

February 2010



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Common Ground



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Chamber Staff

Carol Foreman
Executive Director
cforeman@edglenchamber.com

Desirée Bennyhoff
Communications Director
dbennyhoff@edglenchamber.com

Linda Daniels
Membership/Board Relations
ldaniels@edglenchamber.com

Bonnie Kotsybar
Greeter Service & Events Coordinator
bkotsybar@edglenchamber.com

Gloria Pugh
Accounts Payable & Receivable
gpugh@edglenchamber.com

Contributors

Steve Hartman
Creativille Inc.
Creative Director, Brand Identity

Desirée Bennyhoff
Editor, Layout & Design, Contributing Writer

**Marci Winters-McLaughlin
& Debbie Settle**
The Edwardsville Intelligencer
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 in the interests of business, providing members with education and resources, and encouraging mutual support.

on the cover

and the winners are...

Dr. Robert L. Koepke

Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an exceptional individual who has made a significant positive impact on the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community through his or her past achievements over a long period of time, and has enhanced the quality of life for Edwardsville/Glen Carbon residents.

Mark Mestemacher

Albert Cassens Award for Outstanding Community Achievement honors someone who has given freely of his/her time to the community, made a significant impact on the community during the 2009 calendar year, and is an active, upstanding citizen.

Joan Lebkuecher

Tallerico Leadership Award (formerly ATHENA) recognizes an individual who mentors others and provides a role model to encourage women to achieve their full leadership potential as well as for the recipient's own business or professional accomplishments and community service.

Linda Kuhlmann

2009 Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes the outstanding contributions that volunteers make to enhance our community and benefit the Chamber and our programs.

Market Basket

2009 Business of the Year Award honors a local business, selected from Business of the Month winners throughout the year, that has made a significant contribution to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community.

2010 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

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Gateway Grizzlies
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Stahly Cartage Co.
Stonebridge Golf Club
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USO of Missouri
US Bank
Valley View Cemetery, Mausoleum & Funeral Home
Verizon Wireless
WBZ Radio
Wenzel & Associates
Wise Choice Coffees

events

2/9 Tuesday 7:30-9am

YPG Learn from a Leader
Breakfast with Bev George
Hosted by First Clover Leaf Bank
2143 South Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/9 Tuesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
MacXprts
1041 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/10 Wednesday 4:30pm

Ribbon Cutting
Accelerate: Health
& Fitness Consulting
108 East Vandalia
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/12 Friday 12-1pm

networking@noon
Hosted by I. Salsman PR
at GC Cuisine
1230 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/18 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Joe's Pizza & Pasta
4 Club Centre Court Suite K
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/24 Wednesday 12:30-5pm

Professional Education
Constant Contact Seminar
Julia's Banquet Center
101 Eastgate Shopping Center
East Alton, IL 62024

2/25 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Glen Carbon
Centennial Library
198 South Main Street
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

save the date

3/3 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting & Grand
Opening Celebrations at
Platinum Tanning and
Wang Gang Asian Eats N Beats
4 Club Centre Court
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/4 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
First Clover Leaf Bank
6814 Goshen Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/12 Friday 12-1pm

networking@noon
Hosted by Sears Optical
at GC Cuisine
1230 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/18 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Eden Village
400 South Station Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

3/25 Thursday 8:15am

Ribbon Cutting
US Bank
1411 Lewis Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

connect

business after hours schedule

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

2/25 Thursday 5-7pm
Glen Carbon Centennial Library
198 South Main Street in Glen Carbon

3/4 Thursday 5-7pm
First Clover Leaf Bank
6814 Goshen Road in Edwardsville

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.

2/12 Friday noon
hosted by I. Salsman PR at GC Cuisine
1230 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL

Would you like to schedule a networking@noon event in 2010? Contact Linda Daniels at ldaniels@edglenchamber.com or 618.656.7600 for details.



LILLEY AND ASSOCIATES, INC. OFFERING LIMITED MEDICAL PLAN

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Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618.692.8110

From The Desk of Carol Foreman

The 86th Annual Meeting and 23rd Annual Auction, held Saturday, January 30, was truly a success.

Thanks to a large group of dedicated volunteers, sponsors and donors, the Meridian Ballroom was filled with beautiful decorations, and a great selection of auction items. What a wonderful evening for the community to come together in celebration of our 2009 accomplishments and honor outstanding community stewards with our Annual Awards.



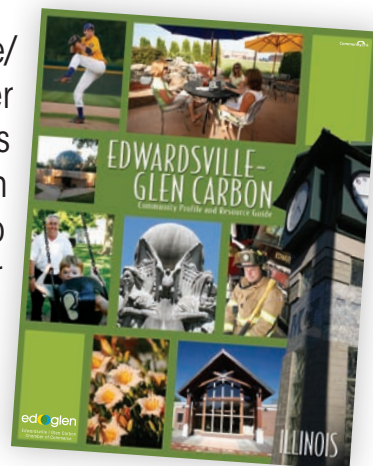
I would also like to thank our retiring Board of Directors members, Steve Smith and Steve McRae, for their years of dedicated service and take this opportunity to welcome our three new Board members, Danelle Brown, Gary Hoggatt, and Dave Toby.

Sincerely,

Carol Foreman

Carol Foreman, Executive Director

The Edwardsville/
Glen Carbon Chamber
of Commerce has
partnered with
Community Link to
bring a new full color
glossy edition of the
*Community Profile &
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ambassadors

2009 Ambassador of the Year: Gary Hoggatt



ABOVE: 2009 Ed/Glen Chamber President Kelly Wagner presents Gary Hoggatt, Jr. with 2009 Ambassador of the Year Award.

2010 Ambassadors

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Individual Member

Sara Sanderson

Liberty Mutual

Ed Faller

Faller Photography Group

Natalie A. Head

Anderson Hospital

Justin Huneke

TheBANK of Edwardsville

Melissa DeLassus

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Linda Kuhlmann

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Commerce Bank

Nicole Kline

Extra Help, Inc.

Susan Bailey

National Bank

Chelsea Hoelscher

West & Company, LLC

Rachel Case

First Clover Leaf Bank

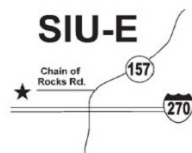
Matt Uchtman

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Diabetes Self-Management Education Program -- 391-5386

Stroke Support Group -- 391-5230

Congestive Heart Failure Program -- 391-5283

Phase 2 Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab -- 391-5283

Phase 3 Adult-Supervised Exercise Program -- 391-5283



 **Anderson Hospital**

www.andersonhospital.org

Maryville, IL

288-5711

ypg



ABOVE: 2009 Ed/Glen Chamber President Kelly Wagner presents Mark Richardson with 2009 Young Professional of the Year Award.

edglenypg
Young Professionals Group

upcoming YPG events

2/9 Tuesday 7:30-9am

YPG Learn from a Leader
Breakfast with Bev George
(YPG Members Only)
Hosted by First Clover Leaf Bank
2143 South Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

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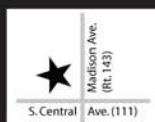
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Edwardsville, IL
656-6200



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connect

Business of the Month:

CRUSHED GRAPES WINE SHOP

wines – spirits – beers – gourmet foods – gifts

Crushed Grapes Wine Shop was established in November 1999 by Len and Arlene Scaturro. Crushed Grapes sells wines, beers, spirits and gifts from around the world – their niche is carrying wines that people have not seen in this market, unique beers, and the best line of spirits in Edwardsville and Glen Carbon.

Len started out driving a beer truck back in the '70s and '80s, and during that time period he became part of the management team at a local Miller Beer distributor. In the late '80s and into the '90s, he went to work for a wine and liquor distributor. Len met Arlene, who had been working for Schnucks Supermarkets for 33 years. They both had a passion for wines and, in June 1999 decided to shop for a location in Edwardsville.

The first few years were very tough, but the Scaturros persevered and have developed a loyal customer base through friendly, knowledgeable service and dedicated staff. The couple started private wine classes, both going to people's homes and holding in-store classes, which they continue today. Len started teaching wine and beer courses at Lewis and Clark Community College approximately five years ago and plans to continue the classes as long as the College will have them. Len stressed the importance of education in their industry, no matter what age (legal, of course) one may be, and expressed joy in helping others appreciate "the nectar of the land."

Crushed Grapes Wine Shop just celebrated its tenth anniversary in November 2009. Although it hasn't always been easy, Len and Arlene get the job done and enjoy doing it. Besides still working for Schnucks, Arlene takes on much responsibility at Crushed Grapes. Len credits her with giving the store upscale touches and creating a wine shop that visitors love returning to time and time again.

Arlene is a member of the Business & Professional Women (BPW) organization, and Len serves on the Board of Directors for the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce. They joined the Chamber in their first year of business because he and Arlene felt that membership was one of the most effective ways to meet new people, network, and promote their new business. "I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for honoring Crushed Grapes Wine Shop as the February 2010 Business of the Month," Len said. Len is also a member of the Edwardsville Rotary Club.

The Crushed Grapes staff is top notch, and Len emphasized their excellent sense of customer service and keen understanding of the industry – "If I don't know it, they do. We are always matching up wines and helping customers with food pairings. I will put our service at the top of the list – we like the one-on-one approach and will spend as much time as is needed to educate visitors and help them make just the right selection for any occasion." Arlene, Brian, Jim & Len will go out of their way to serve you.

Crushed Grapes carries something for every consumer, with wines ranging from \$5 to \$350. Every Friday night the shop hosts wine tastings where people are encouraged to come out and enjoy wines of the world! And each year Crushed Grapes sponsors a fund raiser for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), which they wholeheartedly support.

One of Len's favorite sayings: "It is well to remember that there are five reasons for drinking: the arrival of a friend, one's present or future thirst, the excellence of the wine, or any other reason."



ABOVE: Arlene and Len Scaturro.

Crushed Grapes Wine Shop is located at 1500 Troy Road in Edwardsville. Learn more at their Web site, www.crushedgrapesltd.com, give them a call at 618.659.3530, or stop by the store.

learn

Learn E-Mail Marketing in One Day Workshop

WHEN: Wednesday, February 24

WHERE: Julia's Banquet Center – 101 Eastgate Plaza in East Alton

COST: \$15 for Chamber Members; \$20 for Non-Members

Fee includes one or both sessions

TWO WORKSHOPS OFFERED

12:30–2:30pm Session 1: The Power of E-Mail Marketing

3:00pm–5:00pm Session 2: Getting Started with Constant Contact

RSVP to Linda at ldaniels@edglenchamber.com by February 19.

The Ed/Glen Chamber, together with the RiverBend Growth Association, is hosting two email marketing workshops to be presented by Steve Robinson, the Regional Director in Illinois for Constant Contact. He relies on his 26+ years of experience in small business ownership, business development, sales and fundraising to help associations, small businesses, and non-profits achieve success. As a small business owner, advocate and marketing expert, he understands the importance of staying connected with one's customer base and using affordable marketing technologies to do it.



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Learn more at www.lc.edu/ccl. Or call Carla at 618-468-5710 for more information.

It's what you know.

A graphic of a house with a chimney, where the house body is a large white rectangle with a black border. Inside the house, the GCS Federal Credit Union logo is at the top, followed by the text "Buying or refinancing?", "Take advantage of LOW rates from a trusted source of financing, GCS Federal Credit Union.", "Call today for current rates!", and the phone number "(618) 797-7993" and website "mygcscu.com". At the bottom, it says "Membership restrictions apply. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration." and includes a small Equal Housing Lender logo.

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LENDER

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Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

your logo
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your logo
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your logo
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If you own a retail store, have a catering company, sell promotional items, offer gift certificates or have rooms available to rent for holiday celebrations, consider placing an ad in the December edition of *Common Ground*.

Submit your completed ad, created according to size and file specifications, to dbennyhoff@edglenchamber.com no later than Monday, November 30. [Click here to view advertising rates and specs.](#)

Calendar

Tuesday 12/1
5pm Ribbon Cutting
Holtz & Son Homes

Be sure your business is enrolled in the Chamber's m2m program for the holidays - see the Member to Member Privilege Program information at the bottom of this e-mail for information.

Annual Dinner - January 30, 2010

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Copper Sponsors

Buffet City International
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Madison County Employment & Training
SIUE Credit Union
Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center
The Goddard School
Weber & Rodney Funeral Home

Special Thanks

to the Anderson Hospital for providing IT support and to the volunteers from the SIUE Men's Golf Team.

schmooze

annual dinner & auction



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30



2010 Annual Dinner & Auction, January 30

business after hours



Edwardsville Gun Club/Captain Hog's BBQ, January 21



Edwardsville Gun Club/Captain Hog's BBQ, January 21



Edwardsville Gun Club/Captain Hog's BBQ, January 21



Edwardsville Gun Club/Captain Hog's BBQ, January 21

ribbon cuttings



Edwardsville Endodontics, January 20



Fazoli's, January 25

your business

Illinois Receives Over \$1.2 Billion for High-Speed Rail

U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL) today welcomed the announcement from the U.S. Department of Transportation that the Chicago to St. Louis high-speed rail corridor has received a \$1.234 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act award. Costello, a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, worked to authorize the corridor in the early 1990s.

"This is a great day for Illinois and the culmination of many years of hard work by our entire congressional delegation," said Costello. "This is exactly the type of infrastructure investment that will have a major impact on our economy. Not only will create jobs today, but improve the efficiency of our economy and drive economic development for decades to come."

Three separate awards were made in Illinois:

1 – \$1.1 billion for construction of track, signal, station and rolling stock improvements to enable three of five current daily round trips to operate at 110mph between Alton and Dwight.

2 – \$1.25 million for completion of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to add a second track from Chicago to St. Louis accommodating operating speeds of up to 110 mph.

3 – \$133 million for construction of a flyover in Englewood and other associated investments to support three new grade separated tracks to carry commuter lines over tracks that currently accommodate intercity passenger services and freight services, which will eliminate significant delays.



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SIUE Offers Grant Writing Workshop

SIUE Grant Writing Workshop

Thursday, February 11 from 6–8:30pm in Birger Hall

Join the SIUE Alumni Association and the Office of Educational Outreach for an educational workshop on the basics of the grant writing process. The panel of speakers will share their experience with applying for and writing various grants and provide useful tips for making your application stand out from the competition.

Panel members include:

Dr. Julie Pietroburo, SIUE Professor, Public Administration & Policy Analysis

Christa Johnson, Associate Dean for Research, SIUE Graduate School

Julie Babington, Director of Annual Giving for the SIUE Foundation

Dr. Jeremy Jewel, SIUE Associate Professor, Psychology

Cost to attend is \$20 for SIUE alumni, faculty, staff, and community members.

Call 618.650.2760 for more information and to register.

Madison County Conducts “Green” Survey

The Madison County Employment and Training Department would like to measure the potential of “green jobs” in our community. By conducting a short survey we want to know whether your business currently has, or plans to have, any jobs which can be categorized as a “green job.”

Your responses will be kept confidential. Please respond to the survey no later than March 1, 2010.

To start the online survey please go to:

<http://www.mcetd.org/gogreensurvey.asp>



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Fazoli's Debuts New Restaurant Concept in Edwardsville



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St. Louis area diners recently became the first in the nation to experience Fazoli's all new design – its first in more than 15 years – when a brand new restaurant started serving fast, fresh Italian favorites in Edwardsville. The new Fazoli's is located in a former Noble Roman's Pizza in the Edwardsville Crossing shopping center.

Fazoli's new, contemporary design provides guests with a more inviting and fun atmosphere. It differs dramatically from the traditional Italian look created when the chain was first developed. "It was time to inject a whole new look," said Stacy Hettich, Fazoli's brand director. "It's much more open with bright colors and a variety of textures."

Community leaders and kids from the Children's Museum in Edwardsville dedicated the restaurant at a special event Monday afternoon. Fazoli's, known for supporting community groups, presented a \$2,000 donation to the museum.

According to Fazoli's President and CEO Carl Howard, St. Louis was selected to test the new restaurant design because it is among the chain's top-performing markets. "The building of this restaurant is a very significant step forward in revitalizing the Fazoli's brand," Howard said. "In the last year, we have changed 80 percent of our menu and worked hard to improve our operations," he added. "Now, we are giving our guests a more vibrant and appealing dining environment."

Guest will enjoy a wide variety of Italian entrees, Submarinos and salads, all made fresh. With prices starting at just \$3.99 and an award-winning Kid's Night, Fazoli's is a favorite – and a great value – for families. *Parents* magazine recently named Fazoli's to its top 10 list of best fast casual restaurants for families.

The new restaurant, which is open seven days a week from 10:30am to 10pm, features a patio and curbside carryout. It offers catering with a wide variety of items, also at a great value. Call 618.655.0134 for more information.



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Commerce Bank Ranks Among Nation's Best

Commerce Bank, which is based in St. Louis and Kansas City, recently ranked third on the top 10 of a Forbes list of America's Best Banks, with \$18 billion in assets and a 1.6 percent nonperforming loan ratio.



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Hicks and Bilyeu of Pristine Cleaning Complete Bio-Hazard Certification Training

Pristine Cleaning has been known for their professional residential and commercial cleaning in Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Alton and surrounding areas. Erin Hicks, owner and operator, is proud to announce that her company's repertoire has recently expanded. Hicks and her team leader, Makenzie Bilyeu, completed a week training in Atlanta, Georgia, to become Certified Bio-hazard Technicians.

Basic Qualifications for this training include OSHA's Blood Borne Pathogen Rule 29CFR 1910.1030; Universal Precaution Procedures; Personal Protective Equipment; the methods of proper containment, cleaning, storing and disposing of bio-hazard waste; and related safety methods, such as fall protection, proper deodorization techniques, and OSHA's policies and procedures.

Pristine Cleaning is a highly specialized company that performs a community service. Most of the work is performed in family living areas of homes, usually a bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. However, incidents can take

place in basements, crawl spaces, closets and automobiles. Commercial incidents can be retail office or industrial areas. Areas affected by animal deposits may be in the attics, basements, bell tower or abandoned building areas. Pristine Cleaning can provide cleaning and restoration services for families and businesses that have a need for biohazard contaminants to be removed from a living and or work environment.

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For more information, contact Erin at 618.920.0233 or visit Pristine Cleaning on the Web at www.pristine-cleaning.biz

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Lewis and Clark Partners with Illinois Banking Association to Offer Banking Courses

Lewis and Clark Community College and the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) are partnering this Spring to offer classes for individuals interested in preparing for careers in financial services or advancing their careers in banking through continuing education. Classes will be taught by qualified local banking practitioners and held at Lewis and Clark's Godfrey campus and the N.O. Nelson campus in Edwardsville.

"Principles of Banking" is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 16 and 18, 8:30am–4:30pm at Godfrey campus. The two-day workshop focuses on the business of banking while providing entry- to mid-level bankers with the skills and knowledge they need to offer effective service to their customers and improve bank profitability. The fee for this workshop is \$289.

The two-day "Today's Teller" workshop offers an in-depth look at the skills needed in today's banking industry to perform as a successful bank teller. Participants in this course will receive a comprehensive overview of the banking industry as well as a review of transaction procedures and the delivery of quality customer service. This workshop is scheduled for Friday,

Feb. 26 and Mar. 5 on the Godfrey campus 8:30am–4:30pm and costs \$269.

Participants who complete either course successfully will receive a certificate of completion from the Illinois Bankers Association and may take a final exam to earn credit from the American Institute of Banking. Course fees include required textbooks, supplemental materials, and lunch.

In addition to Lewis and Clark, the IBA is partnering with nine other community colleges throughout the state to offer classes to develop the skills and knowledge that can lead to long-term careers in banking. The impetus and concept for the state-wide partnership originated at a Chicago-based summit addressing the workforce needs of the financial services industry and how they can serve young adults seeking long-term careers in the field banking.

For more information about these courses, contact Marla Wagner at Corporate & Community Learning at 618.468.5600, e-mail Marla at mwagner@lc.edu, or visit www.lc.edu/ccl.

GCS Wins Statewide Awards

GCS Federal Credit Union has won first place in the state Louise Herring Award competition in the more than \$250 million asset category for the third year in a row.

In addition, the credit union has also won first place in the state Dora Maxwell Award competition in the \$200–\$500 million asset category. And, for the first time ever, GCS has received an Honorable Mention in the Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award competition in the more than \$250 million asset category.

The Louise Herring Award is presented by the Illinois Credit Union League for the credit union that best exemplifies the credit union philosophy of "people helping people." GCS won the award for its youth Get Mo' Green teen club, developed for 14–18-year-olds.

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award is presented to the credit union that does the most in the way of charitable contributions and community related activities.

The Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award recognizes leadership within the credit union movement on behalf of youth financial literacy. Over the summer, GCS began a credit union Money Camp at a local YMCA facility, which has become very popular with both adults and the youth who participate in the classes.

GCS is excited to have earned these awards and the staff looks forward to developing more products and services to suit members' ever-growing needs.

Founded in 1941, GCS Federal Credit Union currently has assets of more than \$250 million. GCS serves more than 39,000 members throughout Madison and most of St. Clair Counties in Illinois via 7 conveniently located branches, numerous ATM locations, and 24-hour account access through a telephone audio response system and PCU online banking.

your business

Entrepreneur Magazine Ranks The Little Gym No. 1 in Children's Fitness, Edwardsville Gym Proud of Distinction

The challenging economy has taken its toll on businesses nationwide in the last couple of years. But as hundreds of businesses have struggled to stay afloat, one local franchise continues to show signs of success.

The Little Gym, which has a Edwardsville location, ranked No. 1 in the Children's Fitness category in *Entrepreneur Magazine's* Top Franchises List, otherwise known as Franchise 500. This is the fourth consecutive year the franchise company has earned this ranking.

"We are pleased to be recognized with our parent company as a leader in this category because it reinforces that parents are seeing the benefits of what we offer their children," said John Jasper of The Little Gym of Edwardsville. "And, while Edwardsville parents know The Little Gym as a great place for children, they should also know that our children's fitness and skill development concept is also receiving recognition on a national level."

The magazine also noted the overall strength of children-focused franchising, calling The Little Gym a leader in the growing children's services segment. According to Jasper, its programs are curriculum-based and make skill-building fun for students and parents alike. Individualized attention builds the students' confidence and lays the foundation for success in other arenas of life, Jasper added.

Paul Dickison of The Little Gym International says, "Just as each of The Little Gym locations takes pride in helping children soar, the company's franchise concept has allowed hundreds of entrepreneurs to satisfy their dreams of business ownership in their local towns. The company's core belief in structured curriculum for skill development has made The Little Gym a valued partner with parents who want to provide the best development opportunities for their children."

The Little Gym offers classes for children from four months of age to 12 years. Programs range from parent/child classes in early motor skill development to grade school gymnastics, sports skills development, karate, cheerleading and dance. These programs are built on a structured curriculum where kids progressively build skills, thus leading to enhanced self-confidence and socialization.

For more information about The Little Gym of Edwardsville, please contact John Jasper at 618.656.3000 or visit them on the Web at www.TheLittleGym.com.

Creativille Excited that 2010 Finally Arrived

With 2010, Creativille enters its second decade of designing for great clients. They are equally enthusiastic about opportunities to elevate their creativity with existing clients, and begin a creative partnership with new friends and collaborators. All in all, they pledge to make the year 2010 – and the second decade of the 21st century – a positive and transformative era for everyone.

This past year they were a part of the recently published graphics book, *Graphic DesignUSA No. 3*. Fifty United States design firms were selected to showcase their work in this book, and Creativille was honored with the invitation. This book provides graphic design professionals and their wide spectrum of clients the opportunity to examine the work of some of the country's most innovative graphic design work.

The firms featured in this volume illustrate how communication has become reliant upon their creative efforts to express its message. Through their creative efforts, graphic designers have an unprecedented opportunity to communicate ideas and information across language boundaries that previously proved insurmountable. Creativille was able to highlight their work for The Market at Busch's Grove, The Edwardsville Arts Center, rockstar Garrison Starr and The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.



Illinois December Home Sales Report

For 2009, the Illinois Association of REALTORS® reports that Illinois home sales were down just 1.5 percent to 107,503 homes sold compared to 109,195 homes sold in 2008. The year-end statewide median price for 2009 was \$157,000, down 14.6 percent from \$183,900 last year.

According to IAR President Mike Onorato, GRI, four consecutive months of sales increases and two months of median price increases in 40 to 50 percent of Illinois counties are all good signs that markets are stabilizing in some areas; however, the overall economy must improve to see a full recovery in the housing market.

The IAR report concludes that total home sales comparing December 2009 to the same month in 2008 were up in 50 of 99 Illinois counties, including Macoupin County; 50 percent of reporting counties also logged median price increases, including Bond and Calhoun counties.

The Illinois Association of REALTORS® is a voluntary trade association whose 50,000 members are engaged in all facets of the real estate industry. In addition to serving the professional needs of its members, the Illinois Association of REALTORS® works to protect the rights of private property owners in the state by recommending and promoting legislation that safeguards and advances the interest of real property ownership.

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® serves over 1,200 REALTOR® and affiliate members in the southwestern Illinois region. The Association strives to promote education, professionalism, and ethical conduct in the real estate industry, to continue to be an advocate for the protection of property rights, to assist in providing Americans with safe and affordable housing, and to further the interest of residential and other real estate property ownership.

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IRS Announces 2010 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued the 2010 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning January 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) are: **50 cents per mile for business miles driven; 16.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.**

Mileage rates for 2010 reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously. Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.



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your business

Ask the Expert

by Marcel Brown, Marcel Brown Technology Services

What Should You Know About the New Apple Tablet Computer?

For several months now, rumors have been floating that Apple was going to release a new tablet computer. The buzz surrounding this device created quite a bit of anticipation among not just technology professionals, but also the general public. Many people have become interested in the device and want to know more about it. Fortunately, the Apple iPad has just been introduced to the public so we now know exactly what the device is and what it can do. It is expected that the iPad will begin shipping about April.

There have been tablet computers made before, but most of them ran the Windows operating system. These devices never really sold well because most users found them difficult to use. The main reason for this was that the Windows operating system was designed for a keyboard and mouse, not a touch or pen interface. Therefore most users found tablet PCs awkward to use.

The Apple iPad has been designed from the ground up as a touchscreen device and therefore will be much easier to use. Because the interface is based upon the iPhone and iPod Touch, anyone who has used one of these devices will already know exactly how to use the iPad.

At this time, the most important thing to keep in mind is that the iPad is more like an iPhone than a laptop. Primarily, it is an excellent way to browse the web, check e-mail, view photos, read e-books, watch videos, use iTunes, along with some other digital media functions. For many people that is just about everything they want to do with a computer, so they can stop there and be very happy with the iPad. For people who want more, the iPad can also run most iPhone/iPod Touch apps as well as future apps designed specifically for the iPad (such as Apple's word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation software). This will make it an incredibly functional and powerful computing device. However, the iPad is still not a general-purpose computer as Mac and Windows users are accustomed to. Again, many people won't care as the iPad will do everything they want it to, but it is important to understand the distinction.

Overall, I think the iPad will change the landscape of the computer marketplace so it will be a good idea to become familiar with the device and understand how it can be used in both home and business. If you'd like to know more about the iPad or any other technology, feel free to contact me at marcel@marcelbrown.com

Ask the Expert

by David Viox, AAdvantage Insurance Group

Legislation Affecting Young Adult Dependent Health Insurance Coverage

Unless you are one of the few people who keep their fingers on the pulse of Federal and State legislation, you may not be aware of the following new health law.

During the past few months insurance professionals have received many inquiries from parents who have children in need of health insurance primarily due to the loss of a job or the inability to find employment after their graduation. Unfortunately, both situations are quite common in today's economy. In all cases they were not aware that effective June 1, 2009, all individual and group health insurance, as well as HMO contracts, must abide by the provisions of Public Act 95-0958. This is a new Illinois law giving parents with insurance policies that cover dependents the right to elect coverage for qualifying dependents up to age 26 and up to age 30 for military veteran dependents. However, do not get your hopes up until your dependent has gone through the qualification process.

As with many laws enacted by our government (both State and Federal), this one is quite detailed and can be confusing. Some of the key provisions of this law are: 1) The dependent does not need to be living with the parent, they cannot be married, and the parent's policy must already provide for dependent coverage. Even if the dependent meets these stipulations, they are not automatically eligible; 2) For employer group plans, this new law states that employers are not required to pay the cost of dependent coverage for young adults, so the parent may be responsible for the full cost of coverage. For other group plans and individual plans, Illinois law does not restrict the rates insurance companies charge for these plans. Parents who want to add dependents to their policy may find that the rate is unaffordable.

To cover this law in its entirety would take several pages in this publication. In lieu of that, there are ways to get information on this relatively new legislation. One can call the Illinois Division of Insurance Consumer Services Sections at 312.814.2427 or visit their Web site at insurance.illinois.gov or contact us at AAdvantage Insurance Group at 618.692.4440.

TheBANK of Edwardsville Urges Area Seniors to Apply for Scholarship

For the 10th consecutive, TheBANK of Edwardsville is seeking applications for its Community Scholarship Program offered in partnership with Your Community Foundation.

The scholarship offered is \$2,000 per year for up to four years of full-time enrollment per student. The award will be bestowed on a graduating high school senior from select public and private schools, as well as eligible home school students who exhibits positive leadership and character in both academic achievements and community activities.

Applicants also must have maintained a "B" average or better for seven semesters in high school and plan to enroll full-time at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or trade/vocational school. The deadline is February 12, 2010.

"TheBANK of Edwardsville has established this scholarship program to keep with our tradition of community service and commitment to the education of future civic and business leaders," said Nikki Turner, community relations

coordinator for TheBANK of Edwardsville. "We are hopeful to receive a large selection of outstanding students and urge all meeting the criteria to apply with their guidance counselor as soon as possible."

The scholarship will be administered by Your Community Foundation (Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation). A committee from Your Community Foundation will oversee the application and selection process for the scholarship.

Students interested in applying for TheBANK of Edwardsville's Community Scholarship Program, should contact their high school guidance counselor for additional details. A cover letter, academic information, extra-curricular activities, community and/or religious involvement and references are among the information needed to complete the application. All applications must be turned in to the respective guidance offices by February 12, 2010. Scholarship winners will be announced in April.

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Anderson Hospital Auxiliary Donation

Anderson Hospital's Auxiliary presented the Hospital with its annual donation during the Auxiliary's Annual Meeting held January 11. The donation, which reflects funds raised in 2009, totaled \$145,000.

This annual donation is made possible through the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Life Line Program, the fundraising projects of the Ways and Means Committee, Vending Machine Sales, and the First Photo program. The Auxiliary has nearly 250 members and is an integral part of Anderson Hospital. Volunteers gave over 36,000 hours of service to Anderson Hospital in 2009.

Active Volunteers provide direct services to the Emergency, O.B. and Outpatient Surgery Departments, as well as being "on call" from the Volunteer Office. The Auxiliary also installed its officers for 2010 which include: Rosanna Kosek, President; Kay Jones, President-Elect; Lois Kershner, Vice President; Lela Detoye, Secretary; and R. Coert Shepard, Treasurer.

"The Auxiliary remains as dedicated and instrumental as ever in the continuing operation of Anderson Hospital," said Keith A. Page, Anderson Hospital President. "We thank them for their many hours of service and commitment to making a difference in Anderson Hospital."



Child Advocacy Center Plans Trivia Night & Auction

The Madison County Child Advocacy Center will hold the 5th Annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction Saturday, February 27, 2010. The event will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 400 North Beau Chateau Road in Bethalto, Illinois. Doors open at 6pm and trivia begins at 7pm. The entry fee is \$140, maximum of 8 people per table. Beer, soda and popcorn will be provided, and outside snacks are welcome. There will be cash prizes, a silent auction, and 50/50 drawing. For more information or to register, contact Julie at 618.296.5390 or childadvocacy@co.madison.il.us. Please join their efforts to support child victims of abuse in our communities.

Center for Spirituality & Sustainability Holds Dinner

The Friends of the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability (formerly known as the Religious Center) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) will present their annual Sustainability Award to Dr. Peter H. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and their annual Spiritual Leadership Award to Ms. Doris Gvillo, religion columnist for the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* at an Awards Dinner Saturday, February 6. The annual Awards Dinner will be held at the University Restaurant, Morris University Center, on SIUE's campus. The dinner will begin at 7pm with doors opening at 6:30pm. Cost is \$50 per plate, \$30 of which is tax-deductible.

Honored guest at this year's event will be Allegra Fuller Snyder, Professor Emerita of Dance and Dance Ethnology at UCLA, Honorary Chairwoman of the Buckminster Fuller Institute, and daughter of R. Buckminster Fuller, who designed the beautiful and unique geodesic dome – the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability – which was built in 1971 on the SIUE campus. Dr. Raven is internationally known for his work in botany and conservation, his leadership at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and his many awards and appointments, including recently his appointment to the National Geographic Society board of trustees and his award of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew International Medal. Ms. Gvillo is well known in the Edwardsville area for her many years of work with international students, her volunteerism with local church groups, and her religion column in the *Intelligencer*.

Jacoby Arts Center Announces Record Number of ARTEAST Visitors

The Jacoby Arts Center recently announced that ARTEAST, the Edwardsville-Alton Studio Tour 2009 brought in a record number of visitors to the event. Participating artists reported 7,200 combined visits from patrons who came from as far away as Indiana and Kansas, as well as from across the bi-state region. The 2008 event brought in 6,200 visitors.

The October event featured 150 participating artists at 50 sites throughout Madison County. 19 of the sites were personal studios, 13 were "alternative sites" such as banks, churches, or wineries, and 18 were art spaces including galleries and frame shops. 60 local businesses supported the event by offering exhibit space, providing in-kind donations, or purchasing a web link.

As a program of the Jacoby Arts Center, ARTEAST showcases our communities' artists. An artist- coordinated event, organizers volunteered 1,600 hours. That commitment of time along with financial support from the City of Edwardsville and the Arts & Education Council make this one of the regions preeminent art events.

Local REALTORS® Give Back to Community

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (GGAR) gave back to the community again in 2009 by presenting local charities throughout the area with much needed items, including monetary donations, toys, and canned goods. The donations were offered at GGAR's annual Holiday Luncheon, which was held on December 8 at the Meridian Ballroom on the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus.

"This event gives us a sense of accomplishment and a heartwarming feeling of gratitude. We are fortunate and proud to offer our assistance to those in need, especially during the holiday season," said Rick Edwards, Chairman of the Board of GGAR.

The organizations assisted through this effort are the Bethalto Ministerial Alliance, Collinsville Area Ministerial Association, Community Care Center (Granite City), Crisis Food Center (Alton), His Kids, Inc. (Highland), Ministries Unlimited (Troy), Oasis Women's Center (Alton), Riverbend Family Ministries (Wood River), Staunton Food Pantry, Staunton Lion's Club, Thanks (Edwardsville/Glen Carbon), and Toys for Joy (Greenville).

"This community is home to a large number of inspiring artists – a number of whom are nationally recognized," said Susan Bostwick, ARTEAST Coordinator. "This event gives artists and members of the community an opportunity to connect. The artists talk about their work or demonstrate techniques. It is always a fun event."

While art sales numbers were not released, sales were characterized as "robust."

This year's tour will take place October 16 & 17, 2010. If you would like to be part of this event or would like more information contact the Jacoby Arts Center at 618.462.5222, info@jacobyartscenter.org, or call Susan Bostwick at 618.656.3348.




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