January 2009



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Common Ground



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Mission Statement

Through commitment and involvement of its Members, the Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce provides leadership for the benefit

of the business community by:

- Promoting economic opportunities
- Advocating the interests of business
- Providing members with education and resources
- Encouraging mutual support

On the cover

85th Annual Meeting and 22nd Annual Auction

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 85th Annual Meeting and 22nd Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31st in the Meridian Ballroom at SIUE.

This annual gala truly is the highlight of the Chamber year. It is an opportunity to celebrate the Chamber's achievements, its volunteers, and present awards to those who have excelled in our communities in 2008.

This is a great opportunity to network with over 300 business and community leaders while bidding on exclusive auction items. Turn to page 8 to read more about this event and visit www.edglenchamber.com for an updated list of auction items.

Social Hour and Silent Bidding begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. followed by a verbal auction of selected items and the presentations of special awards including: The new Lifetime Achievement Award, the new Business of the Month award, The Albert Cassens Award for Outstanding Community Achievement, the ATHENA Award, and the Ambassadors Award.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and benefits include:

- Listing in the Annual Dinner Program
- •Recognition in Common Ground and on the website
- Tickets to the event
- •Recognition at the Event from the podium and on large screen
- •Ad in the Annual Dinner Program

Auction items are needed. Call the office at 656-7600 to donate an item.

Tickets are available by calling the Chamber office at 656-7600. Members and guests are \$50 each; non-members are \$60 each.

For more information, visit our website at www.edglenchamber.com

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.

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

2009 Advertising Rates:

	Monthly	Color
	Rate	Charge
1/8 Page	\$32	\$7
1/4 Page	\$65	\$10
1/2 Page	\$110	\$15
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Common Ground

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Premier Level

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Verizon Wireless

Wenzel & Associates

Wise Choice Coffees

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

events

1/1 - 1/2 **New Year's Holiday** Chamber Office Closed

Thursday 5 - 7 pm **Business After Hours** Sprint/JMS Wireless

217 E. Vandalia, Park Plaza Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

1/16 Friday noon networking@noon

Sears Optical Bully's Smokehouse 1035 Century Dr.

Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

1/22 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours Associated Physicians Group 1181 S State Rt. 157 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

1/26 Monday

Illinois Chamber Annual Legislative Summit Sanaamo Club 227 East Adams Street Springfield, Illinois 62701

1/30 Friday 8:30 am

New Members' Orientation Chamber Office 200 University Park Dr., Ste 260 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

1/31 Saturday 5:30 pm

85th Annual Meeting and 22nd Annual Auction Meridian Ballroom Morris Student Center, SIUE Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

save the date

2/3 Tuesday 7:30 pm Chamber Night with SIUE Men's Basketball Vadalabene Center, SIUE Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours First Community State Bank 2160A S. State Rt. 157 Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

2/13 Friday noon

networking@noon **Alternative Communications** Network

2/16 Monday Presidents' Day

Chamber Office Closed

2/19 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Business After Hours Glen Carbon Centennial Library 198 S. Main St. Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

2/21 Saturday

YPG Kickoff Event N.O. Nelson Campus of Lewis & Clark Community College 600 Troy Road Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

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.

∃......

First Bank

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'oeurves 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

1/8 **Thursday** 5 - 7 pm

Sprint/JMS Wireless 217 E. Vandalia, Park Plaza Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Enjoy refreshments by Crushed Grapes, appetizers by Catered Affair while learning about the latest in wireless communication. Win a \$450 PDA and take a tour of the Park Plaza properties! Plenty of parking available in the upper CVS parking lot.

1/22 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Associated Physicians Group 1181 S. State Rt. 157 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Visit Associated Physicians Group's new location and meet your next client as you network with other Chamber members and area professionals.



2009 Business After Hours Schedule

- 1/8 Sprint/JMS Wireless
- 1/22 Associated Physicians Group
- 2/5 First Community State Bank
- 2/19 Glen Carbon Centennial Library
- 3/5 First Clover Leaf Bank
- 3/19 The Intelligencer
- 4/2 **Eden Village Retirement Community**
- 4/16 Glen Carbon Vision Center
- 4/30 SIUE School of Pharmacy
- 5/14 Extra Help
- 5/28 Crushed Grapes/American Family Insurance
- 6/11 Big Daddy's/Ed/Glen YPG
- 6/25 **Business & Professional Women**
- 7/9 Stonecliff Manor
- 7/23 Lexow Financial Group
- 8/6 ChamberNet at Anderson Hospital
- 8/20 Faller Photography Group
- 9/3 Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
- 9/17 Hampton Inn
- 10/15 Mastrojanni Orthodontics
- 10/29 Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors
- **Hudson Jewelers** 11/5
- 11/19 TheBANK of Edwardsville
- 12/3 Blanquart's Jewelers

Interested in hosting a Business After Hours? Call the Chamber office (656-7600) today for 2010 or to be placed on the cancellation list for 2009!

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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.

1/16 Friday noon hosted by Sears Optical at Bully's Smokehouse 1035 Century Drive Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Learn about keeping your eyes healthy and meet new clients too!

Join Sears Optical for a networking@noon and maybe win a new pair of sunglasses or an eye exam while networking over lunch!





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From The Desk of Carol Foreman

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I would like to wish you a happy and prosperous 2009.

As we look back on 2008, we are very proud of our membership and are thankful for your continued support. The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will continue to work harder for you and your business including introducing these new programs in 2009.



First, we have created the Ed/Glen Young Professionals Group that will encourage participation and train our young professionals to lead in the future. Watch for the launch of YPG in February and find out more at www. edglenchamber.com/ypg.

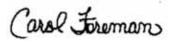
Secondly, the Chamber has added many opportunities for members to network at our monthly events. Membership participation is the key. We hope you will take advantage of these events as an opportunity to meet new people and promote your business.

Third, we will be launching a new website in February that will increase opportunities to promote membership businesses and our area. Also, look for our new Member to Member Discount program and the new Business of the Month Award program.

Finally, watch for the renowned Disney Institute in May. This will be an exciting opportunity for the Chamber to bring a world-class experience to our community and further develop partnerships with SIUE and other higher education resources.

We are always looking for ways to improve our services for our membership and communities. Please let us know how we are doing or what we can do to help your business and community. Your comments and feedback are always welcomed. We hope you will consider our new programs and join us in making 2009 another great year.

Sincerely,



Carol Foreman, Executive Director

Ambassadors

Meet Your Ambassadors: Natalie Head

By Natalie Head, Anderson Hospital

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." While the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce might not have hit the world stage as of yet... it has most definitely made an impact on the Edwardsville and Glen Carbon communities.



As an Edwardsville native, I have seen Edwardsville and Glen Carbon change dramatically over the years. While I believe we still maintain that small town appeal (something I hope we never lose sight of) we are now thriving "centers of population growth and economic development" thanks in large part to the work of our Chamber of Commerce.

I am honored to be entering my 5th year as a Chamber Ambassador. I think Carol Foreman says it best, "the lifeblood of the Chamber is the work of its committees." The Ambassadors are an active volunteer extension of the Chamber used to assist in various Chamber Events. But just as importantly, we are used to help cultivate, promote and maintain membership.

Chamber membership offers invaluable opportunities to get involved in your local business community and build a network of friends who share similar interests and challenges. Start this New Year off right and resolve to get more involved in your Chamber this year!

Learn new skills through the Professional Education Series. Make new business contacts by attending Business After Hours or networking@noon. Market your products and services by advertising in the Common Ground or utilizing the Greeter Service program. Volunteer to assist with the Route 66 Event, the Golf Tournament or the Halloween Parade.

Natalie Head is the Communications Director at Anderson Hospital. She resides in Holiday Shores (Edwardsville) with her husband, Jason, and two sons, Nathan (10) and Dylan (5).

Ambassadors

Sue Mancuso, Chair

Suburban Journals

Dana Klassen, Vice Chair

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

Nancy Baahlmann

Beverly Farm Foundation

Danelle Brown

The Tech Spot

Ashleigh Deatherage

Scott Credit Union

Melissa DeLassus

Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center

Ed Faller

Faller Photography Group

Natalie A. Head

Anderson Hospital

Ryan High

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Gary Hoggatt

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Justin Huneke

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Bonnie Kotsybar

Chamber Staff

Ryan Matthews

Hortica Insurance & Employee

Benefits

Chad Opel

Merrill Lynch

Sara Sanderson

Liberty Mutual

Lola Shashack

Eden Village

Donna Sheard

Avon on Main

Dr. Matt Uchtman

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Diana Voegele

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Crystal Anderson Wenzel

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Tel: 618.655.0600 314.726.0012 Fax: 618.655.4004

Website: www.byrongerber.com

Contact:

David J. Gerber

djg@byrongerber.com Christopher W. Byron

Christopher J. Petri

Brian R. Kalb

Micah S. Summers

Meredith L. Head

Chamber Announces Insurance Discount Program

The Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new discount program through Auto-Owners Insurance that is now available to its members through Southern Illinois Underwriters Agency.

Auto-Owners Insurance offers property, liability, auto, workers compensation, and umbrella policies. Members of the Chamber are eligible to participate in the program and will receive an additional 12% discount on top of Auto-Owners already competitive rates on each line of coverage, subject to standard underwriting guidelines.

For more information, call C. William Schmidt or Matt Rogier at Southern Illinois Underwriters Agency at 656-0120. A lead time of 30 to 45 days for a quote is requested. This program is not endorsed by the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce, but is offered as a benefit to our members.

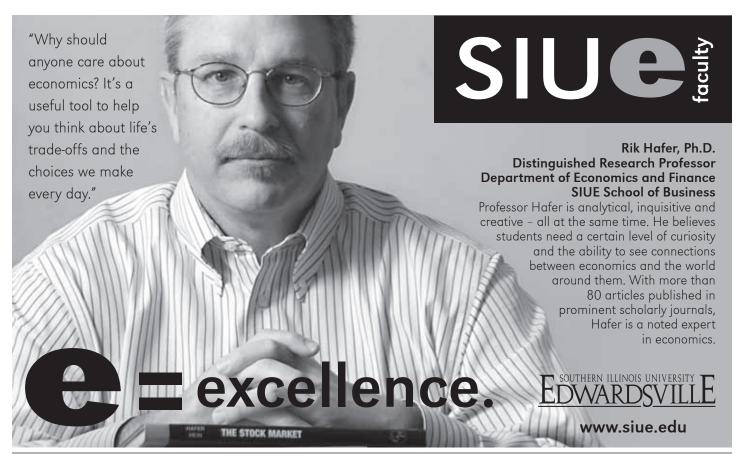
Congratulations to the 2009 Board of Directors

The slate for the 2009 Board of Directors has been approved. The 2009 Board of Directors will begin their term on January 31, 2009 at the Annual Dinner. Congratulations to our 2009 Board members.

Executive Committee Board Members Jim Carroll Kelly Wagner President Kelly Cobb Joan Frey Matt McSparin **Emily Gates** First Vice President Michael Lengacher Jay Blanquart Steven McRae Second Vice President Paul Millard Lelan Olsen Marc Voegele Third Vice President Mark Richardson Len Scaturro Mike Marshall Todd Sivia Treasurer Pat Slaughter

Skip Sponeman

Steve Smith



Bruce Coury

Past President

connect

Why attend the 2009 Annual Dinner?

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 85th Annual Meeting and 22nd Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31st in the Meridian Ballroom at SIUE.

This annual gala truly is the highlight of the Chamber year. It is an opportunity to celebrate the Chamber's achievements, its volunteers, and present awards to those who have excelled in our communities in 2008.

Why should you attend this year's Annual Dinner?

- Because trying to eek out a living in the current business climate is no picnic for many of our members and you could use a special diversion.
- Because sponsorship of the Annual Dinner or a donation to the Auction can be an outstanding marketing tool for your business.
- · Because the committee this year has shortened the program and introduced entertainment to cap the evening.
- Because after the program there will be an opportunity to meet and network with other chamber members.
- Because you will want to be in the 'know' as we introduce new programs and ways that your Chamber will be available to assist you in 2009.
- Because this is the night when the Chamber recognizes those who put a high value on community work, even when times are tough.
- · Because you need to step up, now more than ever, and proclaim your rightful leadership role in the business community. Be seen with other community leaders.

Auction items are also needed for the event. This is a great way to showcase your business and products. A member of the Annual Dinner Committee will be calling members to request donations. Ask someone from the committee for an idea of what to donate - they have great ideas to share! Benefits of donating an item include:

- •Listing in Annual Dinner Program
- ·Listing in Newsletter and on Website
- •Recognition at the Event on large screen

Become a Sponsor of the **Annual Dinner**

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 85th Annual Meeting and 22nd Annual Auction. Take this opportunity to put your business before the eyes of over 350 of the area's business and community leaders.

Diamond Level Sponsor - \$1,500

Limited to three non-competing organizations

- Company recognized from the podium.
- Company logo prominently promoted during the dinner on large screen
- One reserved table for eight in premier location. (value \$400)
- Full page color ad in Annual Dinner Program (value \$250)
- Full page color ad in Chamber newsletter (month of choice--value \$250)
- Company provided with copy of attendee list for future marketing efforts.
- Company recognized in Chamber newsletter as Diamond Level Sponsor.
- Company recognized on Chamber website as Diamond Level Sponsor.

Sapphire Level Sponsor - \$1,000

Limited to five non-competing organizations

- Company recognized from podium
- Company logo prominently promoted during the dinner on large screen.
- Six complimentary tickets to event, (value \$300)
- ½ page color ad in Annual Dinner Program (value \$125)
- ½ page color ad in Chamber newsletter (month of choice--value \$125)
- Company provided with copy of attendee list for future marketing efforts.
- Company recognized in Chamber newsletter as Sapphire Level Sponsor.
- Company recognized on Chamber website as Sapphire Level Sponsor.

Ruby Level Sponsor - \$500

- Company name promoted during event on large screen.
- Company name listed in Annual Dinner Program
- Four complimentary tickets to event. (value \$200)
- ¼ page color ad in Annual Dinner Program (valué \$75)
- 1/4 page ad in Chamber newsletter (month of choice--value \$75)
- Company provided with copy of attendee list for future marketing efforts.
- Company recognized in Chamber newsletter as Ruby Level Sponsor.
- Company recognized on Chamber website as Ruby Level Sponsor.

Pearl Level Sponsor - \$250

- Company name listed in Annual Dinner Program.
- Two complimentary tickets to event. (value \$100)
- 1/8 page color ad in Annual Dinner Program (value \$39)
- 1/8 page ad in Chamber newsletter (month of choice--value \$39)
- Company recognized in Chamber newsletter as Pearl Level Sponsor.
- Company recognized on Chamber website as Pearl Level Sponsor.

Precious Stone Level Sponsor - \$100

- · Company name listed in Annual Dinner Program.
- Company recognized in Chamber newsletter as a Precious Stone Sponsor.
- Company recognized on Chamber website as a Precious Stone Sponsor.

For more information on becoming a sponsor of the 2009 Annual Meeting and Auction, call the Chamber office at 656-7600 or visit www.edglenchamber.com.



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Call (618) 659-0542 or visit www.CICBC.org for more information about a blood drive near you.

The Central Illinois Community Blood Center is the sole provider of blood for patients in Anderson Hospital and three additional hospitals in Madison County.

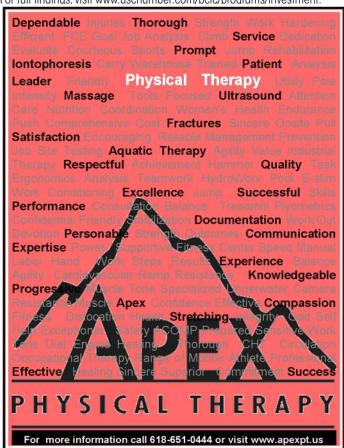
.S. Chamber Report Identifies Barriers to **Local Competitiveness**

A U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) survey of business executives identified high taxes and the lack of qualified labor as the most significant local factors that hinder long-term economic development and competitiveness.

"According to our research findings, several factors restrict companies' ability to be fully successful in their communities, but business leaders are tackling the challenges head on," said BCLC Executive Director Stephen Jordan. "In light of the tough conditions our nation now faces, companies are exploring various strategies to promote local community competitiveness."

Results show that the ability to attract businesses depends on a strong local economy (53%) and favorable tax rates (51%). The ability of businesses to recruit and retain employees depends on strong educational opportunities (55%) and affordability (52%).

For full findings, visit www.uschamber.com/bclc/programs/investment.



2009 Illinois **Legislative Summit**

Join the Government Affairs Committee at the 2009 Illinois Chamber Annual Legislative Summit and Luncheon. The Summit and Luncheon will be held on Monday, January 26 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Sangamo Club in Springfield, Illinois. The cost is \$10 with transportation and lunch provided.

As the unifying voice for businesses in the state, the Illinois Chamber has spent the last year fighting a number of tax policies that would have been devastating to business. Local Chambers play an integral role in educating their members on the policies and proposals in Springfield that could have tremendous ramifications on Illinois business.

Participating in the annual Legislative Summit in Springfield will help you for what lies ahead for businesses in Illinois.. The IL Chamber's governmental affairs staff will provide a review of the 2008 legislative session and also outline the issues that will impact businesses - both large and small - in 2009. For more information or to register for the 2009 Illinois Legislative Summit contact the Chamber office at 656-7600.

AN ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT

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State Board of Elections Moving Forward with Implementation of Pay to Play

All Employers Seeking Business with State Urged to Review New Reporting Requirements

Courtesy Illinois Chamber of Commerce

The State Board of Elections has drafted a new emergency rule to implement the state's new Pay to Play law set to take effect January 1. The proposed rules, which have not yet been officially filed with JCAR, address some of the Illinois Chamber's repeated concerns with the new law, but some major compliance concerns still remain.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has worked closely with the State Board of Elections over the past several weeks to try and ease some of the onerous registration requirements of the new law through the Board's process. The Chamber weighed in at both Board meetings scheduled to address HB 824/P.A. 94-971 on December 5 and December 12, as well as submitting oral and written testimony at a special hearing held by the Board on December 10.

Based on Chamber testimony, the Board backed off their original proposed rules calling for the use of a paper-based registration system until the Board could secure the funding necessary to implement an electronic registration database, as required by the law. The proposed rules now allow for the electronic submission of these registration requirements via e-mail.

The Chamber also made modest gains in securing language that provides the Board will take into account that the proposed system does not exist as envisioned in the law and any filing problems will be viewed in that light and not immediately subjected to stated penalties. The Board, however, did not make any concessions towards the Chamber's repeated requests to allow for the submission of 10K filings already required by the SEC to fulfill listing of affiliated entities and persons requirements.

According to the new law, business entities required to register with the State Board of Elections must do so no later than February 2, 2009. Once the Board has filed the implementing emergency rules, those rules will go into effect unless JCAR determines the rules do not warrant an "emergency."

In the meantime, the Chamber is continuing to push legislators to address the outstanding compliance issues in the abbreviated January session. The Chamber encourages all business entities potentially impacted by this new law to view the proposed emergency rules by visiting www.ilchamber.org.



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spotlight

Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation

The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation (GEACF) is dedicated to the enhancement and betterment of the environment, the arts community development, education, and health and human services. The Foundation was established to provide as many persons as possible the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the future of the area and the quality of life for all of its citizens. The Foundation has been a Chamber member for over 5 years.

The GEACF is a charitable trust that receives, manages, and distributes tax deductible, charitable contributions for the benefit of the residents of the greater Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area. The GEACF receives contributions from private citizens, local businesses and other organizations interested in funding the charitable needs of the area. The Foundation has been certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. As a result, contributions are deductible by the contributor.

You have many options for giving. A contribution to the general Fund authorizes the Board to distribute your contribution as the Board deems

appropriate in response to grant requests or to meet obvious charitable of the Metro East Shared Mail Product Solo (1 to 1) Mailings Variable Data Postcards and **Letter Mailings** New Move and Loyalty Programs Demographic Lists Graphic Design · Promotional Flyers, Pamphlets and Business Cards 4 Color Printing On Line Advertising Mike Goodsell. Owner

needs. You may want to consider the establishment of a "Special Fund" or a "Donor Advised Fund" within the Foundation which allows you to advise the Board of Directors regarding specific projects or organizations you wish to fund. These separate accounts are maintained by the Foundation and can bear the name of the contributor or a family member, business associate, or friend who the contributor wishes to honor or memorialize. The assets of the funds may be dedicated to whatever area of interest is selected by the contributor.

The GEACF generally supports projects in Community Development, Health and Human Services, Education, the Arts, and Conservation and the Environment; but projects in any area of activity that will benefit the general public are considered for funding.

You can contribute to the Foundation with gifts of cash, stocks or bonds, real estate, a gift from your trust, or a provision of your will. Your attorney or accountant can help you fulfill your charitable goal to your best tax advantage. For more information, you can contact the GEACF at 618-659-6412 or visit their website at www.edwardsvillefoundation.org.

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We at First Clover Leaf Bank™ understand that as consumers, it is hard to ignore the media reports regarding economic volatility. As a community bank, we can say that we are not experiencing any problems related to these highly publicized issues. Rest assured you can have peace of mind in our institution.

Here are some facts about the stability, soundness and strength of our bank:

- First Clover Leaf Bank traces its roots back to 1889.
- · First Clover Leaf Bank has one of the highest capital levels of all the banks in the St. Louis area. A capital level that is more than two times the required amount as stated by the bank regulatory requirements.
- First Clover Leaf Bank has never participated in "sub prime" mortgages or securites backed by "sub prime" mortgages.
- First Clover leaf Bank has never purchased any of the stock issued by "Fannie Mae" or "Freddie Mac".
- The "community bank" segment has been prudent in not participating in these unstable practices.

We have and will continue to operate with the same safe and conservative "community bank" philosophy that has served our customers well for the past 119 years.



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Business After Hours



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4



Blanquart's Jewelers, December 4

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Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch and Sweeties, December 5



Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch and Sweeties, December 5



Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch and Sweeties, December 5



Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch and Sweeties, December 5

Ribbon Cuttings



ProSource Wholesale Floorcoverings, December 11

Your Business

Eden Village Receives Outstanding Development of the Year Award

The Southwestern Illinois Development Authority (SWIDA) presented their annual Outstanding Developments of the Year Awards on December 8 at their Awards Luncheon. Eden Village Retirement Community was a recipient of one of these awards.

Located on an 18-acre campus in residential Glen Carbon, Eden Village has provided senior lifestyle services since 1976. Recognizing the need for expansion of these services, Eden Village recently completed a building project that included construction of an 82-unit senior living apartment building and rehab of an existing structure to facilitate licensure of 74 assisted living apartment units. The campus also includes 40 garden homes, 138 Medicare/Medicaid skilled nursing beds including a dedicated dementia area, and an inpatient/outpatient therapy and wellness center. The Eden Village Retirement Community is affiliated with the Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville.



Pictured from left to right are Illinois Representative Jay Hoffman, Illinois Senator James Clayborne, Jr., SWIDA Board Chairman Robert P. Lombardi, John Dorsey, President of the Eden Village Board of Directors, and Michael J. Lundy, Executive Director of SWIDA.



JOIN THE FITAME CHALLENGE

If you need encouragement, accountability and support, this 8 week Weight Loss Challenge is for you! For less than \$3.00 per day you can change your life!

Participation in the challenge includes:

- Pre-challenge fitness assessments.
- "Steps to Success" tote-bag filled with lots of useful health and fitness tools.
- Weekly education sessions taught by our expert team of professionals. Classes will be held at SIUE on Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm.
- Participation in weekly challenges.
- Unlimited access to www.Fit4MeChallenge.com.
- Drawings for prizes donated by our sponsors.
- Grand prize for the person losing the greatest percentage of body weight.

Challenge begins Feb 21st Registration forms due by Jan 26th

For details:

www.fit4mechallenge.com

Or call 618-334-0750

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Louer Furnishes Schweitzer Engineering

Louer Facility Planning, Inc., a commercial furniture dealer, has provided furnishings for the new offices for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) located in the Fountains Court building in Fairview Heights, Illinois. Louer Facility Planning provided space planning, furniture layout and finish selections. Furniture was specified and installed for private offices and open plan work areas. The planning process included integration of the client's existing furniture into the new space. Haworth® Adaptable Interiors products were used; thereby making moves, additions and change easier, more economical and minimizing impact on the environment.

SEL manufactures a complete line of products for the protection, monitoring, control, automation and metering of electric power systems that are sold worldwide. The Fountains Court office is one of 42 regional technical service centers and an example of SEL's philosophy of locating close to their customers in order to provide that premium level of service. Cynthia Hulse, Regional Business Manager, commented "The finish and furniture selections that Louer helped us with have received many positive comments from staff and visitors. Our new office is definitely a place where all employees enjoy working each day. The service I received was above and beyond my expectations."

Noncredit Language Classes offered at SIUE

Registrations for spring leisure learning activities are now being accepted. Classes include:

- Spanish (Basic, Elementary & Professional)
- Italian (5 levels)
- Japanese (2 levels)
- Modern Greek
- Esperanto, the Global Language

A complete listing of activities and registration information can be found at our website: www.siue.edu/educationaloutreach

For more information contact the Office of Educational Outreach at 618-650-3210 or by email: cbrunsm@siue.edu



Making Your Corporate Event Special

by Iris Salsman, I. Salsman PR, LLC

Special events are a great way to enhance your company's image. However, before you order the invitations, book the caterer and plunge headlong into other financial commitments, your first step should be to develop a strategic plan for what you want your function to accomplish.

Here are some reasons to have an event:

- Generate new business;
- Reward current clients or customers;
- Encourage referrals;
- Show appreciation to loyal employees;
- Sell your product or service.

Whatever your reason, remember that successful events don't just happen by accident. They are carefully conceived, constructed and carried out so that there are no last-minute surprises.

Follow these strategies for success:

- Define your target market and make sure you have the right mix of guests (e.g., no competitors or clients with privacy issues);
- Come up with a rationale for having an event, such as showcasing a new location, introducing new personnel or products, unveiling a new name or logo, observing a milestone, celebrating a holiday;
- Develop a realistic budget for invitations, promotional materials, rentals, refreshments, decorations, entertainment, gifts and giveaways, personnel and staff time;
- Capitalize on the excitement by sending out press releases and ads (when appropriate).

Events should be part of every company's marketing strategy. They offer something to look forward to and bring PR rewards that last far beyond the time your last guest departs.

Your Business

Holly Jolly Trolley Tour a Success!

The Holly Jolly Trolley Tour was held on Saturday, December 13th from 10am to 4pm. The Trolley transferred shoppers between seven stores in Glen Carbon including The Tech Spot, Exactime Watch and Clock, Sweeties, Art of the Matter, Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch, Spa of Tranquility, and the Garden Kingdom.



"The Trolley was a success," said Danelle Brown of the Tech Spot. "The shoppers enjoyed complimentary transportation between the participating stores and the tour gave them the opportunity to visit stores they had never been to as well."

Plans are in the works for a 2009 Holly Jolly Trolley Tour.

Reclaim Your Life with the Biggest Winner **Community Challenge**

Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd: A Creating Wellness Center is challenging the community with the Biggest Winner Challenge of 2009 – a four month program to promote exercise, nutrition and overall wellness in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community.

The Biggest Winner Challenge will kick-off on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 6:30pm. The challenge consists of a pre and post wellness assessment that will give the competitors a detailed lifestyle report, which will ensure measurable results and bring focus to their specific health concerns. The competitors will also enjoy daily e-Newsletters and weekly wellness teleconferences which will provide information on fitness, nutrition and stress to help everyone reach their goals. The competitors will also have unlimited access to a Certified Wellness Coach that can answer all personal questions.

This challenge is open to individuals for only \$67.00 and to businesses for \$197.00 (for every five employees). Limited space is available. For more information please call Aubrey at 618.655.0333.

May your smile be merry and bright!



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CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL ONLY AREA HOSPITAL RANKED IN MISSOURI'S TOP 10 FOR ALL THREE CLINICAL PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Recently released data compiled by the federal government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ranks Christian Hospital as the only St. Louis area hospital in Missouri's Top 10 for all three measurements of clinical performance!

- No. 1 in the St. Louis metro area and No. 2 in Missouri for having the best survival rate for heart attack patients
- No. 4 among all hospitals in Missouri for having the best survival rate for pneumonia patients
- No. 10 in the state for having the best survival rate for heart failure patients

This data speaks to the great clinical advancements that are taking place at Christian Hospital. In addition to the CMS findings, Christian Hospital over the past 18 months has scored in the top 25 percent of all hospitals nationally on the publicly reported 'Core Measures' of clinical quality. And our year-to-date performance continues to be better than the top 25 percent of all the hospitals in the country.



Christian Hospital, a founding member of BJC HealthCare, is a 497-bed acute-care medical center located on 28 acres in unincorporated north St. Louis County. Located 6 miles west of Christian Hospital is Northwest HealthCare, which offers the community 24-hour emergency care and a variety of outpatient services in a convenient setting to complement hospital services.

Christian Hospital is noted as a leader among hospitals in the St. Louis region and has experienced a dramatic turnaround during the past few years. In particular, Christian Hospital is highly regarded for its excellence in heart services and lifesaving cardiothoracic surgery, emergency medicine, cancer treatment, psychiatric services and substance abuse programs, neurology, spine surgery, radiology, urology, pulmonary care and radiation oncology.

Your Business

Express Employment Professionals Ranks in the Top 10 Companies by the 2008 Inc. 5000

Express Employment Professionals franchisee Marc and Diana Voegele announced today the company's top rankings on the Inc. magazine list of fastest-growing private companies in the country. Express ranked in the top 10 on the 2008 Inc. 5000 lists for both revenue and gross sales, Voegele said.

The Inc. 5000 is a comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy – America's independent-minded entrepreneurs. Taken as a whole, these companies represent the backbone of the U.S. economy.

"It is truly a great accomplishment for Express to be recognized on the 2008 Inc. 5000 lists for revenue and gross sales. As a franchisee, it is such an honor to know our efforts to provide outstanding service to local businesses and job seekers help make Express an international success," Voegele said.

The 5000 companies that made the list reported aggregate revenue of \$185 billion and median three-year growth of 147 percent. Most importantly, the 2008 Inc. 5000 companies were engines of job growth, creating more than 826,033 jobs since those companies were founded. For complete results of the Inc. 5000, including company profiles and an interactive list of the fastest-growing companies, visit www.inc5000.com.

The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2006 and services the entire Madison County area with temporary and full-time employees in a variety of fields including office services, light industrial, skilled labor, and financial services.

The Edwardsville Express franchise office, located at 20 Junction Drive West is currently taking applications. Businesses seeking employees may stop by the office, call 288 8011, or visit the Express Web site at http:// edwardsvilleil.expresspros.com.

Worldwide, Express Employment Professionals employs 350,000 people each year, with more than 600 offices in four countries. Sales for the Oklahoma City-based company totaled nearly \$2 billion in 2007. Express provides expertise in evaluation and direct hire, temporary staffing, executive recruiting and human resources.

Register Now for Career Network '09 at SIUE

Registration is now open for Career Network '09 at SIUE. This year's event will be held over two days. Partner Schools for this event include Blackburn College, Greenville College, Illinois College, McKendree University, and Principia College.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 will feature the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Business. Thursday, March 5 will feature the School of Engineering. Businesses have the opportunity to register for one or both days. The registration fee for one day is \$225 for the first two representatives. The registration fee for both days is \$275 for the first two representatives. Additional representatives are \$10 each.

You may register online under the "Career Events" section of your Cougar Jobline account at www.siue.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter. If you do not have an active account, please contact Letitia Schumacher (Ischuma@ siue.edu) or Susan Seibert (sseiber@siue.edu) to obtain your Cougar Jobline login information.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Due to the overwhelming response by employers, it is best to register early to ensure that a space is available for your company. Please make sure to indicate on your registration form which day(s) you plan to participate. If you need an electric outlet, be sure that is marked on the form as well. Spaces with electric are limited and are assigned on a first come, first served basis based on employer requests for this service. If you register after the registration deadline, you will be notified of your place on the waiting list and when a table becomes available.

For more information, contact the Career Development Center at 650-3708.



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Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center Collects Over 550 Items



Throughout the month of November Dr. Barry DeLassus, owner of Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center in Maryville, held a food drive at his office to benefit the Maryville and Glen/ Ed Food Pantries. The drive was a success collecting over 550 items to help local families this holiday season.

Dr. DeLassus donated his time and services in exchange for a minimum of 10 donated items

per patient. With their donation, new patients received their initial first day services at no charge, while established patients received a complimentary adjustment or \$10 off a 60-minute massage. As a result of everyone's generous donations, Dr. DeLassus was able to donate over 20 hours of his patient care time during the month of November.

"It felt wonderful to be able to do something to help area families and the local food pantries, especially during the holiday season", Dr. DeLassus said. "Many of our patients even gave more than what was requested. It was great to see how everyone worked together to make this event a success."

Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center celebrated 3 years in business in October of 2008, and is located at 2-B Professional Park Drive in Marvville next to the Subway restaurant on Route 159. Dr. DeLassus focuses on chiropractic care for the entire family providing care for adults as well as children. For more information about Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center please visit their website at www.SpineSmart.com or contact them at (618) 288-7991.

Your Business

TheBANK of Edwardsville Recognized with Award for Shaping the Future of the St. Louis Region

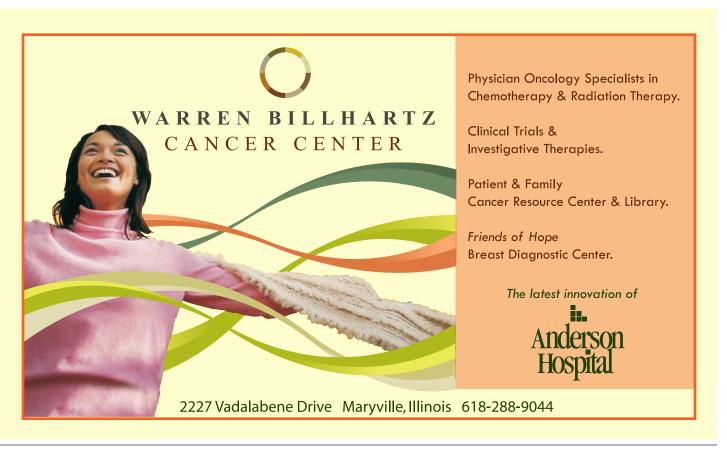
At a presentation dinner at the Riverfront Hyatt Regency, the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association presented TheBANK of Edwardsville with the prestigious Top 50 Businesses Shaping Our Future Award.

Of the 50 recipients, TheBANK was one of only two banks honored and one of only 3 Illinois businesses honored. In addition to TheBANK, this year's TOP 50 included such businesses as Ameren, BJC HealthCare, Express Scripts and Monsanto.

Winning companies are selected based on contributions to the St. Louis region, combined with the positive effect they have had on the future of business in our region. Nominees, of which there were more than 200, were reviewed by a selection committee comprised of representatives from the award sponsors of RCGA, Deloitte, Ameren, Edward Jones, Southwest Bank, St. Louis Commerce Magazine, KMOX, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and STLtoday. com. Factors such as each company's growth in employees, contributions and enhancements of the community, revenue growth, and development/ expansion of facilities, among others, were reviewed. The BANK was also honored with the TOP 50 award in 2005.

TheBANK of Edwardsville has loaned millions of dollars to help the development of the area's organizations, associations, hospitals and municipalities. Over the last year, the bank has produced more than \$215 million in commercial loans and experienced record growth in the mortgage market by making 830 mortgage loans that totaled more than \$125 million. TheBANK has also shown steady growth in revenue, provides more than 400 local jobs and soon will open its 21st banking center in the metro east.

"We are so pleased to be one of the accomplished companies included among the 2008 Greater St. Louis Top 50 and thank our customers and the communities we serve for our ability to grow and expand our business. Southwestern Illinois is a wonderful business climate and has proven to be a positive environment in which TheBANK can strive, running full circle with our commitment to our customers and the community. Thank you to the RCGA and the selection committee for recognizing our continued efforts to improve the region and strengthen our shared economy," said Tom Holloway, president, TheBANK of Edwardsville.



Faller Photography Group to Offer Community Service **Award**

Faller Photography Group will be donating one all-inclusive portrait session each month to a family or individual who stands out in the community.

These sessions will include the session fee and the recipients will receive all of their images on a cd with a copyright release. There will be no money taken from the recipients.

Winners will be chosen based on their dedication to the community. service to our country, or simply going above and beyond to help others. "People who give of themselves need to be rewarded. This is our small way of giving back to a community that has given so much to us," said Ed Faller.

Individuals or families must be nominated in the form of a letter of 1,000 words or less that explains why they should receive the award. Letters should be sent to Faller Photography Group, 110A Cottonwood Road, Glen Carbon, IL, 62034. Decisions will be made by an anonymous panel. There will be one session photographed per month. Sessions can be of families, children, or couples, and will be taken at the studio. Times for the session will be agreed on by both the recipient and the studio. These sessions are valued up to \$1,195 each! For more information, contact Faller Photography Group at 288-8040.

REALTORS® Give Back



The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (GGAR) has given back to the community by presenting local charities throughout the area with much needed items, including monetary donations, toys, and canned goods. The organizations assisted

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

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® serves over 1,000 realtors and affiliate members in the southwestern Illinois region and 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, and to further the interest of residential and other real estate property ownership.



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Your Business

The Goddard School to **Open in January**



The Goddard School, located in the Park at Plum Creek, will be opening their doors for tours, enrollment and registration in January and are scheduled to begin classes in February. The Goddard School provides an exceptional learning environment and curriculum for early childhood development serving children ages 6 weeks to school age. The school will hold approximately 132 children.

Owners Barbara and Tom Burrows are excited to provide this service to the area. Both were born in Wisconsin and have a passion for the Northwoods, so The Goddard School's interior will have a Northwoods theme with murals consisting of camping, fishing, boating, lakes, deer, bears and a bait shop. all of which, are "kid friendly" offering a fun, enjoyable environment for the children. The Goddard School differentiates themselves through teacher prepared lesson plans, intensive Quality Assurance programs, access and advice from world renowned Yale Professor, Dr. Pruitt, enrichment programs that address the whole child and on-going professional support from Goddard University.

Barbara Burrows will be the on-site owner, and will operate the school from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Goddard School offers full and part-time opportunities for children. They are also currently recruiting teachers, assistant teachers and a kitchen manager. For those interested, call 618-692-9464 or visit the website at www.goddardschool.com.

Scott Credit Union Wins State Award For **Community Involvement**

Scott Credit Union has been awarded first place in the Illinois Credit Union League statewide Dora Maxwell Award competition. The award honors the work of credit unions in their community. The local credit union won the award in the \$200 to \$500 million asset category for its annual golf tournament, which raised more than \$10,000 to support United Way.

"We are very proud of the work we have done to give back to the community and to raise money for organizations like United Way that help so many people in our area," said Scott Credit Union Community Relations Supervisor Ashleigh Deatherage. "It is nice to be recognized with the award, but the real happiness comes with knowing that we are able to help people. Credit unions are built on a 'People Helping People' foundation and this event really showcases our dedication to that philosophy."

Representatives from Scott Credit Union will be recognized at the keynote and awards program during the Credit Union League's Annual Convention this spring in Chicago.

At the convention, Scott Credit Union also will be recognized for an Honorable Mention award in the state-wide Desigrdins Youth Financial Education competition for its efforts teaching financial literacy at several high schools in the area. The award entry for the Scott Credit Union golf tournament fund-raiser also will be entered in a national credit union awards competition, Deatherage said.

Scott Credit Union's 2nd annual golf tournament was held in May and raised more than \$10,000 that was donated to United Way of Greater St. Louis. The golf tournament, which was held at Stonebridge Golf Course in Marvville, drew nearly 100 golfers and dozens of area sponsors. Deatherage noted.

"At the golf tournament we also had a silent auction with some great items," she said. "The golfers, our vendors and other area businesses who participated in the outing were very generous in helping raise the money. We will have the event every year and we are already planning for the 2009 tournament."

Scott Credit Union has made giving back to its communities a major priority. The local credit union contributed more than \$100,000 and volunteered more than 780 hours to a variety of local civic efforts throughout the region through the end of 2008.



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Join the Southern Illinois **Trade Mission to the** South America

This is a unique opportunity for Southern Illinois companies interested in finding or expanding distribution channels for their products/services in the emerging markets of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

This mission is jointly organized by the IL SBDC International Trade Center at SIUE and the Office of Trade and Investment (OTI) of the Illinois Department of commerce and Economic Opportunity, with the support from the U.S. Embassies in those countries and the local American Chambers of Commerce.

This customized program is available to a limited number of companies on a first come, first serve basis.

Services Offered to Participating Companies include:

- Matchmaking Two days of customized, in-country pre-arranged oneone-one business appointments with prospective agents, distributors and representatives who previously had expressed interest in Illinois company products or services; interpreter service during all the appointments; and local transportation.
- Export Counseling In-depth briefings by the US Ambassador to the host country; Export counseling will be provided by the Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at SIUE prior to matchmaking appointments; and Networking event in each country with the local business community.
- Travel and Logistical Assistance Preferential rates in hotels; Logistical and on-site support; and Illinois companies will receive continuous followup assistance to ensure marketing objectives are met in all the countries visited.

All of these services represent a saving of at least US \$6,000 for Illinois participating companies/agencies.

A Trade mission is a promotional trip usually organized by a federal, state or local agency. The main objective is to introduce US companies to prospective buyers in the destination markets. These trips may also offer educational, technical and networking opportunities. Trade missions are generally less expensive than exhibiting at a tradeshow but may provide access to fewer prospects. However, during a trade mission, prospects who have indicated an interest in products similar to your line have been carefully targeted and pre-screened. Consequently, the quality of the business meetings during a trade mission tends to be more productive in the long term.

For information or to register, contact Silvia Torres, Director, IL SBDC International Trade Center at SIUE at 650-2452.

Your Community

Voegele and Hughes Join The Alliance Board

The Alliance of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon is pleased to welcome Marc Voegele and Jean Hughes to our board of directors.

Marc will be our newest member and joins Gerry Schuetzenhofer as the Chamber's appointments to the board for the 2009 year. Although Jean has previously served as a Chamber appointment on our board, she has accepted an unappointed position as a board member for the upcoming year. We look forward to working with them both, and we are happy that they have decided to join our remarkable group of leaders in their efforts to increase economic opportunities within the City of Edwardsville and the Village of Glen Carbon.

The Alliance is also pleased to announce the development of our 2009-2013 Strategic Plan. We have created and defined strategic goals and priorities in order to help put The Alliance mission into action. Our new plan endorses the mission and purpose of The Alliance by promoting business and economic development and supporting existing businesses within our community. Through a collaborative effort with the public and private sectors, The Alliance will work to create continuing growth within our developing community. This comprehensive plan has also allowed us to understand and identify the strengths and challenges within the City of Edwardsville and the Village of Glen Carbon in order to create a new vision for the upcoming years. We are excited about this new plan and we look forward to putting it into action.

SIUE Offers Spanish for the Professional

The Office of Educational Outreach at SIUE will offer Spanish for the Professional starting February 11, 2009. This course is designed for individuals who communicate with Spanish speaking individuals in the workplace. The class will teach both language and cultural awareness. We will also offer Basic Spanish for the beginner and Elementary Spanish for individuals with some previous knowledge of Spanish. For more information or to register contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (618) 650-3210 or send an email to cbrunsm@siue.edu or visit our web site at www.siue.edu/educationaloutreach and go to the Leisure Learning section. The registration fee for the 10 sessions will be \$99.

Glen Carbon Centennial Library to Offer Adult and Senior Computer Classes

The Glen Carbon Centennial Library will host Adult and Senior Computer Classes at both the Library and the Glen Carbon Senior Center. All classes are free.

At the Library, PC Basics and Internet Basics will be offered on January 14 at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm and January 17 at 10 am and 11:30 am. Microsoft Office Overview will be offered January 28 at 5:30 pm and Internet and Email Basics will be offered on January 31 at 10 am and 11:30 am.

At the Glen Carbon Senior Center, Computer Basics will be offered on January 13 and February 24. Email Basics will be offered on January 27 and March 10. Internet Basics will be offered on February 10 and March 24th. All classes at the Glen Carbon Senior Center will begin at 10 am.

For more information or to register, contact the Library at 288-1212 or the Glen Carbon Senior Center at 288-1200.





Real Estate Pre-License Course

January 17 through February 28 (seven Saturdays) 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (branch location of the Illinois Association of REALTORS® Licensing and Training Center) 10 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon \$295 (includes text and materials)

> Meets 45-hour requirement for Illinois real estate salesperson

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Any individual who successfully completes this course will receive a free registration to the Illinois Association of REALTORS® spring conference or annual convention (certificate will be valid for 12 months following issuance).

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SIUE Cougar Basketball

Chamber Night and Group Tickets Now Available

Join the SIUE Cougars and the men's and women's basketball teams for an outing at the Vadalabene Center, home of Cougar Basketball.

Chamber Night will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:30pm. Join the Chamber for an exciting evening of Cougar Basketball.

Whether it's a company outing or an evening out with your child and 15 of their closest friends, group outings are the way to go and won't put a dent in your wallet.

With group rate tickets for all men's and women's basketball games priced at only \$3 each (for a group of 15 or more), you are sure to have a great time as SIUE continues its transition into Division I as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Act now and begin planning your group outing by calling 618-650-2841.









"Tree? What tree?"

Thankfully, the emergency care you need is right here.

