July 2008

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It's everyone's business.

# Common Ground Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce



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# connect

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#### **Chamber Staff**

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Jeanne Wojcieszak Editor, Layout/Design, Contributing Writer

Marci Winters-McLaughlin, Steve Berry, and Steve Rensberry, The Intelligencer Ribbon-Cutting Photo Contributors

#### **Mission Statement**

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

of the business community by:

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

## On the cover

**Star City Market** 



The Children's Museum is proud to announce the opening of its newest exhibit, the Star City Market. The market is the latest in a new series of educational exhibits created late last year.

Star City, as it is known, is a community within the confines of the museum. Existing components include the Medical Center, Airline and Studio. In late September 2007, the Police and Fire Departments were added.

The market was made possible with the help of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Junior Service Club, Lowe's of Glen Carbon, and Patricia Fazzone, DNSc, MPH, RN, Professor and Department Chair, SIUE School of Nursing, and Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow. Children can "shop" in the market for healthy food or "work" in the market shelving the food or checking out customers.

Plans are underway and construction will be soon begin on the Star City Library. With the assistance of a grant from the Glen Carbon Centennial Library and Illinois State Library, children will be able to play librarian. Children and parents will also be able to read and browse the collection of books while visiting the museum.

For more information on the Children's Museum, turn to page 12.

#### **Newsletter Notes**

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

Monthly distribution: 1,000 issues.

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

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## Common Ground

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## **Special Investors**

Gold Level Anderson Hospital Wal-Mart

#### **Silver Level**

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

#### **Bronze Level**

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

#### **Premier Level**

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

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

## **events**

7/4 Friday Independence Day Chamber Office Closed

7/10 Thursday 5 - 7 pm **Business After Hours** Hampton Inn & Suites 5723 Heritage Crossing Drive Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

7/16 Thursday 4 pm **Ribbon Cutting Reliance Bank** 1254 University Drive Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

7/17 Thursday 4 - 6 pm **Ribbon Cutting & Open House** Avon Retail & Training Center 235 Main Street Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

7/18 Friday noon networking@noon Hosted by Habitat for Humanity at Sunset Hills Country Club 2525 Highway 157 South Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 RSVP to Trish at 806-0863

#### 7/24 Thursday 5 – 7 pm **Business After Hours**

Lexow Financial Group 60 Highway 157 South Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

8:30 am 7/25 Friday New Members' Reception Chamber Office 200 University Park Dr., Suite 260 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

## save the date

8/7 Thursday 5 - 7 pm **Business After Hours** Anderson Hospital Physician Office Building II 6800 State Route 162 Marvville, Illinois 62062

8/8 Friday noon networking@noon Hosted by Alzheimer's Association at Bella Milano 1063 S. State Route 157 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

8/21 Thursday 5 - 7 pm **Business After Hours** Scott Credit Union 1067 S. State Route 157 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

8/22 Friday noon networking@noon Hosted by Faller Photography Group at Bella Milano 1063 S. State Route 157 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

8/29 Friday noon New Members' Reception Chamber Office 200 University Park Dr., Suite 260 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Special Thanks to.. the Portrait Gallery for shooting the Children's Museum for the cover of this month's Common Ground. Visit them at 6654-D Edwardsville Crossing Drive, in Edwardsville or online at www.pgportraits.com

# connect

## "How my Chamber membership helped my business..."

"The Chamber's new map of member businesses and restaurants has brought many out-of-town visitors to my store.

Specifically, the weekend of the NAIA National Track and Field Championships, over a half-dozen out-of-town visitors came my store - with their map in hand.

Thanks for putting my business `on the map!'" Joan Frey Miss Bailey's Poppy Patch

## Ed/Glen Chamber Ranked 11th Largest Area Chamber

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce was ranked as the 11th largest area Chamber of Commerce by the St. Louis Suburban Journal.

The list of the 25 largest area Chamber of Commerces is ranked by most recent annual budget. The St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA) tops the list at \$11,276,000.

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber is the 3rd largest Illinois Chamber following the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce and the River Bend Growth Association. The Ed/Glen Chamber was ranked 13th last year.

Congratulations to the entire membership and Board of Directors.

## 1st Annual Habitat for Humanity Golf Scramble



### Attention All Golfers!

Help us raise money to build another home in the Edwardsville/ en Carbon Area to help those in need of a hand up, not a hand out!

#### Monday, July 28, 2008

Sunset Hills Country Club, Edwardsville, IL.

by July 10, 2008

### 11:00am Registration and Lunch 12:00 pm Shotgun Start 5:00 pm Dinner

Golfer's Names /Phone Numbers: (4 Person Scramble/ \$125 per Player)	SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	
	(All sponsors will have a sign on the course and an ad in the program.)	
1	_ Platinum Corporate Sponsor - \$1,000 (1/2 page ad in program)	
2	Gold Corporate Sponsor - \$500 (1/4 page ad in program) Hole Sponsor - \$100 (1/8 page ad in program)	
3.		
4	<ul> <li>Spouses and Children may enjoy the afternoon at the Club pool and join</li> <li>golfers for dinner. Contact us for more information</li> </ul>	
Sponsor Information	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:	
Sponsor Name:	Diane Schwind at 692-4639 or <u>dschw4639@charter.net</u>	
Address:	Trish Cheatham at 806-0863 or flair4design@sbcglobal.net	
Dhone #	— Mail this form and your check to: PO Box 355, Edwardsville, IL	

## Meet Your New Board Member: Jay Blanquart!

"Meet Your Board Member" continues with Jay Blanquart of Blanquart Jewelers, the new 3rd Vice President of the Executive Committee!

Jay has been in the jewelry business for 19 years. He has worked since he was 16 years old at his family business, Blanquart Jewelers. Two years ago, Jay bought the Edwardsville location



store from his father Robert, whom he describes as the business leader he admires most.

Jay attended Althoff High School and then went on to Belleville Area College (SWIC) and then Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where he received his BA in Business Administration with a marketing focus.

Originally from Belleville, Illinois, Jay now resides in Edwardsville with his wife Kristi. Jay enjoys golf, boating on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and rooting for his favorite sports team - the Saint Louis Cardinals.

As the new 3rd Vice President of the Executive Committee, Jay is focusing on the upcoming golf tournament fundraiser in September among other projects. While he thinks "the Chamber is moving in a great direction," he believes the Board's greatest challenge is to create events and projects to get non-members involved. He continues, "People need to realize the Chamber is not the same as it was 15 years ago – this is totally different and more effective."

## Jay's Advice:

Get Connected.

## The Newly Connected

#### **Aqua Systems**

Bottled water, purification systems, water treatment/equipment 5154 N. Illinois Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208 (618) 222-7012 www.ilovemywater.com

#### Illinois Small Business Development Center Kwa Mister

Provides premiere business counseling and assistance to prospective and current small businesses SIUE Alumni Hall 2126 Campus Box 1107 Edwardsville, Illinois 62026 (618) 650-2929 www.siue.edu/BUSINESS/sbdc

#### N.A.M.I.

Donna Marie Sheard National Alliance for Mental Illness 705 Frederick Street Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 (618) 798-9788

#### Old Towne Chem-Dry

Sara Gibbons Professional carpet and upholstery cleaning P.O. Box 65 Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034 (618) 659-9909 www.chem-dry.net/oldtowne

#### **Play N Trade**

Shannon Zimmerman Video game retail, tournaments, and accessories 4 Club Centre Ct. Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 (618) 791-5444 www.playntrade.com

#### **Reliance Bank**

Mary Delano Banking and financial institution 1254 University Dr., Suite 100 Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 (618) 659-4651 www.reliancebankstl.com

#### **Shoe Carnival**

Nicholas Turner Shoe Retailer 6625 Edwardsville Crossing Dr. Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 (618) 659-2156

#### Valerio's Restaurant at Fox Creek Golf Club

Judy Valerio Full service restaurant and banquet facility 6555 Fox Creek Drive Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 (618) 692-9220

# **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 routine.

### 7/10 Thursday 5 - 7 pm

Hampton Inn & Suites 5723 Heritage Crossing Drive Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

7/24 Thursday 5 - 7 pm Lexow Financial Group 60 Highway 157 South Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

## networking@noon schedule

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

### 7/18 Friday noon

Hosted by Habitat for Humanity at Sunset Hills Country Club 2525 Highway 157 South Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 RSVP to Trish at 806-0863

#### 8/8 Friday noon

Hosted by Alzheimer's Association at Bella Milano 1063 S. State Rte. 157, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025





## Interior Design One Room or the Whole House

Visit Our 7-Room Showroom of Beautiful In-Stock Items as well as Hundreds of Catalogs and Samples. In-Homes Consultation Available: Our Home or Yours.

415 E. Vandalia, Edwardsville. 618.692.1574. www.finishingtouchdecorating.com 10 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday or by appointment

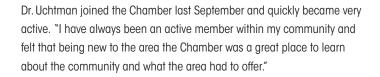
# Ambassadors: Dr. Matt Uchtman

#### By Natalie Head, Anderson Hospital



Dr. Uchtman is the co-owner of Infinite Wellness Chiropractic: A Creating Wellness Center. He graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic after completing his undergraduate studies at Southeast Missouri State University. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Life Science and also Sports Medicine and Exercise Physiology and a Doctorate of Chiropractic. He is currently finishing a postdoctorate certification as a

Wellness Physician. "I have a very rewarding job – I have the opportunity everyday to educate, motivate and empower people to live a longer, healthier life," Dr. Uchtman said.



Dr. Uchtman and his wife Brook reside in Maryville with their chocolate lab Chase. He enjoys being outdoors – hunting, hiking, boating, biking, and playing all types of sports. He also likes to read and stay up to date with current research and advancements in health and well-being.

## Dr. Uchtman's Advice:

Take advantage of all of the resources available. There are lots of people working hard for the community and many are not aware of how the Chamber could help them, whatever the issue or challenge may be.



## Ambassadors

Nancy Baahlmann **Beverly Farm Foundation** Danelle Brown Marcel Brown Technologies Ashleigh Deatherage Scott Credit Union Melissa DeLassus Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center **Ed Faller** Faller Photography Group Natalie A. Head Anderson Hospital **Gary Hoggatt** National Bank **Justin Huneke** TheBANK Of Edwardsville **Debbie Jung** Community Title & Escrow Dana Klassen C.A.F.E. Community Association for **Financial Education** 

Chocolates n'Amour Sue Mancuso Suburban Journals **Ryan Matthews** Hortica Insurance & Employee **Benefits** Chad Opel Edward Jones Pamela Perlmutter Girl Scouts of River Bluff Council Sara Sanderson Liberty Mutual Lola Shashack Eden Village **Donna Sheard** Avon on Main Dr. Matt Uchtman Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd. **Crystal Anderson Wenzel** Individual Member

Bonnie Kotsybar

# **Connect ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL** Thank You to Our Sponsors

Imaging Center City of Edwardsville ConocoPhillips First Clover Leaf Bank Madison County Transit Meridian Village Royal Solutions Suburban Journals

AmerenIP Anderson Hospital Avon on Main Street Faller Photography Group Gateway Regional Medical Center GCS Federal Credit Union Mojo's Music Pizzini Distributing Co. Scott Credit Union The Auto Body Shop TheBANK of Edwardsville Wal-Mart WellCare Health Plan

Abbey Graphics Abstracts & Titles AFLAC Allied Waste Bard & Didriksen Pediatrics Cassens Transport Chocolates n' Amour Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits HPC-City of Edwardsville Partners Bank Shell Credit Union Smile Center Orthodontics

Art of the Matter Byron, Gerber, Petri & Kalb, LLC Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS Irwin Chapel of Glen Carbon Techi Tots Weber & Rodney Funeral Home

## Route 66 Festival a Success!

The Chamber is excited to announce the success of the 12th Annual Route 66 Festival held on June 13th and 14th in Edwardsville's City Park.

Over 200 classic cars got their kicks on Route 66 for the Poker Run, cruise around City Park, and car show on Saturday. Record attendance of families and visitors enjoyed the nice weather, children activities, historic tours and displays, live music, artisan booths, and free health screenings!

The Route 66 Festival showed Edwardsville's pride for the country's "Mother Road" in a fun-filled outdoor weekend in charming City Park. This homecoming-like summer festival offered a chance to head outdoors, see classic cars and enjoy food and drink sold by local organizations and businesses such as Habitat for Humanity selling cotton candy or the Edwardsville Rotary selling fresh squeezed lemonade.

Weekend activities ranged from enjoying live music from bands including the Bob Kuban Band, Facts O'Life, and even local talent! Free health screenings and cooling stations were provided on "Wellness Road" from Anderson Hospital, Wellcare Health Plan, Avon on Main, and others. Children activities provided hours of fun with art activities, obstacle courses, face painting, and visiting with the St. Louis Cardinal's Fred-Bird the Grizzle's Bear.

The new festival website, www.route66festival.org, was instrumental to the success of the festival. Built and donated by Royal Solutions, the website led planning efforts and was a great communication tool with the committees and the community. The website recieved over 13,800 hits, averaging over 147 hits per day.

Thank you to event chairs Robbie and Dawn Prince of Royal Solutions and all the volunteers that made the event a huge success! See pictures from the Route 66 Festival on page 14.

## **SIUE Credit Union**

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



"Investing in each other."

"Serving the SIUE & Edwardsville School District Community Since 1959

## New Young Professionals Group Forming

Interested in meeting and networking with other talented young professionals? The Chamber is forming a Young Professionals Group and is looking for members to be on its steering committee.

Young Professionals Groups are forming all across the country as communities realize "brain drain" - the slow leak of talented and educated people from U.S. cities which affects nearly every U.S. city. In the 1990's the US Census reported that 90 percent of America's largest cities had a net out migration of young talent. Decreased birth rates from the 1960's through the 1980's are causing a 'battle for the brains' which the U.S. has never seen before.

Young Professionals Groups cultivate the needs of professionals through social networking, professional and leadership development, and philanthropic involvement making communities a better place to live, work and play.

If you are interested in serving on the steering committee of this new group, call the Chamber at 656-7600.

## Save the Date! Ed/Glen Chamber Golf Challenge Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Sunset Hills Country Club Edwardsville, IL

Watch for more information in the August newsletter, or visit www.edglenchamber.com

Patient education is an essential part of diabetes management. When patients become involved and understand their disease, there is a significant decrease in their rate of serious complications.

#### **Christian Hospital's Diabetes Institute**

offers the following Diabetes Self-Management Classes to learn the basics of managing this disease:

- An overview of the disease and treatment options
- Medication and monitoring
- Evaluating diabetes control
- Avoiding complications
- The importance of physical activity

nowledge over over gives you power of ES DIABETES

- Stress management
- Nutrition and meal planning

Taught by certified diabetes educators, classes are offered in a variety of options to accommodate participants' schedules — day or evening.

Christian Hospital Diabetes Institute location

8 Sunset Hills Professional Centre Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 Phone: 618-659-8592 or toll free 866-404-4048

Fax: 618-659-8687

For more information about free screenings, physician referral, or general information about Christian Hospital, call: 314-747-WELL (9355) or toll free 877-747-WELL.

CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL DIABETES INSTITUTETHE DIABETES BUSTERS<sup>M</sup>EIQ HealthCare

learn

## Dale Carnegie Training to Present Sales Advantage Workshops for the Professional Education Series

The 2008 Professional Education Series: Successful Selling and Customer Service returns on Friday, September 19th with the first of three workshops presented by Dale Carnegie Training St. Louis

Back by popular demand, Dale Carnegie Training St. Louis will present a series of three workshops featuring highlights from their popular eight-week Sales Advantage course.

Participants in these workshops will examine strategic answers to today's make-or-break selling issues -- how to win appointments, communicate pro-actively, resolve objections, gain more referrals and close more sales. At the end of the three-workshop series, you'll take away a better understanding of the sales process and ways to win repeat sales and long-term customers.

"I attended three Dale Carnegie workshops in the 2007 Professional Educational Series and found the workshops to be exceptional," said Susan Bailey, Vice President of National Bank. "The material is so useful in today's business environment and the presenters are excellent." "I would highly recommend these workshops to everyone to improve both personal and business skill sets."

The Dale Carnegie Training Sales workshops are be \$49 each for members and \$69 each for non-members. Dale Carnegie Series passes are also available to members for \$139 and non-members for \$189, enrolling you in all three workshops at a discount.

The first workshop, Understanding Your Customers' Needs, will be Friday September 19th. The second workshop, Presenting a Winning Solution, will be Friday, October 17th. The final workshop of the series will be Overcoming Objections & Gaining Commitment on Friday, November 14th.

All workshops will be held in the Leclaire Room at Lewis and Clark's N.O. Nelson Campus in Edwardsville. Networking and breakfast start at 8:00 a.m., with the program beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m., ending at 11:00 a.m.

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



# spotlight The Children's Museum

The Children's Museum has been stimulating curiosity and motivating learning among children through interactive exhibits and programs since 2003.

The Museum houses about 30 hands-on exhibits, including Star City, which gives children and adult companions the opportunity to role play, explore and have fun in various settings around a city. The Museum offers several annual events, including Astronomy Day, Haunted Science Lab, Winter Celebrations, Starry, Starry Night and Sweet Adventures. They offer a monthly Toddler Explorers class that runs September through April, and Saturday Explorers classes throughout the school year on a variety of subjects, like art, biology, chemistry and music. Summer Explorers are week-long classes during the summer.

As a non-profit organization, the Museum depends on the generosity of various donors – businesses, foundations and individuals. Funds received from these entities go to support activities, exhibits, programs and operations. The Museum also utilizes a large number of volunteers to assist with programs, summer camps and other activities.

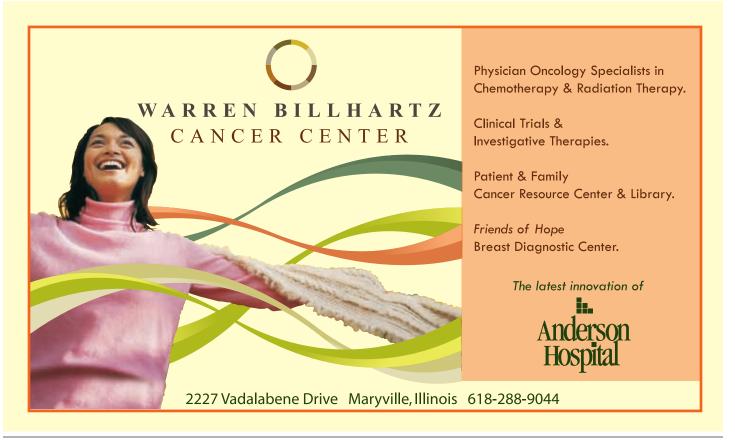


Memberships to the Museum are offered for pairs and for families. A one-year pair membership is \$35, and allows unlimited admission on open days for the two people listed on the membership. Family memberships are \$50 for four people, good for one year from the date you purchase the

membership. Gift passes may also be purchased and used during regular open hours on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

The Children's Museum continues to grow, with the help of 10 part-time staff members and a 15-member Board of Directors. If you're looking for local – and educational – fun, the Children's Museum offers something for everyone!

For more information, contact the Children's Museum at 692-2094.



# spotlight

# Avon on Main

Opening on July 17th, Avon on Main is a beauty retail and service center owned by Donna Marie Sheard and Eric Ahrens.

After her son was diagnosed with Autism, Donna knew she needed to find a business that was home-based to accommodate the schedule of therapists her son needed. Five years after joining Avon, Donna is excited to open the first Avon retail and service center in Edwardsville.

"Even though I have no college or business background, I always wanted to be involved in something that could help others in some kind of 'service' atmosphere. I found my niche when I started in Avon," said Donna.

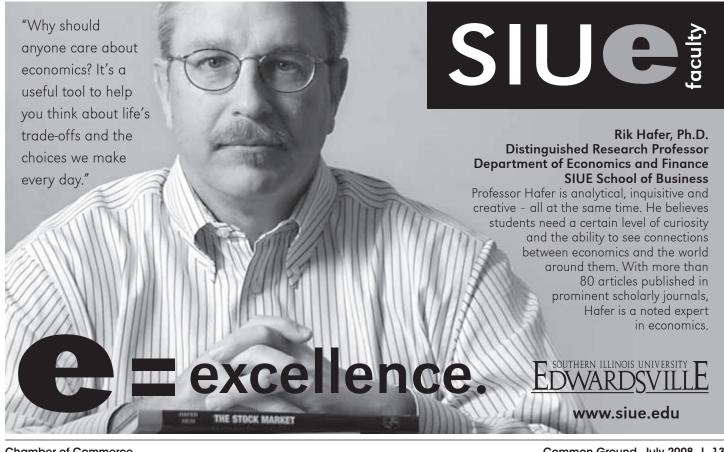
Located at 235 N. Main Street in Edwardsville, Avon on Main will carry popular Avon beauty products including the Skin So Soft Line, the ANEW skin care line, and the ever popular Bug Guard. It will also stock Mark!, the exclusive line of hip and chic makeup and accessories popular with young adults. You will also find Curve items and Hannah Montana items featured in the store.



Customers can also schedule a 45 minute complimentary skincare/ makeup session and place orders from the popular Avon books.

Avon on Main will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting/Open House on July 17th from 4 pm to 6 pm. Visit the store, receive samples, and enter into a drawing for great prizes.

For more information about Avon on Main, call 567-3228.



# Schmooze Business After Hours



Crushed Grapes and American Family Insurance, May 29



Crushed Grapes and American Family Insurance, May 29



Exactime Watch & Clock and Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots, June 26



Exactime Watch & Clock and Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots, June 26

## **Route 66 Festival**





























# Your Business Anderson Hospital to Open 2nd ExpressCare Site



Cut your hand while fixing dinner? Is your child running a high fever? Twisted your ankle and don't know the extent of the injury? When you need something in between a home remedy and an ER, you can count on Anderson Hospital to be there.

In January 2004, Anderson Hospital brought ExpressCare to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community. ExpressCare, located in Glen Carbon's Ginger Creek Business Park, was created to treat patients' common problems -- the ailments that can't wait for a doctor's appointment but don't require a trip to the emergency room.

To meet the needs of the Collinsville/Maryville area residents, Anderson Hospital is excited to announce its plans to build a second ExpressCare to be located in Collinsville! The project was unanimously approved in May by the Collinsville City Council with members expressing their support and thanks to Anderson for selecting Collinsville as the next ExpressCare site.

Like its predecessor, the Collinsville ExpressCare will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on holidays. Physicians and nurses will treat patients with cuts, colds, fevers, sprains and other common problems that are not life threatening.

Patients of all ages will be able to use the services, which will also include on-site lab draws and x-rays. ExpressCare services will be coordinated with the patient's primary care physician, or if required, a specialist on staff at Anderson Hospital. "ExpressCare is a convenient alternative when your doctor's office is closed," says Dr. Patrick Zimmermann, Anderson Hospital Department Chair of Family Medicine and Board of Trustees Member. "And it may be a better option than going to an emergency room, where you may have to wait while more critical patients are treated." In this way the services will complement those primary care physicians in the community, as well as meet the needs of families that do not have a primary care doctor. As the name implies, ExpressCare will not only be convenient, but quick. "On average, our ExpressCare patients are treated and discharged in 60 minutes," says Keith Page, Anderson Hospital President."98% of ExpressCare patients surveyed said they were treated in a timely manner."

ExpressCare will be conveniently located on Beltline Road between State Routes 157 and 159. Construction will begin in late June with the center planned to open in early 2009. It will be staffed with a board certified physician as well as support staff. It will have the latest radiology equipment including the ability to electronically send images to Anderson Hospital to be interpreted by Radiologists on staff. Radiology and a fullservice lab will also be offered separately for patients needing only those services.



Troy Banking Center Jessie Parker, Dave Gansner & Lisa Zabawa

Maryville Banking Center John Dorsey, Roxanne Lowery & Dione Rabida

#### DIGITAL DEPOSIT

With our remote deposit product, business customers can deposit checks without leaving the office. Use your PC and our scanner. Set up, installation and training is provided by us. Our Digital Deposit product is safe and secure. If deposited by 4:00 pm (cst), 100% of your deposit is available the next day.

For a demonstration of Digital Deposit, call Sharon Ruemmler at 635-2234 or one of our facilities.



**Troy Banking Center** 304 Bargraves Blvd. **667-9800** 

Maryville Banking Center 2623 N. Center Street 346-3600

## Rench Named EVP, COO of First Clover Leaf Bank

Dennis M. Terry, President & CEO of First Clover Leaf Bank, recently announced the addition of Brad S. Rench as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for First Clover Leaf Bank.



"We feel fortunate to have hired such a well recognized established leader in the metro east banking community,"

commented Terry on the announcement. "Brad's market knowledge and proven success will be instrumental in supporting First Clover Leaf Bank's long term strategic plan. Brad has played key roles in the growth and expansion of the past financial institutions he has managed. Brad has also maintained an active role in the communities he has worked. He has established himself as a trusted partner for small and large businesses. He shares the same goals and philosophies that First Clover Leaf Bank stands behind. Brad's expertise is welcome and his leadership essential in helping us reach our plan for continued and future growth."

With over 25 years of banking experience, Rench has held executive positions with his previous employers, most recently serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of a local bank. Experience in both large and small financial institutions has given Rench the ability to organize and grow in diverse banking environments. This experience will be critical as First Clover Leaf Bank continues to expand its community bank model.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to join such a strong community bank," Rench commented about the position. "It's an exciting time for First Clover Leaf Bank and the surrounding communities. We are blessed with many opportunities for continued growth and new ventures. I believe that First Clover Leaf Bank has the financial solutions to help business owners of all sizes. They also have a unique understanding of the local consumer needs and have designed financial products to meet those needs. The community bank model that First Clover Leaf Bank follows is strong. It supports the same values and beliefs that I have found so important in my own banking experience."

In his new role, Rench will be focusing on the metro east communities offering sophisticated, yet personalized commercial products. He will also help the bank organize and structure to meet the long term growth and expansion plans already in process.

## Creativille Designs Book on Presidential Campaigns

New 200 page book designed by Creativille, gives an in-depth look to 200 years of Presidential Campaigns and the ephemera they left behind.



Currently on display at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Packaging Presidents is an exhibit that displays the changing face of the presidential campaign process.

Packaging Presidents follows presidential campaigns from the past two centuries through essays by Frederick Voss, Rick Beard and Michael Cheney along with highlighted items lent by Merrill Berman, one of the nation's preeminent private collectors of presidential campaign memorabilia, as well as materials from the Museum's own holdings

Creativille designed the 200-page catalog that coincides with the current exhibit of the same name. This book is loaded with over 300 color images, plus six essays on the history of presidential campaigns.



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# Your Business

## Kettleson Joins First Mid's Trust & Wealth Management Division

## Kellerman Cosmetic and Family Dentistry Presents Check

Josh Kettleson has joined the First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust Wealth Management Group as Financial Advisor and Business Development Officer. Kettleson is a resident of Mattoon and has been in the financial services industry for the past five years as a financial advisor with Edward Jones.



Kettleson graduated from Eastern Illinois University and is currently in the MBA program at Millikin

University. He has completed the necessary licensing requirements to assist the public with a wide range of financial planning and investment opportunities, including mutual funds, stocks, tax-free bonds, annuities and most life insurance products.

Kettleson was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. During his service, he earned the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and was honored for leadership and management excellence. Kettleson is currently a member of the Mattoon Kiwanis Club and of the American Legion. He is also a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mattoon. Kettleson is an Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS), and holds a Series 7, 63, and 66 license.

"We are delighted to have Josh join our team of Trust and Wealth Management experts. With his professional background, Josh has already demonstrated that he shares our goals of exemplary service to clients. This addition is an important step in our continuing commitment to increase value of the service that we provide to the customers of First Mid," stated Chuck LeFebvre, Executive Vice President of the Trust and Wealth Management Group.



Kellerman Cosmetic and Family Dentistry of Glen Carbon, would like to publicly thank all those who participated in our "whiten your smile to brighten a life" campaign.

The campaign kicked off in April corresponding with Autism awareness month. In an effort to raise funds and awareness for Autism, 100% of the proceeds from all new tooth whitening cases were donated to the Belle Center.

The Belle Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the interests of children with disabilities and their families. Specializing in bringing individualized instruction and therapy to children with disabilities in their natural, day-to-day environments, including day care centers, schools, day camps and at home.

The "whiten your smile to brighten a life" campaign raised funds in the amount of \$1,700. The staff of Kellerman Cosmetic and Family Dentistry was on hand to present the donation check to the Belle Center earlier this month.

## National Bank Participates in Kid's Day America

National Bank at Edwardsville recently participated in the Kids Day America/ International events held at Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd: A Creating Wellness Center in Edwardsville on Saturday, May 17th. National Bank donated two bikes to be given out at the event. The girl's bike was won by Nova Saucier from Edwardsville and the boy's bike was won by Hunter Ford from Troy.

Kid's Day America/International, is an event dedicated to children's health, safety and environmental awareness held in over 1400 cities worldwide. It was developed by caring chiropractors across America over 14 years ago.

The event featured free spinal health screenings provided by Infinite Wellness Chiropractic; The SIUE Police Department provided fingerprinting for each child in attendance while the Edwardsville Fire Department was on hand with an ambulance for tours and a smoke house to give demonstrations on fire safety and home evacuation in case of a fire. The kids enjoyed Culver's frozen custard and fun in the two inflatables, provided by `62 Sports Group, after the health screening. Donations were accepted and proceeds from the event helped to support the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

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## Watson Chosen to Serve as Chairman of the Board of Riverbend Head Start & Family Services

Richard Watson, Senior Vice President/Chief Operations Executive of TheBANK of Edwardsvile, has been chosen to serve as chairman of Riverbend Head Start & Family Services' (RHSFS) Board of Directors.

Watson has served on the RHSFS board since 2001. His participation as a board member, and now chairman of the board,



reinforces TheBANK of Edwardsville ongoing commitment to community service.

"As employees of TheBANK of Edwardsville, we are encouraged to get involved and do what we can to give back to the communities in which we serve. What better way to give back than by supporting organizations like Riverbend Head Start & Family Services that work to improve the lives of our children and families," said Watson.

Since 1916, RHSFS has been providing services in Madison County that help children, families and individuals discover positive solutions to life's challenges.

Watson lives in Edwardsville, with his wife, Kathy. They have three children.



# **Your Business** Minimum Wage Increase!

#### By Marc Voegele, Express Employment Professionals

Effective July 1, 2008 the minimum wage rate in Illinois will raise to \$7.75/hr for all regular employees. Failure to make this timely adjustment



could result in fines and penalties, so be sure to make the appropriate changes. There are some exceptions to this rule, which can be found by visiting http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/.

For future reference the minimum wage will increase by an additional 25 cents in each of the following years to \$8.00 on July 1, 2009; and \$8.25 on July 1, 2010.

If you would like to explore options to your current office or industrial staffing, please feel free to contact Express Employment Professionals in Glen Carbon at 288-8011.

## **Korte Joins Louer Facility Planning**

Mykelann Korte is the latest addition to the growing staff at Louer Facility Planning, Inc. She graduated from SIU Carbondale with a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design. Mykelann is NCIDQ certified and a Registered Interior Designer in both Illinois and Missouri. She has six years experience working for commercial interior design and furniture companies in the St. Louis area. Additionally, Mykelann has done freelance work including home remodeling and custom mural design and execution.

Mykelann, who will be providing all aspects of design services to support the furniture sales efforts for Louer, said " I am looking forward to working with the team at Louer and being able to create well designed and functional spaces for our clients."

Louer Facility Planning is a contract furniture dealer and interior design firm that provides space planning, finish selections and furnishings for commercial construction and renovation projects. Clients include corporate, financial, educational settings and healthcare facilities. Louer Facility Planning has been in business for the past twelve years in the St. Louis Metro East market. They recently opened a new showroom at 1604 Eastport Plaza Drive in Collinsville, IL.

## **Career Fair at SIUE**

The 2008 SIUE Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 2 in the Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom at SIUE. The new format gives the fair two days with the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Business participating on the first day and the School of Engineering participating on the second day. Partner schools for the event include Blackburn College, Greenville College, Illinois College, McKendree University, and Principia College.

Business may chose to participate in either one day or both. Cost for either day one or day two is \$225 for first two representative and additional representatives are \$10 each. The fee is \$275 to participate in both days, with two representatives and additional representatives are \$10 each.

Due to the overwhelming response by employers, it is best to register early to ensure that a space is available for your company. Online registration is available under the "Career Event's" section of your Cougar Jobline account at www.siue.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter.

Make sure to indicate on your registration form which day(s) you plan to participate, as well if you need an electric outlet. Registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, September 3, 2008.



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# **Performance Evaluations**

## How to Conduct a Performance Evaluation that Motivates the Employee and Protects the Employer

Giving criticism, even when it is constructive, is uncomfortable. As a consequence, managers tend to 'forget' to perform annual evaluations or engage in 'little white lies' when they actually do evaluate the employees performance. An unwarranted positive or even neutral performance evaluation is detrimental to an employer for both internal morale and an external defense to litigation. When an employer glosses over problem areas the employee has no motivation to correct the improper behavior and is shocked when they are later selected for termination, that could not possibly be their own performance, and this reason then often results in the employer defending costly litigation that could have of easily been provented with regular accurate performance evaluations.

It is no secret that inflation is a problem in evaluations - many supervisors tend to give employees higher ratings than they do no deserve. Under recent United States Supreme Court Cases, doing so virtually guarantees that a discrimination case will go to a jury. For example, suppose an employer discharges an employee because of performance problems. The employee files a lawsuit and, as is typical in such cases, the plaintiff's lawyer obtains a copy of the employee's personnel file. Upon looking at the performance reviews in the file, the plaintiff's lawyer sees that the employee has been given average to slightly above average evaluations. Obviously, the lawyer will use these evaluations to argue that the employer is lying about the reason for the employee's discharge - if the employee's performance was bad, whey was that not reflected in the evaluations?

However, there is hope, employers can do at least two things to help eliminate or minimize the problem of inflated performance appraisals: 1. Conduct annual or semi-annual performance evaluations for each and every employee; and 2. Train managers on how to conduct evaluations that accurately appraise the work performed, motivate and guide the employee to succeed and of course protect the employer from litigation.

## Welcome to a New Standard of Dental Care



## Your Community Upcoming Presentations at SIUE Habitat for Humanity to Host Golf Scramble

SIUE's Office of Educational Outreach is pleased to announce the following presentations, offered in partnership with the hosting organizations. Both are no charge and open to the public. Advance registration not required. Call 618-650-3210 for further information.

Dialogue with Senior Citizens, Mr. History with Jason Stacy, Assistant Professor of Historical Studies, will be held at Meridian Village, 27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon from 1 – 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 10.

Dialogue with a Professor, China: Behind the Great Wall with Denise DeGarmo, Associate Professor of Political Science, will be held at Edwardsville Senior Citizens Services, 1003 N. Main St. from 11 am – 12 noon on Friday, July 18.

Are you in need of some professional development in project management? SIUE's School of Business offers a series of workshops that can help you and your organization more effectively develop and complete key projects. For more information visit our web site at www.siue.edu/ business/education.shtml or call 618-650-2668.



On July 28, 2008 you can have fun and help support a great cause. The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will host its 1st Annual Golf Scramble at Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville and it's shaping up to be an event that shouldn't be missed!

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chapter has committed to breaking ground on their 2nd house at the beginning of September 2008 and needs your support! To date, over \$21,000 has been raised, and a total amount of \$65,000 must be raised in order to build the next home. The Chapter's goal of reaching \$40,000 by September 1st will hopefully become a reality with local support of the golf tournament through players, donations, hole sponsors, and corporate sponsorships.

This year's scramble boasts some amazing things! Not only will players enjoy playing the premier golf course in the area - Sunset Hills Country Club, but the event has some incredible hole in one prizes like a private jet for 8 to Las Vegas for the day (or a \$25,000 voucher to the destination of your choice), a Sharp LCD flat-screen TV, roundtrip domestic airfare for two, and a set of Callaway Big Bertha irons. However, the excitement and fun doesn't end there! There is also a helicopter ball drop planned...where \$10 could win you an amazing prize if your numbered ball falls from the sky closest to the pin. You certainly don't want to miss that!

The cost for this fun-filled day is \$125/per player with registration and lunch at 11:00 am and a shotgun start at Noon. The price includes green fees, lunch, dinner, and on-course refreshments. While you hit the course, your spouse and family are also invited to come out and enjoy the refreshing Sunset Hills pool from 2:00-7:00 pm.

For more information on how to sign up or to become a much needed sponsor for this event, please contact Diane Schwind at 692-4639 or dschw4639@charter.net or Trish Cheatham at 806-0863 or flair4design@ sbcglobal.net. You may also fill out the form in this Common Ground issue on Page 4 and mail it to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 355, Edwardsville, IL. 62025 or visit them on the web at: www. edglenhabitat.org. Hope to see you there!





**Goshen Center** 6814 Goshen Road Edwardsville, IL 656-6122



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## Your Community Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation Names New Director

Lewis and Clark Community College is pleased to announce that Kathy Bauer will be joining the Lewis and Clark Foundation as Director of Foundation Relations.

Bauer has served for eight years as the Director of Training in the Lewis and Clark/Olin Educational Alliance. The Alliance began in 1995 to provide specialized training and educational services for the employees of Olin.

"Kathy has been an asset to all of the various training initiatives at Olin. She will definitely be key to the continued growth of the Lewis and Clark Foundation," Dolores J. Ennico, Olin Corporate Vice President of Human Resources and a member of the Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation Board, said. "We wish Kathy much success in her new position and thank her for her many contributions."

"We are confident that Kathy will add strength to the Foundation in meeting its strategic goals and continuous growth," Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman said.

The Foundation serves as the development office, holds, invests and manages the College endowment, and serves as the office for two alumni constituencies: Lewis and Clark Community College and Monticello College.

Currently the Foundation boasts assets of more than \$13 million, making it one of the largest community college Foundations in the country.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the Lewis and Clark Foundation and look forward to working with the Foundation Board and staff, and the College faculty and staff to further strengthen both institutions," Bauer said.

Bauer said she is also looking forward to working alongside Sharon Roberts and Karen Pace of the Foundation. Pace, who will retire as the Foundation assistant this summer, will return in the fall on a part-time basis. Bauer's new responsibilities will include working with the Foundation Board to expand donor opportunities in all parts of the district, as well as overseeing plans for the annual fund development. Currently the Foundation hosts two major fundraising events each year – the COLLAGE dinner and auction and the golf tournament. This year's theme for the auction is "Electoral Collage." The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1, and is the oldest fundraiser of its kind in the area, Chapman said.

Bauer will also work with Lewis and Clark faculty and staff to identify institutional needs, review scholarship applications and oversee the fulfillment of endowed scholarships given by both the Lewis and Clark and Monticello foundations. She will also oversee publications through the Lewis and Clark Foundation Press, work with standing committees of the board, assist the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center with contract arrangements for the management of The Palisades and oversee all endowments and gifts made to the Foundation.

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## SIUE Graduate Student From O'Fallon Wins Fulbright Scholarship

When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville graduate student Amanda Wiehl was growing up as an Air Force brat, she spent 10 years in Germany with her family. That growth experience will come in handy when Wiehl leaves for Poland in September for a nine-month teaching assistantship as a Fulbright U. S. Student Scholar. From September until June 2009, Wiehl will live in Poznan, Poland, and teach English at the Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University. She is one of the very few SIUE students over the years to win a Fulbright.

Receiving the prestigious Fulbright Award was more than just a dream come true, Wiehl said. It was also quite a shock. "I really didn't think I was going to get it," said the 24-year-old O'Fallon woman. "It's a very competitive award. A chance like this doesn't come around very often—to be able to study and teach, and get a good cultural experience. I see it as a really great opportunity."

The Fulbright Program is a 62-year-old international educational exchange program that is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Since its inception, more than 286,000 American students, scholars and teachers have traveled to 155 countries where they studied, shared ideas and took part in cultural interactions. Wiehl joins 1,450 other Fulbright awardees who will travel overseas during the 2008-09 academic year. She will complete her graduate studies in SIUE's Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Program in August before boarding a plane for Poland.

But this is not her maiden voyage to live and teach in a foreign nation. Last summer, she spent a month in Mexico, teaching English to college professors at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Cuernavaca Campus. During spring semester 2006, she was a student teacher at a U.S. Army base in Heidelberg, Germany. "That was a great experience," said Wiehl, who is teaching English as a second language to adults at Southwestern Illinois College this summer. "I really enjoyed it." Preparing her application packet for the Fulbright was not easy, Wiehl said. There were many difficult tasks to complete just to get to the secondary review stage, including composing an essay that she spent 10 months writing and revising. "I wasn't holding my hopes too high," she recalled with a laugh. "There were some great people who put in their applications. It was a very long process. But all that hard work paid off." Past recipients of the Fulbright Award include writer Gish Jen; Alejandro Jara, deputy directorgeneral of the World Trade Organization; Metropolitan Opera soprano Renee Fleming; and Aneesh Raman, CNN Middle East correspondent.

Wiehl, who earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from Missouri State University, said she couldn't have done it (earned a Fulbright) without the help of her faculty mentors in SIUE's Department of English Language and Literature. "I feel very confident about this and how they prepared me for various situations," Wiehl said. "The TESL Program at SIUE has made me a very rounded teacher. I am sure there will be challenges (in Poland), but I know it will be a good experience altogether. I know I'm prepared."

### Community Service, Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

#### Senior Citizens Services

Volunteers needed to answer phones, oversee gift shop, and serve on committees. Quilters are welcome. jkamp@edwseniors.org 618-656-0300

#### Madison County Arts Council

Volunteers needed to assist teachers and kids on Saturday mornings for Art in the Park at Edwardsville City Park. SBost330@aol.com 618-656-3348



#### City of Edwardsville

Don't miss Movies in the Park: *Charlotte's Web*, Saturday, July 12 at 8:30 pm and *Surf's Up*, Saturday, August 2 at 8:15 pm Edwardsville City Park.

#### Habit for Humanity Golf Scramble, Monday, July 28 at Sunset Hills Country Club. For more information dschw4639@charter.net 618-692-4639

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

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

THE ALLIANCE

EDWARDSVILLE - GLEN CARBON

## **Recent News and Events**

#### By Erika Kennett, Executive Director

Do you know which companies are working for the greater good of the Ed-Glen community? The Edwardsville and Glen Carbon community's economic health does not exist inside of a vacuum. Alliance investors come not only from Edwardsville and Glen Carbon, but from Belleville, Collinsville, Fairview Heights, Hamel, Highland, Maryville, O'Fallon, Swansea, and Wood River in Illinois, and from Clayton and St. Louis in Missouri. Visit our website, www.edglenalliance.com, to view a complete list of our investors and find out how you can support the community as an investor.

Our community thrives because we are connected to businesses throughout the St. Louis region, and because our region boasts exceptionally strong networking ties. The Alliance has received contributions from seven new investors so far in 2008, four of whom are located outside of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon. When doing business with an Alliance investor, inside or outside of the Ed-Glen community, make sure to thank them for their contribution to our community's well-being. The next Eggs & Issues will be August 12 at 7:30 am in the Leclaire Room of the Lewis and Clark's N.O. Nelson Campus in Edwardsville. Join us for breakfast and learn more about the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois' Vision 20-20 for the Southwestern Illinois Region. Cost is \$10 per person for investors and \$15 per person for non-investors. Please RSVP by calling the Alliance at 656-7601.

The Alliance would like to extend a warmest thanks to a longtime friend. Earlier this year, Bob McClellan stepped aside as President and CEO of Hortica Insurance in Edwardsville. Bob has been an integral part of the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon community for many years, donating his time, energy and vision back in countless ways. Bob served as a member of the I-55 Corridor Plan Management Team, the Alliance's Executive Council, and as a member of the Alliance's Strategic Planning and Opportunities Committee, and we are grateful for his lasting contribution to the community. The Alliance would like to wish Bob luck with any and all of his future endeavors.



Dawn Spickerman • Mike Niehaus • Charlie Huelsmann Edwardsville 618-655-9660



## **The Virtual Video Interview**

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

One of our most exciting business services is the "Virtual Video Interview" system. We are piloting a method of interviewing that allows the business to select candidates from either applications or résumés, and then view an interview that is accessible through the internet. This system is a way to do preliminary screening without the cost in time and dollars associated with the "traditional" interview.

The system works through a very simple process. The interviewee is seated in front of a computer fitted with a "web cam" and the interviewer is on the screen of the computer. It sounds as if it is a rather strange setup, until you actually see it work. Not only are cues of interest given by the virtual interviewer, but you also get the feeling that you are being heard.

By using this method to screen applicants, a business can save valuable time. But there also seems to be a great benefit to the job seeker. The system allows the job seeker to show their talents to a business. By using this system, an interviewee can demonstrate their "people" skills through the video, as well as show their "professional" demeanor.

Another real benefit to the "Virtual Video Interview" system is the consistency that each interview has, in terms of the questions asked and the delivery of those questions. This eliminates the chance that one candidate will have a different interview, as compared to another.

This system also allows for multiple staff to review an interview. They don't have to gather at one location, but can be at any place that has internet access. In this case if there is staff at several business locations, they can all review applicants, and then decide either collectively or individually if they want to invite the person to have a "face-to-face" interview.



The other benefit to using this system is the flexibility to build an interview format. There are standard questions for various occupations that can be selected for the interview. There is also the opportunity to customize and interview with employer specific questions. To do this the employer submits the questions and the company builds the interview. This is an option that will require additional expenses, but it is a fraction of what the full system would cost.

We are currently just making this system available to business and work with each business to find ways to assist with their entire recruitment process. This system must be seen to be believed and our staff is more than willing to demonstrate the capacity it has to assist your business. Please call 618-296-4315 or 618-296-4301 to find out how the system works and how we can help you find the candidates your business needs.





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