April 2017

Common Ground
It’s everyone’s business.

BUSINESS roundtable
CONGRESSMAN RODNEY DAVIS
NOON FRIDAY, MAY 12
TUSCAN ROOM @ BELLA MILANO
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.

2017 Ambassadors

Breck Newman, HireLevel
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Brendan Barone, Kunkel Commercial Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
David Jones, Scott Credit Union
Angie Lange, Express Employment Professionals
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments
Rob Pickerell, Midwest Regional Bank*
Kai Redmon, Redmon Insurance Agency
John Schuelke, Merrill Lynch
Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Ashleigh Teasley, Sixa Business & Legal Services
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville

* denotes committee chair

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.

2017 Executive Committee/Officers

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Business Roundtable With
Congressman Rodney Davis: May 12

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a private business roundtable with Congressman Rodney Davis. The event will be held at noon Friday, May 12 in the Tuscan Room at Bella Milano.

Business leaders are invited to participate in this exclusive opportunity to interact with Congressman Davis. Davis will provide an update on current federal-level legislation, and attendees will have plenty of time to share concerns, comments and questions with Congressman Davis from a business perspective.

CONGRESSMAN DAVIS’ BIOGRAPHY: Rodney Davis was recently sworn into his third term in Congress serving the 13th District of Illinois, a 14-county district covering both urban and rural areas of Central and Southwestern Illinois. Prior to being elected, Rodney served as Projects Director for Congressman John Shimkus (IL-15) for 16 years helping Illinois citizens and communities cut through government red tape and secure federal funding.

For the 115th Congress, Rodney serves in the House Agriculture Committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the House Administration Committee. He has also been appointed to serve as the Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research.

Rodney has established himself as an effective lawmaker who is able to work with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation. Serving on both the House Agriculture Committee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has allowed Rodney to be a leader on issues essential to commerce in Illinois.

Rodney’s work on the Farm Bill helped Congress produce a five-year bill that provides certainty to our farmers, strengthens crop insurance and cuts $23 billion in spending. Additionally, Rodney led the way to ensure farmers, who understand agriculture better than anyone, have a seat at the table when the EPA creates new rules and regulations impacting the agriculture industry.

While working to reform the Water Resources and Development Act, Rodney was successful in including language that allows the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to partner with private businesses to complete projects needed to improve our waterways. This initiative and other streamlining provisions to cut the approval process for projects from 15 years to 3 years will save millions of taxpayer dollars and significantly improve our nation’s ability to move goods and products to market.

Rodney has demonstrated his ability to lead even in a divided government. The Hire More Heroes Act, his bill to help small businesses hire more of our nation’s veterans by rolling back Obamacare, overwhelmingly passed the House with more than 400 supporting votes and was signed into law in July 2015. Rodney has worked with his colleagues to ensure a more efficient, effective government for generations to come.

Rodney resides in Taylorville with his wife, Shannon, and their three children, Taryn, Clark and Griffin.
special investors

Gold Level
Anderson Hospital
Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level
Amazon.com
Ameren Illinois Utilities
AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Horicco Insurance & Employee Benefits
Meridian Village
Sam’s Club 4878
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville
Walgreens
WalMart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Associated Bank
Breakthru Beverage Illinois
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
Castelli’s Moonlight Restaurant of 255 City of Edwardsville
CTS Technology Solutions, Inc.
DoubleTree by Hilton
Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville USDD #7
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Clover Leaf Bank
Golg Julian & Associates, PC
Holland Construction Services, Inc.
Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company
Jeneau Associates Inc., PC
Korf & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc.
Love’s Travel Stops
Madison Mutual Insurance Company
Mathis, Marifiant & 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
Volker, Inc.
West & Company, LLC

Premier Level
1818 Chophouse
A Julian Felix Beauutique
AAIC, Inc.
ABRA Auto Body & Glass
Abstracts & Titles Inc.
Allison’s Comfort Shoes & Boots
American Family Insurance
Annie’s Frozen Custard
Assurance Brokers, Ltd.
Benfield Pet Hospital
BARBERVoss Home Care
Bord & Didriksen Pediatrics, PC
Bauer Hile Orthodontic Specialists
Bella Mitera Edwardsville
Best Western Pluss Pontoon Beach
Big Daddy’s Edwardsville
Brain Balance Achievement Centers
Brickman Orthodontics
Chava’s Mexican Restaurant
Chef’s Shoppe
Cleveland-Heath
Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services
Cold Stone Creamery
Comfort Inn
Commerce Bank
Computype, Inc.
Conlega Construction Company, LLC
Cornerstone Insurance Group
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Cuver’s of Edwardsville
Days Inn
Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC
Doc’s Smokehouse & Catering
Dominewald Distributing
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
Edwardsville Ambulatory Surgery Center
Edwardsville Pet Hospital
Egyptian Business Furniture
Envisioning Green
Express Employment Professionals
Farmers Insurance
FCB Edwardsville Bank
First Community Credit Union
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
First National Bank - Maryville
Ford Hotel Supply
Foundry Public House
Gateway Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Gerald Moving & Warehousing Company
Gila’s Department Store
Goddard School
Greenfielder, Herrker & Gele, P.C.
Hampton Inn & Suites
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HeplerBroom, LLC
Highland Recycling & Shredding
HileLevel
Hoffhous Sports Bar & Grill
HSNS Medical Group
IMPACT Strategies, Inc.
J. F. Electric, Inc.
J. T. McDermott Remodeling Contractors
Jackson Lewis, P.C.
Jan’s Hallmark Shop
Jones Air & Water, LLC
KinderCare Learning Center
Kitchenland
La Quinta Inn & Suites
Lindenwood University
Lourer Facility Planning, Inc.
Magnuson Cornetel Hotel
Market Basket
Midwest Occupational Medicine
MinuteMan Press
National Bank
Network Specialists, LLC
Northwestern Mutual
ONEWAY Construction
Phone Masters
Plocher Construction Company, Inc.
REM Alliance
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
Reed, Armstrong, Mudge & Morrissey, P.C.
Regions Bank
Richards Brick Company
RiverBender.com/EdGlenToday.com
Royal Office Products, Inc.
Royal Solutions, LLC
San Gabriel Memory Care
Scheffel Boyle
Sivia Business & Legal Services, PC
South Side’s All-Star Collision Center
Southern IL Underwriters Agency, Inc.
Springfield Electric Supply Company
State Farm Insurance - Rick Marteeny
Sugo’s Spaghettieri
Sunset Hills Country Club
Sunset Hills Family Dental
Super & Motel
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill
Thompson & Lengacher, P.C.
Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C, & Electrical
Town and Country Bank
Tinzeberg & Associates, P.C.
University Nursing & Rehab Center
US Bank
Vision For Life
Visionary Wealth Advisors
Vivano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Wong Gang Asian

save the date

5/11 Thursday 7:30-9:30am
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
The Life of a Worker’s Compensation Claim
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
2011 Formosa Road
Troy, IL 62294
RSVP at ilchamber.org/events

5/18 Thursday 5–7pm
Business After 5
FCB Edwardsville Bank w/ The Cup & The Wooden Nickel
6659 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/24 Wednesday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
South Maple Design
by R.P.Lumber
350 South Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/13 Tuesday 7:15-8am
Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
200 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/15 Thursday 5–7pm
Business After 5
Hosted by Bella Milano, First Mid-Illinois Bank, Trust, Korte & Luitjohan & Robert ‘Chick’ Fritz
N.O. Nelson LeClaire Room
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/20 Tuesday 10am–4pm
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Workers’ Compensation Workshop for Illinois Employers
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at ilchamber.org/events

7/5 Wednesday 8-9am
Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/11 Tuesday 12-1pm
nexus@noon
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/20 Friday 7-7pm
Business After 5
Stilwater Senior Living
1111 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/28 Friday 7:30am
Ed/Glen Chamber Annual Golf Tournament
Oak Brook Golf Club
9157 Fruit Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/2 Wednesday 8-9am
Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/8 Tuesday 7-8am
Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/17 Thursday 5-7pm
Business After 5
Ruth’s House by Cedarhurst Assisted Living
7326 Marine Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
We are Invested.

Anderson has been invested in the healthcare of Madison County residents since 1977.

We are an independent, not-for-profit hospital dedicated to creating a health care setting in which quality of life and service excellence are experienced by our patients, their families, the medical staff and the community.

Our 154 bed, acute care facility is technology driven ... offering patients cutting-edge diagnostic capabilities not often found in a community setting.

Our quality services are evident by our accreditations, certifications and designations which endorse our expertise.

We are a pillar in this community with roots firmly planted in the communities we serve. Our legacy in the establishment of Anderson Hospital has remained a key element in our mission and vision. Each new service and every expansion has been in direct response to community needs.
2017 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber Golf Challenge
Friday, July 28 at Oak Brook Golf Club

Deadline for registration is July 17. No refunds after July 17. Payment must accompany registration.

Name ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Company _____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City _________________ State ___________ ZIP________________Work Phone ____________________________________
Team Captain Email ________________________________________  Team Captain Cell # (in case of inclement weather) ___________________

_____ We would like to sponsor at the ________________ level at $ __________________
_____ Please reserve ________________ foursome(s) at $500 each. Names are listed below.
_____ Please reserve ________________ twosome(s) at $250 each. Names are listed below.
_____ Please reserve ________________ individual ticket(s) at $130 each. Place me with a team.
_____ I would like to participate in the skins game at $20 per team.

Please list names below, with team captain’s name and e-mail address listed as “Player 1”:

Player 1 ___________________________________________________  Player 2 ________________________________________________________
Player 3 ___________________________________________________  Player 4 ________________________________________________________

Please enclose a check payable to Ed/Glen Chamber.
Payment in full due upon receipt of registration.

Please fax this completed form to the Chamber office at 618.656.7611 or mail with payment to:
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, 1 North Research Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Tournament Includes
- 18 holes of tournament golf with cart at Oak Brook Golf Club
- Unlimited use of driving range and putting green
- Straightest drive, longest putt & closest to pin contests
- Hole in one contest
- Snack & beverages on the course
- Late lunch provided (post-play)

Schedule of Events
6am  Registration & Driving Range Open
7:30am  Shotgun Start
12:30pm  Late Lunch in Banquet Room

Flight Winner Awards
1st Place  2nd Place
A Flight  $500  Round of for 4 @ Oak Brook Golf Club
B Flight  $500  Round of for 4 @ Oak Brook Golf Club

Proceeds Advance the Ed/Glen Chamber’s Mission

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.656.7600  edglenchamber.com
We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of April. 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!

**40+ YEARS**
Edwardsville Lions Club

**30–39 YEARS**
Eden Village Retirement Community

**20–29 YEARS**
Cassens Transport
Garwood’s Heating & Cooling
Automation Facilitators, Inc.

**10–19 YEARS**
Reed, Armstrong, Mudge & Morrissey,
SIUE Credit Union
Christian Hospital
St. John’s United Methodist Church
Edwardsville Community Foundation
Hospice of Southern Illinois
Assurance Brokers, Ltd.

**5–9 YEARS**
BARBERMurphy Group
J.W. Cole Financial, Inc.
Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth
Mark’s Tree Trim & Removal, Inc.
Providence Presbyterian Church
Studio GAIA, LLC
Capstorm, LLC
Kellerman Investigations

**1–4 YEARS**
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
Sam’s Club 4878
Together We Learn
South Side’s All-Star Collision Center
The Joint... the chiropractic place
Frames by 3
Wild Birds Unlimited Edwardsville
CP Creations
Core Physical Medicine
Scheffel Financial Services
Cricket on the Hearth
Edible Arrangements
Elite Event Services LLC
Staymobile
Egyptian Business Furniture
The Chiropractic Wellness Connection
For You.
For Community.
For Generations.

Community. It’s what brings us together. Family. Friends. Neighbors. Living in a place we call home. We strengthen our communities by supporting our many civic, educational and charitable organizations ... because it’s the right thing to do. It’s been our tradition since 1868. Stability. Service. And most importantly, giving back.

TheBANK of Edwardsville

618-656-0098
business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: The Edwardsville location of Chava’s is owned by Lisa Bohannon. The original Chava’s was opened in Soulard in 2006 by Chris Ybarra, Lisa’s brother, and has been extremely successful. Lisa lives in Edwardsville and given the economic growth and the restaurant scene, Edwardsville seemed like a perfect place for another location. The restaurant is named after Chris and Lisa’s grandfather, Chava, who is from Guadalajara, Mexico.

ECOMOMIC IMPACT: Chava’s generates jobs – employing 25 people, and have paid several thousands of dollars in taxes. Chava’s employees shop, play and/or live in Edwardsville. Lisa has also invested in improvements in the restaurant’s space, such as adding a patio for diners to enjoy.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Chava’s has participated in numerous fundraising events, such as Taste of Edwardsville. They have also donated food to various SIUE and brewery events, and have donated hundreds of gift certificates to local trivia events and school fundraisers.

EXCELLENCE: Food and customer safety is the top priority at Chava’s. The kitchen staff is required to complete the Food Safety Certification Training. Servers are required to complete BASSETT training so they know how to serve alcohol responsibly. Chava’s exceeds best practices by routine temperature checks – this is not required, but they do it to continually emphasize the need to maintain proper temperatures and keep the focus on food safety. The Chava’s team is prepared for a health inspection at all times.

CHARACTER: The Chava’s team goal is to provide its customers with great, fresh food and service. Their belief is that if they take care of their customers, they will succeed.

LEADERSHIP: Lisa is a member of the Mexican Honorary Commission.

INNOVATION: Chava’s chips and some of their tortillas are made locally in Chris Ybarra’s factory. Because these items are made by Chava’s for Chava’s, the quality can be controlled. Providing fresh food is a differentiator for Chava’s. Second, by implementing a social media strategy they remain current and in front of the customer. Chava’s offers a variety of daily specials to stay competitive and bring value to customers.

FUTURE FOCUS: Lisa and the Chava’s staff are very thankful for their customers and the business that they have generated. Their next step is to become a better corporate citizen by more involvement in the community.
schmooze
business after 5

Metro Eye Care, March 16

Metro Eye Care, March 16

Metro Eye Care, March 16

Metro Eye Care, March 16

Metro Eye Care, March 16

Metro Eye Care, March 16
business after 5 & ribbon cuttings

Metro Eye Care, March 16

TuckerAllen LLC, March 22

AndersonMercy Cancer Care’s Radiation Oncology Elekta Infinity™, March 30
Welcome Our
Newest Provider

Supraja Reddy, MD
Endocrinology

Now Accepting New Patients!
8 Sunset Hills Professional Centre
Edwardsville, IL 62025
314-953-8799
bjcmedicalgroup.org
Westerhold Recognized As Top Financial Advisor

Jeff Westerhold, an independent LPL financial advisor at Scheffel Financial Services, Inc., recently announced that he was named to LPL’s Director’s Club, a distinction given to the top advisors based on their business success compared to the more than 14,000 LPL advisors registered nationwide.

"On behalf of LPL, I applaud Jeff for earning this distinction and thank him for the contributions he has made to his clients, LPL and the financial services industry," said Andy Kalbaugh, LPL managing director and divisional president, National Sales and Consulting. "Jeff’s success is reflective of the value he has created with his clients by delivering independent financial advice and a robust service offering to help them work toward their financial goals. We are proud to support Jeff and wish him continued success."

BMG Broker Associate Receives RASI Award

BARBERMurphy Group Broker Associate Mike Pierceall, AICP, CEcD, was recently awarded the RASI, (Realtor Association of Southwestern Illinois) 2016 Largest Commercial Real Estate Sale award, involving the sale of 28.5 acres to Menard, Inc. at Wells By-Pass and Veterans Memorial Drive, Mount Vernon, IL for a new 222,000 square foot store and lumber warehouse. Construction start is pending.

The BARBERMurphy Group is a full service real estate brokerage firm specializing in commercial and industrial properties exclusively in Southern Illinois.
Looking for a place to host your next morning meeting? Then we have the perfect meeting space for you!

Gateway Center’s flexible meeting rooms can hold any size group and is available to rent starting at 7am. Our exclusive caterer Spectra Food Services & Hospitality offers a variety of delicious breakfast, coffee and brunch catering options. For meetings that take place later in the day, we offer customized lunch or dinner options too. For presentations, we offer Fiber Internet with high-speed bandwidth and AV equipment such as microphones, projectors, laptops and more.

Small groups of 10-12 people can rent our “Fishbowl” Board Room for a unique event experience.

Gateway Center’s central location makes gathering your group together convenient for all.

Planning another type of event? Call us! We can host any size or type of event!

Please contact Addie at 618-345-8998 ext. 118 for more information.

Use the Code GOOD MORNING and receive 10% Room Rental on your first meeting! (New events only)
Construction Under Way To Transform Former Hospice Home In Edwardsville Into Memory Care Community

IMPACT Strategies is underway with a renovation project that will transform the former Relais Bonne Eau Hospice Home in Edwardsville into a new memory care community for Cedarhurst Assisted Living. The 20,600 square foot building located on Marine Road has sat vacant since closing in December 2015. The memory care community, named Ruth’s House in honor of the grandmother of Cedarhurst founder and owner Joshua Jennings, is set to open early summer after a $1 million renovation.

As part of the renovation project, IMPACT Strategies will increase the resident capacity of the building to 17 units by repurposing storage areas that are no longer needed. Additionally, construction crews will remove doors, windows, and walls around the central corridor to create an inviting open area for residents and guests.

“We selected IMPACT for this project because they understand our business model and know exactly what we need to achieve with this building,” said Josh Stevens, president of Cedarhurst. “We currently have more than 225,000 square feet of senior living space under construction with IMPACT in Illinois and Missouri. We consider them to be a very reliable partner in senior housing construction.”

Upon completion, Ruth’s House will accommodate up to 36 residents with Alzheimer’s- or dementia-related illness. Inside the community, residents will enjoy a peaceful décor, an on-site chapel, a large great room perfect for gathering with friends and family as well as private bathrooms in every apartment. Ruth’s House will offer resident-centered care and support by a highly trained and mission driven staff.

Come get your kicks at the Route 66 Festival

- The always-popular classic car show and cruise
- Live music by The Catapults & Jeremiah Johnson Band on Friday Night
- Goose Miller Band & Johnny Holzum and Well Hungarians on Saturday Night
- Fabulous food and drinks
- Historic displays
- Inflatables
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Gaming Truck

www.edwardsvilleroute66.com
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard Managing Partner Bhavik Patel Earns Recognition

Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard Managing Partner Bhavik Patel was recognized as a Missouri Lawyers Media Law Firm Leader honoree recently in St. Louis. The annual award is presented each January to chairmen, managing partners or law firm executives who demonstrated vision, innovation and leadership during the previous year.

“This is truly a great honor,” Patel said of the award. “I’ve always tried to bring energy, creativity, vision and a focus on innovation to every role I’ve had with Sandberg Phoenix. And I believe that without the support of the entire firm, and the encouragement of our current and former leadership, I would not have received this recognition. Sandberg Phoenix is a special place, with a unique culture, and this award is proof of that.”

Patel, who joined Sandberg Phoenix in 2004, served as Practice Group Leader for the Business/Transactional practice group and managed the firm’s Clayton, Missouri and O’Fallon, Illinois offices. He practices in both the Business and Business Litigation Practice Groups and focuses his practice on the following areas: Wealth/Tax Planning and Administration, Special Needs Planning, Probate and Trust Litigation.

Outside of the office, Patel is a member of Washington University School of Law’s adjunct faculty and teaches a class entitled, “Practical Issues in Wealth Planning & Drafting.” He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Board for Families at Ease, a local not-for-profit entity focused on delivering information about programs, services and resources available for special needs children and their families.

Patel received his LL.M. in Taxation from the Washington University School of Law; his J.D. from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock School of Law; his M.B.A. from the Illinois Institute of Technology-Stuart College of Business, high honors; and his B.B.A., magna cum laude, from Georgia State University.

88-7, the Sound, delivering a distinctive blend of music and a great way to promote your local business

For more information, contact Steve Jankowski at 650-3607 or stejank@siue.edu
Town and Country Financial Corporation, the parent holding company for Town and Country Bank, welcomes Brenton Cook to serve as branch manager in Edwardsville, IL. In this role, Cook will work with Town and Country Bank customers and clients providing innovative financial resources and expanding the client base.

Brenton has been in the banking industry in the Metro East for more than 10 years. Prior to joining the TCB team, Brenton served as a financial center manager and mortgage lender. Cook has an affinity for community banking and jokes that he literally grew up in a bank. His mother worked at a community bank in Sandoval, IL, and he spent a significant amount of time there during his childhood.

“My goal is to get out in the community and show this area what we have to offer,” said Cook. “I am eager to spend time with community members and provide solutions and resources to help them reach their financial goals and aspirations.”

In addition to maintaining and running the Edwardsville facility, he also plans to serve the community in other ways and encourages employees to volunteer on a regular basis.

“We are excited to have Brenton on board as we continue to grow in the Metro East area,” said Micah Bartlett, president and CEO of Town and Country Bank. “He understands our unique approach to banking and is ready to help empower our customers’ financial well-being.”

Cook received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration and economics from SIUE. He lives in Granite City, IL, where he enjoys spending time with his wife and son.

Shareholders
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Katharine A. Keefe

Of Counsel
Charles M. Lock
Barry D. Dux

As one of the largest law firms in Southern Illinois, MM&R understands what it takes for businesses to grow and succeed. Our attorneys understand the issues businesses face every day, whether a start-up or an established company. From medical practices to manufacturers, we have the diverse background and experience to assist your business.

- Formation of business entities
- Employment issues and benefits
- Shareholder disputes
- Business sales and acquisitions
- Tax planning
- Buy-sell agreements
- Franchise and dealership agreements
- Business litigation

618.234.9800 | 618.656.2244 | 618.327.4300 | 314.421.2325
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Illinois Chamber of Commerce
April 2017 Government Affairs Report

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a recent ‘Government Affairs Report’ email.

“RIGHT TO KNOW” AFFECTS LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES: Springfield is at it again. Another year, another mandate on job creators. Senate Bill 1502 (Hastings), also known as the “Right to Know” bill, passed the Senate 31-21-0. If enacted, this bill would require websites and online services to post a privacy policy identifying the categories of personal information they collect and respond to consumer requests for all categories of personal information that was disclosed. This bill applies to any information that “identifies, relates to, or describes” an individual. It includes things like a person’s name, address, or photograph, but also “deidentified” or anonymous information such as “alias, nickname, and user name,” or IP addresses.

The proposed legislation would require small businesses across our state to create massive databases of personal information about their online customers/users that would not otherwise have to create or collect. Many businesses will also have to pay extra to keep these databases secure from hackers and identity thieves, hire or train staff to respond to consumer requests and purchase more insurance in case of a data breach.

The Chamber is unalterably opposed to this legislation as it would add increased costs to small businesses, employee training and insurance costs. If business owners do not comply in the exact way this legislation is written, they could be forced into expensive and superfluous lawsuits. Many businesses will be forced to hire lawyers to draft privacy policies for their websites that ultimately don’t benefit consumers.

“TAX HAVEN” BILL FAILS TO ADVANCE IN SENATE: Today, the Chamber was instrumental in the defeat of a bill that would punish companies that engage in perfectly legal tax planning. SB 1798 (Hastings) failed to receive enough votes to pass favorably out of the Senate on a roll call of 29-20-0. As noted previously, the Chamber was the only stakeholder that remained opposed to the bill after an amendment was filed that stripped the “tax haven” provisions out of the bill. However, the bills retained prohibitions against “expatriate companies” from participating in bidding on state contracts under the Procurement Code. There are some carve outs for “expatriate companies” that have been identified as provided certain essential products or services to the State of Illinois.

The bills also retained language involving investment in expatriate companies by the various retirement systems. As amended, the bills require the State Board of Investment to identify “expatriate companies.” The retirement systems are required to either divest themselves of such investments, or engage in “shareholder activism.” The bills provide that shareholder activism may include such actions as “bringing shareholder resolutions and proxy voting on shareholder resolutions.

The House version, which passed recently, has since been assigned to the Senate Executive Committee. The Chamber remains opposed and stands ready to testify in opposition to a bill that is nothing more than political grandstanding.

CHAMBER TESTIFIES AGAINST 500% TAX INCREASE: Keith Staats of the Chamber’s Tax Institute testified in opposition to an initiative of the Chicago Teacher’s Union that would impose a 500% tax increase on partnerships and S-corps that engage in investment management services. The intent of the sponsor is to impose a tax of 20% in order to “fix” the lower federal income tax rate on “carried interest.”

Staats testified in strong opposition to the bill and highlighted that it would likely be declared unconstitutional as an unconstitutional service tax, or as violating the provision of the Illinois Constitution that forbids the imposition of more than one income tax. Staats also noted that it is inappropriate to attempt to fix, perceived problems with the federal tax code through state legislation. Finally, Staats noted that even if the bill were to somehow survive the apparent constitutional infirmities, the bill would likely cause investment management services providers to leave the state of Illinois and there would be litigation over when the “service” is provided in Illinois so as to be subject to taxation.

The bill was voted out of committee on a 5-4 vote. All of three Republican members of the committee voted against the bill, as did one Democrat. The bill is now on third reading in the Senate and could be called for a vote today. We continue to express our strong opposition to this proposal.

CHAMBER BILL HOLDS LOCAL GOV’T ACCOUNTABLE: An initiative of the Chamber that is intended to hold local governments accountable was given a subject matter hearing (no official votes taken). The bill, SB 1701 (McConnaughay), would establish a Home Rule Administrative Procedure Act. The bill requires the one home rule county, Cook, and all home rule municipalities to promulgate administrative interpretations and pronouncements related to local ordinances as rules through a process at the local level that would be similar to the rulemaking process at the state level.

This intent of SB 1701 is to require these units of local government to provide the opportunity for notice and comment to members of the public. This legislation is designed to end situations such as when the city of Chicago issued Ruling #11 requiring automobile leasing companies located outside the city to begin collecting the Chicago automobile leasing tax, or when the city of Chicago determined that it would “re-interpret” its authority under the Personal Property Lease Transaction Tax to begin taxation of cloud-based software. SB 1701 would require rulemaking before a home rule unit could take actions of this type.
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