Hole sponsorships of \$100 are available, as well as various other levels of sponsorship. Please call Christie Lampe at 659-2373 or Vickie Maxwell at 655-4015 to register a team or for information on sponsorships.



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SIUE Marketing and Communications Wins National Awards

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Institutional Marketing and Communications team has won nine national awards in the 23rd Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition, the oldest and largest competition of its kind in the country.

This is the third consecutive year the unit has placed in the competition. This year's awards included:

- Gold in two categories - 50th Anniversary T-shirt and Cougar Logo;
- Bronze in two categories - for the eConnection, the alumni magazine, and the SIUE Web site home page;
- Meritorious in five categories - the 50th Anniversary Historic Timeline Kiosk, the 50th Anniversary Total Public Relations Program, the Chancellor's SIUE Holiday Invitation, the SIUE Graduate School ad and the Chancellor's report.

More than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools submitted 2,000 entries from the 50 states and several countries. The national panel of judges, admissions marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the Admissions Marketing Report editorial board judge the entries based on creativity, marketing execution and impact of message.

"It's always a great honor to be recognized in this competition," said Barbara O'Malley, SIUE's executive director of marketing and communications. "Every year, the creative bar seems to be raised higher."

"We are lucky to have a very talented creative team at SIUE that can compete with some of the best creative talent in the country."

Heather Kniffel, SIUE's marketing and communications manager, said her unit is continually improving the quality of work and the quality of printing, while keeping stewardship in mind.

"This year, we have made a conscious effort to use papers that have a higher post-consumer waste content and are certified through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for all of our high-level publications," she said. "These publications are also being printed by FSC certified printers, ensuring that sustainable practices are being used."

The Admissions Marketing Report is the nation's leading marketing publication for higher education. The monthly publication is in its 23rd year and is read by thousands of admissions marketers at colleges and universities throughout the country.

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Upcoming Eggs & Issues

By Erika Kennett, Executive Director

May 15 marks the second installment of the Alliance's Eggs & Issues breakfast series. May's topic is "Bridging the Gap - The Mississippi River Bridge" and Brook Brestal, IDOT's Deputy Project Director for this project, will be presenting. Brooks is tasked with overseeing the construction for this monumental project. Cost of attendance is \$10 for Alliance investors and \$15 for non-investors. Check your organization's investor status by visiting our website at www.edglenalliance.com. Breakfast will be served in the Leclaire Room at the NO Nelson campus of Lewis & Clark Community College at 7:30 am; the program will begin at 8:00 am. Advanced registration is required and can be done by calling 618.656.7601 or emailing mbrown@edglenalliance.com.

The Alliance has completed the first of four levels of Ameren's Partners in Development program (PID). Achieving the Prepared Level for both the City

of Edwardsville and the Village of Glen Carbon has been one of the primary focuses of the Alliance in the first quarter of 2008. By participating in this program Ameren will provide economic development services designed to match the sophistication of our economic development initiatives. Grant monies are available to the Alliance for a new and improved website, scholarships for international economic development education as well as access to Ameren's Business Retention & Expansion Program offerings. Ameren will work with the Alliance to recertify our communities in 2010, and at which time we aim for Edwardsville and Glen Carbon to be certified at the Prepared, Advanced and Superior levels.

The Alliance will kick off our formal Business Retention & Expansion program later this year, but if your company is in need of assistance, contact our office today at 656-7601.

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Illinois workNet

Serving Business and Job Seekers in Illinois

By David Stoecklin, Executive Director, Madison County Employment and Training

Illinois workNet was launched in June 2005 by the Illinois Workforce Investment Board and is sponsored by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The portal is a cooperative effort between state economic development, workforce development, educational entities, and local workforce investment boards along with their public and private partners. Partners include local governments, community colleges and non-profit organizations. It is designed to provide easy access to information and services through a network of these public and private partners.

The Illinois workNet partnerships encompass all of the following entities:

- Community-based organizations
- Disability advocacy groups
- Education agencies
- Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)
- DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Illinois Workforce Investment Board
- Illinois Workforce Partnership
- Local agencies and governments
- Local Workforce Investment Areas
- Local Workforce Investment Boards
- Private-sector organizations
- Religious, social, and cultural institutions

The Illinois workNet portal is a unique, free and user-friendly online resource that provides career, education, and work support information for all Illinois residents and businesses. The portal is designed to connect employers and job seekers in order to expand economic opportunity in Illinois. Numerous benefits are offered to registered partners including the opportunity to promote events, find support services, post job openings, and increase public awareness of their business or organization. Illinois workNet can specifically assist businesses with recruiting workers, locating training resources, and accessing other types of assistance to remain competitive. For individuals seeking career or employment information, the portal provides information on job opportunities and career, education, and work support services.

Madison and Bond Counties became an Illinois workNet pilot site in 2006. We have been working to expand the number of partners and to gather info that will help us make the website better.

The goal of Illinois workNet is to cultivate a well-trained workforce by providing valuable resources for the state’s businesses and citizens, creating a solid foundation for a thriving 21st century economy. It can also be a fine resource for Madison County residents. To see how the Illinois workNet can be of benefit to you and your business, please visit the site at www.illinoisworknet.com. For questions, please contact David Stoecklin, Executive Director of the Madison County Employment and Training Department at (618) 296-4310 or dstoecklin@mcetd.org.

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Thursday, April 17 at 6 p.m.
Gateway Regional Medical Center,
Pascal Hall

Presented by:
Laura Tadlock, Family Therapist,
GRMC Adolescent Unit

Refreshments will be provided.

Please call (618) 798-3166 to reserve your seat.

