

May 2009



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Common Ground



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Mission Statement

Through commitment and involvement of its Members, the Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce provides leadership for the benefit of the business community by:

- Promoting economic opportunities
- Advocating the interests of business
- Providing members with education and resources
- Encouraging mutual support

on the cover

Disney Keys to Excellence

Disney Institute brings its renowned professional development program, *Disney Keys to Excellence*, to Edwardsville May 19, 2009.

Sponsored by the Ed/Glen Chamber and Lewis and Clark Community College, the full-day event will give area professionals an opportunity to experience the business behind the Disney Magic – proven strategies and best practices that are easily adaptable to their organizations.

The full-day *Disney Keys to Excellence* program is made up of four 90-minute sessions that each focus on a different aspect: leadership, management, service and loyalty.

Program fee is \$399 per person and includes all course materials, breakfast, lunch, and afternoon refreshments.

Continuing Education Credits are available through the following organizations: American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE), Continuing Medical Education (CME) for Physicians and Contact Hours for Nurses, Human Resource Certification Institute (SHRM), National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA - CPE Credit), and Lewis and Clark Community College (CPDU Credit, Contact Hour Certification).

Register today at www.edglenchamber.com

Call the Chamber at 618.656.7600 for more information.

Newsletter Notes

Articles for the Chamber of Commerce newsletter must be submitted by the second Monday of the preceding month for placement in the next month's issue.

Monthly distribution: 1,000 issues.

Send comments or questions about Common Ground to dbennyhoff@edglenchamber.com

Copyright 2007 Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, 200 University Park Drive, Suite 260, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. (618) 656-7600, www.edglenchamber.com

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Associated Physicians Group
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Elmwood Nursing and Rehab
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First American Title
First Bank

First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
First National Bank - Maryville
Fitness 4 Life Physical Therapy
Forensic IT, Inc
Fountain View Manor
Gateway Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Glik's Department Store
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Hawthorne Animal Hospital
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Hurford Architects, Inc.
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USO of Missouri
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Valley View Cemetery, Mausoleum & Funeral Home
Verizon Wireless
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Wenzel & Associates
Wise Choice Coffees

events

5/6 Wednesday 5pm

ChamberNet at
Grizzlies Stadium
2301 Grizzlie Bear Blvd.
Sauget, IL 62206

5/7 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
J. Sanders Flooring
1507 Troy Road, Suite 2
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/8 Friday noon

networking@noon
hosted by Ed | Glen YPG
at Bella Milano
1063 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/14 Thursday 4pm

Smart Women Smart Money
Conference: From Surviving
to Thriving
Gateway Center
One Gateway Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234

5/14 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Extra Help Inc.
5214 Chain of Rocks Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/14 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Extra Help Inc.
5214 Chain of Rocks Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/19 Tuesday 7:30am

Disney Keys to Excellence
SIUE Morris University Center
Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/21 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Treo Salon
2123 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/22 Friday noon

networking@noon
hosted by ThinkTank PR
at Bella Milano
1063 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/28 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Crushed Grapes/American
Family Insurance
1500 Troy Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/29 Friday 5-7pm

YPG Final Friday Drop-In
at Neruda Restaurant & Bar
4 Club Centre Court, Suite A
Edwardsville, IL 62025

save the date

6/5 Friday noon

networking@noon
hosted by Lexow
Location TBD
1063 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/11 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Big Daddy's
132 North Main Street
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

6/19 Thursday 5-7pm

networking@noon
hosted by Infinite Wellness
at Bully's
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

6/25 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After Hours
Co-Hosted by Neruda and
Business & Professional Women
4 Club Centre Court, Suite A
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

6/26 Friday noon

YPG Final Friday Drop-In
at Neruda Restaurant & Bar
4 Club Centre Court, Suite A
Edwardsville, IL 62025

connect

business after hours schedule

The purpose of a networking mixer is to meet new people, make new contacts, promote your business, and talk with other business people facing the same challenges as you. All are welcomed and invited to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages are provided. A business card raffle and 50/50 drawing will occur at approximately 6:00 pm. Entry fee is \$5. This is an excellent networking opportunity!

5/14 Thursday 5-7 pm

Extra Help In.

5214 Chain of Rocks Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/28 Thursday 5-7 pm

Crushed Grapes/American Family Insurance

1500 Troy Road
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

networking@noon schedule

Can't make a Business After Hours? Networking@noon is a great way to meet other business people in a smaller group setting without taking time away from your busy day. This fun, fast-paced, members-only "speed networking" event is designed to get you in, fed, connected, and on your way in 60 minutes or less.

5/8 Friday noon

by Ed | Glen Young Professionals Group (YPG)
at Bella Milano

1063 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

5/22 Friday noon

hosted by ThinkTank PR
at Bella Milano

1063 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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When you purchase a Mac with AppleCare and iWork or Microsoft Office for Mac during the **WHOLE MONTH OF MAY** you receive:

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- \$50.00** Gift Card to Faller Photography Group
- 2 FREE** Hours of Handyman Service by Lee's Services
- FREE** Tans plus coupons for more at Hollywood Tan
- FREE** Moms Love Macs T-Shirt from The Tech Spot
- FREE** Printer and Service Bundle from The Tech Spot

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Edwardsville, Illinois 62025
618.830.3777
www.snipalliance.org

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Anne Carrera
In-home parties
57 Brenda
Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034
618.210.1249

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Loaning and consigning of sports, movie and music memorabilia for charity events
409 Bellline Road, Suite 150
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
314.607.5640
www.theautographguys.com

Treo Salon

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2123 South Route 157
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025
618.692.0003
www.treosalon.net

From The Desk of Carol Foreman

With spring comes many exciting opportunities for the Chamber to promote our members both locally and through tourism. The Chamber plays an instrumental role in bringing visitors to the area. While we have a captive audience, we make every effort to encourage them to shop and buy locally.



The May PGA Hooters Pro Golf Tour is slated to bring 168 golfers and many more visitors to Sunset Hills Country Club for a week. What does this mean for you as a local business and Chamber member? Golfers and staffers new to the area will need lodging, dining, and retail services. The Chamber is providing a hospitality tent, and we need your help to stock the tent full of promotional items, coupons, and other goodies. Call the office to find out how to get your business involved, and to volunteer your time in the hospitality tent.

Successful media partnerships for the upcoming Disney *Keys to Excellence* program have allowed us to heavily promote the Chamber name with a new audience, especially major corporations on the Missouri side of the river. Over the past three months, the Ed/Glen Chamber has had a presence in the St. Louis Business Journal, St. Louis Small Business Monthly, St. Louis Commerce Magazine, the Illinois Business Journal, and Cardinals Game Day Magazine. All of this exposure does more than promote our Disney event – it draws attention to the Ed/Glen area as prosperous, innovative, and growing community.

The Chamber is scheduled to speak at 12 SIUE Springboard to Success events through May and June, providing community guides and maps for parents of all incoming freshmen and encouraging parents to call the Chamber office for referrals.

As the Chamber office prepares for a busy month promoting local businesses and informing visitors of all the Ed/Glen area has to offer, we invite our members to take advantage of this opportunity – get involved.

Sincerely,

Carol Foreman, Executive Director

SIUE Credit Union

1566 Lewis Road
Edwardsville, IL 62026
Phone 618-650-3760
www.siuecu.org



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Community Since 1959*

ambassadors

Meet Your Ambassadors: Gary Hoggatt

By Natalie Head, Anderson Hospital

Where are you from, and where do you currently reside? I grew up in the Bethalto Area, and I currently live in Alton with my family.

Do you have a spouse or any children? I have a lovely wife of 17 years, Donna. I have a daughter, Ellianna, 8 and a son, Micah, 6.



Hobbies: I love to read and exercise. I love all sorts of outdoor activities, like swimming.

Favorite Sports Team: Cardinals and Rams are the teams I root for, even when they are not winning.

Favorite Movie: I love Westerns or movies set in the pioneer days.

What is your educational history? I graduated from Mississippi Valley Christian School in Alton. I attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, in Owatonna, MN, and also attended Lewis and Clark Community College and Missouri Baptist College. My course of study was originally Elementary Education. I finished my education in accounting and business.

Do you have a business leader that you most admire? Zig Ziglar is a motivational speaker that I have always looked up to.

What is your current position or title? AVP – Branch Manager and Mortgage Loan Officer. I am also the Security Officer for National Bank, and I manage the bank's Web site.

Ambassadors

Dana Klassen, Chair
C.A.F.E. Community Association
for Financial Education

Sue Mancuso, Co-Chair
Suburban Journals

Danelle Brown
The Tech Spot

Ashleigh Deatherage
Scott Credit Union

Melissa DeLassus
Southern Illinois Chiropractic Center

Ed Faller
Faller Photography Group

Natalie A. Head
Anderson Hospital

Ryan High
RE/MAX Preferred Partners

Gary Hoggatt
National Bank

Justin Huneke
TheBANK Of Edwardsville

Bonnie Kotsybar
Chamber Staff

Ryan Matthews
Hortica Insurance &
Employee Benefits

Chad Opel
Merrill Lynch

Sara Sanderson
Liberty Mutual

Lola Shashack

Donna Sheard
Avon on Main

Dr. Matt Uchtman
Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, Ltd.

Diana Voegel
Express Employment Professionals

Crystal Anderson Wenzel
Individual Member

Years at business: I have been with National Bank for 3 years. I started my banking career as a part-time teller in 1987, just out of college.

Are you on any other boards or actively participating in any other organization that is important to you? I am an ambassador for the River Bend Growth Association. I was awarded the Ambassador of the Year award for the calendar year of 2007. I am co-chair of the ambassador committee for the RBGA. I also chair the promotions committee for the RBGA.

I am co-chair for the Beverly Farm Foundation 19th annual golf tournament. I am on the Board of Mississippi Valley Christian School and on the Deacon Board for Faith Baptist Church in Godfrey. I teach a Homebuilders Sunday School class for young married couples and am active in the music program at Faith Baptist Church in Godfrey. I manage the Web sites for Faith Baptist Church and for the school.

connect

Volunteer & Marketing Opportunities for Chamber Members

The National Golf Association Hooters Pro Golf Tour is coming to Sunset Hills Country Club May 11-17.

This is a unique opportunity for Chamber members to market goods and services to 168 visiting pro golfers, and to volunteer time in the Chamber's hospitality tent. All Chamber members are encouraged to donate promotional items, discount coupons, menus and other goodies for distribution to golfers.

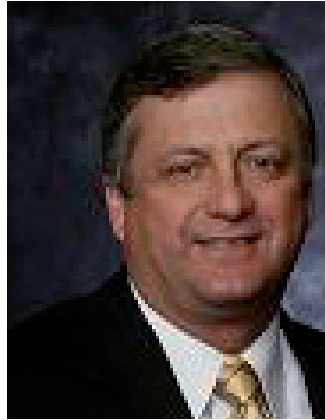
Do you enjoy spending time outside? If so, the Hooters Pro Golf Tour is the place to be! This is a great volunteer opportunity for Chamber members – we need people to work at the tent throughout the tournament, handing out visitor information and suggesting local dining, retail, and entertainment venues to golfers and their support staff.

Call the Chamber office today for more information – 656.7600



Meet Your Board Member: Marc Voegele

Marc Voegele is currently the owner of the local office of Express Employment Professionals which serves all of Madison County, Ill. His business last year generated over 650 W-2s in 2009, filling both full time and temporary positions in the office/clerical and industrial fields. His office was ranked in the top 20 out of over 600 Express offices nationwide in 2008 for Client Growth. In addition to staffing, his company provides a wide variety of Human Resource Services ranging from payroll services to employee handbooks to performing organizational effectiveness surveys. Nationally, Express Employment Professionals is ranked as one of the fastest growing companies in the Inc 500 ratings. Having worked or visited with almost all types of businesses in Madison County, Marc is in a unique position to have been exposed to a wide variety of situations and experiences.



Prior to opening his office in 2006 Marc was Midwest Regional Sales Manager for Tubular Steel where he worked for 26 years. Marc is currently active in the RiverBend Growth Association, The Troy-Maryville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors for the Southwestern Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the Executive Board of Directors for the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce. He is an active member of Metro Community Church and on the Board of Directors of The Alliance for Economic Development of the Edwardsville and Glen Carbon communities.

Marc is married to Diana Voegele, who co-owns and works in the business. They are lifelong residents of the area, and have two children, Kristen, 23, Marc, 19, and an adopted son, Ray, who is 20.

Mark's Advice:

Educate yourself about what the Chamber can do for your business and participate. The more you invest, the more you receive.

ypg

edglen ypg

Young Professionals Group

Would you like to meet and network with other talented young professionals? The new Ed | Glen Young Professionals Group (YPG) is a great opportunity to help you connect with other young professionals in the area.

Want to join YPG? Go to ypg.edglenchamber.com for more information and to register online.

Are you interested in being part of a YPG committee? If so, please contact:
 Emily Cox (ecox@hortica-insurance.com) – Social Committee
 Ryan High (ryanhigh@remax.net) – Personal & Professional Development
 Brett Briggs (brett.briggs@nationalcity.com) – Membership & Marketing

upcoming YPG events

5/8 Friday noon
 networking@noon
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 at Bella Milano
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6/26 Friday 5-7pm
 YPG Final Friday
 at Neruda Restaurant & Bar
 4 Club Centre Court, Suite A
 Edwardsville, IL 62025

5/29 Friday 5-7pm
 YPG Final Friday
 at Neruda Restaurant & Bar
 4 Club Centre Court, Suite A
 Edwardsville, IL 62025

4th Annual First Clover Leaf Bank Health Fair

Sat. May 9th, 12:30 - 4:00pm

in honor of Mother's Day

<p>Learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition & Exercise • Sun Screen & Skin Care • Dental Care • Family Lifestyle • Kidney Health • Much more! 	<p>Kids enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflatables • Bike Safety • Face Painting • Tumble Bus • Bike Give-Away • ARCH Helicopter! (lands on-site at 1pm)
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Complimentary Picnic Lunch • Mom's get a Special Gift!
 Event hosted by the First Clover Leaf Green Team



Our Health Fair will be held again this year at the Goshen Road First Clover Leaf bank Branch. We hope to see you there!



Goshen Center
 6814 Goshen Road
 Edwardsville, IL
 656-6122



First Clover Leaf Bank™

We're Better Together.

www.firstcloverleafbank.com



U.S. Chamber Announces "Together for Recovery"

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center is launching "Together for Recovery" - an initiative showcasing the resources businesses are offering to help cushion the recession and accelerate the recovery for individuals and communities. We will officially announce this initiative at the National Conference on Corporate Community Investment in Chicago on Monday, May 4th.

You are invited to be a part of the "Together for Recovery" campaign! Your participation will help connect important business resources to individuals in need, while also showcasing chambers as part of the solution for economic recovery. Below are a couple of ways you can join us in this important initiative.



1 – Link to www.TogetherForRecovery.org on your Web site. Resources will continue to be added to the site up until launch.

2 – Tell us what businesses are doing in your community. We are featuring timely business offerings in the "Together for Recovery" portal. Make sure your business partners are involved. Email Katie Loovis at kloovis@uschamber.com with your recommendations

3 – Introduce us to TEDs (temporarily economically displaced individuals). We invite those who have been helped by business offerings to share their story at the Conference and through the portal. Email Katie your suggestions

We hope your organization can actively participate in this important campaign. Please contact Katie Loovis, Senior Advisor, Business Civic Leadership Center at KLoovis@uschamber.com with any questions or comments.

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Business of the Month:



'62 Sports Group was founded in 1993 by Matt McSparin, who started the business with a single sports inflatable and ran the company out of his house. The business prospered under his leadership, growing and expanding its capabilities over the years. Matt stays active in the business through sales and as a Board of Directors member.

'62 Sports Group is the largest and most capable full service event management company located in the Central U. S. We offer event planning services, catering, and a wide variety of entertainment options including inflatables, sports and extreme games, carnival games, arts and crafts, electronic games, and much more... everything you need to entice event guests to "stay and play," have fun, and make memories to last a lifetime.

In 2008, we planned and produced over 1300 events across the United States. The scope and size of our events vary widely. For example, the largest event was attended by over 30,000 guests; the smallest was a backyard birthday party for less than 10 guests; and yes, everything in between.

Our attitude is that all events are special! Whether large or small, every event is conducted with the intention to meet and exceed our customers' expectations every time. Our passion is creating fun and enjoyable event experiences for all guests. Watching children laugh and play. We tell our customers, "Your Fun is Our Business"! What could be more fun, more rewarding, than that?

We enjoy a wide diversity of markets and customers. The Corporate Employee Appreciation Events – like large company picnics – is the largest market we serve. But we also do events for schools, colleges and universities, churches, cities and towns, various charities and civic groups.

Our people are involved in several Chambers of Commerce (including Ed/Glen) in the region, and also participate in Rotary, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Human Resource Management Association (HRMA), and the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA).

We believe that ... "our rewards (as a business) will be directly proportional to level of service we deliver to our customers." So, we focus on our service and trust that our rewards will take care of themselves. With regard to the



current economic conditions, our attitude is... "we refuse to allow our company to participate in the downturn of the economy, period!" We have re-doubled our focus and efforts to offset recessionary impacts to our business. As a result, our outlook for 2009 is optimistic. We are running 45% ahead of where we were at the same time last year, and expect to end the year up by similar numbers. In fact, we acquired one of our largest competitors, Incredible Events, located in Atlanta, in early April.

'62 Sports Group has been a Chamber member for about 10 years. Our Chamber membership has allowed us to work with other Chamber members, and be a resource within the community. We appreciate all the outlets the Chamber provides for getting to know others.

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Real Estate Survey Suggests Lower Taxes Needed to Attract More Businesses, Create Jobs in Illinois

Illinois' commercial and industrial real estate professionals know exactly why Illinois is losing business to neighboring states and beyond – too many state and local taxes, a perception that Illinois is anti-business and the lack of available incentives.

These and other results come from a survey sponsored by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and conducted by the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois-Springfield. Illinois commercial and industrial real estate professionals were asked about the state's strengths and weaknesses in terms of keeping, growing and attracting new development.

The results in this report provide a good roadmap for Illinois' new governor and legislators on ways to keep and attract more business, create more jobs and stimulate greater development.

"No one knows our state's economic strengths and weaknesses better than commercial and industrial real estate developers," said Tom Wolf, director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council. "Whether it's keeping companies here in our state, convincing them to grow here or attracting new ventures to move here, industrial and commercial real estate professionals are in the trenches every day and hear why companies choose Illinois – and why they go someplace else."

Respondents assessed a range of criteria including infrastructure, workforce issues, location, site availability and supply factors, economic development opportunities, and costs of doing business, including state and local taxes and fees. They were ranked by survey participants in two ways – based on how importance they were to client decision-making, and how Illinois is perceived by clients in providing these criteria. The gaps between the important criteria and Illinois' ability to deliver serve as guide to where attention is needed.


According to the survey, the biggest areas where Illinois can improve are:

- state and local tax burdens
- state reputation/image regarding business
- availability and amount of incentives
- flexibility of incentives to meet needs
- ease of process to qualify/receive incentives
- ease/timeliness of permit/regulatory procedures.

Among those who indicated that clients had recently inquired about sites in Illinois and then chose another location, nearly two-thirds identified cost of doing business factors as reasons those clients chose to locate elsewhere. Forty percent mentioned clients received better incentives in other places – with most of those firms going to neighboring Midwestern states.

The good news is that Illinois does offer value in several categories that developers do care about, including skilled workers and transportation infrastructure.

"We knew going in that we'd find out where our state is strong and where we would have more work to do," said Wolf. "Using these results, our Governor and legislative leaders can focus on efforts to shore up the perception and reality of our weaknesses in order to attract more private-sector growth and more jobs throughout the state. We hope they are listening."



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11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Service, Disney Style
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Loyalty, Disney Style

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Business After Hours



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Eden Village Retirement Community, April 2



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Glen Carbon Vision Center, April 16

Ribbon Cuttings



Eden Village, April 2



Inspired Balance, April 15

Ribbon Cuttings



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Eberhart Sign & Lighting Co., April 21



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ARRA 2009 Energy Provisions

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides energy incentives for both individuals and businesses. Here are some of the key energy provisions in ARRA that may impact taxpayers:

Residential Energy Property Credit (Section 1121): The new law increases the energy tax credit for homeowners who make energy efficient improvements to their existing homes. The new law increases the credit rate to 30 percent of the cost of all qualifying improvements and raises the maximum credit limit to \$1,500 for improvements placed in service in 2009 and 2010. The credit applies to improvements such as adding insulation, energy efficient exterior windows and energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit (Section 1122): This nonrefundable energy tax credit will help individual taxpayers pay for qualified residential alternative energy equipment, such as solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps and wind turbines. The new law removes some of the previously imposed maximum amounts and allows for a credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of qualified property. See Notice 09-41.

Treatment of Alternative Motor Vehicle Credit as a Personal Credit Allowed Against AMT (Section 1144): Starting in 2009, the new law allows the Alternative Motor Vehicle Credit, including the tax credit for purchasing hybrid vehicles, to be applied against the Alternative Minimum Tax. Prior to the new law, the Alternative Motor Vehicle Credit could not be used to offset the AMT. This means the credit could not be taken if a taxpayer owed AMT or was reduced for some taxpayers who did not owe AMT.

New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (Section 1111): The new law increases the amount of funds available to issue new clean renewable energy bonds from the one-time national limit of \$800 million to \$2.4 billion. These qualified tax credit bonds can be issued to finance certain types of facilities that generate electricity from renewable sources (for example, wind and solar).

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (Section 1112): The new law increases the amount of funds available to issue qualified energy conservation bonds from the one-time national limit of \$800 million to \$3.2 billion. These qualified tax credit bonds can be issued to finance governmental programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other conservation purposes.

Extension of Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit (Section 1101): The new law generally extends the "eligibility dates" of a tax credit for facilities producing electricity from wind, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal energy, municipal solid waste, qualified hydropower and marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy. The new law extends the "placed in service date" for wind facilities to Dec. 31, 2012. For the other facilities, the placed-in-service date was extended from December 31, 2010 (December 31, 2011 in the case of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy facilities) to Dec. 31, 2013.

Election of Investment Credit in Lieu of Production Credit (Section 1102): Businesses who place in service facilities that produce electricity from wind and some other renewable resources after Dec 31, 2008 can choose either the energy investment tax credit, which generally provides a 30 percent tax credit for investments in energy projects or the production tax credit, which can provide a credit of up to 2.1 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity produced from renewable sources. A business may not claim both credits for the same facility.

Repeal of Certain Limits on Business Credits for Renewable Energy Property (Section 1103): The new law repeals the \$4,000 limit on the 30 percent tax credit for small wind energy property and the limitation on property financed by subsidized energy financing. The repeal applies to property placed in service after Dec. 31, 2008.

Coordination With Renewable Energy Grants (Section 1104): Business taxpayers also can apply for a grant instead of claiming either the energy investment tax credit or the renewable energy production tax credit for property placed in service in 2009 or 2010. In some cases, if construction begins in 2009 or 2010, the grant can be claimed for energy investment credit property placed in service through 2016, and for qualified renewable energy facilities, the grant is 30 percent of the investment in the facility and the property must be placed in service before 2014 (2013 for wind facilities).

Temporary Increase in Credit for Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property (Section 1123): The new law modifies the credit rate and limit amounts for property placed in service in 2009 and 2010. Qualified property (other than property relating to hydrogen) is now eligible for a 50 percent credit, and the per-location limit increases to \$50,000 for business property (increases to \$2,000 for other/residential locations). Property relating to hydrogen keeps the 30 percent rate as before, but the per-business location limit rises to \$200,000.

Wang Gang Brings Fresh Flavors and Plans to Give Back to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Community

Wang Gang Asian Eats N' Beats officially opened its doors March 7 in the Club Centre Plaza. Wang Gang focuses on a diverse, high-quality, Asian fare menu. This high energy, chic restaurant provides hand rolled crab Rangoon, Vietnamese and fresh spring rolls, and fresh vegetables in all their dishes -which is prepared in their clean exhibition kitchen. "It really is an experience," said co-owner Ryan O'Day. "You can come in grab a bite, sit at our bar and watch our chefs in action. We wanted to create an atmosphere that makes you feel like it's your place and entertained – oh, and we wanted to provide amazing food too. I think we've done that here."

Wang Gang owners, Ryan and Jamie O'Day, are excited about bringing a different concept to the Metro East area. "We saw a need for fresh Asian food at an affordable price," said Jamie O'Day. "We worked hard to develop a menu where you can order an entrée and drink for under ten dollars. Another unique thing about our restaurant is our ability to cater to almost any dietary need or restriction. Whether our customer is gluten free or has a child with a peanut allergy, the chef and his team can accommodate your needs. We just refuse to compromise quality or taste, and we wanted to provide food that we would feed our own family."

Wang Gang's business philosophy doesn't just extend to amazing food and service. Part of their business plan is giving back to charity. "We want to give back to the community by helping charities raise money through share nights," said O'Day. "We are excited about giving back and hope to help make a difference by giving back."

For more information on Wang Gang Asian Eats N' Beats, please call 655-0888 or visit www.wanggangasian.com.



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Rock Hill Trails Hosts Field Trips for High School Students



In late February, over 100 Students from O'Fallon Township High School visited the Rock Hill Trails (RHT) development in Wood River to learn about creating a sustainable community. As recipients of the Illinois Innovative Talent award the students established project DESTIN-E, which is focused on building a sustainable community on an 80-acre site in O'Fallon.

The developers of RHT, Wellspring Development Company (WDC), were all too happy to accommodate. "We are excited to offer this opportunity" said Chris Schroeder, Vice president of WDC. "Community outreach and education of sustainable development practices is a core objective at WDC, and Project DESTIN-E is one of many educational opportunities we plan to hold at Rock Hill Trails," said Schroeder.

WDC president, Anthony Schroeder, the RHT homebuilder, civil engineer, architect and a native landscaping consultant conducted the tours. The students learned about the "Three Legs of the Stool" approach to RHT's development:

Low Impact Development (LID) is a land planning and engineering design approach to managing stormwater runoff and preserving natural elements. LID emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality.


Socially Sustainable Community is a safe walking scale community with a strong sense of place that residents take pride in and work together to make healthy and vibrant.

High Performance Homes are built to last, be energy efficient, have healthier indoor air quality and reduced maintenance costs.

"Building community is important to us, and we have the opportunity to start even before the first two displays are completed at the end of April" says RHT Director of Sales, Tim Dain.

O'Fallon Township High School student, Jessica H, commented "...I also learned that the point of this entire building project is to break out of the expected molds and think outside the box instead of using the products that previous builders and manufacturers have created. This was perhaps one of the most important things I learned because it is making me more creative and innovative than I initially was with this project."

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University Housing Receives Accolades for Sustainability Efforts

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University Housing has been awarded the 2009 Excellence in Sustainability in Housing and Residential Life Award by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). The award is presented to an individual, department, or institution that has demonstrated outstanding contributions toward sustainability on her/his campus and/or to the housing profession. University Housing received the award at the ACPA College Student Educators International Annual Convention.

Kathleen Gardner, associate director of Residential Life, commented: "University Housing demonstrates an outstanding commitment toward sustainability by integrating sustainability into all aspects of the Housing program. Sustainability is typically referred to as having a triple bottom line: healthy environments, social justice and strong economies. All three units that make up University Housing: University Housing Facilities Management (UHF), Residence Life and the Central Housing Office have each integrated the triple bottom line into their operations," Gardner said.

"University Housing recognizes that it is in a unique position to help create solutions for sustainability challenges. Our department contributes to a campus climate where active, experiential and collaborative learning, and real-world problem solving is the norm. By doing so, our residents develop the knowledge and skills to apply to their future employment, consumption decisions and lifestyle choices, benefiting their future communities. University Housing will continue to embrace the triple bottom line and integrate sustainability into daily operations and overall philosophy."



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Madison County Employment & Training Announces New Program

The Madison County Employment & Training office recently announced its Youth@Work 2009 Summer Program. Employers are encouraged to recruit employees through the program. Funding is provided through the Workforce Investment Act.

Through this program, 16- through 24-year-old residents of Madison and Bond Counties may earn \$8.50/hour through the program. Participants cannot have been claimed on parents' 2008 tax returns and must provide the following documentation for consideration: state driver's license or identification card, social security card, birth certificate, and proof of family income.

For more information, call one of the following MCETD offices:

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Glen Carbon – 618.656.6100 Ext. 224

Greenville – 618.545.3473



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Cork Tree Creative Announces Eco-Friendly *Rewind Your Wine* Program, Encourages Participation

Cork Tree Creative kicked off a St. Louis-wide initiative in recognition of Earth Day to recycle corks used in wine and champagne bottles. This is the first organized, regional effort to collect corks from retailers, grocers and wine consumers. Known as "*Rewind your Wine*," organizers of the program have taken on this initiative with hopes that recycling wine corks will eventually be as simple as recycling paper and plastics.

To kick start the effort, Cork Tree Creative asks that any retailers, restaurants, wineries and grocers in the St. Louis area join in this region-wide eco-initiative. "Wine corks are natural, biodegradable, renewable products that have the potential of being recycled into other usable materials. We hope to gain enough momentum through this program to help minimize the carbon footprint created by the St. Louis region's disposal of wine corks," said Laura Reed, principal of Cork Tree Creative. "Now that there is an easy method of collection in the St. Louis region, we can help divert some of the 15 billion wine corks that currently end up in landfills."

Cork Tree Creative will collect wine corks from participating retailers in the

region and make periodic deliveries to a Midwestern company, Yemm & Hart, that recycles wine corks into LEED Certified building materials such as cork tiles and partitions. By being the sole transporter of the corks, Cork Tree Creative hopes to reduce the amount of transportation required in the recycling process.

"We are pleased in the preliminary stages of this program to already have the participation of Erato on Main in Edwardsville and St. Louis-based Ionia Atlantic Imports. These two participants will help pioneer this effort and serve as responsible leaders in the cork recycling effort. We commend them for their progressive thinking and participation," added Reed.

Wine retailers large and small, grocers throughout the St. Louis area and bars and restaurants that would like to participate in the program are encouraged to call Laura Reed at Cork Tree Creative at (618) 656-7333 for more information. All participants in the program will be recognized as a pioneer in the *Rewind your Wine* initiative. Cork Tree Creative will begin the collection of corks at participating locations in June.

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Tourism Bureau Announces New Sales Manager

The Tourism Bureau Southwestern Illinois is excited to announce that Dan Krankeola was hired as Sales Manager effective March 30, 2009. "Dan comes to us with 18 years experience at Maritz Travel," said Jo Kathmann, Bureau President/CEO. "He is responsible for attracting tourism partners through membership and advertising sales in our ten county region (Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Perry, St. Clair, Randolph and Washington)."

The Tourism Bureau publishes an annual Visitors Guide, tear-off map and bi-monthly Tourism Times award-winning newsletters in addition to offering other services to the travel and hospitality industry. "During my years at Maritz, I traveled around the world," Krankeola said. "Now I'm looking forward to traveling closer to home and meeting everyone in Southwestern Illinois - especially as we enter the spring travel season." To reach Dan Krankeola, call 618-397-1488 or email dkrankeola@thetourismbureau.org.

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Ask the Expert.

by Marcel Brown of The Tech Spot, www.techspotstore.com

Your Data Is Not Covered by Warranty

It amazes me how many people still do not have a good understanding of how valuable their data is. Many people will spend an inordinate amount of time agonizing over the purchase price of their technology, but spend almost no time or money securing their data. The ironic part of this is that usually the amount they are agonizing over is small compared to what their data is worth or the cost involved in recovering data. Which brings to light a very important detail that many people miss concerning their computer's warranty.

I know of no computer or storage device warranty that covers the data that is stored on them. The reason for this is simple. Data can be priceless. At the very least many times more valuable than the computers they are stored on. Technology companies could not be in business if they were expected to cover the cost of the data that their machines stored. Additionally, the cost of recovering data from a failed machine, if at all possible, can range into thousands of dollars.

The problem is that many people think that their hardware warranties cover

everything. So when the hard drive in their computer fails, they don't worry too much because they think they'll get their computer repaired and back exactly the way it was. Unfortunately, this is not usually the case with hard drive failures. Sure, their computer will be fixed at no cost, but it will not contain any of the data that was stored on the failed hard drive. Since computer and hard drive manufacturers do not warrant the data or the cost involved in recovery, any costs involved in recovering data fall upon the user. And again, these costs can range into thousands of dollars in some cases.

When looked at in this light, the initial purchase price of either a computer or backup system is almost irrelevant. So unless the data on your computer is of no value to you, please make sure to incorporate the cost of a backup system into any new computer purchases. Or if you are currently without a backup system, stop what you are doing and call your technology consultant right now. It doesn't matter if you "only" use your computer for personal reasons. More and more individuals are keeping extremely valuable data on their computers such as irreplaceable digital photos or financial data.

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Added Convenience at New Heartland Healthcare Clinic

Gateway Regional Medical Center (GRMC) opened a new location for its largest internal medicine practice, Heartland Healthcare, on Maryville Road in Granite City. The new clinic is staffed by internal medicine physician, Rajinder Mahay, and Nurse Practitioner, Kelly Lane. They are accepting new patients age 14 and up for the treatment and management of conditions like diabetes, COPD, asthma, cold, flu, hypertension and coronary artery disease. Kelly also provides women's wellness exams, including pap tests. Lab studies can be drawn onsite for the patient's convenience.

The new Heartland Healthcare clinic is located at 3908 Maryville Road in Granite City. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-4:30pm. For an appointment, please call (618) 931-1335.

SIUE Announces Fall 2009 Career Fair Schedule

You are invited to attend October Career Fair '09 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This year's event will be held over two days, Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8. Fees start at \$225.

Online registration is available under the "Career Events" section of your Cougar Jobline account at www.siu.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter. If you don't already have an account, please contact the Career Development Center at careerdevelopment@siue.edu to obtain login information.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Due to the overwhelming response by employers, it is best to register early to ensure that a space is available for your company.

Partner schools include Blackburn College, Greenville College, Illinois College, McKendree University and Principia College.



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In November, Dr. Kellerman attended two full days at the Rocky Mountain Dental Convention which focused on team building techniques. Dr. Kellerman and Dr. Hentze attended a course in March focusing medically compromised patients and how multiple medications or medical conditions affect the patients' dental treatment.

Dominique, Jill, and Amy are all certified expanded duty dental assistants, which required a demanding eight hour course. Expanded duties include being licensed to place sealants and polishing teeth. We take pride in our assistants vast knowledge and ability to support the dentists in all procedures. In recent months, all staff members have attended and learned the new Perio Protect method, and are trained in Invisalign orthodontics.

Eigenbrodt Vision Center Celebrates Anniversary, Welcomes New Physician

Beginning April 1, 2009, Dr. John Eigenbrodt, along with his Eigenbrodt Vision Center (EVC) staff, kicked off a yearlong event celebrating 20 years of successful business in Edwardsville. EVC first opened its doors on April 1, 1989. Anniversary celebration, guests relaxed, browsed frames and accessories, and enjoyed hot appetizers, wine and soft drinks. Designer giveaways were awarded throughout the evening, along with exclusive one night only discounts.

Eigenbrodt has always liked helping people and wanted to do what he could to help make positive changes in people's lives. "I like being able to help a person with a visual impairment such as macular degeneration to read again or see a photograph of a grandchild that they have never seen before," he said. "I treat my patients like family and I ask my employees to do the same. I want to help people and my greatest joy is to watch a patient come to the point where they are able to see something that they couldn't see before. It's all worth it when I get to experience the joy on their faces and the excitement it brings them," said Eigenbrodt.

In keeping with their commitment to quality vision care, Eigenbrodt Vision Center welcomes a new optometrist, Dr. Suman Navalgund, to the practice. Dr. Navalgund comes to EVC with experience in ocular disease and specialty contact fits. She graduated from the University of Missouri Saint Louis with a Doctor of Optometry degree. Prior to UMSL, she graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Chemistry where she worked at Cargill in the laboratories. She later worked at the U of I as a Professor but felt she was missing something. "The corporate workplace just didn't seem to fit me," said Navalgund. "I love working with people and wanted to be able to use my knowledge to help them. Being in a laboratory just wasn't for me."

Little did Dr. Navalgund know that a chance visit to a Career Day at the U of I would change her life. "I went to one of the Career Days at the university just to look around. I ended up talking with the Optometry Group and thought that this might be my calling."

Said Navalgund. "And here I am, with many thanks to Dr. Eigenbrodt. He was a big help to me in the whole process. He took me under his wing and gave me an internship in the beginning and then I also did one of my rotations with him during school."



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your community

Scott Credit Union Sponsors Golf Scramble to Benefit United Way

Scott Credit Union is hosting its 3rd Annual Golf Scramble to support the United Way's Southeast Illinois Division of Greater St. Louis. Last year this tournament raised over \$10,000. To make this event an even bigger success, we ask for your support of this very worthy cause. Both sponsors and golfers are needed.

Join us Thursday, May 14, 2009 at The Orchards Golf Course in Belleville, IL. Lunch and registration at 11am, with a 12:30pm tee time and dinner to follow. Meet two Rams Cheerleaders during lunch!

For more information, please contact Maggie Grotefendt at 618.345.1111 or mgrotefendt@scu.org

Garden Tour Date, Ticket Outlets Announced

Join your neighbors and friends on a stroll through nine outstanding gardens in Edwardsville and Glen Carbon. The Madison County Extension Education Foundation, with support of volunteer Master Gardeners for University of Illinois Extension will sponsor their 2009 Garden Tour Saturday, June 20 from 10am-4pm.

Tickets are \$12 if purchased in advance at University of Illinois Extension, 900 Hillsboro, Edwardsville; Garden Kingdom, Glen Carbon; The Bank of Edwardsville, Main location, Alton, Highland and Maryville Road, Granite City; Creekside Gardens, Collinsville; First National Bank, Holiday Shores, Hamel, Bethalto, and Staunton, and Fetter's Garden Center, Troy. Tickets are \$15 on the day of the tour and available at the plant sale at Sweeties Confections, 123 Glen Crossing Rd., or a garden on the tour. Returning this year will be a raffle for a container garden or gift certificate featured at each home. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each with drawing to be held at the end of the tour.

Call 618.650.7050 for additional information.

First Clover Leaf Bank to Host 4th Annual Health Fair

The Green Team is proud to present its 4th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 12:30-4:00 pm at the Goshen Facility located at 6814 Goshen Road, Edwardsville, IL.

The Health Fair is an exciting event that not only supports the local community but also the local businesses. Over 30 local businesses have been invited to present displays, giveaways and activities showcasing their businesses and how they can help the residents of the community be healthier.

Guests of the Health Fair will be treated to a complimentary picnic lunch. They will also be able to enjoy the many booths and activities that will take place during the event. One of the major highlights of the event is the arrival of the ARCH helicopter at 1:00. Guests will be able to not only watch the helicopter land only a few feet away, but they will also have the opportunity to meet the pilots and tour the helicopter itself.

In honor of Mother's Day, there will be crafts for the kids to take home to mom. Mom will also receive a special gift to take home that day. For the kids there will be a bicycle giveaway and lots of great activities. Inflatables and other great crafts and extras will also be part of this community event.

The Green Team from First Clover Leaf Bank is an all volunteer group of employees that shares its time and talents to benefit the local community. For the past eight years, this generous, energetic group has enriched the lives of area residents through its support of not-for-profit organizations. Through the volunteer work of the Green Team Members, they constantly strive to strengthen our hometown by contributing to important causes.

For more information about the Health Fair call the First Clover Leaf Bank's Goshen Location at 618-656-6122

Anderson Hospital Offers Community Emergency Response Team Training

Are you prepared to help your community in a disaster? Get trained to become part of an important community team – the Community Emergency Response Team!

This FREE TRAINING is offered in an eight-week format, meeting every Tuesday night from 7–9:30pm May 5–June 23, 2009. Sessions will be held in the lower level classrooms of Physician Office Building I at Anderson Hospital.

Register today find out more information – contact Eric Brandmeyer, Assistant Director of the Anderson Hospital Emergency Department, at 618.391.6516

Kids Day Returns to Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Communities

Infinite Wellness Chiropractic, First Clover Leaf Bank, '62 Sports Group, American Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity are teaming together to bring back the second annual Kids Day to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community Saturday, May 16th, 2009, from noon until 3pm. This *totally free* event allows kids to meet local town officials, community leaders and heroes from the police department to discuss and learn about health, safety, & environmental awareness.

The event will be at Infinite Wellness in Edwardsville and will include free fingerprinting and DNA kits for children, health screenings and information, a demonstration by Grogan's Marital Arts, and other exciting informational topics designed for children. Come out for free snacks, bounce houses and numerous give-a-ways throughout the day!

All proceeds and donations are to help the Edwardsville Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Adults are welcome and encouraged to donate blood to the American Red Cross that day. Please call Aubrey with questions at 618.655.0333

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