

June 2011



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Common Ground

Annual Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

Golf Challenge

at Sunset Hills Country Club

June 24, 2011

Register by June 17!

Now accepting sponsorships.

Registration & sponsorship
forms available online at

www.edglengolfchallenge.com



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Mission Statement

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

on the cover Annual Golf Challenge

The 2011 Chamber Golf Challenge is scheduled for June 24 at Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville. The Golf Challenge is a great opportunity to market your business, treat your employees, and host your clients.

We hope you're able to attend and enjoy lunch on the course, 18 holes of tournament golf with cart, beverages on the course, and dinner – all to benefit the many community programs and activities supported by the Chamber.

Registration begins at 9:30am with a shotgun start at 10:30am. Our all-inclusive format includes 18 holes of golf with cart, unlimited use of the driving range and putting green, contests and prizes, lunch and beverages on the course, dinner reception with awards ceremony, and the chance to win the Hole in One car, courtesy of Cassens & Sons.

Foursomes and individual tickets to the Chamber Golf Challenge are available. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 17, and payment must accompany registration. Refunds will not be issued after June 20.

An exciting addition to this year's tournament is a raffle fundraiser. You are invited to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win 16 rounds of golf for four at 15 different prestigious Walters Golf Management courses throughout the metropolitan area. The package is valued at \$3,500!

The raffle winner will be drawn at the golf challenge June 24. You do not need to be present to win. Certificates will be good for one year, and weekend policies vary by course.

Purchase your raffle ticket for \$20 at the Chamber office or from a board member. The Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce and its members appreciate your support!

2011 Advertising Rates:

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

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

Call 618.656.7600 for details.

Common Ground

200 University Park Drive, Suite 260
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

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www.edglenchamber.com

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Bronze Level

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Edwardsville Publishing Company
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Premier Level

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Logo It! @ Langa
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Maryville Women's Center & Med Spa
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Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
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Shell Community Federal Credit Union
Shoe Carnival
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Stahly Cartage Co.
Sunset Hills Country Club
Sunset Hills Family Dental
Super 8 Pontoon Beach
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The Scheffel Companies
Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen Inc.
Tiger Plumbing
University Nursing & Rehabilitation
US Bank
USO of Missouri
Wenzel & Associates

events

6/7 Tuesday 7:30am

YPG Learn from a Leader
Breakfast with Pat Peverly
at First Clover Leaf Bank
2143 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/8 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Taplin Defense Firm
4219 South IL Route 159 Suite 4
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

6/9 Thursday 7:30am

Breakfast with the Mayors
Lewis and Clark Community
College's N.O. Nelson Complex
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/9 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Kurt's CARSTAR
1 Mueller Drive
Maryville, IL 62062

6/10 Friday 12-1pm

networking@noon
Creating an Over-the-Top
Elevator Speech
at GC Cuisine in Edwardsville
RSVP REQUIRED

6/15 Wednesday 4-7pm

Open House & Benefit
for Tornado Victims
Original Creations
of Man & Earth
224 South Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/22 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Gateway Regional Hospital's
Advanced Wound Center
1121 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/23 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
PNC Bank
6650 Edwardsville Crossing Dr.
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/24 Friday 10:30am

Chamber Golf Tournament
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

save the date

7/7 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Sivia Business & Legal Services
217 South Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/8 Friday 12-1pm

networking@noon
hosted by Eden Village
plus Using Your Business
Cards Intelligently
at Eden Village
400 South Station Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
RSVP REQUIRED

7/20 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Lost Arts & Antiques
254 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/21 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Gateway Regional
Medical Center's
Edwardsville Health Center
1121 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

connect

business after hours schedule

The purpose of a networking mixer is to meet new people, make new contacts, promote your business, and talk with other business people facing the same challenges as you. All are welcomed and invited to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages are provided. A business card raffle and Joker's Jackpot drawing occur at approximately 6pm. Jackpot continues to grow until the Joker is drawn! Entry fee is \$5 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. This is an excellent networking opportunity!

6/9 Thursday 5-7pm

Kurt's CARSTAR
1 Mueller Drive in Maryville

6/23 Thursday 5-7pm

PNC Bank
6650 Edwardsville Crossing Drive in Edwardsville

networking@noon schedule

Can't make a Business After Hours? networking@noon is a great way to meet other business people in a smaller group setting without taking time away from your busy day. This fun, fast-paced, members-only "speed networking" event is designed to get you in, fed, connected, and on your way in 60 minutes or less. **E-mail dbennyhoff@edglenchamber.com for online registration instructions. RSVP is required. \$10 per person.**

6/10 Friday noon

Creating an Over-the-Top Elevator Speech
presented by Iris Salsman
at GC Cuisine in Edwardsville

7/8 Friday noon

hosted by Eden Village + a brief "Using Your Business Cards Intelligently" presentation by Iris
at Eden Village in Glen Carbon



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Get Gorgeous Feel Fabulous!!!

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Bring this ad in and receive a free gift with purchase of \$100 or more.

Call for details. Some restrictions apply. Exp: 6/30/11

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Winner of 5 Tony Awards
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FUN! for Everyone!
Don't Miss It!

JULY 13-16 AT 7:30 PM

JULY 16 & 17 AT 2:00 PM

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DIRECTED BY MARK BACUS

**A Brilliant,
Madcap,
Musical Comedy!**

JUNE 22-25 AT 7:30 PM

JUNE 26 AT 2:00 PM

SINGLE PERFORMANCE TICKETS

\$15 ADULTS: (18 & OLDER)
\$12 SENIORS: (65 &
OLDER), CHILDREN: (12 &
UNDER), SIUE ALUMNI,
FACULTY & STAFF AND
NON-SIUE STUDENTS
(w/VALID ID)

SIUE Students Free

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SIUE DAY

**What
When
Where
Why**

SIUE Day Rally Week

September 12-16, 2011

On Campus & Community Partner Locations

- One-day opportunity to reach SIUE Faculty, Staff and Students via protected University e-mail
- 100% tax deductible gift to program of your choice
- Business recognition at the start of the academic year
- 100% tax deductible gift
- Opportunity to be on site in the Morris University Center's Goshen Lounge during your selected day

Monday

Available

12

Tuesday

Available

13

Wednesday

Available

14

Thursday

Available

15

Friday

Available

16

How to Sign Up

- RSVP by Friday, July 15, 2011 to 618.650.2378 or jbabing@siue.edu
- Multiple spots available on each designated day.

SIUE Responsibilities

- Press release to all SIUE media contacts.
- Promotional e-mail to all SIUE faculty and staff (2,500) and students (14,000) highlighting the event/incentive.
- Partner logo and event/incentive/promotional YouTube video on SIUE Day web page.
- Listed as SIUE Day Rally Sponsor at the SIUE Day Breakfast on October 14, 2011.

Partner Responsibilities

- Provide color logo for use in promotions: please send electronically to jbabing@siue.edu
- Minimum donation of \$500 to the SIUE program of your choice (gifts are made through the SIUE Foundation on or before Friday, October 14, 2011).
- Create promotional offer to SIUE faculty, staff, students and community.

Partner: _____ Date of event: _____

Signed: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
F O U N D A T I O N

Campus Box 1082, Edwardsville, Illinois 62026-1082
618.650.2378, Fax: 618.650.3694 jbabing@siue.edu
www.siue.edu/siuedaypartners

upcoming YPG events

6/7 Tuesday 7:30-9am

YPG Learn from a Leader Breakfast with Patricia Peverly at First Clover Leaf Bank, 2143 South IL Route 157 in Edwardsville
 RSVP to Beth Breihan at bbreihan@edenvillage.org

6/16 Thursday 5:30pm

YPG Beer Tasting at Global Brew Tap House & Lounge at Global Brew, 112 South Buchanan
 RSVP to Beth Breihan at bbreihan@edenvillage.org
 \$10 per person

Monthly Events Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the Month, 5pm at Eden Village
 RSVP to Beth Breihan at bbreihan@edenvillage.org

Marketing & Membership Committee Meeting

3rd Friday of the Month, 12pm at the Chamber office
 RSVP to Rachel Case at rcase@firstcloverleafbank.com



ABOVE: YPG Speed Networking was held May 24 at Sunset Hills Country Club. Nearly 20 young professionals gathered to participate in casual networking and enjoy an Italian lunch buffet.

m2m spotlight



Check out our great Member 2 Member (m2m) offers and enjoy significant savings from Ed/Glen Chamber members when you show your card at participating locations. **Don't have a card? Ask your employer for one!**

AUTO-OWNERS INSURANCE PROGRAM

Southern Illinois Underwriters Agency

Chamber members are eligible to participate in the Auto-Owners Insurance 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.

**To learn more about this offer and others, visit
www.edglenchamber.com/m2m/index.asp**

ambassadors

Ambassador Spotlight: Natalie Head

Natalie Head, an Edwardsville native and SIUE alumni, lives at Holiday Shores in Edwardsville with her husband Jason and their two sons, Nathan (13) and Dylan (8). In her spare time, Natalie enjoys boating, swimming, reading and cheering on the Cardinals.



During her sophomore year at SIUE, Natalie took a public relations class that set her on a career path. She began her career as Communications Director at Anderson Hospital in 1995. "My role at Anderson and the variety of projects I work on quench my thirst for creativity in so many ways."

Natalie has been involved with the Ed/Glen Chamber for eight years. "I have had the honor of representing Anderson Hospital as an ambassador with the chamber since 2003."

When asked about the decision to become an ambassador, Natalie said, "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."

Natalie's advice to fellow chamber members: "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. 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 *Common Ground* or utilizing the greeter service program. Volunteer to assist with the multitude of events, and above all – BE ACTIVE!"

A business leader Natalie most admires is Oprah. "Oprah Winfrey, Chairman at Harpo, Inc. – she is the first African-American woman to become a billionaire. But most admirable is that Oprah's business and career success can be attributed to her passion for helping others."

In addition to her dedicated participation in chamber events, Natalie is also serving on the 2011 SIUE Day planning committee.

2011 Ambassadors

Dave Viox, Chair
AAdvantage Insurance Group

Rachel Case, Co-Chair
First Clover Leaf Bank

Candice Arana
Hospice of Southern Illinois

Natalie A. Head
Anderson Hospital

Ryan High
Global Brew Tap House & Lounge

Allison Katt
Scott Credit Union

Dana Klassen
St. John's Community Care

Nicole Kline
Extra Help, Inc.

Bonnie Kotsybar
Chamber Staff

Linda Kuhlmann
Kuhlmann Business Services

Ryan Matthews
The Insurance Partnership

Mark Muckensturm
MRCT Benefits Plus

Rob Pickerell
Regions Bank

Jenny Robison
Shell Community Credit Union

Sara Sanderson
Liberty Mutual

Diana Voegelé
Express Employment Professionals

Zach Woods
Commerce Bank

St. Boniface Parish
Edwardsville, IL



Golf Tournament
Sunday, August 28
Oak Brook Golf Club
8:00am

Flighted Four Person Scramble
Sponsorship Packages Available

Contact Steve Hyten, Tournament Chair (sjhyten@me.com), or Michael Wall, Development Director (mwall@st-boniface.com), for more information.
110 N. Buchanan, Edwardsville, IL 62025 * 618-656-6450 * www.st-boniface.com

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& STABILITY**



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Business of the Month:



January 7, 1920 the company began operations as the Madison County Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. The company name was changed to Madison Mutual Insurance Company in 1980. Madison Mutual Insurance celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2010.

Madison Mutual Insurance Company, a policyholder owned company, specializes in personal insurance products (i.e. auto, home and farm). Their business focuses on marketing to individuals and families throughout Illinois for their auto and home products, in addition to insurance products for small family farms.

The company has evolved significantly since its inception. Madison Mutual originally sold automobile insurance in Madison County only. In 1983 they added homeowner and farm owner products and began expanding throughout Illinois. Madison Mutual is currently represented by 185 independent agencies throughout the state, with 47 employees at their Edwardsville headquarters.

Madison Mutual Insurance Company President Michael Wenos said, "As a member of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, we know



that there is an organization working to support our business and that of our agents. In addition, working to develop a strong business environment positively impacts the job opportunities for our policyholders." Madison Mutual has been a chamber member since 1954.

Madison Mutual employees and agents support a number of organizations including the American Cancer Society, Humane Society, Boy Scouts of America, Edwardsville Police Department DARE Program, the YMCA and numerous youth sports and educational programs. The company is also a contributor to the Anderson Hospital Growing for the Future Campaign.

Madison Mutual Insurance Company's headquarters office is located at 1 Mutual Court in Edwardsville. Learn more by calling 618.656.3410 or visiting www.madisonmutual.com.

5 Ways to See Your Business in *Common Ground*

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



connect

Board Spotlight: Katie Bennett

Katie Bennett is originally from Fairfield, IL. She enjoys reading, cooking, painting, attending community events, and cheering on her two favorite sports teams – the St. Louis Cardinals and SIUE Cougars.

Katie has served as Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs for nearly four years with the SIUE Alumni Association, which was established in 1973. She arrived at her current position after completing a bachelor's degree in mass communications from SIUE in 2003 and working as the events and Web manager for KMOX Radio. She recently completed a master's degree in public administration at SIUE. "When the position opened with the Alumni Association, I jumped at the chance to return to the University. I enjoy planning events, Web communication and the opportunity to work with current students through the student alumni association," Katie said.

Katie's involvement with the chamber began about three years ago, and she joined the board of directors to learn more about the organization and how it benefits the community. She would like to see the chamber become more involved in philanthropic and government affairs issues.



"The Chamber provides a valuable service to the community by promoting and supporting businesses in the area, educating members on community and government issues and building mutually beneficial networking relationships. It's important to support their mission to do so and take advantage of this valuable resource," Katie said.

When asked about a business leader she most admires, Katie responded, "As a young professional I really admire Brandon Case and Patrick Thirion, owners of Peel Wood Fired Pizza; and Ryan Lowe and Ryan & Laura High who own Global Brew Tap House & Lounge. With both businesses, the owners had a big dream for starting their own business and a strong vision for the type of establishment they wanted to bring to the community. Both businesses have been a huge success and it has a lot to do with the passion they have for their products and the great relationships they're building with customers."

Katie's advice to fellow chamber members: "Take full advantage of your membership dues and get involved. Serve on a committee, attend some of the many social events and educational workshops. And encourage other business leaders in the community to join – the more members we can add to the organization, the more value it will bring to our own participation."

Katie is also a member of Edwardsville Rotary and serves as the co-chair of the marketing committee, as well as serving on the Taste of Edwardsville planning committee for Edwardsville Neighbors in Need.



Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

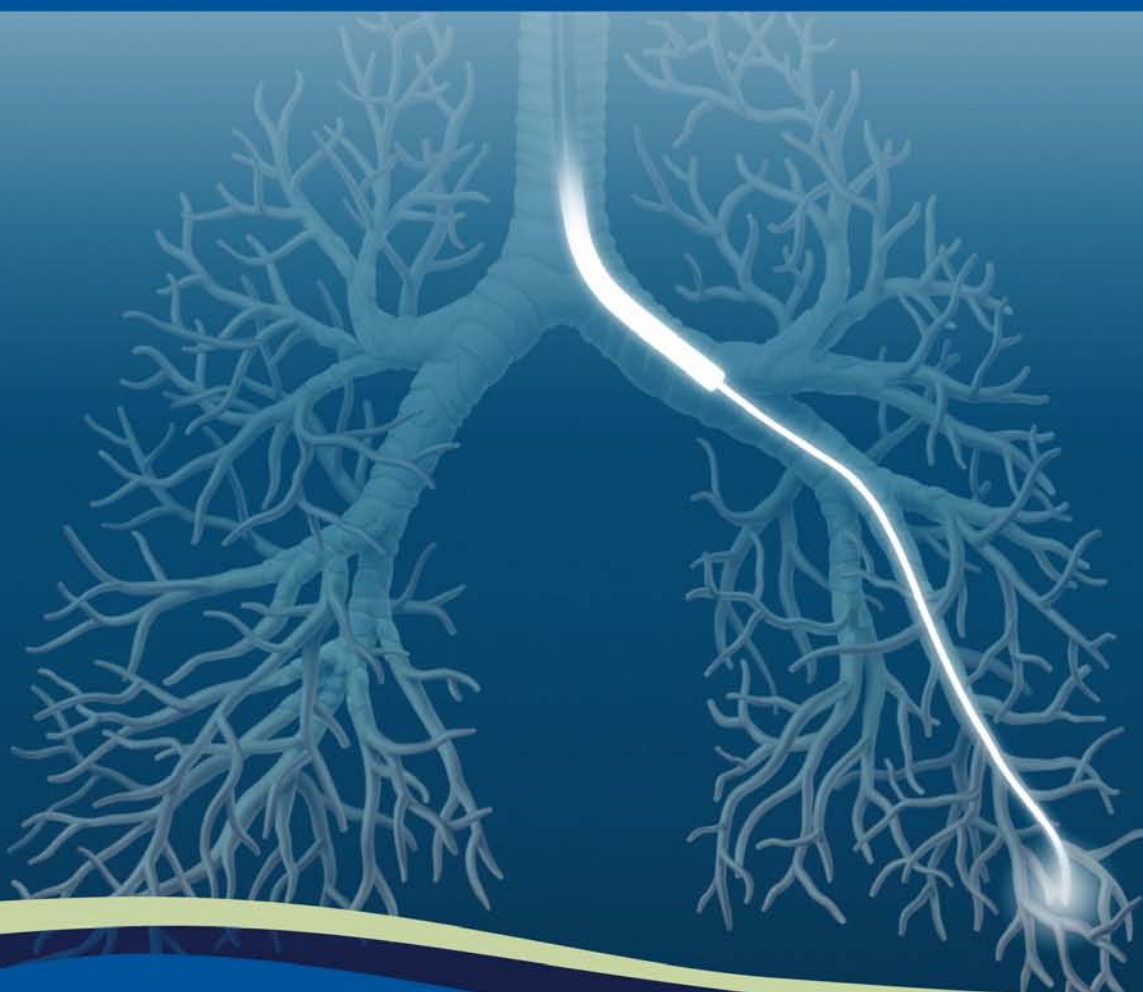
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WALTERS
GOLF MANAGEMENT



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL'S CENTER FOR ADVANCED PULMONARY MEDICINE is Branching Out with New Technology

Faster, Safer Lung Diagnosis at Christian Hospital

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

For more information on how you or a loved one can benefit from this breakthrough technology, please call 314-747-WELL or toll free at 1-877-747-WELL.



2011 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber Golf Challenge

Friday, June 24 at Sunset Hills Country Club

Deadline for registration is June 17. No refunds after June 20. Payment must accompany registration.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

_____ We would like to **sponsor** at the _____ level at \$ _____

_____ Please reserve _____ **foursome(s)** at \$520 each. Names are listed below.

_____ Please reserve _____ **twosome(s)** at \$260 each. Names are listed below.

_____ Please reserve _____ **individual ticket(s)** at \$130 each. Place me with a team.

_____ I would like to participate in the **skins game** at \$20 per team.

Please list names below, with team captain's name and e-mail address listed as "Player 1":

Player 1 _____ Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____

Please enclose a check payable to Ed/Glen Chamber.

Payment in full due upon receipt of registration.

**Please fax this completed form to the Chamber office at 618.656.7611 or mail with payment to:
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, 200 University Park Drive Suite 260, Edwardsville, IL 62025**

Tournament Includes

- 18 holes of tournament golf with cart at Sunset Hills Country Club
- Unlimited use of driving range and putting green
- Golfer gift bags
- Straightest drive, longest putt & closest to pin contests
- Hole in one contest
- Lunch & beverages on the course
- Dinner

Schedule of Events

9:30am Registration & Driving Range Open
10:30am Shotgun Start
3:30pm Dinner with Awards Ceremony

Flight Winner Awards

	1st Place	2nd Place
A Flight	\$520	\$260
B Flight	\$520	\$260

Proceeds to Benefit Chamber of Commerce Community Programs & Activities

www.edglenchamber.com

Golf Challenge Sponsorships

Promote your business to over 100 golfers including Chamber members & area community/business leaders

Information must be received by June 17 to guarantee full benefits. Payment must accompany registration.

President's Circle

\$4,000

- Exclusive event sponsor
- Welcome message at reception
- 3 teams (4 players/team plus carts)
- Separate corporate logo display
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- 3 Hole Sponsorships
- Full-page color ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for full-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Vice President's Circle

\$2,000

- 1 team (4 players/team plus carts)
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- 1 Hole Sponsorship
- Half-page color ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Golf Cart Sponsors

\$600

- Limited to four businesses
- Company logo on front of all cart signs
- Sign at registration area before and during Golf Challenge
- Eighth-page black and white ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for eighth-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Score Card Sponsors

\$600

- Limited to two businesses (front nine or back nine holes)
- Company logo on front of all score cards
- Sign at registration area before and during Golf Challenge
- Eighth-page black and white ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for eighth-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Putting Green Sponsor

\$600

- Exclusive sponsorship
- Sole sponsor sign in practice green area before & during Golf Challenge
- Use as an opportunity to pass out golf balls or gifts, or visit with golfers
- Honor of delivering prize for low score on putting contest during awards ceremony

Lunch & Beverage Sponsors

\$600

- Limited to two businesses
- Sign at grill area before & during Golf Challenge
- Signs on beverage carts & beverage centers throughout the course
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants

Driving Range

\$500

- Exclusive sponsorship
- Signage in the driving range area before & during Golf Challenge
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants

Director's Circle

\$300

- 1 Hole Sponsorship (sign provided by Chamber)
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- Eighth-page black and white ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Exclusive Hole Sponsor

\$300

- Limited to six businesses
- Signage at tee box and green

Tee Sponsor

\$125

- Shared sponsorship of a hole (tee/green) with other non-compete businesses

Prize Donation

- Donate a door prize or contest prize (value of approximately \$25–\$100)
- Recognition in golf program and *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

All Sponsorships Include:

- Logo/listing in all Golf Challenge programs, Web site & *Common Ground*
- Acknowledgement during awards ceremony

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Crushed Grapes, American Family Insurance & Catered AFFAIR, May 12



Crushed Grapes, American Family Insurance & Catered AFFAIR, May 12



Crushed Grapes, American Family Insurance & Catered AFFAIR, May 12



Edwardsville Gun Club & Captain Hog's BBQ, May 26



Edwardsville Gun Club & Captain Hog's BBQ, May 26



Edwardsville Gun Club & Captain Hog's BBQ, May 26

networking@noon



Iris Salsman: Introducing Yourself with More Than A Handshake, May 13



Iris Salsman: Introducing Yourself with More Than A Handshake, May 13

ribbon cuttings



Mattress Source, May 11



Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts, May 18



Bev George & Associates, May 24



Original Creations of Man & Earth, May 25

your business

TheBANK Sponsors Glen Carbon Homecoming



ABOVE: Rob Jackstadt, mayor of Glen Carbon, Kathi Jackstadt, booth coordinator and Mike West, chairman of the Glen Carbon Homecoming, accept a check for \$2,500 from TheBANK of Edwardsville, a Gold Sponsor of the Glen Carbon Homecoming. Glen Carbon Homecoming is set for June 18 & 19 on Main Street.

Louer Facility Planning's Yvette Paris Earns LEED AP

Yvette Paris, Interior Designer of Louer Facility Planning has recently been accredited as LEED AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional) by the US Green Build Council (USGBC). Accreditation is achieved by passing an exam administered by USGBC that tests knowledge and competency. All of the firm's interior designers have achieved LEED accreditation.

"We are proud to offer our customers a thorough understanding of how the interior furnishings and finishes chosen can support their efforts to create buildings and interior environments that earn LEED credits," said Jane Louer, President.

Louer Facility Planning is committed to helping its clients create a more environmentally friendly workspace. Office and showroom are located in Collinsville at 1604 Eastport Plaza Drive, Suite 100. Call 618.344.9610 to arrange for product demonstrations or go to www.louerplan.com for more information.



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Original Creations to Hold Open House Benefit

Original Creations of Man and Earth held its ribbon cutting ceremony as tornado sirens rang out May 25. It seems only fitting that at the open house to be held June 15 from 4–7pm, 10% of all sales will benefit victims of the area's recent tornados.

Original Creations of Man and Earth is a new and unique shop located at 224 South Main Street in Edwardsville. In 2010, owner Derek Herman graduated from SIUE with a studio art degree. He makes unique, one-of-a-kind custom jewelry that is sold in the shop. He also sells the work of other local artists. What sets the shop apart is the wide array of minerals, crystals and gemstones from all around the world. To see more of the shop and what it carries, go to www.OriginalCreationsOfManAndEarth.com

Please join Original Creations of Man and Earth June 15 from 4–7pm for appetizers and refreshments. If you can't make it, please keep the recent victims in your thoughts and prayers.

Gateway Grizzlies MVP Debit Card Announced

To kick off Grizzlies season, GCS is now offering a GCS Grizzlies MVP debit card. This card design is part of the instant issue service offered at select GCS locations.

When you open a checking account or just want a new debit card, you can select from a variety of free cards including the GCS Grizzlies MVP card. This card gives you special discounts from the Gateway Grizzlies! Discounts include 15% off purchases at Izzy's Den, buy 2 get 2 tickets free at the Grizzlies ticket window, and 30% off purchases at Izzy's Den on GCS sponsorship nights.

Members can visit select GCS locations and receive their new debit card instantly. They can choose from several existing designs, or put a photo of their own on their card for a small fee.

For more information about GCS, go to www.myGCScu.com or call 618.797.7993.



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Simmons Receives High Honors with COUNTRY Financial

Paula Simmons was recognized by COUNTRY Financial for recent achievements, including All American/Executive Club and Million Dollar Round Table. Simmons is among a group of approximately 300 COUNTRY financial representatives who qualified for the All American award. COUNTRY has more than 2,000 financial representatives in 14 states. This is the eighth time she has been named an All American.



Simmons also qualified for the COUNTRY Executive Club, whose members represent the top 3 percent of financial representatives. This is the seventh time she has been named to the Executive Club.

"The All American is among the highest honor a COUNTRY financial representative can receive. Members of our agency force who earn this distinction are those who have shown a true commitment to customers' needs," says Paul V. Bishop, Senior Vice President of Sales for COUNTRY.

Simmons is also a member of the 2011 Million Dollar Round Table. MDRT, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals, is an international, independent association of more than 31,500 members, or less than 1 percent, of the world's life insurance and financial services professionals from 464 companies in more than 80 nations and territories. Simmons qualified for MDRT in 2005 and each year thereafter.

Paula Simmons COUNTRY Financial is located at 115 South Main Street in Edwardsville. The office phone number is 618.659.9000.



Get Your Kicks at the Route 66 Festival

**Friday & Saturday
June 10th & 11th
Edwardsville City Park**

The popular festival celebrating Edwardsville's place on the historic Mother Road is back in 2011!
Good times at the park!

Showcase your business or non-profit organization by getting involved with the festival as a sponsor or volunteer. This two-day event draws thousands to the park for food, drink, live entertainment and classic cars. For more information call the City of Edwardsville Parks & Recreation Department at 692-7538.

Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS®: Homes Create a Win-Win for Economy

It's a great time to buy a home in Illinois! Home sales in the first quarter of 2011 brought a variety of housing opportunities available at attractive prices across the state with close to 70 percent of homes sold priced below \$200,000.

According to the Illinois Association of REALTORS'® (IAR) first quarter report, Illinois home sales totaled 18,940 in the first quarter, down 11.2 percent from 21,320 homes sold in the same period last year but up significantly by 24 percent from the same period in 2009 when just 17,194 homes were sold. The first quarter statewide median home sale price was \$131,175, down 8.9 percent from \$144,000 in the first quarter of 2010.

IAR President Sheryl Grider Whitehurst, ABR, CRB, GRI concludes that sales in the first quarter slowed from the same period a year ago given the absence of the homebuyer tax credit that was in full swing at that time. She also stated that affordability conditions reached a peak in the first quarter prompted by low interest rates and that ideal conditions should continue for the spring

selling season with lower pricing making housing more affordable than ever for buyers who are eager to purchase property.

Ultimately, buying or selling a home is a win-win situation for both consumers and the economy. A recent study conducted by Chicago-based RCF Economic and Financial Consulting shows that the sale of just one home in Illinois produces \$28,581 in expenditures made by buyers and sellers in the transaction, with a total annual impact of \$7.9 billion in expenditures across the Illinois economy.

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® serves over 1,000 REALTOR® and affiliate members in the southwestern Illinois region including the counties of Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and Montgomery. The association strives to promote education, professionalism, and ethical conduct in the real estate industry; to advocate for the protection of property rights; to assist in providing Americans safe and affordable housing; and to further the interest of property ownership.



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Sandberg Phoenix Welcomes Diane Poshard

Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. welcomes Diane Poshard to the firm as a new associate. Prior to joining Sandberg Phoenix, Diane clerked for judges of the Jackson County, Illinois Court and completed a clerkship with the Office of General Counsel for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Alaska Region Office.



Diane is licensed to practice in Illinois. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Jackson County Bar Association, and Inn of Court of Southern Illinois. She received her Juris Doctor from Southern Illinois University School of Law in May 2010 and her Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications from the University of South Florida.

Personnel Changes Announced at TW&M

Local engineering and surveying firm Thouvenot, Wade and Moerchen, Inc. has announced the following personnel changes that took effect May 1, 2011:

Robert S. DeConcini, P.E., has been named as TWM's new Chief Operating Officer, where he will provide operational leadership to the firm as a whole and guide the efficiency, effectiveness, and profitability of individual branch offices.

Lyndon J. Joost has been named to a newly created position, Director of Strategic Initiatives. In this position, Joost will help guide the company's growth and development through the implementation of the firm's annual and multi-year strategic plans, and by overseeing special projects and initiatives.

Matt J. Kitzmiller, P.E., a Project Manager in the firm's Edwardsville Branch Office, has been named as the new Manager of that office.

Do you have MVP Discounts?

Receive discounts at GCS Ballpark with the **Gateway Grizzlies MVP Card!**

- **15% off** purchases at Izzy's Den
- **Buy 2 get 2 tickets free** at ticket window
- **30% off** purchases at Izzy's Den on a GCS sponsorship night. See Grizzlies schedule for details.



Membership restrictions apply.



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GCS offers instant issue debit cards with 9 free custom designs or personalize your card with your favorite photo for a small fee. It's a great way to add some bragging rights to your debit card!



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SIUE Alumni Networking Breakfast at Scott Credit Union

The SIUE Alumni Association is excited to announce that the next SIUE Alumni Networking Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, July 13. The breakfast will take place at the Scott Credit Union in Edwardsville, IL from 7:30–8:30am.

The networking breakfast will feature a distinguished alumnus, Mr. Frank Padak. Complimentary pastries, fruit and coffee will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring business cards for potential business connections.

Frank Padak is a 1984 graduate of the SIUE School of Business. He began his employment with Scott Credit Union in 1994 as Vice President of Mortgage Lending to develop its mortgage lending operations. In 1997 he was promoted to Vice President of the credit union at which time he took responsibility for branch operations, member services, human resources, marketing and lending. Since 2002, he served as Senior Vice President and was named President, CEO and Treasurer in 2005. Padak serves on the boards of several local and national organizations.

Prior to joining Scott Credit Union, he spent more than 9 years at Highland Savings and Loan, in Highland, Illinois, where he served as Vice President in charge of loan operations, regulatory compliance and marketing.

Alumni Event Ambassadors will be on hand to greet attendees and facilitate networking conversations:

Sara Colvin, 1998 BS, 2005 MA

Jim Harper, 2008 BFA

Alan Kehrler, 1992 BS

Tom McRae, 1982 BS

Dr. Rhonda Green, 1992 BA, 1992 DMD

To register for this free event, please go to www.siue.edu/alumni. For further information, contact Katie Bennett at kabenne@siue.edu or 618.650.2762.



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Express Employment Makes 2011 Best of Staffing™ List

Express Employment Professionals announced that it has been named to Inavero's 2011 Best of Staffing™ Client list. Best of Staffing, presented in partnership with CareerBuilder, is the nation's only satisfaction award that recognizes exceptional client service within the staffing industry.

"Less than one percent of staffing firms in the U.S. and Canada have been named to the Best of Staffing List for Client Satisfaction," said Marc Voegele, franchise owner of the Express Edwardsville office. "We are proud and honored to be recognized for our efforts in this way."

Staffing firms competing to make the Best of Staffing list underwent a rigorous client survey process followed by careful analysis of responses to determine satisfaction levels. Express received satisfaction ratings of 9 or 10 out of 10 from 74 percent of their clients, significantly higher than the industry's average of 47 percent. Best of Staffing participants secured a place on the list by earning an average Net Promoter Score that was more than double the national staffing industry benchmark for client satisfaction.

"These are exciting times as the staffing industry is helping lead the way to renewed economic vitality," said Eric Gregg, Inavero's Founder and CEO. "It

has been estimated that staffing firms have helped to fill at least one quarter of the 93,000 new jobs opening up each month in North America over the past year. Along with the increase in demand for talented job candidates, companies engaging with staffing firms expect impeccable service more than they ever have. It is our hope that businesses searching for a staffing partner use the Best of Staffing List as a guide to firms that have truly outperformed the industry for the service that they provide."

The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2006 and serves the entire Southwestern Illinois area. Express provides expertise in evaluation hire, temporary staffing, professional search and human resources and works across a wide variety of industries. Worldwide, Express employs nearly 300,000 people each year and has more than 550 offices in four countries. For more information about jobs or employment solutions, call 618.288.8011.



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Ask the Expert

by Robbie Prince, owner of Royal Solutions, LLC

Malware and You: Today's Threats

Successful businesses have learned to integrate the internet into their business model. Whether a basic website or utilizing eCommerce, the Internet has become a profitable portal for doing business.

As we become experts at utilizing the Web, we have become aware of some of the dangers looming within, such as viruses, spyware, and other forms of malware. These are all pests to computers, but each have their own unique way of debilitating your computer or business network.

Malware is a general term used by computer professionals to mean a variety of forms of hostile, intrusive or annoying software or program code. Malware, or malicious software, is designed to disrupt or deny computer operation, steal information that leads to loss of privacy, gain unauthorized access to system resources, and other abusive behavior. The key to being harmed by malware is being at the wrong place at the wrong time on the internet. Simply going to a Web page hosted on a compromised Web server with some types of malware can put your machine at risk.

Viruses, another type of malware, are software programs that are able to replicate themselves and can cause great harm to files or other programs on that machine. A true virus cannot spread to another computer without human assistance. This generally happens when a user downloads an infected document, game or other file and then opens or saves it to the computer. For example, you may receive an email with an infected attachment, but until the user opens the attachment the virus cannot be installed.

Trojan malware is also commonly used to harm computers and networks. Typically Trojans are fake pop-up windows that alert users of viruses. It is the action of following these popups through to a remedy download where the virus becomes installed.

As a result of these types of malware, people have become far more willing to invest time and money into protecting their computers from such threats. After all, we transmit a lot of sensitive information online, such as our addresses, telephone numbers, and credit card numbers, and it can be devastating when that falls into the wrong hands.

To be successful, the walls of defense must be built to protect the system. Start by installing anti-virus software, like Symantec, which protects against all forms of malware. Get familiar with how it works so you can tell the difference between the real deal and a wolf in sheep's clothing. Like learning how to use the home security system, the anti-virus software is a terrific line of defense and will alert the user when security is breached.

The Royal Solutions team has decades of experience implementing leading edge technology. Their IT and business professionals are committed to elevating the standards of network and business need support. Their focus is Small Businesses and primary goal is to provide a technological solution tailored specifically to each company. Whether you need to integrate a point of sales system with database management or need to file share between three employees, Royal Solutions' breadth of experience can meet a company's specialized need.

Spring Cleaning Offer from Allied Waste

To help with your spring cleanup, for a limited time Madison County residents* can rent one of Allied Waste's dumpsters for seven days at the following special rates:

20 yd. for \$225; 30 yd. for \$250. For more information or to place an order, please call 618.656.6883. Mention promotion code 4350.

*Delivery location must be in Madison County, IL. Due to franchise restraints, offer not valid in Highland and Marine, IL. Offer expires June 30, 2011. Not valid with any other offer. Upon order, dumpster will be scheduled for removal seven calendar days from delivery date.

Anderson Offers Community-Based CPR

In honor of National CPR Week, Anderson Hospital will offer three Community-Based CPR classes at a reduced rate of only \$10!

Heartsaver CPR/AED Training will be held Tuesday, June 21 from 8–11:30am; 1–3:30pm; and 5–7:30pm at the Anderson Hospital Education Department (basement of Physician Office Building 2).

Call 618.391.6700 to register. Each class is limited to 20 participants, and each participant will receive certification/card upon completion.

your business

Flood Prevention District's Web Blog

by Patrick McKeehan, Executive Director
Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

We have all heard over the past month about the flooding along the Mississippi River, especially in the Cairo, IL area. This has prompted some of inquiries by a few developers, real estate professionals and local business owners about the flooding situation/risk in the Metro East region. I am sure you might be getting the same questions.

My source for responding to these questions has been Les Sterman and the Flood Prevention District (FPD) Council. In fact, FPD Council has a great website www.floodpreventiondistrict.org with a wealth of information, including Sterman's latest blog posting that addresses these concerns and clearly indicates that our levees have performed to standard once again. This is a great resource for Metro East economic developers, community leaders and elected officials and I urge you to check it out.

(FYI - This year's water levels in the River would have not ranked in the Top 25 in flooding for the St. Louis region. As we all know, the highest level recorded was 1993* at 49.48 followed by 1973 at 43.23. We only reached 34.92 last week and the water levels should be below flood stage by this weekend.)

* The flood of 1993 reached the 350-year level. Our Metro East levees were designed and built to the 500-year standard.



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MM&R Sponsor Sculpture in the City Program

Shareholders of Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd. (MM&R), along with Belleville West High School senior Paige Glazebrook and local artist Kevin Trobaugh, unveiled a new city sculpture to a crowd of several hundred VIP guests attending Art on the Square. The sculpture was designed by Glazebrook as part of a new and interactive arts program through Art on the Square called the High School Sculpture in the City program. MM&R, a recognized supporter of the arts community in Belleville, is the official sponsor of the program through 2013.

Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd., was proud to sponsor the new program and help create such a unique experience for local students. Pat Mathis, shareholder of MM&R, commented, "Our firm has long supported local arts and education so this program falls right in line with our mission to support such community-based projects. Paige and the other students from Belleville West did a great job and the City is benefiting from their talents."

Focus on what your business does best...we'll do the rest!



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GCS Awards Nicole R. Thorp Scholarship

GCS Federal Credit Union has recently awarded the \$1,000 Nicole R. Thorp Scholarship. Abigail Veitch of Edwardsville High School was this year's recipient of the Nicole R. Thorp Scholarship. GCS looks for applicants who actively volunteer in the community. Nicole R. Thorp, who the scholarship is now named after, was a big believer in helping out where needed.



PHOTO: Mark Holshouser, President and CEO of GCS Federal Credit Union, presents Abigail Veitch of Edwardsville High School with the \$1,000 Nicole R. Thorp Scholarship.

Regions Bank Welcomes New VP to St. Louis Area

Sally Roth, Area President of Regions Bank, announced that David Schmid has joined the company as Vice President of Institutional Business Development for the Greater St. Louis Region.



Schmid previously worked at The Commerce Trust Company as Vice President of Institutional Services. Schmid has 18 years of financial experience, including 13 years at Reuters and its predecessor institution Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

Schmid earned his Bachelor degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and is active in various St. Louis nonprofit entities including board positions at the University City Children's Center and the Children's Education Alliance of Missouri.



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Case Honored as Ambassador of the Year

Rachel Case, a marketing professional at First Clover Leaf Bank in Edwardsville, was named the 2010 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year. This award is given annually to an ambassador committee member who performs above and beyond expectations, including attending chamber events like business after hours, annual events, ribbon cuttings and new member recruitment as well as volunteering at community events.



Case was invited to join the ambassadors last year and was thrilled at the opportunity and accepted the invitation. "I really enjoy participating in the chamber and the Young Professionals Group (YPG). Being active in the chamber is a great way to meet people and get involved in our community. I take the role of ambassador very seriously as it gives our new chamber members the first impression of what being involved in the chamber means. I'm honored to have received an award for something I feel like I should be doing anyway."

In addition to her chamber duties, Case participates in the First Clover Leaf Green Team – a group of bank employees and their families who donate their time and talents to worthwhile projects, fundraisers, charitable causes and community events. Rachel is a Collinsville native and has worked for First Clover Leaf Bank for over three years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing and is currently the chamber's YPG marketing and membership chair as well as the co-chair of the 2011 ambassador committee. At the bank, Rachel has co-chaired the Santa's workshop and is currently co-chair of the annual health fair.

Poker Run to Benefit Hospice of Southern IL

Come out for food, fun and music Sunday, July 10! The washer tournament costs \$10 to enter and begins at noon, with cash prizes for the top two winners.

Join the poker run (cycles and cars) for a \$25 entry fee with cash prizes for the top three winners – registration begins at 10am at No-Jacks. The poker run leaves No-Jacks at noon for: Sue's, Bobecks Sports Bar, Tiny's, Cutters, then returns to No-Jacks at 6pm.

Proceeds to benefit Hospice of Southern Illinois. For more information or to register, contact No-Jacks, 4001 State Route 159, Smithton, 618.235.2356.



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Long-Time Local Attorney Opens New Office: Taplin Defense Firm Accepts MO & IL Cases

Taplin Defense Firm may be new to the Metro East area, but its seasoned attorney is not. After 17 years with Traffic Law Center in Glen Carbon, Todd Taplin has opened his own office, Taplin Defense Firm, in the same community.

"Through the years, more and more people have been seeking me out by name. I felt it was finally time to open my own office," says Taplin.

"We will continue to excel in the area of traffic defense by reputation, and we plan to ramp up the DUI and criminal practice. Criminal law is an area I have always enjoyed. The traffic name I've used all these years may have confused those facing criminal charges. The Taplin Defense Firm name resolves that issue."



Before his service to Traffic Law Center, Taplin was an assistant state's attorney for Madison County for more than five years. He lives in Edwardsville with his wife, Katie, and four children.

Taplin Defense Firm is located at 4219 South 159 in Glen Carbon, in the business strip to the south of the intersection of 159 and Glen Carbon Road. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9am–5pm. Taplin will see clients on Saturdays by appointment only. Please call 618.288.1111 for more information, or go to www.taplindefensefirm.com.

Taplin Defense Firm concentrates in criminal law, DUI and traffic litigation. Todd Taplin is a former prosecutor with more than 22 years of experience, and is a member of the Missouri and Illinois bars. He is licensed to practice before the U.S. District Court of Southern Illinois.



Glen Carbon Homecoming June 17 & 18

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June 18: Smash Band, Parade & Fireworks



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