

July 2016



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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RESTAURANT WEEK SEPTEMBER 16-25, 2016 facebook.com/EdGlenRestaurantWeek

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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**.

2016 Ambassadors

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Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville

* denotes committee chair

on the cover

SAVOR: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Restaurant Week – September 16–25

SAVOR 2016 is Edwardsville/Glen Carbon's very first restaurant week. It is a salute to our community's restaurateurs, cuisine and diners, and a celebration of the cuisine that makes our region a culinary hot spot. The week, running from September 16–25, features a special opportunity for diners to visit old favorites and also try the many new restaurants that have opened in our market. Specially priced lunch and dinner menus are offered for fixed prices.

All restaurants that are members of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce and are able to offer a value-driven menu are welcomed to join in for just \$89. Participating restaurants will also provide two \$25 gift certificates to be used as prize giveaways.

The chamber's goal is to further brand our market as a dining destination, promote our dining establishments, and increase trips and transactions. The chamber will provide participating restaurants with a messaging template so that they may appropriately market their participation in the program. The chamber has worked with local and regional media outlets, including Feast and Sauce, to secure press coverage.

See page 9 of this publication for the current list of participating restaurants. If your dining establishment hasn't yet signed on, contact Kerry Smith (618.656.7600 or membership@edglenchamber.com) to learn more.

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special investors

Gold Level

Anderson Hospital
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Scott Credit Union
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Bronze Level

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Premier Level

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Edison's Entertainment Complex
Edwardsville Ambulatory Surgery Center
Edwardsville Pet Hospital
Egyptian Business Furniture
Envisioning Green
Express Employment Professionals
FCB Edwardsville Bank
First Community Credit Union
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
First National Bank - Maryville
Ford Hotel Supply
Foundry Public House
Gateway Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company
Gliik's Department Store
Goddard School
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
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The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill

save the date

8/2 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

8/3 Wednesday 8-9am

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

8/3 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Cricket Wireless - Gateway
3022 South IL Route 159
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

8/4 Thursday 5-7pm

ChamberNET
Anderson Hospital
Lower Level Patios
6810 IL Route 162
Maryville, IL 62062

8/9 Tuesday 7:15-8am

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

8/18 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
At Edwardsville Children's
Museum w/ Scott Credit Union
722 Holyoake Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

9/6 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

9/7 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
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Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

9/13 Tuesday 12-1pm

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

9/15 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Mathis, Marifan & Richter,
LTD & Illinois Metro East Small
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9/16-25

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business of the month



COMPANY HISTORY: The Goddard School is an early childhood education provider with more than 500 franchised schools in 35 states and hundreds of markets, including the STL/Metro East. Goddard has been named the #1 childcare franchise for 13 continuous years. Goddard Systems, Incorporated (GSI) is the franchisor and they are located in King of Prussia, PA. They retain approximately 200 corporate personnel to support their franchisees. The Goddard School in Edwardsville is owned and operated by Barbara A. Burrows, founded in 2009. The school is located at 801 South Arbor Vitae in Edwardsville. To learn more, call 618.692.9464 or go to www.goddardschool.com.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Our location is 13,000 square feet, with 35 employees that provides a service to families which allows families to work and perform their professional careers. Additionally, we provide an excellent educational foundation for children that become a part of the community while instilling a love of learning to last a lifetime. Recently The Goddard School donated approximately \$20,000 worth of playground equipment to the Edwardsville Children's Museum and donates several thousands of dollars to various community organizations.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: As an owner and community member, Burrows has held board positions with various organizations within the community. Donations are made to annually to various not-for-profit organizations. Locally, The Goddard School 'adopts' families during the holidays through Madison County Child Advocacy Center, Children's Home + Aid, and they most recently bought holiday gifts for seniors at Cedarhurst Memory Care. The Goddard School also conducts multiple coat, food and book drives to support the community.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: Goddard Systems, Inc. (GSI), offers weekly webinars to our employees. In addition to webinars, teachers attend regional training in St. Louis, and directors receive training in various locations. Webinars attended by Goddard employees include: STEAM, Infants & Toddlers, Positive Discipline, Professionalism, Lesson Planning, Technology, Observing and Recording, Family Teacher Conferences, Diversity, Smoothing Transitions, Supervision, Health & Safety, Connections, Biting, and Take it Outside.

LEADERSHIP: Current and past leadership positions include Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce board and committee member, Madison County Board member, Rotary Board member, Metro Milers board member and volunteer, Edwardsville Children's Museum board member, Lynne F. Solon Diabetes Foundation committee member, Meals on Wheels volunteer, and Make-A-Wish wish granter.

INNOVATION: The Goddard School has a great relationship with the Saint Louis Science Center, and they visit the school weekly to reinforce Goddard's STEAM initiative. The school also has a relationship with the Missouri Botanical Garden, maintaining a greenhouse and garden located on the grounds of The Goddard School. They grow several of their own vegetables during the summer months, and teach children the value of 'seed to table' for self-sustainment. To help support a 'Goddard Healthier Community,' The Goddard School sponsors two running events: The STL St. Patty's Day 5-Mile Run, and the Alton 10-Mile River Run. If a parent or employee signs up for the event and can show proof of completion, The Goddard School will reimburse them their registration fee. The Goddard School has been doing this for seven years.



EXCELLENCE: The Goddard brand itself exceeds all state standards as it pertains to the quality and care that children receive. Burrows and her Goddard team pride themselves on their commitment to quality learning.

CHARACTER: "Every child is a story yet to be told. Our mission is to support the parents of the school in ensuring that while under our care, we are building the best foundation possible with the utmost respect and professionalism while being an extension of their families."

FUTURE FOCUS: Most recently, The Goddard School purchased an educational interactive system called 'BEAM,' a \$15,000 investment that will offer students the best interactive learning experience through the best technology available – students love it! In addition to a smart board, the school has most recently invested in drum table for students. Regarding growth, The Goddard School is in current conversations for another school in Edwardsville.



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We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of July. 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

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

40-49 YEARS

**City of Edwardsville
Regions Bank**

20-29 YEARS

**Robert Wheatley, DDS
University Nursing & Rehab Center**

10-19 YEARS

**Gateway Regional Medical Center
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Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
Town and Country Bank**

5-9 YEARS

**Hampton Inn & Suites
Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center
Chef's Shoppe
DoubleTree by Hilton**

**Edwardsville Wrestling Club
LaBest, Inc.
SSM Physical Therapy
Brown Smith Wallace, LLC**

1-4 YEARS

**Battery Specialists + Golf Cars
Main Street Community Center
LifeVantage
Tot Spot Children's Resale
Edwardsville Township
Gori Julian & Associates, PC
CrossFit Ten Twenty**

**T-Mobile Operated by Wireless Vision
Stur Restaurant
Holland Construction Services, Inc.
RiverBender.com/EdGlenToday.com
Springfield Electric Supply Company
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schmooze

annual golf tournament



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24



Hosted @ Sunset Hills Country Club, June 24

ribbon cuttings & more



Ribbon Cutting @ Signarama, June 3



Ribbon Cutting @ The Chiropractic Wellness Center Glen Carbon, June 21



Ribbon Cutting @ Seniors Making Moves, June 22



Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Desirée Bennyhoff (third from left) Graduates from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Institute for Organization Management, University of Madison - Wisconsin, June 15



Cheryl Werts, Secretary and Treasurer; Dwight Werts, President and CEO; and Rick Parks, Senior Vice President
TheBANK of Edwardsville - Commercial Banking.



Dwight Werts: About TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking

We love the fact that TheBANK of Edwardsville is a hometown bank. We originally started with a hometown bank, but it was bought out by a larger bank. Then that larger bank was bought out by an even bigger bank. It got to the point where they didn't know us or understand our business. They kept growing and changing people so often that it felt like we got left behind. So we didn't leave that bank ... they left us.

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Anderson Hospital Announces Affiliation Agreement with Community Memorial Hospital of Staunton



Anderson Hospital is pleased to announce an affiliation with Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) of Staunton. Announcement of intent to affiliate was made in October of 2015. After a due diligence process and completion of all regulatory approvals, the boards of both hospitals formed an affiliation agreement that establishes Anderson Hospital as the corporate parent to CMH effective July 1, 2016.

"Anderson Hospital and CMH have a history of working together cooperatively to improve access to healthcare services for the residents of Macoupin County and northern Madison County," said Keith Page, president and CEO of Anderson Hospital. "As healthcare continues to evolve, our organizations will be better positioned to adapt to change together so that we can continue to provide coordinated, quality- care, close to home."

CMH recently finalized a \$14 million upgrade and renovation, including a new emergency department, laboratory, and physical therapy department. And while it will continue as a 25-bed, critical access, not-for-profit hospital with 24/7 emergency care, it will also be updating its name. CMH will be doing business as Community Hospital of Staunton, an Anderson Healthcare Partner.

Page confirmed that senior leadership in Staunton will remain the same; however, Anderson's Board of Trustees will now have ultimate authority on significant matters. Friends of Community Memorial Hospital Foundation will continue with its fundraising efforts and will exclusively support the needs of Staunton's facility.

"Together these organizations are stronger and have broader resources," said Sue Campbell, Community Hospital of Staunton CEO. "This affiliation is good for the community and our hospital to ensure quality healthcare services are available locally, while patients that require a transfer for more medically complex services will be easily accommodated at Anderson."

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your business

A Growing Region, Right Here in Southwestern Illinois

This opinion/editorial was submitted by Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois Executive Director Ronda Sauget, D.MGMT, MBA.

A recent article published in the *Inbound Logistics* trade publication, titled "Meet me in St. Louis," highlighted many multi-modal assets in the St. Louis Metropolitan region, including both Missouri and Illinois. We, the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, which make up over 220 senior business leaders in Southwestern Illinois, are proud to have played a part in growing the region, especially in business innovation, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing sectors. The *Inbound Logistics* article stated: "The most powerful word in the language of logistics is location. It's a word heard over and over again in St. Louis. But location is just the beginning of the story." Our location in the center of the country and cost effective, multi-modal connectivity is only the beginning of the real success story of Southwestern Illinois.

Southwestern Illinois is growing! Many may not realize why, but it is clear when you see Southwestern Illinois' infrastructure assets and multi-modal interconnectivity of river, road, rail, air, and pipeline serve as the backbone to an impressive list of prominent companies that call our business community home. To add to this impressive existing infrastructure is the upcoming completion of \$110M community investment in the American Bottoms Levee System running from Alton to Columbia, Illinois. Most people give little thought to how this levee system protects millions of dollars in business investment, thousands of jobs, and many of our communities from the uncertain flooding that impacts so many other regional areas. Without a doubt, our infrastructure investments and multi-modal interconnectivity puts Southwestern Illinois in the eye of prominent national developers.

Recently, we were happy to hear Amazon joining the Southwestern Illinois business community and creating an additional 1,000 jobs in Edwardsville. Prairie Farms also recently announced the move of its headquarters to Edwardsville. Further, LD Commodities (part of Louis Dreyfus Corporation) joined the business community in Cahokia. As we have seen millions of dollars in business investment and thousands of jobs being created over recent years due to Southwestern Illinois' prime location, our area is home to large domestic and international manufacturing, agriculture, and logistics companies, such as P&G, Jet Aviation (part of General Dynamics Corporation), Dial, Solvay Fluorides, Veolia, Unilever, Hershey, North Bay Produce, Walgreens, Kinder Morgan, USF Holland, Cargill, SCF Marine and Grain Subsidiaries, SEACOR Holdings, Schneider National, Rand, SuperValue, World Wide Technology, Bunge, Boeing, ADM, Fed Ex, Phillips 66, Prairie State

Generating, West Star Aviation, Kraft, and so many more. These substantial business clusters and growing job creation continues to drive our region's economic engine forward.

If you look geographically, Southwestern Illinois is situated in the midsection of America and serves as the central corridor for robust economic activities both now and into the future. This is why our region have been a trading post for hundreds of years. From our region's six class 1 railroads; three airports; the northern-most lock-free, ice free, port on the Mississippi River; great road access and transit systems; to our high availability of affordable "shovel ready" land; it is no surprise why developers and companies select Southwestern Illinois. It is for all of these reasons that the Leadership Council and its over 220 members are dedicated to the continued development of this area. We want to salute all of the companies who call our region home as well as the tireless efforts economic development partners across our region who strive to bring even more business investments and jobs to our regional area. We look forward to welcoming more new companies as this area continues to grow and create the jobs of the future.

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IMPACT Strategies Hires Speraneo

Construction-management firm IMPACT Strategies today announced Andrew Speraneo has joined the company as a project estimator. He began work at the company's Fairview Heights office last month. Speraneo is a resident of Troy, IL.

Speraneo has 10 years' experience as an estimator & senior project manager overseeing all phases of multimillion-dollar construction, infrastructure, and tenant build-out and ground-up projects for government and private-sector clients.

Mark Hinrichs, president of IMPACT Strategies, said, "Andrew's extensive knowledge of the construction industry will be valuable to our clients and his experience will certainly be an asset to our estimating staff and this critical area of our business."

REMINDER: Edwardsville to Host Legion Tourney at SIUE

August 3–7, the City of Edwardsville and SIUE will play host to eight teams from six states for the Great Lakes Regional of the National American Legion Baseball Tournament.

This prestigious tournament is one of eight regional sites from which the champions will advance to the American Legion World Series (ALWS) to be held in Shelby, NC and televised on ESPN.

The combined local Edwardsville Post 199/Alton Post 126 team will serve as host and also enjoy an automatic bid to participate in the tournament. Learn how you can participate at LegionBB.com.

Game sessions are \$5 per ticket and an all-tournament pass is \$30. Those in the chamber business community that would like to get involved as a volunteer, a sponsor, or to simply help promote the event can contact Matt McSparrin at 618.307.9020 or mattm@edisonsfun.com for more information.



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Cedarhurst Living Announces Ruth's House, A New Memory Care Community in Edwardsville

Cedarhurst Living is excited to announce the purchase of the newest addition to its growing family of assisted living and memory care communities, "Ruth's House," which was previously known as Relais Bon Eau, located at 7331 Marine Road in Edwardsville. The new memory care community – named in honor of Cedarhurst founder and CEO Joshua Jennings' Grandmother Ruth – will accommodate up to 26 residents with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias.



Purchased from Hospice of Southern Illinois, the building was originally constructed in 2010 at a cost of more than \$7 million and operated as a 16-unit freestanding hospice house until December 2015, when its closure was announced. "When Hospice of Southern Illinois announced that Relais was closing, my Grandma Ruth was living at Cedarhurst of Edwardsville Memory Care less than one-half mile away with end-stage Alzheimer's Disease," says Joshua Jennings. Jennings continued, "We had thought for some time that there was still more we could do in Edwardsville for those with Alzheimer's Disease and this was too good of an opportunity to pass up. We're able to carry on the legacy of an important community asset in Relais, nearly immediately fulfill the need for more memory care in Edwardsville and, for me personally, do something that would make my Grandma Ruth proud."

Situated on more than 17 pristine acres with a private pond, Ruth's House will be extensively remodeled into a memory care community that is anything but ordinary. Residents will be empowered for independence with customized, resident-centered care and support, first-class architecture and amenities, and world class mission-driven staff. Outdoor amenities include beautiful courtyards, a gazebo and a walking path around the entire community.

"We're excited to have the chance to expand the Cedarhurst mission of providing person-centered care with the addition of Ruth's House," said Josh Stevens, president and co-owner of Cedarhurst Living, the healthcare management firm which will be operating Ruth's House. "Building a team to care for 26 residents in such an incredible building, in such an amazing location, is a fantastic opportunity to meet the remainder of demand for person-centered memory care in Edwardsville and the surrounding area," continued Stevens. Ruth's house is expected to open by October 2016.

Cedarhurst Living employs more than 550 people and operates high quality assisted living and memory care communities in Illinois, Missouri and Kansas. Cedarhurst Living is part of the Dover Companies, which also include Brahms Construction, Dover Development and Dover Capital.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Lauren Robb at 314-884-2002 or email at marketing@cedarhurstliving.com.



LSAF Plans 29th Harry A. Penelton Golf Scramble

The Lincoln School Alumni Foundation (LSAF) is pleased to announce this year's annual golf scramble fundraiser. The 29th Harry A. Penelton Golf Scramble is scheduled for Saturday, September 10 at Oak Brook Golf Course in Edwardsville, IL. Entry deadline is Saturday, September 3. Golf scramble registration is a \$100 donation per person, and shotgun start is at 8am. In addition to the golf scramble the day's festivities include a live and silent auction, raffle, 50/50 drawing and attendance prizes. Participation is first come, first served, with a 36 team limit.

You are invited to promote your business or organization by becoming a sponsor of the Lincoln School Alumni Foundation's golf scramble, sponsoring a hole, or donating auction items. For more information, contact Herman Shaw at 618.659.0960, Thomas Dickerson at 618.656.3087, or Terry Lynn at 618.656.5925.

The Lincoln School Alumni Foundation was founded in 1986 by former Lincoln School students to enhance the educational opportunities of our area's youth in Edwardsville School District 7. The LSAF is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible. The foundation relies solely on the generosity of community leaders, individuals, organizations and sponsors to help generate its annual "giving" budget. Learn more about LSAF at HLSAF.org.

TheBANK of Edwardsville Elects Pfund to Board of Directors

TheBANK of Edwardsville's holding company, THE BANC ED CORP., recently elected Matthew J. Pfund to serve as a director on TheBANK of Edwardsville board of directors. According to Robert Plummer, chairman of TheBANK's board, Pfund's duties as a director begin immediately, and he will serve on the board's audit and loan committees.



"As a senior vice president at Tarlton Construction in St. Louis, Matt Pfund is very well connected in the commercial world and very well connected in the industrial world. As TheBANK of Edwardsville continues to grow in the areas of commercial lending, industrial lending and home growth, Matt will bring a wealth of intelligence and considerable expertise as a director for TheBANK," Plummer said.

Pfund, a long-time customer of TheBANK, said he is excited about the opportunity. "I am honored to join the board and to be able to work with such a talented group of people," he said. "I've been a customer of TheBANK for many years and have always been impressed with what TheBANK does for

the community and its straightforward, honest approach to business. I look forward to strengthening those relationships and helping TheBANK continue to grow."

"I've known Matt for 15 or 20 years, and he's involved in the community and has invested a lot in the community," Plummer said. "Whether it's helping revitalize Main Street in Edwardsville or building or remodeling homes, Matt has worked tirelessly to improve our area. He's also a good family man with a very successful wife who also does a lot of charitable work in the community and is very accomplished in her career. They are a great addition to TheBANK of Edwardsville family."

In addition to his work at Tarlton, Pfund operates Pfund Construction, a residential and light commercial construction company he started while in high school that specializes in custom projects and commercial real estate. His wife, Kristen, an accomplished real estate agent, and his brother, Corey, help run the operations at Pfund Construction. Pfund and his wife live in Edwardsville with their three children.



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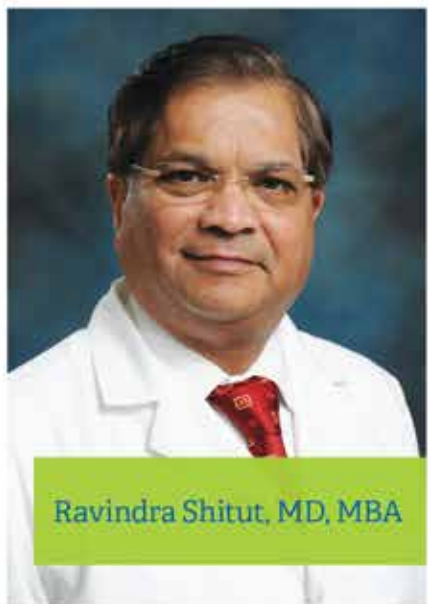
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Illinois Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Report & Legislation to Monitor

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in an 'Advocacy Report' email July 6, 2016.



Stopgap Passes: On June 30, the House and Senate passed SB 2047 (Trotter/Currie), which provided a temporary stopgap measure approved by the governor and four legislative leaders. SB 2047 includes funding for IDOT's FY17 construction season, the local roads formula payments to protect the local construction season, costs related to bridge inspections, plus transit and metropolitan planning. In addition, SB 2047 would also provide for the following:

Full-FY17 funding for elementary and secondary education Remaining FY16 funding and six months of FY17 funding for higher education Remaining FY16 funding and six months of FY17 for human services IDOT projects from the five-year plan and mothballed capital projects Various EPA programs Agency operations (i.e. food for prisons, utilities, etc.) and Federal pass-through funds.

SB 1810 passed both houses and was signed into law as P.A. 99-523. It is the FY 2017 stopgap budget implementation bill, which makes changes in state programs necessary to implement the stopgap budget.

In addition, both chambers passed **SB 2532 (Hutchinson/Currie)**. This bill extended several local TIF districts throughout the state and a transit-oriented TIF in Chicago.

Chamber Testifies Against Financial Tax: The Senate Revenue and House Revenue and Finance Committees held a joint subject matter hearing in Chicago last month over a proposed financial transaction tax on stocks, futures and other monetary transactions in Illinois. **HB 106 (Flowers)** would impose a tax on financial "contracts" at a rate of \$1 per contract for which the underlying asset is an agricultural product and \$2 per contract for all other contracts. Keith Staats, executive director of the Chamber's Tax Institute provided oral and written testimony against the tax to committee members, highlighting the constitutional and substantive defects in HB 106. The committee was subject matter only, therefore no official vote was taken.

ACA Payments Win Extension: The House concurred with the Senate on **HB 4678 (K. Burke/Steans)**. This bill maximizes federal Medicaid funds by extending the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Hospital Access Payments to new ACA adults enrolled in Managed Care Organizations. It will further restore \$3 million in state funding to the Illinois Poison Center for FY17 and FY18. The bill will now heads to the governor.

Glass-Steagall Act: The House adopted Chamber-opposed **HR 1092 (Flowers)**. This non-binding resolution urges Congress to reinstate the repealed Glass-Steagall Act, a Depression-era banking law enacted in 1933. The resolution also urges Congress to enact an "American Recovery" agenda that would return the United States to a government-run "national banking and federal credit system, modeled on the principles of Alexander Hamilton's First Bank of the United States.

Chicago Pensions: Just before the new fiscal year started, members of the House and Senate approved **SB 2822**, which would provide Chicago Public Schools \$205 million for their pension systems, thus creating parity with downstate and suburban

teacher pension funds. However, the bill will be held in the Senate until there is a comprehensive pension reform deal by January. The governor has been in support of Sen. President Cullerton's "consideration plan."

Medical Cannabis Package Signed into Law: A few days after a Cook County judge ordered the state to add PTSD to its medical cannabis pilot program, Gov. Rauner signed SB 10 (Haine/Lang). This bill extends the sunset date of the medical cannabis pilot project. The bill also adds PTSD and terminal illness to the diseases which are considered a debilitating medical condition under the Act. The Chamber was neutral on its passage and will be closely monitoring the rules process with regards to the expansion of these two debilitating diseases. Due to the immediate effective date of the public act, the previous court order is now moot.

OTHER LEGISLATION TO MONITOR

SJR 40 (Sandoval) is a joint-resolution to enact the I-55 managed lanes. Under current law, a joint resolution is required for IDOT's I-55 managed lanes initiative. The Chamber is in support.

SB 584 (Harmon) is the Senate's procurement reform proposal. This bill retains the current procurement process and does not dismantle the Chief Procurement Office. Other provisions include: new higher education exemptions; changes to the multi-step sealed bidding process; raising the threshold to \$100,000 for small purchases; allowing for pre-qualified pools; permitting joint purchasing (piggybacking); and adding a new "best value" procurement pilot project for IDOT, IDNR, Ag and institutions of higher education. In addition, it would repeal the current reporting requirements but adds language clarifying that an employee knowingly or intentionally colludes or acts in an anticompetitive nature shall be reported to the IG and is subject to suspension or termination.

SB 3011 (Mulroe/Feigenholtz) would raise the legal purchasing age for tobacco products and e-cigs from 18 to 21. The bill is in the House. The Chamber opposes.

HB 3655 (Zalewski/Raoul) would legalize fantasy sports contest in Illinois. The Chamber opposes this measure.

TFIC Warns of Construction Shut-Down: The Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) held a news conference June 9 at the Capitol to sound that alarm that if the legislature didn't pass a stopgap budget for construction, it would put federal funds in jeopardy and lead to a shut-down of construction projects come July 1. That would put 25,000 construction jobs in jeopardy. This outreach campaign clearly helped the public understand the dilemma and encouraged lawmakers to vote for a stopgap. The co-chairs of TFIC are Illinois Chamber Pres. and CEO Todd Maisch and Mike Kleinik, executive director of the Chicago Laborers District Council (LMCC).

Moody's, S&P Downgrade Illinois: Two of the nation's top rating agencies downgraded Illinois' credit rating on June 8. Moody's Investor Services downgraded Illinois' rating to Baa2, citing the political stalemate that had prevented the state from addressing its budget woes and unfunded pension liability. This new rating is Moody's ninth highest rating and is two steps above junk status. Shortly after Moody's downgrade, S&P lowered the state's ratings on general-obligation bonds from AA- to BBB+. This new level is three notches above S&P's junk status. No word from Fitch, however they have placed Illinois' ratings under review with potential for a downgrade.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce



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