December 2015



It's everyone's business.





Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP MEETING **January 25**

11:30am-1pm

N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room

Enjoy a business casual lunch, celebrate the successes of 2015, and learn what the Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for 2016.

Business focused. Community centered.

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Extra Help, Inc.

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David Toby

FCB Edwardsville Bank

Dave Viox

AAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

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**.

2015 Ambassadors

Breck Ahlers, Extra Help, Inc.
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
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Lauren Smith, TheBANK of Edwardsville
Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Erin Townzen, Brickman Orthodontics
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville

* denotes committee chair

on the cover

2016 Membership Meeting & Luncheon

Learn what your chamber of commerce has planned for 2016 at the 6th Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon, scheduled for 11:30am-1pm Monday, January 25 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 business executive Robert McClellan to craft a new strategic plan, which included adopting new mission and vision statements, guiding principles, and core values. 2016 will be an exciting third 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 2016 with the unveiling of our annual plan of work.

This business casual luncheon is an opportunity for members to become familiar with the Ed/Glen Chamber's 2016 menu of services and learn about the many ways to get involved. See page 5 for additional information.



We proudly announce our new location as of February 1, 2016:

1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025



Edwardsville I Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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

phone: 618.656.7600 fax: 618: 656.7611

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special investors

Gold Level

Anderson Hospital Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level

Ameren Illinois Utilities
AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
Meridian Village
Sam's Club 4878
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville
Walgreens
Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

1st MidAmerica Credit Union Associated Bank Bull & Bear Grill & Bar Cassens & Sons Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255 City of Edwardsville Doubletree by Hilton Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville School District #7
Edwardsville Intelligencer First Clover Leaf Bank Gori Julian & Associates, PC Holland Construction Services, Inc. Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company Juneau Associates Inc., P.C. Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. Love's Travel Stops Madison Mutual Insurance Company Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD Mike Shannon's Grill Edwardsville, LLC R. P. Lumber Company, Inc. Robert 'Chick' Fritz, Inc. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Spectrum Business Stur Restaurant Village of Glen Carbon Volkert, Inc. West & Company, LLC Wirtz Beverage Illinois

Premier Level

1818 Chophouse ABRA Auto Body & Glass Abstracts & Titles Inc. Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots American Family Insurance Annie's Frozen Custard **Answer Direct** APG Pain Mamt & Physical Therapy Ashley Furniture Home Store Associated Pediatric Dentistry, LTD Assurance Brokers, Ltd. Banfield Pet Hospital BARBERVoss Home Care Bard & Didriksen Pediatrics, PC Bauer Hite Orthodontic Specialists Bella Milano Edwardsville Best Western Plus Pontoon Beach 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 Cold Stone Creamery Commerce Bank CompuType, Inc. Contegra Construction Company, LLC Cornerstone Insurance Group

Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc. Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. Culver's of Edwardsville Davs Inn Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC Doc's Smokehouse & Catering Donnewald Distributing Edison's Entertainment Complex Edwardsville Ambulatory Surgery Center Edwardsville Pet Hospital **Envisioning Green** Express Employment Professionals 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 Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill Hampton Inn & Suites Harvey H. Breckner, DMD, MS Hawkins Law Office, P.C. Hawthorne Animal Hospital, LTD Highland Recycling & Shredding Holiday Inn Express Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill IMPACT Strategies, Inc. J.F. Electric, Inc.
J.T. McDermott Remodeling Contractors Jan's Hallmark Shop KinderCare Learning Center Kitchenland Lindenwood University Linder Wood Offiversity
Live' Tanning Salon Spa, Inc.
Louer Facility Planning, Inc. Magnuson Camelot Hotel Market Basket Midwest Occupational Medicine Minuteman Press National Bank Network Specialists, LLC Northwestern Mutual **ONEWAY Construction** Phone Masters Plocher Construction Company, Inc. Quality Inn & Conference Center RE/MAX Alliance Red Robin Gourmet Burgers Reed, Armstrong, Mudge & Morrissey, P.C. Regions Bank Richards Brick Company RiverBender.com/EdGlenToday.com Royal Office Products, Inc. Royal Solutions, LLC Scheffel Boyle Sivia Business & Legal Services, PC South Side's All-Star Collision Center Southern IL Underwriters Agency, Inc. Springfield Electric Supply Company State Farm Insurance - Rick Marteeny StraightUp Solar Sugo's Spaghetteria Sunset Hills Country Club Sunset Hills Family Dental Super 8 Motel TheEDGEBANK Thompson & Lengacher, P.C. Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C, & Electrical University Nursing & Rehab Center US Bank Vision For Life Visionary Wealth Advisors

The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill

save the date

1/6 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

1/12 Tuesday 12-1pm

networking@noon TOPIC: 'Delivering Happiness' Edison's Entertainment Complex 2477 South IL Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

1/14 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting The Bedroom Store 1508 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/21 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5 at Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill w/ Illinois Business Journal 2511 South IL Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/25 Monday 11:30am-1pm

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

1/26 Tuesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting Hot 4 Yoga, LLC 694 East Vandalia Street Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/27 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting Allen Insurance Agency 20 Edwardsville Professional Park Suite B Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/2 Tuesday 7:30-8:45am

ACCELERATE
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Kick-Off Event
Jon Davis Wrestling Center
6168 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

2/9 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Networking Glazy Squares 443 South Buchanan Street Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

2/18 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5 J.F. Electric 100 Lake Front Parkway Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/12 Saturday 5:30pm

Annual Gala & Auction Meridian Ballroom SIUE Morris University Center Edwardsville, IL 62026 RSVP Online

4/7 Thursday 7:30am

Mayors' Legislative Breakfast -State of the City/Village at Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities 1210 North Main Street Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

6/24 Friday 7:30am

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

Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion, and Purpose by Zappos. com, Inc. founder Tony Hsieh is our book for all six of the Ed/Glen Chamber's 2016 networking@noon sessions. This year's theme will detail the art of customer service and is a must for every employee! Hsieh embodies the belief that customer service is the responsibility of the entire company, not just a department. Topical discussions will be facilitated each session, along with a networking activity. Prepare for great insights and lively interaction! Reading the book is not a requirement to participate in n@n!

Ed/Glen Chamber leadership staff has worked diligently to develop a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals tools to improve leadership acumen, hone effective communication skills, expand their network, connect with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community. The 2016 signature kick-off event will be hosted from 7:30-8:45am Tuesday, February 2 at the Jon Davis Wrestling Center in Edwardsville. RSVP is required.

connected the newly connected

Illinois Center for Autism

Cindy Guthrie
Not-for-Profit Educational Agency
548 South Ruby Lane
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618.398.7500

www.illinoiscenterforautism.org

Plocher Construction Company, Inc.

Scott Plocher General Construction 2808 Thole Plocher Road Highland, IL 62249 618.654.9408 www.plocherco.com

Signarama

Shahid Pyarali Sign Shop 4 Club Centre Court, Suite G Edwardsville, IL 62025 618.692.0300 www.signarama-edwardsville.com

The Bedroom Store

Beth Hoechst Retail Furniture & Mattress Store 1508 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025 618.406.7806 www.thebedroomstore.com



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Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP MEETING January 25 11:30am-1pm

N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room

Enjoy a business casual lunch, celebrate the successes of 2015, and learn what the Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for 2016.

Business focused. Community centered.

\$25 Per Person

Business Name	 	
Contact Person		
Business Address		
Business Phone		
Name of Attendee(s)		
Email Address(es)		
I am enclosing a check for \$		

We look forward to a successful 2016!

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

1 North Research Drive

Edwardsville, IL 62025



Dave Viox:

About TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group

I moved into the area in 1989 and didn't know anything about the banking situation. So I started checking around and contacted TheBANK of Edwardsville, and I was pleasantly surprised at how welcoming they were and the way they did business. I was completely sold right from the start.

So when I was looking for new office space for my business, I never even thought about going to any other institution. I was happy to work with TheBANK. I sat down with my commercial banker, Kyle David, and he explained the different programs available for my situation. There were several different options available, and the one we worked out was perfect for what I needed. The entire process was extremely satisfying. Everything was taken care of.

Over the years I've been able to get to know so many good people that work at TheBANK. They're not only great business partners to have, but many are good friends. That's such a big part of being comfortable with your bank. When you know the people you're doing business with - when you know them personally and know that they're quality people - you don't have those questions, wondering if you're going to be treated right.



The People You Know & Trus

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



MEMBER FDIC



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 hanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

50+ YEARS

Buhrmester Paint & Wallpaper Inc.

30-39 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

ABC Mobi Tele Com Trinity Services, Inc. **Batteries Plus Bulbs**

Watts Copy Systems

SAVE THE DATE

2016 Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction

DATE: Saturday, March 12, 2016

LOCATION: SIUE Meridian Ballroom

THEME: Platting the Future

Formal Invitations Coming Soon!



Please reserve	e chamber member places at \$60 each.		
Please reserve	e guest places at \$70 each.		
Business			
Contact			
Address			
Phone	Email		
	ees		
	am enclosing a check for \$		
F	Please invoice me in the amount of \$		
RSVP DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 1			

Rendering Sponsor: \$2,000

Premium seating for eight (8)

Company provided with copy of attendee list

Company recognized from the podium & in PowerPoint presentation Full page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter Social media promotion & recognition on website

Schematic Sponsor: \$1,500

Premium seating for six (6)

Company provided with copy of attendee list

Company recognized from the podium & in PowerPoint presentation

Half page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter

Social media promotion & recognition on website

Blueprint Sponsor: \$1,000

Four (4) complimentary tickets to attend event

Company provided with copy of attendee list

Recognition in PowerPoint presentation & event program

Quarter page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter

Social media promotion & recognition on website

Pencil Sketch Sponsor: \$500

Two (2) complimentary tickets to attend event

Recognition in event program

Eighth page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter

Social media promotion & recognition on website

Concept Sponsor: \$250

Recognition in event program Social media promotion & recognition on website

Spansauchin Eaum

Sponsorship Form		
Business/Organization		
Contact Name		
Address		
Phone		
Email		
We would like to sponsor at the Level at \$		
Please return with check, with check payable to:		
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 phone: 618.656.7600 fax: 618.656.7611		

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 1

schmooze

business after hours



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19



C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC & TheBANK of Edwardsville, November 19

ribbon cuttings



Edwardsville Family Dentist, November 2



YCG Accounting, November 5



St. Louis Confluence Fab Lab (Lewis and Clark Community College), November 5



Edison's Entertainment Complex Party Room, November 16



Edward Jones - Tim Mahnesmith, November 17



Plocher Construction Park Street Plaza Project, November 20

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St. Louis St. Charles Glen Carbon, IL

Gateway Regional Medical Center Nationally Recognized as Top Performer for Fifth Time

Gateway Regional Medical Center has been recognized as a 2014 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States.

Gateway Regional Medical Center was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2015 annual report "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care and immunization. Gateway Regional Medical Center is one of only 1,043 hospitals of more than 3,300 eligible hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2014 Top Performer distinction. Gateway Regional is the only hospital in Illinois to be recognized five consecutive years.

Gateway Regional was recognized in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 for its performance on accountability measure data for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care.

"Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality health care. I commend the efforts of Gateway Regional Medical Center for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions," said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

"We understand what matters most to patients at Gateway Regional is the quality and safety of the care they receive. That is why we have made it a top priority to improve positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes," said Ed Cunningham, CEO of Gateway Regional Medical Center. "We are proud to be named a Top Performer as it recognizes the knowledge, teamwork and dedication of our entire hospital staff."

For more information about the Top Performer program, go to www.jointcommission.org/accreditation/top_performers.aspx.

AN ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT

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GLEN CARBON
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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BJC HealthCare



Bell Community Credit Union Merges with GCS Credit Union

The board of Bell Community Credit Union of Alton recently entered into a merger agreement with GCS Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in the Metro East.

Approval of the merger was granted by the credit union's regulatory agencies, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the National Credit Union Administration. All employees of BCCU have been retained and will continue to serve members through that location.

"BCCU has served their membership well for over 80 years and we are honored to be chosen to continue financial services to the membership of BCCU. We will continue the credit union philosophy of 'people helping people' that has made GCS successful for almost 75 years," Keith Burton, president of GCS Credit Union, said in a statement.

The Bell Community Credit Union is a nonprofit, community-based financial institution established in 1940 originally to serve Illinois Bell Telephone employees from Alton to Cairo, III.

"The merger will bring added benefits to members of both credit unions. Current BCCU members will see expanded products and services while current members of GCS will be able to use the new location in the Alton area. GCS will now have eight Metro East locations," Burton said.

All locations will be under the GCS name.

Founded in 1941 out of a single Granite City branch, GCS Credit Union, with approximately \$309 million in assets, now serves over 41,000 members. Branches can be found in Edwardsville, Granite City, Collinsville, Madison, Pontoon Beach, O'Fallon, and Alton. GCS offers convenient options for checking and savings accounts as well as personal, auto, and home equity loans.

Members can also stay up to date on their finances 24/7 through numerous ATM locations, a telephone audio response system, PCU online banking, and by visiting www.mygcscu.com.



Protecting your lifelong assets and providing security for your legacy is a crucial part of every business owners' well-being. When you turn to a MM&R estate planning attorney, you know you have the most knowledgeable and experienced professionals on your side.

Whether you have a family member with special needs, require assistance in transitioning your family business to the next generation or seek to minimize the potential tax burden to your heirs, we are dedicated to developing and implementing an effective and comprehensive estate plan which provides you with comfort and assurance.

MM&R has proven experience in the administration of every aspect of estate planning, including:

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- Charitable gift planning
- Estate tax planning
- · Post-mortem estate planning
- · Business succession planning
- Buy-sell agreements
- Guardianships
- · Gift planning
- · Probate administration
- · Probate litigation
- Special needs trusts for disabled beneficiaries

Shareholders Patrick B. Mathis George E. Marifian Kevin J. Richter Kevin J. Stine Mark J. Stegman Mark S. Schuver Gregory W. Coffey William J. Niehoff Kelli E. Madigan Bradley W. Small Mary É. Lopinot Deanna L. Litzenburg Philip D. Speicher Laura E. Schrick Sandra J. Tatoian

Associates Beth K. Flowers Natalie T. Lorenz Rebecca K. Wohltman Joseph R. Harvath

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SIUE Club Sports Donates to Anderson Hospital

Students of the Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) Club Sports organization recently presented Anderson Hospital with a donation to benefit the Friends of Hope Breast Center. They chose to donate their profits from the Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirt sale as a philanthropic effort from the organization to help Anderson Hospital increase awareness.

The SIUE Club Sports program oversees 35 student led clubs, comprised of student organizations that provide programs for instruction, recreation or competition in a specific sport or recreational activity.





Juneau Associates Receives Concrete Award

Professional engineering, land surveying and construction management company, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C., has received the Quality Concrete Award from the Concrete Council and American Steel Fabrication for its recent work on the Timberlake Manor Parkway in Chesterfield, MO.

This award recognizes member firms and others who have demonstrated outstanding work related to concrete structures in the St. Louis area. The award was given to Juneau Associates for their efforts to quickly design and prepare plans and specifications to safely replace a 3-span bridge near the Townes Thousand Oak Subdivision without closure. The structure on Timberlake Manor Parkway and the I-64 frontage road is the only access road into the Townes Thousand Oaks Subdivision, making it imperative that the work was done quickly and without having to close the bridge.

Juneau Associates provides professional engineering, land surveying and construction engineering services for public and private clients throughout Illinois and Missouri. The firm is a proud Certified Veteran Owned Business in the State of Illinois. Go to www.jaipc.com to learn more.





New Sports Park Named Plummer Family Park

Right on the heels of the groundbreaking for the City of Edwardsville's new Spray & Play Park, the Edwardsville City Council approved the naming of a new sports park to be developed in Edwardsville – Plummer Family Park.

The sports park is one of three parks that the City of Edwardsville is raising funds to develop as part of its A Better Place to Play campaign. The state-ofthe-art sports park will include multiple soccer, baseball and softball fields, an all-accessible field for those with special needs, pickleball courts, tennis courts, concessions and restrooms. The next steps in the development are to form a focus group to gather community needs for the specified sports listed.

Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton is excited about the new Sports Park. "We are so grateful to the Plummer family for stepping up and helping make the sports park a reality for Edwardsville. We have so many select ball teams and tennis groups in need of recreational space so this will be a big boost to our area."

The two other parks include the Spray & Play Park and an Ice Hockey Rink/ Teen Center. Officials broke ground recently on the Spray & Play Park, which is expected to open Memorial Day 2016. The Spray & Play Park will also include a walking/fitness track for all ages, shade structures, pavilions and restrooms/changing stations. The Ice Hockey Rink/Teen Center will offer an indoor walking track, concessions, and a lounge area for home athletes and visiting teams to enjoy while using the facility. The Ice Rink/Teen Center, when funded, will be located off of Governor's Parkway on EDUSD #7 arounds.

Mayor Patton indicated that grant funding and sponsorships will make up a large percentage of the funds used to build the area parks, however area residents are being encouraged to make contributions to the projects by donating through the campaign website, either with lump sum donations or a pledge option. The campaign website is www.betterplacetoplay.com.

For more information on major gifts, please contact Edwardsville Community Foundation at 855.464.3223 or make a donation online at www.edwardsvillecommunityfoundation.org. Donations may be mailed to Edwardsville Community Foundation to P.O. Box 102, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Please make a notation on your check that the funds are to be applied to the "A Better Place to Play" campaign. If you wish to support a specific parks project, please also notate the designated park with your donation.

ECF Honors Community Leaders & Organizations

Edwardsville Community Foundation (ECF) recently held its First Annual Legacy Awards. The Legacy Awards event honored those who have impacted the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community through extraordinary contributions in giving and philanthropy. Awards presented included the Philanthropic Business of the Year and Philanthropist of the Year. In addition, three local nonprofits were recognized for their extraordinary work in the community.

The prestigious Philanthropist of the Year Legacy Award, which honors a lifetime philanthropist, was presented to Charles Al Wentz. Wentz is personally responsible for helping hundreds of youth receive college or vocational education. "The Legacy Awards was an opportunity for the Edwardsville Community Foundation and our community partners to recognize those individuals and organizations that give so much to make our local communities better," stated Patty Navin, Chairman of the ECF. "We are honored to have presented Al Wentz with the first annual Philanthropist of the Year Legacy Award and look forward to honoring other influential individuals in the future."

The Philanthropic Business of the Year award was presented to TheBANK of Edwardsville. The BANK of Edwardsville is a great supporter of local civic, charitable and education programs. The BANK's philanthropic mission has been ingrained in their culture since Bob Wetzel, their longest serving president, was hired. All subsequent presidents, including current president Kevin Powers, have embodied this same spirit and encourage giving back as part of TheBANK's philosophy.

The night continued with the recognition of three special nonprofit organizations and their volunteers. Each of these groups, created by local citizens, work every day to address a cause and find a solution. The organizations recognized include Twigs, founded in 2011 in Granite City by Lisa Guilliams; Edwardsville Neighbors in Need, founded in 2010 by Chad and Kathie Opel; and Allison's Hope, founded by the Cassens family in 2004 in honor of Allison Cassens, whose final wish was to raise money for cancer research.

Edwardsville Community Foundation was established as an organization through which donors could directly impact the quality of life in local communities. Today, ECF receives, manages and distributes tax-deductible charitable contributions for the benefit of the residents living in the local communities as defined by the EDUSD #7. Since its inception in 1997, The Edwardsville Community Foundation has distributed more than \$5.4 million to charitable causes, scholarships and grants.

gov. affairs

Illinois Chamber of Commerce President's Message: FAST Act and Ex-Im Bank

This article was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a 'Message From the President' email December 14, 2015.

In early December, the U.S. Congress passed some very necessary legislation. This legislation established five years of transportation investment with federal dollars while reauthorizing the Export-Import (Exlm) bank. In both of these instances, efforts by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and our members have proven successful.



Earlier this year we joined more than

40 state business associations from across the country by signing a joint letter to Congress stressing the need of a strong, multi-year surface transportation authorization. In Illinois, allies including the Transportation for Illinois Coalition worked to educate our congressional delegation and their constituents about the importance of a federal authorization.

Last spring, Ingredion, Inc., an Illinois food ingredient company, testified before a U.S. Senate committee on how important a strong transportation network is for it to succeed. Language included in this legislation will help Illinois invest in the transportation networks that drive our economy, including strong freight provisions that can help us complete the CREATE Program and invest in transit across the state. Companies such as Ingredion that rely on a sound transportation network now have some stability to plan for the future instead of worrying about short term authorizations and delays in improvements.

The legislation also reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank, an 81-year old entity that allows financing for American companies to compete with foreign competitors in primarily emerging markets.

The Chamber's International Business Council (IBC) hosted several events throughout the year showcasing Illinois Chamber members such as W.S. Darley & Co., which builds firetrucks, that have grown because of the Ex-Im Bank. While the opposition to reauthorization the Ex-Im Bank was driven by focusing on the large companies that use it, 118 of the 149 businesses that benefit from the Bank here in Illinois are small businesses.

An op-ed jointly written by Paul Darley, the company CEO, and the IBC executive director, published in Crain's Chicago Business in September, highlighted that without this authorization, Illinois companies are at a distinct disadvantage to any of the 78 foreign versions of the Ex-Im Bank across the world. With the renewed authorization, Illinois companies can once again compete on a level playing field in international markets.

Members of Illinois' congressional delegation also need to be recognized for their efforts. The delegation overwhelmingly supported the final legislation and we cannot thank them enough. Sen. Dick Durbin, and Reps. Dan Lipinski and Darin LaHood all served on the final committee that negotiated passage of this legislation and are to be commended for their work.

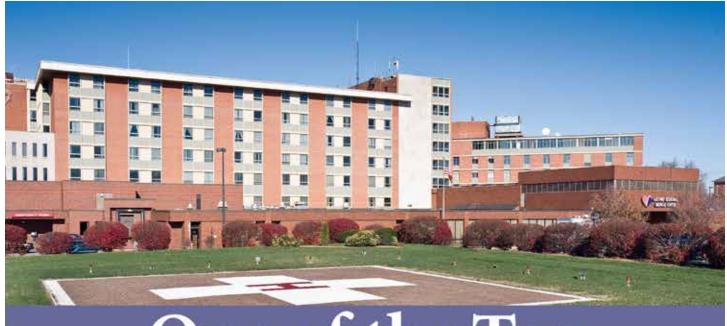
The inclusion of Ex-Im would not have been possible without the leadership of Sen. Mark Kirk, and Reps. Adam Kinzinger and Bob Dold. Sen. Kirk was instrumental in moving language in the Senate while Reps. Kinzinger and Dold were early signatories to a discharge petition that allowed Ex-Im legislation to be considered on the House floor.

These are important victories but more needs to be done. There are trade agreements coming before Congress that need to be passed to open even more markets to Illinois businesses. While the federal transportation authorization does a lot, Illinois will need to step up with a state capital bill to ensure we maximize investment

For now, Illinois businesses can rest easy knowing that their efforts and work with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce have resulted in two very hard-fought victories.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce





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