March 2016



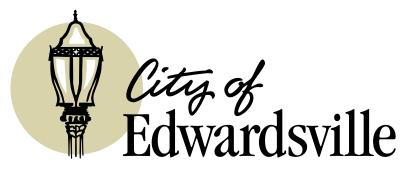
Edwardsville I Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Ground

April 7, 2016 7:30am

LegislativeBreakfast with the Mayors





7:30am Full Breakfast Buffet 8:00am Introductions, Welcome & Program

In the Leclaire Room at Lewis and Clark Community College's N.O. Nelson Campus

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2016 Executive Committee

Cathy Hamilton, Chair BARBERMurphy Group Sam Guarino, Vice Chair Bella Milano Restaurants Josh Lowe, Treasurer West & Company, LLC Philip Lading, Legal Counsel Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C.

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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.

Chamber Staff

Desirée Bennyhoff President & CEO ceo@edglenchamber.com

Kerry Smith Membership Director membership@edglenchamber.com

Kathy Hentz Administrative Assistant office@edglenchamber.com

Vision

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

Mission

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

Guiding Principles

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

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

on the cover

Annual Mayors' Breakfast: April 7, 2016

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce's Mayors' Legislative Breakfast, an annual event planned by the chamber's government affairs committee, is scheduled for **Thursday, April 7** in the **Leclaire Room** at **Lewis and Clark Community College's N.O. Nelson campus.**

This is an excellent opportunity to **network with fellow business people**, learn about current affairs in Edwardsville/Glen Carbon, and celebrate the many **accomplishments** of the communities we serve.

Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton and Glen Carbon Mayor Robert Jackstadt will provide guests an update on current economic development projects within their respective municipalities, and a recap of 2015 project, permit and sales tax data. This annual breakfast provides our two local municipalities the opportunity to present 'state of the city/village' information as it relates to our business constituency.

7:30am Hot Breakfast Buffet 8:00am Program Begins \$25 Per Person (Ed/Glen Chamber members) \$35 Per Person (guests)

The 2016 Mayors' Breakfast is proudly brought to you by IMPACT Strategies, Inc. To learn more about IMPACT Strategies, Inc., go to www.BuildWithIMPACT.com.

RSVP online at edglenchamber.com, or by faxing the form on page 7 of this publication.



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 Poettker Construction Company 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 Village of Glen Carbon Volkert, Inc. West & Company, LLC Wirtz Beverage Illinois

Premier Level

1818 Chophouse A Julian Felix Beautique ABRA Auto Body & Glass Abstracts & Titles Inc. Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots American Family Insurance Annie's Frozen Custard Answer Direct APG Pain Mgmt & 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 Cassens Transport 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.

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save the date

4/5 Tuesday 8-9am ACCELERATE

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Expert-Led Skills Development w/ Katie Haas from Corporate & Community Learning at Lewis and Clark Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1000 Plummer Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 *RSVP Online*

4/6 Wednesday 8-9am Chamber Q&A Ed/Glen Chamber Office 200 University Park Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 *RSVP Online*

4/7 Thursday 7:30am

Mayors' Legislative Breakfast: State of the City/Village N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room 600 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025 *RSVP Online*

4/12 Tuesday 7:15-8am

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

4/12 Tuesday 9:30am-3pm

Illinois Chamber of Commerce Employer Action Day Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield, IL *RSVP at www.ilchamber.org*

4/21 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5 w/ First Clover Leaf Bank, Bella Milano & MORE N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room 600 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/4 Wednesday 8-9am Chamber Q&A Ed/Glen Chamber Office 200 University Park Drive

Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

5/10 Tuesday 12-1pm

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

5/19 Thursday 5-7pm Business After 5 Olive Oils & More

Olive Oils & More 202 South Buchanan Street Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/1 Wednesday 8-9am

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

6/14 Tuesday 7:15-8am

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

6/16 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5 Sivia Business & Legal Services and Envisioning Green Location TBA

6/24 Friday 7:30am Annual Ed/Glen Chamber

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



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.

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- Gift planning
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Employer Action Day



With Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner

Employer Action Day Also Includes: Illinois Congressional Delegation Economist William Dunkelberg Breakout Sessions By Topic Statehouse Visits

9:30am-3pm Tuesday, April 12 at Springfield's President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Register Online @ www.ilchamber.org



Illinois Chamber of Commerce

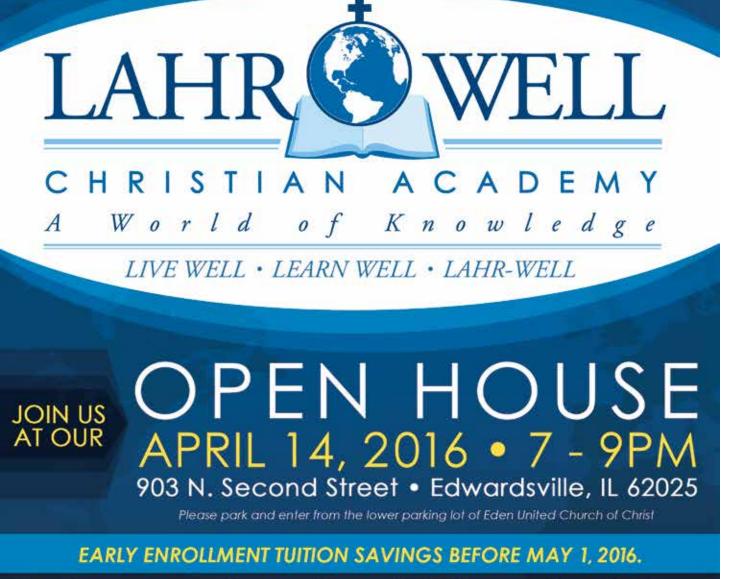
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Chamber of Commerce



"LIGHT YEARS BEYOND" COMMON CORE

- Foreign Languages: Spanish, French, German, Italian
- Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Engineering, Physics
- World History, U.S. History, World Geography, Civics, Constitution
- Music Appreciation / History / Theory
- Art and Design
- Critical/Analytical Thinking
- Advanced Math (H. S. Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Trig, Calculus/Physics)
- Weekly Bible Instruction
- 7-10 Field Trips each year
- Archeological Dig every two years

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April 7, 2016 7:30am Legislative Breakfast with the Mayors

Join the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce's government affairs committee for breakfast as they host the mayors of Edwardsville & Glen Carbon.





7:30am Full Breakfast Buffet8-9am Introductions, Welcome & Program

In the Leclaire Room at Lewis and Clark Community College's N.O. Nelson Campus

Breakfast with the Mayors Please reserve tickets at \$25 each (\$35 non-members)
Business Name
Business Address & Phone
Names of Attendees
Contact Email Address
Please Bill Me I am enclosing a check for \$
Fax RSVP Form to: 618.656.7611 Mail to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce 1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025
Questions? Call 618.656.7600 or email office@edglenchamber.com.
IMPACT Strategies Mayors' Legislative Breakfast Is Proudly Brought To You By IMPACT Strategies, Inc.

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

> 20+ YEARS Tri County Storage R. P. Lumber Company, Inc. Eden United Church of Christ CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

10-19 YEARS

George Alarm Company, Inc. Visionary Wealth Advisors Louer Facility Planning, Inc. Gateway Grizzlies Watershed Nature Center Piedmont Development Corporation Two Men & A Truck Bard & Didriksen Pediatrics, PC Kellerman Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

5-9 YEARS

Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots Mississippi Valley Community Blood Center Schaberg Dermatology Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Metro-East Lutheran High School Spectrum Business Ashley Furniture Home Store Edwardsville American Legion Post 199 Edwardsville Neighbors in Need Fireside Financial, LLC Holmes Insurance Agency 1st MidAmerica Credit Union Aaron's Sales & Leasing Grand River Jackpot, LLC

Riverbend Family Ministries Brain Balance Achievement Centers Bodies Kneaded Marine Coin Company Granny 8 Mortgage C.J. Schlosser & Company, LLC Hair She Blows, Inc. Pet Grooming Salon Contegra Construction Company, LLC

1–4 YEARS

Ambit Energy Glazy Squares Madison County Treasurer's Office Envisioning Green

business of the month



COMPANY HISTORY: Annie's Frozen Custard was founded by Leo and Kay Gieszelmann, and the current owners are Kay Gieszelmann and Glenn Bradford. Annie's provides tasty frozen treats and gourmet hot dogs to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community and surrounding areas. Annie's uses their own blend of wholesome, natural tasty ingredients to create the creamy frozen custard our customers have been enjoying for 20 years. The custard is made every hour on the hour – their very own Annie's mix is poured into a machine and whipped into frozen slabs where it falls into a scooping container. Unlike soft serve, their machine adds very little air, making for a nice, thick, creamy treat.

ECOMOMIC IMPACT: Many local young adults are employed at Annie's, and sales tax revenues are contributed to both Edwardsville and Glen Carbon through their two locations. Annie's has invested in both communities, through the original Edwardsville location and with Glen Carbon having an eat-in dining room and drive thru that is open 12 months of the year. The Edwardsville location just opened for its 20th season on March 1, 2016.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Annie's Frozen Custard hosts fundraisers for a variety of organizations, including Relay for Life, Metro East Humane Society, Paint the Town Gold, Chosen to Shine and the Edwardsville Main Street Community Center. The business also donates to numerous schools, sports teams, churches, and non-profit organizations.



WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: Annie's Frozen Custard provides ongoing training for its employees, stressing serving a great product with outstanding customer service. The owners also host several parties throughout the year promoting a team atmosphere.

INNOVATION: The company focuses on product quality and employee training. The most exciting – and delicious – innovations at Annie's are the menu changes that occur throughout the year, adding new flavors and and holding contests for menu additions.

CHARACTER: The core values at Annie's Frozen Custard revolve around providing quality products, outstanding customer service, and exceptional experiences for all patrons.

FUTURE FOCUS: The future is bright for Annie's Frozen Custard. Gieszelmann and Bradford will continue their focus on delivering high-quality treats, memorable experiences for customers, and community involvement.

ANNIE'S FROZEN CUSTARD has two locations –11 Illini Drive in Glen Carbon and 245 South Buchanan Street in Edwardsville. Learn more online at www.anniesfrozencustard.com or by calling 618-692-0400.

schmooze

business after hours



J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18



J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18



J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18



J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18



J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18

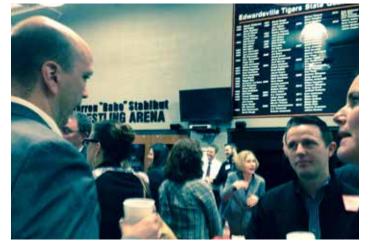




J.F. Electric, Inc., February 18

ribbon cuttings & accelerate kick-off





ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off, February 2



ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off, February 2



ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off, February 2



ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off, February 2



ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off, February 2

Chamber of Commerce

Catrinas, February 8

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- Eye irritation
- · Cough, cold or flu symptoms
- Painful urination
- · Diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting

We also provide these services:

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Sports/School Physicals \$25

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In cooperation with Christian Hospital and BJC HealthCare

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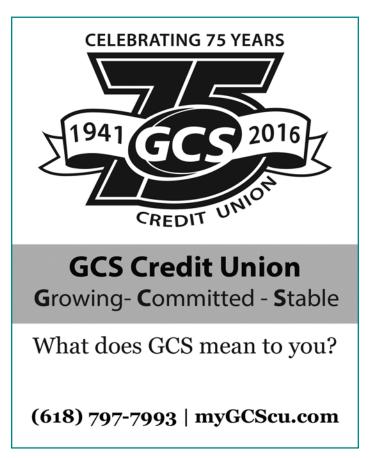
your business

IMPACT Strategies Expands St. John's & Alzheimer's **Re-Locates Missouri Office**

Construction firm IMPACT Strategies, Inc. is expanding and relocating their Missouri office to the Power House Building at Union Station, 401 South 18th Street, St. Louis. The larger space will allow the company to align their staff with the needs of a growing market in St. Louis for commercial construction. Some sectors of the regional construction market are among the fastest growing in the nation, according to IMPACT Strategies President Mark Hinrichs. The firm's Illinois headquarters is in Fairview Heights.

Since its organization in 2002, IMPACT Strategies has experienced steady growth expanding both its geographical service area and market sectors it serves. The company has maintained a near perfect safety record and deploys a structured 8-step safety program to minimize risk to its employees and those of its subcontractor partners. IMPACT Strategies specializes in retail, commercial, medical and education construction as well as senior and multi-family housing. Services include construction management, preconstruction management, design-build and general contracting.

To learn more, go to www.BuildWithImpact.com.



Association Partner

In partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, St. John's Community Care has announced a new program for people with memory loss: Cardinals Reminiscence League (CRL). CRL builds on the reminiscence therapy concept that memorabilia and other prompts can be used to stimulate conversations about shared memories of past experiences - in this case baseball memories - in hopes of enhancing their mood and communication skills. St. John's Community Care will provide this free program, launched and supported by the Alzheimer's Association, to those with Alzheimer's and related dementia, as well as their care partners.

"We are extremely happy to be able to offer this valuable program in Edwardsville. Cardinal Reminiscence League is a bold, optimistic and innovative approach to aid people with memory loss. Programs like this are a vision for how we can change the way we think and care for people with memory loss," said Nancy Berry, St. John's Community Care executive director.

Go to www.alz.org/stl/CRL to learn more.

AN ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT We are pleased to offer As a member of special discount rates from Auto-Owners Insurance EDWARDSVILLE/ **GLEN CARBON** Company on business CHAMBER OF insurance - to members COMMERCE of company approved **YOU'LL SAVE BIG!** organizations like yours! Fast, fair and Southern Illinois efficient service - from Underwriters Agency, Inc. The "No Problem" People® P.O. Box 463 105 Plaza Court Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 **CALL TODAY AND SEE** 618-656-0120 C. William Schmidt • Matt Rogier **HOW YOU'LL SAVE! Auto-Owners Insurance**

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TheBANK's Bill Alexander Honored for 50 Years in Banking

Ask Bill Alexander about the highlights of his long career in banking, and his response is quick and pointed."It's all about the people and the relationships you make," he said. "It's not about titles or positions or even the money you earn ... It's about the life-long relationships you develop with people. I have truly relished the opportunity to develop those relationships, to serve people, and most importantly, to help people."

Alexander has helped many throughout his banking career, which reached its golden anniversary in October of 2015. He was honored for his 50 years of service by Illinois Bankers Association President Linda Koch at TheBANK of Edwardsville's Annual Stockholders' Meeting earlier this month.

"It's been a wonderful journey," Alexander said. "I feel so blessed to have the ability to work and serve the people of my hometown for so many years. And that's been a big benefit to me over the years. Even though it's grown so much, Edwardsville has always had that small town feel, which has made it easy to make strong, lasting relationships."

A near lifelong resident of Edwardsville after his family moved to the town when he was three years old, Alexander began his career in banking in October, 1965, at Edwardsville National Bank and Trust Company as a trainee in the loan department. Over the next 10 years, he progressed rapidly at Edwardsville National. He learned the ropes of operations, auditing and virtually every other department at the bank before eventually being named vice president and cashier, which at the time was the top operations position at the bank. Through that time, he also developed relationships with the employees at the other bank in town – TheBANK of Edwardsville – including then cashier Bob Wetzel, who would later become the longest-serving president in TheBANK's history.

"Both banks were about the same size at that time, and there was a lot of cooperation between the two," Alexander said. "Bob and I had a great friendship that went beyond banking. Both banks only had roughly 40 employees, so we all knew each other." Those relationships would play a big part in Alexander joining TheBANK.

In 1975, Edwardsville National was bought by out-of-town interests as an investment opportunity, and Alexander, who has always been strongly committed to community banking, saw the writing on the wall. So when Wetzel and then-president of TheBANK John Hunter approached him about joining TheBANK, Alexander took the opportunity. He started his career at TheBANK in January, 1976, as a vice president.

Over the next 40 years, Alexander played a pivotal role in the management of TheBANK's growth as a vice president, senior vice president and his current title, executive vice president. He even served as interim president of TheBANK following Wetzel's retirement in 2004. The position was offered to him on a full-term basis, but he declined due to his retirement plans at the time. However, he helped lead the search that brought Tom Holloway to TheBANK as president, ushering in an era of expansion for the organization.

In addition to his role in management decisions regarding the day-to-day operations of TheBANK, Alexander has also been a key player in its long-term



decision making as a member of its board of directors, as well as a member of the board of directors of its holding company, THE BANC ED CORP., since its inception. He currently serves as president of THE BANC ED CORP. board.

Alexander has also played a big part in helping build TheBANK's unmatched reputation for community service. He has served charitable, civic and educational organizations at the local, state and national levels – as well as serving his country for a six-year stint in the United States Air Force Reserves as an aeromedical technician during the Vietnam conflict, where he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He has been a near lifelong member and supporter of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, was named a "Paul Harris Fellow" by the Edwardsville Rotary Club, and earned the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Edwardsville Jaycees in 1976.

Alexander's long list of service to local boards features the Edwardsville/ Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, and American Cancer Society chapter; the city's Police Pension Board and Mobile Intensive Care Unit; the Illinois Bankers Association, the Southwestern Illinois Chapter of the Bank Administration Institute, and the Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin; and Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois. While serving on the state board of directors for Lutheran Child and Family Services, he was instrumental in the development and opening of the Meridian Village Retirement Community in Glen Carbon, and served as its chairman of the board in its early years until it merged with Lutheran Senior Services.

While his list of accomplishments and service is long, Alexander is quick to point out that both his work at TheBANK and his work in the community have not been solo efforts.

"I take a tremendous amount of pride in the work we've been able to accomplish in the growth of the communities and the growth of TheBANK," he said. "I also owe a tremendous thank you to my fellow employees, both past and present, for being such a great group of individuals to work with. They have been and continue to be committed to making this organization and our communities successful." He paused, and added, smiling, "I just started a little sooner and have lasted a little longer than most."

Scheffel Boyle's Jerseyville Office Recognized As Business Of The Year

Scheffel Boyle is pleased to announce that the firm's Jerseyville office has been recognized as the 2015 Business of the Year by the Jersey County Business Association (JCBA). The award is given to only one business on an annual basis due to their economic contributions to the local region, outstanding business practices, and overall involvement in community service efforts, among other qualities.

"We were all extremely honored to receive this award and I couldn't be more proud of my team and all they do for Jersey County," said Kim Loy, CPA, principal of Scheffel Boyle's Jerseyville office. "We have deep roots in this community and greatly appreciate being selected for this recognition. It means a lot to us."

Scheffel Boyle's Jerseyville office was established in 1984. It currently houses five full-time employees, as well as some part-time and seasonal staff. Scheffel Boyle is extremely active in the local community, which was a large factor in the firm being selected for the award. They regularly donate to local causes and their employees spend a great deal of time volunteering for numerous organizations in the Jersey County community.



"We are so pleased with Kim and her team, who are so active in the community," said Mary Heitzig, CEO of the JCBA. "There are times when we don't know what we would do without them."

Loy accepted the award on behalf of her team at the JCBA Annual Banquet, which was held earlier in March at the Westlake Country Club in Jerseyville with more than 200 people in attendance.

Scheffel Boyle is recognized as the largest locally-owned accounting firm in Southwestern Illinois, and as one of the largest accounting firms in the St. Louis region. Their offices are currently located in Alton, Edwardsville, Belleville, Highland, Jerseyville, Columbia, Carrollton, and Bartelso. In business since 1924, their services include both corporate and individual tax, accounting, consulting, and assurance services.

For more information about Scheffel Boyle, go to www.scheffelboyle.com.





(From left) Kyle David, Assistant Vice President, TheBANK of Edwardsville's Commercial Banking Group;

TheBANK of Edwardsville The People You Know & Trus

Dave Viox: About TheBANK of Edwardsville's **Commercial Banking Group**

lvantage urance 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.



Your Success Is Our Business

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MEMBER FDIC

YOUR DUSINESS J.F. Electric Makes \$50,000 Donation To Fund Edwardsville's New Sports Park

The community-wide fundraising effort for three new recreational facilities in Edwardsville recently received a donation of \$50,000 for the proposed sports park by J.F. Electric on behalf of the Fowler family. This additional funding will go toward construction of this state-of-the-art sports park, which will be located near the I-55 corridor.

Greg Fowler of J.F. Electric is excited about the partnership with the city of Edwardsville for the A Better Place to Play campaign. "We wanted to step up and do what we could to make the Sports Park a reality for our community. Supporting our local youth and their interests in sports is an important investment and one that we plan to support even further in the future.

The green space will include softball, baseball and soccer fields, as well as tennis and pickleball courts. The most recent donation will be used toward creating much-needed recreational space for those select ball and soccer teams in need of fields. J.F. Electric is excited about partnering with the city of Edwardsville for this project, and plans to continue this partnership for the

duration of the city's 'A Better Place to Play' campaign. Other sponsors of the sports park include the Plummer family, who will receive naming rights of the park, and an anonymous donor, who helped sponsor the ADA ball field.

The sports park is one of three parks being funded by the 'A Better Place to Play' campaign, which seeks donations from area businesses and individuals wishing to improve the community's recreational offerings. A spray and play park at the intersection of South Main and Schwarz Streets is also being funded by the campaign, and is now under construction. An ice rink and teen center to be located on the ECUSD #7 grounds is also being planned.

Mayor Hal Patton said, "Working with J.F. Electric and having them support A Better Place to Play is another investment in making our community a better place to work, play, visit and live. Adding these three new parks will make this community even stronger. It will support our local businesses with additional hotel stays, restaurant visits and other retail spending and it will help facilitate the many practice and play hours needed for our local teams."





The Bridge is a special event series designed to be a vehicle for networking, fun and professional development.

"Thank you for making such a quality event available at no charge to business women in our community."

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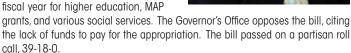
gov. affairs

Illinois Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Report

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a 'Government Affairs Report' email Friday, March 18.

LIMITED SESSION WEEK: Coming off of the primary election on Tuesday, the Senate was the only chamber in session this week from Wednesday, March 16 - Thursday, March 17.

Perhaps the biggest headline of the Senate's session week was the passage of SB 2059 (Cullerton). This appropriation bill would appropriate \$3.8 billion in all funds for the current fiscal year for higher education, MAP



TAXPAYER INFORMATION SHARING: There are several measures before the Senate Revenue Committee that would amend the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act to allow the sharing of certain taxpayer information by the Department of Revenue with municipalities and counties.

Among the bills scheduled for consideration were SB 2562, SB 2933, and SB 3295. None of these bills were considered by the committee this week and have all been placed on postponed consideration.

SB 2933, would allow the sharing of such information by the municipalities with third parties. The Chamber opposes the sharing of tax information with third parties.

It is the Chamber's understanding that the Senate Revenue Committee may hold a subject matter hearing in April to discuss the topic of sharing taxpayer's information with other units of government.

ENERGY: On Thursday, the Senate Executive Committee considered SB2950, an Illinois Pollution Control Board initiative introduced by Sen. Steans. The main concern with the bill is language that would allow for penalties for any violations adopted under the EPA act, as opposed to only violations imposed by the Board. The bill passed out of Committee with no discussion. Discussions regarding this issue are ongoing.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE: The Chamber's International Business Council Executive Director, Laura Ortega is joining a group of business people who will brief the Obama Administration on the effects of international trade policies, and specifically the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Please click here for more information on Laura's visit to the White House next week.

EMPLOYER ACTION DAY: Employer Action Day is on April 12 in Springfield. Don't miss this opportunity to receive the latest political intelligence and the opportunity to lobby your elected officials at our annual event! Registration is open and sponsorship's are still available. Please click here to register!

BILLS OF INTEREST: HB 5750 (G. Harris) would create the Health Insurance Claims Assessment Act. The legislation imposes a 1% assessment (tax) on claims paid by a health insurance carrier or third party administrator. The funds received under the Act would be utilized for the purposes of funding Medicaid Services.

SB 2403 (Rose) passed as amended out of the Senate Public Health committee on Wednesday. The bill would require hospitals to adopt and implement evidence based protocols for the early recognition and treatment of patients with sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock based on generally accepted standards of care. The Chamber is neutral.

House Floor Amendment 1 to HB 1290 (Rep. Madigan) would allow an employee a lien right on all property of their employer, including after-acquired property, for the full amount of any wages, penalties, and interest owed to the employee. The amount of the lien includes unpaid wages and other compensation required by law, penalties available under law, including liquidated damages, interest at the same rate as for prejudgment interest in this State, and the costs of filing and service of the lien. The Chamber opposes this measure.

HB 4999 (Rep. Guzzardi) amends the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act making it unlawful for an employer or prospective employer to request or require an employee or applicant to authenticate or access a personal online account in the presence of the employer; to request or require that an employee or applicant invite the employer to join a group affiliated with any personal online account of the employee or applicant; or join an online account established by the employer. It prohibits retaliation against an employee or applicant. An amendment is being prepared to address our concerns.

HB 5533 (Rep. Morrison) creates the Limitations on Actions for Negligent Hiring Act limiting a cause of action brought against a party solely for hiring an employee or independent contractor who has been convicted of a nonviolent, non-sexual offense. The Chamber is in support of this measure.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE: The Senate will return to Springfield on Tuesday, April 5 and the House of Representatives will return Monday, April 4.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO Illinois Chamber of Commerce



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