

December 2014



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

**It's everyone's business.**

# Common Ground



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**January 30**

**11:30am-1pm**

*N.O. Nelson Leclair Room*

Enjoy a business casual lunch and learn what the  
Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for 2015.

Volunteer, Ambassador & Young Professional of the Year awards will be presented.

*Business focused. Community centered.*

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# connect

## 2014 Executive Committee

**Emily Gates**, Chair  
Individual Member  
**Cathy Hamilton**, Vice Chair  
BARBERMurphy Group  
**Sam Guarino**, Vice Chair  
Bella Milano Restaurants  
**Paul Millard**, Immediate Past Chair  
TheBANK of Edwardsville  
**Josh Lowe**, Treasurer  
West & Company, LLC  
**Philip Lading**, Legal Counsel  
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C.

## 2014 Directors

**Danell Brown**  
Marcel Brown Technology Services  
**Christine Craine**  
Horlica Insurance & Employee Benefits  
**Elizabeth Heil**  
The Scheffel Companies  
**Gary Hoggatt, Jr.**  
1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
**Lisa Klaustermeier**  
Anderson Hospital  
**Nicole Kline**  
Extra Help, Inc.  
**Skip Sponeman**  
Walmart of Glen Carbon  
**David Toby**  
FCB Edwardsville Bank  
**Dave Viox**  
AAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

## Guiding Principles

Chambers of Commerce honor and respect **capitalism** and **well-informed private sector job creators** as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through **education, business advocacy** and **leadership**.

## 2014 Ambassadors

**Lisa Allen**, AAdvantage Insurance Group  
**Candice Arana**, Hospice of Southern IL  
**Tina Barnard**, Individual Member  
**Rachel Case**, Peel Wood Fired Pizza  
**Dr. Eric Dixon**, SPORTCHIRO+  
**Brian Douglas**, ONEWAY Construction  
**Jacob Funk**, Better Health & Performance Chiropractic  
**Natalie Head**, Anderson Hospital  
**Adam Hughes**, Reliance Bank\*  
**Marc Kamp**, First Clover Leaf Bank  
**Amanda Linton**, Northwestern Mutual

## Chamber Staff

**Desirée Bennyhoff**  
President & CEO  
ceo@edglenchamber.com

**Kathy Hentz**  
Administrative Assistant  
khentz@edglenchamber.com

**Kerry Smith**  
Membership Director  
membership@edglenchamber.com

## Vision

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will be the preferred provider of watch-dog, education and advocacy services that form a mission-critical catalyst for business success.

## Mission

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

## on the cover

### 2015 Membership Meeting & Luncheon

Learn what your chamber of commerce has planned for 2015 at the 5th Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon, scheduled for **11:30am-1pm Friday, January 30** in the Leclair Room on the N.O. Nelson campus of Lewis and Clark Community College.

In 2013, Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce leadership had the great pleasure of working with retired businessman **Robert McClellan** to craft a **new strategic plan**, which included adopting new **mission** and **vision** statements, **guiding principles**, and core values. 2015 will be an exciting second year of implementing strategic change and continued progress for the Ed/Glen Chamber, and we hope you will attend the Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon to help us kick off 2015 with the unveiling of our annual plan of work.

**Ambassador of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Young Professional of the Year** awards will be announced at the luncheon, and retiring board of directors members and ambassadors will be recognized.

This business casual luncheon is an opportunity for members to become familiar with the Ed/Glen Chamber's 2015 menu of services and learn about the many ways to get involved. The cost is \$25 per person. RSVP via the event calendar at [www.edglenchamber.com](http://www.edglenchamber.com), or call 618.656.7600.

## Holiday Bill Blues?

Transfer your balance to a GCS Visa Rewards credit card from a non-GCS card and receive 4.99% APR for the life of the transfer amount!\*



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**Carol Johnson**, Visions by Carol Photography  
**Magnum the Facility Dog**, Hospice of Southern IL  
**Amanda Majewski**, Extra Help, Inc.  
**Mark Muckensturm**, MRCT Benefits Plus  
**Rebecca Obermark**, West & Company, LLC  
**Rob Pickerell** \*  
**Jennifer Riebold**, Scott Credit Union  
**Sara Sanderson**, Dimond Bros. Insurance  
**Lauren Smith**, TheBANK of Edwardsville  
**Heather Whitten**, Walgreens  
\* denotes committee co-chairs

# special investors

## Gold Level

Anderson Hospital  
Gateway Regional Medical Center  
Walmart of Glen Carbon

## Silver Level

Ameren Illinois Utilities  
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits  
Meridian Village  
Sam's Club 4878  
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC  
Scott Credit Union  
TheBANK of Edwardsville  
Walgreens

## Bronze Level

1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar  
Cassens & Sons  
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255  
Charter Business  
Doubletree Hotel Collinsville  
Eden Village Retirement Community  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
First Clover Leaf Bank  
Gori Julian Associates, PC  
Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company  
Juneau Associates Inc., P.C.  
Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc.  
Madison Mutual Insurance Company  
Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD  
Mike Shannon's Grill Edwardsville, LLC  
R. P. Lumber Company, Inc.  
Robert 'Chick' Fritz, Inc.  
Stur Restaurant  
USA Mortgage Financial Group  
Visionary Wealth Advisors  
Volkert, Inc.  
West & Company, LLC

## Premier Level

1818 Chophouse  
ABRA Auto Body & Glass  
Abstracts & Titles Inc.  
Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots  
American Family Insurance  
Answer Direct  
APG Pain Management/Physical Therapy  
Ashley Furniture Home Store  
Associated Pediatric Dentistry, LTD  
Assurance Brokers, Ltd.  
Bard & Didriksen Pediatrics, PC  
Bauer Hite Orthodontic Specialists  
Baugher Financial & Associates, Inc.  
Bella Milano Edwardsville  
Big Daddy's Edwardsville  
Brain Balance Achievement Centers  
Brickman Orthodontics  
Bruckert, Gruenke & Long PC  
Cassens Transport  
Caulk's Collision & Towing  
Chava's Mexican Restaurant  
Chef's Shoppe  
Cleveland-Heath  
Comfort Inn  
Commerce Bank  
CompuType, Inc.  
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.  
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.  
Culver's of Edwardsville  
Days Inn

Denny's  
Dimond Bros. Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Donnewald Distributing  
Edison's Entertainment Complex  
Edwardsville Pet Hospital  
Extra Help, Inc.  
FCB Edwardsville Bank  
First Community Credit Union  
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust  
First National Bank - Maryville  
Gateway Center  
Gateway Grizzlies  
Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company  
Glik's Department Store  
Goddard School  
Granny 8 Mortgage  
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Harvey H. Breckner, DMD, MS  
Hawkins Law Office, P.C.  
Hawthorne Animal Hospital, LTD  
Highland Recycling & Shredding  
Holiday Inn Alton  
Holiday Inn Express  
Imo's Pizza  
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Jan's Hallmark Shop  
Jani King of St. Louis  
Kitchenland  
Lindenwood University  
M. Thompson & Company PC  
Magnuson Camelot Hotel  
Market Basket  
Mattea Construction, LLC  
Midwest Occupational Medicine  
Minuteman Press  
National Bank  
Network Specialists, LLC  
Northwestern Mutual  
Office Depot  
ONEWAY Construction  
Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza  
Phone Masters  
RE/MAX Alliance  
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers  
Reed, Armstrong, Gorman, Mudge, Morrissey, PC  
Regions Bank  
Richards Brick Company  
Robust Edwardsville  
Royal Office Products, Inc.  
Royal Solutions, LLC  
Scheffel Companies  
Schnucks Market, Inc.  
Sivia Business & Legal Services, PC  
Sleep Inn & Suites  
South Side's All-Star Collision Center  
Southern IL Underwriters Agency, Inc.  
Sugo's Spaghetteria  
Sunset Hills Country Club  
Sunset Hills Family Dental  
Super 8 Motel  
TheEDGEBANK  
Tiger Plumbing, Heating & Air  
Conditioning Services  
US Bank  
Vision For Life  
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage  
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill

# events

**12/24 & 25**

**Wednesday/Thursday**  
Ed/Glen Chamber Office  
Closed for Christmas Holiday

**1/1**

**Thursday**  
Ed/Glen Chamber Office  
Closed for New Year's Day

# save the date

**1/7 Wednesday 8-9am**

Chamber 101:  
Member Orientation  
Ed/Glen Chamber Office  
200 University Park Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
*RSVP Online*

**1/12 Monday 4pm**

Ribbon Cutting  
Batteries Plus Bulbs  
3577 South IL Route 159  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

**1/13 Tuesday 12-1pm**

networking@noon  
Edison's Entertainment Complex  
2477 South IL Route 157  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
*RSVP Online*

**1/13 Tuesday 4pm**

Ribbon Cutting  
A Wildflower Shop, Inc.  
2131 South IL Route 157  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**1/15 Thursday 5-7pm**

Business After Hours  
Hosted by Robust Wine Bar &  
Edwardsville Neighbors In Need  
126 North Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62026

**1/21 Wednesday 4pm**

Ribbon Cutting  
Stillwater Senior Living  
1121 University Drive, Suite B  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**1/27 Tuesday 4pm**

Ribbon Cutting  
Love's Travel Stops  
9191 IL Route 140  
Hamel, IL 62046

**1/30 Friday 11:30am-1pm**

Annual Membership  
Meeting & Luncheon  
Leclaire Room @ N.O. Nelson  
600 Troy Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
*RSVP Online*

**2/4 Wednesday 8-9am**

Chamber 101:  
Member Orientation  
Ed/Glen Chamber Office  
200 University Park Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
*RSVP Online*

**2/10 Tuesday 7:15-8am**

Morning B2B Networking  
Brevan's Patisserie  
1009 Century Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
*RSVP Online*

**2/19 Thursday 5-7pm**

Business After Hours  
Stillwater Senior Living  
1121 University Drive, Suite B  
Edwardsville, IL 62026



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## business of the month



R.P. Lumber Co., Inc., a full service retail building materials supplier owned by Robert L. Plummer, is the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce December 2014 Business of the Month.

R.P. Lumber, a favorite among contractors, homeowners and home builders, is well known for its outstanding customer service. It's the BEST SERVICE<sup>SM</sup> that sets R.P. Lumber apart from its competitors.

Plummer was young when first introduced to the lumber industry. "My father owned a small lumberyard in Litchfield, Illinois and I started working at the yard at an early age. In 1977 I quit teaching high school in Hazelwood, Missouri and my wife and I started our first yard on January 17, 1977 in Staunton, Illinois." The Edwardsville location was opened on October 15, 1985.

R.P. Lumber Co., Inc. has grown to 55 locations (48 in Illinois and seven in Missouri). Plummer Companies are involved in residential and commercial development in 14 Illinois communities and also lease residential and commercial properties. Plummer Companies are also involved in real estate sales with the ownership of two Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Elite Property real estate offices and ten hotels in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Plummer Companies own and lease apartment complexes, shopping centers, warehouses, professional office buildings and storage complexes. They have developed thousands of acres of property residentially and commercially.

Plummer is passionate about business. "I have always liked the challenge of selling and buying," he said. That passion is evidenced through the tremendous growth and overall success of the Plummer Companies. In 2015, growth is expected in both the number of lumberyards and facets of the Plummer Companies.

R.P. Lumber Co., Inc. has been an Ed/Glen Chamber member for nearly 25 years. "Chamber membership creates fellowship and networking opportunities with other business in our community," said Plummer.



Robert L. Plummer's community involvement includes: First Baptist Church of Maryville, Chairman of the Board of TheBANK of Edwardsville, The Alliance of Edwardsville & Glen Carbon Executive Council, Director of Illinois Lumber & Materials Dealers Association, Foundation Board of the Edwardsville Y.M.C.A., Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Foundation Board, Board of Directors of Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation Board, Regional Business Council, Board of Directors of Barnes Jewish Christian Hospital Group, and Chairman of the Board of Christian Hospital Northeast Northwest.

R.P. Lumber supports numerous charities and civic organizations and strives to be a steward of the community by providing well-paying jobs with great benefits and stability plus a safe and clean work environment.

"We provide our employees a quality health insurance program, 401k opportunities and other incentives. R.P. Lumber constantly promotes from within and provides our employees with promotion and growth opportunities," said Plummer.

### R.P. Lumber Co., Inc. mantras:

- 'It Never Hurts To Be Nice'
- 'On Time Is Late Time, RP Time'
- 'You Are Judged By The Company You Keep'

To learn more about R.P. Lumber Co., Inc., visit the store at 514 East Vandalia Street in Edwardsville, call 618.656.1514, or go to [www.rplumber.com](http://www.rplumber.com).





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# connect

## the newly connected

### **Ark Animal Hospital**

Sarah Smith  
*Premier Animal Hospital Providing  
Veterinary Services To Canine &  
Feline Family Members*  
6718 Goshen Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618.207.4000  
[www.arkpetvet.net](http://www.arkpetvet.net)

### **A Wildflower Shop, Inc.**

Deborah Orofino  
*Floral Design*  
2131 South IL Route 157  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618.772.3850  
[www.awildflowershop.com](http://www.awildflowershop.com)

### **Caryn Mefford**

*Individual Member*  
129 Forest Grove Drive  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034  
618.410.7806

### **CertaPro Painters**

Tim & Sherry Keith  
*House Painting*  
17 Junction Drive, Suite 236  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034  
618.616.0057  
[madisoncounty-northcounty.certapro.com](http://madisoncounty-northcounty.certapro.com)

### **Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill**

Harry Parker  
*Cajun/Seafood Restaurant*  
215 Harvard Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618.590.9106  
[www.gulfshoresrestaurantandgrill.com](http://www.gulfshoresrestaurantandgrill.com)

We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of December. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

## 50+ YEARS

**Buhrmester Paint & Wallpaper Inc.**

## 20-29 YEARS

**Center Grove Presbyterian Church**

## 10-19 YEARS

**Flanigan Law Office  
Grand Rental Station  
Slagle Financial**

**Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church  
Lewis & Clark Boy Scouts of America  
Edwardsville Arts Center**

## 5-9 YEARS

**Ed/Glen Habitat for Humanity  
Hurford Architects, Inc.  
Franzen Wealth Strategies, LLC  
Joseph E. Meyer & Associates**

**Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company  
Madison County Child Advocacy Center  
St. John's Community Care**

## 1-4 YEARS

**Sears Optical  
Shup Insurance Agency - Farmers Insurance**

**Jani King of St. Louis  
Watts Copy Systems**



# **schmooze**

## **business after hours**



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Hospice of Southern Illinois, November 20



# ribbon cuttings



Stur Restaurant, November 12



White Birch Interiors & Home Accents, November 13



Restore Decor, November 17



State Farm Dustin DeFranco, November 19

## 5 Ways to See Your Business in *Common Ground*

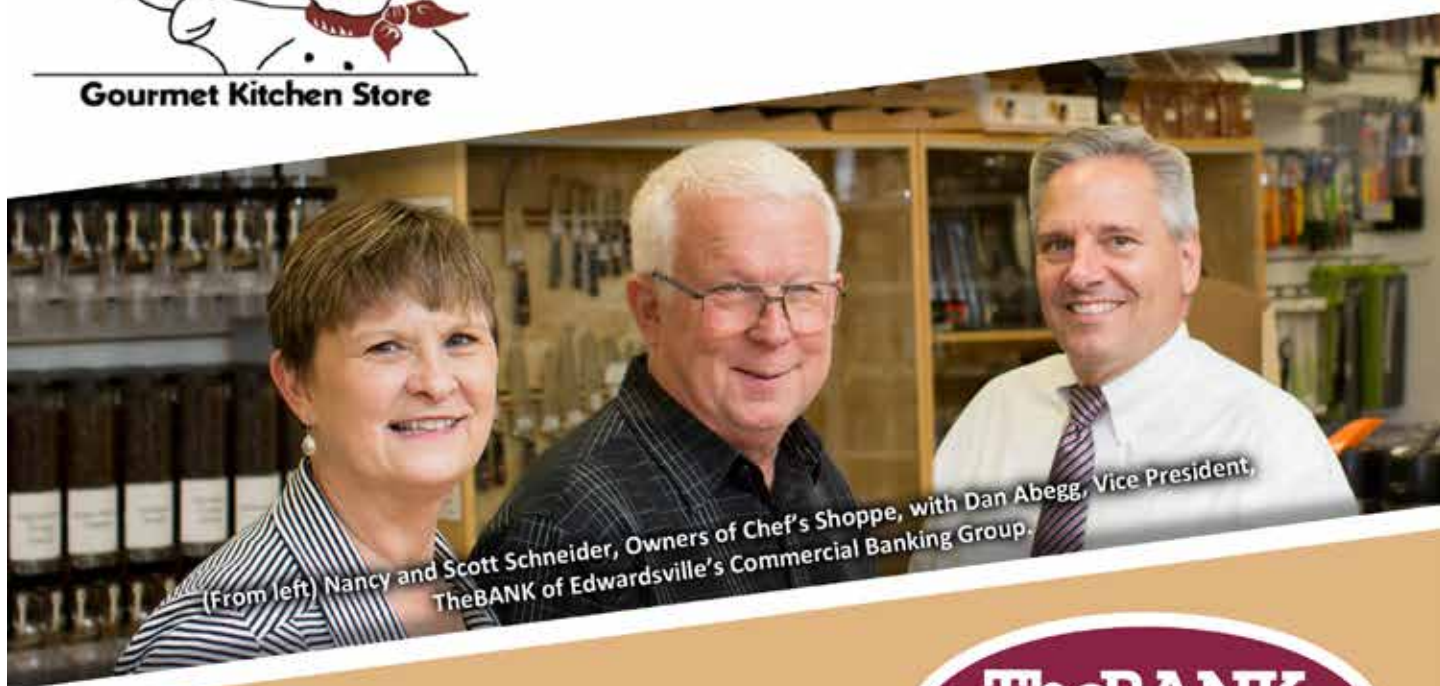
- 1 Purchase Advertising
- 2 Write an "Ask the Expert" Column
- 3 Submit an Announcement
- 4 Win Our Business of the Month Award
- 5 Come to Chamber Events!

edoglen  
Chamber of Commerce





Gourmet Kitchen Store



(From left) Nancy and Scott Schneider, Owners of Chef's Shoppe, with Dan Abegg, Vice President, TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group.

## Scott Schneider:

### About TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group



I've been a customer of TheBANK since the early '70s for my personal accounts, but I was using another bank for my business and I was unhappy with them. Dan Abegg and I were working on the Rotary playground project together last year and he suggested we get together to see what he could do to help me. So we met and Dan was able to put together what I needed and what I wanted. TheBANK was able to meet all of my needs and Dan made the process smooth and seamless.

A bank can make or break you when you're a small business owner. So when I was making the switch, it was very important to me to have a relationship with a local bank and not another national chain. The face-to-face interaction and ease of access you get with TheBANK of Edwardsville is very helpful when you're running a business. With more than 460 vendors we acquire merchandise from, a good online banking platform and payment system is also vital. To be able to set up all of my payments ahead of time and have the confidence that those payments will be made on time relieves a lot of stress.

The bottom line is that TheBANK has been great helping me get access to the funds I need and the products and services I want to make my business a success ... and they do it without overcharging me. That's all you can ask for as a small business owner.



Contact us today to find out how we can help you with all your business banking, lending, and investment needs:

**618-659-4590**  
**[www.4thebank.com](http://www.4thebank.com)**



MEMBER FDIC

# your business

## Kinney Earns RMA<sup>SM</sup> Designation

Andrew J. Kinney, a resident of Edwardsville, IL, recently earned the Retirement Management Analyst<sup>SM</sup> (RMA<sup>SM</sup>) designation sponsored by the Retirement Income Industry Association (RIIA). The RMA<sup>SM</sup> designation is a rigorous advanced education retirement planning certification serving the entire financial services industry.



Individuals who earn the RMA<sup>SM</sup> designation are uniquely prepared to deliver retirement income solutions and services to clients who want to ensure secure income streams and ongoing professional management throughout their retirement years. The goal of this designation is to help advisors gain the specialized skills and knowledge they need to help achieve the highest level of success in providing retirement income solutions to their clients.



## GCS Employee Wins Contest, Donates Proceeds

During the month of November, GCS Credit Union male employees had the opportunity to participate in 'No-Shave November' in exchange for a \$20 donation. Fifteen employees participated, raising a total of \$300, which the winning employee donated to a charity of his choice.

To participate the rules were simple, you could not shave during the entire month of November. Each week participants sent an updated photo of their beard's progress.

At the end of the contest, all employees anonymously voted for their favorite beard based on several criteria like fullness, length, and design. Jay Stevens, GCS Credit Union Asset Recovery Manager and winner of 'No-Shave November,' chose to donate the \$300 to the Good Samaritan House in Granite City.



on the  
**edge**  
of the weekend

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# your business

## Hospice of Southern Illinois' Relais Bonne Eau Receives 'Zero Deficiencies' Status from Dept. of Public Health

In November, Hospice of Southern Illinois' Hospice Home, Relais Bonne Eau, received their annual inspection from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Illinois Department of Public Health checks certifications, licenses, sanitation, and care provided. Hospice of Southern Illinois' Hospice Home, Relais Bonne Eau, is proud to announce there were zero deficiencies found by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Developed and designed for individuals and their families needing end-of-life care, Relais Bonne Eau (pronounced relay-bone-o) is the first and only hospice home in southern Illinois. It is located in Edwardsville on 17 gorgeous acres. The home has 16 large rooms, a chapel, a community room, a family room, a dining room and many other amenities of a warm and inviting home. The home also has walking paths, fountains, gardens, and a beautiful pond. Relais Bonne Eau provides a very unique service, pet therapy programs, to help reduce stress and bring joy to the individuals at the home.

Hospice of Southern Illinois is your community not-for-profit hospice program serving 27 counties in southern Illinois since 1981. The organization's

commitment at Hospice of Southern Illinois is to be with patients and their loved ones through the changing needs of the end-of-life process and the grief experience. For more information about Hospice of Southern Illinois or the Hospice Home, Relais Bonne Eau, go to [www.hospice.org](http://www.hospice.org), or contact Christine Litteken at 618.235.1703 or [clitteken@hospice.org](mailto:clitteken@hospice.org).



## Expanded Hours!

**Anderson ExpressCare  
Glen Carbon Location  
Open 8am to 8pm**

(Starting September 7th)

- See a **PHYSICIAN** at ExpressCare
- ExpressCare "Electronic Scripting"  
- your Rx ready for you at your pharmacy
- ExpressCare patients can access their records through the new Anderson Hospital MyHealth Patient Portal

**Anderson Hospital  
ExpressCare - Glen Carbon**

17 Ginger Creek Meadows  
Glen Carbon Illinois 62034

**(618) 656-9777**

**[www.andersonhospital.org](http://www.andersonhospital.org)**



# Scott Credit Union Sponsors 'A Night Out With the Blues' for Scott Air Force Base's 126th Air Refueling Wing

Approximately 100 members of the 126th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) from Scott Air Force Base's Illinois Air National Guard attended the November 11 Military Appreciation St. Louis Blues hockey game free of charge, thanks to the generosity of Scott Credit Union.

Scott Credit Union made an exclusive donation of \$2,500 to the 126th ARW, which allowed about 100 Wing members to attend the game at no cost. In addition to their free ticket, attendees also received a free regular soda and hot dog.

"We realize the sacrifice that our service men and women make every day for all of us," said Scott Credit Union President & CEO Frank Padak. "We were very happy to be able to give something back. This is just a small token of Scott Credit Union's appreciation for what they do for us."

The entire game was set up for the military. The 126th ARW's Honor Guard presented the colors before the game.



"It was impressive to see members of the military recognized at the Blues game," said SCU Community Relations Representative Carol Wylie. "What a tribute to them and their commitment to our freedom and safety. It was an honor to be there for the military appreciation night."

## Publish legal notices in the Record

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## hortica

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**Christine Craine** CIC, CISR  
Account Executive - AARP Specialist

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## Junior Service Club's Boundless Playground in Township Park Awarded Governor's Hometown Cup Award

Edwardsville Township Supervisor Frank Miles recently announced that the Boundless Playground, located in the Robert C. Stille Edwardsville Township Community Park, was awarded the 2014 Governor's Cup at the 32nd Annual Governor's Hometown Awards ceremony held at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. The Governor's Cup recognizes the state's top community volunteer effort.



The Boundless Playground was a signature project of the Junior Service Club of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon, which raised more than \$382,000 from private donations, non-profit organizations, and county grants; secured more than \$63,800 in donated materials and services, and coordinated in excess of 600 community volunteers over the four-year project. The resulting Boundless Playground is the only certified playground that exceeds the

Americans with Disability Act's requirements with more than 80% of play features being accessible to those with disabilities.

"The Junior Service Club worked tirelessly and tremendously to make this project a success," said Supervisor Miles. "They have generously given the community this incredible asset for all to enjoy."

"I want to thank all those who were instrumental in helping the Junior Service Club achieve their goal – all the corporate sponsors, private donors, nonprofit foundations and local governments and officials – who believed in this project and offered their support – the Metro East Parks and Recreation District, the Madison County Park and Recreation Grant Commission, the Clover Leaf Bank Green Team; Mayor Rob Jackstadt and the Village of Glen Carbon, Mayor Hal Patton and the City of Edwardsville. I want to also thank Governor Quinn and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for administering the Governor's Hometown Awards Program and State Senator Bill Haine and State Representative Dwight Kay for their support of the projects application. We are very excited for the Boundless Playground project to receive the statewide recognition it so very much deserves," said Miles.

The Governor's Hometown Award emphasizes citizen involvement in community projects and is awarded to the unit of local government sponsoring the project's application. Recipients are selected by volunteer judges who review and rank applications based on a variety of factors, including local need, volunteer participation, use of resources and the results achieved. The projects are judged within their population categories as well as within their assigned project categories. A reception will be held to celebrate the designation with those who assisted with the project. A date and location is still to be determined.

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