It's everyone's business.

Common Ground

shop local  eat local  spend local  enjoy local

LOVE LOCAL
SHOP CHAMBER
#ShopEdGlen

It takes you to start the trend.

Put Your $$$ Where Your ❤️ Is
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 Newman, HireLevel
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

Love LOCAL – Shop CHAMBER!

This year’s Shop Chamber campaign begins with Small Business Saturday (November 26) and will get into full swing the first week of December, with stylish khaki-colored reusable shopping bags available at participating locations while supplies last. Throughout the holiday season, businesses will distribute 1,000 bags to shoppers, each including 25 valuable coupons and a Shop Chamber map.

Join in the holiday fun: Love LOCAL and Shop CHAMBER this holiday season! A location map and a list of participating restaurants and merchants are listed on pages eight and nine of this newsletter. LIKE the Love LOCAL campaign on Facebook (www.facebook.com/EdGlenShopChamber), and enter the contest via the Facebook page – one lucky winner will receive more than $500 in gift cards to businesses participating in the Shop Chamber campaign!

When you visit our Shop Chamber businesses, be on the lookout for Ed & Glenda – they love shopping locally and invite you to take a selfie with them, post it to the Love LOCAL Facebook page, and tag the business location in the post.

As you begin to prepare for a busy holiday season of party hosting, tokens of appreciation for clients and staff, and thoughtful gifts for family and friends, please make a concerted effort to shop locally this holiday season!

#ShopLocal #ShopEdGlen #ShopChamber
connect
the newly connected

AAIC, Inc.
Erin Morris
Architectural Services
One Design Mesa
Collinsville, IL 62234
618.345.1270
www.aaicinc.com

Stix & Stones Interiors
Kim Copeland
Home Interiors
10 East Vandalia Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.307.5559
www.facebook.com/stixandstonesinteriors

Town Life EZ Marketing
Dr. Greg Sanders
Smart Phone Business
Cards & Marketing
524 North Locust Street
Greenville, IL 62246
618.267.2730
www.townlifeez.com

Vincent Mortgage Group
Haley Buckner
Mortgage Services
12801 Flushing Meadows Drive
St. Louis, MO 63131
314.839.9999
www.vinsonmortgage.com

Wild Heart Boutique, LLC
Brooke Lynch
Beautiful Boutique Featuring
Clothing, Jewelry & MORE!
2121 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.304.8455
www.facebook.com/shopwildheartboutique

Beer of the Month
December

Beer: Sierra Nevada Pale Ale
Style: Hand-Crafted Ale
Availability: Year-Round; Draught & Bottles

Pale Ale began as a homebrewer’s dream, grew into an icon, and inspired countless Craft-brewers. Its unique piney and grapefruit aromas from whole-cone Cascade hops have fascinated beer drinkers for decades, yet it remains new, complex and surprising to thousands of beer drinkers every day.

ABV= 5.6%

Brought to you by...

Robert "Chick" Fritz, Inc. Your Friendly Beer Distributor
**COMPUTER HISTORY:** Bodies Kneaded was founded in 2002 by owner Amanda Simon and started as a one woman show. Amanda would travel to people’s homes to provide massage therapy. As she quickly gained regular clients she rented a room in an established nail salon. Business continued to grow rapidly, and in 2007 she took a leap and decided to move into the larger space where Bodies Kneaded Granite City still resides, and bring on another massage therapist to help with the extra business; that location has grown to 12 employees. In 2012 Bodies Kneaded decided to broaden its reach and open a satellite location in offering massage therapy in Glen Carbon. Within a few months Amanda noticed the demand for skincare services so she brought on a spa/ skin care expert who helped her expand the menu into what it is today – a full service spa. While Bodies Kneaded gained its start and for years was known primarily for being a great place to get a therapeutic massage along with a wide variety of other services, it has since become known for its luxurious facials, body treatments, hydrotherapy, and waxing. Bodies Kneaded also retails a full line of high-end organic skincare products as well as several handmade local products.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Bodies Kneaded not only contributes to the local economy through sales tax generation and the 12 people it employs (with room to grow), but also by bringing outside residents to our spa where they will typically frequent other Glen Carbon and Edwardsville establishments before or after receiving spa services. Not to mention referrals to complementary local businesses.

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT:** Bodies Kneaded contributes to charitable organizations in the community through corporate sponsorship of events, donating items for auction fundraisers, and offering free chair massages at many local charity events.

**WORKFORCE COMMITMENT:** Bodies Kneaded takes great pride and care in creating a positive work environment and long term employees. A variety of in-house continuing education and personal growth opportunities are provided. Spa professionals are paid well above industry standards. Bodies Kneaded conducts yearly sales competitions with the winner receiving a seven-day vacation. There are two company parties each year for employee appreciation and to boost company morale. Employee benefits include Aflac, some free services and unlimited deeply discounted services as well as discounted products. Currently Amanda is working on adding a retirement plan for her employees.

**LEADERSHIP:** Many of the Bodies Kneaded staff members belong to the American Massage Therapy Association. The business is a member of both the Chamber of Commerce Southwestern Madison County in Granite City and the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce.

**INNOVATION:** Bodies Kneaded remains competitive by matching or beating competitor pricing while offering only the best, most experienced spa professionals. Staff offer and excel at a regular relaxing massage, but what makes Bodies Kneaded different is that they have the skills to customize the massage to clients’ needs and actually help with many pathologies. Estheticians offer very unique high-end skincare services using all organic and botanical ingredients not offered anywhere else in the Metro-East. Bodies Kneaded is one of the few spas in the entire region that offers hydrotherapy services, and the only spa that has a hydrotherapy spa capsule.

**EXCELLENCE:** Bodies Kneaded has been voted best massage provider in Granite City for several consecutive years, and there are hundreds of positive reviews on the company’s website. Recent certifications attained by the professional staff include myofascial release, myoskeletal alignment, kinesiology taping, dermaplaning, and oncology massage. Bodies Kneaded exceeds industry best practice by hiring only the best, highly educated and experienced spa professionals; offering a warm, loving and serene environment with staff who are passionate about reducing pain and improving physical health and self-image; and utilizing cutting-edge technology.

**CHARACTER:** The Bodies Kneaded mantra is “Making a positive difference in the lives of all those we touch.” Whether it’s melting someone’s stress away, eliminating pain, improving someone’s self-image by ridding them of acne, helping them achieve smoother younger looking skin or simply serving as a listening ear, the Bodies Kneaded team genuinely cares and hopes to make a real difference in clients’ lives.

**FUTURE FOCUS:** Bodies Kneaded is in a constant growth pattern. On average they have consistently demonstrated a 30% growth over the last several years, and typically hire additional staff each year. New products and services are a must to remain up-to-date. Amanda and her staff aspire to one day be the most cutting-edge, luxurious spa and massage clinic in the entire region, drawing people from not only the local area but tourists from other states.
We’ve taken comfort to a whole new level.

Introducing...private patient rooms and our new Anderson Mercy Cancer Care services.

Welcome to Your Private Room
We’re excited to now offer private patient rooms so you can rest better and recover faster. Our private rooms offer a welcome retreat to patients seeking reduced noise, more rest and an increased level of comfort... at no additional cost.

Improved Cancer Care Services
We’ve partnered with Mercy St. Louis to bring a new level of clinical expertise to cancer patients in the metro east. AndersonMercy Cancer Care brings the best integrated, cancer care treatments close to home and family.
We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of November. 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!

**30+ YEARS**
Anderson Hospital

**20–29 YEARS**
Bev George & Associates  
Sunset Hill Funeral Home & Cemetery  
H.P. Management (IL), Inc.  
Republic Services  
Madison County Employment & Training Department  
Eagle Publications/Hometown Phone Book

**10–19 YEARS**
Faith In Action  
National Bank  
Cherry Hills Properties, Inc.  
Grand Rental Station  
Glen Carbon Family Dentistry  
Bella Milano Edwardsville  
Pfund Construction Company, Inc.  
Exactime Watch & Clock  
West & Company, LLC

**5–9 YEARS**
H & R Block  
Catered AFFAIR  
Peel Wood Fired Pizza  
Last Resort in Whole Body Health  
Illinois State Representative Dwight Kay

**1–4 YEARS**
Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate  
Paragon Certified Restoration, A Belfor Company  
CertaPro Painters  
Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill  
Ark Animal Hospital  
A Wildflower Shop, Inc.  
The Bedroom Store  
Signarama  
Plocher Construction Company, Inc.  
Illinois Center for Autism
Shop SMART. Shop LOCAL. Shop CHAMBER.

Edwardsville Glen Carbon
Put Your $$$ Where Your ♥ Is
AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
6697 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-659-2103

A Wildflower Shop, Inc.
2131 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-772-3850

AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
6697 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-659-2103

Batteries Plus Bulbs
3755 South IL Route 159
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-205-8395

Bella Milano Edwardsville
1063 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-659-2100

Bodies Kneaded
26 Glen Ed Professional Park
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-931-1000

Bodies Kneaded
26 Glen Ed Professional Park
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-931-1000

Chava’s Mexican Restaurant
217 East Vandalia Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-8192

Chava's Mexican Restaurant
217 East Vandalia Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-8192

Catreñas
1027 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-5522

Catreñas
1027 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-5522

Eclipse Car Wash
6475 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
888-573-7145

Eclipse Car Wash
6475 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
888-573-7145

Exactime Watch & Clock
4225 South IL Route 159 Suite 3
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-9999

Exactime Watch & Clock
4225 South IL Route 159 Suite 3
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-9999

Glik’s Department Store
124 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-3875

Glik’s Department Store
124 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-3875

Happy Up, Inc.
6654-A Edwardsville Crossing Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-9596

Kettle River Furniture & Bedding
1091 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-5111

Kettle River Furniture & Bedding
1091 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-5111

Metro Eye Care, PC
6620 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-659-1900

Metro Eye Care, PC
6620 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-659-1900

Olive Oils & More
1990 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-4645

Olive Oils & More
1990 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-4645

Ooh La La Spa
110 Cottonwood Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-9117

Ooh La La Spa
110 Cottonwood Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-9117

The Gingham Buffalo
500 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-8700

The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill
171 South Main Street
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-288-2141

Tot Spot Children’s Resale
1512 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-655-0515

Wang Gang Asian
1035 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-655-0888

What to Wear
921 South Arbor Vitae, Suite 104
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-655-0222

Wild Birds Unlimited
2216 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-307-9604

Wild Heart Boutique
2121 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-307-5155

Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date Shop Chamber campaign information, including photos from our retail and dining participants, and updates from Ed & Glenda!

www.facebook.com/EdGlenShopChamber
#ShopLocal #ShopEdGlen #ShopChamber
schmooze
business after 5

1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Lewis and Clark Community College, October 20

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1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Lewis and Clark Community College, October 20

1st MidAmerica Credit Union & Lewis and Clark Community College, October 20
ribbon cuttings

YCG Accounting, October 5

CJD E-Cycling, October 12

Better Hearing Clinic, LLC, October 17
Dan Binkley: About TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Commercial Banking

At the time I was just starting out my business, and Bill Alexander and TheBANK really worked with me and showed a genuine interest in my success. As my business has grown throughout the years, TheBANK has helped me out every step of the way. I’m so appreciative of how creative the people at TheBANK have been in helping me build my business.

To be honest, the Commercial Banking team, with Denise Georgeff and the rest of them, has made my life easier in the complex world we do business in today. What I really look for in my banker is a person who can solve problems, and the people at TheBANK have been doing that for me for 20 years.

Every bank has to be competitive and offer quality products to survive. To really thrive, however, it’s all about relationships. Building a strong relationship is what it takes to get a business owner like me in the door. It’s the little things – the personal touches – that make TheBANK great, like when the person in the drive-thru window knows your name. That’s why I’ve been with TheBANK all these years .... It’s been a long-term relationship that’s not only been satisfying professionally, but leaves me with a friendly feeling every time I do business there.
Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Sponsors Edwardsville Junior Service Club Holiday House Tour

The Collinsville-based HVAC Company, Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc., announced sponsorship for the December 4 Junior Service Club Holiday House Tour, which highlights eight beautiful and tastefully decorated homes in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community.

Don Viviano, owner of Viviano HVAC, believes there's nothing more important than giving back to the community where you live and work. Viviano said, "Each and every year we are involved in many community events, contributing time and monetary donations to many worthwhile causes. As one of this year’s house tour home sponsors, we are thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful event and are glad to be working with an exemplary organization like the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Junior Service Club”.

The Holiday House Tour is the longest running fundraiser for this local Junior Service Club (JSC), where owners of select homes open their doors for this self-guided house tour, inviting the public to enjoy the decorations and encouraging all ticketholders to get into the holiday spirit. To learn more JSC, go to www.edglenjuniorservice.org.

Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. is family owned and operated and has served residential and commercial customers throughout the Metro-East for more than 25 years. Offering a wide variety of services to include installation, maintenance and repair, Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning is a qualified Trane Comfort Specialist dealer. For more information go to www.vivianoair.com or call 618.345.7498.
The Land of Goshen Rotary Club Raising Funds For Inaugural ‘Dollars for Community Scholars’ Raffle

The Land of Goshen Rotary club is giving away up to $25,000 PLUS another $900 in prizes in their first ever ‘Dollars for Community Scholars’ cash raffle. Selling all tickets enables Goshen Rotary to award $25,000 in scholarship funds to college and college-bound students in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon region. Tickets may be purchased at this link: goshenrotary.raffleready.com/dollars-for-community-scholars-annual-cash-raffle

Goshen Rotary has served the needs of our immediate, regional and international communities for nearly 25 years. Their projects range from providing basic needs to children and seniors, to local enhancement and preservation projects.

Go to www.thegoshenrotary.org to learn more about the club.

AN ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT

As a member of EDWARDSVILLE/ GLEN CARBON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YOU’LL SAVE BIG!

We are pleased to offer special discount rates from Auto-Owners Insurance Company on business insurance — to members of company approved organizations like yours!

Fast, fair and efficient service — from The “No Problem” People®

CALL TODAY AND SEE HOW YOU’LL SAVE!

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNDERWRITERS AGENCY, INC.
P.O. Box 463
3 Club Centre Ct., Suite C
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-0120

C. William Schmidt
Matt Rogler, CIC

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The “No Problem People®

GCS Credit Union

What does GCS mean to you?

(618) 797-7993 | myGCScu.com
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Center for Verification & Action Certifies Juneau Associates

Juneau Associates is pleased to announce that it has been certified as a veteran-owned small business (VOSB) by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs’ (VA) Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE).

Charlie Juneau, president of Juneau Associates says, “This is an important program to recognize service men and women for their dedication and contributions to our country. With help provided by the Vets First Verification Program, U.S. residents who serve and protect our country can return from service with increased opportunities in an entrepreneurial-minded and veteran-friendly business climate. We commend the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for its forward-thinking approach to supporting our veterans.”

To be recognized as a federal, veteran-owned small business by the CVE, a business must be at least 51 percent unconditionally and directly owned by one or more veterans. With this federal certification, Juneau Associates is eligible to participate in opportunities through the Veterans First Contracting Program. Juneau Associates is also a certified veteran-owned small business under the State of Illinois Veteran Business Program - a designation the firm received in 2012.

Real-world experience. That is what distinguishes the banking law practice at Mathis, Marfian & Richter, Ltd. from many other law firms. As former bankers and Federal Reserve directors, our attorneys do not just practice banking law; they have hands-on experience in the day-to-day operations of banking institutions. From small community-based financial institutions to large multi-state banking organizations, our banking law services include:

- Bank sales and acquisitions
- Holding company formations
- Collection actions
- Loan workouts
- Mortgage foreclosures
- Loan documentation
- S elections
- Lender liability litigation
- Regulatory matters
Ameren Illinois Shares Winter Preparedness Tips, Reports Adequate Natural Gas Supply & Stable Prices

Ameren Illinois leaders recently joined the state’s other natural gas utilities at Illinois Commerce Commission’s annual policy session on winter preparedness. Representatives presented information on what each company is doing to prepare for winter and the expected increase in natural gas usage, an Ameren press release says. With approximately 1.3 billion cubic feet per day of gas available, Ameren Illinois reported it has adequate supply to accommodate peak demand. The company also expects natural gas supply prices to hold steady.

Based on current market prices, Ameren Illinois customers will pay $0.44 per therm during the 2016-17 heating season, same as during the 2015-16 heating season. Since the 2015-16 winter weather was 20 percent warmer than normal, Ameren Illinois customers may see an increase in their winter heating bills if colder temperatures return and energy usage increases, the release says.

Natural gas — including the cost of interstate gas transportation, leased storage, and the commodity itself — makes up a large portion of a customer’s monthly heating bill. Ameren Illinois takes steps to keep prices as low as possible for customers by purchasing natural gas in the summer when prices are lower, storing it in underground reservoirs, and then delivering it for customers to use in the winter months, the release says.

"While a customer’s total bill amount will depend on a variety of factors, including temperatures outside and the actual amount of energy a customer uses, we’re pleased that our price hedging and storage strategies continue to make it possible for Ameren Illinois’ natural gas prices to remain among the lowest in the country,” said Ken Dothage, Ameren Illinois gas supply director. Ameren Illinois customers can further reduce their heating bills by implementing energy-saving strategies:

- Keep the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower this winter. You save about 3% on your heating costs for each degree you lower your thermostat.
- Use a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature of your home according to your family’s schedule.
- Set water heater temperature to 120 degrees. Lowering the setting of the water heater thermostat can save approximately 3–5% in energy costs.
- Close vents in unused rooms.
- Adequately insulate your home, which can reduce energy usage by up to 30%. In the Midwest, experts recommend 9 to 15 inches of attic insulation.
- Keep drapes and furniture from blocking air vents.
- Use weather stripping and caulk to reduce air leaks. Pay special attention to walls, ceilings, windows and vents in the basement.
- During the winter, ceiling fans should move warm air away from the ceiling and down to the floor, so they need to run at a low speed in a clockwise direction (as you look up at it). The room will be more comfortable and heating costs will be lowered. It costs only $2 a month to use ceiling and other fans to circulate air.
Southwest Illinois Division of United Way of Greater St. Louis Raises $1.75 Million

The Southwest Illinois Division of United Way of Greater St. Louis announced that its annual community campaign raised $1.75 million. Jay Korte, 2016 campaign chair of the Southwest Illinois Division of United Way and director of client relations of The Korte Company, announced the campaign results at a victory celebration at the Argosy Casino in Alton.

"Raising $1.75 million is a great achievement, but more importantly, it is a significant investment into the RiverBend community to help local children, seniors, families and individuals," said Korte. “I want to thank all of the volunteers and people who contributed to the campaign for their efforts and who made this possible.”

The community campaign supports 38 local health and human service agencies in the RiverBend community. The Southwest Illinois Division serves Madison, Macoupin, Jersey, Greene and Calhoun counties, helping more than 200,000 people annually.

Overall, United Way of Greater St. Louis raised a total of $75,055,451 for the 2016 campaign. More than 100,000 residents and 2,200 companies donated to United Way to help one in three people throughout the greater St. Louis region. “The St. Louis region, from its strong corporate community to its generous individuals, has once again come together to help our neighbors, co-workers, family and friends," said Steve Lipstein, 2016 campaign co-chair for United Way of Greater St. Louis and president and CEO of BJC HealthCare.

United Way of Greater St. Louis mobilizes the community with one goal in mind — helping people live their best possible lives. Located throughout 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois, United Way helps one in three people in the region build a foundation for a good quality of life through basic needs, education, financial stability, health and strong communities.
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.
Illinois Chamber of Commerce Provides Veto Session Recap

ENERGY DEBATE: By far the largest bill before the General Assembly this week was SB 2814 (Rose/Rita), also known as the Future Energy Jobs Bill. The bill received several amendments this week and eventually passed the House 63-38-0 and the Senate 32-18-0. The Chamber ultimately opposed the legislation as the bill has significant impacts on the business community. In short, the bill is designed to keep two downstate nuclear facilities from closing, increase energy efficiency programs and improve the Renewable Portfolio Standard. The outcome of SB 2814 is disruptive to competitive electricity markets and exacerbates Illinois’ anti-business climate by raising electricity rates on all ratepayers – threatening Illinois’ ability to retain businesses. Moving forward, the Chamber will continue to work with members to analyze the bill and continue to measure the unintended consequences in the bill.

PREVAILING WAGE: After being previously overridden in the Senate, SB 2964 (Harmon/Hoffman) failed to be overridden in the House by two votes 70-42-2. The Chamber supported the governor’s veto and opposed any motion to override the veto. SB 2964 would have required the prevailing wage rate to be calculated as the rate that prevails for similar work on public works projects when the work is performed under a collective bargaining agreement or understanding between an employer and bona-fide labor organizations in a locality where 30% or more of the workers are involved. After an uphill roll call, the Chamber appreciates those who supported the business community and voted no on the override.

EPA FAST RACK RULEMAKING: The Chamber supported SB 1673, which passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously this week. The bill creates a new section of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act which creates a regulatory relief mechanism known as a “time-limited water quality standard.” This statutory provision provides industrial facilities and other permitted dischargers with relief from water quality standards that present compliance issues. The Chambers’ affiliate, the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, with input from the Chambers’ Environmental Affairs Committee lead negotiations on this bill on behalf of the business community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILLS: The Chamber is glad to report that the Senate did not take action on overriding the Governor’s veto on SB 2531 or SB 2600 this week. Due to the sponsors’ inaction on the bills, both of them are officially dead. These two bills, would have required any economic development corporation or commission which receives public money must have at least two members from a labor council serve on its board or commission - free of charge. Such members shall be full members with all rights and privileges and need not pay any membership fees or dues for such membership.

LAME DUCK TAX INCREASE: HJRCA 62 (Franks) passed the House this week 84-18-2. This constitutional amendment would require a 3/5’s majority for a tax increase to pass during lame duck session (currently simple majority). Chamber President and CEO, Todd Maisch testified in support of the measure this week in the House State Government Committee. The amendment now heads to the Senate, where it will have to pass during the lame duck session for it to be approved for the 2018 ballot.

SALVAGED VEHICLE TITLES: This week, the Illinois Chamber supported SB 2808 (Turner) which would align Illinois with surrounding states as it pertains to salvage title thresholds to companies that self insure their vehicles. Illinois currently has one of the toughest salvage title laws in the Midwest. Under the bill, the cost of repairing a damaged vehicle, labor included, would not render a vehicle salvaged until the costs exceed 70%, rather than the current law of 50%. The bill now heads to the governor’s desk.

HOUSE AND SENATE CALENDARS RELEASED: The House and Senate have both released their 2017 spring legislative calendars. Most notably, members of the 99th General Assembly will return to Springfield January 9 & 10 for two days of what is considered ‘lame duck session.’ The newly elected lawmakers will be sworn in on January 11 and will kick off the 100th General Assembly at that time.
One of the Top in the Nation. Once Again.

By focusing on quality care for patients and doing what’s right, we have received national recognition – for the fourth year in a row. Gateway Regional Medical Center is recognized by The Joint Commission as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® for achieving excellence in performance on its accountability measures during 2014 for Heart Attack, Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Surgical Care and Immunizations. Gateway Regional Medical Center is one of just 117 hospitals in the country – and the only one in Illinois – to have achieved this accomplishment for FIVE consecutive years.

So what does this recognition in using evidence-based care mean for you? Peace of mind in knowing that our local care is among the top in the nation.

Find out more at GatewayRegional.net.

GATEWAY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER