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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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
Phillip Lading, Legal Counsel
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C.

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Marcel Brown Technology Services
Christine Craine
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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.

Chamber Staff
Desirée Bennyhoff
President & CEO
ceo@edglenchamber.com
Kathy Hentz
Administrative Assistant
kentz@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.

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
Condice 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
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

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 Leclaire 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, 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!*
special investors

Gold Level
- Anderson Hospital
- Gateway Regional Medical Center
- Walmart of Glen Carbon

Silver Level
- Ameren Illinois Utilities
- Hortico 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
- Coors & Sons
- Castelli’s Moonlight Restaurant at 255
- Charter Business
- Doubletree Hotel Collinsville
- Eden Village Retirement Community
- Edwardsville Intelligencer
- First Clover Leaf Bank
- Goti Julian Associates, PC
- Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company
- Juneau Associates Inc., PC
- Korte & Lulichan Contractors, Inc.
- Madison Mutual Insurance Company
- Mathis, Maritan & Richter, LTD
- Mike Shannon’s Grill Edwardsville, LLC
- R. P. Lumber Company, Inc.
- Robert ‘Chick’ Fritz, Inc.
- Star 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 Hille Orthodontic Specialists
- Bella Milano Edwardsville
- Big Daddy’s Edwardsville
- Brain Balance Achievement Centers
- Brickman Orthodontics
- Bruckert, Gruenke & Long PC
- Coors & Sons Transport
- Caul’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.
- Donnell 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
- Gerald Moving & Warehousing Company
- Gilks’ Department Store
- Goddard School
- Gronny & 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
- Incredible Events by ’62 Sports Group
- J.F. Electric, Inc.
- Jan’s Hallmark Shop
- John King of St. Louis
- Kitchenland
- Lindenwood University
- M. Thompson & Company PC
- Magnuson Carrelot Hotel
- Market Basket
- Mattie 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.
- Silvo 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

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

1/10 Monday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
Batteries Plus Bulbs
3577 South IL Route 159
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

1/12 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

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

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

Common Ground  December 2014  |  3
Whether you are an individual or a small or large business, comprehensive tax planning and representation is critical. The complexity of federal, state and local tax regulations requires knowledgeable and skilled tax advice. At Mathis, Marfield & Richter, Ltd., our tax attorneys couple years of experience in tax planning and representation of clients before the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities with accounting and advanced tax degrees to maximize tax savings for our clients.

- Tax planning
- Tax compliance matters
- Tax audits, appeals and litigation
- Tax collection matters
- State sales tax audits and appeals
- Criminal tax investigations and litigation
- Estate, gift and fiduciary tax planning
- Real estate tax appeals
- Tax-exempt organizations

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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™ 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.
Extraordinary Experience

There’s something special happening at Christian Hospital. You can find it in the skilled, gentle touch of our caregivers and our commitment to innovation and technology. You can even hear it in our inspiring stories of healing and achievement. We’re using our extraordinary experience to create extraordinary experiences, every day.

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www.awildflowershop.com

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129 Forest Grove Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618.410.7806

CertaPro Painters
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17 Junction Drive, Suite 236
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618.616.0057
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

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
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!
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
Kinney Earns RMA℠ Designation

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

Individuals who earn the RMA℠ 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 criterions 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.
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, or contact Christine Litteken at 618.235.1703 or clitteken@hospice.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.”
End-of-Year Tax Planning…

…Gets Late Early.

It’s not too late to start your 2014 tax planning! Our team can work with you to prepare a tax planning strategy for 2014, maneuvering through new IRS rulings, capital gains and losses, and upcoming Affordable Care Act regulations. End 2014 strong and start 2015 on the right foot!

For a free consultation, please contact Sandy Dowdy, CPA, at 618.307.9290, info@smallbusiness.com, or visit bswsmallbusiness.com.

QuickBooks & Accounting Software
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St. Louis
St. Charles
Glen Carbon, IL
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.
THE 30-MINUTES-OR-LESS
E.R. Service Pledge

at Gateway Regional

Emergency medicine is about three things: compassion, skilled care and speed. You’ll find these at Gateway Regional. The experienced E.R. physicians and the entire team are committed to working diligently to have you initially seen by a clinical professional* within 30 minutes of your arrival. If you need an E.R. fast, try our fast E.R. Once you do, you won’t want to go anywhere else. For more information, visit GatewayRegional.net.

*Clinical professional is defined as a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.