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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
Breck Ahlers, Extra Help, Inc.
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
David Janes, Scott Credit Union
Amanda Linton, Northwestern Mutual
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments
Rob Pickerell, Midwest Regional Bank*
Kai Redmon, Redmon Insurance Agency
Sara Sanderson, Dimond Bros. Insurance
John Schuelke, Merrill Lynch
Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville
* denotes committee chair

2016 Directors
Danelle Brown
Marcel Brown Technology Services
Elizabeth Heil
Scheffel Boyle
Gary Hoggatt, Jr.
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Lisa Klaustermeier
Anderson Hospital
Dave Viox
AAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

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Chamber of Commerce

Gold Level
Anderson Hospital Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level
American Illinois Utilities AT&T Mobility Edwardsville Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits Meridian Village Sem's Club 4878 Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC Scott Credit Union The BANC of Edwardsville Walgreens Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

Premier Level

Bronze Level

Premier Level

Chamber of Commerce

Common Ground  June 2016  |  3
Common Ground
June 2016
Edwardsville | Glen Carbon

connect
the newly connected

Angie & Company Home Improvement & Painting
Robert Angle
Home Improvement & Repair
9375 Indian Creek Lane
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-581-4427

Benedictine University at Springfield
Betty Mallett
Catholic University
1500 North Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62702
217-718-3468
www.ben.edu

Cricket Wireless – Gateway
Brandi Barker
Wireless Phone & Internet Provider
P.O. Box 307
Farmington, MO 63640
573-366-4006

Mosquito Joe of Madison County
James Newcomer
Residential & Commercial Mosquito Pest Control Service
Granite City, IL 62040
618-509-0693
www.madisonco.mosquitojoe.com

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Attorneys you can trust. Experience you deserve.

Whether you are an injured individual or a business defending against civil litigation, the stakes are high. You need to work with a legal team you can trust — one with a record of success. At Mathis, Marfian & Richter, Ltd., our litigation lawyers have successfully represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of cases, including:

- Serious personal injury
- Motor vehicle and trucking accidents
- Product liability
- Workers’ compensation
- Premises liability
- Negligence and strict liability

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Gregory W. Coffey
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Bradley W. Small
Mary E. Lopinot
Deanna L. Litzenburg
Philip D. Speicher
Laura E. Schrick
Sandra J. Tatoian
Beth K. Flowers

Associates
Natalie T. Lorenz
Rebecca K. Wohltman
Colin C. Clark
Joseph R. Harvath

Of Counsel
Charles M. Lock
Barry D. Dix

MATHIS MARFIAN & RICHTER LTD
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: J. F. Electric traces its roots to 1925 and The Fowler Company, a contracting firm established by James E. Fowler in St. Louis, MO. Under the leadership of James’ son Charles R. Fowler, the company expanded and diversified, redoubling its efforts in the Southern Illinois market. In 1969, current chairman James C. Fowler, son of Charles, purchased the electrical division from his father, founding J. F. Incorporated with headquarters in Edwardsville, IL. Under Jim’s leadership, the company expanded dramatically to meet a growing demand for commercial, industrial, and utility construction. The Fowler family tradition of strong leadership and commitment to quality will continue for generations to come. James’ son, President James G. (Greg) Fowler has continued to grow J. F. Electric to meet new challenges and opportunities. The J. F. Electric of 2015 is a well-managed electrical contractor that is diversified in all areas of electrical construction and committed to quality service for their customers. They understand our clients’ needs, value their employees as the firm’s most valuable resource, keep pace with advancing technology and adapt to the industry’s ever-changing environment. J. F. Electric has a tradition of excellence forged over four generations, and is uniquely positioned to serve its customers now and into the future.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: J.F. Electric supports many local businesses in the area. With the continued growth of the company, J.F. Electric creates more job opportunities which brings more people into the community. The company will continue to make capital investments and positively impact the economic health of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon market.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: J.F. Electric makes donations to many local charities throughout the year and is involved in many community events. Some of the larger charities that J.F. Electric is involved in include Big Brothers and Big Sisters and The United Way. The J.F. Electric Headquarters is also a drop-off location for the Toys for Tots campaign. The company sponsors many community events throughout the year, some examples include the Touch-A-Truck Event at Township Park, the Halloween Parade, American Legion 4th of July Firework Display, etc. This past year the company donated electrical supplies and service to help get the Edwardsville Art Fair up and running without any power outages. J.F. Electric also sponsored a 5k Fun Run for the Edwardsville Wrestling Club. As the business grows in Edwardsville, the Fowler family enjoys giving back to their community.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: J. F. Electric is a proud member of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Field employees are drawn from the ranks of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Together NECA and the IBEW created the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, which operates hundreds of local programs offering apprenticeship and journeyman training for wiremen and linemen. J.F. Electric also provides on-site training programs for their employees. In 2016, J.F. Electric plans to launch a company newsletter and is implementing an employee spotlight to gain employee recognition. During the holiday season J.F. Electric hosts a holiday party as well as a “12 Days of Giving” program where employees win prizes throughout the holiday season. When the weather gets warmer, J.F. Electric plans on hosting a company picnic for employees to bring their families together for socializing and networking with their co-workers outside of work.


INNOVATION: J.F. Electric offers ongoing and extensive training to keep up with today’s competition in the electric industry. J.F. Electric is up to date on the latest advancements in technology. J. F. Electric’s technology initiatives place it at the forefront of the construction industry. We adopt technologies that improve customer service and increase customer value. J.F. Electric also provides customers with unique solutions by value engineering to customer needs and providing exceptional project management throughout the entire process which ultimately exceeds customer satisfaction.

EXCELLENCE: J.F. Electric has been featured in the St. Louis Business Journal multiple times throughout the recent past. In 2015, J.F. Electric was ranked third largest electrical contractor in the St. Louis area. The company also ranked number 114 on the “Top 150 Privately Owned Companies” in the St. Louis area this year.

CHARACTER: J.F. Electric strives to be a well-managed and diversified electrical contractor providing a high quality and safety conscious work force allowing for a mutually rewarding relationship between our employees and clients.

FUTURE FOCUS: J.F. Electric intends to continue to grow and invest in the equipment and resources needed to construct and manage large projects both locally and nationwide. Not only is the company planning to expand geographically but also into new areas of work and expertise. The most recent expansion of work includes the construction and maintenance of cell towers. J.F. Electric strives to create new job opportunities for our community as the company grows.
Jim Shepard: About TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Commercial Banking

My parents did their banking with TheBANK of Edwardsville for years. But I moved away, then came back and started a business and was with a different bank. It was a constant battle to try and get anything done with them because you never had the same loan officer. So I switched to TheBANK 15 years ago and it’s been great ever since.

I couldn’t have grown my business without my partners at TheBANK. They’ve helped me expand into other areas that I may not have been able to because they’re great people who really understand business.

I don’t expect my bank to always say yes. But what I do want is for my banker to be my consultant. I want them to say, ‘Hey Jim, maybe this isn’t the way to do this …. You might want to try this.’ That’s how I’ve always looked at our relationship with a bank and that’s how TheBANK of Edwardsville takes care of you. It’s not just a loan officer you have a relationship with, but another consultant trying to help you and your business.
We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of June. 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**
Metzger Law Offices

**40–49 YEARS**
Scheffel Boyle

**20–29 YEARS**
Eigenbrodt Vision Center, PC
McDonald’s

**10–19 YEARS**
Glen Carbon Centennial Library
Lahr-Well Christian Academy
American Family Insurance
Edwardsville Children’s Museum
Scott Credit Union
Express Employment Professionals

**5–9 YEARS**
B & R Cleaning
Cold Stone Creamery
Metro East Small Business Development Center
Reliance Bank
Hawkins Law Office, P.C.
Edison’s Entertainment Complex

**1–4 YEARS**
Mike Shannon’s Grill Edwardsville, LLC
Vision For Life
Harvey H. Breckner, DMD, MS
Highland Recycling & Shredding
Happy Up, Inc.
Quality Inn & Conference Center
OneLegacy.com
Babcock & Associates
Foiles Distribution Inc.
A la Carte Home Design
Educational Services Unlimited
Great BJC Doctors, right where you live.

Spine Surgeon at Christian Hospital

Dr. Ravindra Shitut has over 30 years of experience as a spine surgeon. He is board certified in spine surgery as well as orthopedic surgery and specializes in innovative minimally invasive spine surgeries and motion preservation techniques.

Dr. Shitut surgically treats many spinal conditions including:

- Degenerative disc disease
- Spinal stenosis
- Cervical/low back pain
- Cervical/lumbar herniated discs
- Sciatica
- Scoliosis
- Kyphosis
- Fractures, tumors and infections of the spinal column

CH Orthopedic and Spine Surgeons
(on the Christian Hospital campus)
11125 Dunn Road, Suite 301
St. Louis, MO 63136

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Shitut or to learn more about the conditions he treats, please call his office at 314-953-8250.

"BJC Medical Group" generally refers to BJC Medical Group of Missouri, BJC Medical Group of Illinois and BJC Medical Group of Sullivan, all of which are well-established physician organizations.
ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a new Ed/Glen Chamber initiative designed to build and solidify our region’s vibrant future workforce.

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals like you with the tools to accelerate your leadership acumen, hone your communication skills, expand your professional network, connect you with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community as a whole.

Your Contact Information

First Name:_________________________ Last Name:_________________________

Company:_________________________ Title:______________________________

Address:_________________________ City:________________ State:_______ Zip:_________

Phone:_________________________ Email Address:________________________

☐ $50 Participation Fee Enclosed (Make checks payable to Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce)

Signature:_________________________ Date:__________________________

* * * PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION * * *

Return Application & Dues to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 618.656.7600 (p) | 618.656.7611 (f)
ribbon cuttings & more

Ribbon Cutting @ Edible Arrangements, May 18

Business Roundtable w/ Congressman Rodney Davis, June 2

Business Roundtable w/ Congressman Rodney Davis, June 2

Business Roundtable w/ Congressman Rodney Davis, June 2
Regional Office of Education #41 Introduces Give 30 Mentoring Program, Calls for Volunteers

Give 30 is a mentoring program that is designed to provide at risk youth with positive support in their lives. The program is designed for students who have been identified in their school as someone who may be heading in the wrong direction and needs a mentor figure.

As a result of Senate Bill 100, Illinois schools are required to adopt new discipline policies as of September 15, 2016 which include interventions. Give 30 is designed to discourage students from becoming involved in incidents that would lead to more severe means of discipline such as suspension or expulsion from school.

The guidelines of Senate Bill 100 do not specifically offer suggestions as to how to curtail student discipline, but rather outlines what schools are not allowed to do under the act.

Give 30 will offer the opportunity to schools and students an alternative to traditional discipline. The program will:

  • encourage suspensions be limited to severe cases
  • encourage students to stay in school and be successful
  • encourage students to become re-engaged in school
  • foster positive relationships with law enforcement and the judicial system
  • connect at-risk-youth with community mentors

How does the Give 30 program work? The Regional Office of Education will solicit civic leaders to identify and encourage interested individuals to become a Give 30 mentor. The individual will contact the ROE for a criminal background check. This process will not involve a fee. All clean applicants will complete an interest form to be shared with participating school districts.

The mentor will be asked to Give 30 minutes a week to meet with the student they will be asked to mentor. A guide will be provided to each mentor as an outline to engage in discussion with the student. Upon the need of a mentor, the individual will be contacted and placed in communication with the respective building principal. The principal will meet with the mentor and decide on an agreeable meeting time for the student and the mentor. Such an arrangement may be made around a typical lunch schedule.

The duration of the mentoring experience may be short term or may continue. In either case, monitoring and progress reports on the relationships between will need to be reviewed.

More information is available at www.give30.net. If interested, you may visit the ROE#41 office at 157 North Main Street, Suite 438 in Edwardsville to complete the application and be fingerprinted.
Edwardsville New Corporate Office
Location for Prairie Farms Dairy

Chris Byron with C.W. Byron Properties, LLC purchased 6.4 Acres at the Edwardsville Corporate Centre from Florists’ Mutual Insurance Company. This site will be for the new Prairie Farms corporate offices which will consist of a 30,000 square-foot, three-story office building.

Steve Zuber, SIOR CCIM, with the BARBERMurphy Group represented C.W. Byron Properties, LLC on the purchase and the two-state site selection process. Plocher Construction Company will be the general contractor.
Tom & Vickie Maxwell Make Transformational Pledge To Anderson Hospital’s Private Room Campaign

There are few experiences in life as significant as being hospitalized. Whether for something routine or serious, you want to be in a hospital room surrounded by close family and friends – not a roommate.

Community leader and Anderson Hospital Foundation board member Tom Maxwell recently shared why he and wife, Vickie, chose to donate $100,000 to the Anderson Foundation’s Private Room Campaign.

“Vickie and I felt strongly about supporting the Private Room Campaign at Anderson due to our personal experience with my parents at other hospitals,” said Maxwell.

He explained how during his mother’s final stay in the hospital, she was heavily medicated and was suffering from the impact of emphysema. His family was permitted to stay with her all day and all night as they carefully monitored her condition. “I remember feeling very sad at her prognosis, but also feeling blessed we were able to share her final moments in private as a family,” said Maxwell.

In November 2015, Maxwell’s father passed away due to liver failure. “The nurses did an outstanding job with him, but there were times when several had to help at once and the room became full of people trying to assist,” Maxwell explained. “Hospice was called in and the meetings occurred in the hospital room. Having only our family in the room at the time was a blessing as we discussed how hospice would be implemented.”

“Anderson Hospital’s Private Rooms Project has been carefully designed to meet the needs and expectations of our patients and their families,” said Anderson Hospital President and CEO Keith Page. “We’ve gone to great lengths to create a patient room experience that emphasizes options, comfort, and safety.”

Lynn Huelsmann, MPA, CFRE, Executive Director of the Anderson Hospital Foundation, said amenities featured in the new private rooms will include Wi-Fi access, convertible couches which flip into beds for added comfort for family members staying with their loved one overnight, and additional storage options for the patient as well as their guests. Rooms were thoughtfully created to include space for both visitors and staff. The rooms allow for accessibility of required technology for care and patient safety equipment.

“Anderson Hospital has a special place in our heart. It is where both of our children were born and it is our local hospital. We support it and embrace it as ours because it does so much good for so many people,” said Maxwell. “Vickie and I are choosing to support the Private Room Campaign to provide privacy and comfort to the patients and family members as they are faced with serious health issues moving forward. Please consider how you might assist us in this goal.”

To learn more about the Private Rooms Project and make a donation, contact Huelsmann at 618.391.6427 or go online to www.andersonhospital.org/privaterooms.
GCS Credit Union Expands Field of Membership

State regulators approved GCS Credit Union to increase their current field of membership to provide financial services to these additional Illinois counties: Sangamon, Logan, Macon, Marion, Jefferson, Perry, Jackson, and Williamson. Anyone who lives, works, or attends school within these counties is eligible for GCS membership.

Keith Burton, president and CEO of GCS Credit Union, expresses the motivation behind acquiring the new counties, "Our communities and our membership continue to spread out as families expand and move. We wanted to be able to continue to serve them and others as we look to the future."

GCS previously served ten counties and now serves eighteen counties in Illinois. Founded in 1941 as a source of loans and basic savings products, GCS Credit Union has always focused on the member.

Through the years, that philosophy has served GCS well, helping GCS grow from a single office in Granite City to a full-service financial institution serving Illinois counties: Sangamon, Logan, Macon, Marion, Jefferson, Perry, Jackson, Williamson, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington and Randolph.

"It is a large area but has many similarities and common ties to the area we already service. We will market our products and services and introduce GCS to residents in these areas so that we can help make a difference," Burton remarked.

GCS Credit Union now serves members at eight conveniently located branches across Southwestern Illinois. 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 myGCScu.com.
Gori Julian Announces Salger as New Partner

Edwardsville-based law firm Gori Julian & Associates recently announced Sara Salger as a new partner.

One of the first attorneys hired at the firm when it was formed in 2008, Salger’s legal career at Gori Julian & Associates has been focused on advocating for those who were wronged by the actions of others, along with representing those who fall victim to mesothelioma and lung cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos. She also handles complex benzene litigation and general personal injury claims.

Licensed to practice law in both Illinois and Missouri, Salger is a member of the American Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Missouri State Bar Association, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the American Association for Justice, the National Asbestos Mesothelioma Trial Lawyers, the National Women Trial Lawyers and serves on the Illinois Trial Lawyers executive committee and board.

Apart from the firm, she dedicates her time to serve on various philanthropic boards throughout the Metro-East. Salger also speaks at various legal trade conferences and as a lecturer at high school and college law classes throughout the area. Salger was a 2015 and 2016 recipient of the Super Lawyers Rising Star award and was included in the Top 40 Under 40 by the National Trial Lawyers the last three years.

“Sara has shown tremendous passion for what our office stands for. During her time here, she has achieved so much and continues to have a desire to help those around her and that’s exactly what we admire about her,” said Randy Gori, founding partner and attorney at Gori Julian & Associates. “She is a true professional and will be a wonderful addition as a new partner.”

For more information on the areas of law practiced by the attorneys at Gori Julian & Associates, or to contact an attorney at the firm, visit www.gorijulianlaw.com or call toll free at 888-362-6890.

Businesses Invited to 2016 Cougar Welcome

The SIUE Cougar Welcome 2016 Planning Committee cordially invites your business to participate during the annual Cougar Welcome at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Cougar Welcome is designed to welcome new and returning students, faculty, and staff to SIUE (14,000 students and 2,500 faculty/staff), to build community relations, and to enhance campus life and school spirit. Each year, welcome activities attract thousands of participants. Specifically, the Cougar Welcome Planning Committee would like to have your business participate in the annual Merchant Fair. This event will provide you with ample opportunities to promote your business to interested SIUE students, faculty, and staff.

The Merchant Fair, in part, is designed to increase student, faculty, and staff awareness of area businesses, services, and activities and to facilitate interaction between the campus and local community. This year’s Merchant Fair will be held Wednesday, August 24 from 10AM–2PM in the Morris University Center. Advance registration is required. The registration fee is $150 per business. Email mking@siue.edu or call 618.650.2686 by August 2 to reserve your booth for this popular event.
Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. Welcomes Hendrix, Koch & Muckensturm to Team

Karen Hendrix has joined Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., as business development manager. Karen is a registered professional engineer and brings 10 years of engineering and business development experience to K&L. K&L is excited to welcome Karen to its team, as they continue their mission of “building a higher standard.” Karen resides in Washington, MO with her husband, daughter and two sons.

Steve Koch, LEED AP has been hired by K&L as a project manager. Steve has an extensive project background gained from more than 30 years in the construction industry. His diverse list of projects include K-12 schools, commercial office buildings, federal facilities and courthouses, site development, food and beverage facilities, sports and entertainment, industrial, highway, municipal and parks.

Matt Muckensturm is a new K&L team member, joining as an estimator. Matt is a graduate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a bachelor of science degree in construction management. Korte & Luitjohan staff look forward to incorporating his experiences and knowledge into their existing and future projects so they can continue to meet and exceed their clients’ expectations.

Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. is a full-service, general contracting and construction management firm based in Highland, Illinois. Since its founding in 1958, the company has been providing quality construction throughout the Metro St. Louis area and Southern and Central Illinois.

Korte & Luitjohan offers general contracting, construction management, design/build and pre-construction services for commercial, healthcare, educational, religious, historical renovation, and industrial facilities. Korte & Luitjohan’s broad experience and knowledge base allow the firm to provide a high degree of project control, enabling them to work closely with clients to meet their operational needs. For more information, go to www.korteluitjohan.com.
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Despite canceling every Wednesday session thus far in June, the General Assembly is set to return to Springfield on Wednesday, June 29 for the first time since adjourning roughly one month ago.

Bi-partisan legislative working groups have continued to meet throughout the month of June and are expected to consider a stopgap budget measure when returning to town next week.

It was reported this afternoon in a memo from Senate GOP Leader Christine Radogno what the stopgap measure may look like when legislators return to town next week. In her memo to Senate colleagues, the proposed stopgap would ensure road construction funding, authorize the state to appropriate federal funds, grant $1 billion to higher education and fund the MAP program, and would provide $600 million for social services. This stopgap would fund the above projects and services through December 31st.

However, like most things in Springfield, it's not over until the fat lady sings and at this point Wednesday is a ways away. Conversations between the working groups, legislative leaders and the governor’s office are ongoing and items are still likely to change.

It is also unclear whether any of the non-budget items will be addressed such changes to collective bargaining and workers’ compensation reform.

The Chamber will spend the next several days advocating for an appropriation to ensure infrastructure projects remain uninterrupted before the June 31st deadline.

ILLINOIS FALSE CLAIMS ACT IN THE NEWS: The Madison-Saint Clair Record published an article on the Illinois False Claims Act this week. Keith Staats, executive director of the Chamber’s Tax Council was quoted in the article.

The Chamber continues to join the Illinois Department of Revenue in pushing for reform of the False Claims Act. However, as indicated in the article, reform of the False Claims Act continues to be opposed by the Illinois Attorney General.

BILLS OF INTEREST: Due to the General Assembly being in continuous session throughout the month of June, the Chamber will continue to monitor pertinent legislation that is still alive and may be acted on over the summer. The following list of bills are a handful of issues that are worth mentioning:

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 (CPO). Other provisions include new higher education exemptions; changes to the multi-step sealed bidding process; raises the threshold to $100,000 for small purchases; allows for pre-qualified pools; permits joint purchasing (piggybacking); and adds a new “best value” procurement pilot project for IDOT, IDNR, Ag and institutions of higher education. In addition, repeals 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). This legislation would legalize fantasy sports contests in Illinois. The Chamber opposes this measure for the following reasons: does not address lack of background checks for employees or other financially connected parties; any expansion or consideration of online gaming should be addressed in a comprehensive bill; lack of licensing requirements that are comparable to other forms of gaming; does not provide a level playing field and instead sets a precedent of different rules applying to different types of gaming; questionable revenue and unknown regulatory costs; legislation and standards vary between states and while this legislation would allow for fantasy sports it does not ensure that Illinois specific concerns can be properly addressed moving forward.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

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