

June 2012



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Common Ground

Beijing, China Travel: April, 2013



Informational
Meeting: July 11



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Scott Credit Union
Carol Johnson
Visions by Carol Photography

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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

travel to beijing, china with the ed/glen chamber

Take in everything from the thrill of walking on the **Great Wall** to exploring historic **Tiananmen Square** by experiencing the heart of Beijing on a tour with Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce and Travel Express. The trip, **Beijing City Stay**, is scheduled through leading tour operator Collette Vacations.

The Beijing City Stay tour **departs April 29, 2013**, for nine days. Travelers will enjoy the quiet pleasure of lunch with a local family at their Hutong home, visit the pandas at the **Beijing Zoo**, and venture to the **Valley of the Ming Tombs** and the 2008 Olympic Green with its famous **Water Cube** and **Bird's Nest**.

Interested travelers can learn more about the tour by attending a free and informational presentation from Lora Carlson of Collette Vacations.

WHEN: 5:30pm July 11, 2012

WHERE: 200 University Park Drive in Edwardsville (Room 1127)

RSVP for the informational session & learn more about the trip at:
www.edglenchamber.com/china-travel.htm



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University Nursing & Rehabilitation
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Verizon Wireless
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events

6/5 Tuesday 8-9am

YPG Learn from a Leader
Breakfast with Greg Coffey
at Caffè Avanti
*RSVP to Beth Breihan at
bbreihan@edenvillage.org*

6/6 Wednesday 8-9am

Member Orientation
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Lower Level, Room 1127
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP to 618.656.7600

6/8 Friday 12pm

networking@noon
GC Cuisine
1230 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
*RSVP required; register from
online events calendar.*

6/7-9 Thursday-Saturday

Route 66 Festival
Downtown Edwardsville

6/14 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Hortica Insurance
& Employee Benefits
1 Horticultural Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/15-16 Friday & Saturday

Glen Carbon Homecoming
Downtown Glen Carbon

6/22 Friday 8am

Ed/Glen Chamber
Annual Golf Challenge
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/23 Saturday 10am

Ribbon Cutting
Fast Fitness Boot Camp
1063 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/28 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
The Goddard School &
The Park at Plum Creek
801 Arbor Vitae
Edwardsville, IL 62025

save the date

7/4 Wednesday

Ed/Glen Chamber Office
Closed in Observance of
Independence Day Holiday

7/11 Wednesday 5:30pm

Beijing, China Travel
Presentation
Lower Level, Room 1127
Edwardsville, IL 62025
*RSVP to 618.655.7600 or from
edglenchamber.com/china-travel.htm*

7/12 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Lo-Cal Cafe
138 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/24 Tuesday 8-10:30am

Professional Education:
Work Smarter, Not Harder!
The Employment Relationship
in the Age of Social Media,
presented by the attorneys
at Sandberg, Phoenix & von
Gontard, PC
at Glen Carbon Hampton Inn
5723 Heritage Crossing Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

7/26 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Edwardsville Arts Center &
Jacoby Arts Center
at EAC (inside Edwardsville HS)
6165 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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Ed/Glen Chamber members have the benefit of submitting **event information** & **press releases** to our website **FREE of charge!** We encourage you to make the most of this exclusive member benefit. It's a quick and easy way to extend the reach of your message and broaden your business or organization's impact! The **primary contact** for every Ed/Glen Chamber membership was emailed a username & password for our new website Thursday, May 24. If you are the **primary contact** for your business or organization and did not receive that email, you can:

- Go to www.edglenchamber.com
- Click on 'MEMBER LOGIN' on the right
- Submit your email address in the 'Forgot Your Password?' section
- Your user name & password will be emailed to you
- Please call 618.656.7600 to have a username & password assigned to an additional contact for your business or organization.

Please call 618.656.7600 to have a username & password assigned to an **additional contact** for your business or organization.

SUBMIT EVENTS TO OUR ONLINE CALENDAR:

- On the navigation bar, click "Events"
- Click the "Submit an Event" button
- Complete the form; your information will appear online after approval
- *Submissions must be free & open to the public, or benefit a charity*

ADD YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MEMBER NEWS:

- On the navigation bar, go to "About Us" and select "Member News" from the drop down menu
- Click the "Submit a Press Release" button
- You are required to log in to the Chamber Nation system
- Complete the form; your information will appear online after approval



GET YOUR KICKS AT THE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

Sock Hop Kick-off Party

at Crystal Garden Banquet & Event Center

Thursday, June 7th

Festival at Edwardsville City Park

Friday & Saturday

June 8th & 9th

Mother Road Sponsors



Fabulous food, local talent, historic displays, inflatables, great entertainment, washers tournament, and a classic car show & cruise can all be found at the 15th Annual Route 66 Festival in Edwardsville City Park!

For more information
visit www.EdwardsvilleRoute66.com





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2012 HR/Legal Education Series



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This series of professional education programs will help you run your business more efficiently and positively impact your bottom line.

January 24: **Fighting Unemployment Claims with IDES***

** Networking at 8am; education program from 8:30–11:30am*

March 27: **Managing Employee Leave**

May 22: **Business Succession Planning**

July 24: **The Employment Relationship in the Age of Social Media**

September 25: **The Do's & Don'ts of Hiring & Firing**

November 27: **Protecting Your Trade Secrets & Business Name**

8am Networking

8:30–10:30am Education Program with Q&A Session

At Glen Carbon Hampton Inn

I will attend: ☐ Session 4 ☐ Session 5 ☐ Session 6
at \$20/person (\$30 non-members) per session

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Name of Attendee(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 200 University Park Drive, Suite 260 Edwardsville, IL 62025
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Christian Hospital's Emergency Department treated over 100,000 people last year – the most in the entire area – and the recent expansion of our Northwest HealthCare emergency department further increases our capacity to serve patients while radically reducing their wait times.

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And Christian is not only one of the top performing hospitals in the BJC HealthCare organization, we're also ranked among the top hospitals in the entire St. Louis region by *U.S. News & World Report*.

See for yourself what we're talking about. Take a virtual tour of our expanded Northwest HealthCare emergency department by visiting ChristianCares.org today.

Christian hospital is **BJC HealthCare** in North County

Christian Hospital is a U.S. News high performer in four specialty areas: Geriatrics, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Pulmonology and Urology.



Business of the Month:



The Chef's Shoppe was opened in June of 1997 by Vicki Primrose. Scott and Nancy Schneider bought the business in January 2006. Originally the store was 1200 square feet located on the north side of the Schnuck's Plaza. In July 2009, Nancy and husband Scott moved the business to a 4000 square foot space on the other side of the plaza closer to Target. In May 2012 they acquired the neighboring space, adding more display space and a gourmet popcorn shop.

Chef's Shoppe is everything to do with food. Every item sold in their retail shop is useful in the preparation or serving of food, or it *is* food. Who doesn't like food? Chef's Shoppe guests are greeted with the aroma of freshly ground coffee, homemade fudge, and now just popped popcorn. They offer customers friendly service, knowledge of their products, and suggestions for culinary projects.

Sometimes it's all about being in the right place at the right time, and that is how Scott and Nancy ended up owning the Chef's Shoppe. Nancy loved working retail and Scott was up for an adventure.

Scott, Nancy and their team of dedicated employees love their products – all of them! They spend a great deal of time researching, going to industry shows and markets searching for products that will enrich their customers' lives by saving them time or allowing them to enjoy time spent with family and friends sharing good food.

The business has changed a great deal since the Schneiders purchased the business a little over six years ago. They have gone broader and deeper in all the original categories and added several new categories as well. Most noticeable is the homemade fudge and the freshly popped popcorn. The Chef's Shoppe has five times the original display space, and they have added a lot more work area which helps with all the gift wrapping during the busy holiday season.



Right now Scott, Nancy and staff are concentrating on the newly introduced popcorn shop. They offer tins and baskets which can be custom built and shipped anywhere. They are very interested in corporate accounts for thank you, birthday, special occasion, and Christmas gifts.

The Chef's Shoppe is a member of the St Louis Culinary Society, and they also serve on the committee for Alison's Friends of Hope.

When asked for her favorite bit of business advice, Nancy responded, "It's not so much that you own your business but that the business owns you – so pick something you love."

Nancy and Scott encourage everyone to stop by the store, browse for gifts or items for their own kitchen, and sample their wide assortment of coffees, fudges, and popcorn. The Chef's Shoppe is your hometown kitchen accessory store, bringing quality to your kitchen.

"Participating in the Ed/Glen Chamber gives us the opportunity to interact with other business owners and managers. Exchanging ideas, working in joint ventures – we don't have to re-invent the wheel," Nancy said.

The Chef's Shoppe is located at 2320 Troy Road in Edwardsville. To learn more, stop by the store, call 618.659.9840, or go to www.ChefsShoppe.com.



2012 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber Golf Challenge

Friday, June 22 at Sunset Hills Country Club

Deadline for registration is June 15. No refunds after June 18. 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 \$500 each. Names are listed below.

_____ Please reserve _____ **twosome(s)** at \$250 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

8am	Registration & Driving Range Open
9:30am	Shotgun Start
2:30pm	Dinner

Flight Winner Awards

	1st Place	2nd Place
A Flight	\$500	\$250
B Flight	\$500	\$250

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 15 to guarantee full benefits. Payment must accompany registration.

President's Circle

\$2,500

- Exclusive event sponsor
- Welcome message at reception
- 2 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

\$1,000

- 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 half-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 quarter-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 quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Putting Green Sponsor

\$600

- Exclusive sponsorship
- Sole sponsor sign in practice green area at the Golf Challenge
- Use as an incentive to pass out golf balls or gifts, or visit with golfers
- Honor of delivering prize for low score on the putting green during awards ceremony
- Eighth-page black and white ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Lunch & Beverage Sponsors

\$600

- Limited to four 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
- Eighth-page black and white ad in Golf Challenge program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (Chamber newsletter)

Goodie Bag Sponsor

\$25

- Exposure to 100 golfers
- Provide goodie bags for golfers
- Market your business with a goodie bag item (\$25 per item)

Exclusive Hole Sponsor

\$250

- 1 Exclusive Hole Sponsorship (sign provided by Chamber; 18 available)
- 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)

Prize Donation

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

Tee Sponsor

\$125

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

All Sponsorships Include:

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

618.656.7600



schmooze

business after hours



Crushed Grapes, Catered AFFAIR & American Family Insurance, May 3



Crushed Grapes, Catered AFFAIR & American Family Insurance, May 3



Balke Brown Transwestern and Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, May 17



Balke Brown Transwestern and Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, May 17



Hot Yoga, May 31



Hot Yoga, May 31

ribbon cuttings



Madison County Computer & LAN Services, May 10



The Boulevard Wine Street, May 24

professional ed



Business Succession Planning, May 22

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!

edoglen

Chamber of Commerce



Experience The Difference

Illinois recently raised personal and corporate income taxes by 67% and 46%, respectively. It's also stepping up enforcement. Still, there are pockets of opportunity to earn tax credits in the state.

For instance, the Manufacturer's Purchase Credit can still earn qualified businesses a state sales tax credit. The key is to proactively develop a plan that works best for you. Our state and local tax experts can help.

Insightful
✓

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To benefit from the insights of our Illinois Opportunity and Compliance Review or to arrange a meeting to discuss Illinois' changing tax law, please contact Susan Nunez at 314.983.1215, snunez@bswllc.com, or Pam Huelsman at 314.983.1392, phuelsman@bswllc.com. Or, for more information, visit www.bswllc.com/state-tax-services-illinois.

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your business

Edison's Opens with a Surge of Electricity: Restaurant, Bowling, Laser Tag, Arcade & Fun

Edison's Entertainment will open in early June to much anticipation in the community. "Eureka, we made it," is the reaction from managing partners Matt McSparin and Terry Rujawitz.

The new entertainment complex features 12 lanes of boutique bowling, a state-of-the-art laser tag arena, 45 game arcade, laser frenzy, restaurant and lounge as well as party rooms that accommodate 20-100 guests.

In the restaurant, Edison's will feature fresh-made creations with a something-for-everyone attitude. They have a diverse menu offering selections ranging from comfort food to our own signature culinary fusions. All selections are invented with careful consideration to the palate and the pocketbook. Although there is no separate name for the restaurant, it will have a sign at the entrance that states "Inventive Eats and Drinks," a logo designed by local graphic designer Tom Grieve of Fizz Creative.

Randy Williams has been hired as the chef and food and beverage director for this unique service model in the restaurant industry. Randy has worked

in a variety of leadership roles in the delivery of quality food and beverage experiences including Lucky Strike (a bowling, restaurant and lounge chain), the hotel industry, and as proprietor of his own restaurant in New Town St. Charles. Joining Randy is Andrew Shea, an Edwardsville native who was formerly trained in Scottsdale, Arizona at Le Cordon Bleu. Shea has to his experience time with Rusty's, Bella Milano and most recently Erato.

Food and beverage selections will also be offered as part of our private party offerings, will be served at the lanes, and can also be enjoyed at our separate concession stand. The concession stand will feature unique items including Chicago-style hot dogs.

For more information on party options and bookings, visit edisonsfun.com or call 618.307.9020 and ask for a party planning representative.



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your business

Northwestern Mutual Hosts Swing Fore Hope



The 6th Annual Swing Fore Hope Golf Tournament to benefit Cancer research is set for June 18, 2012 at Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville. The event is sponsored by Northwestern Mutual in Edwardsville. Members of the 2012 Swing Fore Hope Golf Tournament Committee include (back row left to right) Julie Gilliland, Robin Jaeggi, Randy Uebinger, Kate Sollberger, Jason Baldus, and Donnie Eddy. (front row left to right) Brett Gilliland, Roger Lewis and Tracy Lewis. For information visit www.swingforehope.org or call Robin Jaeggi at 618.659.5138.

BIN 51 Hosting Fundraiser to Support EAC

Join BIN51, Cleavland-Heath, Sacred Grounds and the Edwardsville Arts Center (EAC) board of directors for a wine tasting and silent auction to support the mission of the Edwardsville Arts Center. Brian Kuchta is organizing BIN 51's top distributors with their best wines to taste and purchase. Cleveland-Heath will provide amazing appetizers, and Sacred Grounds Café will provide sweet treats. A silent auction of donated items including artwork by local artists will be available for bid.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting BIN51, The EAC gallery on the campus of Edwardsville High School, or through EAC board members. You can also purchase



tickets online at eacbouquetdart.eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$30 per person. The event is Wednesday, June 27 from 6–9 pm at BIN 51 in Edwardsville. Thanks to Joseph E. Meyer and associates, the party will take place in an available unit next door to BIN51 at the Plaza on the Park. For more information call the Edwardsville Arts Center at 618.655.0337.

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Brian Talley Promoted to President

Talley Broadcasting Corporation, which owns and operates radio stations WSMI, WSMI-FM and WAOX, has announced the election of Brian Talley to president of the firm. He has been employed by the stations for more than 30 years. While working at the stations, Talley has been employed in the positions of operations manager and chief engineer, which he has held for many years. He will retain these positions in addition to his new responsibilities. Talley is a graduate of Murray State University with a major in broadcasting, a minor in business and additional studies in electronics. He is the secretary-treasurer of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers and will represent the stations in the National Association of Broadcasters and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. Talley resides in Hillsboro with his wife Lea Ann, son Chandler and daughter Anna.



MM&R Sponsors High School Sculpture in the City



ABOVE: Pat Mathis, shareholder of Mathis, Marifan & Richter, Ltd., Patty Gregory, director of Belleville's Art on the Square, and Belleville East junior Hanna Jolani at the unveiling ceremony at Art on the Square's VIP Reception. RIGHT: Jolani's sculpture, titled 'Omeed,' (Persian for 'Hope').



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Route 66 Festival Returns with Full Schedule of New & Returning Events: Dr. Zhivegas to Close the Festival

It's that time of year again when families and friends gather at City Park in downtown Edwardsville for the annual Edwardsville Route 66 Festival, being held this year Friday, June 8 & Saturday, June 9. New this year is a kick-off Sock Hop event held the night prior to the opening of the festival at Crystal Garden Banquet and Event Center on Thursday, June 7 at 7pm. Promising great classic diner fixings, a DJ spinning 'oldies' and contests for best costume, best dancer(s) and more, guys and gals can take a step back in time and enjoy a fun evening of dancing, drinks and great food. Tickets for the sock hop are \$10 and available at the door or by calling Edwardsville Parks & Recreation at 618.692.7538.

Friday, June 8 the festival will begin in City Park with food, beverages, art vendors, historic tents and the children's area open for boundless fun. Live music on Friday night will be provided by the popular bands Facts O'Life at 6:30pm and SH-BOOM at 9pm. Saturday will be a full day of activities to include the same features as Friday night but also a 10k run, trolley tours, talent show, car show at Lincoln Middle School parking lot and the classic car cruise. Live music will be provided by Love Me, Leave Me at 2:30pm, Mellow D's at 4pm, Non Stop Rock at 6:30pm and headliner Dr. Zhivegas at 9pm. The festival will close Saturday at 11:30pm.

According to Katie Grable of the City of Edwardsville's Parks and Recreation Department, "The annual Route 66 Festival has long been a showcase event for the City of Edwardsville. Not only do we get to celebrate the Mother Road and all its glory, but we also get to show off our community's outstanding support for family-oriented events and the many talents of our local vendors and residents."

2012 sponsors include Mother Road sponsors, Phillips 66 & Cork Tree Creative. Other sponsors include Hot Rod Sponsors: TheBANK of Edwardsville, Scott Credit Union, First Clover Leaf Bank, Edwardsville Intelligencer, Gori Julian & Associates, P.C., Madison Mutual Insurance Company, Edwardsville Rotary Club, Crystal Garden Banquet and Event Center and Cassens Transport Company. Roadster Sponsors include: Mojo's Music, Allied Waste, Alvareita's College of Cosmetology, The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth, Goshen Coffee Company, Caulk's Collision Center, Traveling Tails Inn and BJ's Printables. This years Fastback sponsors include: JF Electric, Patriot Sunrooms East, LLC, Anderson Hospital, edglenfamilies.org, Abstracts & Titles and RP Lumber/Prudential One Realty Center. Reliance Bank and Hortica Insurance and Employee Benefits are Festival Enthusiasts.

For a full schedule of events, go to www.edwardsvillerroute66.com



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Troop 722 Delivers Baskets to Anderson



Junior Girl Scout Troop 722 of Edwardsville recently made a special delivery to Anderson Hospital – more than 40 gift baskets created especially for new moms! The gift packages, a project to earn their Bronze Service Award, are made up of all types of important items for mom and new baby. Troop 722, comprised of fifth graders from various schools in Edwardsville, wrote letters to manufacturers, held donation drives, and raised money to fund the project. The troop presented the baskets to Pavilion for Women Director Karen Simpson, RN, MSN and Pavilion for Women Social Services staff, Kristen Elder, MSW. The baskets are intended for those families in need who may not be able to afford such important items.

Wildey to Host The Sound of Music June 14

Sing along to Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Sound of Music* and see this classic film as you've never seen it before at the Wildey Theatre Thursday, June 14 at 7pm. Escape to the Alps and join us for an evening of food, drinks, trivia, singing, booing the Nazis and plenty of general ballyhoo. All proceeds go to the Wildey Theatre! Come early at 6:15pm for Trivia, 'Tea with Jam & Bread,' and awesome prizes. Tickets are \$15 for adults at \$10 for students (high school & younger) at www.wildeytheatre.com.

G.L.E.N. Committee Seeks Nominations

G.L.E.N. AWARDS will be presented to Glen Carbon residents, civic/neighborhood groups, and business owners who have made the village more attractive by enhancing the beauty of their properties through gardening/landscaping. Property owners or others can make nominations. Nomination forms can be found in the Village Clerk folder within the Document Center at www.glen-carbon.il.us.

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First Clover Leaf Bank Donates \$10,500 to Junior Service Club's Boundless Playground Project

The Junior Service Club of Edwardsville/Glen Carbon has received a \$10,500 donation from First Clover Leaf Bank towards their Boundless Playground Project. The community bank recently held a 5K run and health fair event in which all proceeds were donated to the playground project. The playground, which will be located in Edwardsville's Township Park is slated for a community build in late summer as the service group has already raised close to \$330,000 towards the project and continues to quickly approach its \$400,000 fundraising goal. Over the past three years, funds have been raised through donations from various individuals, groups and local businesses as well as grants that have been awarded and fundraisers put on by the Club.

"We're truly ecstatic that First Clover Leaf Bank has taken us under their wing so to speak. With the funds they've given from this year and last year, we can tell they want this playground as much as we do," states Christie Lampe, President of the Junior Service Club and co-chair of the Boundless Playground Project. "It's amazing to see such support from our community, local businesses and our community leaders. We're so close to our goal that

we can finally see the end in sight. It's really exciting and it's with special thanks to local businesses such as First Clover Leaf Bank. Pam and her team just simply worked their hearts out!"



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Express Employment Professionals Earns Staffing Award

Express Employment Professionals, one of the largest privately-held staffing firms, was named a Best Staffing Firms to Work For finalist for the second consecutive year by the Staffing Industry Analysts.

"I'm humbled and thrilled that Express was rated so highly again by the people who make our company so great," said Marc Voegelé, owner of the local Express Employment office. "Our employees are the backbone of our company, and their support and knowledge have helped our franchisees be successful for nearly 30 years."

More than 140 companies participated in the survey of their employees conducted by independent research firm, Quantum Workplace. Staffing Industry Review sponsored the survey and announced the results at the recent Staffing Industry Analysts Executive Forum, held in Las Vegas.

Other notable honors for Express in 2012 included being named by Entrepreneur Magazine as the number one staffing franchise in its Franchise 500 rankings, making Inavero's 2012 Best of Staffing™ Client List for the third straight year, and being named a World Class Franchisor for the seventh straight year by Franchise Research Institute.

The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2006 and serves the entire Metro East area with full time, temporary, and direct hire employees in a variety of fields including administrative, sales, financial, professional, light industrial, and skilled craftsmen.

Worldwide, Express Employment Professionals put 335,000 people to work in 2011 and has more than 550 offices in three countries. Express provides expertise in evaluation hire, temporary staffing, professional search and human resources and works across a wide variety of industries. Temporary sales for the international staffing franchise company totaled more than \$2.1 billion in 2011.

The Edwardsville office, located at 20 Junction Drive West, in Glen Carbon, is currently accepting applications. For more information, call 618.288.8011 or visit www.expressmetroeast.com.



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Ask the Expert

by Mandy Darr, owner & travel counselor of Wishes Travel Boutique

Why Use a Travel Agent?

With all the online travel consolidators and booking engines, it is easy to assume travel agents have outlived their usefulness. But travel agents do so much more than book vacations. In fact, many agencies, including Wishes Travel Boutique, provide booking and other invaluable services at no additional cost to clients. Got your attention? Here are just a few benefits that only your travel agent can provide:



1. Professional Advice. Travel agents are there to make sure you get the travel experience you want—minus the surprises and disappointments.

2. Customer Advocacy. If you have a problem with any part of your travel experience, we are there to act on your behalf and quickly resolve any issues before, during or after your trip.

3. Expert Guidance. Years of experience mean we understand and can decipher the myriad of travel information and codes which are prolific in the industry. It's what we are trained to do!

4. Personalized Service. Instead of an impersonal voice or web page, we get to know you and understand your needs and travel preferences.

5. Save Time. Instead of searching a long list of travel web pages—which may or may not provide complete or accurate information—let us cut through the clutter with cutting-edge tools that will save you hours in front of a computer screen.

6. Unbiased Information. We work for you, our client, not for travel suppliers. We want to make your experience exceptional from beginning to end.

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Ask the Expert

by Anthony Cygne, owner of Madison County Computer & LAN Services

Practical Advice on Buying a Computer

Are you in the market for a new computer? Are you looking for a productive system with great performance? Vendors like to sell you on the CPU. For most workstations the CPU is a minor factor on the computer system. Overall speed and enjoyable experience will have very little to do with the CPU. Running a Web browser and office suite will only tax the CPU for a short time while the application is loading. If you watched a CPU monitor while doing your usual work you would see few spikes of activity with an excessive amount of idle time.

From reading the data from the hard drive, loading it into RAM and processing the data to be displayed on the monitor, the hard drive is the slowest component in the chain of computing. If buying a replacement drive or building a system from scratch, you can choose a drive with higher rotation speeds or more cache, and Solid State Drives (SSD) are the fastest drives available, but usually when buying pre-built systems from a vendor like Dell there isn't much you can do about it. Pre-built systems come with ridiculously huge hard drives for business workstations. Office documents, PDFs and most work related data doesn't take up much space on the hard drive. Unless you do lots of multimedia work you simply will never need a

huge drive. Choose a smaller drive and spend the money on more RAM.

RAM is random access memory, or just memory. The number one reason a computer feels slow is a lack of RAM, which forces the computer to use the hard drive for virtual memory – hundreds of times slower than RAM. This is called swapping. The less RAM a system has, the more it needs to swap. The more it swaps, the slower the overall performance of the system. With more RAM the system will perform better, multi task more, and swap less. Programs will load faster, the hard drive will work less, and life expectancy of the computer will increase. Some computer shoppers skimp on RAM expecting to upgrade later, but they rarely ever do. To get the best performance, productivity and longevity out of your system get as much memory as possible.

Getting work done isn't always about speed. A productive, comfortable and enjoyable work experience can be achieved with a nice monitor. A monitor capable of displaying a clean resolution at a comfortable distance is a very important feature on any system. And multi-tasking require multiple windows open at a time. This is easier to achieve with a nice big monitor, or multiple monitors.



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